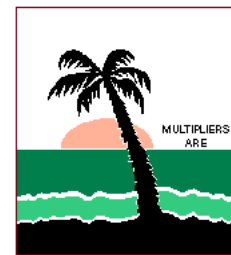


Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

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Volume 17 Issue 1

February 2010

From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO

The Florida Contest Group just completed its first full decade - and what a decade it was!



Membership rolls went from ~35 in late 1998 to 249 and growing! Yup, not doubled, tripled or quadrupled. Go shout to the world how proud you are to be part of an organization that septupled itself in one sunspot cycle. Just don't mispronounce it! FCG meetings in Melbourne and Orlando grew from pizza house gatherings to rooms full of nearly 100 attendees. And notably, we have one single, united, happy contest organization in Florida. Thanks to each and every one of you for making this club what it is today!

1998 was the rebirth year of the Florida QSO Party. Although undoubtedly some of the same factors were considered, a completely independent team of FCGers chose exactly the same weekend on which it had been held previously! The growth of the FQP has just been tremendous, to the point of receiving nearly 1000 logs that represent nearly 110,000 QSOs in 2009!

We're proud that the examples set by the FCG and FQP have been used as a blueprint for the Alabama counterparts. Congratulations to them (a number of Panhandle FCGers are also ACGers) on their terrific success as well!

ARRL's 10-Meter Contest has long been an FCG favorite. We added a bunch of gavel in the 2000s, due to our collective efforts in winning both the Medium and Unlimited Club categories by wide margins. Our club totals in CQ WPX were particularly noticeable, cracking the top echelon several times.

All three WRTC events in the 2000s were won by a team that included an FCGer (K1TO -- S5/2000 and OH/2002, plus VE7ZO at PY/2006). Jim and partner VE3EJ look forward to defending their title in Russia in less than 6 months!

RTTY Contesting grew at a faster pace than any other facet of contesting in the 2000s and FCGers are right in the thick of it, posting many multi-op victories in the premier events.

While I'm highlighting FCG plusses of the past decade, I cannot forget the amazing efforts of Fred Perkins, K4LQ who has been Gazette editor for what seems like forever, while also juggling the treasurer and secretary duties! Ron Wetjen,

WD4AHZ is the man behind the curtain for the FCG and FQP web sites and e-mail reflectors, our electronic backbones! Fred, K9VV is our current "numbers guy", following in the footsteps of some colorful years of reporting from "Tally Man" Frank, K4EJ. Many others have pitched in over the years in various ways and I apologize for not being able to list each of you individually here, but please know that we all appreciate and recognize your efforts, too.

Things were not all wonderful and glorious in the past decade. Our founding father, Jim White, K4OJ passed away almost 6 years ago in February, 2004 and his father, Bob White, W1CW in November of the adjacent year. Other SKs included legendary Multi-Multi station host Ed Bissell, W3AU (Contest Hall of Fame member #10), Vic, N4TO of VicNic fame, K1UM, K3MQH, K4BK, N4GM, N4JT, N4LML, young N4PK, W2JDH, W7QF and most recently at press time Ink, N4OO. Each of them is fondly remembered. Then there was the rash of hurricanes in 2004 and 2005 that

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ripped a number of members' stations apart. We should be thankful that none were as devastating as Andrew, but nonetheless those were tough years and it took us years to rebuild from those storms.

In fact, we had a net loss in large stations. K4XS moved to Hawaii and took his 199-footers down. N4TO's 4 100+' towers with rotatable side-mounted stacks all came down methodically. W3AU's forest of AB-105 and large Yagis all were taken down. WC4E found love and dismantled his fine arrays. The W1CW/K4OJ/W1YL towers were downsized to a Carolina Windom. WX4G moved to NC. K4VUD moved to HS. I probably missed a few.

Sunspots largely disappeared in 2006 into a deeper virtual black hole than any of us has even seen. Just now, there are signs of life on the sun and I suspect that 2010 will be an exciting year with a steep "up curve" of sunspots. Dare I mention running Europeans on 10 Meters again in the fall?

But all in all, the 0s (aughts? whatever we call that decade) were a great 10 years for the FCG and clearly, we are not stopping there!

Orlando HamCation will be an even better event this year with the addition of the FCG-hosted SuperSuite on Friday evening, funded through the raffle proceeds largely from the Yaesu FT857D (have you bought your tickets yet?!). There are some ideas on the drawing board for even bigger things in 2011, assuming that 2010 is the hit that we anticipate. The Golden Corral lunch meeting on Saturday will still be a packed house, I'm sure.

As noted elsewhere in this issue, K1TO is the new ARRL November Sweepstakes Contest Manager. As I'm growing into this spot, I recognize that many of the topics are the same ones we've faced over the years with the FQP – appropriate awards, emphasis on sweeps and getting the rare ones active, recognition and encouragement of School clubs, to name a few. Just so everyone understands my role there, I'm not writing the results articles or checking the logs – just acting as an overall facilitator.

GO FCG! OJ!

vy 73, Dan, K1TO

Dues Reminder

Ed Note: I'll continue to collect 2010 dues through the month of February, including at the Orlando Hamcation Meeting. Look forward to wrapping it up before 1 March..

Contributors to this newsletter included K1TO, K5KG, KE1F, NZ4O, NF4A, K9VV, ARRL Contest Update, K9ES, KK4TA, K1KNQ, ARRL Letter, K1NSS, KX9X, N0AX., ARRL Letter, WJHG.com K4PG, W4DN, KX9X

Welcome Aboard



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

W4QH - Larry Cook, 117 Sagamore Terrace, Port Saint Lucie FL 33983 e-mail w4qh@bellsouth.net

AC2V - Mike Forsythe, 10534 Dogwood Trail, Jupiter FL 33478 e-mail sar911@bellsouth.net

W4WQ - Jerry Blazer, 6059 Dania Street, Jupiter FL 33458 e-mail jerryblazer@bellsouth.net

WB2REM - James Millner, 7010 Gullotti Place, Port Saint Lucie FL 34952 e-mail wb2rem@amsat.org

W1BH - Bob Hicks, 433 North Hampton Ave., Orlando FL 32803 e-mail w1bh@arrl.net

NX4N - Chris Blake, 19311 Seacove Dr., Lutz FL 33558 e-mail clrbake@earthlink.net

NZ4O - Thomas Giella, 5905 Colony Place Drive, Lakeland FL 33813 e-mail nz4o@arrl.net

WN3USA - 51 Meadow Way, Frostproof FL 33843-9422 wn3usa@yahoo.com

N3LL - Bob Carnahan - 1049 Old Englewood Road, Englewood FL 34223 e-mail bobby3c@hotmail.com

WN4AMO - Paul Hemby, 40601 Thomas Boat Landing Road, Umatilla FL 32784 e-mail phemby@hotmail.com

K4KGG - Larry Libsch, 23383 Water Circle, Boca Raton FL 33486-8542 e-mail llibsch@bellsouth.net

Events Calendar

Orlando Hamcation, Feb 12, 13, 14

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 13 to 2400Z, Feb 14

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Feb 20 to 2400Z, Feb 21

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 2200Z, Feb 26 to 2159Z, Feb 28

North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 27 to 0600Z, Feb 28

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 6 to 2400Z, Mar 7

Ken Manuelian K1UK SK

From the Tampa Tribune -
MANUELIAN, Kenneth S., 63, of Spring Hill, Fla., passed away September 22, 2009, at Brooksville Regional Hospital. He was born in Cambridge,

Mass., and came here eight years ago. He was a life long member of the American Radio Relay League (K1ZYW & K1UM). Kenneth enjoyed woodworking, metal- working, Ham Radio contesting, was a competitive aerobatic pilot, Vietnam veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a retired dentist. Kenneth is survived by his wife, Katherine M. Manuelian of Spring Hill, Fla.; son, John K. and his wife, Michelle M. Manuelian of Stoughton, Mass.; and cousin, Douglas Tashjian of Westminster, Mass. A gathering of family members and friends will be 2-5 p.m. Sunday, September 27, at 280 Mariner Blvd. Burial will take place at 11 a.m. Monday, September 28, at Florida National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Radio Relay League in Newington, Conn. Brewer & Sons (352) 688-4991

Ken was an active member of FCG - He operated in many contests as a single band 15 meter entrant. RIP OM.

