

Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.org



Volume 20 Issue 1

May 2013

From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO

W hile it will be really tough to top the 2012 Florida QSO Party (FQP) with its fifteen 1x1 stations for the 15th running, it looks like we gave it a great shot a few weeks ago! Nearly 500 stations worked all seven of this year's 1x1s and several claimed scores are well above record levels! Much, much more on the FQP in the next Gazette.

Orlando festivities in February were also at record levels, with a nearly packed house at the FCG Contest Dinner to hear Randy, K5ZD. There are lots of pictures in this issue, along with the write-up that summarizes the dinner and luncheon.

WRTC-2014 efforts are moving along to the next phase, now that the qualifying period (55 events!) is over. In July, we will have about 30 stations on the air in the IARU contest from most of the sites that have been chosen for 2014. There are only 7 more contest results to process, but I've now cranked out hundreds of thousands of event scores for over 30,000 different entrants around the world. Julio, AD4Z and Fred, K9VV/KP2 appear to be the winners of their Selection Areas! Several FCGers have expressed interest in being a Referee and many are making plans to be in middle Massachusetts next July for the event. Best of all, the FCG remains on top of the list of tent sponsorship!

CQ WPX CW is coming up next weekend, after Dayton this weekend (thanks to KQ8Z for summarizing the list of Dayton FCG attendees). Propagation in the summertime events is always different from those in the winter, so don't be surprised when 20 stays open all night long, but 10 is not as solid as you might expect during the day. Just as in the FQP, 20 has a nice peak in our late afternoon. Look for 15 Meters to be open all daylight hours and well into the evening. With the recent rumblings on the sun and a very recent prediction of a solar flux of 160 late in the month, 15 could become the key band in WPX and 10 will be open even more than typical (but don't ever look for 10 to be the best band in summertime conditions).

Hopefully, many of you will support your local Field Day

efforts and show 'em how it's done right. There is a wealth of knowledge in this club and part of what we do is to pass that along to those with less experience.

On a personal note, I'm hoping to operate 6M for the first ever from home next month and the June VHF event seems like the perfect place to jump in the deep end. That all assumes I find the time to assemble and raise the 7L I bought last year, but if there is ever a good time to try 6M, it should be next month.

If the predictions for a second sunspot peak are accurate, this will be a fun fall/winter contest season. Don't be caught unprepared! Propagation always explodes after we reach the September equinox, so mark it on your calendar.

Thanks to all who contributed pictures and written content for this issue of the Gazette, and to Fred, K4LQ who patiently presents it all so well. I'm sure our next issue will be packed with FQP and Dayton pictures and stories.

OJ! GO FCG! Vy 73, Dan

Ed. Note: Publication of this issue is running a couple months late due to K1TO and K4LQ both being a bit busier than usual this Spring. Dan also had to write a "blind: lead article due to a malfunction of his laptop being unable to read .adif files, so he couldn't see the newsletter. Back to normal next issue - we hope :<)

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Events Calendar

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW 0000Z, May 25 to 2359Z, May 26

ARRL June VHF Contest 1800Z, Jun 8 to 0259Z, Jun 10

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

IARU HF World Championship 1200Z, Jul 13 to 1200Z, Jul 14

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

CQ Worldwide VHF Contest 1800Z, Jul 20 to 2100Z, Jul 21

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

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

SARTG WW RTTY Contest 0000Z, Aug 17 to 1600Z, Aug 18

North American QSO Party, SSB1800Z, Aug 17 to 0600Z, Aug 18

All Asian DX Contest, Phone 0000Z, Sep 7 to 2400Z, Sep 8

WAE DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Sep 14 to 2359Z, Sep 15

ARRL September VHF Contest 1800Z, Sep 14 to 0300Z, Sep 16

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Sep 28 to 2400Z, Sep 29

Contributors to This Issue

. K1TO, K4PG, W1YL, K5KG, K9ES, K4QD, KQ8Z, K4LQ, WF3C, ARRL Contest Update Newsletter

Welcome Aboard



The following new members have joined FCG since the last news-letter:

