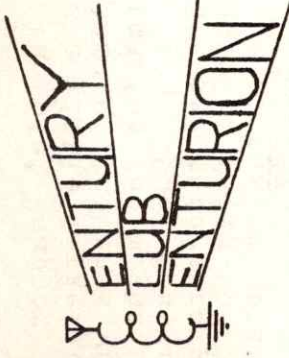


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THE 3905 CENTURY CLUB, INC. September, 1985

From Your Editor

by K4KWN

I know this issue of the "Centurion" is just about a month late, and I hope you'll forgive the delay. I was ready to get the thing out a couple of weeks ago, but came down with pneumonia, and have just now kinda got back into the swing of things.

One might ask "Why didn't that Kentucky Walrus Nose get the thing out before the first of October like it should have been?" Well, as John Madden has said, "There are three kinds of people in this world: those who make things happen, those who watch what's happening, and those who have no idea what's happening". I guess I must be stupid enough to be in the first category as I was responsible for preparing the ads for the August and September issues of QST on the 1985 ARRL National Convention as well as the article on the Convention in the September issue. I also pulled together all of the other printed stuff for the Hamfest, toted barges, lifted bales, and kept all of those little plates spinning on those tiny sticks at work.

I'm not alone... Dave (WD8RBW), Letha (KA5HFB) and a few others you hear on the nets regularly do their part to make things happen. Perhaps the lament of the lonely souls on the front line is that more people are needed to lend a hand. It's amazing, if more people would take a small job, then no one would be faced with getting so loaded down creating the fun for other people that they themselves get burned out, fold their tents, and slowly fade into the night!

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3125 Lynnwood Way
c/o Robert J. Hall, Jr.

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Inquires to:

Bob Hall, K4KWN, "Centurion" Editor, 3125 Lynnwood Way, Jeffersontown, KY. 40299

Stepping down off the ole' soapbox and moving on to other things, this issue is a little larger than last time, with a few comments from some of the hams who check in regularly, as well as some information you might find interesting to make your time on the 3905 Century Club a little more entertaining. All this and more straight from the home of Fast Horses and Beautiful Women (or is that fast women and beautiful horses... I never can get that right!).

73
Bob, K4KWN

«The Way I See It...»

from W8RBRW

Finding myself with some time on my hands prior to leaving for the eyeball in North Carolina, I began to reflect on the past year or so about the Century Club. Looking back a few years, if someone had mentioned net operations, I would have turned up my nose. Loved to strike out on my own with ragchews, DX'ing and contests. But that all changed in March, 1984.

Tuning around the band that I never use, 40 meters, I came across a raspy voice calling for check-ins from a certain call area. Wondering what clandestine activity I may have found at 7.233 mhz, the dial remained right where it was. Two hours later it was still right there and amazement took the place of curiosity when it was discovered that it was possible to work all of the states plus lots of DX without having \$500,000.00 invested in equipment and towers! That raspy voice identified himself as KC2RB during the running of the net and a mental note was made during the halftime information to check up on this operation again in the near future.

The next night when the rig was turned on again, 7.233 mhz popped up on the display and there was Frank again calling for check-ins. Two more hours of listening brought an urging to join in but I did not feel quite at ease with being a part of a net operation. After all, what would my DX'ing and contesting buddies think?

Three nights later I took the plunge and when the Eighth Call Area was summoned, I put out my call. A hearty welcome to the net was forthcoming from that raspy voice and within minutes I felt right at home. Almost went into cardiac arrest when he asked if I would call for check-ins

From Our Readers

(Note: This letter came my way through Howard, NN00, and I thought you might appreciate reading it. Very minor editing has been done. Ed.)

My Dear Howard,

It was a pleasure to work US states in 7.233 Net the other day. I could obtain a few new states for my 5BWAS. I still need some of them, but with a little patience and the help of your net I'll do it in short time.

And if besides I can give CE land on 7 MHz it will be with great pleasure. Your US phone band 7.200 (+/-) is not comfortable for us for two reasons:

1) The noise level caused by broadcasting AM wide signal is very high (very often over 10db/S9) makes it very difficult to pick up signals like 5/7 or less.

