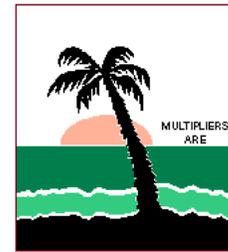




Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.qsl.net/fcg/ or www.fcg.club



Volume 9 Issue 3

June 2002

From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO



Is there really such a thing as “contest season”? I used to believe in such things back in W1 when the “season” began with WW SSB in Oct, then included SS and the ARRL DX Test, wrapping up in early March. Thus, “contest season” was really the months of Oct, Nov, Feb and Mar and the other 7 months in between were for holidays and building up the station.

Well, I've always been a big fan of the IARU Test, so July gets thrown in there for me. Before we even moved here, I was already hooked on doing FD with the Sarasota group – there's June. Very soon after arriving here in FL in 1996, I rediscover the 10-Meter Test, so that adds in Dec. As it turns out, WPX is a big club activity, so that adds May. Then we go and get this great idea to rejuvenate the Florida QSO Party, adding April to the mix. To top all that off, this club enjoys the NAQPs, adding in January and August. I've always preferred the CW Sprints myself, which happen to run in Feb, and yes Sept. Bottom line? There IS no off season – every month is covered!

Of course, that is my own personal list. Lots of overlap with the club, but certainly not all encompassing. (We probably just need to have N4BP open his logbook to get the full picture of a contest year – hi.) I did not mention the growing interest in VHF contesting in this club. What about the 160-M tests (CQ, ARRL, Stew Perry)? Other state QSO Parties are growing in popularity, too. We had great mutual support with the Michigan and W1 folks this year. Still others enjoy the CQ-M, Russian DX Test, Worked All Europe, All Asian, IOTA, Scandinavian Activity Contests, etc.

Just writing this has flooded my brain with fond memories of operating! Then I read an article like Frank's in this issue and the sobering reality begins to hit. We are at the peak, albeit the elongated second hump, of this sunspot cycle. Yet, the ARRL is finding that they have problems with incoming advertising dollars and need to slice pages from QST.

That cannot possibly bode well for the upcoming sunspot decline. NA4CW's fabulous efforts at attracting new contesters in IDR came up short of expectations. We mutter under our collective breath about the lack of contacts available on Sunday afternoons of the WPX and perhaps our own FQP. FCC code speed requirements are greatly relaxed. We continue to age as a contest population. I'm amazed to still be considered in many circles as a “young guy” at age 42.

What I'm having trouble reconciling is the paradox that is introduced by seemingly growing interest (and very measurable in this club anyway), and continual record-breaking scores in on-the-air contest efforts, yet we don't seem to be effectively reseeding the farmland and keeping the youngsters coming. Is it that we are

working the same people over and over, but just more efficiently? Is it the illusion that sunspot peaks and the associated phenomenal conditions produce, and the bottom will drop out over the next five years? Are we just aging as a population more gracefully and skillfully, negating the age factor altogether? What do you think? OK, I'll get off my philosophical soapbox and get down to some business...

The 2002 FQP will go down as remarkable in many senses of the word. Thanks in large part to the K4OJ-coordinated ad campaign, there were plenty of stations to work for us mobiles running all over the state. Short skip (again a high sunspot year phenomenon) was more prevalent than in any FQP to date and allowed for lots of close-in contacts. Clearly, this was not at the expense of longer distances, as our claimed out-of-state winner is N6MU from CA. Log submissions are again well up from the prior year and we have about 450 logs to process this year. County sweeps are now so routine that at least one out-of-stater did it QRP! There are more plaques than ever, thanks to some last-minute additions. Ron and I will try to issue progress reports on the FQP log-checking efforts (but don't expect too much out of me until after I return from Europe – hi).

I announced at the April meeting that our FCG effort in WPX 2001 was essentially a victory in the CQ-unrecognized category of medium clubs. Well, we've outdone ourselves this year! See the scores towards the back of this issue – WAY over last year's totals & many top USA finishes. Best of all, the CQ WPX rules allow us to compete as one unified club and not forcing us to split off the Panhandle gang.

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Poor conditions in the ARRL June VHF Party this past weekend prevented some monster scores from being reported and it looks like long-distance skip was limited, even on 6M.

