

The Centurion



The 3905 Century Club Monthly Newsletter

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Welcome!

Hello and welcome to the December, 2023 issue of the 3905 Century Club Centurion Newsletter.

The Centurion staff wishes everyone a wonderful and joyous Holiday Season this year!

On the "Exit with a Laugh" page there is an Al generated Christmas picture. I asked the AI to cre-



ate a picture of an outdoor ham radio Christmas scene. Voila! I think she, he, or it did a good job. What do you think?

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.



The Club's 2024 Elections are coming in January. See the current list of **VOTE** candidates on the following page.



It's never too early to start planning for the Annual Orlando HamCation! HamCation 2024 will be held at the Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park, February 9th - 11th 2024. For more information check out the HamCation website at HamCation.



Election 2024 Update



Election 2024 is progressing well! Nominations for Even-Numbered Area Directors have now closed.

In the Second Call Area, Peter Summers, N2XTT and Rich Walbert, AC2MT are in this race. The Fourth Call Area also has two candidates, Gary Slagle, K9GWS and Buddy Spiegel, W3BS.

The Sixth, Eighth and Tenth Call Areas each have one candidate, Wayne Harris, WY6N, Gene Marsh, W8NET and Eric Johnson, AA0HF, respectively.

Nominations for Club President have yet to be made. The opportunity for these nominations will close at the end of the December Board of Directors Meeting which is Saturday, December 9, 2023.

Voting will begin January 1, 2024 and close January 15, 2024. 3905 Century Club Members may vote in one of four ways: 1.) On-Line, 2.) Email, 3.) USPS mail, or 4.) On the Air. On-Line voting is encouraged. Details on how to accomplish casting your ballot can be found on the club website http://www.3905ccn.org/elections.

Winners will be announced the following day, January 16, 2024.

Thank you for participating in the club elections as either a candidate or as a voter!

73 from your Election Monitors,

Paul Lourd, W1IP

Kirk Frazier, AA1NA

Dean's Column

Notes from the President

By Dean Davis, N7XG



e are in the final stretch of 2023 and we just have 30 days before the new year. This is the time when we start making resolutions and plans for the coming year. This includes setting your own objectives as well. While amateur radio is not the most important part of my life I do have a short list of what my goals might be. So, I ask the question: have you set your own goals? This might include a 100-point award on 160/CW or perhaps completing your progressive awards in preparation for your masters. Having a good list can help you focus on the goal and not the end game. Over the past year I have collected a rather impressive list of call signs of people who are close to their Masters Degree Awards.

Is 2024 the year you accomplish this mighty task.

This is also a time when we can reflect over the past year. In terms of the club, we have had a good year and while our membership growth is stable from previous years, we are a little down with awards. Another item that we would not like to talk about is band conditions. Just horrible all the way around on all nets and yet as I write this article, I am beginning to see some hope Several days ago I was NCS on a net last month on 40m SSB and among about 20 check-ins we had a station from the Canary Islands check in, followed by a station from Hawaii and I was completely blown away when they exchanged 55/56 signal reports. Did you do the math and calculate it was north of 8,200 miles?

So, my vision for 2024 behind my crystal microphone is that I predict band conditions will improve resulting in more participation by non-club members resulting in an increase of new members many of which will be applying for awards (heads up AAMs, your plate is about to get fuller).

This upcoming year could also be a stellar year for new masters. I am aware of about a dozen or so members are within about 10 contacts (yes, on 75) and another handful who only need an award or 2 to complete the requirements.

Back in 2011-2014 or so several of our members came up with the idea of "Christmas Club" as way to attract more check-ins during the holidays. What while this was not really a club or club function the people that took part in this concept brought 1x1 calls to our nets. I would like to resume this idea this year and encourage folks to get a special event 1x1 call (www.1x1callsigns.org) starting December 15th as a way of saying Merry Christmas, happy holidays, Happy Hanukkah, seasons greetings, etc.

One final note, mark your calendar for January 1st 2024 that's when election balloting starts for even area directors, and president.

BEN'S COLUMN

Notes from the Awards Secretary



By Ben Goldfarb, AE4NT

ast month, I published some tips from Jim Richardson, N5OHL, from way back when. I am back with some more 3905 Century Club memories from almost thirty years ago.

The inspiration struck me while I was mining archived *Centurions* for historical information about an award. I came across an engaging tale written long ago by another current, active member, so the nostalgia trip continues!

Ordinarily, I would not use old material two months in a row, but I found both articles topical and entertaining. Plus, I've been

spending way too much time in medical offices lately, compressing my available cycles for extracurricular activities including writing *Centurion* articles. Thus, the ready-made source of ham info with a 3905 Century Club connection is a welcome adjunct to my own creativity, which waxes and wanes.

Eight Years on the Job

Before I launch into the featured story, I want to thank you all for making the past eight years during which I have served as your Awards Secretary an intensely rewarding experience. I have enjoyed each of the 4,186 awards I signed for so many great Club members. On my watch, I also have been privileged to see eight new Master's Degrees awarded, each one a great thrill for me. Most recently, designing the new Master's plaque and bringing the program to fruition was a labor of love, and the positive comments I received from its recipients are a bonus. No salary increase is necessary! All the hours I spend doing awards related tasks and discussing awards with members is well compensated by my enjoyment of the job. Thanks again for all your support and encouragement over the years!

Time-Tripping to 1994

We now travel back in time to 1994 to visit with another of our old-timers, Marty Blaise, AG5T (Old-Timer #7). Marty joined the Club in 1990 as N5OHN, then later changed his call sign to AB5NN, and subsequently changed once again to his current call sign (AG5T). His 1994 article described the steps he had taken to get himself on our 160-meter nets and discussed safety in hanging antennas, the latter subject unfortunately illustrated by a calamity of Marty's own making. With our 160-meter nets now cranking up for the winter season, I felt that this was an excellent blast from the past, worthy of sharing with a new generation of 3905ers. Marty gave me permission to use it and the photos I have included in it. I hope that nearly thirty years of healing time since that fateful Super Bowl Sunday

have eased the pain and the embarrassment! And now, without further ado, please enjoy the following article lifted from the Spring 1994 *Centurion*, which I have titled, "How NOT to Get on 160!"

