



# Contest Gazette

## Florida Contest Group

<http://www.qsl.net/fcg/>



Volume 9 Issue 2

March 2002

### From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO



Refresh off a fun weekend at N4TO's, it's great to see such widespread activity within the FCG on both modes of the ARRL DX Test. Thanks to everyone for your efforts! With some welcome undisturbed conditions and high sunspots, we will easily eclipse our club total for 2001. Remember to spell out "Florida Contest Group" in your Cabrillo submission and add "- Panhandle" if you are in the Panhandle group.

Due to the new ARRL Club Competition rules that will take effect November 1, this was the last ARRL DX Test under which the 2-meeting rule was in effect. The new rule allows us to determine whom our members in good standing are, rather than imposing an arbitrary 2 meeting minimum. I am thrilled to see this, knowing how blatantly some of the other clubs ignored that rule. Fred will no doubt be a happier camper, too, since the tedium of tracking every member's attendance will be moot. And you all will probably feel relieved at not being forced to attend meetings. My current thinking is that there is still plenty of incentive to have in-person meetings. Many other clubs have drastically reduced their face-to-face meetings, relying instead on e-mail reflectors and on-the-air activity. I disagree with that approach and will continue to traverse the state to hold meetings. Meetings in Miami and Orlando drew well - see elsewhere in this issue for reviews of each. Pay special attention to the discussion on pooling our outgoing DX QSLs - what a great opportunity for us!

Welcome aboard to our newest crop of members. Joe, K4IK returns after a several-year hiatus and has already contributed in a major way over at the

K4NNN station. Welcome back, Joe! Several of us had the pleasure of meeting Carl, WC4H down at the Miami fest. I now have a picture of our two WC4 "ditzes" together! Jim, K8OSF attended our Orlando meeting and is a regular past participant in the FQP. Jim and W4SAA could be twins! Steve, K4WA should be at the FWB fest, so it'll be fun to catch up with him there. Rich, AA2MF becomes the 2<sup>nd</sup> owner of a 4L quad in central FL (joining N4IG), once he moves down and gets set up. Gary, KD4VRZ also signed on since our last issue.

We ought to renew our efforts to capture autobiographies and publish them in the Gazette. Each and every one of us has an interesting background. How about volunteering to be the next contributor?

Thanks to everyone who re-upped your dues for 2002 and generously donated to one or both WRTC funds. Nearly 100% of the club renewed for 2002 - clearly a good sign!

#### Inside this Issue

<i>Welcome Aboard, Events Calendar</i> .....	2
<i>Miami Hamfest Meeting</i> .....	3
<i>Orlando Hamfest Meeting</i> .....	4
<i>The Hams of Nevis by Larry KJ4UY</i> .....	5,6
<i>Claimed Scores, ARRL CW DX Contest</i> .....	7
<i>President Bush addresses FL Hams on 75 Meters</i> .....	7
<i>Claimed Scores ARRL 10 Meter Contest</i> .....	8
<i>Claimed Scores ARRL SSB DX Contest</i> .....	9
<i>Pictures from N4TO during ARRL SSB DX Test</i> .....	10
<i>Mobile Musings by Ink, N400</i> .....	10,11,12

FQP 2001 log checking is fully complete (finally!) and Ron is in the process of posting line scores to the web site, while I continue to work on the statistics and write-up. There were 4 out-of-state county sweeps and an amazing 8 more that missed only one single county! Clearly, that is a sign that our collective efforts to find ways to maximize activity across all 67 counties are working well.

It's neat to see the 6M gang reaping the rewards of their efforts. Hearty congrats to Fred, K4LQ and Scott, W4SO who both recently received QSLs from their 100<sup>th</sup> country on 6M! Maybe it's time for a 6M column, or at least a long article featuring our many active members on 6M.

March is one of the busiest months of the year for me, and I'm sure for many of you, too. Mike, K9NW who operated along side of me on 10M in HC8 back in November, just visited with us and hopes to catch a few other FCGers during his roving work schedule here in the state. Pat, N9RV was scheduled to meet up with a bunch of us on his way back up to IN. Jim, K8MR now makes several trips per year down to the Sarasota area and is a huge FQP supporter – he's scheduled to be here in late March. Several pals of mine who I DX-peditioned with way back in 1978 will be here late in March as well and we hope to catch a few Spring Training games as we do each year.

