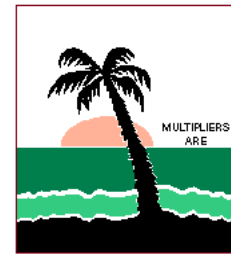




Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.org



Volume 15 Issue 4

December 2008

From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO

Seasons Greetings to all! Hope your holidays are enjoyable so far.



I'd like to thank the team of folks who work on almost a daily basis to make this club run smoothly.

Fred, K4LQ puts together *the* best club newsletter anywhere. Given the shift in society to information being demanded almost real time around the clock, it changes the focus of a periodic newsletter somewhat, but the content mix of pictures, articles, score summaries, etc. still presents as fresh, relevant and interesting as it ever did.

Fred has already put out the call for dues. Please, folks, make his life as easy as possible by taking care of this without waiting too long. Many folks find it convenient to pay ahead, given the low dues structure.

With the Tallyman (Frank, K4EJ) being so uncharacteristically quiet and preoccupied in 2008, Fred, K9VV volunteered to step in and collect scores and confirmations and we all appreciate the effort that is involved with that. Thanks, Fred! We still do see the weekly Radioactive list from Senor Tally which I know is also helpful.

The e-mail reflector continues to be a large part of the club, with a limitless variety of topics and problem solving. Thanks to all of you for keeping the reflector focused on the right things and being so productive, and a big TU to Ron, WD4AHZ for keeping the mailing list for the reflector (same for the FQP!) running smoothly.

The FCG has reached an unprecedented level in 2008, no doubt partly due to the dues decrease from last year. The amazing thing to me is that there are so many *more* active contest participants in Florida that are not FCG members! This highlights the potential benefit that a focused Membership Director could yield. While there's absolutely nothing wrong with our current methods of growth, we could certainly be even more proactive about targeting specific folks who are already showing up in contests to see if they have an interest in being a part of this terrific group. There were some real tough times in the FCG this year. The losses of N4TO, W7QF and Shannon Harps will never be forgotten.

The complete absence of sunspots for sooooo long may have suppressed high band conditions, but FCGers simply adapted by being even more active on the low bands. Real-world economic times were just deplorable this year, setting most, if not all, of us back many years fiscally. (Such does not appear to have affected the NY Yankees - arrggghhh.)



Lots of positives in 2008. Once again, hurricanes were not a major factor for us. We added two members under the age of 15.

Our Florida QSO Party continues to expand with all kinds of records falling. I think it's great that some of our members truly believe that the FQP has eclipsed even the venerable California QSO Party to become the #1 QP of all!

The ARRL is promoting 2009 as the Year of the QSO Party. Several states are hosting one for the first time. I suspect that this will be a boost for FQP participation. If gas prices continue at current levels of roughly half what they were for the 2008 running, maybe our mobile activity will increase again. I keep saying that I'll figure out how

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many FCger participate in our FQP each year, but for now, I'll just have to anecdotally announce that the FQP is the #1 activity for the FCG each year. Thanks again to Jeff, WC4E and Eric, K9ES for their huge help with the certificates and plaques and to Ron, WD4AHZ for quietly and efficiently keying in the paper logs, plus maintaining the web site and rules changes.

While the CW Skimmer continues to rapidly make inroads, each of the major contest sponsors addressed it in their own way. Like so many technological innovations along the way, it's not always easy to categorize it and determine the impact on an entrant's category. The FQP Committee has opted to follow along with the CQWW Committee decision that use of Skimmer constitutes assistance and thus places an entrant into the Multi-Single category. But it is just as clear that the lines are still blurry. We allow bandscoptes on ICOM rigs, for example.

I want to thank everyone who made time to operate even a little bit in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest this month. At the bottom of the previous sunspot cycle, the FCG really dominated, but we had horrible conditions the past few years. Clearly, our somewhat desperate measure of holding WC4E up to the skies as a sacrifice to the Sporadic-E gods helped!! It is delightful to read one 3830 post after another describing the "pipeline to Florida". Undoubtedly, we will easily end up with more than 50 entries, again placing us in the Unlimited Club category against the much larger clubs. The sheer numbers within the PVRC may make this a tough race, but I suspect that we may come out on top!

I look forward to seeing many of you in person in Orlando in February, and on the air in various events prior to then. Enjoy the Stew Perry and CQ 160 tests while 160 is at its peak. Also enjoy the winter low power domestic NAQP events in January, the ARRL RTTY Roundup in January as well, plus the January VHF contest.

