



# Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

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

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## From the President's Corner

Chris Plumblee, W4WF, FCG President



Greetings to my fellow FCG members at the start of another fall contest season! Depending on how you mark the beginning of the "major" contest season, it's either right around the corner or passed a relatively short time ago. The first CQWW DX contest, on RTTY, has passed. In less than two weeks, CQWW SSB will take over the bands, followed closely by Sweepstakes CW and SSB, CQWW CW, the ARRL 160m contest, the ARRL 10m contest, the RTTY Roundup, January NAQP CW, CQWW 160m, and I could go on and on.

If state QSO parties are your thing, the last of 2022's SQPs are finished for now, and frequent participants (like AA4TI and K4SBZ) will be counting up their points and aiming to improve their scores next year.

I enjoyed seeing a number of members at the Melbourne Hamfest a few weeks ago, including some longtime members that I hadn't seen in several years, like W4UM and K4NST (ex W4DKB). The contest forum was relatively well-attended given that I flubbed the start time, so my apologies to anyone who showed up at 11am expecting the contest forum. The ARRL had asked the forum organizers if they could have two adjacent hours, and I agreed to move our forum to 10am but evidently didn't commit the change to memory. My sincere apologies.

Attendance at the hamfest seemed to be a little down from pre-pandemic years, but it was a good chance for folks to gather and socialize. PCARS, the organizing club, was celebrating the 57<sup>th</sup> edition of the hamfest this year. The FCG and the FQP owe a lot to Melbourne as well; it was on rides from the west coast over to Melbourne that K4OJ and K1TO (along with WD4AHZ and likely others) noted that lots of interior counties through which they were driving didn't have a lot of people in them, and probably were pretty rare in USA-CA. Those conversations led indirectly to the revived Florida QSO Party in 1997.

The FCG used to meet at a pizza place in Melbourne for lunch on Saturday of the hamfest. That tradition gradually changed to a meeting on Saturday afternoon featuring and early dinner hosted for many years by K9ES and Sylvia. Incidentally, it was great to catch up with Sylvia and Eric over the weekend, as Eric has been slowed up a great deal by health problems in the last few years. Due in large part to Eric's health, they sold their home on Ohio St. in Melbourne where they had hosted club meetings after the hamfest for more than 10 years.

## Inside this issue:

<b>From the President's Corner</b> , Chris Plumblee, W4WF	<b>1</b>
<b>FCG Dues Changes</b> , Chris Plumblee, W4WF	<b>2</b>
<b>K3S Trouble Shootout: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly</b> , Wolf Heeren,	<b>4</b>
<b>25th FQP &amp; Ian Update</b> , Dan Street, K1TO	<b>8</b>
<b>A DX-pedition to Iceland</b> , George Wagner, TF/K5KG	<b>9</b>
<b>More DX-pedition to Iceland</b> , Steve Hawley, TF/K4EU & Tom Small, TF/K4NMR	<b>12</b>
<b>FCAP Approved Contests thru December 2022</b> , Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ	<b>17</b>

**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](mailto:n4gl.marty@gmail.com). MS Word documents are preferred, or type your article into the body of an email. Pictures are encouraged. Please include names, call signs, and location/event when possible. All input is subject to editing prior to publication.

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As I mentioned in my July column, the FCG officers have recognized that there are low-cost, ubiquitous videoconferencing solutions available, and there is no reason that we can't take advantage of them to hold meetings on a regular (or at least semi-regular) basis. For many years, the FCG has had only 2-3 meetings per year, at Melbourne, at Orlando, and occasionally at Fort Walton Beach or Tampa or another hamfest in the state. We used the email reflector between meetings to foster camaraderie, and many local groups met informally as well. While that situation worked for many years, we recognize that there is an appetite among some of our members to meet more often, and solutions exist that make the logistics of virtual meetings trivial. So, we are beginning a series of monthly meetings this month! I hope you were able to join us for the meeting on Thursday evening, October 20 with the Italian WRTC organizers to ask questions and hear an update on the planning for that event. We have a number of referees in our club (NX4N, W4LT, and K5KG among them) and FCG has been a strong supporter of prior WRTC events in New England in 2014 and in Germany in 2018.

We hope that the WRTC meeting was enjoyable, and we will be hosting future meetings, either monthly or semi-monthly, including speakers on other topics that are of general interest. Speakers will come from inside and outside of the club. We had recruited for someone to volunteer to coordinate these meetings going forward, but we were unsuccessful in identifying any candidates at this time. After discussing with the remainder of the officers, we decided that the opportunity to get together as a club was too valuable to forego, so we agreed to assume responsibility for the planning for the first few meetings, in hopes that someone will feel led to volunteer. If you're interested in helping, individually or as a part of a team with some of your friends within the club, please reach out to me directly!

*(FCG WRTC Presentation Now Available on Zoom. Check FCG reflector for link and password.)*

Finally, please look further into the newsletter for a short article about a change in FCG's dues policy. If you have any questions about the changes, please send a message to the reflector or directly to me, and I'll work to answer it as thoroughly as I can.

## FCG Dues Changes

Chris Plumblee, W4WF, FCG President

### FCG Dues Policy Change – effective January 1, 2023

After extensive meetings and discussion among the FCG officers, we have made the decision to make the club dues-optional beginning on January 1, 2023. This means that, if you're a member in good standing on December 31, 2022 you will no longer need to pay dues to maintain your membership. If you were a member in good standing at some point in the past, you may now rejoin the club without paying any dues. Future members who have never paid dues will no longer be required to pay dues either.

