



Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.com

Volume 30, Issue 3

July 2023

From the President's Corner

Chris Plumblee, W4WF, FCG President



Florida continues to linger in summer's sweaty, humid grip as I write these words. It's prime season for lightning storms every day and static on the low bands. The peak of the summer e-skip season has also passed, so the 6m-obsessed among us may be surfacing more occasionally to take nourishment with their family at the table rather than eating in the shack while watching the ON4KST Chat Page and WSJT for evidence of an elusive band opening.

WRTC and the IARU contest were held a couple of weeks ago. I heard some mixed messages about how loud the I4xx stations were here in the States. Fears that the recent rule changes implemented by the Italian WRTC committee would leave all the teams working mostly Europe on SSB appear to have been overwrought. The combination of the activity levels in the contest overall being tilted toward CW and the proclivity of most of the WRTC operators to think CW-first meant that most made about 2/3 of their QSOs on CW.

The order of finish was a little unexpected. I don't think the wider betting markets were very active in WRTC, but I suspect you could have gotten long odds on the VE3DZ/UW7LL team winning over previous high finishers like DL1IAO/DJ5MW and OM3BH/OM3GI. Though the referees don't have anything to do with the operation itself, kudos are due to W4LT and NX4N for the teams for which they served as referees placed in the top 5. The Italian organizers made a special effort to broaden the pool of people who were selected as referees, which made for a great trip for first-time referees Lu and Chris. Look for photos and more details about their trips elsewhere in the newsletter.

FCG member NN7CW (ex DL6BW) was a last-minute replacement for K4BAI on a team with K4AB. I understand from some secondhand reports that Wolf and Larry had some noise problems that resulted in them being further down the standings than they might have anticipated, as both of them are truly FB ops. The Italians' efforts to put everyone in *agriturismos* rather than tents was a double-edged sword. The organizers were able to set up the stations more than 24-48 hours in advance, which cut down on the number of volunteers that they had to recruit. Some of the *agriturismos* appear to have been more comfortable than others, with air conditioning and indoor plumbing. Others were reportedly little more than sheds with power and little else. However, because the environment for each *agriturismo* was different, some of them had considerable noise from things like solar controllers, and others were pretty quiet.

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Corner, Chris Plumblee, W4WF</i>	1
<i>FQP 2023 Update, Dan Street, K1TO</i>	3
<i>W4LT at the WRTC 2022 Championship, Lu Romero, W4LT</i>	4
<i>WRTC2022 Experiences at I47L, Chris Blake, NX4N</i>	10
<i>Tampa ARC Field Day 2023, Lee Boulineau, KX4TT & Others</i>	13
<i>FCG Participation in WRTC22, George Wagner, K5KG</i>	15
<i>FCAP Approved Contests, Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ</i>	19

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.

All submissions are subject to editing prior to publication.

Submission suggestions:

- For text, Word documents, PDFs
- Pictures and graphics, PNG, JPG, or PDF
- Text and pictures in the body of an email also work

Continued on next page...



Following WRTC and IARU, the summer contest season continues with the CQWW VHF contest, which I understand was a pretty understated affair with only modest propagation enhancement this year. With the RTTY and CW editions of the NAQP in the log, coming up shortly is the SSB edition. The PVRC and other large clubs are persisting in an effort to get a club competition together for the NAQPs. The FCG was approached to gauge our interest in participating. The contest is open to any club and is run entirely on the online scoreboards.

If there is interest within the FCG to compete significantly for this title, it will require a historic effort on our part in the RTTY and SSB NAQPs. Typically, our members are happy to get on for the NAQP CW, and we're capable of mustering a competitive turnout on that mode, but we're less excited about SSB and way less excited about RTTY. The hardware requirements of RTTY are relatively modest these days, with many radios including a sound card built in. Even trailing edge hams like me can connect the rig through your computer sound card. If you're desperate, you can even key RTTY through your paddles on a K3, and use the onboard decoder, though it's tiresome for more than a handful of QSOs.

K9OM, who is a snowbird in VOL but spends the summers in Wisconsin, is an enthusiastic RTTY contester. If you have questions about RTTY contesting or what

it takes to get started, please post to the reflector or reach out directly to Dick, and I'm sure he would be glad to help.

Thanks to N4GL and N4GI for agreeing to serve as trustees for W1YL and W1CW, respectively, as the FCG has elected to secure both Ellen and Bob White's calls for use in CW contests from time to time to go along with K4OJ, the license for which has been held by N4KM since Jim's passing almost 20 years ago. Ellen had been the trustee for W1CW since Jim's death, and as far as I know had never used the call on the air. We're in the process of changing trustees for that club. Ellen's call will be held as an in memoriam grant by a new club that we formed, the Ellen White Memorial Radio Club, for which N4GL has agreed to serve as trustee.

We had hoped to have all three calls on the air in time for the August NAQP CW, but thanks to FCC bureaucracy and the usual delays, it looks like the debut of the new W1CW and W1YL may have to wait until November Sweepstakes CW. We will have all three calls on the air with the historic checks of 38 (W1CW), 46 (W1YL) and 70 (K4OJ).

