



The Centurion



The 3905 Century Club Monthly Newsletter

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Welcome!

Hello and welcome to the October, 2023 issue of the 3905 Century Club Centurion Newsletter. In this issue we say goodbye to the 2023 Eyeball. Thanks Katie!

Ben, AE4NT devotes his column to excellent and entertaining coverage of the 2023 Eyeball. Thanks Ben for a great column this month! **Buddy, WB3S** shares the evolution of his mobile setup and **Mike KU1V** continues to share his Spring trip to the western National Parks. **Jim, N5OHL** shares some Eyeball photos and **Kirk AA1NA** shares his trip to and from the Eyeball.

We are always looking for article ideas and contributions. As **Kirk AA1NA** would say—"The Centurion would not be the same without your articles"!

Please send articles or suggestion for articles to:

k7qhu@outlook.com.



CCNet Statistics Temporarily Suspended!

The Net Statistics for September will not appear in this issue. Why, you might ask? Well, the Netlogger folks threw a monkey wrench into the works. I usually retrieve the net data at the end of the month from the Netlogger server and then use that data to create the different views of the net participation. When I went to download the Netlogger data for September, I received error messages. I did some investigating and discovered that on September 23, the Netlogger folks changed how the retrieval API's work. Rats! I don't have time to figure it out before the publishing deadline, so this month there are no statistics for the September nets.

Dean's Column

Notes from the President

By Dean Davis, N7XG



Dean is a little under the weather, but not to worry! He is recovering from a flu/cold and his column will resume next month. Dean did manage to submit a spread sheet detailing some of the awards presented at the Eyeball, but it was not quite ready for publishing and I did not want to disturb his recovery by pestering him with questions. I am sure Dean will include it in his next column. Get well soon Dean!

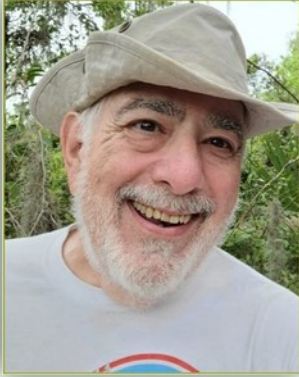
I'm Feeling Under the Weather



BEN'S COLUMN

Notes from the Awards Secretary

By [Ben Goldfarb](#), AE4NT



This month's rather lengthy column covers subjects related to this year's 3905 Century Club Eyeball, hosted by [Katie Gilliam, K4TER](#), in Triangle, Virginia from September 7-9, 2023, attended by many 3905 Century Club members and some non-members as well. I have lots of ground to cover, so you will be delighted to know that this column will be even longer than my normal, overblown diatribe! Nevertheless, I think you will enjoy it.

First, I will provide results of the Mobile Antenna Shootout run by [Dwight, WF4H](#), and me at the Triangle, Virginia Eyeball on September 9. The successful subevent was enhanced by the presence of the godfather and founder of the Mobile Antenna Shootout, Shootout Master Emeritus and First Area Director [Tom Bates, AA1NZ](#), which made it even more enjoyable. Detailed results will appear toward the end of that section of the article, so if you want to cut to the chase and read the rest later, please feel free to scroll down.

A second Eyeball-related topic I will cover is the new Master's plaque, approved by the Board at the Eyeball's board meeting. Going forward, new Masters will receive this plaque free of charge. For existing Masters, I will describe how you can obtain your own version of this beautiful plaque for less than half the cost to the club for a limited time.

Finally, I will tell you who won the major Presidential awards at the Eyeball, as well as a surprise award for the President himself.

But before I get to those, I'll give you a quick bulletin regarding a popular award.

Night Owl Award Now Endorsable!

In August, a suggestion came to the Awards Committee that made eminent sense: Why not make the Night Owl Award endorsable. Previously, it had been a dead-end award that required one-hundred contacts on a given band/mode. The Committee unanimously agreed that the suggestion was good, so we asked the Second Area Director, [Peter, N2XTT](#), to draw up a motion for presentation to the Board. That motion was approved at the September Board meeting. Consequently, as of October 1, 2023, the Night Owl Award will be endorsable to levels higher than one hundred, in increments of one hundred. Please ensure that you use the latest application when applying for endorsement levels greater than 100. It will be dated October 1, 2023.

The 2023 Mobile Antenna Shootout

I will start with a summary of the checkered history of what I will call the *Greenberg/Goldfarb Shootout Era*. Back in 2018-2019, Dwight and I got together and decided to propose that we run the annual Mobile Antenna Shootout. We obtained equipment and developed methodology in time for the 2019 Delaware Eyeball, but due to venue issues, we were unable to hold the Shootout that year. In 2020, the Eyeball was cancelled by the *Chinavirus Panic*, so we had to wait another year to do our thing. Then, finally, at the Mississippi Eyeball in 2021, we conducted our first shootout – at long last!

The following year, in 2022, I needed to cancel the Eyeball trip due to illness, leaving Dwight in the lurch, so no shootout took place last year.

After that 2022 debacle, because we are both old farts who recognize that anything can happen, we got together to ensure that we had enough equipment redundancy and cross-training to enable either of us to run the event. And that brings us to 2023, and our successful shootout at Triangle, Virginia.



PHOTO BY BETH GREENBERG. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: RICH, AC2MT; BOB, KI7PM (TOP GUN); DWIGHT, WF4H; BEN, AE4NT; JENNY, KM4NEK; JIM, N5OHL; TOM, AA1NZ; JOE, WA0O (BIG GUN); AND ELI, KQ4GIR. (OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND VOLUNTEERS SKEEDADDLED BEFORE WE GATHERED FOR THE GROUP PICTURE).

Improvise, Overcome, Adapt

The event was not without hitches. Dealing with numerous variables, especially from afar, one is bound to reveal a few planning flaws. In this case, I had planned to use a small loop antenna for the measurements, but when I began to assemble the loop on the eve of the shootout, I found that I had not packed the required phase inverter. Thus, I needed to scramble to concoct a different measurement antenna. I wound up digging a tiny, telescoping whip antenna from my shootout kit. I would use the balun component from the unused loop to mount the little stinger on a PVC pole connected to a tripod.

I had brought along an attenuator, which would likely be necessary to keep measurements in the desired range if I had used the loop. I would not need the attenuation with

the whip, as its dinky size would provide less signal strength. However, not having used that antenna in prior tests, I was taking my chances that it would provide sufficient amplitude for reliable measurements. As you will see below, I lucked out.

Location, Location, Location

Earlier, Dwight and I decided to move the shootout course from the originally arranged regional airport, which was a half-hour drive from the Eyeball site. We discovered a suitable field within the park which was usually reserved for bus parking and was much closer to our camp area. [Katie, K4TER](#), our wonderful host, called the park ranger to clear our exclusive use of the field for Saturday morning.

On Friday afternoon, with park permission having been granted, Dwight and I proceeded to lay out a course and hang our sign. Big thanks to Dwight, whose excellent post oak pruning skills enabled maximal visibility of the signage! On Friday evening, I sent an email to all registrants conveying the happy news that the shootout would be on-site!

Saturday Morning Came, and I Awoke

On Saturday morning after the requisite doses of coffee, XYL [Jenny, KM4NEK](#), and I arrived at the field at 7:45 AM, so we could set up the measurement station in peace. Meanwhile, it turned out that Dwight and the event volunteers were watching an OSS presentation back at the camp dining hall. “I’ve been here since 7:00,” Dwight said when I finally reached him. Yeah, well, he was “there”, and we were “here”. Dwight quickly marshaled the troops, arriving at the old softball field at 8:45. I was comfortably ensconced in the air-conditioned Tesla at that time, so Jenny volunteered to convey the three handheld transceivers we would use for coordinating the activities to Dwight and the able volunteers at the other end of the shootout course.