Dead Tree Limbs Don't Support Heavy Amateurs Be Sure to Take EVERY Precaution When Working on Antennas By Marty Blaise AB5NN (Now AG5T), Spring 1994

I was absolutely determined to get on the 160-meter Century Club net. I tried a trap dipole. It didn't work. Then I put together a 1/2-wavelength dipole. It worked much better, and I made contacts in several states. Of course, while I was putting it up in the tree, I fell from about 12 feet above the ground and landed on my knee·-- it was bruised for a while, but I recovered.

So ... could I leave well enough alone? NOOOO, I had to fix the antenna better. Two tree limbs were keeping part of the dipole from being as high as I wanted it. I was determined to saw off those two limbs. I just HAD to get that antenna HIGHER.



On Super Bowl Sunday [Super Bowl XXVIII on January 30, 1994, between Dallas and Buffalo, won by the Cowboys 30-13 – AE4NT], I told my wife, Susan, that I would be going out into the woods behind our house to work on sawing off those two limbs. She wasn't exactly too happy with me climbing on the ladder, since my knee was still sore.

I went back out into the woods where I put up the 160 dipole. I placed the ladder against the tree, and tied a hand saw to my belt loop with a piece of cord.

I climbed up to the top rung and then attempted to pull myself up into the tree. I reached for a limb to pull myself up and then "CRACK!!!!" The limb broke off, I lost my balance, the ladder fell, and I crashed to the ground, 14 feet below.

I landed right on my back and had the wind knocked out of me. In addition, one of my tennis shoes had caught hold of something and had torn to pieces with my big toe being cut and bleeding.

As soon as I was able to get some of my breath back, I hollered out for help, hoping Susan could hear me. She did hear me (later on she told me she was REAL MAD that I went climbing in that tree) and came out to see what had happened.

I had landed at the base of the tree with my head on the tree. I tried to get up but couldn't. The pain was excruciating!

I tried several times to get up, but just could not do it. I asked Susan if we should call 911. At first, I didn't want to, but then I decided we had better do it.

Susan went back to the house and called 911. She also called my dad. Since there is a fire station only about I mile away from our house, 1 soon heard the fire truck siren as one of the trucks rushed to our street. I was totally embarrassed, but what could I do? I was flat on my back and couldn't move. My dad had told Susan I should not try to move,

because I could have had internal injuries.

Paramedics and the Emergency Room

The fire station crew came out into the woods and looked over my situation. They took some vital signs while they waited for the ambulance to arrive. The ambulance arrived a few minutes later and the paramedics came out into the woods. The paramedics were great -- they were able to put me onto a stretcher and carry me out to the ambulance. By



regulation, though, they had to strap me down, put me in a cervical collar and make it where I couldn't move at all during the ambulance ride.

They took me to one of the hospitals in Houston but ran without lights or sirens. Even in pain, I chatted with the Paramedic about scanners and radios and dispatching, etc. – talk about being a radio nut – I guess I am addicted.

Susan told me a bunch of folks from the neighborhood watched as I was loaded into the ambulance. She went to talk to a couple of neighbors. One of them said "How many more antennas does he need?" to Susan (believe me, I DON'T NEED any more antennas for a while).

I was taken to the emergency room and put into a room where the ER doctor on call came in and checked me. I had extreme pain in my right rib cage and back just above

my posterior. I also had shortness of breath because of the rib pain. First an IV in my hand. Ouch! Then it was on to the X-Ray room. I had X-Rays of my chest and then I had to drink this chalky white junk called Barium so I could have a CAT Scan of my abdomen. Did you ever drink Barium? It's no margarita, believe me.

Back to the emergency room. Wait wait wait. Whoops, they forgot to get a Pelvis X-Ray. Back to X-Ray. Pelvis X-Ray taken. Then back to the emergency room. Finally, the doctor said all X-rays were negative. The only problem was that a urinalysis showed my red blood cell count was higher, possibly from some internal bleeding.

It was certainly hard trying to stand up. I had to get mobilized though so I could go home. Before I left, I got a pain shot and a pain pill. They helped a lot. Then ... it was on to home ... with me walking VERY VERY slowly to my dad's car.

Folks, I WAS LUCKY! I could have broken my neck or worse. I must have had an angel with me during my fall(s).

I was still in pain as I was writing this story. I had to take two days off from work. I have learned quite a few lessons from all this and that is why I wanted to write this story - so others will practice safety.

What can you learn from my story? Here are some points:

- Never work on antennas alone.
- Do not try to pull yourself up by a dead or almost dead tree limb.
- There is more to life than antennas.
- Don't use a short ladder when you really need a much longer one.
- Remember, there are other things in life much more important than radio -- my wife Susan is due to have a baby on May 27 -can you imagine if I'd lost my life that the baby would never have known its daddy?
- While trees can be great antenna supports, they aren't towers and they can be extremely dangerous.
- Listen to your spouse or significant other. If you've been injured, don't take foolish risks while you are healing.
- I really was LUCKY. It could have been much worse.

Please use safety when you are climbing a tower or a tree or whatever you are doing when working with antennas. It is your life and I want to see all of you stay alive.

[Thanks, Marty, for your cautionary tale from the distant past! Still very relevant today. – AE4NT]

Other Club News

Area Director and President Nominations

By the time you read this, nominations will be closed for even numbered Area Directors. However, nominations for President are still open until mid-December. Please consider asking your area director to nominate some worthy candidates for President – perhaps even YOU!

Per the bylaws, we must have at least two, but no more than eleven candidates for President or Vice President. Therefore, a one-candidate presidential election is invalid. Failing to put two or more candidates on the ballot will require opening nominations again in January, a cumbersome process, and a waste of everyone's time. So, please let us get it right the first time! From our intelligent and dedicated membership, surely we can field at least two candidates!

Even if they are permissible, as they are (but shouldn't be) for area director, single-candidate elections discourage voter turnout, which can cause collateral damage by letting someone sneak into club-wide office with a ridiculously small number of votes. I am just adding my editorial two cents here, but I wish every election had at least two viable candidates for each office, as is required for President and Vice President.

