

# TRAFFIC CALL

## January - February 2008

### No. 294

*Newsletter of the Ben White (W4PL) Memorial Nets  
founded 1938 by W4PL*

*Hit and Bounce Net - 8:30 AM Eastern 7042 kHz*

*Hit and Bounce Slow Net - Daily 7:30 AM Eastern 3576 kHz (+ or -)*



**A Note from the HBN Manager:** Effective immediately, I am resigning as Manager of HBN. I apologize to all of you for my extended absence from the net. I know I've let everyone down, and I sincerely apologize for that.

New Management:

**Manager: Bob Johnson, K3RC.**  
**Ass't Manager and Treasurer: Ole N4ABM**  
**Statistician: Will, K4IWW.**  
**Newsletter: N4ABM & WD8DIN**

Thanks so much to all of you. I am not yet ready to get back on the air, but I shall return. *A special thanks for all the birthday greetings. They brightened my day.*  
 73 ARF - Sis WD8DIN

**Arfer News:** Address change N3COR, 10 Sylvan Lane, Russell, PA 16345. Email: n3cor@verizon.net

K4IWW new email address: [k4iww@nc.rr.com](mailto:k4iww@nc.rr.com) in addition to [k4iww@arrl.net](mailto:k4iww@arrl.net).

**New check-ins:** W3SAS, Stephanie, EPA; N9NY, Gregg, IL; N3IN, Lynn, WPA.

**NCS VOLUNTEERS needed for HBN.**

**NOV 2007 HBSN REPORT**  
**30 SESSIONS**  
**QNI 262 QTC 200 QTR 899 MINS**

**Greater Buffalo Hamfest**  
**Sunday - March 02, 2008**

Ismailia Shrine Center  
 1600 Southwestern Blvd RT 20, West Seneca, NY

Hamfest Information and Seller's Table Reservations

Sponsored by: The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club -  
 W2SO

Inquiries: <mailto:luke@towncountryflorist.com>

Sponsored by: The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club -  
 W2SO

HBN	January 08		QNI	QTC
NG1A	Fred	MA	15	34
AB1AV	Bill	NH	5	1
KC1DI	David	ME	1	0
W1KX	Bill	ME	5	5
N1OTC	Jack	MA	27	273
KW1U	Marcia	MA	20	46
W1WCG	Van	CT	26	24
W2EAG	Mark	NC	28	36
W2MTA	Bill	NY	29	15
K2TV	Bob	NY	22	4
K2VX	Dave	VA	11	1
VE3DTR	John	ONT	17	5
W3FAF	John	MN	7	0
VE3GNA	Glenn	ONT	30	323
W3JKX	Earle	PA	1	0
WA3JXW	Dudley	PA	8	3
K3MIY	Ron	PA	7	4
N3ND	Dan	MD	1	0
W3OKN	Merle	PA	1	3
K3RC	Bob	OH	7	1
N4ABM	Ole	VA	26	11
WX4H	Mort	FL	26	51
K4IWW	Will	NC	24	6
W4TY	Art	VA	2	1
W4VFJ	Chas	NC	1	0
W4WXA	Tom	GA	8	4
KX8B	Chuck	OH	23	1
WD8DHC	Mike	WV	13	14
K8GA	Gerry	GA	6	34
W8IM	Dean	FL	18	1
WB8KPE	Don	WV	24	0
K8KV	Ben	FL	17	3
K8LJG	John	MI	30	103
WD8Q	Henry	OH	1	3
WB8RFB	John	IL	30	17
KA8WNO	Jack	WV	29	33
K9PUI	Dick	IN	6	5

Totals	Dec 2007	Jan 2008
QNI	646	631
QTC	1111	976
QSP	1055	908
QND	1340	1239
Sessions	31	31

HBN QNI	December 07		QNI	QTC
NG1A	Fred	MA	12	20
AB1AV	Bill	NH	2	0
KC1DI	Dave	ME	2	0
W1KX	Bill	ME	9	2
N1OTC	Jack	MA	30	375
N1PVP	Marino	MA	1	0
WA1RWO	Dave	FL	1	0
KW1U	Marcia	MA	24	78
W1WCG	Van	ME	26	4
W2EAG	Mark	MA	26	22
W2MTA	Bill	NY	24	18
W2PL	Phil	NY	10	2
K2VX	David	VA	8	0
N3COR	Don	PA	3	0
VE3DTR	John	ON	19	2
KK3F	Pat	MD	28	14
W3FAF	John	MN	13	0
VE3GNA	Glenn	ON	18	97
VE3GT	Larry	ON	5	0
N3IN	Lynn	PA	2	0
WA3JXW	Dudley	EPA	4	0
K3MIY	Ron	WPA	15	9
N3ND	Dan	MD	1	0
K3RC	Bob	OH	5	0
W3SAS	Stephanie	PA	1	0
N4ABM	Ole	VA	14	5
WX4H	Mort	FL	28	55
K4IWW	Will	NC	25	8
W4TY	Art	VA	1	0
W4VFJ	Chas	NC	3	0
W4WXA	Tom	GA	1	0
KA5NNG	Mike	AR	23	3
K7IFG	Ken	OR	4	0
KX8B	Chuck	OH	21	4
WD8DHC	Mike	WV	4	6
W8IM	Dean	FL	9	1
WB8KPE	Don	WV	29	1
K8KV	Ben	MI	20	4
K8LJG	John	MI	29	124
KA8NYY	Dudley	FL	1	0
WD8Q	Henry	OH	12	28
WB8RFB	John	IL	24	16
KA8WNO	Jack	WV	31	18
WB9JSR	John	MI	18	25
N9NY	Gregg	IL	2	3
K9PUI	Dick	IN	7	9

## RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM

*-by George Hart WINJM*

*A journalistic history of the life and times in the Amateur Radio world of George Hart, WINJM*

### Geo goes to W1AW and ARRL

Chapter 24 - Getting settled in preparation for ARRL

During the summer of 1938, while at State College, I came across a document entitled "Annual Report of the Officers and Directors of the American Radio Relay League, June 1938." Gil Crossley was an assistant director of ARRL and on the mailing list for this document. It was a fairly thick mimeographed booklet and most of the reports were of little interest to me, but I read avidly the "Report of the Communications Manager" in which he (F. E. Handy, W1BDI) described progress on a new Maxim Memorial Headquarters Station being completed in Newington, CT. One notation of particular interest was that they would be hiring a new operator when the station began operation in the fall.

I assumed I was not eligible because I had only a Class B amateur license and surely a commercial license would be required. However, the description of the fantastic array of kilowatt transmitters and the 7-acre antenna farm so fascinated me that I thought what-the-heck, I'll give it a try. I wrote Mr. Handy a letter expressing my availability and eagerness. Back came a lengthy letter by return mail saying, in effect, that he knew all about me (astonishing) and felt I had all the requirements except one: a Class A license would be required. But he assumed that with my experience and expertise this would be no obstacle. He suggested I pay them a visit, stopping on my way in New York to take the Class A license exam and that I come with the expectation of staying. The salary would be \$22 a week, subject to a raise in 6 months if my services were satisfactory. Even in 1938, \$22 a week was close to a starvation salary if there was no other source of income, but I cared nothing for the money; I was sure my mother would supplement it as and if necessary.

It was early August, 1938. Mr. Handy sent me a copy (free) of the ARRL License Manual and I started boning up on the Class A questions. I had already passed the 10 w.p.m. code test (with "one hand behind my back") but the technical questions were a different matter. I was so worried that I spent long hours memorizing the answers and entered the Federal Building in lower Manhattan in "fear and trembling." The test, much to my astonishment, consisted of questions worded exactly the same as in the License Manual. Having memorized the answers, I breezed through it. I'm sure I made 100%. On to Hartford!

I'd never been in New England before so the route was unfamiliar. Somehow I managed to get on the Merritt Parkway, which then was completed only so far as Westport, and the spanking new roadway was enshrouded in a dense fog. I had to creep through Bridgeport and New Haven on U.S. Route 1, and when I arrived in the northern outskirts of New Haven it was 11 p.m. I stopped at a diner for coffee and pondered

whether to continue the journey in the fog or hole up at a motel for the night. It figured to be only an hour's trip to Hartford on U.S. 5, but it had been a long hard day and I was exhausted. Nevertheless, I decided to continue. The fog became less intense as I went inland but still made progress slow. Finally I saw a sign pointing to Newington and West Hartford and took the side road, figuring I could find a hostelry of some kind and be nearer my place of work in the morning. It was already after 1 a.m. and I became completely lost, and saw no sign whatever of any motels or hotels or "tourist home." Finally I drove toward the brightest lights, made increasingly evident by the thinning fog and found myself in downtown Hartford. It was nearly 3 a.m. and the streets were deserted, but still I saw no hotel signs as I wandered aimlessly around. Finally, down a side street I saw a sign: "New Savoy Hotel." I turned down the street and parked my open Willys roadster on the street in front of the hotel, grabbed my suitcase and wearily lugged it inside. The New Savoy was by no means the best hotel in Hartford, as I perceived the minute I entered it, but I was in no mood to be fussy. I went to my room, which looked out over Trumbull Street, ran the tub full of water after staring down a roach who peered at me out of the drain, took a bath and hit the hay. It was 3:30 a.m.

