



# Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

[www.floridacontestgroup.com](http://www.floridacontestgroup.com)

Volume 30, Issue 2

April 2023

## From the President's Corner

Chris Plumblee, W4WF, FCG President



Greetings to all in FCG-land! The dust has settled following another outstanding FQP. Thanks to everyone, particularly everyone in Florida, for getting on and making QSOs in our flagship on-air event. We had an excellent turnout in all phases of the contest. Thanks to our 1x1 hosts and operators, our mobile entrants, expeditions, and fixed stations for getting on the air. It's no exaggeration to say that in-state activity is the lifeblood of an event like the FQP. Non-Florida stations won't stick around for long if there aren't new people to work pretty regularly, so the mobiles and expeditions, in particular, are very helpful. For fixed stations, one of the primary benefits is the time that they spend on edge bands that don't make much sense for mobiles. From K4R @ N4WW, we worked OM2VL on 40m, 20m, and 15m both modes as well as 10m CW. It wouldn't make sense for a mobile or expedition to take time away from more productive bands and modes to try 15m SSB or 10m CW, but the fixed stations can spare a little time and have more efficient antennas that expeditions or mobiles, which is a net benefit for everyone.

With the FQP done, the next big club event is the Dayton/Xenia Hamvention coming up in a couple of weeks. It took me a number of years to free up the vacation time and funds to attend, but now I wouldn't miss it and highly recommend everyone attend if you're able. The opportunity to see people behind the callsigns from all over the USA is not to be missed, and the DX attendees are a bonus. If you're in the market for any new gear, odds are you can put your hands on it in person at the fairgrounds. If you're really a bargain hunter, the flea market has the deals, but it's mostly cash and carry. If you have any questions about activities or recommendations, please reach out. If you're looking for a hotel room at the Hope Hotel (where CTU, the Topband Dinner, and the Contest Dinner take place) you should reach out on the reflector or the CQ-Contest reflector. I've seen several reservations come available in the past couple of weeks, and there will likely be a handful of others become available as the event draws closer.

We do have some club news to share. Thanks to the hard work of my XYL and to me staying out of the way, the FCG is now formally incorporated in the state of Florida, so we have our own legal identity, bank account, and can purchase insurance on our own. Taylor also asked me whether we should file for 501c(3) status, which I thought was pretty difficult but which turns out to be relatively simple. So, the FCG is now legally tax-exempt. That new status means a few things. First, it means that donations to the club made after our tax-exempt status was awarded (in March, 2023) are now fully deductible under US tax law (including donations to the White

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**The Contest Gazette** is the newsletter of the Florida Contest Group (FCG). The Gazette is published quarterly and notifications for input and publication will be on the FCG reflector. Please send input to the editor, Marty Brown, N4GL, [n4gl.marty@gmail.com](mailto:n4gl.marty@gmail.com). All submissions are subject to editing prior to publication.

*Continued on next page....*



Family Memorial Fund). Second, it means that the club doesn't have to pay sales tax when we purchase things (like catering and hall rental for the FCG contest dinner), so we save the club a few bucks in the bargain. This new status doesn't change anything about the governance or structure of the club, so you don't need to worry that we're becoming corporate.

Finally, the club has purchased a paid Zoom account, and we can host Zoom calls of unlimited length and with functionally unlimited attendees. We tried to solicit a Zoom Czar who would be in charge of finding programs every 4-6 weeks for club events, but the response was resounding silence. If you have any ideas for presentations that would be interesting, please reach out. Otherwise, I'll try to schedule new Zoom meetings as I think of ideas and can get speakers lined up, or serve as speaker myself.

