Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.com

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January 2023

From the President's Corner

Chris Plumblee, W4WF, FCG President

This is a somber occasion as well as a happy one. It's always a pleasant time to pass along new year's greetings to the FCG, and it's an exciting time in the club as the Orlando HamCation is just around the corner. However, we're recently removed from the sad loss of a number of longtime pillars of the club as well as the larger contesting universe.

This is the first edition of the *Contest Gazette* that won't be read by any members of the White family. Ellen White W1YL, the founding grandmother of the FCG, passed away peacefully in November 2022, over the same weekend as Sweepstakes CW. Shortly after Ellen's passing, W7OM, who was in everyone's log from WA, passed away at the end of November. At the end of October, AA5B passed away after a long battle with cancer. In January, K3ZO passed away after a short illness. All four of these recent silent keys were well-known in the contesting and DX community, and I'm honored to have met two of them and to consider myself close with Ellen. It is both surprising to think of her being gone, and not entirely unexpected given her age (95) and relative frailty. Elsewhere in the *Gazette* there will be a short profile of Ellen, and there were a number of remembrances published on the FCG reflector in the immediate aftermath.

In addition to Ellen, the FCG also lost a stalwart member in November. K4LAW was very prominent in the Tampa ARC. Biff coordinated the club's very competitive Field Day operation every year, as well as hosting K2WLS at his station for a very competitive FQP effort each year. Biff was predeceased by his wife Becky W4BKY. The FCG as well as TARC and the larger amateur radio community in Tampa will feel Biff's absence acutely going forward.

On to happier things...I hope you've purchased your ticket if you're able to attend the Contest Dinner on Friday, February 10, 2023. If not, it's not too late! Visit https://floridacontestgroup.square.site and pick up a ticket for dinner and an extra raffle ticket or two! The speaker is W2GD, who will be talking about his career in ham radio, including his decades as a big station builder in the USA and in the Caribbean. You won't want to miss this opportunity to enjoy a world-class contest dinner in your own backyard!

Thanks as well to N9JA and the team at Icom America, who stepped in to the title sponsor role in 2023 in a big way with a commitment for a brand new IC7610 as our grand prize! I'm excited to have the opportunity to give away this state-of-the-art transceiver to a lucky attendee. As a reminder, you do need to be present to win. The 7610 is our grand prize, but K5KG and his team of prize grovelers are hard at work soliciting other great prizes to give away, including gift certificates to ham radio vendors,

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Inside this issue:

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 Marty Brown, N4GL, n4gl.marty@gmail.com.

free products from some of the biggest names in ham radio, and big discounts on products from across the spectrum of ham radio.

If you'll permit me a brief digression into the way-back machine...in the January 2001 NAQP, K4OJ put together five FCG teams, named (very topically) Al and the Well-Hung Chads, Catherine and the Lost Chads, Dubya and the Dimpled Chads, Dick and the Asymmetrical Chads, and Jeb and the Swinging Chads. Each team had one member named after a politician – Al Gore, Katherine Harris (remember her?), Dubya, Dick Cheney, and Jeb Bush – with the rest of the team members named "Chad." I'm rereading the soapbox from the contest writeup, and there were a number of comments to the effect of "apparently everyone in Florida is named Chad now."

That effort, over 20 years ago, represented our high-water mark in terms of team participation in the NAQP CW, until this January. Congrats to NK4O who managed to put together a very formidable 9-team lineup for the recent NAQP CW. Big congrats to AJ for his hard work in driving participation...we definitely were a major presence on the bands. I'm a longtime member of PVRC and lurk on their reflector, and there were a number of comments during and after the contest about how they had unexpectedly stiff competition on the online scoreboard from FCG.

Immediately after the Orlando festivities comes the ARRL DX CW contest. With the SFI above 200 it can be a great time on the high bands. Absorption on the low bands has been noticeable in NAQP CW, but hopefully 10m and 15m will make up for it! If you like working EU, this is the contest for you! Everyone in the world is looking for the USA in this one, and there should be a lot of DXPeditions to Caribbean islands to chase as well.

I was contacted in December by N4MB, the Southeast Division Director for the ARRL, asking if the FCG would be willing to be the primary point of contact for the return of W1AW/x as the League's callsign is activated in all 50 states in celebration of the ARRL's VOTA (Volunteers On The Air) event. In celebration of the ARRL's centennial in 2014, each state activated W1AW for two weeks. That event was such a success that the ARRL decided to resurrect it for 2023 to celebrate the Year of the Volunteer. The first week for Florida begins at 0000z on February 22. We anticipate rolling out an online schedule for all bands and modes similar to what was used in 2014. Activators can be anywhere in Florida – clear your calendar now to operate as W1AW/4 on your favorite band-mode!

In other club business, the 2022 FQP plaques have been ordered, and I'll be handing out as many as I can in Orlando. I'm starting to work on the results article now, but I know myself well enough to predict that I won't make meaningful progress on it until after Orlando. Don't forget that the FCG has changed to dues-optional beginning in January of 2023. So, your membership will never expire, but we ask, if you see value in your FCG membership, that you consider a small donation. You can visit the same website, https://floridacontestgroup.square.site and make a donation to the FCG, or you can make a PayPal contribution at payments@floridacontestgroup.org, or mail a check made out to the FCG to me at my callbook address.

As we round the corner on our busiest weekend of the year, I would be remiss if I didn't extend a huge thanks to my XYL Taylor KI4GHK, who stepped in as our treasurer following the untimely passing of KW1K. Taylor had overheard me talking with K5KG and K1TO after Joe's death about how hard it would be to find another treasurer when she said those fateful words - "how hard can it be?" She has stepped in and implemented new systems to streamline plaque payments, Contest Dinner ticket orders, and donations. She's also taken the lead on getting the FCG incorporated with the State of Florida so that we can have our own bank account and purchase our own event insurance for the contest dinner. She's much more competent and enthusiastic than I deserve, and I'm looking forward to showing her off at the contest dinner next month.

I'll see everyone in a few weeks in Orlando!

73/OJ/LN,

2023 Florida QSO Party (FQP)

April 29th – 30th

Since the re-introduction of the Florida QSO Party to the contest scene in 1998, the Florida QSO Party has become one of the fastest growing and most popular State QSO Parties around today. Why not give it a try?

The End of an Era
Ellen White, W1YL (SK)

Chris Plumblee, W4WF, FCG President

It's the end of an era, not only in Florida but in ham radio in general and in the contesting world in particular. W1YL, who was instrumental in the founding of two big contest clubs, died peacefully on Saturday while many of us were operating SS CW. Virtually everyone who was active in contesting in the 1960's - 1980's knew Ellen. Most old timers probably knew her better than I did, but for the benefit of the next generation of contesters I thought it might be beneficial to give a superficial overview of Ellen's biography to highlight her impact on ham radio and contesting.

Ellen had served as the contest branch manager at the ARRL for decades alongside her husband Bob W1CW who oversaw DXCC. I was reminded in preparing to write this email that Ellen was the first licensed woman to work at ARRL HQ when she and Bob joined the staff in 1952.

Ellen and the rest of the Whites were instrumental in the founding of Murphy's Marauders, which morphed into the Yankee Clipper Contest Club. Thanks to some crackerjack detective work by K1CC who unearthed the original Murphy Messages and very helpfully scanned them, I can pinpoint February 21, 1968 as the first meeting of 29 W1's who formed Murphy's Marauders.

Surviving charter members of Murphy's Marauders include (according to the first Murphy Message):

- K1GUD (K1BV)
- K1JHX (K1RM)
- K1THQ (K1WA)
- K1UDD (K1DD)
- K1ZND (K1ZZ)
- W1ARR
- W1RAN
- WA1DJG (K1CC)
- WA1HOL (AF3I)
- WA1JCX (K6JJR)

Other members present were Ellen W1YYM, Bob W1CW. and Jamie White (then unlicensed, later to be WA1NNC).

Bob and Ellen retired from the ARRL and moved to South Florida in the 1980's. Hurricane Andrew destroyed their home in SFL in 1992 and they moved to the Tampa area to be nearer to K1ZX. In Seffner, Jim and Bob built a formidable contest station with a 40m yagi to soothe Bob's insomnia and sufficient other antennas to support multi-op and competitive single-op entries in major contests by K1ZX/K4OJ. Highlights included several competitive M/S and M/2 efforts in the CQWW and ARRL DX CW contests and a 3-peat in Multi-op in SS CW from 1996 - 1998. This station formed the core of the very successful (and perhaps still the record score for W1AW/x) W1AW/4 effort in the 2002 IARU contest, and sadly was the site of the W1CW memorial M/M in CQWW CW 2003.