Dwight then transmitted to me, asking the question, “What frequency should we use?” I responded on the same frequency, “Same one you just transmitted on: 146.500!” It was early, but we had good communication from then on.

Shootout Shoutout to the Volunteers!

The shooting line volunteers for the event were: [Jimmy, N5OHL](#); [Bob, KI7PM](#); [Rich, AC2MT](#); [Eli Fluharty, KQ4GIR](#), a 12-year-old Extra Class ham from the local area, and last, but not least, [Beth Greenberg](#), all ably coordinated by [Dwight, WF4H](#). At the measurement station, my beautiful and diligent assistant was XYL [Jenny, KM4NEK](#). She wielded the red clipboard, recorded measurement results, and kept me in line when not watching hummingbirds and retrieving fallen walnuts from the forest surrounding us.



DWIGHT, WF4H, IN POSITION

Dwight shot first, so he could subsequently station his truck at the control transmission location. He would then transmit at intervals during the competition, so we could adjust scores for changing propagation conditions. Dwight's initial transmission served as a validation test as well. As I mentioned previously, I hadn't tested the little telescoping antenna before. Fortunately, Dwight's signal amplitude fell into the desired measurement range, so I would not need to adjust anything. We were good to go.

Competition and Camaraderie

Measurements proceeded smoothly. Each of the ten mobile entrants was required to transmit a measured thirty watts on the designated frequency of 7.268 MHz. The measurement station consisted of an SDRplay RSP-1A using freeware spectrum analyzer software running on a HP Intel i7 laptop, which all had been previously calibrated using an RF signal generator side-by-side with a bench spectrum analyzer. Only relative measurements matter in this competition, so the calibration was designed to ensure consistency rather than NIST compliance.

The arrival of [Tom, AA1NZ](#), at our remote measurement station while the shootout was in progress was a pleasant surprise. Tom founded the Mobile Antenna Shootout a couple of decades ago. It was an honor to shoot the breeze with him while we were conducting measurements, sharing ideas about potential shootout paradigms along the way. He emphasized the learning opportunities inherent in making improvements and changes from year to year. I'll remember his words going forward.



[XYL JENNY, KM4NEK](#), AND I, [AE4NT](#), AT THE MEASUREMENT TESLA

The event proceeded smoothly to completion as our volunteers efficiently handled the shooting line. Each contestant in turn transmitted three times; Jenny recorded the results and reminded me at intervals when it was time for Dwight to do another test transmission. When the final shooter had gone QRT, I broke down my Tesla-powered measurement station, took care of some pressing business in the woods, and thus relieved, traversed the field to join the volunteers for photos and conversation.

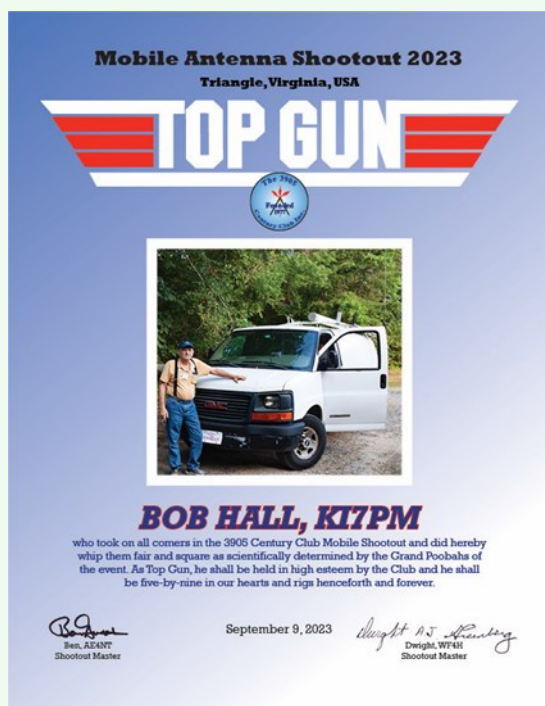
Calculating and Presenting the Results

After posing for some pictures taken by volunteer photographer [Rich, AC2MT](#), I dropped Jenny off at the dining hall and went home to the peace and quiet of our AirBnB in Woodbridge to tally results and determine who the winners would be. Well, I assumed that it would be peaceful, but the property owner's kids running like a charging herd of elephants upstairs made it less so. At noon, it must have been feeding time at the upstairs zoo, because the thunder suddenly ceased. I could then finish my work in peace. I checked and double-checked my spreadsheet, which averaged the three measurements for each contestant and applied correction factors reflecting changing propagation conditions. We had clear winners and a clear bottom feeder.

Back at the dining hall, I reviewed the results with Dwight. We agreed on the results and ensured that the caps would be available at the awards ceremony that evening.

All Hail the Winners!

It was difficult keeping my mouth shut for the long afternoon leading up to the announcement of the winners, but other distractions made it easier. Finally, with the sun low on the horizon, Dean and I started handing out the annual awards. Before the featured major awards were to be presented, I asked Dean to let Dwight and me present the Shootout awards as a change of pace and to heighten the suspense regarding who would win the big awards.



Dwight and I presented embroidered winners' caps to the *Top Gun*, *Big Gun*, *Son of a Gun*, and last, but not least (I'm kidding – definitely, least), the *Pop Gun*. The *Top Gun* will also receive a printed award certificate honoring his accomplishment (shown here, at left).

TOP GUN: **Bob Hall, KI7PM** (-57.74 dBm)

BIG GUN: **Joe Wussler, WA0O** (-59.70 dBm)

SON OF A GUN: (daughter, really) **Lisa Neuscheler, KC1YL** (-61.50 dBm)

...and of course, our man of singular distinction, none other than our Chairman of the Board, who finished last:

POP GUN: **Clay Mayrose, WA6LBU** (-66.87 dBm)

A Few Comments on the Results

Adjusted measurements ranged from our Top Gun's -57.74 dBm to our Pop Gun's -66.87 dBm. First, second, and last place were very clear. Bob, **KI7PM** (-57.74) won by a substantial margin over **Joe, WA0O** (-59.70 dBm). For third place, **Lisa, KC1YL**, at -61.50 dBm edged out **Jay, N0PUI** (-61.74), and **Paul, W1IP** (-61.94). In fact, a mere 1.6 dB separated third and eighth places, so the closest competition was for Son of a Gun. At the bottom end, the nearest competitor for Pop Gun to **Clay, WA6LBU** (-66.87 dBm), was **Dwight, WF4H** (ninth place at -65.07 dBm). Thus, Clay won the last place distinction by a big 1.8 dB!

First Place: "Top Gun"

Our overall winner, **Bob, KI7PM**, is no stranger to the role of Top Gun. He won two years back-to-back in the early days of the shootout before he took a hiatus for sixteen years or so. Bob was Top Gun in 2006 at LeSueur, Minnesota and again in 2007 at Guthrie, Oklahoma. Now, in 2023, he's back!

In a conversation on Thursday of Eyeball Week, Bob told me about how he had solved the problem of a compromise shunt coil match on his Tarheel 100A. By using a variable matching box, he had been able to tune the antenna to close to 1:1 VSWR across several bands. I use the same antenna with a fixed shunt coil, so I can attest to the compromises that fixed shunt coil entails. If the inductance is optimal for 75 meters, it is out of whack for 40, and vice-versa. Bob has attacked that problem and achieved an optimal solution, which is certainly validated by the results of this competition. And the huge van serving as a massive capacitor plate couldn't hurt! Big Top Gun Congratulations to Bob – you're back on top of the heap!

