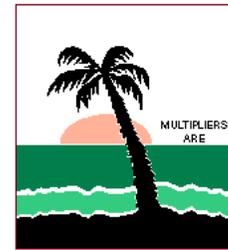


Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group



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June 2003

From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO



What a roller coaster this thing called life is! The past few months have given us a few of the extreme ups and downs. Up-pers included a terrific FQP with record levels of participation, a WPX CW weekend that worked well here in FL, SS results showing the FCG as the #2 Medium club in the USA, ARRL 10M results with the FCG WINNING the Medium Class competition, the phone call from K3EST announcing my election to the CQ-Contest Hall of Fame, and Dayton itself.

But losing W3AU helped us all put things in perspective. The recollections of K3ZO (reprinted in this issue), K7SV and others only begin to scratch the surface of Ed's impact on ham radio contesting. Sometimes, it's not doing things yourself that helps out the most, but rather laying the foundation so that others may participate, benefit and blossom. In a way, Ed's approach to contesting mirrors our FCG philosophy: Help each other out, pool our efforts together, and have fun doing it. We'll miss you, OM.

Yes, the FCG WON the 10-Meter Contest! Thanks to everyone who contributed to our effort – we ran away with it. And this comes while there are still some sunspots around. I seem to recall that this club was winning this contest back in the doldrums of the sunspot cycle with a small fraction of the membership we have now. However, with our expanding ranks, we may actually have enough entries in December to push us into the Unlimited Club category.

This year's FQP was remarkable in several ways. First of all, we set a record with 447 logs received last year. Well, this year the count is 658, with a

few stragglers that could add to that total! The increase came across the board, from mobiles to in-state and out-of-state fixed stations. Secondly, with greatly reduced sunspots, the winning totals are up in almost every category! Also, it appears that we will be partnering with K8CC (author of the NA contest logging program) for some log checking software this year. Dave has been a long-time supporter of the FQP, having written a free logger that is in wide use and getting on himself to join the fun for a while. Dave's software is used to check logs in other contests including the ARRL 10-Meter Contest and the MI QP.

Field Day is rapidly approaching. Once again, the FCG will join forces with the Sarasota Emergency Radio Club for a 3A effort. Last year, without emphasizing the competitive aspect of FD, we finished 2nd in the USA in 3A! The Get-On-The-Air station will again be a focal point of this year's FD

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effort. If you have interest in joining us, contact WD4AHZ or me for details. Many other FCCGers will be out for FD as well. Several had top-placing scores as well last year. Florida is usually a great place for FD propagation – we just need to hope for good wx.

Welcome aboard to our newest members. WW4E is in the shadows of N4WW's antenna farm and will no doubt benefit from Doc's guidance. George and Mary are very accomplished county hunters (one of them has worked all counties 5 times!) and are very enthusiastic FQP supporters, having run a multi-multi this year! AA4RX was at the Dayton Contest Dinner and decided to see what the sea of orange shirts at the front of the room was all about and ended up joining us then! Also welcome to K4PV.

I want to thank the members of the FCCG again for my generous nomination to the Contesting Hall of Fame. It's quite an honor indeed to join an illustrious group of accomplished testers – W3AU among them. The club aspect of contesting has been a big part for me and I really appreciate K4OJ's efforts in getting the FCCG started so I could gently help to push it ahead! The support from those at Dayton (and many others who could not make it, but sent along their regards) was just tremendous – thanks again, everyone!

CU all on the air for FD and IARU, and hopefully in person at the Vicnic. GO FCCG! RIP, Ed.

Vy 73, Dan



Dan at Dayton, before "suing up" for the HOF Presentation at the Contest Banquet

Welcome Aboard



WW4E - Jay Tindall, 1213 Foxfire Drive, Apopka FL 32712
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N3ISH - George Tomlinson, 103 Jasmine Ln, Naples FL
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K4PV - Jim Dunbar, 6771 Le Grande Court, Milton FL
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AA4RX - Howard Roux, 152 Coral Vine Drive, Naples FL
34140 e-mail: conchman@mindspring.com

Ed. Note: Much to the delight of FCCGers the announcement below appeared on our club reflector in mid-April.

Congratulations Dan, from all of us!

K1TO named to Contest Hall of Fame

Dear Fellow Testers,

It is with pleasure that CQ announces two new additions to the Contest Hall of Fame. Ken Keeler, N6RO and Dan Street, K1TO. Both have contributed on a broad scale to our sport. Also officially receiving his Hall of Fame plaque will be Leif, OZ1LO who was elected last year but could not attend.

The official presentation will be made at the Dayton contest banquet on Saturday, May 17th.

The new member of the DX Hall of Fame is James Brooks, 9V1YC. In addition to supporting/attending many rare DXpeditions, James has uniquely contributed his expertise to create video documentaries, thus bringing the DX experience to a wide audience.

Congratulations to the new members!

73

Bob, K3EST

Chairman CQ Contest and DX Hall of Fame

Dayton Pictures



Above: Dan K1TO receives CQ Contest Hall of Fame Award 2003 from Bob K3EST



Top - Dan displays "Mutant Operator" FCG Shirt that he has just received from K4OJ on behalf of the FCG
Middle - L - R: Leif, OZ1LO, Ken, N6RO, Dan, K1TO, Rich, KL7RA



Left: FCG Gang celebrates behind the new FCG Banner.

