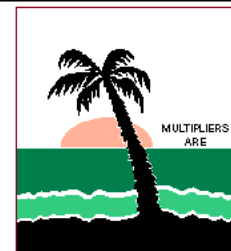




Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.org



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March 2017

From the President's Corner

By Chris Plumblee WF3C

Thanks to all members of the Florida Contest Group for another outstanding edition of the Orlando Contest Dinner. We had another great turnout at dinner on Friday night, at the Contest Forum on Saturday, and again at lunch on Saturday afternoon. Thanks to everyone for taking time to attend the club events for the weekend.



Congratulations are in order for K1TO and K4LQ, the newest members of the FCG Hall of Fame. Both honors are very much deserved. Please extend your congratulations to both of them the next time you see them.

Congratulations also to N4BP for his induction into the Southeast USA Contesters HOF. The contest clubs in the Southeast (the Alabama Contest Group, the Tennessee Contest Group, the Georgia Contest Group, and the SouthEast Contest Club, and the Swamp Fox Contest Group) work together to select worthy inductees who have made a significant impact on contesting specifically in the Southeast United States. Other FCG members who have already been inducted include NF4A and N4WW. We will continue for the foreseeable future to induct members of the Southeast Contesters HOF and the FCG HOF each February in Orlando. If you have any nominees for either group, please feel free to email me direct anytime

On the air, congratulations are in order for the N4WW team for their claimed first place finish M/S in the ARRL DX CW contest. Though the ionosphere has taken a swift turn downward from the peak of the cycle a short two years ago, the N4WW team leveraged Doc's outstanding antennas and a new hardware interlock that allowed some in-band operating on certain bands to gain a category win.

Finally, congratulations to AJ4XM for winning the grand prize at the Contest Dinner. Tom said that he was looking forward to clearing some space on his desk for his new FTDX1200. Thanks to K7BV and Yaesu for their continued support of the FCG and the Contest Dinner.

Led by K1TO, the club's Vice President (FQP), the club leadership continues to plan for the 2017 FQP. If you've been hiding under a rock since the 2016 FQP, then let me be the first to tell you that this will be the 20th FQP under the FCG's leadership, and we're planning a big celebration. There will be 20 1x1 stations on the air from all over Florida, from N4OX in the far western panhandle to K4FK in Ft. Lauderdale in Southeast Florida. Please make plans to get on the air during FQP 2017 on April 29 and 30, and tell your friends to look for all 20 1x1 stations and all 67 counties to be active again this year. The 1x1 suffixes will spell "FLORIDA SUN" twice, and we will again offer certificates to all stations who work enough stations to spell "FLORIDA SUN." (continued next page)

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If you are QRV on both CW and SSB, try to work all 20 1x1s for an added challenge!

Following shortly on the heels of the FQP is the Dayton Hamvention May 18-21. I bought my plane tickets this week to attend. K4FU has made arrangements for FCG to have a table at the contest dinner, and has already filled all the seats. However, there's plenty of room for more FCGers in the room. Please don't forget my offer to help facilitate travel for any club member who have questions or concerns. Unfortunately I can't help fund your trip directly, but I'd love to help any club member who hasn't attended in a while or hasn't ever made the trip who has questions about logistics. It's 100% worth your time to go if you possibly can. The Dayton Hamvention had a big presence at the Orlando Hamcation, and I had occasion to speak to the president of DARA about their new location. He's very optimistic about the future of the Dayton Hamvention, as am I. I hope to see lots of other orange shirts in the crowd in May.

As announced at the Contest Dinner and reiterated on the reflector, the FCG is running an "April Sprint" for WRTC donations. Beginning April 1 and ending April 30, the FCG will match donations to WRTC up to a total of \$1,000. Donations may be made direct to the WWROF or via FCG. If you make your donation via WWROF, please indicate in the memo line of your check or PayPal donation your club affiliation; the treasurer of WWROF will let us know after April 30 how much was donated by FCG members during the subject period, and we will match. If you prefer to donate directly to FCG, please send checks to N4GI's CBA or send funds via PayPal to flacontest-group@gmail.com. Instructions for how to donate to WWROF are at <http://wwrof.org/supporting-wwrof/>. FCG has a great tradition of supporting WRTC in a big way, and I'm pleased to continue that tradition for 2018.