Second Place “Big Gun”

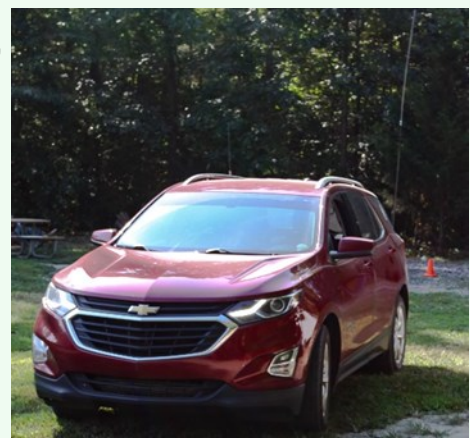


BIG GUN – Joe, WA0O

Joe, WA0O, with a large Scorpion SA-680, expected to do well. He wound up with the Big Gun hat. At the end of the competition, he tried a longer whip, which did not produce a significant difference. However, that is the fun of the mobile antenna shootout – finding out empirically how configuration tweaks and adjustments work for you. There is always something one can do to make the rig work better. Congratulations to Joe!

Third Place: “Son of a Gun” (Daughter, to be more accurate)

Aside from the fun of competition and bragging rights, this event can point out strengths and weaknesses in mobile antenna installations, as noted above. Our third-place winner, **Lisa, KC1YL**, proved that if you have the rest of your act together, a simple Hamstick can be effective. Kudos to Lisa for her excellent performance. I overheard **Paul, W1IP**, chiding Lisa, saying that he had shot himself in the foot by helping her tune her setup. Lisa beat out Paul by less than half a dB, the imputed cost of chivalry in 2023. Congratulations to Lisa!



SON OF A GUN – Lisa, KC1YL

Last Place: “Pop Gun”

On the other end of the leader board, our Pop Gun winner, **Clay, WA6LBU** and immediate past reigning Pop Gun, **Doug NE0A**, used the same antenna and mounting technique, both on the Jeep rear spare tire. We can speculate on whether the issue is the mounting location or the antenna, but the results were clear in both competitions. Looking at the photo at right, Clay is using **Bob, KI7PM**, as a ground plane. We hope that pointing out these weaknesses will provide a positive benefit to these Pop Guns as they strive to improve upon their performance in the competition. Or not. When I announced Clay as the Pop Gun winner, he told me that this was the award he was shooting for. Co-shootout master **Dwight, WF4H**, had told me the same thing before the competition, but he missed the low water mark with his Hustler by 1.8 dB. Congratulations to Clay on achieving this ignominious distinction! The only way to go from here is up!



POP GUN – **CLAY, WA6LBU**

What Happened?



DAVE AND DEBBIE, AI4K AND K9DBB

Scorpions usually do quite well in this competition. **Joe, WA0O** won second-place honors with his SA-680. However, the mystery of why **Dave, AI4K**, finished eighth with the same antenna remains unresolved. We did not get the details of his installation, so we cannot compare the whip length, mount type and so forth between the two. Effective grounding and bonding of body panels might be the difference here, especially in Dave's Ford Ranger with its hybrid steel/aluminum construction, which presents some potential challenges in that area. Speculation aside, I wish I had had more time to talk with both gentlemen

and Debbie to achieve a greater understanding of the differences.

Summary of Results

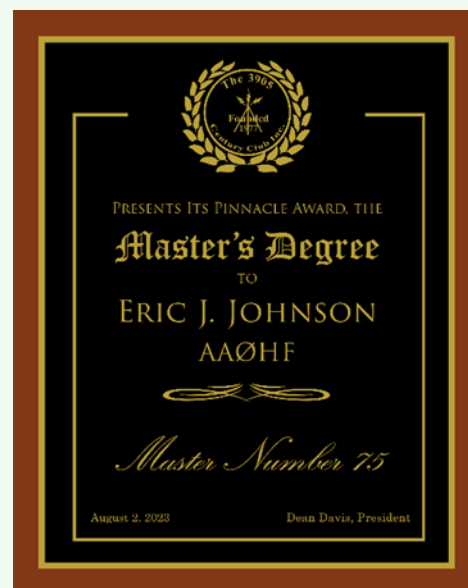
Thanks to all who participated in the event and to all who volunteered to make it a resounding success. Detailed results are presented below and will be permanently available on the Club website in due course.

Call	Adj. Signal (dBm)	Vehicle	Antenna	Mast	Whip	Cap Hat	Mount
KI7PM	-57.74	GMC 3500	Tarheel 100A-HP	7'6"	5'	None	Custom
WA0O	-59.70	Subaru Out-back	Scorpion SA-680	57"	6'	None	Hitch Mount
KC1YL	-61.50	Chevy Equinox	Hamstick				Trunk Mount
N0PUI	-61.74	GMC Sierra	Hustler	54"	36"	None	Stake Bed Mount
W1IP	-61.94	Jeep Grand Cherokee	Diamond CL40	No idea	No clue	A what?	K-400
K9GWS	-62.74	Mazda CX-9	Tarheel 400A	50"	72"	None	Hitch Mount
KU1V	-62.80	Jeep Grand Cherokee	Hamstick				Mag Mount
AI4K	-63.10	Ford Ranger	Scorpion Black Widow				
WF4H	-65.07	Toyota Tundra	Hustler 40HMS	3'	4'	None	Quick Disconnect
WA6LBU	-66.87	Jeep Liberty Sport	Little Tarheel II	18"	56"	None	Rear Tire Mount

New Masters Plaque

A couple of months ago, Dean and I were talking on the phone. He asked me whether I thought that we could upgrade the Masters Plaque. That conversation inspired me to open Adobe Illustrator and design a new plaque. From there, I had my local trophy shop create a prototype, which the Board approved at the Eyeball board meeting in September, after it was presented to our newest Master. (Yes, I would have paid for it if they had not approved it, so don't ask!).

What we had been doing for Masters in the past is providing a wooden mounting base with an acrylic cover into which the Master's Degree certificate is inserted. While this is nominally a plaque, I agree that our pinnacle award deserves something better. The new plaque has a metal plate on an 8" by 10" piano-finished rosewood mounting board.



The representation shown here is my original artwork. The finished plaque looks much better, but it is hard to obtain good photographic results because of specular reflections from the shiny surfaces. I wish I had thought of using a polarizer while I still had the plaque in my possession but alas, all I have is a crappy phone picture. If you have any doubts about how pretty it is, just ask Eric.

What about Existing Masters?

During the related conversation with Dean, I mentioned that one thing we might want to think about is that existing Masters might feel left out. Dean then suggested that we offer the new plaque on a cost-sharing basis as a retrofit to any Master who desires one. That sounded good to me, so I rolled it by my Area Director, who is also the Treasurer. (Talk about killing two birds with one stone!).

Once I had the prototype, I asked my area director, [Gary K9GWS](#), to seek Board approval. He felt that the reduced cost plaque should be offered for a limited time period, which he wound up setting at thirty days. The motion passed at the Board Meeting held on September 9. The cost to existing Masters is established at \$40, with payment by PayPal only. That price will be good from October 1 to October 30. After October 30, the price will increase to \$80.

How to Get One

First, of course, you must be a Master. Then, you need to go to the "[Order Master's Degree Plaque](#)" page on the Club website. Once you reach that page, read the information on it, and then click on "Proceed". You will be asked to enter your call sign. Do so and click "Lookup".

