

THE 3905 CENTURY CLUB

THE CENTURION NEWSLETTER



WELCOME TO SUMMER AND THE JULY 2024 EDITION!

As you can see, I am still experimenting with the overall design of the newsletter after receiving feedback on previous editions. This issue is the start of a new look, I hope you like it, as always feedback is welcome!

Thank you to those who have been sending me articles for this newsletter. Please keep them coming! I'm still interested in receiving additional articles for inclusion such as area director updates, tips/tricks from masters and "old timers", etc.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in person at the upcoming eyeball. Here's to a great summer with great contacts (and hopefully minimal static, hi hi).

Brian, AA1QW

REGISTER NOW!



The 47th Annual 3905 Century Club Eyeball is coming up! Come join us in **Laconia, NH September 05-08, 2024**, for what is always a great time.

Registration is \$95.00.

Please visit www.3905ccn.org/eyeball2024.php to register and for more information.



Photo from Eyeball 2023 in Triangle, Virginia

REMINDER!!

The 3905 Century Club Mobile Shoot-Out 2024! Event will be held SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2024 at The Eyeball in Laconia, NH from 9:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m. EST.



In case you needed one more reason to come to the eyeball, witnessing the mobile shootout is always worth the time!

Please join us for a grand Saturday morning competition where we will determine how your mobile signal stacks up against the rest! If you do not have a mobile setup, come anyway! This event is a fun spectator sport where you can enjoy wagering on whose rig will be Top Gun!

This subevent is open to all paid Eyeball registrants! Our 2024 shootout master's will be Ben, AE4NT, and Dwight, WF4H.

Don't miss out on this!

FROM THE PRESIDENT



From the Prez,

Whew, Field Day 2024 is finally over, and I had a blast with my QRP friends. We got setup in a state park under a pavilion that protected us from the sun and had a casual day giving out contacts. Several of us tried out new antenna projects, and several others had new rigs. I wish I could say that we made a zillion contacts and will take 1st place, but that was not our goal which is fellowship with other members.

Over the next couple of months the Century Club will be focusing on the upcoming Eyeball in Laconia New Hampshire hosted by Tom Bates, AA1NZ. This event is just another example of people (us) getting together and having a blast for a few days. My first Eyeball was in 2003 and when I walked in the door I very much thought I was out of place with a bunch of people I had worked on the nets, yet they were all strangers (at least for a few minutes). Soon I was introduced to people I had worked and even today many of them are still close friends. For me this experience was worth a million bucks. Since that first Eyeball I have attended many since then and met new people who also have become good friends. I expect that this year I will also meet new people and put faces to voices. If you have not had a chance to attend an Eyeball I would suggest that you consider to see us in Laconia, NH.

If you are keeping up with the news of the club by now you would have noticed that our by-law committee is very busy. Their latest update was approved by the board of directors at the July board meeting and will become active on the 1st of August. The by-law committee has spent untold hours researching club documents and have put together the Net Control policies in this installment.

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

What this means is that the Net Controller Guide will be reviewed and changes will be made to support this latest installment. In reviewing the policies and the NCS guide I am not seeing much change other than moving some items from one section to the next. Our target for releasing the updated NCS guide is September 1st.

And finally I would like to encourage all of our members to stay safe this summer especially with the unusual heat we are having in the east, and the huge amount of rain that we have seen so far. My prayers go out to the people in Iowa dealing with the levee break:



A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT, KIRK, AA1NA



Eyeball travels are coming up quick! This is a great opportunity to pick up net contacts as attendees make their way to New Hampshire. New England is a fantastic Eyeball venue with all manner of rare states (think RI, CT, VT, etc.), state capitals, high points, low points, tri-points and everything in-between.

Personally, I plan to operate in 14 states, 10 capitals, 1 state line and 1 tri-point. These include TN, VA, PA, NY, VT, NH, ME, MA, RI, DE, NJ, GA and NC. And will bring a club, W5NA as well as the special event K5F. Rich, AC2MT plans to join me in

NY for most of the other New England states with a club, WW8WWW and K2E. We've always enjoyed meeting 3905ers on the way for a meal or operating the nets.

If you can, come to the Eyeball! Tom Bates, AA1NZ has a great event planned. Not only is it a blast to meet new faces but to also visit friends from Eyeballs before. The Mobile Shoot Out is another Eyeball feature coincidentally brought to concept by our Eyeball host, Tom, AA1NZ. Ben, AE4NT and Dwight, WF4H are our current Shoot Out Masters. Competition is quite apparent as mobile stations compete!

Another Eyeball function worth the drive for is the QRP Net(s). These are brought to you by Gene, W8NET and Kirk, AA1NA. Equipment will be on site for QRP 20M, 40M, 75M & 80M SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK. In an effort to make this an efficient event 20M, 40M & 75M SSB nets will happen plus a "People's Choice" net of the other possibilities.

Besides being immensely fun, the QRP Nets allow attendees to make contacts with those at the Eyeball so that the evening nets can be focused on contacts across the country and maybe even DX! There will be two QRO stations set up for Eyeballers to work the regular CCN nets each evening.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

The 3905 Century Club Eyeball is not complete without the Annual Membership meeting and the September board of Directors Meeting which all present are invited to attend in person. Likely there will be a Zoom link, but why miss it, especially if you can be there in person!

Tom, AA1NZ assures us the setting is second to none between Lake Winnepesaukee and Lake Winnisquam. New Hampshire food is sure to please. Be sure to enjoy the New Hampshire "Boiled Dinner" and their famous Apple Pie. And take home some New Hampshire Maple Syrup!

So many things to do at the Eyeball! All the laughs plus good-natured humor are at absolutely no extra expense.

Be there and enjoy the 3905 Century Club's premier annual event!

73 & See You There!

Kirk, AA1NA

BEN'S COLUMN

Notes from the Awards Secretary
July 2024

By Ben Goldfarb, AE4NT



Greetings and salutations, 3905ers! Happy Independence Day and Happy Canada Day! We hope your summer is going well.

This month's column is a stream-of-consciousness potpourri of commentary about anything that comes to mind. I want to bluntly address issues with our nets again, as well as another fly in the ointment or two, including the USPS. I will wrap up with awards highlights for the month of June.

Ahh, the Good Ol' Days and K5SVC

Recently In a Facebook post, former Sixth Area Director **Ginger Wonderling, AB6YL**, recalled the days of yore on the nets when **Frank Krize, K5SVC, Master #32**, was a premier net controller. Frank did not use Netlogger, nor any other logging program to live log nets. Instead, good old-fashioned pencil and paper were his logging method. Frank ran nets with up to one-hundred check-ins, and old-timers will tell you that Frank's nets moved along swiftly and efficiently, despite the absence of electronic aids.

Ginger's idea was to do an Old Timer's Night on the nets. "Let's have a real old timers' net where NCS takes a list and paper logs. Shut off Netlogger for the night and do it 'Old School'. Check-ins copied the list as the NCS took check-ins, and noted who they could hear and wanted to call. We could call it Frank's Night, he could paper log and run a net with over 75 or more check-ins."