This change in policy was a result of discussion with other large contest clubs, and in recognition of the considerable time and effort that K5KG and KW1K (sk) expended chasing dues payments from delinquent members each year. The change implies (to me) some questions, which I'll attempt to state and answer below.

low. Additional questions that I fail to anticipate can be addressed on the reflector, of course.

### What happens to dues that I prepaid (for example, I paid \$20 for four years' dues in 2022)?

The FCG is not in a position to refund dues already prepaid. You'll have to consider those dues a contribution to the club. However, you could also think of that dues payment as the cost of your lifetime membership.

### How will the club finance ongoing club activities and expenses?

It is our intention to go to a voluntary contribution model for our members going forward. If the FCG is valuable to you, we would ask that you make a contribution to the club to reflect that value. The contribution can be \$5 or \$500, but it can also be \$0. If you don't have spare change, or you file the request and forget about it, no hard feelings! We're happy to have

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you contributing your score and participating in club meetings and activities.

The contest dinner in Orlando, our largest event by almost any measure, generally supports itself financially. In 2022, because the club purchased the grand prize for the dinner, that was not the case. However, in prior years the club has made a profit from the dinner sufficient to subsidize a down year or two. We expect that situation to continue. Other incidental expenses that the club has (subscriptions, plaque sponsorships, etc.) are easily covered by dues income each year, and we expect voluntary contributions to be substantially similar to dues income.

#### **Who is the new treasurer? How do I make a contribution?**

We were very sad to lose KW1K over the summer, Joe had served for a number of years as our treasurer and had worked very closely with K5KG.

My wife, KI4GHK, has volunteered to serve as treasurer on an interim basis. We're still working to get our club PayPal account set up and linked with the new bank account, and we have a medium-term goal to incorporate the club formally to simplify our banking going forward. Those processes all take time and must be fit around my professional and family responsibilities, but they are on my mind almost every day and I'm making what progress I can. For the moment, the only way to make contributions is to mail a check to my CBA, payable to Taylor Plumblee. Please mark the check "FCG Contribution." We will announce on the reflector when the club PayPal account is QRV and other procedures going forward.

#### **Why are we making this change?**

There was discussion among the officers in the spring about whether FCG needed to increase dues to \$10 per year, or eliminate dues entirely. I spoke at Dayton with several people in leadership at other large (> 300

member) contest clubs. Those whom I spoke with were universal in praising a dues-optional structure. They said that they were able to raise a similar amount of money, if not more, in voluntary contributions as compared with their previous dues structure. Our present dues structure also creates a lot of work for the treasurer and for K5KG, who spend a significant amount of time in March and April of each year tracking down people whose dues are expired to request that they pay dues or be dropped from the roster. The time that those two officers spent is easily 20-30 hours which we would prefer that they get back, either to spend with their own family or on other club obligations.

#### **How will this new dues policy work going forward?**

As we stated above, if you're a member in good standing as of the end of 2022, your membership will continue in good standing in 2023 and beyond. If you're not a member but wish to join, you'll be eligible for full membership once you submit a complete application. If you were a member in the past and you were dropped for failing to pay dues, you'll also need to submit a new application, but once you do so we'll be happy to reinstate your membership effective on the day we receive your application.

Honorary members (members who don't live in Florida even part of the year) will continue to be eligible for honorary membership with no dues payment necessary. If an honorary member moves to FL, either part-time or full-time, their membership will convert to full membership when they notify us of their new address, and we will change their status appropriately. We will continue to maintain the membership database online in a similar fashion to what we've done over the last few years.

Further questions about the new dues policy should be addressed to me directly or can be raised on the reflector for the benefit of everyone.

## **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](http://www.hamcation.com/hamcation-volunteer)





## K3S Trouble Shootout: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

Wolf Heeren, NN7CW

[NN7CW@GMX.com](mailto:NN7CW@GMX.com)

I am a huge fan of Elecraft K3(S) transceivers, despite once having dealt with one which had a serious key clicks issue I wasn't able to resolve. Back then, about two and a half years ago, I traced it back to a keying-related oscillation on the transmit control line of the RF board, but since that line was connected to several component groups, including the DSP in the front panel, I wasn't able to locate the root cause of the oscillation. Convinced that I had to find and fix the source of the oscillation, I had asked Elecraft for support, but it was the time when Covid19 started and small companies were trying to survive. I assume that's why I didn't get much useful help and ended up replacing the rig with another K3S a friend was willing to sell. The replacement has worked flawlessly ever since, so I forgot about the frustration with the broken one and when the opportunity came, about eight months ago, I didn't hesitate to buy a second K3S which replaced my trusty K3 that never gave me any trouble. Lastly, I bought a third K3S a week before the 2022 WAE contest as a spare, and that one I decided to test thoroughly during the contest.

I started Saturday morning and had a blast, but not even one hour in the game I received an email that made me aware that my signal was, through key clicks, +/-600Hz wide. Did I end up with yet another broken K3S? To find out, I went QRT and hooked up the supposedly bad rig to my oscilloscope.



