

75 Meter Interstate Sideband Net

Year : 2012/13

Net Manager: K9ZMI / WB9QPM

Oct 7 2013: 2012/2013 Annual Summary Report

Annual QNI & QTC

For the second year in a row the **QNI** set another record breaking high of 10,834 over the past 13 years. The **QTC** also posted a very respectable 2341, the 5th highest level over the same 13 years.

	2012/2013	10834 / 2341
Previous years QNI/QTC :	2011/2012	9270 / 2554
	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: 75 M ISBN B-daygrams (478); W8MAL OMISS & NTS service tnx; N9VC & NX9K pub servc originated msgs and delivery replies; N1IQI; WB5NKD; WORTA; VE3GNA; KB8RCR PSHR; WB8WKQ contest msgs; N8IO hamvention msgs; K9ZMI 160 contest msgs (50)

Birthday radiograms

In order to stimulate more traffic activity on the 75 M ISBN, a birthday radiogram program was set up and launched in Sept 2010 by net co-manager at the time, W8CXU, who ran the program until Nov 2010 when it was taken over and actively run by W4WNE until about July 2011. From July to Oct 2012 health problems limited W4WNE's activity and finally curtailed his ability to continue on as manager in mid Oct. At this point the master net roster which provided the data needed to generate birthday radiograms in a timely manner was one year out of date – last update thru Aug 31 2011.

Two action items from last year were on the NM's agenda for this year –

1. update the webpage and
2. restore the operation of the Birthday radiogram program

Key to both of these objectives was the updating of the master roster list. W4WNE had sent the webpage administrator password to WB9QPM in Oct. 2012 and using that to access the webpage files, Jim downloaded the master roster list (current to Aug 31 2011) from the webpage file set.

K9ZMI has maintained a file called the “NCS check in list”; the list contains basic information on all check ins since Jan 2007 that would be useful to an NCS while checking in stations during a net session. The list has been kept up-to-date and was used to append all new check-ins to the master roster list from Aug 31 2011 thru Dec 31 2012.

Birthday information is not recorded in the NCS check in-list but it was available from a hard copy of new check-ins also maintained by K9ZMI.. So, birthday information for the Aug 2011 – Dec 2012 new check-ins was manually added to the emerging master roster list from the hard copy.

This updating process was completed in early January 2013 at which point it was reviewed / checked by WB9QPM.

WB9QPM then re-sorted the data of the newly updated master roster file according to chronological birthdays and set up a reconfigured file, the B-daygram file, which lists birthdays by month / day and also provides for entry of phone numbers and other logging information pertinent to the sending of birthday radiograms.

W8MAL volunteered to originate and send out the radiograms on behalf of the net and started this in mid January 2013. He continued on in this capacity until the end of April when his work schedule prevented him from continuing in this capacity. Thanks, Mike, for all the time you put in getting phone numbers and originating messages to get the B-day program rolling again. In May WB9QPM picked up the task of originating birthday radiograms as well as maintaining the B-daygram file. Thanks for all your effort here, Jim.

The total Birthday radiograms sent over an 8 month period spanning Jan 2013 to Sept 2013 was **478**.

B-daygrams sent per year*: **2012/2013: 478**

* 2012/13 was the first year this data was recorded.

New check ins

The number of new check-ins for Oct 1 2012 thru Sept 30 2013 was **171**.

2012/2013: 171
Previous years*: 2011/2012: 190

* 2011/12 was the first year this data was recorded.

Email QSL's

The total email QSL's delivered from Jan 2007 to Sept 2013 was **1081**.

QSL's delivered per year: **2012/2013: 163**
2011/2012: 165
2010/2011: 104
2009/2010: 180
2008/2009: 190
2007/2008: 142
2007(Jan-Sep): 137

Weekly NCS line up

The NCS Operating and Aids Guide, updated Traffic Outlet map, and 2012 02 NCS check-in list were sent out this year to W8MAL, KA9BAE, KC8PZ, W9NTG, and W8OLO who had expressed interest in NCS activity.

