



2006 Review

Michigan Section NTS

2006 Review and 2007 Plans

2007-01-27



First the bad news

- Projects planned not started
 - Drew exactly **one** volunteer
- No club visits
 - Many vague requests, none turned into actual dates
- Extremely poor conditions at end of year
 - Many nets had difficulty meeting at all or were not able to pass all traffic
- Loss of 3 net managers
- Lost spectrum
- 8RN representation continues to be a problem

Last year we had hoped to run a project on participation, and one on quality traffic. In spite of contacting all net managers for suggestions, only one volunteer was recruited.

We had hoped to beat the drum for NTS at clubs. A number of folks suggested that was a possibility, but no actual engagements were developed.

Toward the end of the year, very poor band conditions resulted in some nets being unable to meet for all their sessions, or not being able to move all the traffic because the band went away during the net.

3 net managers resigned (well, one effective the end of this month)

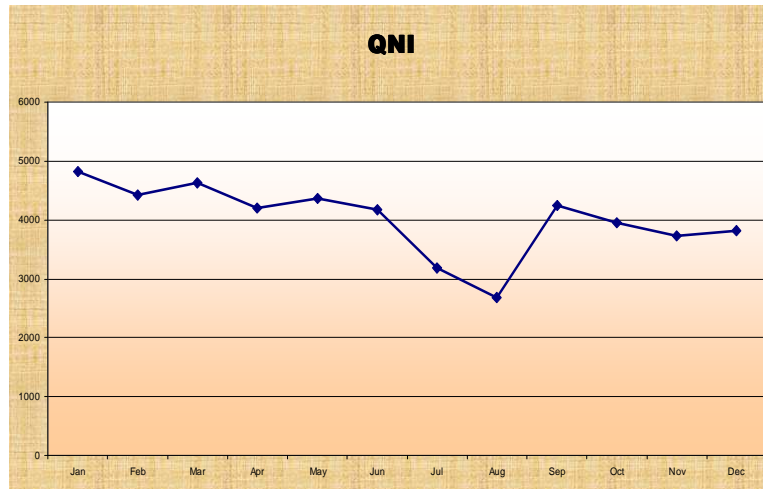
A large portion of the already crowded spectrum available to section nets was moved to Extra class only in December, causing difficulty for QMN and cycle 4. (Because of the distances involved, Section nets meet on 75/80 except when propagation is unusual for a long period of time. QMN held a number of 160 meter meetings, but that limits those who can participate).

We continue to be challenged getting eighth region reps, especially after the snowbirds leave.



QNI steady across year

2006 Review



WB8RCR - 2007-01-27

2006 Review

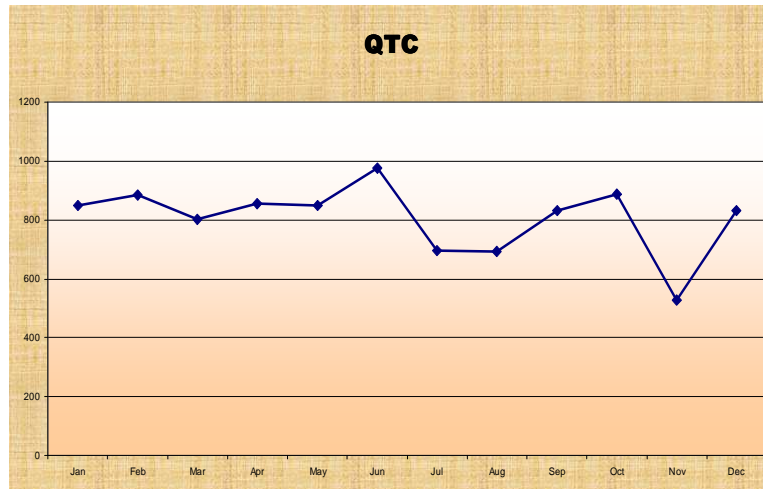
3

In spite of the challenges, QNIs stayed more or less steady across the year. The dip in August is due to a missing report from UP, which typically reports over 1000 QNI