Our next in-person gathering will be in October at the Melbourne hamfest contest forum. Look for some reflector traffic closer to the date with additional details.

73/OJ/LN, Chris W4WF

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, WA1FCN
970 Mountainview Road
Cordova, AL 35550

<https://alabamacontestgroup.org/>





FQP 2023 Update

Dan Street, K1TO

The Florida QSO Party (FQP) 2023 was held April 29-30. With 1044 logs totaling over 163,000 QSOs, it was a solid year. A few more checklogs will be added to that.

Fixed stations in FL were plentiful. There was no more 80M talk as propagation got better and all of the focus was on when to go to 15 and 10 meters. Finding time even for 40M was a challenge for many.

CITRUS - twice - with K4- and N4- prefixes was one feature. At least 759 swept the six letters, getting two chances at each. Finding 12 hosts was a lot easier than the 25 hosts in 2022!

Mobiles and Expeditions were again another group that led to lots of County sweeps. Several used County lines, which is a seeming advantage, but all too often the other op doesn't understand and only logs one County leading to a not-in-log and penalty for the extra County (Counties in one case) and thus effectively a negation of the QSO, or in the case of the 3-County

line, an actual score reduction.

All had to endure the wide-spread thunderstorms again, with many losing valuable operating time to being disconnected.

The huge highlight for the 2023 FQP after-party is that log checking is well on its way, at least partly due to an unusually poor 6M Es season and more free time for this scribe!

The FQP "committee" held a conference call to discuss all aspects of the FQP. Life moves ahead and we have a lot of things to evaluate. The FQP web site will be the repository for any changes to the rules, etc.

Thanks to the huge outpouring of the FCG for our event that highlights the entire year - the FQP!

vy 73/OJ/YL, Dan



White Family Memorial Fund

Chris Plumlee, 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 Plumlee 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.



W4LT at the World Radio Team Championship

Lu Romero, W4LT

I was chosen as a Referee for WRTC, along with three other FCG members, Chris, NX4N, George, K5KG and Charlie, NF4A. We all made the trek to Castel Saint Pietro Terme, a small town southeast of Bologna, Italy, for the competition.

WRTC was not only a great place to meet fellow contestants I have worked throughout the years, but a great place to watch and learn from those accomplished winners. Kind of a thrill of a lifetime for me to be around such talent.

The WRTC people had a "Welcome Station" at Bologna Marconi International airport. They ferried contestants and referees from the airport to the venue, about a 20 minute ride from the airport.

You get to meet many ham radio "celebrities" at WRTC.

Here are Gerry W1VE and Emir E77DX



Here is Dev 4X4DX with Gerry W1VE



[Click here for Lu's complete travelogue](#)

Dinner was served at the Anuzca every evening outside on the patio lawn. The weather was beautiful the entire week. And... No bugs!



On the second day we got down to the business of WRTC with meetings of both the contestants and the referees to go over the rules and the ways the game would be played. The Referees wore orange and the contestants wore yellow.



Continued on next page...



The following day, there was a random drawing of Referees assigned to teams. Then the callsigns were published. The teams wouldn't find out what callsign they drew until 15 minutes before the start of the contest. All the Refs had a super secret black envelope that contained the callsign for each team!

George, K5KG ended up with a team from "Down Under"



I ended up with a team from EU7: a small mountain village in Croatia called Daruvar. The Team Leader, Vedran 9A7DX is the guy in charge of town infrastructure logistics (like garbage collection, water pipes and sewers), and the other operator, Zvonko, 9A3LG is the personal chauffeur for the mayor of the town. In fact, they drove down to Italy from Croatia in a city car with the blessings of the town, who gave them a party on their departure! These guys are Rock Stars and celebrities in Daruvar!

They had been together as a team for 15 years. Zvonko taught Vedran the code and was his Elmer. Vedran was the Team Leader who qualified... And a masterful strategist. These two ops were like one person doing SO2R when operating. Like they read each other's minds. It was exciting to watch, and instructive too! They had mult passing down to an art form!

Finally, it came time to assign the sites. This year, unlike previous years, there were no tents. Each station was housed in an existing building. Some were bed and breakfast facilities; others were farms and private villas. Still others were vacant QTH's. They ran the gamut from luxurious to primitive.

Chris, NX4N ended up with a team from Slovakia



[Click here for Lu's complete travelogue](#)

Continued on next page...



Team EU7 was one of the last to be assigned a site. We got the coordinates and then I attempted to register the site with the site coordinator who was to find the site manager for me. Registering sites and teams was like an Italian pileup... Lots of chaos, lots of confusion! In this mess, finally, we connected with the site manager, in my case, Dave, K3ZJ. Off we go to the site with our coordinates in hand...

When we get there, we find it is a Winery. No one is around. Cant find the owner. Finally we find the owner, and he directs us to the location of the station. The station is housed in the fermentation vat building. Looking at the roof of the building, it is 100% covered in solar panels! The antenna, located in a small orchard, has its rotor installed 180 degrees off (it stops on north, not south). There is no air conditioning.