L to R: Lou KE1F, Rich K4LOG, Ron WD4AHZ, Jim K4OJ, Charlie NF4A and Ink N4OO. The gentleman in the blue shirt to the right has not been identified.

Ed Note: Tnx to all who provided pictures for this issue, including K4LOG, K5KG, K8CX KB4ET, KE1F, W1YL, W3TMZ, W4OV, W4ZW



Left, L – R
Bernie W3UR
Steve W4DTA
Marti OH2BH



Left - Dan K1TO with
John K1ZA. Dan was
John's Elmer back in
CT many years ago.
Right Jodi VP5JM with
Steve W4DTA.



L -- R:
K4WJ
W4DTA
W4UM
W4SLR
Elizabeth
XYL -W4DTA
Susan
XYL-K4WJ



L - A phalanx of
orange shirts!
K4OJ WD4AHZ
K4LOG KE1F
NF4A



L—R:
Bob
W3GH,
Dave
KB4ET,
Paul
N4PN



Left:
Dave W4DN

Right:
Grant N4GM



L-R: T93M, W3AZD, WB3ANE, W4UM, K4OJ, KB4ET, W4DTA, K4LOG, K1TO, WD4AHZ, W4DN, NF4A, N4OO, N4PN, W4ZW, K4RX



Dan K1TO - Tim K3LR



Jim K40J addresses the Contest Dinner



Hope WB3ANE and Don W3AZD



Charlie NF4A and Dave KB4ET



Andy K2LE and Lou KE1F



Facing camera L - R Boris T93Y, FCger Danny T93M

Dayton 2003 de K4OJ

Ed Note: The following is part of an article by Jim K4OJ describing activities at Dayton. It can be read in it's entirety on the FCG Reflector. Because of the multiple inputs for this newsletter, I have eliminated all but the parts describing FCG related activities there.

Friday - I got up and went down to the Super Suite to be its first "customer" -slowly those who were NOT going to the DX dinner - and those who wanted a shorter drink line - came into the suite and a table formed. As the tables started filling up and friendships were renewed a common theme emerged... a lot of the guys had had a great time in the FQP and they all talked about what a great job the FCG was doing - excellent. Included in that crew was W8MJ one of our biggest FQP supporters.

Saturday - The contest forum started with a presentation by N6TR, this years Dayton Hamvention Ham of the Year, on how the contest robots work and what it is looking for in the Cabrillo (Ka Brie Oh) format - it was a very good presentation which seems very timely now that almost everyone is using e-mail attachments to submit their logs. The do's and don'ts were very nicely covered.

ARRL Contest Manager Dan, N1ND was next and he talked about the state of the new web coverage of contesting - emphasizing how more editorial space is now available for contest write-up summaries since the line scores are no longer in QST. He also talked about how the number of entrants continues to rise. The single biggest contest as far as logs submitted to the ARRL is the ARRL 10 meter contest - I HOPE ALL FCGers JUST READ THAT - THIS DECEMBER I HOPE WE ALL WILL BE FULL BORE FOR THE ARRL 10 Meter Contest... N1ND said something like 4000 logs were received this past year for the 10 meter contest!

The next presentation was on the PJ2T operation and how the old QTH of W1BIH has been brought back to life after being abandoned for several years - it had been taken over by lizards and critters! Shots taken during last falls CQ WW SSB Multi-Two effort were shown including the one two duo of our own WC4E and K1AR... he played a brief audio clip of 'AR running stations and the hairs on my arms started standing up on end - too bad this was SSB!

The WRTC 2002 Video was viewed and then it was time to head back to the hotel to get cleaned up for the contest dinner... as the contest forum broke up N6TR told us he had a special parking space as Ham of the Year, honest! .

I had forewarned several of the FCG guys that we wanted to be at the doors the moment they opened for the banquet... WD4AHZ, K4LOG, KE1F, NF4A and I all literally ran toward the front of the room to grab three tables to reserve seating for potential FCGers and friends of K1TO. We ended up with two tables worth - mostly in Orange FCG attire.

A moment of silence was called for W1CW, W3AU and other testers now SK by master of ceremonies K3LR (K1AR was celebrating his 25th anniversary and was conspicuously absent).

Yes, it WAS a lousy banquet meal, but have you ever had a good one? Featured speaker was KL7RA who clearly was humbled to be in front of the crowd. The best part of Rich's talk was about his being a Purple Heart Contester... he then proceeded to tell how he not only crushed an arm on a crank-up tower but described what it looks like falling off same!

Along with current inductees to the Contest HOF N6RO and K1TO was last years inductee OZ1LO who could not attend last year but accepted his plaque this year... I wonder how many times I have worked Leif!

N6RO was inducted, with an introduction by K6AW and then it was Toad Time....

I basically read the nomination the FCG had submitted to CQ for nomination of K1TO. I presented Dan with a special FCG shirt with "Mutant Operator" across the back and then John, ex NJ1V followed. NJ1V's elmer was K1TO... he had worked with Dan up in Connecticut and when he learned Dan was a ham had asked for guidance from him. "Victor" proceeded to gently prod Dan with his comments leading up to his recalling how he needed a feedline for his antenna but wasn't quite sure what to do... Dan had told him to bring the coax, connectors soldering iron and solder to work and he would show him how a PL259 was installed onto RG58. As he was closing his comments, "Victor" opened a plastic bag he had brought with him to the podium and inside was the coax Dan had helped him with years before... he told Dan he wanted to give it to him but had one question.... "what is the piece for?" - there was an extra outer PL259 cover on the coax :-) [this had to be seen - sorry - trust me the house roared!]

