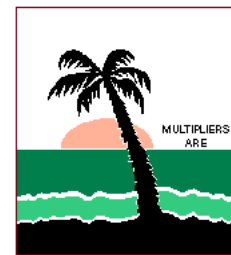


Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

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May 2004

From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO

This year's Dayton Hamvention has come and gone and the FCG presence was never more prevalent.



Thanks in large part to Ellen, W1YL's foresight and generosity, hundreds of contesters wore circular buttons in honor of K4OJ. Ellen and I both were given a few minutes to speak at the Contest Dinner, which was attended by about 325 contesters, dozens of whom wore orange FCG shirts. The text of Ellen's speech can be found in this issue on page 11.

For the first time ever, the FCG hosted a hospitality suite. Charlie, NF4A and Steve, K4WA deserve a huge round of applause for offering to host the suite, then spending the majority of their time behind the bar (beats being behind bars). We chose to open the suite on Saturday evening/night only. Traffic through the suite was unbelievable. Most attendees signed an orange poster board on the entrance wall. I'll be transposing those callsigns into a separate list, then I will present the sign-in sheet to Ellen at the next FCG meeting on June 12. Ellen put together some FB photo collages that hung above the sign-in sheet as well.

Thanks to Ellen's authorization, the FCG, specifically the OJ/CW fund, again sponsored pizza on Saturday night just before midnight. 25 large pizzas were consumed in 18 minutes by the hungry contesters in the Contest Super Suite. At 8 slices per box, that is 200 slices in 0.3 hours, or a 667 hour. Definitely a record for the books!

Any time I try to do this from memory, I miss someone, so please don't be offended if I miss you! Spotted in attendance at one time or another were FCG members: AA4RX K1TO K4IK K4WA K4XS K5KG K8NZ KA6AFK KA6R KB4ET KE1F N4GM N4KM N4LML N4OO N4PN NF4A NP4Z W1YL W3AZD W4DKB W4DTA W4STB W4ZW WB3ANE WC4E.

Also Ed, NA0ED (ex K8DSS) who moved to Colorado a few months ago and Eric, KU4TF who moved to Maryland a few months ago were in attendance and seem to be doing great! A one-year "pass" was granted to K1PT and KD1BG who chose to get married that weekend - congrats! And congrats for not choosing Dayton as the place to do it - hi!

N4PN and K5KG were panelists during a terrific segment at the Contest Forum that brought back winners of the major contests 25 years ago in 1979. Paul had operated at VP2KC for their record-setting effort in CQWW SSB that year, while George stood in for K5RC whose team had won CQWW CW MS from Texas.

In recent years ago at Dayton, FCGers Blake, N4GI and Ulysses, NS4W were the youngest attendees at the Contest Dinner. It seems that the WWYC (World Wide Young Contesters) group has been influential in breeding and nurturing an even younger crop of contesters which was really encouraging to see.

Three weeks prior to Dayton was the FQP, dedicated in memory of K4OJ. Much of this issue is devoted to stories and pictures from the 2004 FQP and for good reason. We will once again set new highs for the activity level (as measured by active mobiles, overall logs submitted and total QSOs made), earliest sweep (several made it on Saturday for the first time ever, including a QRPer!), number of county sweeps (?), and many individuals and groups raised the bar in their particular category to a higher record. Using an experimental mobile window seems to have been largely effective and will no doubt stay for next year. The number of "OJ"s that were exchanged over the air during and after QSOs was a

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truly remarkable tribute to the man who loved to promote this contest. It's neat to realize that this year marked the 7th running of the FQP as sponsored by the FCG.

Most FCGers who did not move out of state have re-upped their dues for 2004. If you have not yet paid and wish to remain an active member, get a check to K4LQ soon.

Meanwhile, an FB crop of new members has rolled in. Please join me in welcoming them!

WPX has been traditionally a strong contest for the FCG. Hopefully, you can find some time to join the fun this Memorial Day weekend for WPX CW. With a good mix of domestic and DX activity across all bands, WPX has something for almost everyone. This is the only major contest in which the Panhandle members are allowed to pool their scores in with the main group.

Please consider attending one or both of the next two FCG meetings. Ellen, W1YL will host a meeting on Saturday, June 12. N4TO will again entertain us all for the Vicnic on Saturday, July 31. That event is open to all family members. We had about 90 attendees last year at Vic's FB QTH in centrally-located Sebring.