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

vy 73, Dan, K1TO

2009 FCG Dues are Due!

It is that time of year again. Annual FCG dues for 2009 are due on January 1. Checks or MO to Fred Perkins, 3437 Lake Josephine Drive, Lake Placid FL 33852. \$5 per year for those receiving notification to download the newsletter from the internet. \$10 for hardcopy mailed to your QTH. A substantial number of members have pre-paid for several years. List will be on the reflector.

73/Fred K4LQ - Treasurer, FCG

Contributors to this newsletter: K1TO, K4LQ, W4QN, W4WR, K9VV, W4UH, AD4Z, Science@NASA, KB6NU, NL7SK

Welcome Aboard



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

KP2HC - Brian Keegan. 4301 SE Scotland Cay Way, Stuart FL 34997 e-mail: kp2hc@arrl.net

KP2YL - Ann Z. Keegan, 4301 SE Scotland Cay Way, Stuart FL 34997 e-mail: kp2yl@arrl.net

W4GJ - Bob Lighter. 3445 NW 34th Terrace, Gainesville FL 32605-3012 e-mail bobw4gj@gmail.com

K9GCF - Leon Rediske, 7096 Coon Road, North Fort Myers FL 33917 e-mail: lrediske@wi.rr.com

N2WB - Bill Beyer, 1560 Poplar Drive, Ormond Beach FL 32174 e-mail: wbeyerjr@cfl.rr.com

N4WZ - Jeff Hillmann, 18990 DE County Line Rd, Tequesta FL 33469 e-mail: jeffh7@bellsouth.net

KR4OW - David Nachbaur, 26722 Pelican St., Eustis, FL 32736 e-mail: pkmaint@yahoo.com

KI4SNI - Wesley Evans, 2800 NW 29th Street, Gainesville, FL 32605 e-mail: boatraces2003@gmail.com

Events Calendar

ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 3 to 2400Z, Jan 4
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 10 to 0600Z, Jan 11
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 17 to 0600Z, Jan 18
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 17 to 0400Z, Jan 19
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 23 to 2159Z, Jan 25
CQWW RTTY WPX Contest	0000 Z Feb 14 to 2400Z Feb 15
ARRL International DX Contest CW	0000Z Feb 21 to 2400Z Feb 22
ARRL International DX Contest SSB	0000Z Mar 7 to 2400Z Mar 8
CQ WW WPX Contest CW	0000Z Mar 28 to 2400Z Mar 29

10 Band DXCC The Easy Way Through Contesting

By Fred Perkins K4LQ



After an effort that extended quite a bit longer than I anticipated, I'm pleased to note that yesterday I received confirmation of my 10 Band DXCC from ARRL. Did contesting play a big part? You bet!

I vividly remember my first exposure to DX. It was while visiting my uncle W1FZ in 1949 and listening to the tremendous band openings on 10 meters during Cycle 18. I particularly remember hearing the voice of Tara Singh XZ2KN booming through on 10 Meters from Rangoon into the W1FZ shack in NH. The thought of being able to talk to far away places like Burma certainly spurred on my efforts to get licensed. In August of 1950 I received the call W1TBS.

In 1955 my youthful plans to become a big gun US DXer were slowed considerably by my accepting an overseas assignment with RCA which turned out to last the better part of 20 years. I worked in and operated from many countries in the Caribbean, Africa and the Indian Ocean area during that time.

I did get my first exposure to contesting during those years, but it was in a casual non-competitive style. I collected a lot of wallpaper for being for example "# 1 in the 1957 ARRL DX CW Test for St. Lucia". A good part of these awards were garnered by being the "only" station on in the contest from that country. For the most part I trashed the awards, and moved to the next location.

While my US friends were upping their DX totals working the DXpeditions of Gus Browning, Danny Weill, Don Miller and the early trips of Lloyd and Iris Colvin, I was off "being DX" which counted not a whit towards my US DXCC.

In the late 1970s and the early '80s I lived in Fort Lauderdale and worked rotating shifts at the FCC Monitoring Station. This afforded me a lot of off-hour time to DX. I joined the South Florida DX Assn., and began my first serious DXing from the U.S. By the time I left to rejoin RCA in 1982, I had garnered a respectable DXCC total and had worked a number of DX contests from the US side.

For the next 15 years I kept very busy in the Government Contracting business with RCA, GE, Martin Marietta and finally Lockheed Martin. I had little time or opportunity to operate or work DX until I retired in 1997 to my present QTH in Lake Placid.

Neighbors (and FCGers) W4IR and N4TO helped me put up my first tower and quad, as well as wire antennas for the lower bands.

I began my electronic log by typing in 1 QSO each for the band countries I had worked up to that time. Today that log has over 55,000 entries, mostly from 12 years of contesting.