73 & OJ,
Chris WF3C

Contributors to This Edition

WF3C, K5KG, K4LQ, K8MR, N4WW, NF4A, KK3Q

Welcome Aboard



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KU8E - Jeff Clarke, 121 Bridle Path, Ellerslie GA 31807 e-mail: ku8e@ku8e.com

Events Calendar

CQWW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z Mar 25 to 2359Z Mar 26
Florida QSO Party	1600Z April 29 to 0159Z April 30 1200Z -2158Z April 30
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z May 27 to 2359Z May 28
ARRL June VHF Contest	1800Z June 10 to 0300Z June 12
ALL Asian DX Contest, CW	0000Z June 17 to 2400Z June 18
AEEL Field Day	1800Z June 24 to 2100Z June 25
IARU Contest	1200Z July 8 to 1200Z July 9
NAQP Contest, RTTY	1800Z July 15 to 0600Z July 16
CQ WW VHF Contest	1800Z July 15 to 0600Z July 16
NAQP Contest, CW	1800Z Aug 5 to 0600Z Aug 6
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z Aug 19 to 1600Z Aug 20
NAQP Contest, SSB	1800Z Aug 19 to 0600Z Aug 20
All Asian DX Contest, SSB	0000Z Sep 2 to 2400Z Sep 3
ARRL Sept VHF Contest	1800Z Sep 9 to 0300Z Sep 11
CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z Sep 23 to 2400Z Sep 24
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z Oct 21 to 1459Z Oct 22
CQ WW DX Contest, SSB	0000Z Oct 28 to 2400Z Oct 29
CQ WW DX Contest, CW	0000Z Nov 25 to 2400Z Nov 26

Walt Beverly W4GV SK

Walter F. "Walt" Beverly, III, 69, of Lynn Haven, passed away Tuesday, December 27, 2016.

. Walt was currently doing contract work with Thor Solutions, LLC. He was a longtime HAM radio operator, and enjoyed working with his computers.

Walt was a faithful member of Messiah Lutheran Church.

Survivors include his daughters, Erin Beverly and her daughter Sydney, both of Lynn Haven and Stacie Groves, husband David and their children, Brodie, Kinston and Savannah, all of the US Navy, currently living in Coronado, CA; and his BFF, Lise Vienneau of Lynn Haven.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Walt's name may be made to Messiah Lutheran Church, 3701 Highway 390, Panama City, FL 32405,

FCGers meet with FL visitor Simon S53ZO

L-R N6AR, S53ZO, N2NL, WF3C, and N4WW

Ellen W1YL holds pizza party to introduce Sandy DL1QQ



Above: Ellen W1YL, Sandy DL1QQ

Below: Sandy DL1QQ at Ellen's remote setup
DL1QQ displays her QSL cards/



Ellen explains operation of her remote equipment



Lu W4LT explains the technical details of the remote installation to the assembled guests.



Florida Contest Group meets Bavianian Contest Club

Contest Dinner Pictures

First, there was the chow line





Above L-R Jim KM4HI, Steve TI8/AA8HH



Above L-R Patricia N4TUU, Martin N4UU



Above L-R Ed K1EP, Peter K3ZM



Above L-Wayne N4FP, Marty WB2VYK



Above Steve AB4UF, Mike N4EPO, Bill WB4KSP



Above L-R Brooker KD8JNX, Stan N8RNK



Above L-R Charles K3WJX, Ted WA3AER



Above Phil K9PJ, Norm W4QN, Mark WC3W



Above L-R Ez HI3AA/NK4DX, Chuck AD4ES



Above Jim W4EE, Michele KJ4GDL



Above Al K0AL, Sandy DL1QQ, Red K0LUZ



Above L-R Don AF4Z, John W2TX



Left Fred K9VV, Lisa W4LIS



Above L-R George K5KG, Bill W5SJ

Right Pete N8PR



Above The 403A Contingent



Above: Chris WF3C with opening remarks after dinner.



Above: Sandy DL1QQ briefly discusses WRTC-2018



Above : Chris WF3C presents Dan K1TO with a plaque inducting him as member # 4 in the FCG Hall of Fame.



Above: Dan K1TO presents a very surprised Fred K4LQ with a plaque inducting him as member # 5 in the FCG Hall of Fame.



Above: Tim K3LR, our featured speaker, in action at the podium.



Yaesu VP Dennis K7BV hands over the FTDX-1200 transceiver won by a very delighted Tom AJ4XM as the main prize in the dinner raffle.

