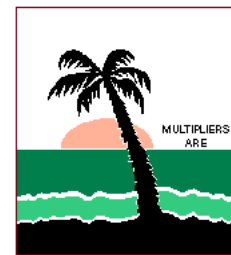


Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

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Volume 14 Issue 4

Happy Thanksgiving

November 2007

Another Member's View

By Fred Kleber K9VV

Ed Note: Thanks to Fred K9VV for filling in for Dan K1TO who is currently leading the FCG team of AD4Z, HI3CCP, N4TO, K8NZ and N4GI in HI3 preparing for CQWW CW.



Ham Radio is a hobby with many sub-hobbies. A hobby means you do it for enjoyment. Enjoyment means many things to different people. Kind of like one of my favorite sayings, "If there is ever a time on the golf course when you can't say golf is fun, then you shouldn't be golfing." It's true that life's various obligations periodically alter our amount of hobby time, you make the choice of what makes you happy.

FCG, is a unique group of wonderful people. I've been a member of ham clubs in several states, and FCG definitely tops the list. Why? FCG is not pretentious and all are welcome, whether beginner or old timer. FCG is a great blend of camaraderie, the a refreshing combination of popular sub-hobbies. (HF, VHF, CW, SSB, digital, experimentation, building, antennas, towers, etc.) FCGers exemplify the hobby mantra of being kind and unselfish teachers. Witness the emphasis on attracting and recruiting new talent. It's GREAT to see seasoned FCG calls Elmering KI4xxx in his/her first contest, even if KI4xxx only made a few QSOs. My own XYL Lisa even admitted (after 20 years of marriage and 4-years as W4LIS) that she actually had fun working a couple of dozen guys (including K1TO) in the WW SSB contest from NP2B. Reach out and explore new horizons. After being licensed for 35-years, I'm still finding fun and exciting sub-hobbies. I operated Straight Key Night for first time this year. I only made two QSOs, but had a blast! That experience was enough for me to get the old Drake TR-4 refurbished and ready for future SKNs. This year was also my first time for any serious mobile HF-ing. The three "novices" did M/2 in FQP. Had a ball! Back again next year for sure. Being a Floridian cultivated CERT, ICS & ARES training, which has led multiple ventures into the communications sector of public service, including WX4NHC. I made a P25 digital voice contact on the local repeater a couple of weekends ago.

OK, big deal, so what about it? This isn't about all the stuff I've done, it's all about how much FUN I've had in our hobby, and what works for me. Each step of the way, FCG was there in form or another, just as our founders would have wanted it. I'm sure each of you can think of similar things that you've done, or are contemplating doing. (No Dan, I

don't aspire to be a writer, so your writing post is secure. hi hi) So what's the message?

- LEARN - If you have questions, ASK. FCG is a wonderful, willing and friendly knowledge resource.
- EXPLORE - Venture into new "sub-hobbies". Who knows, it might be even more exciting than your first QSO! Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
- BE PASSIONATE - Believe that you are going to find something or somebody fun, even if you try a few things that don't appeal to you.
- ENJOY - Above all, do what makes you happy in the "hobby". If it's not fun, don't do it.

While the holidays will bring lots of "distractions", this IS contest season. I hope you can manage a few minutes / hours in the upcoming contests, or doing whatever makes you happy. Enjoy, whatever may be your passion, but hopefully ham radio will be a part of it at this point in your life. If not, check back in when your personal situation allows it! The sub-hobbies will have expanded and FCG will be there for you. Wishing you and yours a happy and safe holiday season, and may 2008 bring renewed enthusiasm in YOUR HOBBY. 73 and OJ de Fred, K9VV standing in for Daniel El Toro...

Inside this Issue

Welcome Aboard, Events Calendar.....2

Recent Antenna work at WIYL QTH.....3

J70J Pictures ARRL DX CW Feb 07.....4,5

July Meeting Report from K4PB QTH6,7

NAQP Claimed Scores.....8

Miscellaneous Claimed Scores.....9

Final Scores ARRL Jan VHF & RTTY Roundup, N3ISH Pictures... 10

Bali Ha'i is Calling E51MMM - E51NNN by K5KG11

Dash Cartoon, Tips from Contest Rate Sheet.....12

Contesting Keeps Us Young!

By Charly Harpole HS0ZCW, K4VUD, VU3CHE

Ed Note: Thanks to Charly for a quick response on a request for articles to fill in for K1TO who is in HI3 for CQWW



Some thoughts from a guy who is older than he ever thought he would be.

