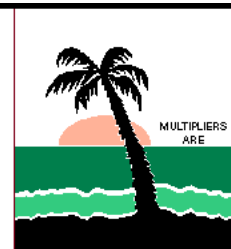


# Contest Gazette

## Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.org



Volume 26 Issue 1

January 2019

### From the President's Corner

By Chris Plumblee W4WF

Happy New Year to all FCG members at home and abroad. I'm very pleased to report that 2018 was another great year for the FCG and FQP, and we're looking forward to another excellent year in 2019.



At the time of writing, the Orlando Contest Dinner is still a couple of weeks in the future, but we're looking forward to another outstanding event this year with an address from N2NT, an excellent meal and opportunity for socializing, and a chance to win one of a number of great prizes in the raffle. If you're reading this after February 8, 2019, I hope you were able to attend and that you had a great time. If you're reading this before February 8 and you don't have your ticket yet, please send me email at [chris.plumblee@gmail.com](mailto:chris.plumblee@gmail.com) and I'll see if we can fit you in.

There was an extensive thread in January on the FCG reflector about contest activity. I weighed in at the time, but I thought a more formal statement of the club's philosophy was in order, so I'd like to take a moment of privilege. When the FCG was founded by K4OJ, one of the things that Jim wanted to avoid was allowing the structure or institutions of the club, rather than the intent of the club to drive the club's actions. That's the reason that FCG continues to be more loosely-organized than other contest clubs our size, with a (relatively) smaller officer corps and less administrative overhead. One thing that we will not do, as the leadership of the FCG, is to guilt or beg our members to get on for one contest or another "for the club score." That means that, if you don't like RTTY, then feel free to sit out a RTTY contest, even if there is an affiliated club competition. Similarly, if you prefer DX contests to Sweepstakes, then you should not feel that you must operate Sweepstakes to add to the club score.

What we have done in the past, and what we will continue to do, is to remind you of contests that are coming up and give any special insight that we have about contest strategies. I should emphasize now that it's never our intent to make you feel that you *must* enter a contest just because we make a note of it on the reflector. FCG is a contest club, and I think it's reasonable to think that our members like contests. However, for some of our members that may look like contesting > 50 weekends per year on all modes, and for others it means operating their favorite contest once per year. Both approaches are equally valid.

One of the items we're considering is an incentive program to drive additional participation in contests. The logic of such a program is twofold: first, that additional participation in contests is broadly good for contesting. And second, that we're offering additional awards to ops who might not be able to post high scores in any one specific contest. This program will be entirely optional. More details about the implementation of this program will be coming in the next few weeks. Please stay tuned to the reflector and to future issues of the Gazette for more information

Thanks to K5KG for his hard work putting together teams for the NAQP SSB and NAQP CW in January, and for arranging teams for the NAQP RTTY coming up in late February. The NAQP contests are increasing in popularity. There is a three-way competition among the NCCC, SMC, and PVRC to stimulate activity in all three modes of the NAQP, which should help explain why you have so many W9s and W3s and W6s in your log. I've seen some analysis by high scorers in the NAQP CW earlier this month that had FL as among the most common states worked. That's to George's credit that he was able to get so many FCGers active, and to the credit of everyone who found some time to get on the air and make some QSOs.

I had a good time with some old friends at the Tampa ARC club station using my new call in a semi-serious M/2 effort on CW. Conditions on 80m and 160m were excellent, with lots mid-Atlantic and midwest stations reporting big numbers on the low bands. When the low bands are really good and 20m is as mediocre as it was, it's not a recipe for success for us from Florida. I was pleased to work some west coast stations on 160m (not a guarantee with a Carolina Windom at 50'), but from Tampa there was no way to make up for the volume of stations available to a similarly-equipped station in W3 or W9 on 80m and 160m. Oh well!

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The summer NAQP season starts in July, with RTTY first this time. The summer NAQP, with the possibility of sporadic-E on the high bands and with 20m (hopefully) ascendant, plays more to our strengths in FL. If you enjoy domestic contests, I recommend you block off the appropriate Saturday for your favorite mode(s) in July and August.