N8BGJ - Larry Newton, 7812 Deni Drive, N. Fort Myers FL 33917

K4YLX - Ted Jahn, 5541 Rainey Avenue W., Orange Park FL 32065 e-mail ted@k4ylx.com

K3VN - Al Hernandez, PO Box 2235, Melbourne FL 32901 e-mail: k3vn@att.net

K2BQ - Paul Haczela, 1005 Western Way NW, Labelle FL 33935 e-mail:paulk2bq@verizon.net

K4LM - Vant Morell, 12962 77th Pl N, West Palm Beach FL 33412 e-mail: k4lm@comcast.net

K4IMB - Doug Imberman, 2421 Stratford Pointe Drive, Melbourne FL 32904 e-mail: douglas_inberman@yahoo.com

KL7MF - Janet Margelli, 6652 Cerulean Avenue, Garden Grove CA 92845 e-mail: kl7mf@dxer.com

K7JA - Chip Margelli, 6652 Cerulean Avenue, Garden Grove CA 92845 e-mail: k7ja@dxer/com

NOTW - Terry Webb, 1103 Fulford Road, Monticello FL 42344-5344 e-mail: notwterry@centurylink.net

WA6POZ - Gerry Gross, 126 Shakespeare St., Talahassee FL 32317 e-mail: wa6poz@arrl.net

W5EMI - Emile Inberman, 510 Ridgegate Dr., Garland TX 75040 e-mail: emile/imerman@verizon.net

K2DM - George Briggs, 1057 Soledad Way, The Villages FL 32159 e-mail: k2dm@att.net

K4AUP - Jane Kimball, POB 849, Zellwood FL 32798 e-mail: janehd@aol.com

KI4GHK - Taylor Plumblee, 4719 Fontana St., Orlando FL 32807

K8PWE - Ann Hubbs, 1690 2nd Ave., Deland FL 32724 e-mail: annhubbs@yahoo.com

K4JSB - Jeff Bunin, 9287 Boca Gardens Circle South, Apt. F, Boca Raton FL 33496

KK4DZP - David P Mahan Jr., PO Box 640516, Beverly Hills FL 34464 e-mail: dmahan01@tampabay.rr.com

K4FLV - William Franklin, 3070 Poppy Road., Venice FL 34293-3119 e-mail: gulftrader@verizon.net

AA2MF - Rich Cariello, 16001 2nd St E., Redington Beach FL 33708 e-mail: rlcariello@verizon.net

Ed Note: FCG Membership topped 300 for the first time in March. Thanks to all those "recruited" who helped us make this happen

Orlando Hamfest Meeting Report

By Fred Perkins, K4LQ



President Dan K1TO called the meeting to order using the gavel that the FCG won in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest (by a wide margin over all other clubs).

The fifty-five attendees included FCG members AD4ES, AD4Z & Maria, K1KNQ, K1PT, K1TO, K1XX, K2EUH, K4LQ, K4LRP, K4LW, K4MM, K4PG, K4QD, K4XS, K5KG, K8NZ, K9ES, KE1F, KJ4LQX, KK4CIS, KK4DOE, KL7MF, KQ8Z, KT4LST, KT4Q, N4EK & KD4BRJ, N4FP & WB2VYK, N4LZ, N4WO, N4WW, NG4L, NX4N, V01MP, W1MD, W1RG, W1YL, W4ABC, W4GV, W4LT & Linda, W4OI, W4UH. W9KB, WA4OAB, WB4FSF, WC4E and WF3C, plus guests K4BAI, K5ZD, KU8E, N4RET and NK1Z.

Other members spotted at the Contest Dinner and/or at the hamfest included: K0LUZ, K2CIB, K3TW, K3USC, K4AC, K4DMH, K4GRD, K4MF, K5AUP, K9VV & W4LIS, KC4C?, KD2JA, KK3Q, KM4HI, KP2N, KR4U, KW3Y, N0TW, N2ESP, N4BP, N4GI, N4UU & KF4WZH, N6AR, N8PR, NA4RR, NN4X, NP2B & NP2C, NT4TS, V01MP, W4AS, W4DL, W4DN, W4IR, W4OV, W4OZK, W4QG, W4QN, W4RIS, W4TAA/VE3MMQ, W4TSP, W4UM & W4SLR, W4WQ, W6KW, W8EK & N8AJU?, WA4EEZ, WA5POK, WB2REM?, WB4OMM, WC4H, WH7YL, WW4B. Well over 100 FCG members were in Orlando in total!