That's all for now. Let's keep having fun, learning a few things along the way, and piling up those points for the FCG and FCG-Panhandle! See you in Fort Walton Beach and beyond and have fun in WPX SSB! Our next meeting beyond that should be announced shortly.

vy 73, Dan

## Welcome Aboard



# **106 K8OSF** - James Berner, 1010 Lake Davenport Blvd, Davenport FL 33987 e-mail: k8osf@ithink.net

# **107 WC4H** - Carl Herrera, PO Box 161155, Miami FL 33116-1155 e-mail wc4h@it is.net

# **108 K4WA** - Steve Schmidt, 1002 Rocky Bayou Dr. Niceville FL 32578 e-mail: k4wa@yahoo.com

# **109 KD4VRZ** - Gary Randall, 18461 Creek Dr. Ft. Myers FL 33908 e-mail: kd4vrz@arrl.net

# **110 AA2MF** - Richard Cariello, 16001 2nd Street East, Reddington Beach FL 33708 e-mail: aa2mf@arrl.net

#**111 K4IK** - Joe Subich, 380 Seminole Woods Blvd., Geneva FL 32732 e-mail: k4ik@subich.com

## Events Calendar

**CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 30 - 2400Z, Mar 31**

**Florida QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 27 - 0159Z, Apr 28 and 1200Z - 2159Z, Apr 28**

**New England QSO Party - 2000Z May 4 - 0300Z May 5  
1100Z - 2400Z May 5**

**CQ WW WPX Contest, CW 0000Z, May 25 - 2400Z, May 26**

**ARRL June VHF QSO Party 1800Z, Jun 8 - 0300Z, Jun 10**

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

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

## Miami Hamfest Meeting

Twenty-Seven members and guests attended, including; W4DTA, WC4E, W4FMS, W4SLR, W4UM, N4BP, K4OJ, N4RP, K1TO, N4GM, N8PR, W4SAA, AB4RL, K4VUD, W4DN, K4WJ, W3AZD, WB3ANE, WD4JR, W4OV, N4QV, AD4Z(HI3K), WC4H, and NA4AR  
Guests included GM4KLO, K2UFT, N1ND

We had an informal gathering over lunch.

Some of the above folks also attended the SFDXA DX Dinner, held in a private room at a local Mexican restaurant. A number of attendees are members of both clubs. Several of our YV friends also attended.



*Steve, W4DTA and XYL Elizabeth enjoying the SFDXA DX dinner.*



*Sherry W4SLR and Mike W4UM at the DX Dinner. The preponderance of green bottles in these pictures suggests perhaps an interest in DL beer by the attendees? Or perhaps those are not Heinekings bottles after all.*



*Dan KITO, President FCG (right) shows his door prize to FCG Member and SFDXA President Bill W2CQ at the DX Dinner.*



*Joe W4SAA accepts a door prize at the DX Dinner.*



*Pete, N8PR giving a graphic description of the size of something unidentified to another attendee at the DX Dinner. Obviously a tall tale, judging from the elevation of his left arm!*

## Orlando Hamfest Meeting

Thirty-Two member and guests attended:

AA4Z AB4RL (& Dad) G4BUE K1TO K4IK K4OJ K4VUD  
K8OSF KD4BRJ KE1F KK4TA (& son) KU4TF M0BUE  
N4EK N4IG N4KW N4OO N4TO NA4CW NS4W W1CW  
W1YL W3TMZ W4EBA W4QM WA4WWL WC4E N4PK  
K4XS Other non-members: KG4GAE KG4FEQ (both from  
UCF club) W4RU

We again packed the room at the Golden Corral and toyed with the idea of expanding to both rooms next year!

The Miami hamfest was reviewed briefly. About 25 FCG members attended, so the combined attendance of Miami and Orlando covers nearly half of the club. The SFLDXA kindly invited us to their DX Dinner.

Membership is up almost 50% from last year, to 113 now!

Members were reminded of dues being due now and of the two WRTC funds being accumulated.

Lengthy discussion was held on the topic of removing contest line scores from QST. Most members were strongly opposed to the idea. Alternatives brought up included the elimination or reduction of color in QST, eliminating the Soapbox portion of the results instead of the line scores, and having a single "mega issue" once per year, targeting those advertisers that "specialize" in contesters. KE1F brought the house down with his vivid description of reading QST in the bathroom. Per Lou, it used to take him 5 or so "sittings" to get through an issue. The current content allows Lou to label QST a "one sitting" magazine now...

Dan described a great offer from K5KG's QSL manager, KU9C to pool outgoing DX QSLs at a cost of \$4.50 per pound. The current ARRL Outgoing Service charges \$8/lb. 2 FCG QSL parties reduced the cost to the range of \$5-5.50/lb. The FCG would need to pool our cards and sort them into one large batch before forwarding them to Steve. Joe, K4IK generously offered to serve as a collection point for QSLs in the Orlando area. Are there other volunteers who would also like to sort club outgoing cards? We need to determine who will be the final collection point as well. We will also need to pay for the postage to get the cards up to KU9C. Anyway, we will need a champion for this cause before we can get it off the ground. Dan pointed out that the \$3.50 savings per pound of cards means that if you send out 3 lbs of cards a year, you save \$10.50, more than paying for your FCG membership.

