

**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

### April 2024

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<https://www.qsl.net/ess/>  
<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

### MARCH ROSTER

AA2YK	Ernie	Modena	6	WA2YOW	C. J.	Staten Island	4
AB2WB	Pat	Ithaca	17	WB2OCA	Jim	Yorktown Heights	6
K2EAG	Matt	Amherst	1	WI2G	Anne	Elma	16
K2NPN	Phil	Marcy	10	K1SEI	Tage	Killingworth CT	27
KA2GJV	Bruce	Fulton	7	WB2GTG	Bill	Easton PA	26
N2PEZ	Reiner	Elmira	10	WB2U	Vic	Gaithersburg MD	4
N2TQT	Colin	Brooklyn	19	K3ZYK	Bill	Penn Run PA	14
N7RMP	Ralph	Kingston	20	W3AW	Kirk	Sherman IL	1
W2ITT	Rob	Huntington	21	WA3JXW	Dudley	Reading PA	11
W2LC	Scott	Baldwinsville	7	VE3DCX	Jim	Coe Hill ON	2
W2RBA	Joe	Mount Vision	31	VE3FAS	Phil	Shelburne ON	30
W2XS	John	Northport	17	VE3MVM	Mary	Shelburne ON	7
WA2WMJ	J. B.	Walden	2	VE3NUL	Rich	Toronto	14

**March totals:** QNI 330 per session 10.6 (Feb 10.6); QSP 74, per session 2.4 (Feb 2.1). Thanks for a good month, despite the change to Daylight Shifting Time. I cannot tell a lie; it's nice to have more light at the end of the (clock) day, but we all know what it does to 80-meter propagation at 6 pm. It's a challenge, if nothing else; headphones help (I never operate without them), and try to keep your noise blanker off if you don't need it—that little bump-up in the noise floor with the blanker on can make the difference between hearing a weak signal and not hearing it. We're also getting reacquainted with 40 meters, which has been a good friend so far. According to my records, AB2WB, N2PEZ, N2TQT, W2ITT, W2RBA, W2XS, WA2WMJ, WA2YOW, K1NN (we look forward to hearing Jan on the air again—listen for him from Vermont), K1SEI and VE3MVM have 40-meter capability; I believe that K2NPN and VE3FAS do as well. If you're not on this list and can QSY to 40 as needed, please let me know (preferably by radiogram). So stations don't have to hop back and forth between 80 and 40, net controls should wait to send a traffic pair to 40 meters—if possible—until any other traffic involving them has been cleared on 80 and excuse them from the net (QNX) after the traffic has been cleared on 40. K1SEI emailed that he's going to the Dayton Hamvention as usual, and will be in the area from May 15 to May 20. Tage will try to check into HBN--ESS is at dinnertime--and is planning to attend Contest University, the CWOps awards dinner and the (free) DXEngineering pizza party. If you're going to Dayton too, keep an eye out for him! Among many other things, springtime heralds the first crop of ESS net certificates. This month's recipients are W2RBA, WB2GTG, VE3FAS and K1SEI, with many thanks for your support of the net. The sole requirement for an ESS net certificate on card stock by postal mail is 80 points in a calendar year; you earn one point each time you check in, and a bonus point for serving as net control (scheduled or substitute). **Birthdays:** April—KT2D 4 and N2TQT 8. Additions and corrections are always welcome!

## *The Sincerest Form of Flattery*

I've been handling traffic a while, and was surprised to receive a message the other day with the ARL radiogram text ARL FORTY EIGHT. I assumed (and you know what they say—at least on *The Odd Couple* TV series from the early 1970s—about what happens when you assume: you make an ASS out of U and ME) that it was an error and the text should have been ARL FORTY SEVEN. If I'd had my wits about me, I would've realized that the fill-in text (message number and phone number) wasn't enough for the latter text. The station from whom I got the traffic said something about the ARRL introducing two new radiogram texts—ARL FORTY EIGHT and ARL FORTY NINE. Since this was news to me (Newington has hardly updated its list since before I got into traffic-handling), I went to the ARRL website to see if FSD-3—the ARL radiogram list—had been updated without the legacy organization telling us. It hadn't. The answer came from VE1IJ; whatever you think of his tons of traffic, Glenn keeps his ear to the ground. It just so happens that (wait for it) Radio Relay International has both texts on its message list, which is available to download at <http://radiorelay.org/publications/> (second from the bottom under “Reference Materials”).

Long, long ago, in a galaxy far, far away, the ARRL had a radiogram-text list which was more comprehensive than the present one; that's why the text numbers now jump from, for example, ARL FORTY SEVEN to ARL FIFTY. W2WSS had a copy of the old, old list, which I inherited in the Big Box which is the ESS archives; unfortunately, my packrattery prevents me from finding that old list at the moment (or, probably, ever). Anyway, the RRI list alludes to new texts inserted into old ARL-numbered messages. Sure enough, RRC FORTY EIGHT (RRI uses RRC, instead of ARL, in the check and the message body) reads: “Reference your message number \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ not delivered. Telephone \_\_\_\_ (insert number as received) inoperative. Please give better address”. RRC FORTY NINE reads, “Reference your message number \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. Unable to contact addressee or receive confirmation of delivery”. Real-world example texts would be RRC FORTY EIGHT 123 WI2G 716 652 6719 (with a check of RRC 8) and RRC FORTY NINE 123 WI2G (with a check of RRC 5).

Your mileage may vary, but I don't think we really need more radiogram texts; these two are reminiscent of the old ARL list, which covered a variety of specific situations. The old workhorse ARL/RRC SIXTY SEVEN (“Your message number \_\_\_\_ undeliverable because of \_\_\_\_\_. Please advise”) is quite versatile, and can convey the same information—RRC SIXTY SEVEN 123 PHONE 716 652 6719 DISCONNECTED—with a check of RRC (or ARL) 9. The ARRL streamlined its list before I came in, but Pete mentioned that confusion persisted for years; some traffic-handlers continued to work from the old list, confounding whippersnappers who couldn't find the old texts on their new list.

Life is change, and this is life. The ARRL-RRI range war continues, alas, with Newington adopting RRI initiatives and trying to pass them off as its own. Unless and until FSD-3 is updated (judging by past performance, don't hold your breath; RRI is the only one of the two organizations with a viable net directory, and has been for some time), I suggest using RRC FORTY EIGHT and RRC FORTY NINE instead of the currently-nonexistent—at least on paper--ARL FORTY EIGHT and ARL FORTY NINE. The nets are wacky enough as it is.

## *Eastern Canada Routing Changes*

Since the demise of the Twelfth Region (Eastern Canada) Net many moons ago, eastern Canada traffic has been routed via the Second Region—NY and NJ—phone and CW nets. With VE1IJ (ex-VE3GNA) now in Nova Scotia, this has become burdensome for 2RN. Glenn is active on 1RN (New England), and KW1U has requested that traffic for him and Atlantic Canada—Newfoundland and Labrador (NL), Prince Edward Island (PE), New Brunswick (NB) and Nova Scotia (NS)—now be routed via 1RN. In practical terms, this primarily affects the Eastern Area Nets (phone and CW) and Transcontinental Corps (CW and digital); on ESS, Canadian traffic is still listed by province. KT2D also reports that KY2D has confirmed a Canadian digital outlet for Glenn's traffic.

*Enjoy spring! Very 73 de Anne WI2G*