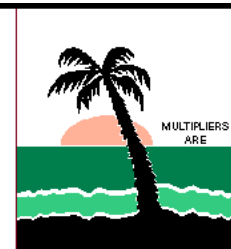


Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.org



Volume 26 Issue 2

July 2019

From the President's Corner

By Chris Plumblee W4WF

Well happy summer to various and sundry across the FCG. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far. If you're in Florida, I hope you're indoors for most of it...it's hot out there!



I understand a couple of weeks ago there was an outstanding opening on 6m to JA; if your interests run in that direction I hope that you're able to find some time to be on VHF this summer. Coming up in a couple of weeks is the CQWW VHF contest, which has been an opportunity for our own K1TO and N4BP to acquit themselves very spectacularly in the past.

If your interests run more toward HF contests, then this weekend promises the only summertime DX contest, the IARU HF Championship (formerly known as RadioSport Contest). With its nice mix of "anyone works anyone" and bonuses for DX contacts, it can be a diverting way to spend a few hours. It runs from 1200z on Saturday to 1159z on Sunday, so (for those of us on EDT) it starts at 8am on Saturday and is over at 7:59am on Sunday.

The big club news recently is the rollout of the FCG's Frequent Contester Program. K4SBZ has more information about the specific rules of the program elsewhere in this issue, so there's no need to belabor those issues at this time. I'll share a little bit about the purpose of the program and try to answer a few of the questions that I've been asked so far.

We took a survey several months ago that revealed that a significant fraction of our membership had not submitted a log to a contest sponsor in the prior year. FCP is designed to incentivize members to operate contests and submit their log. It's aimed primarily at single-ops; there are provisions for multi-op points but you will accumulate points much faster as a single-op.

The committee purposefully did not restrict the contests where you can earn FCP points very much. Major contests, minor contests, contests with club competition programs, contests without club competition programs all are eligible. The committee decided that the weekly contests (CWTs, Phone Phrays, NS Sprints) were not eligible because there are so many of them, but pretty much any other contest regardless of mode is fair game.

More questions about how the program is run, any questions about which contests are eligible, and questions about how your points are accumulated should be directed to K4SBZ at fcg.contesting@gmail.com.

A couple of weekends ago was ARRL Field Day. KT4Q organized a 5A operation at K5AUP's airport in northern Orange County.

Thanks to N4KM we were able to use K4OJ as the primary call for our 5A FD effort. Thanks to KT4Q for organizing the operation, thanks to K5AUP for hosting at his airport, and thanks to the rest of the operators for helping set up and tear down five stations worth of antennas and coax in the 94 degree heat on Friday and Saturday and Sunday afternoon. I hope everyone else got something out of FD this year. Even if you didn't travel to your local repeater club to evangelize, you can make contesters and FCG look good by operating from home (if that's your preference) and demonstrating to everyone who works you how to make QSOs efficiently and quickly. I was particularly impressed by N4BP's battery-powered (see what I did there?) effort from his home station in SFL, though I know there were any number of other FCG members who took the opportunity to lead their local club's FD effort and/or who made an appearance at their local club's operation to help put some QSOs in the log.

I recall many years ago that there were a number of contest clubs who ran an intra-club competition at Field Day, with a prescribed class and number of transmitters but with the details left up to the individual club teams. With our club members scattered from Pensacola to Miami (for those who are within the state of Florida) it may be impractical to split into two teams, but if there is any interest in arranging a competition of that nature, please feel free to bring it up on the reflector

I've rambled on quite long enough, I think. Please review closely K4SBZ's article in this issue about the FCP. If you have any questions or need clarification, please ask either on the reflector or direct to Stan via email.

73/OJ,
Chris W4WF

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Ellen White W1YL awarded Russia's E. T. Krenkel medal for outstanding global contributions to Amateur Radio



Ellen White learned Morse Code while in high school, during WW-II. In 1946 she was first licensed and has since been active on CW as W2RBU W6YYM KH6QI W1YYM and W1YL. For 25 years Ellen was on the staff of the American Radio Relay League. Her activity over the years Orlando DXCC WAZ. She was instrumental in establishing two active contest clubs, Murphy's Marauders (which evolved into the Yankee Clipper Contest Club) and the Florida Contest Group. Her OM was W1CW of DXCC management fame (now SK) and son K4OJ, Florida Contest Club president (now SK). Ellen spent many years recording QST on tape for sightless hams, through the US Library of Congress talking book program. For several years she has been using the W7RN remote in Nevada to stay active on 40 meter CW as W1YL/7, usually on 40 meter CW around 1000Z.



Ellen White W1YL inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

Ellen White, W1YL, the grand dame of DXing, served as the ARRL's deputy Communications Manager, was QST magazine's DX editor, recorded QST on tape for the Library of Congress's talking book program for the visually-impaired, and was instrumental in the founding of Murphy's Marauders (the predecessor of today's Yankee Clipper Contest Club) and the Florida Contest Group. She was also recently awarded Russia's E.T. Krenkel Medal for outstanding global contributions to amateur radio.

