

**Empire Slow Speed Net**  
**Founded 1955 by**  
**KR2RA,**  
**ex-K2DYB (SK)**  
**\* \*\*\* \*\***  
**Daily**  
**6 PM local time**  
**3566 kHz**  
**7112/1815 alternates**

# The ESS Bulletin

## Pete Gellert W2WSS Memorial Net

### February 2024

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<https://groups.io/g/empire-slow-speed-net>



### Net Control Stations

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| WB2GTG | WA2YOW | KA2GJV  | W2RBA     | AB2WB    | W2ITT  | WI2G     |

### JANUARY ROSTER

|        |        |                  |    |        |        |                   |    |
|--------|--------|------------------|----|--------|--------|-------------------|----|
| AA2YK  | Ernie  | Modena           | 4  | K1SEI  | Tage   | Killingworth CT   | 27 |
| AB2WB  | Pat    | Ithaca           | 15 | W1FEA  | Pete   | Concord NH        | 3  |
| K2NPN  | Phil   | Marcy            | 7  | WB2GTG | Bill   | Easton PA         | 30 |
| KA2GJV | Bruce  | Fulton           | 9  | WB2U   | Vic    | Gaithersburg MD   | 6  |
| KC2FD  | Rick   | Coram            | 2  | KA2YDW | Barry  | Manchester Twp NJ | 10 |
| N2PEZ  | Reiner | Elmira           | 12 | K3ZYK  | Bill   | Penn Run PA       | 16 |
| N2TQT  | Colin  | Brooklyn         | 19 | KC3FQF | Rosti  | Wilmington DE     | 1  |
| W2ITT  | Rob    | Huntington       | 24 | WA3JXW | Dudley | Reading PA        | 6  |
| W2LC   | Scott  | Baldwinsville    | 9  | K4PY   | Vic    | Narrows VA        | 1  |
| W2RBA  | Joe    | Mount Vision     | 30 | K4ZXM  | Don    | Hanover VA        | 1  |
| W2XS   | John   | Northport        | 12 | N8AFT  | Lane   | Columbus OH       | 9  |
| WA2WMJ | J. B.  | Walden           | 1  | VE3DCX | Jim    | Coe Hill ON       | 4  |
| WA2YOW | C. J.  | Staten Island    | 5  | VE3FAS | Phil   | Shelburne ON      | 31 |
| WB2OCA | Jim    | Yorktown Heights | 9  | VE3MVM | Mary   | Shelburne ON      | 12 |
| WI2G   | Anne   | Elma             | 16 | VE3NUL | Rich   | Toronto           | 24 |

**January totals:** QNI 355, per session 11.5 (Dec 11.6); QSP 80, per session 2.6 (Dec 2.2). Many thanks for a very good start to the new year; checkins are only down a bit from December, and traffic approached the triple digits of yore. Please keep K4ZXM in your thoughts; Don is very ill and has relinquished his post as manager of the Hit & Bounce Slow Net (I used to wonder where he got the traffic he kindly brings to ESS) to Tom, WW8D. K1SEI has taken on Don's Wednesday slot as HBSN NCS, and I thank Tage for passing along the news; where there's life, there's hope. HBSN meets daily at 7:30 am on 7112 kHz, and the Hit & Bounce Net meets an hour later (I believe; it's been a while since I haunted the daytime nets). Please don't be afraid of higher-speed nets; they're not as fast as you may think, and you're bound to hear one--or more--familiar calls. NYS meets at 7 pm on 3569 kHz and if you live outside New York, check out the up-to-date Radio Relay International traffic-net directory at <https://radiorelay.org/publications/>; it's the sixth bullet down under "Reference Materials", and you'll probably be able to find a CW net in (or near) your home state or province. I'll touch again on composing an effective service message in next month's sermonette; I write them earlier in the month, and do the good-and-welfare page—this one—when I get all the month's net reports. The vast majority of service messages are for non-deliveries; ARL (or RRC) SIXTY SEVEN (Your message number \_\_\_\_ undeliverable because of \_\_\_\_\_. Please advise.) requires very little plain text—just the message number and the reason. Two other details are useful, though—the addressee's last name and callsign (if any), and the phone number if that was the problem. **Birthdays: February** (lots!)—WA3JXW 1, K2NPN 8, K2TV 12, VE3MVM 15, K4ZXM 22 and W2XS 27. **March**—K2EAG 1, WB2GTG 11, AB2WB 17 (easy to remember) and KA2GJV 25. Additions and corrections, preferably by radiogram, are always welcome!

