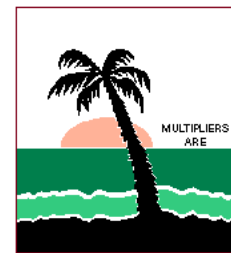




Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

[Http://www.fcg.club](http://www.fcg.club)



Volume 8 Issue 4

August 2001

From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO

Hot on the heels of another record-breaking FCG event, the annual Vicnic (TM), at which we had 47 attendees, we take a moment to catch our collective breath before embarking on another busy contest season.

In June, the FCG completed a successful process of nominations for WRTC-2002 by producing the following slate of candidates (in callsign order): EAST – K1AR, KQ2M, N2NL, NT1N, W4AN WEST – KH6ND, N2IC, N6MJ, N6RT, W0UA. Compare that to the list of 10 USA team captains and you will see that 7 of the FCG nominations made it. Since N6MJ picked our Dave, N2NL, that means that at least 8 of our 10 picks will be going. KH6ND and W0UA still have shots at the wild card, of course. I'm subscribed to a private e-mail reflector that consists of the club presidents from the 13 clubs that were asked to vote. As far as I have seen, none of the other clubs had such a "success" rate. My translation is that we were the fairest and most accurate in our assessment of who truly are the best USA contesters and that we were not too narcissistic in our selections. Thanks again to all who sent in their votes. Originally, the OH sponsors and all 13 clubs had planned to keep their selections private to allow the team captains some privacy while sorting out their picks. Reality is that all 10 captains have already made their selections and the OHs went ahead and published the list anyway.

Our discussions about how best to assist with funding for WRTC-2002 continued at the Vicnic. See Fred's thorough meeting notes on page 9 for further details. We'll be continuing those discussions on the club e-mail reflector.

Field Day was a smashing success for our group in Sarasota. 7 FCGers joined a large contingent from the Sarasota Emergency Radio Club in a 2A effort. Thanks in large part to the advance planning and coordination led by Ron, WD4AHZ and aided by an operating period with no weather interruptions, we managed to have a blast and obliterate any past numbers with 3921 QSOs. Channel 40 did a nice segment on our efforts and several of us got some prime-time coverage on one of the lead stories!

On a sobering note, living in Florida has its share of weather-related anxiety. Shortly after hosting the FCG, Pete, N8PR had a nasty windstorm move through that twisted his tallest tower (see pix on pg. 7). Then, shortly after the Vicnic (see any trends yet? Look out, Eric!), N4TO had some lightning damage to a number of rotators & control boxes. Don't forget the significant lightning-related damage at K4XS and the close call with Tropical Storm Barry. I arrived home last week just as small hail was pelting my car, house and towers. No damage to report, fortunately, but it serves as a reminder of just how vulnerable we all are.

At press time, two more folks joined the FCG, bringing our numbers to 93. Wow! Our presence is felt well beyond the borders of Florida, too. With NP4Z, V44NK & KJ4UY, 5U7JK, J75KG(K5KG), VP5DX(NU4Y), NP2B to be operated this coming Sweepstakes by N4BP on CW and W4OV on SSB, C6AKP(N4RP), C6AKQ(N4BP), N4PN/somewhere neat, W4SO/Caribbean or SA, K4VUD spending significant chunks of time in SE Asia, and a bunch of us going on frequent expeditions, our collective impact increases constantly.

Read George, K5KG's autobiography carefully and slowly. There is a ton of neat stuff in there! As a Novice back in the early '70s, I listened on a short-wave receiver to 20M CW and wrote down calls as fast as I could one morning. One of those calls was ET3USA. It may have even been George operating at the time. Not yet having a sense of what was rare and what was not, I just kept tuning and writing down

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I came across that piece of paper several years later and salivated, since it took me many more years to finally work an ET. Lars, SM0GMG and I are about the same age. Lars visited me in CT back in the late '70s. As teenagers, I had a blast driving him all over W1 to many of the big stations of the time. I dreamed of having the chance to return the visit. Guess what? And I guess everyone has a Lloyd & Iris story. On my first CQWWCW expedition, to St. Vincent (now J8) in 1979 with K1XA, Bob and I received the calls VP2SA and VP2SX. 2 days later, the Colvins arrived and got VP2SAX! We chose 'SX for the contest and almost doubled the Colvin QSO total to their wide-eyed amazement.

Ulysses, KD4RWN is featured in the latest issue of CQ-Contest in the Youth and Beginners column. I scanned the article and have it available to anyone in .JPG format. Blake, N4GI was featured a while back in that same column. Good stuff!

How many times does a non-ham neighbor call you out of the blue and ask to talk about towers? I took a deep breath as this happened to me last week. Turns out that the guy is considering a high-speed wireless Internet business that would service a 3-4 mile radius out our way (where DSL and cable modems are only a dream) and wanted to pick my brain on potential supporting structures, including something called Rohn 25G! After a deep sigh of relief, I offered my assistance with the project. His other alternative is a massive crank-up/fold-over tower that he found here in Sarasota...

