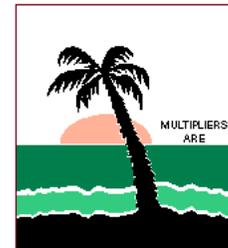




Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.org



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December 2005

From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO

We were all saddened to learn of Grant, N4GM's passing. A number of club members were able to attend the services and pass along our collective condolences to his family. See page 3 for an excerpt from the obituary and for some others' recollections of Grant. I'll always remember Grant's quiet calm and his insight on many issues. What a great guy to talk with. RIP, Grant.



Hurricane season 2005 has us once again licking our wounds. See pages 10-13 for more details. It was particularly disheartening to see the damage at K9ES, just less than 2 months after being rebuilt and so far from the center of the storm.

Of course, contest season 2004-2005 was also a rebuilding period for many of us. The FCG still managed to squeak into the world top 10. How would we do in 2005?...

CQWW SSB gave us some pretty decent conditions, considering the total lack of sunspots! I don't recall any sunspot minima during which Europe was still being worked well on 10 Meters. I believe that the very low A-index, indicating a prolonged period of K= 0 or 1, had a lot to do with it. It was neat to hear and work many of the FCGers who ventured around the globe to activate a rarer QTH. Ironically, I had to leave on Sunday during the contest and connected via gate F1 in O'Hare! I was looking everywhere for N4BP who must have been holding the F1 key...

Early returns for CQWW CW are tremendous! Despite being 28 days after CQWW SSB, no Europe was worked on 10 meters to my knowledge from this area. More details on WW CW in the next issue...

Sweepstakes seems to be a contest that our membership either loves or hates! Of the relatively low number of participants, at least as measured against the wildly popular CQWW and ARRL 10, a high percentage managed the section sweep.

Technology related to contesting continues to advance. Did anyone check out the live web cams that were active for WW SSB? And did you listen in on K5ZD's live audio feed on either mode? What about the pseudo real-time scoring for SS CW? I'm pretty sure that Blake, N4GI was a participant. I

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM YOUR EDITOR

understand a similar real-time scoring initiative is under way for the upcoming Stew Perry 160 contest.

The FCG's most participated-in event of the year is the ARRL 10 Meter Contest which just happens to be coming up this weekend. We are now the 2-time defending champions, having won the Medium category in 2003 and moved up to the Unlimited category last year! Judging by the level of discussion at Eric's and the list of those who intend to operate this year, we should have a darned good chance. Although we certainly don't expect top-of-the-cycle conditions, working Europe is still possible since it was done just 6 weeks ago in CQ SSB!

Even though the Melbourne hamfest was canceled last year due to the hurricanes du jour, attendance at this year's seemed to be down quite a bit. Nonetheless, we had a nice crowd both at lunch and at Eric's afterward for the BBQ. See pages 4-5 for a full meeting review.

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Welcome aboard to our new members!

Gil, W1RG is part of a group that does DXpeditions for at least one contest a year, often CQWW SSB. Greg, AA0KO attended the Melbourne meeting at Eric, K9ES' place and gave us some background on himself. Ted, W3TB is from YCCC territory. Yes, we're taking over! Welcome also to Jeff, K1ZN up in the land patrolled by N4OX.

I'd like to once again float the idea of an FCG Holiday party in early January. It will take a volunteer to find a suitable location and track the attendees. Especially given the sad news that the last Vicnic has already taken place (see page 15), we'll need at least one event per year where our spouses can get to mingle and there is a little less emphasis on the hard-core contesting theme. Anyone up for taking this on?

Given all the contest activity at the end of the year, we'll try to put out another Gazette at the end of the year that will focus on the 10-Meter Contest and CQWW CW results, as well as a summary of the FCG year.

GO FCG! Happy Holidays! OJ!

vy 73, Dan, K1TO

Frank KA0GGI takes over Score

Many thanks to Frank KA0GGI who has volunteered to summarize club contest scores on the reflector for the upcoming contest season. Frank takes over from Dave N2NL who was recently transferred to California by the USCG.

Ed. Note: I will work with Frank to utilize his spreadsheets for score displays in the Gazette, and will be able to modify them to go to the contest sponsors. This is a big help and a real timesaver for me during contest season.

