Newsletter of the Ben White Memorial Nets

Hit and Bounce Net M-F 7042 kHz S-S 7114 kHz 8:30 AM ET
Hit and Bounce Slow Net Daily 3576 kHz 7:30 AM ET

Royal Order of Arfers

TRAFFIC CALL

February - May 2009 No. 299

Silent Key KB5W

With great regret, I must report that our good friend and superb traffic man, Jim, KB5W, is now a silent key. May he rest in peace. - Steve K6JT

Jim Leist, KB5W passed away Monday June 22, 2009. He will be buried at Quantico Marine Corps Base with full military Honors.

Jim's request was no flowers or cards. A contribution to the Shriners Hospitals for Cripple or burned children would be appreciated. He was 74 years old.

It's really sad to see an old friend go. He was my hero, a Marine's Marine.

- Tom K4VIZ

HBN Manager's Report

Mort WX4H sent me a note that he is getting better but, it's been a long process. He sends his greetings to all his friends on HBN.

We are happy to report that Ben K8KV is mending and is now back on the air.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both ARFers.

Marcia KW1U has agreed to be Saturday NCS starting in April with Mike as the backup. W3FAF finished the month.

73 Bob K3RC

New QNI: W1WSN Steve, FL; KB4U Jim, GA. WB8WKQ Jeff, MI; K4MSG, Paul, VA

Marcia, KW1U, is the **Saturday NCS, with backup Mike KA5NNG.**

Ben, K8KV, is back in Michigan for the summer.

WD8DIN's Navy Morse Key by Signal Electric - C: 1930

Traffic Handling, Digital Style
— Marcia, KW1U

I was asked some time ago to write an article for TC regarding the digital traffic system, known as NTSD. You no doubt hear about messages going via digital. On HBN a lot of messages especially for CAN and PAN go that route, many by way of W1WCG. Some folks have had disparaging words regarding the digital system, claiming it robs the nets of traffic. What is this system all about and how does it fit in with the traffic nets?

It began more than 25 years ago when many hams with computers were trying out packet radio. A packet network was available 24/7 and packet had error-correcting capability. Packet networks worked well on VHF in some parts of the country but it never was successful on HF. Amtor was used for awhile on HF but soon gave way to Pactor, also an error-correcting mode which was faster than Amtor. Pactor ultimately expanded to include Pactor II and

III in addition to the slower Pactor I. Through the efforts of Nick Zorn N4SS (now SK) and others a nationwide network was developed and was ultimately supported by the three NTS area staffs.

Digital coordinators were appointed for each area to manage the system . The advantages of this network were its ability to handle large volumes of traffic quickly and its availability 24 hours a day 7 days a week. This system was never meant to replace the traditional CW and voice nets, but rather to supplement them. W1WCG has long been a part of this network as has yours truly (KW1U), both operating a store-and-forward MBO which scans multiple bands, allowing any users to upload or download traffic for any area served by the NTS. Other Arfers have used this system over the years, notably N3QA who is no longer active.

What happens to this traffic? If Van or I receive messages, say for PAN, we type these messages on the computer and upload them to the MBO. We then can send these to K7BDU in Washington state where they can be downloaded directly by digitally equipped stations who can handle them, or forwarded to other MBO's in other parts of the pacific area. The same is true for messages for CAN which are forwarded to W4ZJY, the central area hub. The eastern area has designated stations in each region which are available for forwarding. More often than not these messages end up on the section or local traffic nets. Is this robbing the nets of traffic? Perhaps to some extent, especially at the region, area or even TCC level. Many however feel the system advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Remember the network can handle large volumes at a time and is available 24/7 should an emergent event arise. Is this not one of the primary reasons for the existence of amateur radio? Like the traditional nets I believe it is a network we want to keep in readiness should the need arise. And who knows but what it might even attract traffic handlers who enjoy using digital modes giving us added outlets.