About 100 yards from the site, there is a high-speed Trenitalia regional electric train track.

To the northwest of the site is a large power line.

The crew notices that there are sparks coming from the



transformer at the power line. They pull out a radio, beam towards the transformer, and the noise level is S9+10! I look at the solar power controller panel and take it upon myself to disconnect the power, hoping that I don't spoil that year's wine fermentation. Upon

turning off the Solar, the noise drops to S5. Turning it on gives us S9 again. Pointing the antenna to the power transformer gives us 10 over S9. A train goes by. The noise increases to 40 over S9 as the train travels by.

Moments later, we spy some tenting and the owner informs us that there will be a wedding at the site on Saturday afternoon. There is an altar and several tents over by the main house. This altar has large speakers hoisted on stands. I can just imagine the QRM from our transmitters getting into those speakers at the worst possible time.

I try calling the OC on the provided cell phone, but its battery is exhausted. I charge it for a little bit and get it to come on, but it cannot connect. I attempt to text the OC Site Manager via my personal cell phone, but I get no answer.

Obviously, this site is completely unusable! I ask the team how long it will take for them to assemble the station. They tell me one-hour tops. There is a very simple setup, with two MP1000's, a triplexer, filters and two SDR's on the IF out of the Yaesu's for a panadapter display using Waterfall Bandmap on N1MM.

After this discussion, I ask the team if they accept the site we were at. Their answer is a resounding NO! They proposed moving the antenna, but we were told we were not to touch the antenna locations, so I turn that offer down. After discussing a bit more and reminding them that if we do move, the situation might be worse, and there was no going back, the team decided to take a chance on a new site. I told them to sit tight for a while, and then the site manager and I make a decision to head back to Anuzca and personally explain our situation and beg for one of the alternate sites, since we cant get them on the telephone.

We had made some video recordings on our cell phones of the QRM. Claudio I4VEQ, a personal friend, was the guy in charge of sites. He became involved in some heavy arm waving and discussions in Italian with other members of the OC and people in the field while sort of avoiding making eye contact with me. Seems like we are not the only ones that find our site has issues. After Lots of arm waving and pacing and moving about the room discussing situations by others, I personally appeal to I4UFH, Fabio, the Vice

[Click here for Lu's complete travelogue](#)

Continued on next page...



President of WRTC. Claudio then presents us with the choice of moving to the last available backup site.

I call the team and they emphatically accept the move! We tell them to wait for Dave, who will bring them the coordinates and keys.

We drive way out into the Bologna countryside and turn at a dirt road that splits a field filled with beautiful Sunflowers. Driving down this road, I spot two homes sitting literally in the center of the sunflower patch... One of them has two towers behind it!

We pull into what should be called a bare patch of land and not a driveway and find a garage with some desks in it. This is the site! Vedran and Zvonko are already there!

This was once the home of I4IKW. He abandoned this site 10 years ago and was refurbishing the property to sell it. There was electricity, running water and a toilet... But nothing else. No furniture to speak of except for a rather dusty bed. No air conditioning, and even no fan. And there was a small marsh next to the gar-



age with frogs and mosquitos. Lots of mosquitos! Our tower is placed 15 yards from an existing tower with a KT36 and a large 6-meter yagi. When we turn our yagi, its longest element barely clears one of the

guys of the tower holding the KT36. We find the SWR on both dipoles sky-high. And notice that the tuning pigtailed that were supposed to be placed on the 75-meter dipole to move it to 80 meters are placed on the 40-meter antenna instead. Removing those and clipping them to the 75m dipole resolves the SWR problem on the wire antennas.

This rotor is also installed 180 degrees out, with the



hard stop being counterclockwise north. I own the same rotor, so I suggest a way to deal with the issue so that the overlap of the rotor goes at least to east and sweeps through the north. North America is 340 degrees from Italy. This at least gives the crew a fighting chance of being able to move the tribander through north to the east.

The team then brings a radio online and notices that worst-case QRM at this site is S3-4! The team says they are staying! They tell me they were prepared to operate this contest from their car if they had to as they begin assembling their station.





The assembling went well; they were on the air in about an hour and a half! Keeping it simple helps! But, due to the conditions at the site, staying overnight on Friday night was out of the question as we didn't have any citronella candles or spirals to keep the mosquitos at bay. It was decided that we would go back to our hotel that evening and return the following day, as all the gear was operating just fine.

Getting to the site the next day, the team got everything working and then strategically placed citronella spirals near the window so as to keep the mosquitos at bay. Yes, it did keep the mosquitos away, but the flies seemed to like the environment, and we were accosted by a number of them during the day. They enjoyed landing on the monitor screens and moving around, imitating the mouse cursor.



15 minutes before the start, I opened the black envelope and we discovered that the callsign we received was I49D. The team entered this into their computers, and we waited for the start of the contest with audio on the radios off. Watching the clock, at exactly 1800, the guys started to operate and the first QSO was made one minute later.