While attending the annual FOC Florida Dinner in the early and mid-1990's, Jim, along with G4BKI got the idea to form a Florida-based contest club. They recruited Jim's long-suffering parents, who were happy to provide their living room again. The first meeting of the Florida Contest Group was held in the White's living room in Seffner in about 1994. Attendees included all three Whites (again) as well as AC1O, G4BKI, WC4E, WB4TDH, K4XS, and a handful of others (unfortunately I don't have the luxury of having the FCG founding documents electronically).

Sadly, Bob passed away in 2002 and Jim passed away in 2004. Ellen lived for another decade in the White House, though after Jim's death all the towers but one were taken down. In 2015, Ellen sold and moved out of the White

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House and into a condo with no outside antennas in the Tampa area. She had resigned herself to not being active on CW any longer. Fortunately, thanks to the generosity of a number of FCG members and of K5RC, we were able to purchase and provision a RemoteRig box and K3/0 for Ellen's use. With local IT support from W4LT and K1KNQ, Ellen was able to be on remote from the W7RN station quite often, resolutely working her way through the JA callbook and maintaining friendships on the air with her FOC confederates, thanks to the magic of the internet.

Ellen would have been 96 years old next month. She was endlessly optimistic and enthusiastic about life, and specifically about ham radio's role in her life. Until July (according to RBN data) she was active on the air frequently, most often between 0800 and 1100z when the other W7RN remote users were asleep.

Ellen was a fierce proponent of the ARRL, and received her 70-year member pin in 2016, having joined shortly after she earned her license in 1946. At the time of writing, I don't know any arrangements or memorials


Remote Station 2017

that may have been set up in her memory, but I can theorize that a contribution in her memory to the ARRL would be most appreciated.

Feel free to share this email with other groups who you think might appreciate it. Any errors of fact above are mine.

73/OJ to LN...

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, 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 are not 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.

Ellen W1YL

Dan Street, K1TO, Vice President

Better known as "LN" to many, Ellen was multi-faceted and progressive. I was thrilled to see her go to Nepal and the Great Wall of China, among other places. Neither of the "boys", W1CW and K4OJ, wanted to travel, so this stayed dormant for many years.

LN headed up the Communications Dept with W1NJM at ARRL HQ in the mid-1970s, so she was my boss as I was a teenager. One summer, Jim K4OJ, who was K1ZX then, and I shared the Contest Branch. Soon afterward, I worked for hubby/father Bob W1CW in the Outgoing QSL bureau. All ARRL HQ employees enjoyed the White way.

She helped to start two organizations, Murphy's Marauders and the Florida Contest Group, somewhat in deference to Jim's (better known by Ellen as Jamie) interest in contests, but by serving as newsletter editor for both orgs, her influence was vast.

The Whites moved to FL, first Homestead where Hurricane Andrew drove them to the Tampa suburb of Seffner. They built a good 3-tower setup and hosted many multi-ops there. Many cats also shared the space in honor of Ellen's devotion to them, culminating in several Bengals. It was time to downsize years after the boys passed away, several of us took the unique beams and towers down. Many good parties were held there over the years. I'm particularly reminded of the chili.

Ellen moved to an apartment in Brandon, which served for many years as her home. Remoting into W7RN in Nevada was perfect for her and she grew quite attached to the 40-Meter JAs who would work W1YL/7 at 4 AM Eastern many days when she was wide awake. She hosted small parties for quite a few there, too.

Her love for CW was legendary as she belonged to the FOC, and her two boys were CW-centric and, of course, also FOC members. Heck, her husband became W1CW. The YL references were numerous, but she just preferred to be one of the gang.

George K5KG and I intended to visit again, and Ellen was to turn 96 in Dec.

RIP LN

Hamcation Needs You!!

Michael Cauley, W4ORL, General Chairman

For more information to include a description of each volunteer position needed and its duties and to sign up go to: www.hamcation.com/hamcation-volunteer

ORLANDO HamCation®

February 10-12, 2023

W1YL Links

Editor's Note: My research on Ellen took me to many ham radio-related sites. Everyone had a picture, article, or link to Ellen's accomplishments. I've listed just a few. N4GL

NCJ: A Conversation with Ellen White, W1YL with Rosalie White, K1STO at ARRL
https://ncjweb.com/features/mayjun15feat.pdf


CQ Magazine 2017

ARRL: Former ARRL HQ Staffer Ellen White, W1YL, is Krenkel Medalist
http://www.arrl.org/news/former-arrl-headquarters-staffer-ellen-white-w1yl-is-krenkel-medalist

ARRL: Ellen White, W1YL, Silent Key, Devoted Lifetime to Amateur Radio and ARRL
https://www.arrl.org/news/ellen-white-w1yl-silent-key-devoted-lifetime-to-amateur-radio-and-arrl

QSO Today with Eric Guth 4Z1GU
https://www.qsotoday.com/podcasts/w1yl

End of an Era – DXnews.com
https://dxnews.com/forum/forum/silent-keys/45403-w1yl-ellen-white-brandon-florida


FCG Hall of Fame 2016

This Week in Amateur Radio
https://twiar.net/?p=12936

Worldwide DX
https://www.worldwidedx.com/threads/ellen-white-w1yl-silent-key-devoted-lifetime-to-amateur-radio-and-arrl.265262/

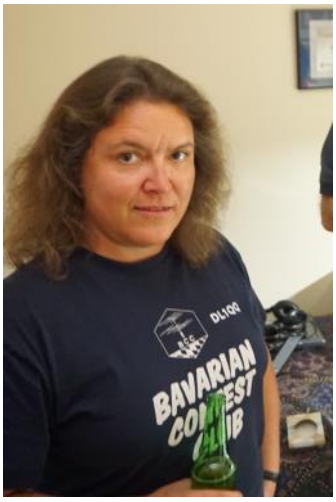
Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2350
Silent Key: Ellen White, W1YL, Pioneering YL
https://www.arnewsline.org/news/2022/11/10/amateur-radio-newsline-report-2350-for-friday-november-11th-2022

eHam.net
https://www.eham.net/article/36425

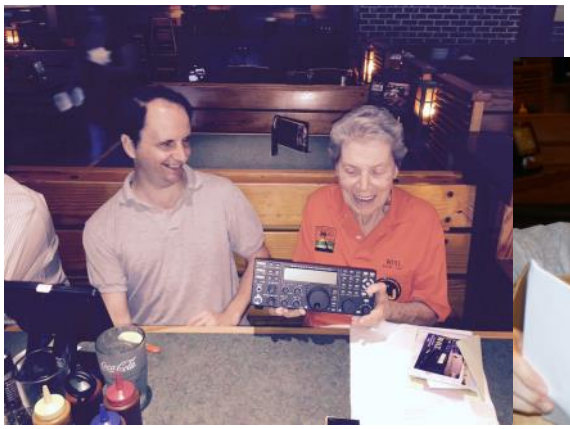
W1YL Hamcation 2016

All photos throughout the issue in this tribute to W1YL are courtesy of K5KG unless otherwise noted.

DL1QQ@W1YL 2018



W1YL K3-0 Remote Celebration 2015



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W1YL FCG Hall of Fame 2016

W1YL & Sandy DL1QQ—2015

W1YL & Entourage at Lakeland ARC 2015

Photos from N4FP

W1YL with N4FP & N4GL at FOC Dinner 2019

2023 CW Winter NA QSO Party

AJ Stockton, NK4O

WOW! Let's start this off with the 'classic half time Monday Night football music' and good ole Howard Cossell saying 'he could go all the way'. Thanks to all for showing up and honoring W1YL with our memorial teams.
This has been the largest participation ever from the Florida Contest Group with **50 operators, 45 were operating as single ops on 9 complete teams.**

Here are the FCG top scorers based on 3830 scores posting. We all wait for the log gremlins to review our accuracies.

TOP TEAM
Team 1 (NP2X,N2NL,NN7CW,N4EEB,K5KG)
They scored a whopping 1.6 million points. If all NAQP current positions hold true, they will have broken into the TOP 5 with the #5 position. I went in the way back log and couldn't find the last time FCG has accomplished such a feat.

M2
N4FCG (NX4N,NK4O,N4BP)
Final score of 572k points with 1817 contacts & 315 mults. This is the 25th best team score ever in NCJ. Also the best finish by double, the prior best FCG M2 was in Jan 2019 with the W4WF M2 operation at 308k points.

TOP SOLP OVERALL SCORE
NN7CW
A total of 317,246 with 1249 Q's and 254 mults. Still left 1 minute in the time bank ;-) The third best ever finish from FL. N2NL owns #1 Jan 2003 with 340,466, #2 Jan 2002 340,170.

