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Vol. 5, No. 2

The 3905 CENTURY CLUB, INC.

December, 1983

## From Your Editor by K4KWN

THIS ISSUE ends one era of the 3905 Century Club "Centurion" and starts another one...we hope you'll like it. In this issue we have a good article on HF Mobile operation by Robin Stout, N3BOU. Several officers have sent in articles, and I thank them for that. In addition many members have expressed their appreciation for Tom Bowers, WD4CQY, being Editor of this newsletter for five-years-plus. I must add my sincere appreciation to Tom, also, since I looked forward to the quarterly edition of the "Centurion".

We have had an article contributed by an SWL Combo (See Message from Megalopolis). If you enjoyed it, please let me know and I'll ask them to submit other stories as it strikes their fancy.

OTHER HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES include passing along the Editor's policy about back issues. It's simple, just specify which issue you want and enclose a cost-covering 50¢ per copy (outside the USA, \$1.00 per copy). Anyone submitting articles, I would appreciate receiving a black-and-white photo to have along with the story. A nicely-contrasted Polaroid does fine. But if you can't send along a photo, don't let that stop you from sending in the story.

In case I forget to stamp the expiration notice on your copy of the "Centurion", you can figure out when your's expires by looking at the mailing label. The numbers to the right of the hyphen, the issue with your Membership number, and to the right of the hyphen, the issue with which your subscription expires: "52" means Volume 5, Issue 2; "53" is Volume 5, Issue 3, etc.

EDITORIAL POLICY AND EDITORIAL LICENSE are a couple of fancy-sounding words which means "The Editor Does As He Dang Well Pleases" and, while I won't go pointedly out of my way to make enemies, I WILL call 'em like I see 'em. I guess that comes with the territory. If you don't like it and would want to respond, send it along, since I want to have a column of "Our Reader's Say..." (con't on Page 6)

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## Here... Try This

One of the frequently heard troubles in making contacts on the Century Club is when one station calls another and finds out (either on the net or later) that the QSO had already been confirmed months earlier. Assuming many Century Clubbers are in the same boat as we are (no computer with a big memory for logging calls) we thought a Dup Sheet might be useful.

To the left is the one used at K4KWN and it has proven to be quite effective. It allows me to keep track of the stations worked and to help towards certain Century Club awards and endorsements (Worked all YL's, Worked all State Capitals, VIP's etc.) It allows me to check if certain QSL cards have been received and, if not, to go back into the log to re-QSL (thus the date). Right now I'm working on the 1,000 point award where I need five different prefixes for each state. I know at a glance if one of the check-ins is needed.

Here...Try This

Make five or six copies of the column. Cut or trim it very carefully along the outside edges.

As it is printed now, there are 42 lines and the size, when cut, will allow you to have five columns on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper with the 11 inches being the width. Or you can put 4 columns on the 8 1/2 inch width. By cutting the extra two copies in half, you'll be able to have four columns 10 to 10 1/2 inches long....depending on what your preference is. I use it 11 inches wide, trim off the bottom two lines, and have the abbreviations of four states to a column...20 states per page. So you see, two-and-a-half pages will suffice for the United States. The rest of the last half-page I use for DX contacts. Then run as many copies as you need for each of your nets...75 meters, 40 meters, whatever.

## «Where Does It Say That...?»

by Phil Harmonic, H1ca

Since the last issue of the "Centurion", some questions have come up that need to be answered.

One of these is combos. Apparently there has been some confusion over exactly what a combo is and how you work them. Actually, as defined in the By-Laws, it is rather simple. Two hams are involved and they become a combo if they meet ALL of the following requirements: 1) They must be related to each other - OM/XYL, OM/YL (daughter, niece); XYL/YL OM/YM, brothers, cousins, etc.; 2) They must check into the net on the same night; 3) They must be operating from the same location. (Yes, you may be mobile. Also, you may use separate rigs if you have them.)

A combo may be worked on one call and will only count as one call. Now there is a catch to this. You may work both of them and you put your call "up for grabs" and one of them calls you. You MAY NOT work both of them if one of the combo goes "up for grabs" but only the one whose turn it is.

As far as using combos on the awards application is concerned, the option is your's. Obviously you can use them any way you like - in a state, one as a YL and the other as a mobile (if it is). You may even want to use one on one application and the other on a different application. The use of a combo is not governed by the By-Laws, simply the method of contacting them.

One final comment on combos. If you are a member of a combo, you are encouraged to send a QSL card from EACH of you. This is a help to the person who does want to split up the contacts. With the high cost of QSL cards today, it is entirely understandable if you send only one but, perhaps the other member could make up a card on a piece of paper. Just an idea, but it could help someone.

The 500 pt. level of the 1000 pt award, and level II of the 2000 pt award...on the sheets for these two levels is an extra sentence which has caused some confusion. You must work two stations in each of 25 different states. Other than this, there is no minimum requirement on these levels. You can work all contacts in the states category if you want. There is no necessity to work DX, YL's, etc. The sheets will be corrected at the next printing, so this problem should cure itself soon.

