

The COMMUNICATOR



YL SYSTEM SINCE 1963

ISSUE 350 – APRIL 2026

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings YLSystem Members,

April showers... bring severe weather. The incidence of severe weather across the US has increased dramatically over recent years. Rising temperatures and changes in weather patterns are directly linked to climate change causing more frequent and intense / extreme weather patterns. As amateur operators we must be concerned, given that the elements of our hobby are exposed to the this weather. Spring has always been a time of organization, cleaning and maintenance both personally and with our surroundings, structures, vehicles, yards / gardens and yes, for the amateur operator towers, masts and their associated connections. Extreme temperature swings can cause both coax and ground connections to expand and contract loosening them, heavy rain and snow / ice melt can infiltrate connectors.

Aerial maintenance should include adjusting inspecting mast guy wire tension, checking long wire haul lines, re-taping and securing coax. note: good coax often has a soft dialectic core and is sensitive to compression, zip ties can deform this dielectric affecting SWR... use UV stable tape.

FCC factoid; The FCC considers any self supporting un-guyed aerial structure to be a tower and all guyed structures are denoted as masts. Many amateur operators are weather and atmospheric science enthusiasts, taking severe weather nets and being NWS/NOAA storm spotters, many thanks to those who participate in these functions... remembering in fringe areas the NWS depend on spotter reports as these areas are below their radar sweeps.

From the Board Room

Planning is underway for our annual upcoming convention, more details to follow. The YLSystem will welcome any and all those interested in becoming a Co-Control, if interested contact any session coordinator as listed on the contact management pull down on the website ylsystem.org Enjoy the moderate weather ... and keep you eyes and ears to the sky,

Bill
W4WSB

**April Special Day:
Ambassador Award - April 9**

To complete this award, contact 10 Ambassadors or Ambassadors Extraordinaire of the YLISSB. K4ICA will count as two (2) contacts. Because many of our Ambassadors also hold the honor Ambassador Extraordinaire, those members can only be used once. No duplicates will be allowed. List will be provided after January 1.

The Following Award Certificates Were Awarded
In March 2026:

**April Monthly Award:
President's Award**

To complete this award, contact 25 members who have the same name either the first or last as one of the US Presidents during the month of April.

SPECIAL AWARD

One member earned a Service Award

- Issued to any YL System Scheduled Control Stations and their assistants for every 100 hours as a Control Station. Members earning 1000 hours, with time beginning as of August 1, 2009, will be awarded 2 years of free dues.
- Walt Coventry, 400 hour Service Award

Spring Award

This award is earned by working any 50 members during the System's Sunrise Portion and ONLY during the months of March, April, and May.

IF YOU ARE A PERIOD CONTROL, YOU CANNOT USE CONTACTS FROM THAT PERIOD FOR AN AWARD.

CONTACTS MADE USING AN SDR DO NOT COUNT FOR AN AWARD. CONTACTS MUST BE MADE RADIO TO RADIO.

FEBRUARY NEW MEMBERS

19658 KF0MOE Martin
19659 WW1TOM Tom
19660 K4KMKP Mike
19661 KJ5ATO Bently
19662 K4JGQ Kermit
19663 KJ5NKV Dick
19664 AA1KN Bob
19665 K4UTV Dwayne
19666 AA5QJ Charlie
19667 AA5TG Tommy
19668 ACORH Peter
19669 KO4DR Jim
19670 VA3ORT Randoll

19671 KC3EMK Jeff
19672 NOVYF Randy
19673 K7GBT Brett
19674 KF0TEC Richard
19675 N3WJH Dan
19676 N3FTU Bob
19677 N5TDA Rex
19678 KOLYL Sheina Marie
19679 AEOPF David
19680 KJ5EPE Jennifer
19681 KFOWFT Bruce
19682 AC8DA Tom
19683 KA5SAR Budd

BIRTHDAYS

Darrell KI4LLA
Garret WA7GE
George KC3WRH
James AF5NP
Jaxon KK7MNM
JOHN KF8BYK

Kellye K1SOE
Mike K4PEB
Randal W8EJC
Robert WA4MBG
Roy KN4WOJ
Stephen (Steve) W6SWC
Steven N9QAP

