



THE CENTURION

The 3905 Century Club Monthly Newsletter

www.3905ccn.org



Issue Highlights:

- Welcome
- Eyeball 2024
- Dean's Notes
- Ben's Column
- Member Highlight
- DX Bureau Updates
- QSL Card Information
- Member Highlight
- Solar Eclipse & Time Signals
- Return QSLs
- From the Archives
- Ideas for the Future
- Meet Your Editor

Welcome Back!!

Hello and welcome to the May 2024 edition of the 3905 Century Club Centurion Newsletter. I am Brian AA1QW, your new Centurion editor. I would first like to express my gratitude to Steve Davis, K7QHU, for all his contributions to the club including his excellent work on the newsletter each month.

Having just recently being given this role as of mid-April, this edition may not be as polished as normal, but I felt it important to get an updated edition out to the club to highlight the upcoming eyeball in September, as well as provide updates since Steve's last edition in January.

I appreciate everyone that started sending me articles for inclusion, almost immediately. Please keep them coming. As our Vice President Kirk, AA1NA says; "The Centurion would not be the same without your articles!"

Please send articles as well as suggestions to Brian, AA1QW@startmail.com.



The 47th Annual 3905 Century Club Eyeball is rapidly approaching! Hosted by our 1st Area Director Tom Bates, AA1NZ, September 05-08, 2024, at the Leavitt Park House, 344 Elm Street, in Laconia, New Hampshire!

Laconia is centrally located in NH, near the geographical center of the state. It's on the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee (an over 70 square mile lake). You can see the summit of Mount Washington from the city. Many restaurants and other attractions nearby.

Registration is \$95.00. Please visit 3905ccn.org/eyeball2024.php to register and for more information.



Laconia, NH location on map, shown at the red dot.

Other nearby areas of interest:

To Augusta, ME (capital): 140 miles
To Concord, NH (capital): 28 miles
To Montpelier, VT (capital): 118 miles
To Boston, MA (capital): 95 miles
To Hartford, CT (capital): 177 miles
To Providence, RI (capital): 143 miles

Photo below is an overview image of the park.



THE 3905 CENTURY CLUB MOBILE SHOOT-OUT 2024!

**EVENT WILL BE HELD SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 7, 2024, AT THE EYEBALL IN
LACONIA, NH FROM 9:00 AM-12:00PM EST**



Please join us for a grand Saturday morning competition where we will determine how your mobile signal stacks up against the rest! If you do not have a mobile setup, come anyway! This event is a fun spectator sport where you can enjoy wagering on whose rig will be Top Gun!

This subevent is open to all paid Eyeball registrants! The winner (crowned Top Gun) will hold that distinction until the next shootout. Second and Third place entrants will be recognized as “Big Gun” and “Son of a Gun”. Last place finisher is crowned “Pop Gun”.

Our 2024 shootout master’s will be Ben, AE4NT, and Dwight, WF4H. Don’t miss out on this!

Dean's Column

Notes from the President

By Dean Davis, KL7OR



Check back next month for Dean's column. Congratulations to our newest Master's Degree award holder, # 80!



BEN'S COLUMN

Notes from the Awards Secretary
May 2024

By [Ben Goldfarb](#), AE4NT



It is so great to be back writing for you once again as *The Centurion* resumes publication following the untimely passing of its editor, **Steve Davis, K7QHU (SK)** in January. We now have a new editor, **Brian Chaloux, AA1QW**, who volunteered to assume this key role in April, committing to produce this issue on a very tight schedule. Please join me in thanking Brian for stepping up to the plate, and in conveying my wishes for a long and successful tenure in the position.

This month's column begins with my comments about our latest award additions, the Auld Lang Syne Award and the Ben Franklin Postmaster Award, both of which many of you are already pursuing. We will then give you details of impending changes to other awards based on motions passed by the Board in April, followed by significant award milestones achieved by your fellow members during April. Before wrapping up the column, we add a little humor.

Auld Lang Syne Award

Our New Year's Award, the Auld Lang Syne Award, is the brainchild of **Johnny Allen, KI4WCQ, Master #52**. It requires the applicant to document contact with at least twenty-five Old Timers. An Old Timer is a member in good standing whose initial membership, granted by the first award with the Club, occurred greater than thirty years ago, and who has applied for our free Old Timers certificate.

Thus far, as I am writing this, we have already issued three Auld Lang Syne Awards, to **Bob Kyvig, WA0ROH, Master #68**; **Virgil Warren, W9WWG**; and **Johnny Allen, KI4WCQ, Master #52**.

As the Club ages, we will be adding more Old Timers to the rolls. We are now forty-seven years old, and we coincidentally have forty-seven Old Timers. Many members from our early days are still active on the nets after all those years with the Club. Kudos to them and to those who work them!

Ben Franklin Postmaster Award

While simple in concept, the Ben Franklin Postmaster Award might turn out to be one of our more difficult awards. Conceived by **Buddy Spiegel, W3BS, Master #78**, the award is issued for fifty confirmed contacts, one for each of the United States, whose call signs must contain the two-letter postal abbreviation of the respective states. Before moving it forward, the Awards Committee investigated the feasibility of the award, finding it harder than one might think.

The two-letter combinations must be contiguous, and they must be wholly contained in either prefix or suffix. Following are examples. Work K4C**NM** for New Mexico, K1**IN**X for Indiana, **NY**OES for New York, WA5**CAM** for California, **NC**4RS for North Carolina, and **WA**3EOP for Washington. If you work a call sign containing two state abbreviations like **WA7ND**, you can use the confirmation for either Washington or North Dakota but not both, because you need one distinct contact for each state. However, if you work him twice, you can use the two confirmed contacts to cover both states.*

Contacts must be dated March 1, 2024, or thereafter, to be valid for this award.

Just two months into its existence, we have yet to issue the first instance of this award and we do not expect to do so for a while. Certain letter combinations might not appear on our nets with regularity, and the rarest ones will require cajoling to check in to our nets. Furthermore, I can foresee new drag-along clubs popping up with interesting letter combinations.

Our Webmaster, **Matt Taylor, K2YS**, has provided a tool on the Club website which analyzes historical net check-ins to show potential targets to be worked for the Ben Franklin Postmaster Award, a valuable product to use in perfecting your strategy.

