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single sideband is "Tops in Radio Communications".

We should not try to authoritatively recognize or credit any individuals as being "the first SSB station" in the state, or the second or third, etc. (We could not cover all the frequencies all the time.) However, available radio logs will indicate SSB activities of the above mentioned W4NJG in the early part of 1956, W4FFH in December 1956, and W4TWW in January 1957, quickly followed by a score or more of the now familiar SSB stations, including K4OTX, K4IMN, W4VJI, K4ADF, W4HCZ, W4HMG, W4OHN, W4OXO, K4JVV, K4JMH, W4ICH, K4EGI, K4AVU, W4GOJ, W4TYS, K4EMV, K4IIE, K4SMG, K4MKX, K4MVO, and W4IW, whose calls were logged in various semi-formal nets and SSB roundtables, usually on or near 3930 kcs, and often just before the AM nets.

The "SCSSB Net" was formally organized at a meeting in Columbia in April 1958 which was well attended by the 20-odd sidebanders already operating SSB and an even larger number of potential sidewinders. Ben Bledsoe, W4VJI, was elected net manager and basic net rules and procedures were adopted or tentatively considered. We regret that a full list of those attending this meeting and of the stations participating in the first formal SSB nets are not complete nor available. However, my station logs include the following:

The first formal SCSSB Net was conducted 4/7/58 with W4HMG as NCS. Those participating were: W4FFH, W4TWW, W4OHN, W4LNI, W4VJI, K4EGI, K4MVO. Total: 8.

The next week, with W4TWW as NCS, the above eight stations were again present with an additional nine stations: K4EMV, K4SMG, W4ICH, W4AXV, K4OTX, K4BGN, W4PAV, K4LXZ, K4ENG. Total: 17 stations. (We were enjoying growing pains!!)

The 5/8/58 SSB Net recorded 21 stations -- still growing and we continued to grow in numbers (and good looks) as SSB grew older.

By 1960 our list of regular net participating stations had increased to some 75, not including the frequent one-time check-ins, and these numbers have continued to increase until we presently enjoy a list of more than 200 SSB Net participating stations, including several representatives from N. C., Ga., Fla., Va., W. Va., etc.

Special sweethearts of the SSB Net are Nancy (K4OVS) and Margaret (W4WQM) whose charm and pleasant voices, plus outstanding cooperation, have meant so much in making SSB "TOPS" in S. C.

Net Managers were as follows:

1958-59: W4VJI 1959-60: W4TWW 1960-61: W4FFH 1961-62: K4JVV

1962-63: K4PJE 1963-64: W4WQM 1964-65: K4LNI 1965-66: K4WQA

Sidebander-of-the-Year plaque awards were presented as follows:

1961-62: W4FFH 1962-63: K4JVV, W4WQM 1963-64: W4IW 1964-65:

W4ECJ, W4KEFP

ADDENDA BY W4WQM:

Yes, we've come a long way in eight years. Mistakes have been made and will continue to be made. Friendships have been made that will cease only with silent keys.

Each year in May the net holds a business meeting and supper in Greenville. This is when officers are elected and it is a real period of fellowship and fun. At this meeting the net honors the person or persons who have been selected as "Sidebander of the Year". An engraved plaque is presented to this person who, in the eyes of the committee, has best exemplified the ideal net member -- one who has done the most for the net and for amateur radio in the way of service, cooperation, friendliness, technical achievements, and ability.

Beginning as a net project with K4BNI, Bill, as editor, the CAROLINA SIDEWINDER was first published in August 1962. Though it has not been published in recent months, publication should be back in full swing shortly.

The net took part in Operation 22 in July 1963 in cooperation with the S. C. Crippled Children's Society. The late Lynn Kalmbach, W4IW, helped K4OVS, Nancy, set up her rig at Camp Socareda, Cedar Mountain, NC, at the Easter Seal Family Camp. For this excellent service Nancy was awarded a special plaque at the closing session of the camp. Beth, W4KEFP, was recognized by feature articles in several state papers for her work during that week. In July of 1964 the net again took part in Operation 22 and Buck, K4LXH, operated his rig during that camp session. He also received a special plaque for his services.

During the year several meetings are held in Columbia at the ETV Center for net officers and control stations. At one of the meetings in June 1965 a special plaque was presented to Clark, K4LNI, for the many "extras" he had done for the net during his year as manager.

Recently net members have taken on a new project. Volunteers have begun checking into the Eye Bank Net under the direction of George, W4ZIZ. A most worthwhile project, the net hopes to be of real service in this project.

PLEASE FORGIVE MY MANY ERRORS IN THE ROSTER. WITH YOUR HELP THEY CAN BE CORRECTED DURING NET SESSIONS.

73s,
Margaret - W4WQM