In addition to the spring contests right around the corner (ARRL DX both modes, the CW Sprint, and WPX SSB at the end of March), it's time to start thinking about your trip to Dayton in 2019. If you can figure out how to attend, I highly recommend it. The contest events at the Crowne Plaza are a great opportunity to rub shoulders with well-known testers from all around the country, and the social atmosphere is second to none. If you have any questions or are looking for someone to share a rental car or hotel room, please check on our reflector; it's very possible there is another club member looking for the same thing.

I

look forward to seeing many of you at the various Orlando festivities (or, if you're reading this after Orlando, I enjoyed seeing many of you), and I look forward to hearing many of you on the air throughout the year.

73/OJ,

Chris W4WF



*Ed Note: Correction from K9ES—In our last newsletter I published this picture of Eric K9ES working FQP from home. Is this correct?*

*Ach no! He is actually operating from the AD4ES station as indicated by the AD4ES sign in the background (which I didn't see) Turns out Chuck AD4ES was out gallivanting around the countryside working FQP mobile, so his home station was available to Eric.*

## Contributors to This Edition

W4WF, K9VV, K5KG, NN4X, K4LQ, AA4GT

## Welcome Aboard



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## Events Calendar

|                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>ARRL RTTY Roundup</b>     | <b>1800Z 5 to 2400Z Jan 6</b>       |
| <b>NAQP C W</b>              | <b>1200Z Jan 12 to 1200Z Jan 13</b> |
| <b>NAQP SSB</b>              | <b>1800Z Jan 19 to 0559Z Jan 20</b> |
| <b>ARRL VHF Contest</b>      | <b>1900Z Jan 19 to 0359Z Jan 21</b> |
| <b>CQ 160M Contest, CW</b>   | <b>2200Z Jan 25 to 2200Z Jan 27</b> |
| <b>N A Sprint CW</b>         | <b>0000Z– 0400Z Feb 3</b>           |
| <b>CQWW RTTY Contest</b>     | <b>0000Z Feb 9 to 2359Z Feb 10</b>  |
| <b>ARRL DX Contest CW</b>    | <b>0000Z Feb 16 to 2400Z Feb 17</b> |
| <b>NAQP RTTY Contest</b>     | <b>1800Z Feb 23 to 0559Z Feb 24</b> |
| <b>ARRL DX Contest SSB</b>   | <b>0000Z Mar 2 to 2400Z Mar 3</b>   |
| <b>BARTG RTTY Contest</b>    | <b>0200Z Mar 16 to 0200Z Mar 18</b> |
| <b>CQ WPX Contest SSB</b>    | <b>0000Z Mar 30 to 2400Z Mar 31</b> |
| <b>FL QSO Party</b>          | <b>1600Z Apr 27 to 2159Z Apr 28</b> |
| <b>New England QSO Party</b> | <b>2000Z May 4 to 2400Z May 5</b>   |

## FCG Score Summaries – A Look Behind The Scenes



By Fred Kleber K9VV / NP2X

**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 the FCG gauge its club performance, both amongst each other and relative to other clubs? Frequently on the FCG e-mail reflector, [fcg@groups.io](mailto:fcg@groups.io), 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 based on membership: Small, Medium & Unlimited. Some contests have geographic boundaries for score aggregation, others do not.

For ARRL contest score submission purposes, a 150 mile "circle" geographically defines the area from which club member scores may be counted 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 some HF contests, such as the 160m Stew Perry. For ARRL contests, ARRL affiliated clubs wishing to enter in the club category must keep on file with the League a roster of their qualifying club members and their grid squares. Distance calculations between club members' 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 ensures that the ARRL has a current roster of qualified FCG members.

Various contests have different deadlines for submitting contest logs. The CQ sponsored contests are 5 days following the conclusion of the contest. ARRL submission deadlines are 7 days. Others vary according to sponsor. **NOTE: It is the responsibility of the individual participants to submit their logs on time. The FCG does not submit any scores on behalf of individual participants!** In the near future, we will be exploring ways of automating the sending of contest log submittal date reminders to FCG members via [fcg@groups.io](mailto:fcg@groups.io).