I decided the fastest way to get to 5BDXCC was to work as many contests as possible.

Not long after that I had an opportunity to meet Dan K1TO and learn about the FCG, which at the time had about 60 members. FCG was also looking for a newsletter editor. It turned out that I had had some experience in that area as an ancillary duty with Lockheed Martin. I agreed to take on the job, and signed on with FCG.

By working nearly every CW contest that had DX participants, and even (reluctantly) a few similar phone contests, my band country total began to move up. I finished confirming 5BDXCC on April 1, 2000, and decided to keep on truckin' towards a 10 bander.

It is true that contesting didn't help with my DXCC's on 10, 18 and 24 mhz, but I had plenty of time to work on them between contests during the peak and declining years of Cycle 23. Even on 6 meters, several new countries came as a result of the ARRL VHF contests.

In subsequent years I added a second tower and a 40 meter yagi, a 1/4 wave vertical for 80 meters, and a third small tower with a 6 meter beam. Hurricanes Charlie and Jeanne wiped out all antennas but the 40 meter beam, but they have been rebuilt, with a SteppIR 3 element yagi replacing the quad.

My friend Hal Lund ZS6WB who does a lot of 2M EME work suggested trying for a 2 Meter DXCC via EME to make it 11 bands, but at the moment that seems a long shot.

LOTW was very helpful in the past few years. It lessened the QSL collecting chores a lot.

There some lessons to be learned by my experience.

1 If you want to be a successful multi-band DXer from the USA, don't spend a good part of your working life outside the country :<)

2. In addition to keeping up with the dxpeditions, work contests, lots of contests!

3. You don't have to be a very proficient contester to have a lot of fun in this contest club!

Item 3 has been particularly true for me.

I came into FCG with a limited contesting background, but was welcomed anyway. Meeting and working with a lot of top notch contesters as well as getting to know literally hundreds of other contesters around the state that I never would have met otherwise has been fun indeed. Doing the newsletters has also brought me in contact with a number of fine people in the contest community outside of FCG.

I look forward to continuing the FCG experience for some time to come.

73/Fred K4LQ

Tom Jednacz, W7QF is a Silent Key

Tom Jednacz, W7QF (SK): Thomas C. Jednacz, W7QF, of Dunnellon, Florida, passed away November 17 from complications from lupus. He was 68.

An ARRL member and an avid DXer and contester, Jednacz founded the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLS) with Jim Weidner, K2JXW, in 2000 <<http://www.arlhs.com/>>. The purposes of the ARLHS are to promote public awareness of ham radio and lighthouses, to preserve lights that are in danger of extinction and to pay tribute to the role that hams and lighthouse keepers have played in contributing to maritime safety

Professionally, Jednacz was a vice president of an engineering division at Philips Electronics and a member of IEEE. While at Philips, he was on a team credited with the invention of a building management system utilizing packet hopping communication.

There is a very well done write-up on Tom's death done by lifelong friend Jim K2JXW at the following url:

<http://arlhs.com/news.html>

Ed Note: I requested permission to reproduce it here, but never had a reply

Tower Progress at K9ES

By Eric Smitt, K9ES

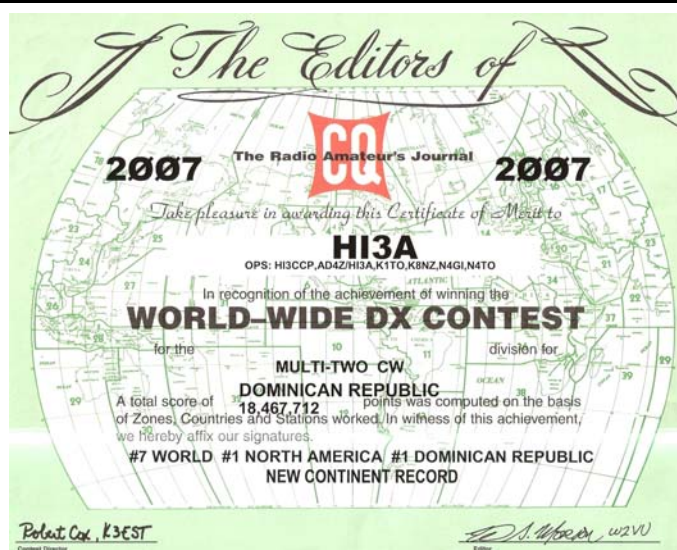


The plan was to have the heavy equipment delivered on 12/24, and use it until 12/29, putting in 4 holes, and clearing and leveling the land. The first hole for the tower base was dug in a few hours. We put the form into the hole and realized that the hole needed to be widened. As time progressed, I got better with the back-hoe, and the next day pulled the form out and widened the hole. Then we realized that the back-hoe had a flat tire, and I decided that I would not be able to move it around much to dig the other holes. The company that I rented it from was out on XMAS vacation until Monday AM.

