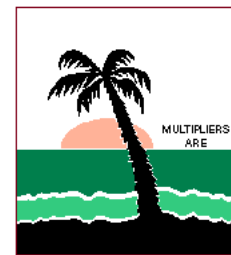




Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.org



Volume 20 Issue 2

December 2013

From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO



Happy Holidays, everyone!

What a pleasant surprise 2013 turned out to be in many ways. Of course, the recent losses of Kevin, K4PG and Arnie, W4EIP dampened our spirits. But the springing back of the ionosphere to the second peak that was speculated about for many months led to a series of fun contests, and that is what it's all about for us.

This month's ARRL 10 Meter Contest was the epitome of the upswing, with huge totals being posted in all categories world-wide. Once again, the FCG really set the airwaves on fire with a large percentage of us enjoying the conditions while we have them.

Back in April, our Florida QSO Party (FQP) was terrific as 37 operators activated seven 1x1 stations whose suffixes spelled out "FLORIDA". About 500 people swept the 7 stations and most of them stuck around to work a few other FL stations, accomplishing the objective. Thanks again to Chris, WF3C for being the chief organizer and to Steve, WB4OMM for making those 500 winners very happy with a quick e-mailed certificate!

The mobile contingent was again very strong, with a nice mix of FCGers and out-of-state "runners" covering the 67 counties many times over. Your scribe is diligently crunching the 126,000+ QSOs submitted. Look for our usual FQP awards presentation at the Orlando luncheon coming up in less than 6 weeks at the Golden Corral.

After February's very successful Orlando Contest Dinner with K5ZD as speaker, the 2014 speaker will be the head of WRTC-2014 -- Doug Grant, K1DG. Some of you might recall that Doug and his brother-in-law John, K1AR teamed up to win the very first WRTC back in 1990 in Seattle. Doug is a very interesting fellow with a great contest resume and lots of great stories. Chris, WF3C smoothly transitioned us to a nicer facility for the dinner, but space is strictly limited, so don't lose your shot at attending. Feb. 7 will be here before you know it. As always, there will be lots of great prizes and your chance to win is included in the price of the dinner.

One thing that Doug will be certain to emphasize is the generosity of the FCG, which is the only club in the world to have sponsored five WRTC-2014 operating tents. With both Fred, K9VV/NP2X and Julio, AD4Z/HI3A earning Team Leader seats and Dan, W4UH being Julio's Team Mate, the FCG will have a very significant operating presence. In addition, the FCG will be represented in the Referee group by Charlie, NF4A and Tom, CX7TT/K6CT. Yours truly is part of the Judging team. I sure hope many of you can come to Massachusetts next July for what is sure to be an epic event!



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W1AW/4 will be another huge highlight of 2014 for the FCG. Each of the United States gets the chance to host W1AW for two separate weeks during the year. Our friends in the SFDXA have reserved the week of February 19th and the FCG has reserved a week in later November. The pile-ups of those wanting a QSO with W1AW will be endless. We have plans to maximize the operating opportunities for all of our members. Stay tuned for details.

Thanks again to the tireless efforts of my fellow club officers and regular contributors. Fred, K4LQ publishes these Gazettes in addition to his duties as Treasurer and Secretary. Chris, WF3C is a big help to me/us in many ways. George, K5KG supports us in many thoughtful and creative ways. The score postings from Fred, K9VV give us an objective way of evaluating our progress as a group. And Frank, K4EJ continues to remind us to be radio-active each coming weekend, along with his very unique perspectives. Ron, WD4AHZ continues to support the FCG and FQP web sites and e-mail reflectors which are arguably our lifeblood. Others are a huge help with the FQP and other activities.

Most of all, this is a club that constructively contributes to each other with an absolute minimum of the drama that is so often pervasive in other organizations of all types. It takes great cooperation to maintain this balance and I appreciate the efforts of each and every one of you.

OJ!! GO FCG in 2014!!

Vy 73, Dan
President, FCG since September, 1998

2014 FCG Dues are due

It is that time of year again! 2014 FCG dues will be due 1 January. Please send your dues check to Fred Perkins, 3437 Lake Josephine Drive, Lake Placid FL 33852. Dues are \$5 per year and may be paid ahead for more than one year if you wish to do so. If you have any questions, e-mail me at fperkins@centurylink.net

Contributors to This Issue

K1TO, K5KG, NF4A, K0RC, N2ESP, KQ8Z, K8CX Dayton Hamvention Site, W1YL, N4WO, KC4HW., N4BP, ARRL Bulletin # 29, N8PR, N4EEB.

Welcome Aboard



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

KJ4AYT - Kurt Stephens, 553 Pilot's Place, New Port Richey FL 34652 e-mail: avionoff@aol.com

KK4AND - Tim Bolton, 6530 83rd Avenue N., Pinellas Park FL 33871 e-mail: tbolton59@yahoo.com

N4CR - Phil Barnett, 1105 S. Binion Rd., Apopka FL 32703 e-mail: philb@philb.us

NP2MR - David A. Pennell, 2031 Bayside Avenue, Mount Dora FL 32757 e-mail: np2mr@yahoo.com

WB4MM - Michael Mason, 3009 Halifax Avenue, Daytona Beach FL 32118 e-mail: mdmason@clearwire.net

K0VIF - Mercer Richardson, 3856 Champion Road, Titusville, FL 32796 e-mail: mbrichar@att.net

AC2N - Alan Christman, 11137 Clamdigger Terrace, Inglis FL 34449-9001 e-mail: ac2n@1959@gmail.com

WO4O - Ric Painter, 12902 Honey Blossom Drive, Grand Island FL 32753 wo4o.radio@gmail.com

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

Events Calendar

ARRL RTTY Roundup 1800Z, Jan 4 to 2400Z, Jan 5

North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Jan 11 to 0600Z, Jan 12

ARRL January VHF Contest 1900Z, Jan 17 to 0359Z, Jan 19

North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Jan 18 to 0600Z, Jan 19

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2200Z, Jan 24 to 2159Z, Jan 26

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 8 to 2400Z, Feb 9

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Feb 15 to 2400Z, Feb 16

Obituary - Kevin Bunin K4PG

By Bob Patten N4BP

Kevin Bunin was born February 2, 1942, and died December 1, 2013 at the age of 71. He served in the U.S. Navy as a communications technician from 1961 to 1965.



His previous call signs included WB2DZL, WB4HML, WV5Z, KA2KS and KA7DM (Japan), KM6CE, KM6BI (Midway Island), C6A/WV5Z, and C6APG.

He was a member of the A-1 Operator's Club, CW Ops #1157, DXCC, SOC # 673 and the Florida Contest Group.

I first met Kevin in 1967 when he lived in Hollywood and I had just moved from Springfield, MA to Miramar. We were both involved with the creation of the Hollywood Amateur Radio Club and participated together in all of its on-the-air activities. Which brings me to the story that I shared with the group at his memorial earlier this month, and was a story that I probably heard Kevin tell a hundred times.

In the late 60's, HARC participated in the Florida QSO Party, then administered by Florida Skip (aka Andy Clark). We organized a camping trip at a KOA campground just north of Clewiston with the intention of giving out Hendry County from the campground. Saturday morning Kevin and I hopped in my little VW Squareback and headed up US27 to the Hendry/Glades county line. We pulled off the road at the two county sign and began to make QSOs. But we quickly began to experience a disgusting odor in the car. Probably at the same time, we both announced "It wasn't me!". We opened all the windows which only made it worse and we were concerned at that point that there might be something happening with the wiring in the car. There was nothing left to do but shut off the rig and head back to the campground. As we pulled out from our county line spot the odor quickly vanished. Looking back, we had been parked directly over a rotting pig carcass!

