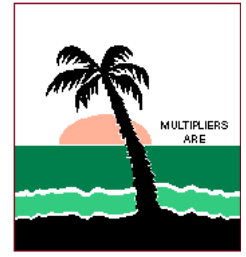




Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.org



Volume 11 Issue 4

August 2004

From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO



Charley. The worst hurricane to hit the Gulf coast of Florida in over 40 years left a trail of destruction reminiscent of Andrew. Many club members were adversely affected, the worst being Gary, NW5E's fallen VHF tower. On the east side of the storm, where the forward path of the storm and the counter-clockwise rotation combine to cause greater damage, those in Sebring and suburbs of Orlando took the worst of it within the FCG territory. It was scary to watch the guy wires on my tallest tower flop in the wind as if they were unattached rather than having hundreds of pounds of tension on them. Also, the HD chrome-molly mast flexing was a sight to see as well.

Seeing a number of club members contributing to the relief efforts, particularly down in Charlotte County, reinforced one of the basic mottos of the club which is to help each other and others outside the club who need assistance in any of a wide variety of respects. How many times have we cited our involvement in ham radio as more than a pure hobby because of our ability to communicate after a disaster takes out channels of "normal" communication? Thanks to all who fulfilled this credo.

Vicnic attendance was again high this year as many of us enjoyed a fun afternoon at N4TO's. This is a yearly tradition that has been one of the top highlights of the FCG calendar. See pages 16-18 for a full recap.

Seven years into the FQP, we broke the 700-log barrier this year! Admittedly, half of those are mobile logs from their various counties, but our log count now ranks as number one among the state QSO parties. Thanks to all of you who helped achieve this through operating and handing out counties to the swelling ranks. OJ was very much present this year. The number of "OJ"s that were exchanged over the air during and after QSOs was a truly remarkable tribute to the man who loved to promote this contest. Having an out-of-state QRPer sweep all counties before the break on Saturday is perhaps the best indication of how well we are covering all the counties and keeping people interested!

OJ was prevalent in this month's NAQPs as well. A number of FCG members banded together into teams of 5 with many signing "OJ" as their name. In recent years, Jim showed

some interest in SSB, much to the chagrin of his folks, so it was nice to see some of the SSB entrants also honor Jim.

Results from a number of contests are now published. While the results show 53 entries in the 10-Meter Contest and a close second finish, despite many less entries, we actually should have been shown as the winners of the Medium Club Category, since 3 logs were incorrectly classified as FCG. Dan, N1ND at ARRL HQ has corrected this for us, so we are officially the GAVEL WINNERS for the Medium Club Competition - GREAT JOB, FOLKS! FCG members are atop most of the major national categories - VFB! Our advantage will only increase as the sunspots further disappear. See the summary of the 10-Meter Contest on page 5."

A similar thing happened in SS with the entry count incorrectly pushing us into the Unlimited class. Mad River still legitimately beat us, so that misclassification is less painful. Congrats to K4XS and K4PV for cracking the national high-power Top Ten in SS SSB. In fact, Bill had the top score from the continental 48, finishing 2nd only to the perennial guest-op winner from Puerto Rico. That was perhaps Bill's second-most eye-catching

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activity of SS 2003, for he produced the #2 QRP score nationwide on CW! Team OJ finished a respectable 7th on CW, while the FCG fielded the #2 and #4 multi-op scores on SSB. N4BP piloted NP2B to another high finish in the overall CW low-power category.

Extracting a few dynamic statistics from the ARRL site, we find that FCGers operated 273 hours on SSB to amass 13,674 QSOs, but only 162 of them were on 10 Meters. Interestingly, the top 4 FCG scores produced over half of the total QSOs. On CW, we (31 entries, vs. 23 on SSB) spent 413 hours to make 14,284 QSOs, with 1811 of them on 10M, despite two major solar flares on the CW weekend.

Nice to see that the results from ARRL DX 2004 are already available! I used to await Oct. QST so anxiously. With 63 entries, we reached a new high as a club, finishing 7th of 8 Unlimited clubs. Any predictions on how long it will take before we win a major DX Test? Almost twice as many entries were submitted on CW and over 80% of the score came from that mode this year, led by J7OJ just a few days after OJ's passing. According to the ARRL stats, the FCG made 35,654 QSOs on CW alone. Wow.

Several FCGers placed high in ARRL SSB this year. K4XS topped the 40-Meter single banders with an impressive 887/101 line score. Newcomer to FL, but seasoned contester WX4G finished 3rd. N4PN was #2 on 15M. N4IG ended up third in the Southeast Region LP. N4BP made another box, placing 7th in the MS category.

Looking back to the last ARRL 160, the club did not mount much of an effort, but N4PN produced the #4 score overall from his fine St. George island location. No super-long Beverages available there, but the salt water enhancement apparently helps even on 160. Amid such a heavy season of contests, and being too far from the population center, it's hard to get motivated for this one from FL, but congrats to Paul for doing so well.

In January, Gary, NW5E edged out Ivars, KC4PX for top FCG entry by virtue of a few more multipliers. NJ2F piled up a respectable 330 QSOs, about 70% of what the big guns amassed. The FCG had 4 entries overall.