2) As our DX portion is 7.085 (+/- 15), our antennas are resonant at that point, and over 7.150 our SWR is very high. That is where a good tuner, such as mine, does a good job. I also have 2 kw DC output that helps me be heard.

But regardless of those small "inconveniences" I will make it a pleasure to say hello to you and your friends on 7.233.

If you could help me, I'm listing the states I still need to contact on 40 meters:

- 1st - Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire,
- Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- 3rd - Delaware, Pennsylvania.
- 4th - Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina,
- Virginia
- 5th - Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma
- 7th - Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming
- 8th - Ohio, West Virginia
- 9th - Indiana
- 10th - Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota.

I know that a few stations will appear in that frequency after I tell them, because in our DX Association (I'm Secretary of it, and also QSL Man.) there are at least 4 or 5 interested in 5BWAS as I am.

(Note: More correspondance appeared, but I don't feel comfortable in reproducing it here at this time, Ed.)

73
Michael, CE3DDP

From the Awards Secretary

by WB3AMO

There are some new awards approved late last year and some people are still in the dark about them. Here are the details:

ALPHABET AWARD - Certificate for working all 26 letters of the alphabet using only the second letter of the call sign prefix as the letter of the alphabet. Example: KA6ZYX, AB3X, KC2YZ, WD4XYZ. All contacts must be on the same band.

GODFATHER AWARD - Plaque given, at no cost, to holders of 2000 pt. certificates when they have earned the Numbers Racket Award and their 2000 pt. certificate number has been used on 75 different Numbers Racket applications. No individual may receive more than one free plaque on the same band no matter how many 2000 pt. certificates he or she may hold. All 75 Numbers Racket applications and the Numbers Racket Award must be on the same band.

NUMBERS RACKET AWARD - Requires contact with 50 different 1000 point certificate holders and with 25 different 2000 point certificate holders. No station may be used more than once for this award.

CERTIFICATE NUMBERS AWARD - Certificate and one endorsement for working one hundred 100-point certificate holders with additional endorsements for each additional 100 up to a total of 1000. Certificate numbers are not required on QSL cards for contacts made prior to January 1, 1985; thereafter, certificate numbers are required on the cards. A card previously submitted for another award need not be resubmitted if application states the award it was used toward. All contacts must be on the same band. In keeping with this last award, an alphabetical list of certificate holders is available from WB3AMO for \$1.00 and an SASE with 39¢ postage.

Every year the Club gives a plaque for outstanding service to one member who has made significant contribution to the improvement and the success of the Club. The Award for 1984 went to KD30, Jim Fisher. Jim served as net control, Awards Secretary, 3rd Area Director, and several committees over the years. We had hoped to award the plaque at the Eyeball in Maggie Valley but Jim was unable to attend. Congratulations anyway, Jim!

73

Dave, WB3AMO
Awards Secretary

6

from any area. My voice cracked, couldn't find the right words (that didn't matter as I could not find the foot switch to transmit anyway) and to this day I don't remember what I said or is any words even came out. As the net progressed that night I worked 4 new states and several DX stations. Disappointment came as the net was closed at 0500Z; the four hours had really flown by but I hadn't had the opportunity to work those on the list I really needed. After that first night, I was hooked!

Two weeks later came the big day. Right after checking into the net regularly for all but two nights out of 14, KC2RB took the pre-net list and asked for a volunteer to run the net as he could be there for only a short time due to prior commitments. After several attempts to locate a net control station, I thought, "Why not? I've got so much it was time to give back a little". Somehow I made it through the next four hours with help from Frank and several other stations familiar with the net. Don't remember much of the night but do remember wishing for a dollar for every mistake and tactical error made. Probably could have purchased a KWM 380 after the first night.

One week after the first disaster, I received a QSL card and letter from Frank asking me to pick up two slots as net control a month. Wondering "Why me?" after the first disaster and figuring that this group of hams must be gluttons for punishment, I consented. Things went along very smooth and was really feeling very comfortable with a great group of guys and dolls on the net. Circumstances beyond my control led me to trying the 75 meter net and when talk of a 160 meter net came along, I jumped right on the bandwagon having recently purchased a new rig with 160 on it and also having discovered the "Gentleman's Band". Volunteering for net control spots on 75 and 160 just came naturally after that and a total count of states worked in January, 1985, showed all worked on three bands with the exception of Hawaii on 160. Try and match that on your own!