Kevin and I have traveled to Freeport, Grand Bahama together many times. On one of our first trips we brought our wives, Susan and Juli. We stayed at the Bell Channel Inn at Lucaya and when we arrived, attended an orientation meeting. Kevin's wife Susan didn't realize that the Bahama Mamas they gave us at the meeting contained rum and downed about three of them. She was one happy girl! That is until she and Kevin were chased out of their room by a scorpion! Susan told me at the memorial that they were actually chased out of two rooms before they found one critter free.

Probably Kevin's favorite radio contest was Field Day. For many consecutive years, we headed to Fiesta Key on Long Key at MM70. We had quite a few first place finishes from there while running five watts to a trap vertical looking out over the Gulf of Mexico for about 270 degrees. The island has a huge bird population that do what birds do, so we renamed the island "Guano Reef". Tim, N4UM joined us for one of those Field Days and did some operating on SSB. For my call, he started using the phonetics "Bashful Pervert", so our club name early on became the "Guano Reef Bashful Perverts". The best ARRL could do for us in the results though was "GRBP".

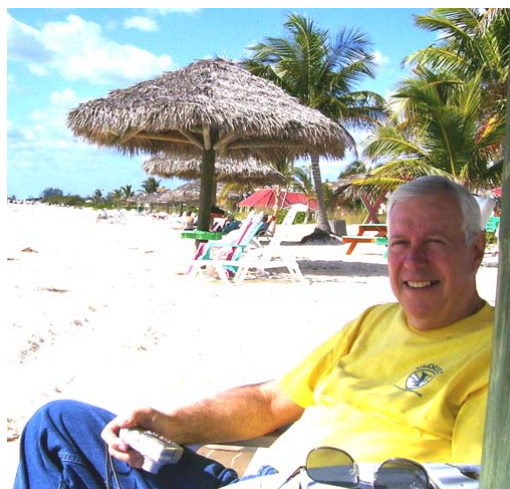
Probably very few knew of Kevin's contest potential. He was in a class with K1TO, N2NL, and the like. But first and foremost, Kevin was a family man and almost always, his contest efforts were shortened by family activities. Just this year, he finally put up a tower and beam and was about ready to let loose some of that first class potential.

Ed Note: Over the past 10 years Kevin was the number one contributor of pictures to the Gazette, numbering probably well over 100. At the Orlando Hamfest meetings he took shots of all the people awarded FQP plaques and certificates – and did this several years running.

Kevin was frequently the first to comment on the meeting reports and newsletter notices that I posted to the reflector, showing his appreciation for club related support activities.

He frequently called in 6 meter band openings on the reflector.

Whether it was dxing or contesting or club activities, Kevin was a participator.



The above picture of Kevin was taken by Pete Rimmel N8PR during one of their trips to the Bahamas.

Obituary - Arnold Trossman W4EIP By Jim Johnson KC4HW

Arnie Trossman, W4EIP (previously W2DTJ) became a silent key on Nov 24th at 1:30PM after a medical struggle of 12+ months. Arnie was born in January 1931 and was first licensed in December 1949.



Arnie had a very wide and illustrious career starting in the early 50's working with the Eldico Radio product lines and also working on the Cosmophone SSB Transceiver design in the early 60's. He was the editor of CQ Magazine from 1960 to 1964. He told me so many stories about his time at CQ Magazine with Mr Dick Ross. Arnie always said that he was not qualified to be an editor, but the owner must have liked his tenacious spirit and wanted him in that position.

During his time at CQ Magazine he continued to push along the CQ WW contests, as well as being the originator of the United States of America Counties (USA-CA) Award. So if you have achieved this award you can give a little thought of appreciation to Arnie for starting it. In fact they are still using the same certificate design today for this award. He never failed to comment on how much those first certificates cost, he said: "that he had to turn that procurement over to someone else because he could not bring himself to spend that much money of those certificates". He actually wrote an article about this award and it was published in CQ Magazine in September 2000.

Arnie was inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 2006.

His first Field Day experience where he and a few of his high school friends (and Hams) found this field and set up for Field Day. I guess some hours later, the owner of the property came along and discovered their operation. He gave them the dickens about not asking permission and threatened to call the cops on them, but then after hearing about their involvement in Amateur Radio, he allowed them to operate. BTW the gentleman that allowed them to operate was Henry L Stimson, then retired as the Secretary of War under President Roosevelt. Arnie said it scared the crap out of them when he found out who the gentleman was!

This is a quote from an email that Arnie sent me late last year

He said that: "I worked my ass off and forked over \$250 to Harrison Radio in Manhattan to get this HRO-7 receiver. By now I was a bit fed up with war surplus and decided to branch out

The HRO had plug in coils and no dial. You had to interpolate the dial readings on the large knob against frequency curves on the front of the plug-in coils. The High School club used my HRO for 1950 field day.



The Meissner Signal Shifter was my first all band exciter/transmitter. It was a kit, way before Heathkit. The little square box with a knob on it was a WWII audio filter called an FL-8. I modified it per an article in QST or CQ. It was an excellent cw filter for \$1.75.

No microphone, no speaker, no bug; the small file cabinet to the right kept track of callsigns in alphabetical order. The antenna tuner was hanging on the wall out of sight.

The sign with my name and call is an aluminum casting that a guy was selling outta QST for seven bucks. I've still got it somewhere.

I worked quite a bit of goodies with only 5 watts. My geography wasn't as good as it is now and I needed a little globe to see where all the DX was hiding, courtesy of my Mom."

Arnie was a constant HAM, he was working on one project or another all the time. Two years ago he completed a 6L6M beam from scratch, it is a thing of beauty and perfect in every way. It uses the recent loop fed antenna de-



We (Arnie, WO4D/Orrin, KE4MMI/Johnny and myself) used it for the last two years in the June VHF Contest from his station in Palm Bay, Florida and it played excellent. He once remarked to me right after we got the antenna up, that he would just go outside and check to make sure it was still there and "nobody had stolen it".

At the first part of this year, he was delighted to find a 4-1000 tube that he was preparing to build into a 6m amplifier. He had been working on the RF deck as a HF project for years and was going to convert it to 6m.

Arnie was a "CW man", it was his primary Ham Radio language! He came to visit me in Alabama, participate in the FQP or AQP, and he brought along his Vibroplex Paddles. That was his baby and he treated it as any musician would with their most valued instrument. He had it in a wooden box with a towel wrapped around it to keep it safe.

He told me a story about taking it apart to clean and give it some general care. He was monitoring 6m at the time and heard a KP4 calling CQ. He said that by the time he got his paddles back together the KP4 had faded away. He said, "the moral of the story was never to listen to the radio when you are cleaning your paddles"..

He was a die hard DXer. A little shake in his hand did not dampen his resolve to chase DX. Every time I talked to him he would ask what DX I had recently worked or what contest I had been in. He loved to slip to the bottom of 20 or 40 and see what DX delights, as he called them, he could find. He was like a kid with a new penny when he worked a rare one down there.

He was an Air Force "radioman" stationed in England in the mid 1950's. He loved those WW 2 era prop aircraft except when those big radial engines caught fire. He was an avid stamp collector and spent a lot of time adding rare Australian stamps to his extensive collection.

I have known Mr. Trossman for not quite 20 years. During this time he has always been a supporter and motivator. I always marveled at his undying interest in Ham Radio. He was a member of the Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society, Melbourne, FL, the Florida Contest Group and the Alabama Contest Group. I know that I can not do justice to his illustrious life and career, the only thing I know for sure is that I will miss my "friend".