2006 Dues Collection

It's that time of year again. I will begin collection of 2006 dues on 1 January. I'll send an e-mail to the reflector noting who has prepaid, then one e-mail at the end of each month summarizing the status. 96% of our members pay the annual fee of \$10 and download newsletters from our web site, the rest pay \$15 to get a hard copy via US Mail. Checks to Florida Contest Group. Mail to Fred Perkins, K4LQ, 3437 Lake Josephine Dr., Lake Placid FL 33852

Thanks and 73,

Fred K4LQ
(Among Other Things) Treasurer, FCG

Welcome Aboard



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

W1RG Richard M. Gillingham, 1685 W. 62 Street, Hialeah FL 33012-6142 e-mail: rmoodyg@bellsouth.net

AA0KO Greg O'Neill, 4876 Merlot Drive, Rockledge FL 32955 e-mail: aa0ko@arrl.net

K1ZN Jeff Cantor, 2532 Whaley Avenue, Pensacola FL 32503 e-mail: k1zn@Cox.net

W3TB Ted Edwards, 9211 31st St. Ct. East, Parrish FL 34219 W3tb.ted@gmail.com

Events Calendar

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 10 to 2400Z, Dec 11

Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Dec 17 to 1500Z, Dec 18

ARRL RTTY Roundup Jan 7 1800Z to Jan 8 2400Z

NAQP CW Contest - Jan 14 1800Z to Jan 15 0600Z

NAQP SSB Contest - Jan 22 1800Z to Jan 23 0600Z

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes 1900Z, Jan 21 to 0400Z, Jan 23

CQ 160 Meter Contest, CW - Jan 28 0000Z to Jan 29 2400Z

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 11 to 2400Z, Feb 12

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Feb 18 to 2400Z, Feb 19

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 000Z Feb 25 to 2359Z Feb 26

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 4

Grant Mitchell N4GM SK

Grant Mitchell - On Saturday, September 24, 2005, Grant joined his wife Peg on the Stairway to Heaven. He is survived by his mother, Leila St. Hilaire, his brothers, Roger and Gary, and his sister, Wendy. He was a loving and devoted father of three daughters, Tina, Susan and Marlena and a wonderful "Pops" to his six grandchildren. He will be missed dearly by all those whose lives he has touched. Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 11:00 am at Riverside Gordon Memorial Chapels (954)721-18 (The above obituary was from the Sun Sentinel)



The following is from QRZ.com.

Grant was first licensed as a Novice in 1979 as KA2DIV. He upgraded to Extra a year later. He became K2ACW in 1997, and N4GM in 1999.

He operated mostly HF CW. DXCC totals confirmed 327/335 CW only and also CW Mobile, (275 confirmed mobile CW).

Recently his activities had shifted to 6 Meters, VHF/UHF and Satellite, where he was chasing DXCC, VUCC and WAS.

He operated frequently from Antigua over many years, with the calls KA2DIV/V2A, V2ACW and most recently V21CW.

He was Trustee and QSL Manager for K4FFF, FISTS CW Club of Florida, and also KA2DIV, KW4CW, the Sunrise Contest Club.

He was a member of the South Florida DX Association, The FISTS CW Club and The Antigua and Barbuda Radio Society (ABARS).

N4BP's Comments from the FCG

Grant was the hi-tech member of the Guano Reef Bashful Perverts Field Day group for the past four years.

He pushed us to get the bonus points for alternative means of communication such as satellite, APRS, SSTV, and Packet. He worked especially hard over the past year to perfect his equipment and talent to garner some satellite QSO's in this past June's FD. What a shock when we showed up at Grant's house on the morning of FD only to find out that he was already in trouble and too weak to make the trip. He had even bought ARRL FD shirts for the three of us at the Dayton Hamfest, so of course Kevin and I wore ours for the event. We also brought Grant's telescoping mast and ladder to erect our forty meter dipole. I guess it's appropriate that our FD site for the past thirty eight years is to be closed next spring and condominiums built on the KOA property.

Our last field trip together turned out to be the QRP "Flight of the Bumblebees" last August. Grant and I drove down to Fiesta Key at MM70 (our usual spot for FD) and alternated hours operating for the duration. Typical of me, I forgot to pack headsets, but we found a little girl at a nearby campsite who loaned us the earbuds from her Walkman.

The wind was blowing that day, so we turned a second picnic table on end and used it for a wind-break.

And speaking of QRP events, Grant would often find me beaconing my usual F1 CQ in some obscure QRP sprint and run through six bands with me for that elusive Florida multiplier.

I tend to be too competitive, while Grant always pushed to "be the best he can be". I admired him greatly for that.

Forgive the cliche, but we WILL miss him! Our Field Day this past June certainly wasn't the same without him, and I will miss his booming signal from just off Oakland Park Blvd. The Field Day ladder is back in his garage, but he is instead using that same Stairway to Heaven that Peg loved so much. Rest in peace buddy.

73, Bob Patten, N4BP

Melbourne Hamfest Meeting Report

The following members joined us at Franco's Pizzeria for lunch: K1PT and KD1BG, K1TO, K4DDR, K4LQ, K5KG, KC4PX, N4EK and KD4BRJ, KK4TA, NA4CW, NS4W, NW5E, W4IX, W4QM, W4SAA, W4TV, W4YA.