These guys were superior ops. By virtue of their having worked as a team for over 15 years, it was like they were one person doing SO2R, passing mults back and forth efficiently. I was really impressed by their teamwork and learned a thing or two by watching them. Simply impressive operating, using 25 year old radios to their best advantage.

In the morning of the second day, Dave was kind enough to get us coffee and I4IKW and his wife

stopped by with an espresso machine and some delicious pastries.

I had been warned that if someone with a video camera showed up near the end of the contest and began shooting, that meant that we were placing high. Suddenly, we get a visitor with a video camera How high were we placed? Third!

WRTC 2022 - Italy

WRTC2022 Competition Score		
Rank	WRTC Teams (TL / TM)	Score 2023-07-09 14:56:25 UTC
1	UW7LL / VE3DZ	7522868
2	DJ5MW / DL1IAO	7110200
3	9A7DX / 9A3LG	6825812
4	F8DBF / F1AKK	6734130
5	OM3BH / OM3GI	6465064

The team was overjoyed with this finish. Ved's strategy had been that, if they delivered 66% CW and 33% SSB, and had 5000 QSOs, they would place high. To their compliment, they delivered nearly that and a few QSOs more.

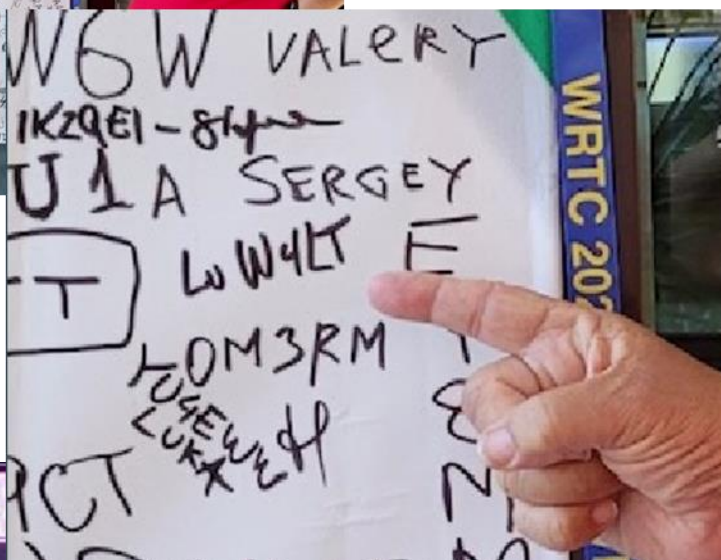
Both Ved and Zvonko worked hard for this victory. It really was all about operator skill for these two! They were received as Heroes in the village of Daruvar. And I have made lifelong friends of the Pride of Daruvar, the EU7 team of 9A7DX and 9A3LG!



Continued on next page...



[Click here for Lu's complete travelogue](#)



Score - 6,857,340 Points

Contest: WRTC

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Cty	HQ	Pt/Q
3.5	CW	347	754	34	18	2.2
3.5	LSB	199	600	9	6	3.0
7	CW	850	2192	42	20	2.6
7	LSB	550	1713	18	9	3.1
14	CW	1181	3682	43	8	3.1
14	USB	670	2451	31	22	3.7
21	CW	781	2789	54	15	3.6
21	USB	251	915	16	18	3.6
28	CW	253	593	43	20	2.3
28	USB	20	75	4	5	3.8
Total Both		5102	15764	294	141	3.1

Score: 6,857,340
 CW = 66.9% SSB = 33.1%
 1 Mult = 36.2 Points
 1 Mult = 11.7 Q's



WRTC2022 Experiences at I47L

de Chris, NX4N

The I47L Team

I was very honored to be selected by the Italian Organizing Committee (OC) to be a referee at WRTC2022 and it was a terrific experience! The team I supported was OM3BH and OM3GI, who operated as I47L in the IARU Radiosport Contest. Rasto and Jozef are seasoned contest veterans - this was their fifth(!) WRTC. They started their WRTC journey with a 22nd finish in 2000 when our own Dan K1TO earned his 2nd of 3 championships in Slovenia. Then more success followed:

- #17 in 2010 (Russia)
- #2 in 2014 (Boston)
- #6 in 2018 (Germany)
- #5 in 2023 (Italy)

These VFB Slovakian Ops are top notch and have great contest chops. I must add that as their referee (without going into specifics), I observed firsthand that both Rasto and Jozef demonstrated the highest ethical standards before, during and after the competition. To top it off, they are just really nice guys too. Along with our invaluable Site Manager, Sandro IK2ULM, we shared meals and learned about each other. Jozef is a co-owner and designer at OM Power, and I recall that Rasto works there as well. Smart dudes! Sandro is an outgoing and very nice man - always willing to help the team and me too. Besides bringing food, drinks and other items, he was key to help us interface with the OC and some antennas issues that needed resolution.