Figure 1: Measurement setup: K3S attached to a 50Ω load with signal tap

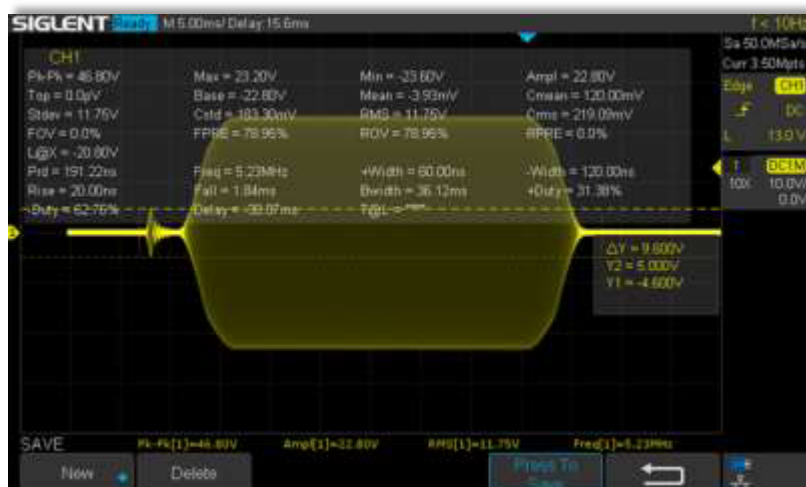


Figure 2: "Bad" K3S, ca. 5.5W, single cw pulse (30wpm) with leading spike and following oscillation

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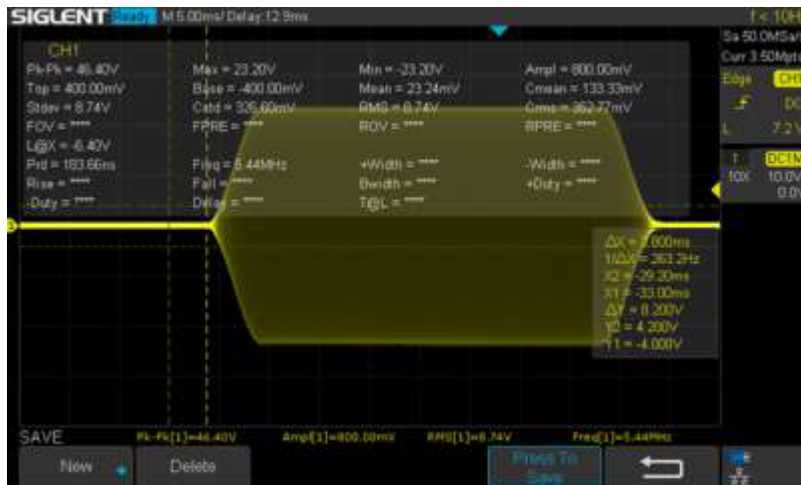


Figure 3: “Good” K3S, ca. 5.5W, single cw pulse at 30wpm

Since I had been dealing with another non-ham radio related issue that day, I postponed further trouble-shooting and put the second K3S back in place to do at least a few more WAE hours the next day. The next day came and I took to the airwaves. Being fresh meat meant I had no trouble getting a nice run going, but it only took 71 minutes until I received another signal complaint email, this time featuring a nice image that showed the extent of the ugly mess my signal was apparently causing.

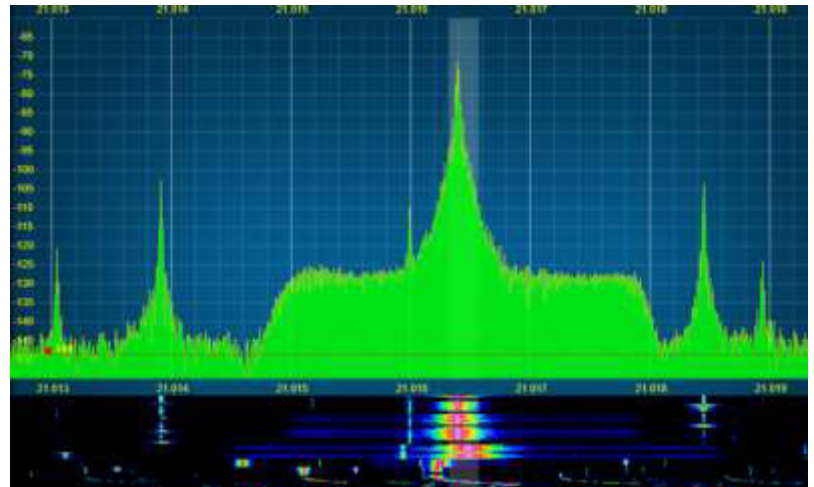


Figure 4: “Ugly” K3S during the 2022 WAE, day two

While the bad K3S produced a 1.2kHz-wide signal, the ugly K3S managed to pollute the spectrum in a similar fashion, but over a whopping range of 3 kHz! It dawned on me that this wasn't a defect, but rather a design issue, which probably has been addressed in my good K3S, since it happens to be the newest of them

The following measurement revealed that the ugly K3S was indeed worse than the bad one:

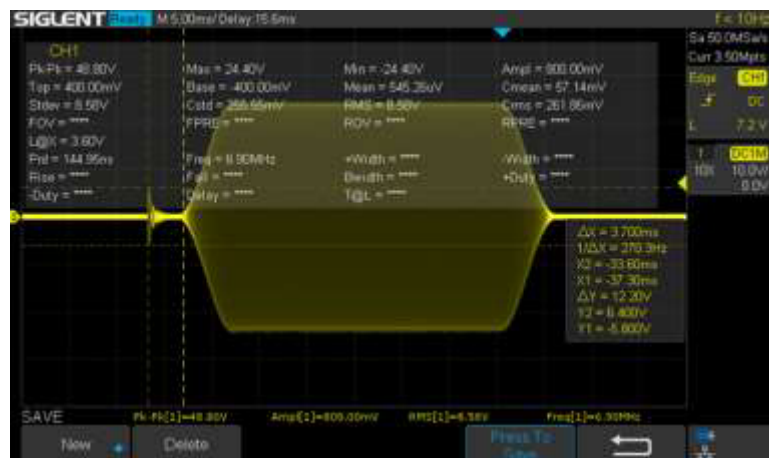


Figure 5: “Ugly” K3S 11174, ca. 6W, single cw pulse at 30wpm with leading sharp oscillation

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The short spike I found in the measurement of the bad K3S was not there, but the oscillation had a much steeper rise and larger amplitude, which explains why it occupied considerably more bandwidth.

Having established all this, it was time to find out what the difference was between The Good, The Bad and The Ugly.

To narrow things down, I

- did a full reset, followed by a TX Gain Calibration
- loaded the configuration of the good one into the ugly one
- verified that the issue is independent of the 100W PA module
- swapped each interchangeable component (including the front panel) between the good and the ugly

None of the above made any difference, which meant that, similar to my findings from two years ago, the problem had to be located on the K3S RF board, which is the radio main board. Tx control line 7T is, among other connections, hooked up to a TC4427 MOSFET driver and adjacent to it, per the schematics, a 1uF ceramic capacitor should be located, a/c-shortening the line towards ground. The cap was present in the good rig, but the other two didn't have it! It seemed indeed possible that that cap could suppress the messy oscillation on the 7T line, so I decided to give it a shot.

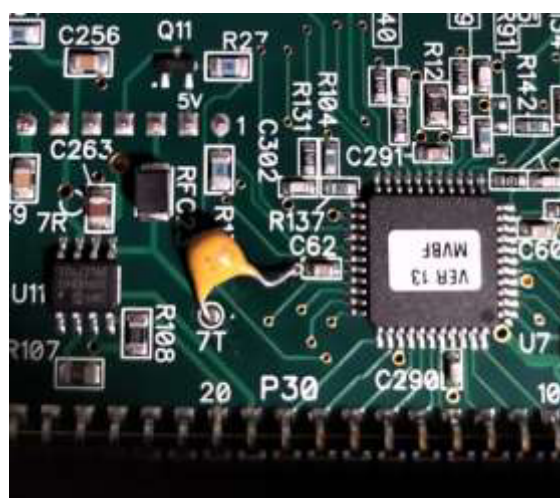
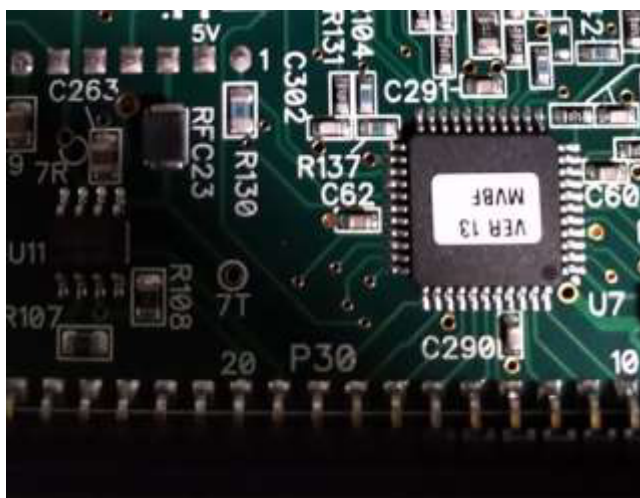


Figure 6: Position of the newly installed 1uF ceramic cap (before and after)

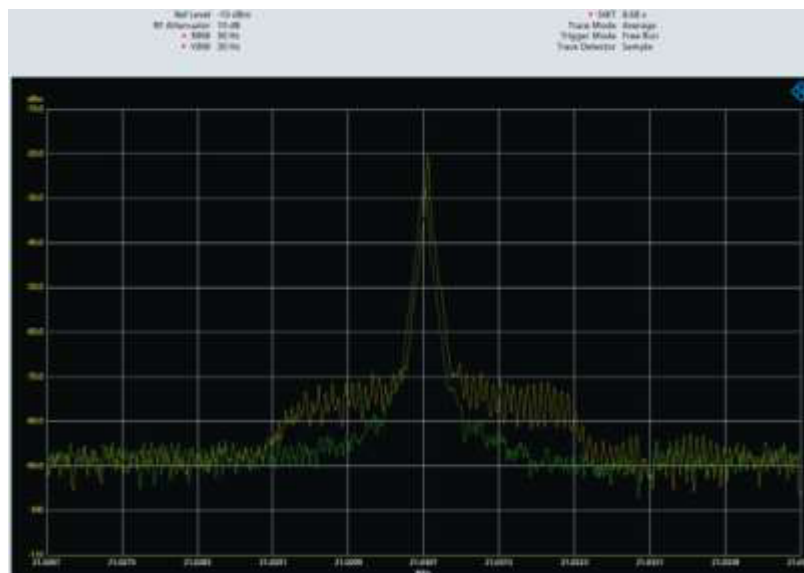


Figure 8: Phoenix from the ashes: “The Ugly” before (yellow) and after (green) the fix

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So what was the cause of the mess?