Several sources for inexpensive QSLs were discussed, including LZ1JZ (approx. \$25/1000 blank cards) and an SM3.

The new rules for ARRL Club Competition were discussed. They will take effect in November and leave the definition of who is an active member up to the clubs rather than dictating a 2 meeting per year minimum.

2001 FQP logs are finally checked. Results will be available on the web site in the next few weeks.

Members were encouraged to get on for the upcoming ARRL DX Test. The FCG finished #6 last year in the Medium Club category with about 28 Million points (only about 5M short of #3). NF4A and N4PN are headed to 9A1A to help with their Multi-Multi for ARRL SSB.

Digital pictures from HC8 were available for viewing on Dan's laptop and the printed WPX SSB results (including line scores - hi) were also available.

The next official meeting is in Fort Walton Beach on March 16. Hosts for meetings beyond that in April and May were requested. If you would like to host a meeting, please get in touch with an officer.

The meeting adjourned without going into any depth on ARRL DX strategy, due to the time already spent!



*Dan conducting meeting - watching L to R: Jim - K8OSF, Lou - KE1F and Bruce - AD4Z.*



*Facing us, Jeff, WC4E and Byron W4EBA, back to us Gary N4DL and Charly K4VUD*



*L to R: Dave N4IG, Frank NA4CW, Ellen W1YL, Bob W1CW and Jim K4OJ. Ink, N4OO in the right background.*

## The Hams of Nevis—V4

*By Larry Wolfe, KJ4UY*

Ed Note – Larry sent along this article he published in The DX Magazine about a trip to V4. No contesting during this visit, but it does serve to give members a flavor of life on Nevis, for those who may be interested in future contesting at that location. Also another case of members helping members. B&W pictures are scans of copies, so quality is degraded.

Prior to going to St. Kitts and Nevis this time, I had shipped a KT34XA and a 5 element Telrex 6 Meter beam to V44KJ, Ken Jarvis. The KT34XA was purchased from Bill, K4XS by Ken, the 6 meter beam was an extra antenna I had. Also shipped to Karl V44NK was a KT34A donated by Paul KIPT and his wife Pidge, KD1PD of the Florida Contest Group, of which I am a member. I took down my 2 element 40 meter Hygain beam and also sent it to Karl. George, K5KG gave me great information on “tubes” from Lowe’s to pack the beam and advice on shipping via DHL. DHL picked up the antennas at my home and delivered them to Nevis Island. The price was a little over \$500. I sent them a couple of weeks before I left and they were there before I arrived.

This was my second trip to St. Kitts and Nevis. The first was in December of 2000 when I went down to get my daughter Sue set up for veterinary school on St. Kitts.

Licenses have to be renewed each year and my friend Karl, V44NK had renewed mine for the year 2001. When I arrived on St. Kitts at 10PM on May 9, both Karl and my daughter were waiting for me. I stayed the night with Sue and Karl picked me up the next afternoon. We caught the 3:30 ferry over to Nevis (a 30 minute boat ride). I stayed and operated from Karl’s shack. After getting settled in, Karl and I went to a meeting of the local Nevis Ham Club. The meeting was with a local government official regarding communications during and after a hurricane. Local hams at the meeting were the President Ken, V44KJ, Milton, V44MS, Elbert, V44NE, McCoy, V44KMC myself V47UY/KJ4UY and Mr. Llewlyn Newton, the Disaster Coordinator for the Island of Nevis. After the meeting and dinner, I made about 150 contacts before going to bed. Karl left on the 7:30AM ferry back to St. Kitts the next morning.

On May 11, in the middle of a 12 meter pileup, Ken, V44KJ came by and took me for lunch at the “Four Seasons Resort”. We had a delicious entrée of Lobster Rote with Chocolate Yogurt desert and had a great time trading stories.

After being gone for a couple of hours, I was back on 12 meters in the pileup. Captain Earl Francis, a boat captain with the Four Seasons Resort called to remind me that he was going to pick me up for something to eat and a couple of “brewskies”. We went to a place at the bottom of the hill called the Harlem Shelter I tried a local dish called Brown Pudding. In reality, it was a type of sausage with ??? in it. I also had fried fish along with a couple local Royal Stouts. After Captain Francis took me “home”, I got on 17 meters until 0405Z. The ham radio room is a single room separate from the main house. One wall is ham radio gear, with a bed taking up the majority of the room along with a chair. Early in the morning a rain storm came through with childhood memories of rain on a tin roof. There is a mango tree behind the shack and periodically a mango would fall off the tree on to the roof and really startle me.

