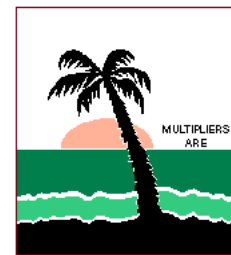


# Contest Gazette

## Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.org



Volume 14 Issue 5

December 2007

### From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO

**F**irst of all, deep thanks to Fred, K9VV and Charly, K4VUD/HS0ZCW for very ably filling in with interesting and motivational Gazette lead material for the previous issue! Now you're back to being stuck with my mundane blathering. ;<)



As we wrap up 2007 exchanging a bunch of new Q-signals, the biggest sigh of relief comes for being hurricane-free (QHF?). Thus, many more of us built up our stations than lost ground on them this year.

It was a groundbreaking year with respect to again slashing dues – now down to a paltry \$5/yr for most! And the Red Sox proved they are for real!

I have to spend a few paragraphs to highlight our Florida QSO Party. The FCG took up sponsorship of the FQP starting in 1998 after it was dormant for a number of years once the Florida Skip magazine ceased operations. So 2007 already marked the 10th running of the rejuvenated FQP. We've grown it from 229 log entries in 1998 to 778 logs received in 2007! With band condx so crummy, it drove activity down to 40M earlier and more often, which allowed K2SX in SC to achieve the closest-in sweep ever this year.

FCG support for the FQP is incredible. We get on the air in unprecedented numbers (one of these years, I'll have the exact number of FCG calls on the air to pull out of my back pocket!), both from home and on the road (heck, we had 2 MULTI-2 Mobile teams this year!) to make sure that every county is covered multiple times, we sponsor an ever growing number of plaques to recognize both in-state and out-of-state/worldwide efforts, we mail certificates to hundreds of deserving winners, we check the logs very closely to make the results even more meaningful, we spend time on the write-up so that it isn't just a rehash of the top ten boxes, we send encouraging e-mails ahead of the FQP in true OJ style (xx days until...), we share info with numerous other State and Regional QSO Parties, etc.

The FCG's second-most participated-in event each year (behind of course our own Florida QSO Party!) is the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. The FCG was dethroned in 2006 after winning its Affiliated Club Category 4 times in a row, and conditions really stunk for us again this year. (Reports of numerous dead F1 keys can be confirmed!) At the bottom of the previous sunspot cycle, the FCG really dominated, so we can't complain about others getting the better condx recently. Last year, we had a few Europeans in the log, but this year, only a handful of us (not including me) worked anyone outside of the Americas and that was extreme southern Africa (D2, ZS). Nonetheless, FCGers plugged away and hung in there and we will easily end up with more than 50 entries, again placing us in the Unlimited Club category against the much larger clubs.



**SEASONS GREETINGS FROM  
K1TO, K4LQ, K5KG, WD4AHZ,  
And the Tallyman K4EJ**

HI3A was a fantastic trip for the all-FCG team of Julio AD4Z/ HI3A, Vic N4TO, Ron K8NZ, Blake N4GI and me. Tatino HI3CCP/HI3C has assembled a really excellent station on top of a beautiful tall ridge in the northwestern D.R. Much more will be written and shared about this trip. Look for most or all of the team at the Orlando hamfest coming up in early February. It's been wonderful to read and see all about other recent FCG operations – in E5, KP2, VP9, C6, HS, PJ4, PJ2, etc.

A number of FCG shirts were brought to HI3 and other places. Check out the latest FCG logo – the water is actually blue! The impact on the shirt (and hat) is tremendous. Stitchin' Waves does a super job with our shirts now. It was neat to see their computer calculate the huge number of stitches required for each name & callsign.

Welcome aboard to our new members. We finally broke through the 200-member mark this fall after ending the previous 3 years with a membership roll in the 190s! Although this is a level that nobody expected to reach, there is plenty of room to grow. My ARRL 10-Meter CW-only log has 113 Florida QSOs logged and barely half are in the FCG!

