

The COMMUNICATOR

July 2025

The YL System since 1963

Issue 341

HONOR



DEDICATION

FRIENDSHIP



Happy Birthday America



President's Report, Bill – W4WSB

Greetings All,

Summer 2025 has arrived across the system, bringing record high temperatures and continuing poor band conditions. July also is the time for the 2025 YLSystem annual convention, this year being held on Saturday July 19 at 17:00 Z on Zoom. An exciting time for all members and staff to “meet and greet “ on the Zoom virtual platform. Our famous auction will follow the convention and there will be ample time at the conclusion of the auction for a rag-chew. If you have an item you wish to donate for the auction please contact -Bruce K9ICP at the email auktion@ylsystem.org. Auction proceeds go to our scholarship program. This year we are excited to announce five (5) scholarships were awarded to qualifying participants totaling \$ 15,000 for the 2024-25 year.

You can register for the convention on the YLSystem website YLSYSTEM.ORG. On July 12, you will receive a Zoom invitation via Constant Contact along with the convention brochure outlining the event festivities, including door prizes. For those unable to attend the convention, a Zoom recording will be available after the event. The July Board of Directors meeting will occur during the convention for those in attendance to observe our executive branch in action.

I urge all available members to attend the convention and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow members.

See you then,

Bill
W4WSB
President

Award Day

July 9 –

First Responders

FIRST RESPONDERS AWARD

Contact six (6) members as designated on Netlogger. K4ICA will count as one (1) contact.

INDEPENDENCE

AWARD: July 1 - 31

Contact 25 member stations located in the 13 original colonies of the United States. The original 13 colonies were Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania & Rhode Island.



Welcome YLSystem New Members

Italy - Milano
IW2KUY - Alex – 19506

Georgia
KR4CKB - Bob – 19507
W4MK - Mike—19511

Kansas
N0HSM - Brandon - 19508

New Hampshire

K3MDS - Mark - 19518

North Carolina
KK4VCH - Norm - 19515

Tennessee
K4OFD - Bob - 19509

Texas
K5DDG - Daryl – 19505
K0LOA - Dwain - 19510

K5BLZ - Karl - 19512
W5CRY - Charles - 19514
KN5C - Mickey - 19516
KI5JBE - Jerry - 19517
WT5DX - Mark - 19519