Thanks again to the White family for hosting our April well-attended meeting. Pictures and a write-up appear in this issue. There were also a bunch of us at Dayton – see pix. I chuckled when I looked back at our FCG post-Contest Dinner picture from just a few years ago. NONE of those same folks were at Dayton this year, except for me. It's also ironic that the Hamvention organizers moved the Dayton weekend from late April because of consistently poor weather, because this year's event featured plenty of dark skies and some intermittent showers. Let's hope none of that occurs at the Vicnic on July 27th! Thanks to Vic for the late-breaking news that this event will again happen this year!

Welcome aboard to the latest group of new members. The invasion of the K1s (and we don't mean the Elecrafts either) continues, although "Victor", K1ZA is not really from New England! I look forward to helping my old pal build up a station when he and Ruthie retire to their new Ocala QTH. Dick, K3MQH lives just up the road from me, so I hope we can get together soon. He has a rich contesting history that includes many stints at W3LPL and a particular bent towards serious VHF contesting. Bob, WA4OAB played in the FQP and sent in a log. Check out his e-mail address. George, KU3O has been enthusiastically asking questions of me and others in the club and has been quite active lately, including the FQP and WPX. Welcome also to Chris, WD4OAY and Ben, KA6R, yet another member of the overflowing Sebring area.

In my copious free time, one activity is browsing through the newsletters that other clubs send along. Several ideas were spurred by recent issues. What do you all think about establishing some sort of club award program? The NCCC does a nice job with modeling theirs after major sports leagues and they award a Most Valuable Operator, Rookie of the Year, Most Improved, and other awards. After all, contesting is a sport! The FRC has an elaborate point tracking system across many of the major contests and has an award (is it a Cup similar to the Stanley Cup concept?) that is engraved with the winner each year added to the list.

Another idea was to begin tracking the record scores for each of our 3 sections in the ARRL contests and show the top score in each category (or maybe even the top ten all-time). I bet that FCGers would hold most of those records, but not all of them. This would require someone to spend quite a bit of time initially, but then the yearly maintenance would not be too bad at all from there.

I took the opportunity to attend the first WCF Club Conference last month up in Tampa. Congrats to member and SM Dave, AE4MR for pulling this together. K4OJ also attended and we enjoyed meeting other club officers from around the section and sharing our ideas.

On a personal note, I'm looking forward to a fine European vacation, driving around northern Europe with Jeff, WC4E who will be a referee for one of the teams in OH. We once again have an ambitious agenda, landing in PA3, driving down to Friedrichshafen for the largest European hamfest, then working our way northward to OH and returning via PA3 again 3 weeks later. We'll try to periodically post updates to the club e-mail reflector as the trip progresses.

The Finns are doing a terrific job preparing for the onslaught of hams and it should be yet another unforgettable event! Once again, thanks to all of you who donated to either the General WRTC fund or the N2NL-specific fund. Your generosity allowed a total of over \$700 to be donated to date! (Continued on Page 12)

Welcome Aboard



113 K1ZA - John Guida, 5 Peachtree Lane, Chelmsford, MA 01824 e-mail: k1za@attbi.com

114 K3MQH - Dick Ballou, 5004 Oakland Hills Ave., Sarasota FL 32434 e-mail rgb119@arq.net

115 WA4OAB Bob Flynn, 1281 Forest Hill Drive, Clearwater FL 33756 e-mail: wafour.oab@verizon.net

116 KU3O George Perkins, 17706 Currie Ford Drive, Lutz FL 33558 e-mail: ku3o@arrl.net

117 WD4OAY Chris Veverka, 18412 SW 89 Place, Miami FL 33157 e-mail: wd4oay@bellsouth.net

#**118 KA6R** Ben Wilbanks, 2003 Flower Terrace, Sebring FL 33875 e-mail: benw01@earthlink.net

N4TO July Picnic Scheduled

N4TO announces his annual Picnic and the July FCG meeting will be scheduled on Saturday July 27 at his QTH in Sebring. Plan to arrive after 10:30 Am. Hotdogs, hamburgers and all the fixins' will be provided, with lunch scheduled shortly after noon. Directions will be on the reflector .

Events Calendar

ARRL Field Day 1800Z, Jun 22 - 2100Z, Jun 23

IARU HF World Championship 1200Z, Jul 13 - 1200Z, Jul 14 –WRTC –2002 same Dates– Go FCG Member-Competitors K1TO, N2NL !