The form was carefully placed in, and the back-fill of the dirt started, with manual labor instead of using the back hoe. That was back-breaking, but was completed yesterday. Then we put 2 sections of Rohn 55G with a bottom plate and used the back-hoe and plenty of pulling to get the sections vertical. Here are a few pictures of that work.

Now, I hope to get the back hoe tire fixed, and get the guy holes put in so I can get all the anchors placed, and reschedule the concrete pour. Then the fun begins, getting 145 feet up in the air, all the torque ring guying, 3 ring rotors and the Pro-Systel rotor for the top beam, and all the antennas up. Then it will be CQ-Contest again !

Eric K9ES



This just arrived in the mail. CQ did a good job, including the phrase "NEW CONTINENT RECORD" at the bottom. Sorry there is no plaque sponsored for our category, but this is still very good.

Sorry that Vic never got to see this. RIP Vic. Tnx for being with us.

vy 73, Dan K1TO



Vvicnic Meeting at K9VV Report

In addition to our gracious hosts Fred, K9VV and Lisa, W4LIS, attendees included: AB4GO, K1TO, K4DLF, K4LQ, K4PG, K5KG&Kay, K9ES, KI4WFJ, KP2HC&KP2YL, N3HV, N4BP, N4TB, W4DL, W4DTA, W4RIS, W4STB&W4DKB, W4TBB&AE4TE, W4WR, WA4AW&K3PGH, WF3C

Everyone enjoyed a scrumptious spread, then settled in for a meeting.

After a hearty round of applause for our hosts, members spoke of their plans for the upcoming contest season:

- David, W4DKB plans an effort in CQWW RTTY and CW
- Sjaak, W4RIS will again use the shack at K4FAU
- Eric, K9ES will operate at Chuck, AD4ES' with a SteppIR @ 55'. Fay dumped 24" rain on him in 18 hours. Among the antenna plans are a 5L Delta Loop to EU on a 175' tower.
- Greg, AB4GO mentioned joining activities with the local Indian River ARC
- Jeff, WA4AW and Myra, K3PGH are busy maintaining QTHs in both FL and AL
- George, K5KG plans to hit both modes of SS hard from home and join the NQ4I crew for CQWW SSB. He and Kay will be in KC for Thanksgiving, so no WW CW this year after a successful E51A operation last year and VK2GC the year before.
- Hank, N3HV is connected with the Florida Atlantic Univ club
- Justin, KI4WFJ is the President of the FAU club and is intrigued by contesting and the FCG
- Brian, KP2HC and Ann, KP2YL have relocated to Stuart and have a cameo Sigma-5
- Terry, N4TB plans to try RTTY and all the CW tests with his N1MM logger
- Hosts Fred, K9VV and Lisa, W4LIS are headed for St. Lucia in Nov. to operate as J68V. Their tribune is temporarily on the ground at home, but they'll still make some Quos in other contests.
- David, K4DLF is a member of lots of area clubs and joined the FCG as well
- Mike, W4DL works in network operations for a cellular firm and joined the FCG at the meeting.
- Tom, W4TBB and Jane, AE4TE are enjoying their forays into contesting and might share the rig this fall. ;<)
- Chris, WF3C is headed to W4QG's station for most contests. Chris wants to operate all 3 modes of CQWW, both modes of SS and the 160 tests.
- Fred, K4LQ expects to operate all the CW tests and some of the SSB ones. He has reached 10 Band DXCC!
- Sherri, W4STB will hit the WW RTTY, WW SSB, FQP, GQP and NEQP after having to miss the FQP this year.
- Bob, N4BP is not headed to NP2B for the first time in many

SS CWs. He'll op from home for both modes of SS and head to C6 again for ARRL 160 and ARRL CW. Bob erected new antennas after Wilma.

- Kevin, K4PG bought an IC7000 from N4BP and will try it on RTTY and some CW.
- Steve, W4DTA won't be heading to YV this year and will op WW with his Stepp-IR @ home
- Warren, W4WR uses a Sigma-5 from an antenna challenged QTH and loves WPX
- Dan, K1TO plans to honor Vic, N4TO in as many tests as possible, with special calls

In other discussion:

- W4STB announced the formation of the Florida East Coast DX Club, focused on Indian River and Brevard Counties and with \$0 dues.
- K9ES will again operate WX4MLB during SKYWARN. They've finished in 1st place 4 yrs in a row.
- K1TO presented the FCG-sponsored plaque for highest out-of-state club score in the 2007 New England QSO Party to N4BP for posting the highest FCG individual score.
- K1TO announced the lineup of presentations for the Melbourne Contest Forum and urged everyone to attend.
- K4LQ gave a report on the treasury and Gazette publishing activities.