Ed Note - Ellen WIYL directed me to make a \$50 donation to the ARRL from the WICW/K4OJ Memorial Fund in memory of K1UM. This was done on September 30.

Ink Bowen N4OO SK

Ed Note - At press time we learned of the passing of my good friend Arlen "Ink" Bowen N4OO. Ink was an active FQPer until just a few years ago, and contributed several articles to the Gazette over the years. An obituary will appear in the next edition of the Contest Gazette.

FCG Sponsors First Orlando Hamcation Contest Supersuite

By Chris Plumblee WF3C



The Florida Contest Group and Yaesu are pleased to present the very first Orlando Hamcation Contest SuperSuite on Friday, February 12 at 6pm. Come join us at the Orlando Hamcation, which is rapidly becoming the second-largest hamfest in the United States, in what is arguably the best part of the country to spend a February weekend.

Friday night after the hamfest activity at the Fairgrounds is over, slip over to the American Legion Hall at 2101 Lee Road in Orlando just five short miles from the hamfest. Enjoy free pizza, \$1 beer and soda, and a CW copying contest with prizes for top overall entry as well as top entrant licensed <10 years and top entrant <30 years of age. In addition, come steal the secrets of the top FQP mobile teams at the FQP mobile slideshow and partake of some of that famous Florida hospitality in the Sunshine state, where it is presently 73 degrees and sunny. It will be just like Dayton but with better weather!

For directions from the hamfest to the American Legion Hall visit <http://tinyurl.com/FCGDirections>

In addition to the hospitality and socializing, The FCG is pleased to announce that we'll be raffling off a brand new Yaesu FT857D to one lucky ham. This compact mobile radio covers 160M to 70cm (including 60M) and would be a great starting point for a winning mobile entry in the 2010 FQP! Best of all, you need not be present to win. If you just can't slip away from shoveling snow in Vermont or Minnesota to come to Orlando, send money for your tickets via PayPal to WF3C at cgp@alumni.wfu.edu. You will receive a return email confirming your ticket number and will be contacted via email or phone should you be the lucky winner. Tickets are only \$5 apiece, or 5 for \$20! Additional prizes for the raffle include a copy of the 2010 ARRL Handbook and the 2010 ARRL Antenna Book.

You will have an opportunity to purchase tickets in person at the Yaesu booth at the hamfest all day on Friday and Saturday morning, at the SuperSuite on Friday night, and online until February 12th at midnight. We will draw the winning tickets at the Yaesu booth at the hamfest on Saturday, February 13 at 3pm.

For more information on the FT-857D visit <http://tinyurl.com/FCGRaffle>

For more information about the Orlando, FL Hamcation, visit <http://hamcation.com>

Remember that there are less than 90 days until the 2010 Florida QSO Party!

73, and I'll see you at the Contest SuperSuite!

Chris Plumblee WF3C

An Example of Station Ergonomics

By Lou Mecseri, KE1F

It is a well-known fact and popularized by many accomplished testers of noted fame, if you are not in your operating chair and transmitting or listening, you can't make contacts therefore your scores will be low.



One of many reasons for not being in your operating chair is fatigue. The answer to fatigue is to improve your station's ergonomics.

Ergonomics is defined as "The science of the design of equipment, especially so as to reduce operator fatigue, discomfort and injury."

I looked at my station set up and it became immediately obvious there was a need for improvements. To view my computer monitor, I had to move my head in a sharp vertical angle. To reach the tuning dial of my receiver, I had to reach over my computer keyboard. My amplifier was located to my right. I hardly use or have a need to touch this equipment.

I started out with my chair. I found a very comfortable position and that was my point of reference. My objective was to have a minimum movement of my head, eye and hands either vertically or horizontally while operating the station without giving up on comfort.

I classified my station's equipments according to:

- Need to frequently reach and touch: Keyboard, RX tuning dial, foot switch.
- Need to view frequently: Computer monitor, display on the radio
- Need to periodically reach: Memory keyer, Bencher paddle and egg timer, antenna rotator and SteppIR control box.
- Need to periodically view it: Rotor control box, SteppIR control box, SWR meter, Amplifier dials, BIRD wattmeter, and waveform monitor.
- Hardly ever touched or viewed: DC power supply, spare receiver, spare switching power supply, 2m/70cm FM transceiver, antenna analyzer

To achieve the stated objective I had to build shelves of suitable heights, widths and positions. Also my table had to be modified to make the computer keyboard comfortably accessible from my sitting position with my arm resting on the armchair's arms.

Not surprisingly, a big project like this is not complete until you use the system in a contest or two.

The first major discovery of my design shortcoming was

I am not a touch typist so it is essential for me to see the keys on the keyboard. Dismantling of the keyboard shelf and cutting appropriate opening for a small wattage light bulb was engineered. That solved my lighting problem.

Next engineering fine-tuning was the position of the face panel of the radio. To have the faceplate of the receiver to be perpendicular to my eye, I had to elevate the front slightly. That worked out perfectly. However, as every engineer knows when you find a solution to one problem you are invariably creating another one, which requires an immediate solution. This project was no exception. The elevation of the receiver's front also elevated my tuning and RIT knobs making tuning very fatiguing after a short time. A very old hard drive solved that problem. This HD was just the right height to rest my wrist on.

I am a firm believer in recycling leftovers and used materials. Many of the scrap materials I used were left from old projects.

The lumber (pine) came from the local Lowe's store and I am fortunate to have a tennis-playing friend with a complete set of woodworking tools and machinery who was kind enough to do the cutting and planing. I did the assembly and priming and painting.

Would I do it again? The answer is a definite yes. I can spend more hours contesting without fatigue, resulting in a 20 to 30% increase in my score.

73/Lou KE1F

Some Solar Cycle 24 Firsts

By Thomas Giella NZ4O 12/16/09



Sunspot group #11035 near N30W13 has grown into the largest (seven times larger than the Earth) and most magnetically complex (beta-gamma) sunspot group of solar cycle 24. At 0102 UTC the sunspot group released a small C5.3 solar flare, the largest solar flare of solar cycle 24. More small C class solar flares are possible, with a chance for an isolated medium size M class solar flare.

#11035 also produced the first partially geoeffective (Earth facing) coronal mass ejection (CME) of solar cycle 24. The CME will arrive at Earth in approximately two days and could spark a geomagnetic storm and visible aurora. Another geoeffective CME is possible, with an associated sudden ionosphere disturbance (SID) and shortwave fadeout (SWF).

The sunspot count is 38 which is the highest of solar cycle 24. The solar flux index is 82 which is tied for the highest SFI of solar Cycle 24.

With the increased sunspot count we should see improved propagation conditions on 15 and 12 meters.



Full station display, note DC power supply out of sight and reach with 2m/70cm radio. Note spare switching power supply.



View and reach" equipments. Note egg timer to limit my time calling CQ with no answers



Seldom viewed and "touched" equipments.



Computer mouse, Bencher and HD wrist support system.



View Level



Comfort Position

Field Day at K4F

By Charlie Wooten NF4A

As a joint effort between the Florida Contest Group-Panhandle and the Alabama Contest Group, K4F operated from the Old Molino School north of Pensacola Florida. We were 2A. We named our group "The Redneck Riviera Contesting Sport Models".



At the beginning of Field Day, we were visited by Paul, KJ4G, the Section Manager for the NFL section. We made almost 3000 contacts using two FT1000MPs and logged with Win-Test logging software. Operators included KC4HW, N4OX, K4PV, K4IBS and NF4A.