A relative newbie to the digital scene is a network called WL2K or Winlink 2000. There has been much discussion over this due to the fact that it makes use of the internet. Some NTS and NTSD stations are using it and others want no part of it due to the above mentioned fact. The advantage of WL2K is the ability to send email type messages with multiple addees, copies and attachments, something an EOC or other emergency operation might use. Does it use the internet? Yes. Does it depend on the infrastructure used by the internet? Absolutely not. The beauty of this network is the seamless transition from internet to RF and back again. Is it useful for NTS? Certainly in a situation where a large number of welfare messages are concerned, and this is where NTS can be most useful. Again is this not one of our reasons for being? Does it require special equipment? Not really if one has a computer. The software is free and can be easily downloaded and installed. To get on HF pactor or VHF packet does require a TNC, although the time will no doubt come when this is no longer true. However wouldn't it be helpful to have stations who can receive a list of welfare messages via this network from an emergency center and transmit these on the traffic nets? Think of the outlets we would have, especially with the interest generated by this type of traffic.

There is much more I could write about but I hope this gives you a basic understanding of what it's all about. Perhaps you will understand more about where your traffic is going. And perhaps more than that, some might be motivated to look more into the possibilities for emergency preparedness.

Marcia Forde KW1U
Eastern Area TCC Director
Eastern Area Staff Chair
Arfer since early 1980's

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RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD HAM
-by George Hart W1NJM

A journalistic history of the life and times in the Amateur Radio world of George Hart, W1NJM

Geo recovers from power outages and schemes.

Chapter 29 - Then there was Ms. Louise & W1AW

Within a few days power was restored in Newington and W1AW went back into normal operation. Hal Bubb and Mr. Handy conferred at length on purchase of an emergency generator to be installed in the basement so that in event of another such power loss we could continue operation for emergency communication purposes. The outcome, after much negotiating, was the purchase of two Kato generators of 2000 watts each. One to be connected to each side of the incoming 220-volt line, sufficient to operate one of the W1AW transmitters at full power for 24 hours, if necessary; plus lights, oil burner and other ancillary necessities.

Hal undertook the installation and did an excellent job of it. He also installed a battery-operated system of 6-volt lights controllable from the operating position so that in the event of power failure the operator would have enough light to go down and get the generators started. The latter had to be hand-cranked and proved to be difficult to start at times, but on the whole they were capable of serving their purpose.

I don't recall that another such an emergency ever occurred while this system was in place, although we tested it frequently. After WWII the Katos were sold and a larger system was installed capable of running all transmitters simultaneously at full power.

During the hurricane emergency I made my first real friend in Connecticut. This was Fritz Cowley, W1AOK, who visited the station with some other hams while I was checking on conditions. I gave them a conducted tour. Somehow the subject of conversation got on the amount of electricity the station must use and one of the visitors remarked that by creating a magnetic field around the electric meter one could slow it down and thus reduce his power bill. Fritz said with completely straight face that he had tried that and it had worked. One month he had applied so much power to that magnet that it had caused the meter to run backward and at the end of the month he got a check from the power company. Fritz was a master at straight-faced humor, the kind I have always appreciated, and we established a friendship that lasted until his death in the 90's.

The operation at W1AW in this period consisted of scheduled "broadcast" bulletins to all amateurs and "general contact" periods on scheduled frequencies. The bulletins were sent by CW, simultaneously on 160, 80, 40 and 20 meters, on schedules announced monthly in QST. I remember we used 3825 on 80 and 7150 on 40, but I don't remember our 160 or 20-meter frequencies. At the conclusion of the CW bulletins we would send the same bulletins on phone (voice), but this was a one-band-at-a-time proposition, since the modulator had to be hand-switched to the 160-meter transmitter and the bulletin read on that band. Then it would be switched to 80 (75) meters, then 20. There was no phone band on 40. At the beginning of each "general contact" period we would call a CQ on the announced W1AW frequency and stand by for calls. Given any kind of decent band conditions, one contact would follow another in rapid succession, for W1AW was not only well known but had a commanding signal.

We had to be very careful not to conduct any kind of League business over the air; or any other kind, for that matter. It was strictly forbidden by both ARRL policy and FCC rules. Frequently we would be asked why an issue of QST had not been received, or why someone at headquarters had not answered a letter, or the price of a League publication. Conversation had to be kept on a non-business basis. We were paid operators of an amateur station. This was not specifically prohibited by amateur regulations at the time (but was later), but conducting any kind of business over amateur radio was.