Contributors to This Edition

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Orlando Contest Banquet Pictures by John N9OU



Andy Blank N2NT, featured speaker at the Banquet.
Andy is a recent inductee into the CQ Hall of Fame. He has been director of the CQ WW 160 Meter Contest (CW and SSB), and served as Director for WRTC in 2014. You may have worked him from his mountaintop station in V4, as V47NT or V47T.



L-R Larry N6AR and Bob WX4G hand out tickets to paid attendees



Janet Margelli KL7MF and Ellen W1YL



Pete N8PR chats with Steve M0RTI



Prize Table



Jack K1KNQ chats with Steve NN4X



Dan K1TO awards prize certificate To Bennie KI4ITX



Angel WP3R and Jim WA3FET



George K5KG hands prize to Lisa W4LIS



Wayne N4FP and Marty N4GL



Jim K8MR (right) chats with Steve AA8HH (center) and Dave K8DV (left)



Andy N2NT and Tim K3LR

**Right:
Ed NX4TT and Lee KX4TT**



VP2MKG/VP2MSS Photos Feb 2019

Ed. Note - George K5KG operated the ARRL CW DX Contest from Montserrat as VP2MSS. Other operators included K1DG, K1QX, K1XX and W1MD. Before and after the contest George operated as VP2MKG. George did an extensive article for the Gazette on his trip to Montserrat last year, so this coverage is limited.



The 60 foot tower and TH-6 at the Gingerbread Hill house



Fiberglass Pole supporting a K9AY Rx Loop



Craig K1QX in background, Marty W1MD in foreground, operating VP2MSS



Charlie K1XX taking his turn at the action



Elecraft KPA500 and ICE 419 Bandpass Filter



A VP2M Sunset



Checking out the antennas



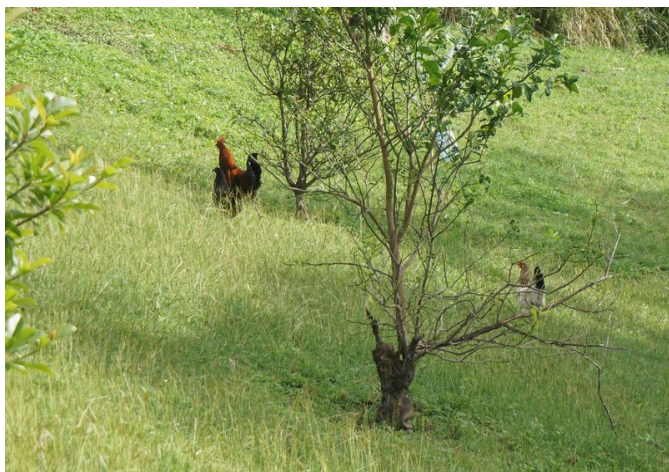
Yes Virginia, there are radials!



Matching Unit for 160 Meter Folded Counterpoise



High Power Bandpass Filters and Triplexer



Mixed in with the flora, there are some fauna



Looking out to sea from VP2M

W5 FOC Gathering Lafayette, LA

Editor's Note: George K5KG recently became an FOC member and attended the FOC get-together at Lafayette LA. Below are pictures of some attendees you may know as a result of their being quite active on the air.



Art K5ZD



Al W1FJ and Eric NM5M



Marv N5AW and Rob K6RB



Bert W5ZR



Orville K5VWW and Richard K5NA



Bill AK5X and Dave W0VX

FQP Summaries and Pictures

K4OJ MM FQP Summary

K4OJ/m had a great time but after 5 years of fairly bug-free operations (except Love Bugs) we had to work through our own special spelling bee:

M-U-R-P-H-Y

First, the numbers (approx- still integrating logs):

Band	QSOs	Pts	Mul	Pt/Q
7	1437	5744	14	4.0
14	2038	8152	53	4.0
21	5	20	0	4.0
Total	3480	13916	67	4.0

Score: 932,372

1 Mult = 51.9 Q's

K4OJ Max Rates:

20m:

2019-04-27 1823Z - 5.0 per minute (1 minute(s)), 300 per hour by K0LUZ

2019-04-28 1846Z - 3.8 per minute (10 minute(s)), 228 per hour by K0LUZ

2019-04-28 1933Z - 2.8 per minute (60 minute(s)), 170 per hour by K0LUZ

40-15m:

2019-04-28 0108Z - 5.0 per minute (1 minute(s)), 300 per hour by N4KM

2019-04-28 0114Z - 3.5 per minute (10 minute(s)), 210 per hour by N4KM

2019-04-28 0114Z - 2.6 per minute (60 minute(s)), 157 per hour by N4KM

But these numbers don't tell the whole story - if you're interested, read on.

After the five previous years taking a hiatus, "Murph and Magic Tones" decided to ride along for the entire trip while trying everything to make us sing the Blues.

Team K4OJ had their share of troubles, both big and small. But Jake, Elwood and uh, well, Red were on a Mission...we have a full tank, it's dark and we're wearing sunglasses.