The hat was passed to defray expenses.

Thanks to Warren W4WR for the pictures



Dan K1TO prepares to conduct the Meeting at K9VV



L-R Hank N3HV, Eric K9ES



Juli XYL N4BP



Tom W4TBB



*L-R Sherri W4STB and David W4DKB
Passing through the background Terry N4TB*



Jeff WA4AW



Chris WF3C

All I Want for Christmas Is.....

When I was a kid, we had an album (remember records on vinyl!?) that had a bunch of Christmas songs for kids. The song I remember most goes:

All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth,
My two front teeth, my two front teeth.

Gee, if I could only have my two front teeth,
Then I could wish you Merry Chrith-math (sung with a lisp).

Seeing as how I've had my two front teeth for nearly 50 years now, and I pretty much have everything I want, I got to thinking about what I want for ham radio for Christmas this year. Here's what I've come up with so far. In no particular order, I want:

- MORE SUNSPOTS!

- the median age for ham radio operators to actually decrease this year. This means not only recruiting kids, but also younger adults.

- the pessimists who are continually talking down ham radio to find new joy in the hobby and begin working to make it great.

- the FCC to appoint someone as effective as Riley Hollingsworth to take over as the enforcer of the amateur radio service regulations.

- the FCC to pay a little more attention to amateur radio regulations and not



treat them as an afterthought.

- the silliness on 75m phone and 14.275 MHz to go QRT.

- the ARRL to work harder on making itself truly the "national association for amateur radio" and on increasing the percentage of licensed hams that are ARRL members.

- to be able to brag about all of ham radio's "purposes," not only providing emergency and public service communications. According to Part 97, these are:

- * advancing the state of the radio art;
- * improving our technical and operating skills;
- * expanding the number of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts; and
- * enhancing international goodwill.

- ham radio clubs to grow and thrive even in these tough economic times.

When I asked this question on Twitter, I got a couple of answers that were versions of a couple of wishes above, but I also got a few more:

- WORMT wants "all of us to get on the air more and act as good ambassadors for the hobby," and
- NT7S wants the hearts of ham grinchies to grow a couple of sizes.
- NIWBV wants redesigns for most ham radio websites.

I pretty much agree with all three. Happy New Year!

When not waiting for Santa to decide if he's been naughty or nice, Dan, KB6NU, teaches ham classes and blogs about ham radio (www.kb6nu.com)

Melbourne Hamfest Meeting Report

For the first time, the FCG held its Melbourne meeting on site at the hamfest. Our spot was up on the stage behind the curtain!

Attendees included:

Pete AI4QY, Paul K1PT and Pidge KD1BG, Dan K1TO, Fred K4LQ, Kevin K4PG, George K5KG, Ron K8NZ, Lou KE1F, Bob N4BP, Ed N4EK and Trish KD4BRJ, Frank NA4CW, Don W3AZD and Hope WB3ANE, Arnie W4EIP, Norm W4QN, Warren W4WR, Chris WF3C, along with guests N8JUC and W4WQ.

Attendees were asked to tell the group what area they planned to improve upon in the coming contest season. Several attendees cited station layout/ergonomics and improving on their RTTY capabilities.

NA4CW plans to "maximize the dials" on his radio and to emphasize running more vs. S&P

Besides ergonomics, KE1F wants to break the 500 QSO barrier with his limited station.

N4BP is working with FPL to attack the persistent line noise sources all around him.

K4PG has a new 47' tower going up with an A4S tribander on top.

WF3C will be guest op'ing and focused on keeping his "butt in chair"

K5KG plans to fix his 80M antenna and erect something for 160

K1PT has a nagging S5-6 noise floor to deal with.

W4WR is upgrading to an R6000 vertical while dealing with his condo assn.

W4EIP plans to tackle the NCCC Sprint in prep for the real thing - the NA Sprint.

W4QN is reworking his station in a major way. . Inside, the focus is a 2nd amp, automation and ergonomics. Outside, a 2L 40M beam, 80M vertical and other antenna work is planned.

N4EK & KD4BRJ need to replace one antenna and work on ergonomics inside

K8NZ is also reconfiguring the station and will give RTTY a shot

Those present decided that the November Sweepstakes (SS) was worth a better collective effort than in recent years, although most present did not agree with the mega-SS clubs' concept of "musical chairs", meaning operating multiple stations or callsigns on the same weekend.