New Award Coming (subject to Board approval)

Last month, I mentioned that the Awards Committee would recommend the *Auld Lang Syne Award* to the Board of Directors for their ultimate approval. Due to the distraction caused by all my medical BS, I held this up for a month. Of course, this led me to find a silver lining in the rationale that if approved at the December Board meeting, the new

award's implementation date would be January 1, 2024, New Year's Day – entirely appropriate for an award named Auld Lang Syne, don't you think?

As I write this, the proposed application and certificate have passed muster with the Awards Committee. My only remaining task is to write a motion to be placed on the Board agenda for the December meeting by one of the area directors who are members of the AC. Then, assuming it passes, I'll be announcing and describing the Auld Lang Syne Award for our members close to its New Year's Eve launch.

Big thanks once again to Johnny Allen, KI4WCQ (Master #52), for being the concept man behind this worthy new award!

Best of Both Worlds

This comes up fairly frequently, so I felt that it would be good to put it in print once again. The question concerns how Canadian stations treat Canadian contacts on our progressive awards. This was last clarified by the Awards Committee in July 2017: "Provided a clarification of the applicability of Canadian contacts as 'DX' for our awards purposes when included in an award application by a Canadian member. Canadian members can indeed use Canadian contacts to satisfy the DX requirements for our awards, as our bylaws state: 'any entity listed in the ARRL DXCC List except the 50 states of the United States and the District of Columbia'". [Note that we deviate from the DXCC entity list to specifically exclude Alaska and Hawaii as DX – AE4NT].

This means that our Canadian members are lucky – they can use US stations AND Canadian stations in the DX section of the progressive award application. You can argue that it is weird, but it is a long-standing Club custom and practice. I even found a reference to it way back in one of those old *Centurions*.

This is one example of many of our rules that were not well thought out when initially conceived but cannot be changed because of well-established precedent from which many have benefitted through the years.

So, have fun, VE Land Members!

Last, But Not Least

I want to wish all our members the very best during the holiday season. It is a time of joy, a time of forgiveness, a time of remembering, a time of sharing, and a time of reflection on the year just past and the year that lies ahead. May your thoughts be warm and optimistic and may the spirit of your holidays be joyous!

I'll see you next year.

73 de AE4NT



Recording DX contacts for the DX Bureau

I will not go into the details of how our DX bureau works but for successful operation this bureau relies on our NCS stations to provide information between a DX station and another station. In the past we have used several tools including a feature of the Century Club Logger, Excel spread sheets, and other manual documents. From what I could gather this was hit and miss my many of the NCSS stations including myself.

This month's column will focus on 2 software applications that can be used for this purpose.

DXLogger by Dave Yarbrough, AI4K

Reasons to use this program.

Working DX stations is a requirement for many of the club's awards. The DX Bureau helps facilitate confirmation of contacts. An important first step in the process is getting a list of contacts from the net control station. This signals the bureau to contact the DX station and arrange to exchange QSL cards. Some DX stations prefer not to send cards, but instead, allow the bureau to send cards on their behalf for contacts confirmed by the NCS.

The DX Logger program ensures the data is consistent and as accurate as possible. It avoids the need to re-type information received from the net control station. It also lessens the burden on NCS to accurately record the contacts. Also, the log file created can be imported directly into the tracking program used by the DX Bureau.

Selecting a net to monitor / log.

Use the dropdown field at the top of the window to select an active net. The list of nets are current at the time the app is opened

Folder to save logs:

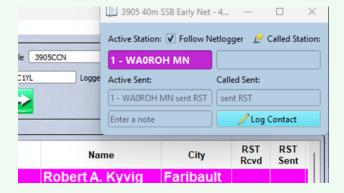
The default folder for log files is your 'Documents'. ^{1, 2} You can change the location by pressing the 'Select Folder' button. The file names have the following format:

Current Zulu date_NetName_log.csv

 If you use a Microsoft account to login to Windows you may have two 'Documents' folders. Log files are saved in c:\Users\'your username'\Documents

2. This only needs to be set one time. The same folder will continue to be used until you select a different one.

Monitoring a net



After selecting a net, the monitor window is displayed where contacts can be logged.

Tip: The monitor window stays on top of all other windows. It's convenient to position it as shown above, out of the way. The program remembers the location, and returns there the next time you run the program.

Description of fields

- Follow Netlogger: When checked, the active station field will track the 'pink line' in Netlogger.
- <u>Active Station</u>: This is the station that is currently active on the net (has the 'pink line'). Usually, you do not need to enter a call sign here, it changes when the pink line is moved in Netlogger.

If needed, you can manually select a station by right-clicking in the field to search the check-in list for a call sign. This causes the program to stop 'following Netlogger' and updating the Active Station field.

Once you log the contact, the program continues tracking (following) Netlogger. If you choose not to log the call, click on 'Follow Netlogger' to re-enable the field to automatically update as the pink line is moved.

- <u>Called Station</u>: The other station participating in the contact is selected here.
 - Right-click in the Called Station field to display the check-in list, or start typing in the Called Station field to search for a call sign, state, or line number. The search window contains a list of stations matching the characters you entered.
 - Double-click on the one you want to select.

Tip: Instead of 'right-clicking' in the call sign fields you can simply click on the field and start typing the call sign or line number you want to search for. The cursor in the search window moves as you type. Press the return key to select the first item displayed in the search window.

Tip: When a call sign in the search window is highlighted and F12 is pressed, the last 25 nets the station has participated in are displayed. This is useful for identifying new stations.

- Active Sent: The RST sent by the active station to the called station (i.e. 59)
- Called Sent: The RST sent by the called station to the active station
- Note field: an optional short note can be entered here. (SC, NP, etc.)
- Log Contact: Press this button to log the contact

Logging a contact

After selecting the stations to log, enter the signal reports and press the 'Log Contact' button. A notification is displayed indicating the entry was saved.

Sending the log to the DX Bureau

After the net closes, send the log file as an attachment to dxbureau@3905ccn.org
The log can be found in the folder you specified when selecting a net to monitor.
Log files remain here until they are deleted.

