

1952 Twentieth Anniversary 1972 75 Meter Interstate Sideband Net 3.985 MHz Daily 0100Z

One of the reasons that we as Amateur Radio Operators are allowed to enjoy our hobby is the fact that Amateur Radio has always provided an invaluable source of skilled Communicators in time of national or local emergencies. Many Amateurs feel strongly obligated to maintain their efficiency in message handling so they will be ready when the need arises. To ensure this end, many groups of Amateurs have joined together on all bands and modes of communication to form message handling networks. This is the Twentieth Anniversary of one of these Networks. On August 12, 1952 at 0100 hours GMT W9KOY (W8AZL), W8BN (Silent Key), W8ALP (W8KW) and others started the Interstate Single Sideband Net. This net being the first to apply the then new mode of communication known as Single Sideband in the handling of messages.

The Objective of the Net is to provide Public Service, Message Handling Experience and Group Fellowship, not individual high scores for the amount of messages (Traffic) handled. The Net does not maintain any membership rolls nor does it issue a Net Certificate. The primary goal of the Net is the expeditious movement of all legal traffic to its destination. This goal is accomplished through the liaison stations that check into the net and accept the messages. All stations and all applicable modes of communication are always welcome to check into the Net.

Stations checking into the Net can be assured that an expedient outlet for their traffic will be found, be it direct or through liaison with other SSB, CW, RTTY, or MARS Networks. This liaison service plus the "Talk Power" of single sideband and above all the Caliber, Dedication and Integrity of the members has earned the highest acclaims for the Net, resulting in the reputation being formed over the years that "If you want it delivered take it to the Interstate".

Network coverage is of course limited solely by propagation and atmospheric conditions. All states except Hawaii, and Alaska have participated in net activities including stations located in VE-1, VE-2, VE-3, VE-4, VE-7 KP-4, YN, KG-1, VO, HC-1, and XE-1 land. Net members have on many occasions assisted in providing Emergency Communications during Tornadoes, Hurricanes, Snowstorms, Floods, Earthquakes and even Automobile accidents on our nation's roads.

W9KOY (W8AZL) was elected the first Net Manager, a position he held until 1957. The original guidelines and operational expertise established during those early years remain as valid today as they were then providing further testimony to the fact that the caliber of the operators who check into the Net is what has earned the Net the reputation as "One of the finest traffic handling organizations in Amateur Radio".

This year marks the twentieth year of continuous operation of the 75 Meter Interstate Single Sideband Net and its past accomplishments and present status provide an insight into the inner soul of Amateur Radio in the United States. The net has always been fortunate in attracting only high caliber operators, each and everyone contributing his or her small part to the day to day operation of the net.

As one reflects back over the years of Net Operation, certain Operators stand out in the crowd so to speak because of their extra effort in behalf of the Net. The first, of course, being the original "GREAT WHITE FATHER", Ken Smith, (W9KOY/W8AZL) currently living in Clyde, Ohio and still active on the Ham bands. Ken was honored last year at the Annual Banquet of the 75 meter Interstate Sideband Net, which has been held in conjunction with the Dayton Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio. The title of "GREAT WHITE FATHER" just sort of appeared about three years ago and was jokingly used whenever mention was made of some of the "OLD TIMERS" of the Net. The name has stuck and is now reverently become the official means by which overdue respect can be shown to those who have "Carried the Ball" over the years. This title is reserved for those net controls and net managers who have guided the daily operations of the net for at least five years and have through their own choice decided to stand on the sidelines and give somebody else a chance to "Carry the Ball".

In addition to W9KOY, "EV" Hanna W9NWK/W7HUB has also been officially honored with the title of "GREAT WHITE FATHER". "EV" joined the Net during it's early years and through his unselfish dedicated devotion and expert performance as Net control and three times past Net Manager has been instrumental in providing the "GLUE" that has held the Net together. "EV", of course, did not accomplish this duty without some assistance and many other equally qualified and duly deserving Net members will in time be so honored and will forevermore be known as "GREAT WHITE FATHERS".

To become a Net Control Station one must have attained through net participation a certain degree of Net "Savvy" (i.e.: knowledge of traffic outlets and net mission.) Have a good signal, be dependable and sincerely desire to participate in the DAILY operation of the Net. The position of Net Manager is elective on an annual basis during the month of September. Fellow Net Controls or any active member of the net can be nominated. The nominee must be qualified and willing to assume the responsibility for directing net operations. The names of the nominees are presented to the net members during the first twenty days of September and then a verbal vote is taken. The winner assumes the duties of Net Manager as of October First. There is no rule restricting a Net Manager from succeeding himself but it is generally understood that a maximum of two successive terms would be desirable. This insures a continuing influx of new personnel, new ideas and complete membership participation. During one period of Propagation stability (1958-1959) one evening each week was set aside as a Technical Forum Session and as soon as all traffic was cleared net members could ask questions of a panel of experts. Technical tapes were also prepared by this panel and presented during this period. The program was well received and exceptionally well prepared and presented. K9WGN (WOUSL) was one of the leading moderators of this program.

The following lists (on the next 2 pages) are updated and as accurate as possible listings of:

- (1) some of the historical milestones of the 75 Meter Interstate Sideband Net,
- (2) a listing of all past Net Managers, and
- (3) a listing of all known Net Control Stations up to 1972.

The list of Net Control Stations is arranged alphabetically by call area.

It is an admittedly incomplete listing of past and current (1972) stations that have served as Net Control Stations. Every effort was expended by a lot of people to make this list as complete and accurate as possible. If anyone is aware of any mistakes or deletions, please contact the current Net Manager, W8QZK, or myself WA8SED so that the corrections will be made and the record kept straight. (10/19/06 WA8SED/KC8JV and W8QZK are now both SK's. For corrections contact K9ZMI or current net manager.)

Grateful acknowledgement is hereby given to

“SHORTY” W9IDA/W5OBD, “EV”

W9NWK/W7HUB, “KEN”

W9KOY/W8AZL, “DON”

W9JXV, “RALPH”

K9BQQ/WAVWO, “BILL”

K8NCV, “PAUL”

W8QZK and others who so ably assisted me in compiling this historical record.

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