

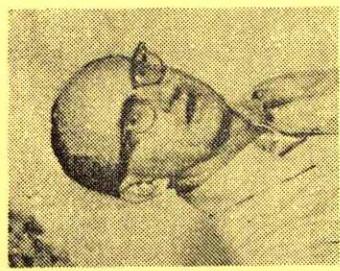
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The President's Corner

by WA2ZYM



As I write this, I can look out on the first of what will be many beautiful days this summer. Now that the good summer weather is with us, we have to give some thought to the changes this brings about in the Club. First, of course is the expectation of many of us about attendance at the upcoming Eyeball. Many of the members will be renewing old friendships made at previous Eyeballs.

The newer members, and those who have not attended before will have their first chance to see the faces that lie behind the mikes. There will also be a chance to talk in person (without QRM) with your directors and officers about the workings of the Club and nets. You couldn't ask for a better chance to get your idea across. In addition there will be fun, games, swimming, food, and an all around good time. I plan to arrive Thursday nite. Won't you plan to join me in Parkersburg, West Virginia, for the second weekend of August 10, 11, and 12?

The summer change that affects most of the membership is one that we can do nothing about - propagation. Many of the newcomers have seen the list dwindle on 75 lately. Some of them feel that the 40 and the 160 nets are "stealing" people from 75. Well, this just isn't so. In the summer there is a tremendous dropoff in propagation on 75. For those of us on the East Coast, summer also brings an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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opportunity to hear something on 40 for a change!!! Result, many members switch from 75 to 40 for the summer. On top of this, vacations interrupt one's participation in the nets just as does some of those "it's just too nice to go inside" days. Rest assured that 75 will see 100 checkins again in the Fall. In fact, I'd suggest that some of you might want to make the switch yourself, at least once in a while, and see what you have been missing.

If you can't work all the nets, remember that the summer does bring changes. If you live in NY (as I do), this is the time to work MA and VT on 40. It is not the time to try to work Hawaii on 75. Like all other years though, the cycle will wind around again and we will be back to normal in the Fall. So be patient, bear with it, and have fun this summer.

I hope to see all of you at the Eyeball.

73's
Bill, WA2ZYM

DON'T FORGET TO QSL PROMPTLY. SOMEONE NEEDS YOUR CARD!

Eyeball in August

The upcoming Eyeball, August 10, 11, and 12, will be held at Mountwood Park, 12 miles east of Parkersburg, WV, off of U. S. 50 on Volcano Road and Borland Springs Road. Mailing address is: Mountwood Park, Rt. 2 Box 56, Waverly, WV, 26184. Phone is 304-679-3611.

Bill, WA2ZYM, asked me to print the brochure and enclose it with this issue of the "Centurion" but the copy quality of the copy I received was too poor and on the wrong color of paper. However, let me put a little info down that you might find helpful in making your mind up about the Eyeball.

Cabins, semi-private cabins, and dorms are available. Paved camper sites are \$6.50 and have electric and water hook-ups, picnic tables and firerings. Tent sites are \$5.50. Other facilities include a softball field, paved basketball court, horseshoe pits, volleyball equipment, and boating gear. Swimming is available at the beach or in their inside pool for a nominal price. Food is available prepared in their dining room at reasonable prices.

Should you desire a brochure, contact Mountwood Park at the address above.

The Helping Hand

Often heard on the nets is an original check-in asking, "Do you have any capitals on?" or "What is your handle?" I fixed up a list to take the check-in along with NCS to keep me occupied and busy (and assist if necessary), as well as indicate time, signal report, etc. of a station I would like to call or who calls me. I have enclosed a copy of this sheet for your use. Modify, use it as it exists or put it in the outhouse at your option.

At the top I indicate the net (75 meter, 40 meter, local ARES, RACES, or traffic net), the date, NCS and handle of the NCS. The NO. column is self-explanatory. The station column is for the call of the station corresponding to that number. The QTH column is for their state and any other info (like mobile, in combo with, or QSL manager info). The Handle column is for their name, gathered from the prenet, recognizing their checking in, looking it up in the callbook or whatever. The time column is for recording the time of your QSO with that station. The SENT/RCD columns are for the signal reports you sent and received. A check mark is entered in the YL column if they are a YL, in the CAP column if the station is in a state capital, and in the NEED column if you need that contact for your certificate or whatever. The simplifies the search for a second call if the original station you called is not available (checked out without anyone knowing about it, jab-jab), or the contact cannot be established due to QRM or QRN. By using this list, QSL's can be filled out when time is available, etc. Hope you can use it!

Troubles!

Letha, KA5HFB, was complaining last year that she was having troubles raising a new crop of baby chicks...she said she may have planted them too deep!

Her trouble with birds this year was with her parakeet. It wasn't eating and she called the vet to try to find out the problem. The vet said it was simple..the bird's beak was too long and needed to be filed.

