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The 3905 Century Club Telegraph September 2021

A 3905 Century Club Monthly Newsletter

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Welcome!

Welcome to the September 2021 issue of the 3905 Century Club Telegraph.

The summer doldrums are still upon us, but should start to ease up as fall approaches. This issue, as was last months, is a little thin as folks are taking vacations, are "hot weather lazy", or just generally exhibiting symptoms of the "dog days of summer".

I am hoping all our members on the Gulf Coast safely weathered Hurricane Ida! If you rode out the hurricane in place or evacuated and would like to share your experience with the club, please submit your story to the Telegraph.

We are always looking for article ideas and contributions. Please send articles or suggestion for articles to:

k7qhu@outlook.com.

Coming in November - The Top Band Nets!

It's never too earlier to start preparations for working the 160m nets. Our 160M SSB Late Net Coordinator "Yukon John", KL7JR has submitted a short primer to help get us thinking about the upcoming 160m season. The article begins on the next page.

Top Band Anyone?

Yukon John KL7JR

I'm happy to announce the 160m SSB Late Net will start on November 5, 2021 and run until April 5, 2022. We may even go to 7 days a week later on. We had a successful net last year with many new 160m 100 point certificates earned and many clubs/special events and YL's checking in! What's a net without DX? We had some of that too!

160m SSB Late Net Details:

Primary Net Frequency: 1.950 MHz
Secondary Net Frequency: 1.945 MHz 0300Z
Net Opens Nov 5 thru Apr 5, Wednesday- Sunday

Your Net Control Stations are: K4JEL, KR9G, KB0EL, W6PNY, AA1NA and WK1J

Getting on 160m is a lot easier than you think. You don't need an exotic antenna or an amplifier to enjoy "top band" either. I've been using a full wave 160m full-wave loop and an 160m quarter-wave inverted L at my QTH. When I'm portable I simply attach 120 feet of wire to my EndFed. There are many antenna designs for 160m on the internet with many for space confined situations. An Inverted L (aka bent vertical) or a Sloper could be the answer if space is at a premium at your QTH. Just get as many ground radials out and a ground rod connected to the radials and coax braid helps a lot. Build your own Inverted L or Sloper or buy an economical EndFed as I did and attach 120 feet of wire to it. Pictured is a Nelson End Fed I purchased last year for $29. It's rated 6-80m but works well on 160m with 120 feet of radiator. It's a very flexible antenna too as I've had it up in some crazy zig-zag ways from RV parks and I was pleased with the results. My internal tuner liked the aerial on all bands too.

See you on 160! 73 de Yukon John KL7JR

Dean's Column

Notes from the President

By Dean Davis, N7XG

At the August board of directors meeting the board approved to adopt the Pilot Project and as a result the Project is over as of August 31. Starting on September 1st our sideband nets will be run in accordance with what was documented in the Pilot Project. I have selected a team of members to update the NCS procedures and this team is chaired by Dick Powell, WJ1J. If anyone has any suggestions for improvement in the NCS Guide, please get in touch with Dick. I would like to thank the many people that put untold hours into the project. A big thank you and without your help this project would have never gotten off the ground.

Just as a reminder Election season is approaching quickly for even numbered directors and president. Remember to vote you must be a member of the club. Look for additional information coming soon on the reflectors.

Ben's Column

Notes from the Awards Secretary

By Ben Goldfarb, AE4NT

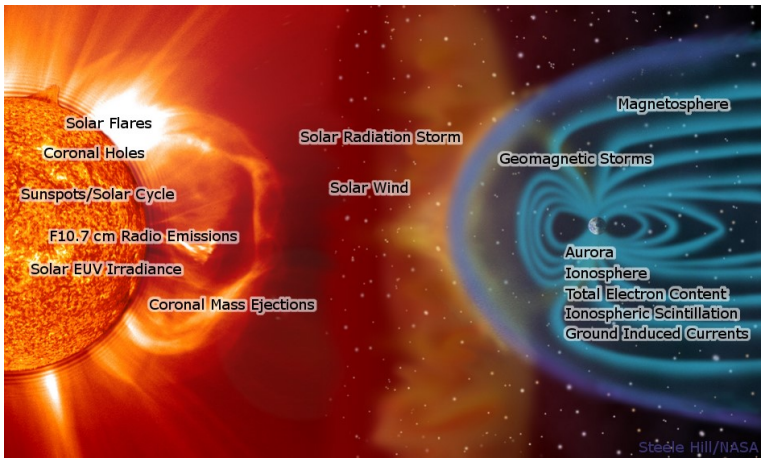
Ben is recovering from his vacation! Ben will document "How He Spent His Summer Vacation" in the upcoming issue of the Centurion. Ben's regular column will resume next month.