We started the year with 1 open NCS night, either Saturday or Sunday. K9ZMI was serving as NCS for both nights. Since late last year W8IFG has been filling in as an NCS when a regular NCS has been absent and his work / travel schedule permitted. He continued in that role this year filling in regularly on Sunday nights in Jan and Feb, again when work / travel permitted. In March he volunteered to regularly take on the Sunday night NCS duty and has shown to be a very capable NCS.

In Nov, Dec and Jan W8MAL filled in several times as NCS for the absent NCS and then mid January he began sending out Birthday radiograms on behalf of the net.

Later in the year KA9BAE and KC8PZ volunteered to act as alternate NCS's filling in when the regular NCS was unable to make the net and they were available for NCS duty. Both have served many times during the year as an NCS and have shown they are "seasoned" and capable net controls each time.

In Sept KC8PZ and K9ZMI started sharing NCS duty by each serving as NCS on alternating Saturdays. KC8PZ also continues on as an alternate NCS.

Due to some unexpected health issues in Feb and then work related conflicts in Sept our devoted Tuesday NCS, KD8LZB, had to miss a few net sessions as NCS but our alternate NCS's covered the vacancies. We are thankful for KC's dedicated service as NCS over the years and wish him well in the coming year.

At the end of the year we have a solid group of NCS stations and one for each weekday plus 2 alternates.

Currently NCS stations for 2012/13 are as follows:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
W8IFG	WB8WKQ	KD8LZB	WB8ORR	KK3F	WB9QPM	KC8PZ / K9ZMI

Alternate NCS: KA9BAE and KC8PZ

Net traffic operation news

WA9QIB, a long time net member, was sidelined for some time while tending to a higher priority in his life -- the caring for his wife. In Oct/Nov he was able to rejoin us as a regular check in while still involved in his wife's care. Larry takes traffic for northern IL and SE WI as well as brings traffic. We appreciate his long service as a traffic handler on the net and wish him and his wife the Lord's blessings in the coming years.

In November our NW and SW liaison stations, KA7YYR and KB7RVF, again started checking in regularly during the winter season. They continued taking traffic for the SW, 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 for KA7YYR. Always glad to hear Herb and Kevin checking in again in the late fall.

VE6PWT started checking in with us in Feb from Calgary, AB. Bob has been checking in regularly when conditions favor long skip.

N0KFS has been checking in regularly since he first checked in with us in Feb last year. Bill takes traffic for KS and his participation in providing a direct outlet into KS is greatly appreciated.

In March N4TIS began checking in fairly regularly taking traffic for GA. We appreciate Chuck's participation and providing us with a GA traffic outlet.

KD8LZB, our regular Tuesday NCS, was sidelined in Feb 2012 with some health issues but was back running his Tues net session in March. Later in Sept 2013 his work schedule required him to take leave from NCS duty. We thank him for his service to the net, wish him well, and look forward to his return when he is able.

In April we greeted a new call sign checking in -- WO2H. Actually it was KD2AXP with a new call sign. Congratulations on the new call, Mike. Tnx for your participation and providing a traffic outlet to the NE US.

N5TMC joined us in July and has been a regular check-in from Texas. Tnx for joining us Jeff and providing us with a traffic outlet to region 5.

In Sept WB8H started checking in regularly from MI. Gordy takes traffic for Michigan and also is an Air Force MARS liaison to the net. Tnx for your participation, Gordy.

WA0AUX, a long time net member, former NCS, and former NM, 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.

Webpage news

The updated master net roster file generated in Jan 2013 was a key element in updating the webpage as well as the B-daygram file as discussed in *Birthday radiograms section* above.

Once the administrator password was received by WB9QPM in Oct 2012, he was able to look at the file structure for the webpage. Jim downloaded all the webpage files to one of his computers and basically set up the webpage on that computer and used it in his investigation of how to update the master roster file and make other needed changes down the road.

