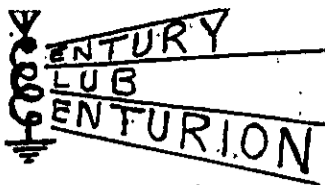


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Inquiries to:
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c/o Tom Bowers
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VOL. IV No. 1

The 3905 Century Club, Inc.

September, 1982

ON "HAVING YOUR HANDS FULL AND YOUR PANTS TO HOLD UP", article by WD4CQY

There is no way that I can know how many of you GMs and XYLs have had to "batch" for protracted periods of time, however, ever the optimist, I thought that perhaps some of my experiences would be of interest to you. Here are some things to consider:

To the OMs: Do you know which "menus" your cat likes?; which he or she won't eat at all?; which supermarket sells his favorite cheapest?; what you do with the used kitty litter? (Don't FLUSH it, particularly if you're hooked up to a septic tank!); where are the band-aids kept?; where is the flea dip.. scratch, scratch.. for the dogs?; where are the extra light bulbs?; when will the electric/telephone companies disconnect me if I can't find their damn bills?; how much soap/bleach do you put in the washer for my shorts?; where is it?

To the XYLs: What does it mean when the mechanic says, "You swallowed a valve, ma'm"?; the man on the phone said it would be a good idea to put aluminum siding over our brick. Is that right?; I was offered a cut-rate cemetery lot, today. Do you know something I don't?; is it a pint of gasoline to each gallon of oil for the lawn mower?; the Coach said Johnny needs a new athletic supporter, but I don't know any of your golfing friends. What do I do?; where did you hide our travelers' checks? 'Cause if you aren't home soon, I'm gonna take a trip!

The Holy Bible says that "Man does not live by bread alone." My experience has been that man does not live by ANYTHING alone, very well.

(Your editor has been "holding down the fort" for all but about three weeks since June 24, and he simply had to "let it all hang out"!)

LINES LOST IN THE QRM by WD4CQY

"Courage is fear that has said its prayers." (From a church marquee, in Mount Dora, FL)

The 3905 Century Club, Inc. is incorporated as a "corporation not for profit" under Chapter 617, Statutes of the State of Florida. In addition, the Club is tax-exempt as determined by IRS.

THE CENTURY CLUB CENTURION
c/o Tom Bowers
Star Route 3, Box 972
Eustis, FL 32726

3905 Century Club, Inc.

Club Officers:
President WA4SGP, Ray Grant, 523 Glenpark Dr., Nashville, TN 37217
Vice President WA2ZYM, Bill Herbert, 353 7th Ave., Troy, NY 12182
Sec'y-Treas. W3LQY, Marianne Payton, 227 Bennett St., Winter Springs, FL 32708
Awards Sec'y WB3AMO, Dave Welker, 229 Ridge Ave., Sunbury, PA 17801
Corp. Res. Agent W4MNZ, Ron Toller, P.O. Box 23482, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307
Imm. Past Pres. AJ8Y, Dennis Chaney, Current Address Unknown
Editor WD4CQY, Tom Bowers, III, Star Route 3, Box 972, Eustis, FL 32726

Board of Directors:

WA1ROI, Fred Larson, Route 1 52, Cambridge, ME 04923
KC2RB, Frank Scrom, E-31 Yates Village, Schenectady, NY 12308
KB3GN, George Roberts, Jr., 5906 62nd Ave., Riverdale, MD 20840
KC4CZ, Dan McNeill, 2305 Vance Dr., Florence, SC 29501
KA5HFB, Letha Sharp, Route 2, Box 173, Prairie Grove, AR 72753
W6PIO, Ed Epperson, 520 W. Berkeley Ct., Ontario, CA 91762
KB7UL, Gary Portsche, N 8111 Standard, Spokane, WA 99208
KB8MF, Gerry Sanders, 719 Mohican Dr., Loveland, OH 45140
KB9QP, Bob Hartenstein, 1842 Olive St., Indianapolis, IN 46203
KBØYX, Bob Adams, Box 104, Blair, NE 68008
VE3KFO, Jack Harper, Windy Hill Farm, Addison, ON KØE 1AØ, CANADA

(CHMN)

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Part I of this editorial appeared in the "Centurion", VOL II, No. 3 (March, 1981), wherein I stated that I would "re-invent the wheel", as often as it seemed necessary.