A million thanks again to everyone generally for getting on the air for the FQP, and I would be remiss if I didn't thank a couple of people specifically. NX4N goes above and beyond every year spearheading publicity for the event, reaching out to tweak county coverage by mobiles, interfacing with other clubs inside and outside of Florida to encourage more activity, and on top of that plans and implements a mobile M/M

effort as K4OJ from his SUV. I thank Chris every year in the FQP writeup, but he deserves a special shoutout now and then. Last but not least, I should thank K1TO for his tireless work checking logs, tweaking rules, and for treating the FQP (rightfully so) as his baby. Not everyone cares about the health of a contest in the same way...there are lots of contests that I like and enjoy entering, but I can't say that I've given a second thought to their administration and what makes them tick. Dan is intimately involved in every aspect of the FQP, from rules administration to log checking, and he also turned in likely the largest single-op 1x1 log, so he hasn't lost his touch. I said it when we inducted K1TO into the FCG HOF, and I'll repeat it at every opportunity. To most of the rest of the ham radio world, K1TO is the FCG, and he deserves every accolade that he can get for that self-sacrifice.

I hope to see lots of you in Xenia in a few weeks!

Listen to *Weekend Special with Tim Duffy, K3LR*, as he interviews FCG President, Chris Plumblee W4WF before the FQP  
<https://www.youtube.com/live/WIo1xldccg?feature=share>

## FQP 2023 Update

Dan Street, K1TO



Thanks for being part of the 2023 FQP! Although propagation was again unusually poor with the current sunspot cycle way up, and storms again played a part, it was a terrific year. Log collection is well under way and the 1x1 sweepers will soon be identified. QRZ.com pages for the 12 were consistent and visited tens of thousands of times. Steve KU9C has handled the QSL duties terrifically for many years and has opted to upload to LOTW. Several went out their way to maximize the County sweeps and we had very solid participation from the large FL fixed and Expedition contingents.

Results for 2022, along with all supporting material - scores, records, etc - are posted to the website at

<https://floridaqsoparty.org/results-page/>

TU & vy 73, Dan



The 2023 Florida QSO Party



# Contest Dinner — Hamcation 2023

Photos courtesy of George K5KG



**FCG President, Chris, W4WF, congratulates Steve, AA4TI, on winning the ICOM 7610**

**Our Speaker:  
W2GD  
John Crovelli**



**FCG Interim-Treasurer Taylor KI4GHK manages the sign-in table.**

**Below: Deacon, son of W4WF and KI4GHK, selling raffle tickets.**



**Begali Keys,  
Roby & Bruna Begali BE6ALI**



The FCG 2023 Contest Dinner was held in Orlando on February 10th at the American Legion Post 19.

*Continued on next page...*



Food!



Prizes!!

Representing WRTC  
(L) ClaudioI4VEQ & (R) Fabio I4UFH



Full House



Marty N4GL/Wayne N4FP



Florida OSO Party—2023

## White Family Memorial Fund

Chris Plumblee, W4WF, FCG President

Upon W1YL's sad passing, the FCG officers decided that a tangible way to remember Ellen and her vital contributions to ham radio generally and to the FCG specifically would be to create a White Family Memorial Fund, to be administered by the FCG. We considered calling it the Ellen White Memorial Fund, but Ellen was so inextricably linked with Bob and Jim, and the White family is so inextricably linked with the FCG, that it just seemed right to honor and remember the entire White family with this effort.

The White Family Memorial Fund is a separate fund within the FCG Treasury. Funds will be used for extraordinary contributions that advance amateur radio contesting. Contributions can be made at <https://floridacontestgroup.square.site>, via PayPal

to [Payments@floridacontestgroup.org](mailto:Payments@floridacontestgroup.org), or via check (made out to the FCG with White Memorial Fund in the memo line) mailed to

Taylor Plumblee KI4GHK  
4719 Fontana Street  
Orlando, FL 32807

Contributions to the White Family Memorial Fund made after March 1, 2023 are tax deductible. Your contributions will not be used for general FCG expenses. Rather, they will be used for extraordinary contributions to organizations, individuals, or campaigns that are, in the judgment of the FCG officers, working to advance amateur radio and contesting in a way that honors the memory of W1YL, W1CW, and K4OJ.



