



The 3905 Century Club

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of our nets is to make contacts and exchange QSL cards. The exchange of QSLs for contacts made on our nets is essential for earning our extensive selection of Club awards or toward any purpose you may choose.

CLUB BENEFITS

- Over 40 awards available including: WAS, DX, National Parks, and Mobile
- Masters Degree Award—Only available through The 3905 Century Club
- Daily SSB and CW nets on, 40 and 75 meters, Saturday/Sunday nets on 20m
- Winter and Fall nets on 160 meters
- Digital Nets (PSK, RTTY) each week on 20, 40 and 80 meters
- No-fee lifetime membership
- Friendly nets that help new hams learn how to make contacts
- Volunteer-run, free QSL bureaus save you money
- Free NetLogger, a program we use to log our nets

NET SCHEDULE

See the Club's home page for today's net schedule. <https://www.3905ccn.org/index.php> or find the schedule of all nets here. <https://www.3905ccn.org/netsched.php>

BECOMING A MEMBER

Earning your first 100-Point Award certificate on any band/mode earns lifetime voting membership in the Club and makes you eligible to earn other awards on that same band and mode. This link takes you to 100-point application.

<https://www.3905ccn.org/awdapps/100pt.pdf>

Once you have completed the application, send it to your area awards manager. This link takes you to a list of area awards managers.

<http://3905ccn.org/officers.php#area>

AWARDS PROGRAM

You can go on to earn additional 100-Point Award certificates on other bands and modes and there are also many other fine awards that are fun to work toward and are suitable for framed display in your “shack.”

Our **Progressive Awards** system encourages members to set their own goals and achieve its limitless levels at their own pace. Earned by making contacts on a specific band/mode combination, the “progressives”, starting with the 100-Point Award reward members for their participation in our nets.

The **Master’s Degree** is our pinnacle award, and it comes with benefits. As it requires many of our other cornerstone awards plus service to the Club as prerequisites, earning the Master’s Degree involves commitment and hard work. When you become a Master, you get preferential check-in at the top of the list and a handsome award mounting plaque to showcase your achievement.

Finally, we offer a broad variety of specialty awards for accomplishments on our nets. Do you like to work from National Parks? We have an award for that. Are you a poker player? The Poker Player Award will appeal to you. Browse through our more than forty awards and find which are right for you!

Award applications <http://3905ccn.org/awards-program.php>

HOW OUR NETS WORK

Before the official starting time of our nets, the NCS optionally takes check-ins for what we call the “pre-list”. Check-ins are first come, first served. At the start of a net, the Net Controller Station (NCS) will call the net to order, make a few announcements and then will begin taking check-ins, first with Master’s Degree holders and DX stations, then general check-ins. Once the NCS is satisfied that the list is complete, the NCS will direct stations to make their calls.

If you wish to check in and you cannot hear the NCS, please wait for the NCS to ask a relay station to assist with more check-ins. NCSs will try to designate relays in different locations to pick up more stations.

The NCS will run through the list allowing each person time for a call to any other person on the net. The objective is to call someone you want a QSL from, exchange a signal report and confirm the actual signal report you receive so others on the net hear your confirmation.

The NCS will run through the check-in list repeatedly, allowing each person checked in a call on each pass through the list, periodically taking additional check-ins. until no one wants to make any more calls.

Due to propagation, QRM, QRN, etc., it is up to NCS to decide when to terminate repeated attempts to make a difficult call. If a call cannot be completed, another call is generally allowed.

When it is your turn to make a call. You have three options:

- (1) Make a call to any station you have heard.
- (2) Say your call sign and then say "up for grabs" (an invitation for anyone to call you)
- (3) "Take a pass" or "no calls". This means you give up your turn to make a call during that round.

You may hear some stations that also have a club call sign and/or a special event call sign (1X1 Call). By working this station once, you get credit for a contact with the station, the club and/or the special event call. On one call you could get up to 3 contacts

NET CHECK-IN LISTS

We use an easy tool called NetLogger. It helps keep track of the check-in list and makes it simple to log contacts. NetLogger is free and shows the station's state, any special status, such as Master's Degree holders, state capital, YL, officers, VIPs. This will help you decide what station to call when it is your turn and keep track of your contacts.

Link for free NetLogger download: <https://www.netlogger.org/>

HOW OUR QSL BUREAUS WORK

Volunteers operate QSL bureaus and the vast majority of those on our nets use these bureaus because they are by far the easiest and most economical way to exchange QSLs, and they have a very fast turnaround. You send cards for contacts you have made to the bureau in bulk (perhaps 10 or 15 cards at a time). The bureau sorts the incoming cards and returns you cards from contacts in bulk. Stations must participate in the bureau for you to send their cards to the bureau. "GIB" is noted in NetLogger for any station that is "Good In Bureau". You can also check here to see if the station is good in bureau.

<https://www.3905ccn.org/gibLookup.php>

You have two options to for using the QSL Bureau:

1. Send the bureau self-addressed stamped envelopes (SASE) (#10 or 6x9 only), with 1 or 2 ounces of postage on them. Use forever stamps. 15 to 20 envelopes are about right to get started.
2. Via PayPal or check send the bureau money. They will provide envelopes and postage using these funds. \$20-30 is a good start and should last you several months. US dollars only please. Link for PayPal Payments <http://3905ccn.org/award-fee-paypal.php>

Bureau address for sending cards and funds <http://3905ccn.org/buro-allnets.php>

If you prefer to send and receive QSL cards direct and not through the Bureau, you will be designated as “direct” on the NetLogger check-in list – but please note that you will likely get more calls if you join the bureau!

For more information about the bureau follow this link <http://3905ccn.org/buroinfo.php>

QSL TIPS

- Do NOT wait to receive a card before you send one. If everyone did that then no one would ever get a card.
- If a station is mobile or portable, please note on the card that they were mobile or portable and in what state. If YOU are operating mobile or portable, make sure you indicate WHERE you are operating on the front of the card.
- Remember to use Zulu date and time on the card. NetLogger shows the Zulu date and time of the contact.
- eQSL's are acceptable but not preferred for use toward Club awards, but they must contain all needed awards information and must be printed out. Many check-ins to the nets do not have an eQSL account so sending only an eQSL will reduce your QSL response. Also, for mobile and portable and other special stations the required information is typically not on the eQSL's.
- Your QSL card should be standard sized, 3.5" x 5.5", preferably on card stock. This assures your cards will fit the envelopes in the bureau and will be easy to handle.
- Include the following information if it applies to you. You were part of a “combo”, you are operating QRP, any Club offices held, any progressive award certificate numbers, located in a state or provincial capital, located in a National Park, and any other status that may be worth points toward awards such as acting as NCS, etc.

If you need help or have questions, please contact the Club Information Coordinator:

Gary Slagle, K9GWS
819 Wild Orchard Lane
Woodruff, SC 29388

Club Information Coordinator Email: info@3905ccn.com