We understand that she met the vet on the street a few days later and the vet asked her how her parakeet was doing. Letha replied that her bird was had died. Noting that the

When you make a call, please follow the accepted (by the Century Club) procedure. ID the station you are calling, ID yourself and send a SIGNAL REPORT ONLY. When the other station gives you a report, QSL the report and turn it back to net control. It is not necessary to ask for names, counties, or apple pie recipes. Use the prenet to do this. This is just time wasted that could be better spent in more people making more calls. At most a contact should take 30 seconds.

Above all else, pay attention. You should know what you need in the way of stations needed. You should know whether a particular station is or is not on frequency, especially if you are one of the original checkins. Also, you should be there when it is your turn.

The Century Club differs from other nets in that we do not expect you to "check out". If you are not there when called, it is assumed that you have checked out. This saves a great deal of time for the net.

The final thought this issue is this: if you are not sure of what to do, or how to do it, ask, but ask on the prenet if possible and save net time for contacts. The surest way to know what to do is to send for the By-Laws and the NCS Guide and READ THEM. If the above practices are followed by all, the number of contacts and thus the number of awards earned will rise dramatically. Won't you help?

From Your Editor

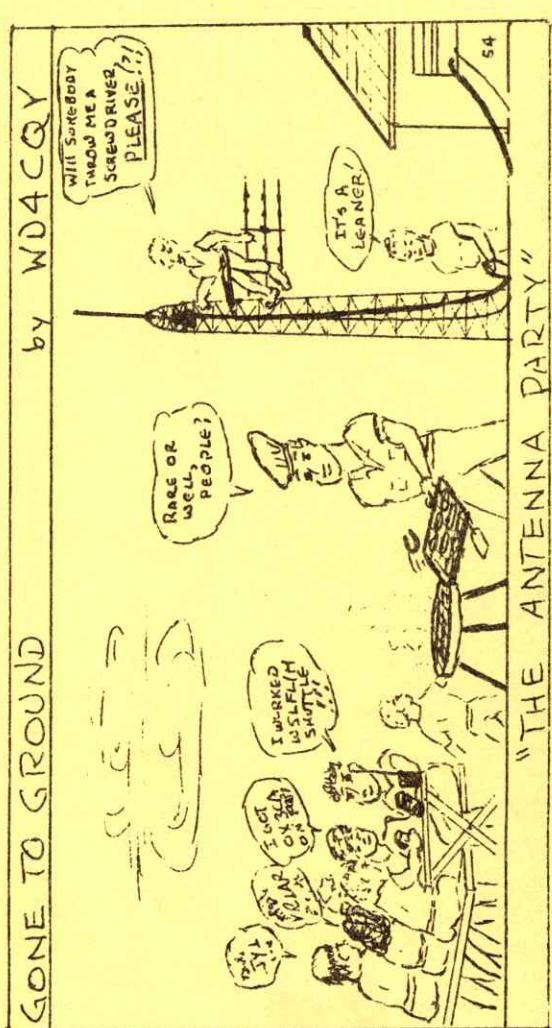
When I took this job of Editor for the "Centurion", I said I would exercise my Editorial privilege when I thought appropriate. Well, it's time to trot it out! In the column, "Where Does It Say That?", many comments (some with which I don't completely agree) were mentioned. Having the responsibility of getting this durn thing out, and of having the last say, I would like to comment on a few of them.

When mentioning procedures, it was indicated that the original check-ins would have a chance at two calls before the late check-in would get their first. While that is good procedure and rewarding those who made it on time (for one reason or another and we won't go into that rat's nest), in practice it doesn't always happen, and I guess I'm glad that it is that way (since I am sometimes a little late myself). I like for the NCS to pick up the late check-in, if there are not too many of them. The problem comes when determining how many late check-ins can make their calls, and that is where the prerogative of the NCS comes into play. THEY are controlling the net! What they say, goes! If the "powers that be" don't really like that, let them call the net themselves!

Secondly, if the list is less than 75 check-ins, and a station who's turn it is passes, then their turn is lost. That is the way it is. Many times I have wanted to work the station that passed (with a short list) and wished they would be "up for grabs", but they just pass and lose their turn. John, W5VCS, dropped me a note with his subscription renewal and suggested that I pass along his feelings (that are mine, too), that a station should go "up for grabs" since someone might need that contact (applicable only when the list is short, that is). That way, more contacts could be made and those newcomers would have a chance at getting their list filled up more quickly!

Thirdly, about "checking out" of the net. How many times have I heard a station say they were checking out and someone would come back and ask them to stick around for a little longer so they could give them a call? I have heard that happen often, too, with NCS being the beneficiary. Admittedly, it does take a little more net time, but it allows those of us who keep the complete list to have it current. I usually stick around for one round of the list. When NCS stops for late check-ins, it is a simple matter to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



"THE ANTENNA PARTY"