What good is contesting? Well, it certainly gets the bands active while leaving four bands open for general ham operations. It bonds groups who work together and provides a lively and friendly competition for hams to talk about when we see each other in eyeball qos.

But, as the radio ham ages, I say contesting also keeps us young. Look at the benefits so often also touted by doctors:

-Contesting provides a schedule of activities to look forward to. Retirement often leaves us at loose ends but the skeds of contests provide some regularity. Too, looking positively to the future also keeps elders in the best and most healthy frame of mind. Planning for the next contest has that function.

-Contesting continues our abilities to concentrate and think fast. Age has the habit of slowing our brains, but it is proven that if we use it, we do not lose it (so fast, at least!). Concentration sharpens our wits, and rapid exchanges keep us able to think clearly and accurately—better than cross word puzzles!

-Contesting exercises our short-term memories. The short-term memory is the first to go, but contests put lots of stress on short-term memory, and the exercise has got to do us some good!

-And contesting pushes us to improve our stations. Any work on our stations again exercises the gray matter, and if it also means any antenna work, climbing or just walking as a “ground man,” there is physical exercise, too.

Facing the aging process with intelligence, good humor, and patience are the keys to positive golden years. Aging is not a popular subject, but hams have an inside track on holding back the effects of time because we are avid contesters! Go FCG !!!!!

Content Credits

Thanks to the following for the articles and pictures in this edition: HS0ZCW, K4EJ, K5KG, N4BP, N4VV, N0AX, NA0ED, ARRL Contest Rate Sheet, QRZ.com

Welcome Aboard



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

KG4TPZ Jane Beattie, 17577 Bridle Lane, Jupiter FL 33478 e-mail janebeat@bellsouth.net

W4TBB Tom Beattie, 17577 Bridle Lane, Jupiter FL 33478 e-mail: tbeattie@bellsouth.net

N3VVF Heather Edwards, 10 River Road, Apt. 3-P, New York NY 10044

K5AUP Jim Kimball, POB 849, Zellwood FL 32978 e-mail: jwkimball@aol.com

N3EA Alan W. Maslin, 8181 Azure Coast Blvd., Lake Worth FL 33467 e-mail: amaslin@earthlink.net

K2EUH Bob Foxworth, 12417 Berkeley Sq Dr, Tampa FL 33626-2659 e-mail: rfoxworl@tampabay.rr.com

K2EK Bill Gioia, 2304 County Road 673, Bushnell FL 33513 e-mail: k2ek@aol.com

Events Calendar

CQWW DX Contest (CW) Nov 24 000Z to 2400Z Nov 25

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Nov 30 to 1600Z, Dec 2

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 8 to 2400Z, Dec 9

Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Dec 29 to 1500Z, Dec 30

ARRL RTTY Roundup Jan 5 1800Z to Jan 6 2400Z

North American QSO Party (CW) Jan 12 1800Z to Jan 13 0600Z

North American QSO Party (SSB) Jan 19-1800Z to Jan 20 0600Z

CQ WW 160 Meter DX Contest (CW) Jan 26 0000Z to Jan 27 2400Z

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest Feb 9 0000Z to Jan 10 2400Z

ARRL DX Contest (CW) Feb 16 0000Z to Feb 17 2400Z

Recent Antenna Work at W1YL's QTH

Objective: Remove 40 and 10 meter beams, rotor and mast from the 130 ft. 55G tower next to the house, do prep work for removing 7 sections to reduce tower height to about 60 ft. In later visits, remove antennas from the back 45G tower, take down that tower completely. Repair 40M beam, reinstall it and a tribander on the tower next to the house. Sell all antennas and tower sections that will no longer be used.



