



The 3905 Century Club Telegraph

January 2022 - Issue 1

A 3905 Century Club Monthly Newsletter

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Welcome!

Welcome to the January 2022 issue of the 3905 Century Club Telegraph.

Wishing all our readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year! 2021 saw some exciting changes to the club. Here is hoping 2022 will continue the trend. I am hoping 2022 brings better propagation to the bands and more DX stations checking into our nets!



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

k7qhu@outlook.com.

Voting for the January 2022 Elections Has Started!



The polls are open and voting has started for the positions of Even Numbered Call Area Directors and The Club President. Please be sure to check out the candidates page on the clubs website. Voting starts on January 1, 2022 and ends on January



15, 2022. The club's directors and president define the current and future direction of the club, so please be sure to cast your vote!



Dean's Column

Notes from the President

By Dean Davis, N7XG



Well, we get to put another year in the history books and I must say the club had a good year and I will not provide a bunch of boring statistics, except we did have 36 new members this year which is up from last year. We have also made a number of changes including the rollout of the new website, new online voting system, and a number of changes on the way we conduct our

nets. All I can say is it has been lots of work by our dedicated members who came forward willing to help.

This past year the club withstood the test of COVID and while we did members who came down with the virus, they all recovered. I can only wish that all of our members stay safe.

And finally, as I am writing this article our 2022 elections are about to start. All members will be voting for president, and members in the 4th call area will be voting for a new Area Director. Not to sound like a broken record, all of the details can be found on the website.

So, from the left hand coast I wish everyone a happy and safe new year.

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Dean





Ben's Column

Odds and Ends from the Awards Secretary

By Ben Goldfarb, AE4NT

Winter is upon us, and the holiday season is in full swing. We hope your celebrations are replete with fun, friends, family, food, frivolity, and good health. If Santa Claus visits, we hope that new amp or mobile antenna you asked for can fit down the chimney.



For me, the best gift was the decision to go ahead with cataract surgery before the end of the year. As I write this, with one eye already done and the second to be operated on next week, I'm halfway there but doubly amazed by the results. I wanted to share my experience with you, as those of you who have not already gone down this road may soon be doing so.

It had been a struggle to read computer text such as this, even if I scaled it up on the screen. My vision was blurry and occasionally doubled. I frequently put drops in my eyes, attempting to clear the film, but of course, failing because it wasn't a film at all but permanently cloudy lenses. Many of you were finding issues with Awards News, typos I made because I couldn't see straight! This was frustrating to me, which was an impetus to act on it.

My eye doc had told me that I was approaching the point at which I would want to make the decision to proceed, although I could probably put it off for six months to a year. However, I had had enough of the crappy vision. I decided to proceed with the cataract surgery by the end of the year to take the tax deduction in 2021 as a side benefit.

The doc presented several options. All of them involve compromises such as requiring glasses for near vision, requiring glasses for distant vision, having issues with night vision, etc. None would ever be as good as our own natural lenses. The one I chose would probably eliminate the need for glasses but would cause some halos around point light sources at night. I do not do that much night driving, so I felt the compromised night vision would affect me the least.

The lens I chose was the Alcon Acrysof® IQ PanOptix® Toric Tri-Focal IOL and the surgical technique was the femtosecond laser. Left eye surgery took place on December 14th and was quick and painless. They had sedated me with Versed, which never works on me, so I could see and remember the whole process. One more for my catalog of life experiences!

I had only minor blurriness the evening after surgery and was able to drive to the next day's follow-up, where distance vision was 20-30 in the operated eye, which is about the

same as the other eye. My astigmatism had been corrected. I still could not focus at reading distance, but the doc explained that the powerful dilating drug they had used would keep my irises from reacting properly for a couple days.

Sure enough, at the one-week follow-up Wednesday, I was seeing 20-20 at near, intermediate, and far distances through the left eye. My right eye was jealous, but it wouldn't have long to wait. Although it sees 20-30 at distance, presbyopia and the cataract make anything computer distance or closer a blur. I'm looking forward to new right eye.