In the spirit of real-time score comparison, some contesters prefer on-line scoreboards that are updated during the contest. As their name implies, 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>

All subscribers on the FCG email reflector, [fcg@groups.io](mailto:fcg@groups.io) are Florida Contest Group dues-paid or Honorary FCG members. All Florida Contest Group dues-paid or Honorary FCG members have been invited to join [fcg@groups.io](mailto:fcg@groups.io), however some have chosen not to subscribe. Being a subscriber to [fcg@groups.io](mailto:fcg@groups.io) is totally optional.

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+ logger, here's how to enable on-line score reporting:

[http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php?page=Configurer#Configurer\\_REAL\\_GT\\_Score\\_Reporting\\_Tab](http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php?page=Configurer#Configurer_REAL_GT_Score_Reporting_Tab)

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 participants to submit their logs. Why? A large database of logs in the hands of the contest sponsor enables cross-checking of a high percentage of contest QSOs. There are even some contests that require a QSO to be verified in the logs of both stations, else the QSO will not be awarded!

There are two common methods of submitting logs. Some contest sponsors require submission of logs as an email attachment, while others allow the ASCII Cabrillo text to be pasted into a webpage for analysis and submission. For many contests, both methods are available.

The de-facto standard for log submission is the Cabrillo file format, which uses standard ASCII text. More information about the Cabrillo format may be found at <http://www.arrl.org/cabrillo-format-tutorial>.

Here are the log submission methods, deadlines, 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                   | <a href="http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org">http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org</a>   |
| ARRL 10 - Meter                   | 7 days                   | <a href="http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org">http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org</a>   |
| ARRL 160 - Meter                  | 7 days                   | <a href="http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org">http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org</a>   |
| ARRL Sweepstakes – CW / SSB       | 7 days                   | <a href="http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org">http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org</a>   |
| CQ 160 Meter – CW                 | 5 days                   | <a href="https://cq160.com/logcheck/">https://cq160.com/logcheck/</a> OR e  |
| CQ 160 Meter – SSB                | 5 days                   | <a href="https://cq160.com/logcheck/">https://cq160.com/logcheck/</a> OR e  |
| CQ WPX - CW                       | 5 days                   | <a href="https://www.cqwpw.com/logcheck/">https://www.cqwpw.com/logcheck/</a> OR e-mail to <a href="mailto:cw@cqwpw.com">cw@cqwpw.com</a>   |
| CQ WPX - SSB                      | 5 days                   | <a href="https://www.cqwpw.com/logcheck/">https://www.cqwpw.com/logcheck/</a> OR e-mail to <a href="mailto:ssb@cqwpw.com">ssb@cqwpw.com</a> |
| CQ WPX - RTTY                     | 5 days                   | <a href="https://www.cqwwrtty.com/logcheck/">https://www.cqwwrtty.com/logcheck/</a>   |
| CQ WW - CW / SSB                  | 5 days                   | <a href="https://www.cqww.com/logcheck/">https://www.cqww.com/logcheck/</a>   |
| CQ WW - RTTY                      | 5 days                   | <a href="https://cqwwrtty.com/logcheck/">https://cqwwrtty.com/logcheck/</a>   |
| FL QSO Party                      | 14 days                  | E-mail to <a href="mailto:logs@floridaqsoparty.org">logs@floridaqsoparty.org</a>  |
| NA QSO Party (NAQP) – CW/SSB/RTTY | 5 days                   | <a href="http://ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit/">http://ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit/</a>   |

### Submitted Log Websites

Here are the websites where a list of submitted logs may be found. **It is a good idea to check these sites after a log has been submitted to verify that it was truly received by the contest sponsor.**

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

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 else happens after the 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 scores and soapbox comments to the FCG email reflector. While there is not a standard format for posting scores to the reflector, here's a typical example on the next page:

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 claimed scores was originally created by FCG founder Jim White, K4OJ (SK). This was because the ARRL had inadvertently omitted some FCG scores in a 10 Meter contest which, unfortunately, negatively affected FCG's top scoring placement. FCG score summary responsibilities were later handed off from K4OJ to Frank "Tally Mon", K4EJ, and subsequently to Fred, K9VV who currently handles the duties.