Dan began the meeting by asking attendees to identify themselves and tell us their plans for upcoming contests. The FQP was by far the most often mentioned, with the upcoming ARRL DX Contests next in popularity.

Dan thanked all the officers for their contributions to the FCG and for making the prior evening's Orlando Contest Dinner a success. 107 people attended and listened to the fine talk given by Randy K5ZD. Chris, WF3C was named an FCG VP exactly one year ago.

He discussed the founding of the club and gave a tribute to Jim White, K4OJ, It will be 9 years on Monday since Jim passed away.

Fred K4LQ gave the Secretary/Treasurer's report: "Membership is at an all-time high. New members include K2BQ, K3VN, KK4DOE, K4YLX, K4LM, KL7MF and K7JA. AA2MF application has been received and is being processed. This brings membership to 296. Our bank account was at \$3984.87 on Friday. A portion of that represents ticket money for the dinner, much of which was paid out for dinner expenses last night. We took in some money from "pay at the door" folks and some from Orlando dues collection. Dues collection is going a bit slowly this year, with 70 members not paid as of Friday. I collected some at the dinner and will collect more here at the luncheon. Our next newsletter will cover events at Orlando extensively, including a lot of pictures taken by members."

Next, the plaques and certificates were awarded for the 2012 FQP. Eric K9ES and Jeff WC4E were thanked for their many hours of work on the plaques and certificates. These activities were recorded by the FCG's most active photographer, Kevin K4PG (thanks again, Kevin!), One huge reason for the 2012 FQP success was the use of (15) 1x1 stations whose suffixes spelled out "FLORIDA QSO PARTY". Another 1x1 activity is expected in 2013 with details yet to be worked out.

Dan re-introduced our dinner speaker Randy K5ZD and a discussion of WRTC-2014 ensued. Randy thanked the FCG for their sponsorship of 6 tents at WRTC-2014. This puts FCG tent sponsorship ahead of all other contest clubs. Randy noted that a centrally located hotel (west of Boston) will be named shortly where competitors and guests can stay. Some members said it was their intention to visit New England during the WRTC-2014 activities.

Thanks to Dan K1TO for his usual FB editing of this report.

73/Fred K4LQ

Seen at the Hamfest



FCG's most active photographer Kevin K4PG steps in front of the camera himself.



Above - Ed N4EK and Trish KD4BRJ



Above L-R Pete K8PDC, Ed K8DSS



Above - Bill NG4L

Below - Bill K4XS





Above - Bob K2EUH



Above - Bob N4BP



Above- Greg N4WO



Above - Pete N8PR Below - George KQ8Z





Above - Ellen W1YL



Above - Bruce W4OV



Above - Blake N4GI Blake collected Paypal payments for the dinner. Thanks Blake.

Below - Hamfest Parking Lot





2013 Orlando Contest Dinner Picture Highlights



Our Dinner Speaker Randy Thompson K5ZD



Yaesu's Dennis K7BV with Al K3VN who won the Raffle Grand Prize (shown below)



Raffle Grand Prize - Yaesu FT-950 Donated by Yaesu

Some of the organizers of this event are shown below in action at the dinner.



Dan K1TO



Chris WF3C



George K5KG



Fred K4LQ

Contest Gazette



WB4OMM K4DMH K8PWE



KM4HI N4UU N4LZ



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VO1MP and friend



K2EUH W5JR



WB2VYK K2DM



K1KNQ WC4E



WW4B KE1F



W4OZK NP2X



WA6POZ N0TW



K5KG Kay

WF3C

K1TO

WC4E W1YL KL7MF K7JA



K2BQ and Friend







FQP Award Presentations during FCG Luncheon at the Golden Corral First the Plaques...