There was no propagation when I got up on May 12, until around 1600Z. With nothing else to do, I unpacked with the KT34A and put the elements and boom together. When the band opened, I operated 17 meters for awhile, then went to 12 meters for awhile, then back to 17. That night 20 meters netted a monstrous pileup until around 0630Z when I finally fell into bed, thoroughly exhausted.

I spent most of the next day on 15 meters, trying to give everyone a new one on as many bands as possible.

Captain Francis V44NEF had a 70 ft Rohn 45 tower and his beam had not been working right since the last hurricane. I had taken my climbing belt and some tools and offered my help. He picked me up and we went to have a look at the problem. With help from Livingston (a Cber interested in taking his ham radio exam). Along with McCoy, V44KMC we got the driven element to the ground. After re-spacing all of the traps, McCoy and I put the driven element back on the boom, about 8-PM.

About this time I started laughing. McCoy looked at me like I was losing my mind. I had to explain to him that I was laughing at the roosters. One would crow, another would answer and that would go until there about a dozen of them crowing at each other. I thought it was very funny, but I guess McCoy was used to it and hadn’t even paid any attention to the noise. There is no fencing law on Nevis and every morning I would see a herd of goats making their way up the street.

After finishing with the antenna repairs, Mrs. Francis served Captain Francis McCoy and myself a delicious dinner that she had prepared. After dinner Captain Francis got me to show him how to tune an L4B that he had just purchased. Once tuned, he wanted to make a contact with it so I answered a CQ from a K2 and chatted with him for awhile. When I signed, T97V called me. After that a pileup began. We didn’t want to get involved with a pileup, so I turned the frequency back over to the K2 and the Captain Francis took me “home”.

I tried 80 meters that night but only managed 13 Q’s and got tired of calling. I went back to 20 meters and immediately generated a monster pileup, finally closing down at 0700Z May 14.

The power was off when I awoke so I got dressed and walked downtown to do some shopping and had lunch at Unellos. The power was still out when I got back, so I assembled the KT34A in the courtyard. The antenna was too large for the courtyard so I had half of it hanging over the fence into the alley. Power was finally restored at 1:30-PM and I finished the antenna assembly at around 2-PM. After working 10 meters for about 4 hours, Neal, V44NWL came over to help put the KT34A on the tower.

That evening I decided to go to the Harlem Shelter for dinner, but discovered that they only serve food on Friday and Saturday nights. So, after downing one Royal Stout. I ordered another to take with me and settled for a dinner of fruit, cheese and crackers. Since 20 meters was dead, and I had been up very late the past two nights, I just went to bed to get some much needed sleep.

The crowing roosters woke me up around 7 –AM. Anxious to try the newly installed KT34A, I pointed it towards Europe and worked a couple of “I”s and then South American stations came on very loud. Something was wrong here. When I went out and looked at the antenna I saw right away that it was 180 degrees off. Although the control box said it was pointed North, it was really pointed South.

I went up on the tower and moved the antenna around on the mast so that if it was pointed in the right direction. I then worked 10 meters all day and that night tried 20 RTTY with about 40 Q's.

My last day, May 16 I worked 10, then 12 for the rest of the day, going QRT at 4:30 PM, leaving me just 30 minutes to dismantle the gear and pack my bags.

McCoy picked me up at 5-PM and took me to the ferry where Ken, V44KJ met us to see me off. I had dinner with Karl, and his girlfriend Terry that evening and spent the evening with my daughter.

My sincere thanks to my friend Karl, V44NK for letting me use his shack and his TS540S and Heath SB-220. I also used my IC-756. The antennas used were the A3 before taking it down, the KLM KT34A, an 3WS on the WARC bands and the HF2 Vertical on 80.

Most of the time I was only using 100 watts. I couldn't believe all the people telling me that I was the strongest signal on the band or that I was the only signal on the band. I suppose that explains the monster pileups I had. I had people telling me that they tried to work me for up to 3 hours. Some told me that they were glad to make it through, because they tried all day yesterday and never could break the pileup.

Some of my fondest moments were: Working my friend Claudio ET3VSC. He should have been in Europe, but his flight had been cancelled and was now scheduled to leave the next day. Another moment was being able to give Mark ON4WW new band countries, after all the new band countries he had given me from Africa.

Lee, KH6BZF worked me for a first ever Nevis QSO. He asked me to call his friend Carol Peterson to tell her that "I finally made it."

I worked a number of stations that said they had read my previous article in The DX Magazine. I enjoyed working members of the Florida West coast DX Ring of which I had been a member for many years. I also enjoyed working members of the Florida Contest Group, especially Paul K1PT and Pidge KD1PD who had donated the KT34A for Karl's shack.