Both WB9QPM and K9ZMI had no experience in webpage design. So we began seeking help from various sources when KC0ZDB heard of our need. Dick had previous webpage design experience and offered to take a look at the problem. Working together with WB9QPM he and Jim unraveled the file organization and design W4WNE used to build the webpage – actually well organized and designed. After much time and effort Dick and Jim were able to put together a plan so that not only could we update the current net roster when needed but also update other time sensitive areas and add some new information as well. They were able to test their plans using the website built on the computer WB9QPM had set up for this purpose to prevent any errors that might have been made from crashing the actual website which was functional but out of date in some areas.

The webpage on QSL.net was successfully updated the end of July 2013. After a password issue was fixed with the help of the QSL.net owner, the webpage located at:

<http://qsl.net/75misbn>

is functional and updated almost daily as needed by the “webmaster” WB9QPM.

Many thanks from the net members are extended to W4WNE for the design and build of the webpage and to KC0ZDB and WB9QPM for much time and effort in re-establishing it as an up-to-date webpage.

Radio signal propagation

Again this year 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 it did not favor very long skip 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 detected very faintly on 3985 KHz but did not cause interference as in the past.

In October there was an exception to this when 3 different times a solar flare resulted in poor short skip and enhanced the radio Croatia signal!

A few nights in February long skip from the west coast was very good. On one of those nights a Washington State ARES net started up on 3985 KHz after the net had been in session for some time and caused some confusing QRM for a while. Evidently they heard our net stations passing traffic because after that on another night K9ZMI checked into the Wash. State net after monitoring their conversations re interference they were having on 3985 KHz and filled the NCS in on the operation of the 75 M ISBN on 3985 KHz.

On future nights when they heard the 75 M ISBN already in session, they would shift their operating frequency up to avoid the mutual QRM.

Spring and summer T-storms were our main nemesis from April through July. There were frequent T-storms in May and in mid-June a net session was cancelled one night because of a severe widespread T-storm covering the mid-west and extending into the eastern states. On another night in June the net session lasted only 14 minutes with only a handful of check-ins and no traffic listed because of a severe T-storm.

During the fall the QRN subsided and long and short skip were very good for our range of liaison stations.

Despite the high static crashes of the summer months and the solar flares causing poor short skip propagation in Oct, we continued to successfully pass traffic with our extensive network of relay stations around the US.

Net News

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

SK: KA0NBC	Myron	from Lakewood, CO		Jan 13 2013
SK: WB3HGL	Dick	from Somerset, PA	NCS	Jan 24 2013
SK: N9MHN	J. R.	from Syracuse, IN		Feb 8 2013
SK: WB9OMR	Gary	from Oxford Junction, PA		Feb 18 2013
SK: KT4UV	Dale	from Fort Meyers, FL		Mar 2013
SK: K5BBA	Carl	from Shannon, MS		Mar 2013
SK: W9TED	Ted	from Fort Wayne, IN	NCS, NM 1977, GWF 1979	Apr 6 2013
SK: K0JM	Frank	from Aberdeen, SD		Apr 13 2013
SK: W9CRF	Rudy	from Orland Park, IL		Jun 16 2013
SK: W4HON	Jim	from West Point, GA		July 15 2013
SK: N8IXF	Lew	Columbia Station, OH	NCS, NM 2004-07, GWF 2008	July 25 2013

73 Lew

N8IXF joined the net about October 1995 and was a long time net member, NCS, and NM. In July 2004 the NM at the time became an **SK** quite suddenly and the net was without a manager for a several days. Lew stepped up and filled the void as interim net manager until the following Sept when the term expired.

The net members then elected Lew to be NM for the next 3 consecutive years at which point he respectfully declined to run again in 2007 but he did continue on as the regular Sat. NCS as he had been doing for at least the past 10 years.

In 2008 Lew was granted the GWF award in recognition for his long service as traffic handler, as long time NCS, and especially as interim NM where he demonstrated attributes of a 75 M ISBN "Great White Father".