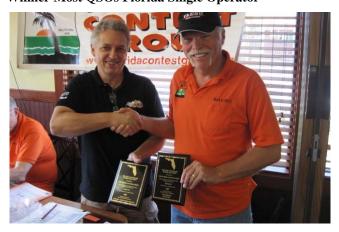


Above - Ellen W1YL, Sponsor with Fred K4LQ Winner of Top Florida CW High Power This award honors W1CW and K4OJ



Above - Center Lou KE1F, Winner, Right Paul K1PT Sponsor of Top Florida CW
Below - Bill K4XS who operated KH7XS/W4.

Winner of Top Florida Sideband (New Record) Also Winner Most QSOs Florida Single Operator





Above L-R, Chuck AD4ES, Sponsor, Julio AD4Z, Dan W4UH, Winners First Florida Station Making WAS.

Not shown ops AI4QY and WA0USA



Above L-R, Eric K9ES Sponsor, Julio AD4Z, Dan W4UH, Winners Top QSO Total From A Special 1X1 Station (W4Y)

Not shown ops AI4QY and WA0USA



Above - Kevin K4PG Sponsor and Winner of Top Florida Multi-Single along with W4WR. Kevin is also responsible for most of the pictures in this issue. Thanks Kevin.



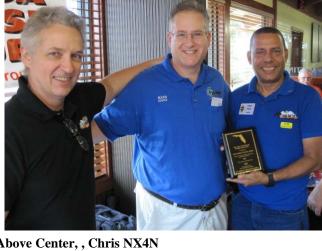
Above L-R Steve KT4Q, Levon KT4LST



Above(Center) Jeff WC4E Sponsor, (Righ) George K5KG Winner Top Florida Mobile Multi-Op. Not shown Op Jim VE7ZO



Above Right - Jack K1KNQ Winner Top Florida Mobile SSB operating as K4FCG



Above Center, , Chris NX4N Sponsor Top Caribbean/ South America - Winner HI8A Julio AD4Z/HI3A (Right) accets the trophy for HI8A.

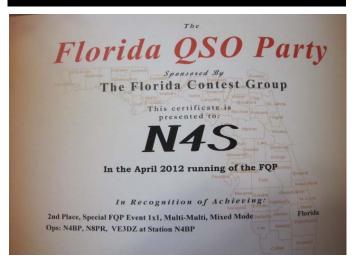


Above Center and Right , Jeff KU8E, John K4BAI Winners Top Florida Mobile Multi-Op CW Sponsored by K1TO as as an N4TO Memorial.



Above - Jeff WC4E (Right) winner of Top Florida Mobile No Driver. For those reading their first Gazette, the gentleman in the black shirt giving out all the awards is Dan K1TO, President FCG.

And Now... for the FQP 2012 Certificate Winners



A Sample Certificate



Above - L-R Jan K4QD, Doug KK4DOE

Below - L-R Tom K4MM and Paul K1PT





Above - Julio AD4Z



Above - Lu W4LT



Above - L-R Doc N4WW, Chris WF3C



Above - George K5KG



Above L-R Marty W1MD, Charlie K1XX



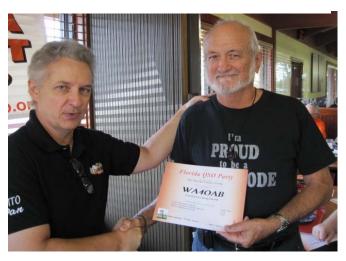
Above - None other than Dan K1TO congratulating himself on a fine performance at K4O.



Above - Our Dinner Speaker, Randy K5ZD



Above - Marty KJ4LQX



Above - Bob WA4OAB



Above - Bill NG4L



Above - Mo N4LZ



Above - Eric K9ES



Above - Wayne N4FP



Above - John K4LRP



Above - Ed N4EK



Largest Golden Log (Zero Errors)

First Station to Work All Counties

First Station to Work All Special FQP 1X1 Callsigns (CW & SSB) K9OM



Above - Bonnie WB4FSF

N2CU

K0HC (W0BH)