ARRL Southeastern Division to get New Director

The ARRL Southeastern Division will have a new Vice Director as well as a new Director on January 1. Following balloting in November, Doug Rehman, K4AC, of Mount Dora, Florida, was declared elected to a three-year term as Director, and incumbent Vice Director Jim Millsap, WB4NWS, an appointee, defeated one challenger to win a new, full term.

A subsequent change in Vice Director Millsap's job responsibilities has made it necessary for him to resign, effective January 1. In accordance with the ARRL *Articles of Association* and after consultation with the Director-elect, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, has appointed Michael Lee, AA6ML, of Palm Coast, Florida, to fill the Vice Director vacancy. Lee currently serves as the Northern Florida Section Emergency Coordinator.

George Wagner K5KG named to SE Division Contest Advisory Committee

Please join me in thanking George, K5KG, for agreeing to serve as the Southeastern Division's representative on the ARRL's Contest Advisory Committee (CAC) effective 1/1/2014.

The CAC studies issues, including rule changes, relating to the various contests run by the ARRL and provides its recommendations to the Board of Directors for action.

George's contesting credentials and leadership need no introduction to FCG members, nor could I do them justice..

Please also join me in thanking Charlie, NF4A, our current CAC representative, for his many years of dedicated service to the Division.

73, Doug K4AC

FQP Pictures

Editor's note : This year, unlike previous years, not many participants sent in pictures of their mobiles in action. George K5KG and Jim VE7ZO were the exception - they posted their usual bevy of pictures to the net of their K4KG/M operation, and I was able to download them from there.



Above - The K4KG/M setup features a vertical antenna mounted on a trailer behind their vehicle. L-R - George and Jim have used this setup for the last several FQPs very effectively.



Above - The K4KG/M operating position with Jim VE7ZO in the background.



Above - L-R Rich K1CC, Dan K1TO and Jim VE7ZO



Above - George K5KG at the K4KG/M operating position.



Above - Charlie NF4A operating with a hard hat in WAG. He was operating under an 1100 foot tower that was having a broadcast antenna installed.

Aeronautical Mobile Operation Attempt in the Florida QSO Party

By Eric K9ES, with Chuck AD4ES, Doug K4IMB (KK4DOE), and Jan K4QD

The Florida QSO Party is an interesting opportunity to try to operate Aeronautical Mobile to provide coverage from all 67 counties. The concept seems easy, but the actual implementation is another story. Chuck AD4ES is a very experienced pilot who owns an airplane, a Mooney 20K. This is a low wing, high performance, single engine, rather small airplane that seats pilot, co-pilot, and 2 rear seat passengers. The space is rather tight in the plane, and without any "modification", any antenna must remain inside the fuselage, which, except for the windows and wind shield, is metal

Chuck and I had talked about running aeronautical mobile for almost a year. As time came nearer to FQP time, our plans got a little more serious with another A/M operation, that being flying over the K4R Boy Scout camping event at the Deer Park camp out for the region.

We measured the front dimensions of the wind screen and decided to build a loop antenna that would be made on clear vinyl and taped near the perimeter of the windscreen. The antenna started with a slightly longer than "normal dipole length" wire insulated with a plastic separator and the loops were wound around the perimeters. We measured the resonance of the antenna using an MFJ269 analyzer and fed the antenna with open feed transmission line. To connect to the analyzer, a 4 to 1 balun was built using bifilar winding on a ferrite core from plans in the antenna handbook. The antenna was resonated by removing wire to bring it to resonance at 14.270 MHz.

Once the antenna was built on a plastic table, it was tried in Chuck's van with interesting results. The resonance was no longer at 14.270 but somewhere around 12.6 MHz, and at 14.270 MHz, the SWR was "off the wall". When metal got near the loop, things changed again. The loop was affected by everything! A tuner was required.

When the antenna was taped to the windscreen, a piece of 450 Ohm ladder lead was connected to an MFJ 901B Tuner through the Balanced Feed output. Using the MFJ269 analyzer, the Tuner was set for best SWR at 14.270MHz which was 2.6 to 1. The MFJ analyzer was removed and the IC7000 was put in its place. The radio was placed on my lap, and we took off, for an over flight of the Boy Scout camp sight. The radio also had a 1/4 wave vertical mounted on a PL-259 Right Angle connector. As we approached the camp ground, we gave a call to their CQ. They were excited to hear our response, and we circled over them, having many of the scouts make visual contact with our plane as we flew 5000 feet above them. We also contacted them on the 146.85 repeater. We maintained contact on 20 meters until we headed away from them. The antenna was facing west and they were due east of us.

But we managed to hear every station they did contact in the Midwest and New England. We were able to maintain contact with them for 50 miles through the 146.85 repeater, until the number of other repeaters that we were bringing up took over the frequency. Fearing that the rig might be damaged by the high SWR, we shut down the radio and removed the antenna from the windscreen. Our first test was somewhat successful.

Antenna design 2 was an idea taken from the shortened vertical concept in the antenna handbook. We knew that a 3 foot wooden dowel could fit next to the windscreen and we thought we could wind a helical dipole for 20 meters on a 3 foot dowel cut in the middle with a small piece of flexible plastic hose in the center of each 18 inch piece. The handbook stated that a quarter wave helically wound vertical required about a half wavelength of wire. Once the actual dipole was wound, we had to add some additional wire to resonate it to frequency. This unit had very low feed-point impedance so a new balun was wound, similar to the first balun but this time from unbalanced 50 ohms to balanced 12.5 ohms. We mounted the antenna with balun and found that proximity to metal affected resonance. A tuner was also required, so the MFJ 901B Tuner through the Un-Balanced Feed output was used. The SWR was still not perfect, about 3 to 1 at best, but there was no room to mount the capacity plates. The IC-7000 did not like this, and the AT-180 Auto-Tuner would not capture this match

Test Flight 2 was made with Jan K4QD in the back seat with the logging computer and the keyer, Doug KK4DOE in the front right seat as the Navigator and SSB operator, and Chuck AD4ES as the pilot. I (K9ES) was in my mobile in front of the airport communicating with Jan on 14.273 MHz.

Chuck taxied to the west end of runway 9, and Jan had difficulty communicating with me, even though we were only about 2 miles apart. As the y got permission to take off, and the plane gained altitude, I was able to communicate with him, but once he went out over the Atlantic Ocean, and east of my position, I could no longer hear him. When he flew around to the south, we were able to work each other for a few moments. And when the plane was south of the airport, I heard him loudest. I had to drive home, so I was not at the airport when he landed. But that night, we had a conference call, and Jan told me that he was a little airsick and felt he could not do the FQP. I told him that I would do the flying, and he would be control operator for K4D at the W4MLB station. What happened is Jan was seated looking forward, and when he turned to see the radio, his balance center went hay-wire. Doing that several times, one loses all reference and immediately becomes dizzy.

Antenna design 3 was an idea from K4QD. Jan had a 20 Meter Hustler with a Tri-Whip mount. Jan's idea was that if he placed a resonator set for 14.050 MHz on one mount and a second whip tuned to 14.275 MHz on the 2nd mount, the antenna would resonate on both the CW frequency and SSB frequency in the FQP Mobile Window.

However, that did not occur. The antenna did not resonate anywhere in the 20 Meter band. We had to re-adjust each whip to give us a resonance that allowed a great match on the SSB portion (1.15 to 1) and a match that the AT-180 could handle so the IC-7000 was putting out 100 Watts on both SSB and CW. Things looked great.