Installing the program

Send an email to <u>dxbureau@3905ccn.org</u> with the days / times that you are available for approx. ½ hour. Or, you can call/text Debbie or Dave. We will connect to your PC via TeamViewer or GotoMyPC to copy the program onto your computer and walk through how to use it. Please contact us anytime you have a question about how to use the program.

Century Club Logger by Dean Davis, KL7OR

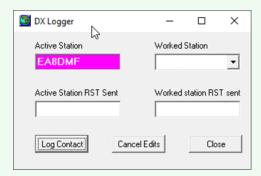
(Available after January 1, 2024)

Reasons to use this approach:

This solution is built in to the Century Club Logger and fully automates recording and submitting logs to the DX bureau for those of you that use the Century Club Logger for logbook management. We have developed our design to duplicate the look and feel Dave, Al4K has developed.

How to use this feature

Once you have opened a net to monitor, using the Action menu select DX Logger at which point the following screen will be displayed:



Normally this screen will follow the pink line in Netlogger, however if for any reason you want to delay this you can double click in the Active Station box and the color will change to white meaning you are currently not tracking the pink line. Tracking will either resume if you press the Log Contact or Cancel Edits button.

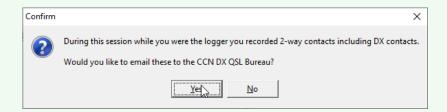
To select a station that the active station is wanting to work simply start typing the call sign into the Worked Station file and select the call. Note that this dropdown is in call sign order.

Active Station RST sent is the signal report the active station sent to the Worked Station.

Worked Station RST sent is the signal report the Worked station sent back to the Active Station.

Once the contact is complete you can press the Log Contact button which will log the contact. If for any reason the contact is not valid and the active station goes back to net, pressing the Cancel Edit button will restore the screen to net logger tracking (pink line).

At the end of the net, when you close the net in ccLogger the software will prompt you with the following screen:



The first screen is just confirming that you have recorded one or more contacts and is about to email to the DX Bureau your log. At this point no other action is required.

73,

Dean

KL70R

Who Owns a Frequency

Dean Davis, KL7OR

It seems that it never ends with other groups either coming to me or trying to chase us from a specific frequency. I think all our NCS stations do a good job with this misconception. This past month I came across the guide below that was published by the ARRL. Take note of words like "not regulations" and "special privilege" and "No one owns a frequency".

Again my hat off to all of our NCS stations and keep up the good work.

The Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide

The following frequencies are generally recognized for certain modes or activities (all frequencies are in MHz) during normal conditions. These are not regulations and occasionally a high level of activity, such as during a period of emergency response, DXpedition or contest, may result in stations operating outside these frequency ranges.

Nothing in the rules recognizes a net's, group's or any individual's special privilege to any specific frequency. Section 97.101(b) of the Rules states that "Each station licensee and each control operator must cooperate in selecting transmitting channels and in making the most effective use of the amateur service frequencies. No frequency will be assigned for the exclusive use of any station." No one "owns" a frequency.

It's good practice — and plain old common sense — for any operator, regardless of mode, to check to see if the frequency is in use prior to engaging operation. If you are there first, other operators should make an effort to protect you from interference to the extent possible, given that 100% interference-free operation is an unrealistic expectation in today's congested bands.

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Frequencies	Modes/Activities	Frequencies	Modes/Activities
1.800-2.000	CW	14.233	D-SSTV
		14.236	= . ~ ~ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1.800-1.810	Digital Modes		Digital Voice
1.810	CW QRP calling frequency	14.285	QRP SSB calling frequency
1.843-2.000	SSB, SSTV and other wideband	14.286	AM calling frequency
	modes		
1.910	SSB QRP	18.100-18.105	RTTY/Data
1.995-2.000	Experimental	18.105-18.110	Automatically controlled data stations
1.999-2.000	Beacons	18.110	IBP/NCDXF beacons
		18.162.5	Digital Voice
3.500-3.510	CW DX window	10.102.0	Digital Voloc
3.560	QRP CW calling frequency	21.060	QRP CW calling frequency
		21.070-21.110	RTTY/Data
3.570-3.600	RTTY/Data		
3.585-3.600	Automatically controlled data stations	21.090-21.100	Automatically controlled data stations
3.590	RTTY/Data DX	21.150	IBP/NCDXF beacons
3.790-3.800	DX window	21.340	SSTV
3.845	SSTV	21.385	QRP SSB calling frequency
3.885	AM calling frequency		
3.985	QRP SSB calling frequency	24.920-24.925	RTTY/Data
	,	24.925-24.930	Automatically controlled data stations
7.030	QRP CW calling frequency	24.930	IBP/NCDXF beacons
7.040	RTTY/Data DX		
7.070-7.125	RTTY/Data	28.060	QRP CW calling frequency
7.100-7.105	Automatically controlled data stations	28.070-28.120	RTTY/Data
7.171	SSTV	28.120-28.189	Automatically controlled data stations
7.173	D-SSTV	28.190-28.225	Beacons
7.285	QRP SSB calling frequency	28.200	IBP/NCDXF beacons
7.290	AM calling frequency	28.385	QRP SSB calling frequency
		28.680	SSTV
10.130-10.140	RTTY/Data	29.000-29.200	AM
10.140-10.150	Automatically controlled data stations	29.300-29.510	Satellite downlinks
		29.520-29.580	Repeater inputs
14.060	QRP CW calling frequency	29.600	FM simplex
14.070-14.095	RTTY/Data	29.620-29.680	Repeater outputs
14.095-14.0995	Automatically controlled data stations		
14.100	IBP/NCDXF beacons	ARRI hand plans	for frequencies above 28.300 MHz
14.1005-14.112	Automatically controlled data stations		ARRL Repeater Directory and on
			Anne nepeater Directory and on
14.230	SSTV	www.arrl.org.	

Operating your shack equipment, when you are not at home

By Buddy Spiegel, W3BS

o, you are operating your shack equipment when you are portable and/or mobile. There are many ways this can be accomplished, via both software and hardware solutions.