Above - Greg N4WO

K1TO

K5KG

PCARS

FQP 2012 Plaque Winners

SPONSOR	2012 FQP PLAQUE	WINNER
K9VV	Top Florida Mixed Mode	W4SVO
K1PT	Top Florida CW	KE1F
W1YL	Top Florida CW High Power - Honoring W1CW / K4OJ	K4LQ
N4DL	Top Florida SSB - In Memory of Jordan Mash WB2QLP	KH7XS/W4 (NEW RECORD)
N4BP	Top Florida QRP	K3TW (NEW RECORD)
K3TW	Top Florida Mobile - Most Counties Activated	N5WR & K4KG – tie
K1TO	Top Florida Mobile No Driver	N4AO (WC4E) (NEW RECORD)
N4LZ	Top Florida Mobile Plus Driver	NX4N (NEW RECORD)
K4RX	Top Florida Mobile Mixed Mode	W5WMU (NEW RECORD)
K9OM	ToP FLORIDA MOBILE RUNNING MULTI-2	K4BV (KB4T NU4C W2EJG WB4OMM)
N4EEB	Top Florida Mobile SSB	K4FCĠ (K1KNQ)
WC4E	Top Florida Mobile Multi-Op	K4KG (K5KG VÉ7ZO) (NEW RECORD)
K1TO	Top Florida Mobile Multi-Op CW (N4TO Memorial)	W4AN (K4BAI KU8E)
K4PG	Top Florida Multi-Single	N4FCG (K4PG W4WR)
K4LQ	Top Florida Club Station	AA4PP (AA4GT K9PWQ KC8RRO KJ4YYR
K	•	KK4IDY N1MMQ W9KB WB8VQU
AD4ES	First Florida Station making WAS	W4Y (AD4Z AI4QY W4UH WA0USA @W4UH)
W4DAS	Most QSOs Florida Single Operator	KH7XS/W4
NF4A	Top Non-Florida Mixed Mode	WA3HAE
W2TX	Top Non-Florida CW (In Memory of N4OO)	K9CT (USA RECORD)
KT4PD	Top Non-Florida SSB	W1KD`
NA4CW	Top Non-Florida QRP	VA3DF (VE RECORD)
W4OZK	Top Non-Florida School	KOHC (WOBH)
W4LIS	Top Non-Florida YL	N3KN `
AA4HP / K4M\	/O Top Non-Florida Club Total Entry (minimum 10 entries)	Contest Club Ontario
T.C.G NY4N	Top Non-Florida Multi-Single	W6RKC
N4PN	Top Canada Mixed Mode	VE3KZ (VE RECORD)
N4LZ	Top Canada CW	VE1RGB
K1KNQ	Top Canada SSB	VY2LI
WA4OAB	Top Score Oceania	VK4TT
K3TW / SO5TV	V Top Score Poland Mixed	SP6JOE
K3TW / SO5TV	V Top Score Poland CW	SP1AEN
NX4N	Top Caribbean / Central / South America	HI8A
KE1F	Top Europe CW (in Memory of ZL1AMO)	DL3GA
K9ES Specia	Il Achievement (Top QSO total from a Special 1x1 station)	W4Y (AD4Z AI4QY W4UH WA0USA @W4UH)
N2NL	Top DX Mixed Mode	I4VEQ
K1TO	Lorgost Coldon Log (7oro Errors)	Mach

Other Pictures from the Saturday Luncheon Meeting



Above L-R Ron K8NZ, Linda (W4LT's XYL), Bob WA4OAB, WA4OAB'S Guest, Jon W4ABC, Wayne N4FP



Above - Tom K4MM

Below - L-R Gus VO1MP, Rich W1RG, Alan KK4CIS





Above - Ken W9KB and Maria (AD4Z's XYL)



Above L-R, Lou KE1F, Bob K4LW, Trish KD4BRJ and Ed K4EK



Above L-R Dan W4UH and Julio AD4Z



Above L-R Mo N4LZ and Paul K1PT



Above L-R Marty KJ4LQX Jan K4QD, Chuck AD4ES, Eric K9ES



Above L-R Walt W4GV, Levon KT4LST, Steve KT4Q, Bob K2EUH

FQP 2013 1X1 CALLS

The FQP Spelling Bee is back!

