

THE INTERSTATE SINGLE SIDEBAND NET

ONE of the reasons that we as amateurs are allowed to enjoy our hobby is the fact that amateur radio supplies an invaluable group of skilled communicators, capable of providing communications in times of disaster or emergency. Many amateurs feel strongly that they are morally obligated to be well trained in the efficient handling of traffic in order to be sure that, when an emergency does arise, they are well qualified to assume this responsibility. To provide this training, groups of amateurs have banded together and formed nets. This is the story of one such net.

IN THE early summer of 1952, W9KOY, W8BN, W8ALP and other public spirited single sidebanders started the Interstate Single Sideband Net. It was felt that the regular handling of routine traffic would be the best way to obtain the smooth operating procedure necessary for efficient emergency operation. W9KOY was elected Net Manager, a post which he held until October 1, 1957. Such was the modest beginning of a net, which today is recognized by many as one of the outstanding traffic handling organizations in amateur radio.

TODAY, over six years later, it might be well to look back at some of the accomplishments of the Interstate Single Sideband Net.

— The largest attendance came on December 27, 1956, when 141 stations, representing 37 states checked in.

— The largest single night's traffic total was 104 pieces of traffic, handled in two hours and ten minutes on October 12, 1958.

— The net maintains an extensive liaison system with most nets in the United States and can put traffic anywhere in the world where third party traffic is legal.

— They have participated in many emergencies, including the Lake Charles hurricane, and recent tornadoes in the midwest.

— While overall figures are not available, an idea of the overall operation can be realized from the record kept by W8NWU, who has been Tuesday night NCS for about 18 months. During this period (74 sessions), 4118 stations checked in and 1575 messages were handled.

K8AEC, Net Manager since October 1, 1957, furnished the following reasons for the success of the net:

1. The objective of the group is service — not individual high scores in traffic handling.
2. The flexibility achieved through voice controlled operation, and the additional talk power of SSB contributed to the efficiency and reliability of communications.

IT WAS pointed out that all types of stations — AM, CW, or SSB — are welcome to call into the net with or without traffic. The net meets on 3985 kc daily at 2000 EST. Net control stations are W9KOY — Sunday, K8AEC and W8BZB — Monday, W8NWU — Tuesday, W9NWK — Wednesday, K8GQW — Thursday, K8HHB — Friday, and W9IDA — Saturday.

AS PIONEERS in the development of single sideband for amateurs, we salute the accomplishments of the Interstate Single Sideband Net, with complete confidence in its continued growth and success. TOM STUART, WØREP

Paul Bellini Jr. W. J. Healy W9AC for **hallicrafters**