The following members attended the K9ES Meeting and Cookout: AA0KO, AD4ES, K1TO, K1XX, K4DDR, K4LQ and Sheila, K5KG, K9ES and Sylvia, KC4HW and XYL, KC4PX, KE1F, KG8B, KK4TA, N2WB and KB4NOA, NA4CW, NS4W, NW5E, W4DKB and W4STB, W4GKA, W4QM, W4SAA, W4TV, W4YA. Cliff, K14HCM and Jeff, WA4AW attended as well.

Dan began the meeting by holding up the two gavels that FCG won for the 2003 and 2004 ARRL 10 Meter Contests.

He noted that it was 8 years ago today that the proposal was made at the Melbourne Meeting (at Franco's!) to reactivate the FQP under FCG sponsorship.

Members introduced themselves, including our newest member Greg AA0KO from Viera.

Dan applauded Eric for his incredible efforts in getting the station rebuilt after the devastation of one year ago. Those present got to see a well-engineered layout, both inside and out. Eric is well set up for Multi-2 for the upcoming season and promised to submit an article for the Gazette detailing his layout.

Dan noted some of the activities of members during Katrina - Charlie NF4A has been working in the Gulf coast area getting broadcast stations back on the air. Pete N4KW was looking earlier for a carpool into the area. Tom KK4TA has visited and has been helping relatives in the area (Tom spoke briefly about this to the group). Julio WD4R has been working closely with the Hurricane Center in Miami. As the storm passed across FL a few members experienced damage - Dave W4DN lost a tower, two yagis and had some roof damage. John K4WJ had some damage to his quad.

Bill N2WB from the Florida DX Group told us a bit about the upcoming DXpedition to Peter Island (3Y0X) scheduled in January - February 2006.

Bill is a member of the 3Y0X team. They plan to have 9 stations on the island for about 2 weeks, using ICOM 756 PRO IIIs and Alpha Amps. It will be the most expensive expedition ever, moving 22 tons of gear on and off the island. Their goal is 100,000 QSOs. More details at www.peterone.com

Another DXpedition note - Glen W4GKA will be heading off to J7 for WW SSB, along with two of the Briggs brothers - K2DM and K3ZM. The YCCC, reeling from being knocked off their winning perch, is doing a good job about pooling resources within the club and Dan encouraged the FCG to do the same.

Resources are not just spare rigs, antennas and amplifiers, but operators as well. That discussion segued into George K5KG reviewing the mechanics of the FCG Contest Buddy program which matches Elmers with Elmos. We all have areas of expertise in which we are a potential Elmer to others and areas that we need help in, thus labeled Elmos.

Dan reviewed last year's FCG results in a number of major contests. In CQWW, the FCG was the #5 USA club and #10 World, an excellent showing given the substantial damage that resulted from the storm season that had just passed. The FCG had a bunch of ad hoc Team Contesting teams for WW SSB and we plan to enjoy that again this year. For ARRL SS, the club finished 4th in the Medium category and #10 overall, with only 37 entries across the 2 modes. Of course, the FCG won its 2nd straight ARRL 10-Meter Contest and its first in the Unlimited category, with nearly 60 entries! ARRL DX was our weakest finish of the contest season, as we finished 8th in the Unlimited class and 15th overall in the US. Results for WPX are not yet available.

Dan asked if anyone had taken the recent contest survey put out by John K1AR who writes the contesting column for CQ Magazine. A number of attendees had. One of the questions was as follows: "Which of the following best describes your view of the World Radiosport Team Championship concept?"

A discussion of the WRTC concept ensued, oriented around what support, if any, the FCG should provide for the upcoming WRTC 2006 in Brazil.

Fred was asked for the status of the treasury: Treasury: \$2749.49 About 1/3 of our yearly income supports the FQP. W1CW/K4OJ Memorial Fund: \$2117.00 Fred also gave current membership data: 188 current members, 13 new members so far this year, 19 resignations this year primarily from people moving out of state.

W4SAA noted that since the club has few expenses, there should be no problem supporting WRTC.

No decision was reached regarding WRTC support and this discussion will be continued.

Sherri W4STB asked if we had any Spanish speaking members that could provide support for some of the forums coming up at the Miami Hamfest in February. Julio AD4Z/HI3A, Julio WD4R and Vic N4TO were suggested as possibilities.

There has been discussion on the contest reflectors recently about the optimum time to require logs to be submitted after a contest. This discussion continued at the meeting. Most present agreed that one week after the contest was probably too soon, even given the computer generated summaries that are available now. Some agreement on the 2 week to 30 day after the contest period being more reasonable.