Also in January, the ARRL RTTY Roundup got 7 of us to operate and submit a score. Bob, N4BP ran up impressive numbers of 1243 QSOs high power, while Jim, KC4HW had 951 Qs low power. The dynamic father-son duo of K4MM/W4IX made 815 QSOs in the multi-op section.

CQ WW 2003 - Club scores are not available on the CQ web site as of our press time, even though line scores have been published for both modes in the magazine. We'll do an expanded review of CQ WW in the next Gazette.

With barely two months left before the first major contest of the fall season, I hope that everyone has plans to have their station and antennas fully working. Let us know if you need any help and we'll get a crew to you, time permitting. Several FCGers have used the services of a professional tower climber who lives near Orlando for those bigger or time-critical jobs. Obviously, the backlog of work to be done across the club increased dramatically after Charley moved through.

Hope to see everyone at the next FCG meeting which will be at the Melbourne hamfest on Saturday, Sept 11. We will meet for pizza just down the street from the arena. Plan on congregating around the ticket barrel at noon if you wish to carpool or follow someone there (although it is quite easy to find). That pizza joint has hosted the FCG each year for longer than I've been in Florida and this will be my 9th in a row! The idea of resurrecting the FQP was brought up and heartily endorsed there in 1997.

The Sept. VHF Test starts that afternoon and the CW Sprint is that evening, but hopefully we can fit in a well-attended meeting at lunch.

Have fun and GO FCG! Vy 73, Dan K1TO



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

KA0GGI Frank Brewer III, 9007 Callaway Drive, Trinity FL
34655 e-mail: t0ad@juno.com

KV1P Edward Lapinski, 85 1/2 Third Place, Brooklyn NY 11231-3667 e-mail: edwardlapinski@fitchratings.com

WJ9B Willie Baber, 1120-A Logan Street, Greensboro NC
27406 e-mail: wlbaber@uncg.edi

KP3AC Felipe Camino, PO Box 4373, Haines City FL
33845-4373 e-mail: kp3ac@arrl.net

N7BG Tony Rogozinski, 3683 Sawgrass Drive, Titusville
FL 32780 e-mail: trogo@cfl.rr.com

Membership total is now 180

Activity Calendar

Melbourne Hamfest - September 11,12 Meet at the ticket barrel at noon before heading out for Pizza and the FCG meeting at Franco's Pizza.

ARRL September VHF QSO Party 1800Z, Sep 11 to 0300Z, Sep 13

North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 12

North American Sprint, SSB 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 19

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Sep 25 to 2400Z, Sep 26

California QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 2 to 2200Z, Oct 3

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Oct 30 to 2400Z, Oct 31

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW 2100Z, Nov 6 to 0300Z, Nov 8

Hurricane Charley

First - From the ARRL Letter - Vol 23 No 33 August 20 '04

HAM RADIO "ONLY RELIABLE COMMUNICATION" AT HURRICANE CHARLEY GROUND ZERO

Once again, Amateur Radio has proven its value in an emergency. With conventional telecommunication systems unreliable and power still out after the Category 4 Hurricane Charley blasted across the Florida Peninsula August 13, Amateur Radio has proven to be a communication mainstay.

"The only reliable communication we have here is Amateur Radio," ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager Dave Armbrust, AE4MR, told ARRL earlier this week. He was one of the three dozen ARES volunteers at the Charlotte County command post. "We're out in the field trying to handle so many different things that it's almost overwhelming," he said five days into the activation.

By week's end, the need for additional ARES volunteers in the Hurricane Charley relief and recovery effort had stabilized. Communications and Warning Officer John Fleming, WD4FFX, of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) told ARRL that ham radio volunteers already on duty in the five most severely affected counties were holding their own in maintaining necessary emergency communication. But he advised Amateur Radio volunteers to remain at the ready, just in case, and recommended that ARES teams, clubs and individuals work through their ARES Section Emergency Coordinator.

The FDEM says Hurricane Charley caused two dozen deaths and nearly 4000 injuries, and almost a quarter-million residents were still without power at week's end. Other reports indicate that as many as 10,000 homes were badly damaged or destroyed.

The most severely stricken communities are in largely rural areas of western and central Florida made up of smaller towns. Among other storm relief duties, hams have been part of an effort to check on residents and determine what they need and to "make sure everyone's okay," Armbrust said.

Amateur Radio operators have been handling emergency traffic and assisting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in setting up HF communication to the state emergency operations center in the capital of Tallahassee. ARES also has provided communication for search-and-rescue teams and supported American Red Cross and The Salvation Army humanitarian relief efforts.

In addition, ARES operators handled outgoing health-and-welfare traffic from storm victims now taking refuge in shelters, provided or supplemented public safety communication

and even took on some dispatching duties. Amateur Radio volunteers also deployed to hospitals, some of which have experienced spotty communication. Several VHF and UHF repeaters have been buzzing with emergency traffic all week.

Armbrust emphasized that Hurricane Charley cut a broad swath across Florida, and the devastation was widespread. "This looks like a war zone," he remarked. Hot, humid weather has aggravated the relief effort, especially for emergency medical service personnel who not only are dealing with storm-related health issues but with those resulting from the heat.