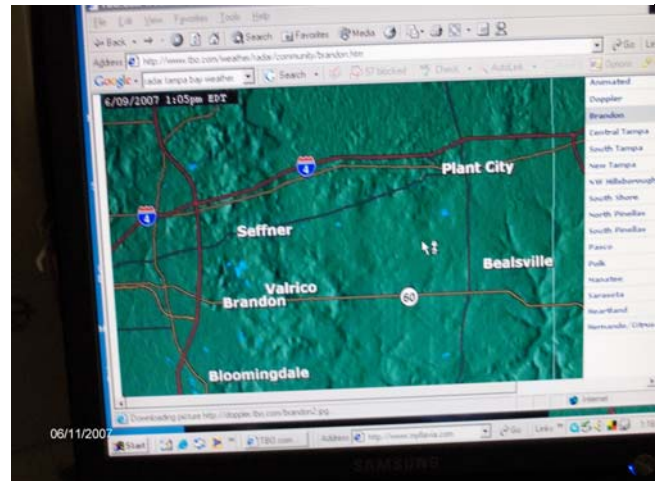
Blake N4GI and Dan K1TO begin the tower work



The Ground Crew Dan W0CN, Fred K4LQ and George K5KG



The first 40 meter element disconnected and getting ready to go down the tower



W1YL pulled the difficult job of monitoring the unstable FL WX front, while in the air conditioned QTH! A realistically important job, however, for antenna workers during Florida's sum-



L-R Fred K4LQ, Dan W0CN, Dan K1TO and Blake N4GI. Not shown, George K5KG who took the pic-

J7OJ Pictures from ARRL DX CW February 2007



George K5KG invited FCGers to his QTH to meet the contest team. Top L-R: W9IU, W19WI, KK9K, K8NZ, W3TB, K9ES. Bottom L-R: W2OX, K1TO, W4JN



K1XX building 2 element 40 meter loops on 50 ft fiberglass masts.



George at K5KG/J75KG Station



Jim at W19WI/J79WI Station



Ron at KK9K/J79RV Station



Don at W9IU/J79IU Station



Charlie at K1XX/J79XX Station



*J70J Contest Operation
L-R Charlie K1XX, Jim W19WI and Don W9IU*



C-3 with 40 Meter Loops in Background



Propagation Discussions



*The verdant jungle nearby the the Sea Cliff Cottages where
the J70J operation took place*



*The J70J Team
L-R Charlie K1XX, Jim W19WI, Ron KK9K, Don W9IU
and George K5KG*

July Meeting Report from K4PB's QTH

Attending were AD4ES, AI4QY and Diane, AI4QZ, K1PT and KD1BG, K1TO, K4LQ and Sheila, K4MM, host K4PB and hostess W4EEQ, K4PG, K9ES, N4BP, N8PR, W4AMS, W4DTA/Elizabeth/harmonic, W4KPG, W4OV and Sandy, W4QN and Carol, W4SAA, W4TBB and KG4TPZ, W4UM and W4SLR, WF3C.

Your secretary spent an enjoyable half hour or so before lunch rag-chewing with a number of old friends from the SFDXA whom I first met in the late '70s - early '80s when I lived in Ft. Lauderdale. Members began the festivities at noon by digging into a sumptuous repast of burgers and hot dogs with all the fixins accompanied by lots of salads and desserts. Jan W4EEQ and helpers did a great job of putting it all together.

Dan started the meeting by thanking Alan K4PB and Jan W4EEQ for their hospitality. The resulting thunderous applause was soon matched by Mother Nature who provided plenty of her own! The ice cream can was passed to collect donations.

Dan then asked members to identify themselves and the contest(s) that they most looked forward to in the upcoming season. It was no surprise to hear our own Florida QSO Party, the recent Field Day and IARU, and the CQ WW DX mentioned most often.

Other interesting comments captured:

- W4SAA intends to operate the Stew Perry 160 test from a QTH with a 140' water tower
- N4BP, K4PG and maybe N8PR intend to return to C6 for the ARRL DX CW
- N4BP is getting his K3 by the end of the month
- K4PG has a tower going up that will hold a Tennadyne T8 log periodic
- With W4OV "chaperoning", W4DTA and others are headed to FCG member NP2B's for CQ WW SSB
- W4DTA also intends to build a contest stn in YV
- W4DTA will operate with a group as YW6R in December from a rare part of Venezuela
- N8PR intends to operate SS CW from a rare VE section
- K4MM has 149 countries confirmed on 6M, including VQ9
- K4MM is also QRV on 60M and maintains the 60meters.info web page
- W4TBB is a new ham this year, won an HF rig at a hamfest, and worked Italy for his first HF QSO
- Perhaps the best news of the day is that newly licensed members of the Jupiter-Tequesta Repeater Group, including hostess Jan, W4EEQ, are challenging each other to use CW on the air
- Dan noted that the FCG streak of winning gavels for the high club score in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest ran out in the contest last December. Florida did not have favorable propagation as we have had in past years, as indicated by 9 of the 10 domestic winners coming from west of the Mississippi. More members participated this year so we competed in the Unlimited category, coming in second to the much-larger Potomac Valley Radio Club.