A discussion was held concerning FCG sponsorship of additional contest plaques.. We currently sponsor plaques for the NAQP, but none for the major contests. It was agreed that we should look into further plaque sponsorship for at least the major contests, CQWW, SS and ARRL DX. Dan made some specific suggestions at this meeting as follows:

Sponsor one plaque for CW and for SSB for each of those 3 contests. Included would be a K4OJ Memorial plaque for CQWW CW for a top Multi-op, another K4OJ Memorial plaque for SSCW and a W1CW Memorial plaque for a multi-op (or 40M) entry in ARRL DX CW. Another consideration is that Icom has entered an agreement with the ARRL to sponsor a large number of plaques for SS and ARRL DX. NA4CW suggested that we spread the plaque categories out to cover multiple power levels if possible. Dan will research further and send a more detailed recommendation to the reflector.

ARRL's Logbook of the World (LOTW) was discussed for a few minutes. Several members have hit glitches and given up on trying to submit their QSOs. A recent QST article written by N0AX on LOTW helped K1TO get over a similar hump. Dan submitted logs from many recent contests, mostly DX contests, and found the match rate to be pretty low - typically in the 10-15% range. It was pointed out that submitting logs for DX stations is harder due to the up-front certification process. So the match rate for domestic contests is expected to be higher. 3Y0X will participate in LOTW, by the way.

Those present discussed Kids' Day. Sherri W4STB had some great suggestions, including a way to provide personalized certificates to each kid who participated as a takeaway. Eric K9ES then mentioned that he will host 20-30 Scouts for the upcoming Jamboree On The Air. During the meeting weekend, Eric is hosting 2 young hams for the Sept. VHF Contest. 15-year old Elliot, KI4AEI seemed quite enthusiastic and his persistence paid off with a 6M opening on Sunday!

FCGer Joe Subich W4TV has been appointed Distributor for North and South America for Microham, a Slovakian company that makes accessories including band decoders, antenna switches, antenna stacking devices, SO2R equipment, USB interfaces and others. Joe gave a brief rundown on the company and its products. He says more details can be found at www.microham-usa.com

Each of those present was asked which contest they expected to concentrate most heavily on during the upcoming season. The majority said the 10-Meter Contest, meaning the likelihood of a 3-peat looks good! Others mentioned big efforts in CQWW (including the upcoming RTTY weekend), SS and WPX.

Dan wrapped up the meeting by again thanking Eric and Sylvia for their hospitality (to warm applause from the group) and the hat was passed for donations to help offset their costs.

Thanks to Dan K1TO for his assistance in editing this report.

Fred Perkins K4LQ
Secretary, FCG



Enjoying lunch at Franco's - Left from Foreground - K5KG, KD4BRJ, N4EK, 2 people obscured, K1PT (with the hat) KD1BG. Right from foreground W4YA, 2 people obscured, K4DDR, NA4CW.



At K9ES, -Back L-R KK4TA, NA4CW, NS4W, Front L-R, K5KG. W4SAA



Ed Note: I apologize for the poor quality of the above photos, There appeared to be a film on my lens. Left, a much better photo by K5KG

Dan K1TO and Joe W4SAA

Claimed Scores CQWW SSB

Call	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Score	Class	Operators
K5KG	1865	122	425	2,849,870	M/S	K5KG W4IX
J7DM	5799	112	373	1,687,558	M/S	W4GKA and 3 non-FCG Operators
PJ2T	8913	145	494	2,379,179	M/2	K1XX and 6 non-FCG Operators
NE4AA	795	80	252	735,048	M/2	K1TO WD4AHZ At K1TO
K4LQ	431	68	202	330,750	SOABHP	
N4GI	417	51	153	245,208	SOABHP	
W7QF	337	71	188	243,201	SOABHP	
W4CEO	168	35	106	62,181	SOABHP	
W4STB	124	18	55	37,926	SOABHP	
W4DKB	26	7	17	2,660	SOABHP	
N4WW	1028	137	463	1,706,400	SOABHP (A)	
K1PT	371	77	232	313,944	SOABHP (A)	
CX7TT	447	60	111	198,189	SOABHP (A)	K6CT
W4FDA	256	52	144	138,964	SOABHP (A)	
K9OM	500	82	232	431,750	SOABLP	
NA4CW	522	75	204	403,155	SOABLP	
AI4MK	562	64	187	370,225	SOABLP At WJ9B	
K4GKD	302	53	150	169,505	SOABLP	
KG8B	78	22	53	15,825	SOABLP	
N3EK	25	10	16	1,638	SOABLP	
N4CC	287	32	103	110,970	SOHP 40 (A)	
VP5DX	3181	32	109	1,345,653	SOHP 15	NU4Y
K1UM	352	30	104	131,488	SOHP 15	
K4XS	1055	30	108	393,000	SOHP 40	
KG4WW	3597	30	111	860,946	SOHP 20	KX4WW
HS0ZCW	301	29	60	48,861	SOLP 20	K4VUD
N4DL		35	54	6,110	SOLP 20	