Peter Summers, N2XTT, Master #6, added, "I was there the night when Frank had 125 checking all on paper."

The discussion continued with the usual Facebook silliness peppered with serious comments, which touched a nerve and got me thinking (always a dangerous prospect). Two thoughts were prominent. First, Frank's larger nets ran smoothly and quickly. Second, the behavior of people on the nets was more conducive to making exogenous contacts back then, the combination of which explaining why we had more check-ins.

Why Are Our Nets So Slow?

A few years ago, a big net overhaul centered on speeding up nets. Did it work? I do not think so. Instead of focusing on efficiency of running through the list, it addressed minutiae like cutting ten seconds off the preamble and not announcing check-ins, which are minor time-savers. The big problem is the time taken per call. An extra minute taken for a call adds up big time when multiplied by many lines on the list. Although we coach NCSs to run through the list quickly, we still bog down on individual calls. Furthermore, electronic live logging gets in the way, as NCSs must divert time to managing the logger and housekeeping. However, I will stop short of suggesting that we revert to pencil and paper.

Today's entitled net generation might consider it blasphemy for me to decry the practice, but endless two-two rifle shot guessing games are the scourge of the nets. If you cannot hear the other end, work someone else. If the other end cannot hear you, having the NCS intercede to give the call chance after chance slows down the net. You are special, I know, but your needs do not transcend those of the net. Guessing games must be curtailed.

Our nets have become boring because of this and the fact that we are making a larger percentage of contacts within our own group. It is rare that outsiders stick around, and who can blame them? Not only are the plethora of good old boy and girl contacts off-putting to the newbies, but also the behavior of our best and brightest gives them the final shove out the door. I will get to that in a minute, but I want to say that drawing from the laws of thermodynamics is appropriate here. In a closed system entropy always increases.

Awards Implications

We design ingenious awards to reward contacts with ourselves. Why aren't we earning progressives? Because we need a variety of contacts with new blood to feed into the progressives, which have fallen from favor because they are too hard. Instead, we can earn novelty awards by contacting each other. The number of new stations needed to provide the supply for progressives is dwindling. Furthermore, a sizeable number of those newbies who do stop by for a look do not like what they see and do not stick around. We must do better.

Is This YOU?

I have observed nets for a long time, and what I am seeing now is not good. A frequent practice now is to check out immediately after one's turn, after having made the desired contact. What is that all about? You do not want to stick around even to the end of one round? Is it any wonder that new stations to the net see this behavior and run for the hills? Remember that they come to our nets with the expectation of making contacts. You might not need them, but they might need YOU!

I consider checking in to a net a commitment to stay for at least one round. I will do so myself unless a family crisis or a thunderstorm pops up. When I see people checking out immediately after their call, especially toward the top of the list, I wonder what they are thinking.

An Imperative: Improve the Nets

We and other awards nets are fighting an existential battle with Parks on the Air (POTA), whether you realize it or not. POTA has advantages that make it appealing: any frequency, anytime, anywhere. Furthermore, operating in a park is much more interesting than sitting on one's butt in the same old home QTH contacting the same old people. And in POTA, you can sit on your butt at home if you want, too, so they have the best of both worlds. To counteract POTA siphoning off our members, YOU must do your part to keep us going. The President and the Board of Directors create the framework, but they cannot control behavior on the nets. That is up to YOU.

We have members who also do POTA, which is great. However, not everyone has the time to participate in both POTA and awards nets. The numbers of participants worldwide are now overwhelmingly in favor of POTA over awards nets. Guess who will win the battle for operators if our bogged down nets get any more boring.

Our main member retention feature is the investment we have made in the club and its awards. However, in my nine years as Awards Secretary, I have seen a declining number of members pursuing progressive awards, the backbone of our awards system. It and the Master's Degree appear not to be enough to grow our membership in today's "I want it now; I want it fast" amateur radio community.

Let us all work toward getting new stations to check in and stay around. Next time you check in, think of the newbie who checked in with expectations that they would work many stations and get some states that they needed.

Decreasing their options is bad practice, especially if you have attributes that would facilitate them earning their first 100-Point Award, such as a two-letter call sign or a state capital QTH. If you have something better to do than to stick around until the end of the round, you are part of the problem. And how about not playing two-two rifle shot guessing games while you are at it?

Call me a traitor, but I call 'em as I see 'em. Come on now, long string... Did I hear a three-three? Oh, it must have been two-one. A five-nine? I cannot hear you!

AAMs Rock!

Today's generation loves social media. Ask a question, and you are bound to get a hundred responses, ranging from true to half-assed, to false, to absurd. Our own versions of social media are no exception.

Throwing a question to the masses will get you right back to where you started. If you rely on the many and varied answers you get there, you might be in for a rude awakening when your Area Awards Manager rejects your application. Your appeal to authority defense that "_____ told me on AIM that I could do it this way" will not wash.

AAMs are the judge and jury when it comes to applying awards rules. You should develop a strong relationship with your AAM, and when questions arise, he or she is the only authoritative source. As Awards Secretary and Chair of the Awards Committee, I defer to them when awards questions come up. These resolute club volunteers are on the front lines from day to day, and they know the awards system rules and requirements like the back of their hand.

We of the Awards Committee are there to support the AAMs and further interpret rules when necessary. However, this is rare. AAMs typically get it right on the first shot.

If you have a disagreement with your Area Awards Manager, the next step toward resolution is your Area Director. However, once again, this is an extremely rare occurrence.

So, I am encouraging you all to contact your AAM, thank him (we have only “hims” now), and get to know him. If you have any awards questions, he will be delighted to answer them, knowing that by doing so, he will get more accurate and error-free applications from you in the future. Keep his phone number handy so if the temptation hits you to crowd-source your award questions, you will think twice and get the info straight from the horse’s mouth!

USPS Woes

Over the past few years, postal service from the good old United States Postal Service has deteriorated while postage fees have continually increased. Alas, your award certificates, if you choose to have them printed and mailed to you, are frequent victims of mishandling.

I mail all printed awards each week on Friday from my local post office in Central Florida. I hand-deliver them to the post office; they do not sit in a cramped mailbox somewhere. I print professional, legible labels, and the postage included on the label is correctly priced by weight and current USPS price schedule. I observe all postal regulations. Yet envelopes go astray, and it is frustrating.



I have seen a case where it took the USPS three weeks to deliver an envelope to a Georgia member. In another case, the USPS routed an award heading to Wisconsin through the Almost Dead Letter Office before continuing its leisurely, six-week journey.

More recently, a member in Indiana is still waiting for an award sent a month ago, but the most absurd case involves **Chuck Ammons, N5WGA**, in Oklahoma. Last month, the post office returned an award I had sent Chuck two months ago with a label declaring: **“RETURN TO SENDER --- ATTEMPTED – NOT KNOWN --- UNABLE TO FORWARD.”** I confirmed with Chuck that the address is correct. Then, I sent him the wrapper with the stupid label in another award envelope along with his latest award back on May 10. As of this morning, June 19, he still had not received it, and the USPS has not returned it to me. Where the hell is it and what are they doing with it?