The most onerous part of this whole ordeal (aside from the cost of the premium lens and the laser, which are not typically covered by insurance) is the need to adhere to a schedule of instilling eye drops for several weeks. One is four times per day, one is twice daily, and one is once a day. For five days after surgery, I also needed to wear a plastic shield over the operated eye when I was going to sleep, as they don't want you rubbing the eye on the pillow.

I'm happy to share information with anyone contemplating this helpful operation. I'm looking forward to having two good eyes! I hope to see you (and I really mean that) at the next Eyeball!

Merry Christmas and a healthy happy New Year to all!



Our Newest NCS - K4TER Thoughts on Becoming An 3905CCN NCS

By Katie Gilliam, K4TER

I became interested in Amateur Radio in 2019 when my husband N7RCE was studying for his General and Extra tickets. As a non-competitive person I had to earn my Extra ticket too – within 3 months we both had our Extra tickets!

I participated in local Nets and wanted to try being a Net Control Station (NCS). I provided NCS support for a local club and the UST-AW.

I have been an ARRL Liaison and Field Stock Team Leader since June 2020. I have coordinated 18 test sessions, licensing 277! I also created a club for Volunteer Examiners, K4VVE in December 2021.

I stumbled upon the 3905CCN 40m Early Net in September 2021 hearing a familiar voice as NCS. I joined the Net and was impressed with the friendliness and the pace of the Net. After joining a couple 40m Early Nets I decided to inquire about Net Control with 3905CCN. It

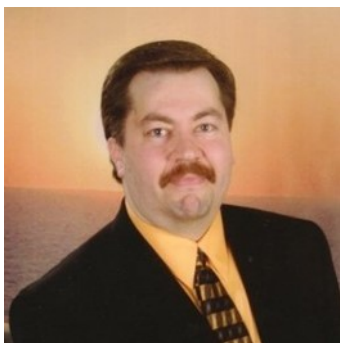
did not take long to get a response!

Being familiar with running other Nets, I was interested in more detailed instruction to running a 3905 CCN Net. N5MIG (Joe) provided comprehensive and step by step instructions on the 3905CCN Net procedures. Training was one-on-one, one hour long once a week and very enjoyable! There is much to learn and it can be demanding to a NCS, but the end product (the Net) is well worth the effort! Thanks Joe!

I have a couple of Nets under my belt at this time. As a new 3905CCN NCS there is a learning curve to running the Nets - I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding. KC1YL (Lisa) and K4JEL (Jeff), among many others, have provided beneficial guidance and support in the entire process. I enjoy running the 3905CCN Nets and look forward to being a part of the 3905CCN NCS Team! I encourage anyone interested to be involved as a NCS - it really is fun!

73, Katie K4TER

A Unique Approach to a Top Band Antenna!



Add 160M to your Hustler vertical

By Mark Eberle, KIØY

If you're like me and don't have a lot of room to put up a 160M antenna, but you happen to have a Hustler 5BTV or 6BTV, there is hope! I have been wanting to get back to operating on 160M for many years but just didn't have the room to put up a wire antenna or loop. In fact, I hadn't been on 160M since my days in college when I would operate from my Dad's QTH. So I started searching the Internet for articles on space-limited antennas that I might be able to work with.

net for articles on space-limited antennas that I might be able to work with.

To my surprise, I came across an article on QRZ.com¹ that looked promising. It discusses how to add 160M capability to a Hustler 5BTV vertical by replacing the whip at the top of the 80M resonator with a length of wire of roughly 20 feet. Since my primary antenna is a Hustler 6BTV ground-mounted on a fold down base with 40 radials, I was intrigued! I wondered about the length of wire and would have thought more would be needed.

I found an old 40M dipole project that I had been experimenting with and decided to use one of the 32-foot legs from it to test this idea. I replaced the whip with the wire at the top of the 80M resonator as shown in the photo. I am missing one of the set screws but that happened long ago. The other end of the wire was tied to a rope and I ran that over to an old Radio Shack TV 27-foot antenna mast that I had put up a few years ago for a 2M Ringo.