I had a lot of fun, interacting with and making friends with the hams of Nevis. They are great people, very friendly and helpful. Even with all the time I spent with the Nevis hams, I still made 2300 contacts in 6 days. McCoy was so impressed with my chain vice grip that I donated it to the Nevis Ham Club and left it in his care. I have open invitations to go and operate from the shack of Terry, V44KBP on St. Kitts and from my very good friend Karl V44NK, Ken, V44KJ and Captain Francis, V44NEF on Nevis. I plan to go back and operate from Karl's shack again in July, including the IOTA contest.

Quoting from a note in Carl. N4AA's QRZ DX Bulletin - "I have truly found a home away from home.

**ARRL CW DX CONTEST  
FCG CLAIMED SCORES**

Call	Category	QSOs	Mults	Points	
K4NNN	M/MABHP	5472	551	9,027,033	Oprs:K4OJ,N4KM,T94M,WD4AHZ, W1ROX,K4FB,W1CW,W1YL
N4AO	SOABHP	2R 2573	353	2,723,748	
K1PT	SOABHP	1803	422	2,278,800	
W4AA	SOABLP	1385	367	1,524,885	
N4IG	SOABLP	1470	341	1,503,810	
W4SAA	SOABHP	1416	325	1,377,675	
NA4CW	SOABQRP	1001	285	855,855	
NF4A	SOABLP	1000	247	741,000	Panhandle
K4PB	SOABHP	780	282	655,188	
AE4RO	SOABLP(A)	468	254	356,616	
KN4Y	SOABLP	600	186	334,800	Panhandle
W4ZW	SOABHP(A)	459	185	252,525	
KB4ET	SOABLP			241,248	Panhandle
KB4N	SOABLP(A)	287	147	126,567	
W7QF	SOABLP			73,776	
AD4Z	SOHP80M	258	66	51,084	
ND4AA	SOLP10M	440	85	112,200	
K9ES	SOLP40M	29	20	1,740	
Totals Less Panhandle Scores				20,921,502	
Panhandle Scores				1,317,048	

**FCG has 3 of top 7 MS Scores  
In CQWW CW !**

USA M/S

**K4XS** HP 4109 186 638 48 9,753,688 FCG  
**W4AN** HP 3884 182 612 48 8,797,520 SECC  
**N3RS** HP 3706 174 615 48 8,411,529 FRC  
**K4JA** HP 3389 176 646 48 8,010,390 PVRC  
**K8AZ** HP 3493 174 608 47 7,800,000 NCC  
**N4TO** HP 3064 171 591 48 6,582,156 FCG  
**K4NNN** HP 3100 167 575 48 6,531,826  
 (K4NNN was @ W1CW)

**President Bush Addresses FL  
Hams via**

The following was provided by North Florida Amateur Radio Society (NOFARS) President and CQ DX Award Manager Billy Williams, N4UF:

President Bush on 75 Meters

The Northern Florida Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net (NFAN) on 3950 KHz had an unusual check-in this morning (January 31st). Around 9:15 AM, President George W. Bush checked in using a portable station set up in a Daytona Beach fire station by John Schmidt, AF4PU.

The President made these comments to the 40 or so stations on NFAN:

"I want to thank all the volunteers who help make sure that Florida is prepared for any kind of emergency. I also want to assure you that your Federal government is doing everything we can to make sure that there is not an emergency--starting with unleashing the mighty U.S. military overseas to bring evil ones to justice. But should there be a need for a response, I want to thank you all for helping our communities be prepared. And finally, I want to tell you--we are lucky to be Americans and may God continue to bless this great land of ours. Thank you very much."