Then, last night, I got an email from First Area Awards Manager **Kal Calley, N1ABY**, stating that one of his members had not received an award he had approved on May 27. (Today is June 19). Over two weeks to Massachusetts is ridiculous.

The Pony Express would have done better! We do have an alternative, if USPS issues get in the way of receiving your hard-won awards. You can request them in PDF form, which will mean that I email you a PDF file containing the associated certificate. I would like to ask you to keep me informed about postal delays that affect your awards. I cannot control the USPS, but I hope to develop a better understanding of their inadequacies.

Awards Highlights

A couple of big progressive awards top the list of fifty-nine awards earned since we last visited. Kudos to **Jay Wieland, N0PUI, Master #25** on his 16,000-Point Award and **Buddy Spiegel, W3BS, Master #78**, on his 3,000-Point Award, both on 40M SSB. Jay also scored a Wild Deuce for earning WAS-Combos Award #2 on 40M SSB.

Those are the awards highlights and that's it for another month's column. Next month, we will be ramping up for the Laconia, NH Eyeball, and I might shift gears to the mobile shootout, which **Dwight Greenberg, WF4H, Master #72**, and I run annually.

Stay cool!

Ben.

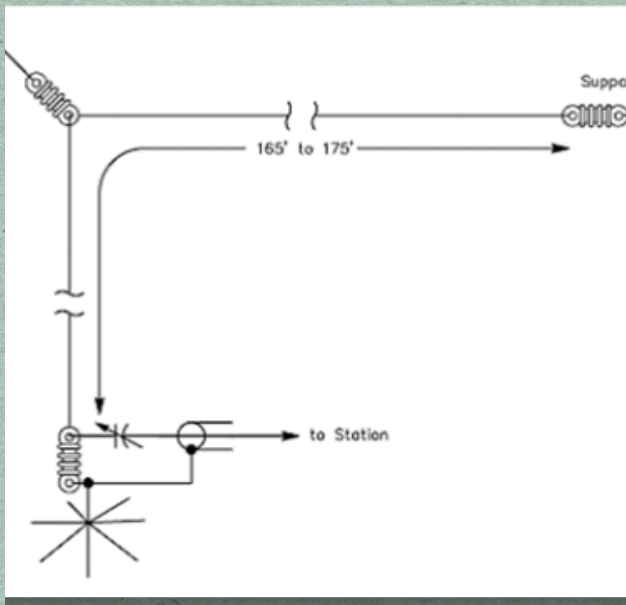
A Hybrid Inverted L Antenna for 160m (or, The W8NET Rube Goldberg Antenna!)

Submitted by **Gene Marsh, W8NET (Master # 47)**

Last year, I wanted to build an antenna for 160m. I have a very small lot, so my options were limited.

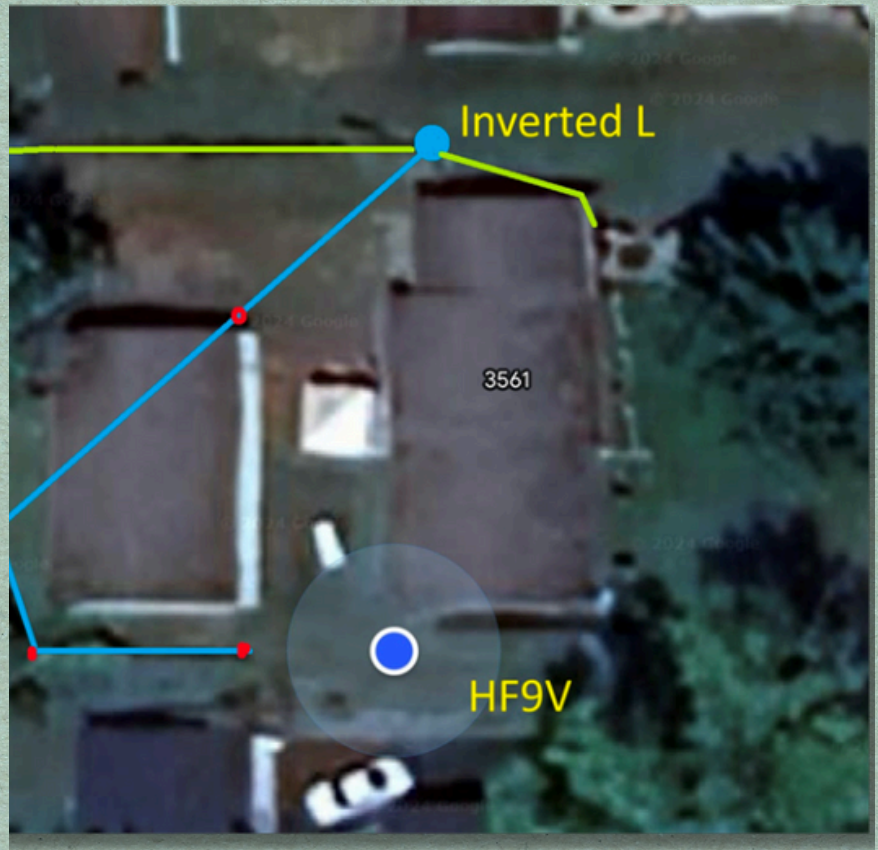
I thought about using my Butternut HF9V, with a base-loaded coil/capacitor arrangement (like the DX Engineering TBR-160X or design it myself). I believe that could work very well, since I have a good radial field for the HF9V. However, the bandwidth of that arrangement would be VERY narrow (for example, if I tune it for 1.925MHz, my spread would be something like 1.920 to 1.930 – MAYBE!). And, I wanted to be on CW (approximately 1.825MHz). I *could* engineer some kind of multi-tap wandering lead coil arrangement, to adjust the resonant frequency. But, do I want to do that in January, in northeast Ohio? SCRATCH THAT IDEA!

So, I thought about an inverted L antenna. This is a generic, baseline design for any inverted L antenna:



Of course, that design would not work because of my lot dimensions. I used some ideas from others and from some websites to figure what would work. I did this (see next page).

The light blue dot is the feedpoint and my aluminum mast (26' to the horizontal wire). The blue line is the wire. The red dots are supports for the wire, in order from the mast: 31', 27', 15' and 12'. The green lines are counterpoise wires. 3 are on the top of my cyclone fence at 4', left (66', 33' and 16"), and 2 are next to my attached garage, also at 4". You can see the position of my HF9V, darker blue dot.



The feedpoint at my aluminum mast. The coil (20uH): 2" PVC form, 45 turns of 16ga antenna wire. The large (3") PVC is a spacer for less coupling to the mast. The matching unit is a Balun Designs 4:1 balun. I used a 3.5kV 220pF doorknob capacitor across the feed.

This is my aluminum mast. The pulley is at 27'. You can see my 2m/440 J-Pole antenna at the top (and it works GREAT!)



I tried many combinations of wire length, inductance, capacitance and placement of the coil. A “normal” inverted L uses 165' to 175' of wire. The longest I could do (without dropping it to the ground) was 137". I tried that length first, then trimmed it back for the best results. Each time I trimmed the wire, I tried combinations of L/C/coil placement. It was an iterative process... and slow.