You will see a screen that looks like the following:

The 3905 C

Email [Ben \(Awards Secretary\)](#) with any questions

Callsign:	W5IL
Address	P.O. BOX 834
City:	LOS ALAMOS
Zip:	87544
State/Country:	NM
	US
email:	w5il@arrl.net
phone:	
Master #:	10
Date:	2002-02-20
President:	Steve L. Sparks
Modify address or just press Continue	<input type="button" value="Continue"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>

You'll notice that the President field contains the name of the club President at the time your Master's Degree was issued. If this information is incorrect, please contact me. Review the other information, change any address fields that are incorrect and click "Continue".

On the next page, you will see the PayPal button. Click "Add to Cart" and proceed as you would for any other PayPal payment.

If you have any questions at all, Matt has provided email links on each page. I will respond as quickly as possible to any inquiries from Masters.

Orders accumulated in October will be processed in November. I anticipate shipping in early December. My trophy shop does not know what is coming, but once I see how many orders I will be dealing with, I will give them a heads-up. They have a production facility right here in Orlando, which enhances communication and moves things along faster.

If you think you might want one of these plaques, it will behoove you to order one quickly. After October 30, the price doubles. We have made it easy to order— just a few clicks. So, don't delay; act today!

Eyeball Awards

The culmination of each year's Eyeball event involves the presentation of Presidential Appreciation Awards and Certificates of Appreciation to member-volunteers. This year's major awards went to the following deserving individuals:

K7MFG Memorial NCS of the Year	Virgil C. Warren	W9WW
Area Awards Manager of the Year	Mac McCracken	W6PNY
KE9OI Excellence in Service Award	John Bartholomew	N7JY
Mobile of the Year	Michael J. Rush	KU1V
Mobile of the Year	John F. Reisenauer, Jr.	KL7JR
W1BML Ambassador Award	Debbie J. Yarbrough	K9DBB
Eyeball Host Appreciation Award	Kathleen R. Gilliam	K4TER
KD3FM Annual Service Award	Kathleen R. Gilliam	K4TER

And one more...

The Directors got together and decided that Dean deserved an award for his long service to the club. Gary, my Area Director, asked me to come up with some ideas for something special, so I went through my trophy shop's catalog and found something I thought was appropriate. Gary agreed to it, so I prepared the artwork and got 'er done. It is a crystal microphone with an engraved base. I have provided a photo below.

The directors funded this award out of their own pockets, lest anyone think that the Club Treasury bore the brunt of this extravagance.

After Dean handed out all the other awards, Gary asked him to remain at center stage. He gave a short speech, saying that if we were in Hollywood, it would be a "lifetime achievement award." The award celebrates Dean's lengthy service to the club. While not a lifetime, he has certainly given us a big chunk of his life.

Looks like a crystal rendition of a Shure SM-58 to me.



Thank you, Dean, for twenty years of distinguished Club Leadership!

And that's a wrap!

I hope you enjoyed this month's Eyeball wrap-up column! I'll be back next month with more mundane drivel. Until then, 73 all!

Going /M?

BY BUDDY SPIEGEL, W3BS

If you are one of many CCN members, and/or CCN members who are also POTA participants who put their stations on the air in a “mobile” (/M) status, you might find this article hits close to home. Conversely, if you are not inclined to drill holes, run cables, mount rig or a remote head in plain sight in your vehicle, or ensure your vehicle has proper grounding and bonding then skip this article, and enjoy your time in a comfortable chair in a heated/air-conditioned shack chasing the CCN ultimate award.

The first picture represents what most hams do when first exploring the fun of operating /M. A rig is mounted such that it may be operated from the front seat, generally from the drivers side. My first mobile rig was a Kenwood 430S-AT mounted in a mobile mount straddling the transmission hump. It served well for CCN outings to state capitals, state lines, and just plain mobile operating, mostly done along with good friend (SK) NX3W. For our family trips to New York and Florida visiting parents it did well for County Hunters during the day, and CCN nets at night. Some old timers might remember the combo of [WX2G](#) (now [W3BS](#)) and [N2KNB](#), my advanced class pre-teen daughter Julie. Oftentimes operating as not-logging stations.



Photo 1– The First Stage

The second picture is a minor modification of the first, with a clipboard added for logging. Please bear in mind this was before the Internet, and before CCLogger, and Netlogger. If you wanted to know who checked in to the net, you needed to write down the check-ins as they were recognized by the NCS. For POTA, I just note the stations worked and the Zulu time of the QSO. Upon returning home, you completed the QSL card duties and performed whatever logging procedures you were using. The clipboard was later replaced by a device (lapboard) which temporarily coupled to the steering wheel and provided a flat surface upon which to take notes.



Photo 2 – The Second Stage

The third picture is a homemade expanded version of the lapboard, this time it will accommodate a windows tablet with keyboard and mouse/mouse pad. I used a scrap piece of ½ inch birch plywood, traced the outline of an Amazon purchase lapboard, and with a drill press and hand tools, came up with my expanded version.



Photo 3 – The Third Stage

The last picture shows everything in play. The Hyundai Windows 10 Tablet, touch screen, mouse pad, and full size mouse. If you look carefully, you can see that Netlogger, AIM, and CCLogger are all shown on the tablet screen. For Internet access, the tablet is tethered to my iPhone. For POTA I use N3FJP logging software and the tablet is connected to the radio using a standard USB printer cable which runs from the trunk to the front seat area. For digital modes I use a USB powered Digirig external sound card which is connected to the radio via a special YAESU compatible cable, and to the tablet via USB. I have a powered USB hub in the trunk where the radio is mounted. The mobile rig in this vehicle is a Yaesu FT891 with an ATAS-120 screwdriver antenna. When I have finished activating a POTA park, I export the log as a POTA specific ADIF file, and upload the file to POTA via a user friendly upload link on my POTA account page. The Hyundai tablet is normally powered by a 12VDC wallwart. I replaced the wallwart with a cable which plugs in to a 12VDC cigarette lighter power outlet readily accessible, and charge the tablet when not operating the radio. For POTA digital enthusiasts, the Digirig, tablet, N3FJP software, and the Yaesu FT891 all play nicely together along with WSJT-X and CAT control of the radio. All that is necessary is to enter a callsign and click "log contact" in WSJT-X ... the call gets logged automatically in N3FJP.