I want to take this opportunity to once again thank the other club officers and the Tallyman (non-appointed position) for their dedication to the FCG and to each of you for your contribution to this

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vibrant club. We don't measure contribution in points alone. There are an infinite number of ways to have a positive impact. Tell us about your trip to BY or E5, for example! (Most times we hear about a BY in these parts, it is just a poorly copied 6Y.) And E5 reminds me of a story I shared with K5KG... When pileup trainers were first around, I used one from Japan called PED a few times. Trying to trick it, I picked the shortest possible call I could think of – E5E! Little did I know then that George could've ended up with that very callsign for WW CW this year!

Fred, K4LQ deserves megakudos [Dear Webster's – please include this new word] for his continued fabulous work with the FCG newsletter! Add to those hundreds of hours the efforts that Fred puts into tracking (and tracking \*down\*!) dues, plus the efforts in keeping notes at our FCG meetings, and you can begin to appreciate the dedication that Fred has devoted to making this club so solid.

In fact, the best way you can respect Fred's yeoman efforts is by taking care of your dues as soon as practical for you. Thanks.

Check out our club site at [floridacontestgroup.org](http://floridacontestgroup.org) and see what Ron, WD4AHZ did with the FCG palm tree! Ron maintains both the FCG and FQP web sites, along with keeping the mailing lists for each reflector running smoothly. Ron also quietly keeps pieces of the FQP going, including yearly notices to various publications with the updated rules, and volunteering to receive and key in each paper logged entry.

George, K5KG assists us in many ways, including following through on innovative ideas such as our Elmer/Elmo program that helps those in need of answers (and we \*all\* fall into that category) find someone who is an expert in that area (and most of us also fall into \*this\* category).

As mentioned, the TallyMan post is an unofficial position, and Frank goes above and beyond the mere accounting of line scores to inject a lot of enthusiasm and energy into his posts. Most of you have not been privileged as I have to see the monster spreadsheet that he uses to tabulate each and every score that is posted to the FCG reflector, along with a snippet phrase to summarize comments. I also know that Frank's efforts boosted the club score by further reminding everyone to officially submit those scores and pass along that "receipt" from the contest sponsors. Senor Tally's weekly reminder of what events might pique our interest in staying radio-active are also helpful.

I look forward to seeing many of you in person in Orlando in early February, and on the air in various events prior to then. As poor as 10 Meters was earlier this month, 160 gets even better in low sun-spot years, so enjoy the Stew Perry (and listen for the intense battle between our W4SAA and WJ9B!) and CQ 160 tests. Many enjoy the winter low power domestic NAQP events in January and the ARRL RTTY Roundup is a major RTTY event in January as well, and I almost left out the January VHF contest.

At Orlando, we'll continue our recent efforts at hosting a contest forum program – yet another way that the FCG is taking leadership in the contest world. And we've taken to having a table at each hamfest with FCG promotional material, as well as just giving members a place to gather.

I'm up in CT for the holidays and just laughed heartily as I heard my mother comment from the noisy kitchen "these lids drive me crazy"! She could just as easily have been on 20 Meters in a packet pileup!

I wish you and yours very Happy Holidays (QHH)! GO FCG! OJ!

vy 73, Dan, K1TO

## Welcome Aboard



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

**WA4AW** Jeff Beals, PO Box 1584, Loxahatchee FL 33470  
e-mail: [wa4aw@arrl.net](mailto:wa4aw@arrl.net)

**K3PGH** Myra Kitchen, PO Bpx 1584, Loxahatchee FL 33470  
e-mail: [K3PGH@arrl.net](mailto:K3PGH@arrl.net)

## Events Calendar

**Stew Perry Topband Challenge** 1500Z, Dec 29 to 1500Z, Dec 30

**ARRL RTTY Roundup** Jan 5 1800Z to Jan 6 2400Z

**North American QSO Party (CW)** Jan 12 1800Z to Jan 13 0600Z

**North American QSO Party (SSB)** Jan 19-1800Z to Jan 20 0600Z

**CQ WW 160 Meter DX Contest (CW)** Jan 26 0000Z to Jan 27 2400Z

## 2008 FCG Dues are due 1 January

The FCG 2008 dues collection season is fast approaching.

The good news is that beginning in 2008, dues have been lowered to \$5.00 for folks who download the newsletter in color from the web page, and \$10 for those who receive a printed black and white copy by mail. We anticipate this decreased dues level will last for several years.

I am going to go to an essentially conventional dues collection period of a couple months, January and February 2008. Current members who have not paid by 1 March will be removed from the roster.

