



# THE CENTURION

Volume 2006,  
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## Special Elections:

### WM9H, V.P., W7LXR, 7th Area Director

Gene Schneider, WM9H, of Greenfield, Wisc. took office March 1 as Vice President of the 3905 Century Club, after a special election to replace John Thornton K9TWV of Peoria Heights, Ill., who vacated the office after being elected President.

Rick Mobley, WB5FDP

of Little Rock Arkansas, ran against Gene in the election.

The final tally was 67 votes for WM9H and 48 votes for WB5FDP.

Russ Fillinger, W7LXR, of Portland, Oregon, was elected Seventh Area Director during a special election held due to the

resignation of Dean Davis, KL7OR or Salem, Oregon, who turned in his resignation, deciding to explore other aspects of the hobby. There were 13 months remaining in Davis's unfinished term of office, which expires Feb. 28, 2007.

See 'Special Elections,' page 6

## CW: Timing Everything

*This article, by King Waters, KK5LU, was published in the March 2006 issue of WorldRadio, which gave its permission to reprint it here.*

In Amateur Radio, timing is everything. Like fishermen, we keep our lines in the water, just to see what we can catch.

Which is why I timed it just right last summer.

It was my own fault. I had been licensed for 12 years and had busied myself working all states on sideband (mixed bands, with 20 and 40 meter endorsements) and of course, trying to work as much DX as possible. But, even though I was a General Class licensee from the first year, and an Advanced from the second, I never had much success at CW.

Oh, there had been occasions where I practiced with friends on the air locally in Houston. And once, on 10 meter phone bands, I heard a station in 1996, NI3I, from Pennsylvania trying to get some novices to have a QSO with him and I joined in, but I never could get stations

See 'CW,' page 7

## Paul Maybury, WA0NXZ, A Silent Key

David Gray, KD1NZ, of Charlestown, N.H. told the Centurion his uncle, Paul Maybury, WA0NXZ, of Denver, became a silent key March 9.

Paul was proud to be a member of the 3905 Century Club Net and enjoyed amateur radio. He held 40 meter certificate 1000T, or

100DT, 1,850; 1,000 point certificate 354; 2,000 point certificate 139, 3,000 point certificate 77, and 4,000 point certificate 65.

During the eulogy Gray read statements from a few

Century Club members who signed the online

See 'Maybury,' page 2



Paul Maybury,  
WA0NXZ



Larry Snyder, K0HNM, took this photo on Route 65 on the Missouri/Arkansas state line. Larry is working on a project to provide information about good spots from which such stations can safely operate. (See story page three)



Paul Maybury, WA0NXZ's funeral featured a display of family memories, including at the right, one of his Century Club certificates prominently displayed.

## Maybury . . .

guest book.

WA0NXZ passed away at 2:45 a.m. with family members by his side.

Paul Dudley Maybury was 83. He was born to Bertha and Samuel Maybury in Denver on Aug. 26, 1922, attended local schools and graduated from Denver East Highschool in 1940.

Maybury then flew with the U.S. Air Force, was injured in Italy, and was flown back to the U.S.

While recuperating in the hospital he met his wife, Rose Grey, who was a telephone operator at the time.

*"I talked to Paul some years ago on the 3905 Century Club Nets. We corresponded briefly with letters. He sounded like a good family man."* **Jim Cummins, Juneau, AK**

They were married April 23, 1946 and then moved back to Denver where Paul attended D.U. and became an architect.

Maybury had a private practice for 18 years and then taught at

*"I have talked to Paul on the 3905 Century Club Net and he was always a gentleman and a man to be respected."*

**Larry Snyder,  
K0HNM, Poplar  
Grove, IL.**

Front Range Community College for 14 years.

He retired in 1990 to take care of his wife who had Alzheimer's. She died in 1999.

Maybury's is survived by his children Ron, Glen, David, Janet Smith, Joan Maybury and Anita Myers; grandchildren Mindy and Barbara Peterson, Hosanna and Abby Smith, Jeff Myers and Elizabeth Maybury; as well as other beloved friends and neighbors whom he cherished as family.