The FCG email reflector is not the only place to post claimed score results. Many contesters post their claimed scores on the website [www.3830scores.com](http://www.3830scores.com). (The "3830" in the URL is historical in that prior to the Internet, some stations would gather immediately after the contest on 3.830 MHz to announce scores and discuss results.)

Some participants believe that seeing their score, relative to others, pushes them harder, while others merely consider it a non-contesting distraction. It is possible to filter on FCG-only scores, or the scores of other clubs or other participants on 3830scores.com website. Other members elect not to post their results at all; posting to 3830scores.com is totally optional.

For contests with built in breaks, such as the FL QSO Party, there generally is some mid-contest "chatter" on the FCG email reflector.

FCG scoring results are pulled from three sources:

- Postings to the FCG email reflector
- 3830scores.com 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](mailto: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 on the previous page, 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 that 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 submit your log, and 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

December 2018

### Pete Rimmel N8PR Named to DXAC

**Congrats to FCger  
Pete Rimmel N8PR  
for being named to  
the ARRL DX Advisory  
Committee.**



### Vant Morell K4LM SK

LaVant "Vant" Morell, born on August 16, 1946 in Aurora, Illinois, to the late Edna Jean and LaVerne Morell, passed away on June 19, 2018 in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. He retired from IBM in 1990. Vant was the beloved husband of Renee. He was preceded in death by his brother, Jock Morell. Vant is survived by his daughters, Jennifer (Steve) Stribley and Andrea (Jeff) Creller; sister, Michele (Paul, Sr) Gutting; grandchildren, Warren (Andrea), Damien, Aurora, and Desmond; niece, Amy; and nephews, Justin (Savannah) and Paul, Jr. He had many hobbies including Ham Radio.

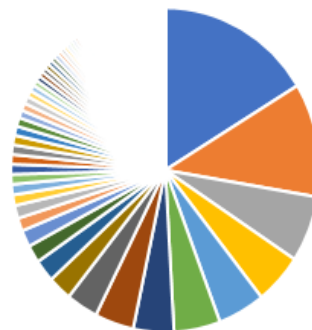


### FCG Likely Winner 10M Contest (Claimed Scores)

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Florida Conest Group          | 3,144,778 |
| Potomac Valley Radio Club     | 2,193,005 |
| Minnesota Wireless Assn       | 1,273,086 |
| Society of Midwest Contesters | 977,906   |
| Frankford Radio Club          | 951,594   |
| LU Contest Group              | 936,830   |
| Yankee Clipper Contest Club   | 819,130   |
| Araucaria DX Group            | 788,132   |
| Arizona Outlaws Contest Club  | 643,070   |
| Alabama Contest Group         | 477,742   |

Thanks Steve NN4X for presenting the scores and chart

Sum of Claimed Score



|                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ■ Florida Contest Group            | ■ POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB         |
| ■ Minnesota Wireless Assn          | ■ Society of Midwest Contesters     |
| ■ Frankford Radio Club             | ■ LU CONTEST GROUP                  |
| ■ Yankee Clipper Contest Club      | ■ Araucaria DX Group                |
| ■ ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB     | ■ Alabama Contest Group             |
| ■ SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB | ■ Central Texas DX and Contest Club |
| ■ NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB | ■ Contest Club Ontario              |
| ■ Mad River Radio Club             | ■ Kentucky Contest Group            |
| ■ Georgia Contest Group            | ■ BAVARIAN CONTEST CLUB             |
| ■ Texas DX Society                 | ■ South East Contest Club           |
| ■ Carolina DX Association          | ■ DFW Contest Group                 |
| ■ Central Virginia Contest Club    | ■ Mega System group                 |
| ■ CABREUVADX                       | ■ HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION  |



**Publisher's Note:** George K5KG and XYL Kay took a trip to Europe primarily to take a look at the WRTC operations, but also to do a little tourist travelling. He reported back in a series of e-mails which I thought made up an interesting travelog...

7/10/2018

Kay and I just finishing up three days in Berlin. Had a great time visiting all the sights, especially lots of WW2 and cold war exhibits...all well done and very interesting. Going to Wittenberg and WRTC by train this afternoon. Then, all the festivities of the WRTC begin. Dan is to arrive there tomorrow, Wed. I believe he is driving a rental car from Amsterdam. Can't wait to meet all the testers. Will be taking a lot of photos.



