



THE CENTURION, May 2026

Editor, Buddy Spiegel W3BS

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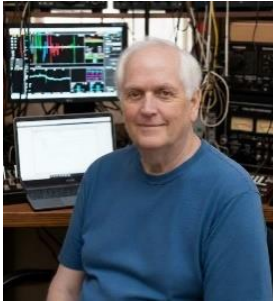
Welcome to the fourth issue of the Centurion under my responsibility. I still cannot do “pretty”, I guess I won’t, but I can do my best in bringing you the Century Club news without your participating in any social media platforms. Your comments are welcome, just send me an email at BUDDYS70@GMAIL.COM and put “Centurion” in the Subject area. Should you make a submission to the Centurion, please submit the text as a WORD document, and any pictures as “.jpg” files. Either within the document, or a separate document – please include captions with a reference to the picture. The deadline for submissions is generally one week before the last day of the month.

I hear many comments during our nets on AIM, such as: Why doesn’t the club do yada yada yada? Generally speaking, there is nothing wrong with making this statement on AIM, but it is insufficient if you want an answer to your question. What needs to happen is that your ideas, comments, suggestions, questions, etc. should be directed to your Area Director. If you are unhappy with the handling of your issues, remember the Directors only serve for a period of 24 months.

NEWSFLASH

Save the date, 2026 Eyeball, September 16-19, Grand Forks ND. For the details see <https://www.3905ccn.org/files/board/mins-2025-09-13a.pdf>.

Message from the President, Dean Davis, KL7OR



The board of directors approved my selection of the new Bylaws committee, and they are currently in the process of being formally organized. Members of this committee are the following:

KI4WCQ, Johnny Allen

W6PNY, Mac McCracken

N8BF, Brian Fiedler

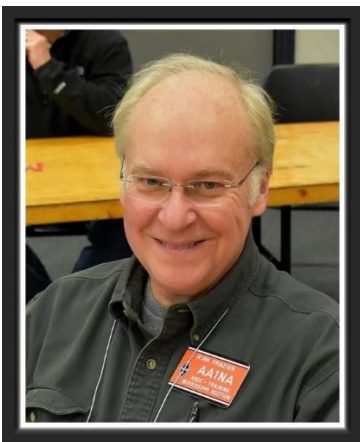
VE3CMB, Craig McLoughlin

AA1NA, Kirk Frazier

Our awards committee is currently in their 4th month of operation with completely new software and tools. I would like to thank them for their hard work with the transition. Rich, AC2MT accepted the challenge of the new awards secretary and is providing good leadership.

Other than that, it has been a pretty quiet month except for the horrible propagation which I can't control and wish to thank all of the NCS's for making nets happen.

Message from the Vice President, Kirk Frazier, AA1NA



No message received.

Message from the Awards Secretary, Rich Walbert, AC2MT



No message received.

Editor's Note – please see the NEW stats section towards the end of this edition.

Board of Directors action(s), April 11, 2026, Meeting

Nothing of note was voted on by the board. However, the BOD did spend time on discussing a new logo for the club. Unfortunately, the proposed logo(s) were not included in the minutes.

A link to the April 11, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting agenda and minutes are available on the club website, also are shown below.

Agenda https://www.3905ccn.org/files/board/Board_Packet-2026-04-11.pdf

Minutes <https://www.3905ccn.org/files/board/mins-2026-04-11u.pdf>

Message from the NCS Training Coordinator, Joe St. Columbia Jr, N5MIG



No new class graduates to report.

Member Submission, WA8MD, Tim Myers

My HOA Buster Antenna Installation - Tim, WA8MD

I really enjoy working on the 3905 Century Club Worked all States and DX Nets, and love providing others on the nets a way to have a QSO with me in a different /P State. I travel to Suffolk VA every few weeks to see two of my children and our youngest grandson, Declan. We usually drive our car to Suffolk and stay at my daughter Ashley's house for convenience and to spend time with her.

I would like to do some /P operations from VA, and since Declan goes to bed early, I have plenty of time in the evenings to hop on the radio. When surveying the lay of the land at my daughters QTH I had lots of options for antennas. There are enough trees for a decent wire antenna, most likely an end fed $\frac{1}{2}$ wave or an end fed random (which is not really random at all), another option would be a POTA style portable antenna that could be set in the middle of her back yard. Then I thought of the HOA Buster Antenna. My daughter does not live in an HOA, but the ease of installation is appealing, so I ordered one.

Before heading to VA with an untried and untested antenna I decided to install it at my QTH and take it for a spin. The installation is very simple. The feed point from the radio is with a coax connected to a Magical Coil (not really magic but it sounds good).