The Farm, Antenna Farm and Da Shack

"Prato Pozzo" ('Lawn and Well') was the name of our little countryside home Friday through Sunday. Like nearly all the other sites it had flat terrain. It also had no significant line noise in any EU/AS/US/SA direction - and our shack site cottage was air conditioned - so yay! The antennas were up when we arrived - Momo beam (2/2/3el) at approx 30ft, 80m inverted vee just underneath the beam and a 40m inverted vee at 20ft. With 100W radios it doesn't sound too impressive but the operators - all of them - sure made them play!

When we arrived on location the farm/B&B owner was still several hours away but the lady who greeted us made us feel welcome. Once he arrived the owner was quite nice and very accommodating; glad we had Sandro with us for translation!

There was a big building where the owner and family stayed (as did we Friday night) along with a restaurant. You could rent bicycles or horses by the hour or day. Several campers and cyclists passed through for an overnight stay or just a meal throughout the weekend. Folks could stay in their campers, or the farm had cottages too. So cute and beautiful nature all around. Cycling is a big deal in Italy and many stay fit that way; in fact our Site Manager Sandro just finished cycling from Scandinavia to Italy solo! Not bad for a 64 year old...

The 'Shack' was a pretty little yellow cottage. With help from the staff, the team removed the beds and borrowed a couple of desks and began their setup. I waited for my setup to allow their station building to be unfettered. Halfway through the build, however, the cook said lunch was served - promptly! - so we took a break to eat. Evidently the Italians take their mealtimes very seriously (and with food like that, who could blame them?). One thing I learn is to pace yourself as lunch and dinner almost always has at least 4 courses.

Back to Radio - As to the equipment:

Two IC-7610s, triplexer, BPF's, 2x8 antenna switching, laptops, power supplies, etc- what you would expect. The team had to provide a block/connection diagram in advance to the OC - one of my responsibilities was to confirm that all actual hardware connections met their OC-approved diagram. Check...

Jozef and Rasto used DXLog by 9A5K(sk) - it was the 2nd most popular logger at WRTC after N1MM+. Very little usage of Win-Test.

The team was kind enough to provide a laptop networked to theirs so I could see what they logged right at my 'Ref' table. My equipment included a "WOYK" Referee Audio setup that Ed had come up with in Boston(?) - straightforward and worked like a champ.

Continued on next page....



Houston, we have a...

Initial SWR checks by the team were mixed. Thankfully, the tribander was solid on all three bands. But both the dipoles had >3 swr on the cw end of their bands - yikes! A bit of investigation determined that one of the 40m dipole legs was set up *under* the rotator cable, which pushed the antenna against the tower/mast - ugh. And the 80m dipole was simply cut too short for cw. Not sure if anyone tested the antennas after building them...

Repeated calls to get an official antenna crew onsite went without results over most of Friday. Finally, our Site manager Sandro received OC permission in the waning afternoon to remove the 40m leg from underneath the pinning rotator cable, and to add 20cm or so of wire on each end of the 80m dipole cw setting. Voila! All was well and stayed that way the rest of the weekend.

Antenna Inspection Squad

After all the antenna shenanigans, the ops finished their station build. Time for photo shoots! Sandro brought his Hi-Quality camera (please see his beautiful photos). As we walked outside the shack for some site shoots we were greeted by the 'Prato Pozzo Antenna Inspection Team' - four horses, one dog and their leader, a donkey "Signore Ostinato" (Obstinate). They were grazing all around the tower, guys and wires and paid no heed to us. My first thoughts were of one four-legged inspectors entangling some line and pulling the whole contraption down for the weekend. Fortunately the farm owner was nearby and led Ostinato and friends to greener, safer pastures.

And They're Off!

Fifteen minutes prior to the contest the ops turned their AF gains all the way down, opened their call sign envelope and programmed their messages on cw and phone accordingly. I checked their messages to ensure there were no illegal or 'identifying' characteristics such as eNN, 'dit dit' or similar. I also made sure each radio's 2nd receiver had both RF and AF gains all the way down. Check, check.

When the starting bell clanged, it was fast and furious - these guys were pros and made QSO's

quickly and efficiently. The really top ops know how to make the most of their stations and antennas - even FD style ones. Running and S&P in both modes was 2nd nature to each of them. So much fun listening to two radios at once - challenging too! The hardest part was not being able to tap a shoulder and say 'my turn!'.

Final Thoughts

I have so much gratitude to have experienced my first WRTC as a Referee; such camaraderie and friendships were forged (ex- had a very nice chat with VE7ZO) and seeing my FCG Peeps NN7CW, K5KG, W4LT and NF4A was icing on the cake. The two tours I attended were super - Marconi museum was just fascinating. And so much more!

Our wives also enjoyed each others' company as well - they are a fearless group of fun-seekers! And my wife Lili (de LU-land) and I celebrated our 25th anniversary after WRTC with 10 days in Florence, Siena, Pisa and of course Rome. Daily pasta and gelato did not hurt either. We averaged 15K steps daily so time for new sneakers....

Sincere thanks to our Italian hosts and OC - they overcame so much diversity to make this a real success! Their new real time scoring and log checking network and software (real time cheerleading detection too!) certainly advanced the state of the art. I am hugely thankful they gave this 'new-guy' a chance to be a referee - I hope I did not disappoint. vy 73/OJ, Chris, NX4N



147L- OM3BH & OM3GI (photo de IK2ULM)

Continued on next page....