Examples of hardware solutions are the FLEX Maestro, and the Elecraft K3/0. These two solutions access your transceiver and provide all the functionality that you would have sitting in front of the radio in your shack. In the FLEX Maestro case you have a touch screen and seven knobs to keep you busy. The Elecraft K3/0 is an exact clone of

the K3 without any of the tx/rx circuitry, from the front you could not tell the difference between the two. In each of these cases you would spend approximately 1 kilobuck.

One example of a software solution is the client/server application, RCFORB. The server side software would be running in the shack, the client side would be running on a PC in a "remote" location. The servers are registered with RCFORB, and permissions are granted on the RCFORB server which is running somewhere in the cloud. Unlike the hardware solutions, RCFORB presents a very elemental tx/rx in their user interface. Earlier this year Gene, W8NET ran the server side from his home, and several club members (the author included) logged in to Gene's RCFORB server and checked into a 3905 Century Club Net, for example W3BS/P OH. I used an inexpensive LOGITECH USB mike/headset combo. The software is free, and there is no charge for registering the home station server info on the RCFORB server.

In both methodologies, your home station must be powered on. Personally, I like to operate my shack remotely, but I am not amenable to leaving the equipment turned on for several good reasons. Solving this problem is the main reason for this article, so here goes......

I have been a devotee of Home Automation going back to the 1980's when X-10 technology was the only kid on the block. I have moved through a few newer, more efficient technologies over the years, and am now using "smart" technology devices which communicate via all or some of the following: Apple Homekit, Google, Alexa, and Siri. Several of the hardware manufacturers have their own applications which run on your cell phone. In many cases these devices can be easily identified to Apple Homekit, Alexa, Google, or Siri, as well as their native applications.



Smart Outlet

The first project was to remotely power on the FLEX 6500 radio and the MFJ full legal limit auto-tuner. I used a Smart outlet, which plugs into a wall receptacle. The Smart

outlet is a WEMO brand, but there are many other brands performing the same function. The Alinco power supply plugs into it. The Alinco power supply has its sole customers the FLEX radio and the MFJ tuner. Both of these can easily be made to power on when 12 volts dc is sensed. The FLEX does this by using a shorted phone plug which goes into a jack on the rear of the FLEX. The MFJ does this by utilizing an "L" bracket mounted on the side and front of the tuner, no drilling required. The "L" bracket keeps the red power on button depressed. The tuner powers on automatically in auto-tune mode. When the frequency changes on the FLEX, all that is required is to depress the TUNE button on the FLEX and you are good to operate. This is working fine on all bands, from 10M to 160M, using my full-size 80M loop antenna. Only down side is I am limited to 100 watts. Please note that I use a FLEX Maestro with my remote operation.

The next project was to remotely operate my Ameritron ALS-1306 1200 watt, no tune amplifier, which is capable of band switching. The amplifier requires a 200-260 Vac, 50-400 Hz, 15-amp or larger circuit. The plug is a NEMA 6-15P, 250 maximum Vac at 15 amps. A thorough Google search, and a You Tube search were unable to find a smart 240 volt outlet. A subsequent You Tube search located a video where another home automation aficionado was putting his water heater on a schedule, rather than having it operate when nobody was home or when hot water was not required. The first component



Shelly Plus 1PM Smart Switch

this gentleman used is Shelly smart switch, the specifications/description is below.

 Shelly Plus 1 PM is a Wi-Fi & Bluetooth operated smart relay switch with 1 channel, up to 15A with power metering. Supports LAN connectivity as well. Shelly Plus 1PM

can be used to monitor the consumption of any home appliances, electric circuits, and office equipment individually. Non-UL Certified.

 Automate electrical appliance and control - With Shelly Plus 1PM you can automate any electrical appliance in your home and control it remotely. Shelly Plus 1PM can control appliances with large load which makes it perfect for kitchen appliances and domestic systems monitoring and control. You can get precise measurement of the power consumption of each appliance and switch in on/off remotely, no matter where you are.





CGele 2 Pole Air Conditioner Contactor 40 Amp 240V Coil



240 Vac Plug

open, and the Shelly switch when turned on closes the relay contacts on the contactor, thus passing 240 Vac. The cost of the contactor is \$11.99, and the cost of a Shelly switch is \$18.20. The 240 Vac plugs, and sockets were relatively insignificant. The Shelly phone app was downloaded to my phone, and the switch was installed in a few

minutes, and in a few more minutes it was also identified to Alexa. When in the shack it is really cool to say "Alexa

turn on amp" and next you hear the click of the relay. When remote I can either turn the amp on using the Shelly phone app, or the Alexa phone app.

Feel free to contact me with any questions, <u>bud-dys70@gmail.com</u>

73 de W3BS



240 Vac Socket

Mike, KU1V's Spring 2023 National Parks Trip Continues...

Pacific Rim N.P. and Gulf Islands N.P.

KU1V, continues parks tour.

14 March 2023

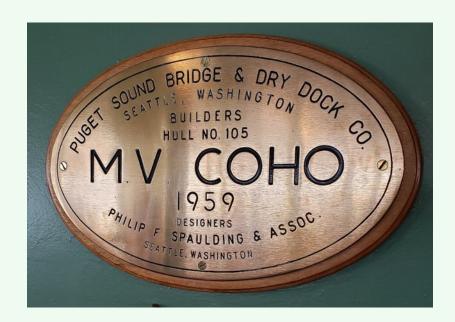
I arriving early at the ferry boat terminal, Port Angele, WA, in preparations for departure to city of Victoria on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Tickets for both vehicle and personal passaged were purchase the day before, thus positioning in the boarding line was quick and easy. Near calm winds and glassy water looked like a smooth trip ahead. I was looking forward to boarding ferry vessel and hot breakfast.







Boarding Pass



Hull Data Plate. Older hull, but very nice condition.



MV Coho, Galley area -- great breakfast sandwich



MV Coho, Mess area.



MV Coho, Salon area. Lots of space due to the advantage of off-season travel.

https://www.cohoferry.com/the-route https://www.cohoferry.com/



Passing Port Angeles Coast Guard Station airport. Mount Olympus, near 7,980 feet, back ground-left.