North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Jul 20 - 0600Z, Jul 21

N4TO Picnic and July FCG Meeting at the N4TO QTH in Sebring July 27 - See details above

North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Aug 3 - 0600Z, Aug 4

WAE DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Aug 10 - 2359Z, Aug 11

North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Aug 17 - 0600Z, Aug 18

Member Profile - W4EBA

By Byron Engen - W4EBA

In eighth grade I got interested in electronics from an article in *Popular Mechanics* magazine on how to build a crystal radio using an oatmeal box for the coil form, a Gillette Blue Blade® for the crystal with a safety pin as the "cat's whisker" and a capacitor from foil and wax paper. I think the head phones came from the 5 & dime store. I graduated to a true cat's whisker crystal and finally to a 1N34 diode so I could listen to police calls (they used to operate at about 190 meters in those days).

While in high school, an eccentric electrician, radio repairman, and refrigeration mechanic moved to my small town in North Dakota. He was a ham -- Vic, WØCPS (cycles per second). Today no one would let your kid spend time with him in the back room of his shop where he lived, but times were different then. He was deeply into collecting military surplus radio equipment and modified it for hamming. In 1950 he was limited to 160 or 10 meter phone only because Class B or C licensees could only operate phone in those bands. But, he got me interested and I struggled with the code on my own. Just then FCC announced a new license class - NOVICE - requiring only 5 wpm cw. I immediately started studying to be ready. On July 1, 1951 Novice testing began and I took my test on July 3 in front of a Class A ham in a neighboring town. When WØEBA arrived -- dated July 24, 1951-- with a BC-454 tank receiver covering 3 to 6 mc and a home built 6V6 crystal oscillator on a couple of boards I was on 80 CW. Using an end fed Zepp and crystal controlled, I started calling CQ. Being the first and only Novice in the state of North Dakota I called a lot before I finally got an answer from WØDM in South Dakota -- what a thrill. But, it was off to college and radio took a back seat except for vacation times. I did practice my CW and study because my Novice ticket was only good for 1 year.

In July 1952 I again got in contact with my Class A (by now called Advanced Class) friend to monitor the test for Conditional. A week before the test I was at WØCPS talking to him on 160 phone. He asked Vic to put me on the air with the key (it was illegal at that time for me to key the xmtr on 160, but we did it anyway) for practice. We chatted for about an hour on CW and scheduled the exam. When I came for the exam he opened the written package and I stopped him with "you have to give me the code test before the written test". His response was "you already passed CW. We talked for an hour at about 15 wpm and you answered every question that I asked so I know that you know CW". I passed and soon became WØEBA. Shortly after I obtained a Hammarlund HQ-129x and a 75 watt home-built, all band transmitter. The transmitter filled a full 5 foot rack -- how times have changed. Later I traded (yes, traded) my home built for the brand new Johnson Viking Ranger at Burghardt Radio in Wattertown, SD and was in heaven!

After college I entered the Navy so I traded (again at Burghardt) my beloved HQ-129x and Ranger for a TV set for my parents. But, when I found I was to be on shore duty my entire career, as K7AUS, I got a National (cheapest Burghardt had) receiver and a Heathkit DX-40. That was the beginning of contesting -- doing SS with 40 watts and a bug. Not many contacts during a contest, but oh what fun trying to pull contacts out of the air as you tuned all around your frequency for answers. After the Navy, I let my license lapse in 1967 by accident so went QRT for many years.

In 1989, I got the urge to re-enter ham radio. So I took tests and quickly passed from Novice, General, Advanced, to Extra and WV8B. With the new equipment, it was a dream come true. I had a good location in Ohio for antennas (nothing like some of the 'farms' others have however) so I embarked on all facets of ham radio from NCS of Ohio SSB Net, DX chasing, Contesting, Packet, RTTY, AMTOR, and MARS as AFA1KM. But all this came to an end with retirement and moving to Florida where I quickly went the vanity route back to my original WØEBA and later to W4EBA. Now with CC&R's limiting me to "stealth" antennas I operate only contests. Still operate as the "small pistol" with mostly search and pounce operation except in FQP where the rest of the world is looking to operate me for SUMTER COUNTY. I just upgraded my transceiver to a new Icom IC-756PRO (yes, once again from Burghardt Radio) and retired the dependable Kenwood TS440Sat. Looking forward to being able to pull people out of the pits now with newer equipment.