FCG Total **12,370,334**

Florida Contest Group - Panhandle

NQ4I	4685	164	566	9,600,000	M/M	NF4A N4OX VE7ZO
K4PV	1277	96	277	1,084,311	SOABHP	
N4PN	839	35	124	353,298	SOABHP	
K4JAF	393	71	150	285,273	SOABLP	
KB4ET	355	59	158	214,396	SOABLP	

FCG Panhandle Total **11,537,278**

CQWW SSB**TEAM CONTESTING:**

	Total Score	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Class	Op Time (Hrs)	OPS
<u>FCG TEAM #1 - Cqing Worldwidiers</u>							
CX7TT	198,189	447	60	111	SO HP		K6CT
HI3A							
HS0ZCW	48,861	301	29	60	S/O LP 20		K4VUD
KG4WW	860,946	2597	30	111	S/O HP 20	22.8	KX4WW
N4GI	245,208	417	51	153	S/O HP		
TEAM 1 - TOTAL	1,353,204						
<u>FCG TEAM #2 - Survivors</u>							
AI4MK	370,225	562	64	187	S/O L/P	32.5	AI4MK at WJ9B
K4PV	1,084,311	1277	96	277	S/O HP		
K4XS	393,000	1055	30	108	S/O HP 40		
N4WW	1,706,400	1028	137	463	S/O HP (A)		
NA4CW	403,155	522	75	204	S/O HP		
TEAM 2 - TOTAL	3,957,091						
<u>FCG TEAM #3 - Fun in the Sunners</u>							
K4CC	113,099	263	38	133	S/O HP		K4CC
KB4ET	214,396	355	59	158	S/O LP		KB4ET
N4EK	1,638	25	10	16	S/O LP	1.0	N4EK
W4ZW					S/O HP		
WN1GIV (cancelled due to WILMA)				0	S/O HP	0.0	N4BP
TEAM 3 - TOTAL	329,133						
<u>FCG TEAM #4</u>							
K1UM	131,588	351	30	104	S/O HP 15		
K9OM	431,750	500	82	232	S/O LP		
TEAM 4 - TOTAL	563,338						

A Sample CQWW SSB Soapbox by Red

Austin being 60 and I am 5 days short of my 63rd birthday, we feel we acquitted ourselves reasonably respectably. We slept from 4 am to 7 am on Saturday morn and from 3 am to 6 am on Sunday morn. No naps, a few breaks for grabbing something to eat and other humanly functions.

Both of us swore that this was going to be the contest that everything worked great from the opening bell. Usually we get a late start getting organized and the first few hours are used to operate and fix the snafus that we should have taken care of prior to the contest. But we started on Tuesday eve, Thursday eve and also started at about 3:30 on Friday to be sure that all the stockings were hung with care. Everything was perfect. We had checked the computers to be sure they networked properly by using a test.bin program and we were ready! Had a nice leasurly snack prior to the contest and almost forgot to check times and dates, but we got them done prior to 0000. Loaded the new log, double checked our configurations including being sure we had station 1 and 2 and the telnet was ready to go and lo and behold IT WOULDN'T NETWORK!!!!!!!!!! The bell has now rung and it is past 0000 and still can't network despite checking configurations and cables and we even turned the router off and then back on. Nothing worked. So..... We accepted the fact and started with Austin on 80 and 160 (he said they were really great ... But he has been working on new antennas on those bands for a year and it seems to be finally paying off. I started on 20 and quickly moved to 40. We would occasionally think of something else to check about the network and back and forth between operating and trying to get networking to go. Never did work, so at time we planned to be sleeping, we merged the files from both computers and reloaded and thought that perhaps a good nights sleep would bring some new ideas.

I (me - K0LUZ), actually woke up about 15 minutes prior to the alarm going off (that's Austin - the alarm) and went to shack to see if I could now figure it out. Nope.. Off we went to our individual computers and still no networking. I would recheck, reboot, etc. at times and I rebooted the router by leaving it off for a longer time than I could bear (we did have Internet) and brought it back up, rebooted and LO AND BEHOLD!! IT WORKED! Stopped everything at about 7:30 am (big time prop on most bands) and merged all the bin files and off we went from that point on. Enjoying what the other guy was working by seeing it on the screen and using same telnet packet connection. Oh the Joy of it all.....