Next up was Rus, K2UA who is a very close friend of Dan's... Dan was his best man and is Godfather to Russ' daughter. Rus also gently ribbed Dan and ended his speech with a tape recorded message to Dan from his God daughter "Uncle Dan - You Da Man" - Rus then encouraged the whole room to join him in saying You Da Man Uncle Dan!

A lot of prizes were offered up, I saw Papa Novembah received one but did not spot any other FCGers that hit "gold"...

After the dinner broke up everyone wanted to have an audience with HOfer K1TO and eventually we were able to pry him free for a photo shoot -several shots were taken of FCG members with Dan standing behind our brand new club banner [by the way - nice job indeed K5KG/K0LUZ]...

The banner was then hung on the wall over the foyer entry to the "Miami Room" where the contest super suite is... lots of pictures of members with the banner were taken... I dragged N6RO up to the 5th floor and took the pileup tape along with Ken and four other lost souls - I think I did pretty good but know I did not win a prize, full results for the test should be on the internet sometime this week.

The FCG's W1CW Memorial Fund furnished pizza for the Contest Super Suite at midnight - never before have I seen such a hoard. The previous night YCCC had bought 20 pies for the suite and they went quickly... I opted for 25 pies and in six minutes time they were history... 200 slices in 6 minutes.... poof - gone! I could not get the empty boxes off the table fast enough! Several hams contributed to the fund and thanks to some dickering by yours truly the cost was roughly half of the anticipated damage!

I bounced around the suites for a while and as we entered the wee hours of Sunday AM N0AX was coerced into telling some jokes... N6RO, K4WA and N6MZ joined him and I through one in as well... N6RO then disappeared - someone said that he had teamed up with K4RO and AA4NC who both a blue grass fans and they had hijacked 'RO, who plays banjo, and taken him to a club where they were all going to play - I have not verified this yet but if it had happened I would loved to have heard them go at it!

The crowd in 1201 thinned and most of the remaining were getting REALLY silly so I decided it was time to call it quits for Dayton '03 good bye

Other FCGers I saw off the top of my head included: N4OO, K4RX, W4ZW, KU4TF, W3AZD, WB3ANE, W4UM, W4SLR, W4DTA, K9VV and I'm sure I have forgotten someone...

Hope everyone's ears were burning - the FCG was a hot topic at Dayton this year!

73,
Jim, K4OJ

A few comments from Dayton to add to the excellent narrative OJ

Dayton 2003 de W4ZW

has done.

I flew to visit my mother in Owensboro, KY and drove into Dayton very late Thursday night.

I was at Hara at 8:00AM to try and get a jump on the crowd. I found a few interesting things. High Sierra now has a better, silent motor and their screw driver is now rated at 1KW. I have one of the older ones and it is the best mobile antenna I've ever used. I saw two different booths with auto-tuners for the screwdrivers for use with ICOM 706's.

One booth had a multi-band mobile antenna a la a miniature Cushcraft R-7 with trombone traps. According to the vendor good for 40 thru 2M without changing coils/traps.

SteppIR had their new 4 element on display outside in the flea market area. Impressive antenna. Brings to mind the KT36XA with only 4 elements. I have my 3 el SteppIR still in the box since I've not had time to install it yet.

ICOM was showing their new IC-7800 which is the follow-on to the IC-781. Looked to me like two Xcvrs in one giant (heavy) cabinet with a multicolor LCD screen in the center. Take two Xcvrs and wedge them on either side of your computer and you get the idea. They were quoting a 110 db dynamic range with AI techniques that auto select filter/DSP settings based on mode and selectivity you set. The rep said they had no pricing but he expected it to be around \$10,000.

Yaesu was showing their new FT-8x7 models. I have to admit that the FT-857 was so sexy I was briefly tempted to buy one with the new ATAS-120 antenna system. And of course, it was de rigueur to be at Dayton to get the Yaesu hat.

TenTec was showing their new Orion xcvr which was impressive. Not the colored LCD and bells and whistles of some of the Japanese rigs, but I was impressed with the features and specs.

ACOM had a prototype high power (2-3KW) automatic antenna tuner on display. It was built like a tank and Will guessed it would be priced well over \$10,000. They also were showing a new Log periodic antenna, also built like a tank.

I spent some time at WriteLog. I complained that I had bought their program about four years ago and it couldn't send fluent CW. I had spent some time with the guys trying to fix it, but I gave up and went with TRLog. They assured me that it now works great with their W5XD SO2R/keyer unit. So I bought one. Pretty slick unit that gives you full SO2R all under software control from within WriteLog. Even the audio can be mixed/separated inside the program. I was helped by a friendly guy who happened by and started extolling the unit and software, explaining how pleased he was with his when I looked at his name tag and saw it was my old friend Eric, K3NA, whom I had never met.

I switched to Russian and he was baffled for an instant until he realized who I was. Eric was in and out of Moscow during the time I was there and we've worked each other a zillion times. We both race catamarans and know the same people, but had never met face to face. This is one of the great facets of our hobby!

I bought the start of a new computer since they had the new INTEL 875 mobo's and the new 800 FSB CPU chips at very good prices.