In past years collection efforts have been stretched out several months. In the interests of keeping my workload at a reasonable level now that we have over 200 members, we will adhere for the first time to a March one collection cutoff. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Please mail dues to :Fred Perkins, 3437 Lake Josephine Drive, Lake Placid FL 33852. Make checks payable to Florida Contest Group

Thanks for your cooperation.

Have a great holiday season!

73/Fred K4LQ

## Claimed Scores CQWW Phone

Station	Score	QSOs	ZONES	DX	Class	Section	OPERATOR(S)	HRs
C6AQW	120,100	543	21	179	SOHP 40m	C6	WQ5W - NFL	
HS0ZCW	252,068	715	44	120	SOHP - ALL	HS		
NP2B	3,081,402	3209	88	326	M/2	KP2	NP2B, k9VV, W4OV, W4DTA, W4LIS, NP2C	46.0
VP9I	2,465,280	3537	84	237	M/S LP - ALL	VP9	W3TB K3YD (score split FCG-FRC)	48.0
<b>TOTAL 4,686,210</b>								
<b>TEAM REGISTRATIONS:</b>								
<b>Team 1:</b>								
<b>Name: FCG High Power</b>								
K4LQ	495,040	552	75	245	SOHP - ALL	WCF	strategy: "nap more, talk less" A4S @ 65ft	
N4BP	338,052	858	31	112	SOHP - 15m	SFL		
N4EK	230,672	428	52	156	SOHP - ALL	NFL		10.2
N6AR	1,461,051	1124	111	366	SOHP - ALL	NFL		
W4RIS	49,140	146	41	85	SOHP - ALL	SFL		8.1
<b>TOTAL 2,573,955</b>								
<b>Team 2:</b>								
<b>Name: FCG Low Power</b>								
N4DL	123,952							
N4WO	48,008	141	43	93	SOLP - ALL	NFL	all-band vertical	11.9
NA4CW	269,613	387	73	188	SOLP - ALL	SFL	C31XR @10m / Car Win 160 @ 8m	15.0
W4ZW	14,820	66	28	50	SOLP - ALL	WCF		15.0
<b>TOTAL 456,393</b>								
<b>FCG - OTHER</b>								
K1TO	2,891,449	2394	110	363	SOHP - ALL	WCF	Had 1052 Z14 QSOs !	25.0
K4BK	14,025	71	32	53	SOLP - ALL	NFL	Hustler Vertical + 80m Vee	11.5
K4GKD	354,375	421	86	223	SOLP - ALL	WCF		15.0
K4PG	7,137	47	25	36	SOLP - ALL	SFL	BWD-90 folded dipole	
KD5M	387,168	438	90	237	SOHP - ALL(A)	NFL		
KT4PD	36,240	120	38	82	SOLP - ALL	SFL	Force12 Flagpole (Vertical)	10.5
N4EEB	71,833	182	51	112	SOLP - ALL TB/WIRES(A)	NFL	80-Meter Loop @ 20 ft	9.2
N4IG	610,000	714			SOLP - ALL	WCF		
N4LF	29,344	100	38	74	SOLP - ALL	SFL	dipole	3.3
N4LZ	136,718	264	51	146	SOHP - ALL	NFL	S&P - HamSticks on car + Comet CHA205B	18.0
N4PJ	420,024	505	71	225	SOHP - ALL(A)	NFL	totally S&P	16.0
N4RI	130,020	235			M/S HP - ALL	WCF	N4RI, KP2N	12.0
N4TP	368,577	574	79	218	SOLP - ALL	WCF	W1GUD/W4LT/K2PT (FCG) WA3DIT, K1KEY, K14HHK (non FCG)	25.2
N4WW	2,440,185	1413	138	505	SOHP (A)- ALL	NFL	52 countries on 10m @ cycle btm!	
W4CU	78,936	200	43	100	SOHP - ALL(A)	WCF	S&P only	16.0
W4EE	185,136	310	57	171	SOLP - ALL(A)	SFL	G5RV	14.5
W4FDA	341	28	128		SOHP 15m(A)	NFL		14.0
W4LT	108,238	226	53	128	SOLP - ALL	WCF		8.4
W4PTS	12,375	78	28	47	SOLP - ALL	WCF		3.5
W7QF	230,520	325	72	183	SOHP - ALL	NFL		11.8
WW4E	47,060	133	40	90	SOHP - ALL	NFL		

**TOTAL 8,559,360****TOTAL FCG CQWW-SSB****16,275,918**

## Meeting Report from the Melbourne Hamfest / K9ES Cookout

Prior to the meeting, members made short work of Eric's fine repast of burgers, hot dogs, sausages, salads and all the fixin's.