**Sign on Elba river bridge in Torgau, Germany where American and Russian troops met as friends after the Fascists were driven out of the area in April 1945.**

7/11/2018

Kay and I arrived in Wittenberg via train from Berlin yesterday. Fast train — 120 mph!

*Big gathering of testers.* To name a few: OH2BH, CE2SV, numerous DL's, K1DG, N2NT, K1CC, K1zz, K9VV, K7BV, VE3EJ, DL1QQ, K3LR, etc. A lot of energy!!! Lots of excitement about 6m & FT8.

Had dinner with big group last night. Great fun. My sweet wife is enjoying herself. She will be exploring the town today. Town is small, quaint, and very historic because of Martin Luther.

Most of my photos will be with my real camera, but will send a few from my cell phone. Shots from my camera will come after I get home.



7/11/2018

Greetings from WRTC. My xyl and I arrived here in Lutherstadt Wittenberg yesterday by train (120 mph) from Berlin.

This is a very quaint and small village, and the HQ fir WRTC. (Home of Martin Luther.) Many participants from all over have already arrived, and more will be here by tomorrow and Friday.

There are many eye-ball QSOS happening. Old and new acquaintances being made. Topics are centering around the preparations for the teams, 6m and, you guessed it, FT8!

Had a nice chat with Martti, OH2BH, who is here to work on plans for the next WRTC. Too many DL call signs to mention, but other familiar calls seen or spoken with so far are K1CC, k7BV, k1zm, n2nt, K9VV, W4LIS (just got her General), k6xx, ce2SV/VE7SV, ce3ct, Ve3Ej, k1vr, K1DG, k5na, k5wa, k3lr, dk1qq, ETC...also many XYL's, including Kay!

I will be exploring ways to see our three sponsored FCG stations, but they may be hard to find due to the scattered and remote locations of the 65 stations. I will do my best to find them.

All for now....more reports as I am able.

#### DA0HQ Station set up in WRTC HQ Hotel





**Felipe NP4Z at DA0WRTC**

7/12/2018

Many WRTC teams have sequestered themselves into hotel rooms to set up their stations, and ferret out any last minute problems. I visited the the stations Fred, K9VV and John, VE3EJ set up in John's room...two fully equipped K3/P3's on a LAN with two and bandpass filters. At 09:00(local) tomorrow, Friday, the Station Draw will happen, during which the teams learn where they will be located. Then at 13:00, station set up will begin at the sites. There will be 65 station locations, and they are spread out over an area of appx 70 km from north to south.

The Florida Contest Group has donated two tents to WRTC: one tent in memory of Bob White, W1CW and son Jim, K4OJ, and the other tent in memory of Ron Wetjen, WD4AHZ. At this time, I have not been able to determine where our two FCG tents will be located, or which teams will occupy them. That information will become available after the Station Draw tomorrow. The FCG has three teams in the competition: 1.) K9VV & VE3EJ 2.) N2NL & W2SC and 3.) AD4Z & NP4Z. I hope to visit and photograph the two FCG tent sites, and our three teams' sites during the competition. Hardy, DL3KWF, a WRTC volunteer has graciously agreed to drive me to these sites. This may be a long trip given how far the sites are spread out. I'm counting on a nice trip through the back roads of Germany, not unlike FL in the FQP! My report would not be complete without mentioning that FCG members and friends will be Referees: Rich, K1CC, John, K4BAI, Charlie, NF4A, and Dennis K7BV.

The process of assigning call signs and stations will be randomly designated by lottery on Friday. The competition call signs will be given to the teams by their referee at the stations 15 minutes before the contest at 11:45 UTC on Saturday. There has been a lot of discussion about the format of the call signs, and some rumors have spread about what the call sign prefix will be. I will, of course, I will not mention what I have heard! After all, it is a well-kept secret held by WRTC management.