TOP SOALP OVERALL SCORE
NP2X
The original plan was to operate PT, but the Rig won the tug of war here. I'll let him tell the story in a future write up. With 1332 Q's and 305 mults a huge score of 406,260. Destroying his best ever score and total ever score from KP2 land of 287,520.

TOP FL SOALP OVERALL SCORE—N2NL

The best in-state FL operator was N2NL with 1138 q's and 338 Mults totaling 384,644 points. That's the best ever score beating N4EEB of 246k points record from 2022 .

TOP SOLP QSOs
NN7CW 1249

TOP SOLP Mults
NN7CW 254

TOP SOALP QSOs
NP2X 1332

TOP SOALP Mults
N2NL 338

Team Rankings
1 Team1 NP2X,N2NL,NN7CW,N4EEB,K5KG
2 Team2 W4WF,WO4O,N4AO,KU8E,K8MR
3 Team3 N6AR,K2SX,NE8P,N4KS,N4TB
4 Team4 N1TO,W8FN,KQ4R,N4FP,K0LUZ
5 Team5 WA1S,W4SPR,K4NMR,K2DM,N0OJ
6 Team8 N4OO,AD4ES,VE7ZO,W2XYZ,AA0O
7 Team6 NN4NN,N8KH,K4EJ,K3WT,K2SG,
8 Team7 W3US,KT3T,W4LT,KM4HI,K1TN
9 Team9 K4FU,KU1T,K4RFK,KQ4Y,KO4DN

W1YL Memorial-1	
NP2X(K9VV)	406,260
N2NL	384,644
NN7CW	317,246
N4EEB	269,133
K5KG	232,356
Team Total:	1,609,639

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W1YL Memorial-2	
W4WF	229,842
WO4O	212,868
N4AO(WC4E)	207,388
KU8E	177,800
K8MR	162,519
Team Total:	990,417

W1YL Memorial-3	
N6AR	218,625
K2SX	212,482
NE8P	211,434
N4KS	175,508
N4TB	150,750
Team Total:	968,799

W1YL Memorial-4	
N1TO	178,177
W8FN	158,191
KQ4R	142,912
N4FP	141,293
K0LUZ	130,203
Team Total:	750,776

W1YL Memorial-5	
WA1S	173,481
W4SPR	152,672
K4NMR	116,655
K2DM	97,784
N0OJ	57,785
Team Total:	598,377

W1YL Memorial-6	
NN4NN(K3SV)	139,690
N8KH	114,595
K4EJ	73,094
K3WT	50,760
K2SG	11,926
Team Total:	390,065

W1YL Memorial-7	
W3US	71,456
KT3T	62,532
W4LT(@W4DUG)	53,339
KM4HI	35,139
K1TN	17,480
Team Total:	239,946

W1YL Memorial-8	
N4OO	185,536
AD4ES	110,168
VE7ZO	81,438
W2XYZ	64,080
AA0O	24,687
Team Total:	465,909

W1YL Memorial-9	
K4FU	67,262
KU1T	41,396
K4RFK	16,632
KQ4Y	1,750
KO4DN	130
Team Total:	127,170

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M/2 LP	
Call	Score
N4FCG(@N4BP)	572,355
N4UU	391,092

Finally some abbreviated comments from 3830

W2XYZ - *Decent conditions
N8KH - *rotten tomato op awards
K4EJ - *Ellen meant so much to so many
AD4ES - *beat his goal of 100k points
N2NL - regretted not bringing down radio #2
NN7CW - fun to see so much activity
W4LT - friendship thanks to Ellen and Biff
K4FU - ran with wire hidden inside a vinyl fence behind the pool cage 5.5 feet high and 400 Q's!
K2DM Ran the whole time
NE8P Best effort to date!
K2SG Nasty Covid/Cold
K8MR Down 100 Q's
KU1T First time effort from FL QTH
N4AO Lots of FUN
VE7ZO Glad to be a part of FCG's honoring of W1YL
KO4DN Murphy struck, power supply issues

NAQP N4FCG@N4BP

AJ Stockton, NK4O

Left to Right / NK4O N4BP & NX4N

Stay tuned for Mr Potato Head further down in this article.

Last year, I was asked if I would consider operating in the K4OJ mystery mobile machine for FQP. This is where it all started, I was exposed to the KX3! After the event, since it was on my travels back to Miami, I offered to drop off the back-up KX3 that N4BP had graciously offered for use during FQP. Bob welcomed me into his home and showed me his shack. But before entering the home, I saw the tower, the beam, oh boy. My QTH is wires in the palm trees. ON entry into the shack, I was very mesmerized by all the awards covering all the walls.

Fast forward, Bob was actually selling his KX3 and I bought it (love it), but in the process he could see I was totally enamored with the station and he offered to do a contest together. Later last year, we did the IARU HF contest rotating shifts. I had so much fun having control of the beam and working stations I surely would have NEVER heard from the home QTH. At the contest end, N4BP Bob mutters, 'my station really shines in a regional contest'. 'Hmmm', I said make a list of those contests. Soon after, Chris NX4N, started to chime in on the con-

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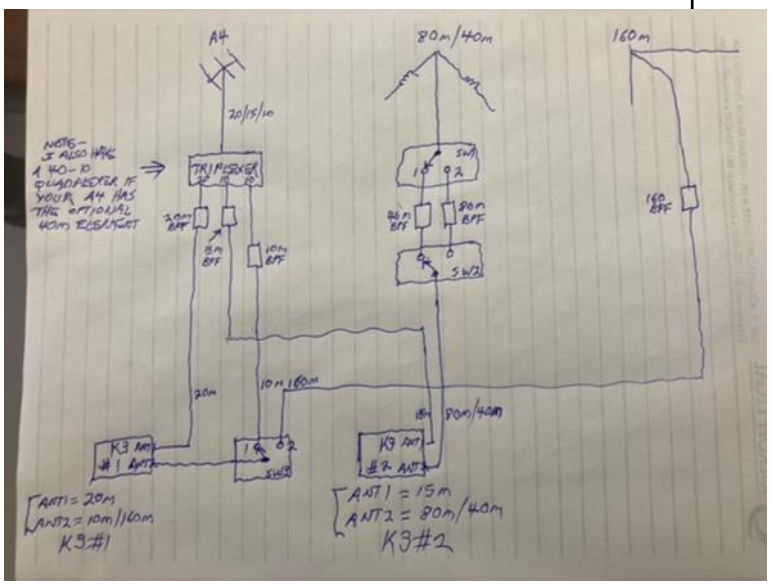
vo's and we were going to try and do ARRL 10m, but the schedule did not work out. We finally decided NAQP CW was going to be the one to put on the calendar.

Chris (NX4N) talked with Bob, reviewed the station layout, created a drawing from Dexter's Laboratory, and the ball was rolling.

* note K3#2 is actually a FTdx101mp
** Operating simultaneously on 15 & 10 (and 15/20) with the same antenna to us was "Magic"
***BPF and switching arrangement for 40/80 was actu ally K5KG's original "419" switchable filters.

We only needed to find some BPF's (bandpass filters) to use on the 40/80 m operation. Fortunately, the following week, I happened to be grabbing an antenna from K5KG, and in his shack tour I mentioned the need



for BPF's, sure enough he had some extra and I bought on the spot (perfect timing).

Early in January, I was able to drop off all the necessaries, and Bob followed Chris' detailed wiring instructions. Monday, before NAQP, Bob and I had decided to operate both MST's. For those of you who want to improve your code speed, or practice SO2V/SO2R, this weekly event is limited to 20-25 wpm. Early on, I was getting a bit of interference, but I was able to operated with some degree of difficulty. A bit later in the first MST, the noise disappeared, What happened? Bob had moved the beam from 0 to 330, BINGO! There must have been some crosstalk amongst the multiple antennas when the beam was aiming more north. Two more final tests on Wednesday during the first two CWT's, everything worked great!

Saturday morning, 530am, we get an email from Bob, the networked computers are crashing whenever a log edit or contact delete is attempted inside N1MM. UGH! We went to the back up plan, work our 2 stations with 3 bands separately and combine logs at contest end. A bit of a curve ball, because I have been preaching about scoreboard distribution. I quickly got the N4FCG scoreboard online credentials so that I would be able to post our score manually each hour.

We agreed to meet at Bobs shack a few hours before the event, to be sure we had one last run through for interference, SWR, etc etc. At our arrival, Chris offers a gift of Mr Potato Heads to the all of us. Our job is to put them together. After the fact, I reflected, what a great idea to removes the nerves and pre game jitters. AND It took only a few minutes and what fun and chuckles along the way. You'll spot mine in the pics attached.