FCG Meeting Orlando Feb 11, 2017

The previously used meeting room was not available this year at Golden Corral, so a section of the main eating area was blocked off for our meeting. It turned out to be quite usable, although a bit noisier than our meeting room.

Chris WF3C opened the meeting and asked for all attendees to identify themselves by call. 28 members responded, including AD4ES, AD4Z, K0LUZ, K1KNQ, K1MM, K1TO, K4BAI, K4LQ, K8MR, K9ES, K9TM, KD4BRJ, KE4YGT, KI4GDL, KT4Q, KU8E, KX4TT, N4EK, N4GI, N4RAT, N4WW, NX7TT, W4EE, W4LT, W4UH, WA4AOB, WF3C and WV4R.

Chris thanked all members for coming out. He asked that if they attended the dinner and or the contest forum and had any comments, to send them to him by e-mail.

Bob WA4AOB spoke briefly on a special event station he is running at the Lakeland Fly-in. He is looking for operators.

Dan K1TO began his part of the meeting by handing out plaques for FQP 2016 to the K4BAI/KU8E team, K0LUZ, K5KG for the K5KG/VE7ZO team, K1KNQ, and the AD4Z/W4UH team.

Dan then went over a list of the remaining plaque sponsors and winners for 2016.

He then reviewed FQP plans for 2017. FCG will use a total of 20 1X1 calls that will spell out the words FLORIDA SUN. Each letter will have two stations representing that letter. The 20 hosts have been identified

Chris wrapped up the meeting with the following: .
“FCG won the club competition in the 2016 Georgia QSI Party thanks in large part to AD4ES and his team of mobile operators. I received a gavel for that which is currently at my house. I promise to find it and see that Chuck gets it. “

Further details of FCG activities at Orlando this year will be covered in the upcoming Gazette newsletter.

Thanks to Chris WF3C and Dan K1TO for their inputs to this report.

73, Fred K4LQ, Secretary



Dan K1TO awards FQP 2016 Plaque to the team of John K4BAI and KU8E

Red K0LUZ gets his Plaque



George K5KG accepts plaque for the team of K5KG and VE7ZO



Jack K1KNQ accepts Plaque



Julio AD4Z and Dan W4UH accept plaque for their team.

ARRL DX CW at K8MR in Sarasota**By Jim Stahl K8MR**

Operated from the Sarasota Bay waterfront park. Two sessions, Saturday evening from dusk and Sunday morning to early afternoon. K3 at about 50 watts for the most part, as the Prius battery wouldn't allow much more. Saturday I used a 43ft vertical wire, Sunday two verticals for 15 and 20. 40 was real nice, I could run a few, and cracked a huge pileup to 9K2NO by XITing up 200 Hz. The K3 tuner took 160 from 25:1 to 7:1, which XE2X managed to pull through after a number of tries.

Sunday was interesting for more than DX. When I arrived, the area next to me had a shiny Yamaha motorcycle parked by the edge of the water, with a small group of guys who looked more professional than the average motorcycle club.

And a thin but very well endowed young lady in a small top, very short shorts, and black high heels. Turns out they were doing an advertising photo shoot. I had a good time watching the girl in love with the motorcycle, especially after she removed the shorts and T-shirt. Still not as good as the topless ladies at HI/K8MR a few years back, but still better than the view in your average contest shack.

A little hard to see—but my two verticals for 15 and 20 meters used on Sunday are shown below



Adventures in KP2 Paradise

By George Wagner K5KG



A trip to St. Croix is always a treat, so when Fred, NP2X / K9VV, extended the invitation to come down for the 2017 ARRL DX CW Contest, I promptly accepted, but not until discussing — cajoling, sweet-talking, begging, pleading, groveling — with my XYL to get her blessing for yet another off shore trip over Valentine's Day! I checked the airfares in early December, and the prices looked reasonable, so I booked a round trip on Jet Blue out of Tampa.

Little did I realize that this otherwise casual trip to work a contest would turn into such an exciting, action-packed adventure on this quiet island paradise! In my ten days there, Fred and I faced serious, but friendly competition from other testers, a chance to come to the rescue of a fellow ham in distress, an unexpected challenge to free snared jungle creatures, and a relaxing sunset sail on an award-winning catamaran. It was an adventure of rewarding proportions!