Now we had to get the logging computer talking to the IC-7000. Because the purpose of the trip was to cover all 67 counties, we needed to run CQ/X with a GPS so the computer could track counties traveled. Doug worked hours to get this complex software working and the computer started controlling the radio. The external WinKeyer was actually keying the radio with a Keying paddle plugged in, but the function key would not key the radio. It was only later that we realized (after a message came up saying we could not log a QSO using the "Right Radio"), that the Left Radio and Left Keyer had to be selected. Once that was done, the function keys worked, the external paddle worked and we were good to go.

The IC-7000 radio, AT-180 tuner, 35 amp sealed battery, USB Hub, Power Distribution, Voltmeter, MFJ Power Booster, and Fan was mounted in a vertical wooden rack, that was wired and tied down in the rear seat with the left seat belt. Everything was bolted down to prevent things getting loose during turbulence. The Power distribution unit was also connected to the computer through a DC-DC converter, and the Power Distribution was then connected through diode isolation to the plane alternator so that the internal battery would be kept charged during flight.

I (K9ES) sat in the rear right seat, with the logging computer, and Radio Sport Headset. I also had the Paddle for CW. Doug (K4IMB, ex KK4DOE) was the SSB operator, in the Co-Pilot Seat, with his Radio Sport Headset with Boom Mike. Chuck (AD4ES) was the pilot. Our operation on Saturday was delayed an hour so I could attend the funeral of George Fundis K4PX, who passed away the previous Sunday and was scheduled to be one of the operators of the K4D operation at W4MLB.

We took off from Melbourne, and headed south. I couldn't hear anything in the receiver except noise. I had heard from my own mobile an hour before plenty of activity on 20 Meters. Houston – we have a problem. We continued flying south, until I visually saw us going past the Sebastian Inlet on the Indian River, and noticed the county in CQ/X change from BRE to IDR. At least the software was working. But the receiver was not hearing anything. Chuck, Doug, and I decided to return to the Melbourne Airport and go to plan B, a new antenna (antenna 4). I had prior commitments for Saturday night, and Chuck and Doug tried to make a new antenna but had sensitivity to nearby things, so they made an executive decision to remove the rack from the plane, mount it into Chuck's van (which already had a Screwdriver Antenna), and get a route planned to drive for Sunday. Our plans were to then meet at 7 AM Sunday morning, figure out how to make an operating chair in the back of a cargo van,

Sunday morning, we met at Chuck's business, and secured the rack in his cargo van, with the front of the IC-7000 facing forward. The seat was secured to locks in the rear floor, and we were good to go. GPS units were working in the logging computer and in the navigating computer, and we got on the highway. Eric K9ES started operating on 40M CW in Brevard as we drove through Melbourne to get on I-95 Southbound, going into Indian River County. When the band died, we went to 20M CW and found a frequency at the top of the mobile window and continued working them

Okeechobee County, after going to see the lake, we switched operation as Doug K4IMB (KK4DOE) began the SSB operation. After the 2nd CQ, he started working stations, and continued through Glades, Hendry, Lee, Charlotte, and Desoto counties. Doug managed 71 QSO's with 41 multipliers. In Arcadia, FL., K9ES took over on 20 CW and continued through Hardee, Polk, and Osceola County. During the last 20 minutes, CQ/X had shut down 6 times. We believe this is a bug in the software but we are still unclear what caused the computer problems. I became very good at bringing up the program after it completely shut down. When 6PM Local time arrived, we had made 325 QSO's 74 Multipliers through 12 counties for 77,050 claimed points. Our intention was to run Aeronautical Mobile but that did not pan out. We know that if we decide to do this operation next year, we need to assure that the entire system is fully operational



Jan K4QD checks out rack, climbs into plane, in op position



Rack arrives in hangar, Chuck AD4ES and Doug K4IMB secures it, AD4ES tightens balun.



Securing wires, adjusting power, tightening connectors.



Doug K4IMB showing Hustler Antenna, setting CQ/X and testing computer



L- Eric K9ES tests Hustler while Doug K4IMB sets up CQ/X Program.



R - AD4ES and K9ES standing by Chuck's Mooney 20K



L - Earthbound again - Doug K4IMB working SSB in Glades from the van.

By Bob Wanek N2ESP

I was listening to an oldies station when I realized the lyrics to an old favorite took on a new meaning. The new FCG theme song???

Can you hear me?

Can you hear me running?

Can you hear me running?

Can you hear me calling you?

Silent Running (on Dangerous Ground) by Mike & the Mechanics

73, Bob N2ESP



NF4A Wins SE Contester of the Year Award

Congrats to Charlie Wooten NF4A who was presented with the SE Contester of the Year Award at the Huntsville Hamfest August 16.



Cut Numbers

By Bob Chudek K0RC

Ed. Note: Believe a lot of our members would agree with this assessment. It was submitted by George K5KG with an OK from K0RC.



I don't care for cut numbers other than 5NN, the standard "synch pulse" of contest exchanges.

During the WPX last weekend with very poor conditions, those using cut numbers hurt themselves and the stations they were working. Of all the stations I worked who used cut numbers, at least 75% of them I needed to ask for a repeat, if not two or more repeats. Here's why...

The number sequence 0 to 9 (should) always contain 5 'elements'. Sending numbers in this manner provides a built-in error checking scheme. If I am expecting a serial number and I hear two dits and one dah, I already know this will be the number 2. When I hear the remaining two dahs, this confirms that I just heard the number two. Likewise, if I hear a dah dit, I already know this is the number 6, and the trailing three dits confirms that.

Furthermore, when listening to a sequence of four numbers, I am expecting four groups of 5-elements with appropriate spacing between the groups. This built-in error checking can often survive moderate QRN without having to ask for a repeat.

However, when you start throwing cut numbers into the sequence, the entire error checking scheme goes out the window and requires a strong, noiseless environment. This was not the band conditions I experienced last weekend. In addition to QRN, the propagation, auroral flutter, and back scatter was severely distorting signals at times. It was tough enough receiving the full 5-element numbers, let alone a solo dit or dah thrown into the middle of a serial number sequence.

Those of you who use cut numbers should be aware that I will continue to ask for a repeat until I am 100% confident I received the correct number for the log. I am not about to take a 3X penalty because you believe using cut numbers has some kind of advantage.

73 de Bob - K0RC in MN

Dayton Hamcation 2013

By Fred Perkins, K4LQ

Ed Note: George KQ8Z was kind enough to survey members to determine who went to Dayton this year—below are the results:



K1TO, K4IMB, K4XS, K7JA, K9ES, KQ8Z, KK4CIS, N4LZ, NF4A, NP2B, NP2C, W4DAS, W4DN, W4SLR, W4UM, WA4AW.

Some FCGers were pictured in the K8CX Hamgalery internet site. They are shown below.



W4DN



NP4Z



K1TO



NF4A



K9ES AD4ES



W4OI



K4XS



Hon. Mbr. W4DTA



W4QN

Ed Note: With the exception of those attributed elsewhere, Pictures and notes on this page are from the K8CX Dayton Hamvention Site.

This years attendance was 24,542.

2013 inductees to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame are:

Dale Green, VE7SV, is a world-class contester who has been hosting teams of new and experienced testers at his superstation for the past 20 years, and recently helped start a contest group in Chile.

Charles "Chas" Fulp, K3WW, also a multi-award winning contester and past president of the Frankford Radio Club (FRC), which says Chas "is our role model and sets the standard for other FRC members to strive to achieve."

The 2013 inductees to the CQ DX Hall of Fame are:

Vladimir Bykov, UA4WHX/AC4LN, has visited and operated from over 100 DX entities in the past ten years and operated from all six continents in 2012 alone. Has provided over 700,000 DX contacts for hams around the world (and QSLed them all).