Probably lost at least 100 qso's with all the messing around, but the stations worked flawlessly from that point on. No rigs went south, amps worked great, Antennas did what they were

suppose to do. Great job Austin!!

As everyone knows 10 meters never really opened. Best we did was a ea8 and everything else south.

15 was good although it closed earlier than we would have liked. Was wide open on Saturday morning when we got there. Sunday, didn't open until about 8:00.

20 and 40 were good as you can see by the scores. In fact, looking at K4XS totals, we have 11 more countries than Bill worked on 40.

Worked 101 countries on 80 meters. That was Austins bread and butter band (think of all the pileups with the humungous pileups he had to fight) But of course only one call and he could leave. Hi hi

Didn't get 100 countries on 160, but it was very respectable and Austin is pleased with the new antennas.

Most fun. We ran all over the place and of course age makes you a bit more "What the hell --- I don't care! "-- Sunday on 20 I was running at 14100.6 and making a nice run of it. Big signal comes on sending "BEACON -BEACON - BEACON" and then "YOU ARE ON THE BEACON FREQ." I ignored and kept working stations and again heard "BEACON" after every qso for a few minutes. Finally I asked for his call and getting no response, I sent "I AM THE BEACON" he sent a few more BEACONS and then disappeared.

Strange prop as others have mentioned, but overall, a great contest. My antenna connection is completely down at my station and I don't climb, so even though the bug has again bitten, will have to wait until another N4WW contest or I save up enough money to get someone to climb the tower and fix.

We heard many FCGers and scores are great. Will be interesting to see how close we come to the top this year.

OJ
Red K0LUZ

Towers and Antennas are up at K9ES!

With the help of some great people, an 80 foot trylon tower, a XM240, C31XR, and Mosely Pro-67-C3 were all put in the air in just over 4 hours. Beyel Brothers Crane was hired and brought a 70 ton monster to erect everything. The tower went up, and then the XM240 was installed. The XM240 and mast were then raised 16 feet until the T2X rotor was locked in. Then the C31XR went up. After this tower work was done, the Pro-67-C3 was brought to the top of the 55 feet of Rohn 45G.

Many thanks to Jeff KG4IPO and Tim KI4TG, my "high men". Hank and Stephanie AA4HP and K4MVO, Chuck AD4ES, Lee W4UUM, Greg and Carol AA0KO, Elliot KI4AEI, and Dave KD4SFR were great with the ground work. My son Keith KF4ODE did great with the photography and movies (1 GB of stuff) And many thanks to my wife Sylvia for preparing all the food for everyone (and for watching Alyssa, Jeff's 2 year old daughter) so he could be on top of the tower. .

73's

Eric
K9ES



Top: Jeff and Tim on the Trylon 80 foot tower finalizing the Force-12 C31XR after putting up the XM240

Bottom: Tim and Eric on the roof after the crane brought the PRO-67-C3 up to Jeff (on top of the Rohn 45G @ 55 feet) where he is bolting it to the mast. Note the 6 and 2 beams on that tower (the crane had to work through them) as well as the TV antennas at 45 feet.



K9ES After Wilma



More Views of K9ES Post Wilma

Many FCGers Sustain Damage in Hurricane Wilma

Ed Note - As I write this the evening of October 25, , power is still out to much of SE and SW FL. Some reports have come in through the reflector and some by phone. Several members remain out of touch.

K9ES - (Indian Harbour Beach) Trylon Tower Down

We took a massive wind gust shifting from the East and coming from the North, and the Trylon tower folded at about 35 feet, landing everything in my back yard. It actually folded over. The bottom 30 feet are still up. So far the Rohn 45G is up, and the 3 beams appear to be working fine.

This is a lot worse than predicted. I only expected some tropical force winds and rain. It is far worse. 73's Eric K9ES

K9ES - Lost the Rohn 45G Tower

All antennas crashed down. The Rohn 45G with the Pro-67C3 and Caribbean beams just came down. The Gap Challenger is bent over like a pretzel. Antennas are touching the 220 Line, so I have to kill house power before I can clear them off. Time to move ! Eric K9ES

KK4TA and Wilma (Okeechobee)

Lot of damage in the Okeechobee area and at my work place, Eckerd Youth Development Center where I have about a half of mile of security fence down, probably 30 roofs off, and flooding like I haven't seen in 20 years.

The tower stayed up, but the Create 40 meter and the SteppIR 3L have severe damage. Lost 2 fiberglass tubes and I have metal tape flapping in the breeze. Looks like at least one of the motor housing may have sustained damage. Won't know till I get it all down. The tower seems OK, though it was close. I almost had a tree on a guy.