Perhaps you read my comments after the WAE CW contest. It was enjoyable to help the FCG club score and to work a number of folks who I can now put a face with, thanks to WRTC-2000 and the Friedrichshafen hamfest. The WAE still has some serious shortcomings, especially the QTC begging, the forced off time concept and the allowance of packet for single-ops. The sponsors counter with the argument that so many so-called single ops were using packet anyway, but there are other ways of dealing with that than caving in. I understand that the CQWW Contest Committee did some extensive comparisons of single-op logs against packet spots and came up with some interesting results!

That's all for now. Let's keep having fun, learning a few things along the way, and piling up those points for the FCG! See you at Melbourne & Eric's or another future meeting!

vy 73, Dan

Welcome Aboard



The following new members have joined FCG since the last newsletter:

5U7JK Jim Knowlton, SIM BP 10065, Niamey, Niger Republic

K4LAW Biff Craine, 13515 Greenleaf Drive, Tampa FL 33613-4124 e-mail: scraine1@tampabay.rr.com

ND4AA Norm Duxbury, 65 Ocean Drive, Ponce Inlet FL 32127 e-mail: ndux@bigfoot.com

KE1F Lou Mcseri, 8 Canarsie Place, Palm Coast FL 32137 e-mail: ke1f@arrl.net

T93M Daniel Horvat, 101 Old Coachman Rd., Apt 909 Clearwater FL 33765 e-mail T93M@T93M.com

Events Calendar

Melbourne Hamfest - September 8

Cookout at Eric, K9ES's QTH in Indian Harbour Beach FL 4:30 PM till ? - Sept 8 - Map on back page.

ARRL September VHF QSO Party 1800Z, Sep 8 - 0300Z, Sep 10

North American Sprint, CW 0000Z - 0400Z, Sep 9

North American Sprint, SSB 0000Z - 0400Z, Sep 16

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Oct 27 - 2400Z, Oct 28

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW 2100Z, Nov 3 - 0300Z, Nov 5

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB 2100Z, Nov 17 - 0300Z, Nov 19

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Nov 24 - 2400Z, Nov 25

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec 7 - 1600Z, Dec 9

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 15 - 2400Z, Dec 16

5U7JK New DX Member

By Fred Perkins, K4LQ

Jim Knowlton, 5U7JK became our newest (honorary) DX member this week. Jim is a missionary working in Niamey, Niger Republic and is the only ham currently "resident" in Niger.

The Northern California DX Foundation donated some money toward a rig for him, and asked FCG to help him find one while he was on leave in Sebring visiting his parents. N4TO and I took him to AES Orlando where he was able to pick up an Icom IC-706.

Jim mentioned that he wished he could be in the States long enough to visit a hamfest, because he wanted to get a polo shirt with his call on it. After discussion with some of our officers, we decided it should be an FCG polo shirt. Joanne KT3O was able to get one put together in short order, and I presented it to him yesterday. Jim was delighted, and thanked us for our help.

Jim is working hard to get ham radio started in Niger, under some very difficult conditions. Temperatures in Niamey, which is on the edge of the Sahara desert stay over 100 degrees round the clock for months on end. Unprotected computer disk drives have a shelf life of less than 30 days because of the fine sand blowing in from the desert. Anything mechanical has a very high breakdown rate.

He has only had his US license for a year, so is still early on the ham radio learning curve himself. He works at a university and encourages students interest in ham radio.

He has access to a tower and TH-6 antenna left by a departing missionary pilot, which he hopes to be able to relocate it to his own QTH perhaps early next year..

Paolo, I2UIY and an Italian group will be visiting Niger in February next year for the ARRL CW test and will be using Jim's location and antennas plus some additional equipment that they will bring.

I will be forwarding newsletters to Jim via e-mail, which is usually available for download only at 3 am local due to the limited ISP facilities and high daytime usage.

73, Fred K4LQ



Jim, 5U7JK sporting his new FCG Polo Shirt.

Claimed Scores - NAQP CW

By Jeff Bolda, WC4E

CW:

FCG #1 Florida Contest Group Team #1

N4AO (WC4E) 750/190 142,500

K5KG 657/208 136,656

K1PT 673/176 118,448

NJ4M (WD4AHZ) 554/157 86,978

N4DL 459/135 61,965

Team #1 Total.....546,547 Outstanding!

FCG #2 Florida Contest Group Team #2

N4IG 350/133 39,550

N4OX @W5AA 545/170 92,650

KB4N

N4RP

N2NL/M p/t

Other FCG scores heard:

NF4A 114/5 6 6,384

N4BP 500/134 67,000 4:16 Hours

Forty –four Years of Hamming A K5KG Profile

By George Wagner, K5KG

For many years I was fortunate to have jobs that required extensive foreign travel. I was able to visit hams in many countries and experience hamming from their perspective. Certainly, there are differences in cultures, languages, economies, etc., but a common thread of interest exists with hams all over the world. They are all challenged by the technical aspects of the hobby – radios, antennas, computers – as well as the working latest “rare one”, preparing for the next contest, dealing with TVI, etc.

