

FCG Score Summaries – A Look Behind The Scenes

Florida Contest Group — that pretty well sums up who we are, and what we do, but how well do we really perform in contests? For some, it's a "contest" of personal measurement. For others, it's how they compare to all of the other contestants in the contest. OK, but how does FCG gauge its club performance, both amongst each other and relative to other clubs? Frequently, on the groups.io reflector, FCG members have seen club score summaries for various club operating activities. This article will provide an insight of what those reports are and why we produce them.

Most contests have some sort of team or club category that measures group performance. Pre-contest teams can be organized, with usually five to ten members. Aggregate club scores are another type of "team". Scores from home stations and also DXpeditions are generally included. For ARRL contests, there are 3 sizes of clubs, logically named small, medium & unlimited. Some contests have geographic boundaries for score aggregation, others not.

For ARRL contest score submission purposes, a 150 mile "circle" geographically defines the area from which club member scores may be submitted toward the aggregate club score. A club geographic "center" is defined using a standard 6-character maidenhead grid square locator (E.g. EL97ab), commonly used for QSO distance calculations in VHF and select other HF contests. For ARRL contests, clubs wishing to enter in the club category must have submitted a listing of qualifying member's grid squares prior to the start of the contest. Distance calculations between club member's grid squares and the club center validate which stations are within the circle. In the FCG, it is the club Secretary, Fred Perkins, K4LQ who submits this information to the ARRL.

Contests, have different score submission deadlines., but all nearly contest sponsors now require electronic log submission. The CQ sponsored contests are 5 days following the conclusion of the contest. ARRL submission deadlines are 7 days following the contest. Others vary according to sponsor. The de-facto standard for log submission is the Cabrillo format which uses standard ASCII text. More information about the Cabrillo format may be found at

<http://www.arrl.org/cabrillo-format-tutorial>

In the spirit of real-time score comparison, some testers prefer on-line scoreboards that are updated during the contest. As their name implies, connected competitor's scores are periodically downloaded by logging programs and posted on-line for all to see. Two such utilities are

<https://contestonlinescore.com/> and <http://www.cqcontest.net>.

Directions for enabling real-time score reporting for most logging software programs may be found on logging program websites. If you're using the popular N1MM+ logging suite, here's how to enable on-line score reporting:

http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php?page=Configurer#Configurer_REAL_GT_Score_Reporting_Tab

Some participants believe that seeing their score, relative to others, pushes them harder, while others merely consider it a non-contesting distraction. For contests with built in breaks (E.g., FL QSO Party), there generally is some mid-contest “chatter” on the FCG groups.io reflector. (fcg@groups.io)

So now the contest is over, but it isn't really over until the “paperwork” is finished. The modern day contesting equivalent is to electronically submit your station's log. While you may not have been a serious entry in a contest, nearly all contest sponsors encourage all participants to submit their logs. Why? A larger database of logs enables cross-checking of a larger percentage of contest QSOs. There are even some contests that if a QSO cannot be verified through the logs from both stations, credit for the QSO is not awarded!

There are a couple common methods of submitting logs. Some contest sponsors require submission of logs as an email attachment, while others use ASCII Cabrillo text pasted into a webpage for analysis and submission. Note that it is the responsibility of the individual participants to submit their logs to contest sponsors. **FCG does not submit any scores on behalf of individual participants!** Shortly we will be utilizing the calendar function of our FCG groups.io reflector to notify FCG subscribers about log submission deadlines for the contests listed below.

Here are the log submission methods and URLs / e-mails addresses for the major contests:

Log Submission Websites

Contest Name	Deadline (calendar days)	Log Submission Method
ARRL DX - CW / SSB	7 days	http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org
ARRL 10 - Meter	7 days	http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org
ARRL 160 - Meter	7 days	http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org
ARRL Sweepstakes - CW / SSB	7 days	http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org
CQ 160 Meter - CW	5 days	https://cq160.com/logcheck/ OR e-mail to 160cw@cq160.com
CQ 160 Meter - SSB	5 days	https://cq160.com/logcheck/ OR e-mail to 160ssb@cq160.com
CQ WPX - CW	5 days	https://www.cqwpw.com/logcheck/ OR e-mail to cw@cqwpw.com
CQ WPX - SSB	5 days	https://www.cqwpw.com/logcheck/ OR e-mail to ssb@cqwpw.com
CQ WPX - RTTY	5 days	https://www.cqwwrtty.com/logcheck/
CQ WW - CW / SSB	5 days	https://www.cqww.com/logcheck/
CQ WW - RTTY	5 days	https://cqwwrtty.com/logcheck/
FL QSO Party	14 days	E-mail to logs@floridagsoparty.org
NA QSO Party (NAQP) - CW/SSB/RTTY	5 days	http://ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit/

Submitted Log Websites

Contest Name	Log Received Website
ARRL DX	http://contests.arrl.org/logsreceived.php
ARRL 10 Meter	http://contests.arrl.org/logsreceived.php
ARRL 160 Meter	http://contests.arrl.org/logsreceived.php
ARRL Sweepstakes	http://contests.arrl.org/logsreceived.php
CQ 160 Meter - CW	https://cq160.com/logs_received_cw.htm
CQ 160 Meter - SSB	https://cq160.com/logs_received_ssb.htm
CQ WPX - CW	https://www.cqwpw.com/logs_received_cw.htm
CQ WPX - SSB	https://www.cqwpw.com/logs_received_ssb.htm
CQ WPX - RTTY	https://cqwwrtty.com/logs_received.htm
CQ WW - CW	https://www.cqww.com/logs_received_cw.htm
CQ WW - SSB	https://www.cqww.com/logs_received_ssb.htm
CQ WW - RTTY	https://cqwwrtty.com/logs_received.htm
FL QSO Party	https://floridaqsoparty.org/logging/logs-received/
NA QSO Party - CW	http://ncjweb.com/cwnaqplogs/
NA QSO Party - SSB	http://ncjweb.com/ssbnaqplogs/
NA QSO Party - RTTY	http://ncjweb.com/rttynaqplogs/

Some contest sponsors also post the top pre-adjudication scores in each category. Check the log submissions above to see if these preliminary scores are available.

