QTC?QSP! The NYS Newsletter

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Greetings!

This has been a very long time in coming! I have made too many attempts at getting a newsletter started only to have events take me away for too long and then have to scrap it because it had become dated. I also have had a few computer disasters that wiped the slate clean despite my efforts to make backups. I'm rather ashamed of that, since I have to deal with such events in my professional life but that's the way of it. I have switched from using **Microsoft Publisher** to an implementation of LaTeX, a typesetting program. I did this because I have been using it to produce documents with real mathematical typeset and I wanted to see if I could typeset a newsletter. It really does a nice job with mathematical equations and it is much easier to use than those miserable palettes one finds in **Microsoft Word** and **WordPerfect**. So, as Ed Sullivan used to say, "On with the show!"
[**This newsletter may be found in Adobe pdf format at the following web site: http://www.oswego.edu/˜bzeller/nys/nys.htm**]

Net Managers

NYS was founded in 1946. Since that time it has had many managers, but one is particularly noteworthy. Clara Reger, W2RUF, held that position for sixteen years.

Today, NYS managers are selected by consensus of the Section Managers and Section Traffic Managers *of all the sections in New York State.* For many years, NYS only covered ENY and WNY with a single session at 7PM until

WB2EAG (now W2EAG) started NYS/M. When the NLI CW net folded in the 1980's, then NYS/L was added at 10PM.

The net managers staff the Net Control Stations (NCS), and 2RN liaison functions for each daily session, compile and report net activity statistics on a monthly basis, keep the net membership informed, and promote general welfare of the net.

Nets and Current Managers

Net	Net Manager	Local Time	Frequency
NYS/M	KA2GJV	10:00 AM	3677 kHz
NYS/E	WB2QIX	7:00 PM	3677 kHz
NYS/L	W2YGW *	10:00 PM	3677 kHz

* Note: W2YGW is also Second Region Cycle 4 Net Manager (7:45 PM & 9:30 PM on 3690 kHz)

(Currently, there are no assistant net managers. Are there any volunteers?)

PSHR

Since I have assumed the duties of reporting PSHR and BPL stations to HQ for WNY, I have detected an increase in mistakes in the PSHR reports, so I think that it is appropriate to review the criteria for PSHR qualification to the benefit of all.

PSHR stands for **P**ublic **S**ervice **H**onor **R**oll. It is available to amateurs whose public service during the reported month totals 70 or more points in accordance with eight different categories. These eight categories can be found on form FSD-210(4/91) available from your SM or STM or on the ARRL Web Page at **http://www.arrl.org/field/forms/**, along with a host of other good things for the Field Organization.

The categories are:

1) Checking into a public service net, using any mode, one point each; maximum 60.

2) Performing as Net Control Station for a public service net, using any mode, three points each, maximum 24.

3) Performing assigned liaison between public service nets, three points each: maximum 24.

4) Delivering a formal message to a third party, one point each; no limit.

5) Originating a formal message from a third party, one point each; no limit.

6) Serving as an ARRL field appointee or SM, 10 points each appointment; maximum 30.

7) Participating in a communications network for a public service event, 10 points each event; no limit.

8) Providing and maintaining an automated digital system that handles ARRL radiogram-formatted message traffic, 30 points.

Now lets use my November 2000 activity to illustrate how these rules are applied. In November, I checked into at least seven different nets a total of 102 times, if each QNI is worth 1 point, then I should earn 102 points, but, since category 1) is capped at 60 points max, I can only claim 60 points.

I was NCS 47 times with each worth 3 points giving me 141 points of which I can only claim 24, because of the cap.

I performed a liaison 46 times, but, again because of the cap, I can claim only 24 points.

I delivered one message to a third party so I can claim 1 point.

I didn't originate any messages for any third parties so I claim nothing.

I hold four field appointments, STM NM, ORS and OES, which at 10 points a piece would be 40 points, but it is capped at 30, so 30 points is all I can claim.

I didn't participate in any public service events, so I claim nothing, but in December I will help my county ARES group with the Oswego YMCA Reindeer Run, so I'll have to remember to claim 10 points then.

