

75 Meter Interstate Sideband Net

Year : 2011/12

Net Manager: K9ZMI / WB9QPM

Oct 7 2012: 2011/2012 Annual Summary Report

Annual QNI & QTC

This has again been a very productive year for QNI and QTC with total check-ins at **9270** and msgs at **2454** – **THE highest QNI** and 3rd highest QTC in 8 years.

	2011/2012	9270 / 2554
Previous years QNI/QTC :	2010/2011	8140 / 2453
	2009/2010	8167 / 3092
	2008/2009	8061 / 2749
	2007/2008	6784 / 1779
	2006/2007	6429 / 1728
	2005/2006	6533 / 1741
	2004/2005	7023 / 1926

Traffic sources

Primary traffic sources for the year have been: VE3GNA, N1IQI, K1JPG, W6WW, WB5NKD, N9VC & NX9K pub servc originated msgs and delivery replies; 75 M ISBN B-daygrams; WA0AUX with holiday traffic; W8MAL, WB8WKQ, KC0M, & K9ZMI with contest contacts, various welcomes, and radiogram reply types of msgs.

Birthday radiograms

In order to stimulate more traffic activity on the 75 M ISBN, a birthday radiogram program was set up in 2010 by net co-manager W8CXU. As part of that activity W8CXU started an Excel file data base, aka net roster, containing stations currently checking into the net plus some check-ins from past years. In Nov 2010 W4WNE took over this program after W8CXU resigned from net activity.

W4WNE maintained the net roster Excel file and continued to originate “birthday wishes from the 75 M ISBN” radiograms to all stations in the net roster until he developed some serious ongoing health problems in June 2011. After this point forward, birthday radiograms were not sent out regularly as a result of W4WNE’s health issues. A few B-daygrams were sporadically sent out during the 2011/2012 net year but there is no data recorded to report on the number of birthday radiograms sent.

Records of new check-ins and their birthdays were kept during this time but the official net roster was up-to-date only as of Aug 31 2011 at the end of the net year, Sept 30 2012

Contact with W4WNE has been very sporadic during the past year but a resolution plan to bring the net roster up-to-date will be made with him / implemented at the start of the next net year, Oct 1 2012.

New check ins

The number of new check-ins for Oct 1 2011 thru Sept 30 2012 was **190**.

This is the first year this data was recorded. As a result no other data from previous years is available.

Email QSL's

The total email QSL's delivered from Jan 2007 to Sept 2012 was **918**.

QSL's delivered per year: **2011/2012: 165**

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

2009/2010: 191 *

2008/2009: 202 *

2007/2008: 151 *

2007(Jan-Sep): 145 *

* These numbers included all sent even though some could not be delivered because of bad email address.

For these years the total sent was 799 and 46 were returned because email address NG. Net delivered was 753.

Starting Oct 1 2011 only QSL's delivered are counted and the number returned is no longer tabulated.

Weekly NCS line up

We started the year with 2 open NCS nights, Thursday and Saturday. WB9QPM and K9ZMI filled in until a regular NCS could be found.

W8IFG filled in as an alternate NCS several times on Thursday and Saturday nights.

In Feb WB9QPM and WB8ORR swapped NCS nights to resolve a scheduling conflict.

March 1 KK3F started as regular NCS for Thursday night and is doing very well with that.

An updated NCS check-in list was sent monthly to all NCS stations and several regular check-ins throughout the year. In Jan 2011 **NCS Ops Guidelines** were sent to W8IFG, W9NTG, and N7INO.

At the end of 2011/12 we are one short in having a full complement of NCS stations - we still need a regular 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	WB8ORR	KK3F	WB9QPM	K9ZMI

Net traffic operation news

In Nov 2011 KD2AXP started checking in regularly and has become a liaison station for traffic going to NY and the NE US. KB2YAA also takes traffic to this area when he is available.

Also in November KA7YYR again started checking in regularly during the winter season. He continued taking traffic for the West and NW US until about May when spring/summer QRN and poorer propagation once again set in. Also, spring and summer months are very busy months re his work schedule. Always glad to hear him checking in again in the late fall.

WA0AUX continues to take traffic not only for Ia but also Mo, Mn, Ne, and SD. We appreciate his long participation in the net and bringing his holiday traffic originations to boost traffic activity.

KCOM continues to handle traffic for the 10th region and also SW US in a timely manner. He has helped fill in coverage for the SW US. During the year he has helped boost the traffic activity on the net with awards and contest originated traffic.

In Apr we learned that VE3GNA was cutting back on his traffic generation due to family priorities and also that another large traffic generator, **W1GMF**, had become an **SK** Apr 11 2012.

Webpage news

Throughout 2011/2012 there was sporadic communication with W4WNE who was facing several on going health issues during the year as noted in the *Birthday radiograms section* above.

