

75 Meter Interstate Sideband Net

Year : 2010/11

Net Manager: K9ZMI / K4GLT

Oct 7 2011

2010/2011 Annual Summary Report

This has again been a very productive year for QNI and QTC with total check-ins at **8140** and msgs at **2453** – 2nd highest QNI and 3rd highest QTC in 7 years.

	2010/2011	8140 / 2453
Previous years QNI/QTC :	2009/2010	8167 / 3092
	2008/2009	8061 / 2749
	2007/2008	6784 / 1779
	2006/2007	6429 / 1728
	2005/2006	6533 / 1741
	2004/2005	7023 / 1926

Primary traffic sources for the year have been: VE3GNA, N1IQI, K1JPG, W1GMF, W6WW, WB5NKD, N9VC & NX9K pub servc originated msgs and delivery replies; 75 M ISBN B-daygrams; WB8WKQ, KD8LZB, KC0M, & K9ZMI with contest contact, various welcome , and radiogram reply types of msgs.

KA9BAE has been checking in regularly from Wisconsin since Dec 2010 and has become our regular Wis net liaison station bringing and taking traffic primarily from N9VC and NX9K for Illinois.

As a result of last September's (2009) election dilemma and resolution, we started the 2010/11 net year with a net managerial staff structured as follows:

1. K9ZMI will continue to send out QSLs to new check-ins via email and also maintain the net log.
2. W8CXU will continue to maintain the comprehensive check-in / birthday list and send out B-day radiograms to net members. KB0OFD will assist in file maintenance
3. KB0OFD will handle net registration for ARRL on line net directory
4. K4GLT will supervise net operations, recruitment of new NCS's, and election of NM for coming year. W8CXU & K9ZMI will assist
5. W8CXU will handle daily net report recording, monthly reporting to ARRL, and monthly report to net members.

On Nov 13 W8CXU resigned from all net activity citing family matters prevent him from doing the NM functions he had taken on. On Nov 29 KB0OFD resigned from NCS and net activity he had been doing citing there was too much ISBN data work for him to handle along with other activities.

As a result of the loss of these two members:

K9ZMI picked up the position of Daily Net Report recording and other monthly reporting now left vacant. K4GLT continued on as net operations manager.

The "welcome" radiogram to a new ISBN check-in formerly sent out by KB0OFD was put on hold. K9ZMI, WB8WKQ, and K4GLT started filling in on the 3 open NCS nights.

W4WNE volunteered to maintain and update the net roster and send out B-day radiograms.

In Dec 2010, W4WNE started to expand the scope of the net roster effort into a net webpage on the Internet at:

www.qsl.net/75misbn/

The webpage was released in Jan 2011 and has been continually updated and upgraded since. It is a webpage designed for a traffic net and besides containing the net "roster" with B-day and other net member info, it also has for reference a cache of common text msgs of the type commonly handled on the net from N1IQI, VE3GNA, etc. The webpage also contains much historical and other information about the 75 Meter Interstate Net in addition to links to other amateur services such as QRZ.com. There are future plans to add pictures of net members and their stations as development time permits.

In June/July W4WNE faced a number of problems not only with his ham and computer equipment, but also with his health, As a result, he has not been able to engage in ham radio activity nor provide the level of support to the B-day radiogram and webpage efforts he had been providing . To help out, WB9QOM has sent out some B-day radiograms to keep that effort going. Also, W4WNE has been able to update the net roster when able but again has had to deal with some severe health issues. So we are thankful for what he has been able to do and pray for his well being and recovery.

At the end of November we were left with 3 holes in the NCS schedule for Tues, Wed, and Thurs nights. K9ZMI, WB8WKQ, and K4GLT started filling in on these nights, respectively. KD8LZB volunteered to serve as NCS on Tuesday starting Mar 8 2011 and has done an excellent job. In June during 2 week absence of K9ZMI, WB9QPM picked up Daily Net Reports and filled in as NCS on Sunday and a few other nights. He then offered to pick up the NCS position regularly on Wednesday nights, relieving WB8WKQ of double duty, and has become a core member in supporting net operations.

So in June 2011 all NCS positions were filled on a regular basis until about mid month when N8IXF fell and broke his hip. Cycling between hospital, rehab care facility, and home has kept him from net activity to date. K9ZMI has been filling in as NCS on Saturday nights. K4GLT who has been active in net activity became an mia starting in late June due to equipment problems and then serious health problems. WB9QPM has been filling in as Thursday NCS for him to date.

In Oct 2010 we noted that for some time we had lost contact with Fred, WB2IJH, a long time traffic handler on the net, and also with Roy, WA0KLD, a long time and probably oldest net member (97). Via the telephone we learned from Fred (91) that he has been caring for his wife who was quite ill and has had no time for ham radio activity. Unable to contact Roy via telephone, we were thrilled to hear from him in April when he started to check in again regularly after recovering from some medical issues and again was at home.

