

Inquiries to: "Century Club Centurion" c/o Tom Bowers Star Route 3, Box 972 Eustis, FL 32726

VOL. IV, No. 3

The 3905 Century Club, Inc.

March, 1983

"CENTURION" EDITOR SEARCH by WD4CQY

It seems to me, on a purely gambling-odds-basis, that at least ONE of its subscribers is both capable and willing (perhaps, with a little "nudge"), to take over the editorship of the "Centurion".

With this issue, I've been "peddling my particular brand of nonsense" for fourty-five months; and, friends and neighbors, wast and half-wast ideas notwithstanding, I'm going STALE.

The new editor will be appointed by the Club President, hence your application should be iled to him - WA2ZYM. After your appointment, you will serve "at the President's pleasure". I truly hope that one of you will step forward because, frankly, I AIN'T GONNA DO THIS FOREVER.

Once a new editor is appointed, I will ship to him or her the subscribers' cardex file, a page indicating how I've kept that cardex file, the "Centurion" "morgue", my check for the cash and stamps I then have on hand, and a full financial report, the latter showing the status of the "Centurion" as of the last issue before turnover

SILENT KEY

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of the following Club member:

W8DXZ Walt Poole, Grafton, WV

The 3905 Century Club, Inc. is incorporated as a "corporation not for profit" under Chapter 617, Statutes of the State of Florida. In addition, the Club is tax-exempt as determined by the IRS.

3905 Century Club, Inc.

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Vice President Sec y-Ireas. Corp. Res. A Awards Sec'y

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WBØFRN

KAØNYC

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WADSTV

WBØWST WBØYXH KCØZ

There are 408 C/Ss above. Quite a large number of them are wrong; but Jim

KCOFY

WBØOUS

WOUBT

NØCWO

WØIJN

WAPPSF

KØUKO

WDØHDT

WBØUFU

KTØP

KNØZ

KTØD

KAØJIF

WDØPVH

WBØUPU

GUEST EDITORIAL by KK2M

WBØDOX

WARMRG

WAPROI

KTØW

WBØDVH

WBØMZI

WORSR

KCØWO.

NØDXR

KAØNTR

WBØRVN

etc. Please, people, CAREFULLY FILL OUT YOUR QSL CARDS, IN BLOCK LETTERS.)

WOWSR

KUØE

WØNUL

KCØRZ

WBØWSU

NØDDY NØDLU

WBØUWS WBØUWZ

(Editor's note:

WBØLPV

WBOOKF

WØKZZ

The purpose of the Century Club is to exchange QSL cards for contacts made on the net. This statement is given on the air each evening at the start of both the 40M and 80M nets by the Net Control. I am sorry to say this must be the time some of us are getting coffee or whatever, because it is just not understood.

doesn't have the time to sort them out for you. For Example: KA4HFB = KA5HFB & KG1T = KC1T;

I have talked to many members who state that they will not send a card till they receive Others say they think they sent one; Oh well, if they never received it, then they can send me another and then I will QSL. The worst answer is the no answer! You would be surprised how many old timers, ones who check in three or four times a week, who just will not QSL. on members, the purpose is to QSL so let's do it!

Many of us will spend three hours or more during net time to make contact with only one station and then never receive a card. Let's put back the spirit of Ham Radio and the Century Club and QSL soon after a contact. We have actually lost many good members because of this, and there is no better way to get these and future members back on our nets than to QSL. Our volunteer bureaus do an excellent job, but they can only send us cards they receive.

LINES LOST IN THE QRM

There was this Frenchman - let's call him Jacques Lefarge - who was intent on committing suicide. He went to a bluff overlooking the ocean. He drove a stout stake into the ground at the head of the bluff. He tied a short length of rope to the stake, then around his neck. Then, he swallowed a bottle of poison. Next, he set his clothes on fire. Finally, he took out a pistol and aimed it at his head, then pulled the trigger. (Continued on Page 4.)

FROM THE BOARD ROOM by WD4CQY

December - It was decided that "Eye-Ball SIX" be held at Dogpatch, USA (near Harrison, AR), again, this year, on 12, 13 and 14 August. Letha, KA5HFB, again, will be the Site Coordinator. Paragraph 7. B. of the Club By-Laws was amended to require the Board to decide the "Eye-Ball" site by December 31, each year.

January - The special election of Grant, KJ8H, as the new Eighth U.S. Call-Area Director

was validated.

An endorsement to the Baker's Dozen was approved. It will be awarded for each additional five contacts made with the same station upon which the initial Baker's Dozen was claimed.

There was a great deal of discussion about changing the 40 meter net frequency, due to extremely heavy QRM from a second broadcast station. (See, also, the "Where does it say that ... " column, elsewhere in this issue.)

The written minutes of the January Board meeting included a note of appreciation to the Club officers who took minutes for Marianne, W3LQY, and "filled the breach", while she was off the air due to rig failure.

Official Presidential Election Returns (both bands): WA2ZYM - 85 KB9QP - 43. Hence.

WA2ZIM was elected President; and, KB9QP was elected Vice President.