As a result of the health problems he was only able to update the webpage as of Aug 31 2011.

We are grateful for all the time and effort W4WNE put into setting up the net's webpage and pray for improvement in his health.

So at the end of the 2011/2012 net year the webpage was available but the new check in listing with birthday radiogram info was current only as of Aug 31 2011.

Radio signal propagation

The increase in solar activity of cycle 24 has provided generally good propagation throughout the year for both long and short skip but at the same time the long skip did not favor propagation into the US of the signal from Radio Croatia (RC), an AM station operating on 3985 KHz that has been a source of QRM for us in the past few years. At times the carrier signal of Radio Croatia could be heard but it only became a problem / annoyance when RC's frequency drifted down ~100 + Hz over time. When the carrier signal was distracting enough on any given night, the net frequency was simply shifted down the 100 Hz to eliminate the 100 Hz heterodyne. We noticed that periodically the RC frequency was reset to correct for the drift for which we were thankful.

In April the sun threw 1-2 CME's towards the Earth which temporarily resulted in both poor long and short skip propagation and auroral effects for a few days. Our main communication nemesis starting in April and continuing on through the summer months were T-storms and the resulting QRN. Despite the high static crashes of the summer months we continued to successfully pass traffic with our extensive network of relay stations around the US.

MIA Members

Since late June 2011 we have lost contact with **K4GLT**, then Net co-Manager for 2010/11, due to equipment problems and then some severe health issues he was having. We learned this year that Kelley had become a **SK** in Feb. A moment of radio silence was held during a net session in memory of the then longest term living net member.

We have had no contact with N8IXF since his broken hip in June 2011.

In Nov we had not heard **WA0KLD**, our eldest member, for a while; in Dec 2011 we learned that Roy was now in a long term care facility; in Jan 2012 we were advised that he had become an **SK**.

There were several **SK**'s from our group this year and we remember them here:

SK:	AA3KI	Larry	from Pottstown, Pa	Oct 23 2011
SK:	W9YCE	Harold	from Springfield, Il	Jan 1 2012
SK:	WA0KLD	Roy	from Mount Pleasant, Ia	Jan 18 2012
SK:	WD8JYE	Donn	from North Baltimore, Oh	Jan 29 2012
SK:	K4GLT	Kelley	from Burton, SC	Feb 7 2012
SK:	KG5GE	Charlie	from West Monroe, La	Mar 21 2012
SK:	K8IOW	Andy	from Waynesville, Oh	Oct 31 2012
SK:	WA0TFC	Karl	from Cleveland, Mn	Dec 2012

2011/12 Net Manager status

Following the managerial staff concept developed in Sept 2010, we started the 2011/12 net year with a net managerial staff structured as follows:

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.

1. WB9QPM 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.
2. K9ZMI continued to maintain the net log, run the email QSL program, and support WB9QPM.
3. The net roster, webpage, and B-day radiogram effort was not well defined at the start of this net year pending clarification from W4WNE re his level of ability to participate in this effort.

Net manager "election" for next year

No net manager election process was started for the 2012/13 net year which starts Oct 1 2012.

The 3 part net managerial staff concept developed in Sept 2010 will continue to be followed for the coming year.

The staff 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.

For the **2012/13 net year WB9QPM will serve as Net operations manager and K9ZMI will serve as Net log and QSL manager** to provide direction and continuity in getting the net website and birthday radiogram program updated and back up & running.

W4WNE will no longer be able to manage the **net roster, webpage, and B-day radiogram. K9ZMI and WB9QPM** will continue this effort with whatever resources can be mustered until a qualified volunteer with webpage knowledge can provide support. In the meantime, all data necessary for these programs to continue is being collected and stored.

Closing summary

In closing --- Congratulations and thanks to all net participants on another great performance year.

We had outstanding QNI and QTC totals again this year ---

1. QNI was THE highest at 9270 over the past 8 years
2. QTC at 2454 was the 3rd highest over the past 8 years

So, again this year we continued on the legacy of public service in traffic handing left to us by the net founders back in the summer of 1952 showing our zeal for this public service by some outstanding participation and traffic numbers this year.

Additionally, this year the "net" has sent out 165 email QSL's welcoming new check-ins to participate.

We have a net webpage in ongoing development and are very grateful to W4WNE for initiating this project and launching the website in Jan 2011. Updating the website with new check-in data was stalled this year due to some health issues with W4WNE but plans are in place to get it back up to speed next year – *an action item for 2012/13.*

The same health issues restricted W4WNE to send out only a limited number of birthday radiograms this year to new and current net members. This program was set up in 2010 by W8CXU to stimulate traffic activity and invite more participation in net activity.

The program will be brought back up to full speed next year – *an action item for 2012/13.*

Thank you all for your participation this year by 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 to the net's successful operation again this year.

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

73 to all

K9ZMI and WB9QPM