Robert "Gary" Dixon, K4MQG, is a founding member of the Carolina DX Association and as Founding President of INDEXA, the International DX Association, which has helped support over 200 DXpeditions in the past 30 years.

The Contest Super Suite on the 1st floor of Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton was open 4 nights with free



From the K1TO facebook:

Dan K1TO (In FCG Shirt)with (L-R) Dave K5GN, Ali A71BX and James 9V1YC.

WPX CW Claimed Scores

FLORIDA STATIONS:

Call	Score	QSOs	Pfx	Class	Sec	Ops	HRs
====	=====	=====	====	=====	====	====	====
AB1HZ	5,096,360	2454	860	SOABHP	WCF	K5KG	35.8
AD4TR	5,034,912	2304	879	SOABHPa	NFL	N4UU	35.5
K4PG	59,724	189	158	SOABLP	SFL		
KJ3X	2,481,914	1512	744	SB20HP	NFL	K4XS	20
KK4CIS	53,352	365	250	SB40LPR	SFL		7.5
KM4FOC	1,609,737	1148	589	SOABHPa	WCF	K4LQ	
KM4HI	834,351	755	469	MSHP	NFL	+NS1L	36
KN4Y	40,334	200		SB10LP	NFL		
N4DXI		100		SOABLPa	NFL		
N4EK	71,435	200	175	SOABLP	NFL		3
N4FP	56,160	178	143	SOABLP	NFL		7.8
N4TB		510		SOABLP	WCF		
N4WO	461,732	651	356	SOABLPa	NFL		22.5
N6AR	1,421,936	951	491	SOABHP	NFL		15.5
NF4A	1,295,252	1084	554	SOABHPaTBW	NFL		17
NX4N	86,336	185	152	SOABLPTBW	WCF		
W3WW	183,708	268	189	SOABLPa	SFL		8.5
W4GV	343,125	520	305	SOABHP	NFL		18
WB4TDH	528,304	651	424	SB15LP	WCF		
WD4AHZ	1,024,226	846	491	SOAPLPTS	WCF		
WN1GIV	2,078,575	1492	725	SB15HPTBW	SFL	N4BP	31
WN4R	3,735	46	45	SOABLP	NFL		1.5
WW4E	16,682,784	6160	1308	MMHP	NFL	N4WW,N4KM,K1TO	48
WW4E						N4KM,K0LUZ,K1CC	
WW4E						K8NZ,AD4Z,W4LT	
WW4E						WC4E,WF3C	

TOTAL = 39,447,992

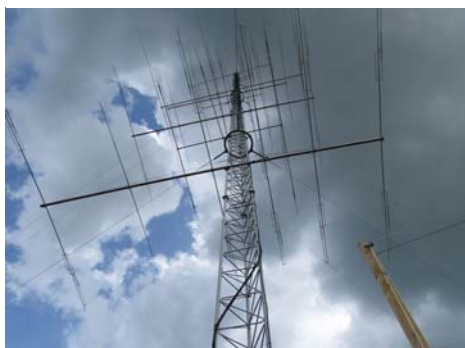
NON-FLORIDA STATIONS:

Call	Score	QSOs	Pfx	Class	Sec	Ops	HRs
====	=====	=====	====	=====	====	=====	====
K9OM	1,753,357	1212	709	SB20HPTBW	WS		32
KP2M	15,629,358	4242	1139	MSHP	KP2	KT3Y,WP2XX,K9VV	48

TOTAL = 17,382,715

K4XS XSTRAVAGANZA June 9, 2013

Bill K4XS and Holly WH7YL Invited Club members to a cookout at their new **QTH** in Brooksville on Sunday June 9. Many members, ye ed included got their first look at Bills new antenna arrays. Very impressive, as expected.



Greg N4WO took the above shot lying on his back under the main tower.



Bill K4XS tells his tower story from a few feet up on the main tower to a group assembled below.



Right and Below: Margaret, XYL of Jack K1KNQ with the FCG cake she brought in honor of the occasion.



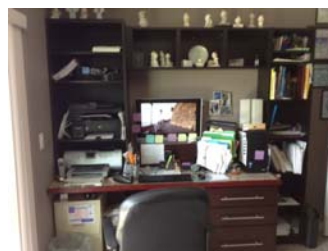
Above Left - Hostess Holly - with my XYL Sheila peeking through from the background. A sumptuous repast of burgers, dogs and all the fixins was quickly devoured by the assembled multitudes.

Attendees spotted included the following:
(+ indicates a spouse of significant other)

AA4HP +
AB4GO +
K1KNQ +
K1TO
K4CC
K4EJ +
K4LQ +
K4XS +WH7YL
K9IA +
K9ES +
K0LUZ
KJ4AYT
KK4AND
KM4HI
KM4OR
KP2N
N2ESP
N3NN +
N4DXI
N4FP +
N4KW
N4LZ +
N4TB
N4WO
NG4L
NY4I
W1YL
W4LT +
WA5POK
WC4E
WF3C
WN4R +
WX4G



Wayne N4FP



K4XS Operating Position



Red K0LUZ



K4XS Chief Cat
in Charge



L-R Chris K4XS, Hank
AA4HP.



Ellen W1YL and Fran
Theisen



Dan K1TO (white shirt) in
kitchen discussion.

Thanks again to Bill
and Holly for a great
get-together.

Visit with Joan, C31IS and the Andorra Contest Station C31NL

By George Wagner K5KG



In the 1980s, I made numerous trips through Europe while working in Saudi Arabia. At one point, I made plans to go on a dxpedition to C3, Andorra¹, and even got a license. Plans changed, and the operation did not happen, but I never forgot about the possibility of going there.

My XYL, Kay, and I planned to take a cruise out of Barcelona in June 2013, and this gave me the break I had been waiting for — the possibility of going to Andorra. Out came the maps, travel guides, and emails to any ham I could find there. Fortunately, I had received a QSL from C37N from the 2011 CQWW SSB contest. A quick search on QRZ.com for C37N, showed that Ruben, EA5BZ, was involved with that operation, so off went an email to Ruben. He quickly replied and put me in touch with Joan, C31US, the President of URA, the country's Amateur Radio Association. From that point on, the plans for a C3 visit fell into place. Joan and I emailed back and forth several times, and when the time came for me to phone him, I was very pleased to hear that he spoke perfect English. (My Spanish is virtually nonexistent, not to mention my complete lack of familiarity with Catalan, the national and only official language of Andorra.)

Getting to Andorra from the Barcelona airport was a breeze. We caught a daily bus that was a large Mercedes Benz passenger van with a friendly English-speaking driver. As the bus went north out of Barcelona, we went through farm country with fields of June wild flowers and finally high into the Pyrenees. After a few hours, we arrived at a spectacular hotel in the capital city of Andorra La Vella. After checking in, we walked up the main shopping street to Joan's toy store, aptly named Tic-Toc. The tour books refer to Andorra as the world's largest shopping center, and we could believe it. Andorra is a tax free haven, and many French and Spanish shoppers and tourists from all over go there to shop.

We met Joan at his store, and had an enjoyable first visit. As planned, we agreed to return the next afternoon, and he would take us on a tour of the country. This would include a visit to their contest station, C31NL, at NaturLandia, Andorra's national park in the mountains and far away from Andorra La Vella. During the next day's trip, we had a pleasurable visit to Joan's beautiful home and his C31US station. Joan's station is well equipped with a Yaesu FT1000 and a large Force 12 tribune on the roof of the multi-story building in which they live. We next visited the URA where I presented Joan an FCG hat and ARRL Handbook and, in return, he gave me a generous collection of C3 QSL cards and URA memorabilia. The URA headquarters also has a fine station, a tribune on the roof of the large office building and, of course, the official C3 QSL Bureau.