**NOTE: in case you're wondering about the call signs, several years ago, the Awards Committee resolved to use call signs of our silent keys for examples. In this way we can honor them by keeping their memory alive.*



Award Changes as of May 1, 2024

WAS Combos

In consideration of a request by **Mike Rush, KU1V, Master #79**, vectored through his Area Director, **Tom Bates, AA1NZ**, the Awards Committee agreed to approve his idea of reducing the minimum state requirement for the WAS-Combos variant from fifty states to thirty-five states, and move it forward to the Board. The Board of Directors approved the motion at its meeting on April 13, with a target implementation date of May 1.

Our decision to go ahead with this proposal centered on the notion that WAS-Combos has never been earned at the fifty-state level and might well never be earned if that requirement remains unchanged. However, in the current club milieu, combos abound and are quite popular; hence, we felt that the existence of an earnable award would be beneficial to the club and its members.

The WAS-Combos Award is not a stepping-stone toward the Master's Degree or for any other award, so we felt that making it slightly easier would not compromise any of our lofty hurdles for our major awards. The Committee debated reducing this requirement, settling on thirty-five states for the minimum level, but strongly resolved not to consider this a precedent for

reducing any other WAS awards' minimum requirements, especially WAS General and WAS - All Nets (Intermediate and Expert).

As of May 1, members may earn WAS Combos starting with the thirty-five-state level, and may later endorse the award to levels forty, forty-five, and fifty. Existing combo contacts may be used for this award. We will be posting an updated official award application on the website by May 1.

Awards to be Phased Out by April 30, 2025

The Awards Committee recommended to the Board that several "dead" awards be retired over a period of twelve months, starting May 1, 2024. These awards have not been earned lately, yet they need maintenance, website space, NetLogger accommodations, and NCS encumbrance: 12-Month Sequence, High Point Hiker, High Point Mountain Goat, Low Point Explorer, Low Point Seeker, and Oldest Established Towns (both versions). The Board approved the motion on April 13, starting the countdown.

We provided a twelve-month grace period to allow anyone currently working on these awards to complete them. The updated award applications will bear a conspicuous note reminding potential applicants of their short-time status and phase-out period.

Notable Award Achievements in April

KL7OR Master's Degree

We crowned our eightieth Master, **Dean Davis, KL7OR, Master #80**, during April. Dean, as you undoubtedly know, is the Club President, a frequent NCS, a former Eyeball host, and a raconteur. Congratulations to Dean for earning our pinnacle award, the golden ring on his twenty-two-year carousel ride with the club.

Dean is the latest to earn our newly designed Master's plaque, one of the benefits of becoming a Master.

N5OHL Quarter Master Level 75

Jim Richardson, N5OHL, Master #17, amazed all of us this week by endorsing his Quarter Master Award #11 on 40M/75M SSB to Level 75, *the first ever at that level*. To put this in perspective, consider that there are currently eighty Masters. Jim is one of them, but he cannot work himself, leaving seventy-nine. One Master, **Clarence Meese, K4CNM, Master #70 (SK)**, passed away just two weeks after receiving our top award and did not have the time to print QSLs with his Master number. His is a sad story, but I digress. Contacting seventy-five of the remaining seventy-eight and getting them to send QSL cards is a tremendous feat! Jim's prior accomplishment with this award is no chopped liver, either! He was the first to endorse his Quarter Master to Level 50 back in December 2011, when we had sixty Masters in all.

The Quarter Master Award is earned by working at least twenty-five Masters on any two bands, or a single band, if preferred. It can be endorsed to Levels 50, 75, and 100. We're cheering for Jimmy to be the first to get to 100!

VE3CMB Baker's Dozen Dozens

Craig McLoughlin, VE3CMB, Master #57, earned FOUR Baker's Dozen Dozen Awards in April, putting him one short of the all-time lead in number of Baker's Dozen Dozen Awards issued, with eight. The top slot is held by **Carl Durnavich, W9OO, Master #63**, who has nine. Three members are tied with five each: **Glen Felt, WT0A, Master #40**, **John Fisher, KT8D**, and **Earl Smith, W1BML (SK)**. With four each, we have two prolific Second Area members, **Art Broome, KK2M, Master #7**, and **Peter Summers, N2XTT, Master #6**.

[My counts in the April 19 Awards News were incorrect for W9OO and KT8D. Big thanks to John Fisher, KT8D, for alerting me about my errors.]

If you are unaware of the Baker's Dozen Dozen Award, it is simple to understand but not so easy to earn. First, you will need thirteen Baker's Dozen Awards (169 contacts), then you may apply for the Baker's Dozen Dozen for another feather in your awards cap. The Baker's Dozen Dozen certificate includes a collection of thumbnail images of the thirteen Baker's Dozen certificates.

Jeff McCulloch, K4JEL, asks whether we will need a new award when someone eventually earns thirteen Baker's Dozen Dozen Awards. Requiring 2,197 individual contacts, an award to recognize the accomplishment is a great idea. It would be a Baker's Dozen of Baker's Dozen Dozens, which would be a Baker's Dozen Dozen Dozen, or a BD^3 , expressed algebraically. My senior brain cells are stretched to the limit thinking of the three-dimensional certificate we will need to design for the cubical Baker's Dozen Dozen Dozen! All kidding aside, when we see one of our overachievers approaching 13 BDDs, we will give serious consideration to this award idea.

Notes from the April 1 Awards Committee Report

I could not resist republishing this item from last month's *Awards Committee Report*, because I feel that it deserves a broader readership. Buried among committee reports in our agenda package, it is a wonder that anyone on the Board reads it, let alone the general membership. Every author loves an audience, so here you go.

Discussed Proposed Revisions to 100-Point Award. The Committee considered a complaint from several concerned members that the 100-Point Award was too difficult, thereby presenting a significantly unfair barrier to entry into the club and its awards system. While the Chair felt that the matter had been thoroughly addressed in the past on several occasions, three members of the committee favored reopening the subject, fomenting a lively discussion that unearthed some innovative ideas. To the Chair's awed amazement, the Committee was uncharacteristically enthusiastic regarding several of them.