A wire clips to a second mounting stud of the base, and the other end of the wire clips to a downspout. Note that the 8' lead should not touch the ground. Trimming the grass may be a good idea here.



Spring clips are notorious for adding resistance, especially when connecting to a painted surface, so I put a self-tapping screw into the downspout and connected the clip to the screw.

Side Note:

When setting this up in a more permanent install, I would opt for a ring terminal and bolt at the base of the coil and the same type of connection at the downspout. I would probably even scuff up the downspout to remove the paint, again for a better less resistive connection.

With the installation complete I headed into the shack. I connected the antenna to the Coax 2 Direct position on my Palstar AT 1500 Tuner. This would allow me to operate on either antenna with easy switch from Coax 1 Tuned, to Coax 2 Direct.



Selections to the left (Direct) bypass the tuner and selections to the right (Tuned) are run through the tuner circuit. With the decent SWRs I noted with my Nano-VNA, I opted to use the Direct side which bypasses the Tuner Circuit. Following are the SWRs I recorded with my VNA.

Band	Freq in MHz	SWR	Comments
160m	1.8	1.5	
	2.0	1.9	
75/80m	3.5	1.9	
	3.6	1.8	
	3.7	2.0	
	3.8	2.3	
	3.9	2.4	
	4.0	2.5	
40m	7.0 – 7.3	2.0	

30m			Did not check
20m	14.0 – 14.35	1.9	
17m	18.068 – 18.168	2.3	
12m	24.890 – 24.990	1.7	
10m	28.0 – 29.7	1.5	

Not perfect but workable.

The HOA Buster is not really recommended for 160m operations, and I suspect the SWR's I read were mostly a component of the match with the coil and less to do with the actual antenna (gutter), but the instructions do say if the gutter is long enough it may still work for 160m.

My first impressions were not great; I could tell a marked decrease in the Rx on the Gutter Antenna vs my wire. People were able to hear me, but I think they heard me much better on my wire antenna. I thought about it overnight and remembered I had not verified a mechanical connection where the sections of the down spout were assembled. When I went outside to inspect, I noticed that there were three slip joints on the downspout with no fastener. I added three self-tapping screws to secure these sections to provide continuity. See photos.



I also noted that my QTH has continuous gutter sections with screws at each of the outside and inside corners. If this were to be a permanent installation for me, I would probably insert new screws at each of those corners to provide some clean metal to provide better continuity between the gutter sections.

Back inside the shack, I noticed a huge improvement in my Rx and joined a 20m Net that afternoon where I ran one full round with the Gutter Antenna. The Rx is still maybe 3db lower than my wire antenna, but usable.

I did operate using my Acom Amp but kept the exciter down at 20W so as to not put more than 250W into the coil which is its limit.

Another good thing I saw is that my amp further improved the SWR and most of the time I saw 1.1, to 1.3 on the Amplifier VSWR readout.

I would not replace my wire antenna with the Alpha HOA Buster but it might make for a good second antenna. When I install it at my daughters, I may report how well it works there.

CLUB STATISTICS

NET STATS (April 2026)

Checkins by call area

US Call Area	Checkins
0	352
1	287
2	337
3	154
4	795
5	380
6	95
7	197
8	298
9	208
DX	1

Checkins by Net Name

Net Name	Checkins
3905 20m CW Net	25
3905 20m PSK Net	12
3905 20m RTTY Net	13
3905 20m SSB Net	211
3905 40m CW Early Net	65
3905 40m CW Late Net	31
3905 40m CW Slow Speed Net	25
3905 40m PSK Net	13
3905 40m RTTY Net	12
3905 40m SSB Early Net	1240
3905 40m SSB Late Net	826
3905 75m SSB Early Net	488
3905 75m SSB Late Net	212
3905 80m CW Early Net	17

3905 80m CW Late Net	16
3905 80m RTTY Net	6

Nonets by Net Name

Net Name	No Nets
3905 20m CW Net	1
3905 20m CW Net Friday	2
3905 20m PSK Net	1
3905 20m RTTY Net	1
3905 40m SSB Early Net	1
3905 75m SSB Late Net	11
3905 80m CW Late Net	1
3905 80m PSK Net	2

AWARD STATS

Counts by Award Name

Award Name	Count
20 Meter SSB 500 Point	1
40 Meter SSB 100 Point	2
40 Meter SSB 12000 Point	1
40 Meter SSB 30000 Point	1
40 Meter SSB 500 Point	1
40 Meter SSB 8000 Point	1
40 Meter SSB Alphabet Soup	1
40 Meter SSB Clint Wise Mobile	1
40 Meter SSB WAS Same Mobile	3
40m SSB Ben Franklin Postmaster	1
75 Meter SSB 100 Point	1
75 Meter SSB Alphabet Soup	1
Auld Lang Syne	1
National Park - Park Ranger	1
National Park - Tourist	1
Roaming Master Rover	1
SSB Bakers Dozen	51
SSB Bakers Dozen COA	51
Work 30	11
Totals	132