7T is a bias line which, for transmit, runs 7V DC to the transmit pin diode section which, instead of a relay, is part of the rx/tx switching. The signal on that line contained an unwanted oscillation. As mentioned before, due to the lack of being able to break out the different sections that are connected to 7T, I haven't been able to find out what the origin of the oscillation is, but it seems to be design-related, and not coming from a faulty component. Effectively, the cap shortens the oscillation to ground and that cleans up the transmit control signal on the line, which results in a clean transmit signal.

I do not know if adding the cap alone is considered a revision, but I noticed that RF board revisions in my rigs differ quite a bit. To give anyone interested an overview, I listed the information below.

K3S s/n	Key clicks?	RF Board Revision	Capacitor originally present?
10193 (replaced 2years ago)	Yes	Likely B4 or older	Unknown
10925 (aka The Bad)	Yes	B4	No
11174 (aka The Ugly)	Yes	B5	No
11369 (aka The Good)	No	B8	Yes

Table 1: K3S RF Board Revisions

Final experiment: Disconnect of the cap in 11369

To close the loop, I decided to carefully disconnect one side of the factory-installed 1uF capacitor in 11369 to see if this would cause the oscillation to occur. Result: As shown in Figure 9, with the 1uF capacitor disconnected, my previously clean K3S exhibited the same behavior than the other two rigs.



Figure 9: l/h: Disconnected Elecraft-installed cap in 11369, r/h: oscillation present

## Conclusion

11369 had the cap factory-installed, so I assume that every rig that is at rev. 8 or higher is fixed. However, considering that 11174 did not have it, it seems possible that up to ~1200 K3S's in the field could produce unnecessarily wide cw signals of varying extent. Therefore, my suggestions to every K3S owner are to test the cw keying pulse cleanliness using an oscilloscope, or simply check if the rig has the capacitor in place. If it does not have it, consider having it added.

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I spoke with Elecraft about the issue. I understood that all K3S that come back for service will be checked for the presence of the cap. If it is not in place, it will be added.

What about the K3 (s/n lower than 10000) with, or without the synthesizer upgrade?

This report only talks about Elecraft K3S transceivers s/n 10000 or higher. The RF board layout differs in older K3s (s/n lower than 10000), so there won't be any ceramic capacitor in the exact same spot. I do not know if any K3 revision ever had a similar issue, or, in case of a fix, if the fix was similar, but just in a different place on the board. Do not attempt to apply this modification to a K3.

A personal note

I want to thank AA3B and N4XD for bringing my poor transmit signal quality to my attention. Also thanks to my neighbor N4EEB, who had highlighted the bad signal of my first K3S. I'm glad that dirty signals no longer seem to be something we choose to tolerate silently and I want to encourage everyone to constructively criticize anyone whose signal significantly differs from the norm. [FCC Part 97.307](#) states that:

- (a) No amateur station transmission shall occupy more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice.*
- (b) Emissions resulting from modulation must be confined to the band or segment available to the control operator. Emissions outside the necessary bandwidth must not cause splatter or keyclick interference to operations on adjacent frequencies.*

The above means that if my radio clicks or splatters by default, I better do something about it, because I am responsible for quality of my transmit signal. I cannot blindly rely on the reputation of a manufacturer, or hide behind the FCC certificate a sample of my radio model once received. There's always a chance that a design revision turns out to be faulty, not good enough (anymore), or something is not working as it should.



## 25th Florida QSO Party (FQP) & Ian

Dan Street, K1TO, Vice President, FQP



### FQP 2022

- Log checking is done!
- Results, records, plaques, charts to be done, then write-up...

### Ian

- No power for over 5 days
- Center moved just E of us, so prevailing winds from

N. Lost 10M (only a Maco CB conversion), but 6M7 above was fine, flimsy at it is. Large tree resting on low guy of 150' back tower. Plan in place to safely replace guy by adding a temporary guy.

- Pool cage ripped to shreds
- High (development called Magnolia Hill), so flooding was a non issue
- Cleanup will take a long time





## A DX-pedition to ICELAND

### SAC CW — A Contest that wasn't!

George Wagner TF/K5KG

The first discussion about a DX-pedition to Iceland goes back to a conversation between George, K5KG and Charlie, K1XX. They kicked around the idea of going there to work a contest or just to “run the pileups.” (Charlie and George had operated together various times in J7, KP2, PJ4 and VP2M.) At the time of that conversation, they had no contacts in Iceland, other than Alan, W4MQC who goes to Iceland occasionally where his son operates a fishing resort.<sup>1</sup> To find a local contact, George turned to the FOC member directory, and located Oskar, TF3DC, the only FOC member in Iceland. An email to Oskar got a quick reply that Benni, TF3T is the person whom we should contact, as he is building a contest station.

A follow up email to Benni led to a Zoom call in which he was quite receptive to a small group of us coming to Iceland for a multi-operator contest. He seemed quite interested in learning how to conduct a multi-op operation, something he had not done in the past. We settled on the Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW, as the target contest for an operation at his developing station.