Vice Admiral (3 stars) Scott Redd, K0DQ, gave a funny, interesting, and riveting talk about his years of ham radio in the halls of power at the DX dinner Friday night. Great speaker. I also won one of the door prizes. I think I've won a prize at the DX dinner every year I've gone.

The highlight of Dayton this year was, as Jim pointed out, the induction of our own Toad into the Contesting Hall of Fame. All those orange shirts up front made a statement about Mutant Dan and his FCG. It good to see so many FCGers there for Dan's award.

I also received a lot of compliments and kudos about our FQP from many contesters. I also have pictures which I sending to Fred to see if he wants to use any of them in the newsletter.

73,

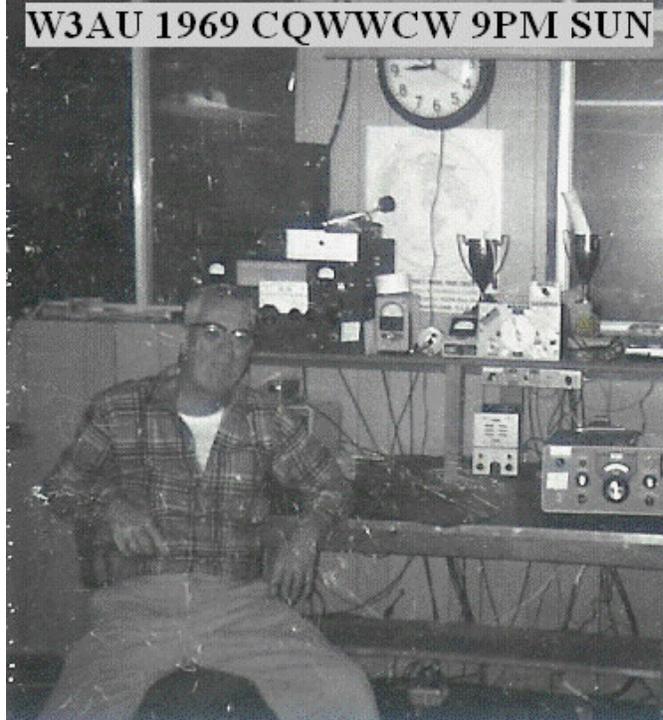
Jon Hamlet, W4ZW
Casey Key Island, FL

Ed Bissell W3AU SK

Ed Bissell, W3AU, SK: Well-known contester Ed Bissell, W3AU (ex-W3MSK), of Brooksville, Florida, died May 10. He was 83. *The Daily DX* reports that in his heyday Bissell, an ARRL Charter Life Member, ran the world's top multi-multi contest station in Accokeek, Maryland, on the shore of the Potomac River just south of Washington, DC. Many of the top contesters in the US got their start in serious contesting at W3MSK/W3AU. *The Daily DX* says the list includes K1AR, K3EST, N4IN, K7SV, N4KG, W8CQN, W3TMZ, N4RV and K3RV, among others. Contester and former ARRL Midwest Division Director Lew Gordon, K4VX, called Bissell "certainly a force in contesting for decades." Remarked Larry Schimelpfenig, K7SV, who honed his contesting skills at W3MSK/W3AU, "I don't know if contesting would have the same place in my heart if it hadn't been for the time Ed allowed me to spend with him and the crew. He was a great man and a great friend." Photos of the station in operation in the 1960s from the K7SV collection are available on the Potomac Valley Radio Club Web site. A service was set for Saturday, May 17, 2 PM, at Merritt Funeral Home, US 41 and Lemon Avenue, Brooksville, Florida. Condolences go to Grace Bissell, 7080 High Corner Rd, Brooksville, FL 34602.

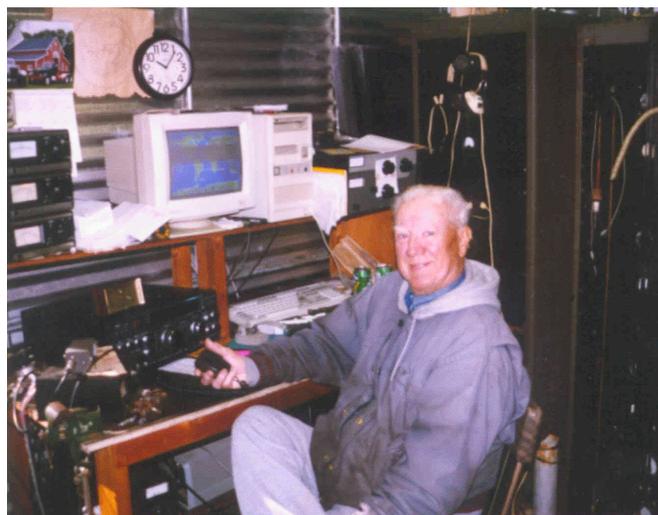


W3AU Shack Pictures



The above photo of Ed in his shack in 1969 is taken from the PVRC web page.

The photo below was taken by Jack W3TMZ in Ed's Brooksville FL shack in 1998. In the back are three racks with 4-1000A finals. (Tnx W3TMZ)



The photo to the left was taken at Ed's memorial service. It shows two of his most prized possessions, his Pioneer of Rocket Exploration Plaque from NASA, and his CQ Contest Hall of Fame Plaque. (Tnx W1YL)

Remembering Ed Bissell

By Fred Laun K3ZO

Ed note: Reprinted from the CQ-Contest Reflector by permission of K3ZO

I am sure that the news that Ed Bissell, W3AU, ex-W3MSK, had died on May 10 at the age of 83 made a lot of people in the Amateur Radio contesting world take a few minutes to stop and think. Ed, CQ Contest Hall of Fame Member #10, touched the lives of quite a few of today's active contesters, giving a number of them their first chance to enter the world of big-time multi-multi contesting. This writer was one of them.