I owe my start to Vic, WØCPS, even though I don't think he ever touched a key after he got his license. I still struggle with the CW and miss an occasional letter that wrecks havoc with the scores in SS, but it is still a fun way to go and allows me to get in there a little bit with my limited facilities. Thanks also go to the members of FCG who have been very supportive of my activity. It is a real pleasure to be able to associate with top notch operators and learn from them.



Byron, operating K4VRC 599 LAK during the 2001 FQP with our Villages Amateur Radio Club.

April Meeting at W1CW/W1YL QTH

Members attending: G4BUE, K1PT, K1TO, K4LQ, K4OJ, K4RX, K5KG, KD1BG, KE1F, KU4TF, M0BUE, N4OO, N4GI, N4IG, N4JT, N4KM, N4TO, NF4A, W1CW, W1YL, W4QM. W4SAA, WC4E

Guests: N3NN, W6TR

Prior to the meeting we all had a chance to sample some of the famous W1YL chili, which tasted just as good as I recall from my last visit more than a year ago. First time visitors had an opportunity to tour the antenna farm and see the W1CW/W1YL station, scene of many successful M/S, M/M and single op contest efforts in recent years.

Dan K1TO opened the meeting by thanking Ellen and Bob for their hospitality.

Dan noted that the FCG placed 5th among all USA clubs in last year's WPX with over 59 Million points. All 4 clubs above us are huge clubs, so essentially we WON the medium category, even though CQ does not recognize such a category.

Significant CW scores cited included: WX4CW (W4SO op at N8PR) - top North American 40

FCG had the Top 3 scores on 10M Low Power - W4FMS, KN4Y and KA2DIV (N4GM op)

KZ4DX (N4BP op) was #2 10M High Power
WD4AHZ placed 2nd for Tribander/Single EI low power.
ND4AA finished 3rd for 20M single-band
NJ4M(K1TO) was 4th and WK4R(N2NL) was 9th (with an operation that was cut short) in the All-Band Group.

WC4E made over 4 Meg and placed in the top 20. Other FCGers spotted in the results were: K4LQ, NU4Y, K4PB, W7QF, W4JN, N4IG, NF4A, W4SAA, WB4IHI, KB4N, W4UM and K4RFK. K4RFK, KN4Y and W4FMS had soap-box comments, too.

SSB results were not handy, but the winning MS was NF4A @ N4PN and WK4R (K4XS) made a huge score Single-op.

CW WPX activity looks to be strong again this year with multi-ops planned at both the W1CW and N4TO QTHs. Let us know if you need a place to operate!

Dan said that he and Jim K4OJ had a great visit to the Panhandle, and thanked the PH gang for their hospitality.

FQP results from last year were recently written up by Dan K1TO and posted to the FQP website. Jim, K4OJ thanked Dan for an exemplary job in the writeup.

Dan thanked Jeff WC4E for his efforts in preparing and sending out the award certificates, Ron WD4AHZ for all his efforts in support of the FQP, Bill K4XS for his work with the plaques, and Ulysses NS4W for tracking the county coverage.

One of the leading DX results in last years was M0SDX working 65 of our 67 counties.

Dan noted that the New England QSO Party is learning from our experience, he had several contacts with the folks running this new event, they made several changes to their rules based on our experience with FQP.

FCG received a certificate recently for first place club in the Texas QSO party.

Jeff N4JF announced that he may be working \ aeronautical mobile in next year's FQP. Charlie NF4A said that in normal county hunter rules A/M stations count for the county they are flying over.

Dan congratulated Terry K4RX for working 6 Meter DXCC. I believe Terry said his current total is 102 worked and 98 confirmed.

I gave a verbal summary of the data in paragraphs 1,2,and 3 to the group. Some support was received for the concept of a newsletter accessible from the club's homepage.

Wound up the meeting with a presentation by Charlie, NF4A of a new 2 meter rig to that renowned 2 Meter operator K4OJ. (See pix this newsletter.)