At contest start, Chris (10/20/160) started on 10m, and I (15/40/80) on 15m. The bands were hot! The SFI over 200+ and the K was between 2-3. After a few hours on 10m Chris went to 20m to run run run. It wasn't long until Chris said he had nailed all the available multi's. For me, I stayed on 15m for almost the first 6 hours (wow), the band wouldn't let go and the runs were endless.

Later in the evening, Chris went to 160m, and he gave me his frequency. I was running on 80m anything in close I asked for a QSY non-stop to the 160m frequency. Sure enough, many said 'ok'. Thanks to K5KG for his advice, I never tried this before, but it DOES work. But don't start with QSY on the final, the s&p wil be gone on 'q', instead, use 'PSE QSY 1830', that resulted in responses of 'ok' or 'sri no'. For the last hour, Bob came in and hit clean up on 160m. I kept hearing him mumble, another multi, another multi, music to our ears.

At the end, we ended up with 1817 contacts with 315 multi's. As of this writing, we are #9 on 3830. There are only 3k points separating 7th thru 9th. TWO multi's or 10 Qsos more and we move up two spots (Multipliers ARE!) . My take away, personally learn how to SO2V! Which was highly advised from N2NL in our NAQP zoom call!

Now I have a special guest in my ham shack, a permanent MR POTATO HEAD, I'll never forget the freezing cold, fun band opening, M/2 weekend for NAQP.

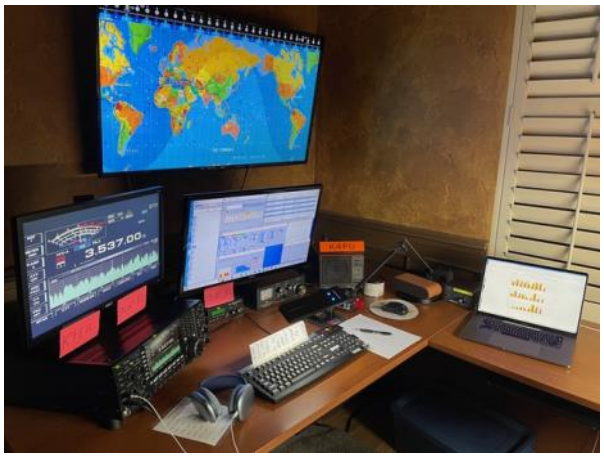
Thanks to everyone participating from FCG in the NAQP CW event, memorializing W1YL with the teams.

NX4N in the background focused on 20m

N4BP in the background clean up hitter on 160m

K4FU Winter NAQP

Steve Sample, K4FU



The K4FU station has about everything needed except an antenna. I'm using an antenna hidden in fence behind my pool cage. (See first picture below.) If you look hard you can see the white insulate wire strung between post tops. (See second picture below.) Its a random wire about 120 feet long at 5 ½ feet in the air. The amazing thing was being able to make almost 400 Qs in ten hours on 6 bands using that wire-in-a-fence! Never had that happen before.

(Below) My son Palmer / K4FO and I fly to Dayton every year together. Palmer also lives in Ocala.

White insulated wire

K5KG Reports on NAQP January 2023

George Wagner, K5KG

Hurricane Ian in late September caused some damage to my 40m Yagi. Repairs would require not only bringing this antenna down to the roof, but also a triband Yagi that was mounted below the 40. This was the beginning of a project that would last from September to January 2023. Whatever could go wrong, did, but by early January, both Yagis were back in place on the tower and working properly. What did not work, however, was the rotor. In preparation for NAQP CW, I had the tower crew point the Yagis to the NW for the NAQP contest. Hopefully, the rotor will be repaired and back in place in time for ARRL DX CW.

I give you this introduction to explain my reluctance and, frankly, lack of enthusiasm for entering the NAQP with antennas stuck in one direction. This brings AJ, NK4O into the picture. I was aware that AJ was aggressively forming teams for the event and had the enthusiasm to get the job done. The net result of the campaign to form the single-op teams, was signing up 45 ops on 9 teams. This was a record number of operators and teams by the FCG.

I discussed with AJ and Chris, W4WF the need for meaningful team names. After some discussion, "W1YL Memorial" was decided upon. We felt that this was a fitting tribute to Ellen because of her lifelong contributions to amateur radio and, especially, her love of CW.

With the antennas pointing NW, I set up the log for the contest, programmed the F-keys, and tested the RF side of the station. The station setup seemed just right for my SO(A)[1] category. There was some chatter going around on the FCG@Groups.io[2] reflector about the possibility of using SO2R[3] and SO2V in the N1MM+ logger. I had done SO2R back in my ICOM days, but quickly realized getting into either SO2R or SO2V with my current Elecraft setup was out of the question, at least for the time being! I would enter as SO(A).

My plan was to put in my single-op limit of 10 hours in the contest. I was uncertain if I would do 10 hours straight through or take one or two 30-minute breaks. By the end, I had put in the full 10 hours with one 31-minute break. I logged 804 QSOs and 289 multipliers. Claimed score was 232.4k

Band conditions seemed to be quite good during the contest. 10m and 15m were especially good, with 15m being my "money band". There were times when I was struggling to keep a run going, and other times when I was "in the zone" and runs came easily. I have not analyzed the log to see how much I was running vs. S&P but, in retrospect, I would guess about 50/50.

Best rates:

QSOs	QSOs/Hr.
65	139
53	142
41	175
34	166

I was pleased to be on the W1YL Memorial-1 team. Other team members were Fred, NP2X, Dave, N2NL, Wolf, NN7CW and John, N4EEB. Our collective team claimed score was 1,609,639.

Now to prepare for the NAQP SSB test.

[1] SO(A) – Single Operator, Assisted
[2] FCG@Groups.io – Email reflector supported by the FCG
[3] SO2R – Single Operator Two Radios. SO2V - Single Operator Two VFOs.

KPA1500 AMP Finals Device Replacement

Mike Cresap, W3IP

Editor's Note: This originally appeared in the January 2023 PVRC Newsletter with permission of the author. All rights are retained by the author. N4GL

The KPA1500 is a high performance 160 through 6-meter amplifier that delivers 1500 watts of power to your antenna. The internal antenna tuner can automatically match up to a 3:1 VSWR over all phase angles. The amplifier has built in protection against overheating, too much input power, too much output power, high VSWR, too much current draw, and incorrect voltage levels. However, like other similar amplifiers using LDMOS technology, the amplifier can still fail due to external events such as arcing in cables, connectors, baluns, or an antenna that momentarily touches another antenna or a nearby tower due to wind or ice.

The failure often shows up as a sudden permanent 50% drop in output power, sometimes accompanied by an error message on the KPA1500 such as "low gain", sometimes without an error message. The current draw is also about 50% of its normal level. When this set of conditions is observed, a common cause is the failure of one of the two BLF188XR LDMOS transistors in the KPA1500.

The first time my KPA1500 failed, I sent it back to Watsonville as it was under warranty. The second time I decided I didn't want to be without the amplifier for another two and a half months, so I decided to fix it myself. Digikey had the final devices (BLF188XR) in stock for $226 each (other distributors such as Mouser may also stock these devices - look around). You will need two new ones. Make sure you purchase the SOT539A or SOT539B package style only! My order showed up the next day.

Once the new devices arrived, it took me about 3 hours to change the devices out, having no instructions and having never opened the cover on the amplifier before. The following is the step-by-step process I used to replace both devices. Yes, both devices. Even though only one of them has failed, the remaining device has likely been stressed near its limits, it should be replaced as well. Read through all the instructions before you start, don't take any shortcuts! These instructions assume that you have checked for and ruled out other component failures such as bad relays, or failed solder joints on the feedback jumpers or resistor R38 on the LPF board.

To replace the devices, the copper heat spreader and final devices assembly must be removed from the chassis. The assembly will be heated on a stove or hot plate until the solder under the devices melts. The old devices are removed, new ones attached, and the assembly will be left to cool. The assembly is then reintegrated into the KPA1500 chassis and tested.

1. You will need a camera (to take a high resolution "before" picture before you get started to refer to later as you go along, and any "along the way" pictures you think may be useful), a soldering gun, Phillips head screwdriver, 2 needle nose pliers, tweezers, an Exacto knife, some 63/37 rosin core solder (1/32 diameter), liquid flux, a block of aluminum (size not too critical, mine was 6 by 4 by 1/2 inch) and your kitchen stove (or a hot plate). Get a copy of the BLF188XR data sheet from the internet for reference.