It has been my sad experience in recent years to see one after another of those on my personal list of heroes pass from the scene. I feel that it is appropriate on such occasions to pause for a bit to record for posterity's sake remembrances of these folks so that something about them will be available on the Web long after they and those who knew them pass from the scene. K7SV and KC1F have already begun this process, so let me add some of my fond memories of Ed to theirs. Time has blurred some of my memories so I will not attempt to assign a time frame to them in all cases. Any of the rest of you who have memories of Ed, please post them here. No one person can do justice to the multi-faceted, colorful personality that was Ed Bissell.

I first met Ed not long after I moved to the Washington area from Wisconsin in 1963 as W9SZR to work for the Government. I joined PVRC almost immediately, and since all I had with me was an SR-150 in my car with a home-brew HF mobile whip, and since I had done reasonably well in CW DX contests as SOHP from the station of W9EWC, at one time or another I was invited to join the multi-multi teams at both W3MSK and W4BVV, the two biggest multi-multi teams PVRC had at the time. W4KXV (now N4RP) was another multi-multi available to PVRCers at that time.

Since I had joined the U. S. Foreign Service I operated at Ed's or at Tom's off and on for several years following, on brief stints back in Washington in between my overseas assignments at HI8XAL, HS3AL, HS5ABD, XV4AL and LU5HFI, until I bought my own place here in 1975 and proceeded to erect my own antenna farm. Much of the inspiration for having my own antenna farm built came from Tom and Ed as well as Len Chertok, W3GRF. Sadly, all three have now left us.

I recall that we would all arrive at Ed's on Friday afternoon in order to sit around his dinner table while his XYL Grace served a sumptuous meal before the contest began. While we ate Ed would chair a planning session during which we

reviewed what conditions would probably be like and how we would plan to cope with them. In those days we didn't have anything to go on but WWV which would transmit a series of numbers in Morse which told us how good or bad things were predicted to be for the following several hours.

Then it was into the big shack to take up our assigned positions and get ready for 0000Z Saturday to arrive. Ed had homebrew amplifiers for each band which were lined up along one wall, and a fair collection of Collins and Central Electronics exciters and Collins receivers, augmented by the rigs of many of the operators who would bring their own rigs along with them. As I recall most of the time Bob Cox, K3EST, ran the operation, assigning the bands to the operators and forcing us to keep things moving as the contest went on. When I first operated W3MSK Don McClennon, W3EIS, later W3IN and N4IN, had a lock on the 160 meter position; I don't recall who had 80; Jack Colson, W3TMZ, ran 40 meters; K3EST and Jack Reichert, W3ZKH, now N4RV, jointly manned 20; "Big Charlie" Weir, W3FYS, later W6UA, ran 15 and, in phone contests, Don Search, W3AZD was the 10 meter man. Ed himself would fill in only when a position would otherwise remain unmanned; he preferred either 160 or 10 meters; he felt his job was to keep the hardware side of the operation running smoothly. If an antenna or rotor problem cropped up, Ed would climb a tower to fix it no matter what the weather, or no matter what the time of day or night. If there was an operator to two to spare, they would go out to help Ed from the ground. If not, Grace would generally fill that assignment herself. I can remember once going out in the dark to help move an 80 meter sloper around in an effort to get a CE1 who was not answering our calls, and the move was successful! Others who filled in where needed as I did were Carl Kratzer, WA3HRV, now K3RV, who eventually became the main 40 meter operator; "Little Charlie" Weir, W6HOH/W3NPZ, now W6UM; Bob Morris, W4MYA; and Gene Zimmerman, K1ANV, now W3ZZ. I'm sure I have left a few out as I was not in the area very much during my early years in the foreign service. On one occasion a fresh-faced 16-year-old whose call is now K3LR came down from the Pittsburgh area to see what big-time contesting was like at W3MSK. Another op who spent some time sitting in Ed's operating chairs was the legendary Don Riebhoff, K7CBZ/K7ZZ, of XU1DX, HS3DR and CT4AT fame.

A new arrival to operate at W3MSK would be overwhelmed by the tall towers sticking up through the trees on Ed's heavily-wooded lot, which supported such monstrosities as a 5-el 40 meter Yagi, 7-el Yagis on 20 and 15, maybe 10-el on 10 - - I don't recall -- as well as a 2-el Yagi on 80 and wires for 160 and for receiving snaking through the trees in all directions. Ed's QTH was very close to the Potomac River and the towers and antennas could easily be seen from the other side of the river at Mount Vernon, VA, which had been President George Washington's residence in days of yore.

Ed's QTH was so situated that when we beamed "over the Pole" into Asia we beamed right up the Potomac River which we felt gave us a big advantage over the competition in that direction, though we couldn't always beat the legendary W3CRA in pile-ups on Asians.

At the end of the contest Ed would usually come to my operating position with a potent highball to celebrate the successful completion of yet another contest, and "bottoms-up" it was.