Ink, N4OO (standing) explains some of the fine points of his recent "Mobile Musings" article to (Clockwise from the bottom)) Jim, K4OJ, Terry, K4RX, Charlie, NF4A and Dan, K1TO



*L to R Front: Bob, W6TR - Eric, KU4TF
Back: Pidge KD1BG, Paul, K1PT*



R to L: Terry, K4RX - Jim, K40J and Vic, N4TO



Dan, K1TO relaxes after running the meeting



*Jim, K40J listens carefully to his "Two Meter"
rig that he has just received from Charlie, NF4A*

Right: Part of the WICW/WIYL station.



The Florida QSO Party as a Contest Training Tool Lessons Learned from an Experiment

By Francis J. Merceret, NA4CW

The Indian River Amateur Radio Club, IRARC, serves 200 - 300 members in Brevard County where it operates four repeaters. The club's major functions are socializing and public service. It is a contributing member of Brevard Emergency Amateur Radio Services (BEARS) and staffs ARES, RACES and other emergency and public service events. It conducts regular licensing classes and actively recruits new hams. The majority of its members are middle aged or older.

A large, active club like this seemed a natural place to seek new contesters. I gave a talk entitled "You don't have to be a BIG GUN to get a BANG out of Contesting!", and began a monthly newsletter column called "Contest Corner". When Special Events Chairman George Cannon, KF4XB, announced that he was looking for a contest event for the club, I suggested that the IRARC make the FQP a club event. Field Day Chairman Al Ruschel, N4TME, was hoping to train new operators before June, so the club combined the two efforts. The FQP would be a dress rehearsal for Field Day and a training session to learn the art of contesting. Steve Luchuk, N4UTQ, and I were designated co-chairmen for the event.

The IRARC had no suitable contesting software, so I donated CT. The team reserved Kiwanis Park for Saturday, 27 April, and secured the use of a BEARS communications van. Announcements were made at club meetings and in the newsletter for two months. My March and April columns encouraged everyone to come enjoy a Field Day warm up and contest clinic.

Shortly after 9AM the FD crew arrived and for a while I was optimistic that we would have a good turn-out for the contesting clinic. By noon, we put one station on the air only to discover that CT wouldn't take Florida counties as valid exchanges. By 1 PM we discovered that despite 100 watts and a 3 element beam at 30 feet, we could not make contacts on CW. We made only two QSOs in the first hour, but that was not the worst part.

Several of the FD crew left after installing antennas. They didn't want to operate a contest, just to practice for Field Day. Several others were QRP operators who set up their own stations on battery power and worked DX under their own calls rather than operating the club station, W4NLX, in the contest. Nobody wanted any contest training -- not even the operators of the contest station, which eventually switched to SSB and did manage to make over 150 QSOs before shutting down around 5 PM.



FCG member Frank Merceret, NA4CW, watches as Roy Hill, W6QCM, operates and Steve Luchuk, N4UTQ, logs on 20 CW. The Indian River Amateur Radio Club operated as W4NLX from the BEARS communications van in "Field Day" mode for the 2002 FQP. See story for details.

In retrospect, I should not have been surprised. During club meetings before the contest, I had spoken with many IRARC members. Most had no interest in contesting and many were downright hostile to it. Here are some of the frequent reasons I was given:

1. Contesting is boring. Every QSO is the same meaningless exchange. I got into ham radio to converse with people. "59 BRE" does not constitute a conversation.
2. Contesting is expensive and time consuming. I don't want to buy a logging program. I don't want to tie up a whole weekend. I have a life outside of ham radio.
3. I tried contesting. I only work CW, but contesters are too fast for me. I've gotten along fine at 15 WPM for forty years. You guys won't slow down so I quit trying.
4. Ham radio is a hobby -- I do it to relax. Contesting is too fast and too competitive. I like my hamming slow and friendly.

There are lessons to be learned here, and that's the only justification for this article. I consider this experiment a failure for which I am personally responsible. I am deeply disappointed that I was not able to be more effective in inspiring interest in contesting among fellow IRARC members. Nonetheless, the things listed in the previous paragraph may provide answers to some of the questions raised by OJ and the others on the FCG reflector as to why we don't have a larger Florida turnout for FQP. Here are some things I think I could have done better:

1. My enthusiasm for contesting seduced me into believing it is inherently interesting. Actually, nothing in life is interesting except to specific individuals based on their personal needs and values. We did not market the event to the values of the majority of the IRARC membership -- camaraderie and public service. We advertised that we would teach them to be better competitors without asking ourselves if they had any desire to be competitors. I think we would have done much better to stress the Field Day (cooperative emergency preparedness) aspect rather than the FQP (competitive) effort.