As a follow-up to last year's smashing success with the special 1x1

callsigns, we're doing it again!

K4F @ N4WW/ORA

K4L @ W4UH/PAL

K4O @ K1TO/MTE

K4R @ N4BP/BRO

K4I @ AA4MD/HIL and W4LT/HIL

K4D @ W4MLB/BRE

K4A @ K4FC/LAK

K4I will be a distributed multi-2, with SSB hosted at AA4MD's station and CW at W4LT's station.

All stations will be QRV on CW and SSB the entire weekend, so turn your antennas toward Florida on

April 27 and 28!

Submitted FQP logs will be used to determine award winners.

Steve WB4OMM has volunteered to be the QSL manager for the 1 X 1 calls. He also designed cards for them, a sample of which is shown below. Thanks Steve.





ARRL DC CW Claimed Scores

FLORIDA	STATIONS:				•		
Call	Score	QSOs ====		s Class	Sec ===	Ops ===	HRs ===
AA4PP				SOABHPa	SFL	W9KB	
AD4ES	204,336	344		MSHP	SFL	+K9ES	8.15
AD4Z	4,379,292	3,526		SOABHPa	SFL	@W4UH	42.5
K0LUZ	2,068,092	1,964		SOABHPa	NFL		30
K1KNQ K1PT	1,071,054	942 483	319	SOABLPa SOABHPa	NFL SFL		27.5
K1TO	3,483,729	3,147	369	SOABHP	WCF		26.5
K2EK	170,088	373		SOABHPa	NFL		20.0
K2EUH	,	54		SB160HP	WCF		
K4LM	303,264	468	216	SOABLP	SFL		10
K4LQ	1,232,685	1,035		SOABHPa	WCF		
K4LM	30 3,264	468		SOABLP	SFL		
K4MF	1,222,110	1,110		SOABHP	SFL		
K4MM K4QD	177,885 133,848	295 265		SOABLPa SOABLPa	SFL SFL		
K4XS	4,693,065	2,935		SOABHPa	NFL		47
K5RQ	261,261	1,001		SB15m	WCF		17
K8NZ	- , -	239		SOABLPa	SFL		4.5
K9IA	269,466	463	194	SOABHPa	NFL		
K9OM	421,308	747		SB15m	NFL		10
KE1F	2,475	33		SOABLP	NFL		
KK4CIS	141,804	303		SOABLP	SFL		0
KK4CIS	103,332	316		SOABLP	SFL		9
KM4HI KN4Y	7,215 142,200	65 300		SOABHPa SOABLP	NFL NFL		8.5 26
N4DXI	80,136	212		SOABHPa	NFL		20
N4EK	220,698	402		SOABLP	NFL		
N4FP	96,000	256	125	SOABLP	NFL		9
N4GI	2,292,096	2,032	376	MSHP		W4LI,WF3	C 30
N4LF	335,478	506		SOABLPa	SFL		9.3
N4LZ	123,552	264		SOABHP	NFL		11
N4TB	477,600	1,592		SB20HP	WCF		9
N4WO N4WW	206,739 2,375,916	403 1,559		SOABLPa SOABHPa	NFL NFL		9
N6AR	2,084,880	1,460		SOABHPa	NFL		25.5
N8PR	2,337,237	1,613		SOABHPa	SFL		29.5
NC2V	31,680	176		SB10m	SFL		
NJ2F	77,319	213		SOABHP	SFL		
NN4X	1,182,180	1,220		SOABLP	SFL		
NJ2F	77,319	213		SOABHP	SFL		
NT4TS W1MO	166,824 65,604	331 284		SOABQRP SB80m	SFL NFL		
W1WO W3WW	113,664	257		SOABLPa	SFL		
W4AA	1,207,884	1,054		SOABLP	NFL		
W4CU	690,840	760		SOABHPa	WCF		
W4GV	379,290	538	235	SOABHP	NFL		21
W4QN	1,206,000	1,000		SOABHPa	SFL		25
W4ZGR	1,827	29		SB20QRP	SFL		5
W9KB Wrath	975,270	1,121		SOABHPa SB15m	SFL WCF		24
WB4TH WD4AHZ	267,138 2,130,195	873 1,711		SB15m SOABLPa	WCF WCF		35.5
WN4R	5,160	43		SOABLPa	NFL		2+
	9,618,716			5012214	111 2		
NON-FL	ORIDA STAT	IONS:					
Call	Score	QSOs	Mults	Class	Sec	Ops	HRs
C6AZZ	243,729	1377	59	SB20LP	C6A	KQ8Z	
C6APG	244,296	1404	58	SB80LP	C6A	K4PG	
C6AKQ	328,686	1889	58	SB40HP	C6A	N4BP	
C6ASP	226,548	-		SB15HP	KP2	W6KW	48
KP2M	6,039,264	5852	344	MSHP	KP2		NP2X,WP2XX 48
NH2T	, , -			SOABHPa	KH2	- 1-	,
PJ4X				M2HP	PJ4		
TOTAL =	7,082,523						