My ham life began in 1957 as KN9KBW in Kokomo, Indiana, the home of Delco Electronics, or Delco Radio, as it was known then. As the manufacturer of all GM car radios, Delco was always a popular employer for hams, and all my Elmers worked for Delco. The Kokomo ARC was very active and many of us got into ham radio during high school. The Boy Scout First Class Morse Code requirement and the opportunity to earn merit badges in electricity, signaling and radio was also a boost. In those years, the Novice Class license was only good for a year, so we all upgraded to General Class, which required a trip – and a day out of school -- to the FCC office in Indianapolis.

Following a two-year stint in the US Army Signal Corps and operating as K9KBW/4 from Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, I landed a civilian job as a field engineer for Collins Radio in Asmara, Ethiopia. This was a dream job -- installation and support of a large SSB HF facility for communications with Air Force One and other White House VIP aircraft. The assignment was with the US Army at Kagnew Station, the home of ET3USA. The station began in 1942 as ET2US when Eritrea was a separate country. Eritrea was annexed to Ethiopia in 1962 and the call was probably changed to ET3USA at that time. The station lasted until sometime around 1974 when it was machine gunned by a soldier of the revolution. (Ethiopia's annexation of Eritrea as a province sparked a 30-year struggle for independence that ended in 1991 with Eritrean rebels defeating governmental forces; independence was overwhelmingly approved in a 1993 referendum. A border war with Ethiopia that erupted in 1998 remains unresolved.)

During the years of 1967 to 1970 that I was involved with ET3USA, a small group of us did every contest possible. In addition to the call ET3USA, we were authorized to use 9E3USA and 9F3USA, but we reserved these calls for WPX contests. These were the years of the W4BPD and W9WNV expeditions to the Indian Ocean, and we would rag chew with Gus and Don when the bands were dead. Because ET3USA was located in a military family housing area and next to an NCO club, we were always fraught with TVI problems. Fortunately, the Sergeant Major was a ham and a great help with neighborhood PR. His XYL was French and also a ham.

We would recruit her to operate in contests to pick up the rare Indian Ocean and African French speaking multipliers that otherwise would never show up! During one WPX contest we combined the stations of ET3USA and ET3REL (also in the neighborhood) for a multi-multi effort and, as I recall, we set an African record that went unbroken for many years. In 1968, I had an opportunity to spend two weeks in Mauritius to support communications for the Apollo Eight mission. I met Steve, VQ8CC, and was able to do some limited operating from his QTH.

We lived in Texas off and on for some ten years during the 70's and early 80's. In 1967 I picked up an Extra Class ticket and the call W5QHD, and in 1976 became K5KG. In 1978 I joined forces with W5SJS and built a contest station at his place of business, a lumber yard with lots of property and no televisions.

During the mid-70's we lived in Anchorage where I was licensed as KL7IDH. I attempted DXing and contesting but those were poor propagation years, especially from the Northern latitudes, and it was difficult to work much other than JA's and the Pacific. On one occasion, my XYL and I visited the Pribilof Islands where we met KL7EGE who was living there as a missionary from a church in the Midwest. Unfortunately, the Russian Orthodox priest had put his church off limits to the Alaskan natives on the island, so his only congregation was the local Coast Guard staff. Thanks to the support of his church back home, he was able to operate a motorbike rental business that greatly appealed to the native children, thereby allowing him to work with the natives and, in a fashion, carry out his missionary work.

From 1981 to 1986 I was active from HZ1AB, the Dhahran ARC station. Unfortunately, weekends in Saudi Arabia (as in all Muslim countries) fall on Thursday and Friday, so getting off work for a contest was always a struggle. On a few occasions I was able to operate from HZ1TC and 7Z2AP, both local hams in Riyadh. Our club had a special get-together one evening to host Ahmad, HZ1HZ, the retired PTT minister and a wonderful gentleman whose ticket was personally issued by King Saud. My mother, who was visiting us at the time, opened the door when Ahmad arrived in his full Saudi gold-trimmed regalia, exclaimed, “The prince is at the door!” (you had to be there). As it happened, she and Ahmad, who were the same age, had a pleasant time visiting that evening.

I was fortunate during the mid-80's to be able to make several trips to operate from the QTH of Kee, OHØNA, whom I met through Lars, SMØGMG. On my first trip to OHØ, I acquired a Drake TR7 for Kee and hand carried it to him. During a winter visit I attempted an ARRL DX SSB contest from there, but conditions were poor and I did not make a big splash in spite of monoband yagis on 20 and 40 meters. In 1982 Kee invited me to go on the summer DXpeditions to Market Reef, OJØ, a barren collection of rocks and lighthouse in the Baltic Sea west of OHØ.