ARRL 10 will continue to be a club focus. Given the subpar conditions of the past two years when Texas seemed to most of the good E-skip, we are due for better conditions like we saw at the previous sunspot minimum. Historically, ARRL 10 brings out the 2nd highest amount of FCG participation behind only our own Florida QSO Party in April!

Some discussion about the Melbourne Contest forum that ended just an hour before led to the idea of having a panel discussion at future forums. Look for this at Tampa and probably Orlando.

Other topics kicked around included the use of Logbook of the World (LotW) and its e-mail reflector, and the need to report on station specifics. The N4ZR-led contest station database was suggested as the best place for all of us to keep that information fresh about our own stations.

K1TO thanked the club for electing him President 10 years ago at Melbourne. Dan also described his efforts to get callsigns containing parts of N4TO's call to use in upcoming contests in his memory.

Other FCGers spotted at the hamfest included AD4Z, K1XX, K4QD, K4UTE, KP2HC & KP2YL, KP3AC, N2WB, N4CC, W4DN, W4EE, W4HY, W4IR, W4KPG, W4LT, W4RIS, W4STB & W4DKB, W4UM & W4SLR, W4ZE, WC4H, WO4D and WY5L.

Sorry if you were there and we missed adding you to the list.

The Contest Forum was again very successful this year with a packed house and free pizza. (hmmm - any correlation??). Lu, W4LT led off with a solid and enthusiastic talk about contesting basics.

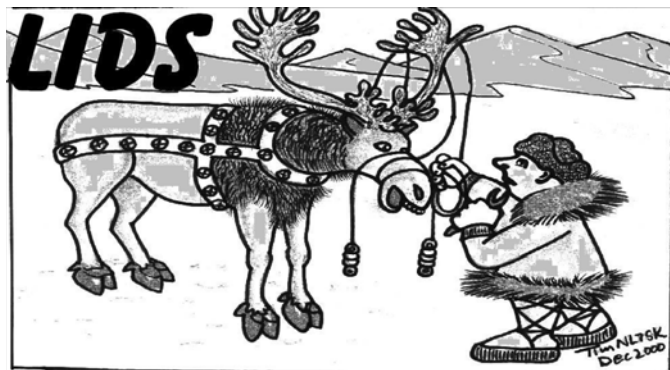
Chris, WF3C gave an excellent presentation about RTTY contesting.

George, K5KG spoke about his Oceania adventures - VK/ZL in Nov 2006 and E5 in Nov 2007.

Dan, K1TO presented a summary of the FCG HI3A operation at Loma del Toro in Nov 2007.

Fred K4L Q was the primary staffer at the N4TO estate swap table at the hamfest which was very successful.

Vy 73, Dan K1TO



TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, I THOUGHT HE HOLLERED "DIVE LOW-DIVE LOW", BUT HE REALLY SHOUTED "DIPOLE-DIPOLE"! SORRY ABOUT YOUR ANTENNA. YAH GOT ANY EGG NOG TO WASH THE COPPERCLAD TASTE FROM MY MOUTH ?

Notes & Pictures From Around The Club



Chris DK9TN recently made a visit to the Melbourne area. Above L-R Chuck AD4ES, Eric K9ES, Chris DK9TN and Ned W4KS. Thanks Eric K9ES for the photo.

New Version of "CT" Released

You might think that contest logging program CT is moribund, but the first radio sport "killer app" is still with us. In fact, author Ken K1EA has just released CT version 10.04! Support has been added for the K3 and IC-703 and the "show molt" function keys Alt-M and Alt-Z have been enhanced. (Thanks, Ken K1EA)



In the better late than never category, the above picture is Charlie NF4A in action during Field Day 08 at N4OX - Thanks Charlie.

Here's a few cool pictures of my antennas shot during the 10 meter contest. Can you see the 1500 watts going out? One shot is in the daylight and the other two were shot when the moon was above and closest to the earth in 15 years. These might be of some use to you for the Gazette - W4UH