Without regard to the order of importance, here are some of the things that I have noted, in the interim, that have caused some degree of grief to me, both as the "Centurion" editor and as a "plain vanilla" member of the 3905 Century Club:

QSL cards - About 4% of the QSL cards I receive have Z time and LOCAL DATE (ocasionally, vice versa). Now, unless specifically requested otherwise, ALL QSLs for QSOs completed below 144 MHz should show both Z time AND Z date. This is customary throughout the amateur world. Also, every now and then, I get a QSL with different call-signs



I THINK I'LL CALL IT "FIRE".

for me, in the information portion as compared to the address portion. And, occasionally, I'll get one with a different signal report than that which I QSLed on the nets. I believe the Z time mistakes probably are the results of ignorance; so, it is up to all of us to TEACH the lady or gent, in a friendly manner. The other mistakes, though, must be due to plain carelessness - and carelessness, when you have 2,000 volts, or more, within inches of your hands, CAN BE DEADLY.

"Let George Do It" - Recently I received a piece of correspondence that included this phrase: "I use the C.C. often." (my underline). Perhaps the member simply made a poor choice of words, and really meant to say, "I participate in the C.C. often." Nevertheless, it started me thinking and observing just how many members "use" the Club and how few "participate". If you like, check your dictionary for the differences implied - "use" is a one-way transaction; "participate" is two-way. There is quite a difference as they apply to the general welfare of the Club. One good example is simply stated - "No NCS, no net!"

Input to the "Centurion" - The Club's President, Vice-President and Awards Secretary almost always send in articles for the "Centurion"; virtually NOBODY ELSE does, anymore. No member can be QNI on both 40 m. and 75 m. nets, seven nights a week, fifty-two weeks a year. I am no exception. If I don't hear it = I don't know it = I CAN'T PRINT IT! Over the life of the "Centurion", I've collected, on various scraps of paper, several tid bits of (I hope) interest or humor. I keep them to use as "fillers". But, with the dearth of subscriber input, of late, about 25% of the "Centurion" is now "filler" - that's fair to neither you nor me. In the past, the "Centurion" has had subscriber-submitted antenna articles, suggested log sheet designs, a 6-land survey of strong-signal East Coast stations and numerous other items of interest, including pieces by two different members who had visited BY-land. Of late, NOTHING. Surely, you have had something interesting happen to you, in amateur radio, of late. If not, why are you still hamming? Share it with us. Maybe you had an unique Field Day experience this year. Did you grab a rare DX station? How about a super long-distance 2m. or 70 cm. QSO? I can't promise to print everything you send me, but I sure would like to have more to choose from than what I have now, which is nothing!

"Centurion" subscriptions and renewals - For reasons unknown to me, the subscription/renewal checks from about 5% of the subscribers come in made out to either the 3905 Century Club or to the "Centurion", rather than to "Tom Bowers". One reader subscribed and has renewed TWICE that way. All announcements, of every kind, have always said "make checks payable to 'Tom Bowers'", and, I've included notes in outgoing "Centurions" saying the same thing. I really don't know what else I can do to get your attention. Fortunately, my bank has one teller who understands the problem. Then there are those who "forget" to renew, and as I write this, there are SIXTY-EIGHT of them whose subscriptions expired with the last issue. There is a red stamp, in the mast-head of your last paid issue, that states the renewal date. If red ink, on a black and white page, can't get your attention, I'm at a loss as to what else I could do. Late renewals - those that are received after the next issue has gone to the printer - are handled as new subscribers. This is because both the Club's President and Secretary have lists of subscribers' line numbers and call-signs, and when the "Centurion" goes to press, I prepare an "add and delete" report for each of them.

Rebuttals - Rebuttals to this editorial are most certainly invited; I sure would appreciate some letter-mail, occasionally, to go with all the junk-mail that is about all I get, anymore!

Silent Key

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of the following Club member and Director:

W5LBT Jim Winburne, Little Rock, AR

NOTES FROM THE DESK OF THE AWARDS SECRETARY, by WB3AMO

The Board of Directors has appointed an Awards Committee. We already have several suggestions before us, for study; a Worked All States, a mobile award for mobiles, only; a certificate numbers award, and a joint band award. The committee will be working on these suggestions, in the near future. If you have any suggestions, speak up. The members of the committee are WB3AMO, KJ8H, N8DDQ, WB1FAK and VE3KFO. You can always go through your area director, with ideas, as always.

The box crushing service has been doing a very good job of losing outgoing mail, from this QTH, of late. If you are looking for a certificate in the mail, I usually mail them the day after the number is read on the air, and should be at your QTH in one week (2 maximum), so if your mail box is empty, please let me know, and I'll send another.



NEW CALL-SIGNS from WB3AMO

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| KB8LP now KT8Q | WA2TRZ now KC2PO | KA4DJG now N4FJU | WA2JDP now KC2RB |
| WA9UTM now KC9OF | N4CUM now NE4G | N1BGY now KB1CQ | KA3DUC now KJ3T |
| KC7BU now KU7F | WB2JVP now KA1SR | WD9BAJ now KB9TO | |



At our Club's fifth annual eyeball meeting August 13, 14 and 15, at Rock Candy Mountain Campground, near Dog Patch, Arkansas, 38 amateurs, representing 16 states, in six U.S. Call Areas plus Canada, signed the log.

