

**Empire Slow Speed Net**  
**Founded 1955 by**  
**KR2RA,**  
**ex-K2DYB (SK)**  
**\* \*\*\* \*\***  
**Daily**  
**6 PM local time**  
**3566 kHz**  
**7110/1815 alternates**

# The ESS Bulletin

## Pete Gellert W2WSS Memorial Net

### August 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
W2ITT	WA2YOW	KA2GJV	W2RBA	AB2WB	K1SEI	WI2G

### JULY ROSTER

AA2YK	Ernie	Modena	6	WA2YOW	C. J.	Staten Island	5
AB2WB	Pat	Ithaca	11	WB2OCA	Jim	Yorktown Heights	2
K2EAG	Matt	Amherst	2	WI2G	Anne	Elma	16
K2NPN	Phil	Marcy	2	K1SEI	Tage	Killingworth CT	28
KA2GJV	Bruce	Fulton	9	WB2U	Vic	Gaithersburg MD	13
N2PEZ	Reiner	Elmira	10	K2TV	Bob	Fairfax VA	6
N2TQT	Colin	Brooklyn	22	K3YAK	David	Mendham NJ	5
N7RMP	Ralph	Kingston	21	K3ZYK	Bill	Penn Run PA	8
W2ITT	Rob	Huntington	15	N3AAK	Bob	Levittown PA	9
W2LC	Scott	Baldwinsville	5	WA3JXW	Dudley	Reading PA	14
W2RBA	Joe	Mount Vision	30	VE3DCX	Jim	Coe Hill ON	9
W2XS	John	Northport	15	VE3FAS	Phil	Shelburne ON	25

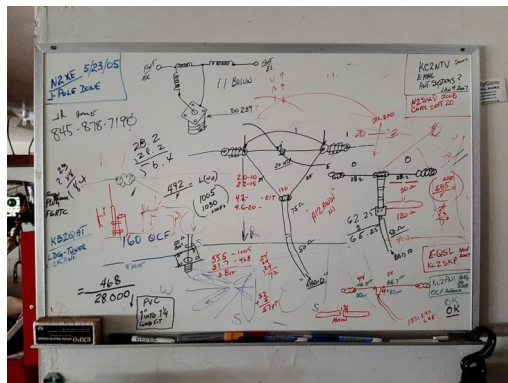
**July totals:** QNI 288, per session 9.3 (Jun 8.6); QSP 41, per session 1.3 (Jun 1.7). Thanks for another good month; traffic is down but checkins are up a bit, which is more important—traffic with few checkins is basically a sked, but checkins enable us to do our job by ensuring maximum geographic coverage. It's great to see K2TV on the net roster again from Virginia, and I'd like to keep the net on 40 meters (despite the QRM) as long as possible so Bob can continue to join us with 25 watts in to a magnetic loop antenna on his third-floor balcony; he's limited to 10 watts on 80, but can hear the net. Although he says he no longer does much traffic-handling, he's active in his local club and still involved with the Great South Bay ARC. NCSs, please listen for Bob and our other distant members on both bands. That goes for everyone, too; with 40-meter propagation erratic (I could hardly hear AB2WB and W2RBA on August 1st, and gave up trying to check in), remember the net-station Golden Rule—if you hear someone, say something! Send your suffix, and relay what you heard when the net control station recognizes you; the NCS should then ask you to call the net and QNI any stations they can't hear. Many thanks to K1SEI for enabling me to take down the "Help Wanted" sign by taking the Friday net-control slot; AA2YK had also volunteered. Congratulations and thanks to KA2GJV, this month's net-certificate recipient. Thanks also to W2RBA; not only did Joe check in every day last month, but he covered the 27th when our older son and grandson were here for a few days from Maryland. As we learned from WB2GTG, your amateur license can expire without your knowing it. W2XS suggests looking yourself up periodically on qrz.com and clicking the "Detail" tab; under that drop-down menu, clicking "View FCC Record" will do just that. John reports that this information is accessible even if you've never posted anything on qrz.com, and you can renew your license up to three months before it's due to expire. **Birthdays:** August—W2RBA 12. **September**—W2ITT 28. Additions and corrections, preferably by radiogram, are always welcome!

## *Julian (J.B.) Blair, WA2WMJ*

Although Shirley (N2SKP) kept me posted about J.B. and I knew that his health had been better—gout was keeping him from getting to the shack, last I heard from him—it was a nasty surprise when she emailed me with the news that he became a silent key on June 28th at age 88 due to complications of congestive heart failure.

J.B. began checking into ESS in late 2001, shortly after I succeeded W2WSS as net manager. He was briefly the Sunday net control (before WB2GTG), but net controlling wasn't really his thing and he said it cut into his boating. J.B. was an ESS regular for many years, though, often as the first station to check in during a session. He was an invaluable outlet for Hudson Valley and NLI traffic, and was extremely active in the QSY Society (<https://qsysociety.org/>). Society coordinator Mark, WA2NYY, remembers J.B. and his trailer, tower and tribander as fixtures of the club's Field Day operations, and his experience with antennas and homebrewing was the basis for a number of club-meeting presentations. He was the well-deserved recipient of the Grand Ole Ham award at the 2018 ARRL Hudson Division Awards Luncheon.

I had the pleasure of an eyeball QSO with J.B. only once (at ESS' 50th-anniversary picnic in 2005) but he was a regular email correspondent until recently, when I began to rely on "Skippy" to keep me—and ESS—posted about how he was doing. His last ESS checkin was on May 2nd, and I hoped he was feeling better and could return. J.B. influenced so many hams, and ESS and the ham community are the poorer with his passing. (The whiteboard is, I presume--Mark and Shirley would know—one of J.B.'s club antenna presentations!)



## ***Voicemail—Friend, Not Foe***

As landlines become less common, replaced (or supplemented) by cellphones, an increasing number of message deliveries are going to voicemail; even if they're available, a recipient may use voicemail to screen a call from an unfamiliar number. We didn't have an "answering machine" when I got into traffic-handling, but after making a few deliveries I quickly appreciated their utility and dutifully toddled off to Radio Shack; back then, the machine was a box with a miniature cassette tape. Shortly afterwards I delivered a radiogram to a machine with a message personalized by the whole family, with each family member doing a line of their spiel. It was cute, and since imitation is the sincerest form of flattery (and our kids were old enough) we did the same.

I've never had a problem leaving traffic on voicemail; it helps if the answering message is non-generic and has identifying features (such as name and/or phone number), but I get a surprising number of thank-yous by email and telephone from recipients so the stuff is getting through. Traffic volume is high in relation to our dwindling numbers and it doesn't make sense, in my opinion, to expect a recipient to call a stranger back just to receive a radiogram. If you have voicemail (or a machine), personalize your answering message and carry on.

*Condy on 40 are still good! 73 de Anne*