Entering harbor, City of Victoria, BC



Local air transportation from harbor, Victoria BC



This vessel has entrance on the starboard bow for ingress and egress of vehicles

Departing from the City of Victoria, on the Trans-Canadian Hwy Number One, was a little slow through the down town area. Continuing to follow the Trans-Canadian Hwy toward city of Nanaimo and to junction of route 4 near city of Qualicum Beach. The Pacific Rim National Park, is divided into two units and I am going to the northern unit known as the Long Beach Unit. https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/visit My initial destination near the park, for lodging, is the town of Ucluelet being well developed and very

scenic. Route 4 continues to the Pacific Rim NP, passing through the wilderness area of Clayoquot Plateau Provincial Park. The elevation of this plateau has risen from sea level to just under 4000 feet in a relatively short distance. This has created some big changes in weather over the plateau.

I am well prepared for these type of weather conditions as vehicle is all wheel drive and, I carry tire chains. Also, have with me, extra food, water, warm cloths and sleeping bag with extra liner (if needed). I will again test this sleeping bag (without liner) later in my return trip when temperatures drop to near 5 degrees and I am very comfortable during my rest period.

Just before taking the below picture, I pass a spun-out vehicle, broad side in middle of road with several persons also in middle of road probably ... wondering what to do next. Fortunately, the road was wide enough for me and the vehicle behind me to pass and continue up the steep incline of the highway. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ British Columbia Highway 4



Near the summit of Clayoquot Plateau, Vancouver Island.

https://nrs.objectstore.gov.bc.ca/kuwyyf/clayoquot_plateau_map_dde07d689e.pdf https://bcparks.ca/clayoquot-plateau-park/



Mike, KU1V



My lodging is at the Canadian Princess, which was most accommodating, located in the town of Ucleuelet (I highly recommend).



Harbor view from lodge office.



Compass in the lodge office. Why is this compass in the lodge office?



Turns out this compass is from the ship (above) "Canadian Princess" that was birthed for several years in nearby harbor as a tourist attraction. The lodging, top left, is where is stayed.

https://www.canadianaffair.com/hotels/hotels-in-canada/hotels-in-british-columbia/hotels-in-ucluelet/canadian-princess-lodge

The ship is no longer birthed at the above location and the following link with show its sad departure for subsequent dismantling.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dk9ofm8Gj5U

Scroll down during presentation if you watch next link.

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/canadian-princess-leaves-ucluelet-harbour-1.3789402



Rugged coastline near Ucluelet.



Light house, Ucluelet



Confirmation of the rough coastline

Next morning, I depart back over same highway route to which I arrived in Town of Ucluelet with a plan to operate this evening, from Gulf Islands NP. Gulf Islands NP is a patchwork, both on main land and off shore islands. https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/gulf/visit/brochures

My destination for lodging will be Sidney BC, Vancouver Island. Sidney is a seaside town near the Victoria Int'l Airport and the ferry boat terminal in Swartz Bay. Sidney is a great area to stay / visit. https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-q181772-Activities-

Sidney Victoria Capital Regional District Vancouver Island British Columbia.html



Mike, KU1V

After 40m EN and a good night's rest, I will be boarding the ferry vessel "Spirit of British Columbia" in continuation of my national parks tour. Next Park, North Cascades NP in State of Washington.

See you there.

Best 73 Mike KU1V

December 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, December 9, 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 December.

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.



Kenwood Tri-bander TH-F6 For Sale

I am selling my Kenwood Tri-bander as has become extra stuff. The TH-F6 is in good working order!

It is advertised on other locations for higher price, but for our group \$295.00 plus shipping.

I am good on QRZ.

Merry Christmas.

Best 73 Mike KU1V







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).

We currently have 3 CW Net Control Stations running the 160m, 80m, 40, and 20m CW nets. Any additional volunteers would be welcome!

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!

Fun Facts About Our Nets In November 2023

586 unique U.S. Stations checked into our nets during the month of November, 2023.