One idea that gained traction reinterprets "two-letter call signs" as any call sign that contains at least two upper-case letters, which of course can be interspersed with other letters and numbers. (As you may recall, in a heated session back in 2003, the Board of Directors declared call signs with lower-case letters invalid for awards). Another suggestion with perceived merit defines any neighboring state as a DX entity, except on twenty meters, where only New Jersey counts as DX. The best suggestion of

all reduces the overall requirement for the 100-Point Award to eighty-five points for applicants who prove that they are either: 1) lacking an amplifier, or 2) possessing a crappy antenna. A final discussion point, ultimately rejected by the Committee, would have waived the rule that all contacts applicable to awards must be made on 3905 Century Club nets, because our existing net schedules are inconvenient for aging amateurs who have been doing POTA activations all day.

In summation, the Committee resolved 4-0 (thank God the Chair did not get to vote) to give the **100-Point Award Improvement Project** serious consideration over the ensuing twelve months and committed to preparing a detailed study containing a list of recommendations with a target date for presentation to the BoD on April 1, 2025.

OK, so it was a little late for April Fool's Day, but had we published *The Centurion* in April, this would have been there instead of the staid and proper *Awards Committee Report*. There, I received a grand total of two appreciative comments, thus telling me that much of my minuscule audience there does not read my drivel.

I am glad that *The Centurion* is back!

April Awards Wrap-Up

As you can see, April was a great month for awards. As I write this a couple of days before Brian's deadline, we have issued eighty-three awards, endorsements, and certificates of appreciation. We signed up four new members during the month, including **Rainer Allraun, EA8DMF**, of Tenerife, Canary Islands. What a thrill to have a new DX member.

I will be back next month reporting the awards news *you* make. In the meantime, those of you in the U.S., please enjoy Memorial Day Weekend healthily and safely, and set some time aside to remember the meaning of the day and those who made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that we can enjoy freedom and liberty.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

One of our newest members, EA8DMF, Rainer Allraun (100 pt # 3178) sent in an introduction about himself to share with the club.

"I made my license in 1973 and received the callsign DB5NA (C-License=2m and above). Upgraded to DF6NA (A-License) in 1978 and received my final B-License in 1979.

I was active from 50MHz to 47 GHz and also planned for 76GHz. Very rarely qrv on HF; mostly on 20m VHF-net (14.345MHz) but worked WAS on 10m in April 1979.

10m:

WB5DGR/HC38QJ, W7EFL/HR6, WA1SQB/HC8, 4S7OW, 5Z4NG, CP8AL, CX9CO, WH4AAA, KH6BOG, JT1AS, K1CO/PJ7, KL7IXV, KP4AM/D, KP4EFP, KV4JS, KZ5AS, VP8QJ, H44PT, HROQL

When I retired, we moved to Tenerife in July 2021 and started to be qrv in April 2022 from Tenerife. In the last two years from EA8, I have made more than 21,000 QSO's and you can see the outcome from QRZ.com.

Vy 73, Rainer"

Editor's Note, Rainer needs a contact with AK and UT on 40m that can confirm via LoTW. If you can assist, please contact him. Welcome to the club Rainer and thank you for the contacts!

Rainer also provided these photos to share with the club:



DX QSL Bureau Updates

Our DX QSL bureau (Debbie K9DBB & David AI4K) shared this update.

The DX Bureau will be working on updating the "QSL Info" for the Netlogger profile for DX Stations. We are implementing 3 different codes in order to assist you in knowing what our relationship (if any) is with the DX Station. Below is an explanation of each code.

Netlogger: QSL Info field for DX Stations

ccDX – This station is a DX station and QSL cards can be sent to the DX Bureau to be forwarded. (This station is either new to the nets or has not yet responded to correspondence from the DX Bureau).

ccMGR – This station has approved the DX Bureau to issue QSL cards on their behalf for confirmed contacts made on Century Club nets. The DX Bureau only issues a card to the stations that send their QSL card for the DX Station.

ccFWD – This station has agreed to either QSL on his own or return cards through the DX Bureau.

Additional points:

- ALL DX Cards received at the DX Bureau are forwarded to the DX Station
- Some DX stations choose to have us act as their QSL Manager as well as send return cards
- Multiple attempts are made to create a relationship with a DX Station via email and USPS mail before cards are mailed
- You may choose to send QSL cards directly to a DX Station as well as send a QSL card to the DX Bureau
- The DX Bureau Does Not pay per card (if requested by the DX Station). We only offer to reimburse the cost of postage.
- We have included the other QSL routes indicated by the DX Station (eQSL, QRZ, L0TW, etc.)

Also - Please remember that the DX Email was changed to:

dxbureau@3905ccn.net

73 – K9DBB & AI4K
D & D

QSL Card Data, The GOOD, BAD, and UGLY, Submitted by Buddy Spiegel, W3BS

#3 All Time Award Winner List

#17 Oldtimer

#78 Master Degree

Only ROADRUNNER, 2 bands, All Capitals

Much has been written and said on this subject, yet I continue to receive traditional QSL cards that range from perfect quality to unusable for many Century Club awards. Members either collect QSL cards as philatelists collect stamps or use the CCN QSL cards for applying for awards. I am of the latter variety, as I believe are most Century Club Netizens. Simply stated, a QSL card should clearly and explicitly state: who, what, where, when - for both stations involved in the QSO. This article specifically applies to the nuances of the 3905 Century Club.

So, if you are at your home station, your name, call sign, and home address clarify the “who” and “where” (YLS should clearly identify themselves as such). If you are part of a combo, stating such, while not specifically required, is most helpful. If you are within the geographic limits of your state capital, the abbreviation “CAP” again is most helpful. Remember, a Postal address is not strictly geographic, it is an essential element for USPS delivery automation purposes.

Next, you venture out of the comfort of your home station and go Mobile or Portable. Making this data available on your QSL card is essential for award purposes, both for your awards, and awards filed by the recipient of your card. Some folks have a special section on their cards for both their location and yours. However, this is not required, any card can easily accommodate /M or /P modes. Assume your call sign is W1ABC So, W1ABC/M TN would denote W1ABC was mobile in TN. If you were part of a Combo, or in the state Capital, that act should be so stated to assist in card filing and also assisting the awards manager.

Similarly modifying the station you worked, whether you were home or not, is just as easy. If you worked me, and I was Portable in Mississippi, you would denote W3BS/P MS. W3BS/P5 IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, I assure you I was not transmitting from the DPR of Korea. If I was part of a Combo or in a state Capital, making note of such is most helpful for many awards. By the way if I was in the DPR of Korea, proper notation would be P5/W3BS, if I was allowed to use my own call sign.