The First Problem was a Biggie- total station rebuild:

My faithful old Suburban finally needed to be retired at more than 400,000 miles. Boy I miss that reliable friend - it had met our multi-multi mobile needs just perfectly. The new vehicle, a 2017 Sequoia, was just that - new. So this year was 'square one' of everything from the antenna systems and mounts, operator stations and ergonomics, power distribution, cabling and much more minutia. Design work started last September and it was clear that there were simply going to be more compromises to form, fit and function with this smaller(!) vehicle for multi-multi use.

Everything came together though and by early February I had the stations and antenna farm built and generally working FB-low SWR's, stable and strong mechanical and electrical functionality, and a nice low noise floor (not easy in a vehicle plus generator). All but just one problem remained - how hard could that be, hmmm?

The proverbial Pachyderm in the Pantry:

Inter-Station interference, specifically 40m RFI getting into 20m rx, was Elephant sized and stubborn as a mule. I tried, literally daily, for 2 months to mitigate it without success. I managed several EMI labs for years and, while not an expert, I do know my way around most of the problems - not so with this devilish delight. Red and Kevin even came over for a full day of trouble-shooting, mods and additional testing but this beast kept snarling at us.

In the end, we decided we'd have to just live with it for this year - or go to just one transmitter. In the end, Red and Kevin pronounced, 'Damn the Torpedoes, let's go!'

So the entire FQP was spent with Red fighting S6-8 QRM from the other station. And, great operator that he is - he *still* made over 2000 QSO's! There was a whole layer of signals he just couldn't pull through - our apologies to those we couldn't work. I am just amazed at Red's tremendous operating talent and his sheer tenacity in putting up with that QRM for 20 hours - wow! Now that's an A-1 op! At the same time, Kevin - ever the patient team player - would reduce power when 20m was really hopping. Many, many of you worked him for hours on 40m when he was running just 15-30 Watts on 40m! This is a terrific example of his selfless teamwork and operator savvy, and even with these handicaps he made about the same number of QSOs last year (more than 1400!). Awesome performance!

I am just stunned how these guys worked together to make our outing a success. Not our biggest score, but a well-deserved victory over the obstacles we faced with this RFI issue. And we plan to beat this RFI thing into submission by next year.

But don't stop reading here - Murphy had *much* more in store for us:

Curve ball turned Spitball:

Just 5 minutes after the start of the contest, RFI was no longer an issue because our 20m K3 died- wah! Kevin had brought his TS-590SG as a back up and after pulling one rig, installing the other and jury-rigging cable differences with spit and electrical tape an hour just vanished. No 20m QSO's at the start of the contest (aargh!). The 590 was new to Red so he had to learn it's knobs and functions on the fly - yep, one tough operator!

BTW, our other K3 loaned by Jim K5AUP (thanks Jim!) worked flawlessly the whole time.

The starting hour we lost meant we had to skip PUT/CLA counties but we caught back up on our route and kept going. That is until 10 counties later when we pulled in for a quick gas/nature break. During this break two more signs of Murph:

a) No TP or Paper Towels in the bathroom

b) Our generator suddenly died and stations went dark - !@#\$@!%^

After a few minutes of troubleshooting it was apparent that the external fuel tank line had cracked so the gennie ran until there was no more gas in it's internal tank. We made brief repairs to the line, filled up the genie tank (good thing this happened at a gas stop!) and we were again on our way. But we lost another half an hour in the process.

But don't stop reading here - Murphy had *much* more in store for us:

Saturday Night Live that almost wasn't-

Because of the skipped counties, we were able to squeeze in a unplanned stop in PIN during the last 15 minutes of the day - gotta keep those rates up! But of course, Murphy took another shot. Just as we crossed that county line, the 20m WinKey stopped working. The pileups were incredible so those last 15 minutes Red was sending furiously by hand.

Yeah! The Day was Finally Done!

Home was nearby and my wife Lili had a nice warm meal of baked chicken/sides/dessert ready. Off to bed, early to rise...

Day 2 arrived and we affirmed, Today will be better!" or will it???

Some minor annoyances by Mr. M Sunday included a fussy seatbelt alarm and another bathroom problem (this time out of order; sorry ladies!). We made great time working our way South down our sunny state until we hit the **Dragon** - Collier County. We had to trudge through that monster for nearly an hour before we hit our favorite spot at Monroe County. The pileups were wonderful, even with K2ZR/4 active there all weekend. QRP Kevin and QRM Red made the most of their situations and the logs quickly filled thanks to those who tracked us.

BE A BETTER BRO

Our Final Murphy entrapment hit us just going into Broward County - total police blockage of US27 (pretty much the only way to go north unless you go 20 miles more east) - Yikes! And there was full-on Police Activity - blockages, road controls, etc - all across the county. We know because we traveled all over that county trying to get North. I-95 was a parking lot and even small streets had more police presence.

Dead body? Hazardous Spill? Zombie Invasion? We'll never know but I have never seen anything like it. N4BP - be glad you were working Remote!

Kevin had to multi-task operating and helping us plan a route out of this purgatory. Finally we hit Boca in PAL using back roads and then hopped on the Turnpike, escaping BRO but not until a precious Hour (!!!!) was lost trapped there.

By this time we were keenly aware that 5-years of bad karma had just caught up with us in a single year.