Virginia
KR4DMS - Erich - 19513



It's Your Birthday – Ham It Up

1. Ken **K8ZAR** 19364
Charles **KE6QEY** 19310

2. Brad **KD8LWZ** 19364
Richard **N3RAD** 17578

3. David **N4RTB** 19467
Fred **N5FBJ** 19353
Doc **W0WNM** 1947

4. Cliff **KN4RGR** 19229

5. Bob **K9TCC** 19299

6. Doug **W6HB** 8099

8. Roy **K4ROY** 19366
Oren **K7EDZ** 18352
Cort **K8RRC** 17573

10. David **KE4ETG** 19349
Mike **W5NAG** 19470
Shannon **W6SPY** 18205

11. Virginia **KC5SAM** 15575

Jim **KM4TTT** 17242

13. Christopher **KG7BMU** 17729
Bill **KQ4OPYY** 19425
Robert **KQ5L** 18406

12. Pattick **KC6TDR** 18550

15. Frank **K8ZXY** 19500

16. Bill **K0UB** 14816
Jim **KO4RHK** 1947
Kevin **WOKEG** 19375

17. Danny **KE4OZD** 19347
Ed **KK7UNA** 19477

19. Buzz **AG7E** 19318
Jim **K3VRU** 14816
Romulus A. **KE2BWL** 19274
Trub **KJ5GRE** 19362

20. Mike **N0OWP** 19449

21. David **KG4BSF** 19449

22. David **KG4BSF** 19449

23. Bob **KA0ENU** 16765

26. Steve **K5SWH** 19361
Robert **KD7RH** 18437
Scott **W3SSB** 19845

27. Jonathon **KD0FLF** 19412

28. Lyle **KE0ZNV** 18074
Joseph **W5ABI** 18251

29. Doug **K7DCE** 18156

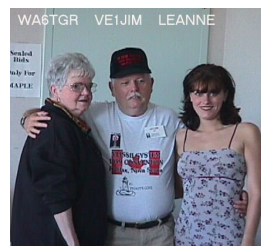
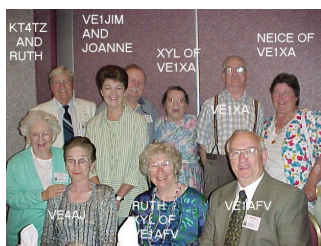
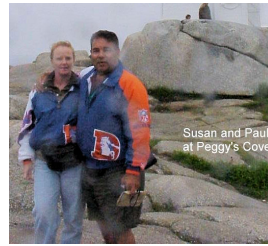
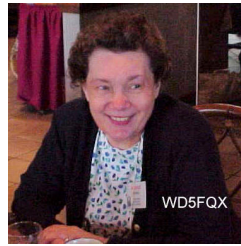
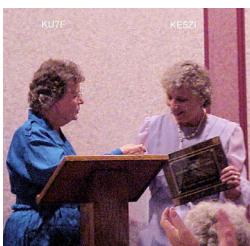
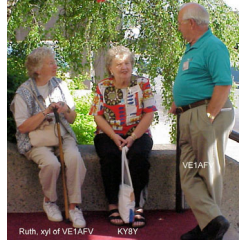
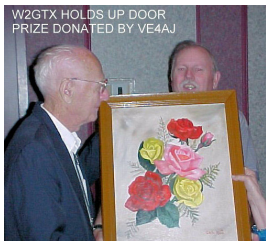
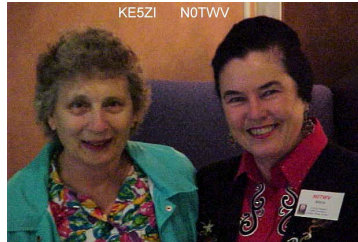
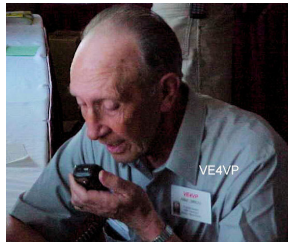
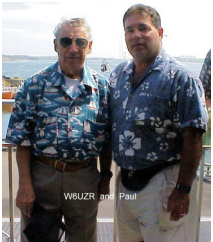
Ronald **K9SX** 15592
Del **KD5ILH** 18659
Patrick **W9PDP** 18575
Stu **WA6BTK** 17703

31. Michael **KQ4QD** 18564
Paige **W0FLZ** 17578
Mike **W5NAG** 19470



Snapshot of History

1999 Convention - Halifax, Canada - VE1JM



By Chris Codella, W2PA
website W2PA.com

Famous Hams

Across

1. VU metro (not meter)
6. Call to Bo-peep
9. T.O.M.
14. TN made rig
15. Rear panel label
16. 7X neighbor
17. Used before flip tops
19. More unwet
20. Infrequent frame rate mode
21. Major Armstrong, familiarly
23. Wiring harness parts
24. IT9 peak
26. Prefix with -tuner
28. Kind of drum
31. Contact plating solution?
36. Boatanchor unit
37. Part of ARRL: Abbr.
39. Enter

40. Suffix with reson-
42. In reserve
44. Produces radiator supports
45. Giving up
47. GM monster place
49. Viking partner
50. Callsign of 31 across
52. Overcome utterly
54. First QTH?
55. Hand (out)
57. Small fight
60. Field unit?
62. Competent
66. Loafed around
68. Nonphysical, say
70. Met show
71. Feed lines to
72. Partner of 9-across
73. Rocking ham

74. Hockey's Bobby
75. DXpeditioner's instruction

Down

1. Manuals, slangily
2. Times past
3. Fuzz
4. ARRL president, and president's grandson
5. Rev. of out.
6. Wound covers
7. All over again
8. Of a heart chamber
9. Cap. unit
10. Missile type
11. Ancient WARC band?
12. Prof. org. with many ham members

13. Elser-Mathes Cup objective
18. Poetic dusk
22. Pushes, gently
25. Leaves in a bag
27. The one above six?
28. Two or more yagis, say
29. Do and so
30. Tube terminal
32. Gasket
33. Possible Congo prefix
34. ___ alcohol
35. Malyj Vysotskij prefix
38. Suffix with electro-
41. Force-12 element fasteners, say
43. More lethal
46. Homer's neighbor
48. Pre-ham?

51. Int'l org. promoting learning
53. What the shack might do with the amplifier on
56. Crew tool
57. QRS
58. Between Oscar and Quebec
59. Kind of antenna aimer
61. A receiver annoyance, briefly
63. Arrest
64. 47-across is one
65. Exuberance
67. CW word
69. Zone type

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Members Spotlight

Mickey Alberto, KI5TPF

I'm Mickey Alberto, KI5TPF, and I earned my technician license on February 3, 2022. Based out of Pinewood Estates, Texas, I quickly started discovering the vast world of ham radio. Interestingly, my ham radio adventure started around the same time I began flying paramotors. This made getting on the air while airborne and doing aeronautical mobile work a particularly exciting aspect of the hobby for me.