Dan K1TO began the meeting by thanking Eric and Sylvia (and their gracious assistants) for their hospitality. (Sustained loud applause)

Attendees included: Greg AA0KO and XYL, Hank AA4HP and Stephanie K4MVO, Chuck AD4ES, Pete AI4QY, Dan K1TO, Gordon K2ER and YL (Jamie?), Reidar K2PT, Fred K4LQ and Sheila, Alan K4PB and Jan W4EEQ, George K5KG, Ron K8NZ, Eric K9ES and Sylvia, Fred K9VV and Lisa W4LIS, Lou KE1F, Don KG4SBS, Ron KP2N, John N4EEB, Ed N4EK and Trish KD4BRJ, Frank NA4CW, Dan W0CN, Butch W4AMS, Glen W4GKA, Eric W4KPG, Lu W4LT, Dale W4QM, Sjaak W4RIS, Joe W4SAA, Tom W4TBB and Jane KG4TPZ, Jim W4YA, Lee W9OY, Chris WF3C and Will WJ9B. (Other FCGers spotted at the hamfest included: AC5ZS, AF4Z, K1XX, K4QD, KP3AC, KZ4ZZ, N4MUH, N4PJ, W1MD, W4DKB, W4DN, W4EE, W4IR, W4IX, W4KFH, W4QN, W4STB, W4ZE and WQ5W. Sorry if we missed or forgot to list you!)

Dan then asked attendees to identify themselves and let us know what their contest plans were. Included in plans were Contest-peditions in CQWW SSB to NP2B, PJ4 and VP2M (along with announced plans for C6 and PJ2), plus CQWW CW plans for E51 and HI3. With CQWW SSB only 2 weekends away, many cited some expected activity that weekend.

In addition to CQWW, the following were prominent in FCG plans this season: ARRL SS, ARRL 10, 160M contests (ARRL, CQ and Stew Perry x 2), RTTY (various), ARRL DX and even some mention of our FQP about 6 months away. Similar to the overall trend in contesting, RTTY was mentioned more than ever in member plans.

A number of folks indicated station improvements outside and inside, as well as operator improvements such as increasing CW proficiency and license upgrades.

Dan noted that we tried our first FCG Hamfest table at the Melbourne Hamfest. Still a few bugs to be worked out, but we were successful in signing up several new members there and re-signing at least 3 others. Alan WQ5W was our 200th member! Mega-thanks to Fred K4LQ for assembling handouts in the days prior to the hamfest. Many visitors to the table picked up a sample newsletter and a brochure highlighting the FCG and FQP, thanks to Fred and Sheila. We will have an FCG sign to use to identify our table at upcoming hamfests.

It was suggested that another possible source of new members might be scanning the contest score presentations by ARRL and others to check for Florida stations listed who were not FCG members, then send a pointed invitation to join the FCG.

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Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter report from K4LQ: The treasury now stands at \$4231.08. The W1CW/K4OJ fund contains \$1580.00.

Reminder - Dues have been reduced to \$5. Some members were inspired by the reduction to pay far enough in advance to probably exceed the present treasurer's lifetime and their next payment may be to my successor - hi.

I plan on a more conventional collection period for 2008 dues. They are due on the first of the year. We will plan on a grace period of two months. Members not paid by February 28 will be deleted from the roster. Hopefully the dues reduction will help fit collections into this time period.

It was great to see us cross the 200 member mark.

Newsletters - The October newsletter has been constructed and is with Dan for review and writing the lead article. The December template has been opened. The K9ES meeting report and pictures will be there as well as claimed scores from the fall and early winter contests.

