

75 Meter Interstate Sideband Net

Year : 2009/10

Net Manager: K9ZMI / W8CXU

Oct 7 2010: 2009/2010 Annual Summary Report

This has again been a banner year for QNI and QTC with check-ins at **8167** and msgs at **3092**.

Previous years QNI/QTC :

2008/2009	8061 / 2749
2007/2008	6784 / 1779
2006/2007	6429 / 1728
2005/2006	6533 / 1741
2004/2005	7023 / 1926

Primary traffic has been W8CXU w/ Southcars and 75 M ISBN B-daygrams plus WB5NKD, N1IQI, and W1GMF msgs. A few newcomers to the net have started to bring traffic in Sept 2010.

In August W8CXU started phasing out of Southcars traffic and ended Sept 1 2010. To replace Southcars tfc Frank started to send out Happy B-day msgs from the 75 M ISBN in Sept 2010 to all active and non-active ISBN members. AS part of that effort, during July/Aug he expanded the comprehensive check-ins file he maintains to include B-day info and records of B-day msgs sent. The main initial surge of birthday traffic in August were messages requesting the B-month and B-day from stations whose info he could get otherwise.

During the winter months with better long skip propagation a small amount of western states traffic was passed to KA7YYR who was frequently checking in then. We could have used more traffic for him. As summer months and QRM arrived, this activity dropped off. KE0WC in Colorado, and W7TNS in Arizona were absent this year during the winter months.

The Az Traffic and Emergency Net still starts up on 3986 KHz at 0200 Z and creates a QRM problem for western stations and also for some southern midwest stations participating in the 75 M ISBN. We have tried to pass traffic to stations affected prior to 0200Z.

We still don't have regular liaison stations for Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the Dakotas. WA9QIB has been filling the Wisconsin liaison role when needed.

Stateside long and short skip propagation was generally poor during October through December 2009 but steadily improved from January 2010 on. However, from October 2009 to about the end of March 2010 Radio Croatia operating on 3985 KHz was usually quite strong and troublesome to the east coast stations to the extent that in December 2009 through about the end of March 2010 the net frequently shifted its operation down to 3984 KHz. Starting in about April 2010 the signal from Radio Croatia began to diminish and the net resumed operating on 3985 KHz regularly. Long and short propagation during the summer months was generally good but summer thunderstorms frequently made its associated QRN troublesome.

Through all the propagation challenges the net remained in continuous operation using its network of relay stations located around the continental US.

Email QSL's sent from Jan 2007 to Sept 2010: 689 with a total of 44 returns of failed delivery.

QSL's sent per year:

2009/2010:	191
2008/2009:	202
2007/2008:	151
2007(Jan-Sep):	145

KB0OFD continues to send “welcoming” radiograms to new ISBN check-ins.

In August / Sept. W8CXU started sending birthday greeting radiograms to all current and former net members.

2 Net Info packages and 1 NCS Operating Guidelines were emailed out to net members in 2009/2010.

W8CXU continues to maintain and update daily with help from KB0OFD a comprehensive net check-in Excel file. The file contains all regular net check-ins as of Jan 2007, every new check-in station since then to present, and also all non-active net members who still have valid licenses. Originally intended as an NCS operating aid, it now has a second function of recording birthday data and messages sent to all active members and non-active members.

We are still one short in having a full complement of NCS stations.

KK3F was doing alternate Mondays but had to step down when daylight savings time stopped in Oct 2009. Fortunately WB8WKQ stepped up to the plate and took the Monday NCS spot on a regular basis in April 2010.

In October 2009 WD5HIO rejoined us and offered to take a regular NCS spot on Tuesdays which he did for 2 months. He took a road trip to Texas in November has hasn't contacted us since. W8CXU has been filling in on Tuesdays as well as his regular Wednesday night slot. So we still need a regular Tuesday NCS.

Currently NCS stations are as follows:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
K9ZMI	WB8WKQ	W8CXU	W8CXU	KB0OFD	WB8ORR	N8IXF

We also need to get a few more 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 WA4MZE and K4GLT have agreed to fill in when needed but a few more regular check-in stations are needed to help out in this role. Please consider offering your service.

SK NO0J April 2010

In November 2009 we welcomed back a long time net member WA0KLD who has been regularly checking in again.

Securing a new NM for the coming net year has been a problem as it has been in previous years. Over the past few years the duties of the net manger have expanded a bit with the addition of a more aggressive QSL program via email, maintaining the net log on a pc (the log was previously hand typed / recorded on paper), and most recently the birthday message program set up by W8CXU.

Frank and I have discussed this topic and agree that this is too much for just one person to take on.

We have mutually agreed to continue on in running the newly added net activities but we need another individual to assume the role of net manager who will have duties of day to day net activities – ie net reports, coordinating NCS stations, managing net operations, etc – the normal things the net manager has been doing for years. We could not find one person to take this on but KB0OFD and K4GLT have agreed to help out with some of these tasks.

So for the 2010 /2011 net year the net managerial staff as it is now termed will be 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 Birthdaygrams 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.

In closing, I would just like to pass along congratulations from Frank and myself to all net participants on a great performance year. We have had outstanding QNI and QTC totals this year and have continued on the legacy of public service in traffic handing left to us by the net founders back in the summer of 1952. We have sent out welcoming email QSLs and radiograms to all 191 new check-ins and have started sending out B-daygrams. 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 a successful net operation. Let's continue on in that spirit of helping out when needed.

73 to all

K9ZMI and W8CXU

K9ZMI 10/7/10