2. After disconnecting all cables and removing the KPA1500 amplifier chassis from its normal operating position, I set the chassis upside down on a clean grounded 2 foot by 4 foot anti-static mat that I purchased from Microcenter (SKU: 343194 Mfr Part#: 900-114)

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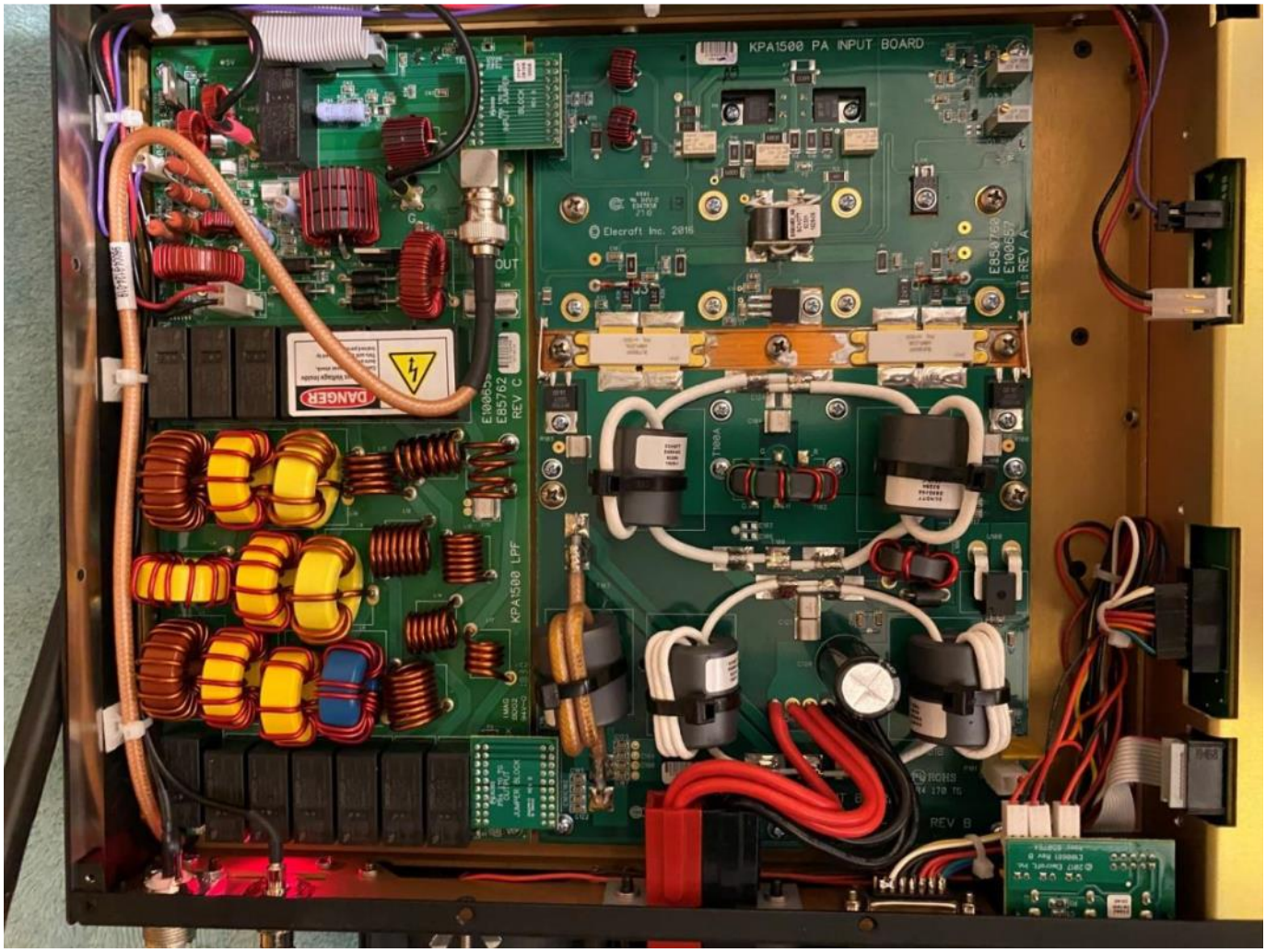

Figure 1 - KPA1500 bottom view

3. Remove all the screws from the bottom cover of the KPA1500 and set aside the cover and screws in a safe place.

4. Document the positions of the input and output jumper blocks. Remove both and set them aside.

5. The BLF188XR final output devices are soldered to a copper head spreader between the PA input board and the PA output board. The gate tabs of the final output devices are soldered to the PA input board. The drain tabs are soldered to the PA output board. Unsolder the gate and drain tabs with a soldering gun using an Exacto knife to help pry up each tab from the pad below it. Use solder wick to remove any excess solder from the pc boards pads.

6. Unsolder the feedback jumpers between the PA input board and the PA output board (there is one jumper on each side between the boards). Save the jumpers for later reassembly.

7. Remove all screws and associated lock washers from the PA input board and the PA output boards. There are screws on the heat sink of four tabbed devices (U1, Q4, R9, and R13) on the PA input board that must also be removed. Be careful with R9 and R13, they may want to stick to the chassis since the heat sink compound underneath the tabs are "sticky" even after the screws are removed. Gentle use of needle nosed pliers may help loosen the resistor body. Do not unsolder these devices. There are screws on the heat sinks of two devices (R100, R103) on the PA output board that must also be removed.

Continued on next page...

8. Remove the PA input board and place it on the anti-static mat or in an anti-static bag.

9. You now should be able to slide the copper heat spreader assembly away from underneath the PA output board without much force. If the copper heat spreader doesn't want to move, look for other screws that need to be removed!

10. Once removed, examine the copper heat spreader assembly. Take a picture of it. There should be two easily visible scribe marks - mine were between the gate tabs of each device. See Figure 2 and Figure 3. These are the alignment marks for the proper placement of the new devices. If the scribe marks are not present for both devices, you must make them yourself with the old devices in place before you proceed to the next step. **DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP!**

There is a great video by Jim W6PQL showing him attaching similar LDMOS devices to a heat spreader using a hot plate. The video can be downloaded from https://www.w6pql.com/video/ldmos2copper.wmv

Be sure you view this video before you start! (Note that Jim uses a different device alignment technique than used by Elecraft).

11. Take the copper heat spreader (with the old devices still attached) over to a kitchen stove or hot plate (can be either electric or gas) and set the heat spreader on top of an aluminum plate that is roughly 4" by 6" by 1/2" (size is not critical). The aluminum plate serves as a heat sink to keep the heat even. My gas stove took about 4 minutes to heat up the spreader to the point where the solder melted. Pick up the old devices with needle nosed pliers and set them aside. Take a swipe through the channel with a wet paper towel to wipe off the excess solder in the trench. Turn off the stove for a couple of minutes.

Figure 2 - heat spreader with old solder removed, new solder in the trench

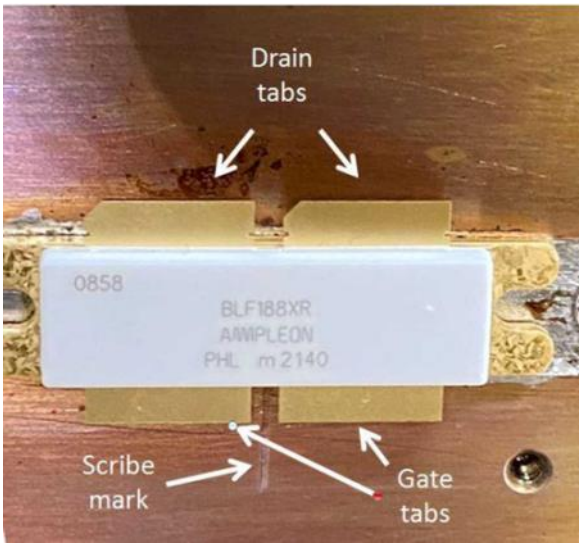

Figure 3 - BLF188XR on heat spreader

12. While the copper is still very warm, take a 2.5 inch length of 1/32 inch solder to fit in the trench symmetrically each side of the scribe (that is less than W6PQL used in his video, as there is still some residual solder left on the copper spreader). Put a thin coating of liquid flux on the bottom foot of each device. Orient the new devices so the drain and gate tabs correctly sit in the trench on top of (and cover up) the solder, with the scribe marks visible between thegate tabs. The drain tabs can be identified by the missing corners on the tabs.

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13. Turn the heat on the stove or hot plate back on, wait for the solder under the devices to melt. You should be able to see the BLF188XRs slightly drop into the trench as that happens. Gently push the devices back and forth 1/4 of an inch to spread out the solder under the foot of each device with the tweezers. Ensure the devices end up so the tabs are properly aligned with the scribe marks. The scribe marks make it easy to move the new devices into exactly the right place once the new solder has melted.