WRTC has set up a Headquarters station - DA0WRTC - on the top floor of the hotel, and antennas put out on the roof. Three HF stations (Yaesu FT-1200 and 403A bandpass filters) are operational, with laptops and WinTest as the logging program. I sat down at the 15m station and worked some Europeans. However, poor condx and some local QRM (in the shack), made operating a bit difficult. Additionally, German keyboards are used, and they are a bit tricky for those of us who are used to NA keyboards! Felipe, NP4Z, joined me at the 20m station while I was operating. I believe these stations will remain active as long as ops step up to use them. FCG'ers, should try to work DA0WRTC, condx notwithstanding!

The Opening Ceremony is in a few hours, so it's 73 for now.



**K5KG at the DA0WRTC station at HQ**

I want to correct my post from yesterday, in which I said that the FCG had sponsored two tents. The FCG actually sponsored three tents. They are two FCG tents and one in memory of Ron Wetjen, WD4AHZ. I apologize for the error.

One of the DL's has offered to take me to field sites tomorrow where I hope to find the FCG-sponsored tents. I understand the sites are quite spread out.

The Station draws start in 15 mins, so 73 for now.






Team ZL3IO and his 17 yr old daughter, ZL4YL. Charlie, NF4A is their ref



Bob WA1Z off to his site. His partner JH5GHM had to get special permission to operate in DL.



Julio AD4Z & Felipe NP4Z and their Ref. Note the name of their tent sponsor!



# DAILY UPDATE

- Friday July 13, 2018 -

**Quote of the day**  
 With the callsigns of the day, it must be fun to ID once per QSO.

**Callsigns of the day (weekend)**  
 Right, you didn't have too much beer last night, this is real:

|      |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Y81A | Y81D | Y81K | Y81M | Y81N | Y81R |
| Y81U | Y82A | Y82B | Y82D | Y82F | Y82G |
| Y82K | Y82L | Y82M | Y82N | Y82R | Y82V |
| Y82W | Y83B | Y83C | Y83D | Y83G | Y83K |
| Y83L | Y83O | Y83P | Y83R | Y83U | Y83V |
| Y83X | Y83Z | Y84B | Y84C | Y84G | Y84J |
| Y84O | Y84P | Y84Q | Y84W | Y84X | Y84Y |
| Y84Z | Y86C | Y86F | Y86J | Y86O | Y86P |
| Y86Q | Y86V | Y86W | Y86Y | Y87B | Y87C |
| Y87G | Y87K | Y87L | Y87M | Y87O | Y87P |
| Y87U | Y87V | Y87W | Y89A | Y89D | Y89K |
| Y89M | Y89N | Y89R | Y89U |      |      |

The teams will learn their call signs 15 mins before the start.

Note, no calls end in "E".



## WRTC Site Pictures



Spyderbeam used by each of the WRTC stations



2KW Honda generator used at each WRTC station

George K5KG in front of a WRTC Station tent



## Some of our FCG WRTC Competitors



Julio AD4Z samples the local brew.



Fred K9VV, Referee Toomas ES5RY and John VE3EJ

FCGer Dave N2NL and Kazu M0CFW/JK3GAD



**7/13/2018****WRTC Friday Report**

I feel like a press reporter, and it's wonderful to have Groups.io to handle the photos.

Team assignments and deployment to the field went very smoothly this morning, although took about 3 hrs. Wx today is spectacular...bright sunshine and about 80f high, 57 low tonight.

Out of 65 teams, VE3EJ/K9VV were the last ones drawn. Their Estonian referee is the same exact one they had in New England in '14, go figure!

I went with EJ/VV to the field and they immediately began set up. They hoped to be QRV in a couple of hours. (I am now back at HQ, so I'm not aware of their situation at this moment.)

Teams were assigned based on travel time to their site, with the first team being sent to the most distant site. Good news for John & Fred was that they are the team closest to Wittenberg, less than a 30 mins drive.

I want to comment on a presentation made at last night's opening ceremony about the history of German call signs, and the selection of the block of Y81A-Y89U call signs for WRTC.

The first German call signs in the 1920's had K prefixes, and later were EK, to designate Europe. The presentation had wonderful displays of early QSL cards. Some calls back then were even "made up" by the ops, and not official. QSL bureaus quickly sprung up to exchange cards, since so many were unofficial. In the divided Germany period when there was Soviet control in the East, Y and DM prefixes were used. Many of old timers will remember these East German calls.