I installed a pulley at the top of the mast and ran the rope through it and down to ground level.

After raising the 6BTV back up and taking up the slack on the rope to pull the wire horizontal, I checked the setup with my antenna analyzer. I found it to be resonant around 1.730Mhz. It may have been better at a lower frequency but my analyzer didn't go much lower to check.

Looks like the 20-foot range from the article might be good after all. So I went back and forth about 4 more times, lowering, trimming, raising, and testing until I got an SWR reading of 1.7 at 1.915Mhz. I decided this was close enough and I was ready to be done with all the back and forth. I don't recall what the final dimension of the wire was, but it more than likely was less than 20 feet.



Closeup of the wire in place of the whip

I connected the antenna and tuned to 1.950Mhz where the net was to take place later that evening. Using an antenna tuner, I was able to get the SWR trimmed down to 1.2 so that looked good. The only remaining question was, would I be heard? When the net opened, I threw out my call and NCS heard me but not very well. However, KR9G heard me well enough to relay me in and by the end of the net I had logged 7 contacts with reports ranging from 59 to 22. It was working and I was thrilled to be back on 160M!

The photo to the side shows my final configuration. It is a bit distorted from being a panoramic shot to fit everything in.

Granted, this is a compromise antenna with narrow bandwidth, plus I do need to swap out the wire for the whip if I want to go back to 80M. But I already have to change out the whip to switch between 80M digital and 75M SSB so it's a minor inconvenience that I am ok with. I may not have the best signal on the band, but it does get me on there! My thanks to N6PAT for the article describing this modification! If you have one of these verticals, you might give it a shot if you're looking for a way to get on 160M and don't have room for other traditional antennas. Hope to work you on one of the late nets!



Completed Modification

73,

Mark

Reference:

<https://forums.grz.com/index.php?threads/adding-160-to-your-hustler-verticle-in-just-a-few-minutes.602428/>

Fall Pheasant Hunting Road Trip

By Kirk Frazier, AA1NA

The AA1NA Fall Pheasant Hunting trip began Friday, October 29, 2021 after leaving work in Hattiesburg. I was excited as I was getting to combine several of my favorite things: road tripping, hunting, food in different parts of the country and 3905 Century Club nets! Also, I was covering some virgin territory as I had never stepped foot in the states of New Mexico or Indiana before. The first stop was in Lake Charles, LA and on the way checked into the 40M & 75M early and late nets. From there, the next stop was Burnet, TX where I was greeted and hosted by Don (WW5DD) and Lynn Dison. They were gracious hosts! Don and I enjoyed a great supper and then operated from Austin, TX. I had to modify my eating habits after the first day. I had eaten breakfast in Lake Charles and found that there's not a lot of exercise with driving all day and being on the nets most of the night, so after the great meal with Don, I switched to one meal a day with only an occasional snack. Lots of Diet Mountain Dew and lots of coffee, though.



Kirk and son Landon

On the way to Oklahoma City, I got to have coffee with Frank Drewes (KK5XX) in Denton, TX before arriving in OKC. Clay Mayrose (WA6LBU) and I dined at the Cattleman's Club there before operating together from my hotel parking lot.

The next stop was Santa Fe, NM. On the way, after taking a right turn at Albuquerque, I got to have a brief visit with Tom Briggs, (W5MKC) in Rio Rancho. Tom guided me in on 2M and it was a great pleasure to see the set up he uses. Tom can be pretty much hear and be heard from all over on HF. I was running late getting into Santa Fe, but did get checked in to the the hotel and the the Century Club net 40M early net on time, but didn't get there in time to have supper before then. During the break between the 40M and 75M early nets, I saw a McDonald's about two blocks from my hotel. Rather than take down my HF antenna, I thought I'd walk over and get a burger between nets. I didn't realize their lobby was closed due to COVID, so I stood in the drive through line, on foot - between cars, placed my order and moved along as the cars did, then got my order and walked back to my truck. The folks in NM looked at me as though they could tell I was not from around there, but with no license plate, they just didn't know where.