14. When the BLF188Xrs are in the correct places, turn off the heat source, then very gently move the spreader off of the aluminum plate and onto an unused (i.e. room temperature) burner or a large heat sink using the two needle nosed pliers. This will allow the copper spreader assembly to cool faster.

15. After the spreader has cooled, visually inspect the copper spreader assembly carefully to make sure there are no solder shorts between any of the gate and drain tabs to the copper spreader (look under the tabs!). Any solder shorts must be removed before proceeding.

16. Slide the copper heat spreader assembly back underneath the PA output board and over the drain tabs. The drain tabs should line up perfectly with the drain pads on the printed circuit board. Put all screws and associated washers back on the PA output board side. Make sure the screws all start correctly, but do not tighten them yet.

17. Now position the PA input board back in place by slipping it under the gate tabs. Try not to bend the gate tabs up in this process, they need to remain flat for soldering. Replace the screws and associated washers on the PA input board and the four tabbed devices (U1, Q4, R9, and R13), all loosely at first. With all screws on both boards in place, tighten them all down.

18. sing the soldering gun, solder the drain and gate tabs to the pads on the circuit board. Use sufficient solder and heat so the end result looks like the "before" picture you took in step 1. Clean off any residual flux.

19. Re-solder the feedback jumpers between the PA input board and the PA output board (there is one jumper on each side of the boards). Clean off any residual flux.

20. Replace the input jumper block and the output jumper block. Refer to your "before" picture to make sure you have the orientation correct and that the jumper plugs line up correctly with the pins on the circuit boards.

21. The reassembly job is now complete. Double check to make sure all screws and lock washers on the printed circuit boards are in the correct places and are tight, the feedback jumper wires are in place, and the input and output jumper blocks are in place and in the correct orientation - proper operation of the amplifier depends on every step being followed correctly.

22. The now repaired KPA1500 is ready for setup and testing. The only adjustments needed are to set the bias voltages for each of the BLF188XRs. The right way to set the bias voltages is to follow the Elecraft test procedures. To use the Elecraft test procedures, you will need a standalone power supply capable of supplying 53 volts at 3 amps (current limited and with a digital current meter accurate to .1 amps) and a decent digital voltmeter. The test procedure takes only a few minutes to execute. Once complete, put the bottom cover back on the amplifier. Your KPA1500 is ready to operate. The Elecraft test procedure can be acquired via email from support@elecraft.com. This procedure is not for the faint of heart. But if you are comfortable with these techniques, it is a great way to save 2 1/2 months and as much as five hundred dollars to get your KPA1500 back on the air quickly!

Thanks to N3FL and K3YDX for their review and comments for this article.

9 Element Circle Array RX Antenna

Jim Miller, AB3CV

Editor's Note: This originally appeared in the January 2023 PVRC Newsletter with permission of the author. All rights are retained by the author. N4GL

This is about my recent construction of a 9-circle array receive antenna. The 9-circle RX antenna was originally designed by W1FV and described in NCJ in two articles. (See links at the end)

The reason for wanting a better receive antenna was that too often I couldn't hear DX stations that others were able to on 80m and 160m. Of course, propagation has a significant effect on what can be heard even within the Mid-Atlantic region but too often I felt like I was missing out. If you can't hear them, you can't work them!

My TX antenna is a quarter wave vertical on 80m with 32 radials averaging 100 feet in length. I have a horizontal tail attached to it at 53 feet by a vacuum relay creating an inverted-L which gives me 160m as well. When on 160m a ¼ wave matching line at the base is inserted which gives me resonance at 1840Khz. Another relay ensures that when not transmitting the antenna is detuned for both 80m and 160m to avoid compromising any receive antennas on those bands. RBN assessment on 80m and 160m shows I'm heard around the world with my 1500W amp. I'm just a bit deaf!

I'm now at 224 entities worked on 160m and 281 worked on 80m and getting new ones on those bands is becoming very difficult. I've often watched videos by VE6WZ on YouTube about various station ideas and found one on his updated combiner box for a 9-circle array. This piqued my interest, and I started doing some research.

My current RX antenna for both 80m and 160m is composed of two 2 element arrays which share a common element for 3 elements in total. The two elements selected are combined by a DX Engineering NCC-2 which allows phasing between the two to achieve directionality and some steering of the receive direction. With 2 elements it forms a cardioid pattern with a deep null to the rear. It performed better here in my current Mt. Airy QTH than it had in my former QTH in Parkton where it was implemented partially in an oak forest. The local RFI environment was an issue there as well. It was however an improvement over what I previously had used in Parkton: a K9AY and a BOG (beverage on ground). The K9AY was also buried in the oak forest which likely didn't help its performance but was constantly getting destroyed by the local deer herd. The BOG never really worked well at all.

My Mt Airy QTH has a side yard where my 2 element RX arrays are located but it isn't big enough to really accommodate either a 4-square or 9-circle. My lot also didn't have enough space for a beverage in any direction much less for multiple directions. However, my side yard is adjacent to my neighbors' largely unused portion of their property: they have a vegetable garden in one portion and an attempted (failed so far) wildflower garden. Other than that, it is just periodically mowed as a grass yard.

I had done some work with a compass. measuring tape and lot description map and discovered that I could implement a 9-circle with only 3 elements on their property if they were willing. I asked them and they immediately agreed to seasonal use of their property from November thru the end of March! Great neighbors! See site map Fig 1 which shows the approximate locations as well as my TX antennas.

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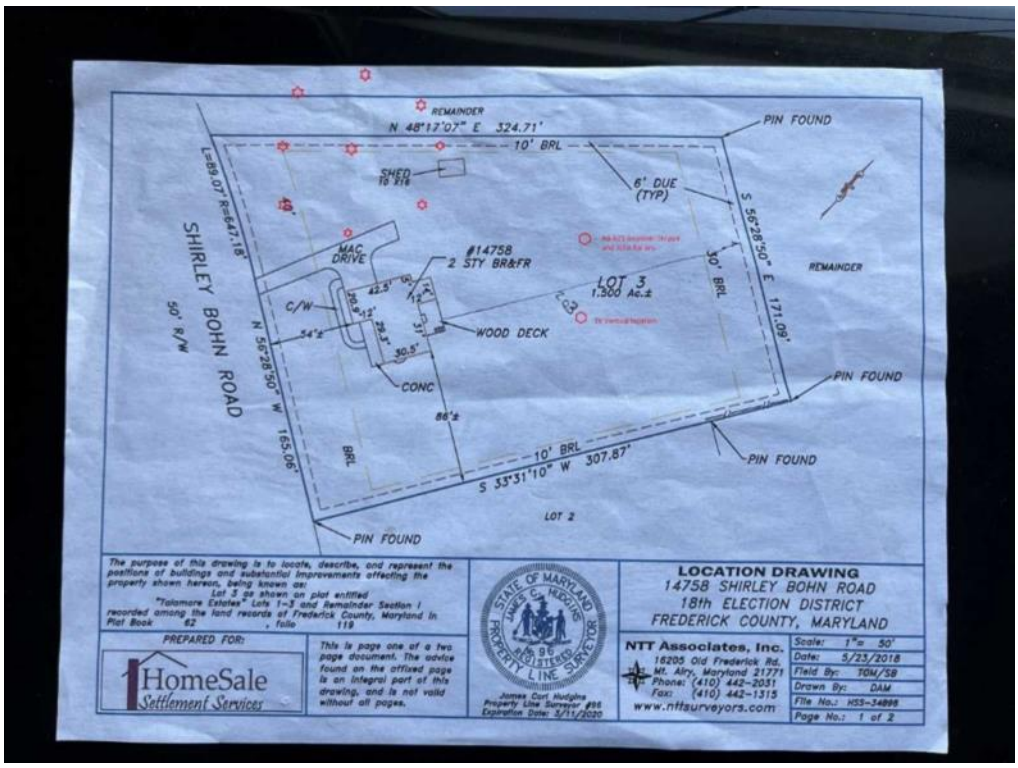

Figure 1 AB3CV Site map

The choice of a 9-circle over a 4-square is worth a mention. Since my use of the full array will be seasonal, I can use the 3 elements pointed on a 45/225 heading without the full array. A 4-square with one element missing is useless. Also, the 9-circle has an antenna for every 45 degrees with only a 1db reduction when a station is between those lobes. I can also easily just put out 3 elements in a hurry if some DX-pedition comes up in another direction when the full array is down.

The 9-circle is comprised of nine 24ft tall, telescoped aluminum elements each on a fiberglass insulator which is then bolted to a piece of 2"x1/8" angle driven into the ground. The angle stock not only acts as the element support but also as a ground reference for each element. See Fig 2.

