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…
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 qsos.

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: rfoxwor1@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 0000Z 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

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-

The Ground Crew Dan W0CN, Fred K4LQ and George K5KG

L-R Fred K4LQ, Dan W0CN, Dan K1TO and Blake N4GI. Not shown, George K5KG who took the pic-
George K5KG invited FCGers to his QTH to meet the contest team. Top L-R: W9IU, WI9WI, KK9K, K8NZ, W3TB, K9ES. Bottom L-R: W2OX, K1TO, W4JN.

K1XX building 2 element 40 meter loops on 50 ft fiberglass masts.
J7OJ Contest Operation
L-R Charlie K1XX, Jim W19W1 and Don W9IU

The verdant jungle nearby the Sea Cliff Cottages where the J7OJ operation took place

C-3 with 40 Meter Loops in Background

The J7OJ Team
L-R Charlie K1XX, Jim W19W1, Ron KK9K, Don W9IU and George K5KG
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 period
- With W4OV “chaperoneing”, 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 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.

Other interesting comments captured:
- 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 $465.82. The W1CW/K4OJ Memorial fund contains $1585.00.
L-R Fred K4LQ, Paul K1PT and Tom K4MM

Above: Pete N8PR

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

Below Left - L-R Eric K9ES, Chuck AD4ES

Below Right - Chow line in action

Host Alan, K4PB

Butch W4AMS

L-R Eric W4KPG, Bruce W4OV

L-R Norm W4QN, Steve W4DTA,

Joe W4SAA

Above: K4PB Shack
## NAQP CW Claimed Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>QSOs</th>
<th>MULTS Class</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>HRS</th>
<th>OPERATOR(S)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N2NL</td>
<td>208,335</td>
<td>969</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>Single-Op</td>
<td>SFL</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N2NL at K1PT SO2R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N4OX</td>
<td>107,016</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>Single-Op</td>
<td>NFL</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>WJ9B</td>
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<td>Single-Op</td>
<td>NFL</td>
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<tr>
<td>K4PV</td>
<td>78,820</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>Single-Op –HP</td>
<td>NFL</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K8NZ</td>
<td>60,450</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>Single-Op</td>
<td>SFL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Team: Florida Contest Group #1

- **Team:** Florida Contest Group #1
- **Station:** N2NL
- **Score:** 208,335
- **QSOs:** 969
- **MULTS:** 215
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** SFL
- **HRS:** 10.0
- **Operator:** N2NL at K1PT SO2R

- **Station:** N4OX
- **Score:** 107,016
- **QSOs:** 637
- **MULTS:** 168
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** NFL
- **HRS:** 10.0

- **Station:** WJ9B
- **Score:** 104,364
- **QSOs:** 669
- **MULTS:** 156
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** NFL
- **HRS:** 10.0

- **Station:** K4PV
- **Score:** 78,820
- **QSOs:** 563
- **MULTS:** 140
- **Class:** Single-Op –HP
- **Section:** NFL
- **HRS:** 9.9

- **Station:** K8NZ
- **Score:** 60,450
- **QSOs:** 465
- **MULTS:** 130
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** SFL
- **HRS:** 10.0

### Team: Florida Contest Group #2

- **Station:** WD4AHZ
- **Score:** 39,100
- **QSOs:** 340
- **MULTS:** 115
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** WCF
- **HRS:** 7.0

- **Station:** N4WO
- **Score:** 13,277
- **QSOs:** 187
- **MULTS:** 71
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** NFL
- **HRS:** 9.7

- **Station:** KE1F
- **Score:** 9,009
- **QSOs:** 143
- **MULTS:** 63
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** NFL
- **HRS:** 9.9

- **Station:** WJFB
- **Score:** 3,450
- **QSOs:** 75
- **MULTS:** 46
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** SFL
- **HRS:** 3.5

- **Station:** W4ZW
- **Score:** 1,674
- **QSOs:** 54
- **MULTS:** 31
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** WCF
- **HRS:** 0.9