Have fun and GO FCG!

vy 73, Dan, K1TO

Multiple FCGers make Top Ten in

FCGers Noted in the top 10: (Tnx Jeff WC4E)

Mixed QRP: K9OM #1 World!

Mixed LP: K4GKD #7USA, K4MM #10 USA

Mixed LP WC4E #1 World, K5KG#4 USA, NU4Y#7 USA

SSB LP: W4IX #1 World, K4VUD #2USA, NJ2F #3 USA Top 3!

SSB HP: N4OX #3 USA

CW LP: WD4AHZ #1USA #2 World, WB4TDH#2USA, N4GM #4 USA

CW HP: N4BP #1 World, K4OJ #2 USA, K0LUZ #7 USA

M/S: NE4AA (K1TO, K6AW ops) #1 World!, (Also largest score of contest),

K1PT, W4/G4BUE, W4ARM did very well!

The FCG came in a very respectable 2nd place to the FRC in the Unlimited category with 26 less logs. FCG Panhandle did very well with 5 logs and almost 1M Well done by all!!! More results next newsletter.

Welcome Aboard



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

NN4X - Steve Sacco, 5775 Jack Brack Road, Saint Cloud, FL 34771
e-mail: nn4x@earthlink.net

K4EFZ - Chris Ebensen, Mid Florida Eye Center, 12 South Park Ave, Apopka FL 32703

WA4ASJ - Bud Holman, 950 47th Ave. SW, Vero Beach FL 32968-4831

K6CT - Tom Morton, c/o 4401 NW Third Avenue, Boca Raton FL 33431 e-mail: tmorton@bigplanet.net

W4KFH - Kurt F. Hoyer, 1825 SE Balleto St., Port St. Lucie FL 34862 e-mail: ke0yo@adelphia.net

KI4FJW - Harold McBride, 2219 S.E. Avalon Road, Port Saint Lucie FL 34952 e-mail: hmcbride@bellsouth.net

AG4MQ, AG4PN, K8DSS, KG4TBQ and **WR4K** resigned.

Membership now stands at 180

Coming Events

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW 0000Z, May 29 to 2359Z, May 30

June 12 - FCG Meeting at the W1YL QTH in Seffner. Details will be on the reflector

ARRL June VHF QSO Party 1800Z, Jun 12 to 0300Z, Jun 14

ARRL Field Day 1800Z, Jun 26 to 2100Z, Jun 27

IARU HF World Championship 1200Z, Jul 10 to 1200Z, Jul 11

North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Jul 17 to 0600Z, Jul 18

July 31 Annual Vicnic/ Meeting at N4TO QTH in Sebring . Details will be on the reflector.

North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Aug 7 to 0600Z, Aug 8

SARTG WW RTTY Contest - 0000Z-0800Z and 1600Z - 2400Z Aug 21 and 0800Z - 1600Z Aug 22

WAE DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Aug 14 to 2359Z, Aug 15
North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Aug 21 to 0600Z, Aug 22
North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Aug 21 to 0600Z, Aug 22

New Member Profile - W4WR

By Warren Rothberg W4WR

First licensed in 1978, I hold an Extra class license. I am a Life Member of the ARRL. I have been active in NTS and public service, and was Net Manager for the New Hampshire Novice Traffic Net, a 10 meter NTS training net that started two days after "Novice Enhancement" took effect in 1987.



I was a two-term president of both the Interstate Repeater Society in Derry, NH, and the New Hampshire Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL-affiliated council comprised of NH clubs, the NH Field Organization and the State Office of Emergency Management.

I was the New England Division Representative to the ARRL Public Service Advisory Committee for three years and served as Assistant Section Manager for three years. I became New Hampshire Section Manager in 1991 and served through June 1993.

I was appointed to the position of New England Division Vice Director in January 1992 and after one year was elected to that position to serve until December 1995. I was reelected in 1995. I was Co-chairman of New England's first "alternate year" Division Convention in 1993.

I am, or have been, a member of ARES, held ARRL appointments as OES and ORS, SKYWARN, Volunteer Examiner, 10-10 International, QRP ARCI, AMSAT, and have earned PSHR, NTS BPL, WAS, WAC and DXCC. I have been active on 160 meters through 70 cm and enjoy contesting, DX'ing and public service events.