Eight of the elements are arranged in a 120-foot diameter circle spaced every 45 degrees. The ninth element is in the center. When a direction is selected the center element is always used with diametrically opposed elements to form a 3-element array. The signal from each of the three elements is buffered by a simple impedance converting preamp and summed by the combiner box by using a combination of relays and delay lines. This gives a very directional antenna in a 120-foot circle for 80m, 160m and even 40m, and every 45 degrees at that. Try doing that with just beverages!!

Figure 2. Element mount, one of 9.

Continued on next page….

DX Engineering had previously sold a full kit to implement the YCCC version of the 9- circle but no longer does so. But I'm comfortable doing construction of electronics and the VE6WZ YouTube videos gave me the confidence to give it a shot. I needed to teach myself KiCAD, the Computer Aided Design (CAD) program used by VE6WZ to create the boards, which I did by watching several videos on YouTube.

I downloaded his designs from the links at his videos and sent them off to a board fabricator that was inexpensive and quick turnaround: JLCPCB. Other parts were ordered from Digikey, MGS4U for fiberglass insulators and DX Engineering for the tubing and miscellaneous parts to construct the elements.

I got my coax from Joel at The RF Connection. Both preamp boards and the controller use only through-hole parts, so construction was easy. My AA54 antenna analyzer was used to create the proper length of the phasing lines. The feedlines from the combiner to elements just need to be identical and long enough to reach - I chose 70 feet. Figure 3 shows the deployed combiner box, the center element and all the cabling.

Since I'm planning to remove the elements, cabling, and combiner each April all the coax is just left on the ground. Of course, I'll leave the supports that were driven in the ground for reuse next year.

Figure 3. Combiner deployed, coax and center element.

Instead of a manual rotary switch to control the selection of direction I chose to use a software program called PSTRotator. I have long used PSTRotator for controlling my rotator via a Green Heron RT-21, controlling my Steppir DB-19e and selecting among my TX antennas. A second instance of PSTRotator was created to control my 9-circle rather than use a manual switch box. Each instance uses a USB connected KMTronic 8 port relay box to perform their functions. A small RJ45 breakout board from Winford Engineering was used to implement a diode matrix to form an 8-line to 3-line converter to operate the combiner relays. Figure 4. CAT6 direct burial cable provides power and control signals to the combiner box and preamps. This gives me computer control of the RX antenna direction which in turn gives me the ability to operate remotely. The direction selected can be by clicking on the compass rose or manually selecting the relay desired. The direction can also be driven by my logging program. See Fig 5.

Figure 4 Control switches in shack. Top is RX control, bottom is other antennas.

So how well does it work? Great!

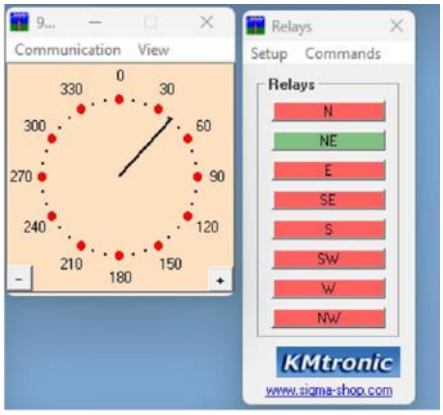

Figure 5 PSTrotator controlling RX direction

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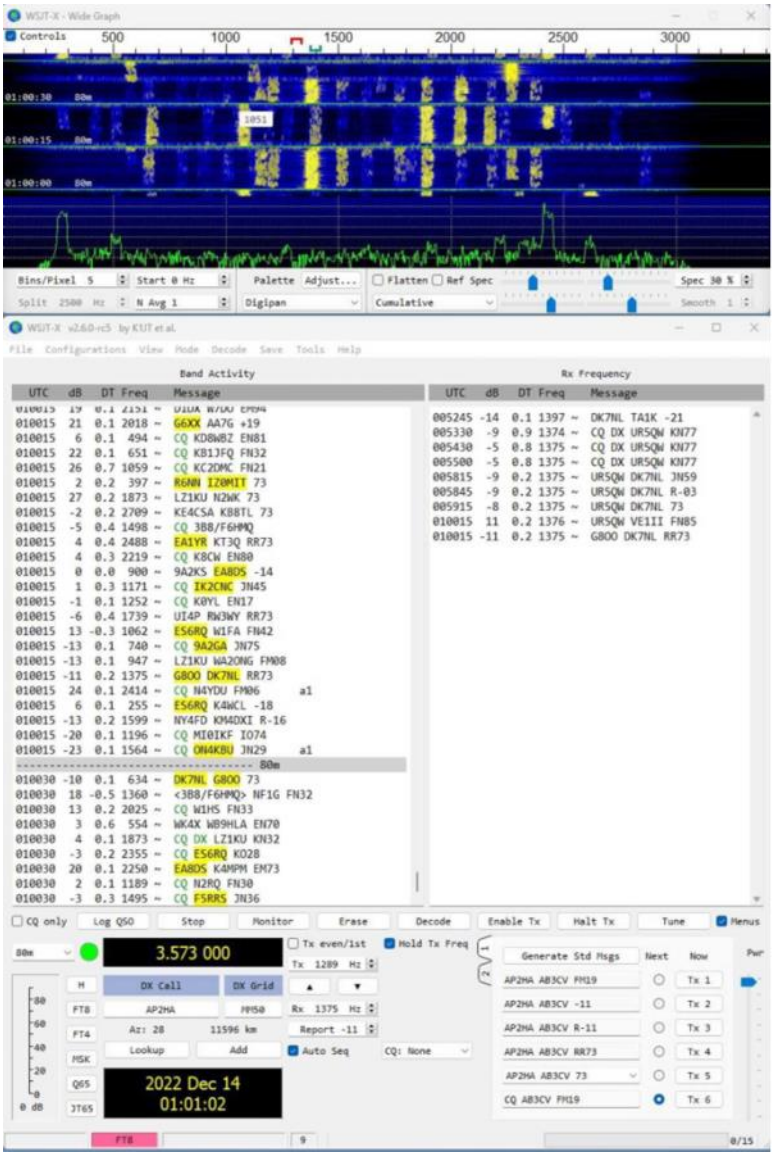
I always expect something to go wrong on power-up but this time I had been sufficiently careful, and nothing smoked! I was immediately greeted with wonderful front-to-back performance and good side-lobe shape, both determined by on-air listening of available stations.

My K4D has two separate receivers so I'm able to listen to both antennas and compare them on side-by-side band scopes. Because FT8 presents fairly steady signals for 13 seconds, it was used to compare the two antennas the busy 80m band when first turned on. When pointed to EU the 2-element antenna decodes a lot of stateside stations and the spectrum is quite full, often making it difficult to pull out EU DX. However, the 9- circle really rejects the stateside stations making hearing EU DX very much easier.

It's difficult to show the impact in a single picture but Fig 6 is my best effort. It shows WSTJ and a strong W1 signal around 1350hz in the top of the waterfall which was reported as +24db on the previous cycle. On this cycle about 2/3 of the way through I switched the antenna from NE to SW and the signal is greatly attenuated (see zoom inset.) It was likely -15db or so. Not every signal receives that level of attenuation of course but it shows the general effect. It is very nice to try to hear signals from EU without so many strong signals coming in from behind. Those of you who have worked at big stations with significant RX antenna farms may be used to this, but it is a real treat for me on my modest 1.5 acre lot (plus a bit more from my neighbors!)



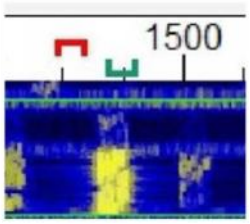


Figure 6 - example performance of the arrray

I also listened to directions around the compass rose on 160m and 80m and was very pleased to see that rotating on and off the direction of a received station had a significant impact on received signal strength.

The output from the 9-circle is quite low so I need to operate with the K4 preamp engaged and I've also added a DX Engineering RPA-2 preamp for a bit more gain to bring the antenna noise floor comfortably above that of the K4.