2. I emphasized preparation and planning (like ordering CT and making sure it was installed before the contest) and strategy (like what category should we enter). I assumed people would want to make a good score. I should have appealed to the actual values of the members by emphasizing the "fun in the sun" aspects. There is no point in worrying about the technical details of efficient contesting until you have at least a minimal interest in contesting. In this case, I knew too much for my own (and the club's) well being. I think we would have been more successful if I had been less concerned with doing things "right" and more concerned with having a good time.

3. Finally, The whole planning team relied on announcements at meetings plus the Newsletter to attract people to the event. It was totally passive, one way communication. If I ever do this again, I will strongly recommend that the organizing committee use the club roster to personally contact every member by email or phone well in advance. "Are you coming? Why not? What could we do to make it more appealing to you? Did you know that we are going to (here insert something of personal interest to that member)?"

I wish I had a happier story, one in which I could take pride, but this is the way it happened. I publish it anyway in the hope that my failure could lead to your success. I believe the concept was a good one, and I believe that we can learn enough from this first attempt for someone to do it successfully next time.

ARRL Expands Online Contest Coverage

The ARRL is proud to announce the introduction of expanded online coverage of ARRL contests effective April 19, 2002. The URL for expanded ARRL Contest coverage is <http://www.arrl.org/contests/results/>. ARRL staff members and volunteers have spent many months in planning and developing this expanded online resource to provide more detailed, in-depth coverage of ARRL events on the Web. Expanded ARRL Contest coverage online supplements coverage in QST.



Congrats to Dave N2NL for winning the NAQP SO CW Plaque for 2000. Note that this plaque is sponsored by FCG

Seen on the Reflector

When congratulated recently on his 50 year ARRL membership, Dick N4RP was observed to remark:

"What do you mean "50 Years" ????? 2002 minus 1933 is 69 !!!!! I think they had a fire in the old file room in Newington."

Congrats on 69 years Dick !

Correction

I omitted John K4WJ's score from the 10 Meter Results listed in last newsletter. Sorry John. His score was as follows.

Totals 10CW 564 564 2260 56 67

Final Score = 277,980 points.

FCG Wins Club Competition in TQP

FCG won first place in the Club Aggregate Total of the Texas QSO Party last year, we received a certificate recognizing that fact. Congrats to Dan, K1TO, Ed, KN4Y and Joe W4SAA for scoring an other FCG first!

FQP – 02 Pictures



Was this really NF4A /Mobile? Only Charlie knows for sure!



Jeff N4JT and Dale W4QM in front of Jeff's plane, which may become our first Aeronautical Mobile entry in next year's FQP (not signing N739XY/AM !)



N4BP/M parked in Desoto County (notice he's facing in the opposite direction –maybe signal is better off the back?)



The In - Vehicle Operating Table at K4FCG/M , manned by N4KM and K4OJ



Kevin, K4PG operating N4BP/M



*K4FCG/M
Main
Antenna*

New Member Comments

Ed Note: Below are some of the e-mail comments received from new members.

K1ZA

I'm a brand new member, so here's a little about me. Name is John Guida - call is K1ZA. I used to be NJ1V, and was given the nickname "Victor" by the old Murphy guys in CT, and that's still OK too. I live in Chelmsford MA, and work in downtown Boston, but I'm originally a Floridian (Ybor City and Tampa born and bred). My wife Ruthie and I bought 10 acres outside of Ocala last year, and plan to retire there in about two years. So I thought I would join up now and keep up with the FCG doings!

I have met some of the FCG bunch already at past Dayton conventions. And Dan K1TO is the guy I consider my "Elmer" and one of my best friends. I met Dan when we were working at the same company in Rocky Hill, CT in 1986, and I was just starting my amateur radio interest. Dan helped me through my studies and tests, INSISTED that I focus on CW, and introduced me to contesting. Lucky for me, or I might be rag chewing on the "Razor Back Net" on 80M!

I was pretty active in the 90s from QTHs in Texas and Oklahoma as NJ1V, especially in SS. Due to a very demanding job, however, I have been inactive since we moved here in 1999. But I hope that will all change when we head South in 2004!