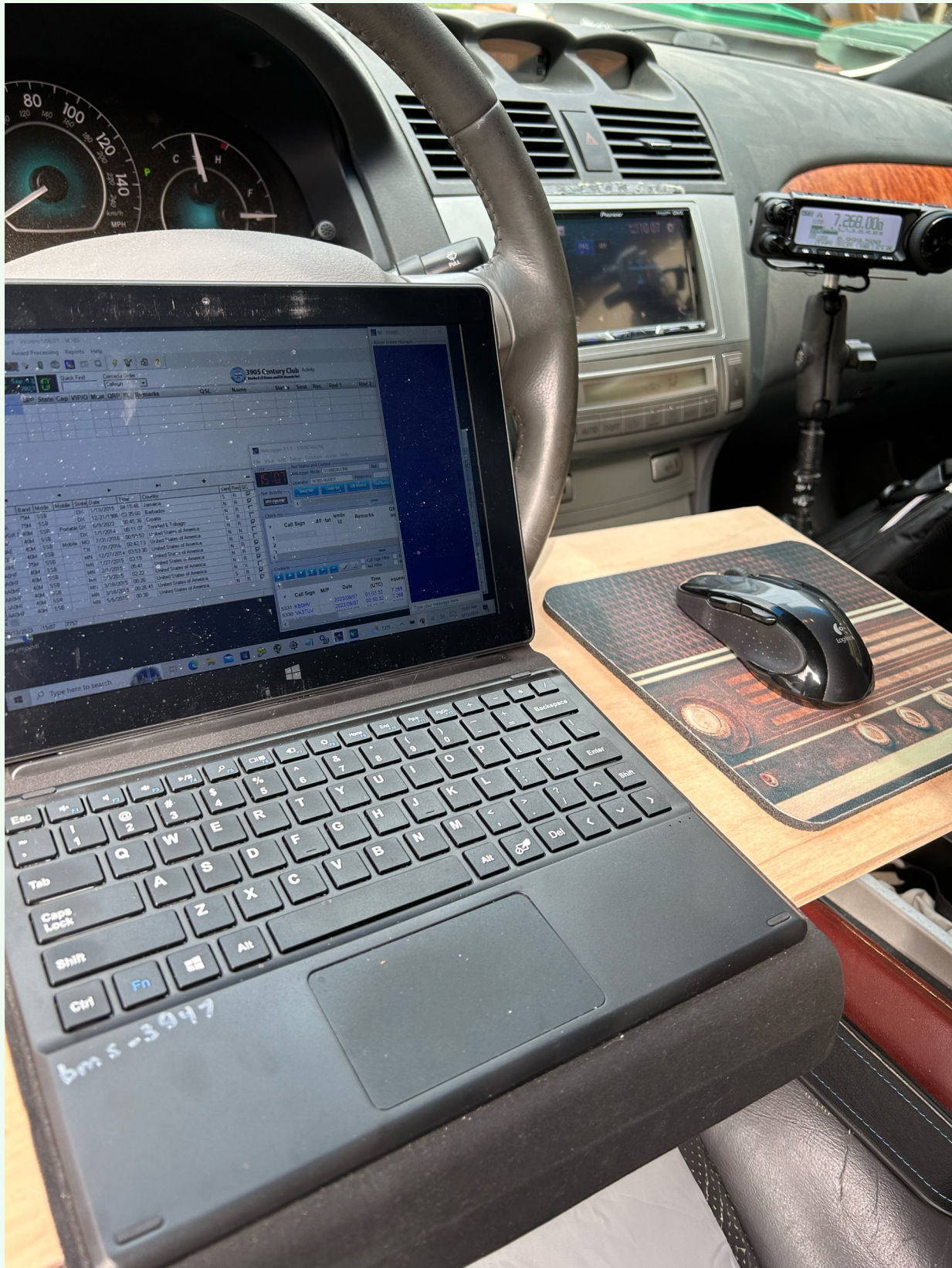


Photo 4 – The Current Stage

See y'all down the log. 73 de W3BS

**Mike, KU1V continues his trip to the western national parks.
Thanks Mike for taking us along on the trip!**

Western National Parks

March 8, 2023

Pursuit of more National Parks continues.

Departing early morning from Pinnacles NP, I head North on route 25 through Hollister, CA., then route 152 and I-5. This was the partial route suggested by GPS leaving Fresno yesterday to Pinnacles NP, and turned out to be a much better route. From I-5, I continued passed Merced, CA., and on to the West entrance of Yosemite NP. Although, the Yosemite South entrance was closer to Fresno, with heavy snow in area of town of Fish Camp, the South entrance would probably have been difficult, therefore, I proceeded to Pinnacle NP before Yosemite.

Due to rock slides Yosemite NP West entrance was essentially closed, allowing only needed traffic, and no tourist types. I had previously been to Yosemite NP so was just happy to make it to the entrance.



Mike, KU1V



KU1V, Operating at West entrance gate, Yosemite NP



Road Warrior Snacks!

Following pictures are example of rock slide area with bridge crossing river to bypass the slide area. As I understood from one of the locals, back in the day, much of the rock slide debris on the road would have been dozed to the river edge / bed area, but currently to remain in compliance with environmental considerations, restoration of the roads is slow as all road debris must be trucked out thereby not altering the river bed in any way.



Rock slide and bypass bridge, Yosemite NP



Red light is timed passage, now waiting for the green light to continue onto bridge.

After 40 EN I returning to previously reserved lodging in Modesto CA., and make plans to continue Northward for the Lassen Volcanic NP. It is now becoming apparent there is some large weather activates forming over the Pacific Ocean area, off the California coast. These weather areas will be aggressively moving into central California. As will be seen later, and as reported by the news media, I just missed the brunt of these large storms affectionally known as "The Atmospheric River." What is the atmospheric river. Weather man explains in this You Tube --

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fileVKqDddE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIVbYgPlh4A>

Leaving Modesto I head North to Sacramento, CA, and Ham Radio Outlet to pick up an 80-meter dipole. I had one sitting in my shack that I meant to bring with me, yet again, memory block. Leaving HRO I am heading to Lassen Volcanic NP. As I approach Redding CA., lite snow has started to fall. After filling with fuel and starting toward Lassen Volcanic NP the snow is now moderate to heavy, thus I scuttle the NP for this evening and head for the nearest accommodations.



Later that evening, Redding CA (Palm tree does not look happy)

Although cool temperatures at night, next day temperatures climb rapidly with snow nearly disappearing by late morning.

Lassen Volcanic NP was advertised as closed, but visitor center appeared open with parking lot being accessible. As its turned-out actual visitor center building was closed except rest rooms. Although interior roads of this NP were closed, the visitor center parking areas remain open and was generally used as a trail head for hikers and cross county skiers.



Entrance Lassen Volcanic NP



Visitor Center Lassen Volcanic NP



Museum, Lassen Volcanic NP



KU1V, operating from parking lot, Lassen Volcanic NP



Leaving Lassen Volcanic NP

After 40m EN I return to Redding for lodging and plan next day's trip to Redwood NP in California. Departing early AM from Redding CA, I take routes 299/3/36/101 to Redwood NP visitor center. Slow drive across the mountains, but with early departure almost no traffic until nearing the Pacific coastal area.

I had previously been to the Redwood NP; thus, I plan only to operate the 20m net from the Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center. Near the visitor center, the Pacific coast always provides outstanding scenery.