ARES teams from Florida Miami-Dade, Martin, St Lucie, Broward, Okeechobee and Palm Beach counties deployed to relieve or assist the amateur operators on duty in the affected communities.

In Sarasota County, Ron Wetjen, WD4AHZ, has been working at the county EOC and assigning volunteers to assist in neighboring Charlotte County, where Armbrust has been holding down the fort.

"We've had offers of help from guys in Montana, Ohio, and New York!" Wetjen said August 19. "We have a couple from Tennessee here now, with two more on the way for the weekend."

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) on 14.265 MHz spent nearly five days in continuous operation. It's also used Amateur Radio for its logistical communications. The Salvation Army has been providing meals, household necessities and other assistance to residents displaced by the storm and has been relying on its own Amateur Radio resources. SATERN also has taken on responsibility for health-and-welfare inquiries, both via Amateur Radio and through its Web site <>.

In advance of the storm, SKYWARN teams were active the Hurricane Watch Net and WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center cooperated to gather ground-level weather data and damage reports.

"It seems as if the Amateur Radio world is listening and waiting to help when an event such as this occurs," observed SATERN National Director Pat McPherson, WW9E, "and it's edifying to realize the positive impact of their dedication to the task of helping others."

Ed. Note - This issue of the Gazette has been delayed a bit because your editor was without power for several days, as well as the fact I have been I have been working on cleanup efforts. I did spend a few minutes to take some local pictures. I'm sure everyone has seen the pictures on TV and in the newspapers of the devastation in the counties to the west and south of us here in Highlands County . The eye passed 30 miles to the west of us, so our Highlands damage was minimal compared to them. Many thanks to Tom KK4TA who came by our QTH with the offer of a generator.



W4/G4BUE Backyard - Sebring



K4LQ 80 Meter (ex) Vertical - Lake Placid



Buried in there somewhere is N4TO's bent but not broken 80 Meter 4-Square - Sebring

Ed. Note: Reviewing reports on the reflector, it appears that no FCGers have reported any physical injuries from the storm but that several folks had fairly extensive antenna damage.

All-

The National Weather Service in Melbourne now has an excellent storm summary from Hurricane Charley. This summary includes a radar loop while the storm moves across Florida and max wind reports. The summary can be found at the following web site: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mlb/charley/>

Frank NA4CW



***Top 20 and 15 really blowing
KITO - Myakka City***

10 Meter Contest 2003 - Final Scores

WC4E	2383	239	1,624,722	SO/MIXED/HP	#1 World
K5KG	1717	238	1,245,692	SO/MIXED/HP	# 4 USA
NU4Y	1553	212	990,888	SO/MIXED/HP	# 7 USA
K4LQ	1085	192	711,168	SO/MIXED/HP	
N8PR	170	101	50,298	SO/MIXED/HP	
W7QF	174	81	38,880	SO/MIXED/HP	
K4GKD	846	198	525,888	SO/MIXED/LP	# 7 USA
K4MM	794	209	489,896	SO/MIXED/LP	#10 USA
N4IG	722	179	434,254	SO/MIXED/LP	
K9VV	606	169	323,804	SO/MIXED/LP	
KB4N	494	129	208,206	SO/MIXED/LP	
W4EBA	299	130	124,280	SO/MIXED/LP	
K9ES	283	102	89,964	SO/MIXED/LP	
N4EK	259	99	79,002	SO/MIXED/LP	
K4LW	153	71	39,618	SO/MIXED/LP	
K8OSF	149	72	28,512	SO/MIXED/LP	
KC4HW	111	60	22,080	SO/MIXED/LP	
K4RFK	132	62	16,368	SO/MIXED/LP	
K9OM	725	190	427,120	SO/MIXED/QRP	# 1 World
N4BP	1691	124	834,768	SO/CW/HP	#1 World
K4OJ	1520	128	774,144	SO/CW/HP	#2 USA
K0LUZ	1244	122	597,800	SO/CW/HP	# 7 USA
N4TB	811	114	366,624	SO/CW/HP	
W4QM	711	108	304,560	SO/CW/HP	
W1MO	560	98	214,424	SO/CW/HP	
K4WJ	352	78	107,640	SO/CW/HP	
WD4AHZ	844	111	372,072	SO/CW/LP	# 1 USA #2 World
WB4TDH	715	109	309,996	SO/CW/LP	# 2 USA
N4GM	894	105	288,960	SO/CW/LP	#4 USA
WK2G	444	90	156,960	SO/CW/LP	
N2NL/MM459	90	90	165,060	SO/CW/LP	DX - Not in club total
W4YA	236	73	66,576	SO/CW/LP	
W4SAA	185	61	44,164	SO/CW/LP	
KE1F	96	47	18,048	SO/CW/LP	
AJ2U	83	31	10,168	SO/CW/LP	
K4XS	201	59	23,364	SO/SSB/HP	
K4DDR	108	49	10,486	SO/SSB/HP	
W4IX	1462	133	387,030	SO/SSB/LP	#1 World
K4VUD	1069	120	255,360	SO/SSB/LP	# 2 USA
NJ2F	791	108	170,424	SO/SSB/LP	#3 USA
N1PA	340	86	57,448	SO/SSB/LP	
AA4RX	257	92	47,288	SO/SSB/LP	
K1KNQ	165	66	21,780	SO/SSB/LP	
K1HG	148	65	19,110	SO/SSB/LP	
K4LOG	9	6	108	SO/SSB/LP	
K1PT	1157	119	545,020	SO/CW/HP(A)(MS)	
W4ZW	493	120	223,440	SO/MIXED/HP(A)(MS)	
NE4AA	2867	265	2,347,370	MS at K1TO	K1TO,K6AW # 1 World
W4/G4BUE	934	181	541,552	M/S	G4BUE, M0BUE
W4ARM	593	146	284,116	M/S	W4ARM, KO4MR
N4DL	87	42	11,004	M/S(A)	
V47UY	890	84	151,368	M/S	KJ4UY, V44NK Dx, not in club total
FCG Total:			16,882,444		
FCG Panhandle					
N4OX	2078	119	493,374	SO/SSB/HP	# 3 USA
KN4Y	604	83	195,548	SO/CW/LP	
K4JAF	292	83	47,808	SO/SSB/LP	
NF4A	161	60	25,620	SO/MIXED/HP	
KB4ET	139	77	21,098	SO/SSB/LP	
Total			783,448		