Since I was licensed as K5KG/OHØ and I would be “portable” from OJØ, my call was assigned as K5KG/OHØ/OJØ. Imagine several thousand CW contacts with a 12-character call and no memory keyer!

The following year I did the IARU RadioSport contest as K5KG/OHØ from OH2BH’s OHØW QTH. In four back-to-back years, I operated RadioSport from four continents: K5, OHØ, VS6, and LU.

In August 1985 I went to Amman, Jordan to operate for a week during the Hajj pilgrimage holidays. Through some advanced telephone calls to Mohammed, JY4MB, I was told which hotel to go to and to phone him when I got there. He arranged for me to operate from JY6ZZ, the Jordanian club station, where I operated as JY8GW. (Lloyd and Iris had preceded me by a few months, so JY8KG was not an available call.) A week of operation culminated with the All Asian DX contest. Doing the contest from Europe’s back door with a fully equipped KW station was a lay-up, and the JA’s did not stand a chance. I took first place.

During the time we were living in Saudi Arabia, I was able to make several trips to VS6. A couple of phone calls led me to Paul, VS6DO, who graciously opened his home and well-equipped shack to me. As in OHØ, I also worked an ARRL DX SSB test from there but with mixed results due to poor conditions and the remoteness from the States. To operate from VS6 is to run JA’s day and night.

On one of my trips to the far east (while recruiting for engineers to work in HZ), I met Gopal, VU2GI, on the air from VS6 and arranged to meet him in Bombay. What resulted was a wonderful visit with him and his XYL, VU2YL. I was able to operate from his QTH, and that was quite a thrill since we had a solid opening into W8, W9 and VE3 on 20 meters that night. Gopal told me the story of how he became a ham that I thought was most interesting. As a boy in high school and without the help of an Elmer, he studied ham radio from books, passed his license exam, built his first rig and put himself on the air. The ham he worked during his first CW contact was the first ham he ever met. Quite an accomplishment indeed!

Prior to moving to New Jersey in 1987, we lived in Buenos Aires for a year and a half where I was active as both LU6KG and K5KG/LU. We found the LU hams – and there are many of them -- to be extremely cordial and very helpful. We lived in an apartment on the top floor of a 30-story building and, with the assistance of Ron, LU2AH, had a TH7 and a 2-element 40 meter Yagi installed on the roof. I suppose this was the highest ham antenna in South America. A highlight of my contesting in Argentina was doing a multi-single with Jorge, LU8DQ, as AZ8DQ in the 1986 WPX CW contest. Jorge, who is now a silent key, was a phenomenal operator, and it is most fitting that he was elected in 1997 into the Contest Hall of Fame.

In May 1998, I had the privilege of participating in the 3B7RF operation on St. Brandon, a remote archipelago some 400 km northeast of Mauritius. The likelihood of this dxpedition came up two years earlier when I met Karl, HB9JAI, at Dayton.

He presented the plans for this operation and asked if I would like to be one of the crew; he was looking for US operators. I agreed and subsequently recruited one of my HZ1AB buddies, Walter, W7SE. The dxpedition was carried out with great success. Fifteen operators activated four stations for fourteen days of 3B7RF operations, netting 53,000+ QSO’s. The 3B7RF story was published in October 1998 QST.

In 2000 I discovered Dominica. Through the assistance of Lambert, J73LC, I got the call sign, J75KG. That call was first used during ten days of operation in July 2000, including the IARU contest. Subsequently, Paul, K5AF, and I operated in November 2000, during which we multi-singled CQWW CW. And again in July 2001, I spent another 10 days banging out the Q’s and another IARU. Total QSO’s thus far from J75KG exceed 31,000. I operate from the Sea Cliff cottages on the northeast coast of the island, high above the Atlantic coast. The proprietors of Sea Cliff are very accommodating — I can put up all the antennas I can stand, and keep my equipment in safe, dry storage between visits.

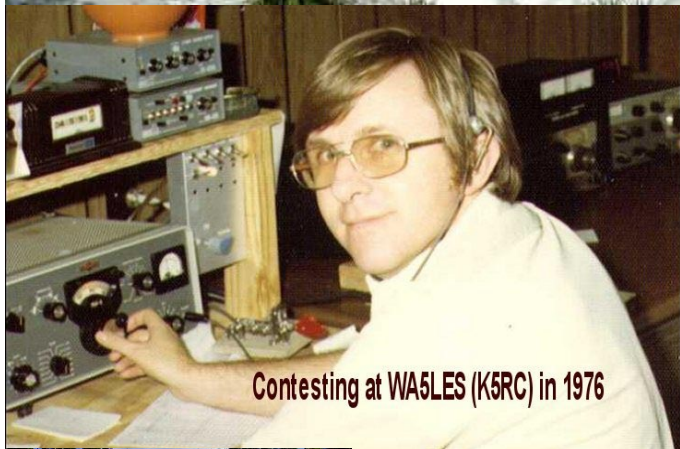
Our years in Morristown, NJ lasted until August 2000, when we moved to Siesta Key, Florida. The New Jersey years yielded many contests and good camaraderie with the Frankford Radio Club gang. Through my association with them, I learned a great deal about contesting. It was during these years that I was introduced to computerized logging, packet spotting and multi-single operation.



