

**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

### February 2023



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### Net Control Stations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WB2GTG	WA2YOW	KA2GJV	W2RBA	AB2WB	W2ITT	WI2G

### JANUARY ROSTER

AB2WB	Pat	Ithaca	15	WI2G	Anne	Elma	15
K2EAG	Matt	Amherst	5	K1SEI	Tage	Killingworth CT	24
K2NPN	Phil	Marcy	7	WB2GTG	Bill	Easton PA	29
KA2GJV	Bruce	Fulton	10	WB2U	Vic	Gaithersburg MD	4
N2PEZ	Reiner	Elmira	13	K3YAK	David	Mendham NJ	2
N2SKP	Shirley	Verplanck	4	K3ZYK	Bill	Penn Run PA	17
N2TQT	Colin	Brooklyn	1	WA3JXW	Dudley	Reading PA	8
N7RMP	Ralph	Kingston	19	K4ZXM	Don	Hanover VA	18
W2ITT	Rob	Huntington	27	W4VLL	Vic	Narrows VA	1
W2LC	Scott	Baldwinsville	6	N8AFT	Lane	Columbus OH	1
W2RBA	Joe	Mount Vision	30	VE3DCX	Jim	Coe Hill ON	9
W2XS	John	Northport	21	VE3FAS	Phil	Shelburne ON	31
WA2WMJ	J. B.	Walden	31	VE3MVM	Mary	Shelburne ON	12
WA2YOW	C. J.	Staten Island	6	VE3NUL	Rich	Toronto	11
WB2OCA	Jim	Yorktown Heights	3				

**January totals:** QNI 380, per session 12.3 (Dec 10.7); QSP 83, per session 2.7 (Dec 2.3). A great start to the year; I don't want to jinx us, but it helps that long skip hasn't been much of a factor this winter. Heartfelt thanks to W2RBA (designer of the bulletin's masthead) for picking up several sessions while I was AWOL for a family reunion. My fall on the ice (just in time for the Christmas blizzard; we had our Yuletide on New Year's Day, when it was finally possible to get up the driveway) broke two pelvic bones, and our two oldest came in to help Mike in the house and barn and celebrate my improbable reaching of threescore and ten. WA2WMJ has been making up for lost time on the net, and it's good to see N2TQT joining us from Brooklyn; Colin will have good Elmers in W2XS and W2ITT. A few reminders—When composing a service message for an undeliverable radiogram (often because of a garbled phone number), it helps a lot to include the phone number you received. Without it, there's no way to know where the problem lies; with it, the originating station can correct any errors and help get the message through. Don't overlook (or over-use!) handling instructions; HXC ("Report date and time of delivery to originating station") is fairly common. Day and month is fine; the year is unnecessary, and is easily confused with a UTC time. The station of origin needs to be notified about an undeliverable message, and the easiest way to do so is with the fill-in-the-blanks ARL SIXTY SEVEN ("Your message number \_\_\_\_ undeliverable because of \_\_\_\_\_. Please advise"). If you're the station of origin, don't forget that "Please advise" at the end—even if your advice is simply PLEASE CANCEL MY \_\_\_\_ X THANKS FOR TRYING. **Birthdays:** **February**—WA3JXW 1, K2NPN 8, VE3MVM 15, K1NN and K4ZXM 22, and W2XS 27. **March**—K2EAG 1, WB2GTG 11, AB2WB 17 (when else?) and KA2GJV 25. Additions and corrections always welcome, preferably by radiogram!

## 2022 in Review

Year	QNI	Per session	QSP	Per session
2022	4083	11.2	800	2.2
2021	4308	11.8	699	1.9
2020	4862	13.3	737	2.0
2019	4111	11.3	607	1.7
2018	4111	11.3	607	1.7

### 2022 Certificates

W2RBA	WB2GTG	AB2WB	K1SEI	W2ITT
VE3MVM	WA2WMJ	KA2AQV	N7RMP	WA3JXW
W2XS	N2PEZ	VE3FAS	KA2GJV	K2NPN
K4ZXM	K3ZYK	VE3DCX	WA2YOW	K2EAG
	W2LC	WI2G		

The year was mixed, but generally positive; checkins fell below our 2018-2019 levels (which is a bit alarming), but traffic is better than it's been in years and we had five more net-certificate recipients last year than we had in 2021. (Plug alert—The sole requirement for an ESS net certificate by postal mail is 80 points in a calendar year. You earn one point each time you check in, and a bonus point for running the net; a couple of checkins a week is all it takes.) It would be great if we could bump up the checkin count--and the roster--this year; we have more regulars, but fewer checkins to a given session (especially during the Summer Slump). Sadly, we lost RRIE manager Jeff (WB8WKQ) in early February to the covid; it ain't over yet, folks. On a brighter note, though, we have new and returning stations so there's life in the old net yet. Every so often, I get an inquiry about our website. Unfortunately, we don't have one yet but it's on my bucket list (and at threescore and ten, I'm running out of time). I'm thinking of hosting it on WordPress.com or something equally affordable (and user-friendly), but know next to nothing about website design. If you've ever designed a radio-related website for a club or a net, or know anyone who has, please let me know!

Many thanks to Bob, K2TV, for the latest issue of the Great South Bay ARC's *Compass*; it was good to see his cheerful smile again as the author of a history of new operating modes, with a current emphasis on digital. With Father Time doing a number on us traffic handlers and our real-time nets, the digital traffic network has a useful role; my chief quibble with who I snarkily call the "space cadets" is that their multi-tone modes make CW operation in their vicinity just about impossible, and whoever came up with the 80-meter band plan must have been on something (or never operated on that band) to think that CW can easily coexist with JT65. Another source of annoyance is the widespread, mistaken belief that "listening before transmitting" equals "check your waterfall". That failing is not unique to digital ops, though. The Straight Key Century Club has pretty much laid claim to 3552 kHz (usually not much of a problem); however, that frequency is also where the Eastern Area Net operates at 8:30 pm daily and the Central Area Net operates in winter at 9:30 pm Eastern (CAN uses 7052 kHz in summer). Time will tell if Morse is enjoying an actual resurgence; it's hard to tell, since we've been shoehorned into an ever-shrinking sliver of spectrum. However, many CW ops (newbies and those who should know better) set their filters as narrow as possible and forget them; happy as clams, they start calling CQ at 7 wpm--200 Hz from some poor soul who's been trying for several minutes to unload their Transcontinental Corps traffic. With the CW subbands now so crowded, we learned fast that filters are variable in width for a reason; they're most effective, and least annoying to surrounding stations, when we get into the ballpark on a wide filter and *then* narrow it as needed for maximum readability. Range wars are never pretty, but they're especially unbecoming between CW ops; tempting as it can be, it's best not to send LIDSVILLE within earshot of a station you hope will check into your net one fine day!

*Happy Valentine's Day es vy 73 de Anne WI2G*