Here are some shots of the WE40J WPX CW operation at K5KG. Operators were W4IX, WD4AHZ, W4SAA, KITO & K5KG. Final tally was 8.43 meg, 3446 Qsos and 941 mults. Tnx to Jeff, WC4E for the use of WE40J to keep the OJ spirit alive! 73, Geo...

Ed note: Top two photos are Joe W4SAA, Bottom left John W4IX, Bottom Right standing George K5KG, operating Ron WD4AHZ



Ed Gansen, NA0ED (ex. K8DSS), paid a visit to recently to the K5KG temporary QTH in Park City, UT. Here is a picture that George sent along.

Claimed Scores WPX CW

CALL	QSOs	Mult	Score	Category	Operator
WE4OJ	3446	942	8,541,114	M/2 HP	K5KG, W4SAA, W4IX, K1TO, WD4AHZ
KT6V	1248	566	1,765,920	MSABHP	K6CT. K9VV
K4PV	1501	615	1,908,345	SOABHP	
W1MO	1062	517	1,325,588	SOABHP	
K4LQ	766	464	1,056,992	SOABHP	
W7QF	598		652,726	SOABHP	
N4TB	520	333	406,593	SOABHP	
KG4FPJ	464	280	302,400	SOABHP	N4GI
KG0Z	75	71	13,277	SOABHP	W4ZW
WK2G	1501	582	2,252,340	SOABLP	
N4IG	851	462	1,035,804	SOABLP	
KE1F	594	329	426,123	SOABLP	
NF4A	629	356	504,896	SO(TS)ABLP	
WX4CW	804	423	757,593	SOAB(A) HP	W4ARM
NU4BP	254	154	55,440	SO10HP	N4BP
KN4Y	174	127	33,782	SO10LP	
NK4A	1237	650	2,970,500	SO40HP	N4PN
K1UM	485	343	344,029	SO15HP	
WB4TDH	187	155	52,700	SO15LP	

Club Total: 24,406,162

IARU CLAIMED SCORES

	CWQ	PHQ	Mult	Score		
K4LQ	412	103	154	258,556	SOMXHP	
K9ES	230	156	84	81,480	SOMXHP	
NF4A	714		144	246,816	SOMXLP	Panhandle
K1UM	1008		176	538,912	SOCWHP	
K4PB	283			80,028	SOCWHP	
W4YA	63		33	4,323	SOCWHP	
WB4TDH	710		178	387,150	SOCWLP	
W4QM	578		170	283,560	SOCWLP	
K5KG/7	429		73	91,761	SOCWLP	
KN4Y	230			66,600	SOCWLP	Panhandle
N4GM	96			1,900	SOCWLP	
W4ZW/0	79		28	7,839	UNK	
N4BP	1023	13		11,425	MSQRP	

Not Yet Received: WK2G

June Meeting Report from W1YL's QTH in Seffner

My thanks to Dan K1TO for his usual FB editing of my draft.

Attendees included AA2MF, AA4RX, K1KNQ, K1PT and KD1BG, K1TO, K1UM, K4CC, K4GKD, K4IK, K4LQ and Sheila, K4LOG, with K4SXY, Brittney and Meagan, K8NZ, K8OSF, K9ES and Sylvia, KA0GGI and Lindsey, KK4TA, KP3AC, KU3O, N3NN, N4CC, N4IG, N4KM, N4OX, N4TO, W1YL and Teresa (wife of K4OJ), W1ZA, W4DN, W4FDA, W4JN, W4QM, W4SAA, W9KRH, WC4E and WD4AHZ.

Dan K1TO began the meeting by thanking Ellen W1YL for her hospitality in hosting the meeting. He then presented her with the sign-in sheet from the FCG Hospitality Suite at Dayton, which contained 156 names from at least 12 countries. Ellen spoke briefly, thanking all for coming to the meeting and fondly recalling Jim K4OJ and Bob W1CW.