Besides his wife, his

grandson Joshua prece-  
des him in death. Services were held March 14 at Fairmount Mortuary, 430 South Quebec Street, Denver.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Alzheimer's Association, Rocky Mountain Chapter, 455 Sherman St., Suite 500, Denver, CO 80203.

*"Paul always showed good operating and patience on the 3905 Century Club Net. He made me smile sometimes with what he had to say."* **Paul,  
K8PG Genaw,  
Chatham, MI.**

## ARRL's Recommended QSL Card Dimensions

The efficient operation of the worldwide system of QSL Bureau requires that cards be easy to handle and sort. Cards of unusual dimensions, either much larger or much smaller than normal, slow the work of the Bureaus, most of which is done by unpaid volunteers.

A review of the cards received by the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service indicates that most fall in the following range: Height = 2-3/4 to 4-1/4 in. (70 to 110 mm), Width = 4-3/4 to 6-1/4 in. (120 to 160 mm). Cards in this range can be easily

sorted, stacked and packaged. Cards outside this range create problems; in particular, the larger cards often cannot be handled without folding or otherwise damaging them. In the interest of efficient operation of the worldwide QSL Bureau

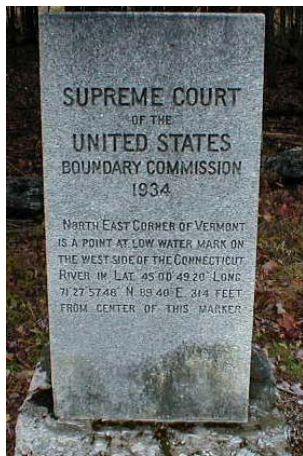
system, it is recommended that cards entering the system be limited to the range of dimensions given. [Note: IARU Region 2 has suggested the following dimensions as optimum: Height 3 1/2 in. (90 mm), Width 5 1/2 in. (140 mm).]

# K0HNM Compiling Data for a Guide of Good Spots for Mobiles to Operate in Several States

Larry Snyder, K0HNM, has been working on a project for about two years to provide mobile stations checking into the 3905 Century Club Nets with information about good spots from which they can safely operate.

“As mobile stations head out to mobile the nets, it’s always a problem to find good, safe spots to operate from,” Larry explained. “Some of the most desirable spots are on state borders and state junctions.

“So as I went to the northeast on my 15 state tour in 2004, it hit me that we could/should be documenting these locations so it would be easier for other mobileers to find them and be safe while working the nets. I captured a few and when the word got out, others (W5IL, WM9H, and others) began contributing.”



*This marker designates the Connecticut/Vermont line.*

*(Photo by AA1NZ, Tom Bates)*

description then follows telling distances, highway names, landmarks, local commentary, and even observations by the author on notable events such as sunsets.

Associated with the text paragraph may be photographs in digital format showing the

location and surrounding area. Maybe even a capital building or moose-crossing sign.

“I collect sign photo’s and even have a wild-turkey crossing sign,” Larry said. “That adds a lot of interest and even gives the collection a travelogue flavor.”

Larry’s nine-page document is organized by state two-letter abbreviation, state lines and multiple state junctions, all arranged alphabetically. At present it contains information about 24 state border locations where it is possible for mobile stations to operate. It also contains information about 39 tri-state markers.

For example, if a mobile station wants to find a spot on the North Dakota and South Dakota state lines, search for ND-SD. Notice the ND alphabetically comes before SD.

If a mobile station wants to see if the Georgia and Florida border has any reported good spots to stop and mobile from, search for FL-GA.

If a mobile wants to see if Grand Junction is covered in this document, search for AZ-CO-NM-UT (so far, it’s not).

In many cases, contributors have taken photos of the locations to further help the searcher locate the exact border sites.

“I solicited inputs because it seemed a useful project,” Larry said. “Well, we now have about 40 locations (guess) documented and contributions are coming in regularly.”