Club newsletter support has changed a lot since I began doing FCG newsletters. In those days we were writing, printing, folding, stuffing in envelopes, addressing and mailing each copy. (About 50 or 60 copies then.) Today we just do that for 10 copies, the other 190 copies are written, converted to a .pdf file, and uploaded to the FCG web page. The whole process is easier and a lot more fun today than when we began doing it. Outstanding support by members who send in pictures and articles makes the process go a lot smoother, and reduces the time needed to search for content.

Our FCG Contest Forum went well. Thanks to Eric K9ES for organizing the presentations. The forum was attended by about 50 people, which is the largest crowd we have seen since we started doing hamfest Contest Forums. The FCG-provided pizza was vaporized by attendees in record time. Not a single attendee was seen leaving after consuming the pizza which speaks well for the presentation content.

Although it was not spelled out at the meeting, here is a title summary of the presentations given:

The 2007 FQP - Eric Smitt K9ES, Tim Madden KI4TG, Jeff Hildreth KG4IPO  
You Don't Have to be a "Big Gun" - Frank Merceret NA4CW  
The "Little Pistol" in Contesting - Lou Mceseri KE1F  
Contesting Basics - Luis Romero W4LT  
Contesting in Dominica - George Wagner K5KG  
Contesting from PJ4A - Dan Street K1TO

These presentations took up an hour and a half. Next year we will try for two hours, as we had a couple additional presentations scheduled but ran out of time.

A number of suggestions were made by attendees. These included:

- Have a signup sheet at the FCG Hamfest Table also at the Contest Forum for people who would like some contest mentoring
- Schedule the presentations at the Contest Forum with the easiest to understand ones first so that potential testers won't be deterred by the use of "contest jargon" that they don't understand. Maybe 1 hour of beginner topics, followed by a short pizza break, followed by more advanced topics, would be a good approach.
- Hand out definitions of terms at the Contest Forum / FCG table to preclude the above.
- Hand out an FCG CD with freebies such as sample FCG newsletters, free logging software, etc.
- George K5KG who attended the Contest University at Dayton gave a rundown on how it went. It cost \$45 which covered breakfast and lunch. It was run in an offsite hotel, and was professionally done. George recommended it to other members if it is held at upcoming Hamventions. Perhaps we need to do a "Contest High School" as opposed to the Contest University at the Dayton Hamvention, but still access and utilize some of the info developed at the Contest University.

A brief discussion took place on the merits of Windows logging programs N1MM (free) and the French originated program WinTest (~\$65). WinTest uses a CT-like interface but lacks English documentation. Google N1MM Logger vs WinTest to review some comprehensive comparisons. Both have active support reflectors and attentive programming staffs. Dan noted that K3LR converted to WinTest last contest season with great success.

The Florida QSO Party - Dan noted that he has completed 98% of the log checking. A new record was set this year in logs submitted (784). Compare this to 200 logs in 1998 when the FCG first reactivated the FQP. Sixteen stations outside of Florida completed a CW sweep of all counties. Logging accuracy is important. Note that in CQWW there is a penalty of three qsos for one error. In the FQP there is a one qso penalty. Note that a K4OJ invention, the countdown clock of time to the next FQP continues to run on the FQP site (Dan brought the W1YL/K4OJ countdown clock to the FCG table as well). A reminder that ballots have been



received for the upcoming ARRL Director and Vice Director openings for the Southeastern Division. Long time FCG member Sherri W4STB is running for Director.

George K5KG gave a brief summary on our Club clothing supplier, Stichin' Waves at 4333 S. Tamiami Trail (US41) Sarasota FL 34231. Phone 800-541-9263 or 941 -929-1155. They provide club shirts in both orange and white, and club hats with outstanding quality embroidery of our logo, name, call etc.

(I (K4LQ) have both orange and white shirts from them, and can certainly recommend their quality.)

There was a brief discussion by Lu W4LT of distributed contesting efforts using N1MM Logger. Distributed contesting is not legal in any current contest, so any efforts in this direction have to be submitted as checklogs. Dan suggested that if FCG again hosts W1AW or NU1AW operations for IARU, this technology could be effectively used there.

The question was asked if FCG planned to do a hospitality suite at Dayton next year. Dan noted that nothing is currently in the works, but that it would be a good subject for discussion on the reflector.