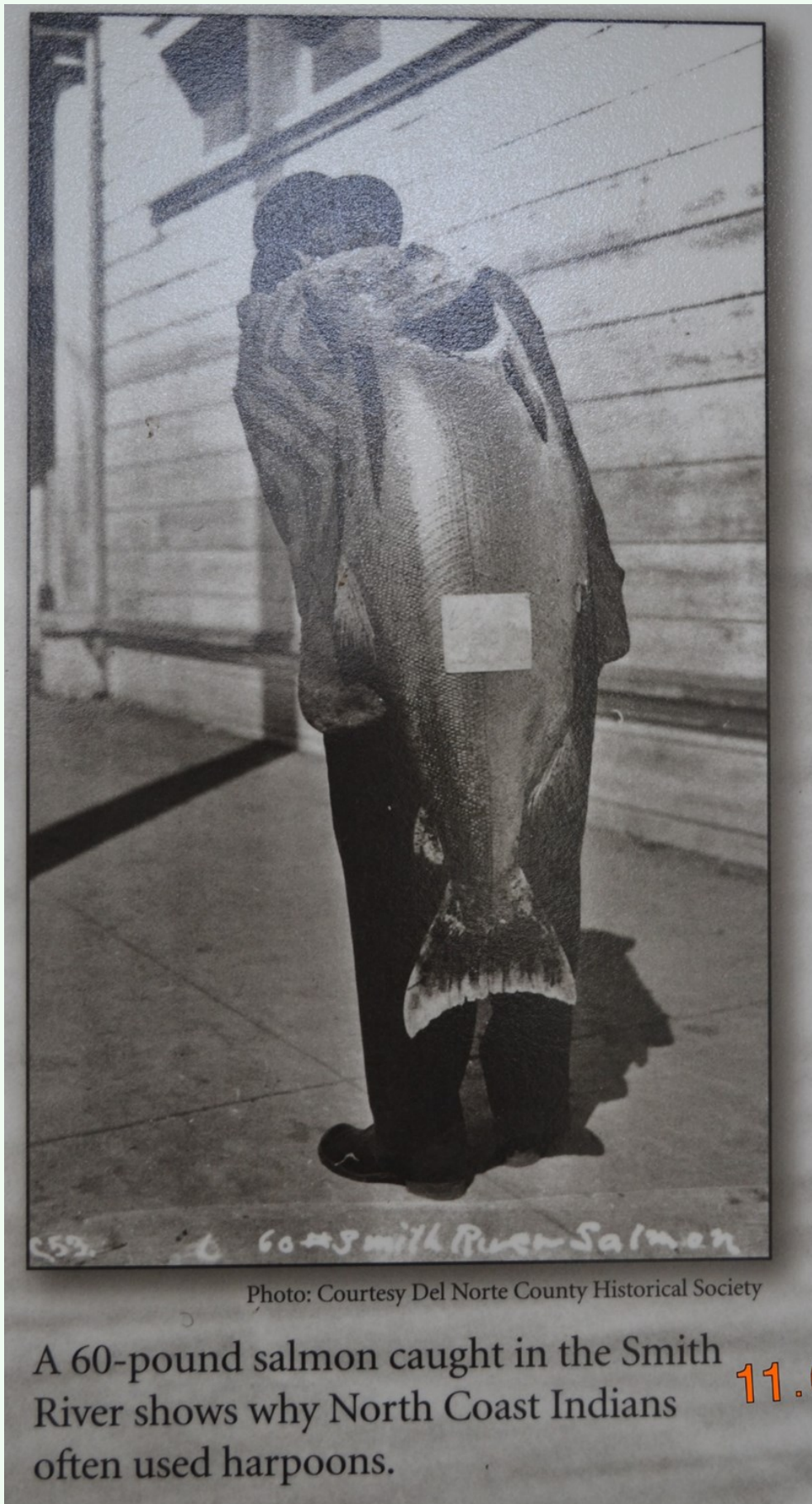
Great view of the California coastline!



KU1V



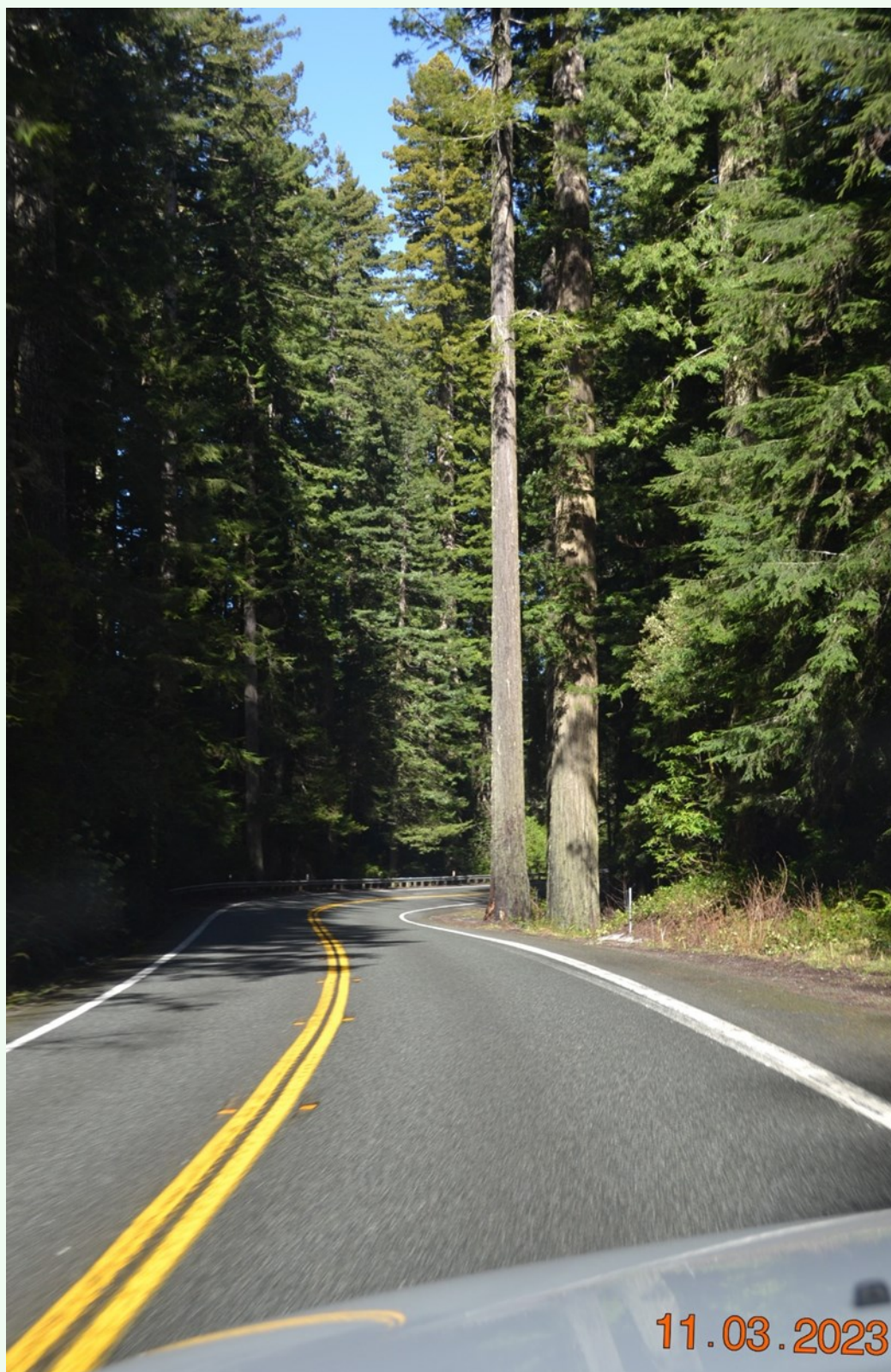
KU1V, operating from Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center



Back in the day, indigenous people fished in this area, and caught some large Salmon. Continuing Northward after the 20m net, destination now Crater Lake NP in Oregon. When I planned this trip, I was aware of the summer tourist season bringing heavy traffic to many of the roads. For the most, part I was successful with this time of year, as many of these roads were narrow and twisty with potential for very slow traveling. Further, these valleys roads, along with road construction, could have added to slow passage. None the less, these mountain and coastal roads provided impressive scenery.



Rte. 101 Redwood NP



Driving down the highway in Redwood NP!



Leaving Redwood NP, and traveling via routes 101 / 199 to Grants Pass, OR., with continuation to Crater Lake NP, Oregon. Should be about four and one-half hours driving time. Hopefully, same calendar day for operating on both 20m then 40m EN – see what happens.

Best 73 Mike KU1V

Eyeball Road Trip 2023

By Kirk, AA1NA

My trip to Triangle, VA began Saturday morning, September 2. The departure date happened to fall on the opening day of Dove season here in Mississippi. So, I stopped and hunted for a couple of hours with my son before leaving for Tallahassee, FL right out of the field. The dove population did not suffer as I didn't quite get the bag limit.

