

HAAM GROUP - Friends of Bill W.

HAAM News - No 2

March 2009

In this issue: People; Net Operations; etc

Gary S, WØSDI, continues snowbirding through the south. He is leaving TX soon and on the way to Alabama, thence north toward home in Iowa in about a month.

George B, VE1GAB, is on holiday in Cuba.

Joe M, N5ID, is back home as of 11 March. Yheeeaaah! Joe spent 4 months in various hospitals. I'm sure he got sick of them, by them, and in them.

David K, son of Henry K, N8KDW (SK), sent us an email thanking us for keeping up Henry's efforts on HAAM.

We continue to run a HAAM Group's announcement in QST, and, as a result, we get most of our new checkins referred from that source.

Net Operations - a directed net

With Gary, WØDSI and Joe N5ID, both regulars away from their home QTHs for most of the winter, we have run out of the usual net control operators. So a system of Net Control assignments has been developed and will be in place until they return. Here is how it is now:

HF NET (but not on Contest Weekends)

Monday -- (needs a "volunteer")

Tuesday -- Mike W0HR

Wednesday -- Gary WØDSI

Thursday -- Sig VE6SP

Friday -- Doug AB5FG

Saturday -- This is a tough day - one of the above will try to be here, but let's all try to pitch in.

Sunday -- Robert K6LX

If you have ever tried to run a net on 20 meters you will soon realize that you need a relay operator located out there somewhere far away who can cover your local area where you don't reach and who can hear stations you can't hear. Right now, it is up to each net control operator to find someone(s) to serve as relay operator(s) for that session.

**New - HF Net Format

We have never had a rigid format for our nets. We called the weekday net a roundtable and tried initially to have the weekend nets be generally but not rigidly directed by a control operator. This hasn't worked well in view of the difficulty of propagation. So, our nets on HF are now directed by the control operator for the day. Maybe when Gary gets back and propagation improves we can go back to the "old" way.

We have not had the habit of reading a preamble either, although I think that it might be a good idea to say something. Most nets would say who they are at the minimum and we do it as "Friends of Bill W Net". We are working on a draft preamble.

We don't read Daily Reflections or from the Big

Book, although one might give a short quote from these sources if one is going to share on his/her experience with matters concerning that quote.

Every net should begin with the making of a list of those who have showed up. First the Net Control Operator makes a list; then he might ask the Relays to find additional checkins to add to the list. Then they can work them in turn.

Oh yes, let's ask up front: "Are there any new checkins here for the first time?" It gets kinda cold out there when you wait and wait for a chance to checkin and you are not used to the net.

QSONet

A new format and time comes to our aid. QSONet is a VOIP protocol dedicated to amateur radio use. As you can see from our web page (reproduced over side) we meet there one hour before our regular net time. Moreover, the quality of the transmission is better than a telephone. It also provides the ability to concurrently transmit photos for some additional information and enjoyment. See www.qsonet.com

You need a Windows computer, speaker and microphone. Sam VE4KS, George VE1GAB, Maury W9FBC, Tom G4UGR, Doug AB5FG and Robert K6LX show up much of the time. Add Gary WØSDI, Bud WA8TGS, Russ W8ATA, Bob W0YIJ, Jan WAØLST .

Register (free for 90 days) and join in.

Send in email address changes!

Still, only ~ 50% of our known members have email addresses on file with us. Please forgive us if you sent your email and it got lost in the shuffle. Send it again.

I sent the last newsletter by snail mail to all for whom I do not have an email address. Well, we did not get a very good response from those who received a printed copy with the request that they forward an email address for use of this group. The present newsletter is being sent by email only and by announcement on our webpage.

2010 AA Convention in San Antonio

Nothing new to report at this time.

73 24 12 March 2009

Robert Block, K6LX -- r.block@cox.net

<http://members.cox.net/k6lx/haam.htm>

LATE BREAKING NEWS: Gary WØSDI, has an article published in the APRIL 2009 issue of GRAPEVINE, page 44: "Too Smart for AA?" - byline Gary S. Primghar IA.