I am the QSL Manager for PJ7VP, David Van Putten, on the Dutch Island of Sint Maarten.

I led the effort to establish the Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award for Public Relations, co-sponsored by the ARRL and the New Hampshire Amateur Radio Association. In 1991, I produced and directed the video "Your Headquarters at Work", a video tour of League Headquarters and was honored to have it incorporated into the program at the 1992 ARRL National Convention.

As Vice Director, I received appointments from the President of the ARRL as Board Liaison to the VHF/UHF Advisory Committee in 1993 and as Board Liaison to the DX Advisory Committee in 1994. In January of 1995, I was appointed to the Membership Services Committee and Board Liaison to the DXAC where I worked to improve the quality of HQ services to all members.

In 1996, I moved to Florida where I served as Assistant Director for the Southeastern Division for 7 years. I am a member of ARES, South Florida DX Association, and the Florida Contest Group.

I now live in a condo community where outside antennas are prohibited. My antenna garden (it's hardly a "farm") consists of a Force 12 Sigma-5 (until I get caught!) and mag-mounts for 144/220 and packet.

I have had or do hold the following callsigns:

W4WR: Feb 26, 1998 - Present

K4VP: Feb 07, 1997 - Feb 26, 1998

WB1HBB: Mar 28, 1978 - Feb 07, 1997

PJ7/WB1HBB: Oct 21, 1994 - Oct 29, 1994

VP2E/WB1HBB: Aug 15, 1994 - Dec 31, 1994

PJ8/W4WR: Oct 17, 1998 - Dec 21, 1999

NB Contest Club, Trustee:

WB1HBB: May 31, 2002 - Present

KB1BOO: Mar 05, 1995 - May 30, 2002

Now that we've covered the "formal" stuff, I will admit to starting out in "CB" in the early seventies. I was living in Andover, MA and had a good friend, also into "CB" who discovered the wonderful world of Amateur Radio and who, after giving up coaxing me, dragged me into Amateur Radio kicking and screaming. Rich Bono, then WA1WMB (now NM1D) was my elmer and mentor. He literally changed my life.



The W4WR Shack

FQP 2004 Pictures



George K5KG (L) meets Charlie NF4A(R) in Taylor County.



John, K4BAI at the controls of K4BAI/M



K4BAI/M at the Florida Welcome Center on the FL/GA Border



W4OV/M ready to roll in HIG (K4LQ's front yard)



*Fred K4LQ at the W4OV/M operating position
My picture of Bruce W4OV in the same spot
regrettably did not come out*



The Mystery Mobile from FQP-01 returns. This fellow was spotted in the wilds of Miami - Dade county. Note the FCG orange shirt on the passenger. Which team is it? Only your editor knows for sure!



Jim VE7ZO and George K5KG alongside the K4KG Mobile



Jim in the drivers seat, with the operating position in the foreground.



Jim operating as George looks on from the drivers position



Jim and George meet NF4A/M in TAY County and look over his mobile antenna.



A view of the operating position through the passenger window



Spotted by an FQPer while mobiling through GLA

An FQP 2004 Tale - Part 1

By Kevin Milhorn N4KM

Well, there are always good stories to tell after FQP, and I think this year may be the best for me.

First let me say that I knew this year was going to be rough anyway as my partner for 4 of the last 5 years was Jim K4OJ. Thanks guys for all of the OJ's, I thought of past years and my fallen comrade every time I heard it. It was great to hear such a fitting tribute to him.



I found a great partner for this year, and after what we went through this year and remained friends I think Red K0LUZ and I will be operating in many contests side by side for a long time.

About 5 minutes before the start of the FQP we discovered that we had a problem with the remote speaker on the radio. To fix this problem I had to pull the passenger seat out as the IC-706 is mounted under the passenger seat. Bear in mind that Red and I are on the way to our starting point, so we pulled over into a reality parking lot and proceeded to tear the truck apart. Well, that problem was solved, but it put us behind enough that there was no way that we were going to make it to orange county to start, so we started in seminal for a few minutes on the way to orange.