Tallahassee was not very far, about five and a half hours from Hattiesburg. There was about 30 minutes of hard rain between here and there. Normally, this isn't too big a concern but the QRO and QRP radios for the Eyeball were in the bed of my truck. Four totes wrapped in pallet wrap and covered tightly with two tarps. Still, the possibility of water getting into them worried me. Checking into the 20M SSB net was fun, but conditions were terrible. Only made a few contacts making one all the way to ON, thanks [John, VA3YKT](#)! Barely heard [Gary, K9GWS](#) the NCS in SC.

After a great pizza at Myra Jean's Restaurant, south of Tallahassee, I checked into a hotel and set up for the 40M & 75M SSBN nets. Conditions were really very good!

Set out for Atlanta Sunday morning. Traffic was really very light going through the roughest part of the Interstates. I'll always try to go through Atlanta on a Sunday morning from here on out! Found the hotel in Atlanta, checked in and took a nap. On the way in I had noted a Home Depot close to the hotel with a huge parking lot. Seeing all the tall buildings around, this looked like a great place to operate from. Supper was at the General Muir, a delicatessen across from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I knew it was a big deal being a federal operation and all, but it really amazed me. It was huge!

Back to the Home Depot parking lot which had closed at 6PM. The parking lot was empty and looked very inviting to a mobile ham radio operator. Band conditions were great again with calls coming in from all over. About midway through the first round, to my surprise, a Home Depot parking lot guard suddenly appeared in my window. He was very interested in my setup. I showed him the ICOM 7000, tuner, amplifier and antenna and he listened intently to the net traffic as I told him the states and provinces he was



Kirk AA1NA and Lisa KC1YL at the Eyeball

hearing as well as what we were doing making contacts. Evidently, he was not impressed enough as he told me I had to leave. He was kind enough to let me finish the round but parked across the parking lot to keep an eye on me. Not much else going on, I guess.

So, I relocated back to the hotel parking lot and rechecked into the 40M SSB early net. It was between several tall buildings, which didn't seem to make much difference in the stations I was hearing. Thank goodness!

Monday, Labor Day, I headed for Columbia, SC. Again, Atlanta traffic was light, and I was glad to be finished with Georgia's capital city on a holiday. Checked into the 20M SSB net and made several great contacts, even more than on the Sunday 20M net. Supper was at Hall's Chop House, a very high-end steakhouse in Columbia. [Rich, AC2MT](#) and I had found one when we worked Charleston, WV last year. It was fantastic! Learning from my Home Depot experience, I operated from the hotel parking lot to minimize interruptions. Again, band conditions were excellent, but I noticed my radio beginning to cut off when I transmitted on 40M SSB. Cutting off the amplifier made no difference. Running barefoot at 100w made no difference. Finally, I drove the amplifier with 1 watt sending out about 80 watts from the amplifier. I checked my connections by cell phone flashlight, all seemed good. 20M and 75M SSB were working fine, driving 30 watts putting out about 450 watts with no cutting off of the radio. Really puzzling! My mind raced at all the possible problems that could be and the exaggerated costs with each and likely multiple remedies. But I was making contacts and working 20M and 75M fine. Like one of my heroes, Red Green often says, "This is only temporary, unless, of course, it works."

On the way, I stopped by [Yukon John KL7JR's](#) abode. John was in the process of moving to Columbia, SC and I am sad that I missed him and Claire. But I did get the outside tour of several antennas and the Kershaw mailbox that I've sent so many QSL cards to.

Tuesday brought the next leg of the trip to Raleigh, NC! I met [Rich, AC2MT](#) and [Bill, KJ4OFD](#) at Donnie's house, [KG4ZOD](#) in Burlington, NC. We visited and got a tour of the [KG4ZOD](#) shack. It is impressive! We worked on Rich's antenna some before meeting [Dave, WA4NID](#) for a seafood supper. This was a great visit in preparation for the real Eyeball. [Bill, KJ4OFD](#) and [Donnie KG4ZOD](#) joined [Rich, AC2MT](#) and I in Raleigh, NC for the 40M & 75M nets. We all made lots of capital city contacts, but the 75M net started before 40M was done. With our vehicles parked side by side in the hotel parking lot, Donnie's HF radio was tuned to 40M and my truck tuned to 75M with the four of us scrambling back and forth to get and make calls. We had a great time doing that! Donnie and Bill headed back to their respective homes when we finished the nets.

Wednesday began with Rich and I headed to Richmond, VA. Using 2M between our trucks, we navigated the big (to me) city traffic to the hotel and checked in. We found a real hole-in-the-wall schnitzel bar in downtown Richmond. It was fantastic and not really very expensive. There was some initial concern as the restaurant had orange cones and plywood at its front window. But the waitress and bartender were friendly, and the food was delicious. If I get close to Richmond again, I'll definitely stop there again.

Thursday, Eyeball arrival day! Being just a couple of hours from the Eyeball we headed to the Ham Radio Outlet store just up the road in Woodbridge, VA. Walking in we could hear [Dwight, WF4H](#). And of course, I had to walk out to the parking lot to hug Beth's neck! We visited with them a bit, but before we could do much looking around, [Jay, N0PUI](#) and [Mac, W6PNY](#) made their appearance at the store. Jay horse-traded some older radios for a new one. I think he got a Yaesu FT DX-10 so he should be hearing us all better, hi hi!

My main purpose at HRO was to find out what was going on with my radio on 40M. The fellows at HRO were super attentive and helpful. After getting a laundry list of where to start looking. I started out to check the SWR on 40 of my Tarheel. And there it was. . . the ground connection from the busbar to the truck frame had come all the way loose. No nut or washer in sight. We located a nut to fasten the ground to the busbar and voila! No problems on 40M anymore. It was really puzzling that this only happened on 40M and not the other bands I used. Much relief! Another stop at a local electronics store and we headed to Prince William Forest Park!

On arrival, we met [Katie, K4TER](#) and [Dave, N7RCE](#) as well as a bunch of Century Club members already telling stories and visiting. With a lot of great help, we unloaded the QRO and QRP radio stations and went to work. Teams set up the antenna, a Buckmaster 6 – 80 OCFD. [Gene, W8NET](#) and set up the three QRP stations and Gene set up another QRO station. By the end of the day, we had all radio stations operating. [Bob, KI7PM](#) ran the 40M SSB early net from the Eyeball site with several of us behind him checking in, getting and making calls. Great work, Bob! Bob used another ICOM 7000 to drive an Ameritron ALS-500 amp using about 30 watts drive to get about 450 watts out. This radio was familiar to another club member, [Ben, AE4NT](#). Ben had advertised it for sale several months back and I picked it up from him. He actually had to chase the payment down as it got sent to the wrong address, but that is a whole 'nother story. Maybe best told by Ben. (hihi)

Friday was the first full Eyeball Day! [Bill, N3WD](#) gave a great talk on his experiences with Parks on the Air (POTA). The celebrated 3905 Century Club QRP nets began later that morning and continued into the afternoon. [Gary, K9GWS](#) was the 40M SSB early NCS, again from the Eyeball site. Another phenomenal net!

Several of us made the trip to Annapolis, MD to work a really rare state capital. Myself, [Rich, AC2MT](#), [Gene, W8NET](#), [Jay, N0PUI](#) [Mac, W6PNY](#), [Jeff, K4JEL](#) and [Justin, WI4EC](#) set up in a convenience store parking lot after asking permission. It was much cooler in Annapolis! We operated on the 40M and 75M SSB early nets. After about 30 minutes of a pretty severe thunderstorm, the skies cleared, and no one had to stand out in the rain to make a contact. Well, at least not too many of us. :-)) The hour or so ride back to Triangle, VA had us getting in about 3:00 AM so we were all a little late getting to the Eyeball Saturday morning.