I47L - left to right OM3GI, NX4N, IK2ULM and OM3BH



I47L - NX4N Ref Setup (photo IK2ULM)



Referee NX4N inspects the I47L antenna crew (photo IK2ULM)



I47L - Jackass antenna management (photo IK2ULM)



OM3GI & OM3BH operating I47L to #5 result (photo IK2ULM)



Tampa ARC — Field Day 2023

Lee Boulineau, KX4TT and Dave Birnbaum, K2LYV. Photos by Dan Mc Donald, KA2TOC

The Tampa Amateur Radio Club (TARC) ran a Class 2A operation using club callsign N4TP for Field Day with both CW and phone/digital stations. Instead of setting up remotely, the club decided to use the existing towers and antennas while powering all radio operations from a generator supplied by Hillsborough County; Josh, KN4UXF helped obtain the loaner. TARC puts in a fairly large effort into Field Day operation, and this was no exception; we brought in BBQ for hungry operators, welcomed WFLA Channel 8 and WTVT Channel 13 to show them how amateur radio works, and taught a couple of new operators how to handle contest traffic – and hopefully get them hooked on the excitement that is contesting. We also held a short Celebration of Life service for two beloved members who went SK in the last year or so: Biff, K4LAW, and his wife Becky, W4BKY. Biff always looked forward to Field Day, so this was the perfect time to celebrate their lives.

The Florida Contest Group was well-represented as part of this effort, with Blake, N4GI, and Jeff, WC4E, as the first two CW operators. We were also fortunate enough to have two ex-Coast Guard CW radio operators in Larry, KR4X, and Tom, K4NMR, as part of the



Blake, N4GI, works them as fast as they come in.

CW station. We missed having Biff, K4LAW, in the lineup as he went SK in November 2022. In honor of Biff, we used one of his prized Begali keys at the CW position.

The phone station was run by several operators on Saturday Evening until midnight, when Lee, KX4TT, took over and ran SSB stations until there were few to hear, then switched over the digital modes and ran until 6 AM. Club President Bill Bode, N4WEB, took over from KX4TT and ran the station for most of the remaining time.

Totals were 1293 QSOs on CW, 357 QSOs using digital modes, and 161 QSOs on phone. Operators included N4GI, WC4E, KR4X, AF4PS, K4NMR, N4WEB, K2LYV, KX4TT and others. The total score was 6922, including 650 bonus points. We are already planning for 2024!!!



Gotta have the grub!



Larry, KR4X, made sure to get filled up to work midnight – 6AM on CW. Larry, KM4LEW is helping him get hooked up.

Continued on next page....



Larry, KM4LEW, and XYL Anna Maria provided food and beverages to ensure everyone was well fed.



The Channel 8 folks—WFLA



Mac, AF4PS, handles CW traffic. Early AM



Bill, N4WEB, on the phone station wondering what KX4TT was thinking!!



Club treasurer Dan Mc Donald, KA2TOC, giving an interview to Channel 8 WFLA.



Tom Small, K4NMR, batting cleanup to finish out Field Day 2023!



FCG Participation in WRTC22

George Wagner, K5KG

The Florida Contest Group's participation in WRTC22.

The FCG and several of its members participated in WRTC22 which took place in Bologna, Italy in July 2023. A generous donation by the FCG sponsored a Youth Team, four FCG members served as Referees, and two members were team members in the competition. Additionally, one FCG member and five XYLs were visitors.

To explain some details, WRTC22 did not take place in 2022, nor did it take place in Bologna. Due to the Covid interruption, WRTC22 took place in July 2023, and the location was Castel San Pietro Terme, a small town a few miles from Bologna. The actual ham competition was held during the IARU HF World Championship at a scattering of 58 ham stations located at private residences in the countryside near and far from Terme. In total, some 500 persons were present as the Italian Organizing Committee (OC), Judges, Referees, competitors, and visitors. In short, it was a grand affair, well attended and greatly enjoyed by many.

Here are some FCG-related stats:

CALLSIGN	OPS	PLACE	FCG
I49D	9A7DX / 9A3LG	#3	W4LT REF
I47L	OM3BH / OM3GI	#5	NX4N REF
I42W	NP4Z / N2NT	#18	NP4Z FCG MBR
I44Y	ZL3CW / VK2GI	#30	K5KG REF
I44G	4X4FR / 4X1DX	#36	NF4A REF
I43V	K4AB / NN7CW	#54	NN7CW TM
I44P	DL3ON / EI5LA	#57	FCG YOUTH

When the dust settled and the final scores tabulated, all 58 stations had completed the 24-hour contest. Team total QSOs ranged from 5057 to 3412 and MULTS from 499 to 368. Scores ranged from 7.07M (I44W) to 3.89M (I46O). Many stations had clear sailing during the contest, but several had problems. Ones that I recall had serious noise problems, some had antenna problems, such as a yagi that pointed into a wall, and another with a failed rotor. A month or so prior to the event, the central district of Italy was hit with a massive rainstorm that flooded many of the proposed station locations. This required the OC to scramble to find alternate locations. Although this was a major setback for the OC, they got the job done.