I leave my packet radio station mailbox on 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for the purpose of posting ARRL formatted radiograms, so I claim 30 points for this category.

When I total this, I get 169 points for PSHR for the month of November. What does this all mean? It means I do too much work!

In the past year, I have received upwards of half a dozen reports per reporting period that do not total correctly! Please use a calculator and double check your arithmetic.

Let's go back to categories 4) and 5) - what is a Third Party Communication? The answer is - a communication for anyone who is not the licensed amateur operating the amateur radio station for the purpose of the communication in question. Consider the following. My next door neighbor has a son stationed in the armed services in Louisiana. Neither she nor her son

are licensed radio amateurs. She wants to send him a message so I transmit a radiogram for her addressed to him, and with *my call as the station of origination* and *her city of residence as place of origin* and her name in the signature. Since she lives next door to me, it is, of course, Fulton NY. If she lived in Hannibal NY (a local call for me) I would put Hannibal instead of Fulton because she is the originator of the message, not me. In this particular case, both she and her son are third parties.

Is it permitted to send messages to foreign countries? It depends on whether the United States has a third party agreement with the country of destination. If the country in question is not on the list of third party agreements, then do not send it, unless it is addressed to an amateur radio operator, because amateurs are not generally considered third parties. Also make sure that the person's station call is in the address, otherwise somebody is likely to service the message back believing it to be illegal! [See Part 97 Amateur Radio Service §97.113(a)(1)-(5), §97.115(a)(1) & (2) and §97.117

Is there a time when an amateur is considered a third party? Yes, when a message is being originated or delivered. For example, KA2DBD sends his monthly report on NY Phone and since I am generally at work during this net time, it is picked up by KA2ZNZ who calls me on the telephone after dinner. Since this is an off-the-air function, it counts as a delivery for KA2ZNZ. Likewise, N2MQP, who is the wife of KA2ZNZ, sometimes sends messages to friends. Since she does not often QNI, KA2ZNZ sends them on her behalf with his call as station of origin and her name in the signature (and credits himself 1 point for an origination). If KA2ZNZ were to send a message to a friend with his own call sign as station of origin and his own name in the signature, it is not an origination. Likewise, if he receives a message on-the-air, addressed to himself, it isn't a delivery. The key to figuring out if the message qualifies as an origination or delivery is to determine whether the message addressee or sender (the person whose name is in the signature) is not the station operator and that the function of message origination or delivery was done on-the-air on an amateur band. (For example, M.A.R.S. message operations are conducted on frequencies other than amateur bands and do not count as amateur radio traffic. Only when M.A.R.S. traffic is refiled in amateur radio message traffic format does its refile count as a message sent when sent on-the-air to another amateur station.)

Checking In (QNI)

Editor's Note: This section is intended for those who may decide to check in after they receive this newsletter. You seasoned NYS operators may want to skip this section, but it won't hurt to review what you already know.

Each session is called up with "NYS NYS NYS DE — QND QNZ" at the designated time and as close to 3677 kHz as possible. The NCS is most likely to move down in frequency to avoid QRM to the Virginia CW Net which operates at 3680 kHz. Zero-beat the NCS's frequency as close as you possibly can, since he/she may have a narrow bandpass. Be on time, but don't be in a hurry to QNI. The NCS will usually ask for assigned liaison stations first, and may then ask for only those stations listing traffic. When he/she is ready to receive any other stations, he/she will send "QNI K". Just send any single letter to identify yourself. If the NCS echoes that letter, proceed to sign in with your call sign and the destinations and quantities of traffic if you have any. If you do not, simply say QRU. List all NY traffic by city. If a message is for a regular net member, list by call. All traffic for outside the state is simply listed as "2RN". Here is an example.