Saturday was the high-water mark of the Eyeball. Starting off with the Mobile Shootout led by [Ben, AE4NT](#) and [Dwight, WF4H](#). [Bob, KI7PM](#) was the Top Gun. Great show, Bob! Afterwards, those that wanted to participate in another QRP net with lunch, pictures, Board meeting, Membership meeting and the Raffle following. Another round of Century Club nets followed with [Dave, AI4K](#) serving as 40M SSB NCS, again, from the Eyeball site.

Sunday was a cleanup and goodbye morning. [Rich, AC2MT](#), [Gene, W8NET](#), Jackie, [Johnny, KI4WCQ](#) and Cindy as well as a few local volunteers helped [Dave, N7RCE](#) with the cleanup until I had to leave about 10:00 that morning to make it to my next stop by net time.

After about 8 hours travel time, I reached Hendersonville, NC for another German restaurant. Haus Heidelberg served another amazing schnitzel complete with bratwurst, sauerkraut, spaetzel and a pretzel. Another hour and a half had me driving in the Great Smoky Mountains to the TN/NC border for the 40M and 75M SSB nets. After those, I stayed at the Crosswalk Inn in Cosby, TN. My host was nice enough to let me check in very late and bring breakfast a little early before setting out for home. The temperature was 58°F Monday morning, the coolest temperature I had seen in several months. It was fine!

Back in Hattiesburg Monday evening, my wife had an excellent supper waiting on me. This despite my pledge to be on a diet until the next Eyeball. And I think she knew the answer, but she asked if I had gotten enough radio to last me a while. It really had her laughing when I told her I needed to get on the air after supper as [Rog, W9ROG](#) was on a state line.

What a great trip and a really great Eyeball! I am so glad to see everyone again and meet new club members! I am already set to go to the next one!

Best 73 from MS!

Kirk, AA1NA

Photos from the 2023 Eyeball

Courtesy of Jim, N5OHL

Editor's Note: As with all pictures with multiple folks, some of the ID's may be incorrect! If you can document the members in the photo not identified or mis-identified, please let me know and I will make corrections/additions in the next issue of the Centurion. Thanks, K7QHU.



From left to right: WI4EC, WN1F, N0PUI, ? Not sure?, AA1NA, AA1NZ, N1ABY, plus two more not sure who.



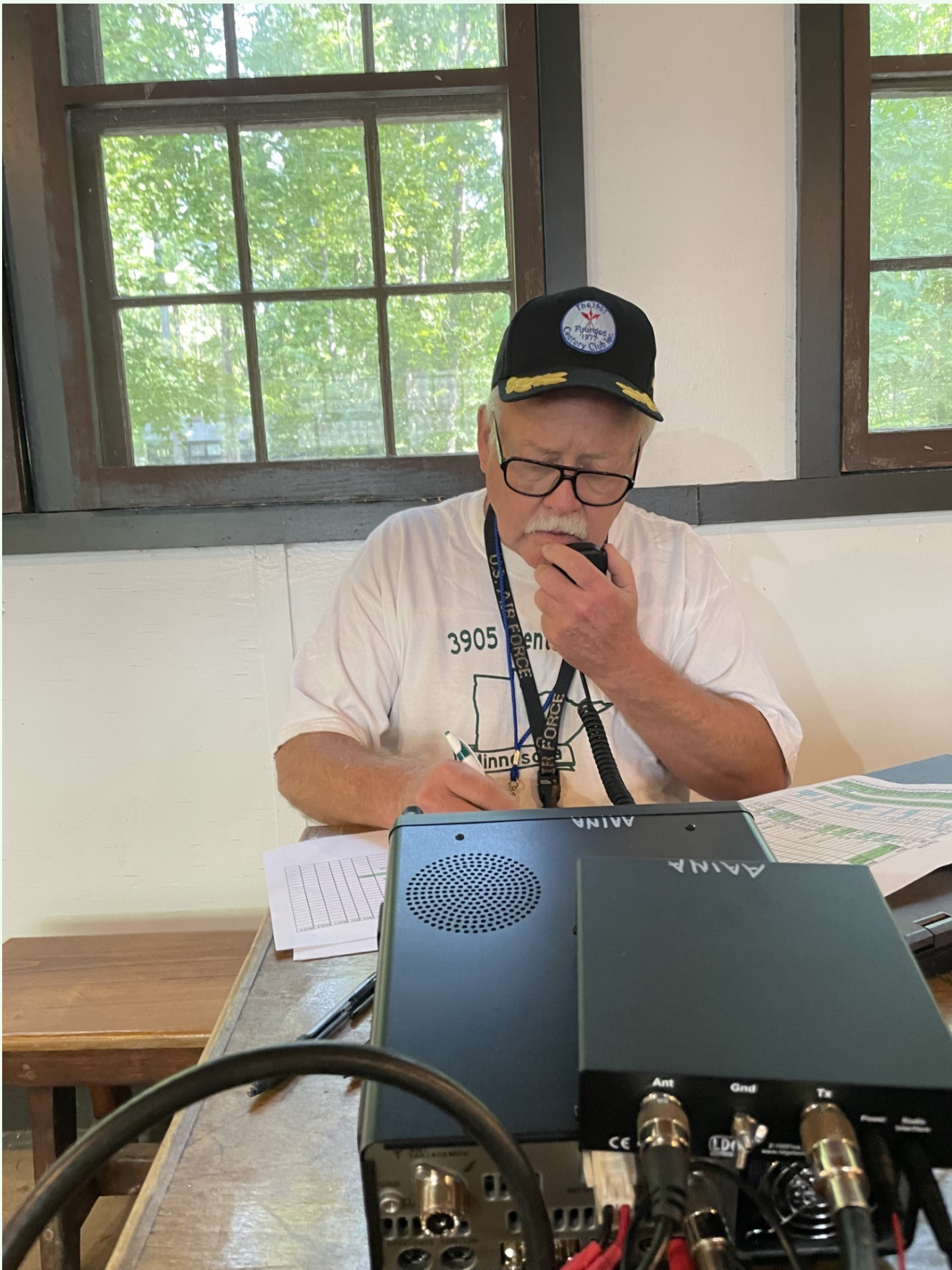
N5OHL, WA6LBU



Cabin Camp 4



WA6LBU



N0PUI



Gathering in the mess hall



Cabin Camp 4



N5OHL, N0PUI,N3WD,W8NET,KI4WCQ, KG4ZOD,WF4H,WN1F,AA1NA,AA0HF

All Masters at the Eyeball.



Joe WA0O

October 2023 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.



- **3905CCN Board Meeting: Saturday, October 14, 2023**

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!

No Road Trips have been submitted to the Centurion for October.

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 30th of the month.



No Member Classified Ads Were Submitted For This Issue



NET CONTROLLERS WANTED!

The Club runs CW nets on the 160m, 80m, 40m, and 20m bands. If you have ever thought you might like to try your hand at running a CW net, now would be a great time to volunteer. If you think you might be interested, check out the “CW Nets 101” page on the club website at: [The 3905 Century Club - CW Nets 101 \(3905ccn.org\)](http://The3905CenturyClub-CWNets101(3905ccn.org)). We really need CW NCS's as currently the 40M and 80M CW nets do not have Net Control Stations.

If you are interested in giving CW NCS'ing a go, please contact the CW Net Coordinator, Steve Davis, K7QHU (k7qhu@outlook.com) for more information.

By the way, the Club is always looking for Net Controllers for all nets and modes. If CW is not your thing, then please consider volunteering as an NCS for any of the other Modes. If you volunteer, you receive free NCS training and all the associated NCS benefits offered by the club!

Exit with a Smile!