It seemed that everyone enjoyed themselves; I know I did. It is always such a pleasure for me to see old friends, again, and to meet some in person, for the first time. I am already looking forward to Eyeball 6. We missed all the people from previous eyeballs, that could not make this one; I wish every one of our Club members could have been with us.

Thanks to Letha and Lee, KA5HFB and KA5BMK, for a super job of putting everything together for us; to Frank, AB5J, for handling the cooking chores; and to everyone for their help.

Marianne Payton, W3LQY, is the recipient of our Club's Annual Service Award. The Annual Service Award is presented to a club member for his or her outstanding service to our club. It is a well-deserved award for Marianne. She joins Alice, WA4RRR, Bill, WA2ZYM, and Tom, WD4CQY, as a select group to receive this award.

Also, Bill, VE3HR, last year's "Gourd Head" passed the gourd and the "GOURD HEAD" title along to Bob, KB9QP. I don't think I have ever seen Bob speechless before.

The Club Board of Directors will soon be accepting nominations for President and Vice-President, for 1983. If there is someone you would like to have as Club President, send your area director a note asking that he or she nominate that person. The Director will place that person in nomination for you.

Odd-numbered U.S. Call Areas (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) and DX Directors will also be elected, in January, 1983. It is not too early for those of you in these call areas to be thinking about who you would like to have as director, for the next two years.

More specific information about Club elections will be given on our nets, as we approach the election dates.

PUBLICATION NOTICE: Articles for the December issue of the "Centurion" should be in my mail box no later than November 20.

"MATCHMAKER, MATCHMAKER MAKE ME A MATCH", editorial by WD4CQY

I suppose most subscribers have seen "Fiddler on the Roof", either on the stage or on television, or they, at least, have heard the music from it. The title of this editorial is the title of one of the songs from "Fiddler", and, when I heard it, again, for the umpteenth time, the other day, it started me thinking about our net control stations.

The NCSs act as "matchmakers". They collect and list all the eligible "matches" you can "make", when it's your turn for a call. Obviously, if the regular NCS fails to show up, by net time, it is in EVERYBODY'S interest that SOMEONE steps forward and takes over. In the last thirty days, or so, I've noted three times when apparently NOBODY stepped forward. Results - NO NET.

If you decide to become a regular or alternate "matchmaker", contact the Net Control Coordinators - K1DUG (40 meters) and WB9QEZ (75 meters).

"Participate" in the Club, don't just "use" it!

ARRL PHONE NUMBERS by WD4CQY, from information from WB3AMO and the August issue of "WORLD RADIO"

If you should need to telephone the American Radio Relay League, its number is area code 203 666 1541, but it could save you a lot of toll call money if you knew the extension number of the section to which you needed to speak. Here they are:

Awards: DXCC /233; WAC /288, /269; WAS /238. Beginner and Novice; Technical Questions /274, /214. Book Orders /233. Contests /232, /252. DXCC (not awards) /324, /206. Insurance (members) /269, /288, /241. Licensing: Renewal Forms /248, /269; questions /243, /242. Life Membership /256. Net Directory: Input /215; Orders /248. Net Information /261, /260. Repeater Directory: Input /215; Orders /233. QSL Bureaus-Managers /228. "QST" Address Change /253, /257, /256. Regulations: Routine Questions /243, /242, /244, /240, /267. Technical Information Service /274, /214. (Info compiled by Daytona Beach Repeater Association, FL.)

EYE-BALL FIVE STICKERS by WD4CQY

By the time you read this, Eye-Ball FIVE stickers and the supporting net logs, should be in the hands of Mike, WB9QEZ. So, to get yours, send an SASE and a note telling Mike which net(s) on which you claim your sticker(s), to:

WB9QEZ
 Michael E. Claymiller
 725 Sturm Ave.
 New Haven, IN 46774

AN XYL'S VIEW OF EYE-BALL FIVE by WA4SGP's wife

As an XYL attending Eyeball 5, I would like to tell you all how much I enjoyed myself. Meeting new people and renewing friendships I made at other eyeballs was really great; I did miss all my friends from other eyeballs.

I think the Bingo game Friday night was a success. Thanks to everyone for the prizes.

Thanks to the YLs and XYLs for bringing some of their beautiful handwork. I think we should have a craft fair for the ladies (and men) at Eyeball 6. I think everyone would enjoy seeing more of the crafts made by our Club members and their families.

A special thanks to Letha and Lee for all the work they did before and during Eyeball 5. I hated to leave them with the clean up job, but had to get WA4SGP back to work on Monday.

