

Letter from K4ZDH Riley

Box 4451
Gettysburg, PA 17325
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Mr. Dan Donovan, KF4VIS
ARRL & BRARS Public Information Officer
203 Fairhaven Drive
Taylors, S.C. 29687

Dear Mr. Donovan:

[This is an open letter to the South Carolina Single Sideband net. If your procedures allow it, I would appreciate it if you would have this read at the next convenient Net.]

Last week I received with great pleasure the Sidebander of the Year award from the South Carolina Single Sideband Net. It's hard to express my gratitude and appreciation for receiving this award. The SC SSB Net has a long-standing tradition of excellent operating practices and public service. To me it has always represented a benchmark for what Amateur Radio is supposed to be and what it is meant to accomplish.

There were many years in the 70's and 80's where I was basically inactive in Amateur Radio and where I made only a few contacts a year. In those years, sometimes my only contacts were to check in to the SC SSB Net. During Hurricane Hugo when I happened to be in South Carolina, I listened to the net for coastal updates and observed the dedication and the competence of the net participants. Many times in the last year and a half of the return to Amateur enforcement, I have cited the net to others as an example of what nets could be and what they could accomplish.

After a year and a half of Amateur enforcement, I am more optimistic than ever before about the future of Amateur Radio. It has survived the long period of government neglect because of the dedication of people represented by your net participants—people whose unselfish devotion to the principles of Amateur Radio have held it together and enabled it to survive. I have learned that the most important thing about Amateur Radio, and the most valuable asset, is the **character** of the people involved in it, people bound together by one thing: the love of and the respect for the magic of radio.

Thank you very much for this award. Being a South Carolina native and continuing to have strong ties there, I am very proud of it; and I am, and have been for many years, very proud of the SC SSB Net and what it stands for in Amateur Radio.

Sincerely,

Riley Hollingsworth
K4ZDH