So far, I'm very pleased with the result! It won't magically create QSOs but it will give me a better chance of hearing in the direction I want with less interference from other stations or QRN.
Links:

[9 circle overview video and combiner box:]
[preamp board]
[YCCC 9 circle manual]
[9 circle design part 1]
[9 circle design part 2]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FCAP Approved Contests thru April 2023

Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ
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Your Log Submission is Indispensable

Revised 12/27/22

Contest	Type	Pts	Contest Schedule Start Date	Start Time	Finish Date	Finish Time	Modes C	S	R	D	Bands	Rules
January												
ARRL RTTY Roundup	Maj	10	7-Jan	1800Z	8-Jan	2359Z			R		80-10	RTTY
YB DX Contest	DX	5	14-Jan	0000Z	14-Jan	2359Z		S			80-10	YB DX
UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest	DX	5	14-Jan	1200Z	15-Jan	1200Z				P	80-10	UBA P
North American QSO Party, CW Jan	Maj	10	14-Jan	1800Z	15-Jan	0559Z	C				160-10	Conte
PRO Digi Contest	DX	5	21-Jan	1200Z	21-Jan	1159Z				F	80-10	PDC R
Hungarian DX Contest	DX	5	21-Jan	1200Z	22-Jan	1159Z	C	S			160-10	HA-DX
North American QSO Party, SSB Jan	Maj	10	21-Jan	1800Z	22-Jan	0600Z		S			160-10	Conte
ARRL VHF Contest January	Maj	10	21-Jan	1900Z	23-Jan	0359Z	C	S	R	D	VU	Januai
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	Maj	10	27-Jan	2200Z	29-Jan	2200Z	C				160	CQ 16
REF Contest, CW	DX	5	28-Jan	0600Z	29-Jan	1800Z	C				80-10	Micro
BARTG RTTY Sprint	DX	5	28-Jan	1200Z	29-Jan	1200Z			R		80-10	BARTG
UBA DX Contest, SSB	DX	5	28-Jan	1300Z	29-Jan	1300Z		S			160-10	UBA D
February												
Vermont QSO Party	QSO	7	4-Feb	0000Z	5-Feb	2359z	C	S	R	D	All	Vermo
Mexico RTTY International Contest	DX	5	4-Feb	1200Z	5-Feb	2359Z			R		80-10	http:/
Minnesota QSO Party	QSO	7	4-Feb	1400Z	5-Feb	2359Z	C	S	R		160-10	Rules
British Columbia QSO Party	QSO	7	4-Feb	1600Z	5-Feb	2359Z	C	S	R	D	160-10	Orca D
European Union DX Contest	DX	5	4-Feb	1900Z	5-Feb	1900Z	C	S			160-10	RULES
North American Sprint, CW Feb	Maj	10	5-Feb	0000Z	5-Feb	0359Z	C				80-20	Sprint
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	Maj	10	11-Feb	0000Z	12-Feb	0359Z			R		80-10	CQ WI
KCJ Topband Contest	DX	5	11-Feb	1200Z	12-Feb	1200Z	C				160	Rules
Dutch PACC Contest	DX	5	12-Feb	1200Z	12-Feb	1200Z	C	S			160-10	PACC
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	Maj	10	13-Feb	0000Z	13-Feb	2359Z	C				160-10	ARRL
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	Maj	10	24-Feb	2200Z	26-Feb	2200Z		S			160	CQ 16
REF Contest, SSB	DX	5	25-Feb	0600Z	26-Feb	1800Z		S			80-10	Comm
FTn DX Contest	DX	5	25-Feb	1200Z	26-Feb	1200Z				F	80-10	Europ
UBA DX Contest, CW	DX	5	25-Feb	1300Z	26-Feb	1300Z	C				160-10	UBA D
South Carolina QSO Party	QSO	7	25-Feb	1500Z	26-Feb	0159Z	C	S	R	D	160-6	SC QS
North American QSO Party, RTTY Feb	Maj	10	25-Feb	1800Z	26-Feb	0559Z			R		160-10	Conte
North Carolina QSO Party	QSO	7	26-Feb	1500Z	27-Feb	0100Z	C	S	R	D	80-2	Rules

Continued on next page....

Your Log Submission is Indispensable			Contest Schedule				Modes				Revised 12/27/22	
			Start		Finish							
Contest	Type	Pts	Date	Time	Date	Time	C	S	R	D	Bands	Rules
March												
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	Maj	10	4-Mar	0000Z	5-Mar	2400Z		S			160-10	ARRL I
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	DX	5	4-Mar	1800Z	5-Mar	1359Z			R		80-10	Open
YB DX RTTY Contest	DX	5	11-Mar	0000Z	11-Mar	2359Z			R		80-10	YB DX
Oklahoma QSO Party	QSO	7	11-Mar	1400Z	12-Mar	2100Z	C	S	R	D	80-6	OKQP
Stew Perry Topband Challenge Spring	Maj	10	11-Mar	1500Z	12-Mar	1500Z	C				160	Stew F
EA PSK63 Contest	DX	5	11-Mar	1600Z	12-Mar	1600Z				P	80-10	EAPSK
Idaho QSO Party	QSO	7	11-Mar	1900Z	12-Mar	1900Z	C	S	R	D	160-10	Idaho
North American Sprint, RTTY Mar	Maj	10	11-Mar	2300Z	12-Mar	0300Z			R		80-20	Sprint
Wisconsin QSO Party	QSO	7	12-Mar	1800Z	13-Mar	0100Z	C	S	R	D	All	Wisco
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	DX	5	18-Mar	0200Z	20-Mar	0159Z			R		80-10	BARTG
Russian DX Contest	DX	5	18-Mar	1200Z	19-Mar	1200Z	C	S			160-10	Rules
Virginia QSO Party	QSO	7	19-Mar	1400Z	20-Mar	2400Z	C	S	R	D	All	https:
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	Maj	10	25-Mar	0000Z	26-Mar	2400Z		S			160-10	CQ WI
April												
Louisiana QSO Party	QSO	7	1-Apr	1400Z	2-Apr	0200Z	C	S	R	D	160-2	LAQP
Mississippi QSO Party	QSO	7	1-Apr	1400Z	2-Apr	0200Z	C	S	R	D	160-2	2021
Missouri QSO Party	QSO	7	1-Apr	1400Z	2-Apr	2000Z	C	S	R	D	All	Misso
SP DX Contest	DX	5	1-Apr	1500Z	2-Apr	1500Z	C	S			160-10	SP DX
JIDX CW Contest	DX	5	8-Apr	0700Z	9-Apr	1300Z	C				160-10	JAPAN
OK/OM DX Contest, SSB	DX	5	8-Apr	1200Z	9-Apr	1159Z		S			160-10	..:: OK
IG-RY World Wide RTTY Contest	DX	5	8-Apr	1200Z	9-Apr	1800Z					80-10	IG-RY
Nebraska QSO Party	QSO	7	8-Apr	1300Z	9-Apr	2200Z	C	S		D	All	http:/
New Mexico QSO Party	QSO	7	8-Apr	1400Z	9-Apr	0200Z	C	S	R	D	160-2	New M
North Dakota QSO Party	QSO	7	8-Apr	1800Z	9-Apr	1800Z	C	S	R	D	160-2	2022
Georgia QSO Party	QSO	7	8-Apr	1800Z	9-Apr	2359Z	C	S			160-6	Georg
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	DX	5	8-Apr	2100Z	9-Apr	2100Z	C				All	Conte
Holyland DX Contest	DX	5	14-Apr	2100Z	15-Apr	2059Z	C	S			160-10	Holyla
Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest	DX	5	15-Apr	0600Z	16-Apr	0559Z	C	S			80-10	Mular
YU DX Contest	DX	5	15-Apr	0700Z	16-Apr	0659Z	C	S			80-10	YUDX(
CQMM DX Contest	DX	5	15-Apr	0900Z	16-Apr	2359Z	C				80-10	Rules
Michigan QSO Party	QSO	7	15-Apr	1600Z	16-Apr	0400Z	C	S			80-10	Rules
Ontario QSO Party	QSO	7	15-Apr	1800Z	16-Apr	1800Z	C	S			160-2	Ontari
Quebec QSO Party	QSO	7	16-Apr	1800Z	17-Apr	1800Z	C	S			160-10	http:/
SP DX RTTY Contest	DX	5	22-Apr	1200Z	23-Apr	1200Z			R		80-10	Polski
North American SSB Sprint Contest Apr	Maj	10	23-Apr	0000Z	23-Apr	0400Z		S			80-20	Rules
Helvetia Contest	DX	5	29-Apr	1300Z	30-Apr	1259Z	C	S	R	D	160-10	USKA
Florida QSO Party	QSO	20	29-Apr	1600Z	30-Apr	2159Z	C	S			40-10	Rules

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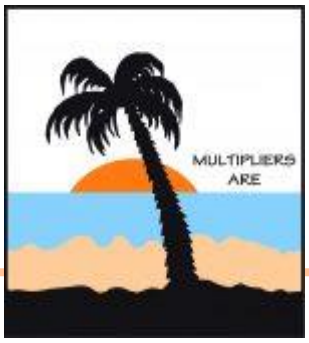
The Florida Contest Group



"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. It's 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
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

stitchin' waves