Anyway, the next hour or so was pretty uneventful, good rates, good sigs, and we were having a good time, UNTIL, we were rolling down I95 in Broward county. We were following a pickup truck with a big cardboard box in the back. The box was the type that you might get a TV in or something like that. Double corrugated. Just as I was thinking, I need to get out from behind this #\$\$%\$#%^ person before the #\$\$%\$#%^ box flies out of his truck, his box flew out of the truck. It flew must have went 30 feet straight up in the air, and for a split second I was thinking. We are going to make it under this box before it is low enough to do any damage. Unfortunately, it came down before we got past. Red was busy operating and exclaimed "Where did all the signals go?". I reply with something like "They are with our antennas smashed all over the road!!!!" I had 15,20 and 40 meter hamsticks on a super modified K4OJ magnet on the top of my Xterra and that @\$\$@#@\$ box had sheared them off at the mount. I 95 in that area is 4 lanes going both ways and was completely full of traffic. Needless to say, the hamsticks were pulp as soon as they hit the road. To make matters worse, our spare antenna a W6AAU screwdriver had also been hit. The whip on it was bent, the mount which I had made out of 3/16 think angle iron was bent so the antenna was leaning back on about a 30 deg. angle, and several of the

connections to the antenna had been pulled loose.

Well, the Hamsticks were gone. We were able to repair the screwdriver and get back on the road. One note that needs to be added here is, in an e-mail exchange, George K5KG alias K4KG/M told me that he had a secret weapon this year.

Little did I know that it was a box launcher in the back of a pickup truck! Thanks Geo!

Murphy was not done yet! We got back on the air through Broward, Miami-Dade, and Collier. We then made a slight turn to the left and headed into Monroe country. We were pulled off to the side of the road when Red exclaimed "Do you smell something burning?"

Shortly thereafter the smoke was rolling. It turned out to be the DC to AC inverter that was powering the laptop. So we worked as long as we could with the laptop battery in Monroe. Then it died. We unfortunately were 200 miles for anywhere to find a replacement, so we sent and logged by hand for the next couple of hours, until we got into the FT. Myers area and Radio Shack to pick one up right before they closed.

All this Murphy business had put us way behind schedule, so I apologize to anyone who might have missed a sweep due to the counties that we did not get to on Saturday. Remember, this was still Saturday!!!!

There is a silver lining to this story, Sunday was a great day. No problems at all condx were good and a lot of stations to work in each county.

The pileups were incredible as we passed into a new county. Thanks to all who worked us, especially the dx stations who had to wait till we worked the stateside guys so we could hear them. Some notables were GM3POI (Clive worked us at times of the day I would not have thought he would have made it), DL6KVA, LY3BA, G4BUO, and many others.

Thanks everybody for making it a great FQP in spite of all the problems.

OJ! 73, Kevin N4KM

Ed Note: A further note from Kevin's Mobile Partner Red K0LUZ is reproduced below:

Today I drove back down to Broward County looking for evidence. I knew I wouldn't find the hamsticks because there were cars and trucks running over them within five seconds of hitting the highway, but lo and behold! Next to the road was the remnants of the big box that had hit the antennas. Upon closer inspection, I found a mailing label on the box. When George, K5KG said he had a secret weapon, he probably never suspected that evidence of the weapon would remain behind at the scene and make him our number one "Murphy" er..... ah..... er..... suspect. I'm sure he assumed that he would completely wipe us out, but we had our backup plan and our Screwdriver antenna took a licking and kept on ticking. We were hoping that the kink might work to generate some JA qsos on 40 meters Sunday morning, but unfortunately it didn't work.

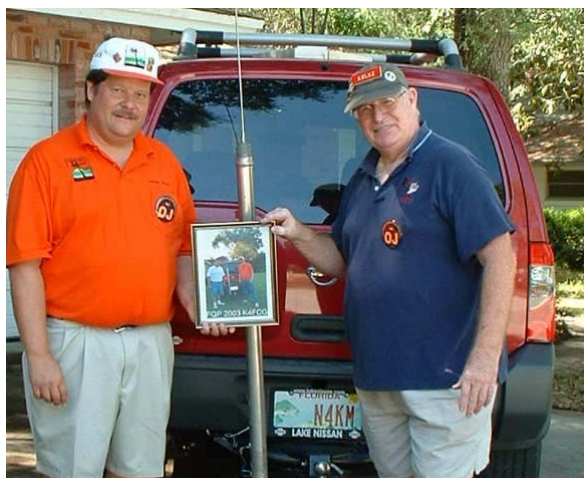
Ed Note: For those who cannot read the fine print on the box label below, it says: "RUSH SHIPMENT - George A. Wagner, K5KG/4 5119 Higel Avenue, Sarasota Florida 34248 RUSH SHIPMENT MUST ARRIVE BY APRIL 23, 2004"