QTC Similarly

2006 Review



WB8RCR - 2007-01-27

2006 Review

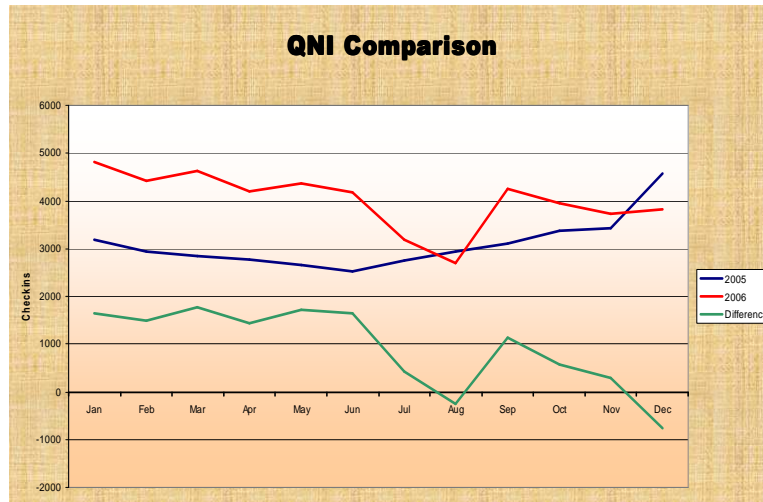
4

Similarly, traffic held more or less steady as well



Results up over last year

2006 Review



WB8RCR - 2007-01-27

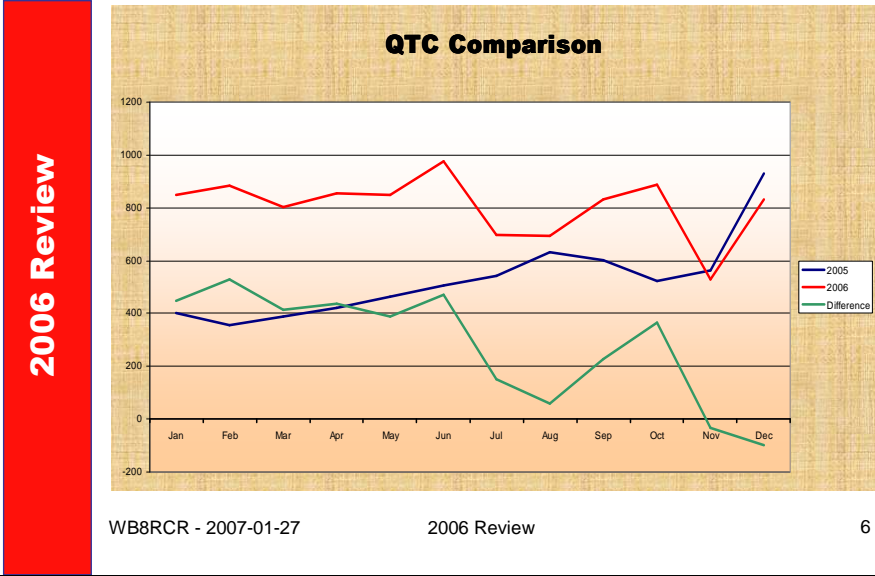
2006 Review

5

What is interesting is that the year was mostly better than the previous. Although we do show the drop in checkins in August, and also in December due, probably, to conditions, for most of the year, checkins held well above 2005.



Also traffic



Similarly, traffic also stayed above last year, although we see pressure in December.



The Good News

- 11 of 12 affiliated nets participated in SET
- Exciting initiatives and growth in WMTN, NLEUP
- Excellent response to changes in frequencies
- Rejuvenated UP-ARES net
- Built on 2005 gains
 - >11,000 QNIs and >3,000 QTCs over 2005

There were bright spots ... all the affiliated nets with the exception of UP-ARES, which was more or less dormant at the time, participated in SET.

There are exciting things happening in the VHF nets, especially WMTN and NLEUP.

The change in 80 meters was handled smoothly and professionally

The UP-ARES net has been reconstituted, and appears to be doing well.

Better still, it now meets immediately before the ARPSC net, bringing new QNIs to ARPSC.

The gains over 2005 were significant. In spite of missing August data from UP, we reported more than 11,000 QNIs over 2005, and handled more than 3000 additional pieces of traffic. That represents an increase of almost 30% and over 50% respectively.



Challenges for 2007

- How do we address participation if we can't even get people to think about it?
- How can we mitigate the bad effects of "spam" traffic while exploiting the good?
- Need more formal organization of net liaisons
- Better integration with ARES
- How do we better connect with NTSD?
- How can we exploit digital infrastructure?
- How do we take advantage of new rules?

2007 looks to bring new challenges, and still the old.

We still need to figure out how to address participation, and step one is getting some folks to even begin thinking about it.

So-called spam traffic continues to be a complaint. If we can simply stop the traffic to silent keys we would be miles ahead here.

While 8RN is the obvious pain point, assigning liaisons is still largely random. We need more work here.

We started out last year with all sorts of good intentions about training more ARES folks. There has been some good done in some areas, notably NLEUP, but a lot remains to be done.

All our digital reps have moved away or burned out. We have no regular presence at NTSD and need to fix that.

We now have quite a competent digital infrastructure in Michigan. It is past time that NTS figure out how to exploit that.

The new rules will bring many new hams to HF. We must be poised to welcome them into NTS.



2006 Review

Questions?



WB8RCR - 2007-01-27

2006 Review

9