The PVRC recently made history by forfeiting the 2006 Sweepstakes 1st Place gavel to the NCCC because a number of PVRC members submitting scores turned out to be outside the 175-mile circle competition boundary imposed by the ARRL. The FCG circle is centered just west of Melbourne.

Dan and Fred will take an action item to confirm the precise FCG 175-mile radius ARRL circle (and 275 km CQWW circle) and identify members who are "on the edge".

Secretary/Treasurer Fred K4LQ reported that membership is now at 190. Membership this year has increased by 18 members so far, a higher rate than normal at this time of year compared to past years. The treasury figure is at \$4655.82. The W1CW/K4OJ Memorial fund contains \$1580.00.

Dan and Fred have reviewed the treasury figures in relation to our annual expenses, and concluded that the Club is in a position at this time to reduce dues by five dollars. Consequently, Dan announced that reduction. Effective immediately, new members downloading the newsletter from the website will pay \$5, and those requesting hard copies of the newsletter will pay \$10 annually. Not surprisingly, no opposition to the reduction was voiced by members present! Fred noted that twenty-two members have paid multi-year dues in advance. With the new rates, K4EFZ and K5RQ are paid up through 2016, and KJ4UY and N4WW through 2012. Eight members are paid through 2009 and 10 through 2008.

In the newsletter arena, the picture of Steve W4DTA with the ICOM girl at Dayton received many favorable comments. By popular demand, the next newsletter contains a picture of Steve with two (count 'em two) US Towers girls. The next newsletter template is with Dan K1TO for review (who vehemently denies that the delay has anything remotely to do with the Icom or US Towers girls). We hope to publish in late July or early August.

Mike W4UM was asked to update us on proposed IOTA Contest activity. Mike has taken the lead in rounding up members to work the upcoming IOTA Contest on islands near Florida. Several members who had planned to work the contest have dropped out due to other commitments. Mike will be using special call W4H during the IOTA Contest on Bathtub Beach on Hutchinson Island, along with K1PT and K4MM. The IOTA Contest has no club competition, but Mike is working with Bernie W3UR (publisher of the Daily DX) to contact the contest sponsors in Great Britain to consider adding a club category.

Dan discussed outgoing QSL activities briefly. A show of hands indicated most members present were using ARRL's Logbook of the World, yet nobody uses eqsl.cc except to occasionally answer requests. Fred noted that as QSL manager for K4FCG, a large number of QSLs were received for FQP activity with no SASE, indicating probably the senders (identified as mostly new hams) had not been instructed on best QSL practices.

Dan noted that the NAQP contests, a popular series with many of our members, are coming up shortly. NAQP RTTY is on the same weekend as the meeting (as is the CQ VHF Contest -- 6M was a hot topic among those attending, a pretty amazing feat for the bottom of the sunspot cycle!). Ad-hoc teams will be recruited via the e-mail reflector.

Dan announced that he will join a team of AD4Z, N4TO, N4GI and K8NZ in a M/2 operation in the upcoming CQWW CW at the superstation at Loma Del Toro in the Dominican Republic. They will make an assault on the NA record from there. Loma Del Toro is one of the best contest sites in the Caribbean. Julio AD4Z operates HI3A from Loma Del Toro on You Tube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=76fHWapX53k&mode=related&search=

The meeting concluded with a proposal that the host for this meeting let the Secretary know later how much was collected in donations at the meeting and if it was below what the host spent, then the treasurer would reimburse the host from club funds.