The WRTC Y8-block of calls is the first use of Y prefixes since the reunification of Germany. The block was carefully chosen so as to be very special for this incredible event, and easily recognizable for ops worldwide. They were also selected to be good CW calls. For example, none of the calls end in E.

Now to crash a bit before another WRTC dinner!

**7/15/2018**

Yesterday was a busy day. In the morning several of us had an exciting tour of four field sites. Unfortunately it did not include any of the sites with FCG tents.

However I learned that the media team will photograph all sites and those photos will be available in couple of weeks.

In addition to the WRTC sites we visited the town of Torgau on the Elbe River where US army and Soviet troops met as friends on the bridge in April 1945 when the Facists (NAZIS) had been driven out of the area. Keep in mind that the WRTC is being held in the former East Germany where there is much interesting history!

Once the contest started the sites were off limits, so there are no more site visits.

In the afternoon I visited the station of Claudio I4VEQ which is set up in his nearby Airbnb apartment. The station was a TS590 and a vertical in a small Courtyard. I was able to make 70 contest QSOS in an hour+ as DL/K5kg. I was able to work about a dozen or so WRTC stations, however most were quite weak due to their relatively close proximity.

As many of you may know there is a live scoreboard. It has been the center of activity back at the HQ hotel with everyone watching the horserace! At the moment LY9A/LY4L seems to be leading the pack. Sb.wrtc2018.de is the URL for live scoring.

For those of you who are working the contest be sure to submit your log to WRTC immediately after the contest. It is important that all logs are available for the judging of the results!!!

Now back to HQ for the finish and oh yes the final football game!!!

George K5KG/DL





Above - Two of the teams whose tents were sponsored by FCG



Above: Fred K9VV/NP2X at the DA0WRTC Station

## Well Known WRTCers



Tim K3LR and Sandy DL1QQ



Jacques F6BEE and Jacky ZL3CW



John K4BAI



**FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP EMAIL REFLECTORS****By George Wagner K5KG**

The Florida Contest Group (FCG) maintains two email reflectors on Groups.io. They are FCG@groups.io and FQP@groups.io. Groups.io was developed in 2014, and has become the most advanced email group service on the Internet. The FCG is using the Groups.io's basic service at no-cost. This service allows for an unlimited number of subscribers, provides a Group directory and calendar, the attachment of files and photos to messages, and offers 1GB of file and photo storage.

**FCG@groups.io is for FCG members only.** The FCG currently has 290 club members, of which 235 are subscribed to FCG@groups.io. FCG members are not obligated to belong to FCG@groups.io; however, we do encourage all members to belong. It's a way of keeping up with FCG discussions, contest information and other club activities.

When FCG@groups.io was set up earlier in 2018, every FCG member was sent an invitation; however some chose not to join or, perhaps, did not "get the memo". A few members, who initially subscribed, have since dropped out for various reasons. Any FCG member who is currently not subscribed is encouraged to sign up.

**FQP@groups.io was established to support the Florida QSO Party** which occurs every April, although some subscribers use it year-round. **This email reflector not limited to FCG members, and anyone can belong.** There are currently 83 subscribers on FQP@groups.io. As the 2019 FQP approaches, we expect the number of subscribers on FQP@groups.io to escalate rapidly.

Anyone wishing to subscribe to either email reflector may send an email request to George, K5KG at k5kg@k5kg.com. (Remember, however, **you must be a member of the Florida Contest Group to belong to FCG@groups.io.**) Upon receiving your request to join, George will send you an invitation to subscribe to the reflector. When you receive the invitation, simply follow the instructions, and sign yourself up.