The most up-to-date list contains information from: W5IL, Richard Smale; AD7DB, David Bartholomew; WM9H, Gene Schneider; AB8TD, Robert Wenzlaff; W1PTX, Neil Goodell; VE3CRU, Bill Burgess; and K0HNM, Larry.

The intention was always to put this collection of text and photos on [www.3905ccn.com](http://www.3905ccn.com) so stations wishing to head for a particular location will have some idea of what to expect and a little help in finding a safe spot to operate mobile from.

“The idea is to download the text and any photos that may be helpful,” Larry explained. “With PC’s and laptops it’s a breeze to print the data or just take along an electronic version in your laptop. My laptop, for example, has a GPS package. And many of those operators documenting these sites take GPS readings also.

“We’ve come a long way, baby,” Larry said. “My goal is to receive information on multi-state operating positions in all 50 states.”



*Highway 20, Pennsylvania is in the foreground and Ohio is in the background.*

Larry’s list of border and multi-state mobile locations consists of a formatted text document organized by state abbreviations.

A header identifies the location, the highway (there are multiple crossings on most state borders) and the author by callsign. A text



*Route 3 looking south on the New Hampshire, Vermont line is a nice place to safely pull off the road and operate.*

*(Photo by AA1NZ, Tom Bates)*

# January, February Awards

Band	Mode	Award	Number	Call	Date	Band	Mode	Award	Number	Call	Date
40	CW	100 Point	143	W4IKO	1/28/2006	75	SSB	14,000 Point 3	KB1VU		1/28/2006
40	RTTY	100 Point	89	K8PG	1/28/2006	75	SSB	Alphabet Soup 424	WA3SYR		1/28/2006
40	SSB	100 Point	2406	WB2KSK	1/28/2006	75	SSB	Nite Owl 276	KD1EJ		1/28/2006
40	SSB	100 Point	2407	WA9YNE	1/28/2006	75	SSB	Nomad 105	KD1EJ		1/28/2006
40	SSB	100 Point	2408	W5QVS	1/28/2006	75	SSB	Officers 750	N4UPX		1/28/2006
40	SSB	100 Point	2409	VA7FU	1/28/2006	75	SSB	Officers 751	KJ7CU		1/28/2006
40	SSB	500 Point	Endorsement	N4SMH	1/22/2006	75	SSB	Worked All States (50) States	994	N1YF	1/28/2006
40	SSB	1,000 Point	474	N1NU	1/28/2006						
40	SSB	4,000 Point	76	KC5BFB	1/28/2006	75	SSB	Worked All States (50) States	995	AI5F	1/28/2006
40	SSB	6,000 Point	44	WM0F	1/28/2006						
40	SSB	Alphabet Soup 422	KE6V		1/28/2006	75	SSB	Worked All States YL (35) States	124	WD4MXW	1/28/2006
40	SSB	Alphabet Soup 423	N4UPX		1/28/2006						
40	SSB	Certificate Hunters 396	NN5G		1/28/2006	160	SSB	100 Point 404	KI7PM		1/28/2006
40	SSB	Numbers Racket 139	NN5G		1/28/2006						
40	SSB	Officers 749	N4UPX		1/28/2006						
75	SSB	100 Point 2653	WF7H		1/28/2006						
75	SSB	100 Point 2654	KJ7CU		1/28/2006						
75	SSB	13,000 Point 5	N2XTT		1/28/2006						

## February 2006 Awards

40	RTTY	100 Point 90	N1NU		2/16/2006
40	RTTY	100 Point 91	KI7PM		2/16/2006

## Thanks for the companionship

Last year my father and my wife's father were diagnosed with terminal cancer. They both passed away within a few months of months of each other this last fall and January. As I retired from the FAA in January, we continue to drive back and forth to help our Mom's with their homes and the farm. I wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone in the 3905 Century Club for the contacts and making the drive back and forth to South Amana, Iowa and Kansas City smooth and seem so much shorter. It has really kept the sense of community I feel with everyone in the Century Club and has provided the opportunity to try mobile CW and RTTY. Since we have seen quite enough of I-35 and I-80 HI HI, hopefully we can get to mobile this summer in some other states. Our plans include NV, AZ and seeing extended family in ND and of course the Eyeball in MN. If anyone is curious, here are two photos of the rigs we use on the trips. The pickup uses Hustler resonators on 20M, 40M, and 75M and the RV uses a screwdriver capable of 160M. (Note: I have the extension on when parked.) Not as good as Gene's (KG4NBL) antenna's, but Nadine (WA0SMQ) could hear me just fine. (HI HI) 73's