One time on 160-meters I was called by W8FCD, who said he was in Coudersport, PA. I said I had a girl friend in Coudersport and when told her name, "Dude," W8FCD said he knew her and offered to call her on the telelphone for me. Coudersport is a small rural town, and Louise went to Dude's place and we had a sort of on-the-air reunion. On, subsequent nights this was followed by several similar contacts. Dude appearing not only willing, but also very happy for us to use his station for the purpose. I half expected to be told to cease this activity, but it never happened. What I didn't realize was the extent of listeners we had. Years later, I kept getting inquiries from fellow amateurs as to had I ever married the girl I used to talk to over W1AW.

Louise and I were never officially engaged but we had a sort of mutual understanding. When I began to get reports from her mother and sister, who wanted her to marry me, that she was running around with a school teacher, I called her on the telephone with an ultimatum, either we get married or break off the relationship entirely.

Coming in Chapter 30: Did they get married or break off? Next time.

WØOOW's 1943 Vibroplex Lightning Bug

NCS ROSTERS

HBN		
Sunday	**Jack**	**KA8WNO**
Monday	**Bill**	**W2MTA**
Tuesday	**Mark**	**W2EAG**
Wednesday	**Ole**	**N4ABM**
Thursday	**Jack**	**N1OTC**
Friday	**Glenn**	**VE3GNA**
Saturday	**Marcia**	**KW1U (Bkup KA5NNG)**
HBSN		
Sunday returns)	**Dudley**	**WA3JXW (Until John VE3DTR**
Monday	**Henry**	**WD8Q**
Tuesday	**Glenn**	**VE3GNA**
Wednesday	**Ole**	**N4ABM**
Thursday	**Arnold**	**N1JX**
Friday	**OPEN**	**(scheduled as WD8DHC)**
Saturday	**Bob**	**KT2D**

HBN May 2009

QNI 520 QTC 527 QSP 506 QND 968 SESSIONS 31

May	QNI		QTC
KA 8WNO	31	N 1OTC	143
W 2MTA	29	K 8LJG	120
N 4DY	29	KA 8WNO	67
K 4IWW	27	W 1WCG	33
W 1KX	26	KW 1U	30
KW 1U	22	VE 3GNA	19
W 1WCG	22	N 4ABM	14
K 8KV	22	WB 9JSR	10
K 8LJG	22	W 8IM	9
K 3RC	21	W 2EAG	9
KA 5NNG	21	WD 8Q	9
N 1OTC	20	N 4DY	7
K 2TV	17	K 3RC	7
KK 3F	17	WA 3JXW	7
WD 8DIN	17	WB 8WKQ	7
K 4OSO	16	W 2MTA	6
W 3FAF	15	W 1KX	6
N 4ABM	15	K 4IWW	5
K 2VX	14	KK 3F	5
W 8IM	14	K 3MIY	3
W 2EAG	13	K 8KV	2
WA 3JXW	12	K 9PUI	2
W 4WXA	10	KA 5NNG	1
WB 8KPE	9	K 2TV	1
WD 8Q	9	K 4OSO	1
WB 9JSR	8	W 4WXA	1
K 3MIY	6	KT 2D	1
VE 3GNA	5	N 3SW	1
KT 2D	4	N 9NY	1
N 3SW	4	WD 8DIN	0
K 7IFG	4	W 3FAF	0
N 0SPY	3	K 2VX	0
W 4VFJ	3	WB 8KPE	0
K 3IN	2	K 7IFG	0
W 4DLZ	2	N 0SPY	0
K 6YR	2	W 4VFJ	0
K 9PUI	2	K 3IN	0
KC 1DI	1	W 4DLZ	0
WA 2CUW	1	K 6YR	0
N 3DE	1	KC 1DI	0
WB 8WKQ	1	WA 2CUW	0
N 9NY	1	N 3DE	0

May	QNI	QTC
KC1DI	1	0
W1KX	26	6
N1OTC	20	143
KW1U	22	30
W1WCG	22	33
VA2CUW	1	0
KT2D	4	1
W2EAG	13	9
W2MTA	29	6
K2TV	17	1
K2VX	14	0
N3DE	1	0
KK3F	17	5
W3FAF	15	0
VE3GNA	5	19
K3IN	2	0
WA3JXW	12	7
K3MIY	6	3
K3RC	21	7
N3SW	4	1
N4ABM	15	14
W4DLZ	2	0
N4DY	29	7
K4IWW	27	5
K4OSO	16	1
W4VFJ	3	0
W4WXA	10	1
KA5NNG	21	1
K6YR	2	0
K7IFG	4	0
WD8DIN	17	0
W8IM	14	9
WB8KPE	9	0
K8KV	22	2
K8LJG	22	120
WD8Q	9	9
VB8WKQ	1	7
ζA8WNO	31	67
WB9JSR	8	10
N9NY	1	1
K9PUI	2	2
NØSPY	3	0