Other special situations such as National Parks, State lines, Tri-Points, High and Low Points, etc. also need to be identified on the QSL. Best practice is to state the facts for yourself and the station you work.

Before I forget, if your card has a box labeled “Radio” to be filled in “HW101” is not what is called for, this is another way to refer to the call sign of the station you worked. So, if you worked me at my home station, you would enter W3BS, not your radio, or my FLEX 6300.

QSL Card Requirements (cont.)

I think this adequately covers the who, what, and where, now on to the when.

Date. The club has many awards where the date of the qso is relevant to the award, and an incorrectly completed card could be useless for the recipient. The date must be unambiguous. Some QSL cards have a date field heading such as mm/dd/yyyy or yyyy/mm/dd thus helping to ensure proper data is entered. If the field only has "Date" as the heading, we have a recipe for catastrophe. What does 3/4/2024 mean in this case. Is it March 4th, or April 3rd? 04 MAR 2024, or 03 APR 2024 would be fine. For a QSO held in 2012, and only "date" as a heading, what would 12/11/10 mean? If you are abbreviating a month alphabetically, please use the standard 3-character month abbreviation. Anything else can be mistakenly interpreted by an Area Award Manager.

Time. ZULU ZULU ZULU !!!!! An error here can cause several different problems. One, there are awards which are time specific, such as the Nite Owl Award. Two, electronic QSL processing processes such as LOTW will not verify a contact unless date and time are considered as matching. For LOTW, the date must be an exact match, time is plus/minus a few minutes. I predict some kind of electronic QSL data matching for the century club will take place this decade.

Other data.

Frequency. This field can contain either a frequency, or a band. So, our 40m SSB net could be 40m, 7.123 MHz, or 7123 KHz. "7" is ambiguous and may very well get rejected by an Area Award Manager (properly in my opinion), if the heading is "FREQ". The field heading should be adhered to. If it says "BAND", then "7" is improper, 40m is proper. If the heading says "FREQ", then either 7.123 MHz or 7123 KHz would be proper, the units are required, "7" by itself is ambiguous. When working a DX station, BAND is preferred to FREQ. When working a DX station "split", BAND is the only acceptable frequency designator.

Signal Reports. Including both signal reports will please many card recipients. However, only the report you gave to the station you worked is required by the century club.

Mode, required. SSB, CW, PSK, and RTTY are the current modes for the club.

Club members with certain certificate numbers should list the award, and its certificate number. Examples of these are: 100-point number, 1k point number, 2k point number, Master Award Number, Old Timer Number, and any Wild Deuces. These numbers are applicable for numerous awards, in particular some of the awards for the Master Degree Award.

Net Control Stations may so note their status when they are acting as the NCS of the net on which the qso took place.

A nice touch is to make reference to the specific net and may be included on the card, for example .. TNX FOR QSO ON 40M SSB EARLY NET.

QSL Card Requirements (cont.)

Please remember, your card is very important to the recipient, so let's try to do it right the first time every time.

I would like to thank Johnny D. Allen, KI4WCQ, my area Award Manager, for proofing and recommending changes to this article.

EDITOR'S NOTE: As someone who has checked in as /p and /m from several different locations, I am experiencing the same issue with some of my incoming cards. They are either missing the /m or /p entirely or including /m or /p but not indicating the state. This is not just happening from new participants. As a reminder, our club website is a great resource for a refresher:

<https://www.3905ccn.org/qslcardinfo.php>

From here, there is another link to a PowerPoint presentation put together by Marty, AG5T that walks through all information that should be included on your outgoing cards.

I highly recommend taking a look and saving on your PC for future reference.

K3QSL

John Doe
123 Main St
Anytown, SC 29150
USA
Sumter County
3905 Officer Points: Webmaster



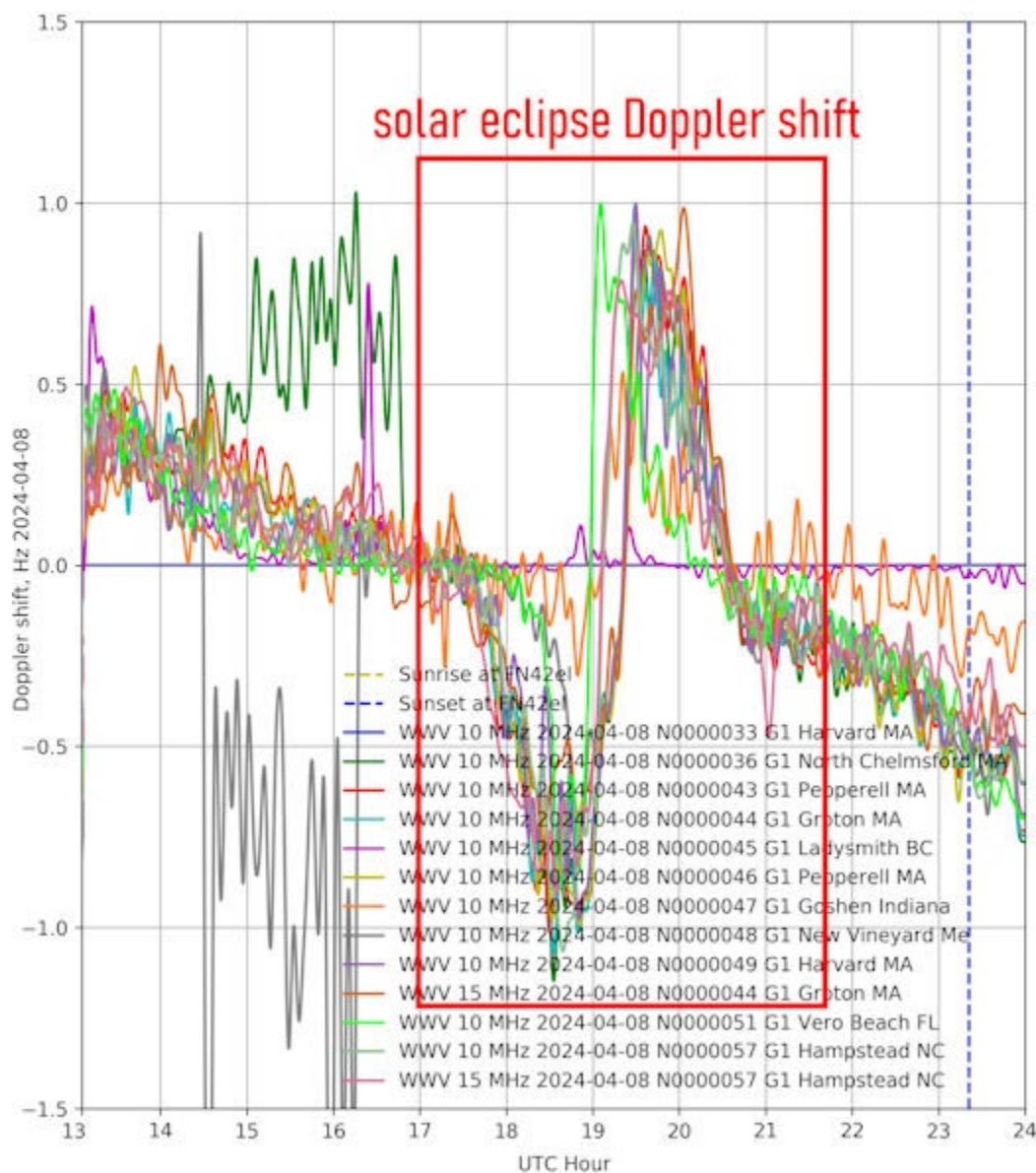
Shep, thanks for the NJ contact on the 3905CC 40M SSB Early Net. I was mobile in the SC capital. 73, John, K3QSL
40M SSB 100-Pt #9999