An interesting thing happened when we were at the URA. Kay looked at an old PX1GX³ QSL card that was displayed on the wall, and casually said to me, "Don't you know Joe Defuses?" I said, "Yes, we knew Joe and his XYL, Fran, when we lived in Ethiopia and I operated from ET3USA." Well, the PX1GX card was from a expedition that Joe, who was WA2GSY / F7GX at the time, and Lou Varney, G5RV, made to Andorra in 1961. I have stayed in touch with Joe, now W2KQ, so when we returned home, I told him about seeing his old QSL at the URA. He, and sent him a picture of his card. He told me the whole story about their trip.

Joe and Fran were living in Paris at the time, and drove to Andorra with Lou. Each day Joe and Fran would drive to a mountain top to run the pileups from their mobile while Lou operated from a hotel rooftop in Andorra La Vella down in the valley. As a side story, one day Joe and Fran came across a mountain climber who had taken a bad fall and was seriously injured. Joe was able to raise a French ham from his mobile, who in turn contacted a doctor. Joe and Fran then transported the climber to a hospital, most likely saving his life.

From the URA, Joan took us on a spectacular drive to NaturLandia where the C37N QSOs from that 2011 contest came alive in my mind. We met up with Josep, C31JM, and toured the station that is housed in a strikingly large building that belongs to the local government Parish.⁴ Their club has plans to expand the station layout from three stations to six operating positions for improved participation in multi-operator contests. (They generally only participate in SSB contests, as CW operators are scarce in C3.) I got a chance to do a little operating, and made a handful of QSOs on 20m SSB, but unfortunately missed a sked with K1TO back home. Joan asked me to return three bandpass filters to Dunestar for repair, and also to help them with a station grounding and antenna switching plan for their expanded stations. Of course, I was happy to help them with these things, which I did upon returning home. After 31 years, my dream of operating from C3 had finally come true!

An interesting side note about multi-op contests at C37NL is that during contests the entire team stays at a small resort hotel in NaturLandia less than a mile from the station. The operators take over the entire facility for lodging and meals during the contests. Following the visit to the C37NL station, we went to that hotel for a nice chat over some local 807s, and had a perfect dinner, followed by a treat of crema catalana, the favored local dessert.

In all, Kay and I had a wonderful three day visit to Andorra. In addition to the time we spent with Joan, we had plenty of time for sight-seeing and shopping in Andorra La Vella, although we didn't buy much other than souvenirs at Tic-Toc. I would welcome with the opportunity to lend my CW skills at one of the C37NL contest operations someday.

¹ Andorra is a small country only about 15% the size of the US smallest state, Rhode Island. Andorra's population of 78,000 is roughly equivalent to Yuma, AZ

² Joan is a man's name, and is pronounced "joe ahn". On the air, Joan goes by the name of John.

³ The PX prefix was later changed to C3 to resolve a dispute over the PX prefix that was allocated to Brazil.

⁴ Parishes or "Parroquies" - Religious districts adopted over 700 years ago that serve like states with their own governments and authorities. There is not a Worked All Parroquies award, as working all seven Parroquies would be very difficult!



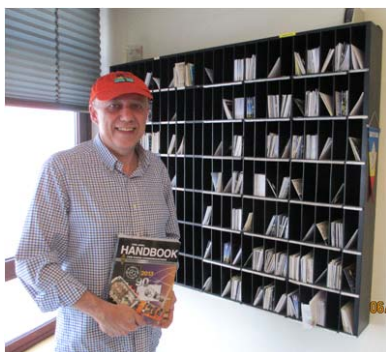
**Joan, C31US and Joseph C31JM
at the C37NL Naturlandia Con-
test Station**



**Some of the numerous antennas
at C73NL**



**K5KG making a few QSOs from
C31NL**



**Joan, C31US, at the C3 QSL
Bureau in the URA offices**



**C37URA Headquarters Station
in Andorra La Vella**



**Offices of URA, C37URA, the
Amateur Radio Association of An-
dorra**



**The PX1GX QSL from a 1961
Dxpedition by Joe, W2KQ, and
Lou, G5RV**



**George, K5KG, in La Vella,
the capital city of Andorra**



**Joan, C31US at his home
station**

CQWW SSB Claimed Scores

FLORIDA STATIONS:

Call	Score	QSOs	Zones	Cty	Class	Sec	Ops	HRs
====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
AD4ES	3,436,448	2060	152	462	MSABHPa	SFL	+K9ES,K4IMB,K4QD,AF4Z,KG4IPO,K2ADA	42
K0LUZ	2,777,516	1833	119	399	SOABHPa	NFL		29
K1KNQ	53,865	228	21	74	SO80HP	NFL		17
K1PT	?	?	?		SOABHPa	SFL		
K3TW	?	?	?		SO15QRPa	NFL		
K4CC	43,818	?	?	?	SOABHPa	WCF		
K4GOP	?	?	?		SOABLP	NFL		
K4LM	1,426,950	942	127	398	SOABHPa	SFL		24.5
K4MM	104,520	285	28	102	SO15LPa	SFL		18
K4XS	10,632,480	4559	187	629	SOABHPa	NFL		47
K5KG	5,768,092	3064	159	515	M2HPa	WCF		
K9OM	?	?	?		SOABHPa	NFL		
KD2JA	257	?	?		SOABHPa	SFL		
KD4ACG	65,400	218	33	76	SO10LP	WCF		
N1TO	1,007,076	885	99	300	SOAPHPa	SFL		30
N2ESP	444,080	514	78	227	SOABLPa	WCF		
N3LL	21,905	117	14	51	SO40LP	WCF		10
N4BP	93,114	500	13	50	SO10HP	SFL		5
N4DL	154,187	475	30	101	SO20LP	WCF		20
N4EK	218,174	360	51	160	SOABLP	NFL		6
N4KW	490,356	535	92	226	SOABLP	NFL		
N4LZ	14,679	83	20	43	SOABHP	NFL		
N4WW	3,627,494	2294	149	417	SOABHP	NFL		24
N6AR	2,258,347	1376	144	437	SOABHPa	NFL		35
N9CM	?	?	?		SOABHPa	NFL		
NA4CW	491,436	650	80	212	SOABQRP	SFL		24
NG4L	?	?	?		SOABQRP	WCF		
NN4X	243,320	282	93	215	SOABHPa	SFL		
NT4TS	?	?	?		SOABHPa	SFL		
W4AS	136,455	287	43	122	SOABHP	SFL		
W4CU	471,476	527	82	229	SOABHPa	WCF		
WW4E	227,495	300	74	189	SOABHPa	NFL		

TOTAL: 34,,208,683

K1TO Trip to Qatar

By Dan Street K1TO

Several FCGers met Abdulla A71CV two years ago when he visited FL. Abdulla and Dave, K5GN invited me to A7 for CQ WW SSB in 2012, but I was unable to attend. When Ali, A71BX and Saif, A71AM again invited me at Dayton this year, I decided to go. The flights from Washington, DC were the longest that I've ever been on. The operation was M/M from a desert camp. Faisal, 9K2RR joined us, as did host Khalid, A71CO, and we made over 11,000 QSOs. Other highlights included tours of the Emir's vast museum and shopping at the souq, a huge marketplace. The rate of construction in Qatar is tremendous, and they have ~10% of the construction cranes in the world there now as they prepare to host the World Cup in 2022. Great memories and friendships to last a lifetime.