Initially, Fred and I discussed some strategies for the contest. Would I perhaps single-op the contest, would we be a multi-single team, or would we be a multi-two team by adding another operator or two to the mix? How would we configure his well-appointed NP2X station, or would we possibly join in with another ham on the island and use a different station? Would I drag my full Elecraft K-Line to St. Croix, or could we somehow use his FT3000 with my Elecraft amp? We considered all of these possibilities.

Let's peel away the layers of this onion.

Single-op, multi-single or multi-two — here were the considerations. I was not in favor of single-op'ing the contest, primarily because I wanted to do a multi with Fred and possibly other ops. Fred and I discussed being multi-single from his station, but the six-band-changes-per hour rule threw a damper on this idea, plus doing a two-operator multi-single seemed like too much of a grueling "iron man" thing.

Fred placed a call to his friend Phil, KT3Y / KP2M, to explore the possibility of doing a multi-two at Phil's well-equipped station on the island. Phil agreed, and so the die was cast for the three of us to be a multi-two team operation

For the next few days, we put our energies into preparing the KP2M station for the contest. Phil's KP2M rent-a-station — affectionately called Radio Reef — is equipped with a pair of K3's, each with its own amp and computer, and a good selection of antennas with good take off to the US and VE. We added to this a laptop and Fred's FT3000 to monitor the 10m band for openings that may or may not happen during the contest. We realized that for us to put in a winning score, we needed to bag as many 10m mults as possible.

I mentioned the possibility of being able to use Fred's FT3000 with my KPA500 amp. If so, I could avoid taking my K3, thus lightening my load. I discussed this with David Shoaf at Elecraft and, sure enough, a number of third-party transceivers can be interfaced with the KPA500, and even a KPA/KAT500 pair. David put me in touch with Phil at On The Air Communications who custom makes interface cables to pair-up various transceivers with the KPA/KAT500's. I purchased the necessary cable for an FT3000, took it to KP2, and Fred and I were able to prove that it worked flawlessly. It provided both band changing data and keying to the KPA/KAT500 combination.

Friendly competition from other testers — what was that all about? In addition to our KP2M multi-two operation, there were two other Caribbean multi-two teams in the run for the coconuts. They were P40R and NP2N. P40R on Aruba was manned by the incomparable team of Dan, K1TO, Mike, W9RE, Ron, KK9K and Scott, NE9U. NP2N at the St. Croix Mountain Breeze rental station was manned by a similarly incomparable team of Dick, K4XU, Dave, N3RD and George, W2VJN. When the electrons had settled after the fierce but friendly battle, P40R had beaten us both with a claimed score of 7.6M, vs 7.2M for KP2M, and 6.5M for NP2M.

Prior to the contest, several things happened. One was planned, and two were unexpected. Let me first explain the unexpected ones. On Friday morning before the contest, the coconut telegraph reported that a ham's "tower" had fallen across his driveway, and the man was in desperate need of assistance. Upon hearing this, first-responders, Fred and George, went to his rescue. Dan, K8RF / NP2J, had attempted to erect a 60 ft pole to hoist a wire for a 160m antenna that he was to use in the contest. In the process, the wind caught the assembly and brought down the pole. A bit of effort over the next hour or so by the three of us managed to get the pole upright and stabilized, leaving Dan a happy camper. After recovering from the pole mishap and repairing a defunct amp, Dan went on to post the top claimed single op, **high power**, single band 160m score of 110,979. Interestingly enough, however, FCG contesting powerhouse, Bob, N4BP, operating as C6AKQ ended slightly ahead of Dan with his **low power**, single band 160m score of 111,888. QSO's and Mults were: NP2J – 649/57 vs. C6AKQ – 666/56, so it may come down to log checking to determine who gets the coconut!

I have to preface the next unexpected event with a bit of back story. Fred and his XYL, Lisa, W4LIS, work on the island with the feral cat colonies by feeding, watering and neutering the strays. Fred and I stopped by one of the feeding sites one evening to feed the cats. What we found, however, were two iguanas caught in a nearby chain-link fence. These poor critters had managed to crawl through the opening in the fence, but were unable to get entirely through because of their large, fat back legs. They were stuck tight. Not being sure what to do, if anything, to help these creatures, we went home. Then next morning we went back with bolt cutters and a sling to see if we could free them. We were successful, and felt great about doing our "daily good deed".

And finally, the planned event — it was a phenomenal sunset sail on Jolly Mon, a 63 ft. catamaran that Fred had arranged. We sailed from the dock at the town of Frederiksted on the western most end of the island. There were about thirty of us on board that night with perfect weather and live music.