Confirming 2-way QSO with	Date	UTC	MHz	2xMode	Sent	Rcvd
KC2PUF /M NJ	21-Aug-2010	0045	7.178	SSB	59	59

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE SHIFTED TIME SIGNALS IN THE USA

Submitted by Gene, W8NET. Reprinted with permission from Dr. Tony Phillips from spaceweather.com.

The US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has a radio station in Fort Collins, Colorado. Call letters: [WWWV](http://www.nist.gov). Operating at multiple shortwave frequencies, WWV broadcasts precise time and frequency information 24/7 to listeners worldwide. On April 8, 2024, the frequency of WWV shifted:

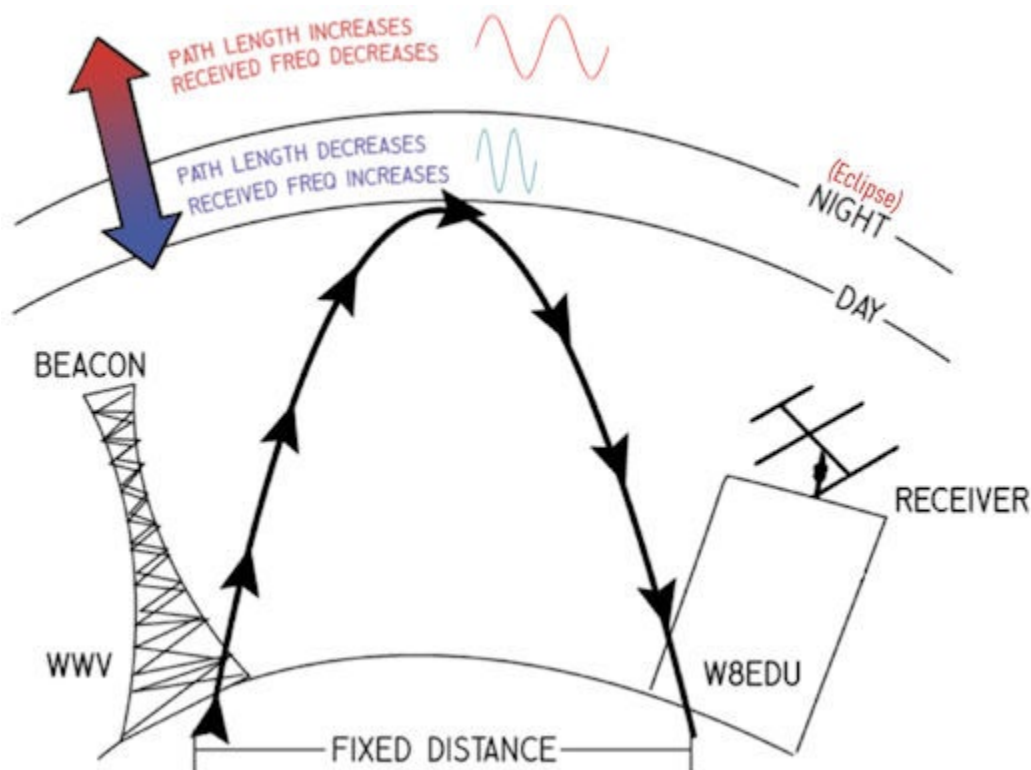


This plot also contains data from WWV's sister station in Hawaii, WWVH

"It was the solar eclipse," says ham radio operator [Kristina Collins](http://www.w8edu.com) (W8EDU) of Cleveland, Ohio, who assembled records from 13 monitoring stations in and around the path of totality. "The [HamSCI](http://www.hamsci.com) Personal Space Weather Station Network's Grape stations measure Doppler shift in the carrier signal of time standard radio stations such as WWV. On April 8th, the network saw a distinct S-curve signature associated with the eclipse."

Time Signals (cont.)

The Doppler shift occurred when the shadow of the Moon pierced [the ionosphere](#), creating a temporary hole where ionization was reduced. This, in turn, altered the "skip distance" from transmitters to receivers, as shown in the diagram below:



Because the skip point was moving, reflected radio signals were naturally Doppler-shifted. Spaceweather.com reader and senior physicist Larry Carr of Brookhaven National Labs made this calculation: "Using the 10 MHz WWV frequency, an average shift of about 1/2 Hz implies the layer bottom (the 'skip point') was moving at speeds up to 15 m/s. During the entire eclipse, the reflecting layer moved on the order of 50 km."

The total Doppler shift was only a few cycles per second, similar to normal night-day variations, so no one actually lost track of time during the eclipse. Nevertheless, it is a fascinating demonstration of an eclipse's power to touch the Earth.