Murphy was one of our operators and we lost several hours of prime 80 meter operating on Saturday night when the antenna tuner used to tune the ladder line fed dipole when haywire. We ended up having to replace an SO-239 on the tuner input to get the unit going again (damage was probably done during a previous contest while running 1 kw....we were only putting 100 watts into the tuner). We had numerous problems with one of the Microham USB keyers and finally installed ferrite doughnuts on the power input and the USB cable to clean that up.

With all that said, we had a ball. Thanks to N4OX for hosting



K4PV on 20 Meters



Beams on 20 and 6 on hydraulic lift at K4F



N4OX runs em on 40 Meters at K4F



Red Man is the official chewing tobacco of the Redneck Riviera Contesting Sport Models aka K4F...NF4A operating



Our trusty Honda 3KW generator worked flawlessly! The hydraulic lift for the 20 meter beam can be seen in the background.

Midway Atoll K4M

Ed Note: While we are on the subject of K4 single suffix calls - a few pictures from the K4M Dxpedit-
tion, whose team included FCGer NF4A



The Titanex going up requires everyone. But the results are worth the effort.



Sundown day 1 we had SVDAs up for 15 17 20, the vertical for 30 mtrs and the battle creek special putting us on most bands the first night.



CW Operations were conducted from the air conditioned bar.



Charlie, NF4A, on 20cw..



SSB Operations were conducted from the tent out in the elements. No comment, I'm just sayin.....

10 Meter Contest Claimed Scores

Station	Score	QSOs	Mults	Class	Sec	Ops	HRs
AC5ZS	270				SFL		
AD4ES	132,136	479	83	MSMixHP	SFL	+K9ES,K4QD	
AD4ES	---	---	---	---	SFL	KD2JA,AF4Z	
K1KNQ	13,376	160	38	SOMixLP	WCF		
K1TO	149,760	585	64	SOCWHP	WCF		33
K4ADR	21,658	195		SOMixLP	SFL		
K4DMH	8,866	143	31	SOPHLP	NFL		23
K4GKD	25,920	175	48	SOMixLP	WCF		7
K4LQ	56,672	253	56	SOCWHP	WCF		
K4LRP	9,316			SOMXLP	SFL		
K4MF	20,100			SOMXLP	SFL		
K4MM	22,624	118	56	SOMixLP	SFL		20
K4PB	15,960	113	38	SOMixHP	SFL		
K4PG	10,710	81	35	SOMixLP	SFL		
K4UTE	800			SOLPCW	NFL		
K5AUP	13,806	100	39	SOMixHP	NFL		
K5RQ	142,912	524	88	SOMixHP	WCF		
K5WW	5,974	64		SOMixLPA	STX		
K8NZ	5,184	58	24	SOMixLPA	SFL		
K9OM	119,024	438	86	SOMixLP	NFL		
KE1F	19,312	152	35	SOCWLP	NFL		16
KN4Y		150		SOCWLP	NFL		
KT4Q	9,240	106	30	SOMixLP	NFL		5
N2ESP	2,016	48	21	SOPHLP	WCF		
N4BP	139,860	572	67	SOCWHP	SFL		22
N4CJ	5,000	53	25	MSMixLP	WCF	+M0BUE	
N4DXI	576	16		SOCWLP	NFL		
N4EEB	147,200	549	92	SOMixHP	NFL		27
N4EK	3,528	49	18	SOCWLP	NFL		
N4IG	55,640	245		MSMixLP	WCF		
N4KW	44,144	217	62	SOMixHP	NFL		9.5
N4PJ	2,688	48	14	SOCWLP	NFL		
N4TB	18,360	135	34	SOCWLP	WCF		
N4UU	73,200	314	60	SOMixHP	NFL		
N4WO	48	6			NFL		
N4WW	55,744	251	67	SOCWHP	NFL		
N6AR	15,552	108	36	SOCWHP	NFL		
N9RG	64	8		SOPHLP	SFL		
NA4CW	43,778	243	59	SOMixH	SFL		20
NJ2F	6,820	110	31	SOPHHP	SFL		
NN4X	1,248				SFL		
NX4N	210		5	SOCWLP	WCF		
NZ4O		7					
VE3MMQ	123,366	401	87	SOMixLP	VE		30
W1MD					SFL		
W2TX	20,424	138	37	SOCWLP	SFL		
W3TMZ	2,508			SOCWHP	NFL		
W4AMS	5,372	79	34	SOPhLP	SFL		
W4DAS	864	21		M1Mix	SFL		
W4DL	7,952	71	28	SOCWLP	SFL		
W4EIP	1,368	38	9	MSHP		+W04D,KC4HW	4
W4EIP	---	---	---	---	---	KE4MWI	
W4LT	26,592	191	48	SOMixLPA	WCF		14
W4QM	5,880	70	22	SOCWLP	SFL		
W4SMA	1,326	29	17	MSMixLP	WCF	9 Ops	
W4UH	230,426	660	109	MSMixHPA	SFL	+W4QN,WA0USA	
W4UH	---	---	---	---	SFL	AI4QY, K9VV	
W4WR	18			SOPhLP	SFL		
W4YA	3,696			SOCWHP		NFL	
W4ZW	1,166	28	11	SOMixHPA	WCF		
WB4TDH	29,412	171	43	SOCWLP	WCF		20
WD4AHZ	35,640	198	45	SOCWLP	WCF		33
WJ9B	113,948	467		SOCWHP	NFL		
WK2G	41,624	243	43	SOCWLP	NFL		

NF4A Supports Comms for Haitian Earthquake

From WJHG.com Panama City

Over the past few days, Charlie Wooten has had his ear on his ham radio. Steadily listening to updates from the devastation in Haiti.

He's one of hundreds of amateur radio operators or "hams" in our area. He runs his ham from what he calls his shack at his home.

When the 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti, hams were the first ones to break the news.

"Ham radios were on the air within an hour of getting the news about the earthquake," Wooten said.

Communications are still limited, but Wooten has been able to hear a Haitian priest and a U. N. worker on the Salvation Army's amateur radio network.

"They want to set up some repeaters, vhf repeaters. They need the radios, equipment, walkie talkies to make that system viable for them to be able to hear in Port Au-Prince," Wooten said.

In Wooten's back yard, you'll find this 70-foot tall tower. The beam rotates to find the best signals, giving ham operators like Charlie a way to communicate and provide a helping hand to those who can't be heard.

"The equipment is so compact and very efficient and doesn't require a lot of sophistication more than a car battery and a piece of wire to be able to be on the air to talk hundreds even thousands of miles," Wooten said.

Charlie, who worked at Newschannel 7, said back in 1969, he and some of his fellow hams went down to cover Hurricane Camille.

He said for ten days, his crew was the only line of communication out of Pass Christian, Mississippi.

He calls his work an expensive hobby, but a very important hobby.

Four Radio Amateurs Killed in Plane Crash enroute to C6APR for CQWW Phone Contest



(From the ARRL Letter)

Just after take-off -- around 6:30 AM on Wednesday, October 21 -- a twin-engine plane carrying four Amateur Radio operators crashed into the woods, only 250 yards off the end of the runway in Jedburg, South Carolina, about 20 miles northwest of Charleston. The plane -- piloted and owned by Peter Radding, W2GJ -- carried Ed Steeble, K3IXD, Dallas Carter, W3PP, and Randy Hargenrader, K4QO. The four men were on their way to the Bahamas to operate in this weekend's CQ World Wide Phone Contest as C6APR, competing in the Multi/2 category. Radding, of North Charleston, South Carolina, was 69; Steeble, of Summerville, South Carolina was 68; Carter, of Laurel, Delaware, was 67 and Hargenrader, also Summerville, was 55. All were ARRL members; Radding and Steeble were Life Members.