A question was asked as to the current status of Club QSL cards. W4MPY and LZ1JZ currently have FCG QSL card templates, and can both supply FCG Club cards. W4MPY QSL services can be found at [www.w4mpy.com](http://www.w4mpy.com) and LZ1JZ QSL services at [www.geocities.com/LZ1JZ/](http://www.geocities.com/LZ1JZ/)

Info on both our FCG clothing supplier and club QSL card suppliers is on the "members only" page at the FCG website.

Lou KE1F brought some antenna books he no longer needed that were free for the taking.

Dan closed the meeting by reminding us of his upcoming trip to the Dominican Republic for CQWW CW along with Julio AD4Z, Vic N4TO, Ron K8NZ and Blake N4GI. The QTH to be used is owned by FCGer Tino HI3CCP and is located at one of the best radio locations on the island (and perhaps one of the best in the Caribbean) on Loma Del Toro (Hill of the Bull) in the community of Amacelles Moca. (Fortunately, this QTH was spared any major damage from recent storm activity in that area.)

The passing of the hat covered Eric's expenses.

Many took a look around at Eric's already impressive 80M 4-square vertical array. Eric plans a 175' tower with a 6L20/3L40 at the top and a 125' tower with C31XR's at 125' and 85'. Wow!

The FCG wishes Sylvia, Eric's gracious XYL, a speedy recovery as she heals from recent surgery and post-operative complications.

Many thanks to Dan K1TO for his usual FB editing of this report.

73/Fred K4LQ

Content Credits for this issue: ARRL Letter, HI3CCP, KP2N, K4LQ, K4EJ, K5KG, K1NSS and W1YL. Some photos taken from internet pages have lower than usual resolution.



*Dan K1TO holds up the counter showing time to the next FQP*



*Ye Ed. Fred K4LQ and Sheila*



*Eric K9ES presents at the Contesting Forum at the Melbourne Hamfest*



*Pizza proved very popular among Forum Attendees*



*Above Left and Right - Attendees at the Contest Forum*



*Left: Dan K1TO calls out from the FCG table to a passing FQP participant. (He signed up with us)*





*Host Eric K9ES in action at the Grille in his spacious backyard*



*Eric K9ES at the primary operating position in his new shack.*



Above: Dale W4QM, Jim W4YA and John N4EEB



*Above: Eric W4KPG and Butch W4AMS*



*Above: George K5KG and Frank NA4CW*

*Left Top: Jim W4YA and Lu W4LT*

*Left: Joe W4SAA and Will WJ9B cannot believe the early Stew Perry trash talking they are hearing from each other!!*





## CQWW CW at HI3A Loma Del Toro, Dominican Republic



*HI3A Antenna Farm*



*Julio AD4Z, the real HI3A*



**K8NZ, AD4Z, Host HI3CCP, K1TO,  
N4GI and N4TO after the  
contest.**



*The HI3A Operating Position for M-2*



*Left: Blake N4GI was cool  
under fire all weekend.*

*Below Left: Constantino,  
HI3CCP, checks out the ac-  
tion while both TO's, AD4Z  
and K8NZ slug it out.*



**K1TO does  
pizza and the  
pileup at the  
same time.  
Whether it  
was food,  
cerveza or  
QSO's, Dan's  
motto was al-  
ways  
"Uno Mas!"**



*Left: Team FCG  
presents Constantino  
with an FCG  
banner.*



## CQWW CW at E51A Rarotonga, South Cook Islands

*Ed Note: George K5KG has a good summary of his Dxpedition to E51 with Ron KK9K at <http://e51mmm.blogspot.com> along with some pictures. Additional pictures are at <http://picasaweb.google.com/bizacord/E51RAROTONGA>*



***E51A in operation - LIVE - Geo K5KG operating with Victor E51CG in Background***



***Ron KK9K getting down to business***



***Left: Gray Line our alarm cock!***



***Victor E51CG and his YL, Elanor***



***160m inverted L on 60 ft. fiberglass mast.***



***15 Meter dipole on an MFJ Mast using a Foster's beer bottle as a balun coil form***



***Rarotonga Harbor. The volcanic landscape is visible in the background. It is a 32 km drive around the island.***



***Ron E51NNN, George E51MMM and Jim E51JD***

## W1YL/BY at The Great Wall of China!



*Ellen decided it wasn't practical to run an antenna up the Great Wall, she was too busy keeping warm ;<)*