K4CCN/P – What does that mean?

Submitted by Buddy Spiegel W3BS, Master # 78

Before we do anything else, let's refer to the club Bible, the Bylaws, for a definitional framework. There is no wiggle room here. The definitions are what they are, period. Please review Section 8 of the Bylaws which follow.

8. Station operation – there are three types of station operation: fixed, mobile and portable.

a. Station operation definitions:

- 1.Fixed – operation from a licensee's home station, typically, but not necessarily, the address of record as found in the records of QRZ, FCC or other licensing authority. No callsign modifier is used on the air or on QSL cards.
2. Mobile – operation using station equipment that is mounted in/on a land, sea or air vehicle. The vehicle can operate in a safe and legal manner with the station equipment installed. Callsign modifier is "/M state, province, or DXCC entity".
- 3.Portable – operation other than fixed or mobile as defined above. Callsign modifier is "/P state, province, or DXCC entity".

b. Common among all three types of station operation are the following:

- 1.The receiving, transmitting and antenna equipment are in the same location.
- 2.The location of the QSO is the location of the receiving, transmitting and antenna equipment.
- 3.Each type of station operation can be controlled locally or remotely by any means accepted by the licensing authority.
- 4.The callsign modifier for each type of operation shall be the same for stations controlled either locally or remotely.

What does one think of when a station checks in to a club net as "K4CCN Portable TN"? The first thing that comes to my mind is the operator is out and about and operating his/her station. It might be a transceiver in a vehicle with an antenna not attached to the vehicle. It could be that a portable generator on the ground is providing station power rather than the vehicle electrical system. Or the operator could have set up an entire station external to his/her vehicle. Say, operating under a big, beautiful shade tree in a National Park. The third possibility is the one I want to explore in this article.

Operating Portable (cont.)

It could be a station similar to the one at your house, except you are not at your house. Maybe I am visiting my BFF, Joe N5MIG, at his house in Helena, AR, 65 miles from my house, and I am operating his equipment. A variant of this theme which is becoming more and more common is I am at my home but operating a station other than in my home. Years ago, this was possible by purchasing hardware, one black box at your home, a second black box at the remote site. Now this is done solely through software available at no cost. A few months ago, W8NET, Gene Marsh, and I experimented with one piece of such software, RCFORB (REMOTEHAMS.COM), Gene installed the Server-Side Software on his PC attached to his radio. I installed the Client-Side Software on a PC, not necessarily attached to a radio. Gene had to do some minor configuration on his side, including me as a permitted user, and I had to do far less on my side. When I connected to the Server software I was presented a generic representation of a radio. Easy Peasey, I operated an entire round as W3BS/P OH. The radios supported by RCFORB are listed below. If you have one which is not listed, don't fret, often selecting a supported radio will work just fine.

// Yaesu radios #1000's**FT857 = 1000,****FRG8800 = 1001,****FT450 = 1002,****FT950 = 1003,****FT2000 = 1004,****FTDX5000 = 1005,****FTDX9000 = 1006,****FT897 = 1007,****FT900 = 1008,****FT990 = 1009,****FT890 = 1010,****FT840 = 1011,****FTDX3000 = 1012,****FTDX1200 = 1013,****// SDR-RADIO, or similar****SDRRADIO = 1500,****// Elecraft radios #2000's****K3 = 2000,****KX3 = 2001,****K30 = 2002,****K3SIMPLE = 2003,**

Operating Portable (cont.)

// Kenwood radio #4000's

KENWOOD = 4000,

TS480 = 4001,

D700 = 4002,

TS590 = 4003,

TS2000 = 4004,

TS570 = 4005,

TS450 = 4006,

TS990 = 4007,

TS870 = 4008,

// ICOM radios

ICOMCIV = 5000,

ICOM706 = 5001,

ICOM706MKII = 5002,

ICOM706MKIIG = 5003,

ICOM718 = 5004,

ICOM735 = 5005,

ICOM737 = 5006,

ICOM738 = 5007,

ICOM746 = 5008,

ICOM746PRO = 5009,

ICOM7400 = 5010,

ICOM7410 = 5011,

ICOM751A = 5012,

ICOM756 = 5013,

ICOM756PRO = 5014,

ICOM756PRII = 5015,

ICOM756PRIII = 5016,

ICOM761 = 5017,

ICOM765 = 5018,

ICOM775 = 5019,

ICOM781 = 5020,

ICOM7000 = 5021,

ICOM7100 = 5022,

ICOM7200 = 5023,

ICOM7600 = 5024,

ICOM7700 = 5025,

ICOM7800 = 5026,

ICOM9100 = 5027,

ICOM910 = 5029,

ICOMOTHER = 5028

Operating Portable (cont.)

We will come back to RCFORB a little later.

Another example of /P operation is evidenced by a commercial venture REMOTEHAMRADIO.COM, which is a regular advertiser in QST. They have 29 stations which you can “rent” for up to \$1.25 per minute. Their upper tier locations have Flex radios, a Flex 1500 watt amplifier, and antennas which most of us dream about. Three of the stations qualify as DX entities for both ARRL and Century Club award programs. They are: Puerto Rico, Haiti, and Croatia. Recently, you may have heard several of our members bringing these stations to the 75M SSB nets to assist those needing just a few stations to complete the coveted 75M SSB DX Award – 25 unique DX entities, generally the last award needed for the Master Award. I have also used one or more of these stations when there was a DX checkin, say from Europe, which I could not hear on my 80M loop antenna, but had no problem when operating a contest quality station on the Maine coast. In some cases I spent only 5 minutes on a REMOTEHAMRADIO.COM station and worked the desired DX, total cost \$6.25. It took me 7 operating years to get 25 countries on 75M SSB, \$6.25 for one of my last few countries I considered a bargain.

Now, let’s consider a possible expanded use of RCFORB within the 3905 CCN environment. Have you noticed that when a station (let’s use K4CCN as an example) which generally checks in as fixed checks in as K4CCN /M, or K4CCN /P --- that they get a bunch of calls – why? Because within some of award applications K4CCN, K4CCN /M, AND K4CCN/P are considered different stations. When this favorable award condition exists, you can work or be worked as K4CCN/P in many states. Note this does not apply to ALL award applications, peruse the applications and see for yourself. So, here is my suggestion – work with a buddy (could be Buddy) or a small group of buddies (sorry, I couldn’t resist), and take turns running the Server side. You will get lots of calls, and you will get lots of cards to use on club awards. And best of all at No cost. Please visit REMOTEHAMS.COM for much more information.