## POTA Activation from Curacao

Walter Aucoin, K5LD

I have been coming down to PJ2T for the past 5 years for the ARRL DX SSB Contest. This is a big highlight of my year and I thoroughly enjoy the trip down every year.

In the past 3 years, I have been active in Parks on the Air (POTA) back home. POTA is a far more relaxed operating venture from contesting. It is a very popular program for operating in the field and more new hams, as well as seasoned hams, are taking to it each day. Eventually some of these operators may move toward more serious actual contesting, like ARRL DX SSB. However, to stress the ARRL's famous words about Field Day, that it is not a contest (And we all know better than that), POTA is definitely not a contest, but a program that you work on at your own pace, set goals, earn awards if desired, etc.

I have activated a good many parks about Florida and also looking for new ones I haven't been to. In November, when I went back home to Louisiana, I brought portable gear with me and was able to do 2 activations there. It took a little planning, etc., as you need to make sure you have everything you need, as you can't run back to your station and get the missing things!

When our PCARS team decided last year, in the fall, to come back to PJ2T for the ARRL DX SSB Contest, I began to put together the idea of activating parks on Curacao. Upon checking, I found that there were 2 parks on the island, Chrisoffell National Park and Shete Boka National Park. Both were within a few miles of Signal Point, on the northeast side of the island. Also, I had found that no one had ever attempted or activated either one of the parks. I thought how neat it would be if some of the PCARS/CCC team could be the 1<sup>st</sup> ones to activate these parks.

In setting this up, we would need to bring a radio, batteries, and a portable antenna. I have a ICOM 7000, which I have used a number of times for POTA. A good friend of mine, K4AOQ, agreed to lend his BuddiStick for the trip. Finally, I approached long time CCC member and wonderful friend, Dan N1ZZ, on bringing down some of his batteries from Paradan Radio, that we could use. I also had a brand new piece of 75 foot coax for the antenna, so we were pretty much set on what we needed.

I also approached Vince K4JC and 1<sup>st</sup> timer Ryan N00J, on accompanying me on the activations. That said, we split up the equipment, with Vince carrying the BuddiStick and coax, Dan bringing the batteries, and I brought the radio and a laptop for logging.

We headed down to Curacao on Saturday, Feb, 25, with all of our equipment. There were no issues at all with either getting thru Miami TSA/security or coming into Curacao. Saturday evening, after a most wonderful and delicious dinner prepared by Dorothy, PJ2DX's significant other, Vince, Ryan and myself set up the BuddiStick between the gazebo and the house, to make sure we could set it up quickly the next morning. That was a wise thing to do, as we ran into issues with the tuning. We followed the instructions, etc, but we were not able to get a decent SWR. Finally, we borrowed some short lengths of RG8 with a barrel connector from PJ2DX and was finally able to get the antenna tuned. We later discovered that the connection into the BuddiStick hub may have been the issue.

*Continued on next page...*



*The PJ2T Team ready to leave Signal Point, heading for the 1<sup>st</sup> time ever POTA activation from Curacao.*

**L-R K5LD, N0OJ & K4JC**

We set out Sunday morning about 10AM for Chrisoffel National Park . It was not too far from Signal Point and we got there in pretty good time. We paid our admissions and began exploring the park for a spot to set up in. After some driving around in the park, we found a suitable spot that we could park in and set up the antenna. With the continuing issues of the connector on the BuddiStick, we used the short lengths of RG8 and tuned for a good SWR. We got the radio set up with the battery and I got the laptop set up and ready to go. PO-TA uses self-spotting frequently and that requires a data/Internet/cell phone connection. Ryan saved the day, with his international data plan on his phone, we could spot and get moving. We all sat in the rental vehicle, since there was very little shade and really no other place to set up.