Greg Golden, KC0OCC



Band Mode	Award	Number	Call	Date
40	SSB 100 Point	2410	KC8MMZ	2/16/2006
40	SSB 100 Point	2411	AA4KK	2/16/2006
40	SSB 100 Point	2412	AL9A	2/23/2006
40	SSB 500 Point	Endorsement	N0MNO	2/13/2006
40	SSB 500 Point	Endorsement	KD1EJ	2/20/2006
40	SSB 500 Point	Endorsement	VE4HQ	2/20/2006
40	SSB 500 Point	Endorsement	KE6V	2/24/2006
40	SSB 1,000 Point	475	NC4JR	2/16/2006
40	SSB 1,000 Point	476	VE4HQ	2/21/2006
40	SSB 1,000 Point	477	KD1EJ	2/21/2006
40	SSB 1,000 Point	478	KE6V	2/24/2006
40	SSB 2,000 Point	212	K0HNM	2/21/2006
40	SSB 18,000 Point	4	KB5GVR	2/16/2006
40	SSB Certificate Hunters	397	N4SMH	2/24/2006
40	SSB Nite Owl	248	K6CRA	2/16/2006
40	SSB Nomad	153	KD1EJ	2/16/2006
40	SSB Officers	752	NN5G	2/16/2006
40	SSB Prefix (700 Prefixes)	21	N2XTT	2/16/2006
40	SSB Worked All States (50 States)			
		996	KE5AQD	2/16/2006
40	SSB Worked All States (50 States)			
		997	K6CRA	2/16/2006
75	SSB 100 Point	2655	NN5G	2/16/2005
75	SSB 100 Point	2656	AA4KK	2/16/2006
75	SSB 100 Point	2657	KC2MVC	2/16/2006
75	SSB 500 Point	Endorsement	WA9YNE	2/13/2006
75	SSB 500 Point	Endorsement	VE4ABU	2/14/2006
75	SSB 500 Point	Endorsement	KI4GAK	2/16/2006
75	SSB 500 Point	Endorsement	KI7PM	2/20/2006
75	SSB 500 Point	Endorsement	WA1ZKK	2/20/2006
75	SSB 500 Point	Endorsement	KJ4JC	2/20/2006
75	SSB 1,000 Point	451	VE4ABU	2/16/2006
75	SSB 1,000 Point	452	KI4GAK	2/18/2006
75	SSB 2,000 Point	159	K0HNM	2/18/2006
75	SSB Alphabet	425	AG4DO	2/16/2006
75	SSB Nite Owl	277	NI7F	2/16/2006
75	SSB Nite Owl	278	AG4DO	2/23/2006
75	SSB Numbers Racket	104	VE4ABU	2/16/2006
75	SSB Officers	753	WA9YNE	2/23/2006
75	SSB Worked All State Caps (35 States)			
		489	AG4DO	2/16/2006
80	CW 100 Point	88	K0HNM	2/24/2006
80	CW 500 Point	Endorsement	K1DWI	2/20/2006
80	RTTY 100 Point	32	N1NU	2/20/2006
160	SSB 100 Point	405	KE9D	2/16/2006
160	SSB 100 Point	406	AA0KN	2/16/2006
160	SSB 100 Point	407	WA8MGD	2/16/2006
160	SSB 100 Point	408	W9BRT	2/16/2006
160	SSB 100 Point	409	AA4KK	2/16/2006
160	SSB 100 Point	410	KC1AU	2/20/2006
160	SSB 500 Point	Endorsement	KI8SS	2/20/2006
160	SSB 3,000 Point	1	WA0SMQ	2/16/2006
	Net Control Basic	221	N8YFF	2/16/2006
	Net Control Basic	222	K7STM	2/16/2006
	Net Control Basic	223	KI4ECX	2/16/2006
	Net Control Expert	42	KI7PM	2/16/2006

## Awards Manager Comments on Procedures

I have been getting some e-mails lately from quite a few members saying where is their NCS award, their records show they have worked X amount of nets. One has even said the official NCS points web site has X number of points why doesn't he have this NCS award.