During this year there were a number of SK's from our midst and we remember them here:

SK: KA8NSG	Ron	from Bryan, Ohio	March 16 2011
SK: W9PSU	Bill	from Minocqua, Wis	Per Apr 2011 QST*
SK: WB8MCK	Howard	from Fostoria, Ohio	Per Apr 2011 QST*
SK: K9KGM	Les	from Plover, Wis.	Per Apr 2011 QST*
SK: W9KR	Chuck	Bloomington, Il	NM,NCS SK about 1 yr ago -WB9EDL.*

*** None have been active on net for several years.**

During the winter months with better long skip propagation KA7YYR continued to check in bringing and taking traffic for the NW US.

Net did not hear from KE0WC in Colorado or W7TNS in Arizona this year and could not find a phone number listed for either. Easter greeting radiograms from NM was sent at Easter but no responses.

WA0AUX serves as our liaison station to Minnesota and the Dakotas.

The Az Traffic and Emergency Net still starts up on 3986 KHz at 0200 Z and frequently creates a QRM problem for western stations and also for some southern midwest stations participating in the 75 M ISBN.

Stateside long and short skip propagation was up and down during the 2010/2011 net year. Radio Croatia (RC) operating on 3985 KHz was always present to various degrees but it was never strong enough that we had to shift our operating frequency down 1 KHz like we have had to do in the past. In October long and short stateside propagation was consistently good for the month and Radio Croatia (RC) was moderately strong most of the time.

During November 2010 through Jan 2011 long and short stateside propagation was poor with short skip non-existent on some nights. RC was moderately strong during this period often making copying net stations challenging.

Feb 2011 through April was a period of very good long and short stateside propagation, a very welcome change. RC signal strength was weak/moderate but not a significant QRM source.

In May the summer storm season started and frequently caused significant QRN interference when copying net stations. One net session was missed in May due to severe thunder storms.

The summer storm QRN continued throughout the summer months of June, July, and August when long and short stateside propagation was also only poor/moderate.

During the last half of August through September 2011 long and short stateside propagation was good and QRN was not quite so frequent.

Through all the propagation challenges the net remained in continuous operation using its network of relay stations located around the continental US to successfully pass traffic on towards its destination.

Email QSL's sent from Jan 2007 to Sept 2011: 799 with a total of 46 returns of failed delivery.

QSL's sent per year: **2010/2011: 110**

2009/2010: 191

2008/2009: 202

2007/2008: 151

2007(Jan-Sep): 145

29 **Net Info packages** and 5 **NCS Operating Guidelines** were emailed out to net members in 2010/2011.

An updated NCS check-in list was sent monthly to all NCS stations and several regular check-ins.

At the end of 2010/11 we are short in having a full complement of NCS stations - we still need a regular Thursday NCS and Saturday NCS.

Currently NCS stations are as follows:

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
K9ZMI	WB8WKQ	KD8LZB	WB9QPM	WB9QPM	WB8ORR	K9ZMI

We also need to get a few non-regular NCS stations to volunteer as fill in NCS on an as needed basis when a regular NCS is on vacation or unexpectedly does not show for net.

Currently we have none. Please consider offering your service as a fill in NCS.

No net manager election process was started for the 2011/12 net year which starts Oct 1 2011. There has been a lack of enthusiasm / participation in this part of the net operation for many years and a single volunteer to take the position has not been found for a long time. In addition, over the past 3 years there have been some new added net manager tasks which would be too much for one person to handle alone. Following the managerial staff concept developed last year (Sept 2010), the net manager role for the 2011/12 term has again been divided up into 3 segments which will be managed/worked by a few people.

The positions are:

1. Net operations manager – basic functions the NM has always performed
2. Net log and QSL manager - maintain the net log and run the email QSL net program
3. Website and roster manager - maintain/update the all inclusive net roster and the net webpage; manage the B-day radiogram program.

WB9QPM has been very involved with the net over the past few years and has volunteered to pick up the “net operations” aspect of the net – ie. recording daily net reports, reporting monthly totals to ARRL and net members, and managing the functioning of net activity ie. recruiting net control stations when vacancies occur, promoting good operating practices during net operation, and performing any other activity that is beneficial to the continued successful operation of the 75 Meter Interstate Sideband Net.

K9ZMI will continue to maintain the net log and run the email QSL program.

The net roster, webpage, and B-day radiogram effort is not well defined at this point until clarification from W4WNE is received re his level of ability to participate in this effort. He has had a series of problems involving health and equipment malfunctions that are not yet resolved.

So, for the **2011/12 net year WB9QPM and K9ZMI will serve as net co-managers.** The **net roster, webpage, and B-day radiogram** will continue with whatever effort can be mustered until **W4WNE** or someone else is able to bring it back up to speed. In the meantime, all data necessary for these programs to continue is being collected. We are looking forward to W4WNE’s participation.

In closing, I would just like to pass along congratulations to all net participants on a great performance year. We have had outstanding QNI and QTC totals again this year and have continued on the legacy of public service in traffic handling left to us by the net founders back in the summer of 1952.

Additionally, the “net” has sent out welcoming email QSL’s to 110 new check-ins this year and has sent out B-daygrams to many current and former net members as well as new check-ins.

Thank you all for your participation whether it was bringing or taking traffic, helping with relays, marking the frequency, checking in and being available regularly, volunteering service as an NCS/NM – everyone has contributed in some respect and that makes for a successful net operation.

Let’s continue on in that spirit of helping out when needed in the coming net year.

73 to all
K9ZMI

K9ZMI 10/7/11