AAOBU	KACRN	KAOOMA	KD3KV/Z	KEEMCM	VI EUZ	KS9WI	NOLOE	NA/ANALIE	WBOLIHI
AA0BH AA0HF	K4GBN K4HI	KA9QWV KB0BK	KD2KVZ KD2MRR	KF5WCW KF6QPY	KL5HZ KL7CCN	KT4AS	N9LQF N9UUX	W4MUF W4OTQ	WB9UHL WD4AMC
AA0ZP	K4ISG	KB0EL	KD2WKK	KF7HNC	KL7JR	KU1V	NB5H	W4DTQ W4PRK	WD4AWC
AA1NA	K4JEL	KB0HV	KD2YTU	KF7PTE	KL70R	KU4SMC	NC8F	W4FKK W4RWJ	WD9C
AA1XQ	K45EL K4K	KB0VWG	KD2TTO KD2ZJK	KF8UN	KL70K	KU8RLY	NC8N	W4RW3	WD9C WD9DDU
AA5LT	K4KOT	KB1CRQ	KD3Y	KG4GTR	KM4HWY	KV0H	ND9C	W41KA W4V	WD9DD0
AA9YP	K4KRK	KB1XP	KD4CJO	KG4QJE	KM4JPL	KW4CZ	NF0J	W4ZDP	WE4FUN
AB3LS	K4LO	KB2SKB	KD4UJVG	KG4ZOD	KM4P	KW5DRE	NH7DX	W5EWL	WE6M
AB3VK	K4PDW	KB25KB	KD45VG KD4MES	KG5BTC	KM4QHK	KX1B	NI0A	W5GFM	WF4H
AB8PS	K4PEB	KB2TC	KD5KTB	KG5GOG	KM6ETX	KX4B0B	NJ2LH	W5LPZ	WF4ROG
AB8YZ	K4PVK	KB3LPE	KD5RWR	KG5IEF	KM6KXY	KX4MT	NK4T	W5MKC	WG0I
AB9VC	K4RJJ	KB3VLE	KD5ZMM	KG5SQJ	KM9U	KY1KY	NN2E	W5MOF	WJ5J
AC0HF	K4STH	KB4BYH	KD6CZ	KG5ZPT	KN4BDC	KY4FV	NO2CC	W5PTX	WK1J
AC1EV	K4ZCO	KB4HLC	KD6DYR	KG6FOS	KN4CQB	KZ2G	NQ0R	W5UOT	WN1F
AC10C	K4ZEE	KB7BIB	KD6JBL	KG8WL	KN4DDA	N0AKT	VE6YPY	W5VUY	WN4ACE
AC2MT	K5GEB	KB7DA	KD7QBB	KH6KW	KN4HUM	NOBCP	VE8AU	W5WJN	WQ6L
AC5H	K5HYC	KB7RAC	KD8NKY	KI0ER	KN4LGM	NOKKY	VE8RST	W6MS	WR3V
AD7EM	K5MHX	KB7ROV	KD8SAV	KIOHA	KN4RBW	NOPF	VY0RST	W6PNY	WR8WM
AE0QG	K5PAR	KB8DM	KD8SUE	KIOY	KN4YSN	NOPUI	VY1RST	W7ASY	WT3B
AE0S	K5RFO	KB8OTM	KD9KPU	KI2X	KN4YYB	NORWJ	WODMG	W7AYQ	WU2T
AE0WD	K5TXK	KB8UEY	KD9NCP	KI4NBE	KN6RSX	NOXGI	WOHM	W7BTM	WW3JW
AE4NT	K5WEL	KB8UGP	KD9UPB	KI4QMB	KN6TXR	N1ABY	W0HP	W7MOG	WW3K
AE6EG	K6ASN	KB9GKG	KD9VLZ	KI4WCQ	KN6UDK	N1GZB	W0JFK	W7PML	WW4RR
AE8RN	K6ODI	KB9JLC	KD9VRU	KI5CES	KN6YPK	N1OSI	W0JKT	W7SCD	WW9X
AF2B	K6YEK	KB9LXM	KD9WSL	KI5OLV	KN6ZGE	N1RCH	W0RCH	W7WML	WX0MIK
AF8GO	K7BBS	KB9VHJ	KE0CGJ	KI5SFP	KO0NDR	N1TOC	W0RST	W8BBL	WY6N
AG4OG	K7BDG	KB9YYM	KE0LEP	KI5TTL	KO4GRC	N2EN	wow	W8BI	
AG5T	K7BNY	KC0UKA	KE0SAW	KI5VGQ	KO4JKO	N2EWM	W0ZPT	W8CPT	
AG5Z	K7IUQ	KC0WEA	KE0YYE	KI5YMV	KO4JQN	N2KED	W1DRH	W8DDS	
AI4K	K7MKA	KC10JR	KE3UY	KI6DL	KO4LEM	N2XTT	W1HQL	W8HQ	
AI7B	K7NHC	KC1QIA	KE4EVL	KI6DTC	KO4MEX	N3BGI	W1IP	W8JCS	
AI8O	K7OPQ	KC1YL	KE4VAM	KI7PM	KO4RFP	N3DRB	W1LAS	W8JJB	
AI9X	K7PGL	KC2DAQ	KE5NGM	KI7S	KO4SMP	N3ROC	W1PEF	W8MIJ	
AJ4MP	K7QHU	KC2DNA	KE7GGP	KJ4RM	KO4SOW	N3TKG	W1WWA	W8NET	
AK4AT	K7RA	KC2RFQ	KE7QWZ	KJ4ZEO	KO4TRA	N3VEJ	W2CSI	W9GQ	
AK4PJ	K7SUN	KC3DDB	KE7RG	KJ5AIV	KO4WAU	N3YHM	W2DLB	W9GZO	
K0BCX	K7TSW	KC3HCK	KE7ZDA	KJ5AND	KO4WUB	N4ESU	W2EUA	W9JAM	
K0CCP	K7WIV	KC3HDT	KE8DNJ	KJ5BBZ	KP2JR	N4HNO	W2FEC	W9MWI	
K0FCL	K7ZDP	KC3PXC	KE8HBY	KJ5BPF	KQ0EEE	N4HWK	W2JLD	W9RDB	
K0KLB	K8GIB	KC3RJR	KE8NJV	KJ5BUL	KQ0Q	N4ITS	W2RCH	W9ROG	
K0PGI	K8ICE	KC3SAC	KE8RRG	KJ5CCV	KQ4BAP	N4YDQ	W2TI	W9WWG	
K0WNV	K8MSF	KC3VRP	KE8RS	KJ5CGJ	KQ4BPZ	N5BRT	W2WCM	WA0ROH	
K1CCN	K8SSN	KC5IVT	KE8RYW	KJ5CJR	KQ4CHU	N5GPI	W2YPP	WA1FFT	
K1FRC	K8TLW	KC5JAV	KE8UIB	KJ6EEP	KQ4DNM	N5JDT	W3BS	WA1RJF	
K1GDI	K9CVO	KC5THR	KE8URA	KJ7JJT	KQ4ERZ	N5KUC	W3DMC	WA2JIM	
K1GRH	K9DBB	KC7ET	KE8UWD	KJ7RAD	KQ4FGT	N5OHL	W3DOV	WA2VQW	
K1KTF	K9DBC	KC7HDE	KE8WEP	KJ7RVB	KQ4FNU	N5WGA	W3FN	WA3CUC	
K1PIJ	K9DXW	KC8DVE	KE8WPG	KK2M	KQ4FOH	N6BF	W3JPV	WA3DPV	
K2DBC	K9GWS	KC8HDI	KE8YGW	KK4BMV	KQ4GFZ	N6GC	W3JRD	WA4ARB	
K2HIL	KA0BMX	KC8JT	KF0ASO	KK4PQU	KQ4GGI	N6KEN	W3MGZ	WA4BKL	
K2MEU	KA0MR	KC8QXD	KF0EAO	KK4SGF	KQ4GUM	N6TCO	W3QD	WA4EX	
K2OCA	KA1FLH	KC8UKB	KF0KUB	KK4UWF	KQ4HAC	N7HRI	W4ADI	WA4NID	
K2SFS	KA2BMD	KC9SJN	KF0KUG	KK4VJK	KQ4HSV	N7HRR	W4AVM	WA6CP	
K2YS	KA2QIK	KC9YY	KF0LKG	KK5NC	KQ4JJS	N7NKD	W4BDN	WA9UIR	
K3AQ	KA2TIA	KD0DCZ	KF0NBU	KK5SC	KQ4JMR	N7PLQ	W4CBH	WB0CSF	
K3ARK	KA2YDS	KD0GIX	KF4DDJ	KK6IEE	KQ4KHR	N8GHW	W4CPO	WB0ZAY	
K3JOE	KA2YEG	KD0YOR	KF4KFL	KK7HSO	KQ4LLM	N8KLQ	W4CXT	WB2BWS	
K3QI	KA3IVN	KD2EJ	KF4TPY	KK7KHK	KR6TOM	N8TAU	W4GSL	WB5DW	
K3VTS	KA3ZYX	KD2ELY	KF5AIE	KK7NKV	KS4HE	N9BFI	W4HLJ	WB6WCO	
K4BCF	KA5PXE	KD2HCE	KF5KFB	KL4PU	KS7ROH	N9BMM	W4KFS	WB8FCC	