Cheyenne, WY was next. While this wasn't the longest leg of the journey, it was perhaps the most scenic. Tom had told me this would be the prettier part of New Mexico as I headed to Wyoming. Cheyenne was windy and raining when I arrived. Penny's diner was the

setting for supper that night. At first I didn't think it was a chain, but it was. The food however was great, I always enjoy mid-west cooking. I set up again in the hotel parking lot, but had to move due to some QRN that I was only picking up there. Luckily it went away a block down the street.

The next destination was Wessington, SD where I was to meet my son, Landon and several friends for pheasant hunting. On the way, I saw a road sign for the town of Gering, NE. That jogged my memory that Steve Panattoni (N6RSH) lived there. QRZ.com showed that he was just a couple of miles away so I stopped by for a quick driveway eyeball. Steve was great to meet as well and I enjoyed reminiscing with him on his OTR days and the many states he brought to the nets over the years.

The pheasant hunting was great in SD! Our group hit the limit each day and got to dine on pheasant several times while we were there, the highlight being that our cook knew what she was doing as she prepares it frequently. My son and I got to spend some great hunting time together and got to pal around with several friends from home. We've made this trip for about ten years now and I've brought a radio three of the last four years there. I only operated one night while in SD and the HF conditions were excellent. On the way to MN, I got to meet John Phillips (WN0P) for coffee at a truck stop in Sioux Falls! While we didn't get to visit as long as I'd have liked too, it was great to meet John in person!

As I turned in the direction of home, my next stop was St. Paul, MN where I met Jay Weiland (N0PUI). We stayed at a Quality Inn downtown, that was a tad on the sketchy side. Not wanting to operate there, we came across the University of Minnesota Large Animal Teaching Hospital parking lot in St. Paul. Jay and I had planned to eat at Mama' Pizza, yet here again, their dining room was closed because of the pandemic. We ordered take out, went back to the vet school's parking lot and ate on the tailgate. We returned to the hotel from hell after the 75M late net. Luckily, no one bothered our vehicles overnight!

The next stop was Springfield, IL and a much better hotel! The Lucky Dog diner had been featured on the TV show Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives so I enjoyed a burger and two corn dogs there. After that, I set up again in the hotel parking lot. No one had volunteered to be NCS for my usual Monday 75M early net, so I did it mobile from Springfield and that was a blast!

Indianapolis, IN was next and getting to meet Virgil Warren, W9WWG was a real treat! We feasted at the Weber Grill restaurant, which was fantastic! If I ever get near another one, I'll stop there again! The food was fantastic and visiting with Virgil was super fun, too. He and I operated from behind my hotel with Virgil heading back home after the 75M early net. I finished the 40M and 75M late nets and then tucked in.

The trip from Indianapolis to Jackson, MS was the longest of my trip. I had hoped to stop and visit Johnny Allen (KI4WCQ), but that would have cost me 45 minutes out of the way that I just didn't have. JB, I look forward to seeing you in OH at the next Eyeball!

I made it in to Jackson, MS with enough time to eat at Doe's Eat place. The smallest ribeye they serve is two pounds and it ranks up there with the Weber Grill and Cattleman's

Club. Doe's Eat Place is a chain that sprang up from the Mississippi Delta. My wife and I have tried the original Does' in Greenville, MS and it is one of my favorites! Luckily it is too far to enjoy more than once very couple of years! The MS capital was great and I had operated from there a few years ago so it was great to get some new contacts there!

From the MS capital to the Louisiana capital was the shortest leg of my trip. I got to sleep in a bit before setting out and still had time to find Elsie's Plate and Pie restaurant. After all the serious eating on this trip, I only had their apple pie, served in a skillet ala mode! I swapped out the club W5NA for the club AA1PB for a different LA contact.

It was great fun to make contacts with everyone, especially Rog Callewaert (W9ROG) who was mobile most of the time that I was. Rog was working his way around several trip points and for the most part, I could work him most everywhere he had set up. That was amazing to have two epic 3905 Century Club members road-tripping at the same time!!

