

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

The ESS Bulletin

Pete Gellert W2WSS Memorial Net

July 2025

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Net Control Stations

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

JUNE ROSTER

AA2QL	Fred	Holbrook	9	WB2OCA	Jim	Yorktown Heights	8
AA2YK	Ernie	Modena	5	WI2G	Anne	Elma	16
AB2WB	Pat	Ithaca	13	K1NN	Jan	Calais VT	25
K2NPN	Phil	Marcy	8	K1SEI	Tage	Killingworth CT	26
KA2GJV	Bruce	Fulton	7	K2TV	Bob	Fairfax VA	3
N2PEZ	Reiner	Elmira	8	WB2GTG	Bill	Easton PA	16
N2QFD	Mal	Elmira	1	K3YAK	David	Mendham NJ	9
N2TQT	Colin	Brooklyn	11	K3ZYK	Bill	Penn Run PA	8
NK2Y	Jay	Lagrangeville	1	NY3J	Ron	Bensalem PA	12
N7RMP	Ralph	Kingston	21	WA3JXW	Dudley	Reading PA	10
W2ITT	Rob	Huntington	16	K0BUF	Chris	Phoenixville PA	16
W2LC	Scott	Baldwinsville	1	VE3DCX	Jim	Coe Hill ON	4
W2RBA	Joe	Mount Vision	24	VE3FAS	Phil	Shelburne ON	29
W2XS	John	Northport	14	VE3NUL	Rich	Toronto ON	9
WA2YOW	C. J.	Staten Island	5				

June totals: QNI 335, per session 11.2 (May 11.0); QSP 45, per session 1.5 (May 1.1). I guess we're getting used to our 40-meter summer frequency, and it's good to see checkins and traffic both up. W2LC emailed that he doesn't yet have a 40-meter antenna, but is working on it; it was very good to hear Scott check into ESS mobile on Field Day. Two websites are very useful, especially in summer--Germany's http://www.blitzortung.org/en/live_lightning_maps.php?map=33 (no secure site, but it seems safe) provides real-time lightning information, and the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center's Radio Communication Dashboard (<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/communities/radio-communications>) is a comprehensive source of solar-flux, K-index, geomagnetic-storm and other data (including an aurora map). After a work- and health-related hiatus, the June *QNI Newsletter* has been published by WB8SIW. The official Radio Relay International newsletter has articles on the usual wide range of subjects. The acronym of NYPON (the present-day New York Public Operations Net) was originally short for the New York Post Office Net, and this issue of *QNI* features a history of the post-office-net system. Several other articles concern emergency preparedness, including a brief mention of Zello--a mobile-phone app which, according to *QNI*, "simulates a two-way radio net". It's an intriguing concept, which could facilitate inter-group communications in disaster response. I got the newsletter as an email attachment and, unfortunately, it doesn't seem to have been uploaded yet to the RRI website (<https://radiorelay.org/>); if you haven't received a copy and would like one, let me know--preferably by radiogram--and I'll send the attachment I received. **Birthdays:** **July**--VE3FAS 1 (Canada Day!) and VE3DCX 25. **August**--W2RBA 12. Additions and corrections, preferably (as always) by radiogram, are always welcome!

Warm-Weather Musings

Reiner, N2PEZ (our dedicated, hard-working webmaster), has also been good enough to forward me the ARRL's *NTS Letter*. The newsletter (edited by Marcia, KW1U) is available to league members; not to put too fine a point on it, Radio Relay International's publications are available to all traffic handlers. Be that as it may, the June issue of *The NTS Letter* has an article entitled "Helpful Hints for CW Traffic Operators" by RRI founder James, WB8SIW; scroll down the newsletter if you have a copy at hand. Reiner and I both like James' excellent advice from telegrapher Walter P. Phillips (inventor of the Phillips Code and creator of the abbreviations POTUS--President of the United States--and SCOTUS, Supreme Court of the United States) to send "difficult" words more slowly and avoid repetition whenever possible. Especially in poor conditions, wait for the receiving station to ask you for a fill; I know from experience how easy it is to wander off into the weeds in bad conditions, unable to distinguish repetition from original copy.

Friday NCS Tage, K1SEI, forwarded an email from KW1U in response to his question about dealing with difficult message deliveries. I haven't had the "pleasure" of servicing an attempted delivery of an N1IQI license-renewal message to a longtime silent key in a while, but bad phone numbers for NX9K and VE1AQF traffic are persistent problems. The online databases can be laughably inaccurate, as can be seen if you try to look up your own information.

From the Great South Bay ARC's *Compass*, kindly emailed by K2TV, comes news of two summer special events with a difference. Caryn, KD2GUT, reports that the annual International Dog Day (National Dog Day in the U.S.) will be celebrated on the air on August 26th; International Cat Day will precede it by two weeks, on August 12th. Both European-American events aim to call attention to the huge number of dogs and cats in shelters, encouraging adoption and donations. Their respective websites are dogdayradio.org and catdayradio.org; live updates will be available at <https://hamlog.online/icd> (cats) and <https://hamlog.online/idd> (dogs). Modes used will be CW and SSB on HF, VHF/UHF simplex, and DMR (digital mobile radio) and EchoLink.

Most, if not all, of the traffic nets I know have now moved to 40 meters from 75 and 80 for the summer months. Although 40 has more SSB and digital QRM, propagation (and traffic relay) is still possible. There's trouble even in paradise, though, and 40-meter propagation has been erratic. I've heard it referred to as "long skip", which may be a misnomer in this case; it's always been my understanding that long skip is a wintertime phenomenon characteristic of a solar minimum (the bottom of an 11-year sunspot cycle). During long skip, distant stations are strong and nearby stations weak or inaudible; W2WSS talked with pardonable pride about one memorable evening when he relayed stations on the Central Area Net--Central, not Eastern!--from his modest Columbia County shack.

Solar cycle 25, the current cycle, begun with a bang in 2020. Despite strong solar flares and auroras, however, the solar flux has largely subsided to 115 or so; at a typical solar minimum it's 70 or below, and early in this cycle it was well in excess of 200 (encouraging high hopes that the muted predictions were wrong). According to the scientific consensus, this cycle will be on the weak side (comparable to cycle 24); the glory days of the late 1950s, when you could work the world on 100 watts and 6-meter operation was the bane of your TV-watching neighbors, may never return. Propagation is a fascinating study, though; what happens on the AM band at night sparked my interest in radio decades ago at age 11, and macro-cycles have been hypothesized which are dimly (if at all) understood.

Colin, N2TQT, recently received a variation on book traffic. The common text (from Peter, DL4FN, in Germany) began HELLO BLANK, which can certainly be confusing. You may have seen something similar in N1IQI's license-renewal reminders, which are often booked with different expiration dates. The BLANK is whatever part of the text that varies; when I got into traffic-handling this was dealt with in plain text in the preamble (BUK 3 GROUP SEVEN VARIES) and believe me, this is a vast improvement. The variable text--first name, expiration date, whatever--is simply sent after the address block of each part of the book.

The place of origin of third-party traffic is that of the sender, not the station of origin; an op note that WB2JNQ is in Brooklyn (not Lagrangeville, say) makes any servicing much easier.

Keep cool and keep checking in! 73 de Anne