On the local scene, back in 2022 I joined an amateur radio club in my area. About six months later, I found myself stepping into the role of Secretary – seems like no one else wanted the job, ha! Ha! Working with my club has been invaluable; I've learned so much about different aspects of the hobby, from installing radios to setting up antennas. It's truly helped me grow my knowledge of amateur radio.

A year after getting my technician ticket, I upgraded to my General License and began venturing into HF. This is where I discovered the YL System and quickly became a dedicated member. I make a point to check in daily, often joining multiple sessions throughout the day to connect with other amazing people on the air! In December 2024, Jim Flowers (VA7JSF) reached out and asked me to be a control operator on the 40-meter West Coast session. I was very reluctant at first, as I still struggled with accurately writing down call signs, but I decided to give it a try. Since then, I've become much more comfortable in the role and truly enjoy working with the guys each night.

In 2024, I purchased co-ownership of a gyrocopter and began training. I'm almost complete with my training and can't wait to work my 2-meter radio from this new aircraft. Now, if I can only figure out how to get an HF rig in this puppy!



JC Kerner KB4SGA

I live in a small South Georgia town of Alapaha 45 miles north of the Georgia/Florida line. It is located between the cities of Nashville & Tifton, GA.

Alapaha is a farming town where peanuts, cotton & tobacco are grown. We have one convenience store, one hardware/feed store and 2 gas stations.

I retired in June of 2018 after 18 years with the Orange County Corrections Department in Orlando, Florida. Me and the wife sold the house and bought 10 acres. It was the best move we ever did.

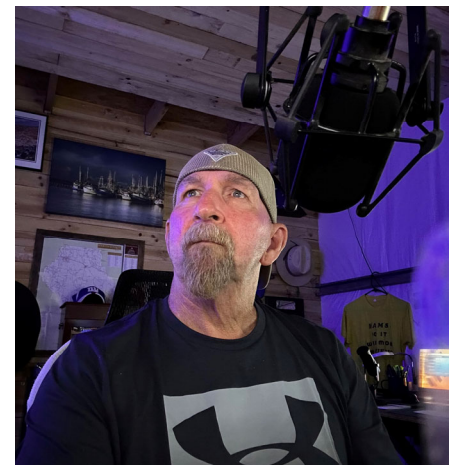
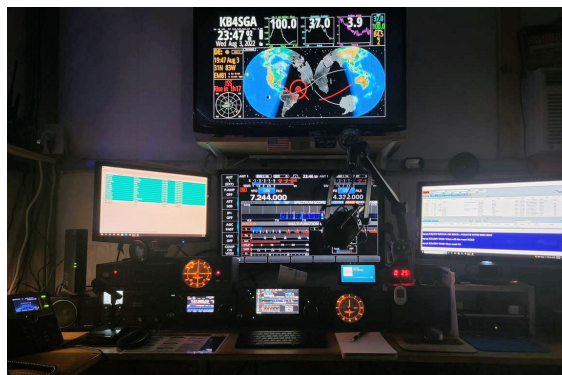
I served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Schweinfurt & Fulda German. My MOS was 19d (Calvary Scout). We were tasked with patrolling the border between East & West Germany and Czechoslovakia. I was lucky enough to see the Iron Curtain fall that I had guarded for so many years.

After leaving the Army in 1992 I remained in Germany, as a civilian, working for Edeka Food Stores as a tractor-trailer driver. In December of 1999 I returned to the USA to look after and care for my parents.

I got my technician license on 20-03-2019 and quickly started studying for my General Exam which I took and passed on 27-06-2019. I am currently studying for the Extra exam which I hope to take by the end of the year.

I am currently a Co-Control on the YL System 40m East Coast Session on 7.244 Monday thur Friday @ 2300 UTC (7:00 pm EST).

The equipment I'm running here in The Tall Pines Ham shack is a ICOM IC-7610, antennas NA4RR Hex beams 10m-20m @ 70'. A Cushcraft World Ranger Rotatable 40m Dipole @65', A Homebrew EFHW Long Wire 130' 6m-89m @30'. Acom 2000A, ICOM IC-9700 w/a Cushcraft A27010S 2m/70cm Yagi beam, ICOM-7100 Mobile Rig, ICOM-2730A Dual Band Uhf/Vhf back up radio.