I awoke the next morning to the rumble of trucks and honking of horns on the street outside and discovered it was 10 o'clock. After becoming fully awake, I called Mr. Handy at the Headquarters offices in West Hartford.

During the ensuing conversation he must have cleared his throat at least 20 times, one of which was preceded by a silence when I told him where I was. Yes, he knew where it was, but I sensed a prim disapproval. He proposed to come down and take me to lunch, after which we would see if we could find a place for me to live. He arrived shortly after noon, took me to his house on Brookline Drive in West Hartford where we were served lunch by Mrs. Handy, after which we sat perusing the morning Courant "Rooms for Rent" section. We then boarded his old Oldsmobile sedan and visited several potential addresses, all of them private homes, all of them at prices too high for me. Imagine paying five dollars a week just for a room to sleep in! I had three dollars tops in mind, but there appeared to be nothing of this nature available, at least not in any section of town Handy considered suitable.

Our final visit (I could sense Mr. Handy's growing impatience) was to a house on Annawan Street in Hartford where Hal Bubb, W1JTD, lived. This was not on the list, but Mr. Handy thought she might have a vacant room, since it was a big house. Hal was not at home, but we met Mrs. Allen, a very gracious widow lady perhaps in her sixties, who said she did indeed have a vacant room but it was her guest room and she had not

intended renting it. Mr. Handy talked her into it, assuring her I was a person of good family and would be working with Hal, whom Mrs. Allen apparently held in great esteem. She proposed four dollars a week, the same rent Hal was paying. The room was just across the wide corridor from Hal's, on the second floor facing the street. The rent was still higher than I wished to pay and the room was not so nice as the ones we had inspected in West Hartford, but I decided to take it. I paid her for a week in advance and the fully furnished room was mine.

*Coming in Chapter 25 - Geo Introduction and ARRL Tour.*

-----  
*Happy Birthday!*

**February** 22 W8BEZ; 22 WA3QNT;  
 27 N3COR

**March** 13 K3NNI; 21 N1OTC; 21  
 KE4WCW; 22 W4FRR; 23 W3JKX; 29  
 WF1M; 31 KB8ZZY

**April** 5 WA8GZL; 6 WA3UNX; 7  
 K8KFJ; 16 N1PVP; 25 W1KX; 26 WA4DOX;  
 29 WB4FDT  
 -----

**Treasurer's Report  
 Ole N4ABM, Treasurer**

Balance 4/14/07	\$218.23
Pd Print 5/24/07	\$98.51)
Pd Post 5/24/07	\$55.35)
Balance 5/24/07	\$64.37
N4ABM 5/30/07	\$25.00
KB5GXD 5/30/07	\$10.00
WA4SRD 7/18/07	\$10.00
WA3JXW 7/23/07	\$15.00
W3OKN 8/28/07	\$20.00
N9KHD 9/08/07	\$20.00
NG1A 9/12/07	\$10.00
WA2CUW 12/05/07	\$20.00
Balance 12/31/07	\$194.37
W8CPG 1/06/08	\$10.00
K2VX 2/06/08	\$25.00
Balance 2/10/08	\$229.37

Thanks to all contributors

To make a contribution, please make check payable to  
 Merritt W. Olson, 12106 Stirrup Rd., Reston, VA  
 20191-2104

**January QNI:** KA8WNO 31; N1OTC 30; WB8KPE 29; K8LJG 29; KK3F 28; WX4H 28; W1WCG 26; W2EAG 26; K4IWW 25; KW1U 24; W2MTA 24; K2TV 24; WB8RFB 24; KA5NNG 23; KX8B 21; K8KV 20; VE3DTR 19; VE3GNA 18; WB9JSR 18; K3MIY 15; N4ABM 14.

**QTC:** N1OTC 375; K8LJF 124; VE3GNA 97; KW1U 78; WX4H 55; WD8Q 28; WB9JSR 25; K8GA 23; W2EAG 22; NG1A 20; W2MTA 18; KA8WNO 18; WB8RFB 16; KK3F 14.

-----  
**December QNI:** VE3GNA 30; K8LJG 30; WB8RFB 30; KA8WNO 29; W2MTA 29; W2EAG 28; N1OTC 27; WX4H 26; W1WCG 26; N4ABM 26; K4IWW 24; WB8KPE 24; KX8B 23; K2TV 22; KW1U 20; W8IM 18; VE3DTR 17; K8KV 17; NG1A 15.

**QTC:** VE3GNA 323; N1OTC 273; K8LJG 103; WX4H 51; KW1U 46; W2EAG 36; NG1A 34; K8GA 34; KA8WNO 33; W1WCG 24; WB8RFB 17; W2MTA 15; WD8DHC 14.

## **TRAFFIC CALL**

Merritt Olson N4ABM  
12106 Stirrup Rd  
Reston, VA 20191-2104