Space Weather and Propagation Primer

An Introduction to Space Weather and Propagation, in Plain Language

From the April 27, 2001 ARRL Propagation Newsletter, by Tad Cook K7VVV:

Amateur Radio operators who use HF generally like increased sunspots because they correlate with better worldwide radio propagation. When there are more sunspots, the sun puts out radiation that charges particles in the earth's ionosphere. Radio waves bounce off of (refract from) these charged particles, and the denser these clouds of ions, the better the HF propagation.



When the ionosphere is denser, higher frequencies will refract off it rather than passing through to outer space. This is why every 11 years or so when this activity is higher, 10 meters gets exciting. 10 meters is at a high enough frequency, right near the top of the HF spectrum, that radio waves propagate very efficiently when the sunspot count is high. Because of the shorter wavelength, smaller antennas are very efficient on this band, so mobile stations running low power on 10 meters can communicate world wide on a daily basis when the sunspot cycle is at its peak. There are also seasonal variations, and 10 meters tends to be best near the spring or fall equinox. If the ionosphere is not so dense, the Maximum Usable Frequency may be below 10 meters, and perhaps only signals with frequencies as high as 15 meters or below will propagate. The sunspot numbers used in this bulletin are calculated by counting the spots on the visible solar surface and also measuring their area.

Solar flux is another value reported in this bulletin, and it is measured at an observatory in Penticton, British Columbia using an antenna pointed toward the sun hooked to a receiver tuned to 2.8 GHz, which is at a wavelength of 10.7 cm. Energy detected seems to correlate somewhat with sunspots and with the density of the ionosphere.

Other solar activity of concern to HF operators are solar flares and coronal holes, which emit protons. Since the charged ions in the ionosphere are negative, a blast of protons

from the sun can neutralize the charge and make the ionosphere less refractive. These waves of protons can be so intense that they may trigger an event called a geomagnetic storm. In addition, energy from a solar flare may energize the D-layer of the ionosphere, which absorbs radio waves.

The Planetary A index relates to geomagnetic stability. Magnetometers around the world are used to generate a number called the Planetary K index.

A one-point change in the K index is quite significant. K index readings below 3 generally mean good stable conditions, and above 3 can mean high absorption of radio waves. Each point change reflects a big change in conditions.

Every 24 hours the K index is summarized in a number called the A index. A one-point change in the A value is not very significant. A full day with the K index at 3 will produce an A index of 15, K of 4 means A of 27, K of 5 means A of 48, and K of 6 means A of 80. You can find an explanation of these numbers on the web at http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/stp/GEOMAG/kp_ap.html.

The geomagnetic number reported here is the Planetary A index, which is a worldwide average based on the K index readings from a number of magnetometers. The numbers reported on WWV are the Boulder K and A index, measured in Colorado. Generally the higher the latitude of the measuring station, the higher the K and A indices reported. This is because the effects of geomagnetic instability tend to concentrate toward the polar regions of the globe. You can hear the Boulder K index updated every three hours on WWV, or by calling 303-497-3235.

For an interesting web page on the earth's magnetosphere, check http://science.nasa.gov/

The Telegraph thanks Tad Cook K7VVV for this down-to-earth description of solar phenomena that affect radio communication.

September 2021 Contests

Contests in September that could impact net operations:

Russian RTTY WW Contest: 0000Z-2359Z, Sep 4, 2021

All Asian DX Contest, Phone 0000Z: Sep 4 to 2400Z, Sep 5

IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB: 1300Z, Sep 4 to 1259Z, Sep 5

RSGB SSB Field Day: 1300Z, Sep 4 to 1300Z, Sep 5

WAE DX Contest, SSB: 0000Z, Sep 11 to 2359Z, Sep 12

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY: 0000Z, Sep 25 to 2400Z, Sep 26

Upcoming Events and Special Nets in September, 2021

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.