ARRL 10 METER CONTEST  
FCG CLAIMED SCORES

Call	Category	Hrs	QSOs	Mults	Points	
N4BP	SOHPCW	30	2063	140	1,155,280	
K1TO	SOLPCW	32	1873	139	1,043,056	
K4OJ	SOHPCW	20	1156	140	647,360	
W4QM	SOHPCW	26	1142	141	646,908	
WD4AHZ	SOLPCW	31	1231	127	626,872	
KW4CW	SOLPCW		526	130	274,560	Op: N4GM
KN4Y	SOLPCW		574	105	241,920	Panhandle
K4PB	SOHPCW		338	97	131,532	
ND4AA	SOLPCW	7	221	59	52,392	
W4IR	SOHPCW		200		22,800	
N4TO						
WC4E	SOHPMX	30	2934	274	2,284,612	
K5KG	SOHPMX	25	1822	248	,351,600	
N4IG	SOLPMX		1197	232	936,352	
W4SAA	SOHPMX	26	1109	213	811,530	
K4FB	SOLPMX	16	821	182	511,420	
K9ES	SOLPMX	9	788	183	425,658	
K4BN	SOLPMX		764	195	448,500	
AE4RO	SOLPMX		506	244	388,448	
KE1F	SOLPMX		534	177	313,290	
W4OV	SOLPMX	10	424	175	228,550	
W4EBA	SOLPMX	13	401	151	188,146	
K4RFK	SOLPMX		632	138	184,920	
N4GI	SOLPMX	10	406	143	181,038	
W7QF	SOLPMX		316	109	106,602	
N4QV	SOLPMX		232	115	87,860	
NF4A	SOLPMX	3	164	50	23,300	Panhandle
N4EK						
K4XS	SOHPSSB		2907	155	901,170	
N4OX	SOLPSSB		1500	139	444,800	Panhandle
NS4W	SOHPSSB	25	1287	139	357,786	at UCF
N4PK	SOLPSSB		937	112	209,888	
NA4AR	SOLPSSB	14	397	93	73,842	
KU4TF	SOLPSSB		22	15	660	
KK4TA						
K4FB						
KD4BRJ						
K1PT	M/S		2362	271	1,925,726	SO+Packet
K0LUZ	M/S CW		1530	150	920,400	SO+Packet
W4UM	M/S		1122	234	728,676	Ops; W4UM, W4DTA
W4ZW	M/S	13	875	197	618,580	+ Pine View 7th Graders
K4LQ	M/S	18	673	235	525,930	SO+Packet
N8PR	M/S	9	746	140	208,880	SO+Packet
K4PB	M/S CW		338	97	131,152	SO+Packet
Aggregate Total					20,361,996	
Less FCG - Panhandle					710,020	
FCG Total					19,651,976	

## Other Scores:

VP5DX	M/S					NU4Y one of ops
HS0ZCW	SOSSB					



**ARRL DX CONTEST - SSB  
FCG CLAIMED SCORES**

Call	Mode	Qsos	Mults	Score	Hrs	
N4TO	M/M	4595	937	7,397,712		Ops: K1TO,N4DL,N4TO,T93M,T93Y
K1PT	M/S	2275	453	3,087,648		Ops: AE4SW,AE4RO,K1PT
K9ES	M/S 40M		286	79	67,308 25	Ops:AD4ES,K9ES

K5KG	SOAB HP(A)		2046	430	2,638,050	38
NA4O	SOAB HP		1200	310	1,116,000	20
N8PR	SOAB HP		765	284	651,780	14.3
NJ2F	SOAB HP		830	232	577,680	
W7QF	SOAB				200,334	
KE1F	SOAB 233		116		81,084	

N4IG	SOAB LP		1124	311	1,048,694	39.5
K4RFK	SOAB LP		539	214	349,346	11.8
WD4JR	SOAB LP		303	130	118,170	
KB4ET	SOAB LP		401	211	244,209	
NS4W	SOAB LP		542	198	321,948	
K8OSF	SO 374				173,445	

Panhandle  
at K4UCF

K4XS	SO LP 40M		856	92	236,526	
K4VUD	SO HP 20M		620	96	172,272	12
W4SAASO	HP 15M		320	84	80,720	
N4BP	SO HP 10M		1313	103	405,408	
WC4H	SO HP 10M		640	86	163,830	
W4/G0BUE	SO HP 10M			411	96	118,386
K4FB	SOQRP20M		21	18	1,134	

Also FCG Heard

9A1A	M/M	8438	306	7,746,084		Ops Incl NF4A 20M, N4PN 15M
------	-----	------	-----	-----------	--	-----------------------------

FCG Totals 19,007,475

Panhandle Totals 244,209



*The team at N4TO for the  
ARRL SSB Multi-Two  
Effort:*

*L to R:*

*Gary - N4DL*

*Vic - N4TO*

*Dan - K1TO*

*Boris - T93Y*

*Danny - T93M*

## More ARRL SSB Pictures from

*Boris - T93Y**Danny - T93M**Gary - N4DL*

## Mobile Musings

*By Ink Bowen, N400*

A few years back, when the FQP was restarted, my interest in operating mobile was rekindled. I fantasized on the thought of hundreds of stations seeking a rare Wakulla, Liberty or Jefferson county multiplier. That became a strong motivator. I purchased an Icom, IC 706 and started studying mobile antennas. The IC706 is one of the more popular compact rigs on the market, but there are others such as the Yaesu FT 100 and Ten Tec Scout. There are also older rigs such as the Kenwood TS 130 and I am sure many others that could be considered, depending on the space available, discretionary funds and personal likes.

I am not going to dwell on merits or installation of the radio in a vehicle. There are about as many ideas on this as there are radios and folks who use them. My IC706 is mounted on a sloping wooden platform that I constructed for the radio. It sits on the hump of the pickup truck and is held in place by 2 aluminum brackets fore and aft. The radio is held to the platform by 3 small bungee cords.