Robert Biss, W8ZA (far right), accompanied Ed Steeble, K3IXD/C6AXD (left), Dallas Carter, W3PP, Pete Radding, W2GJ/C6APR, and Randy Hargenrader, K4QO (not pictured), to the Bahamas for the 2008 running of the CQWW SSB Contest. [Photo courtesy of Bob Biss, W8ZA]

ARRL Names K1TO to Sweepstakes Manager Position

From the ARRL Contest Update January 6, 2010

Following the untimely passing of ARRL Sweepstakes Manager, Ken Adams K5KA, there is good news to report. Dan Street K1TO has volunteered to take the reins of the oldest domestic contest. Experienced testers know his call sign well, especially his World Radiosport Championship threepeat with teammate N5TJ and two Sweepstakes wins from the "White House" QTH of W1YL, W1CW (SK), and K4OJ (SK). Over the next few months, he'll be getting ready for the 2010 edition. Perhaps some information about Dan is in order. "The contest bug bit hard early on as a teenager and continues to afflict me today. I've enjoyed a wide variety of contesting -- domestic and foreign, CW and SSB, long and short, 160 thru 10, guest operating and at home. Contesting has been a wonderful way to meet most of my life-long friends and to see a good bit of the world. Other than the Novice Roundup, SS was my first contest back in the early 1970s and I remember it well. Operating CW at the station of my Elmer, I took an off-time to announce my best ever rate of 7 QSOs in a 10 minute stretch!" He's the current president and a founder of the Florida Contest Group, working to promote and administer the Florida QSO Party. Regarding the future of Sweepstakes, "SS has a steep tradition that has developed over its 75+ years and it must be preserved and honored. As the first Contest Manager, K5KA contributed heavily to an increased growth rate in activity and to a shortened log deadline this year that will lead to results being published more quickly. Ken's shoes are impossible to fill, but I will certainly carry the torch for those goals and to continue to preserve the integrity of the competition which seems to get tighter each year." Welcome aboard, Dan!



Stepping in to fill the big shoes of previous Sweepstakes Contest Manager, Ken Adams K5KA (SK) is long-time SS competitor and Radiosport Top Gun, Dan Street

SS CW Contest Final Scores

Call	Score	QSOS	Sections	Class	Section	Operator
AD4ES	65052	417	78	M	SFL	K9ES, KD2JA
K1KNQ	1,584	33	24	U	WCF	
K1TO	66,816	464	72	SOLP	WCF	
K4GKD	36,208	248	73	SOLP	WCF	
K4MF	52,050	347	75	SOLP	SFL	
K4QD	12,168	117	52	SOLP	NFL	Out of State WC4E
K5KG	164,480	1028	80	SOHP	WCF	
K5RQ	110,264	716	77	U	WCF	
K8NZ	6,800	85	40	SOLP	SFL	
K9OM/9	80,000	500	80	SOLP	IL	
N4AO	15,544	134	58	SOLP	WCF	K9VV
N4BP	196,800	1230	80	SOHPA	SFL	
N4EEB	53,874	369	73	SOHPA	NFL	
N4GI	56,628	363	78	SOHP	WCF	
N4KK	74,100	475	78	U	SFL	
N4LF	54,244	382	71	SOLP	SFL	ACG
N4OX	159,580	1010	79	SOHP	NFL	
N4PSE	39,960	270	74	QRP	SFL	
N4TB	122,616	786	78	SOLP	WCF	
N4UU	94,168	596	79	SOHP	NFL	
N9RG	268	13	11	SOLP	SFL	ACG
NF4A	81,528	516	79	U	NFL	
W1MD	99,528	638	78	U	SFL	
W2TX	115,200	720	80	SOLP	SFL	
W3TMZ	18,864	131	72	U	NFL	
W4LT	58,500	390	75	SOLP	WCF	Not counted in FCG scores
W4ZW	18,900	189	50	U	WCF	
WD4AHZ	112,000	700	80	SOLP	WCF	
Total	1,719,816				*	
Panhandle						
KN4Y	9,384	92	51	SOLP	NFL	
K4PV	134,750	875	77	SOHP	NFL	
Total	144,134					

SS Phone Contest Final Scores

Call	Score	QSOs	Sections	Class	Section	Operator
AD4ES	149,280	933	80	M	SFL	AD4ES, KD2JA, K9ES
K1KNQ	33,850	259	75	SOLPA	WCF	
K1TO	54,244	382	71	SOLP	WCF	
K4DMH	21,352	157	68	SOLP	NFL	School Club, W4RIS K1KNQ
K4FAU	3,534	57	31		SFL	
K4FCG	38,100	254	75	SOLPU	WCF	
K4GKD	28,224	196	72	SOLP	WCF	Out of state
K5WW	3,456	54	32	SOLP	STX	
KH7XS	388,160	2426	80	SOHP	HI	
KR5Q	200,800	1225	80	SOHPU	WCF	Out of state
KT4Q	96,696	612	79	SOLP	NFL	
N1ADY	18,018	143	63	SOLP	WCF	
N4EEB	26,260	202	65	SOLP	NFL	N4BP, K4PG
N4FCG	230,400	1440	80	M	SFL	
K4KGG	9,200	100	46	SOLP	SFL	
N4LF	5,776	76	38	SOLP	SFL	ACG
K4NNX	11,100	75	74	SOHP	SFL	
N4OX	262,700	1643	80	SOHP	NFL	
N4UU	86,394	561	77	SOHP	NFL	ACG
N6AR	99,224	628	79	SOHP	NFL	
NF4A	112,970	715	79	SOHPU	NFL	
NP2B	92,558	586	79	M/S	VI	NP2B, KP2YL, KP2HC
W4AMS	6,160	55	56	SOLP	SFL	
W4DTA	27,342	217	63	SOHP	SFL	
W4GAC	64,960	406	80	M/S	WCF	KP2N, KR4U, N2ESP W4CU, WA4EEZ + 8
W4LT	145,920	912	80	SOLP	WCF	
W4QG	121,120	757	80	M	NFL	
WD4IXD	175,680	1098	80	M	NFL	W4QG, WF3C WD4IXD, KJ4EUT
Total	1,657,090				*	

Not counted in FCG Scores

K5KG Visits KH7XS

By George Wagner K5KG

On a cruise around KH6 in June with the family, we put into Hilo on the Big Island for a day. I snagged a rental car, and made the 30 minute drive north to Bill's awesome QTH overlooking the Pacific. Bill and "FF", the cat, were batching it at the time, as Holly was back on the mainland, so Bill and I had lots of time for an eyeball QSO and a burger at the local hang-out in the village of Laupahoehoe (pronounced laupa-hoy-hoy, meaning leaf (lau) of smooth lava (pahoe)hoe), (from the last lava flow from Mauna Kea which went down the mountain 4400 years ago about 1/2 a mile from the QTH).

Bill and Holly designed, contracted and largely built the house by themselves. It is located some 900 ft. ASL, and does not need A/C due to the constant sea breeze, or winds off the mountain to the south, which just happens to be the dormant volcano of Mauna Kea! Bill uses rain water captured in a "catchment" as his only source of water, and solar panels for heating it. He is on public electricity, and has high speed DSL, but no local TV reception. Distance to the sea coast is 3500 ft. As you can see from the photos, the take off is amazing to all the major population centers, with EU a straight shot to the north.

Bill's station consists of a pair of K3's, and assorted gear shipped from his FL QTH. His tower is something to behold: 150 ft. of Rohn 55 sporting a variety of yagis and wires, including stacked M2 4el 40's. Yes, it makes your mouth water. No wonder he is soooo loud on 40m!

I was pleased to be able to visit Bill, and will now have a good appreciation for his big contest signal from KH6-land. Thanks, Bill.



Congrats to Bill on placing #3 in the world with 17.6 M and a new Oceania record in WPX SSB !! Even more exciting news, Bill and Holly are selling out and moving back to Florida.

WRTC 2010 Team Leaders

Here is the list of team leaders for the World Radiosport Team Championships, as announced by the Russian organizers of next year's competition.