## 2023 in Review

| Year | QNI  | Per session | QSP | Per session |
|------|------|-------------|-----|-------------|
| 2023 | 4048 | 11.1        | 676 | 1.9         |
| 2022 | 4083 | 11.2        | 800 | 2.2         |
| 2021 | 4308 | 11.8        | 699 | 1.9         |
| 2020 | 4862 | 13.3        | 737 | 2.0         |
| 2019 | 4111 | 11.3        | 607 | 1.7         |

### 2023 Certificates

|        |        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| W2RBA  | WB2GTG | AB2WB  | K1SEI  | W2ITT  |
| VE3MVM | N2TQT  | VE3NUL | N7RMP  | WA3JXW |
| W2XS   | N2PEZ  | VE3FAS | KA2GJV | K2NPN  |
| K4ZXM  | K3ZYK  | WI2G   | WA2YOW |        |

The numbers speak for themselves; we're holding our own while slowly slipping backwards, if that makes any sense (my mood's not the best at the moment, after three miserable storms back to back—a windstorm followed by two snowstorms, with the expected damage). But it's truly gratifying to see interest in CW continuing, long after it ceased to be a licensing requirement; the Long Island CW Club has done a great deal in this regard. I've run my tape *ad nauseum* about not being able to learn Morse when I first got interested in amateur radio, only to have it become my favorite mode by far; apparently, I'm not alone. I talk and type in real life, but there's an odd intimacy about CW that I find irresistible; amid the cacophony of modern life, it's well worth keeping alive.

The rant that passed for last month's sermonette made it abundantly clear which side of the unfortunate ARRL-RRI divide I'm on. What's unfortunate is that although one side is more to blame in my opinion, the behavior of the other side can also be better. God knows that it's tempting to say "No politics, please", but doing so can enable the bully to intimidate the schoolyard. The ARRL's recent direction (attempts at corporate ownership, taking credit for the work of others and an increasing disregard for its core membership; it's hard to remember that it's the American *Radio Relay League*) had increasingly irritated me, and the events of 2016 were the last straw. N2PEZ forwarded the January NTS Letter, which is interesting reading; RRI's influence is most palpable. Not to put too fine a point on it, but RRI manages to maintain an up-to-date net directory. This is important, since I learned about ESS from the ARRL net directory back in the day. We're still on the books there as meeting on 3576 kHz, and I gave up trying to correct it after many fruitless attempts; that tells me everything I need to know about the legacy organization's true commitment to public service. If there's money to be made they're all in, but otherwise it stopped being a priority decades ago. Reiner has offered to try to correct it, and I wish him better luck. Your mileage may vary, and it's painful to remember that the legacy organization helped me get into the hobby, but I haven't regretted letting my membership lapse for a moment. KA2GJV was good enough to forward correspondence from ARRL Atlantic Division director K3RF which indicates that the plantation mentality in Newington (including an onerous code of conduct apparently intended to stifle dissent) is becoming, if anything, further entrenched. As I told Bruce (who remains a league member "so [he] could see things like this"), it's hard to know whether to vote with your wallet or stay and try to work for change from within. Each of us has to make up our own mind, but I'm glad that RRI is an alternative.

Colin, N2TQT, asked on our groups.io page what to do if we hear a station whom the net control cannot; with K2TV making the best of things in Virginia, this is of more than academic interest. KA2GJV was quick to respond--send your station suffix to catch the NCS' attention, then send QRZ followed by the station's callsign (or letter, if that's all you have).

Happy Valentine's Day es 73 de Anne WI2G