That finished the radio part of my trip! I got to meet my wife and son and future daughter-in-law in New Orleans for a weekend with them and attend a friend's daughter's wedding. The wedding was great and uneventful. We were part of the "second line" that followed the married couple and a New Orleans jazz band in the French Quarter. The reception was a bit more animated as the food and liquor were abundant. Two ambulances were called to the reception, one partner fell and returned (to the party) in a wheel chair while a member of the wedding party had a 'panic attack' which necessitated the second ambulance. One guest caught her coat on fire when she stood too close to a set of candles, but luckily the fire department did not have to be called, haha! Everyone should go to at least one New Orleans wedding!

Overall, it was a fantastic trip! The band conditions were really good most of the time. I am very grateful for all the contacts made while in different states! This trip was 14 days, including the hunting, but not the time in New Orleans. It covered 10 states and 4,970 miles and right at 2,500 QSL cards! Roughly a half a QSL per mile :-)). This brings me to my 22nd state that I have operated mobile. Hopefully, some members that have worked me this year and last year can find a Baker's Dozen there! The list of states includes MS, TX, OK, CO, WY, ID, KS, SD, NE, AR, MO, IA, ND, LA, NM, WY, MN, IL, IN, DE, MD, and PA plus one portable operation in MA! I'm hoping to do a few more on the way to the eyeball in OH!

Thanks very much and best 73 from MS!

Kirk Frazier, AA1NA

FLORIDA'S NATIONAL PARKS

by Yukon John KL7JR

Florida is home to 3 National Parks but only two are accessible by road, Everglades and Biscayne.

On December 3rd I had the pleasure of an eyeball with Glenn AE4EK, and to my surprise he brought me 3 push up masts that he was no longer using. They sure came in handy when Claire and I visited Everglades National Park.

From Everglades I talked to the marina manager and asked if I could toss a wire in the palm trees for my “whether” studies. I explained I once worked for FEMA in LA and MS right after Hurricane Katrina and Rita (true story!). She stated how much FEMA helps during hurricanes

and that the locals were very thankful. She said by all means “do what you need to do”! Of course she was thinking “weather” and I was meaning “whether”, whether or not I’ll be able to make contacts, hi hi!

I had several picnic tables at my disposal and used three to support my 120 foot long modified 80m EFHW. My 40 and 75m Hamsticks were mounted on a mast attached to my hitch receiver. The Hamsticks were proven but the way the EFHW was installed on this small lot was questionable. Previous experience dictated the aerial was very “band friendly” even in configurations looking like it should never work. From a picnic table the 9:1 balun enclosure sat inside a plastic bucket to keep it as dry as possible. From the bucket the wire rose to 12 feet vertical then sloping up to 25 feet then down to 15 feet then the last 10 feet of the wire was 6 feet above ground. This is the best I could do here and I was glad to have the masts from Glenn.

Forty meters early net was “so so” netting me 10 mobile contacts with N5KUC, AA1NA, AA9ZB, W9WWG, W5UOT and others. Seventy-five early net was much better noise wise netting me the same bunch as above plus AG5T, WA4NID, K7QHU, AC2MT and more.

The 160m late net really surprised me. Signals were loud with K4JEL pounding in here with a solid 59! K7QHU, WA4NID, KN4LEL, and AA1NA easily made my portable log.



AE4EK (left) and KL7JR at Wildwood RV Park in FL.



Steve K7QHU mentioned he thought this was the first ever 160m CCN activation from a National Park! 40 meter late net only had a few check-ins and I was able to log N7XG, K2SFS and N0PUI. Now here's where Murphy gets involved- for whatever reason I could no longer tune my Hamstick or EFHW on 75 meters. No problem with the other bands as I checked again. Neither my Z-100+ or internal tuner of my TS-480 wanted to go to work. Funny, they both performed flawlessly on the 75m early net. Must be excessive moisture in the air maybe?