The principal competition in those days for W3MSK was the big installation in Tuxedo Park, NY of Buzz Reeves, K2GL. At that time, hard as it is to believe now, all of the W1's thought we had a big propagation advantage over them because they thought they were too close to the North Pole during disturbed conditions. As I recall the story, a group of W1's surreptitiously drove down to observe Ed's operation to try to figure out what his secrets of success were. After being parked along the road next to Ed's lot for some time they were accosted by a county cop who told them: "You can't park here --- CIA!"

They needn't have been so secretive about their visit, for Ed's door was always open to ham visitors and no appointment was necessary. I recall that at the height of the 1968 riots following Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, when much of downtown Washington was put to the torch, it fell to me to pick up Dick Klein, K9OPF, later K4GKD, an old pal from Wisconsin who was at that very moment arriving by train at Union Station in downtown Washington to go to work for the Government. I was an apartment dweller in suburban Virginia at the time and the direct route from my place to the train station forced me to thread my way through smoky streets where cars had been abandoned by their owners who had been caught in the traffic jam created by the riots and were desperate to get out of town and to safety. After picking Dick up the only place I could think of which might provide a safe haven for us without requiring me to drive back through the danger zone was Ed's, so Dick and I promptly headed there where Ed gave Dick a warm welcome to Washington and assured him that the city was not normally in such turmoil.

At one point there developed a nasty line noise and Ed, after some searching, located the offending pole. Each time the noise popped up again, Ed would hand a big sledgehammer to an operator who was unoccupied at the moment and instruct him to drive down and hit the pole until, listening on the car's radio, the noise stopped.

In the effort to compete with K2GL, W4BVV and W3MSK decided it would be a good idea to join forces in pooling information and converted some old command sets to 147.00 MHz. where DX spots were passed from one station to the other. This may very well have been the pioneer spotting net in the history of contesting.

To this day the frequency which most PVRC'ers in the Washington area use when driving to and from work is the repeater whose output frequency is 147.00, K3WX, whose owner, Tony Faiola, is a long-time PVRC member.

Ed was one of a number of PVRC testers who came to the Washington area to work for the U.S. Naval Research Lab (NRL), and it was no coincidence that a lot of contest sites in those days were located just south of the District of Columbia in Maryland, not far from the Potomac River, an easy commute to the NRL HQ along the Potomac River in Southeast DC. Before Ed moved to his eventual QTH in Accokeek, he had rolled up some big single-op scores from a hilltop in Forest Heights, MD. My QTH, by the way, is in the same general area.

When NASA was formed to run the U.S. space program, the new agency raided NRL for a lot of its initial scientists and engineers, and Ed was one of them, as was his boss at the time, Karl Medrow, W3MCG, later W3FA, who was also a PVRC member and later erected a multi-multi of his own. Ed eventually became NASA's liaison to the Indian space program, and made many a trip to the Indian spaceport at Trivandrum, where he developed lasting personal friendships with other Indian hams including VU2JN and VU2PKK. In recent years, after retiring to Florida and assembling yet another super antenna farm with the assistance of Pete Raymond, N4KW, Ed had kept regular daily CW and SSB skeds with Jayram and Kutty and others out there, as well as weekly skeds with W6UM and other of his former ops. He was in reasonably good health and regularly active up until about three months before his death.

Since Ed traveled so much to India at that time, he was the principal driving force in the effort to establish a reciprocal operating agreement with India following the passage of the Goldwater bill which made such agreements possible, and he was the first American licensed under the agreement, holding the call VU2MSK for many years.

So Ed, mentor to so many budding testers, inventor of so many multi-multi procedures and techniques, we loved ya, man, and we'll miss ya. If you ever learn how to communicate back here from the fifth dimension, give us a call.

In fond remembrance,

Fred Laun, K3ZO

Right: Ed proudly displays his CQ Contest Hall of Fame Plaque after it was presented to him by K1TO at an FCG meeting three years ago at Brooksville.



WPX CW Claimed Scores

CALL	QSOs	Mult	Score	Category	Operator
J7A	3379	963	8,566,138	SOABHP	K5KG
NE4AA	3202	840	7,698,600	SOABHP	K1TO
NK4A	2320	791	4,284,847	SOABHP	N4PN
WC4E	2300	724	4,144,176	SOABHP	
W1MO	1511	598	1,984,164	SOABHP	
W4QM	1267	536	1,600,000	SOABHP	
WW4CW	614	344	523,568	SOABHP	K4WJ
KG0Z	256	189	142,884	SOABHP	W4ZW
NF4A	663	362	549,878	SOABLP	
K4GKD	401	260	270,400	SOABLP	
KB4N	300	220	154,660	SOABLP	
K4LW	200	162	75,816	SOABLP	
WD4AHZ	1334	535	1,521	SO(TS)ABLP	
KG4FPJ	1006	451	1,058,497	SO(TS)ABLP	N4GI
KW4CW	835	411	844,194	SO(TS)ABLP	
K4FK	425	356	372,344	SO(TS)ABLP	K9AW
WX4CW	632	352	498,874	SOAB(A) HP	W4ARM
KE1F	272	207	133,308	SOAB(A) LP	
NN4N	746	444	1,248,548	SOSB40OLP	W4SO
NO4S	526	341	637,670	SOSB40LP	K9OW
K1UM	539	363	482,427	SOSB15LP	
K4MM	118	110	27,390	SOSB15LP	
K9ES	1707	689	2,852,460	M/S	K9ES, K4QD
K4NNN	1589	613	2,524,334	M/S	K4OJ, K4FB, W1YL
W4YA	63		10,059		
HS0ZCW	134				K4VUD
Club Total:			45,429,135		

**Team Whoop Ass Pictures
NF4A - 2003 WPX SSB at N4PN's QTH St.**

Ops Included N4PN, N4OX, KB4ET, W1MD, NF4A. Claimed scores before log checking show them to be # 1 US MS



Jay N4OX on the run rig



The team's newest member, Marty W1MD on the Mult rig



Paul N4PN searching for Mults



N4OX and W1MD look on as Charlie NF4A runs



Marty W1MD on the Run rig

Ed Note: All photos were taken by Dave KB4ET and forwarded by Charlie NF4A - Tnx Guys.

