

The COMMUNICATOR



YL SYSTEM SINCE 1963

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings All,

Recently while working on the website, I realized (given the site reports) there are not a lot of members utilizing or visiting the website, a lot of effort is given to its upkeep and content. I invite you to sign in and explore the YLSystem website, a very large and extensive site with data, history, photographs and publications going back to 1963. Many now enjoy the social networking experience of “on air” and AIM, give the website a look.

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 YLSSB'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 system of controls covering the country and regions beyond. The session coordinators schedule months in advance to keep the 100's of control hours filled each week. The system is always looking for control Op's, if interested contact a session coordinator on the contact management pull down tab on the website and join the team.

Given the horrible storms this winter and makingup for no hurricanes this year,it is important to realize, that at any given time the YLSystem can become an emergency communications system (how we got our start), doesn't happen often but all hams know there's always somebody on 14.332.... Be vigilant and accomodating if such a situation occurs. Remembering we always yield for mobile, DX, QRP and any station calling Break!

I would like to thank the operational staff...coordinators, control OP's and members ...and I always thank the guests on air for making the YLSystem a legendary and successful system on HF radio.

See you down the log,
Bill W4WSB

The Following Award Certificates Were Awarded In January 2026:

SPECIAL DAY AWARDS

February Special Day Award
February 9– HAPPY BIRTHDAY
This is our Birthday. To complete this award a total of eighteen (18) contacts must be made with members with a 9 in their System number. K4ICA will count for one (1) contact

Two members earned the January Snowflake Special Day Award

This award is granted for contacting nine members whose call sign contain one of the letters that make up the word “SNOWFLAKE”. One contact for each letter.

Robert Showell, KJ5PBZ, Snowflake Award
John Ellis, W5PDW, Snowflake Award

SERVICE AWARDS

YL SYSTEM BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION–
February 1 thru 28, 2026

To celebrate the birthday of the YL System, during the month of February, contact one member for each year of the YL System. 2026 marks our 63st year, so contact 63 member stations during the month. Contacts may be made on any YL System session, on any band. Contacts will count only one time.

One member earned a Service Award

This award is 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, VE3FHE, 300-hour Service Award
Send all award submissions to –
www.Awards@YLSYSTEM.org

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.

NEW MEMBERS

19616 KJ5NGF Willie
19617 W4ADI Mike
19618 KN4JHW Powell
19619 WW5CJ Chuck
19620 KJ5ASC Joseph
19621 KAODQP Michael
19622 WD4AMC Bill
19623 KR4HES Doug
19624 KR4DZT Randy
19625 AA5AF Robby
19626 N1AUN Curtis
19627 KN4YOB Rick
19628 KE9EEN Rich

19629 KQ4YXH Roger
19630 K8RPM Rich
19631 K4RDH Robbie
19632 K4CGE Chris
19633 KI6DPT Richard
19634 K3QI Mike
19635 N1QJ Bob
19636 KM6VBT David
19637 K7CIT Mike
19638 KZ9E John
16939 WA5YFT Jim

BIRTHDAYS

KF7RPF John
K4MOD Lawrence
KD2VHL Perry
K0OPP Mark
KEOZAM Jeff
N7NHS Maurice
W2SAS Michael
W3CAT Ken
K0KNF Mark
KQ4UHP Bart
KD2TYH Kenneth
K5EK Marcus
N9LQF James
KA4GSR David
K7RRY Robert
WOEO Richard
K1RJL Raymond
AE8RN Robert
N4CRJ Charles
KB3QVT Barrett
KY4IO Mark

KEOZSV Tom
KN6CMV David
KD5BYL Candace
KD9VLG Cassandra
NOUE Dylan
NFOJ Dave
N5GCQ Charles
AF7P Eric
W3UF FRANK
W8GV Gerard
KO4WY Steve
K4BGU Roderick
K4IU Frederick
KFORUW Randy
KQ4ZNG Joey
KK7WBH Donald
KE9PK James
KK4DYI Gale
WOKPH Kathleen
K4CVI Kenny
WN8Q Larry

W4PMG Phil
KDOSVZ Timothy
NONSUR Bruce
WA1S Ann
KZ4QC Joe
WT4DH Ken
KG3DVE Kenneth
KQ6UT JEFF
KJ5CF Bob
NONZL Duane
KI7FGZ Frederick
KJ4JPV Mack
KO4UST Lee
WA7YSU Eric
K5JHE John
K4VNI David
KB7ZJP Donald
W2DGO Thomas
KF7TUU Kevin
W7DFS Dallas
KNOJI Noji
N9UUX Richard
KE2APM Walter
8P5AB Kammie



ANNIVERSARIES

KE2APM Walter
KE6QEY Charles
KJ7WHR Jeffrey
K9XXT John
KJ5PBZ Robert
KK4AED Howard
KM7Y George
K7DJW Donald
KC6TDR Patrick
WA5SWT Thomas
KC3VEV Clarence
K2FZZ Mark
W3CAT Ken

K6RRS James
KC4FLT Carl
ND4BT Daniel L
KE4POU Roger
KD7TVS Darin
KO6CVL Bob
KK7LMV Bob
WB2MEF Bill
KC9TTF Scott
8P5AB Kammie
N5WGA CHUCK
KDOSVZ Timothy
KB9GOG David

WWOLF Orlen
KQ4AQD Michael
K9WAY Ed
N9QAP Steven
KB5LWL Lawrence
N8EMS Bill
W3GLP Gary
NFOJ Dave
KL7HRO Dennis
N4CRJ Charles
KB5RBW Mike
KO4BTC Jerry
W4BDB Glen

FROM OUR HISTORY FILES



The Foundress and early history of the System:

Like many groups, the YLISSB started with an idea/need that served as a spark and was carried forward and shaped by the hard work of a highly motivated person. This person was V. Mayree Tallman. Her full birth name was Vera Mayree Duke.

During the early 1960s V. Mayree realized that ham radio afforded a much higher potential than just a hobby. It was apparent to her that YLs lacked much of a voice on the ham radio bands. This was not only due to significantly less licensed YL's compared to licensed OM's, but also their inability to be heard due to low operating power. Not only did she feel this way, but other YLs were also feeling this way. There needed to be a better opportunity for YL's to reach out to one another. This led to her and a few other YLs starting a group called the "YL FINS." This group would be sympathetic to low power and for YL's only. It didn't take long for this group to explode, as YL's from all over the world provided their positive response.

December 7, 1961, was set for the first YL FINS meeting. Around the DX world, the news had spread and in their initial two-hour session, 67 DX YL's checked-in. Two hours was an inadequate time to recognize the many calling in. Initially, the group met on the air each Tuesday and Thursday which generated a bottomless pit of world-wide YLs who were finally able to make contacts and find acceptance.

The scheduled sessions soon became filled to capacity. Rules needed to be established, especially for stateside stations, to keep things moving, such as: "If you cannot copy DX stations, you cannot work them"; there shall be no stateside-to-stateside contacts on the YL Fins while the band is open to DX", and (as the membership grew) "it might be necessary to assign stateside call areas certain days by area to participate". Soon, the DX check-ins became so numerous that stateside YLs were restricted to only three call areas from the 10, alternating each meeting.

However spectacular this fun side was (getting to know everyone), it was only a prelude to greater things. Never once during the interlude of fourteen months (establishing the foundation) did the projected world-wide emergency communication system escape the group. There was no real prototype for this type of on-the-air operation. It was to be unique, humanitarian, fair, considerate and combining the serious "humanitarian" side with the "fun" side.

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



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