The end results are: 127' of wire; coil at the base; coil of 2" PVC form, 45 turns of 16ga antenna wire resulting in 20uH; 220pF capacitance across the balun (doorknob).

When the antenna was done, it was mid-October. Propagation on the lower bands was nonexistent. However, I tested it with my VNC, then on-the-air, for SWR. My goal was the best match on 1.925MHz, and hope that 1.825MHz could match with my LDG-600ProII Autotuner. The results: 1.6:1 on 1.925MHz; 2.0:1 on 1.825MHz. Nice! Now, I have to see if it works ON THE AIR!

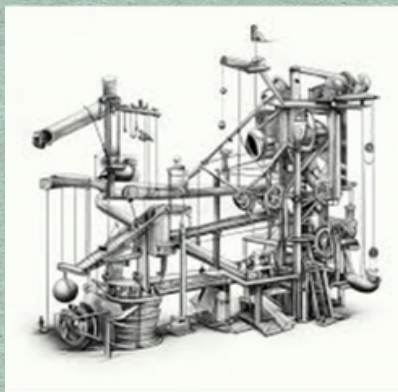
And, IT DID!!! This winter, I had ~50 QSOs CW and ~65 QSO' SSB, just on the 3905 Century Club 160m nets! Got another ~30 QSOs CW and ~40 QSOs SSB on OMISS, ragchewing, etc. AS A BIG BONUS: my new antenna matches very well on 80m (3.500MHz to 3.600MHz) – perfect for CW/RTTY/PSK/FT8! My HF9V did not match well for the lower segments of 75m/80m (the HF9V is good for MAYBE 25-30kHz if bandwidth).

It does NOT match well on 30m, 40m, 17m, 15m, 10m and 6m. It DOES match on 12m (Huh?). On 20m, the SWR is ~2.7:1. Meh. I will always use my HF9V for 20m!

A couple of other consideration: 1) I believe the best placement for the coil would be just at the first horizontal piece of the wire (next to the mast). However, that would be design change for my pulley system. Maybe later. 2) This summer, I will play with the capacitance values. I have a few doorknobs that I can try. 3) See the pic of my lot. You can see my second garage. It has full aluminum siding. I know that has to affect the characteristics of the antenna. How much, and what effect? No clue. Too much math to figure THAT out (maybe, Jim could ask one of student math wizards to do it as a PhD dissertation!).

When the solar cycle is close to the peak, the higher frequencies tend to be better. The opposite happens to 75m/80m and 160m. However, even when the solar cycle is low, the higher bands (15m, 12m, 10m and 6m) open up sometimes. This also true for 160m and 75m/80m, when the solar cycle high, and opens up. I am very please with the results for my “Hybrid Inverted L cum Reverse-J Rube Goldberg Antenna”!

Go TOP BAND, RUBE!
73 DE W8NET, Gene



Different radios I've used in my radio hobbies

Submitted by **Marty Blaise, AG5T**

Throughout my Shortwave/AM/FM, CB, scanner and amateur radio hobbies I've used various types of radio equipment. Here's a look at the many things I've used.



1971 - My first DX of AM radio stations was done on a car radio similar to this one. I was in Houston, Texas (my hometown and current residence) and I picked up Dallas station KLIF in the daytime by manually tuning to 1190, in between Houston AM radio stations. I could not believe I was actually listening to Dallas, a few hundred miles away.

I told this to someone, and they told me to try listening to the AM band at night to get hundreds of stations. They were right, tons of AM stations at night! My 11-year-old brain was amazed.

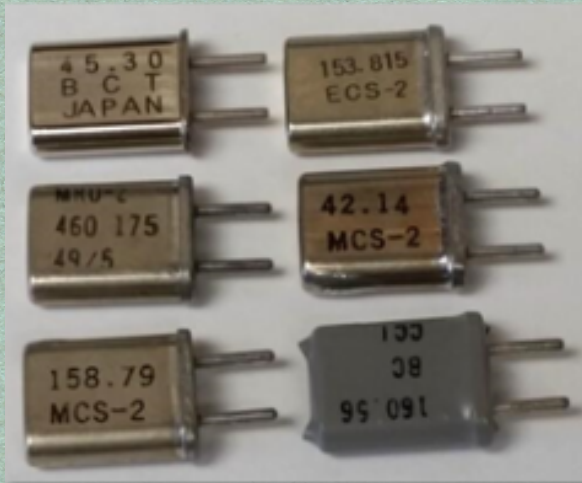
I began logging the nighttime AM stations. I sometimes still try to find stations at night. A few of my catches are WLS, KKDA, WSM, WMAQ, KOA, KVOO and WWL. I especially check 1610 to 1700. I've logged many more and have about 22 states confirmed. I use car radio antennas and ham radio antennas to chase AM broadcast band DX. Unfortunately, Houston has so many AM stations it's difficult to try things such as sunrise and sunset skip, since many locals are 24-hour stations. I haven't given up, though. Also in my area many stations are in Spanish language.



Christmas 1971 – I received a Radio Shack ColoRadio little AM transistor radio. I used it to listen to the American Top 40. It was a very cool AM radio. I could get KTSA 550 San Antonio on it from Houston.

Around 1972 or so a neighbor brought over a crystal controlled Radio Shack scanner that had all the Houston police channels programmed on 10 channels. This was my introduction to public

service radio scanning. -- I worked my way through many scanners through the years. Last one was a 100-channel digital purchased at a ham fest. All my scanners are now pretty much obsolete as you have to have a \$450 model with P25 nowadays to hear anything. The only thing left on my scanner is airports, railroads and some EMS. Maybe I will get a P25 someday.



The photo at left shows what crystals looked like that went inside the police/fire/etc scanners. You had to find the right frequency and buy the crystal for that frequency. If police were on 460.175 you needed that crystal. You needed a bunch of crystals for all the Houston frequencies.

1972 - I received an AM/FM/SW/Marine four band analog radio and still own it. Tuning without digital readout was tricky, but there were not many digital radios in 1972 or so. My late father ran a wire along the eave on the roof and it helped me log many shortwave stations.



1977 – CBs were the craze of the day and many high school students had them in their vehicle. My parents had a CB like this one in their vehicle, although I did not have one in my car. Later on in my college days I did have a 2-way CB radio.

1978 – Sparkomatic – not a very well-known gadget, it was a device you could add to an AM car radio to tune CB signals. Receive only, not transmit. But on the interstates it was fun to tune the truckers on Channel 19.



1983 – Six channel crystal scanner for work – second job after college working for a small newspaper, I used this to monitor police, EMS and sheriff for potential photo ops.

1985 - Radio Shack DX 440 – digital readout and the best AM/FM/SW radio I ever had. Even had a BFO switch to copy hams in SSB.