**Entrance to Christoffel Park**

*Continued on next page...*



Our 1<sup>st</sup> POTA contact on Curacao, was Steve, K4AOQ, and that was most fitting, since his antenna made the activation possible. Once the spot went up and took effect, everyone came looking for us. We passed the mic around to all 3 of us, Vince, Ryan, and myself. Operators calling us were amazed and happy and they desperately wanted a POTA contact with Curacao. I took care of all the logging. We got in 87 contacts on Sunday and that was mostly limited to having to be out of the park by a certain time. We worked a couple of our fellow PCARS members back home and some DX as well. We set a time to cease operating, to allow for tear down of the equipment and also to allow time to get back to the park's exit. On the way home, we enjoyed a late lunch, before heading back to Signal Point.



**Vince tuning up the BuddiStick**



**Vince & Ryan on the air.**



**Successful activation on Day 1!**

*Continued on next page...*





The next day, Monday, we repeated the same thing at Shete Boka National Park. We pretty much followed the same pattern, paid our admission and drove around the park, looking for a place to activate. This 2<sup>nd</sup> park was certainly much more pleasant and scenic, and offered some great views. We were even visited by a pack of wild goats that roamed through the park. We got 57 contacts in the log. Again, due to short park hours, we allowed ourselves some tear down time also some time to enjoy the beautiful cliffs on the Caribbean. We grabbed some lunch at another new restaurant on the way back.



*K5LD with K4JC at the mic*



*BuddiStick among the wild goats*

&

Our 1<sup>st</sup> time ever Curacao activations were successful! All of the contacts in the log were most appreciative of us being there. Dan has left one of the batteries behind with a charger, and I left the 75 ft coax behind as well, for future activations. We look forward to more successful activations, when we return in 2024.



*L-R ,N00J, K4JC & K5LD*



## K4A 911 Special Event

Bob Beaudoin, WA1FCN

The Third Annual Special Event to Honor the Victims of 911 in New York City, Shanksville PA, and Washington DC, sponsored by the **Alabama Contest Group**, will be September 8, 2023, from 00:01 GMT through September 12, 2023 at 23:59 GMT. The title for this year's event will be "9-11 Still in Our Hearts and Minds."

Many members of the Alabama Contest Group (ACG) will activate K4A, operating all modes, SSB, FT8, CW, and RTTY. We will try to be on all bands 160 through 10 meters.

A special QSL will be available. For those who contact K4A on 3 bands, using any combination of modes, we

will offer a full color glossy certificate mailed, postage paid, in a full size manila envelope. This includes DX stations. Put each QSO information on your QSL card. We request a \$2.00 donation to help cover costs.

Send QSL requests to:

Robert Beaudoin, WA4FCN  
970 Mountainview Road  
Cordova, AL 35550

<https://alabamacontestgroup.org/>



## Steve Szabo, WB4OMM, SK

Former Northern Florida Section Manager, Steve Szabo, WB4OMM ex WN2TAW from Port Orange, Florida, USA passed away 23 April 2023.

From Dan Street, K1TO:

*Year after year, Steve joined the N4DAB crew in the FQP as they did Expeditions from quite a few Counties. I even saw Steve on a shuttle bus in Dayton one year, so his participation in many events was noted. RIP, Steve.*

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid02mDcMWmYrcNsTpU5rADKiXYRMe8ra3ZM2fVZ1weXR97cGVzfZR2gnKVCePqrsqU9l&id=100044203642856&mibextid=Nif5oz](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02mDcMWmYrcNsTpU5rADKiXYRMe8ra3ZM2fVZ1weXR97cGVzfZR2gnKVCePqrsqU9l&id=100044203642856&mibextid=Nif5oz)



## Hamvention 2023

Sponsored by Dayton Amateur Radio Association

May 19-21, 2023

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!