*George K5KG/0 caught in the act of operating a 2 meter handheld on IRLP while visiting ex FCger Ed NA0ED in CO. Ed asks "Can degradation of his contesting skills be far behind?"*

## Contest Buddy Program Reminder

*By George Wagner, K5KG*

This is a reminder about the Contest Buddy Program that is available on the FCG.net web site. Currently about 40 FCG members are registered in the program. Since FCG membership now numbers over 200, I would like to encourage others to register. The program provides an excellent way for everyone to share their skills and knowledge about all aspects of contesting, station design, station control, computer logging, antennas, towers, etc. The program provides an easy way to find an FCG member who has expertise in a particular topic related to contesting.

The purpose of the Contest Buddy Program is to foster camaraderie among club members, share technical knowledge and expertise about contesting and encourage contest participation. Anyone in the club can participate - as a mentor (Elmer), a student (Elmo) or both! Elmers are club members who have lots of experience in contesting, and Elmos are those who want to more about contesting. Elmers especially know lots about contest operating, station design, logging software, rig control, antennas, towers, etc. Elmos can be anyone in the club who wants to learn more about contesting from an experienced buddy.

As a Florida Contest Group member, all you have to do to be in the Contest Buddy Program is enter your information on the FCG.net web site.

(<http://www.letchforddesign.com/elmer/index.htm>)

And, if you are currently registered in the program, I encourage you to make sure that all of your info is up-to-date and correct.

73/George K5KG

(From the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet)

Which contest was the best one ever? Why it's obvious - the best one was the one that ran the year before \*you\* started contesting! I can't tell you how many times I've seen grown men misting up over the famed 1959 sunspot peak or the 1960-something ARRL DX or the 1970-something CQ WW. Always prior to \*my\* start on the bands in 1972. This past week, the VHF+ reflector has been full of reminiscing about the famed 1987 June QSO Party with the big openings on all bands, for example. Of course, I can't claim not to have been guilty of the very same thing!



## Photos from the Tampa Hamfest



*L-R Dan K1TO, Bill K4XS/KH7B and Ted W3TB. Yes, it's really Bill, all the way from the Big Island!*



*Dan, K1TO meeting up with FCger Leslie, WA4EEZ. Leslie is the current president of the St. Petersburg ARC and part of the W4GAC contest group. Photos by Ron KP2N.*

## New Contest Manager on the Job

Sean Kutzko, KX9X, joined the ARRL Headquarters staff on October 8 as the ARRL Contest Manager. First licensed in 1982 as KA9NGH, Kutzko developed a taste for contesting after winning the Illinois section in the 1988 ARRL Novice Roundup. Since then, he has been active in both HF and VHF contesting, as well as HF DXing and VHF weak-signal communications. A long-standing member of the Society of Midwest Contesters (SMC) and a strong advocate of mentoring new contesters, Kutzko has won several contest and DX awards, including several Top Ten finishes in the ARRL Sweepstakes SSB contest as a QRP entrant. He has been on two HF contest DXpeditions, including 6Y7M in the 1994 CQ WPX CW contest, and V26NA in the 1997 ARRL International DX CW Contest. Kutzko also enjoys activating rare grid squares by going on "Grid DXpeditions" in the continental US for the VHF/UHF community.

In the late 1990s, Kutzko published a regular column in the National Contest Journal (NCJ) that focused on DX locations available for hams to rent for contests or DXpeditions. "It's a great honor to be the Contest Branch Manager. Everybody at HQ has been very friendly and generous of their time and knowledge for me, the newcomer. There is a lot of work from several folks -- hams and non-hams alike -- that goes on behind the scenes to keep your contest logs properly scored and managed. While I still have a lot to learn, rest assured that as a fellow HF and VHF tester myself, my primary interest is to ensure logs are received and processed correctly, scores are reported quickly and accurately and awards are mailed in a timely fashion. Feel free to contact me with any contest-related questions you may have. You can reach me at 860-594-0232 or via e-mail <kx9x@arrl.org>. I am at your service," Kutzko said.

DASH THE DOG FACED HAM'S

## BOAT ANCHOR BLESSING



MAY ALL YOUR DREAMS BE ANALOG

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