

**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

### December 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

### NOVEMBER ROSTER

AA2QL	Freddie	Holbrook	1	W2RBA	Joe	Mount Vision	16
AA2YK	Ernie	Modena	3	W2XS	John	Northport	13
AB2WB	Pat	Ithaca	10	WA2YOW	C. J.	Staten Island	4
K2EAG	Matt	Amherst	2	WB2OCA	Jim	Yorktown Heights	4
K2NPN	Phil	Marcy	12	WI2G	Anne	Elma	16
K2PGN	Thaddeus	Spencerport	1	K1SEI	Tage	Killingworth CT	28
KA2GJV	Bruce	Fulton	9	K2PHD	Doc	Ledgewood NJ	1
KD2YMM	Kasey	Amsterdam	8	K2TV	Bob	Fairfax VA	2
KT2D	Bob	Latham	3	K3YAK	David	Mendham NJ	8
N2PEZ	Reiner	Elmira	15	K3ZYK	Bill	Penn Run PA	4
N2QFD	Mal	Elmira	1	NY3J	Ron	Bensalem PA	16
N2TQT	Colin	Brooklyn	16	WA3JXW	Dudley	Reading PA	15
NK2Y	Jay	Lagrangeville	7	VE3DCX	Jim	Coe Hill ON	7
N7RMP	Ralph	Kingston	18	VE3FAS	Phil	Shelburne ON	29
W2ITT	Rob	Huntington	16	VE3MRX	Bill	Oakville ON	1
W2LC	Scott	Baldwinsville	1	VE3NUL	Rich	Toronto ON	18

**November totals:** QNI 305, per session 10.5 (Oct 10.5); QSP 47, per session 1.6 (Oct 1.6). Only 29 sessions last month (which I hope remains a rarity except for leap-year Februarys), but we welcome a number of new stations to the net roster. Alas, two of our members are on the disabled list; W2RBA is in the hospital after surgery and doesn't know when he'll be QRV again (soon, we hope), and N3AAK is down for the count with a spider bite on his sending arm (hello, climate change) which also required surgery. Our very best wishes are with them both for a speedy and full recovery. Congratulations to NJVN manager K3YAK on his well-deserved appointment to the helm of 2RN SSB, the region phone net which meets daily at 6:30 pm on 3926 kHz; if an ESS NCS seems a bit rushed as the clock nears that time, they may have traffic for 2RN. We're very grateful to Bill, KB2QO, for his ten years of dedicated service as 2RN SSB manager. N2PEZ emailed that N2TQT has begun a popular thread encouraging message origination ("Send a Radiogram") on the LICW .io group webpage; it's at [https://groups.io/g/LongIslandCWClub/topic/send\\_a\\_radiogram/109669723](https://groups.io/g/LongIslandCWClub/topic/send_a_radiogram/109669723) or <https://groups.io/g/LongIslandCWClub/topics>; on the latter link, search for "send a radiogram". Bill, VE3MRX, emailed my New Thing for the Day—72 (which I had never heard) means "something like 'CW rules'! Sometimes you will hear it during a POTA (Parks on the Air—ed.) or other QSO instead of '73' or, often, '73' and then '72'". A noble sentiment indeed. If you're a net-control station, your hard-working net managers would appreciate receiving your net report(s) by the end of each month. **Birthdays: December—**K1SEI 29. **January—**VE3NUL 7, WA2YOW 18 and ye editor on the 30th. Additions and corrections, preferably by radiogram, are always welcome!

***QRS (by Caryn, KD2GUT, from the December GSBARC Compass; tnx, K2TV)***

There is no shame in asking for QRS. Even if we're not CW ops struggling to copy a less-than-intelligible call sign sent jackhammer-style from a sticking key, this is a lesson we can all learn, embodied in those notorious would-be lyrics from a late '60s hit from Creedence Clearwater Revival: "Don't go around tonight, Well, it's bound to take your life, There's a bathroom on the right."

Uh, wait. Say what?

Or from the Eurythmics circa 1983: "Sweet dreams are made of cheese ..." (Well, unless you're seriously lactose-intolerant, perhaps a little gouda might actually deliver a magical night's sleep.)

But QRS? It's not necessarily a bad musical question to ask in a QSO because it helps everyone understand what's going on.

Many of us know that it's just as easy to mishear things on sideband as it is on CW. Most of the time, all it means is that we didn't hear the call or what the op was saying for any number of reasons. Often the very least of those reasons is our own incompetence. There's QRM. There's QSB. There's brain-freeze (even if you're not eating ice cream at the time). And on CW, there are an awful lot of struggling fists out there still working hard to find their groove. On SSB, it could be someone who is badly off frequency or speaking with a different accent.

Besides it's OK to slow down anyway if you're doing a ragchew, a casual POTA, a special event or a just-for-fun activity. (Contesters, please ignore my plea to put on the brakes. You're driving in a completely different lane.)

I mean, we even mishear the lyrics of songs on that "other" type of radio. So let's give ourselves (and the other ops) a break, as well as a brake. Sweet Qs are made of these. Who are we to disagree?

***OUR Net!***

On November 14th, I was in Maryland for our grandson's confirmation. AB2WB emailed that day that he was ill and wouldn't be able to make his usual NCS slot, but I didn't get to my inbox on the phone until Saturday afternoon. W2RBA has done yeoman service picking up orphan sessions, but Joe left me a voicemail last week that he's in the hospital and I haven't been able to reach him by phone; I sent him a get-well card from the net. He doesn't know how long he'll be off the air, and mentioned the possibility of a replacement for Wednesdays. Joe is our longest member; he was checking into ESS as WB2RBA from Levittown as a teenager in the early 1960s, and we hope to hear him here again soon.

No one person (or small group of people) can carry a traffic net. Apparently, there was no session on the 14th; it's the second missed session of my tenure as manager and the first since July 20th, 2002, when Mike and I went to Rome for K2YAI's funeral. That doesn't seem like a bad record, but it's disappointing. ESS has an average daily checkin count of around 10, give or take, and I've written many times about how easy it is to call (and run) a net session. I've asked around, and several stations said that they were there but didn't hear anything. I don't know why none of them called the net; a net session with QNI 1 (the NCS, or whoever calls the net in a pinch), reported to the manager, counts as a session—just ask KA2GJV.

A traffic net is a group of people who meet on a particular frequency at a particular time, making themselves available to send and receive messages. The possibility that ESS is developing a let-George-do-it *modus operandi* (I'll check in if Someone Else is there; otherwise, I have better things to do) is distressing. I've picked up a number of net sessions (including EAN and no, they don't bite) because it's quicker and easier to run the thing yourself than to listen to dead air punctuated by the occasional, forlorn ESS?

W2WSS lived in Manhattan, and could only play radio during the weekend from his Columbia County QTH; he once said, a bit wistfully, that he wished he could help out (his words) during the week. Pete had a core of regulars who kept an eye on ESS and collected and relayed net reports for him. My situation is different, and I try to check into ESS half the days of a month. I cannot—will not—be there every night, however; W2YGW unsuccessfully tried to keep NYS/L going by doing just that.

ESS is the sum of its members. When a volunteer is needed for just a few minutes, please don't take a step back.

*Enjoy the hollydaze! 73 de Anne WI2G*