If you still have questions about how to submit your log, here's a great tutorial on the ARRL website by KX9X:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20-%20General/Tutorials/Submitting%20An%20Electronic%20Contest%20Log.pdf>

OK, the contest is over, and you've submitted your log, but what happens post contest? Short of waiting eons for the contest sponsor's official results, what other avenues exist for seeing preliminary contest score results? While the contest's events are still fresh in your mind, wouldn't it be interesting to see how your performance compared to others? Wouldn't it be interesting to see how many stations got a clean sweep? How about reading the comments of other participants?

Following the conclusion of a contest, most club members post their score and soapbox comments to the FCG email reflector, fcg@groups.io. While there is not a standard format for posting scores to the reflector, here's a typical example:

ARRL 160 METER PHONE

Call: N4WW
Operator: K1TO
Station: N4WW
Category: Single-Op High Power Assisted

Band QSOs Points St/Prv DX

1.8 1234 5567 63 55

Score: 123,456
Club: Florida Contest Group

Soapbox: Boy conditions were the best I have ever experienced!

Many FCG'ers find comments and observations from fellow club members insightful, and frequently thought provoking. Often, operating techniques and other hints are shared, which can enhance everyone's operating ability. Frequently these discussions also evolve into station design and maintenance tips.

A stand-alone summary of FCG club scores was originally created by FCG founder Jim White, K4OJ (SK). This was because the ARRL had inadvertently omitted some FCG scores in the Sweepstakes contest. Unfortunately, this negatively affected FCG's top scoring placement. This was somewhat ironic given both of Jim's parents (W1CW (SK) and W1YL) were ARRL employees. FCG score summary responsibilities were later handed off to Frank "Tally Mon", K4EJ, and subsequently to Fred, K9VV.

The FCG email reflector is not the only place to post contest score results. Other members elect to post their scores on the website www.3830scores.com. The "3830" in the URL is historical in that prior to the Internet, some stations would gather post-contest on 3.830 MHz, LSB to announce scores and discuss results. It is also possible to filter on FCG only scores on the 3830scores website. Other members elect not to post their results and data (category, score, QSOs, multipliers, and operators). Posting to 3838scores is totally optional.

FCG scoring results are pulled from three sources:

- Postings to the FCG groups.io reflector, fcg@groups.io
- 3830scores website
- Contest sponsors' "Logs Received" websites

Here's an example of the first few lines of a typical FCG score summary:

FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP - 2018 CONTEST SEASON

CQ WW - CW - Version #FINAL

Upload to <https://www.cqww.com/logcheck/> or E-mail cw@cqww.com

Log Due Date = 6 DEC 18 @ 2359z

Log Submission Checked: 7 DEC 18 13:28z

FLORIDA STATIONS:

Call	Score	QSOs	Zns	Cty	Class	Sec	Ops	HRs	RX?	FCG?
====	=====	=====	====	====	=====	====	=====	====	====	=====
AE4XX	67,575				MSHPa	NFL	+K2XB		Yes	Yes
K0AL	38,735	109	25	102	SB40HPc	WCF			Yes	Yes
K1TO	65,826	225	23	83	SB80HPa	WCF		12.5	Yes	No
K3SEN	385,821	521	65	198	SOABHPc	NFL			Yes	Yes
K5ABC	Did not post score				SOABLP	WCF		9.9	Yes	No

<snip>

Reported Total = 32,339,736
Reported Logs = 25
Submitted Total = 31,301,224
Submitted Logs = 24
Submitted Pts% = 96.12%
Submitted Logs% = 96.0%

Here's what the column headings mean:

- **Call** – Call used in the contest
- **Score** – Claimed score, using contest rules, as calculated by logging program
- **QSOs** – Claimed QSOs (before log adjudication)
- **Zns** (Zones) – Claimed zones
- **Cty** (Country) – Claimed countries
- **Class** – Entry Class (SO=single op, MO=Multi-op, SB=single band, HP=high power, LP=low power, QRP=QRP power, a=Assisted, c=Classic. U=Unlimited (ARRL contests))
- **Sec** – ARRL Section (NFL, SFL, WCF, or other Sections if operating outside of FL)
- **Hrs** – Total number of hours operated in the contest
- **Ops** – Operators, if multi-op, or other than contest call licensee
- **RX?** – Has log been received by contest sponsor log processing robot
- **FCG?** – Was “Florida Contest Group” listed as club? (Note: Club name must be EXACT!!)
- **Reported Total** – Point sum of all known scores
- **Reported Logs** – Quantity of logs reported
- **Submitted Total** – Point sum of all submitted logs
- **Submitted Logs** – Quantity of logs submitted
- **Submitted Pts%** - Percentage of known points to submitted points
- **Submitted Logs%** - Percentage of logs submitted

In the example above, AE4XX doesn't have the number of QSOs or multipliers listed. How can this be? Either he didn't list it in his score posting, or the score and category only were available from the log processing robot. Also note that K1TO has submitted a log, but for whatever reason, the log processing robot did not recognize his score was to be counted for FCG. (Of course we know that'd never be the case Dan!!)

Well I hope this explanation of FCG club scoring and log submission was interesting and informative for you. So the next time you participate in a contest, please share your results and comments, even if you only made a few QSOs!

Hope to see everyone on the bands! - 73 / OJ – Fred, K9VV / NP2X