George, K5KG as his shack on Siesta Key



K5KG Tower & Antennas on Siesta Key



Contesting at WA5LES (K5RC) in 1976



The K5KG Tower and Antennas at Morristown NJ



Above - K5KG's present antennas in final phase of installation, with Dan, K1TO and George K5KG tightening the last few bolts. Left - Ground crew in a relaxed mode in between pulling the rope to raise the antenna.

CQWW SSB claimed vs actual - M/M

Thanks to Vic N4TO for the research on this one. Kudos to Vic and his team for an exemplary log! We just barely missed the "box" which shows band-by-band breakdowns for the top 6. Still, we moved up over three other stations who had sloppier logs and had the lowest point reduction of anyone!!

CALL	"3830"	CLAIMED	PUBLISHED	REDUCTION
KC1XX	22,657,158	22,548,190	20,691,530	8.2%
K3LR	21,311,100	21,033,168	20,008,190	4.9%
W3LPL	20,457,009	20,350,939	18,194,336	10.6%
K9NS	16,308,327	16,165,380	14,482,776	10.4%
N3RS	13,300,000	13,149,808	11,891,996	9.6%
W4MYA	12,689,365	12,614,159	11,041,326	12.5%
N4TO	11,737,508	11,592,305	10,853,379	7.5%
N2RM	none	11,824,384	10,781,519	8.8%
K1KI	11,949,552	11,826,927	10,505,176	11.1%
K1TTT	none	12,248,352	10,275,200	16.1%
NQ4I	11,681,865	11,534,364	10,225,320	11.4%
W1FJ	none	11,176,734	10,174,725	9.0%
W6KK	10,556,666	10,406,606	9,598,531	7.8%
KR1G	11,112,588	10,945,349	9,509,661	13.1%
W3PP	10,356,807	10,229,940	9,030,528	11.7%
W2AX	none	8,908,305	7,829,717	12.1%
KB1H	8,388,514	8,289,540	7,345,450	11.4%
K3NM	7,621,406	7,572,432	6,576,442	13.2%

Field Day can be windy in South Florida !

By Pete Rimmel, N8PR

While helping another Ham take down a tower Saturday, we had some severe weather here in So. Fla. We laughed when we realized that the rain started at 1 PM just in time for Field Day. It ALWAYS rains here for field day.

Imagine my surprise when I got home to see my 70 ft crank up leaning as shown in the photos. Mother Nature did not like me laughing at her!

Also had some wires blown down, and the 160 M loop. Worst to think about, although my big tower did not come down, at least two insulators look like the one attached... Lucky the big one stayed up. It is slightly twisted, and I will have to climb it to see what damage really exists.

73, Pete N8PR



Two views of Pete's 70 ft Tower



An insulator from Pete's big tower !

More Field Day Pictures



Sarasota ERC Field Day Site - Manned partially by FCG Troops - WD4AHZ, WC4E, K4OJ, K1TO, N4TO, N4KM



*Jeff, WC4E sees some field day action!
Note the position of the paddle!*



Kevin, N4KM takes his turn at the operating position.



Ron, WD4AHZ operates while Ken, K4AKL looks on.

August Picnic at N4TO Meeting Summary

Attendees were AB4RL & Dad (Peter), AE4MR, AE4RO & Ingrid, K1PT & KD1BG, K1TO, K4LQ & Sheila, K4WJ & Susan, K4XS, K5KG & Kay, KT3T & KT3O, N4EK & KD4BRJ, N4IG, N4KM, N4OO, N4RP & Lona, N4TO, N8PR & Jan, NA4AR, W3AZD & WB3ANE, W4DN, W4DTA & Elizabeth, W4IR & Barbara, W4JAM & W0MAN, W4OV & Sandy, W4QM, W4UM & W4SLR, WC4E, WD4AHZ, W8EK, N8AJU & KC8IOY, W4DN

Forty-eight members and guests enjoyed the hospitality and camaraderie which has now become traditional at Vic N4TO's August FCG Picnic. Hot dogs and hamburgers were cooked with dispatch and expertise by Paul, KT3T on the portable grill that he brought for the occasion and all the fixins were ready and waiting for the deserving. These were washed down with lots of soft drinks and more than an occasional cerveza!

The afternoon heat peaked and a shower threatened as Dan got the meeting under way, so the meeting discussions were a bit more brief than usual. Dan began by thanking Vic for his hospitality, (thunderous applause).