From The Desk of Awards Manager- Fran AF7YL – awards@ylsystem.org

JUNE AWARDS

One member earned the June Cuatro Special Day Award

This award is granted for contacting five members whose YL number ends with a four.
Steven Bamber, VE3JPJ, June Cuatro Special Day Award

SPECIAL AWARDS

Several members earned Service Awards

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 Payton, KE4OLE, 400 hr
Mickey Alberto, KI5TPF, 100 hr

How to Participate in the Awards Program

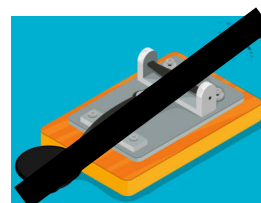
Get on the air and start making contacts! These awards are open to all club members, and we encourage everyone to participate, from seasoned operators to those just getting started. Keep a spreadsheet of your contacts to verify you've met the requirements. Be sure to include date, time, frequency, station callsigns, and YL System Member ID# for each contact.

Submit your log via email to awards@ylsystem.org.

Once verified, you'll receive a certificate PDF to commemorate your achievement! A photo of the certificate is included here to give you a sneak peek of the award you'll earn. Display it proudly as a reminder of your on-air activity and dedication to the hobby.

These awards are a fantastic way to engage with the club and make February a month of celebration and connection. Whether you're chasing the Happy Birthday Award on February 10 or aiming to complete the YL System Birthday Celebration by month's end, we can't wait to hear you on the air. Let's make some great QSO memories together!

Famous Hams



Silent Keys

Correction on KB8NSA Karen West not White, #15208

K2ZD, Mario Karcich, #7485, TFO 612

AI5CD, Mark Bellah, #18335

K4JUU, Dennis Chapman, #18869

W3BNN, Claude Eans, #17397

WB9JYZ, Ronald Bellinger, #16574

If you know of a YLSystem member who has passed away recently please let our Condolence Chairman know at condolence@ylsystem.org

Happy Anniversary

Members

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Rob WA7RAD 19502
Jim KM4TTT 17242 | 9. John R KD9OFG 18149 | 17. Danny KE0OZD 19347
Dan W7DOK 18941 |
| 2. Michael W4MDK 19418 | 10. Robb N0KGM 19334 | 18. Rick KQ4JXT 19336
John N3DXR 18643 |
| 3. Jeff WBOAFA 19421 | 11. Leslie KJ5IOK 19478 | 19. Pete N5ANB 17793
Dave KF6BPV 16580 |
| 4. Jay KI4TXP 19328
Mark W5MLM 17291
Todd KJ5DLY 16462
Larry KI7HCK 18205 | 12. Tony AA0TD 18923
Duane N0NZL 17987 | 20. Johnny AJ5TX 18819
Larry K4MOD 19370 |
| 5. Joseph KO4PZX 18160
Richard KI2X 18874
Al KA9OUT 16503 | 13. Bryan WX5DX 18085
Wayne N4LKL 10639 | 21. Peter KF0OQA 19446 |
| 7. Jim KO4SXC 18595 | 14. Stu WA6BTK 17703 | 22. Tony N4TMH 19443 |
| | 15. Evan AC9TU 17743 | 23. Malcolm VE4MG 8372 |
| | 16. Michael WM4MD 19454
Andre KF5FSK 16578 | 25. Shannon W6SPY 18205 |

NETLOGGER REPORT - Bob KJ5CF

I took over taking care of updating Netlogger following the untimely passing of Art W7TOA.

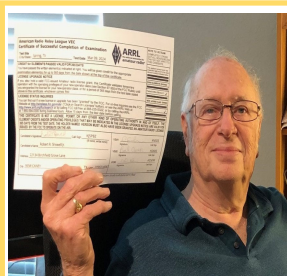
As expected it has been a learning curve with much still to pick up and learn. I know some updates have been slow and most can't be helped but as I see them, and I look several times a day, I take care of them.

I have to give a very big shout out to Bob NC4RP doe backing me up and answering the phone early in the morning when we have had system crashes. Thanks also to Jim KM4TTT for his help when needed.

Please remember to download new profiles each day and email or text with questions or updates needed.

See you on the system.

frbob@eastex.net, 817 992-1184



From your Editor

As the editor of *The Commentator* I want to highlight the various Awards The YLSystem offers to its members. We have 12 monthly awards and have an award for a specific day each month. Consult the website yssystem.org for details.

We want to find ways to engage the members with the YLSystem and each other..

As members of the Amateur Radio community and our motto "helping those in need", we need to highlight what we are doing in the communities that we live in.

If you have information or ideas for topics you would like to see published in *The Communicator* please send to **Robert Showell KJ5PBZ**, rshowell94@gmail.com. Thanks!

P.S. If you send photos, we will assume we have permission to publish from BOTH the subject and the photographer.

P.P.S. Please send captions for photos with names and callsigns! I might know your voice from the system, but not your face!

We would love to have pictures of your towers and ham stations at various times of the year.