Summer

'Tis June, and all the lowland swamps
Are rich with tufted reeds and ferns,
And filmy with the vaporous damps
That rise when twilight's crimson burns.
–George Arnold (1834–65)

Welcome summer! The summer solstice, when the Sun reaches its farthest point north of the equator, occurs on June 20 or 21, depending on your time zone. (It occurs on June 21 at 1:46 A.M. EDT.)

The word "solstice" comes from the Latin sol (Sun) and stitium (to stop), reflecting the fact that the Sun appears to stop at this time (and again at the winter solstice).

Treasurer's Report
Ole, N4ABM, Treasurer

Balance	**Mar9/2009**		**$409.50**
	PdPo	**3/9/2009**	**($33.60)**
	PdPr	**3/9/2009**	**($52.46)**
	WF1M	**3/17/2009**	**$25.00**
	WB8RFB	**3/17/2009**	**$25.00**
Balance	**Jun 2/09**		**$373.44**

We appreciate your support.
Thank you.
To make contributions,
please make checks payable toMerritt W. Olson,
12106 Stirrup Rd, Reston VA 20191-2104

HBN April 2009					
QNI 501 QTC 570 QSP 548 QND 1043 SESSIONS 30					
		QNI			QTC
N	1OTC	30	N	1OTC	248
N	4DY	30	K	8LJG	100
W	2MTA	29	KA	8WNO	51
KK	3F	27	KW	1U	32
KA	8WNO	26	W	2EAG	25
KA	5NNG	25	VE	3GNA	16
W	1WCG	24	N	4ABM	14
W	2EAG	24	WB	9JSR	11
K	4IWW	24	W	2MTA	9
WB	8KPE	24	W	4WXA	8
W	1KX	23	KK	3F	7
K	3RC	20	WD	8Q	7
K	8LJG	19	KB	8ZYY	6
N	4ABM	18	N	4DY	5
K	2TV	15	K	4IWW	5
KW	1U	14	K	3RC	4
W	3FAF	13	KA	5NNG	3
W	8IM	12	W	1KX	3
WB	9JSR	12	K	3MIY	3
W	4WXA	10	N	3SW	3
K	2VX	9	K	2VX	2
WD	8DIN	9	K	3IN	2
WD	8Q	9	K	6YR	2
K	4OSO	8	K	4OSO	1
K	7IFG	8	K	8KV	1
K	8KV	8	WA	3JXW	1
VE	3GNA	7	N	3AO	1
K	3IN	4	W	1WCG	0
WA	3JXW	4	WB	8KPE	0
K	3MIY	3	K	2TV	0
KC	1DI	2	W	3FAF	0
W	4TY	2	W	8IM	0
KT	2D	1	WD	8DIN	0
N	3AO	1	K	7IFG	0
N	3SW	1	KC	1DI	0
W	4VFJ	1	W	4TY	0
K	6YR	1	KT	2D	0
WD	8DHC	1	W	4VFJ	0
KA	8NYY	1	WD	8DHC	0
W	8RTN	1	KA	8NYY	0
KB	8ZYY	1	W	8RTN	0

And poppies flame in the rye,
And the silver note in the streamlet's throat
Has softened almost to a sigh.
It is July.

–Susan Hartley Swett (1860–1907)

Apr QNS	QNI	QTC
KC1DI	2	0
W1KX	23	3
N1OTC	30	248
KW1U	14	32
W1WCG	24	0
KT2D	1	0
W2EAG	24	25
W2MTA	29	9
K2TV	15	0
K2VX	9	2
N3AO	1	1
KK3F	27	7
W3FAF	13	0
VE3GNA	7	16
K3IN	4	2
WA3JXW	4	1
K3MIY	3	3
K3RC	20	4
N3SW	1	3
N4ABM	18	14
N4DY	30	5
K4IWW	24	5
K4OSO	8	1
W4TY	2	0
W4VFJ	1	0
W4WXA	10	8
KA5NNG	25	3
K6YR	1	2
K7IFG	8	0
WD8DHC	1	0
WD8DIN	9	0
W8IM	12	0
WB8KPE	24	0
K8KV	8	1
K8LJG	19	100
KA8NYY	1	0
WD8Q	9	7
W8RTN	1	0
KA8WNO	26	51
KB8ZYY	1	6
WB9JSR	12	11