QRP OPERATION - A question was raised a while back about what constitutes a QRP station. Article 6, paragraph D, section 8, was added to the By-Laws in September, 1982. It states a station "shall be considered a QRP station when operating with an output power of 10 watts or less." This is pretty straight forward so it should not be a problem, but apparently there were people unaware of the By-Law. There is no definition, within the Century Club, of QRP at this time. However, since other groups do define QRP, and since we can use our contacts

## Message from Megalopolis

by Header O. Dyne & Hattie Roe Dyne

(Editor's note: Everyone is aware that our conversations are heard throughout the world. Well, the other day I got a blank check from a SWL Combo in Megalopolis requesting last year's copies of the "Centurion". Header O. and Hattie Roe Dyne noticed something in the last issue, and they sent a tape recording back to me, the verbatim transcription of which appears below. In case you're wondering, Megalopolis is half-way between Mount Idy and Mayberry, but clear on the other side of the state from the state capital, Metropolis. As Header says, "Hits spittin' distance frum Burnt Matress", to which Hattie replies, "I wish he'd stop that 'cause chewin' is a nasty habit, let alone the spittin'").

HATTIE: I wuz asittin' in my rocker tha otha day when I come across a story by that nice young man, Tom Bowers....You know, WD4CQY, whin he ups and confuses me wi' this thing about PSE QSL TNX in the las' issa of tha "Centearian" (Sorry, folks, I'm just spelling it like it sounded on the tape).

HEADER: Ya durn fool woman! Doncha know nothin'? Whut he's a-sayin is that hits confusin' when ya gets a card whuth all three circled! Don't no one know if-in ya gat tha card, ya din't get tha card they sin chew! (I think they mean to say "sent you" Ed.)

HATTIE: Naw, that's nut whut hit means atall. I learned my kids tha right manners! Whut hit means is tha I talked wid ye tha otha day...and I'd pleeze lack {like? Ed.) a QSL and thank ya. Even Cap'n Kangaroo sed pleeze 'n' thank ya when he wuz a-wakin' Gran'fathah Clock. Hits jist good manners!

HEADER: Dad-burn-it ya fool woman! Hits still confusin' to tha othah folks which gits 'em 'ceptin they watched Cap't Kangaroo, too!

HATTIE: 'Oh, well, I knows these li'l problems add spice ta life. I jist don' know how much more seasonin' I kin stan'!

FROM YOUR EDITOR (con't) If YOU want to throw a few barbs at someone, let the Board know you would like to be Editor. I was just the dummy that leaped into the breach at this time. MY GOAL IS TO MAKE this newsletter as stimulating, enjoyable, helpful, and informative as possible. With your help and support, it will be. Without your help and support, it will die a slow but certain death! -Bob Hall, "Centurion" Editor

GONE MOBILE (con't) ears! Incredible signal...he must have a billion dB gain on that antenna, plus rotatable on 75 meters to boot! I'll pay for the lessons; teach me how to do it, please!

Well, hope it has been interesting for you; I enjoyed it, and will miss the 3905 Century Club while I'm in Europe. Hope to see

## The President's Corner

by WA2ZYM

As I write this, the Nov. Board meeting is history. A lot was accomplished at the meeting but, perhaps what's of most interest to the members is the selection of Parkersburg, WV as the site of Eyeball VII, which will be held Aug. 10, 11, and 12, 1984. The Chairman for E.B.VII will be Bob, WD8NHN, in WV. Full info can be obtained for an SASE with 3 oz. worth of green stamps on it. As usual with all of the Eyeballs, there are campsites, motels, and recreation aplenty. Bob has all the details for the asking. He has informed me that campers will have one entire loop to camp in, which is where the Club station will be set up. If anyone planning to attend can help by bringing some gear, antennas, etc. with them, please contact Bob or me, so we can make some plans.

The other important item was the opening of nominations for Pres. and Vice-Pres and the setting of dates for the election. The nominees so far are myself, WA2ZYM, and Bob, KB9QP, our current VP. Both of us are running for re-election. If you have any other nominees for the election they must be sent to your area director before the Dec. Board meeting, at which time nominations will be closed. The elections will be held ON THE AIR on January 21, 1984, as usual. You may vote on either net but can vote only once. NOTE: You may vote on 40 with an 80 mtr. certificate number and vice versa, if you wish. To be eligible to vote you must have obtained your 100 pt. certificate number prior to Jan 16, 1984, which is the cut-off date.

Area directors for the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, and 10th call areas will be elected by mail ballot. Ballots for the candidate of your choice should be sent to KB9XA, who is the election monitor for director's elections. They must be received from him by the start of the Pres. election on Jan 21, 1984. Anyone can be a candidate from the call area he/she lives in. You may vote only in the area in which you reside. If you have a 2 callin 4 land, please so note on your ballot so Jerry won't get fits sorting them out!