Dan noted that in this year's Florida QSO Party, which was dedicated in K4OJ's memory, over 700 logs had been turned in, a new record. Noting K8NZ in the attendees, Dan said that he and Vic had frequently worked 4 calls with NZ suffixes in the FQP: K8NZ, W4NZ, K5NZ and N3NZ, so hearing only the partial "NZ" made them guess which one it was! He also noted the large number of calls containing OJ that had been activated by club members, most recently WE4OJ during WPX CW, and also including J7OJ and 6Y4OJ.

Next, Dan recognized several folks who were attending their first FCG Meeting. These included Rich AA2MF, Frank KA0GGI, Phil KP3AC, Greg N4CC and Jim W9KRH. Each of the above stood up and said a few words about themselves:

Rich AA2MF is building a contest station on a barrier island in Pinellas County. He plans to have an 89' crankup tower and is actively planning the configuration of antennas and station.

Frank KA0GGI just moved down from the St. Louis area. He has been active for many years, primarily on CW and is very excited about joining the FCG and helping out immediately. He lives about 3 miles from the K4XS super station. (K1TO note: Frank's daughter Lindsey, who is unlicensed and also attended the meeting, stole the show at the Sarasota FD! She easily racked up her max 100 QSOs on the GOTA station, then preceded to run the boys competently on 20 SSB!)

Greg N4CC told about his first day on 6 meters a couple years back. He said the DX was rolling in from all over, including a KL7 who sent him a card with an SASE saying he never had heard Florida before. That Greg really knows how to hurt a guy. I have been on 6 meters for the better part of 54 years and have never heard a KL7. Some guys just get up on the right side of the bed some days I guess!

Jim W9KRH mentioned having been a railroad telegrapher, (using American Morse which is somewhat different than the CW we are familiar with today). I believe he is the first ham I have met face to face with that background. When I was first licensed I used to handle traffic on the NHN. After the net one of the participants Joe W1SAL used to chat with another participant and often started his transmission dit space dit space dah di dah followed by the person's name. After a while curiosity got the better of me and I asked him

why he was always saying "eek"? Turns out dit space dit is O in American Morse!

Phil KP3AC mentioned that he was originally licensed in the Dominican Republic as HI7FCL.. The HI7 prefix is a rare one indeed. In my last 37,000 QSOs, I've only worked one, and he was a visitor.

Also, KK4TA brought a friend - David - who is a non-ham, but potentially interested in the hobby.

Jay N4OX was able to attend this meeting because he was in the area attending classes related to his police work. He decided to visit WC4E whom he had never met before except on the air. He and another policeman drove to Jeff's in his police cruiser. He knocked on the door, when Jeff opened it he said "We're here because people have complained about your radio interfering with their TVs.!" Jeff said "That's hard to believe, because my radio is turned off and disconnected". Then Jay introduced himself and all had a hearty laugh!

Frank KA0GGI and Phil KP3AC signed up as FCG members

At the conclusion of the first time attendee remarks, Dan congratulated Paul K1PT and Pidge KD1BG who were married on Dayton weekend.

A short discussion of the FQP took place. It was noted that the 700 logs received this year eclipsed the figures from the California QSO Party, the previous leader of state QSO parties. Several suggestions were received for possible changes to the rules, but were discarded after consideration. It does appear that the concept of the voluntary mobile window will be continued, as it seemed to be effective this year. It was noted by one wag that the Kentucky QSO Party, which chose to schedule itself the same weekend as the FQP this year, may well go the same way as a bug on the window during a rainstorm. No One knew where the SP RTTY contest came from, but it caused lots of QRM on the 40M CW band. Ron WD4AHZ noted that the number of paper log submissions this year was all the way down to 43, as more and more people are discovering computer logging. Also, WA7BNM wrote a nice on-line form for folks to key in their log after the contest and generate a Carrillo file output.

With Field Day coming up, several FCGers will be supporting their local clubs: K9ES with the ES DX Club as a 1B on an island in the Indian River; KK4TA and W4SAA with the Okeechobee ARC as a 2A at the county EOC, K1UM with his local club as a 3A in Brooksville, N4OX with NFDXA and FDXG on St George Island in a lighthouse, AA2MF with some Boy Scouts in NY, and of course several members with the Sarasota Emergency Radio Club.

Joe K4IK passed around samples of club QSL cards from LZ1JZ and W4MPY printers and discussed the various options.

Treasurer's Report - \$1697.70 in the treasury. \$2137 in the W1CW/K4OJ Memorial Fund. Dues collection is running late this year. Eleven members from last year have not paid yet. Most have not responded to two e-mail requests. Two members have been on extended trips or work assignments and plan to pay on return. I will issue a final request to these folks 1 July, I will notify members via the reflector of membership figures after these numbers have been resolved.

The next FCG meeting will be the Vicnic at N4TO's QTH in Seffner on Saturday, July 31. Families are welcome.

73, Fred K4LQ
Secretary FCG



Dan listens intently to a question from an attendee while conducting the meeting at WIYL.



Ellen WIYL relaxes from her hosting duties during the meeting



Dave N4IG and Duke W1ZA



Jay N40X



L-R

Jeff WC4E

Joe K4IK



New Member Frank KA0GGI is easily identified in the photo to the left.