Claimed Scores ARRL 10 Meter Contest

Station	Score	QSOs	Mults	Class	HRs	Ops
AC5ZS	4,380	73	30	SOLPPH		
K1PT	49,396	329	37	SOHPCW	3.4	
K1TO	390,784	1375	71	SOHPCW	35.0	
K4ADR	67,980	425		SOLPMix		
K4DMH	35,448	422	42	SOLPPH	28.0	
K4GKD	81,180	350	66	SOLPMix	7.0	
K4LQ	190,960	868	55	SOHPCW	22.0	
K4MF	72,540	316		SOLPCW		
K4PB	11,132	121	23	SOLPCW 4.0		
K4PBY	4,256	56	19	SOQRPCW	3.0	
K4PG	61,560	342	45	SOLPCW 5.5		
K4QD	6,264	87	13	SOHPCW		
K5AUP	31,650	249		SOHPMixA		
K5KG	145,760	622	58	SOHPMixA	9.0	
K8DSS	12,296	106	29	SOLPCW 5.5		
K9OM	53,640	300	45	SOLPCW		
KE1F	28,940	206	35	SOHPCWA		
KN4Y	19,800	165	29	SOLPCW		
KT4PD	11,948	103	29	SOLPCW 6.6		
KT4Q	69			SOLPMix		
N2ESP	5,984	88	34	SOLPPH		
N4AO	6,248	71	22	SOLPCW		WC4E
N4BP	287,496	1089	66	SOHPCW	30.0	
N4CJ	336,000	1075	96	MSMix		
N4DL	225,600	847	80	SOLPMix	24.5	
N4EEB	77,952	463	56	SOHPMix	5.7	
N4EK	11,400	114	25	SOLPCW		
N4KK	117,152	521	52	SOLPCWA	15.0	K9VV
N4LF	22,618	149	43	SOLPMix	4.5	
N4LZ	7,458	70	33	SOHPMixA	7.0	
N4TB	87,000	435	50	SOHPCW		
N4WO	10,368	108	24	SOLPMix	4.2	
N6AR	17,400	150	29	SOLPCW		
W1MD	50,764	343	38	SOHPCWA		
W1YL	8,400	84	25	SOLPCW		
W3TB	33,200	213	40	SOLPMix		
W4ARM	27,608	238	29	SOLPCW	6.0	
W4CU	32,760	201		SOHPMix		
W4DL	54			SOLPMix		
W4EE	153,750	649	75	SOLPMix	19.0	
W4KPG	89			SOLPCW		
W4LT	202,488	927	78	SOHPMix		
W4OV	53,218	238	59	SOLPMix		
W4QG	40	5		SOLPCW		WF3C
W4QM	45,064	262	43	SOHPCW	7.6	
W4TAA	251,940	933	85	SOHPMix30.0		
W4UH	424,524	1741	102	MSMix	35.4	W4UH,W4QN A14QY,YL
W4WR	1,200	23	15	SOLPMix		
W4YA	29,600	200	37	SOHPCW		
W4ZW	34,122	193	47	SOHPMix	4.0	
WA4ASJ	6,930	105	33	SOHPPH		
WB4TDH	118,800	675	44	SOLPCW	23.0	
WD4IXD	101,608	977	52	SOLPPH		
WJ9B	134,160	645	52	SOHPCW		
WK2G	124,268	662		SOLPCW		
WO4D	17,952	177	33	MSHP		W4EIP,WO4D KD4HHF,KC4HW KE4MMI

Claimed Pts 4,344,986

Claimed Scores ARRL 160 M Contest

Station	Score	QSOs	Mults	Class	Sec	Ops	HRs
K1TO	153,958	724	75/23	SOHP	WCF		7.7
K2EK	256,500	1212	74/26	SOHP	NFL		
K4ADR		68		SOHP	SFL		
K4GKD	24,530	214	50/5	SOQR	WCF		6.0
K4PB	455			SOHPA	SFL		
N4BP	115,668	666	73/11	SOHP	SFL		
N4EEB				SOLP	NFL		1.5
K4MF	15,928	175	44	SOLP	SFL		
K9OM	236,670	880	115	SOHP	NFL		
N6AR	40,158	273	58/11	SOHP	NFL		
NN4TO	153,958	724	75/23	SOHP	WCF	K1TO	7.7
W4AA	101,808	576	67/17	SOLP	NFL		21.8
WJ9B	205,349	1003	72/25	SOHP	NFL		26.0
FCG TOTAL	=	1,304,527					

WX4G 287,698 1149 74/39 SOHP NC *Submitted TU*

FCG Total: 1,304,527

Ed. Note: Some data received from members is incomplete.



Some of the antennas at Radio Arcala, OH8X. They also have another tower with a 3 element 160 Meter Yagi over a 5 element 80 meter yagi. Tnx Norm W4QN.

CQWW SSB at N4T

The first in a series of operations at the K1TO station to remember Vic, N4TO was on the CQWW SSB weekend. Vic loved CQWW and had hosted a series of Multi-Multis at his Sebring QTH early in this decade. A total of 10 of us, nearly all of whom had operated at Vic's over the years, operated Multi-2 this time. We accomplished our goals of honoring Vic, having fun and racking up a bunch of points for the FCG.