Africa: EA8CAC

Asia #1: JK3GAD

Asia #2: UA9CLB, UA9AM

Asia #3: UN9LW, 5B4WN, UN7LZ

Cent.Am: HI3TEJ

Europe #1: G4PIQ, IZ3EYZ, I2WLI, F6BEE

EU #2: OE3DIA, DL6FBL, HA3OV, OM2VL, OM3BH

EU #3: ES5TV, OH2UA, LY2CY, OH6UM, LY9A

EU #4: 4O3A, YT1AD, S50A, YO3JR, UU4JMG

EU #5: RW1AC, RV3BA

N.Am #1: K5ZD, K1ZM, N2NT

N.Am #2: W9RE, W4PA

N.Am #3: N2IC, N5DX

N.Am #4: K7RL, N6MJ

N.Am #5: VE3DZ

N.Am #6: VE7CC

Oceania #1: VK2IA

Oceania #2: KH6ND

S.Am #1: PY8AZT

S.Am #2: YV1DIG



Melbourne Hamfest / K9ES QTH Meeting Report

First the attendees:

Hosts K9ES & Sylvia, AB4GO, AD4ES, AD4Z, AF4Z, AI4QY, CM6RCR, K1KNQ, K1TO, K4DLF, K4LQ & Sheila, K4PB, K4QD, K5KG, K9VV, KC4HW, KD2JA & Cheryl, KE1F, KJ4AWM, KP3AC & 2 sons, N4EEB, N4PJ & N4BU, NA4CW, W2TX, W3AZD & WB3ANE, W3TMZ, W4AMS, W4EIP, W4KFH, W4LT, W4QH, W4QM, W4RIS, W4STB & W4DKB, W4TBB & AE4TE, W4YA, WA4AW, WC4H & Johnny, WF3C, WO4D

Also spotted at the Hamfest:

K4CC, KR4X, N4BP, N4TB & W4JA, W4DAS, W4IR, W4HY, W4KPG, W4QG, W4UM & W4SLR, W4ZE

Dan thanked Eric and Sylvia for their hospitality at this the third K9ES Cookout/Meeting and loud applause ensued.

Dan asked attendees for their plans for the Fall/Winter contest season, and got detailed replies from all attendees. Many labeled their plans as "plinking" or "puttering" around, or "dabbling", but regardless, the point is that folks do plan to operate! Many stressed that every bit does help the club aggregate and that often, the club competition is decided by the "little pistols" and not the "big guns".

At least one of the upcoming CQWW, ARRL SS and ARRL 10 Meter Contests was cited by virtually everyone as a focal point of their fall contest activity. Lists of planned activity by contest will appear on the e-mail reflector soon.

Look for FCGers at NP2B in CQWW SSB, CX7TT and HI3A in CQWW CW and PJ4 for ARRL DX CW.

John W2TX was attending his first FCG meeting and described his dipole/vertical-oriented station. John worked for Collins years ago and operates primarily CW (and has supported a number of FCG efforts already, having joined in early 2009).

Eric K9ES described his ambitious plans to populate 145' of Rohm 55G with large yagis and run Multi-Two operations. Phil KP3AC has two 3-element 40M beams and a number of towers to go up.

Lou KE1F mentioned that his detailed study of the ergonomics of his station and the resultant physical rearrangement of his equipment resulted in 20-30% better scores in subsequent contests. Lou agreed to write an article for the Gazette on this subject.

Yanco CM6RCR has recently moved to the United States and greeted the group. He provided many with a CO multiplier on 160M and looks forward to contributing to the FCG.

By far the most unique accomplishment in the group was Tom W4TBB's graduation from the Int'l Univ. of Santa Claus.

Sherri W4STB donated an RSGB book on propagation as a door prize. The winner was Pete, AI4QY.

Dan showed an FCG coffee mug with the logo and his callsign. It is available from Phil KP3AC, whose website is <http://www.dnpdecals.com/>

(Other FCG business owners present included Carl WC4H - see <http://wc4h.com> - and Dan K1TO - see <http://www.A1TowerService.com>)

Fred K4LQ gave the Secretary / Treasurer's report. The treasury contains \$4476.05 while the W1CW/K4OJ Memorial Fund contains \$1316.02. Ellen W1YL recently donated \$50.00 from the fund to ARRL in memory of recently deceased member Ken Manuelian K1UM. FCG membership now stands at 242, after four new members signed up at the hamfest and meeting. Fred also noted that the final items from the N4TO estate were sold at the hamfest and thanked members for their assistance in purchasing items from the estate.

Dan noted that there are a number of counties where we have no fixed station activity during FQP. The only way to work these counties is to work a mobile who is passing through. He suggested as a promotional activity for FCG to consider appropriating some funds on buying tribanders and dipoles for use in these counties, offer to put them up, and allow users to keep them if they were willing to operate in the FQP. This suggestion sparked a spirited debate. It was suggested that we should contact clubs in those counties and do presentations at their meetings about the FCG and FQP. Maybe encourage club stations to participate in FQP. It was also suggested that articles could be written promoting FCG and the FQP for publication in other club's newsletters

Dan asked if Fred still had the FQP pamphlet that he made up several years ago, and if it were current. Fred said it was probably still on his computer, but needed updating, said he would do it. Dan asked for volunteers to mail out promotional material. Marsha N4BU volunteered. Sherri W4STB offered to provide the addresses of some web sites which listed non-ARRL affiliated clubs in Florida.

Dan said that historically the contests that FCG members have supported the most are (1) FQP (2) ARRL 10 Meter Contest (3) ARRL DX. He said his FQP log processing from this year's FQP is going very well. We received 940 logs, a new record, which contain a total of 109,000 QSOs, and those figures keep increasing every year.

There was an extensive discussion about the FQP mobile window and violation of it by fixed stations, primarily in Florida, and the difficulties that this caused for the mobiles. Consensus is that for the most part this was caused by people who had not read the rules and didn't realize that there was a mobile window. This unfortunately seemed to apply in some cases to our own members. (Ye scribe had some particularly nasty things to say while mobile in the FQP about a member from South Florida who settled into the mobile window to call CQ for about 5 hours).

Dan noted that he has participated in several contests using the calls N4T and NN4TO in memory of Vic N4TO. N4T was used from the K1TO QTH in last year's CQWW Phone contest. The effort produced a fifth place finish nationally in the Multi-Two category. Operators included AD4Z, K4MM, N4DL, N4TB, W4IX, WC4E, WD4AHZ, WF3C and K1TO. K4LQ provided some logistics support. Dan passed out copies of the CQ certificate to N4T ops who attended the meeting

Dan also noted that in the CQWW contests everyone's log is posted online. Check out your competition as there is much to be learned. See <http://www.cqww.com/cq-ww-ssb-2008-logs/> and <http://www.cqww.com/cq-ww-cw-2008-logs/>

Dan said he would like to see us increase multi-op stations in the club. Chuck AD4ES noted that while Eric K9ES was building his antenna farm he and Eric were doing multi-ops from the AD4ES station and that other operators were welcome.

(Continued next Page)

Dan asked Jim KC4HW how things were going in the Alabama Contest Group. Jim said they are now in their third year and have 78 members. Dan noted that when he joined the FCG there were only 35 members and Jim K4OJ was convinced that was all the contestants that there were in Florida. Yet today we have over 240, so quite likely the ACG also still has a lot of room for growth.

Chris WF3C noted that a PVRC webinar is coming up on Sunday October 11 featuring 3 members of the CQWW Contest Committee discussing what lies ahead in the 2009 SSB and CW contests. Chris later posted details on the reflector on how to access the webinar.

George K5KG handed out business cards from our FCG shirt/hat supplier Stitchin Waves in Sarasota.

The meeting concluded with a brief discussion of the Panhandle members' situation. Because of the need to be in the FCG circle for their scores to count in most contests except for WPX, a number of them are now submitting scores to the Alabama Contest Group because they fall within the ACG circle. Dan said there is no problem with this. When the FCG Panhandle group was created, there was no other club that encompassed their area within their circle, now the ACG fulfills that function.