Bottom line here is that the Awards Secretary keeps the official list. It is the responsibility of the Net Coordinators to provide the Awards Secretary with the correct information in a timely basis.

Unless otherwise directed by the board of directors via the president this is how it works. I will answer any questions you may have as to how many points you have towards the next NCS award level that I have in the "official" records.

As one reaches 100 points I award the NCS award reached and then purge 100 points of that stations records. If a person has achieved the NCS Expert Award then when that stations total reaches 100points the records for that station are purged.

Bottom line is I do not listen to every club net and award the NCS the points. I receive monthly reports and enter that information. Most of the net coordinators are very good at getting the reports to me.

I do not keep track of which nets send reports each month. When I first took over as awards secretary I use to ask for the reports each month from those net coordinators who did not file. That proved to be a big waste of time.

Filing the reports are the net coordinators job. I have even gone so far as saying the can report the total number of points by station only and not 30 or 31 lines.

In those cases I record the date as the 15th of the month and the total points for that month.

I also do not record which net the points are for. The NCS award does not care which net just that each net run (full) net you get 4 points. When you get 100 points you get the NCS award. After another 100 points the NCS Journeyman and after another 100 points the NCS Expert. After the NCS Expert there is no more NCS awards hence no reason to keep records for those stations.

*Bill, N3WD*  
*3905 CCN Awards Secretary*



President, John Thornton, K9TWW



Vice President, Gene Schneider, WM9H



7th Area Director, Russ Fillinger, W7LXR

## Special Elections . . .

Candidates for Seventh Area Director were: Fillinger, W7LXR; Richard Harris, N17F (formerly KJ7CU) of Provo, Utah; Bill Thompson, WM7Z of Tumwater, Wash.; Hugh McDonald, AC7XF of Bandon, Oregon; Bob Hall, KI7PM of Tuscon, Ariz.; Randy Hanrahan, K7PGL of Whitetail, Mont.; and David Smith, WQ1H of Provo, Utah.

The deadline for nominations for Seventh Area Director was Feb. 1,

with a special election held a week later. Members voted using regular mail and e-mail.

To be a candidate for the office it was necessary to hold a 100 point certificate on any Century Club net and to actually reside in the seventh area.

All elections are now concluded and the new slate of officers took over March 1st.

Outgoing president Bill Martin, WM4SG wished all the new officers good luck and vowed to help out in any way he could in the

upcoming year.

Information about the Century Club's entire slate of officers is available at [www.3905ccn.com](http://www.3905ccn.com). New officers who just took office are:

President: John Thornton, K9TWW of Peoria Heights, Ill.; Vice President, Schneider; Chairman, Ronald Rudinoff, N3EQK of Wilmington, Del.; Secretary, Jay Wieland, N0PUI, Le Sueur, Mich.; and Treasurer, WM4SG, Bill Martin of Elijah, Ga.

## Plan Now for the 2006 Eyeball July 27-30, in Le Sueur, Minn.

*The Le Sueur County Pioneer Power Showground will be the site of the 3905 Century Club Eyeball. This annual event provides an opportunity to meet all those operators you hear throughout the year, operate on the regular and special nets, participate in the annual mobile 'antenna shootout' and other ham-related activities. Updates on this event are posted on the website at [www.3905ccn.com](http://www.3905ccn.com).*



## CW ... *continued from page one*

to answer my CQ's on my Tempo One.

Friends suggested that was because my radio would drift, unlike the solid state HTX-100 I used on 10 Meters. So I would monitor the lower frequencies on 10 Meters, but seldom had any good luck even hearing a station.