**Here are some tips about using the FCG@groups.io and FQP@groups.io reflectors:**

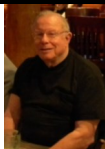
- 1.) When you join a reflector, go into your **PROFILE**, and **enter your call sign and first name (or nickname) in the Display Name field.** **It is critical that your Display Name and/or email address identify your CALL SIGN so we can properly administer your account.** (We have had times when a "BillyBob" subscribed with an email address of "swampbuggy@xyz.com", leaving us in the dark about who he was because he did not provide a call sign.)
- 2.) You can post a photo in the PROFILE. This is optional, but if you do enter a photo, it will appear in the Directory of all subscribers. Typically, subscribers post their photo, but it could be a photo of their shack, antennas, etc.
- 3.) Subscribers can choose any one of these Email Delivery options
  - A.. Individual Messages
  - B. Full Featured Digest – group of up to 12 messages individually (rich formatting)
  - C. Plain Digest – group of up to 12 messages individually (plain formatting)
  - D. Daily Summary – delivered in the morning of group's messages from previous day
  - E. No Email
- 4.) Subscribers can setup a signature format to include in messages for web or e-mail postings.
- 5.) The reflectors are not moderated, so we ask all subscribers to keep their messages related to ham radio related topics and suitable for reading by all age groups. Frequently, subscribers will post for sale, wanted to buy or how to messages on the reflectors, and this is perfectly acceptable.
- 6.) The FCG's old email reflectors, fcg@kkn.net and fqp@kkn.net have been discontinued, and are no longer supported

**In summary, FCG@groups.io and FQP@groups.io are email reflectors that the FCG operates at no cost to the club or the subscribers. If you are currently a subscriber, please check the DISPLAY NAME in your PROFILE to make sure it identifies your CALL SIGN and NAME. If you are not a subscriber, drop me an email so I can get you on board.**

73, George Wagner, K5KG  
K5kg@k5kg.com

## Reflections From Your Editor

By Fred Perkins K4LQ



Worked on a little history this week in the newsletter arena. I began publishing newsletters to the Club web page in 2001. This issue marks our 63rd published newsletter. I looked specifically at the trend in number of newsletters published per month as well as number of pages per newsletter. I found that in the early years we published more and longer newsletters than we do now, despite having fewer members then. This tells me that we had more members contributing more (and probably longer) articles and more pictures than we do now.

So how can we improve our performance in this area?

One way would be to re-introduce some repetitive entries such as Member Profiles. For quite some time we had one of these in every newsletter. In the archives I have profiles and or stories from K0LUZ, N4CC, W4ZW,(SK), W1YL, N4KW, W4LT, WA0USA, N4TB, N3ND, K4CC, NF4A, K9ES, K4PG (SK), N4WW, N4DXI, N6AR, N4QV, K5KG, and W4UM. Some of these came from reflector threads where we discussed how we got into ham radio etc. If any of the above would like to update their profile and re-submit, there are probably 150 members out there who didn't read your first effort. New profiles would certainly be welcomed.

We have a fairly active contingent of members who travel often as frequently as a yearly basis to the Caribbean and other spots to work contests and/or participate in expeditions. If each of you would drop me a few lines and a picture or two when your trip is over, I'm sure our members who can't make such trips would find it interesting.

Do you have some new ham gear that is working great so you would like to tell us about it?

Have you tried the FT8 mode yet? What do you think of it? It certainly helped me pick up a few new countries on 6 Meters during last Summer's E's season. How about using it in contests, particularly the VHF contests? Lots of data here for potential articles.

Kevin K4PG (SK) was at every FCG function for many years snapping pictures, and may have submitted the most pictures to the newsletter. George K5KG would be a close second. Over the years George has certainly submitted the most articles to the newsletter. I am very appreciative of members like Kevin and George who went out of their way to document areas of interest to our members.

But keep in mind, you don't need to be like Kevin and George at the top of the submission list to send me an article. I look forward to hearing from you.

73/Fred K4LQ

## AA4GT Antenna System



My antenna system is complete as of 8-21-2018. I have a new Carolina Windom, a 20 meter dipole and a 2 meter Ringo Ranger. The HF antennas are up 80 ft and the 2 meter is up 75 ft. I have all new RG 8 coax. The Windom runs east and west. The 20 meter dipole runs north and south with a switch so I can go from one antenna to the other.

73/George AA4GT



No, it's not a stowaway from WRTC, it's your trusty editor showing off a silver medal for his age group from a 5K running competition. I guess if you can't win ham radio contests then you have to compete elsewhere.....<)

Note - This picture was found in the unused overflow from a 2001 newsletter when I was a youthful 66, not to be confused with my present age of 84.

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