

**Empire Slow Speed Net**  
**Founded 1955 by**  
**KR2RA,**  
**ex-K2DYB (SK)**  
**\* \*\*\* \*\***  
**Daily**  
**6 PM local time**  
**3566 kHz**  
**7112/1815 alternates**

# The ESS Bulletin

## Pete Gellert W2WSS Memorial Net

### November 2023

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<https://groups.io/g/empire-slow-speed-net>



### Net Control Stations

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

### OCTOBER ROSTER

AA2YK	Ernie	Modena	4	WB2OCA	Jim	Yorktown Heights	2
AB2WB	Pat	Ithaca	13	WI2G	Anne	Elma	16
K2EAG	Matt	Amherst	8	K1SEI	Tage	Killingworth CT	27
K2NPN	Phil	Marcy	16	WB2GTG	Bill	Easton PA	28
KA2GJV	Bruce	Fulton	10	WB2U	Vic	Gaithersburg MD	8
KC2FD	Rick	Coram	10	K3ZYK	Bill	Penn Run PA	11
N2PEZ	Reiner	Elmira	10	WA3JXW	Dudley	Reading PA	13
N2TQT	Colin	Brooklyn	27	K4ZXM	Don	Hanover VA	11
N2ZX	Curt	Mechanicville	3	N8AFT	Lane	Columbus OH	9
N7RMP	Ralph	Kingston	10	VA3AG	Aldo	Courtice ON	1
W2ITT	Rob	Huntington	14	VE3DCX	Jim	Coe Hill ON	12
W2LC	Scott	Baldwinsville	3	VE3FAS	Phil	Shelburne ON	29
W2RBA	Joe	Mount Vision	30	VE3MVM	Mary	Shelburne ON	6
W2XS	John	Northport	13	VE3NUL	Rich	Toronto	10
WA2YOW	C. J.	Staten Island	5				

**October totals:** QNI 359, per session 11.6 (Sep 11.2); QSP 55, per session 1.8 (Sep 1.9). Many thanks for a good month; with better propagation, we can put more traffic to good use. We return to standard time this weekend for a few months; although I prefer six months on and six months off, this beats year-round summer time (or Daylight Shifting Time, as Glenn Hauser accurately calls it). We early risers appreciate more light in the morning, and the upside of earlier darkness will be better 6 pm conditions on 80 meters. Our alternate band will probably change for the winter; 40 meters has been good to us this year, but with digital QRM on 7110 more of a problem I've bumped our alternate 40-meter frequency up to 7112 kHz. 7115 will probably work too, since that is a Transcontinental Corps (TCC) frequency; TCC stations, including KA2GJV and VE3MVM, link the NTS area nets (Eastern, Central and Western) with individual skeds on 40 and 20 meters and the digital network. Forty meters may soon be getting too long for us, however. If and when long skip becomes a problem on 80 meters at net time (I fervently hope it doesn't this season), 1815 kHz is an alternative top-band frequency for those who can QSY to 160 meters. Of our current roster, I seem to remember that KA2GJV, W2XS, VE3DCX, VE3FAS, VE3MVM and I have 160-meter capability; if you do and are not on this list (or are on it by mistake—a mind is a terrible thing to waste), please let me know by radiogram. Congratulations and thanks to K2NPN, this month's net-certificate recipient. With the year winding down, you may still have time to earn an ESS net certificate. The sole requirement 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. **Birthdays: November—N2SKP 4. December—WA2IAX 10 and K1SEI and WA2WMJ 29.** Additions and corrections, preferably by radiogram, are always welcome!

## *Graduation Time?*

ESS has many loyal members on and off the net, for whom I'm most grateful. However, I've noticed a reluctance on the part of some to spread their wings and venture onto other nets. Very little traffic, apart from net reports, gets "on and off the bus" on ESS alone; many (if not most) non-housekeeping messages come in from other nets and/or are relayed to other nets. Our net does not exist in a vacuum.

I get the fact that despite general traffic-handling guidelines from RRI, the ARRL and independent (non-NTS) nets such as ESS, no two nets—even those using the same mode—are exactly alike. Depending on the general vibe of a net (determined to a great extent by its manager), checking into a net we're not used to can be a bit intimidating. It doesn't have to be, though; keep in mind that we were all newcomers to ESS at some point! A warm (but not overwhelming) welcome to a new checkin whose command of CW may still be rocky can make the difference between whether or not they return. ESS is a training net, so it's important for every participant—not just the net control—to use correct procedure in ways large and small. This includes precision, which sidesteps confusion; a common habit on CW is to send R instead of C (or YES) as the affirmative answer to a question, although R simply means that you're received a communication.

As a newly-upgraded General in 1987, I wanted to give back to the hobby by trying public service. ESS was the first net I tried; with the attic dipole in Queens, CW was my best bet watt for watt. NN2H (SK) was the net control that Wednesday, and Kay was so kind that I saw no reason not to keep coming back. A couple of other net members lived nearby, and they told me about the Big Apple VHF net and the benefits of a mobile transceiver in a base station. K2YQK was the usual rep from Big Apple to NYS, and I was very careful to check in after Dom got the traffic! Time passed, though; Dom became ill and then a silent key, and I became it.

I learned that the folks on other nets didn't bite either, even when I made mistakes (which was often), and were patient with my flea-powered signal; they appreciated any help I could offer. A big problem, then as now, was not enough helpers in the vineyard for the bumper harvest. Traffic nets are, by definition, not solitary endeavors; however, too many hams who call themselves traffic-handlers are content to check in day after day without handling a single piece of traffic. Such behavior creates a vicious circle for a net as well as its members; "some people" are apparently ordained to handle a net's traffic, and others are perfectly happy to let George do it. Left unchecked, two-tier participation in a traffic net contributes to bitterness and burnout for the workhorses; when they eventually run screaming for the exit, they take with them a wealth of expertise they may never use again.

As a wide-coverage net, ESS needs more representation to the other New York nets; NYS meets at 7 pm on 3569 kHz. We also need representation to the section nets of our out-of-state members, and Radio Relay International has an up-to-date net directory for download at <https://radiorelay.org/publications>. The ARRL net directory has had problems with timeliness for decades—when I was looking for my first traffic net, a fair number of entries in the directory were defunct—but improvement is promised (perhaps because of RRI) with the league's much-vaunted NTS 2.0.

It's much easier to check into your second (or third) traffic net than it is to check into your first, and it will help ESS and the whole network to find an additional section net for incoming and outgoing messages. You'll also discover that ESS' addictive camaraderie is pretty much universal!

## *Finer Points*

K1SEI and N2TQT have been emailing good procedural questions, and our .io group provides a broader forum; other net members are more experienced than I. Occasionally, you'll see a message with SVC as a pseudo-precedence. SVC may have been used in NTS' earliest days (or perhaps before), but I've never seen it formally endorsed. As an adherent of KISS, I think it's superfluous and best avoided; R is as routine a precedence as we need, judging by the confusion surrounding P (priority) and W (welfare) during simulated emergencies. When there are no takers for a piece of traffic (the NCS should have some idea of where their checkins live; "auctioning off" traffic with WHO QSP ELMA? or suchlike is suboptimal), you'll hear CANCEL, HOLD or QTA. They all mean the same—bring it back, or find another outlet; an NCS would only take the traffic if they can relay or deliver it.

*Remember to "fall back" on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>! 73 de Anne*