The hat was passed to collect donations to help offset Eric/Sylvia's costs for the cookout.

Afterward, Eric hosted a tour of his QTH, including the separate building for the operating shack.

Eric had mentioned at the Contest Forum that all presentations will be posted to the FCG site this week.

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

73/Fred K4LQ



Dan K1TO conducts the meeting from behind an empty water bottle. It was hot that day!

Oh, Spirit!

By Ward Silver N0AX



You may have missed this small item in ARRL Propagation Bulletin ARLP052: The NOAA solar indices tracking data shows how many millionths of the visible solar hemisphere are occupied by sunspots. As long as the trend under "Sunspot Area 10E-6 Hemis" keeps rising, so does the MUF. As of Monday, 20 Dec, we've had at least one spot on the solar disk for nearly two straight weeks! O frabjous day! What a great holiday present this is! I'm sure some wag will soon concoct a story pointing out that we are now technically at the peak of Cycle 24

Is this new sunspot enough to complete the visitations foretold to us by the ghost of old Jacob Maunderly, dragging his chain of three-and-twenty solar cycle record books behind him? As the clock strikes one, the Spirit of Cycles Past visits us first in the guise of Straight Key Night, tap-tap-tapping at a Victorian instrument Samuel Morse would recognize. The ritual greeting of RST, QTH, name, and weather swells and fades in our headphones between static crackles and heterodynes. Our vision complete, we sign with shave-and-a-haircut as the filaments fade to dull red and meter needles fall to the left-hand peg.

Two sonorous chimes summon the Spirit of Technology Present, greatly advanced since even 2002's glory days of the previous cycle. Solar observation has taken great strides with a bevy of satellites on duty and new ones headed out. Terrestrially, propagation modeling just keeps getting better. We have desktop PC software for digital modes that put meteor scatter, moonbounce, and QRPPP communications within reach of any ham. Our receivers and antennas do more for us than ever before. The visiting spirit fades away into the winter night as we sit transfixed in our wondrous shacks that sport cornucopic wireless wealth and knowledge...talking about the weather.

Once again tossing amongst the bedclothes, we dream of the spectral serenade's last note. What lies ahead as 15 and 12 and 10 meters slowly raise sleepy heads from their long dormancies? Primed with history and armed with technology, anticipation is more intense than ever. I know this seems improbable to some of our newer compatriots, but during "the majors" not so many years ago, stations from every Zone and continent teemed shoulder to shoulder, filling ten meters like fish in the sea. Perhaps there will be a flood of new calls from different lands - India, China, or maybe a surprise!

I can only wonder - when the ionosphere starts returning those signals back to Earth, who will we hear and what will they say? As the automated receivers harvest and publish calls and frequencies from all around the globe, how will that change contesting and DXing? Will fluttery wisps of antipodal signals still echo their way along the gray line at dawn? Will the thrill of an unexpected contact still make hams jump up and raise their arms in elation and surprise? Will we still await 0000Z on Friday afternoon with the same nervous excitement? Will we talk about the weather? Listen! The clock is striking three...

73, Ward N0AX

2009 Contest Wrapup

By Sean KX9X—ARRL Contest Branch Manager



Wow, what a great year this has been for Radiosport here at the ARRL! Going with the premise that "more

is better," we should all be quite happy with the numbers. Participation in ARRL events - and Radiosport in general - has been trending upward for over three years now. As Warner Wolf used to say, "Let's go to the videotape!" In this case, the spreadsheet:

With a 36% increase in participation in the November Sweepstakes, 66% increase in the RTTY Roundup and a 25% increase in the ARRL DX contest over the last five years, the increase in interest is nothing short of phenomenal, especially when you factor in the prolonged lack of sunspots!

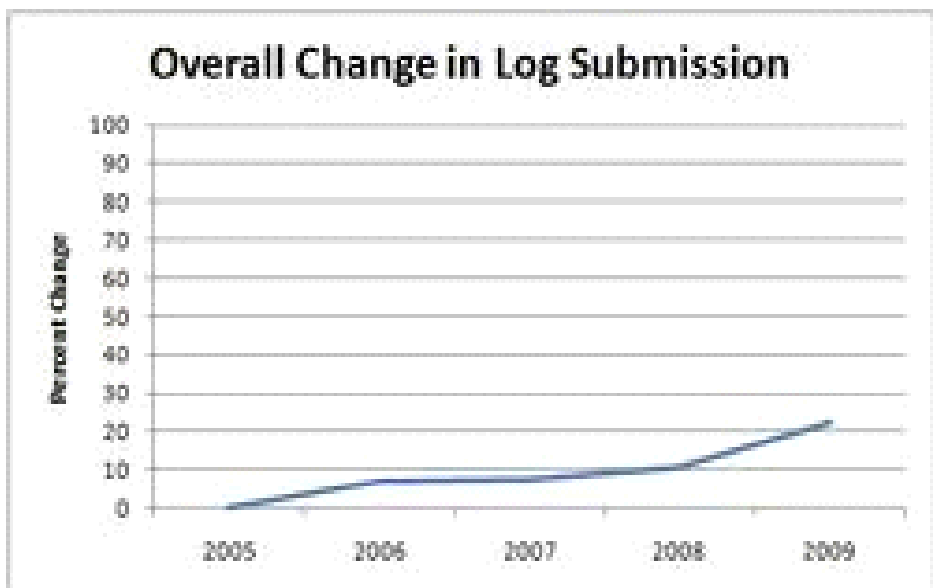
I still see those numbers slipping in the VHF+ events, except for the June VHF QSO Party when 6 meters generally rules the roost. The August UHF Contest received an infusion of life, thanks to the inclusion of Club Competition in the event. I'll keep saying it: if you're not trying VHF+ contesting, you're missing out on some serious fun.

Contesting continues to be educational, practical and fun for all levels of competitor. It also is one of the finest and open communities of people I've ever encountered. As a whole we share our knowledge and skills with both the newcomer and even our competitors in an effort to make our sport as rewarding as it can possibly be for all involved. How many other communities can say that?

What will 2010 bring from the Contest Branch? Hopefully some sunspots, but we've got some things up our sleeves, so stay tuned for a couple of interesting developments. Thanks for your participation in ARRL contests; I'll see you on the bands in 2010. If you ever have a question or problem, call or email me anytime and I'll take care of it as best I can.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Straight Key Night	312	349	408	237	235
RTTY Roundup	922	1140	1110	1234	1532
January VHF Sweepstakes	713	793	777	708	650
International DX Contest	4626	4772	4739	4604	5802
June VHF QSO Party	842	1047	859	1075	1137
Field Day	2199	2168	2331	2409	2513
IARU HF World Championship	2404	2861	3204	3194	3409
August UHF	183	190	167	194	244
10 GHz and UP Cumulative	131	115	113	103	107
September VHF QSO	628	632	657	485	594
International EME Competition	161	175	186	140	54
November Sweepstakes	2645	2867	2820	3209	3604
160 Meter	1018	1052	1197	1280	1201
10 Meter	1870	1863	1575	1796	1405
TOTALS	18,654	19,934	20,043	20,668	22,787
2009 EME, 160, 10 totals not yet final					

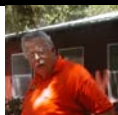
This table shows how many logs were received for ARRL contests and operating events from 2005 - 2009.



Participation in ARRL radiosport events is showing healthy growth. Just wait until the solar cycle gets going.

10 Meter Contest Notes

KK4TA comments on conditions during the 10 Meter Contest



"I got dem no sunspot, static a lot, cq n for naught, for why I forgot, 10 meter no spot, contesting bluuuuuuuuues."