I have followed the recent activity of the FCG with interest, and I look forward to participating in your group!
CU in Dayton Zed A
John Guida K1ZA (ex. NJ1V)

KA6R

I've been doing contests for about a year now. This is one facet of ham radio I have never really been involved with before and I'm having a blast. It's infectious!! My main reason for joining the FCG is to associate with hams who have the same interest in contesting. I'm hoping to learn more about operating techniques and equipment optimized for contests.

I don't have much of an antenna farm up in the air but I've got some good stuff on the ground that I'll be spending the summer getting up in the air.

Currently my antenna's are 160M dipole, 80M Inverted Vee, 40M Inverted Vee, 30M Inverted Vee, and an R-5 for 20-10M. On the ground I've got a KT-34A and a HY-GAIN 3 Band 2 Element QUAD that needs refurbishing. I also have

enough Rohn 25G to put up two 70 foot towers.

As far as contest rigs are concerned I have an IC-756ProII and an IC-751A. No linears. I have been using TRLog for the computer software and I like it a lot. I looked at the other software and ended up with this due to some of the parsing capabilities it has. I also like the idea of running things in DOS to keep the CPU speed requirements down to a reasonable cost level.

Hope to have an eyeball soon.....73 Ben

WD4OAY

Ed Note : We put together a new member survey to help the club gather info on our new members. Below is our first response from Chris WD4OAY. Chris works with the Florida Highway Patrol.

WD4OAY - Same call since originally licensed

Yr first licensed: Can't Remember - I was in Jr High so mid to late 70's

Yrs in FL:40 (All my life!)

Other clubs that you are a member of: ARRL (Official Observer), 10-10 International #62640, Dade Radio Club of Miami, Flying Pig's QRP Club

Favorite modes: SSB, PSK

Favorite contests: ARRL International DX Contest SSB, Russian DX Contest, CQ WWDX Contest

Current equipment: Yaesu FT-101E, Yaesu FT-817, Radio Shack HTX-10 mobile in Patrol Car

Current antennas: 10-Meter dipole, shortly to put up new 80-10 dipole

How did you find out about the FCG?: from the SFDXA

Any skills/interests that you might share with the group? A+ Certified, computers, QRP operation
Just getting back into contesting since the early 90s (Hurricane Andrew really wrecked my station and my house).

Chris Veverka

wd4oay@bellsouth.net

DXCC, WAC, QRP International 1000 miles per Watt club.



Dayton Pictures

FCG Group Picture

Left to Right, (regardless of row)

K4WA, K4RX, W4UM, W3AZD, NS4W, K1TO, KE1F, N4GM, K1ZA, NF4A, KU4TF

N4OO and WD4JR (below) as well as W4SLR missed out on the group picture



Don W3AZD, Mike W4UM, Victor K1ZA, Grant N4GM



Terry, K4RX - Ink N4OO



Dan, K1TO Ulysses, NS4W and Eric, KU4TF



Julio WD4JR at the Slot Machines in Dayton, (after spending all his money at the hamfestr). (And I've been trying to convince the XYL that all they have is Ham Radio stuff at Dayton.) Right!



*Left: CW Pileup Competition Pictures at Dayton Crowne Plaza Hotel - 2002
Far Side L-R: Doug, K1DG; Doug, W9WI; FCG'S own Charlie, NF4A.
Near Side L-R: John, W2GD; Bob, N5NJ; Fred, K3ZO.*

WPX CW FCG Claimed Scores

NF4A (N4PN)	SO AB LP 2156 781 35	4,353,294
N4IG	SO AB LP 1146 533 33	1,578,213
NK4A (NF4A)	SO AB LP 1013 499 16	1,221,552
N4KW	SO AB LP 560 358	532,704
KE1F	SO AB LP 532 319	406,406
KB4N	SO AB LP 271 202 6	139,380
W7QF	SO AB LP	86041
WD4AHZ	SO AB LP 1103 514 231	387,286 T/S
KU3O	SO AB LP 235 186 15	101,370 T/S
NS4CG(W4EBA)	SO AB LP 206 164	83,968 T/S
NA4CW	SO AB LP 127 112	33,824 T/S
K4LQ	SO AB HP 422 337 13	373,396
W7QF	SO AB HP 173 139	86,041
K5KG	SO AB HPA 2227 806 366	6,347,250
AF1Z (K1PT)	SO AB HPA 422 337 24	3,685,461
KG0Z (W4ZW)	SO AB HPA 817 443 13	822,208
W4SAA	SO AB HP 1224 552 34	1,821,600 T/S
KW4CW (N4BP)	SO HP 10M 954 502 28	1,054,200
KN4Y	SO LP 10M 323 210 30	112,560
WK4R (N2NL)	SO HP 40M 561 363	812,757
WC4E	M/M 5205 1095 48	13,995,195
(OPs: K1TO,K4FB,K4OJ,N4GI,N4KM,T93M,W1CW,W1YL,WC4E)		
KZ4DX(@N4TO) M/S	3199 952 48	7,785,456
(OPs: K1TO,K4LQ,N4TO,W4IR,W4QM)		
NP4Z(+NP3A) M/S	4290 950 46	12,209,400