He reviewed the positive results in last year's 10 Meter Contest. FCG took top honors Nationally in the Medium Category, beating out the little known Frankford Radio Club (FRC) by 237,172 points. (more thunderous applause) They had 28 entrants and we had 31, pointing up the fact that just participating, even if you do not make a big score, really counts. Some notable individual scores were:

N4OX... #1 LP SSB
K1TO...#1 LP CW
K4XS...#2 HP SSB
WC4E...#2 HP Mixed
WD4AHZ...#5 LP CW
N4BP...#4 HP CW
NA4CW # 2 QRP Mixed

Dan noted the continued growth of the club from 73 members at the end of last year. The somewhat arbitrary goal of 88 by the end of this year is already exceeded, with the membership now standing at 93.

Dan said that he wanted to mention the extra effort put in by some members in providing support to the club. He thanked Ron WD4AHZ for keying all the paper logs from the FQP into the computer for processing and for his fantastic job on the web site (applause)

Dan also noted the contributions of Jeff, WC4E in preparing and distributing all the publicity paperwork for FQP as well as preparing and mailing the certificates. (applause).

Dan said that the Contest Gazette compared very favorably with other Contest Club newsletters, a fact that could easily be determined by comparisons on the net. He also highlighted Fred K4LQ's efforts to support the 5U7JK activities outlined on the e-mail reflector and web site earlier. (applause)

Ron and Dan noted that publication of the FQP results will be delayed somewhat this year due to the fact that Dave, K8CC, who volunteered to develop some log checking software to sort out the results, has been busy elsewhere recently, and it will take us some extra effort this year to "retool" to gear the checking towards the more automated method.

Jeff, WC4E encouraged increased club activity in the November Sweepstakes. W4OV and N4BP will be in the Virgin Islands this year working the SSB and CW SS Contests respectively.

Vic's M/M team placed 7th in the CQWW SSB test last year, just barely below the top six finishers who had their band by band scores displayed in a box in the score summaries in CQ magazine. N4TO had the lowest score reduction of any M/M in the Top 10

A question was asked as to FCG participation in the upcoming WRTC 2002. Dan, K1TO will be heading for OH to defend his title along with Jeff, N5TJ, and Dave, N2NL will be going because he was selected by Team Captain Dan, N6MJ as his partner. Jeff, WC4E noted that the WRTC wildcard selection process is a little different for 2002. In the past, it was based on individuals being chosen to be captains. For 2002, 2-person teams apply together as a unit. Based on the fact that the OHs will be looking at single-op activity in WPX, IARU and CQWW, Jeff felt that he has a legit shot at being selected for a USA wild card slot!

Dan noted that the subject of financial support for the upcoming WRTC had been raised on the reflector and invited comment from folks at the meeting, keeping in mind that no final decision would be made at the meeting. His personal viewpoint is that club funds should not be used for this purpose, since they had been designated specifically for other things.

Member comments varied widely, but included the following, in no particular order:

1. The Club should make no donation out of Club funds, which had been primarily designated for Newsletter and FQP support.
2. The Club should make a donation from Club funds. We are becoming a nationally recognized contest club, and as such, need to be seen as a participant in financially supporting WRTC.
3. The Club should make a donation to this worthy cause, but it should be made by members voluntarily on an individual basis, with some central Club collection point to gather the money and then resend it to the appropriate place. (K4LQ was suggested as a collection point).

It was further suggested that perhaps the time to do this was at the beginning of next year at the same time the dues will be collected.

The question was asked - "How much is in the Club treasury if it is decided to use club money for this function." The answer is that we now have \$504.54 in the treasury, and will probably have \$300 plus at year's end, after currently budgeted expenditures.

Dan said that further discussion would take place on the reflector before any decision was made.

Paul Toth, Assistant ARRL Section Manager for West Central Florida spoke briefly to note that Evelyn Gauzens, W4WYR had announced her retirement from the Southeastern Division Vice Director Job. Paul indicated that he will be running for that position, and requested our support when ballots are received. It certainly wouldn't hurt to have a club member on the ARRL Board of Directors to further our contesting interests!

That pretty well wrapped up the meeting, and members began moving tables and chairs indoors before the arrival of the afternoon thunderstorm.

Later, one of our members was overheard to say " Let's hit the road, Boo Boo Bear". Rules for the "Guess who is Boo Boo Bear Contest" MAY be announced on the reflector at a later date. Those within earshot are not eligible for prizes. Stay tuned.



Tom, AE4RO turns on that just worked a new one on six meters smile!



Vic, N4TO makes a point during the WRTC funding discussions.



The XYL group in action in the COOL air conditioning. Left to right around the table, Susan/K4WJ, Sandy/W4OV, Kay/ K5KG, Sheila/K4LQ, Joanne KT3O and, with her back to us Barbara/W4IR



George, K5KG and Bruce, W4OV comparing dxpeditions



A group picture from the side in Vic's back yard



L to R, Sherry W4SLR John, K4WJ and Steve, W4DTA



L to R, Kevin, N4KM Ron, WD4AHZ, Jeff, WC4E and Dan, K1TO



Steve, W4DTA Dan, K1TO and Bruce, W4OV discuss the state of the contesting world.