We were all exhausted - traffic, RFI and hardware problems - what else? Oh, it then started to rain..

But we pressed on, the sun came out again and although we had to skip about 4 more counties at least we got out of South FL! We even managed to get back to our LAK starting point to make up for the no-op beginning there.

I'm really proud of how we never gave up, and ended up with a respectable score as a result. Certainly we have much improvements to make but Murphy would not dare come back a 2nd year in a row, right?

In closing, we'd like to sincerely thank our great Out-Of-State ops that make FQP terrific for all of us on this end while operating Fixed, Mobile or Expedition. YOU are the ones that really make FQP special. We hope you had fun too!

Huge thanks to my verrrry FB teammates Red K0LUZ and Kevin N4KM - you're the best! I am proud to call you friends. Man, you guys are real competitors too.

Kudos to our key FQP movers and shakers:

Our amazingly A1 FQP VP Dan K1TO, our super FCG Prez Chris W4WF, our FB FCG and FQP Groups admin George K5KG and our very dedicated website admin/guru Seb W4AS. Your endless efforts continue to make our Party the best!

Thanks to our FL Fixed stations - you are our Foundation for County coverage and we always can count on you. Also want to give a shout out to our fellow road warriors - whether mobile or expedition, you help take the FQP to a level of excitement rarely seen in other QSO parties. I'm am hoping others will give it a 'mobile go' next year - the fun is definitely worth the trip.

Special thanks to Chuck NO5W and Bob K0RC for their endless support for FQP with their simply Outstanding County tracking tools - Chuck and Bob, you both rock!

Finally, sincere appreciation to Bruce WA7BNM for his Log Upload submission tool easy peasy - thanks!

NOW - who is ready for FQP 2020?

Bet I made ya smile... :-)

CU THEN - 73/OJ,

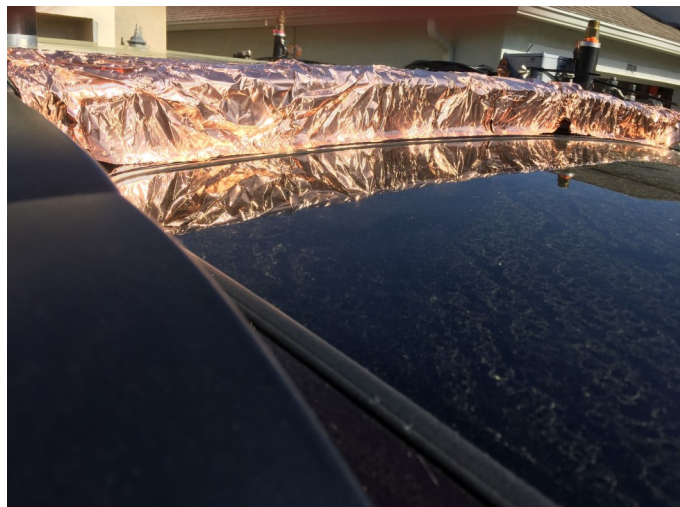
Chris, NX4N

Captain and VP Latrines - team K4OJ/m

2019 New K4OJ Mobile FQP Setup Picturees (NX4N)



Closeup of feedpoint RFI mitigation (lots going on if you look closely!)



Copper EMI foil grounds antenna plate to SUV roof.



First mechanical test drive of antennas and antenna mount on NX4N Sequoia



K0LUZ and N4KM enjoying their new operation positions!



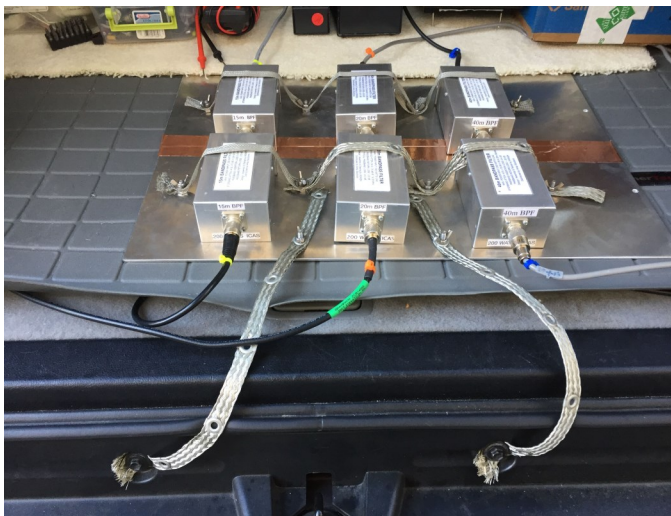
K0LUZ and N4KM get ready for the preliminary K4OJ road test.



K4OJ MM Mobile - 20 M station setup.



K4OJ MM Mobile - 40m and 15m station setup.



K4OJ MM Mobile - bandpass filter bank



K4OJ MM Mobile - Radios strapped in for the ride !



K4OJ MM Mobile - Our shack took an unexpected "hit".



Kevin N4KM checks out the 40m and 15m station and antennas



K4OJ MM Mobile - Single Multi-band Antenna for quadruplexer RFI experiment.