ANNIVERSARIES

John N0LZH
Chris KA5PXE
Kellye K1SOE
Gerald W8PDS
Eric KI0RR
Tommy KO4NWU
Rick K9LCY
Rich K8RPM

Clarence WS0C
John KC5BSI
Jon G3NHS
Richard KI6DPT
Steve K4ELI
Darrell N6LBR
Vincent KI7PTW
Robert WB3DJN

David W2JJV
Richard KOHPO
Larry WA9TT
Luther W3LCW
John K5JHE
Robert KK7RUV
Charlie KJ5NGA
David WA7BHC

SILENT KEY

W5JEA Jesse Armstrong #16034

FROM OUR HISTORY FILES



System – Not a Net:

Why is it important to call the YLISSB a system? Isn't this just semantics?

While it may not be obvious to those not acquainted with the YLISSB, there is an important difference. To quote V. Mayree from the September 1964 SSB'ers:

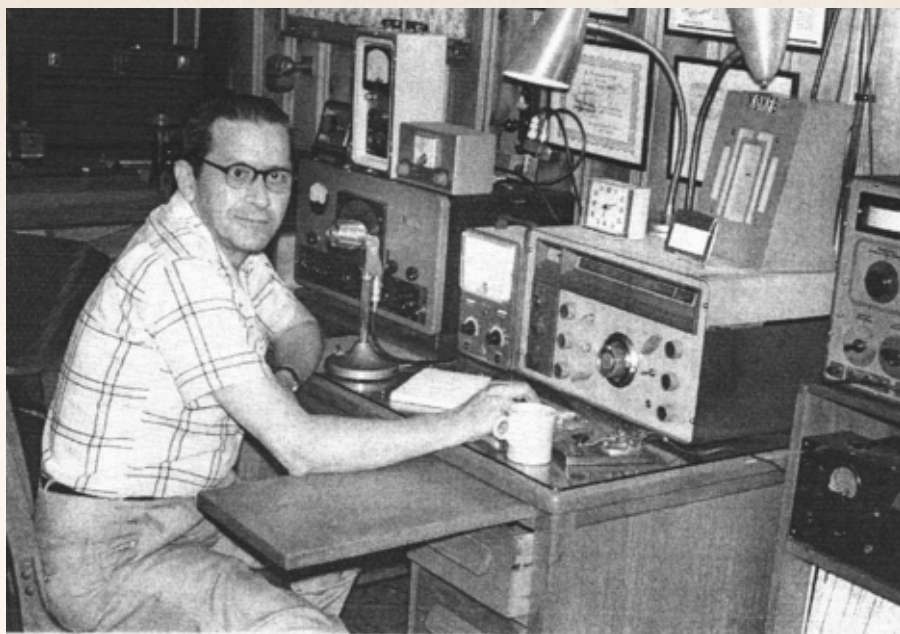
“The SSB'ers communication system is NEVER to be referred to as a “net”! There is a vast difference between a “net” and a communication system. We have gone to great lengths to, set up a communication system whereby emergency traffic to or from any country in the world may be handled all the while strictly adhering to the FCC regulations.

“Where third party traffic is involved, to or from countries with whom we have no reciprocal agreement, we may pass the traffic to a reciprocal country who has reciprocal agreement. For example: Canada or Mexico or any number of the Central & South American countries – who, in turn, may follow through.”

Thus, it is possible to expeditiously via this method, while never deviating one iota from FCC regulations, pass international emergency traffic.

“This elevates SSB'ers to the category of a communication system. We adjure not only the system controls but also each member to proudly identify your communication system as such and never refer to it as a ‘net’”

While today it is recognized that we have many more ways of communicating world-wide (i.e., cell phones, satellite, email, and other mass communications) these modes can often have unique limitations. This is particularly the case during weather, solar, or other nature disasters. The System is still an essential emergency communication mode.



B.R. Ellis Sr. KØKFB - Barney
YL System membership #6332
August 1962 Parsons, Kansas
Rig
Johnson Viking Valiant
175 watts CW & AM
National NC-300 "Dream Rcvr"
D-104 mic - J-38 key

John W5PDW -
John's Father - B. R. Ellis, Sr. KØKFB (Barney)

Announcing an invitation to submit info about your gear, shack and antennas.
(We already know about you) Please send your info with a photo or photos and a brief
description to: communicator@ylsystem.org