Antennas at Marconi museum





ANTIQUÉ RX LOOP AT MARCONI MUSEUM



Bud, AA3B



Charlie, NF4A



I44Y team—Jacky, ZL3CW and Bernd VK2IA



I49D team Vedran, 9A7DX & Zvonko, 9A3LG. Lu, W4LT Referee



Youth Team sponsored by FCG Leon, DL3ON & Megan, EI5LA



Referees and Contestant – Lu, W4LT, George, K5KG, Chris, NX4N, Tom, W2SC

Nodir, EY8MM, Referee





Chock, JT1CO, VISITOR



Ben Buttner, DL6RAI (SK) IN MEMORIAM



I44Y Station – OC3 ZL3CW & VK2IA



I44Y TEAM

K5KG REF. ZL3CW CONTESTANT,
RALF.DL9DRA, TECH SPT, BERND,
VK2IA, CONTESTANT, ROBERT,
DM7XX, TECH SPT



CHRIS, NX4N, WOLF, NN7CW, GEORGE, K5KG, LU, W4LT



HAM WIDOWS – Kay, Mataya, Dina, Lili, Linda, Elaine, N3PQW



OM's and their Ham Widows – Kay, Linda, Lili, Mataya




San Marino — Angelo, T77LA, George, K5KG, Max, IZ4DPV



San Marino — George, K5KG running a T77LA pileup.



T77LA QSL card



VOLUNTEERS ON THE AIR 2023

ARRL Volunteers On the Air

ARRL.org VOTA Home Leaderboard Certificates Call Sign Points W1AW Portable Operations Help

A Year-Long Operating Event Recognizing Volunteers

[Click here for more information](#)



FCAP Approved Contests thru October 2023

Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ
FCG Frequent Contester Program Administrator



<i>Your Log Submission is Indispensable</i>			Contest Schedule				Modes				<i>Revised 11/2/22</i>	
Contest	Type	Pts	Start		Finish		C	S	R	D	Bands	Rules
			Date	Time	Date	Time						
August												
Batavia FT8 Contest	DX	5	5-Aug	0000Z	6-Aug	2359Z				F	80-10	Batavi
North American QSO Party, CW Aug	Maj	10	5-Aug	1800Z	6-Aug	0600Z	C				160-10	Conte
ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest	Maj	10	5-Aug	1800Z	6-Aug	1800Z	C	S	R	D	U	222 M
WAE DX Contest, CW	Maj	8	12-Aug	0000Z	13-Aug	2359Z	C				80-10	Worki
Maryland-DC QSO Party	QSO	7	12-Aug	1400Z	13-Aug	0400Z	C	S	R	D	160-U	regula
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	DX	5	19-Aug	0000Z	20-Aug	1600Z				R	80-10	SARTG
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, Aug & Sep	Maj	10	19-Aug	0600L	20-Aug	2400L	C	S	R	D	U	10 GH
North American QSO Party, SSB Aug	Maj	10	19-Aug	1800Z	20-Aug	0600Z		S			160-10	Conte
CVA DX Contest, CW	DX	5	19-Aug	2100Z	20-Aug	2100Z	C				160-10	regula
Hawaii QSO Party	QSO	7	26-Aug	0400Z	28-Aug	0400Z	C	S	R	D	160-10	Hawai
W/VE Islands QSO Party	DX	5	26-Aug	1200Z	27-Aug	0300Z	C	S	R	D	160-6	W/VE
World Wide Digi DX Contest	Maj	10	26-Aug	1200Z	27-Aug	1200Z				D	160-10	WW E
YO DX HF Contest	DX	5	26-Aug	1200Z	27-Aug	1200Z	C	S			160-10	YODX:
Kansas QSO Party	QSO	7	26-Aug	1400Z	27-Aug	2000Z	C	S	R	D	80-6	2022 I
Ohio QSO Party	QSO	7	26-Aug	1600Z	27-Aug	0400Z	C	S			160-10	Rules
CVA DX Contest, SSB	DX	5	26-Aug	2100Z	27-Aug	2100Z		S			160-10	regula
September												
CWOps CW Open	DX	5	2-Sep	0000Z	2-Sep	2359Z	C				160-10	CW O
Russian RTTY WW Contest	DX	5	2-Sep	0000Z	2-Sep	2359Z				R	80-10	Полоз
All Asian DX Contest, Phone	DX	5	2-Sep	0000Z	3-Sep	2400Z		S			160-10	The 6:
Colorado QSO Party	QSO	7	2-Sep	1300Z	3-Sep	0400Z	C	S	R	D	All	2008 I
Tennessee QSO Party	QSO	7	3-Sep	1800Z	4-Sep	0300Z	C	S	R	D	All	Rules
WAE DX Contest, SSB	Maj	DX	9-Sep	0000Z	10-Sep	2359Z		S			80-10	Worki
Alabama QSO Party	QSO	7	9-Sep	1500Z	10-Sep	0300Z	C	S			80-10	alabar
ARRL September VHF Contest	Maj	10	9-Sep	1800Z	11-Sep	0300Z	C	S	R	D	VU	Septe
North American Sprint, CW Sep	Maj	10	10-Sep	0000Z	10-Sep	0400Z	C				80-20	Sprint
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, Aug & Sep	Maj	10	16-Sep	0600L	17-Sep	2400L	C	S	R	D	U	10 GH
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	DX	5	16-Sep	1200Z	17-Sep	1200Z	C				80-10	Rules
Iowa QSO Party	QSO	7	16-Sep	1400Z	17-Sep	0200Z	C	S	R	D	All	Iowa C
Texas QSO Party	QSO	7	16-Sep	1400Z	17-Sep	2000Z	C	S	R	D	All	Home
New Jersey QSO Party	QSO	7	16-Sep	1600Z	17-Sep	0359Z	C	S	R	D	80-10	New J
New Hampshire QSO Party	QSO	7	16-Sep	1600Z	17-Sep	2200Z	C	S	R	D	All	Micro
Washington State Salmon Run	QSO	7	16-Sep	1600Z	17-Sep	2400Z	C	S			160-2	Salmo
North American Sprint, RTTY Sep	Maj	10	17-Sep	0000Z	17-Sep	0400Z				R	80-20	Sprint
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	Maj	10	24-Sep	0000Z	25-Sep	2400Z				R	160-10	CQ W
Maine QSO Party	DX	5	24-Sep	1200Z	25-Sep	1200Z	C	S			160-10	Maine