New Antenna Mounting Plate for the Sequoia.



New FQP Radio Shelf



NX4N - New SUV with 4 antennas being tested.



NX4N FQP Radio Fit-Check



NX4N - New antenna plate to roof grounding strap (1 of 4 straps)



NX4N - New antenna FQP farm - 1st electrical bench tests



Quadriplexer experiment to reduce RFI



RF Loop antenna to fight RFI



Above: George K5KG and Jim VE7ZO getting ready to start out on their K4KG/M mobile effort in FQP. Jim's summary of their operation is shown in the column to the right.

K4KG/M

Well, another FQP is in the log. Reading the early soap boxes, it appears that conditions were agreeable for most of the continent to work the Floridians however we found that propagation beyond NA was spotty to non-existent. Once again K4KG/m geared up for the M/S LP mobile category in George's venerable Highlander, bristling with ham-sticks like a porcupine. Problems with a mag-mount prevented us from having a phone 40M antenna but the tuner on the K3 handled the match satisfactorily and it seemed to play well. We were prepared for high band openings but as it turned out, we only worked stations on 20M and 40M.

From the outset of the contest, the rates seemed better than normal with good coverage on 20M for most of the US and Canada. The west coast opened early and we were pleased to work KL7SB for our first AK QSO in the FQP and he obliged to give us the SSB multiplier as well. Although good conditions were widespread, we did miss MS, ND, WY on all modes as well as VY2, VE6 and VE7 amongst the usually reliable multipliers. Due to the lack of overseas propagation, we did spend more time on 40M than normal. The rates at times were exceptional and although there have been complements regarding the FQP mobiles, the rates are only achieved with high performing out of state operators who maintain good operating discipline in the pile ups. As a multi mixed operation, we do try and work each state and country on both modes so thanks for all the stations having patience as we ask for the "pse QSY SSB?" and especially to those who make the effort to make the QSO. Sunday is usually a more productive day as there are fewer CW ops we have to question in that manner.

Although we worked 200 more stations this year than last, the final total score was less due to the fewer multipliers worked. (113 vs 135) Propagation from Florida seems to favor W8, W9 and VE3 each year and this was no exception. Congratulations to the CCO again for such a strong performance.

Thanks to George and Kay for hosting us once again to their fb QTH. We are already making notes for improving the operation for next year.

Vy 73, Jim VE7ZO

K4FCG (K1KNQ Operator) Summary and Photos



Hi Guys,
 Here are three photos (exterior) of the vehicle at start of FQP.
 Sitting on the Wakulla/Jefferson line.
 I did not take any interior photos this year as most of you know the setup.
 Which antenna is for 40M??

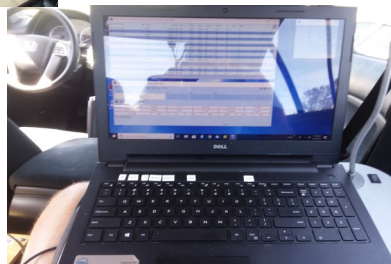
73
 Jack
 K1KNQ

Another year in the log.
 K4FCG/m (K1KNQ op) SSB
 Single op no driver SSB, this year opted to not operate in motion, so rig was set up to operate from the back seat. No temptation that way.
 It was a tough go on Sat. as early on discovered I had 20M audio problem. Finally figured it out after messing around for 45 minutes and getting all smelly and sweaty. Turned out RF getting into the Microphone. I applied multiple ferrites at the antenna coax and it solved the issue.
 This year was more low key as I stopped to eat on both days. Shut down on Sat. night at 22:45 exhausted.

QSO's 369, 47 Mults including 8 DX, 16 counties.

Low light, only one qso in Columbia county despite calling for almost 45 minutes (VA3GKO)
 Highlight, called by a G operating portable from a campground somewhere in England running 5 watts
 Most aggravating – 1X1's and fixed stations in mobile windows. That needs to be addressed!!

73
 Jack K1KNQ



KU8E/M FCG Pictures and Comments

Here are some pictures I took this weekend. See the great spot I found to park at on the SAN/OKA county line on US 90. This was the only place I did a county line since the distances I had to drive were too great or the county line was at a river or creek. The Apalachicola River is why it's so hard to drive between LIB, GUL and FRA counties. That first hour was a 123 since I was getting two contact at the same time. My best hour was a 142 the last hour on Saturday night in GUL.

I retired (i.e.sold) my old IC756Pro this year and replaced it with a TS590SG. This was the maiden voyage for the Kenwood as a rover radio. It worked out very well.

Jeff KU8E

Notes from ARRL Contest Update

NIMM Logger+, representing over 60% of nearly any contest's "market share" for loggers, has a [new website](#). Larry, K8UT, [pointed to a summary of the changes](#), but the most significant are fewer number of pages, better search capabilities, better bug/issue tracking visibility and reporting, and a "single sortable/searchable table listing all supported contests." Other ham radio software projects should take note: the ability for website visitors to easily see the status of issues and reported bugs is a feature that helps the development team by reducing the volume of messages of duplicate reports for a single common issue.