    NCS : NYS NYS DE W2ZOJ QNI K (or "NYS K")
    you : V
    NCS : V
    you : DE WZ2VWZ GE QRU K (no traffic) or DE WZ2VWZ GE QTC
ALBANY 2 2RN 3 KU2N 1 K
    NCS : WZ2VWZ GE R $\overline{AS}$ (good evening, roger, stand-by)
    Whatever you do, DON'T GET DISCOURAGED if you are not recognized on the first few attempts. Keep trying. Many stations may be trying to check in at the same time. An NCS may not be able to hear you, but he will NEVER ignore you. Sometimes a relay from another station on frequency is required. BE PATIENT, and you'll make it.
    A good tutorial can be found on the ARRL web at:
http://www.arrl.org/field/pscm/sec2-ch1.html
and a very nice one written by Alan Wormser, N5LF at:
http://www.qsl.net/n5lf/cw-nts.html
[Many thanks to NY2V for telling me about the last one]

Grumblings

The recent Simulated Emergency Test (on SET Weekend) has pointed out a number of weaknesses concerning message precedence that need to be addressed.

The purpose of precedence is to rank the importance of the message. All messages are moved on net according to this ranking - Emergency, Priority (P), Welfare (W) and Routine (R) (in order of importance). If you are the net control station, you need to move the highest precedence traffic first. A Routine (R) message should not be cleared before a Test Priority (Test P). A Priority message is a Priority message, even if it is a Test Priority message. Remember, our duty as traffic handlers is to get the message to the addressee as soon as possible; it is not necessary to wait for a station to QNI who can deliver the message without paying a telephone toll charge. As STM of WNY, I have on occasion, written my own little scenario that dictates how I operate during SET weekend. This year, it caused me some embarrassment by causing me to delay a Test Priority message. Rest assured, that will not happen again; I will build in more safeguards next time.

The use of precedence was also disturbing. I saw one Test Emergency message assigned to a birthday greeting! Tsk! Tsk! I also saw many Test Emergency messages that really should have been Test Priority. Please review the following definitions for precedence.

Emergency–[this is always spelled out in the preamble, never abbreviated] Any message having life and death urgency to any person or group of persons, which is transmitted by Amateur Radio in the absence of regular commercial facilities. This includes official messages of welfare agencies during emergencies requesting supplies, materials or instructions vital to relief of stricken populace in emergency areas. During normal times, it will be very rare. On cw and all other modes, this designation will always be spelled out. When in doubt, do not use it. [Remember, when dealing with an Emergency message the **first** station that can deliver the message gets it regardless of toll charges.] [Additional note: this one is a net stopper! If you are NCS and a message with this precedence is posted, stop all net operations until it can be resolved. see Part 97 §97.403]

Priority–Important messages having a specific time limit. Official messages not covered in the Emergency category. Press dispatches and other emergency-related traffic not of the utmost urgency. Notifications of death or injury in a disaster area, personal or official. Use the abbreviation P on

cw.

Welfare–A message that is either a) an inquiry as to the health and welfare of an individual in the disaster area b) an advisory or reply from the disaster area that indicates all is well should carry this precedence, which is abbreviated W on cw. These messages are handled after Emergency and Priority traffic but before Routine.

Routine–Most traffic normal times will bear this designation. In disaster situations, traffic labeled Routine (R on cw) should be handled last, or not at all when circuits are busy with Emergency, Priority or Welfare traffic.

Interesting Web Page

For those of you who have web access and are interested in a discussion on traffic handling and the National Traffic System, check out the discussion group that W2CS has set-up.

http://www.egroups.com/group/NTS-EAN

Silent Keys

We mourn the passing of Darlana Mayo, N2DB December 16, 2000 and Peter Gellert, W2WSS December 23, 2000.

Memorial Award For 2000

The Bill Shaw "WB2VEJ" memorial award has been renamed to include Carl Felt "N2XJ". This award recognizes the significant and dependable service provided to Second Region Net Operations on cycles 2 and 3. The 2000 recipients are: KA2GJV, N1JX, WB2GTG and WB2QIX. Congratulations to all!

Email

If you wish to receive this newsletter via email instead of U.S. Postal Service send your email address to KA2GJV at the following email address:

bzeller@oswego.edu