# FCAP Approved Contests thru July 2023

Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ  
FCG Frequent Contester Program Administrator



<i>Your Log Submission is Indispensable</i>			Contest Schedule				Modes				<i>Revised 12/21/22</i>		
Contest	Type	Pts	Start		Finish		C	S	R	D	Bands	Rules	
			Date	Time	Date	Time							
Florida QSO Party	QSO	20	29-Apr	1600Z	30-Apr	2159Z	C	S			40-10	<a href="#">Rules</a>	
<b>May</b>													
ARI International DX Contest	DX	5	6-May	1200Z	7-May	1159Z	C	S	R		80-10	<a href="#">ARI Int</a>	
7th Call Area QSO Party	QSO	7	6-May	1300Z	7-May	0700Z	C	S	R	D	160-10	<a href="#">7QP: 7</a>	
Indiana QSO Party	QSO	7	6-May	1600Z	7-May	0400Z	C	S			160-10	<a href="#">Indian</a>	
Delaware QSO Party	QSO	7	6-May	1700Z	7-May	2359Z	C	S	R	D	160-10	<a href="#">FSARC</a>	
New England QSO Party	QSO	7	6-May	2000Z	7-May	2400Z	C	S	R	D	80-10	<a href="#">Rules</a>	
CQ-M International DX Contest	DX	5	13-May	1200Z	14-May	1159Z	C	S			160-10	<a href="#">Positi</a>	
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	DX	5	13-May	1200Z	14-May	1200Z				R	80-10	<a href="#">Micro</a>	
Canadian Prairies QSO Party	QSO	7	13-May	1400Z	14-May	0200Z	C	S			40-10	<a href="#">https:</a>	
UN DX Contest	DX	5	20-May	0600Z	21-May	2100Z	C	S			80-10	<a href="#">Rules</a>	
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	DX	5	20-May	1200Z	21-May	1200Z	C				160-10	<a href="#">His Mi</a>	
Arkansas QSO Party	QSO	7	20-May	1400Z	21-May	0200Z	C	S	R	D	160-2	<a href="#">The Ar</a>	
Baltic Contest	DX	5	20-May	2100Z	21-May	0200Z	C	S			80	<a href="#">LRSF -</a>	
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	Maj	10	27-May	0000Z	28-May	2400Z	C				160-10	<a href="#">CQ W</a>	
<b>June</b>													
Tisza Cup CW Contest	DX	5	3-Jun	1200Z	4-Jun	1159Z	C				160-10	<a href="#">Conte</a>	
Kentucky QSO Party	QSO	7	3-Jun	1300Z	4-Jun	0100Z	C	S	R	D	160-2	<a href="#">Rules</a>	
ARRL Inter. Digital Contest	Maj	10	3-Jun	1800Z	4-Jun	2400Z				D	160-6	<a href="#">ARRL I</a>	
VK Shires Contest	DX	5	10-Jun	0600Z	11-Jun	0600Z	C	S			160-10	<a href="#">The W</a>	
Portugal Day Contest	DX	5	10-Jun	1200Z	11-Jun	1159Z	C	S			80-10	<a href="#">Welcc</a>	
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	DX	5	10-Jun	1500Z	11-Jun	1500Z	C				80-10	<a href="#">WWSA</a>	
ARRL VHF Contest June	Maj	10	10-Jun	1800Z	12-Jun	0300Z	C	S	R	D	VU	<a href="#">June V</a>	
All Asian DX Contest, CW	DX	5	17-Jun	0000Z	18-Jun	2400Z	C				160-10	<a href="#">The 6:</a>	
Stew Perry Topband Challenge Summer	Maj	10	17-Jun	1500Z	18-Jun	1500Z	C				160	<a href="#">Stew f</a>	
West Virginia QSO Party	QSO	7	17-Jun	1600Z	18-Jun	0400Z	C	S	R	D	80-10	<a href="#">2022 V</a>	
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	DX	5	24-Jun	1200Z	25-Jun	1200Z		S			160-10	<a href="#">His Mi</a>	
Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	DX	5	24-Jun	1200Z	25-Jun	1200Z				R	D	80-10	<a href="#">Ukrain</a>
<b>July</b>													
RAC Canada Day Contest	DX	5	1-Jul	0000Z	1-Jul	2359Z	C	S			160-2	<a href="#">Canad</a>	
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	DX	5	1-Jul	0000Z	1-Jul	2359Z	C	S		P	160-10	<a href="#">RCV: I</a>	
DL-DX RTTY Contest	DX	5	1-Jul	1100Z	2-Jul	1059Z				R	80-10	<a href="#">DL-DX</a>	
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	DX	5	1-Jul	1400Z	2-Jul	1400Z	C				160-10	<a href="#">Marcc</a>	
IARU HF World Championship	Maj	10	8-Jul	1200Z	9-Jul	1200Z	C	S			160-10	<a href="#">IARU I</a>	
North American QSO Party, RTTY Jul	Maj	10	15-Jul	1800Z	16-Jul	0600Z				R	160-10	<a href="#">Conte</a>	
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	Maj	10	15-Jul	1800Z	16-Jul	2100Z	C	S	R	D	6-2	<a href="#">CQ V</a>	
RSGB IOTA Contest	DX	5	29-Jul	1200Z	30-Jul	1200Z	C	S			80-10	<a href="#">IOTA C</a>	