Unique Check-Ins By State and SSB Net November 2023

State	20M SSB	40M SSB EARLY	40M SSB LATE	40M SSB DX	75M SSB EARLY	75M SSB LATE	75M SSB DX	160M SSB EARLY	160M SSB LATE	160M SSB LATE LATE
Alabama	1	6	4	2	3	0	0	0	1	0
Alaska	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Arkansas	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	1	3	6	1	0	2	1	0	0	1
California	1	6	15	5	3	1	0	0	0	0
Colorado	2	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Connecticut	4	4	3	2	2	3	0	0	1	1
Delaware	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	20	30	11	1	7	1	0	0	2	0
Georgia	6	12	3	2	4	3	0	0	3	0
Hawaii	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iowa	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ldaho	1	4	4	2	2	3	1	1	1	1
Illinois	1	1	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Indiana	1	9	5	3	5	3	1	1	4	1
Kansas	0	5	4	0	2	2	2	2	3	2
Kentucky	2	10	3	1	5	1	0	0	1	1
Louisiana	3	4	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Massachusetts	1	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Maryland	1	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Maine	1	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	2	0
Michigan	3	11	3	0	4	1	0	0	1	0
Minnesota	5	7	8	3	4	3	2	1	3	2
Missouri	3	15	7	0	7	1	1	1	4	2
Mississippi	1	4	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
Montana	0	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
North Carolina	3	19	6	5	6	7	2	3	7	2
North Dakota	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	2
Nebraska	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Hamp- shire	1	3	3	0	4	1	0	0	2	0
New Jersey	1	12	7	0	4	1	0	0	0	0
New Mexico	1	4	4	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Nevada	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
New York	4	12	4	1	6	3	1	1	3	1
Ohio	6	20	6	2	6	2	2	1	3	0
Oklahoma	4	5	3	0	3	1	0	0	1	0
Oregon	2	4	4	1	1	2	3	0	1	0
	4	12	1	0	3		0	0	0	0
Rhode Island	0	2	2				0		0	0

State	20M SSB	40M SSB EARLY	40M SSB LATE	40M SSB DX	75M SSB EARLY	75M SSB LATE	75M SSB DX	160M SSB EARLY	160M SSB LATE	160M SSB LATE LATE
South Carolina	11	19	11	3	13	5	2	0	2	0
South Dakota	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	6	17	5	2	6	3	3	0	0	1
Texas	11	16	11	2	7	2	0	0	0	0
Utah	1	4	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Virginia	2	9	5	2	4	1	0	0	5	0
Vermont	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	2	3	4	1	0	2	1	0	1	0
Wisconsin	1	4	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	1
West Virginia	0	3	4	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Wyoming	1	3	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	0

DX STATIONS NOVEMBER 2023

Call	Country	Net	Date	Call	Country	Net	Date
6Y5CB	Jamaica	40m SSB E	Sun 11/19/2023	EA8DMF	Canary	75m SSB L	Mon 11/27/2023
6Y5CB	Jamaica	40m SSB E	Tue 11/14/2023	EA8DMF	Canary	40m SSB L	Fri 11/24/2023
6Y5CB	Jamaica	40m SSB E	Sat 11/11/2023	EA8DMF	Canary	40m SSB L	Wed 11/29/2023
6Y5CB	Jamaica	40m SSB E	Tue 11/28/2023	F4IVV	France	40m SSB L	Thu 11/30/2023
6Y5CB	Jamaica	40m SSB E	Sun 11/05/2023	F4IVV	France	40m SSB L	Sat 11/25/2023
6Y5CB	Jamaica	40m SSB E	Sat 11/04/2023	HI5JRP	Dominican	40m SSB DX	Sat 11/11/2023
6Y5CB	Jamaica	40m SSB E	Wed 11/22/2023	I8KCI	Italy	40m SSB L	Thu 11/16/2023
6Y5CB	Jamaica	40m SSB E	Tue 11/21/2023	I8KCI	Italy	40m SSB L	Wed 11/29/2023
8P6MY	Barbados	40m SSB DX	Sat 11/25/2023	IW2NZQ	Italy	40m SSB L	Wed 11/29/2023
CO6DE	Cuba	40m SSB E	Sat 11/18/2023	IZ1GRH	Italy	20m SSB	Sun 11/12/2023
EA8DMF	Canary	20m SSB	Sat 11/18/2023	V31FA	Belize	40m SSB L	Thu 11/23/2023
EA8DMF	Canary	40m SSB L	Wed 11/15/2023	V44IR	St Kitts	40m SSB L	Wed 11/29/2023

CANADIAN DX STATIONS NOVEMBER 2023

Call	Province	Call	Province	Call	Province
VA3CRL	ON	VE3KUZ	ON	VE3YWN	ON
VA3YKT	ON	VE3LWW	ON	VE4BDB	МВ
VA6RWR	АВ	VE3OHC	ON	VE4ETC	МВ
VA7CRA	вс	VE3SIQ	ON	VE4WAT	МВ
VE1ECL	NS	VE3SIZ	ON	VE9CZ	NB
VE3HMK	ON	VE3SSR	ON	VE9SRC	NB

Exit with a Smile!