February - The elections of Club President, Vice President and of the Club Directors was validated. (See Officers'/Directors' Roster on the back of the mailer face of this issue.)

March, 1983 3. PRESIDENT'S CORNER by WAZZYM (Incoming.) As my first action as your new president, I would like to thank all those members who voted for me, in the recent election. I shall do

my best to meet your expectations. I should also like to congratulate all the people who were elected to positions as Area Directors. I am sure that everyone will do a good

To Ray, WA4SGP, go my thanks for a job very well done, and my hope that he will remain an active force within the club. Ray's tenure as President was an active and fruitful one, and we will need his expertise in the future, I'm sure.

I hope that everyone is in the process of making plans to attend Eyeball VI, which will be held, again, this year, in Dogratch, near Harrison, AR, on August 12, 13 and 14. I will be looking forward to seeing you there.

One of my first duties as President is, unfortunately, to report the passing of Walt, W8DXZ, in December, 1982. Walt was a long-time member of the Club and a faithful check-in, from WV. He will be sorely missed on the air, and our condolences are extended to his family. * * *

(Editor: to Note: The "Centurion" has never before received columns from both the incoming and outgoing Presidents. But, this time we did. So, above is Bill's submission, and, below, is

PRESIDENT'S CORNER by WA4SGP (Outgoing.)

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of our Club; especially to Bill Herbert and Bob Hartenstein on their elections as President and Vice-president, respectively. I am confident we have the leadership for continued growth and success of our Club. You all have my best wishes; and my full support.

It has been an honor for me to serve as President of our Club, for the past two years. I appreciate the support and help of our officers and members. Many thanks to each Club officer for the time and effort you put into your Club job. We sometimes forget the importance of our bureau managers, awards managers, awards secretary, net control coordinators, Secretary/Treasurer, and other non-elected officers; You are the people that make our day-to-day operation work.

I do regret that, for the past several months, I have not had much time to devote to our

Club. It appears that, for some time, I still will not have much time available; however, my interest in my many friends and in our Club is in no way diminished. As soon as my work permits, I will again become more involved in our Club.

The Board of Directors has approved Rock Candy Mountain Campground, near Dogpatch, Arkansas, as the site for Eyeball 6 to be held August 12, 13 and 14 of this year. I hope each of you can make plans to be at Eyeball 6; let's make it bigger and better than ever before. I look forward to seeing you there.

"CENTURION" RENEWALS REVISITED, YET AGAIN by WD4CQY

By the time this issue reaches you, I will no longer hold any offices in the 3905 Century Club, Inc., other than Editor of the "Centurion". I have resigned as Public Relations Officer, Historian and, FOR PURPOSES OF WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU, as Assistant Secretary/Assistant Tressurer.

Because of the above, after March 1, 1983, I no longer will be able to cash checks for "Centurion" subscriptions or renewals made out to anyone/anything other than me.

In the U.S. Call-Book, my name is listed as: THOMAS L. BOWERS, III. I can cash checks under that name, as well as: TOM BOWERS, T.L. BOWERS and even just plain-vanilla BOWERS. But, I no longer can, nor will I try, to cash checks made out to the "3905 Century Club, Inc.", to the "Century Club Clarion" or any other combination or permutation of the like.

At lesst once a year, I've asked you to write your checks properly. I have yet not gotten your attention. So, in the future, I will staple your check or money order inside a complimation. entary copy of the last issue published (whether you got one or not), and return your money to

you. In this way, the "Centurion" will cut its losses from \$3 to a single 20¢ postage stamp.

I've received checks made out to "John Bowlers", to the "3805 Century Club" and to the

Century Club "Criterion". Today, I received a renewal with a note telling me how the subscriber hung on my every printed word. AND, THE CHECK WAS MADE OUT TO THE "3905 CENTURY CLUB, INC. "1

Paraphrasing a quote of Winston Churchill's: "This is the sort of nonsense up with which I can no longer puti"

Expired subscriptions are handled as new subscriptions and will receive a copy of the latest issue "on the street; if you require back issues the price is 75¢ each; and, please call my attention, with your renewal, to any address changes/corrections and/or new call-signs.



"WHERE DOES IT SAY THAT ... ?" by Phil Harmonic, HIC/A If you tried lately to check into the 40 meter net, you may be wondering where it went or how come it is not always. on the same frequency.

The fact of the matter is that there is a new broadcast station on the frequency that is raising the QRM level to the point that the net cannot operate. As bad as it was in the past, it is now unbearable. Even the members in the Midwest and West can hear this one!

It was decided by the President and the NCS Coordinator to move the net to 7240 mHz. This turned out not to be feasible due to the existence of another net, in the 5th call-

area, that came on before we were finished. Therefore, the net is now jumping around, from night to night, anyplace from 7228 to 7235, or so, to find an open spot. As soon as a clear,

usable frequency is found, then it will be permanently moved to that spot.

What is the authority for this action? Well, if you look at the By-Laws and the Constitution, you will find that the authority for operating the nets is the prerogative (Cont. Pg., 4)

LINES LOST IN THE QRM (Cont.)

str. Jacques was not a sharpshooter - The bullet missed his head, but it hit and cut the rope, dropping him in the ocean. The salt water put out his burning clothes, and so nauseated him that he threw up the poison.