Not so the owner of the hand, who despite intense interrogation by FCG intelligence officers, remains unidentified.

Ed Note—my flash was intermittent, several of the pix I took at this event did not come out - Sorry!



Blake N4GI demonstrates that all FCGers don't wear their subdued orange shirts to FCG meetings!

FCGers in Field Day Action



Christopher (8) son of Mark KE4KMD having fun with KITO at the SERC/FCG FD site at Twin Lakes Park in Sarasota.



Brittany (10) & KITO (age not disclosed) working one of her 61 contacts logged. Richard K4LOG and Ron WD4AHZ in the background



The above four pictures are from the setup/takedown activities at the NJ4M Field Day site at Twin Lakes Park in Sarasota.



We operated 1A with K9ES, AD4ES and AA4FX, from Sebastian Inlet area (the border of Indian River and Brevard County. The place was Longpoint County Park. Thought you would like the pictures. Used IC756 Pro-2 with Gap Titan mounted on special support in the river, 10 feet from shore, and the TA33 at about 25 feet. Made 1090 QSO's, with 55% CW. Ran 100 Watts, battery and generator powered.

73,

Eric K9ES



The picture above was taken by Eric K9ES as Chuck AD4ES flew over the site in a Cessna 172



Sunset on the 4BTV



Kevin K5PG watches Grant knockin' out Q's on the K2

N4BP - Guano Reef Bashful Perverts 1A Battery

Operators: K4PG, N4GM, N4BP

Station: Elecraft K2 @ 5W
110A/H Marine battery, solar charged
N1MM Logger for computer control, CW, and logging
4BTV, 40M dipole, Wilson tri-band Yagi

Also: Demo packet radio station
Satellite station

Location: Fiesta Key KOA on Long Key, FL at MM70 (AKA Guano Reef) Narrow key bordered by the Atlantic on one side and Gulf of Mexico on the other (our campsite was just a few feet from the Gulf and surrounded about 270 degs by salt water)

For many years, we've used a homebrew four-band vertical (the "Ugly Vertical") with various QRP rigs (FT-7, Argo 509, TS-130V). For the past four years, we've used the K2, and for the past two, a 4BTV. Last year, we added a 40M dipole and found that many east coast stations were stronger on it, while the west coast was better on the vertical. This year, we added a tri-band beam on a push-up mast for the first time. Besides violating the KISS principle that I strongly believe in, I was betting that the vertical would outperform it. In most cases it did! Signals on 20M were almost always stronger on the vertical. On 15M, a few of the west coast stations were better on the beam, but the majority again were stronger on the 4BTV. No activity was heard on 10M, so no comparisons could be made. Surprisingly on 40M, the vertical outperformed the dipole, even for east coast contacts - and the dipole was oriented exactly as last year..

This year, the K2 was upgraded with the DSP module. K4PG and N4GM were amazed at how signals seemed to jump out of a seemingly dead receiver. The noise reduction really works (I hate the term "de-noiser" that Elecraft uses for it). The rig and computer performed flawlessly, but the new version 4.0 of N1MM Logger needs a little touching up to properly handle the K2. It doesn't quite know how to deal with the two VFO's, apparently thinking that they can split band and/or mode. The first time I made a SSB QSO, N1MM logged it as CW and on the other VFO's CW frequency. Since we made only 13 SSB QSO's, this was not a major problem. I've seen a lot of discussion over the past two days about CQ vs S&P with QRP. All three of our ops spent the majority of their time running. The exception was 40M. When I first switched to 40, I could not get a run going, so spent several minutes doing S&P. But later I hit the F1 key, started working stations, and never looked back.

Last year, K4PG overturned his SUV on the return trip from Guano Reef. This year he rode with me while Grant drove his van with satellite and packet stations inside. But... When we

got near the point of last year's disaster, we were again diverted from US1 on to the Card Sound Road to get from Key Largo to Homestead. We found out later that there had been a seven car pile-up with a fatality! We were very happy when we arrived safely home after a very lengthy drive!

Summary:
40CW - 351 QSO's
20CW - 461 QSO's
20SB - 13 QSO's
15CW - 211 QSO's
=====

TOTAL 1036 QSO's 10,295 + 950 bonus points = 11,245

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L-R Kevin K4PG, Bob N4BP, Grant N4GM



Packet and Satellite Station in the N4GM Van

Contester Pictures from (in some cases much) Earlier Years



O/A 1970 L-R Duke WIZA, KIEA standing over him, KIIR seated and KIVR standing in the back Duke revealed that the reason that KIEA grew up to write the CT software was that he got sick of handling all those manual dupe sheets that Duke used to generate !.



Same group as at the left in a 1992 reunion, standing l-r KIEA, WIZA, KCIF, (an add on for the reunion) Sitting, l-r KIIR, KIVR



Above - Ink N400 operating at the W4QBK QTH in Clearwater late in the 1970s



Ink N400 and Shirley on a visit to W0AIH - 1999

Right - Fred WITBS now K4LQ operating the ARRL June VHF Contest from a fire tower on Blue Job Mountain in Farmington NH in 1951. Holy Moly, that's 53 years ago! Ed. Note - Was that really the last time he operated phone? Only your editor knows for sure!