FCAP Approved Contests thru October 2023 (Continued)

<i>Your Log Submission is Indispensable</i>			<u>Contest Schedule</u>				<u>Modes</u>				<i>Revised 11/27/22</i>	
Contest	Type	Pts	<u>Start</u>		<u>Finish</u>		C	S	R	D	Bands	Rules
			Date	Time	Date	Time						
October												
Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest, CW	DX	5	7-Oct	0600Z	8-Oct	0559Z	C				80-10	M
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	DX	5	7-Oct	0600Z	8-Oct	0600Z		S			160-10	ht
Russian WW Digital Contest	DX	5	7-Oct	1200Z	8-Oct	1159Z			R	D	160-10	ua
California QSO Party	QSO	7	7-Oct	1600Z	8-Oct	2200Z	C	S			160-10	CC
Makrothen RTTY Contest	DX	5	14-Oct	0000Z	15-Oct	1559Z				R	80-10	M
Nevada QSO Party	QSO	7	14-Oct	0300Z	15-Oct	2100Z	C	S	R	D	All	Ne
Oceania DX Contest, CW	DX	5	14-Oct	0600Z	15-Oct	0600Z	C				160-10	ht
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	DX	5	14-Oct	1200Z	15-Oct	1200Z	C				80-10	Ru
Arizona QSO Party	QSO	7	14-Oct	1500Z	15-Oct	0500Z	C	S			160-10	Ru
Pennsylvania QSO Party	QSO	7	14-Oct	1600Z	15-Oct	1600Z	C	S			All	PA
South Dakota QSO Party	QSO	7	14-Oct	1800Z	15-Oct	1800Z	C	S	R	D	160-2	So
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	DX	5	21-Oct	0000Z	22-Oct	2359Z				R	80-10	JA
New York QSO Party	QSO	7	21-Oct	1400Z	22-Oct	0200Z	C	S	R	D	All	Ne
Worked All Germany Contest	DX	8	21-Oct	1500Z	22-Oct	1459Z	C	S			80-10	W
Stew Perry Topband Challenge Fall	Maj	10	21-Oct	1500Z	22-Oct	1500Z	C				160	St
Illinois QSO Party	QSO	7	22-Oct	1700Z	23-Oct	0100Z	C	S	R	D	160-2	IL
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	Maj	10	28-Oct	0000Z	29-Oct	2400Z		S			160-10	CC



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Alejandro Malave at pr@hamcation.com

HamCation Accepting Award Nominations

The HamCation committee is currently accepting nominations for the HamCation [2024 Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award](#) and [Gordon West Ambassador of the Year Award](#).

Nominations close November 1, 2023

Join us at HamCation 2024, February 9-11, 2024

More information available at www.hamcation.com

**President**

Chris Plumblee, W4WF
Orlando, FL

chris.plumblee@gmail.com

Vice President

George Wagner, K5KG
Sarasota, FL

k5kg@k5kg.com

Vice President – Florida QSO Party

Dan Street, K1TO
Myakka City, FL

k1to@aol.com

Treasurer (Interim)

Taylor Plumblee, KI4GHK
Orlando, FL

Secretary

Fred K9VV/NP2X & Lisa W4LIS Kleber
USVI

k9vv@arrl.net

Newsletter

Marty Brown, N4GL
Ocala, FL

n4gl.marty@gmail.com

Web Page

Jeff Clarke, KU8E
Ellerslie, GA

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
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