Stuart Hamfest & W4UM Antenna Party

By Mike Raskin W4UM

The Stuart Hamfest was Saturday, March 15th. Dollar for dollar, this hamfest is one of the better small gatherings. Always interesting and well attended. They do a nice job up there and we had fun and saw some friends we haven't seen in a while. Since I will be living up there, I will be there next year for sure. Several FCG members were in attendance: K4PG, N4GM, W4STB, K4PB, W2CQ, W4DTA, W4SLR, W4UM. All of the us (less K4PB and W4STB) met for BBQ at Bono's and we had a great time.

There was a "tower take-down party" Sunday, March 16th, at the QTH of W4UM and W4SLR. Helping out taking 3 towers, including a monster Force-12 80M beam without breaking and parts, human or otherwise, were N4BP, K4LM, W4OV, N8PR, W4SO, N4GM, W4DTA, W4SAA, N4GI, K1PT, K4LQ.

Three separate crews were each working on the three towers simultaneously and everything went without a hitch. Many thanks to all who attended. There was pizza and beer once everyone was on the ground.



Part of the W4UM antenna party gang - Left to right: Pete N8PR, Steve W4DTA, Paul K1PT, Mike W4UM, Fred K4LQ, Scott W4SO



The 80 Meter Beam comes down to the roof. Foreground Grant N4GM, in the crows nest Bob N4BP, Scott W4SO



Vant K4LM on the tubular tower.



The Big Tower comes down!

Grant N4GM supervises ;<)

New Tower installation at N4GI



First ya gotta dig the hole!



Dan K1TO on the tower

By Blake N4GI

Well, the new tower is complete with all antennas. Although I had my doubts about KB4USW's old (about as old as me) TH3, it still works great! Antenna raising was a snap thanks to the help of K1TO and his expertise (oh, and the magical clearance-sale ginpole).

Exciting to have my FIRST tower in the air, my thanks also goes out to K4OJ, K5KG, and the late W1CW (the guy wires fit like a glove!).

I'll put some tower construction pictures on my web page when time permits, and if anyone is interested, there are now some of our ZF1A pictures to look at:

<http://home.tampabay.rr.com/blakem>

Blake's antenna farm is shown below after completion



The completed product!

Mobile Pictures from FQP-03



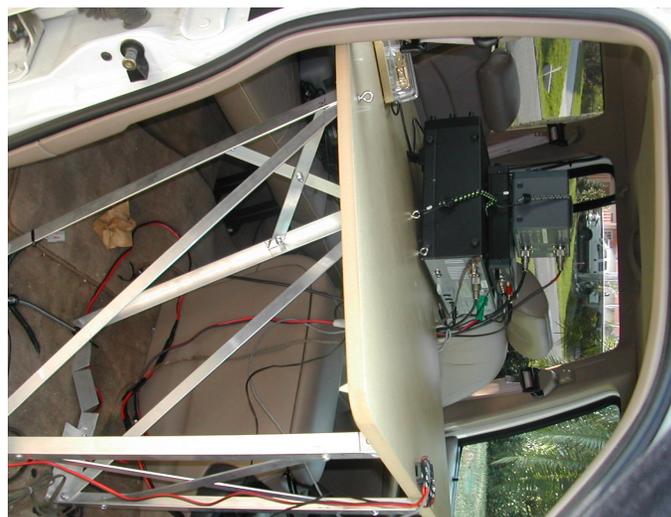
A 3rd operator ?? emerges from the underbrush!



The K4FQP FQP03 Radio



George K5KG at the operating position of K4FQP/M for FQP03



This is the K4FQP operating platform.



The K4FQP Mobile



Jim VE7ZO operating Sunday Morning during FQP03



Equipment included Kenwood ts450 w/tuner, laptop running NA logging software, 6 position coaxial switch, paddle w/ MFJ keyer, hustler resonators on 10,15 and 20m and Texas Radio 40m Bug catcher,'dual headset for logger and single ear-piece for driving action.

Top: The N4JM Mobile - Bottom L to R Ron WD4AHZ , Rich K4LOG , the Men in Black (Shorts)

FCG Wants Imbedded Radio Correspondents

By Jim White K4OJ

The Florida Contest Group is seeking individuals that have the following credentials for Imbedded Radio Correspondents.

Applicants should have experience in freelance writing for such journals as QST, CQ or NCJ... Applicants should also be familiar with the basics of military cadence, i.e.:

"Went down South with the FCG, I'm a gonna be in the FQP"

The ideal IRC would be the assisting driver for a single op mobile entrant in the Florida QSO Party. The imbed would then be allowed to chronicle the operation as well as assist the operator by relieving him of driving responsibilities. This would be a great assistant to the operator say, vs. his spouse, who perhaps might park at a large shopping mall resulting in the operator being trapped in a given county for so long his QSO rates plummet.