In forming a team, Charlie and George were immediately on board. A call to Tom, K4NMR brought him on board, and we each purchased round-trip tickets. George and Charlie would go for two weeks, and Tom for a week. Then a “monkey wrench” was thrown into the works — The SAC was cancelled on July 15, 2022, by the SAC Contest Committee “due to the ongoing war in the region and in consideration of the IARU declaration about friendship between people.”<sup>2</sup> We discussed this situation and decided to make the trip regardless of the SAC being cancelled. With reasonable band conditions and a good station there should be many DX pileups to keep us busy! (It is our sincere hope that SAC will happen in 2023, and that we will be able to put Iceland on the map with a serious effort from Benni's station.)

But wait, another setback — Charlie, K1XX had to cancel for personal reasons. This was a major disappointment, not only to Charlie, but to George as he and Charlie had done other DX-peditions in the past and knew what an excellent team member Charlie would have been. To find an alternate, a call was made to Steve, K4EU, a very experienced contesteer and DX'er. A quick check by Steve with his XYL secured his position on the team!

With a team now in place, serious planning began for the trip. Numerous emails and a few Zooms were had with Benni regarding station equipment, antennas, location of the shack, and other matters, such as lodging, transportation, food and, most importantly, bathroom facilities. You see, the shack was in a very remote area, a moonscape, if you will, with limited facilities. All these matters were easily sorted out with Benni's help, and here were our plans:

- Benni's station is located at the former SuperDARN<sup>3</sup> radar installation on the south coast, approximately 4 km from the Atlantic black-sand beach.
- Station equipment would be two Elecraft K3's with amplifiers.

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<sup>1</sup>Alan told us that you do not need to have an Icelandic ham license. A copy of the CEPT agreement is the only thing required. A vehicle can be rented with a credit card and a US driver's license. He cautioned that rent cars are expensive; ours was \$3k for two weeks.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.sactest.net/blog/>

<sup>3</sup>[https://www.research.lancs.ac.uk/portal/en/upmprojects/iceland-west-superdarn-radar\(8ed4aa13-f8f6-45d1-82fb-c5371faedd56\).html](https://www.research.lancs.ac.uk/portal/en/upmprojects/iceland-west-superdarn-radar(8ed4aa13-f8f6-45d1-82fb-c5371faedd56).html)



- Antennas would be monoband Yagi's for 40-20-15-10 (fixed east and west), and verticals and beverages for the low bands. A rotatable LP was available for 20-10m, including WARC bands. All Yagi's would be on pre-existing 50 ft SuperDARN towers.
- We would rent a summer house arranged by Benni. Location was a 30+ minute drive from the QTH. We would rent a car at the Keflavik airport.
- A nearby town of Selfoss (20 mins from the QTH) had fuel, groceries, and restaurants. Even nearer to QTH was a small town of Stokkseyr that had a gas station, store and, yes, toilet facilities.

To understand the TF3D station that Benni and his brother, Gudmi, TF3SG are developing, it is important to know the history of the SuperDARN radar (non-amateur) site where the QTH is located. To quote from the web site referenced in footnote #2:

*"The Iceland West radar is located at 63°51'37.2"N 21°01'51.4"W (63.860333, -21.030944) near the town of Stokkseyri in Iceland. The Radar routinely measures the structure and dynamics of the upper atmosphere within an area of several million square kilometres between Iceland and North America. It is part of the Super Dual Auroral Radar Network (SuperDARN) of over thirty similar radars around the world, whose purpose is to aid understanding of the effect of the Sun and the aurora (the Northern and Southern Lights) on the upper atmosphere, and its interactions with the lower atmosphere and hence our climate."*

The SuperDARN project began in April 2013 and ended in March 2016. After the SuperDARN's decommissioning, the site was not used, and went into a state of disrepair as evidenced by the deterioration of the log periodic antennas. Eventually, Benni was able to obtain a long-term lease on the property, the towers, and antennas for a nominal annual fee. This accounts for Benni's rights and ability to convert the site to an amateur radio facility, which is an enormous on-going feat on his part.

When Steve and George first met Benni and arrived at the site, we entered the lone building — the "shack" — to see a large room with a lot of ham gear and projects that Benni had underway. It was only then that we began to realize what a skilled craftsman he was — truly an expert in building antennas, designing and installing an antenna switching network, designing and building (from scratch) a solid state KW amplifier, designing and building monoband Yagis, also from scratch, and installing them on 50 ft towers...the list goes on and on! Our appreciation of Benni and Gudmi's many skills and their very pleasing personalities continued throughout our entire visit.

Once we recovered from our initial shock of what we had gotten ourselves into — and I say this with positive recollections — we proceeded to set up two stations. Station A: Benni's K3 plus the KW auto-tuned, solid-state amp, and Station B: George's K3 plus KPA500 amp. Logging was done with N1MM+ and DXLog.

Antenna selection at Stations A and B was done with a mouse click on a computer at each station. The only thing in this automation that Benni had not yet implemented was a way to prevent both stations from simultaneously accessing the same antenna. We were cautioned about that and, with a little attention, this was never a problem.

Benni's long-term plan is to have eight monoband Yagis for 40, 20, 15, 10m. Four facing west (NA), and four facing east (EU). Because of Iceland's high winds and brutal winters, he avoids the use of rotors on the antennas. The only exception is a 20-10m Optibeam rotatable LP on one of the 50 ft towers. We used this RLP heavily on the WARC bands.