Counts by Call Area

Call Area	Count
0	10
1	23
2	41

3	1
4	16
5	11
7	2
8	3
9	23
DX	2

Awards earned by Call Sign

Callsign	Award Name	Band	Mode	Level
AA1NA	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
AA1NA	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
AA1NA	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
AA1NA	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
AA1NA	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
AA1NA	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
AA1NA	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	75	SSB	
AA1NA	Clint Wise Mobile	40	SSB	49
AI4K	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
AI4K	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
AI4K	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
AI4K	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	75	SSB	
K5DUG	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
K5DUG	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
K6YEK	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
K7SWS	100 Point	75	SSB	100
K8HE	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
K9DBB	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
K9DBB	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
K9DBB	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	75	SSB	
KB3ONN	Alphabet Soup	40	SSB	
KC1NA	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
KC1NA	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
KC1NA	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
KC1YL	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
KC5BFK	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
KC5BFK	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
KC5BFK	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB	
KC9YY	12000 Point	40	SSB	
KC9YY	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB	
KC9YY	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB	
KI0Y	Alphabet Soup	75	SSB	
KI0Y	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB	
KI0Y	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB	
KN4CQB	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB	
KN4CQB	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB	
KO4MEX	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB	
KO4MEX	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB	

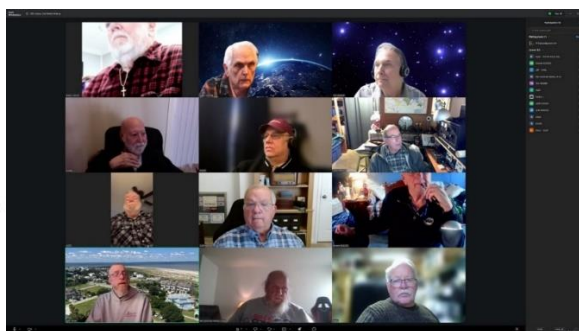
W2RCH	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB
W5IL	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB
W5IL	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB
W5IL	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB
W6BUM	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB
W6BUM	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB
W6BUM	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB
W6PNY	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB
W6PNY	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB
W6PNY	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB
W8NET	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB
W8NET	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB
W9DH	500 Point	40	SSB
W9WWG	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB
W9WWG	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB
W9WWG	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB
W9WWG	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB
W9WWG	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB
W9WWG	Bakers Dozen SSB	75	SSB
W9WWG	Bakers Dozen SSB	75	SSB
W9WWG	Bakers Dozen SSB	75	SSB
W9WWG	Bakers Dozen SSB	75	SSB
W9WWG	Bakers Dozen SSB	75	SSB
W9WWG	Bakers Dozen SSB	75	SSB
W9WWG	Bakers Dozen SSB	75	SSB
WA2JIM	8000 Point	40	SSB
WA2JIM	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB
WA2JIM	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB
WA2JIM	Bakers Dozen SSB	40	SSB
WA2JIM	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB
WA2JIM	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB
WA2JIM	Work 30		
WA2JIM	Work 30		
WA2JIM	Work 30		
WA2JIM	Work 30		
WA2JIM	Work 30		
WA2JIM	Work 30		
WA2JIM	Work 30		
WA2JIM	Work 30		
WA2JIM	Work 30		
WD0CDX	100 Point	40	SSB
WN1F	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	40	SSB
WN1F	Bakers Dozen SSB COA	75	SSB

MEMBER STATS

Members by Call Area

Call Area	Current Members	Silent Keys
0	357	52
1	175	20
2	135	17
3	146	25
4	738	82
5	372	44
6	113	18
7	335	33
8	256	25
9	212	31
DX	88	10
TOTAL	2927	357

Weekly Meetup on ZOOM, submitted by Dean, KL7OR



Since COVID in 2021 the club has been meeting on Wednesdays using Zoom in what we call the “Weekly Meetup”. Everyone is invited to join in and ask questions. The meetup consists of (a non-exclusive list):

- It's a way to meet up with other people in the club face to face
- It's open discussion about anything exception politics and religion
- It's a way you can ask questions to other club members
- It's a chance to talk about radio and ask questions
- Open discussion on the awards program

So, if you are free on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 pacific time please drop by. Below is the information to get logged into Zoom.

The direct link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85296526370?pwd=UnFleDJ3YzhLcUc5dmIFK2QxSVNkZz09>

Meeting ID: 852 9652 6370