Work on K9ES Towers





The first photo shows Jeff KG4IPO strapping on at the top of the tower at 147 feet. Sticking out of the top is the 2M J-Pole (an 8 foot ground rod with 1/4 wave stub welded on it). The bottom plate of the J-Pole shows one of the strobe beacons (orange object). This plate is bolted to the top of the mast as if sticks out of the top thrust bearing. The ground rod was selected as this antenna becomes the lightning rod for the tower. At the bottom of the picture inside the tower is a flange that has 3 pulleys mounted, which gets lowered down the center of the tower to be attached to the 22 foot heavy Chrome-Moly mast. Using all these pulleys, giving a 6 to 1 mechanical advantage, the pulling tension to lift the 200 pound mast becomes about 40 pounds, but requires 900 feet of rope to pull.

The work on the lower torque bearing produced the first of several "murphy's law" incidents. When the mast came up, it had a slight bulge at its seam. This bulge prevented the mast from going through the thrust bearing. Jeff found that the top thrust bearing was more tolerant of the bulge, and swapped the top thrust bearing for the bottom, and the bottom was brought down for a little machining to allow the bulge to pass. Jeff came down for lunch. And I machined out the inside of the bearing with a 50 thousandths key to allow the mast to pass through. The thrust bearing was repainted with rust proofing, and brought back to the top spot, and the mast was then raised and secured through both thrust bearings, with 18 inches of mast protruding out of the top of the tower. The J-Pole was then mounted on this section of mast.

Jeff then climbed down to the top Tic-Ring where 1/4 EHS guy wire was passed through to become the temporary Tram line for the tramming of the top C31-XR antenna to the Top TIC-Ring Rotor. Both ends of this line were later attached to the guy anchors for tramming up the top C31XR at another date.

The EF340 40M Yagi has been tuned, so when the tramming occurs, I will be able to move up the pair of C31XR's on the top and bottom Ring Rotors and the 3 element EF340 on the middle Tic Ring.

More to come.....

73 and thanks to everyone who came out to assist (KG4IPO, K2ZEA, WB4EQS, AD4ES) - Eric K9ES

FCG Sponsored Plaques Paid Up for 2013

FCG currently sponsors 5 contest plaques:

CQ WW CW Europe High Power - W3AU Memorial

NAQP CW Single Op North America

CQ WPX SSB Multi-Op 2 Transmitter USA

CQ WPX CW Multi-Op 2 Transmitter USA

NEQP Top Club Score Outside New England

Payments for these plaques have been sent to the contest sponsors.

Florida Contest Group

Dan Street, K1TO, President 9993 289th Street East Myakka City, FL 34251 k1to@aol.com

George Wagner V.P. Operations 5113 Higel Avenue Sarasota FL 34242 Georgek5kg@aol.com

Ron Wetjen, WD4AHZ V.P. Florida QSO Party 5362 Castleman Drive Sarasota, FL 34232 wd4ahz@arrl.net

Chris Plumblee, WF3C 4719 Fortuna Street Orlando, FL 32807 Chris.plumblee@gmail.com

Fred Perkins, K4LQ Secretary/Treasurer Newsletter Editor 3437 Lake Josephine Drive Lake Placid FL 33852 k4lq@arrl.net