Earlier this year, KA5HFB asked if I would be able to take the net coordinator's position for 160 which I gladly accepted. Several weeks later again Letha asked if I would be able to take the net coordinator's position on 40 due to an unexpected resignation. Again I accepted. Much to my embarrassment I had to admit to Letha and myself that I had not been on 40 in over three months having enjoyed the

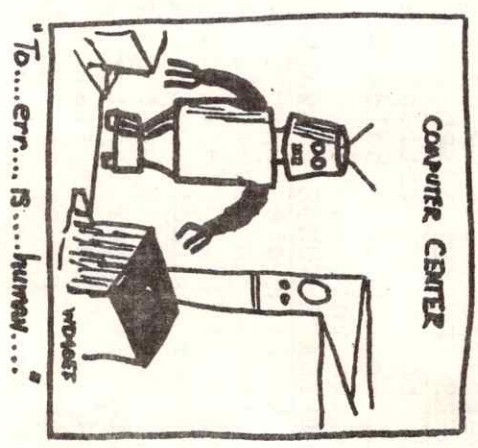
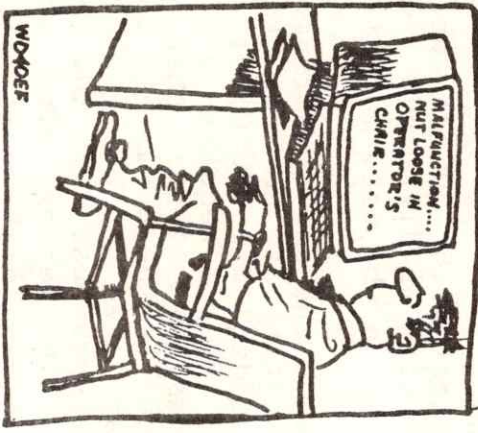
wintertime conditions on 150 and 75 meters. Checking the situation out, I found three cornerstones keeping the 40 meter net alive; N05C, WB5BRF, and KD7XQ. Rolling up our sleeves collectively, and many letters later, seven new net controllers were found. But alas, all was not totally well on 40 yet. My job changed from a comfortable inside one to back outside and working nights. Had to relinquish two nights out of the month as net control. Looking at the schedule, that left 8 nights out of the month not covered on the early net and no late nets even thought of. Seems like a big void for a net scheduled to be run every night.

Now, you ask, where is all this taking us? To state it simply, we are in need of net control stations on 40 and 75 meters. At some time in this big game of life, when we play, we also have to pay. Taking one night or even two nights a month to run a net is very little return for what is received. Rather than sit and listen for the 30 to 40 minutes between calls and slowly lose interest until the big switch is pulled, jump in there and volunteer. After all, we all had enough of the gray matter between the ears to obtain the license and right to operate on the net, consequently you'd be hard pressed to not believe in yourself enough to think you can not handle a net control position. By becoming involved with the net more actively you can erase some of that boredom you experience between calls. [Amen to that! Sorry I editorialized. Ed.]

To say that being a net controller is all peaches and cream would not be stating the truth. There are nights that things beyond your control can really cause the gray hairs to appear (or in my case the hair to just plain fall out) such as band conditions, QRM, QSB, equipment failure, etc. But these types of nights are offset by those "ideal" nights when the net "flows" without any major upsets and everyone gets that "special" call or state that he or she has been seeking for a long time. It's these types of nights when one of the members obtain that long-sought-after call and you roger the contact, you lean back and imagine the smile on that operator's face and the sense of excitement that person is feeling as they put the contact in the logbook and fill out the QSL card. You have to feel some sense of accomplishment along with that station, that you were able to assist by being there as net control station. To me, that sense of accomplishment is better than working Clipperton Island twice over.

When I started writing this letter, I set out with three goals in mind: paying a small tribute to KC2RB, Frank, who just recently passed away; show how easy it is to become involved in an organization; and, finally, to make a plea for help on the nets. After all, this is OUR organization and as members, together we make up the organization. To make the organization run smoothly, we must all pull together and assist each other towards a common goal...having fun with our hobby!

73's
Dave, WD8RBW



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