Final Scores ARRL DX CW

K9OM	1228	359	1,322,556	SOABHP	
W4QM	1120	385	1,293,600	SOABHP	
N4AO	1170	363	1,274,130	SOABHP	WC4E
KD5M	1007	352	1,063,392	SOABHP	
W1MO	825	305	754,375	SOABHP	
K4LQ	728	319	696,696	SOABHP	
W4/G4BUE	734	253	557,106	SOABHP	
K4PB	652	300	586,300	SOABHP	
W7QF	206	128	79,104	SOABHP	
K4WJ	128	81	31,104	SOABHP	
NU4Y	67	39	7,839	SOABHP	
K1PT	1775	404	2,151,300	SOABLP	
K4GKD	1163	388	1,353,732	SOABLP	
WK2G	1538	243	1,121,202	SOABLP	
NJ4M	1142	299	1,024,174	SOABLP	WD4AHZ
N4IG	1058	327	1,037,898	SOABLP	
W4SAA	768	327	753,408	SOABLP	
W4YA	512	223	342,528	SOABLP	
K9AW	363	176	191,664	SOABLP	
N4QV	288	169	146,016	SOABLP	
K1TO	314	157	147,894	SOABLP	
N4EK	299	158	141,726	SOABLP	
N8PR	232	161	112,056	SOABLP	
K4WJ	133	81	32,319	SOABLP	
K4RFK	95	70	19,950	SOABLP	
KE1F	85	64	16,320	SOABLP	
K4LW	32	22	2,112	SOABLP	
W4ARM	620	241	448,260	SOABLP(A)	
KU3O	350	180	189,000	SOABLP(A)	
K9ES	529	90	142,830	SOSB10HP	K1
N4GM	184	67	36,984	SOSB10HP	
N4WW	1491	112	500,976	SOSB15HP	K0LUZ
WB4TDH	728	101	220,584	SOSB15HP	
K4XS	765	78	179,010	SOSB40HP	
N4CC	398	89	106,266	SOSB40HP	
W4ZW	70	42	8,820	SOSB40HP	
NA4CW	13	12	468	SOSB160LP	
K1RQ	511	280	429,240	M/S	K1RQ,NJ1F
J7OJ	7547	350	7,924,350	M2	K5KG,W4IX,K3TEJ
C6APG	583	56	97,944	SOSB10HP	K4PG
C6AKQ	1445	59	255,765	SOSB80HP	N4BP
Total			26,800,998		
FCG - Panhandle					
N4PN	1351	120	486,360	SOSB40HP	
NF4A	659	278	549,606	SOABLP	
K4JAF	95	58	16,530	SOSB80HP	
KD5M	1007	352	1,322,556	SOABHP	
Total			2,375,052		

Ed. Note: Six people who turned in claimed scores to the reflector apparently did not send in their logs. Three Panhandle members turned in their scores as FCG, so the scores shown on the ARRL website for FCG are incorrect.

July Meeting at N4TO's Vicnic

Eighty FCG revelers and guests attended the annual Vicnic at the QTH of Vic, N4TO in Sebring on July 31st. The list included: KA0GGI, K1TO, K1XX + Martha, KP2N, KP3AC, K4CC, K4LOG + K4SXY (Michelle) + Britney + Meagan, K4LQ + Sheila, K4OJ's Teresa, K4PG, K4XS + K4XSS (Holly), K4WJ + Susan, KK4TA, K8OSF + Sharon, K9ES + Sylvia, K9VV + KI4CCO (Lisa), N2SQ + Edward + Andrew, N4DL, N4EK + KD4BRJ (Trish), N4GM, N4IG, N4IS + XYL + 2 Children, N4KM, N4LML + Vivian, N4TB + W4JA (Karen), N4TO, N7BG + Patricia, N8PR, W1ROX + Bart, W1YL, W3AZD + WB3ANE (Hope), W4DJ + KC4QJM (Pam), W4DN, W4DTA + Elizabeth, W4KFH, W4QH, W4QM, W4QN + Carol, W4SAA, W4STB + W4DKB, W4UM + W4SLR (Sherry), W4WR + W4DLR (Donna), W4YA, WC4E, WD4AHZ and WJ9B.

Festivities began at noon, when host Vic N4TO and Chief Cook Gene Rhodes fired up the grill.



The Chow line formed quickly on Vic's screened porch.



Many attendees had a chance to try out Vic's new sunshade tents.



Dan K1TO opened the meeting after lunch. He thanked Vic N4TO for his hospitality again this year, and passed the hat (in this case an empty beer box) for those who wanted to contribute to help Vic defray expenses.

Dan began by asking each attendee to identify themselves, tell us what county they came from, and how many Vicnics they had attended. Using official FQP abbreviations, we had folks from: ALC, BRE, BRO, CIT, DAD, HIG, IDR, LAK, MRT, MTE, OKE, PAL, PAS, POL, SAR, SEM, STL. Those 17 counties are just short of last year's Vicnic record of 19.