Kevin, N4KM—Jim K4OJ operating WC4E M/M at the W1YL QTH



Danny, T93M at WC4E M/M



Jeff, WC4E at WC4E M/M

Claimed Rankings:

- NF4A (N4PN) # 1 USA
- WD4AHZ # 3 USA
- K5KG # 1 USA
- W4SAA # 7 USA
- KW4CW # 1 USA
- KN4Y # 1 USA
- WK4R # 2 USA
- WC4E # 1 USA
- KZ4DX # 5 USA
- NP4Z # 3 World



Dale , W4QM at KZ4DX M/S



Dan, K1TO at KZ4DX M/S



Blake N4GI relaxed between operating stints at WC4E/MM

WPX SSB FCG Claimed Scores

SOABHP				
WK4R(K4XS)	4135	1101	36	11,239,008
WC4E	3480	960	35	8,031,345
NS4W(@N4TO)	3442	974	36	7,592,330
KG4FPK(K4VUD)	1204	575	14	2,073,450
W7QF				213,360

SOABHP (A)				
K5KG	456	342		361,152

SO AB LP				
N4IG	1045	538	34	1,459,594
NJ2F	781	431		784,851
WR4BSA (W4EBA)	165	141	6	53,721
KK4TA	515	337		415,858

WQ4U(N4PK)(10M)	76	73	1.5	12,264
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M/S NF4A(@N4PN)	4248	1173	47	12,038,499
Ops: N4PN,N4OX,KB4ET,K4WA,NF4A				

SO AB (TS) LP				
W4SAA	861	482		1,090,766
KG4FPJ(N4GI)	500	337		366,656
KB4N	201	159		82,680

SO HP 10M				
N4BP	1650	704		2,788,275

Claimed Rankings:

WK4R	# 3 USA
WC4E	#10 USA
NS4W	#13 USA
N4IG	# 6 USA
W4SAA	# 6 USA
N4BP	# 3 USA

(From the President's Corner - Continued from Page 2)

Being in between travel assignments at the moment has given me the false sense of "bandwidth" and I am vigorously attacking projects at home that include revamping my yagis and may even include a new tower this fall. I'm determined to put that lightning strike behind me once and for all...

Enjoy the well-written and interesting autobio from Byron, W4EBA this time around and then consider writing your own for the next issue, please.

Hope everyone had a shot at working FCGer Steve, K4WA at Pratas-BQ9P.

See you at Vic's and beyond and have fun at Field Day, in IARU/WRTC and in the NAQPs!

vy 73, Dan

ARRL Contest Rate Sheet Available

Ed. Note: ARRL now offers a bi-weekly e-mail newsletter with up to date contest information. Further info below:

THE ARRL CONTEST RATE SHEET is published every other Wednesday (26 times each year), by the American Radio Relay League--The National Association For Amateur Radio--225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259. Editor: Ward Silver, N0AX.

The ARRL Contest Rate Sheet offers a useful source of timely information for both the active and casual contester. The Rate Sheet includes information about events during the following two-week period, time-sensitive news items, upcoming deadlines, and other news of interest to contesters.

The ARRL Contest Rate Sheet is available to ARRL members via email free of charge directly from ARRL HQ.

ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site, <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet.

ARRL members may subscribe to the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet by going to the Member Data Page at: <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html?modify=1> Note that you must be logged in to the site to access this page. Scroll down to the section "Which of the following would you like to receive automatically via email from ARRL?" Check the box for "ARRL Contest Rate Sheet (biweekly contest newsletter)" and you're all set.

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