

The COMMUNICATOR



YL SYSTEM SINCE 1963

ISSUE 349 – MARCH 2026

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings,

March is the turning point ending winter and the coming of spring. As the Sun moves north from the Tropic of Capricorn into the equinox on Friday March 20, 2026 at 10:46 a.m. EDT . Marking the first day of spring, also known as “First Point of Aries”. The equinox's can be favorable periods for HF propagation. However during such and from time to time the earth can experience an increased level of geomagnetic storminess. Given that the GMF (Earth's geomagnetic field) is better aligned with the IMF (interplanetary field) which can allow charged particles from the sun to enter the atmosphere causing greater disturbances and signal degradation from CME's or solar wind.

HF propagation depends heavily on ionospheric conditions. During the fall and spring equinoxes, both hemispheres receive equal daylight which stabilize and maximize the ionization of the F-layer. Generally, this phenomenon creates optimal conditions for DX propagation on the 20, 17, 15, and 10 meter bands. The annual solar path creates a challenging calendar for the amateur operator, from “low sun” in the winter to “high sun” mid-summer... and a “Goldilocks” period during the spring and fall equinoxes.

Amateur Radio presents ever changing conditions (sometimes by the hour)...many thanks to the Controls, members, and guests, that brave these conditions each day, filling our logs providing continental and DX connectivity now for over 60 years, as our founders in intended.

Given the recent severe weather, blizzard conditions (east and west) and torrential downpours (west) be ever vigilant in being able to communicate during these periods. Have alternate power sources available, powering-up with generators or batteries doesn't always ensure internet or cell phone connectivity...Have a plan and always be prepared in times of emergency.

Bill W4WSB

March Special Day: Irish Award--March 17

To complete this award, contact 10 members whose sideband number ends with a "1" or a "7" or any Irish stations. Irish stations count for two (2) contacts. K4ICA counts as two (2) contacts and can be used (1) time.

March Monthly Award: March Madness

To complete this award, contact 20 members whose first name sounds Irish, or whose station is located in Ireland, during the month of March

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.

The Following Award Certificates Were Awarded In January 2026:

FEBRUARY SPECIAL DAY

One member earned the Happy Birthday Special Day Award

This award is granted for contacting eighteen members with a 9 in their System number on February 9, 2026.

John Ellis, W5PDW, Happy Birthday Special Day Award

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.

Jeff Peyton, KE4OLE, 1000 hour Service Award

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

19640 WE4PM Ed
19641 KG5KSJ Alio
19642 NOACT Christian
19643 KF5DC Donald
19644 W4VP JD
19645 WW7AL Al
19646 N2FSH Gary
19647 KR4HGP Mickey
19648 KM6IWV John

19649 KC5MXJ Porta John
19650 N4CRV Lee
19651 NOLZH John
19652 KM4AM Mike
19653 W5DNL Daniel
19654 KF5FWK John
19655 KE00MI Roger
19656 K5PAR Lanny
19657 W9DTE Dave

BIRTHDAYS

Don KK7CZD
Ron KK4HAM
Bob K4UXG
Stephen KR7I
Bret KC3DJV
David W5EH
Art W7TOA
Atlas KK7UQE
Mark KD9RRS
Jerry N6MEI
DAVID AC3HT
Patrick KD9MLG
Charles KO6INC
Michael K4WNM

Roy KB6GHF
Doug W7DPB
Robert KI5CSG
James KC3RFG
Alan W8ARO
Juan WP4JD
Robert K5LFLK
Mike K9BBN
John AA2MI
Dave KE0BEE
Andre KF5FSK
Richard KKOCOP
Don KFONCB
Steven WAINPD

Bill WB2MEF
Hal KA1OEM
Peter KE8NQK
Michael KE5WCT
Richard N4PSX
Bill W2EO
Aaron NY5V
Tony N4TMH
Thomas KI5HAM
Randy KFORG
Gary K4GCD
Jon KB6TAZ
Richard KD2VYP

ANNIVERSARIES

John AA2MI
Charles AA5CS
Bob K4OFD
Bob K4UXG
Bobbie K4ZGH
Jeff K8JMH
John K8YO
David KBOSTE
Lee KD5Q
Doug KD9DHT
Bob KJ5CF

Ron KK4HAM
Roy KN4WOJ
Erich KR4DMS
Mark N1SK
Ray N4VWD
John N9SPG
Brian NB2H
Robert NC4RP
Huck NW5O
Bob W3ZR
Lonzo W5PKD

Gary W5RTX
Rondal D. W8BF
Randal W8EJC

SILENT KEYS

Ronald Bakeman K8TLC #18362
Jeffery Turnage KF5TEX #17508
Mark Challendar NG2G #18330

FROM OUR HISTORY FILES



On February 9, 1963 the YL international SSB'er (YL System) was officially born!!

Its CREDO would be: "We believe in the Dignity of man."

Its MOTTO to be: "Dedicated to the building of friendship among all the peoples of the earth through amateur radio, and to be of service to our fellowman".

Other significant milestone:

- Before long, the YLISSB acceded to the pleas from the listening OMs to be allowed to participate, but only after the YLs have made all their contacts first!
- The first designated 20-meter frequency was 14.333 Mhz. While it may vary depending on activities on the band the current 20-meter frequency is still 14.332 Mhz. (See website for other bands and frequencies being used).
- Following V. Mayree's passing in 2001, her call sign became the Memorial call sign for the System (K4ICA).
- V. Mayree became the first president of the YLISSB. To date there have been 16 YLISSB presidents including the current president, Rose Rybachek, KL7FQQ. (see listing below of all the past YLISSB presidents).
- Newsletter #1 (SSB'ers Voice), with handwritten addresses, was mailed from Miami in May, 1963, with the first mimeographed membership list included.
- On April 5, 1963, V. Mayree announced that she was beginning the task of assigning SSB'er numbers. The award program was underway, and by way of identification, SSB'er numbers were imperative.
- In August 1963 V. Mayree announced in Newsletter #2 the incorporation of SSB'er, approved by the Florida Secretary of State. In this Newsletter appeared the news that now there were 1,500 members. (In the early 2000s the incorporation of the YLISSB was moved to Alaska.)

SSB'ers Voice #3, the last of the mimeographed editions stated that there were now 1,967 members. The front cover of the Voice prominently

"SSB'ERS VOICE"

EDITOR K4ICA

APRIL 1965

V. MAYREE TALLMAN NEWSLETTER No. 6



JR. OP. OF K0KFA,
JOHN, SSB'ER #4076

CHILDREN INVARIABLY HAVE AN ESPECIAL
APPEAL. ONE GLANCE AT THIS ONE AND I
LOST MY HEART!

HIS FATHER'S CHAIR IS MUCH TOO LARGE,
AND THE DIALS SEEM A BIT CONFUSING. BUT
THE MIKE? - WHY QUOTE THE OBVIOUS!
THANKS, JOHN.

+ + + + +

From John W5PDW

Photo of my first station, Parsons, Kansas 1957

KNOKFA-KOKFA

Elmac AF-67 75 watts AM & CW

Rcvr Hallicrafter SX-111

73, John

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@yldsystem.org