Muddy Signal

K9ES Prepares for the 10 M Contest

By Eric Smitt K9ES



Chuck AD4ES is presently using a 3 element Stepp-IR (with 30/40 kit) for HF. The decision was made to temporarily put a 10M yagi on the tower, and move the Stepp-IR elements in so no reaction would be found between the 2 beams. Eric K9ES had a pair of C31XR's on the ground, ready to go up, so he only used the 10M elements to provide a 7 element 10M yagi on 27 foot boom for the 10M contest. These are some photos of the work putting the Force 12 boom and 7 elements on the crank-over and crankup-up US tower. When completed, we will run this antenna with Chuck's IC765 and Eric's Titan 425 in the ARRL 10M contest. FCG members operating will be AD4ES, K9ES, KD2JA, K4QD, and AF4Z. 73/



K1KNQ Builds "Emergency" Antenna to Contribute to Club Score in the 10 Meter Contest

By Jack Roselio K1KNQ



I used Sierra Slim 10 meter mobile whips for the driven element

Also, used 108" telescoping buddipole whips for reflector.

Used mobile mounts to attach to boom.

Boom is 69" of left over tubing (from where I don't know)

Height is about 26 feet

Extension ladder for mast support, which was attached to fence post with Bungee cord.

I made the mast to ladder attachments from 3" X 7" metal plates from Home Depot (house framing material).

I used direct feed ala the old Mosley TA36 in which the element is insulated from the boom.

Antenna was flat VSWR 1.05 - 1.3 from 28.000 to 28.500

Front to back at least 15-18 db

Front to side at least 25 db

Forward gain - no idea

73/Jack K1KNQ



ARRL 160 Meter Contest Claimed Scores

Call	Score	QSOs	Sections	Class	Operator	
K4GKD	10,434			SOLP	WCF	
K4LRP	5,874	83		SOLP	SFL	
K4MF	22272		58	SOHP	SFL	
K4PB	84,075	399	95	M/S	SFL	
K4PG	138			SOLP	SFL	
K5KG	54,589	320	79	M/S HP	WCF	
K9OM	120,998	500	101	SOHP	NFL	
K9VV	89,180	457	91	SOHPA	SFL	
KD5M	30,525			M/S	NFL	
N4DXI	7,998			SOLP	NFL	
N4EK		298		M/S	NFL	
N4TB	222,453	975	107	SOHP	WCF	
N4WO	696	23		SOLP	NFL	
N4WW	100266	454	102	M/S	NFL	
N6AR	72,071	322	97	SOHP	NFL	
W2TX	70,434	435	78	SOLP	SFL	
W3TMZ	35,492			SOHP	NFL	
W8JI	700,618	2053	79	SOHP	GA *	K1TO
WX4MLB	3,616	52	32	M/S HP	SFL	K9ES,AD4ES

Total 839,323

*Not counted in FCG total

Panhandle:

KN4Y	14,644	150	43	SOLP	NFL
KD5M	30,525			M/S	NFL

P/H Total 45,169

NAQP CW Claimed Scores

Call	Class	Score	Section	Operator/Team	QSOs	Sections
K4LQ		44,544	384	114	SOLP	WCF
K4OJ		307,200	1536	198	SOLP	WCF
K4PG		561	33	15	SOLP	SFL
K9OM		207,792	936	217	SOLP	NFL
N3LL		75,440	656	112	SOLP	WCF
N4BP		254,318	1259	200	SOLP	SFL
N4EEB		90,557	661	137	SOLP	SFL
N4LF		23,644	257	92	SOLP	SFL
N4TB		139,763	827	166	SOLP	WCF
N4WO		7,018	121	56	SOLP	NFL
N6AR		60,480	480	124	SOHP	NFL
W2TX		95,448	582	162	SOLP	SFL
WD4AHZ		76,100	590	129	SOLP	WCF
WJ9B		156,275	893	175	SOLP	NFL
Total		1,539,140				

NAQP Phone Claimed Scores

Call	Score	QSOs	Sections	Class	Section	
N4TB	12,600	175	71	SOLP	WCF	
W4LT	50,183	469	107	SOLP	WCF	
K4LQ	5,244	92	67	SOLP	WCF	
KN4Y	17,000	200	85	SOLP	NFL	* Panhandle

Total 68,027

*Not counted in FCG total

ARRL Board Elects 15th President: Kay Craigie, N3KM

From the ARRL Web Page

As its first order of business at the 2010 Annual Meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors elected ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, of Blacksburg, Virginia, as the organization's new President. She will take over the reins from outgoing President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, at the close of the Annual Meeting. In October, Harrison advised the Board that he would not seek re-election.



The elections at the Annual Meeting generated a ripple effect of vacancies within the ARRL hierarchy. The elevation of Craigie to the presidency led to Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR, being elected First Vice President and Midwest Division Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, elected to the Vice President position. This has created a vacancy in the Director position in the Midwest Division, so Vice Director Cliff Ahrens, K0CA, will take over as Director. Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, K0QB, was elected International Vice President; Dakota Division Vice Director Greg Widin, K0GW, will move up to Director in that Division. ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, was elected ARRL Chief Technology Officer. He replaces Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, who retired from the staff in 2008 but retained the officer title through the end of its two-year term.

One of Craigie's first items of business as League President will be to appoint new Vice Directors in both the Midwest and Dakota Divisions.

"I'm excited about working with the new team of officers to carry out the Board's directives here in the US and internationally in cooperation with the IARU," she said after the election. "All the way back to the League's founding in 1914, Amateur Radio has always existed in a challenging environment. The League will continue meeting today's challenges so hams can continue to serve the public, explore technology and have fun on the bands."

First licensed in 1983, Craigie has been a Volunteer Examiner for more than 20 years, now working with the New River Valley Amateur Radio Club's team. In 1986, she became ARRL Section Manager for Eastern Pennsylvania, moving up to Atlantic Division Vice Director in 1990. Six years later, she became Atlantic Division Director; in 2000 she was elected Vice President and in 2006 First Vice President of the ARRL. She has served on all the standing committees of the ARRL Board of Directors and also worked on the League's Enforcement Task Force, the committee whose pressure finally resulted in the FCC's assigning Riley Hollingsworth to clean up the ham bands.

Craigie's first assignment as Vice President was to design what became the ARRL Education & Technology Program. Later, she chaired the National Emergency Response Planning Committee, tasked with recommendations on the League's readiness at the national level to respond to extraordinary disasters. In 2009, she chaired the ad-hoc committee that produced *The Commercialization of Amateur Radio: The Rules, The Risks, The Issues*. This document offers guidelines to assist radio amateurs and anyone wishing to utilize the capabilities of Amateur Radio in understand-

ing the FCC Rules that prohibit communications in which the amateur has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer..

On the air, Craigie enjoys DXing -- that's what attracted her to ham radio in the first place -- award-hunting and contesting. She holds VUCC on 6 meters, 5BDXCC (endorsed for 12, 17 and 30 meters), the DXCC Challenge award, WAZ and WAE Class 1 CW. She enjoys digital modes such as RTTY and PSK31, as well as CW and phone. She is involved with SKYWARN through the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Craigie's husband Carter, N3AO, is a retired college professor. He has served as a Section Traffic Manager and as an ARES® Emergency Coordinator. He especially enjoys QRP and operating outdoors on the Appalachian Trail. He is also a SKYWARN volunteer. Their daughter Jenny Riffe, KA3WVD, also lives in Virginia with her husband and two children.

Further details on the 2010 Annual Meeting will soon be available on the ARRL Web site and in the April 2010 issue of QST.

A Trip To Yukon Territory

By Eric Smitt K9ES



While visiting Carcross YT a few weeks ago, I saw a familiar looking item. This is the YT QTH for W1LYD. He is a general class operator who runs AM with an SP600 and Viking Valient, with the Cushcraft yagi and the open wire fed dipole, using a Johnson matchbox. He also has SSB equipment. QTH is in a 100 year cabin next to the river. Brian is a railroad engineer operating the White Pass and Yukon Territory Railroad, a narrow gauge railroad going between Skagway AK and Carcross over a very scenic gold rush trail over the White Pass of the mountains that border Skagway AK and British Columbia and the Yukon. The QTH of Carcross is 400 people (in the summer).