At least 10 people have attended all the Vicnics so far. Some first time Vicnicers (all members) are pictured on the next page. Other first time attendees not pictured included members Frank KA0GGI, Ron KP2N, Cary K4CC, and guests George N2SQ and Larry W4QH.

Next Dan asked which attendees had participated in Field Day this year. A large group of those present participated in another joint FD effort in Sarasota between the Sarasota Emergency Radio Club and the FCG. Ron WD4AHZ is the overall coordinator of that FD effort and other FCGers there included Richard K4LOG, Michelle K4SXY, Rox W1ROX (& Bart), Al N4LML (& Vivian), Charlie NF4A, Jeff WC4E (briefly) and Dan K1TO. George N2SQ and his sons attended the Vicnic as a direct result of the fun they had at FD! Dan spent a lot of time with kids at the GOTA station and they seemed to have a lot of fun with the operation (see pictures on page 11). Another highlight was Frank KA0GGI's unlicensed daughter Lindsey running contacts just like an established contester. Rox showed a video after the meeting of the FB news coverage on Sarasota's ABC affiliate.

(continued next page)

Some First Time Vicnic Attendees



Will WJ9B



Charlie K1XX



Phil KP3AC



Kurt W4KFH



Carlos N4IS



Tony N7BG

K9ES described FD with Chuck AD4ES who flew around the area and spotted a fantastic QTH on the northern tip of an island (see picture on page 11) from which they then operated!

Kevin K4PG talked about his battery FD effort down in the Keys that also included Bob N4BP and Grant N4GM. With no rolled-over vehicles, they considered this year a re-sounding success.

In Okeechobee County, Tom KK4TA and Joe W4SAA led an effort at the EOC in the new 2F category.

Pete N8PR had a C3I at their FD effort.

Sherri W4STB and David W4DKB worked with a FD group in Vero Beach.

Fred K9VV and Lisa KI4CCO checked out the FD effort in Boca Raton.

At the Ft. Pierce operation, Kurt W4KFH said the highlight was a QSO with NA1SS on the orbiting space station.

Florida QSO Party (FQP) results from April's running were discussed briefly. Over 700 logs were received this year - a new record, and more than the granddaddy of state QSO Parties - the California QP. Ron WD4AHZ noted that less and less hand written logs are being received as more and more people take advantage of computer logging and the new on-line post-contest log entry from. He said that the experimental mobile window appeared to work well and will be retained in next year's FQP.

Dan noted that one of K4OJ's favorite contests - CW NAQP - is coming up next weekend and suggested that someone might like to line up some FCG teams for the contest that would sign "OJ" rather than their usual name. Ron WD4AHZ volunteered to do that.

Dan thanked several individuals for their significant contributions to the club, including Ron WD4AHZ who maintains the FCG and FQP web pages and reflectors and works heavily with all aspects of the FQP, Jeff WC4E who does the FQP certificates and mailings each year, Bill K4XS and Holly K4XSS who handle the FQP Plaques, and Fred K4LQ who creates our newsletter and handles our treasury and secretarial duties.

Fred noted that the newsletter is the product primarily of members' inputs and thanked members for their continued support with pictures and articles. Fred also gave a brief update on the treasury. Over \$2000 is now in the general treasury, plus over \$2200 is now in the W1CW/K4OJ memorial fund. The FCG has 180 members, even after losing a few non dues-payers who moved out of state.

(continued next page)

Sherri W4STB is running for ARRL Vice Director for the Southeastern Division in the upcoming election and asked for kind consideration from the club members.

Vic N4TO reiterated that the club should sponsor plaques for (at least) the CQWW and ARRL DX contests.

Pete N8PR suggested we create a WAFCG award for those who worked 100 FCG members, something someone had brought up as a joke earlier in the day. Dan appointed Pete a committee of one to investigate further.

Charlie K1XX mentioned that the YCCC recently obtained a batch of the new TenTec Orion rigs at a 10% discount by ordering 20. Charlie contacted TenTec and got the same deal for FCGers. Also, INRAD filters are available at a nice 25% discount for a bulk purchase.

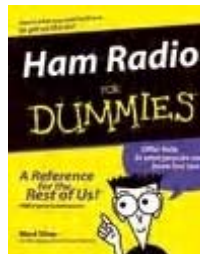
Dan noted that traditionally we limit duration of Vicnic meetings since people need a chance to mingle, many people have to drive long distances and the meetings are held in the open during hot weather. With that, he thanked everyone for coming and wrapped up the meeting with more raucous applause for Vic.



***Donna W4DLR and
Warren W4WR***



***L-R John W4WJ,
Bill W2CQ***



You may be aware that my new book, "Ham Radio for Dummies" has been re-released by Wiley Press. It has been receiving good reviews, such as the one by Rick Tavan N6XI on page 62 of the July QST. Other reviews will be forthcoming in CQ and World Radio later this summer.

I wrote the book for new hams as a "Desktop Elmer" and for people interested in becoming hams. Even so, experienced hams will also find new items to pique their interest. There is a sample chapter at <http://www.dummies.com/WileyCDA/DummiesTitle/productCd-0764559877.html> as well as a substantial "bonus content" package on the technical details of operating and a large list of Web references. All can be downloaded without charge.

73, Ward Silver N0AX

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