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For 80m there was a full-size vertical that performed extremely well. The soil in the area is very swampy, so the earth ground must have been quite good. On 160m, he had a less-than-full-size vertical, but there was a feedline problem, so we never made it to Top Band. There were two Beverage arrays whose directions were switchable N-E-S-W in the antenna matrix. The Beverages were very directional and extremely effective.

Our daily routine was to make the trek from the summer house to Selfoss to visit the local GK Bakari (bakery) for coffee and pick-up lunches and, from there, on to the QTH. Entering the property was always fascinating, because the unpaved road went through an area with sheep and small Icelandic horses. Benni had cordoned off the QTH with electric fencing, so we had to pass through those barriers to get to the shack. Once in the shack, we quickly fired up the rigs and resumed working the constant pileups. During our two weeks, collectively we made 8,437 QSOs. In addition to the pileups, George worked the FOC QSO Party and one CWT session, and Steve entered two CWT sessions. Additionally, Oskar, TF3DC visited one afternoon and logged 34 QSOs on 12, 17 and 30m. Oskar is a close friend of Benni, and had been following his work, but this was his first visit to Benni's QTH.

We had requests for 80 and 160m QSOs. We could do 80m, but not 160m because of the faulty feedline. Since our daily operations were in the daylight hours, we twice arranged to stay late to work 80m which would open around midnight or later, if it opened at all. Driving home late was hazardous, as the roads were dark, and the entrance to our summer house was tricky to find in the dark. On the first late-night's stay, Steve logged only 3 QSOs on 80m, and on the second late-night, Tom put 82 QSOs in his log. This satisfied Jack, W4JS, who was our number one requester for 80m!

All QSOs have been added to LoTW, and printed cards are on the way from Gennady, UX5UO.

Total QSOs by the team:

BAND	TOTAL TEAM QSOS	There are over two hundred licensed amateurs in Iceland, but many are not active on HF. In the pileups, there seemed to be a hunger for CQ ZONE 40, ITU Zone 17 <sup>4</sup> , IOTA EU-021, and TF contacts on a particular band or mode. Our operation would have been 100% CW, but for one exception. This was to honor a request from Jeff, N8II for a phone contact! George obliged and gave Jeff SSB contacts on 10 & 12m, plus CW on 10, 12, 17 and 40m.
10	58	
12	476	
15	1860	
17	1642	
20	2536	
30	1305	In concluding this story, I want to repeat how enjoyable it was being with Benni, Gudmi and Oskar, and meeting the friendly, pleasant Icelanders and visiting their incredibly intriguing island. And offer a special thanks to Benni's in-laws, George, and Bjorn for the use of their very comfortable summer house.
40	475	
80	85	
	8437	

We are hopeful that the Scandinavian Activity Contest will happen in 2023, and that we will be able to finally represent Iceland in this very special contest.

<sup>4</sup>Iceland is the only country in ITU Zone 17

**TF/K4EU****More DX-pedition to ICELAND****TF/K4NMR****TF/K4EU—Steve Hawley**

George/K5KG, Steve/K4EU and Tom/K4NMR operated from Iceland (IOTA EU-021), September 6 – 20, 2022. The trip was originally planned for the SAC CW Contest but when the SAC was cancelled, the team decided to operate CW-only running pileups. Additionally, George was able to operate the FOC QSO Party.

Our host was Benni/TF3T who leases the TF3D QTH some 70km (50 miles) southeast of Reykjavik near the village of Stokkseyri 20km (12 miles) south of Selfoss. Benni was enormously helpful with the logistical arrangements while building and installing monoband Yagi's at the station. Helping Benni were his brother, Gudmi/TF3SG and Oskar/TF3DC.

The TF3D station is a former SuperDARN radar installation which was decommissioned in 2019 and turned over to Benni in 2021 by the Space Plasma Environment and Radio Science Group at Lancaster University. 20+ heavy duty 50' towers, most with LPs on top, are part of the facility. Benni and Gudmi are currently reconfiguring and rebuilding some LPs for Amateur Radio use. During our time there, in operation were 5 and 6 element monobanders for 10, 15, and 20 plus a 5-band rotatable Optibeam. At the end of our visit, they completed building and installing a 2-element 40-meter monobander. This is amazing engineering/homebrewing work completed mostly by Benni with assistance from Gudmi. As for radios, two K3's are available along with two KW amplifiers, one commercially made and the other homebrewed by Benni. SWR is flat on all bands and no tuning is required!!!! In addition to the antennas mentioned above, 80- and 160-meter verticals are available, along with Beverages for receive, with an automated computer switching matrix designed by Benni. We cannot say enough about Benni's very pleasing personality and his amazing engineering and mechanical abilities!!!!

We made 8400+ CW QSOs during our time in Iceland.

**TF/K4NMR—Tom Small**

During my five days in Iceland, I did not do any touring to speak of but got into a daily routine that proved to be interesting, rewarding, and great fun. Each morning early, a quick breakfast of coffee, eggs and toast was put together by either TF/K5KG or me, TF/K4NMR. Then enroute to the TF3D contest radio station, we would make a mandatory stop at a very nice bakery in the small town of Selfoss for an additional coffee and a sandwich to go for lunch later in the day. TF3D is located about 5 or 6 kilometers just north of Stokkseyri, a very small town on the south coast of Iceland with about 511 souls as of the last census. Stokkseyri is at sea level and often would suffer extreme tidal flooding until the volcanic rock levee was put in years ago. On page 15 there is a photo of Tom, TF/K4NMR on the access road leading to TF3D with its antenna farm and the radio shack in the small brown building in the background.