Imbeds would be contacted via cell phone during the Florida QSO Party by FCG Centcom Operations Commander Danny Street for updates as to how the operator was doing and overall rates and propagation tendencies. Note: Imbeds would not be able to divulge the operators strategic moves or location for fear of compromising the operators assault on a record score.

The Gulf Coast Contest Theater has varying terrain and climate - during the month of April the climate should be favorable to a rapid assault on the highways. Occasional rough WX can lead to mid-course re-routing of the operation although adhering to their individual itinerary as published on <http://www.floridaqsoparty.org> is encouraged. The FCG makes no claim as to the accuracy of these itineraries and denies any manipulation of them for potential misdirection or disinformation of competitors.

A wide range of vehicles are typically employed and the IRC should be familiar with Hummers, Love Bugs and SUVs. Some IRC's may have to go off the paved road in Southwestern Regions of the FQP Theater.

It is thought that after successful completion of the FQP these IRCs along with the Operators will be met with welcoming greetings from the contest community - shocked and awed at the contest operating skills showcased thanks in part by these Imbedded Radio Correspondents. Commander Danny Street reminds us they should exercise caution as in Florida there are always potential appearances by Militant Geritol Net Assassins.!

If you are looking for more than a weekend drive, and wish to apply for a position as an Imbedded Radio Correspondent there will be recruiters at the upcoming Dayton Hamvention eager to hear from you. They can be spotted easily on Saturday by their Orange Jerseys and they will be manning a table at the Crown Plaza in downtown Dayton on the second floor coincidental with the Contesters Banquet.

Imbedded Radio Correspondent, its not a job its an adventure!

Well, maggot, think you can cut it?

FCG - Be All You Can Be

K4OJ

Rate meters at two oh three,
Bring it on baby F Q P.
Aint changin bands not at this rate.
Its the wood I want so get this straight.
Don't call CQ cause there is no need
Linin' up 1 2 3 in the FQP

Don't need no nets, lists or MCs
I'm runnin 'em in the FQP
HAE says SSB?
I'll QSY for that mult baby
Here comes Hal he's QRQ
Crank it up NN just for you

8MJ is callin CQ
He wants those Qs from you know who.
Florida is the place they say
To make big rates in your Chevrolet.
There's Vic and Dan their runnin hot
20 and 40 is all they got

FCG Wins Medium Category in ARRL 10M

From the 10 Meter contest Results:

The Medium Club Category was a run-away victory by the Florida Contest Group. Their 47 logs totaled 27.2 Megs, easily outdistancing a surprise runner up -- The Contest Club of Ontario.

A visit with Vincent YV7QP

By Scott Cronin W4SO

I first meet Vincent YV7QP when myself and the rest of Team Vertical planned our 1997 expedition to Coche Island for the CQWWCW Contest. We were planning to operate from a hotel that had endless miles of beachfront available for verticals and radials and very little foot traffic.

Vincent worked at the airport and assisted us in getting thru customs with radios amps and antenna's. He was a great help. Over the years I have run into him in contests and often had a quick chat with him.

This past February my wife's family decided to vacation on Margarita Island which is where Vincent lives. I dropped him an e-mail and he responded and invited me to join him for some pileup activity.

We had planned on getting together on Monday after arriving on the island on Saturday but his busy schedule and my family commitments precluded it from happening.

On Wednesday afternoon, he came to the hotel and we exchanged some pleasantries. I brought him many issues of QST, the NCJ Contest Journal and several other magazines. He thanked me and asked me if I would like to come over on Friday afternoon.

He met me in the lobby of the hotel and we went to his home about 15 minutes away. He had a Cushcraft A3 at about 40 feet and an R7 for the WARC bands. His primary radio is an ICOM IC-735, he also has a Kenwood TS-530s.

We fired up with the IC-735 and the CT program in dxpedition mode and promptly started a pileup. I was advised that I had some key clicks and a bad chirp. I think the voltage drop was too much for the IC-735. We switched to the TS-530s and picked up the pileup again. It was an experience trying to run a pileup with no headphones and no filtering, but it was fun being at the other end of the pileup again.

I was able to stay for 2 hours and succeeded in working about 220 stations. Not bad for less than optimal conditions.

I am looking forward to getting back to Caracas to defend my 2000 single band 20 meter victory as 4M5X.

Scott

Events Calendar

ARRL June VHF QSO Party 1800Z, Jun 14 - 0300Z, Jun 16

All Asian DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Jun 21 - 2400Z, Jun 22

ARRL Field Day 1800Z, Jun 28 - 2100Z, Jun 29

IARU HF World Championship 1200Z, Jul 12 - 1200Z, Jul 13

North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Jul 19 - 0600Z, Jul 20

N4TO Summer picnic Aug 2 - Lunch around Noon - plan arrival after 10:30 - See you there! Directions on reflector.

North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Aug 2 - 0600Z, Aug 3

WAE DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Aug 9 - 2359Z, Aug 10

North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Aug 16 - 0600Z, Aug 17

An FCG Logo was made for the club's new banner by graphic artist Pat Letchford., XYL of Red K0LUZ. Our thanks to Pat, Red and George K5KG who organized the construction of our new club banner in time for it's use at Dayton. You can see the banner in it's national debut on Page 3!

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