Lastly, I hope that this rather lengthy column has prompted two things from Club members. Most importantly, I hope all of you will be on hand to vote on the 21st. It doesn't matter what your choice is but please be there and vote for someone. Also, if you are affected, please vote in your area. It's important to you since the Director is your voice in the Club. The other response I hope will come forth is a commitment on your part to attend Eyeball VII. This has the one chance to be biggest yet, but only if you take part. To quote a character from a late TV show, "Be there, Aloha!"

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members and their families. See you next issue. 73's, Bill

GONE MOBILE (con't) you all at the Eyeball. 73's, God Bless, and good luck,

-Rob Stout

## From the Desk of the Vice President

by KB9QP

It has been a good year for the Century Club. The bills are paid; the awards are finally printed. It was a wonderful eyeball - sorry more of you couldn't be there.

We have many new members and a lot of the old-timers are coming back again. The 80 Meter Net is in the best shape it has been in for a long time...thanks to Al, KB4CN, and the dedicated net controllers who have done a fantastic job. Hopefully, with all our help, we can solve the few remaining problems next year.

Be sure to vote in the upcoming elections. The lack of participation is really the only thing I find discouraging at times.

73's

Bob Hartenstein

P.S. Hope to see you all at Eyeball 7.

## From the Awards Secretary

by WB3AMO

By the time you read this the 2000 Point Certificates should be all mailed out to those who have been waiting so patiently. The first several of both the new awards, the Worked All States and Worked All States - YL, have been issued.

On the Worked All States Award, for those who have already received the WAS endorsement, it will only be necessary to send a note along with the standard fee to the Awards Secretary to obtain the award. The WAS-YL Award is being issued similarly to the Worked All State Capitals Award...an original certificate for 35 confirmed and endorsements in increments of 5.

An updated set of instructions for the Area Awards Managers is being worked over and will be issued soon. There have been many changes since the last one.

-Dave Welker,

WHERE DOES IT SAY THAT (con't)

For any award we desire, if you work a station that says he is QRP and wants the card so marked, help the person out and do it for him. By the way, don't try to judge if he is really QRP. Signal strength means nothing in this case. An 8 watt station with a 35 dB gain antenna will out-talk a 250 watt station with 2dB gain at the antenna. The QRP'er may be loud, but maybe he just knows more about antennas than we.

That wraps it up for this issue. If you have any questions for the this column, send them to the Editor who will pass them on to the author. They will be answered as quickly as possible by return mail, and will be covered in the next column.

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## Gone Mobile (Lessons Learned)

by N3BOU

Well, I'm finally back home and by the time these is printed, I'm gone again!

I had one of the greatest times ever this August thru October working mobile from PA, WV, TN, MS, TX, AL, GA, SC, NC, VA, NJ, and DE. What an experience and I learned many things.

Many operators know stations are troubled with QRN in the southern states. I think I've found a solution - use two antennas! Use a full-sized one for transmitting and a reduced antenna for receiving. Using a mobile antenna, I found QRN reduced to the point that I could hear many weak signals better than those around me with full-sized antennas.

A mistake many operators make is turning up the volume to hear weak stations thru the QRN. WRONG, FOLKS! The ear shuts off the brain when overloaded, so turn down the volume or reduce the signal input. Doing this will enable you to pick out weak signals and tune out QRN and QRM.

I found mobiling fun! Anyone who could go mobile, should. There are a lot of very good operators out there listening for you and will act as relay for you when needed. Without this help, mobiling can be rough.

Sometimes, especially in colder months, much-needed stations can be worked on the net while mobile. It's easy; just read the conditions. Try calling late in the net and aim the car. Coast-to-coast communications were possible with I pointed the car west, left the engine running so the alternator was on line for increased power, established communications with a good relay station, and called giving the report slowly and clearly several times. Once completed, I shut off the engine to minimize noise. He received his report the first time and I received mine the first time. This was accomplished about 0400 Z.

Many new stations can be worked this way. I've added about 10 new states and, many of these, I've worked more than once. HF mobiling has allowed for more contacts-per-gallon than with 2 meters, and it doesn't take much. My mobile is a Swan Cygnat with about 50 watts and a Hustler MO-1 (el-cheapo). So go mobile, listen closely, talk slow, and you can have a great time. Go for rare spots, capitals, states, and countries.

In case you're interested, here is the list (from memory) of some of the strongest signals heard from the different states I was in. OVER ALL BIGGIES: These stations can be heard in South America while in a hurricane with the RF gain turned off; KB4CN, KABWV, WD0GAH, N8EDQ, WB0VRN, W4NNO (QRP), K4KJQ (QRP), and KC0MS. Area Biggies: These can be heard in South America when in a deep sleep; KA5HFB, N4TGG, N3CZI, KG5J KU0E, and N4TWY. Heard down south with no trouble (when listening); W1WS W2AGR, KA3IQM, N4EYQ, KA8MCH, and WA3ZMY. These Century Clubbers have as good a station as any I've ever heard and are consistently "right up there". There are some real good stations out west I've not listed in CO. and CA. The best QRP station is K1YL. This person must have a so-lid gold antenna! I hope so, 'cause I'm gonna sue for damage to my

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(con't on page 6)