Traffic Call
Editor: WD8DIN
HBN Manager: K3RC
HBSN Manager: WD8DHC
Treasurer: N4ABM

QNS	MARCH	
NG 1A	12	42
K 1BTD	7	0
W 1KX	29	4
N 1OTC	30	250
KW 1U	20	56
W 1WCG	26	6
W 1WSN	1	0
WA 2CUW	1	0
KT 2D	1	0
W 2EAG	30	36
W 2MTA	30	23
K 2TV	18	0
K 2VX	6	1
KK 3F	11	1
W 3FAF	12	4
VE 3GNA	8	41
K 3IN	16	1
W 3JKX	1	0
WA 3JXW	4	2
K 3MIY	13	9
K 3RC	19	17
N 3SW	5	6
WA 3YLO	1	0
N 4ABM	21	23
N 4DY	30	5
K 4IWW	29	10
K 4OSO	8	2
KB 4U	1	0
W 4VFJ	3	0
W 4WXA	3	2
KA 5NNG	23	10
K 7IFG	7	0
KX 8B	8	7
WD 8DHC	3	0
WD 8DIN	7	1
W 8IM	15	9
WB 8KPE	27	8
K 8LJG	26	130
WD 8Q	14	18
KA 8WNO	29	20
WB 9JSR	12	5
K 9PUI	1	1

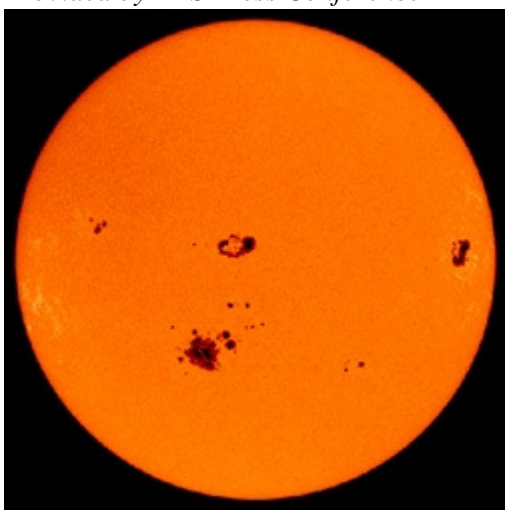
HBN QNI QTC March

QNI 568 QTC 750 QSP 721 QND 1049
SESSIONS 31

	QNI		QTC
N 1OTC	30	N 1OTC	250
W 2EAG	30	K 8LJG	130
W 2MTA	30	KW 1U	56
N 4DY	30	NG 1A	42
W 1KX	29	VE 3GNA	41
K 4IWW	29	W 2EAG	36
KA 8WNO	29	W 2MTA	23
WB 8KPE	27	N 4ABM	23
W 1WCG	26	KA 8WNO	20
K 8LJG	26	WD 8Q	18
KA 5NNG	23	K 3RC	17
N 4ABM	21	K 4IWW	10
KW 1U	20	KA 5NNG	10
K 3RC	19	W 8IM	9
K 2TV	18	K 3MIY	9
K 3IN	16	WB 8KPE	8
W 8IM	15	KX 8B	7
WD 8Q	14	W 1WCG	6
K 3MIY	13	N 3SW	6
NG 1A	12	N 4DY	5
W 3FAF	12	WB 9JSR	5
WB 9JSR	12	W 1KX	4
KK 3F	11	W 3FAF	4
VE 3GNA	8	K 4OSO	2
K 4OSO	8	WA 3JXW	2
KX 8B	8	W 4WXA	2
K 1BTD	7	K 3IN	1
K 7IFG	7	KK 3F	1
WD 8DIN	7	WD 8DIN	1
K 2VX	6	K 2VX	1
N 3SW	5	K 9PUI	1
WA 3JXW	4	K 2TV	0
W 4VFJ	3	K 1BTD	0
W 4WXA	3	K 7IFG	0
WD 8DHC	3	W 4VFJ	0
W 1WSN	1	WD 8DHC	0
WA 2CUW	1	W 1WSN	0
KT 2D	1	WA 2CUW	0
W 3JKX	1	KT 2D	0
WA 3YLO	1	W 3JKX	0
KB 4U	1	WA 3YLO	0
K 9PUI	1	KB 4U	0

Sonograms of the Sun explain mystery of the missing sunspots.

