

Empire Slow Speed Net

Founded 1955 by

KR2RA,

ex-K2DYB (SK)

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Daily

6 PM local time

7110 kHz

3566/1815 alternates

The ESS Bulletin

Pete Gellert W2WSS Memorial Net

October 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

SEPTEMBER ROSTER

AA2YK	Ernie	Modena	4	WA2YOW	C. J.	Staten Island	5
AB2WB	Pat	Ithaca	13	WB2OCA	Jim	Yorktown Heights	3
K2EAG	Matt	Amherst	1	WI2G	Anne	Elma	16
KA2GJV	Bruce	Fulton	8	K1SEI	Tage	Killingworth CT	28
N2PEZ	Reiner	Elmira	11	WB2U	Vic	Gaithersburg MD	8
N2QFD	Mal	Elmira	3	K2TV	Bob	Fairfax VA	13
N2TQT	Colin	Brooklyn	22	K3YAK	David	Mendham NJ	2
N7RMP	Ralph	Kingston	22	K3ZYK	Bill	Penn Run PA	11
W2ITT	Rob	Huntington	17	N3AAK	Bob	Levittown PA	14
W2LC	Scott	Baldwinsville	7	WA3JXW	Dudley	Reading PA	24
W2RBA	Joe	Mount Vision	29	VA3KTU	Rob	Lyndhurst ON	1
W2XS	John	Northport	22	VE3FAS	Phil	Shelburne ON	25

September totals: QNI 309, per session 10.3 (Aug 10.5); QSP 53, per session 1.8 (Aug 1.4). Many thanks to all our net controls for getting me their reports by the end of the month. Our numbers are down a bit, possibly due to changing propagation on 40 meters. 7110 has become the band's Times Square, it seems, with digital and SSB QRM; 7113, with 7115 a side frequency for traffic, may be better bets until we return to 80 meters. NYS has returned to its primary frequency of 3569 kHz with good results, so that day is probably approaching. When we QSY for the season, it'll be especially important to listen for (and relay as needed) our more distant stations. We bid a fond farewell to WA2IAX, who has moved to Maryland. I'll miss Jim's traffic from his annual fishing trip to the Adirondacks, and hope he keeps in touch and can get on the air from his new QTH. Congratulations to WA2YOW, this month's net-certificate recipient despite a recent bout of the covid. (Get vaccinated ASAP; the new variants seem to be robust, shall we say, and the USPS is sending out another batch of test kits; you can order four free tests at <https://special.usps.com/testkits/>.) CJ's determination in the face of QRM and logistical issues has been an inspiration for many years. K2NPN emails that he's been off the air for health reasons, but Phil hopes to be back with us again after additional surgery; I know we all wish him a speedy and complete recovery. WB2GTG emails that he's taking a sabbatical from radio; Bill's XYL has health issues and he's had trouble renewing his license (we've all been there), but he misses ESS and the Royal Order of Arfers (HBN). We hope to hear him on the air again, life (and CORES, which can be a bear) permitting. Congratulations to N2TQT for becoming the Thursday NYS NCS and rep to 2RN/745; Colin will also be backing up W2ITT here on Sundays when Rob travels. KT2D emailed the URL of N2QZ's handy online traffic-routing database: <https://ntr.n2qz.net/>. I've been using my second hard copy (which is falling apart) for a long time, but the online version has been extensively revised. **Birthdays: October**—None, as far as I know. **November**—N2SKP 4. Additions and corrections, preferably by radiogram, are always welcome!

Writing (and Relaying) Net Reports

Like other aspects of traffic-handling, nets differ slightly in the preferred formatting of their daily reports. This is often due to a net's manager (or managers), but the most common format for nets through the section level—including ESS—is NET NAME DATE QNI (followed by a number) QTC (number of messages listed and cleared, separated by a slash) IN (session length in minutes) QNS (list of checkins).

Report formatting is determined by a net's function within the network. Region and area nets, unlike local and section nets, are generally attended by liaison stations to corresponding area and section/local nets instead of anyone who shows up; unless there's a need for a liaison, other stations are promptly excused. (Don't let this discourage you from sampling higher-level nets, though; your liaison status in that case would be FROM NIL on CW or NO REP on voice.)

As noted above, some nets (especially the independent ones) have their idiosyncrasies. Although barn work and other obligations ended my participation in the Hit & Bounce Nets (slow- and regular-speed) decades ago, the nets' daily reports seem to specify how many messages are sent by each station—no slash followed by a number, no traffic. I find this a bit confusing, however; did K1SEI/2 send two messages, or was Tage checking in portable (or mobile) from two-land? “Sauseech (Brooklyn-Italian for ‘sausage’) his own”, though, as W2LWB used to say; give the net manager whatever information they want to have.

Eastern Area Net reports would be cumbersome indeed if the liaison status of each station in the area's five regions (plus incoming Transcontinental Corps reps and outgoing TCC reps to the Central and Western Areas) was specified—even more so in the dear dead days of separate transmit and receive reps. The tried-and-true formatting for EAN reps relies on lists—BOTH (transmit and receive for each region, the not-so-new normal; the corresponding region is usually obvious from the callsign), RX (including outgoing TCC reps to CAN and WAN) and TX (including incoming reps from WAN and CAN TCC skeds). ALSO would include any other stations checking in, with or without traffic.

Other net reports are generally simpler, and net managers have their own preferences. One preference would concern the message date; standard message-date procedure is the date a message is filed at your station or first sent over the air. Disorganized by nature, though, I've been known to receive a report for ESS (or 2RN/745) and forget to add it to the respective net spreadsheet; if the message date is the date of the session, it's much easier to find when frantically pawing through what passes for record-keeping here. Similarly, alphabetizing callsigns is certainly not required but makes data entry easier; I've retained W2WSS' system (as seen on the preceding page) of separate alphabetization of in- and out-of-state checkins. Others are fine, too; WA2YOW has an elegant system which echoes the FCC's callsign allocation—Ws first, followed by Ks, followed by WAs, WBs, KAs Ns and so on.

However you write your net report, try to get it to your net manager as soon as possible—especially at the end of the month, when they're trying to compile their own monthly reports. With many nets starved for traffic, on-air is best. If an NM and NCS (or relaying station) keep missing each other, though, email is preferable to trying to guess when your quarry will be around; this is especially true if either station will be off the air (as I recently was, for family visits followed by Mike's successful surgery) for a period of time.

Plain Text vs. Abbreviations—A Place for Both

The objects of the game are intelligibility and throughput, so context is key. Many words in a message text don't need to be spelled out; that's the purpose of the ARL/RRI numbered radiogram texts and common abbreviations such as MSG (message) and NR (number). With plenty of traffic on the area nets, time sending a message (especially in QRM and QRN) is of the essence. In-house traffic such as service messages and reports can cut other corners, too, such as place of origin; KW1U is well aware that the F in KA2GJV's reports from F NY is short for Fulton. Abbreviations in other traffic destined to hop through a number of relays can be more obscure, and easily garbled. I learned my New Thing for the Day recently after copying (and confirming) a message from SLO CA, when a visit to qrz.com indicated that the traffic was from San Luis Obispo!

Still on 40 for now! 73 de Anne W1ZG