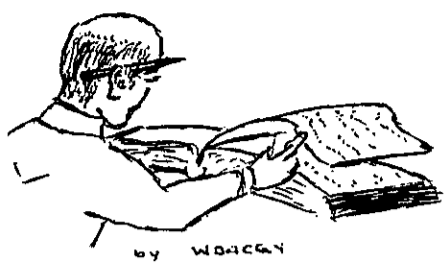
Can hardly wait for Eyeball 6.

Your Editor is collecting slang expressions used to describe eccentric people, like "he's got weeds in his roof garden", "she ain't pullin' a full train", "he doesn't have both oars in the water", "she's about a half bubble off" -- let me have the ones you've heard.

"I wish family trees produced more lumber...and fewer nuts." (Clint Eastwood)

"WHERE DOES IT SAY THAT...?" by WA2ZYM

Having just returned from a rather lengthy trip around the U.S., I would like to devote this issue's column to working mobiles.



First, let us define a mobile station according to the By-Laws: A station is considered to be a mobile when it is mounted in, or on, some form of vehicle (Editor's note: The dictionary definition of "vehicle" would include such conveyances as horses, hang-gliders, skate-boards and even stilts), AND, is powered by a source independent of commercial electrical supply. It may be land-, air- or water-based. No station may be used more than once, IN THE SAME STATE, as a

mobile. It may be used more than once, in the mobile category (or any other) when the QSL card CLEARLY shows the mobile to have been in a different state, on each contact claimed.

Not too hard, is it? Just remember that you can claim a station, as a mobile, as many times as you have cards for, AS LONG AS EACH ONE IS FOR A DIFFERENT STATE. If you want to use a mobile as a prefix in a state, go to it. It's OK.

Now, how can you best use mobiles, and how can you help them? Well, one thing that is a big help is to aid them in getting checked into the net. If you are a base station, and you hear a mobile trying to check in, EVEN IF IT IS HIS FIRST TRY AT IT, for Pete's sake, tell the NCS that the mobile is there. Mobile signals are notoriously poor compared to base stations. Help the mobile out.

Next, in calling a mobile, don't give up on the first try. Many mobiles are in motion, while on the air, and may not, due to traffic, hear your first call, even though you are 59. Have YOU ever tried to listen to the net through QRM, QRN, two kids yelling and a tractor-trailor going by you at 70 MPH? It ain't easy!

When you go to QSL the mobile, please put BOTH signal reports on the card. Again, if the mobile is in motion, he may not be able to log the call. If you really want the card, it only makes sense to do everything you can to see that you get it. Putting down both reports is a help. It also helps if you put down the state that the mobile was in. Think about it. I just returned from a trip in which I worked some people in nine different states. Not all the calls got logged. If you send me a card marked "mobile Ø", was I in MN, SD or where, when we made the contact? Every little bit helps.

The last thing you can do has nothing to do with the actual contact, but rather the QSL from the mobile to you. Give the person time to write them. You cannot expect to get a card until the person is at least back at the home QTH. Even then, it takes time. My last trip was 30 days long, covered ten states, and, between the Century Club and other operations, I arrived home having to 1) get ready for my son's wedding; 2) catch up on the mail and bills; 3) put a new roof on the house, and 4) write and send out approximately 300 QSL cards!! You figure out the order of importance.

I hope that the above will help you to make the best use of mobile contacts. Having operated mobile in 32 states, I know that these practices will make it much easier on the mobile station to make contact with you, and to confirm that contact. Good luck, and I'll see you, from the mobile.

"A LITTLE MIXED UP" Author Unknown

Just a line to say I'm living,
That I'm not among the dead;
Though I'm getting more forgetful,
And more mixed up in the head.

For sometimes I can't remember,
When I stand at the foot of the stair,
If I must go up for something,
Or I've just come down from there.

And before the fridge, so often,
My poor mind is filled with doubt,
Have I just put food away, or,
Have I come to take some out.

And there's times when it is dark out,
With my night cap on my head,
I don't know if I'm retiring,
Or just getting out of bed.

So, if it's my turn to write you,
There's no need in getting sore,
I may think that I have written,
And don't want to be a bore.

So remember, I do love you,
And I wish that you were here;
But now it's nearly mailtime,
So I must say "Good-Bye", dear.

(There I stood beside the mailbox,
With a face so very red,
Instead of mailing you my letter,
I have opened it instead.)

"Centurion" CIRCULATION by WD4CQY

With this issue of the "Centurion", the circulation is expected to sink to 165.

QSPs by WD4CQY

Judge to Arresting Officer: "Officer, are you sure the defendant was drunk?"

Officer to Judge: "Well, your honor, I saw him put a penny in a parking meter, look up at the court house clock, and then I heard him say 'Jeez, I've lost twelve pounds!'"
(Mike Burger, on WDBO Radio, Orlando, FL)