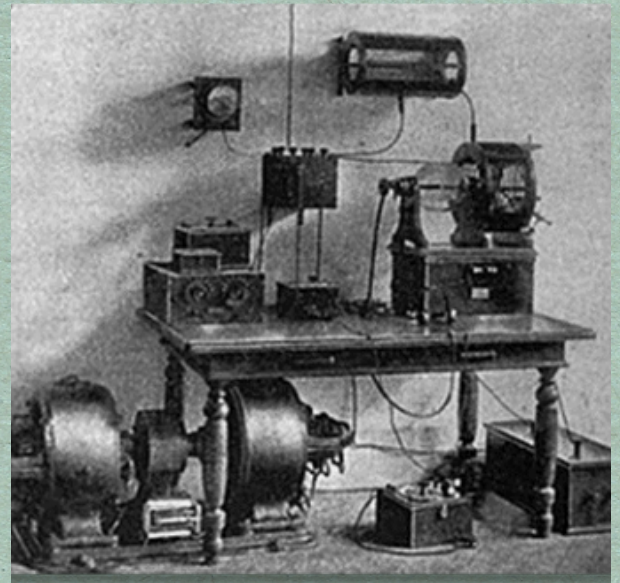
Ham radio transceivers I have used.

Yaesu FT 747-GX (left)
Yaesu FT 450-D (right)



HUMOR TIME

AG5T officially declares that this vehicle is prohibited from operating in the Eyeball shootout!



Kenwood announces new
“retro” line of ham gear
available

1. Way back when we'd have 75 checkins and then a half time to provide information on bureaus and the information officer who was WA2TEW now W2RCH. The ncs would read out Dicks address and say his city Canojoharie New York. Once an ncs said that's Canojoharie, common spelling!!!!
2. A new station was trying to check in from the city of Mobile Alabama and the net control kept asking where are you mobile in Alabama? It took several tries to get it right..... from AG5T

THE 80/20 RULE STRIKES AGAIN

Submitted by **W3BS (Master # 78), #3 All Time Award winner, #17 Oldtimer**

So, here I am on a Sunday afternoon with little I really want to do. I have 2500 QSL cards which need to be scanned and cataloged. It is a portion of my 40 meter SSB collection, mostly when I was /M and /P in 2014 and 2015. So, I decided to do some Award research, I abhor data entry.

I extracted a list of call signs from the 3905 Century Club Website for those stations who became new members between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024. There were exactly 40. Of those 40, 8 received more than 1 award exactly 20% !

Three new members achieved 2 awards, two received 3 awards, one has 4 awards. The remaining two members have 15 and 17 awards.

FWIW.

Miscellaneous Ramblings, Chasing Awards, and Related Stuff

Submitted by **Buddy Spiegel W3BS (Master # 78)**

#3 CCN Top 50 Award Earner List, 300 awards as of 6/1/2024

#17 Old Timer

Only CCN ROADRUNNER, via only state capitals, 40M SSB and 75M SSB

I am not sure which of the above hats I am wearing while typing this article, I guess it is all of the above.

How did I discover the 3905 Century Club nets? In the early Spring of 1985 I received my first callsign, KB4OIO, and started making CW contacts on the HF bands allocated to Novices. At that time VE testing sessions in Memphis were held every 6 weeks, and at the first opportunity after becoming Novice KB4OIO, on a Saturday morning, I took the Technician written exam, and opted for a new callsign, and was assigned Technician N4MJC. I continued working CW and accumulating more states, working toward the ARRL WAS award. At the 1985 Germantown Club Field Day, I worked the only HF mode available to Technician licensees, CW. Again, at the next testing session I passed the 13 WPM code exam, and the General Class written exam. My General Class License arrived on a Saturday afternoon, and that evening I was scanning the HF bands trying to figure out how I could complete my quest for the states needed for the ARRL WAS award. Calling CQ, and answering CQ calls was not particularly productive in garnering additional states. A short time later while tuning across the 75M SSB band one evening I heard something I had not heard prior, an HF worked all states and DX awards net, the 3905 Century Club.

I listened and heard a strange protocol between a "net control station", and other stations on this mysterious "list". There was another protocol between the ncs stations making contacts with each other. After 2 stations exchanged signal reports, the NCS, WB4CHK in Florida, announced "good contact, put it in the book". Parenthetically, years later I found out that Dave WB4CHK and I attended the same college in Brooklyn, NY, and were fraternity brothers. He graduated in May 1963, and I was a freshman in September 1963. I was very confused, but hung in there until the end of the "first round". Based on the contents of the "half time" litany, I sent off for the Century Club Information Packet. Remember, there was no internet in 1985 for the general public. While waiting for the Information Packet, I listened to a net from the very beginning, and through the start of the "second" round. After listening the second time, I decided to stick my big toe in the water, and checked into a nightly net. I couldn't enter the contacts I made fast enough in my manual log. I was hooked!

It was not long before with the help of the CC net and non-net contacts, I completed the requirements for the ARRL WAS award, and set my sights on the Century Club WAS award for 75M. I had not yet discovered the CC 40M SSB net. I received my first Century Club Award, 75M SSB 100 Point Certificate #1331 on 12/31/1985. My initial contacts on our nets used the N4MJC callsign. My 100 point certificate on 75 was issued to my Advanced class callsign, KJ4KR. In 1991, I became WX2G when I upgraded to Extra. It was not until January 1990 that I completed the CCN WAS award on 75M SSB. It was not easy back then, just as it is not easy now. Patience grasshopper.

In the mid 1990's when Vanity call signs first became available, I got lucky and received W3BS, W4BS was not available since it was the Club callsign of the Memphis based Delta Amateur Radio Club.

I was active in the Century Club until a December 1998 corporate move relocated me to Coral Springs, FL where due to HOAs, I was off the air till I semi-retired and moved back to Memphis and bought a house in a neighborhood without HOAs. I was back on the air in the Fall of 2013, shortly after attending the Huntsville Hamfest with BFF N5MIG. I unpacked the Kenwood TS440SAT, and put up the biggest loop I could in the attic. With the help of an external antenna tuner, I was back on HF, 20M SSB, 40M SSB, and 75M SSB were all doable with the tuner and the antenna loop. My functionality increased when N5MIG delivered the Butternut Vertical he was storing for me since the mid-1990's. I added the 160M kit, and it was good from 10 thru 160 meters.

I rediscovered the Century Club one evening, and was in total amazement when I checked in with my callsign, W3BS, and the NCS announced "welcome Buddy, glad to have you on board" - how did he know? Aha, the Century Club had its own logger, N7XG logger (now known as CCLogger). I quickly subscribed and downloaded the program. I was fortunate and located most of my QSL cards from 1985-1998, as well as the dBase/Clipper program and data I wrote for Century Club contacts. The dbf file from my program was imported into the N7XG logger, and I was in business.

I was totally amazed at the functionality of the club logger. It eliminated the necessity of manually writing down the stations which checked in. It eliminated the manual entry of QSO data into either a manual log, or amateur radio software after a qso. It provided the ability to generate QSL cards based on the recorded QSO data, and other data related to the stations involved in the qso: names, locations, /m /p, club status, etc. It also provided the capability to analyze your qualification for a particular award, and even generate an award application suitable for submission to an Area Award Manager (AAM). WooHoo. The functionality of the logger has continued to increase over time. In my opinion, two very significant improvements are as follows. The ability to marry a scanned image of a QSL card to a QSO in the Logger database, thus eliminating the necessity to ever again manually handle a QSL card. Also, the inclusion of an automatic upload to eQSL immediately after QSO, and the batch download of eQSL data to the Logger.