Scott Robbins W4PA to Purchase Vibroplex

Scott Robbins, W4PA, announced that he has purchased Vibroplex, effective December 21, 2009.



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Khristyne Keane, K1SFA, Photos]

The Vibroplex Original Bug.

Scott Robbins, W4PA, of Knoxville, Tennessee, told the ARRL that he has signed an agreement to purchase The Vibroplex Company, Inc from present owner Felton "Mitch" Mitchell, W4OA, effective December 21, 2009. "Vibroplex represents the great tradition of CW operation in Amateur Radio going back many, many years," Robbins told the ARRL. "I'm tickled to be able to continue the more than 100 years of history that has gone into this company."

Robbins -- who has been employed with Ten-Tec Inc since 1995 (he has been Product Manager for Ten-Tec's Amateur Radio equipment line since 1997) -- will leave his position in mid-December to take over full-time management and ownership of Vibroplex. "It's a great opportunity to continue the more than 100 years of tradition that the Vibroplex name represents," Robbins said. "I've known Mitch for quite a few years and it was an important consideration for both of us that Vibroplex continue operation building quality products for Amateur Radio long into the future. Mitch's experience owning the company will be valuable as we proceed with a seamless ownership transition over the next few weeks."

Robbins told the ARRL that he will move Vibroplex from its present location in Mobile, Alabama to Knoxville, Tennessee during the last two weeks of December, with a planned opening date of January 5, 2010. Vibroplex's toll-free sales line (800) 840-8873 (800) 840-8873, Web site and e-mail contact addresses will remain in continuous operation under the new ownership, he said.

"My first Vibroplex paddle was given to me in 1980 by my father, W2DR; when I left home to attend the University of North Carolina in 1988, a rig, some wire and the key went with me," Robbins said. "Close to 30 years later, it's still on the table -- along with two Vibroplex products I've purchased.

I used a Vibroplex chrome iambic to win the 2006 ARRL DX CW contest from Barbados as 8P9PA and I will certainly be using one at the WRTC 2010 competition in Russia this July."

Robbins told the ARRL that he has enjoyed his 14 year career at Ten-Tec, calling it his first "real job" when he was fresh out of college: "I have met literally thousands of hams over the years because of Ten-Tec -- all those exciting years when we were designing new rigs and I was writing the manuals for the Omni-VII and Orion; I'm really proud of what has been accomplished there. I am sure that Ten-Tec and Vibroplex will have some common ground in the future -- both companies already did one commemorative key together back in 2002. Another one would be great!"

Vibroplex is the oldest operating business in the Amateur Radio industry and has been in continuous service to the hobby since founder Horace Martin invented the "bug" semi-automatic Morse code key in 1904.

New Licensing Procedure for Bahamas

By Kevin Bunin K4PG



New Licensing Procedure for the Bahamas (C6)

The old PUC procedure and licensing on an annual renewal basis is gone. As of August 9, 2009, the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) has taken over all telecommunications licensing. The following is the new procedure per URCA:

Go to the URCA web site, www.urcabahamas.bs download the application and complete parts A and B only. Send to URCA, P. O. Box N-4860, Fourth Terrace East, Collins Avenue, Nassau, Bahamas (same address as PUC) with a \$10.00 application fee and a \$25.00 license fee; total \$35.00 and specify the dates you will be operating from the Bahamas (a money order is quicker than a check). **Include a copy of your US license.** In turn, URCA will send you a license to operate for that period. You may specify the call sign you wish, but they have been issuing reciprocal call signs similar to your US call sign. These are reciprocal licenses, not permanent annual licenses. Leave a lot of leeway time for the URCA to respond prior to your trip, unless you are going to appear in person.

If you are renewing a previous C6 license, specify the call sign issued and they will give you permission to use that call sign (normally) during your operating period. **Everything else is the same.**

From very recent experience, do not add any unnecessary information or requests which will confuse the people who handle the licenses. KISS is the rule. A necessary trip to Nassau can be the result of violating that rule!

Main URCA contact for amateur radio licenses: Ms. Chizelle Whyms - CHWhyms@urcabahamas.bs

URCA telephone numbers:
242-322-4437 Main
242-323-7288 FAX

The application form in .pdf format can be downloaded from:

<http://www.urcabahamas.bs/download/035008900.pdf>

73 de Kevin K4PG C6APG

Contesters Share in Yasme Foundation Awards

The Yasme Foundation's Yasme Excellence Awards for 2009 have been given to the following amateurs --

- Jamie Dupree, NS3T - For his creation of the [Radiosport](#) Web site, taking contest reporting into a new genre - the sports reporter. Jamie also created the Radio-Sport. Net World Rankings database that has been used by many contesters around the world.
- Bob Bruninga, WB4APR - For the invention of [APRS](#) and the continuing enhancement of its capabilities. Recently, Bob has expanded the messaging ability of the system to allow sending information in support of emcomm and other activities. Since APRS doesn't require the complexity of other systems, such as Winlink, APRS is a valuable addition to the amateur's tool kit.
- George Wallner, AA7JV and Tomi Pekarik HA7RY (award divided equally) - In 2009, George and Tomi completed DXpeditions to Mellish Reef, VK9GMW and the Chesterfield Islands, TX3A. These expeditions represent a somewhat unique and refreshing approach to DXpeditioning. They show that a small group can exchange time for equipment and megafunds and come out ahead. By focusing on fewer bands for a longer period, they have been able to log more unique calls from smaller stations.
- Don Hill, AA5AU - Don has been a leader in [RTTY contesting](#) for many years. His persistent efforts have finally borne fruit as in recent years, RTTY/Digital contesting has grown at the fastest rate of any contest activity. His Web page is the first stop for all RTTY contesters, and he is well-known as the "RTTY Elmer" in digital contesting circles.

- Tursoon-Zadeh, EY8MM - Nodir has been a beacon from Central Asia on Topband as well as 6 meters. Not only technically and operationally skilled, Nodir has worked to establish a QSL Bureau for Tajikistan and is the Vice President of the Amateur Radio Society of Tajikistan.
- Rich Strand, KL7RA - Rich was the driving force behind the highly successful W1AW/KL7 and KL5O operations, both of which highlighted a resurgence in Alaskan contesting and DX activity over the past couple of years. Rich works hard to promote operating standards and educate the new contest and DX operators about good operating practices.

On behalf of The Yasme Foundation, congratulations to the 2009 winners! (Thanks, Yasme President, Wayne Mills N7NG)

Field Day at K9VV



L - W4LIS, R - W4DL



L - W4ANA, R - W4RIS



ONCE MORE, THE BIG GUYS
CLEANED MY CLOCK AND ROBBED
MY SELF-ESTEEM'S LUNCH MONEY.



LOW POWER. POOR ANTENNA.
I'M ALWAYS CONFUSING
CHECK & PRECEDENCE
...AND COMPUTER LOGGING
MAKES ME CRY.



BUT SUPPOSE I SWAPPED
MY ONE CALL FOR A **NINE**?



EVEN IF I NEVER WIN
I COULD STILL SAY
NINE-R
A WHOLE BUNCH.

COOL HUH? **NINE-R**,
JUST LIKE A REAL
ROGER-DODGER
FIGHTER PILOT
AND EVERYTHING.



YEAH. THAT MIGHT WORK.

Alpha Power Sold

Michael Seedman, AA6DY, chairman of RF Concepts has just announced that he purchased Alpha Power's assets. They will continue manufacturing and selling the former ETO, Alpha & Alpha Power amplifiers. The good news is that prices have been substantially reduced. The 9500 will now cost \$7,950 and the 8450's price is \$4,995. Many of the current Alpha Power executives (including WOMOM) will continue working for the new company.

Thanks Dave W4DN

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