I want to close with a few words about how pleasant it was to stay with Fred, Lisa and their many dogs, cats and birds. Fred and Lisa have carved out a terrific life for themselves on St. Croix. They have many dear friends, and certainly do their part to be a positive influence in the community. Fred was extremely accommodating about letting me use his station to run some DX pileups, and I was able to add nearly 1,400 QSO to my growing K5KG/KP2 log. This was my third trip to St. Croix, and each of them was terrific.

73, George, K5KG



KP2M Radio Reef QTH



NP2N QTH

Left: L-R
Fred NP2X/K9VV,
Dick K4XU
George W2VJN
Dave N3RD
Phil KP2M / KT3Y

Right:
Run 1 Station
K3, SPE Amp.
N1MM+



Left:
Run 2 Station
K3, Alpha Amp, N1MM +



Left:
Old vs New Technology
SPE Amp vs AL1200 Amp

Right: L-R
Fred NP2X and
Phil KP2M Operating



Left: L-R
Dave N3RD,
George W2VJN and
Phil KP2M/KT3Y

Right:
Downed 160M Pole at KP2J



Left:
Distressed Iguana

Right:
Happy Iguana



Left: L-R
Phil KP2M and
Fred NP2X
Aboard the Jolly Mon



Note of Appreciation

By Fred Perkins, K4LQ



At the FCG Contest Dinner one of the agenda items was induction of Dan K1TO as the 4th member of the Florida Contest Group Hall of Fame with a very attractive plaque. Richly deserved! Dan's many years serving as President and his wide ranging contributions to the Club including many hundreds of hours scoring the FQPs certainly merited this action.

What happened next came as a complete surprise. I was called up to receive a similar plaque and become the 5th member of the FCG HOF for my activities as Secretary / Treasurer and Newsletter editor.

I said a few words of thanks and sat down. I'd like to expand on that a bit by giving credit to many of the folks that helped me get those efforts done since 1999.

First, a little history. My last assignment before retirement from Lockheed Martin was managing a part of a 1000 man organization supporting the U.S. Navy's AEGIS Weapons Program. My boss assigned me an ancillary duty of doing a newsletter for the whole group. Although the work we did in ports around the world was interesting and exciting, getting newsletter inputs from those folks was like pulling teeth. Fast forward to FCG. In 2002, which was only my third year of doing our online newsletter, I received enough inputs from members to do seven newsletters. A big difference!

Some specifics - Dan K1TO wrote over 50 lead articles for the Newsletter, many while he was very busy with work in far off locations. Dan's strong memory for detail served us well in helping me identify all the members in the hundreds of pictures sent to me over the years for inclusion in the newsletter. Dan's editing and expansion of detail in meeting reports always improved the quality in those reports. Chris WF3C picked up where Dan left off and is doing a great job with those activities. Thanks guys!

George K5KG has by far contributed the most pictures to the newsletter over the years as well as the most articles. Kevin K4PG (SK) probably took the most pictures at club meetings. Bob N4BP also contributed heavily in that area. Lou KE1F contributed many pictures from Dayton. Half a dozen photographers contributed pictures of the many cookout /meetings at N4TO, and many more took pictures at other FCG functions. All these contributors certainly made our newsletter the most colorful of the major contest club publications. Thanks to all.

When I first became Treasurer, we had 60 members. We have since grown to around 300. Extracting \$5 per year from 300 members was certainly not as much fun as doing the newsletter, although we did have a few adventures in the process. Last year in June I decided to resign from the Treasurer efforts. Blake N4GI stepped up to take over the job. Thanks Blake.

In conclusion, thanks again to all the members who have helped me out over the years to complete the above mentioned activities. I have enjoyed working with you all. I expect to be able to continue with the Newsletter and Secretary activities for a while yet.

73/Fred K4LQ



By Austin Regal, N4WW

I really appreciate the plaque for Multi 2 wpx cw.



It was totally unexpected. I gave credit to the young ops we had here for first plaque 2015 including N7RH Wolfgang, LU1FAM Lucas, and WF3C Chris.

This year we had 2 less ops and still won. I am still very surprised for our crew to have won two years in a row. Not quite as amazing as the Trump victory but close...right!!!

Thanks all the FCGer's who support the plaque.
73 doc n4ww

Florida Contest Group

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