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

73/Fred K4LQ
Secretary, FCG



L-R Fred K4LQ, Paul K1PT and Tom K4MM



Butch W4AMS



L-R Eric W4KPG, Bruce W4OV



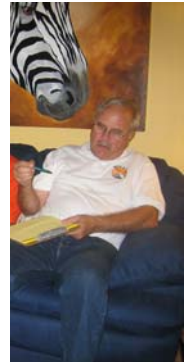
Above: Pete N8PR



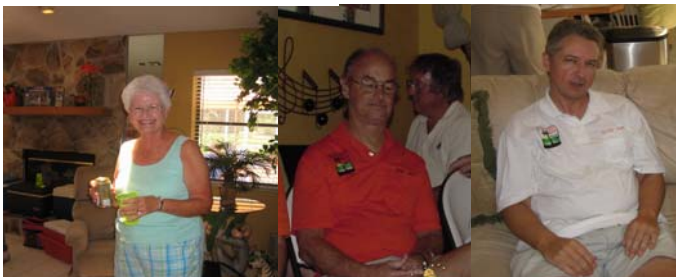
Host Alan, K4PB



L-R Norm W4QN, Steve W4DTA,



Joe W4SAA



Above L-R Sandy, XYL W4OV, Bob N4BP, Dan K1TO



Above: K4PB Shack

Below Left - L-R Eric K9ES, Chuck AD4ES

Below Right - Chow line in action



NAQP CW Claimed Scores

Station	Score	QSOs	MULTS	Class	Section	HRS	OPERATOR(S)
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Team: Florida Contest Group #1

N2NL	208,335	969	215	Single-Op	SFL	10.0	N2NL at K1PT SO2R
N4OX	107,016	637	168	Single-Op	NFL	10.0	
WJ9B	104,364	669	156	Single-Op	NFL	10.0	SO2R
K4PV	78,820	563	140	Single-Op -HP	NFL	9.9	
K8NZ	60,450	465	130	Single-Op	SFL		

Team: Florida Contest Group #2

WD4AHZ	39,100	340	115	Single-Op	WCF	7.0	
N4WO	13,277	187	71	Single-Op	NFL	9.7	
KE1F	9,009	143	63	Single-Op	NFL		
WF3C	3,450	75	46	Single-Op	SFL	3.5	WF3C @ W4MLB
W4ZW	1,674	54	31	Single-Op	WCF	0.9	

Team: Florida Contest Group #3

AD4TR	55,180	445	124	Single-Op	NFL		
N4EEB	50,304	384	131	Single-Op	NFL	10.0	First NAQP
KN4Y	1,144	44	26	Single-Op	WCF		mobile operation
AF4Z				SFL			

FCG - NO TEAM INDICATED

WK2G	91,184	656	139	Single-Op	WCF	10.0	
N4PJ	34,026	321	106	Single-Op	NFL	6.0	
W4CU	30,318	326	93	Single-Op	WCF		
W4PTS	12,410	146	85	Single-Op	WCF	6.0	
W4LT	7,224	129	56	Single-Op	WCF	4.0	
KT4PD	5,400	108	50	Single-Op	SFL	5.3	
WB4FSF	2926	77	38	Single-Op	NFL		
N4LF/3	1,920	60	32	Single-Op	DE	1.5	
W4UM		46		Single-Op	SFL		first NAQP

NAQP SSB Claimed Scores

Station	Score	QSOs	MULTS	Class	Section	HRS	RATE/HR	OPERATOR(S)
K4CC/0	1,127	49	23	Single Op - 20m	MT	6.0	8.2	Tarheel on motorhome
N4PJ	21,760	272	80	Single Op - All band	NFL	5.0	54.4	
KI4RDM	5,883	111	53	Single Op - All band	WCF	4.8	23.4	
W4TBB	646	38	17	Single Op - All band	SFL			first official FCG contest
WF3C	4,290	110	39	Single Op - All band	SFL	3.0	36.7	at W4MLB
K1RQ/7	2,280	60	38	Multi-Two ID				K1RQ/7 and NJ1F