Our host Benni and his brother Gudmi are terrific ambassadors to Ham Radio, contesting and radio sport.

Well done!



*West-facing 10, 15, 20m Yagis and SuperDARN Log Periodic antennas, all on 50 ft towers.*

*Continued on next page....*





*West-facing 10m Yagi going up with help of a man-lift.*



*Ex SuperDARN building is now the TF3D Shack.*



*Benni, TF3T, Steve, TF/K4EU, George, TF/K5KG.  
Stations A & B in the background.*

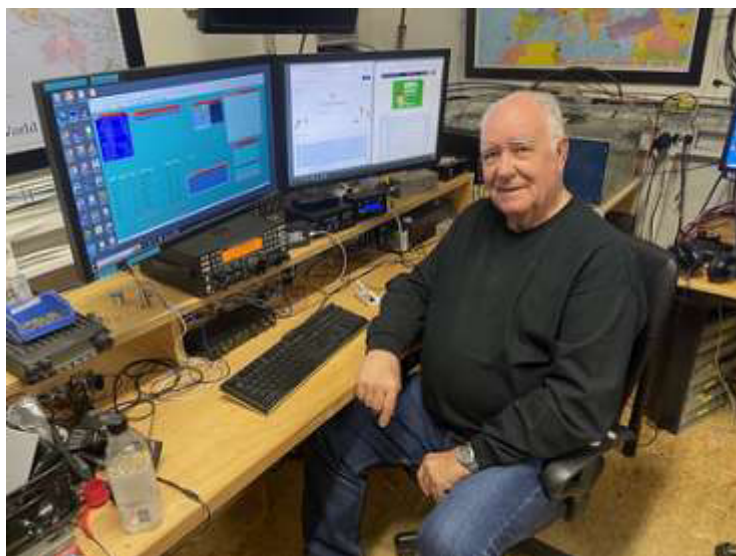


*Lunch in Reykjavik — Oskar, TF3DC, George, TF/K5KG, Steve, TF/  
K4EU, Benni, TF3T.*

*Continued on next page....*



*Steve, TF/K4EU in the Shack. Antenna matrix on back wall.*



*Tom, TF/K4NMR at Station A: K3 and home-brew solid-state KW amp.*



*Oskar, TF3DC enjoying a pile up.*



*George, TF/K5KG at Station B: K3 and KPA500 amp. Antenna matrix on back wall.*

*Continued on next page....*





*George, TF/K5KG out on the swampy "moonscape".*



*Steve, TF/K4EU at the entrance holding electric fence insulator.*



*Tom, TF/K4NMR with West-facing SuperDARN Log Periodic antennas.*



*Tom, TF/K4NMR with Benni and Gudmi preparing the 2el 40m Yagi for installation.*

*Continued on next page....*



*Benni atop the tower with the new 2el West-facing 40m Yagi.*



*Benni and Gudmi preparing the East-facing 15m Yagi for installation.*



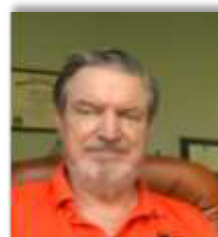
*Benni putting finishing touches on the West-facing 10m Yagi.*





## FCAP Approved Contests thru December 2022

Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ  
FCG Frequent Contester Program Administrator



Contest	Type	Pts	Start		Finish	
			Date	Time	Date	Time
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	Maj	10	29-Oct	0000Z	30-Oct	2400Z
Ukrainian DX Contest	DX	5	5-Nov	1200Z	6-Nov	1200Z
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	Maj	10	5-Nov	2100Z	7-Nov	0259Z
North American SSB Sprint Contest Nov	Maj	10	6-Nov	0000Z	6-Nov	0400Z
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	Maj	8	12-Nov	0000Z	13-Nov	2359Z
JIDX Phone Contest	DX	5	12-Nov	0700Z	13-Nov	1300Z
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	DX	5	12-Nov	1200Z	13-Nov	1159Z
LZ DX Contest	DX	5	19-Nov	1200Z	20-Nov	1200Z
All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	DX	5	19-Nov	1600Z	19-Nov	2359Z
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	Maj	10	19-Nov	2100Z	21-Nov	0259Z
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	Maj	10	26-Nov	0000Z	27-Nov	2400Z
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	Maj	10	2-Dec	2200Z	4-Dec	1600Z
FT Roundup	Maj	10	3-Dec	1800Z	4-Dec	1800Z
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	Maj	20	10-Dec	0000Z	11-Dec	2359Z
TRC Digi Contest	DX	5	10-Dec	0600Z	10-Dec	0600Z
OK DX RTTY Contest	DX	5	17-Dec	0000Z	17-Dec	2400Z
RAC Winter Contest	DX	5	17-Dec	0000Z	17-Dec	2359Z
Croatian CW Contest	DX	5	17-Dec	1400Z	18-Dec	1400Z
Stew Perry Topband Challenge Winter	Maj	10	17-Dec	1500Z	18-Dec	1500Z
RAEM Contest	DX	5	25-Dec	0000Z	25-Dec	1159Z



4 to 10 July 2023

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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 testers living in the Florida Panhandle who are outside the ARRL's 175 mile "club circle".

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

## FCG Shirts

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

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

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

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