There's a new exclusively-FT8/FT4 Contest, sponsored by the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF), and the Slovenia Contest Club: The [World Wide Digi DX Contest](#). The inaugural 24-hour event will occur August 31 starting at 1200 UTC, and features distance-based scoring based on the exchange of grids. Multipliers are grid fields (the letter part of a grid, for example "CN" of "CN87"), and are **per band**, so it will pay to get multipliers on multiple bands. There are entry categories for single operators of various power levels in addition to Multi-One, Multi-Two, and Multi-Unlimited categories. See the [contest rules](#) for more information. An *NIMM Logger+* version to be released later this week will have support for this new contest, including a new Grid Field Map display to visually show the multipliers

Dayton Hamcation Pictures



Joe K1JT with Dan K1TO



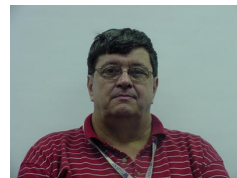
Dany ZP5DBC with Dan K1TO



One of the more popular new products shown at The Hamvention, a prototype of the Elecraft K-4, due to be available in about 6 months.

Doug Hubbs K4DMH SK

Douglas Hubbs K4DMH of Deland FL passed away May 2, 2019.



Doug was first licensed in 1978. In 1983 he moved to Florida and changed his call to KF4TM. He upgraded to Extra in April 2000 and received the call K4DMH.

He was a big supporter of Volusia County ARES for over 25 years.

He was also very active in each ARRL 10 Meter contest, working on phone with low power.

His funeral was held Saturday July 7 at the Church of Latter Day Saints, 1345 Aquarius Avenue, Deland FL 327230.

Ann Hubbs K8PWE said you could send flowers or donate to a cancer foundation.

Thanks to John N4EEB for sharing this information, some of which came from the Volusia County website.

Picture from ARRL Contest Update



David Siddall, K3ZJ presents CQ Contest Hall of Fame Plaque to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, introduced by Dick Norton, N6AA, May 18th, 2019, at the Contest Dinner in Dayton, Ohio. [Credit: Bob, N6TV, Photo]

FCG Frequent Contester Program

The Florida Contest Group (FCG) has developed the Frequent Contesting Program (FCP) to provide a means of rewarding FCG members for their active participation in contests. FCG members will be able to qualify for five FCP brackets: Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond, based on their level of participation in approved contests.

The rules and the eligible contests were sent of all members of the FCG reflector group. This information is posted on floridacontestgroup.org. Any member not receiving them can contact the FCP Administrator for copies.

Eligible contests include the Major contests (ARRL, CQ, IARU and NCJ), the state QSO parties and the DX contests of other countries. The 147 currently approved contests, their multipliers, dates and starting times are listed alphabetically in FCG Frequent Contesting Program – Appendix A. Appendix B lists those same contests in date/starting time order for 2019. Members interested in participating in contests using a particular mode will find lists by mode in Appendices D – F. Some of those contests may be multi-mode.

The Florida QSO Party and the ARRL 10-Meter Contest are of special interest to the FCG. To spur interest in these two contests, we consider them Bonus Contests, each worth extra points.

Scoring for the contest is based on the Op Time reported for each contest on 3830scores.com. A multiplier has been assigned to each contest. The Contest Participation Score (CPS) for the contest is the number of hours participated (Op Time) times the contest multiplier. The member's Total FCP Score is the sum of all the individual CPSs for the year.

Members that attain the Bronze bracket will receive an electronic certificate. The next four brackets will receive up to four free tickets for the drawings at the Annual FCG Banquet held at HamCation®. Because the tickets can only be used for the FCG Banquet drawings, members must attend the Banquet to receive their awards.

Members' current award levels and scores will be posted by the FCG FCP Administrator monthly on the FCG Member Group.io reflector. This will enable members to see what they need to do to reach the next award level.

Even though this program has been introduced mid-year, awards for 2019 will be based on the entire year. Contesters who have participated in contests prior to the program's announcement and who have not posted their full contest information (including OpHours) may send their qualifying information (Contest name and OpHours) to the FCG Administrator who will update their records manually.

Follow-on implementation, including adding this program to the FCG website, will begin in late June after two key individuals return from vacations.

I would like to thank the following committee members for their hard work in making this program possible:

Jim Bilancio, KM4HI
Wolf Heeren, NN7CW
Ric Morton, WO4O
Steve Sacco, NN4X
Jim Stahl, K8MR
John Van Zandt, K9OM

Please address any questions that you might have to the FCG Members reflector so that everyone can benefit from the discussion. Of course, you can always contact me directly at any time.

73 & OJ,

Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ
Administrator, Florida Contest Group Frequent Contester Program
FCG.Contesting@gmail.com

Field Day Pictures / Summaries

K4OJ

Call: K4OJ

Operator(s): K5AUP N4KM KT4Q KN4BIT NF2F W4WF
KT4LST N4EEB

Station: K4OJ

Class: 5A LP

QTH: NFL

Operating Time (hrs): 24

Summary:

Band CW Qs Ph Qs Dig Qs

160:

80: 146 8 13

40: 481 299 8

20: 702 1574 111

15: 24 15 22

10: 3

6: -----

Total: 1353 1896 157 Total Score = 9,832

Club: Florida Contest Group

Comments:

Score only reflects QSO points and no other bonus points which will be calculated at a later date.