Miscellaneous Scores

Station	Score	QSOs	MULTS	Class	Section	OPERATOR(S)	HRS
IOTA CONTEST							
N6AR	439,206	307	142	SINGLE-OP HIGH-ALL	NFL		12.0
KN4Y	13,806	65	26	SINGLE-OP LOW-ALL	NFL-P		5.5
N4WO	4,578	49	14	SINGLE-OP LOW-ALL	NFL		3.6
TEN - TEN CONTEST							
N4LZ	78	43		SINGLE-OP LOW CW	NFL	10-10 Number: 30439	
WORKED ALL EUROPE (WAE) - CW							
W4CU	25,894	242	107	SINGLE-OP HIGH-ALL	WCF		6.9
W4LT	3,431	73	47	SINGLE-OP LOW-ALL - TB WIRES	WCF		4.2
Russian RTTY WW Contest							
W4ZE	237,975	355	95	SINGLE-OP HIGH-ALL	SFL		10.0
W4CU	171,700	292	85	SINGLE-OP HIGH-ALL	WCF		
SARTG WW RTTY Contest							
W4ZE	915,420	562	132	SINGLE-OP HIGH-ALL	SFL		16.0
SCC RTTY Championship							
W4CU	63,420	251	105	SINGLE-OP HIGH-ALL	WCF		
W4ZE	58,685	253	97	SINGLE-OP HIGH-ALL	SFL		6.5
OHIO QSO PARTY							
KN4Y	2,240	40	28	SINGLE-OP LOW-ALL CW	NFL-P		3.0
NA SPRINT CW CONTEST							
K1TO	17,664	368	48	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	WCF	Top Ten - S01R	4.0
K1PT	11,730	255	46	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	SFL	First CW SPRINT ever !	4.0
NF4A	9,768	222	43	SINGLE-OP ALL LOW	NFL		4.0
SEPT VHF QSO PARTY							
K9ES	66	9	6	SINGLE-OP LOW (6-2-432)	NFL	First contest from new QTH !	
NA SPRINT SSB CONTEST							
NF4A	4,356	121	35	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	NFL		
	2.0						
SAC CW CONTEST							
WX4G	40,000	247		SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH		LOG LOST - NOT SUBMITTED	
N6AR	24,276	155	68	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	NFL		
N4BP	24,190	187	82	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	SFL		
K5KG	19,120	189	80	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	SFL		8.0
K4LQ	8,016	81	48	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	WCF		3.9
K9ES	621	34	27	SINGLE-OP ALL LOW	SFL		2.0
WASHINGTON STATE QSO PARTY							
KN4Y	7,940	93	20	SINGLE-OP ALL LOW	NFL		

Final Scores ARRL RTTY Roundup

1	K4QD	169,476	1,461	116	M	B SFL (+AF4Z, WF3C, K3VN, AK4R, K9ES, KI4BUE, KI4GHK)
2	N4BP	162,030	1,473	110	S	B SFL
3	W4QG	77,280	736	105	M	A NFL
4	N6AR	26,928	306	88	S	B NFL
5	N4PSE	26,040	372	70	S	A SFL
6	K4LQ	23,392	272	86	M	B WCF
7	KE1F	21,000	300	70	S	A NFL
8	W7QF	16,936	232	73	S	B NFL
9	N9JRZ	13,620	227	60	S	A NFL
10	K8NZ	13,320	222	60	S	A SFL
11	WX4G	11,696	172	68	S	B WCF
12	K4ADR	10,738	182	59	S	A SFL
13	K8OSF	3,066	73	42	S	A WCF
14	N4WO	2,964	76	39	S	A NFL
15	N4OK	1,0664	1	26	S	A NFL
Totals		579,552	6,145	1,072		

Final Scores ARRL Jan VHF Test

1	WJ9B	16,896	166	64	B	NFL
2	W4TAA/VE3	13,728	175	66	A	ON
3	NJ2F	5,940	120	36	B	SFL
4	K4ADR	3,321	104	27	B	SFL
5	WX4G	55	11	5	A	WCF
Totals		39,940	576	198		



FCGer George N3ISH operates this flagpole antenna with good results on 60, 40, 30 and 20 meters from his Naples QTH. Switching in the formidable looking coil at the lower right puts it on 160 Meters.



From QRZ.com - George N3ISH and his XYL Mary NV4Z. On July 12th of this year George passed his Extra Class Exam.



Bali Ha'i is Calling E51MMM - E51NNN

By George Wagner K5KG

If there ever was a Bali Ha'i, this could have been the place. Here we are on Rarotonga, the main island in the South Cooks. We have come here for the CQWW CW contest, but it is turning out to be much more than the just a contest. First of all, setting up the antennas on the beach has been a lot of hard work. Our motel room is not more than 50 feet directly to the water line, but getting down to the beach is treacherous. The way down is steep, slippery, and over layers of volcanic boulders and loose coral that has accumulated over millions of years. It took us a full 5 days to get everything set up. Here is a shot of Ron crawling over the boulders to get to the feed point of our 160m inverted vee:



In total, our compliment of antennas is 6 monoband verticals – 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10m plus a low sloping dipole for 30 & 17. We also have a 300 foot beverage pointing north which seems to work very well. All antennas are easily within a few feet of high tide. At high tide some of the verticals are in the surf.