Since I operate mainly CW, I needed a platform to hold the key paddle and an arm rest. I eventually came up with an arm rest that sits on top of my center console and is supported in front by pieces of PVC pipe that bottom in the 2 drink holders. All consoles are different, but in most of the vehicles I have looked at, a couple of pieces of wood about 5 1/2" wide, made in the form of an L, can be made to fit. The long part of the L rests on the console armrest and the short side either sits near the shifter lever or can be adapted to fit into drink holders.

The arm rest is held to the console with longer bungee cords and the key paddle is held to the arm rest with, you guessed it, more short bungee cords. Assortments of bungee cords are at almost all hardware stores. Be aware that they deteriorate after sitting under tension, out in our FL sun.

The fun part of this exercise, for me, is antennas. I have seen, built, bought and used several different types, over the past 5 years. I'll not go through all the iterations that I have tried. I will however, review the options as I see them at present.

The best of the purchased antennas, considering both convenience and efficiency, is the motor driven antenna, sometimes referred to as a "screwdriver" type. It uses a DC motor to move a coil up and down over a set of contacts. The original ones used a motor salvaged from a battery operated screwdriver. It is a clever device, but somewhat expensive. In efficiency, it is right near the top. Overall height is about 9 ft, depending on what top whip is used and what band one is tuned to.

An SWR bridge is required to do band changes and some means of reducing power to about 10 W while tuning, is necessary.

N4TO uses one of these and the dynamic duo of N4TO and K1TO have scored well the past several years.

Another popular system is the Hamstick type. It consists of a piece of fiberglass tubing about 4 ft long, on which a helical winding is made. At the top of the winding, the wire is close-wound into a coil that will resonate on the desired band. Affixed to the top of this assembly is a 3 or 3 1/2 ft whip, which is adjusted to bring the system to resonance. A different antenna is required for each band. The efficiency of this antenna can be improved somewhat by adding a 2 or 3 ft extension at the bottom.

Next we have the "bugcatcher" type. This one has a large coil mounted on a 4-6 ft mast. At the top of the coil is a whip which brings the overall height to 9-10 ft, but the whip can be almost anything between 4 and 6 ft long. Tap points on the coil must be established during the tuning process. To change bands, one must exit the vehicle and change the tap on the coil. Many people use an alligator clip for this, but that type of connection is fraught with potential problems when you are underway or when corrosion develops. My experience with this system showed that it took a long time to get tuned on any more than 2 bands. It does exhibit very high efficiency on both 80 and 40M because of the large, high Q coil. The efficiency advantage begins to flatten out on 20M and higher bands. Because of the unprotected coil, there is some detuning during rain. Corrosion at the tap points is an ever present problem. If you are a lowband person, this antenna is probably the most efficient, provided all the other installation criteria are met.

One of the most popular antennas is the Hustler system, consisting of a mast of about 4 1/2 feet and a Hustler coil for the required band. The Hustler coil assembly comes with its own adjustable whip. Overall height for one of these runs from around 8 ft with the coil located at about the 3/4 point. A longer mast below the coil will result in some efficiency improvement. With this system, it is also necessary to exit the vehicle to change coils. However, there is an adaptor plate available (you can also make one) that will allow installation of 3 coils. There are other suppliers who make similar coils and there are fixtures available that will mount up to 6 coils of this type. The practical limit for highway speeds however, is 3 or 4 coils.

One other type that enjoys some popularity is the Outbacker type antenna. It uses a fiberglass base on which a series of coils are wound. Between coils are taps which are brought out to receptacles that are similar to banana jacks. At the top is a whip, which is also adjustable. Band changes are made by moving a "flying" lead from one jack to another, up and down the antenna. Those that use them seem to enjoy reasonable success, but the antenna is quite expensive and you have

to exit the vehicle to change bands. Overall height runs 6-9 ft. depending on model.

One other system that is not as widely used is the base loaded 7-9 ft whip, usually tuned by an auto tuner. The base loading tuner must be mounted right at the base of the whip for maximum efficiency, so the tuner must be mounted on the top or side of the vehicle. I have not used one of these systems and have not talked to any mobile station using one. AA4Z uses one on his sail boat, but the antenna is 40 feet long or so and is on salt water. It works very well in that environment.

There is some question as to the efficiency of the Hustler (and similar) coils which are wound on small diameter forms with relatively small diameter wire. Both the 20 and 40M coils get noticeably warm during sustained operation, but I have never had one get hot enough to scorch the insulation. Obviously, some power is lost to heat but the other side of the equation is ease of adjustment, a reasonable feed impedance and the ability to use more than one coil. With additional RF resistance of a low Q coil, adjusting the whip length to resonance is fairly simple. Someday, I hope to make some field strength tests of the various antenna configurations, on a number of bands, to see what the actual differences are.