Great group of folks to work with. We ran a 5A operation out of Northern Florida Section at K5AUP's airport and business location. We were able to set up 5 towers at 30' with 4 beams and a modified SteppIR element to act as a rotating dipole on 10m/15m/40m. Also set up a vertical for digital and put up a few wires for the low frequencies. Included were 2 CW Stations, 2 SSB stations, a Digital Station and a GOTA Station (KT4Q) which maxed out with 500 Qs by 11:00PM Saturday.

CW activity seemed down this year from past Field Days. Not sure if it was conditions or just not as many on the air. Typically on 20m CW we can get 1100-1500 Qs but this year only 700. 20M phone was producing well. 80M in any mode was a struggle with 59+ noise across the band. Digital was primarily FT8 which worked well for our group.

With 93 degree heat for setup and 96 degree heat for teardown and no injuries, it was a very successful Field Day for the K4OJ Team. Big Thankyou for Jim-K5AUP providing a fantastic location to host our Team, for Fred-NF2F who kept us fed with some really nice meals, and to the Florida Contest Group for allowing us to use the legendary call K 4 O J. GL 73 OJ

VY 73 de Steve-KT4Q

K4OJ/KT4Q Field Day Coordinator



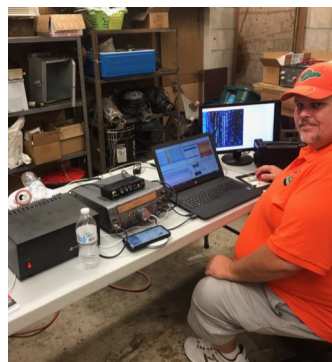
Foreground: Chris W4WF, Background Jim K5AUP



Fred NF2F



Kevin N4KM



Left: Levon KT4LST at the Digital Station

K4OJ continued



Steve KT4Q



Several of the Yagis at K4OJ



Steve Kt4Q's daughter Savanah on the left working the G. O. T. A. Station



Steppir Dipole



N4BP

CallSign Used : N4BP
Operator(s) : N4BP

Operator Category : SINGLE-OP
Assisted Category : NON-ASSISTED
Band : ALL
Power : LOW
Mode : CW
Default Exchange : 1E SFL

ARRL Section : SFL
Club/Team : Florida Contest Group
Software : N1MM Logger+ 1.0.7763.0

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Pt/Q
7	CW	315	630	2.0
14	CW	620	1240	2.0
21	CW	278	556	2.0
28	CW	35	70	2.0
Total	Both	1248	2496	2.0

Score : 4,992
Op Time : 17:46
Max Rate : 116 Hour

Rig : Elecraft K3
Antennas : Cushcraft A4S, 40/80 Trap Dipole

Soapbox : "(Class E) Home stations - Emergency power"
My emergency power was to be the 16kW-h Li-Ion battery in my 2017 Chevy

Volt backed up by its ICE (internal combustion engine) if needed. First, a little about the architecture of the Volt: The ICE is not connected to the drive train but rather runs a generator to power the two electric propulsion motors. Both that generator and the Li-Ion main battery are selectively connected to a 300VDC-12VDC inverter that powers all of the accessories in the Volt as well as charge its 12V battery. The Volt's inverter is capable of 175A, so its output is my source to extract power with a 1000W 12VDC-110VAC Pure Sinewave Inverter from

Samlex. When the Volt is "running", it is programmed to shut back down if not driven for two hours or so. To defeat this, it is necessary to set the e-brake and set the shifter in neutral. For safety, and to prevent theft (vehicle ready to be driven off!), I backed it up close to the garage door and parked another vehicle in front basically blocking any movement. An extension cord brings my Samlex inverter's 110VAC to the kitchen to power the K3 and laptop. First problem: The Samlex sits on a platform in the rear of the Volt exposed to the sun through a huge rear window. When I went out at 1:30PM Saturday to turn it on, it was too hot to even touch and of course would not start due to its heat protection. I cooled its heatsink down with a wet cloth and started the Volt's A/C which would obviously be needed during the hours when the sun

was at its strongest. But now I would definitely need an assist from the ICE during FD due to the A/C's heavy draw. All of this configuration thoroughly confused the Volt! At the end, the ICE had been running for roughly half the FD hours, yet the Volt reported full driving range and a full tank of petrol. Sunday afternoon when I filled the tank, it only took 0.6 gallons at a cost of \$1.50, so the ICE provides a very efficient gasoline engine generator. Good to know during hurricane season..

Field Day went well. I was able to run much better on 40M than I recall from previous 1D operations. When I got around to testing 15 & 10 Sunday morning, I felt like I owned the bands! I was even called by an S9+ VE8 on 15M, but there were also periodic lulls on both bands. Just wait a couple of minutes and signals were up again. The station setup worked perfectly and the only interruptions were to check status of the Volt and to take a five hour break when the operator ran out of gas!