An FQP 2004 Tale - Part 2

By Red Letchford K0LUZ

Since I was the replacement for K4OJ riding with Kevin N4KM for FQP, I need to add my few cents also. First, I consider it an honor to be Jim's replacement although I certainly wish he could have been riding along with Kevin during the trip as they did have a very special friendship. Both Kevin and I were touched by all the "OJ" that were in the contest and I often thought as we moved along how Jim would have felt from all the recognition and love that was being expressed during our latest FQP. FQP ----- guys, it's up to us to carry Jim's great contest vision to even higher heights in years to come with his memory always on our minds



Here is a photo prior to the contest with Kevin and myself posing similar to a photo of Kevin and Jim in last years FQP. Kevin and I are holding the photo.

As Kevin had mentioned, the highlight was definitely the demise of the hamsticks. A photo of the mobile just after the hamsticks had met their demise.



You'll notice the plastic mount with nothing on top of it. A few minutes prior to that, there were three antennas (15, 20, 40) on the mount!

After we got the Screwdriver antenna stabilized, we continued on looking for Highway 41 in Miami. Probably because we both had tears in our eyes, we must have missed a sign somewhere and when we were on Highway one with a stoplight every block and traffic jams at 2:00 in the afternoon. When we finally figured out where we were, we were about 6 miles south of 41 and had to take roads to get back to our route. We must have lost an hour there and thus the large number of Dade Qsos. If anyone missed Dade, it isn't our fault! Finally off on rt 41 looking for Monroe county. Here is a photo of Kevin working in Monroe and our setup.



As Kevin mentioned, our inverter then went up in smoke (what a wonderful day when you have the smell of burnt electronic gear in the morning!!) We replaced the Inverter with a heavier model in Naples but unfortunately it also created more noise in the receiver. For those who were calling us Saturday night and thought we the biggest lids you have ever tried to work, you try and copy through 10 over nine AC noise! We knew there were people in there, but our laptop battery was down and we had to use inverter. And because we were so far behind from so many visits by K4KG er..... Murphy, the contest ended at 10 P.M. and we were still south of Sarasota. Location for the night was Longwood which is North of Orlando. We got home at about 12:30.

(continued on next page)

In addition to everything else, Murphy is a major SLOB. We were throwing tools around. One special moment was when we had a brand new bag of Lays Potato Chips in the back seat that hadn't been opened and I had to lean



behind the back seat to get something not realizing that the bag was between me and the seat. Suddenly there was this POOOOFFFF and potato chips were raining from everywhere. From that point on, when we were trying to locate something in the back seat, we always had a snack to look forward to.

We got to bed a little after 2:00 A.M. (working on getting rid of inverter noise and cleaning up the back seat area!) and got a clean start on Sunday. I think we were a little tired, but the pileups were unbelievable especially about 4 to 6 pm. I think Kevin might have been slipping a /P5 at the end of our call. I haven't had a chance to start into the logs yet, but hopefully tomorrow evening, I can get some score. At this point we have no idea how we did. But I do think that George's Secret Weapon did the trick. They probably beat us, but that's the only reason they did!!! Hrumpf! There is always a NEXT YEAR.

I know that Jim would have had some wonderful stories that could have been woven from our experiences on Saturday. I can see him smiling now and sense the e-mails flying over the Internet. Rest in Peace Jim, We all miss you very much.

73
Red K0LUZ
1/2 of N4KM team.

An Older Contest Club

By Ink Bowen N400



The following paragraph was in a message from K4OJ to K4DDR, Subject: Alpha 374. A copy was sent to the FCG Reflector. I saved it because I intended to comment on the following paragraph, but regrettably, did not get around to it until now.

K4OJ said: "N400 tells of his days in this area, including a small contest club which he and W4ETO belonged to based, I think, in Clearwater... I know my Alpha was manufactured when they were out of Brooksville and if I am not mistaken, one of the other members of that contest club was Harold W4ZCB who was a salesman of transformers - including the ones W4ETO used!"