L to R, Dick, N4RP, Lona, Peter, AB4RL's Dad, Art, AB4RL, Paul, KIPT and Pidge, KD1BG



Mikem, W4UM and John, K4WJ enjoy a chuckle



Two relative unknowns from the Dxing world, Don, W3AZD and Dale, W4QM



Our genial host, Vic, N4TO, gets to eat, finally!



Mikem, W4UM, Steve, W4DTA and Dave, W4DN



Fresh from the jungles of Botswana, no, make that Sopchoppy, Ink, N4OO sports the latest in Pith Helmets



And last but definitely not least, Chef Extrordinaire Paul, KT3T, demonstrates how it's done.



Can you find the Boo Boo Bear?

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Goldilocks.oh sorry, wrong bear story! As noted in the Vicnic writeup, one of the people leaving the event was heard to say "Lets hit the road Boo Boo Bear!" The unidentified recipient of these remarks is suspected to be in the above group, but if your editor knows which one, he's not saying!

Notes from around the Club

By Fred Perkins, K4LQ

Our Webmaster Ron WD4AHZ reported that he was able to take advantage of new domain names, and give our webpage a new address: <http://www.fcg.club> ! If you try to access the club's webpage at that address and it doesn't work, you can download a plug in to make it work with your browser.

For Internet Explorer:
<http://www.new.net/download/instructions.win.ie.tp>

For Netscape Navigator/Communicator:
[Http://www.new.net/download/instructions.win.netscape.tp](http://www.new.net/download/instructions.win.netscape.tp)

From the Reflector)
I wanted to publicly announce here first, that there will be at least two FCG members competing at WRTC 2002.

Although I was not selected myself as a team captain, my prospective teammate Dan, N6MJ, was. We had been talking for over a year now about possibly competing as teammates, even before the initial announcement that it would be held in Finland was made.

Dan has "mutant" capabilities as a phone op (he had 396 claimed QSO's in the last SSB sprint) and is one of the best CW ops in the world. We feel as a team we can compete successfully next year and perhaps do quite well. Over the next year we will be practicing and continuing to improve so that

we can give Dan and Jeff a run for their money. N6MJ already has his flight confirmed and will be joining me and Bill for a M/S at K4XS for CQWW CW.

I want to thank everyone in the Florida Contest Group. You guys have welcomed me into your club with open arms and the enthusiasm this club has is amazing. Most of all, I'd like to thank Paul, K1PT and Bill, K4XS, for opening their homes and stations to me and allowing me to use their stations. Next year I will be wearing an FCG shirt to Finland with Pride. 73, Dave, N2NL

Gary, WB4IHI has changed his call to W4IHI. His new e-mail address is w4ihi@arrl.net

Revision to my "Hero of the FCG" nomination in our last newsletter.

Joe, W4SAA just reminded me that he was not the only FCG who suffered prolonged exposure to winter's icy temperatures. (as noted in last newsletter - ed) I apologize for my neglect. Ed, KN4Y suffered from exposure to even lower temperatures, like in the 30s, while striving for the glory of FCG. However it is my understanding that Ed was protected icy Polar blasts by walls. . In view of the above I revise my nomination to call for Joe to receive the "GOLD" and Ed to receive the "SILVER".

73, Dick N4RP

ARRL has recently announced approval of "Logbook of the World" and has begin software design to implement it. It will be an electronic contact-verification program. ARRL Membership Services Manager and LOTW Project Manager, Wayne Mills, N7NG, said the software could be available as early as the middle of next year.

At the heart of the Logbook of the World concept is a huge repository of log data provided by operators--from individual DXers and contesters to major DXpeditions--and maintained by ARRL. Mills says the system will benefit big and little guns alike by providing quick QSO credit for awards offered by ARRL, and, it's hoped, for awards offered by other organizations as well.

SS SSB 2000 - FCG Entrants

SS CW 2000 - FCG Entrants

SS SSB 2000 – FCG Entrants

N4BP	240,800	1505	80	19	B	SFL
AD4TR	166,240	1039	80	23	B	SFL
K1PT	109,600	685	80	12	B	SFL
AE4SW	104,640	654	80	17	B	SFL
K9ES	75,768	492	77	24	B	SFL
W4SAA	41,100	274	75	20	B	SFL
AE4RO	26,334	171	77	9	A	SFL
NA4CW	62,568	396	79	18	Q	SFL

#8 USA, #1 SE Region, SE Div Plaque

N2NL	60,040	380	79	11	U	SFL
K4VUD	252,320	1577	80	24	B	NFL
NF4A	97,812	627	78	10	A	NFL
NU4Y	81,120	507	80	14	A	NFL
KB4N	59,700	398	75	13	A	NFL
WØEBA	40,280	265	76	15	A	NFL
WB4IHI	19,312	136	71	8	A	NFL
KD4BRJ	17,792	139	64	8	A	NFL
W3TMZ	10,080	70	72	5	A	NFL
KQ4YY	19,520	160	61	13	Q	NFL