Probably no CWWSSB this weekend. I had been thinking of retiring and moving to Tenn., so this might be the chance. Tom

W4DN - (Miami) Lost tower and 40 Meter Beam

K1PT - Palm City (Via N6NL/6)

The back side of the storm was the strongest, and he suffered some antenna damage during the second half. The boom on his new 40M beam folded back on itself, so the two elements are now right next to each other. This antenna replaced the 40m beam he lost last year. He now calls it his new folded 40M dipole! His C31XR lost a couple elements as well. The tower suffered no damage, but the mast is bent 30 degrees,

See picture of K1PT's antennas at top of next column



W4SO - Hollywood

Lost the tower and C4SXL and 7 ele 6 meter beam. The top 4 feet of the tower bent over like it had been melted. Screen enclosure over the pool was in the pool and lots of tile damage. More later. Family fine. Scott W4SO

W4OV - (Coconut Creek) (By Phone) Damaged Sommer Yagi - Lost 6M Yagi



W4OV 6M Quad Takes a Swim



**12X12 Concrete Power Pole near W4OV
Up since 1967**

K4WJ - Pembroke Pines

My two element quad was shredded by Wilma and the tower that supports it is listing a little to the starboard side. It appears that the base was actually pulled up out of the ground a couple of inches. It was the south side of the base that was lifted up. I don't know how I'm going to correct this problem.

No other damage here. A lot of trees down in the neighborhood and some flat roofs didn't survive.

We lost power around 7 a.m. Monday morning and our telephone service went out about 3 or 4 hours later. Power was restored Friday evening at 7:26 p.m. and our telephone service came up around 9:20 p.m. this evening.

I gambled that Wilma would be a category one storm when it passed Pembroke Pines and the quad would survive. I lost the bet. I'm sure glad we had hurricane shutters on the windows because the back shutters were taking some strong hits during the storm. I'm on a small lake and I have no idea what was hitting the shutters as nothing was found along the house after the storm

N4BP - Plantation

Wilma 1, BP 0 Wilma's eye came directly over us as a cat3 storm. All damage was from the backside of the storm, but a valuable lesson—and some luck - came on the front side. As the storm approached, the 60 ft of Rohn 25G leaned to the north and the two guy wires on that side went slack. Both turnbuckles unscrewed and the guys flapped freely in the wind. When the eye came over, I managed to get outside and reattach both guys. If I hadn't, the tower would definitely have come down when the wind shifted! Lesson learned: turnbuckles must be tied with wire to prevent them from unscrewing. When the wind shifted, first my shadowbox fence and hedge blew over. Next, the screened patio came apart and blew over the roof and all over the neighborhood. Finally, the TH7DX and 5 el 6M Yagi blew off the tower and landed on my truck shattering the windshield and denting the hood and fender. All antennas are on the ground and totally destroyed, but the tower is still standing and appears in good shape. When the dust settles, I may put up a small tribander - thinking about the A4S. Electricity is still out and expected to be restored by Nov 15. Phone is also out, but somehow DSL started working this afternoon, so temporarily at least have internet and e-mail. Picked up a 5500W gene from Pep Boys so wife and I are enjoying hot showers, a little TV, and lighting. Gas lines are getting shorter - brought mine and all the neighbors gas cans to a station seven miles away and was in and out within 30 minutes. Also picked up a chain saw at Lowes and have been hacking away at the hedge and fence as much as this tired old body can handle - it will take a while, but nothing better to do. Could have been much worse! Juli and I are fine and living in an undamaged, dry house.



N8PR - Hollywood One Tower and Antennas

Got a note from Pete N8PR saying that antennas that were on the ground or blown away included a KT34XA, two KT34As, a 40-2CD and a D3W.

Also lost 500 ft of RG-213.

He is thinking of replacing them with a 4 element Steppir, and putting a 30/40 2 element yagi on the 70 ft tower. Pete has a good insurance company who has agreed to pay for all the damage. He still has all the parts for a KT36XA which he will put on the 106 ft tower when he can get to it.

He has put his 3 element Wilson tribander on the 70 ft crank-up tower, and hopes to have the 4 square for 80 and the 160 Meter inverted vee tuned and one or two sloping dipoles for 40 meters up in time for the CQWW CW contest in a few weeks.