The Rest Of The Story

I was transferred to Pinellas county from Milwaukee, in 1966. A number of others on the project were transferred at the same time, among them, Bob Wilson, W9ZB. I was W9QYW at the time, and became W4LCP. Wilson was issued K4HF. We were both avid testers and DX chasers. For a time in the late 50s and early 60s, the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club was well represented in the major contests.

Not long after landing in Pinellas, we became acquainted with a newly forming group of hams with interest in DX and contesting. At the time, the group included Dick Ehrhorn, then WA4NGO (W4ETO), Duke Brown, W4QBK (W1ZA), Jim Roux, K4THA (W4YA), Bill Rowe, W4JDR (W4TV-SK), Bruce Savage, W4LBP (AA4Z), INK W4LCP (N400) and Harold Johnson, W4ZCB. There were many others, but these are the folks who are now members of the FCG or were known to many of our present club members.

After a meeting or 2, we decided to call the club, The Golden Triangle DX Club, the triangle being Clearwater, St Petersburg and Tampa. We knew that the term "Golden Triangle" belonged to the PA, MD, VA area, but we adopted it anyway.

In 1968, Bob Wilson drowned in a sailing accident. I later applied for his call, K4HF, on behalf of the club. It was a terrible call for CW, as it turned out.

Our first multi-multi, was at Dick Ehrhorn's place. He had a 90 ft tower with a 5 el 20M beam on it. We helped to erect smaller towers with antennas for the other bands. It all came together pretty well, but we were somewhat deficient on the low bands. Dick also had a battery of home brew amplifiers (built by W0AIH) which used 4-1000s and ran

off a common (big) power supply. We had a ton of (then) well known operators show up and I think we scored well, but do not have any recollection of the final results.

A couple of months after one of the CW contests, Jim Roux, then K4THA, reported on a short paragraph from the correspondence column in QST. It seems that a fellow whose call was K4SF, was complaining that someone was pirating his call because he had received this big batch of cards. Hmmm. Either we were sending K4HF poorly or others were not copying correctly....probably both. We subsequently quit using K4HF.

During this same period, Dick Ehrhorn, who was an engineering manager at a local electronics company, came up with the design for a new transceiver, which was called Signal One. Several people had inputs to the design, among them, Harold Johnson, W4ZCB. We had some interesting discussions at club meetings on characteristics we thought were important for contesting. Ultimately, the Signal One went into production but it was fraught with a number of problems and eventually the product was sold or turned over to another company. The design, was way ahead of the others in the field.

Meanwhile, Dick also developed an amplifier for the ham market. During the development phase, some of us met at Dick's house and wound power transformers using a relatively new technique developed by W4ZCB. The windings were made on a rigid bobbin and then stacked on a C core that fit inside the bobbin, instead of the conventional process of making a layered winding on a cardboard form with "fish paper" between layers and using E-I laminations.

Dick quit his day job and moved with his family to Brooksville, FL, where he set up his amplifier business in a couple of mobile homes, parked end to end. Duke and I visited him one evening and saw the work in progress. I wondered to myself " Whoinell would ever buy one of these fancy and expensive amplifiers?" I guess I did not see the big picture. Dick subsequently moved his business to Canyon City, CO, where he got a really good break on property taxes. They have moved a number of times since then. W4ZCB, upon retirement from the Air Force, did go into business manufacturing a number of things which included for a time, the power transformers for the ETO amplifiers.

During this period, Duke, W4QBK and Bruce, W4LBP, moved away. With 3 of the active members gone, the complexion of the club changed somewhat. An elderly member (compared to the rest of us), Bob James, W4WS, made his QTH and 3 towers in his Clearwater orange grove available for multi-multi operations. Bob subsequently had to sell his properties in a divorce settlement but meanwhile, Harold Johnson built a house in the rural Brooksville area and stocked it with several tall towers and large arrays. We may have had some preliminary sessions in 1976. We used the W4WS callsign.

As I recall, we staged a major effort multi multi from there in the fall of 1977. We had a sort of (well, semi anyway) all star lineup: N4TO, W4YA, N4ON, W4MJ, W7NG, W4QM, N4OO and W4ZCB. W7NG happened to be visiting the area at the time and was put to work. The others are/were "local". The certificate that we received read: "IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENT OF WINNING THE WORLD-WIDE DX CONTEST FOR THE MULTI OPERATOR-MULTI TRANSMITTER CW DIVISION FOR THE UNITED STATES". The total score was 2,909,170. W7NG wrote an article for CQ in 1978, about his adventures at the multi-multi in Brooksville.

