

**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

### March 2023



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### Net Control Stations

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

### FEBRUARY ROSTER

AB2WB	Pat	Ithaca	20	WB2OCA	Jim	Yorktown Heights	3
K2EAG	Matt	Amherst	3	WI2G	Anne	Elma	15
K2NPN	Phil	Marcy	3	K1SEI	Tage	Killingworth CT	27
KA2AQV	Jim	Troy	1	K2PHD	Doc	Ledgewood NJ	1
KA2GJV	Bruce	Fulton	7	WB2GTG	Bill	Easton PA	26
N2PEZ	Reiner	Elmira	12	WB2U	Vic	Gaithersburg MD	11
N2TQT	Colin	Brooklyn	17	K3YAK	David	Mendham NJ	1
N2ZX	Curt	Mechanicville	1	K3ZYK	Bill	Penn Run PA	7
N7RMP	Ralph	Kingston	24	WA3JXW	Dudley	Reading PA	5
W2ITT	Rob	Huntington	18	K4ZXM	Don	Hanover VA	11
W2LC	Scott	Baldwinsville	2	W4VLL	Vic	Narrows VA	1
W2RBA	Joe	Mount Vision	26	VE3DCX	Jim	Coe Hill ON	8
W2XS	John	Northport	21	VE3FAS	Phil	Shelburne ON	28
WA2WMJ	J. B.	Walden	27	VE3MVM	Mary	Shelburne ON	6
WA2YOW	C. J.	Staten Island	4	VE3NUL	Rich	Toronto	11

**February totals:** QNI 347, per session 12.4 (Jan 12.3); QSP 64, per session 2.3 (Jan 2.7). Another good month overall, with checkins and traffic near seasonal norms. Daylight Shifting Time kicks in on March 12th, which will affect early-evening propagation; don't forget to "spring forward"! The days are longer already, which makes February a rough month in these parts; the extra daylight tantalizingly suggests spring (the red-winged blackbirds are back already), but we often get our coldest winter weather. You'll probably notice a change in band conditions at net time when the clocks go ahead, and our alternate 40-meter frequency (7110 kHz, plus or minus QRM) will eventually be of more than academic interest; QRN on 80 meters is beginning to pick up already. If you hear a station whom the NCS can't, remember the amateur's Golden Rule ("We're all QNP sometime"). If you hear something, say something; send your suffix and, when the net control recognizes you, QRZ G (or whatever letter the station you hear is using to check in). If you're running the net (with many thanks to K1SEI for, among other things, picking up back-to-back sessions last month), 40 meters is already starting to work for traffic pairs who may be tough copy on a daylight path. According to my records, AB2WB, W2ITT, W2RBA, W2XS, WA2WMJ, K1SEI, WB2GTG and VE3MVM can QSY to 40 meters as needed; I presume that VE3DCX and VE3FAS can as well. If you have 40-meter capability and aren't on this list, please advise me (preferably by radiogram) and I'll pass the word. Changing propagation inspires flexibility; if 40 is unfeasible for any reason, using a third station to relay (W2LC QNB WI2G ES K4ZXM, for instance) is useful and bumps up the traffic count if a full relay—not FILLS ONLY—is required. **Birthdays:** **March**—K2EAG 1, WB2GTG 11, AB2WB 17 (when else?) and KA2GJV 25. **April**—KT2D 4. Additions and corrections are always welcome!

## *It Takes a Village ...*

Our daughter is a hydrologist and our older son is an oceanographer, and I've long been interested in rivers and streams (especially underground and intermittent ones). Since what's left of my mental processes resemble an intermittent stream (now you see it, now you don't), I'm grateful for the other publications I receive by email which furnish inspiration when the creative juices here run dry.

I really appreciate K2TV's keeping me on the email list for the excellent Great South Bay ARC *Compass*, and am gobsmacked that Bob remains so active with GSBARC from Virginia. Two articles in the February issue particularly caught my eye: AB2ZI's article on kit-building and Bob's great advice on portable-generator maintenance. I envy hams who were active in the hobby during the Heathkit era, and will never forget a homeowner when we were house-hunting in Queens who proudly showed us his Heathkit color television! (Alas, it wasn't going to come with the house.) Although Elecraft carries old-school kits which still require soldering, its modular kits (not to mention the factory-assembled ones) are a tempting option; my dear friend Pat, NW2I—sadly, a SK—assembled a modular kit with the help of her son a few years ago and had a lot of fun with it. Kevin, however, says that what he calls the “art of soldering” is like riding a bicycle; it's not brain surgery, to be sure, and the skill (once acquired) is yours for life. He notes a number of kits available on Amazon; including “solder practice” in your search will yield kits with plenty of practice and fun results. To have a portable generator (now more of a necessity than a luxury, thanks to climate change) QRV when you need it, Bob emphasizes fuel stabilizer (or, preferably, emptying the tank); fresh—and spare—oil; proper storage (under cover); an extra spark plug; recorded maintenance—time passes faster than you think it does—and required cords, adapters and The Manual close by. You never know ...

Radio Relay International's February *QNI* newsletter is now available for download at <https://radiorelay.org/publications> (scroll down the page, which has a number of other excellent resources, to “QNI Newsletter” and click “Download PDF”). I strongly suggest registering with RRI; it's not an either-or thing with the ARRL and I've found that although it's not perfect (especially for those, like me, without a military mindset), it has a fire in the belly which the legacy organization lost decades ago when—in my opinion—it shifted its primary focus from its membership to selling equipment. RRI has expanded its Digital Traffic Network to Puerto Rico, which will be a particular boon during the expanding hurricane season. It supports the “I Am Safe” welfare-message initiative, which was developed in Washington State. These standardized, one-way messages, designed to be sent from a disaster area (one-way in accordance with the longstanding practice of restricting traffic into a disaster area to conserve resources), originated as an innovative Field Day exercise. An offline radiogram template, which can be stored on a thumb drive, is easy to use by non-amateurs. The standard radiogram texts, with a provision for additional content, have no ARL-type shorthand; sent as plain text, they have the advantage of requiring no “translation”. ARL texts--especially the less-common ones--are occasionally mistranslated, with results that may not reflect our hobby in a favorable light.

A big advantage of the “I Am Safe” system is that, depending on the contact information provided (a disaster victim may not have access to a family address book they might otherwise consult, and be limited instead to a cellphone contact list), welfare messages may be sent by radiogram, email or text (SMS). Page 7 of *QNI* has an informative flowchart covering the processing and delivery of the messages. A national exercise is planned for March, with outgoing traffic expected to originate in Seattle and Tacoma, and full details (including resources) are available at <https://radiorelay.org/i-am-safe-program-1>. The briefest of glances at the news indicates that a disaster can strike anywhere, at any time, and it behooves us to prepare as best we can to help as much as we can.

This 19-page *QNI* also includes articles on reviving radio clubs (sponsoring licensing classes helps, but not enough); a memoir by Ralph, W8AF (SK) of his days as a “sparks” on the Great Lakes; the ongoing problem of non-delivery of messages, and incorporating radiogram generation for more than QSLing past Parks on the Air QSOs. Why not include a radiogram as part of the POTA contact itself? Time was when just about any active amateur could format one in a pinch, which is why the ARRL Sweepstakes contest exchange is still based on a message preamble!

*In like a lion, out like a lamb (we hope!) 73 Anne*