January 2024 Club Events

Note: Regular Board Meetings are always held on the second Saturday of each month, local time at 9PM Eastern, 8PM Central, 7PM Mountain, 6PM Pacific.



**SPECIAL
EVENTS**

- **3905CCN Board Meeting: Saturday, May 11, 2024**

Did you know that videos of all Board Meetings are posted on the Club's YouTube channel? Courtesy of the Board and produced by Sammy KB1XP, you can view them at: [\(11\) 3905 Century Club - YouTube](#)



Weekly Zoom Meeting on Wednesdays at 01:30pm Pacific Time. Check your email for the Zoom log-in information.

Road Trips!

Debbie (K9DBB) and David (AI4K) shared their upcoming travel plans with the club:

"Dave and I are going to Dayton, Ohio for the Hamfest and plan on working from the OH-MI-IN Tripoint on (local) Saturday May 18th, 2024. Hopefully both Early and Late nets."

CLASSIFIED ADS

This section is for members who would like to sell, swap, or purchase ham gear. If you would like to list your equipment here, please send the information to AA1QW@startmail.com. The deadline for ads is the 20th of the month to be placed in the following issue at the start of the month.



CENTURION DEADLINES

I am pleased to serve the club in this position as your new Centurion editor. In order to allow me sufficient time to bring you the best newsletter that I can, I request that all article submissions, including monthly recurring articles are submitted to me by end of day on the 20th of each month. I understand that from time to time, things will come up and when that happens, please reach out to me ahead of the deadline to make alternate arrangements.

Thank you for the support and understanding. Brian, AA1QW

CALL SIGN CONFUSION

Marty, AG5T shared a quick story about some call sign confusion that he dealt with back in the 1990's:

"My call sign was N5OHN and there already was a station N5OHL in Oklahoma City (and a present master). Well people were sending cards to the wrong persons and there was confusion. So, I decided to change to an extra class call and I received AB5NN. I liked it but everyone sent me cards for AA5NN. I eventually got a vanity of AG5T, and things were going fine until AG5Z started getting on the nets. But we haven't had any issues. Next call I get will be pi r squared..."

The (sometimes) elusive return QSL card

By Brian Chaloux, AA1QW

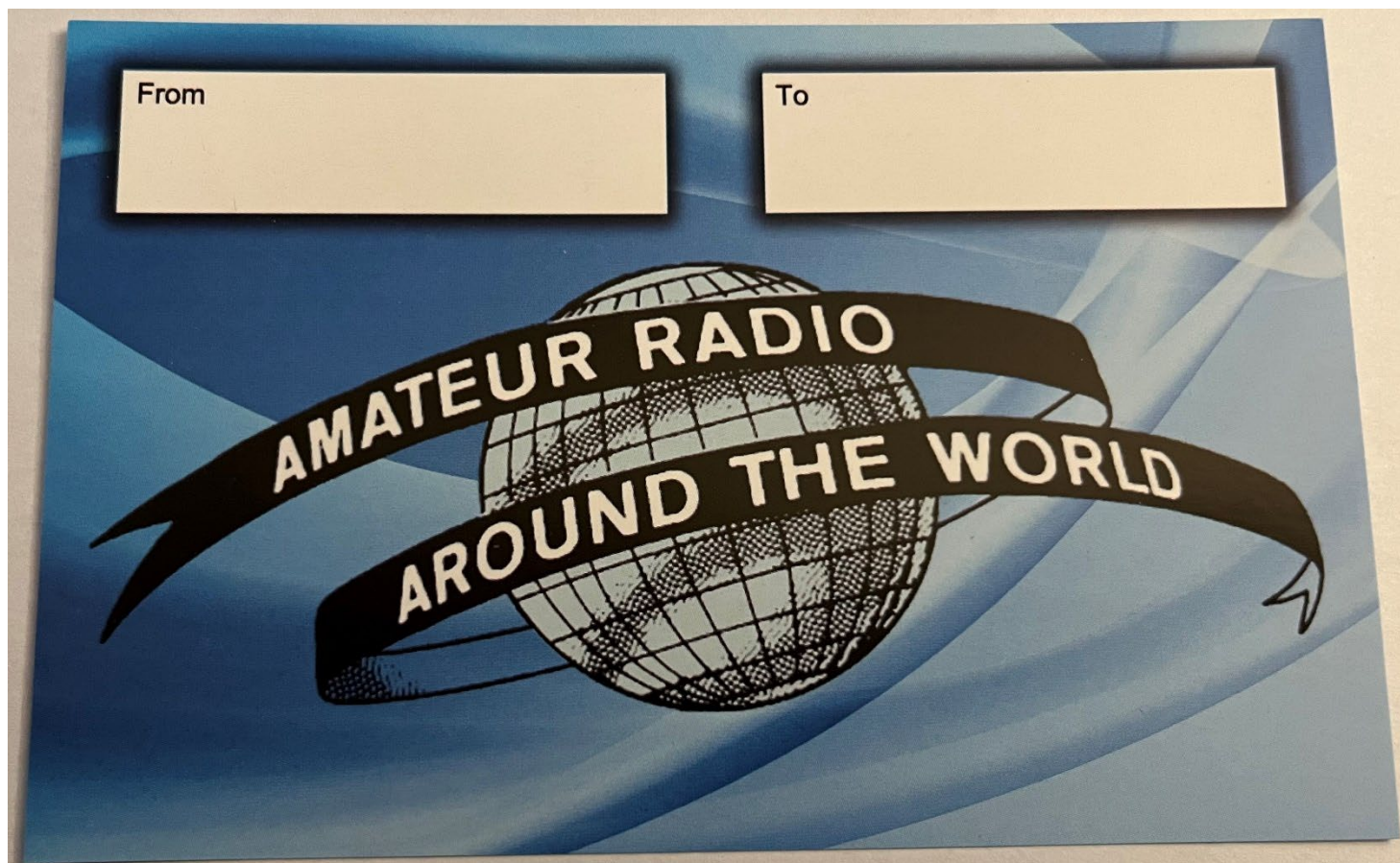
We all know that feeling of excitement when we work the last contact toward an award we've been working on. The next phase is watching the mailbox (or inbox) for your confirmation to arrive. My preference is a physical, paper, QSL card however I understand that is not the same for many, especially newer operators coming into the hobby.