Upcoming Events:

- **3905CCN Board Meeting: Saturday September 11, 2021.**

Special Nets:

What is a special net? A special net is planned by the Net Coordinator and the NCS. Examples of a special net might be:

All YL's checked in to the net get two calls on their turn.

All State Capitals checked in to the net get two calls on their turn.

All stations checked in to the net get as many calls as they can make in 90 seconds.

Any station checked in at a National Park gets two calls on their turn.

If you have a particular special net you would like have happen, contact the appropriate Net Coordinator.

Note to Net Coordinators: If you schedule a special net, please let the Telegraph know!

No Special Nets have been submitted to the Telegraph this month.

Road Trips!

Yukon John has caught the National Park Fever! If you are trying for the National Parks Award, John will be providing a great opportunity to snag some National Park contacts!

Yukon John, KL7JR will activate Congaree National Park in SC on September 17 and 18. John plans to operate on all SSB nets. He's already scouted out an operating position near the main gate. The Park does not allow RVs. Primitive tent camping only and closes its gate by 9 pm daily. By months end, or early into October, the Great Smoky Mountains National Parks in TN and NC are on his radar screen. Everglades and Biscayne National Parks in Florida are also planned later on. Exact dates will be put on the reflector when known.

Note to John: Take plenty of mosquito repellant!

Other members may be taking spontaneous day trips or weekend trips! Be sure to check the nets and reflectors for these unplanned trips! You may be able to snag a contact with that state you really need or that elusive 13th contact to complete a "Bakers Dozen".

Remember, if you do have the luxury of planning a trip, please let the readers of the Telegraph know by submitting your agenda!

Club Stations/Special Event Stations on the Move!

If you are hosting a club station or special event station, this is the place to let members know!

No notifications about hosting a club station or special event were received this month.

Interesting Ham News from Local Florida TV Station WFTV

August 23, 2021 at 5:09 pm EDTBy Karla Ray, WFTV.com

MARION COUNTY, Fla. — A Marion County woman is taking on her neighborhood association, in a matter she said puts her health at risk. Michelle Smith, a Type 1 Diabetic, and a consultant determined that her neighbor's ham radio hobby might have interfered with the doses of insulin being pushed out from her pump.

The 55+ community where she lives hired that consultant and told the neighbor to shut down his amateur radio station. But a copy of the community's rules shows a change was put in place that could pave the way for other similar antennas to be installed.

WFTV 9 Investigates learned that Smith's complaint went all the way to the state level. She wants the Florida Commission on Human Relations to make a determination whether the community's board and management is doing enough to protect her and others with medical devices.

In the manicured subdivision of Indigo East near Ocala, managed by On Top Of The World, two neighbors say they've thought of moving away from the development's amenities because of the ongoing dispute.

Smith has been in the back and forth with the community's association for more than a year after noticing the insulin pump she uses to manage her Type 1 Diabetes was suddenly giving the wrong amount of the medicine that keeps her alive. "So I switched pumps, bought another one, switched reservoirs, threw insulin away, did everything I knew of to troubleshoot," she said.

After doing some research, she suspected the problem might be a few doors down in equipment that is now unplugged and collecting dust. David Birge was told to shut down his ham radio operation after On Top of The World hired an independent consultant to investigate Smith's complaints. That engineer determined the "amateur radio operator could have produced" radio frequency levels that exceeded those Smith's insulin pump is intended to operate in.

"I've lost a hobby I've enjoyed more than half of my lifetime, and the equipment sitting in my office is not plugged in," Birge said. Though his operation was shut down for now, the community's board of directors changed the wording in its rules and regulations to potentially allow more of these amateur radios in the future -- changing the definition of antenna allowed after approval from "a device used to receive" to one that could also "transmit" radio frequency signals.

Smith said she requested a reasonable accommodation under the Fair Housing Act to ensure no high frequency signals can be transmitted within 300 feet of her home. Because of that pending litigation, Indigo East's manager told 9 Investigates that they could not comment.

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 k7qhu@outlook.com. The deadline for ads is the 25th of the month.

FOR SALE: Alpha 8410 Amp

Folks,

I have an Alpha 8410 amp for sale and am giving CCN members first dibs on the amp.

I purchased it new. Non Smoking environment. Works very well.

Asking $3,700 Current retail on this amp is $6,495

If interested please private mail to me at dean at alpinesoft dot com

The End - Exit with a Smile!