### **YL-International Single Sidebanders**

Then, in 2003, I participated in the YL-International Single Sidebanders' CW QSO Party.

Now, I know what you are thinking: First, what is an OM doing in a YL radio event? The answer is simple: With membership in the 16,000 range, the Sidebanders have more males than females, by a margin of two-to-one. So I was an unwelcome addition to the event, at least as long as I was not transmitting.

Second, you say, why would a sideband club have a CW event? The answer again is instructive: The Sidebanders' Awards Program includes several CW categories, all of which encourage participation in the annual free-for-all. I was using a Kenwood TS520S with a digital read-out accessory and kept my frequency still. The result was repeated answer-backs from stations passing by. I was taken.

### **3905 CCN CW Nets**

So I decided on another step toward the unknown. As a member of the 3905 Century Club, I had already worked all states on 40 meter phone twice, and I knew that the Club's CW nets were wide open to all comers, no matter what code speed a station might have. Net controllers routinely e-mail invitations to come onto the frequency, luring the unwary with promises that no station would be left behind.

### **First-time experiences**

Of course, one station's "slow speed" is another's downfall, as I quickly learned that first day. I was out of practice, I could not follow anything, but when the net control (AA1NZ, Tom in New Hampshire) sent out my callsign, I responded with a signal

report. It turned out he was just listing the check-in.

So I sat back and waited for my callsign, again, but heard nothing. Then net control came on to say a station was calling me and to listen for a signal report. I heard a station sending "339" – which I returned. It turned out to be KL7IYD, Jim from Alaska, one of the rare ones for us down on the Gulf Coast. I was hooked, I started checking into every 3905 CW net – on 20M, 40M, even 80M – working as many states as I could.

It was not as easy as it sounds. I had trouble following anything but signal exchanges. The preambles to the net were sent about 13 words a minute, and I would get lost after the first two or three words. Several times, at excruciatingly slow speeds, the net controllers would slow way down to explain to me what was going on.

I had a hard time reading code in my head, so a pencil was always in my hand. But the controllers – especially AA1NZ, W4BUR (Joe in Florida), and AC7XF (Hugh in Washington) – were patient to the extreme. (Thanks fellas.)

### **Another Milestone**

And my list of states contacted grew. Another milestone came one weekend when the Century Club scheduled a special net for the express purpose of contacting Hawaii. Lo and behold, at the appointed hour, on came KH6ZM, Massimo in Volcano. I sent him a 599 and got a report in return. Thanks Massimo.

### **Missing Four States**

Still, after more than two years I was missing four: Connecticut, Delaware, Montana and South Dakota. They would give me a multiband CW award. But I was wondering when, if ever, those states would check in. Finally, one night, the list was announced. South Dakota was on frequency, QRP. I had my headphones on and listened as earlier check-ins made their contact with NR5A, Jerry. Sure enough, I could hear him, not very strong at 5 watts, but identifiable. Of course, this was with the cups of my

headphones crammed against my ears, the volume turned up to deafening decibels of static, and a very slow speed for yours truly.

I waited my turn and gave him a call, and got a signal report in return. The QSO was confirmed. I was down to three. Thanks, Jerry.

### **World-wide CW Contest**

In May, the weekend of a world-wide CW contest, I thought what the heck, I might as well try to make a few contacts. But it was the usual nightmare for us slow stations. I barely could make out call signs, after listening to repeated CQs just trying to figure out where one letter left off and the next started. It was relentless, and challenging. Slowly, I tracked down stations on 20M, then 15M and 10M. One was WK1R, which my computer said was from Connecticut. I sent out my call sign, slowly, several times before I finally got an acknowledgement. I gave the appropriate exchange. And got one in return.

### **Two States Left**

Which left two, but the weekend resulted only in more contacts with new states on particular bands.

Time for a sked, I thought. I went to my log and found stations I had contacted by voice in Montana and Delaware. I sent them e-mails, asking them either to make a CW contact with me or suggest someone who would. I also left messages on websites, asking for possible contacts. I looked up clubs in each state and sent their trustees a request to put me in touch with someone willing to try a contact.