Day 2 at Everglades NP saw me working portable exclusively to get more new calls on the nets. The 20m Sunday SSB net came with horrible QRN but I did manage to work KC3RZG, WU2T and W2TI. Later 40 and 75 were up and down with 160 being a total waste.

KL7JR modified 80m EFHW (End Fed Half Wave) for 160m.



I just added another 60 feet wire (comes with 60) to the vertical radiator making it $\frac{1}{4}$ WL on 160m! Great portable antenna if you have a large enough space. The 9:1 balun feed point is in the red bucket and climbs up the short mast and sloping up to 2nd mast at 25 feet high then over to a 3rd mast (not pictured).

It was raining cats and dogs when we left Everglades, so we scrubbed the air boat ride. I did get several gator photos on the Alligator Highway (FL 41). From Biscayne National Park I mounted my Hamsticks supported off the picnic table and some off the hitch.

Conditions on 40 early net were horrible. Only WN1F made my log! 75m early net saw

Conditions on 40 early net were horrible. Only WN1F made my log! 75m early net saw

K4JEL, AA1NA, K7QHU and KB2ENF in my log. Weak signals and high static. The late nets weren't much better.

The next evening was much of the same with QRN (S7 pulsating noise) and QSB prevailing. All in all it was a fun trip full of surprises. Everglades and Biscayne are history for me.

73,

John, KL7JR



Yep Sammy, I do like coax for desert!

Speaking of National Parks - An Advisory from the U.S. Park Service!

For those who may be planning a trip to the New River Gorge National Park in West Virginia, please heed the following notice from the U.S. Park Service:

A decline in ramps, or wild leeks, in West Virginia national parks has led the National Park Service to ban harvesting of the plants at three parks starting next year.

The agency says ramp harvesting will not be allowed within New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, Gauley River National Recreation Area and Bluestone National Scenic River as of Jan. 1.

The biologists determined there are too few plants to support harvesting and that continuing to harvest would jeopardize the species.

The agency says restrictions will continue until a viable plant population can be maintained with harvesting in the three parks.

January 2022 Contests

Contests in January that could impact net operations:

- ARRL RTTY Roundup 1800Z, Jan 8 to 2400Z, Jan 9
- EUCW 160m Contest 2000Z-2300Z, Jan 8 and 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 9
- North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Jan 15 to 0559Z, Jan 16
- North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Jan 22 to 0559Z, Jan 23
- Winter Field Day 1900Z, Jan 29 to 1900Z, Jan 30



Upcoming Events and Special Nets in January, 2022

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 Voting January 1, 2022 thru January 15, 2022
- 3905CCN Board Meeting: Saturday January 8, 2022

Special Nets:

What is a special net? A special net is planned by the Net Coordinator and the Net Control Station. 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!

No Road Trips for January have been reported to the Telegraph.



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
HAM GEAR

**Sorry, No Classified ads
this month!**

The End - Exit with a Smile!

A new year, but wonderful old memories!

Christmas Gifts

that really fill an amateur's stocking!...



**DRAKE TR-3
SIDEBAND
TRANSCIVER**



**DRAKE
2-B
RECEIVER**

Season's Greetings

from the people who make the
**DRAKE 2-B
and TR-3**

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Bob Drake.....W8CYE | Jim Brown.....W8FNI |
| Milt SullivanK8YDO | Jim KittleK8HYD |
| Bill DrayerK8IMN | Ernie GuldenK8JYP |
| Jim WaitsW8NUQ | John HeyW8STB |
| Tom Kennedy ...K8TRK | Bob Fugate.....W8RGJ |
| Vic Blackwell ...W8VST | Bob Brandt.....WA8CKE |
| Piff SmithW8NGU | Mike Wintzer....DJ4GA |
| Gus Nianouris ...W8FIR | Rod ZiemerW8DJH |
| Jim Martin.....K8MSM | Pete Scarborough W8CWS |

Demand for the TR-3 was greater than we expected. We've increased production to meet the need. Sorry if you didn't get your TR-3 by Christmas.

R. L. DRAKE COMPANY
Miamisburg, Ohio