These two features have been written and talked about at great length recently. As an example, here is a recent experience with an application for a Work30 award. I am able to select the 30 QSOs for the award, generate the award application, generate an XLS file with all the QSO data, and get all the QSL card images in a WORD created PDF file — all in 15-30 minutes. Other awards are similarly handled with this efficiency. In addition, the Logger supports many more award applications than it did a few years ago, and its functionality is enhanced on an ongoing basis, by the author of the program, Dean Davis KL7OR, our club President.

So, how does the Logger functionality tie into "CHASING AWARDS" in the title of this article?

I was very active from when I relocated to Memphis from Florida and returned to radio in 2013, through 2016. As an example, ROADRUNNER on 2 bands, and the Leisure Mobiler of the Year - 2015. In 2016 "life" got in the way of radio, and I had a total of 174 awards at the start of my sabbatical from the CC nets. When I returned to the radio world in March 2023, I had a total of 198 awards, the increase was mainly due to the Bakers Dozen COA awards received attributable to my trip around the country in 2014-2015.

At the time of writing this article, June 1, 2024, I have a total of 300 awards. That means that I have received 102 awards in the most recent 15 months. This would not have been practical without scanning and cataloging my QSL cards into the Logger, and the Logger award functionality. Thank you Dean Davis.

After Ben published his weekly report on 5/31/2024 I looked at the Top 50 Award Earners list on the website, and it stated I had a total of 299 awards, darn I need 1 more for a magic number and my goal of 300. I have exhausted my ability to generate any additional Work30 awards, I have a total of 50. I exhausted my ability for additional WAS awards, both bands. 4K progressive on 40M SSB, and 3K progressive on 75M SSB were as far as I could go. I had previously filed several Nite Owl 40M SSB award applications, but none were filed for 75M SSB.

Since then I have completed the scanning and cataloging of 75M SSB QSL relevant for this award. So, I sat down yesterday afternoon (same day Ben published his report), and used the facility of the CCLogger Nite Owl Award Selector option. Lo and behold I had enough QSOs for 75M SSB Nite OWL Awards, level 200 through level 700 – more than enough to achieve the "300" number for total awards. I will be sending the complete package to my Area Award Manager well before Ben's next newsletter. Again, thanks to Dean Davis for making all the enhancements which made this process seamless for me, and will likewise assist the AAM.

Filing for awards is rewarding for you. Filing awards is inexpensive for you, and puts money into the club treasury. Chasing awards is fun. Award statistics should provide great data for a "dashboard" on the club web site. Filing awards keeps Ben busy, and gives him great stuff to write about.

CCLogger, try it, you'll like it.

Master Degree Requirements, Readers Digest Version

Submitted by **W3BS (Master # 78)**

#3 Top Award Earners List, 306 awards as of 6/12/2024

#17 Old Timer

Roadrunner 40m SSB

Roadrunner 75m SSB

Only Roadrunner to do it by 50 state capitals

The Master's Degree Award is the pinnacle award of our club. It is one of the few awards for which there is no fee. It is one of only two awards for which a beautiful plaque is awarded to the recipient. The second award is left to the reader to determine (hint, I have that award, twice).

QSL cards required. If you are a couch potato and only play Century Club from your shack, then you will need between 1666 and 1746 cards. The 80 card variance is caused by awards like the 100 Point Award where the number of cards could be as few as 10, or as many as 20. If you are an over-achiever and act as an NCS and go mobile or portable, then you can skate with between 1521 and 1605 cards.

Award Certificates. Couch potatoes need 28 certificates. Over-achievers need only 24.

Spoiler alert. Working and getting QSL cards from 25 unique DX entities on 75m SSB is extremely difficult. If you hear DX on 75, work them!

KL7JR 2024 Road Trip- Part 1

Submitted by **Yukon John, KL7JR**

This story is dedicated to my departed wife, Claire. We were a team for 33 years until the ugly, murderous culprit called cancer took her from me. We had this adventure planned since last year, now she rides with me in memory. We both relocated to and met in Anchorage, Alaska. She will always be my Alaska Sweetheart!

26 May, DE/MD/PA tri-point

From Columbia, SC I pointed the RV Icemobile IV north. Kayla Jean, our 6-year-old white Tabby, was riding shotgun. It was May 26 when I came on the 40m early net as KL7JR/m and KL7RST/m from the DE/MD/PA tri-point. NCS was Dave, AI4K, of the Dynamic Duo fame. I'm sure Deb K9DBB was logging! Conditions were good. I made 306 contacts on the early and late 40m nets. First in the log was AC2MT, then WN1F, WF4H, N0PUI, KU1V/p NY, AI4K, K9DBB, KM4P, W9WWG, W5UOT, W1IP, AA1NA and several others followed. I sure was having a ball doing what I like. Things slowed down on the 40m late net. KC9YY, K4JEL, WN0P, KB1XP and a few others found their way in my log. Earlier in the day I tried checking in to the 20m net but it was a no go just as the 75m early net was.



My motorhome is about 75% fiberglass with only the frame, hood and front fenders being metal. I struggled over the years with many different antenna mounts and learned the hard way that if you think your antenna is properly grounded, then ground it more! I grounded the PL-259 at the connection point then bonded the mast to the frame. Next, I added ground radials to broaden the ground plane. Battery jumper cables work fine for this. This method obviously is not for highway use, LOL! I never operate mobile unless I'm parked any way. This set up plus a mast off the rear hitch works well for me. Over 300 contacts were made from the tri point!

27 May, CT and RI border

Again propagation was good on the 40m early net hosted by Mac W6PNY. Thanks much for picking up the net Mac and also running the 40m late net! I made 168 contacts with many of the same from last night. Another good night of radioing. I sure slept good even if Kayla kept jumping on me to pay her some attention. Many of the CCN regulars easily made my log.

28 May, NH and ME border

From a small truck stop near the NH/ME border I set up for the nets tonight. All night long I listened to the diesel trucks running and eventually got used to it



Forty-meter early net was hot again. Even the 2 by 2's were loud. The 40m late net was good too. I managed to work Fred K1UU/m on the MT/ID border. That was a good haul mobile to mobile. I felt very satisfied with my QSO count and the good propagation again.

About 250 contacts were enjoyed here. After a leisurely 6 hour drive the next day, I arrived at Acadia National Park.

29 May, Acadia National Park, ME

Debbie K9DBB, of the Dynamic Duo team, was NCS on a now noisy band. I decided to swap clubs to give out a new club station, KL7CCN for the nets. First log entries include: KG4ZOD, WN1F, WF4H, AC2MT and about 70 more. Phew! Good conditions again on 40m. I fully intended to wait up for 40m late but fell asleep at the mic.

Early the next morning I set out on Coastal Highway 1 for Fundy National Park. I was surprised at Canada Customs. There was but one gate open with one guard who asked a couple questions then said, "have a nice day". I was kind of sweating it because I forgot Kayla's vet papers back in SC. Acadia NP was my 40th NP activated to date!