#3 SE Region

K4XS	324,160	2026	80	24	B	WCF
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#9 USA, #3 SE Region

WC4E	253,920	1587	80	24	B	WCF
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#4 SE Region

N4IG	68,160	426	80	17	A	WCF
K4FB	2	1	1	1	Q	WCF
N4DL	88,638	561	79	16	U	WCF

SE Div Plaque

K4WCF (K1TO,N4KM,WD4AHZ, ops) @K1TO	223,040	1394	80	24	M	WCF
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#2 SE Region, SE Div Plaque

N4PK (+K1KNQ) @K1TO	222,080	1388	80	24	M	WCF
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#3 SE Region

Affiliated Club Competition

Medium Category	Score	Logs	1999
1-Southern California Contest Club	4,504,436	38	2
2-Mad River Radio Club	4,444,404	45	5
3-Florida Contest Group	3,996,490	43	6
4-Tennessee Contest Group	2,923,442	34	4
5-North Texas Contest Club	2,883,116	28	3
6-South East Contest Club	2,676,454	24	8
7-Frankford Radio Club	2,161,800	28	UNL
8-Western Washington DX Club	2,002,078	18	7
9-North Coast Contesters	1,835,462	18	10
10-Oklahoma DX Assn.	1,614,748	13	11

SOAPBOX - SSB

First SS since the mid-50s. Made an unexpected sweep.
The last section was North Florida (N4IG)

SS CW 2000 – FCG Entrants

W9IOP	30,888	234	66	5	B	NFL
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(W3TMZ op)

NU4Y	96,538	611	79	14	A	NFL
NF4A	75,816	486	78	13	A	NFL
KB4N	26,586	211	63	8	A	NFL
WB4IHI	20,020	154	65	8	A	NFL
KN4Y	11,036	89	62	9	A	NFL
K1PT	157,920	987	80	23	B	SFL
AD4TR	40,848	276	74	22	B	SFL
W4SAA	34,716	263	66	23	B	SFL
AE4SW	37,350	249	75	8	A	SFL
W4OV	23,392	172	68	13	A	SFL
WD4JR	12,204	113	54	5	A	SFL
NA4CW	86,580	555	78	21	Q	SFL

#4 SE Region

W4FMS	38,216	281	68	22	Q	SFL
N2NL	129,120	807	80	21	U	SFL

#3 SE Region, SE Div Plaque, new Div record

K1TO	215,040	1344	80	24	B	WCF
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#6 USA, #3 SE Region, SE Div plaque

N4AO	173,120	1082	80	24	B	WCF
K4OJ	152,000	950	80	19	B	WCF
K4LQ	109,178	691	79	22	B	WCF
W1CW	60,000	400	75	14	B	WCF
W1YL	2,700	50	27	2	B	WCF
K4WCF	131,840	824	80	24	A	WCF

(WD4AHZ op)

K5KG	86,702	563	77	16	A	WCF
K4FB	40,500	270	75	14	Q	WCF
N4PK	6,480	72	45	6	Q	WCF

NP2B	179,040	1119	80	24	A	VI
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(N4BP op) #3 USA, #2 SE Region, SE Div Plaque

Soapbox- Cw

Our newborn son came home Saturday afternoon around 2 Pm, so I spent more time in the house than in the shack. Missed VO1... heard VO1MP early on, but never again! (K4FB)

WAE FCG CW Scores

K5KG	1395	1391	175	=	1,188,341	36
N4BP	1488	1484	149	335	=	995,285
N4AO	250	250	75	=	80,500	5 Tribander/Wire
N4DL	43	30	22	=	3,723	1.5 LP
K1TO	343	340	196	=	133,868	

September Meeting to be at K9ES QTH

By Eric Smitt, K9ES

Hi guys, Since the Melbourne hamfest is in my side of the state, I thought it would be nice to include the FCG meeting and a cookout at my QTH instead of meeting at lunch at a central point. The date is September 8th, and like other outings, I will need an RSVP list to prepare the food

By the way, my XYL is a caterer, and we own a catering business.....

So think about it, and RSVP. I figure we can start around 4:30 and go til ??? PS, if anyone wants beer, they had better bring it. We do not drink in our home (but you can!)

73's Eric K9ES

Florida Contest Group

Dan Street, K1TO
President
9993 289th Street East
Myakka City, FL 34251
k1to@aol.com

Jeff Bolda, WC4E
V.P. Operations
28551 Darby Road
Dade City FL 33525
wc4e@innet.com

Ron Wetjen, WD4AHZ
V.P. Florida QSO Party
5362 Castleman Drive
Sarasota, FL 34232
wd4ahz@arrl.net

Fred Perkins, K4LQ
Secretary/Treasurer
Newsletter Editor
3437 Lake Josephine Drive
Lake Placid FL 33852
k4lq@arrl.net