**President**

Chris Plumblee, W4WF  
Orlando, FL

[chris.plumblee@gmail.com](mailto:chris.plumblee@gmail.com)

**Vice President**

George Wagner, K5KG  
Sarasota, FL

[k5kg@k5kg.com](mailto:k5kg@k5kg.com)

**Vice President – Florida QSO Party**

Dan Street, K1TO  
Myakka City, FL

[k1to@aol.com](mailto:k1to@aol.com)

**Treasurer (Interim)**

Taylor Plumblee, KI4GHK  
Orlando, FL

**Secretary**

Fred K9VV/NP2X & Lisa W4LIS Kleber  
USVI

[k9vv@arrl.net](mailto:k9vv@arrl.net)

**Newsletter**

Marty Brown, N4GL  
Ocala, FL

[n4gl.marty@gmail.com](mailto:n4gl.marty@gmail.com)

**Web Page**

Jeff Clarke, KU8E  
Ellerslie, GA

[ku8e@ku8e.com](mailto:ku8e@ku8e.com)

## The Florida Contest Group



**"I love contesting. There is something about the camaraderie, discipline and knowledge contesting demands that fits me; it doesn't fit everyone . . . but it sure fits me." – Jim White, K4OJ (SK)**

The Florida Contest Group (FCG), an ARRL affiliated club, is Florida's amateur radio contest club. Its members share a common interest in the sport of amateur radio contesting. FCG members have a wide range of contesting experience, from beginners to World Champions. They willingly share their knowledge and skills to promote ham radio contesting in Florida. Members, who number in excess of 300, range from Jacksonville to South Florida. FCG has a "Panhandle" division for those contesters living in the Florida Panhandle who are outside the ARRL's 175 mile "club circle".

The Florida Contest Group supports and encourages all types of contesting, from HF to light, all modes, power classes and skill levels.

## FCG Shirts

If you would like to purchase an FCG shirt, you may contact Joyce Ann at Stitchin' Waves in Sarasota. Joyce Ann has both Orange and White FCG shirts and FCG hats if you are interested. She embroiders the FCG Shirts with the FCG Logo and First Names and Call Signs. Hats are embroidered with the Call Sign.

Stitchin' Waves  
Joyce Ann Wright  
[ja@stitchinwaves.com](mailto:ja@stitchinwaves.com)  
941-929-1155

To place an order, send an email to Joyce Ann, and provide the following information:

- Identify yourself as an FCG member
- First and Last Name
- Call Sign
- Mailing Address (not a PO Box)
- Size of shirt
- Color: Orange or White