30 May, Fundy National Park, New Brunswick

I decided to try 75m one more time on this trip. It's been a total disappointment so far for me. I was impressed with the spacious park that had over 100 camp sites and updated rest rooms with nice showers with abundant hot water!

Of the 88 contacts made here, 80 were made on the early net. Lisa KC1YL had the early net.

One of several bath houses on the impressively clean and modern camp grounds at Fundy NP.



31 May, Prince Edward Island National Park, PEI

I figured it would be an easy[jr1] 3 hour jaunt to this park. Not! I got lost a couple times maneuvering in/around Moncton, NB near the Confederate Bridge to Prince Edward Island. Road signs are not plentiful in Canada as compared to home. Google GPS does not work in Canada for me (thanks Verizon!). Toll for the bridge was \$50.25 and when I told the gate keeper, I didn't want to buy the bridge just to rent it, he said "we get that a lot", lol!

First in the 40m early log for KL7JR/m VY2 log was KG4ZOD, then: AC2MT, W8NET, W9BUM, KU1V, KM4P (always there to relay!) W6PNY, N0PUI, K4JEL and many other CCN regulars. Even the 75m early net started to come



around with KB1XP, K4JEL, K9DBB, AI4K, AA1NA, W9WWG and KF7HNC/p NY and a few others. The 40m late net netted me: K9DBB, AI4K, WK1J, KB1XP, WY6N, KN4CQB and a couple others. It was nice to work 75 again!

Confederate Bridge, looking towards NB (left) and PEI (right).

The 8-mile-long bridge was constructed in 1997. It connects mainland New Brunswick with Prince Edward Island. It is Canada's longest bridge and the world's longest bridge over ice-covered water.



1 June, Kouchibouguac National Park, NB

After a short 3 hour drive I arrived at the other New Brunswick park (which I can't pronounce, either!). I grabbed a camp site (\$24 primitive plus \$4 vehicle pass) and once again set up my antennas for

I'm on a DX adrenalin high now so decided to hit Quebec tomorrow before I venture to 95 South. (I can hear Claire now, "I knew you would".) No national parks, just new KL7JR/m VE2 and KL7RST for CCN. I'd operated from Quebec before some 20 years ago. The beaver is the Canadian symbol for National Park.



First in my KL7JR/m NB and KL7CCN/m NB log was AA1QW/p ME followed by: N2XTT, VE3CMB, KU1V, WN1F, VA3YKT, KC9YY, KC2DAQ, W2RCH, KM4P, and others. Band conditions again good netting me 80 contacts on both early nets! Forty late saw W6PNY, VE3KUZ, K4JEL,

KB1XP, WY6N, WN0P, K9DBB, AI4K, KI7PM and others in my log. It was cool and overcast all day but the DX was HOTTT!

The mosquitos were out in full force. They were tiny little buggers compared to Alaska mosquitos. Saw only one moose here on entire trip. Guess that's a good thing.

2 June, Mobile in southern Quebec

Conditions were now fair with many weak signals. NCS was 40m early was Dave AI4K. First dozen in my log: N2XTT, AC2MT, WN1F, KU1V, W8NET, N0PUI, VE3CMB, AA1NA, VA3YKT, KC9YY, K4MP and W6PNY. Later on 75m early, the following made my log under worse conditions now: W8NET, N0PUI, AC2MT, AA1QW/p ME, VE3CMB, K4JEL, KF7HNC/p NY and KO4LEM. Bob KI7PM was NCS on 75m.

About an hour later with only a few check-ins, KL7OR, KB1XP and WY6N made my 40m late net log. I turned in exhausted.

3 June, mobile on NY/NJ border

What a rat race it is here. I didn't ever think I'd get across the George Washington Bridge in New York City, alive! I was again reminded why I left here 30 plus years ago. Radio conditions were fair when K9GWS called the 40m early net. I worked: N0PUI, VA3YKT, N2XTT, KU1V, K9GWS, KM4P, AI4K, K9DBB, W8NET, WN1F, N2KED (aka "speaker blaster"!) and others. VE3HMK and I traded 22's. Now I know what he sounds like. 75m early, NCS N0PUI, was better than I thought, netting me: AC2MT, KO4LEM, K4JEL, KB1XP, N0PUI, KA2YEG (no Alex, I'm never moving back there!) and AA1QW/p NY. 40 late and it was W6PNY, KB1XP, WY6N and K4JEL.



4 June, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio

I really enjoyed that net because I didn't have to repeat a lot. K9GWS was NCS. Many of the regulars already mentioned easily made my log. I still was experiencing RF problems. I could not tune 75m as I

usually did on this trip. It did give me a fit a day or two ago but after I did a hard reset on my TS-590 and further separated my coax and power cables, all was fine. Not tonight. On 40 late, I worked: W8NET, KL7OR, VE3KUZ, N9BFI, K4ISG, KB1XP, W9WWG, AE4NT, KA2YEG, WY6N and K6YEK on round 1. I pulled the plug totally exhausted from all the "road time".

June 5, Mobile in IL

I couldn't resist another new state, and I needed a short drive today anyway! I'm mostly on the road for a good 12-14 hours to cover distance. Weather has been pretty good all trip. The 40m early net hosted by Debbie K9DBB (aka the "Reflector Lady"!) started off slow contact-wise. A rain and lightning storm had just passed over causing my transmitting to "go somewhere". Receive was good, go figure. At 0035 I finally worked W6PNY who was surprised to hear me. Then AI4K, K9DBB, AB8YZ, N2KED, KC2DAQ, N2XTT and VA3YKT made my log. IL was another new state for me. I still had RF issues on 75m so that was another no go, and to my surprise the 40m late net had me again fighting RF in the motor home too. The antennas would tune fine but after a couple of transmissions the SWR would go crazy. The control box for the detectors and sensors was by the main door and the 75m Hamstick was about 4 feet away. It really didn't bother 40m at first. So, more detective work is required.

I left at 5:30 am for Wyoming. Did I mention the adrenalin, hi hi! At 8pm I shut it down near North Platte, NE. Again, I was beat from the driving plus I had to have a tire changed along the way.

June 7, Grand Teton National Park, WY

This is NP #45 for me. I worked for the power company as a Journeyman Lineman here back in 1976. I remember hunting elk near the park while we installed new power lines. I was totally in awe when I first laid eyes on the



Teton Mountains near Jackson Hole. I also remember what an unfriendly town it was, especially to new comers. I was only staying the winter and had Alaska on my radar anyway.

40m early was hosted by Mark, KI0Y. Conditions were bad for me, with relay help from Mac W6PNY, I worked WA0ROH, KU1V/p CO, N0PUI, W8NET, W6PNY, NI0A and AA1QW/p UT.

75m early, NCS W9WWG, was very frustrating with low signals and only about 8 check-ins which couldn't hear me. Later on the 40m late net hosted by KI7PM, conditions changed for the good, with the following finding a place in my log: WN1F, N2XTT, AI4K, K9DBB, K4JEL, W9WWG, WY6N, KB1XP and others. Then on 75m

late net, by W6PNY, I worked the following: AA1QW/p WA, K9DBB, AI4K, KO4LEM, W6PNY, K6YEK, KB1XP and KE7RG (so that's what you sound like Robin, you were only 20 over!).