Gary N4DL



Chris WF3C



Dan K1TO



Ron WD4AHZ



Julio AD4Z



John W4IX



Night time action at N4T



The feedlines and control cables that make it all work at K1TO



L-R Tom K4MM and Terry N4TB



20M (4/4), 15M (4/4/4), & 75M (4 sideways vees)



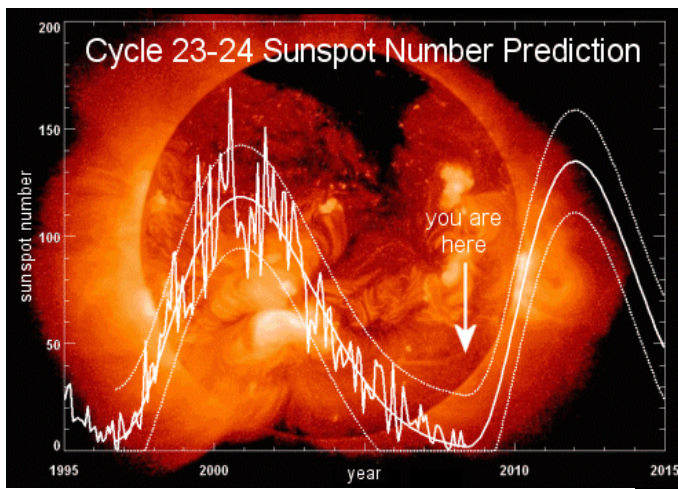
6 Element Homebrew 10 Meter Yagi

What's Wrong with the Sun? (Nothing)

So says NASA solar physicist David Hathaway. "There have been some reports lately that Solar Minimum is lasting longer than it should. That's not true. The ongoing lull in sunspot number is well within historic norms for the solar cycle."

This report, that there's nothing to report, is newsworthy because of a growing buzz in lay and academic circles that something is wrong with the sun. Sun Goes Longer Than Normal Without Producing Sunspots declared one recent press release. A careful look at the data, however, suggests otherwise.

But first, a status report: "The sun is now near the low point of its 11-year activity cycle," says Hathaway. "We call this 'Solar Minimum.' It is the period of quiet that separates one Solar Max from another."



Above: The solar cycle, 1995-2015. The "noisy" curve traces measured sunspot numbers; the smoothed curves are predictions. Credit: D. Hathaway/NASA/MSFC.

During Solar Max, huge sunspots and intense solar flares are a daily occurrence. Auroras appear in Florida. Radiation storms knock out satellites. Radio blackouts frustrate hams. The last such episode took place in the years around 2000-2001.

During Solar Minimum, the opposite occurs. Solar flares are almost nonexistent while whole weeks go by without a single, tiny sunspot to break the monotony of the blank sun. This is what we are experiencing now.

Although minima are a normal aspect of the solar cycle, some observers are questioning the length of the ongoing minimum, now slogging through its 3rd year.

"It does seem like it's taking a long time," allows Hathaway, "but I think we're just forgetting how long a solar minimum can last." In the early 20th century there were periods of quiet lasting almost twice as long as the current spell. Most researchers weren't even born then. (Credit: Science@ NASA)

DX Engineering Acquires Comtek Systems

DX Engineering Acquires Comtek Systems: On September 24, DX Engineering <<http://www.dxengineering.com/>> announced it had acquired North Carolina-based Comtek Systems <<http://www.comteksystems.com/>>.

Comtek's manufacturing and customer service operations will move to DX Engineering's Akron, Ohio facility. "Comtek's products are highly regarded among Amateur Radio operators," said DX Engineering president Paul Sergi, NO8D. "The addition of these products to our popular line of antennas enhances our ability to supply complete, high quality, directional antenna systems. It's a win-win for DX Engineering and Comtek Systems customers." James Miller, K4SQR, principal of Comtek Systems concurred: "DX Engineering will continue the tradition of top quality products and customer satisfaction that we have provided for years. DX Engineering and Comtek Systems have complementary product lines and the synergy created by combining the two companies will bring many benefits to the Amateur Radio fraternity."

World Radio to Cease Print Publication

* World Radio to Cease Print Publication: In a joint statement, World Radio Publisher Armand Noble, N6WR, and CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, announced that World Radio magazine will no longer be published as a print magazine. According to the announcement, CQ Communications Inc has acquired World Radio and plans to continue it as an online publication on Ace's Web site. World Radio subscribers will have their subscriptions transferred to CQ magazine. Readers will be notified of details as plans are finalized.

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