Left: Dan (FCG Shirt) with L-R: Dave Mcarthy K5GN, Abdullah Al-Hammadi, Faisal Alajmi, Ali Al Mohannadi and Salif Alkhayarin.

Right: Street Scene



Left: Saw my first camels on Hump Dat, but these were in a pen near the souq (marketplace)

Right: Lots of Qatari mounted police patrolling the souq (marketplace)



Left: With no trees to hold up the wire beverages, we used crossed PVC pieces. Wore my heavy work boots since the surface was rocky. Felt like walking on the moon!

Right: The skyline of Doha had just 2 skyscrapers a decade ago. Now look at it!



Another construction scene in Doha.

Right L-R: 4/4 20, 7/7 10, 4/4 15, 80 M Dipole, 4l 40, Also erected a 160M inverted L and 80M vertical.



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K5KG CQWW SSB Multi Two

By George Wagner K5KG



Here is how we ended up:

Summary ? x						
BAND	QSO	CQ	DXC	DUP	POINTS	AVG
160	7	5	5	1	10	1.43
80	89	15	50	0	230	2.58
40	403	30	94	43	999	2.48
20	618	36	118	9	1713	2.77
15	656	36	116	9	1847	2.82
10	1291	36	135	38	3770	2.92
TOTAL	3064	158	518	100	8569	2.80
FINAL SCORE: 5 792 644						

Our standing in the world wide claimed scores is in 45th position. Although we were multi-two, we did not have a third station to work multipliers.

Equipment run down:

Station 1 - K3, KPA500, KAT500

Station 2 - K3 and Acom 2000A

Antennas:

C31 @ 60 ft.

2L40 @ 75 ft

2L10 @ 30 ft

80m Inv vee

160m Inv

operators were:

Lu, W4LT

Ed, K8DSS

Blake, N4GI

Bill, K4FLV - this was Bill's first DX contest, and he is now hooked. He did a great job, and has a very high BIS factor?

George, K5KG

K9-Winnie - the station mascot



L-R
Winnie
Ron
Ed
Blake
Bill



L-R
Ron WD4AHZ,
Bill K4FLV,
Blake N4GI,
Ed K8DSS

Lu W4LT



Blake N4GI

Winnie listening
for a new one!



Ron WD4AHZ

CQWW CW Claimed Scores

Call	Score	QSOs	ZNs	Cty	Class	Sec	Operators	HRs
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
AD4ES	2,608,580	1451	147	488	MSABHP	SFL	+K9ES,N8KH	39.8
K1KNQ	446,195	409	99	284	SOABHPa	NFL		13.0
K1TO	2,784,728	1656	138	449	SOABQRP	WCF		43
K2EK/4	345,597	806	33	114	SB10HP	NFL		14
K4CC	365,475	466	73	202	SOABLP	WCF		
K4FB	109,296	216	61	123	SOABQRPc	WCF		13
K4LQ	1,792,471	1036	139	468	SOABHPa	WCF		27
K4MF	1,374,741	1032	345	116	SOABHP	SFL		
K4MM	558,590	480	98	317	SOABLPa	SFL		14
K4PG	647,980	645	94	268	SOABLP	SFL		
K4XS	331,250	446	82	183	SOABHP	NFL		
K9OM	576,657	1318	32	121	SO40HPa	NFL		16
KE1F	502,320	514			SOABLP	NFL		25.5
KN4Y	65,800	230	24	76	SB10LP	NFL		18
KV4QS	34,488	171	16	56	SB40LP	SFL		9.6
N3GD 5	48,798	599	90	241	SOABLP	WCF		
N4CJ	1,347,718	839	137	437	SOABLPa	WCF		23.5
N4DXI	108,466	216	==>	191	SOABHPa	NFL		10
N4EK	330,445	433	77	188	SOABLP	NFL		
N4FP	58,100	152	50	90	SOABLP	NFL		5.2
N4KW	213,118	330	64	162	SOABHP	NFL		
N4LF	183,040	301	49	159	SOABLPa	SFL		3.3
N4TB	64,371	177	35	94	SOABLPa	WCF		
N4UU	4,396,133	2990	121	390	SOABHPa	NFL		40
N4WO	595,138	627	88	243	SOABLPa	NFL		20
N4WW	17,124,120	6476	200	736	MMHP	NFL	+NX4N,N4KM	48
N4WW	K0LUZ,K1XX							
N4WW	WC4E,KR4X							
N4WW	WF3C,K1MM							
N6AR	3,171,174	1537	163	564	SOABHPa	NFL		
NA4CW	727,886	725	91	262	SOABQRPc	SFL		24
NN4X	621,042	1201	33	145	SO10HPa	SFL		13
W1MD	1,033,824	709	125	403	SOABHPa	SFL		22
W1MO	142,527	222	213		SOABHPc	NFL		6
W4ZGR	79,124	209	33	98	SOABQRP	SFL		16
WA5POK/4	389,844	41	76	218	SOABLP	???		
WB4TDH	344,988	810	30	116	SO10LP	WCF		23
WD4AHZ	1,961,010	1279	125	413	SOABLPa	WCF		32
WO4O	960,472	805	114	308	SOABLPc	NFL		

Reported Total = 47,591,224

NON-FLORIDA STATIONS:

Call	Score	QSOs	ZNs	Cty	Class	Sec	Operators
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
C6AKQ	1,572,592	2598	65	201	SOABHP	C6A	N4BP
C6AKQ	in above	1969	27	88	SB80HP	C6A	N4BP
C6AZZ	430,000	1570	31	94	SO10LP	C6A	KQ8Z
J73A	15,516,765	8556	163	566	M2HP	J7	K5KG,WI9WI,VO1HP

Reported Total = 17,519,357

The J73A Story

By **George Wagner K5KG**



I have often thought of Marconi's discovery of radio, as "the miracle of radio". Yes, of course, there is scientific basis for how "radio" works, but in some respects, isn't it really a "miracle"? I say this, because, in some perhaps insignificant way, what we experienced on our recent operation from The Nature Isle, Dominica, presented itself as a small "miracle of radio".

The trip with Jim, WI9WI, Annette, KA9DOC, Gus, VO1MP, Ilona (Gus' friend) and I made to Dominica was the most recent of many visits that I have made to J7. We went a week in advance of the CQWW CW Contest and, in addition to milking the WARC bands for QSOs, spent the time setting up our Field Day type of operation. I say Field Day, because our trips to J7 are far from plug-and-play. All antennas had to be erected, and the stations fully set up from scratch. The antennas, cables and miscellaneous hardware were stored at the QTH on the island, but when we arrived, everything had to be pulled from storage and assembled. Now, here is where the "miracle" part begins to emerge, so bear with me.

Upon unpacking our antennas, which include three yagis, a C3 tribander, a 3 element 20m yagi, and a 4 element 10m yagi, we discovered that four element-to-boom brackets were missing. Two for the 20m yagi, and two for the 10m yagi. A frantic search of all the nooks and crannies around the QTH failed to find the missing parts. To be somewhat competitive in our multi-two category in the contest, we needed these antennas, so, what to do?

Getting the 20m yagi assembled required a bit of "field ingenuity". We took the two element-to-boom brackets that were for the 10m yagi, and drilled new holes in them to fit the 20m yagi's U-bolts. (A drill press just happened to be available!) This allowed us to fully assemble the 20m yagi, which we then hoisted up on a bamboo pole to 30 feet, or so, as planned. Ok, the 20m problem was solved. Well, more or less. We failed to adjust the gamma match properly, so we had a 2.5:1 antenna for the balance of the operation, but with our tuners and 500 watt amps, it worked just fine.