Provided by AAS Press Conference



The sun features a few large sunspots in this SOHO image. June 17, 2009

Scientists from the National Solar Observatory (NSO) in Tucson, Arizona, have discovered that a solar jet stream deep inside the Sun is migrating slower than usual through the star's interior, giving rise to the current lack of sunspots and low solar activity. The group is presenting their findings this week at the meeting of the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomical Society (AAS/SPD).

The Sun normally undergoes an 11-year cycle of magnetic activity related to sunspots, solar flares, and the interplanetary storms called coronal mass ejections (CMEs). The current "solar minimum" quiet period has been unusually long and deep, confounding scientists who hope to understand the origins of space weather and the Sun's magnetic field.

Rachel Howe and Frank Hill, both of the NSO, used long-term observations from the NSO's Global Oscillation Network Group (GONG) facility to detect and track an east-to-west jet stream, known as the torsional oscillation, at depths of about 600 to 4,300 miles (1,000 to 7,000 kilometers) below the surface of the Sun. The Sun generates new jet streams near its poles every 11 years. The streams migrate slowly, over a period of 17 years, to the equator and are associated with the production of sunspots once they reach a critical latitude of 22°.

Howe and Hill found that the stream associated with the new solar cycle has moved sluggishly, taking 3 years to cover a 10° range in latitude compared to 2 years for the last solar cycle, but has now reached the critical latitude. The current solar minimum has become so long and deep, some scientists have speculated the Sun might enter a long period with no sunspot activity at all. The new result shows that the Sun's internal magnetic dynamo continues to operate and heralds the beginning of a new cycle of solar activity.

"It is exciting to see that just as this sluggish stream reaches the usual active latitude of 22°, a year late, we finally begin to see new groups of sunspots emerging at the new active latitude," said Hill. Since the current minimum is now 1 year longer than usual, Howe and Hill conclude that the extended solar minimum phase may have resulted from the slower migration of the flow.

GONG and its sister instrument SOHO/MDI measure sound waves on the surface of the Sun. Scientists can use the sound waves to probe structures deep in the interior of the star, in a process analogous to a sonogram in a medical office. "Using the global sound wave inversions, we have been able to reveal the intimate connection between subtle changes in the Sun's interior and the sunspot cycle on its surface," said Hill.

"This is an important piece of the solar activity puzzle," said Dean Pesnell, of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. "It shows how flows inside the Sun are related to the creation of solar activity and how the timing of the solar cycle might be produced. None of the forecasting research groups predicted the current long extended delay in the new cycle. There is a lot more to learn in order to understand how the Sun creates magnetic fields."

The new science of helioseismology, enabled by instruments such as the ground-based GONG, the Michelson Doppler Imager aboard the SOHO spacecraft, and NASA's planned Solar Dynamics Observatory, has revolutionized understanding of the solar interior. "While the surface effects of the Sun's torsional oscillations have been observed for some time, understanding of the dynamo and the origin of sunspots depend on measurements of the solar interior that are only possible with helioseismic techniques," said Hill.

The following words were spoken by the late Red Skelton on his television program as he related the story of his teacher, Mr. Laswell, who felt his students had come to think of the Pledge of Allegiance as merely something to recite in class each day. Now, more than ever, listen to the meaning of these words. "I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word?"

I
me, an individual, a committee of one.

Pledge
dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self pity.

Allegiance
my love and my devotion.

To the flag
our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there's respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job!

United
that means that we have all come together.

States
individual communities that have united into 48 great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.

And to the republic
a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands, one nation
one nation, meaning "so blessed by God"

Indivisible
incapable of being divided.

With liberty
which is freedom -- the right of power to live one's own life without threats, fear or some sort of retaliation.

And Justice
the principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.

For all
which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine".

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the pledge of Allegiance...

UNDER GOD
Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer and that would be eliminated from schools too?