That was a pretty low score by today's standards, but obviously good enough in 1977. As I recall, it was all down hill from there. N4TO moved away, W4QM quit GE at the Cape and went back to being a maritime radio officer, W4YA changed jobs, moved and for a time was off the air. N4OO got distracted by tarpon fishing. The Golden Triangle Club fell apart, mostly from lack of interest. W4ZCB ultimately sold the property, took down all the towers and moved to North Carolina.

N4TO remains an active tester. W4QM and W4YA remain active in contests, but with a tad less enthusiasm than before. N4OO has pretty much retired from contesting except for the FQP, but is active daily on the bands. It should be noted however, that N4TO, W4QM, W4YA, W1ZA, AA4Z and N4OO all (as individuals) own one or more first place certificates for Florida in the ARRL DX Contest and probably some for the CQ WW. These date to the 60s and early 70s. I even remember a second place finish by the team of W4QM, W4YA and N4OO for a multi single effort in the CQ WW CW, probably in '68 or '69.

That was all 30 or more years ago. Things change. A modest station using a tribander at 60 ft and some wire antennas for the low bands, won't win any certificates, but it is still fun.

Now if I could just get one of these dang fool logging programs to work, maybe.....

Ed Note - A big tip of the FCG cap to Bruce W4OV for inviting me to operate with him in W4OV/M during FQP. I must say I had more fun than during any contest weekend in a long time. Although I've been hamming for 54 years, this was my first exposure to HF mobile operations, and I found it very enjoyable. We didn't make a high score, but certainly had a lot of chuckles and occasional frantic unfolding of the maps to try to figure out where we went astray from our planned route. We're currently looking forward to another try next year. .

73, Fred K4LQ

Dayton Pictures



K1TO and K4IK timing the speed of the disappearing midnight pizza at Dayton, 2004.



AA4RX and K4XS at the Contest Banquet



Lou KE1F



N4KM and N4PM in the FCG Hospitality Suite in front of a display of J7OJ, K4OJ and WE4OJ QSLs and a photo montage of K4OJ and W1CW



W4ZW and WC4E at one of two "dedicated" FCG tables at the Contest Dinner.



K1TO with K7GM, both former ARRL HQ Contest Department employees. Dan is chuckling as he tries to measure up to Rick, who is a lot taller.



ARRL Hudson Division Director N2FF sporting one of the popular K4OJ badges



K7JA at the Yaesu booth, proudly wearing an OJ badge, and leaning on the display of the new FT DX9000



Our banner displayed outside the Contest Super Suite

Ed Note: Thanks W1YL for the preceding pictures. Below are Ellen's remarks at the Dayton Contest Dinner.

Dear FCG members:

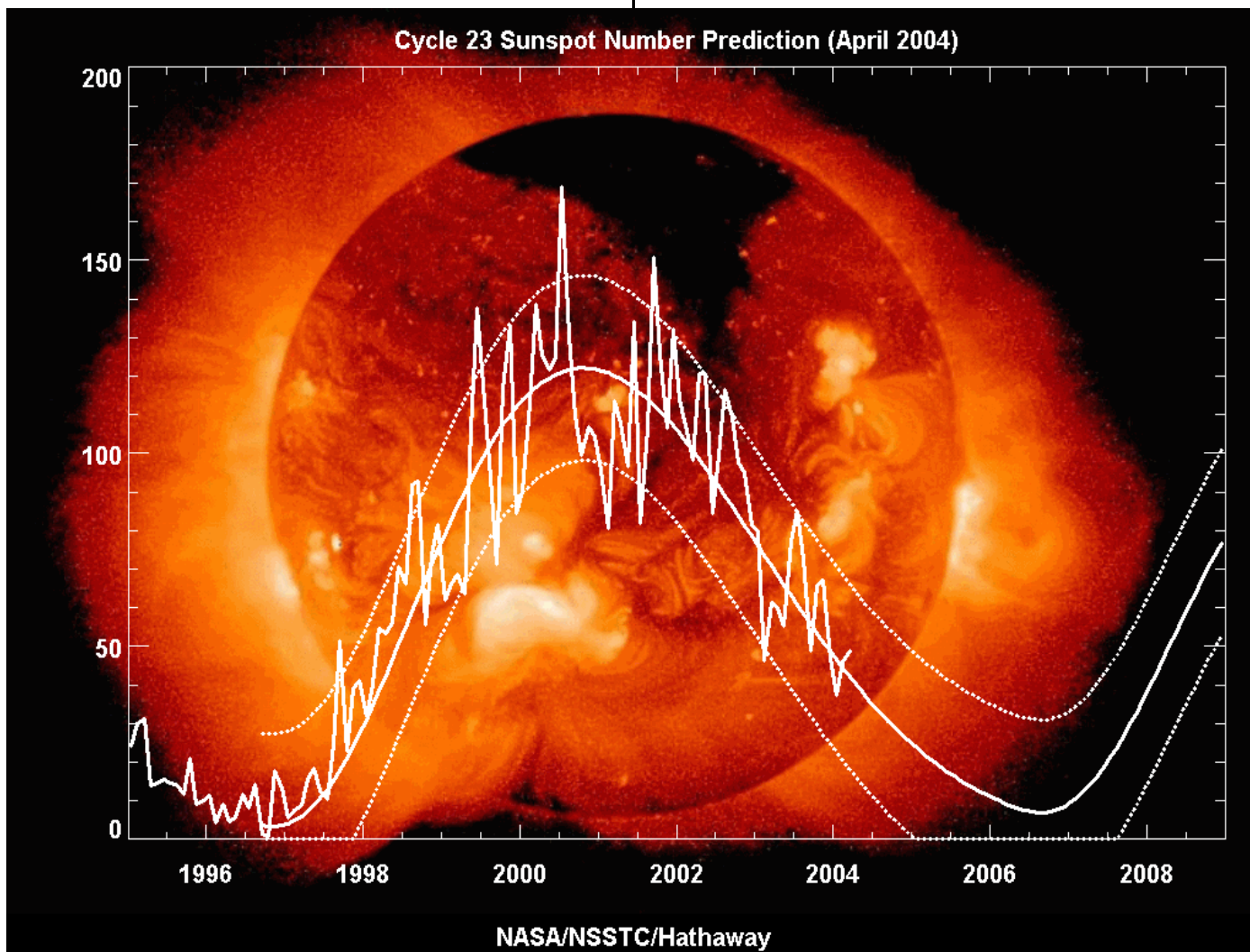
Many of you could not attend the Dayton Hamvention Contest Dinner. My short remarks of thanks apply most particularly to all of you, friends of K4OJ, friends of mine.

The contest fraternity suffered devastating losses this year. Jim White, K4OJ, the founder and first president of the Florida Contest Group, left the contest scene in February. As his mother I deeply mourn his loss but I am here with you, his friends, and almost 30 members of the Florida Contest Group to celebrate Jim's life and the positive impact he made on so many.

K4OJ's enjoyment and enthusiasm for contesting was legendary and there are few in this audience who did not experience this for themselves.

During recent years Jim's health worsened but it was ham radio, the Florida Contest Group, and c.w. that made his life exciting and challenging. Last year K4OJ and I thought a suitable tribute to our very special guy, W1CW, would be to use Bob's call for CQWW c.w. - using it for the first time since had Bob died the year before. Jim worked extraordinarily hard on this multi-multi and with the help of many of the FCG we implemented W1CW during CQWW c.w. to the tune of over 12 million points and about 5700 QSOs.

The physical effort of doing this was incalculable, but in spite of poor health K4OJ accomplished it. Following the contest we were both so psyched by the success of our effort that we immediately put Dayton 2004 on our schedule. So, you see, Jim IS here with me, and I most sincerely want to thank all of you who knew him, admired him, and helped to make his life meaningful.



Here is what the sun has in store for us in the next couple of years. Looks like 160 meter contests are going to be the place to be, at least for a while.

This photo was downloaded from:

http://science.msfc.nasa.gov/ssl/pad/solar/images/ssn_predict_1.gif

Thanks George K5KG for digging this one out.

Ed Note - I have more Dayton material on the way, it will be included iin the next newsletter.

GL to all in WPX CW

Fred K4LQ

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