

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

The ESS Bulletin

Pete Gellert W2WSS Memorial Net

November 2024

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Net Control Stations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
W2ITT	WA2YOW	KA2GJV	W2RBA	AB2WB	K1SEI	WI2G

OCTOBER ROSTER

AA2YK	Ernie	Modena	3	WI2G	Anne	Elma	16
AB2WB	Pat	Ithaca	13	K1NN	Jan	East Calais VT	1
K2NPN	Phil	Marcy	10	K1SEI	Tage	Killingworth CT	26
KA2GJV	Bruce	Fulton	9	K2PHD	Doc	Ledgewood NJ	1
KT2D	Bob	Latham	2	K2TV	Bob	Fairfax VA	6
N2PEZ	Reiner	Elmira	9	K3YAK	David	Mendham NJ	4
N2QFD	Mal	Elmira	2	K3ZYK	Bill	Penn Run PA	4
N2TQT	Colin	Brooklyn	21	N3AAK	Bob	Levittown PA	20
N7RMP	Ralph	Kingston	20	NY3J	Ron	Bensalem PA	26
W2ITT	Rob	Huntington	23	WA3JXW	Dudley	Reading PA	13
W2LC	Scott	Baldwinsville	3	N4SNI	Angel	Indian Head MD	1
W2RBA	Joe	Mount Vision	27	VE3DCX	Jim	Coe Hill ON	5
W2XS	John	Northport	22	VE3FAS	Phil	Shelburne ON	30
WA2YOW	C. J.	Staten Island	3	VE3NUL	Rich	Toronto ON	3
WB2OCA	Jim	Yorktown Heights	4				

October totals: QNI 327, per session 10.5 (Sep 10.3); QSP 49, per session 1.6 (Sep 1.8). Thanks for a good month, the last for a while on 40 meters; our home band should be quieter. Traffic is down a bit, in contrast to the net roster; it's great to see K2NPN back with us, and we have a gratifying number of checkins from outside New York. Welcome to Ron, NY3J, who has been joining us almost every night from the Philadelphia area. K2TV emails that he's working on an 80-meter antenna which will allow Bob to run more than the 10 watts he can put into his magnetic loop antenna, so put on the cans (for what it's worth, I never operate without them) and listen up for him and our other distant members now that we're back on our winter band. No new net certificates this month, alas, but there are still two months left in the year. The sole requirement for an ESS net certificate, on card stock—I got a ream on sale years ago--by postal mail, is 80 points in a calendar year; you earn a point every time you check in and a bonus point for serving as net control (scheduled or fill-in). A couple of checkins a week is all it takes! Charles, N2NOV, reports from New York City that the Radio Relay International net directory has again been updated and is available for download, as always, at <https://radiorelay.org/files/reference/TrafficNets.pdf>; according to Eastern Area Net manager Marcia, KW1U, the ARRL net directory is still being updated. I think WV1X used to maintain the ARRL directory, but since Steve's retirement from the league ... Speaking of the legacy organization, I've emailed a couple of folks with arrl.net aliases about net business (2RN, not ESS) and gotten no reply; it may or may not be a coincidence. N2TQT and AA2YK continue to pitch in on NYS and 2RN (both phone and CW), and W2ITT is the Sunday 2RN rep on the Eastern Area Net. **Birthdays: November**—N2SKP 4. **December**—K1SEI 29. Additions and corrections, preferably by radiogram, are always welcome!

Seasonal Changes

“The times, they are a-changing”—literally. Daylight Shifting Time (tnx Glenn Hauser) changes for a brief four months to standard time in these parts on Sunday, November 3rd, at 2 a.m. Since we seem to have a hard time changing anything at the moment, I’d love to see us split the difference at a half-hour and lose the semiannual time changes but am pessimistic about living to see it. Who knows, though—I never thought I’d see the fall of the Berlin Wall or legal cannabis, but here we are.

ESS has remained on 40 meters, with pretty good results, far longer than I’d intended. Although it’s been great hearing K2TV’s balcony antenna from Virginia, the net’s regional remit necessitates a return to 3566 kHz (plus or minus QRM, as always) with the time change; 40-meter propagation is lengthening, as expected, and the ever-present digital QRM is increasing. We won’t exactly be stepping off a cliff—NYS (7 p.m., only an hour after ESS) has been back on 3569 for some time; 2RN SSB has pretty much remained on 3926 at 6:30 all summer, although the sledding was heavy on 75 meters (so to speak) during peak daylight.

Effective November 3rd, the primary ESS frequency will again be 3566 kHz; depending on propagation—long or short skip—the alternate frequencies will be 7110 (and up), and 1815 kHz. Hopefully, we won’t need either one; since we’re nearing the predicted peak of the sunspot cycle, long skip and 160 meters may be less of a factor this winter but you never know what the propagation gods have in store. The move back to 80 meters, of course, will affect how we hear and are heard. As always, the Golden Rule applies—if you hear something, say something! If a station is trying to check in and the net-control station doesn’t hear them, send your suffix when there’s a break in the action. When the net control acknowledges you by repeating your suffix, send QRZ WI2G (or whoever is trying to check in); the NCS should then ask you to relay in the other station and call the net in case there’s anyone else out there. Life is change, but I’m mostly looking forward to a return to the friendly confines of 80 meters. Keep trying, though, Bob—we’ll get you in!

Hollyday Hijinks

To a fair number of folks, including me, Halloween is the boundary between the holiday season and normal life. Madison Avenue has long tried to lengthen the former, though. When our kids were young, the cereal commercials on TV were replaced by toy commercials the day after Labor Day; the day after Christmas—giving another meaning to Boxing Day—the cereal commercials were back, like clockwork. It’s even worse now, as at least one cable channel has taken to running all Christmas movies, all the time.

The dear dead days of increased holiday traffic have largely been replaced by new-ham traffic year-round (reminiscent of that cable channel), but all of us—even net-control and liaison stations—have lives and families and want to have a little fun that’s not traffic-related, especially at this time of the year. Among traffic-handlers, there’s a regrettable tendency to think of some of our colleagues as the ones (ordained by who knows who) who run the nets and bring traffic from net to net; *my* job, they rationalize, is to support a net by checking in (sometimes almost every night) and sending or receiving a piece of traffic once in a while.

That’s not the way it works, however. Although traffic “workhorses” get started by checking into a net like the rest of us, they’re not afraid (at least not too much) to do what needs doing—volunteering, or answering a request from a net manager who is trying to hold a net (and their sanity—burnout isn’t pretty) together. If we all do what we can (which is probably more than we think we can do), our best, most dedicated traffic-handlers will be less likely to run out of the room screaming sooner or later.

With NCSs and liaisons occasionally otherwise engaged, the holiday season is a good time to dip your toe into the water and do a bit more than just checking in. ESS has a two-minute “cushion” for a scheduled NCS to start the net, allowing for forgetfulness and different timepieces; I check <https://www.time.gov/>, which reliably alerts me that my watch loses three seconds a week. Our cushion is shorter than the three minutes of most other nets, due to chow time and the above-mentioned 2RN at 6:30. If the usual NCS hasn’t shown up by 6:02, call them (in case they’re dozing or otherwise distracted); if there’s no response, start calling the net. It’ll be much easier than you may think, and you’ll inspire your fellow net members!

Happy (American) Thanksgiving! 73 de Anne