For the past several months, in addition to the standard S.A.S.E, I'm also sending a letter to the station welcoming them to the net, making sure they have the club website, and explaining to them how our awards program works which segways into the QSL discussion. If I see on someone's QRZ bio that they show "No" for QSL by mail, or if it doesn't have anything listed at all, I include a generic QSL card I had printed up with the QSO details already filled out. I just ask that they fill out their name/address information and sign it. This has brought my return QSL rate close to 100%.

I have also started offering to send a station that does not typically QSL, to send them these same cards to use for their contacts on the net. I recently did this for a YL in North Dakota that I invited to the net.

Images of the card are on the next page.

Elusive QSL (cont.)



From: (Name, address, County, Grid, Membership #, etc)									
Confirming QSO with:									
Date			Time	Band	Mode	Report		QSL	Remarks
Day	Month	Year	UTC	m	2-way	sent	rcvd		
								<input type="checkbox"/> PSE <input type="checkbox"/> TNX	<input type="checkbox"/> Early net <input type="checkbox"/> Late net
<div style="text-align: right;">73,</div>									
UX5UO print									

From the Archives

For the past several months, I have been reading through the archives of the club newsletter going back to the very early days of our club. One thing that became apparent to me was that there is a lot of useful information contained within them that we could still use today.

I would like to make this an ongoing feature in our monthly newsletters. If you have come across any articles from the past, please feel free to send me your suggestions for inclusion in an upcoming Centurion. AA1QW@startmail.com.

For this month, we go back to March of 1980 to an article by Ray Grant, WA4SGP regarding deliberate interference. Something we can see here the club has been dealing with since the beginning. I couldn't agree more with Ray's article. When this occurs on one of our nets, the best thing to do is to just ignore it. Don't bring it up on the air (or AIM on net logger) and the person will move on, eventually. Many times, you'll notice the interference gets worse, each time someone references it.

DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE, by Ray Grant, WA4SGP.

On a number of occasions, the 3905 Century Club has been the victim of deliberate interference. This interference is usually caused by someone who is mentally a little off center and gets his pleasure in this way; or, by someone who is mad at the Century Club about something, and is trying to get even.

In either case, if they are completely ignored they will soon go away because they are not getting the recognition and attention they want. The club members can help reduce this interference by not saying anything about it on the air. Don't indicate that you are even aware of it. Especially be careful of the following:

1. Let net control or a club officer handle all problems. Follow all instructions from net control or club officers but give active assistance only if specifically requested.
2. Do not make any comments about calling the Federal Communications Commission. We have several net members who can contact the FCC when required. These comments, though they may temporarily stop the interference, will tend to make the problem worse.
3. Do not make any comments about, or to the person causing the interference; however, if it does become necessary to communicate with that person, stay calm and courteous and say nothing to further irritate him, no matter how rude and abusive he may become.
4. Do not move off frequency to "police the band". This irritates stations near the net frequency and can CAUSE deliberate interference.

Your help is greatly appreciated by the club and will help make the net more enjoyable for everyone.

Future Centurion Ideas

These are some ideas I've had of future articles that I'd be interested in adding to upcoming Centurion editions. If you would be interested in writing up an article for any of these, please send to me @ AA1QW@startmail.com.

- **A column dedicated to our masters:** This could be a write up about your history with the club and your experience achieving your master's degree award. It would be great if you could share tips, tricks, and learnings from your experience that you could share with the club for others that are working towards our pinnacle award.
- **"From the Old Timers":** Similar to the above, it would be great to hear from some of our long-standing members about their history (how they found the club, etc) and any information they may want to share to help the newer members.
- **A check in with our QSL bureaus:** This really could be anything going on with the bureaus such as highlighting the number of cards processed in a certain time frame, issues you're encountering, tips for us that are sending in cards, etc.
- **Area Director Updates:** I feel it would be a good idea to start highlighting what's going on in your areas. I wouldn't expect to get an update from all area directors, for each issue, but it would be nice to see a few updates from A.D.'s in each issue.
- **Highlighting some of our other nets:** It would be great for those who are well experienced with modes such as PSK, RTTY, and CW to do a write up on how best to get started and tips/tricks for using those modes. It would be great for us to grow our level of check ins on these nets. If you're interested in working towards your masters, these are needed.

MEET YOUR EDITOR!



Hello! I am Brian, AA1QW. I was born and raised in New Hampshire and relocated to the state of Maine in 2012.

I was first licensed in February 1996 as N1WQP (tech plus; w/5 wpm code). I then upgraded within a few months to Advanced (did General/Advanced at same session plus 20wpm code) and had the call KE1GA. I only held this call for a short period of time until I received my Extra in November 1996 and became AA1QW. I did this all while 14 years old with the help of a few, excellent, “Elmers” (N1VEB, AA1QT, N1LBJ).

One night, I was tuning around the bands and came across a 3905 Century Club net. I had no idea what I had stumbled onto, but when I heard them call for check-ins, I put my callsign out. What came back to me was the friendly voice of Earl, W1BML. Earl, likely being able to tell I was a young ham, took the time to explain to me what I stumbled onto, how to make contacts, and made sure I felt welcomed. Being from New

Hampshire at the time, I was very popular on the net. I made several contacts and started joining the 40 & 75 meter SSB nets frequently. For anyone that may have been active around that time period and may have one of my QSL cards from back then, I would be thrilled to see an image of one again.

I’ve gone through long stretches of inactivity, mostly brought on by living in apartments, but have always come back to the Century Club nets when getting back on the air. I’ll always remember Earl’s kindness to me and the warm welcome I received from everyone on the net and that’s something I always try to reciprocate to other newcomers to the net.

Outside of radio, I work full time in supply chain operations. I have also played drums since I was two years old (self-taught). I currently play in two bands in the Portland, Maine area and have had the opportunity to be the opening act for bands such as ZZ Top, Blue Oyster Cult, Tesla, etc.

I currently reside in Portland, Maine with my partner Rebecca, and our dog, Sophie.