### Team: Florida Contest Group #3

- **Station:** AD4TR
- **Score:** 55,180
- **QSOs:** 445
- **MULTS:** 124
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** NFL
- **HRS:** 10.0

- **Station:** N4EEB
- **Score:** 50,304
- **QSOs:** 384
- **MULTS:** 131
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** NFL
- **HRS:** 10.0

- **Station:** KN4Y
- **Score:** 1,144
- **QSOs:** 44
- **MULTS:** 26
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** WCF
- **HRS:** 10.0

- **Station:** AF4Z
- **Score:**
- **QSOs:**
- **MULTS:** SFL
- **Class:**
- **Section:**
- **HRS:**

### FCG - NO TEAM INDICATED

- **Station:** WK2G
- **Score:** 91,184
- **QSOs:** 656
- **MULTS:** 139
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** WCF
- **HRS:** 10.0

- **Station:** N4PJ
- **Score:** 34,026
- **QSOs:** 321
- **MULTS:** 106
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** NFL
- **HRS:** 6.0

- **Station:** W4CU
- **Score:** 30,318
- **QSOs:** 326
- **MULTS:** 93
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** WCF
- **HRS:**

- **Station:** W4PTS
- **Score:** 12,410
- **QSOs:** 146
- **MULTS:** 85
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** WCF
- **HRS:** 6.0

- **Station:** W4LT
- **Score:** 7,224
- **QSOs:** 129
- **MULTS:** 56
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** WCF
- **HRS:** 4.0

- **Station:** KT4PD
- **Score:** 5,400
- **QSOs:** 108
- **MULTS:** 50
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** SFL
- **HRS:** 5.3

- **Station:** WB4FSF
- **Score:** 2926
- **QSOs:** 77
- **MULTS:** 38
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** NFL
- **HRS:**

- **Station:** N4LF/3
- **Score:** 1,920
- **QSOs:** 60
- **MULTS:** 32
- **Class:** Single-Op
- **Section:** DE
- **HRS:** 1.5

- **Station:** W4UM
- **Score:** 46
- **QSOs:**
- **MULTS:** SFL
- **Class:**
- **Section:**
- **HRS:**

## NAQP SSB Claimed Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>QSOs</th>
<th>MULTS Class</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>HRS</th>
<th>RATE/HR</th>
<th>OPERATOR(S)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K4CC/0</td>
<td>1,127</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Single Op - 20m</td>
<td>MT</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>Tarheel on motorhome</td>
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<tr>
<td>N4PJ</td>
<td>21,760</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Single Op - All band</td>
<td>NFL</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>54.4</td>
<td>first official FCG contest</td>
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<td>K4RDM</td>
<td>5,883</td>
<td>53</td>
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<td>4.8</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>at W4MLB</td>
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<tr>
<td>W4TBB</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Single Op - All band</td>
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<td>36.7</td>
<td>K1RQ/7 and NJ1F</td>
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<td>MULTS</td>
<td>Class</td>
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<td>WCF</td>
<td>6.9</td>
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<td>3,431</td>
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<td>WCF</td>
<td>4.2</td>
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<td>97</td>
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<td>SFL</td>
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<tr>
<td>W4CU</td>
<td>17,664</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>48</td>
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<td>WCF</td>
<td>Top Ten - SO1R</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>K1PT</td>
<td>11,730</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>SINGLE-OF ALL HIGH</td>
<td>SFL</td>
<td>First CW SPRINT ever !</td>
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Final Scores ARRL RTTY Roundup

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<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Call</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>ARRL Points</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>K4QD</td>
<td>169,476</td>
<td>1,461</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>B SFL (+AF4Z, WF3C, K3VN, AK4R, K9ES, KI4BUE, KI4GHK)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>N4BP</td>
<td>162,030</td>
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<td>110</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>B SFL</td>
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<td>W4QG</td>
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<td>736</td>
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Totals: 579,552 6,145 1,072

Final Scores ARRL Jan VHF Test

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Totals: 39,940 576 198

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

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.
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 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 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.