--

73, Bob Patten, N4BP

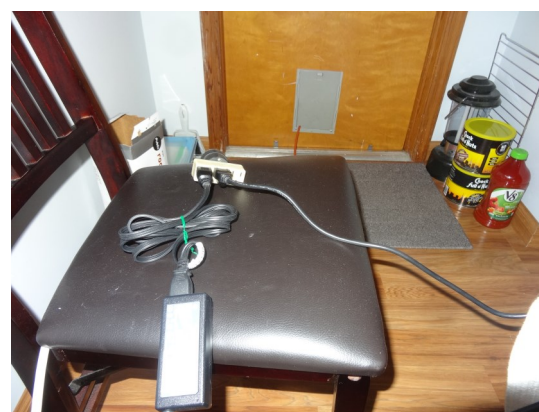
Plantation, FL



Samlex
Pure
Sinewave
Inverter



Leading
To
Kitchen



Orange
Extension
Cord
From
Volt



N4BP
Station
On
Kitchen
Table

NP2VI

The St. Croix ARC operated Field Day 2019 from the cruise ship pier located in Frederiksted on the Western end of St. Croix. Suffice it to say, we were right on the water with an unobstructed water view to the States.

A 321 foot comms van from the local EMA provided a 40 foot pneumatic mast for the tribander. A 40 meter vertical was "very happy" by the ocean and acted accordingly. We made around 1500 QSOs in class 2A, missing only Utah, KH6, VY0 and VE8 for a FD multiplier sweep.

73/Fred K9VV/NP2X



NP2AG
intently
working
the
pileups



NP2X
(left) and
NP2AG
(right)
running
em



NP2AG
(left)
WP2E
(center)
and
NP2J
(right)
testing
SWR of
tri-bander



Welcome Aboard



(Continued from Page 2)

ND1C - James Santore, 4619 Clove Ave, Bunnell FL 32110
e-mail: ki4wsn@qsl.net

NN4TT - David Clausen, 2421 Dresden Trail, Apopka FL 32712-4065 e-mail: nn4tt1@gmail.com

W2XYZ - Frank Wroblewski, 1008 Harbor Town Drive, Venice FL 34292-3131 e-mail: w2xyzfrank@gmail.com

W4INK - William Barker, 9161 Coachman Dr., Venice FL 34293 e-mail: steviebarker@gmail.com

W9NWY - David Boland, 712 Elisa Drive, Punta Gorda, FL 33950 e-mail: w9nwy@yahoo.com

WA1DRQ - Robert Zylinski, 4 Kings Row, Sandwich MA 02563

AA8R—Randy Hatt, 319 Rosario St., Punta Gorda FL 33983 e-mail : aa8r@aol.com

W1BQ - Alan W. Baker, 2981 Anza St., Melbourne FL 32940 e-mail: alwbaker@gmail.com

Events Calendar

North American QSO Party CW	1800Z Aug 3 to 0559Z Aug 4
WAE DX Contest, CW	0000Z Aug 10 to 2359Z Aug 11
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z Aug 17 to 1600Z Aug 18
North American QSO Party SSB	1800Z Aug 17 to 0559Z Aug 18
All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z Sep 7 to 2400Z Sep 8
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z Sep 7 to 0400Z Sep 8
ARRL Septemer VHF Contest	1000Z Sep 14 to 0300Z Sep 16
CQWW DX Contest, RTTY	0000z Sep 28 to 2400Z Sep 29
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z Oct 12 to 1659Z Oct 13
CQWW DX Contest SSB	0000Z Oct 26 to 2400Z Oct 27
AEEL SS Contest, CW	2100X Nov 2 to 0300Z Nov 4

Paul Bourque, N1SFE, joined ARRL Headquarters Staff as Contest Program Manager

Paul Bourque, N1SFE, of Middletown, Connecticut, has joined the ARRL Headquarters staff as Contest Program Manager. He succeeds Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, who recently was promoted to the post of ARRL Radiosport and Field Services Manager. Licensed since 1994, Bourque's interest in radio began when, as a youngster, he listened for distant AM stations, and he later developed a career involving various aspects of broadcasting.

"Originally, I wanted to be a DJ, but I ended up being drawn to the technical/engineering side of the radio business," Bourque said. His journey into Amateur Radio started during his time as the host of an overnight free-form rock music show at WWUH Radio at the University of Hartford, and the station's general manager, John Ramsey, W1JNR, pushed him to get his license.



Because being an Amateur Radio operator had opened several professional doors for him, Bourque said, "The opportunity to give back to this hobby as Contest Program Manager really appealed to me."

Bourque, who grew up in Newington, remarked that working at ARRL Headquarters "is like coming home." In his early years as a radio amateur, he was more of a casual tester, and it "was about making contacts," he conceded. Today, though, he has become passionate about getting people active and on the air. As Contest Program Manager, Bourque wants to find ways to get newer hams into contesting, and to dispel the idea that you need tons of equipment to participate.

Bourque's other interests include cooking, astronomy, photography, and meteorology.

Thanks to the ARRL Letter for the above contest related news item.

Florida Contest Group

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Treasurer position TBD