In June 2011 Lew fell, broke his hip, and was sidelined from his Sat. NCS activity for a time that never ended. A long series of medical complications followed that mishap in his life and he was never able to make it back to the net.

73 and thanks for being part of the 75 M ISBN, Lew.

A minute of radio silence was observed at the start of the net session on the night the announcement of Lew's SK status was made.

2012/13 Net Manager status

Following the managerial staff concept developed in Sept 2010, we started the 2012/13 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. Last year 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. Last year K9ZMI agreed to continue to maintain the net log, run the email QSL program, and support WB9QPM.

3. In mid October 2012 we received word from W4WNE that he would not be able to continue to support the net roster, webpage, and B-day radiogram effort. At this point WB9QPM took over this responsibility and together with K9ZMI worked on last year’s 2 action items to 1) update the master net roster and webpage and 2) start up the Birthday radio program again using the updated net roster as a starting point.

For the coming 2013/14 net year the same 3 position net managerial staff concept developed in Sept 2010 will continue to be followed and the net manager “election” process was started with an open nomination period in Sept 2013. KA9BAE served as recipient for any nominations.

The lack of enthusiasm / participation in this part of the net operation for many years continued this year and no nominations were made. WB9QPM and K9ZMI volunteered to serve for another year.

So, for the **2013/14 net year**

WB9QPM will continue to serve as **Net operations manager** and

K9ZMI will continue to serve as **Net log and QSL manager**.

WB9QPM will continue to manage the **net roster, webpage, and B-day radiogram activity**.

K9ZMI will provide support in these areas where needed.

WB9QPM would welcome assistance in sending out Birthday radiograms. Please consider volunteering some time and help Jim send out some of these from the 75 M ISBN.

Closing summary

Congratulations and thanks to all net participants for your support of another successful net operation in 2012/13.

We had terrific QNI and QTC totals again this year and set another 13 year record for QNI ---

1. QNI was THE highest at **10,834** over the past 13 years exceeding last year’s record of 9270.
2. QTC at 2341 was the **5th** highest over the same 13 year period.

Again this year your participation supported our legacy of public service in traffic handing left to us by the net founders back in the summer of 1952 and demonstrated your zeal for this public service by some outstanding participation and traffic numbers.

Additionally, this year the 75 Meter Interstate Sideband Net:

1. had **171** new check-ins
2. sent out **163** email QSL's welcoming new check-ins to continue to participate
3. sent out **478** Birthday radiograms over an 8 month period.

In January 2013 we completed one action item from last year – the restoration of the Birthday radiogram program. Once we received the admin password for the webpage from W4WNE, WB9QPM downloaded the most up-to-date (Aug 31 2011) net roster. Then K9ZMI appended to this file the missing new check ins with birthday information using both the NCS Check in list and a hard copy of all new check ins which had birthday info. Many thanks are extended to WB9QPM who put in so many hours on this effort and the webpage effort. Also, special thanks to W8MAL who volunteered to send out the radiograms from January through April.

At the end of July 2013 we completed another action item set last year -- update the net's webpage. It has since been up-to-date almost daily re new check-ins by the "webmaster", WB9QPM. Jim has also added more information links / pages and has a few more ideas in the "noodling" stages.

The net owes a great debt of gratitude to WB9QPM for taking on this task and also to KC0ZDB who responded voluntarily to a call for "help" to add updated roster and other files to the webpage and also to implement upgrading changes. Dick put in a great deal of time applying his previous webpage experience to reverse engineer W4WNE's organized methodical file system and to review files in the update process.

So, a special thanks goes out to :

- to W4WNE for his conception, design, and build of the net's webpage,
- to WB9QPM for the great amount of time and effort plus computer resources he extended in the updating process,
- to KC0ZDB for "stepping up to the plate" and applying his webpage design experience to bring this project to a successful conclusion.

Nice job guys !

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 and more – everyone has contributed in some respect to the net's successful operation again this year.

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

73 to all
K9ZMI and WB9QPM

K9ZMI
10/7/2013