Gus is a very knowledgeable antenna guy (he builds his own yagis), and he realized that we could erect the 10m yagi's driven element and use that as our 10m antenna. That was a wonderful idea, until we discovered that the little widget that connects the gamma match to the coax was busted. We needed a Plan B. I recalled that in an earlier expedition to E51, KK9K came up with the idea of building a 15m dipole and taping it to a fiberglass pole so it could be erected vertically. He built it, and it worked like a charm. Why couldn't we similarly build a 10m dipole and tape it to a bamboo pole? We could, and we did. We wound several turns of coax around a Kibuli bean bottle to form a choke, cut the wires, taped the whole thing to a 30 foot piece of bamboo, and up she went. After a couple of trimmings of the wires, we had a resonant 10m antenna.

Now, here is where the thought of "the miracle of radio" idea came home to roost. We use this 10m vertical bamboo dipole in the CQWW CW Contest, made 1714 QSOs and worked 104 DXCC entities with that make-shift antenna. If that was not a miracle, along with some "field ingenuity", I don't know what would be!

There is much more to this story, but I will close by telling you that the overall trip was a wonderful success. Our objectives were met: to have fun, face the challenges of FD-type set up, enter a competitive multi-two, all band score, help meet the world-wide demand for J7 on the WARC bands, and be accident-free.

73, George, K5KG / J75KG



Above L-R Gus VO1MP/J79MP, Jim WI9WI/J79WI, and George K5KG/J75KG



Above: The J73A QTH with 20 Meter Yagi



Left: Gus J79MP ready to tackle the contest.



Right
The J73A antenna crew

N4EEB/KP4 in SS CW

By John Bayne N4EEB



Two weeks ago on short notice, an opportunity presented itself to travel to Puerto Rico as a guest on a friend's business trip. It was pure luck that the trip included SS weekend. Of course, I couldn't resist, so I put it all together.

For me, contest vacations to KP4 would not be possible without the incredibly generous sacrifices and hard work of my good friends Eladio WP3MW and his YL Olga. My first step was a phone call to Eladio to see if he would be available to assist with some logistics. Eladio said he was free and would be glad to help, so I boxed up the rig and accessories and sent them Priority Mail to PR.

I found a vacation rental online on a hill overlooking the beach at Rincon on the west side of the island. It was a top floor penthouse unit with a clear view to the states, and a spiral staircase allowing access to a private rooftop terrace. Perfect. Since I was terrified of another ear issue, I went to my doctor and was put on a prophylactic regimen of antibiotics and Afrin nasal spray. Hi Hi

I arrived in San Juan at noon on Thursday, rented an SUV and drove about 2.5 hours to Rincon. Eladio and Olga met me there. They had a surprise for me, as the Mosley Tribander was already installed on the rooftop and the coax run into my bedroom. Thank you!

What a beautiful location. This is my third trip to KP4, and I've driven all over the island. In my opinion so far, nothing compares to the beauty and peacefulness of the northwest coast of the island around the Rincon/Mayaguez area. As I sit here in my San Juan apartment, I already want to drive back there.

I woke up early Friday feeling good and full of energy knowing that I had to install my 40-meter dipole and get all the antennas working before it started raining.

I noticed that someone had just started up a rather loud gasoline engine pressure washer in the parking lot. I remember thinking that it was good that he would get all of that out of the way while I was busy working outside. I was able to tune out the noise, and I enjoyed the fantastic views as I hung an Inverted Vee off of the rooftop balcony railing. I ran the coax into my room and hooked up the antenna analyzer at 7030 KHz. 1.2:1 - That's always a good feeling, isn't it? The 2-element tribander was working just as well. It was about 2 PM when the rig was on the air and it started raining. I made some SSB QSO's back stateside on 10-meters including a ragchew with N4OX who gave me a 59 plus 20. Later that night I had some 40M SSB QSO's with friends in Florida who told me I was Q5. I was very encouraged. The bands seemed excellent and my QTH was very quiet. The pressure washer was QRT. That night, it was dinner and drinks with Eladio and Olga on a boardwalk cafe right on the beach. Fantastic.

My plan was to sleep in as late as I could on Saturday, so I could work all night with SS. At 7 AM Saturday, my eyes flew wide open as I was jolted out of sleep by the pulsating, rhythmic drone of this guys ancient, maladjusted, pressure-washer. The resonant frequency of this demon was exactly tuned to my last good nerve. Words were said. So, I decided that the adrenalin of being here would carry me through the contest without issue. Olga was coming over to cook up a traditional Puerto Rican lunch prior to SS, and life was good. I knew tomorrow was Sunday, and there would be no problems with early pressure washing then. The lunch was great, and everything was right. The pressure washer guy seemed to have completed the job and it was turned off by 4 PM with an hour to spare.

My plan was to enter Class U this year and make a thousand QSO's and a sweep. I started right on time at 5 PM local on 10-meters and commanded a pileup for over an hour. Some slow/poor operators slowed me down and I missed a 100/HR by two QSO's with a 98 hour. I was confident that I could maintain the momentum by virtue of the band conditions and my KP4 location, but after an hour, the rate dropped off suddenly and, and it felt like I was back in Florida with a modest station running low power. Rates for the remainder of the contest were so-so, but signals were loud. I started to form the opinion that there just weren't as many stations on the air as there should be. I doubt this is correct, as I see the FCG high scores. Did N4BP get a hold of a "TO Chip" ? I decided to maximize my daylight operating as I knew it was my strength. My first sleep period of a planned 4 hours was disrupted an hour early by this %^\$%^ bast^ %^ with his 1960 pressure washer cranking up at 7 AM on a Sunday morning. The headphones and loud CW in my ears still couldn't mitigate the barrage of low frequency pulsating sound waves hitting the concrete building and parking lot. Wave after wave of this continued for freaking HOURS torturing my soul mercilessly with every passing minute. It's funny how one's mind works with a lack of sleep and a lot of stress. I considered cutting his water hose, as it was hooked up to a spigot right outside of my front door, but I realized this would probably only prolong my misery. I had home-brewed a slingshot antenna line launcher (that I ended up not using), and I had several 1 OZ lead egg sinkers painted fluorescent orange. I actually stopped operating and pondered for a few moments the pros and cons of shooting him in the head with my slingshot. Instead, unarmed, I walked down the steep driveway to inquire about how much longer this madness would persist. I encountered a young man, covered in dirt, with his young son, working his butt off in the hot sun. He was profoundly apologetic and was candid about how much pressure he was under (no pun intended) to finish the job before the day was over so he could get paid and feed his family. It was then that I had a personal "moment" and things came into perspective for me about what was important in life and what was not. I know this sounds corny, but that's what happened. I felt very fortunate to be alive and healthy, have good friends and family and be on a beautiful island enjoying ham radio. The pressure washing vibrations continued for a few more hours as I operated, but the stress was gone.

At 18Z, I achieved a SWEEP putting NE into the log for #83. The last holdouts for me were NE and EWA. As my operating time limitations closed in on me, it became obvious that I was going to be significantly short of my 1000 Q goal. It was crazy fun, and I will take great memories home with me from this trip.

I can't believe how many people missed PR for the mult as I read the soapbox comments! I was there both days CQing my heart out.

I enjoyed working the FCG members and exchanging OJ's. It was also fun when people would thank me for giving them the sweep with the PR mult.

73 for now,

John N4EEB/KP4
Writing from Isla Verde, Puerto Rico



Above: John N4EEB in action at KP4