

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

May 2024

Anne Fanelli, WI2G, manager
 541 Schultz Road
 Elma, New York 14059
 (716) 652-6719 (mobile)
 Email afwi2g@gmail.com
<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

APRIL ROSTER

AA2YK	Ernie	Modena	11	WB2OCA	Jim	Yorktown Heights	5
AB2WB	Pat	Ithaca	16	WI2G	Anne	Elma	16
K2EAG	Matt	Amherst	1	K1SEI	Tage	Killingworth CT	23
K2NPN	Phil	Marcy	6	WB2GTG	Bill	Easton PA	28
KA2GJV	Bruce	Fulton	6	WB2U	Vic	Gaithersburg MD	2
N2PEZ	Reiner	Elmira	9	K3ZYK	Bill	Penn Run PA	19
N2TQT	Colin	Brooklyn	20	N3TM	Thayer	Harmony PA	1
N7RMP	Ralph	Kingston	23	WA3JXW	Dudley	Reading PA	11
W2ITT	Rob	Huntington	17	VE3DCX	Jim	Coe Hill ON	1
W2LC	Scott	Baldwinsville	3	VE3FAS	Phil	Shelburne ON	27
W2RBA	Joe	Mount Vision	29	VE3MVM	Mary	Shelburne ON	3
W2XS	John	Northport	16	VE3NUL	Rich	Toronto ON	17
WA2YOW	C. J.	Staten Island	5				

April totals: QNI 315, per session 10.5 (Mar 10.6); QSP 44, per session 1.5 (Mar 2.4). Many thanks for a pretty good month, despite appalling conditions. Unfortunately, however (but perhaps understandably), the traffic count is way down; any make-work, how-ya-doin' traffic is especially appreciated now to keep us all awake. Since AA2YK, AB2WB, K2NPN, N2PEZ, N2TQT, W2ITT, W2RBA, W2XS, WA2WMJ, WA2YOW, K1NN (we look forward to hearing Jan on the air again—listen for him from Vermont), K1SEI, WB2GTG—sorry for last month's omission, Bill—VE3FAS and VE3MVM have all advised that they have 40-meter capability, it may be time to consider a seasonal net QSY to 40 meters. See the next page for details, and please let me know in the next few weeks (preferably by radiogram) whether or not you think we should move; if we do, it would probably be from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Individual net controls have always been free to move their session if circumstances dictate, so check 40 meters (generally 7110 or 7112-7115, plus or minus QRM) before assuming that an NCS is AWOL. On the other side of the coin, I would never leave anyone out; please let me know (again by radiogram if possible) if you need to stay on 80, and a station will call the net there if a session is on 40. This, too, shall pass. Congratulations and thanks to W2ITT and AB2WB, this month's net-certificate recipients; Rob recently saw his son-in-law run the Boston Marathon! N2COD advises via Western District Net manager KB2YAA that the FCC's CORES system now requires two-factor authentication (with which most of us are already familiar); the required six-digit code will be emailed. Details at <https://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-to-require-two-factor-authentication-for-cores-users>. With a high summer noise level in Toronto, VE3NUL has been listening to the net on K3FEF's WebSDR (<http://k3fef.com> according to qrz.com, although the site was snagged by my vigilant Bitdefender antivirus program for a security issue). **Birthdays:** May--None, as far as I know. **June**—Eastern Area Net manager KW1U 8. Additions and corrections are always welcome!

A Trip to California

Ernie, AA2YK, emailed about his trip last month to the left coast—specifically, to the Maritime Radio Historical Society in Port Reyes (near San Francisco). He had the pleasure of operating K6KPH *and* KPH (the society's maritime transmitter—Ernie also has a commercial license) and relayed traffic on 15 meters to W4LNI for KKUI, the SS *American Victory* ship museum in Tampa! Although he was understandably nervous, Ernie credited his training on ESS and NYS with enabling him to send the traffic “relatively professionally”. Alas, there was no KPH traffic on 500 kHz. The MRHS has a nifty website at <https://www.radiomarine.org/> Information about U.S. commercial radio licenses is at <https://www.fcc.gov/commercial-radio-operator-license-program>.

To QSY or Not to QSY?

That is the question indeed this summer. Summers have always been rough at 6 pm on 80 meters, but so far this year is off the charts; the peaking solar cycle is great for DXing, but has been difficult for short-haul traffic handling. As the saying goes, be careful what you wish for—you might get it! For years, the solar flux was stuck at 70 or below; conditions stunk, but at least we knew what we were up against. When I checked NOAA's SWPC radio dashboard a few days ago at <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/communities/radio-communications> the solar flux was 225, and had subsided all the way to 199 as I type this. A traffic net shouldn't be an exercise in masochism, and it does need to get things done as needed. W2WSS was always dead set against temporarily moving the net, as opposed to sending traffic pairs to another band (which has, of course, become standard operating procedure), believing that a net loses more members than it gains with a change of frequency. Things were different then, though; many stations could just bump up their power and gut through summertime propagation, and the necessity for stealth operating was almost nonexistent. ESS has survived several forced frequency changes in recent years, but all have been within the 80-meter band.

So ... it may be time for a noble experiment (no, not *that* one!) I'm leery of a drastic frequency move, but desperate times call for desperate measures. Enough of us seem to have 40-meter capability; a general QSY from, say, Memorial Day to Labor Day would be preferable to seeing ESS fall apart during the summer and crossing our fingers that the stations who just couldn't take it any more will remember to return when the days get shorter. Other nets, including the HBNs (I think—they used to operate on 80 during the winter, and may still) and the Central Area Net—which covers a huge area—have routinely changed bands with the season, and hopefully my fears that this is the beginning of the end of ESS will turn out to be groundless; life is change, after all, whether we like it or not. We should discuss this, though, and the net's .io group page would probably be the best place. If ESS does move for the summer, 7112 kHz has been QRM-y; 7110 has been better, and 7115 is frequently used for Transcontinental Corps skeds later in the evening. Let me know what you think!

Graduation Time

Time has a way of passing faster than we want it to, and the traffic-handling community is graying; we're losing warm bodies faster than we're taking them on, one way or another--when they join the silent-key fraternity (as we all will eventually) or downsize to a QTH which may be inhospitable to serious hamming. The traffic-handling networks (primarily the National Traffic System and the Digital Traffic Network) are just that—networks. (ESS is independent of NTS simply because, as a wide-coverage net which meets an hour earlier than the scheduled section nets, it is outside the system's framework. However, except for traffic routing—by state, rather than by region or area--it observes the other NTS guidelines.) Many if not most of us also check into nets other than ESS, and too many are doing double or triple duty as liaisons and/or net control stations. Committing to a duty-roster slot makes life a bit easier for all of us, and helps the system work.

Weigh in about our possible summer move to 40! 73 Anne