July 4, 1776
Thomas Jefferson noted in his "Weather Memorandum Book" that the weather was cloudy, the temperature 76 degrees F

July 4, 1832
"America" (sometimes known by its first line, *My Country, 'tis of Thee*) was first sung publicly in Boston, Massachusetts

July 4, 1884
The Statue of Liberty was formally presented to the U.S. by France

THE BAD OL' DAYS

To all the kids who survived the 1930s, 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's!! :

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant.

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright colored lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking.

As infants & children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, booster seats, seat belts or air bags.

Riding in the back of a pick up on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.

We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank Kool-aid made with sugar, but we weren't overweight because, WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 150 channels on cable, no video movies or DVD's, no surround-sound or CD's, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet or chat rooms.....
WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cuts, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.

We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and, although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them!

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever!

The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.
We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!

If YOU are one of them, CONGRATULATIONS!

CLB

The View From S.E. Nebraska

by WOOOW

WHITHER HXD

Now I know that whither is not used in its proper meaning but I thought it sounded cool. Anyway what does HXD mean and what are "supposed " to be the results?

Here is what the good old ARRL says about HXD:

"HXD--Report to originating station the identity of station from which received, plus date and time. Report identity of station to which relayed, plus date and time, or if delivered report date, time and method of delivery"

There seems to be a controversy of when and who is supposed to do the reporting.

Method "A" says that when the message is delivered then the report is to be made (like HXC).
Method "B" says that the reporting occurs from each and every station as they relay the traffic.

I vote for method 'B". Some say this is not the traditional usage. I intend to pound my fist (no pun intended) and argue for method "B". I welcome your arguments.

The first thing to do is to determine "who" sends the report. It seems logical that each and every person that touches the traffic sends a report. Otherwise, if it were only the delivering station, and the message were lost in the shuffle, nothing would ever be sent back to the originating station.

I believe that HXD is supposed to work like package tracking. It allows the originating station to not only see the message's progress, but if it gets hung up – where or just who dropped the ball. I believe that HXC and HXD are very very different.

If the station of origination were A, and the it were passed to B,C,D, and finally E delivered the message, all stations would each send a report back indicating what they had done.

Does anyone actually follow handling instructions anymore? Times of traffic handling have changed enough. Perhaps it is time to follow the directions once again.

-oow

JULY RED LETTER DAYS

The term "red-letter day" originates with the tradition of marking holy days in a church calendar in red. We use the term here to designate days of special significance in each month -- holidays, astronomical happenings, anniversaries of historic events, and days with memorable folklore attached. Information is drawn from the library of The Old Farmer's Almanac.

July 3, 2009 Dog Days Begin

July 4, 2009 Independence Day

July 7, 2009 Full Buck Moon
Bucks begin to grow new antlers at this time. This full Moon was also known as the Thunder Moon, because thunderstorms are so frequent during **this month.**

July 14, 2009 Bastille Day
Commemorates the storming of the Bastille, which started the French Revolution, on July 14th, 1789. Bastille Day is also celebrated by many of France's former and current colonies. lle Day

July 15, 2009 St. Swithin's Day
St. Swithin was a beloved ninth-century bishop of Winchester, England, who requested that he be buried in the churchyard--some say to be close to the

common people, whom he loved; some say so that he could enjoy God's gift of rain for all eternity. When he died in 862, his request was honored. About 100 years later, however, it was deemed unseemly that so holy a man should rest in a common grave. On July 15, the saint's feast day, the people attempted to enshrine his remains in his church. Legend has it, however, that St. Swithin caused torrential rains to fall for 40 days, until the intended transfer was abandoned. This is the source of a very old Scottish weather proverb regarding rain on July 15: "St. Swithin's Day if thou dost rain, / For forty days it will remain."

July 24, 2009 Pioneer Day (Utah)
Pioneer Day commemorates the day in 1847 when Brigham Young led his "pioneer band" of Mormons into the Salt Lake valley to establish a settlement--their new Zion. The Mormons had been driven from New York, Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois and had spent four difficult months traveling 1,073 miles overland to reach the Great Basin, chosen by Young because of its remoteness. It was the most organized and disciplined westward migration in American history, and unlike most emigrants intent on their destination, the Mormon pioneers were equally concerned with improving the trail for those who would follow. Pioneer Day is celebrated as the second most important date in the Mormon calendar, behind April 6, the day Joseph Smith established the church

— Old Farmer's Almanac

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