One Montana club suggested two members contact me over the Internet to make arrangements. One station, K7BV, was available the next evening. We made a call on 40 Meters. He came in like clockwork, right on time, with a 559 signal. My SASE was prepared the same night. Thanks, Eric.

### **Down to Delaware**

That left Delaware, I am told there are only 1,200 Hams active in that state, and that it often is more rare than

*See 'CW,' page 8*



**29 Years of World Class  
Net Operations**

*The 3905 Century Club, Inc. is an international Amateur Radio Club incorporated in the State of Florida since February 1977. Its purpose is to assist hams both foreign and domestic in obtaining Worked All States awards. We have nets on 20, 40, 75, 80, and 160 meters operating a mixture of SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK-31 modes. The Club offers many fine certificates for contacts made on its nets which can also be used to obtain ARRL awards.*

**The Centurion**

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**CW ...** *continued from page seven*

some countries on the DXCC list. I caught up with one operator by e-mail, but he was leaving town on vacation and would not have a radio where he was going. He promised to check back with me on his return. I thought I would have to wait, so I spent a week checking my sources to no avail.

Then one afternoon, another station, K3GI, Lee, sent word that he would be available later that day, if I wanted to give it a try. I named two frequencies – 20 Meters, with 40 as a back-up – and sat around for the two hours before the appointed time.

When it was still half an hour to go, I cranked up the Yaesu and started calling CQ. I worked two stations, one in Montana and another in Massachusetts, waiting for my call from Delaware.

Sure enough, when the appointed hour – 2200z – came that Saturday, I put out my call and heard a faint response, right at my noise level. I waited and then the band cleared enough for me to hear the call sign, but not long enough to get a signal report. I gave him a 339 for several minutes, each time waiting for a response. I had given up and had started to e-mail Lee to go to 40 Meters, though I heard his response –another 339. I acknowledged. And thought I had done it at last.

But, of course I was wrong. When the card came in, I saw that I had not gotten the signal report correct. Instead of 339, it should have been 338. So I looked around for one more Delaware.

This was not my first disappointment, but almost all efforts were met with encouragement. For instance, in my SASE one day came a handwritten note from Robert, W8TU, of West Virginia. He wanted to “clear up a few points,” he wrote. Since his antenna had been out for “several years” and since it was *The Centurion*, Volume 2006, Issue 2

for 40/80 Meters to begin with, not 20M, it was unlikely that I had had any contact with him. “I am sure your ability to send and receive CW is tops,” he wrote, perhaps with tongue in cheek, “but the ham you were in contact with needs to go back and practice much more.” Thanks Robert. I am sure the fault was at the other end. I am checking my receiver. By the way, I still need your county.

In August 2005, I joined FISTS, the Morse Preservation Society. I was hanging out on one of their contact frequencies, 14.085, one Saturday and heard a 3-Land station come in. I looked him up on the callbook. It was NS3E, Ed in Delaware. This was my chance. I waited for him to finish his QSO, and tried to contact him, but the band was fading. There was no response.

So I e-mailed him. He replied that he would try to listen for me next day. But we missed the contact. Then, one Sunday, quite by chance, I heard Ed calling CQ and went back to him. He came back right away with a 599. My SASE flew out the door. He got it back to me right away.

And I had done it – worked all states CW, not as quickly as others, not because I had given it top priority, but because I had sought it diligently once I focused on it. I had even overcome the elements, since most of my contacts had been in the deepest low of the sunspot cycle.

And I noted on my log, that summer of 2005, that I had finally finished this goal just as the FCC proposed eliminating CW as a practical test requirement for all HF privileges.

With Morse, we learn that timing is everything.

— *King Waters, KK5LU is a lawyer in Houston. First licensed as a novice in 1993, he is an Extra Class operator who can be found on the YL System, 14.332 MHz, or the 3905 Century Club Nets. He has two sons who are Hams, Sam, KC5ZEQ and Jim, KC5US. And, thanks to Tom Bates, AA1NZ for suggesting this would be a good article for the Centurion.*