ARRL SS CW

<u>Station</u>	<u>QSOs</u>	<u>Sections</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Total Score</u>	<u>Op Time (Hrs)</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Operator</u>
WJ9B	1104	80	S/O HP	176,480	24.0	NFL	
K4PV	1008	79	S/O HP	159,264	24.0	NFL	
W4GAC	432	80	M/S HP	69,120	20.0	WCF	KP2N
KA0GGI	387	70	S/O HP	54,180	6.0	WCF	at K4XS
N4AO	350	72	S/O HP	50,400	6.0	WCF	WC4E
W7QF	328	76	S/O HP	49,856	12.5	NFL	
K4XS	312	65	S/O HP	40,560	3.9	WCF	
K9OM	500	80	S/O HP (U)	80,000	8.0	NFL	
N4GI	1082	80	S/O LP	173,120	24.0	WCF	
K1PT	980	80	S/O LP	156,800	21.0	SFL	
N4TB	666	79	S/O LP	105,228	18.0	WCF	
WD4AHZ	599	80	S/O LP	95,840	19.0	WCF	
W4ARM	444	71	S/O LP	63,048	12.5	SFL	
NF4A	192	63	S/O LP	24,192	2.4	NFL	
K9VV	111	47	S/O HP	10,434	1.7	SFL	at K4FAU
TOTALS	8495	1181		1308522	203		
AVERAGES	566	79		87235	14		
NP2B	966	79	S/O LP	152,628	24.0	VI	N4BP

FCG STATIONS INDICATED BUT NOT REPORTED AT TIME OF NEWSLETTER

N4OX
W4SAA
W4ZW/4 LP KY

Tentative Plans for the 10 Meter Contest

Ed Note - Some of these plans may have changed due to Wilma damage

ARRL 10-Meter (Dec 10-11 GMT) (FCG = 2-time defending champs):

KG4WW possible

NE4AA MS @ K1TO?

K5KG HP MIX

K4XS HP MIX (or SSB)

K4PV HP MIX

N4GI LP MIX

WN1GIV HP CW by N4BP

WJ9B HP CW maybe

W4QM CW

W4YA CW

KK4TA LP SSB

NS4W SSB

AD4ES

K4DDR

K4LQ

KE1F

W4IX

W4TV

K8NZ needs a seat

vy 73, Dan, K1TO/9

Vic N4TO announces that Vicnic 2005 was the final Vicnic

From N4TO, I would like to announce that the annual summer FCG picnic which some have named the Vicnic has gone into history. I no longer will be hosting the picnic, I hope that I'm giving enough notice so that someone else may step forward and continue the summer FCG picnic tradition.

I would like to thank people that helped put on the picnic, and hope I don't forget anyone.

- Thanks to Paul and Joanne KT3T and KT3O for the use of their enormous Bar-B-Q.
- Thanks to Ink and Dale N4OO and W4QM who came to my QTH the day before the picnic and helped with the setup, and some of the early cooking preparations, including K4XS from whom Ink "borrowed" his baked bean recipe.
- Thanks to Sheila, XYL of K4LQ who always helped with the cleanup inside the house when the picnic concluded.
- Thanks to all who brought covered dishes, and various deserts for all to enjoy.

It has been my pleasure to host the picnic, and should the new host (hopefully someone will step forward) need any help I will be available to provide whatever assistance they may need.

ARRL 2005 June VHF Contest

KC4PX	46,494	311	123	B	SFL	FCG
N4IS	19,040	192	80	B	AL	FCG
NJ2F	9,568	149	52	B	SFL	FCG
KN4Y	299	23	13	A	NFL	FCG
Totals	75,401	675	268			

Thanks Frank KA0GGI for the summation
Dear Fellow Contesters,

CQ Issues Backlogged

By now many of you will have received your missing CQ WW certificates. As you know, the work of the CQ WW is made up of volunteers and for various reasons the certificates had fallen behind. However, all that has now changed. All winners since 2002 have been printed. Over 6800 certificates have been distributed. This brings the CQ WW contest completely up to date. This fantastic step forward could not have taken place without the enthusiastic help, expertise and hard work of Barry, W5GN. Working with K3EST, N6TW, K3WW, N6AA, K3LR, K2RED and K1AR over the last few months, a method was developed to customize each certificate from the results as they appear in the magazine. Barry was the glue that held it all together. The CQWWCC wants to thank him in this public forum. Without his skill, the work would have been overwhelming.

All certificate winners anywhere in the world should have received their award within one month. The great majority of winners will receive theirs within 2 weeks. If you do not receive your award within the one month time period please contact questions@cqww.com. There were several hundred certificates without an address within their Cabrillo file. The process is now in place to print and distribute the 2005 certificates as you receive the results in CQ magazine. Please post this message to your club's

reflector, e.g. WWYC. Once again, thank you Barry, W5GN.

73,
Bob, K3EST
CQ WW Director
Thanks Dave KB4ET for forwarding this e-mail
All--

More Good News from CQ

The CQ WW results for all contests 1999-2004 are now available on-line. You can view them by logging into CQ's Web site at:

<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cqwwpastresults.html>

Many thanks to CQ. Contesters around the world appreciate your support.

73,
John, K1AR

(Copied from the CQ- Contest Reflector)

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