Several hours later, a fishing trawler picked him up, took him into port, and he was rushed to the hospital ... WHERE HE DIED OF EXPOSURE.

(Tom Blair, Newsman on WDBO Radio, Orlando, FL)

There were these two drinking buddies that met, at work, on a Monday morning. One had two blistered ears. His friend asked him how he burned his ear. His buddy, still not fully sober, said, "My wife was ironing my shirt when my mother called." And, his buddy said, what next? "Well, I picked up the iron to answer the phone." "Well, How did you blister the other ear?". "She called back." (Various attributions.)

CORRECTION by WD4CQY

"Time flies when you're having fun" - but not that fast! In the December issue of the "Centurion", I promised the annual financial report in this issue. Actually, I should have promised it AS OF THIS ISSUE to be printed in the June issue. And, that's what I'm going to do. Last year, I changed the "Centurion's" accounting year to bring it into line with the Club's fiscal year, so now it runs from the first day of March through the last day of February next following.

"WHERE DOES IT SAY THAT ... ?" (Cont. from Pg. 3.)

of the President and/or his designated representative. This authority was used by WA4SGP and K1 DUG.

In response to those who want the Board of Directors to vote on something like this, it should be pointed out that the 40 meter net was fast failing. A vote was suggested by the NCS Coordinator, at the last Board meeting. When it was pointed out that the President had this authority, and that a vote could not take effect until the first of the month which occurs fifteen or more days after the Board meeting, the vote was not taken.

It was not taken because, if it had been, no corrective action could have been taken until March 1st. By that time, with the current state of QRM, there was a strong possibility that

the net would have died.

So, as you can see, nothing was done that was not, and is not legal. The steps taken were for the benefit of the Club. It is hoped that the members will understand and be willing to look around a little for the net, until a permanent frequency can be found.

The above comments, by the way, are in response to a couple of members who were highly upset that the net was moved without personal warnings to them. Sorry, guys, but things just

have to happen that way, sometimes.

PUBLICATION NOTICE: Articles for the June issue should be in my mail box no later than May 14.

THE "CENTURION" DROPS BACK TO FOUR PAGES by WD4CQY

Unfortunately, the six-page format instituted with the last issue, could not be maintained due to shortage of members' inputs. Oh, well, maybe next quarter.

CENTURY CLUB NET OPERATIONS an Editorial by WD4CQY

It is no piece of cake to sit in front of your rig and announce that you are the Net Control Station for that particular session of the 3905 Century Club. Your Editor can speak to this issue with some degree of authority having put in two "tours" of six months each, as NCS, on the 75 meter net.

Being "barefoot" in an extreme "corner state", it was incumbent upon me to establish relay

stations immediately upon opening the nets.

It was equally essential to "zero-beat" all check-ins, if they were to have a reasonable chance to make an efficient contact, and for the NCS (or a relay station) to hear both signal reports. And, since my rig drifts some, I always picked a stable station to "zero beat" me AND the net. This procedure seemed to work for me and "my nets", most of the time. But, ... THERE ARE THOSE RUNNING "SPLIT", THOSE WITH "TIN-EARS" THOSE WHO FORGOT TO TURN OFF THE "RIT", or THOSE WHO JUST PLAIN DON'T GIVE A DAMN, that, nightly, waste net time trying to make tenuous contacts with stations 200-odd Hz away from their transmitting frequency.

These phenomena make me wonder about by whom the perpetrators were taught their "manners".

When you take five minutes to complete a QSO, you are ROBBING NINE OTHER CHECK-INS FROM MAKING

THEIR QSOS

Most QNIs will be zero-beat, will try two - maybe three times - to complete the QSO, then step aside to avoid wasting net time. Those people are much appreciated by the NCS and the net.

Other time-wasters are those who will insist on getting the NAME (it's gonna be on his QSL card), or his ADDRESS (if you can't afford a Call-Book, check the reference section of your public library), or EVEN HIS STATE (even though that was part of the information given by NCS, at check-in.)

Then there are those who say, "I didn't hear him on check-in", then proceed to call the other QNI and give him eleven signal reports. For Heaven's sake, if YOU DIDN'T HEAR HIM, LET

THE MCS "SET YOU UP".

If there are, say, fifty check-ins, on a particular net session, and you squander the net's time, you are, essentially, an "Airway Robber", to at least 48 other people. Think on it!

HMS INVINCIBLE - A VISIT REPORT TO THE BRITISH FALKLAND ISLANDS COMMAND SHIP by WD4CQY Your Editor was invited, by a member of the Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society, Tom, G3WAO, to visit him, during INVINCIBLE's port sall at Mayport, FL, on Feb. 19. The tour of the ship that Tom gave us - myself, and a couple of friends - was most impressive, as was the superb 30" I 48" print, that chronichles the Falkland Action, along with the seals of every ship, squadron, submarine and civilian ship that took part in the operation. These posters are available, as I understand it, on the quarterdeck of all participating units, when in port. By all means, visit one of these intrepid Royal Navy units, if they visit your area!