The scenery through Grand Teton National Park, like Yellowstone National Park, is uniquely beautiful! So many photo opportunities!



On my spare time, I was filling out QSL cards! Recognize any familiar calls? I think I'm about 50% done on QSLing by the time I arrived in WA state!

Thanks to the NCS stations, relays and posters: K9DBB, WN1F, AA1QW, KB1XP, K4JEL, KU1V, W6PNY, W9WWG, KM4P and others for helping fill my log. What a fantastic time I had with Amateur Radio on the 3905 nets!

But hold on, this story isn't over yet. Give me a couple months for the DX season to improve, and I promise the Northwest Territories in epic proportion! Including a NT National Park or two. More on KL7JR/m VE8, KL7RST/m VE8 and VE8RST/m VE8. Perhaps even some portable operating for more contacts on part 2 of this adventure.

[KL7JR 2024 Trip Stats- Part 1](#)

Total contacts made: 1,428

States/Provinces activated: DE, MD, PA, CT, RI, NH, ME, NY, NJ, IL, OH and WY. QC, NB and PEI

National Parks activated: Acadia, Fundy, PEI, Kouchibouguac, Cuyahoga Valley and Grand Teton.

Total miles driven: 7,800

Days on the road: 15

Thanks to all who called me making a lonely trip fun. I struggled without my navigator.

Claire, thank you for sharing your life with me. You have made me a better person for it. I shall love you forever.

Your devoted husband,

John.

AG5T Storm Photos

Marty, AG5T shared some photos from the recent storm that came through his area in Houston, Texas. This photo is approximately a half mile from his QTH.



Here's what the wind did to his telescoping mast.

We're looking forward to hearing you back on the air from your home QTH, Marty!



From the Archives

I came across this article about Don Chinnery, WU9T from the April 1991 edition of the Centurion and wanted to share it again. I'm sure many of our long-time participants will remember Don. I had the pleasure of meeting him during one of his stops through Maine in 2015. Don always brought great mobile and portable contacts to the nets. Don passed away in February of 2020 and his call sign has since been reissued.

WU9T: Nomad searches for retirement base, averages 2300 mobile 3905CC contacts/year

Whether he's known as WB9ONA ... or KE9XL ... or WU9T, Don Chinnery ranks as a top contender for the 3905CC's Mobile Hall of Fame. From his first 3905CC mobile contact with WG0O/P6 in March of 1989, Don has wrapped up 4600+ 3905CC contacts from 24 states, four Canadian provinces, and two Mexican states.

And to top it off, Don even offers his own DONOMAD award that is automatically sent to those stations he works in 20 or more states.

Next year will mark Don's 30th Ham year. "My main operating mode from 1962 through 1978 was predominantly CW with considerable mobile operation on the CW County Hunter nets."

But after his wife of 22 years passed away in 1979, Don went Ham-inactive. A chemical engineer by trade, he answered the call of the open road in 1983 and simultaneously started to cut his full-time workload by selecting fewer and fewer consulting jobs to work each year.

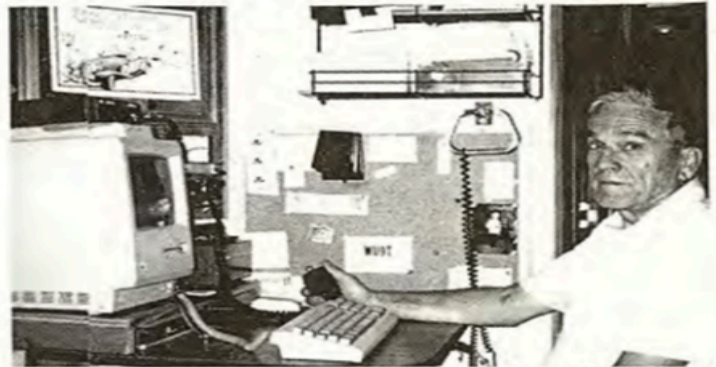
In 1986 he married a retired Head Start school teacher from Mississippi whom he met on the road, and who shared his travel interests (a widow, she had an RV also). They share three sons and three granddaughters.

By early 1989 Martha and Don had gone over the edge into full-time traveling.

"Martha encouraged me to take the radio gear along. My old SB-101, and heavy 110V supply, quickly proved too bulky for the already overloaded RV," so Don had to upgrade (and we all know how hard that must have been) to an Icom 735 with the AT-150, an Icom 28H with MFJ-1278 multimode ... and a Mac computer system. Yup, not a bad upgrade, we all would agree.

He has all the resonators for his Hustler, except the 160. Three 12V batteries isolated from the motor are charged by two ARCO 55 Watt Solar panels, or the motor's alternator. A 4KW Honda water-cooled generator serves emergency duty but is rarely used.

"Originally our travel goal was just one year as we made an extended trip to Alaska and the western states. After that we would find a new locale for our retirement home base," Don explained. But a late start and other delays in



Don at "home" in the 34 Ft. Bounder.

1989 put most of the traveling into 1990 as the couple wintered seven weeks in Mexico, and then traveled north through the West Coast and Canada to summer in Alaska.

Don upgraded to KE9XL in Portland, OR, and was able to operate Field Day with that call from the top of Midnight Dome (near Dawson City) just after the summer solstice. The sun never set that Field Day. Don had a delightful summer and upgraded to Extra in Alaska.

Acting just like snowbirds, the couple left Alaska, stopped off in Wisconsin and Michigan and wandered southeast into Florida for the winter. There they regrouped in a SKP COOP park at Zolfo Springs.

"Now it looks like we will be on the road a couple more years. Martha thinks that as each year goes by we'll probably still be trying to decide where to retire.

"In the meantime, we do enjoy traveling, making friends with fellow travelers, and, most of all, the Ham radio contacts we make and the eyeball contacts that follow," Don said.

Warm weather ahead should see WU9T visiting the Mid-Atlantic states to the Great Lakes; back to Florida this winter; back West for 1992.

There are nine current DONOMAD awards issued so far, but the call of the road and the 3905CC this spring, summer and fall should keep WU9T well occupied.

July 2024 Club Events



Note: Regular Board Meetings are always held on the second Saturday of each month, local time at 9PM Eastern, 8PM Central, 7PM Mountain, 6PM Pacific.

Next Meeting:

3905CCN Board Meeting:
Saturday, July 13, 2024



Did you know that videos of all Board Meetings are posted on the Club's YouTube channel? Courtesy of the Board and produced by Sammy KB1XP, you can view them at: <https://www.youtube.com/@3905CenturyClub>



Weekly Zoom Meeting on Wednesdays at 01:30pm Pacific Time. Check your email for the Zoom log-in information.

Be part of the next issue!

Send in your articles - remember the deadline!

Centurion Deadline Reminder: Please remember my deadline is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the next edition.

Please send your articles to AA1QW@startmail.com. Thank you.