We have been here for 9 days, and currently have 4,800 QSOs in the combined E51MMM/E51NNN logs. Our daily operating routine is to get on the air about 3am local (1300z), and work 40 & 80 thru sunrise, and then switch to 20. Condx at these times are excellent. Mid-day, however, the bands drop out, and that is when we get the work done and catch up on sleep. Then late afternoon, 4pm (0200z), things pick up, and we then work up until about 1000z for the night. (Yes, unfortunately we have been missing the East Coast sunrise time due to our sleep cycle.)

NA and the Pacific are easy to work. EU, on the other hand, is most difficult. We get the best EU openings on 40, but they are sparse. The JA's are usually always in, and it has been fun accumulating them on the various bands. The biggest operating problem we have is the incessant Chinese Dragon - said to be an over-the-ground radar from BY. It is especially prevalent on 40 where it blankets the entire band making it nearly impossible to work through. Fortunately, it is quiet at times, and then 40 is a dream.

We have enjoyed the hospitality of the local hams, all two of them! Victor, E51CG, and Jim, E51JD, have been very gracious, and have made us feel very much at home. We find ourselves at Victor's QTH almost daily scrounging one thing or another. Here is Victor at the E51MMM operating position:



And here are Ron, George and Jim getting ready to down a few 807's:



I have been on many DX operations, but one thing distinguishes this one from the others – the Internet. We do not have access to the Internet at the motel, but we can buy time at the local Telecomm office for about \$10 per hour. It is both slow and expensive, so we don't take time to answer all the incoming emails. We have, however, been able to arrange any number of 160m contacts by coordinating times and frequencies with the zealous 160 ops in JA-land. Also, we have been emailing the HI3A team (K1TO, N4TO, N4GI and K8NZ) to coordinate contacts, but so far no joy. It is doubtful that we will make it in the contest with them on 10. Hopefully, we will make it on the other 5 bands! We have an IC706 permanently monitoring W6/KH6/JA beacons on 28.2 kHz to watch for 10m openings.

In summary, we are having a great time, and are keeping our fingers crossed that everything holds up thru the contest weekend. Our planned departure is December 1st, a week after the contest is history, and we hope to see everyone on the piles!

73, George signing off in Rerouting, or is it Bali Ha'i,!

Ed. Note: Bali Ha'i, is based on the real island of Ambae in Vanatu, where James Michener, author of "Tales of the South Pacific" was stationed during World War two.



- WHY I DIDN'T WIN THE CONTEST:**
1. I WANTED TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH MY FAMILY.
 2. MY SECTION HAS TRICKY LETTERS.
 3. NOBODY EVER HEARD OF THE YEAR I WAS FIRST LICENSED.
 4. I LOST MY LUCKY HAM RADIO BADGE.
 5. THE ICE CREAM MAN KEPT DRIVING BY.
 6. ONLY LOST SOULS ARE GOOD AT THIS.
 7. MY CALLSIGN MEANS SOMETHING BAD IN JAPANESE.
 8. I WASTED ALL MY TESTOSTERONE PILLS ON THE TOUR DE FRANCE.

Tips from The ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet

It's time to update your CTY files because Bosnia and Herzegovina have just been granted the prefix block E7A-E7Z by the ITU. This replaces the T9A-T9Z block in current use. (Thanks, Jim AD1C)

URL of the Week - Pat N0HR has written a very useful piece of software called HamLinks. It's a browser toolbar focused on ham radio that works with both popular 'net browsers running in the Windows environment. It's downloadable for free (http://www.n0hr.com/Ham_Radio_Toolbar.htm), installs and uninstalls easily, and gives hams quick access to ham content on the Web, such as product reviews and for sale sites. It also links to RSS blog feeds, a UTC clock, WWV propagation info, ham radio podcasts and more.

Tom Hogerty KC1J has resigned as ARRL Contest Manager and is pursuing other opportunities. The Contester's Rate Sheet editorial staff wishes Tom 73, the best of luck, and thanks him for his service to our favorite activities over the past couple of years. Until a new person is hired, previous Contest Manager Dan Henderson N1ND is helping out as are the volunteers that help keep the department running. (Ed Note - Sean Kutzko KX9X has replaced Tom - Tnx K4EJ)

Bill N1HWC found an attractively-priced source (<http://www.wescodirect.com>) for brightly-colored guy marker tubes that slide over guy wires. You've seen them on utility pole guys -they help keep folks from running into the wires. No need to buy a case of 25 as this company sells in unit quantities.

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