I am presently using the Hustler system. It has a homebrew, 7 ft mast and 4 coils, all mounted horizontally via a fixture designed for this application. The mast is made of telescoping, .058 wall tubing, starting at 1", then 7/8 and 3/4" OD. Each piece of tubing is 48" long, so I could extend the mast to 10 ft if I wanted to. The mast is mounted on the rear vertical surface of an aluminum tool box in the back of my pickup truck. I can telescope it down to 4 ft for parking garages.

I operated with the mast extended to 9 ft for a while, but not in motion. At that height, considering the height of the truck bed, there are many antenna eating obstacles. At first I used only one coil, but then discovered that a fixture is available to hold up to 3 of the Hustler style coils. This system worked very well and had the option of instant band change for 3 bands. Ultimately, I decided that a 7 ft mast was more reasonable but the wind load on the mast was still pretty high with all 3 coils installed in the vertical configuration.

Subsequently, I discovered through Ed, KN4Y, an outfit that made a coil holding adaptor that would hold up to 6 coils, horizontally (E-Field, see below). I purchased their adaptor and use it to hold 4 coils, in motion at highway speeds. One coil points straight ahead, one points to the rear (40 M) and 2 smaller ones are at 45 degrees from the rear pointing coil. I cannot see any performance difference between coils mounted horizontally and coils mounted vertically, but field strength tests are required to verify that.

Bruce, AA4Z, uses a home brew adaptor that holds a coil pointed forward and one rearward, horizontally and one more in the center, vertically.

Operating aids: Most of the radios come with noise blankers, which are reasonably efficient. In my case, I found that the addition of the DSP unit by Clear Speech, reduced my noise level even more. Be aware that operation with the radio's noise blanker increases the amount of IMD (adjacent channel distortion products), so you have to put up with one or the other.

I have summarized the popular mobile antenna configurations, along with a few ideas for more efficient operation. I certainly have not covered the entire field, but hope that I have added to the store of knowledge and maybe suggested a change for more efficient operation. Questions and comments are solicited. Questions should come direct to me but subjects of general interest could be posted to the reflector.

Following is a list of sources for various mobile antennas and components. This list is by no means comprehensive. Other sources can be located via the links on the AC6V web site, QST and other ham publications.

Motor driven antennas: High Sierra: [www.cq73.com](http://www.cq73.com) ;  
<http://www.amateurradioantennas.com/> ; Nott Ltd: [www.tjantenna.com](http://www.tjantenna.com)

Hamstick type antennas: [www.hamstick.com](http://www.hamstick.com) ; [www.buxcomco.com](http://www.buxcomco.com) ;

MFJ via multi distributors (HRO, AES, Texas Radio)

Bug catcher type antennas: Lakeview (hamstick address); MFJ;

Texas Radio Products (address unknown)

Mobile antenna hardware: Lakeview (Hamstick above) ;

Coils, masts and hardware including 6 coil fixture: E-Field, 259 W. Cook Rd, Mansfield, OH 44907 1-419-756-7777;

Coils: Spider Antennas, [www.spiderantennas.com](http://www.spiderantennas.com)  
Hustler coils, masts and hardware via multi distributors



*Two Notorious contesters passed through our area recently and visited with George, K5KG. George granted them temporary visas and suggested we post their pictures so they could be spotted if they pass this way again, Top L Alex W2OX/V47KP, bottom R. Norm K3NZ. Both shown at K5KG's shack with George.*

#### Ed Note:

I had hoped to share with you in this issue some of the excitement that our members have been experiencing on 6 meters over the past few months with F-2 openings around the world. Requests for inputs have been disappointing, perhaps next issue.

*Left: Terry, K4RX making some adjustments on his 6 Meter beam. Only 5 of the 13 elements on the 70 ft boom are shown.*

#### Florida Contest Group

Dan Street, K1TO, President  
9993 289th Street East  
Myakka City, FL 34251  
[k1to@aol.com](mailto:k1to@aol.com)

Jeff Bolda, WC4E  
V.P. Operations  
28551 Darby Road  
Dade City FL 33525  
[wc4e@innet.com](mailto:wc4e@innet.com)

Ron Wetjen, WD4AHZ  
V.P. Florida QSO Party  
5362 Castleman Drive  
Sarasota, FL 34232  
[wd4ahz@arrl.net](mailto:wd4ahz@arrl.net)

Fred Perkins, K4LQ  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Newsletter Editor  
3437 Lake Josephine Drive  
Lake Placid FL 33852  
[k4lq@arrl.net](mailto:k4lq@arrl.net)