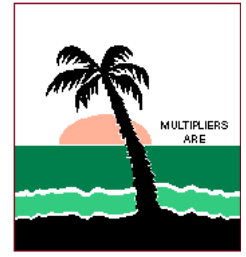




# Contest Gazette

## Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.org



Volume 11 Issue 5

October 2004

### From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO



**C**harley. Frances. Ivan. Jeanne. Each one of will have indelible memories from at least one of those storms. Many of the pages of this issue of the Gazette are dedicated to pictures and descriptions of the devastation that resulted from these four storms. Recovery from all of that is not trivial. It's striking to see how many 40M beams sustained damage - seems like an inordinately high percentage. In addition to several of us volunteer tower climbers, don't forget about the various professionals available as well.

Having taken a closer look at my own situation, the damage has mounted further, but thankfully, none of it is serious. Now that the wx is terrific almost every day, I'm confident that many of us can make good progress on fixing our various issues. My own work schedule has been stealing too much time, but I'm hopeful that it will subside a bit in the next few months.

A hearty welcome to our most recent batch of FCGers! Ed, N1TO joins the long list of "TO"s already on board and is another VQ9 veteran. With W1TO also quite active, I'm having to constantly fight for recognition - hi. I've been bugging Jordan, WB2QLP at hamfests for years to join us and I'm glad to finally have him on board. Jordan enjoys and does particularly well on VHF and 10M, as well as handing out lots of QSOs in the FQP each year. Alex, K4ADR, also in Naples was active in last year's 10M Test and FQP, as I recall. WR3Y has moved down from FRC territory (as everyone will eventually - hi) and looks forward to experiencing the plusses and minuses of Florida propagation.

With the large extent of antenna and tower damage across the club, it would be unrealistic to expect that we could treat this as "just another year" and expect full bore efforts from club members across the full contest calendar. However, I would particularly like to see us defend our crown in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest this year. 10 Meter antennas should be the easiest to erect of all the bands and we still have several months to get them up. The ARRL 10 is by far the most popular of all the contests already within the FCG community, so it shouldn't take much to keep us rallied together for another strong effort. The worse that propagation in general gets, the bigger the advantage becomes here in Florida relative to all of the clubs north of us.

CQ WW 2003 club results show an unrealistic number of points for the Florida Contest Club, so I suspect clerical error. The sum of FCG and FCC points is once again impressive next to the rest of the pack. We've clearly established ourselves as a long-term force to be reckoned with. The initial responses regarding CQ WW SSB 2004 activity is encouraging!

The cancellation of the Melbourne hamfest caused us to miss one of our best attended meetings of the year. Our club center is placed not far west of Melbourne so as to extend as far north into the Jacksonville area and south into the Miami vicinity as possible.

Perhaps we can pull together an FCG meeting on the second weekend of November, which falls in between SS CW and SS SSB. In the meantime, keep the constructive chatter going on the club reflector and on the new FCG Forum on the web site.

Best wishes with any rebuilding projects, still try to have fun and GO FCG!

vy 73, Dan, K1TO

### Inside this Issue

<i>Welcome Aboard, Events Calendar, New Website Feature.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>ARRL DX SSB Final Scores, CQP Claimed Scores.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Hurricanes - Effects on Members, Pictures.....</i>	<i>4,5</i>
<i>Press Release from National Hurricane Center.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Hurricane Pictures from Space.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>What Makes a Good One? By Ward N0AX .....</i>	<i>8,9</i>
<i>K9ES Trylon Tower coming down.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Pictures from around the Club.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>FCG Member QSL Information.....</i>	<i>12</i>

## New Web Site Features

*By Ron Wetjen WD4AHZ*

I have recently added two new features to the FCG Web site.



### THE FCG FORUM

A public discussion area, where folks can post messages, questions, comments, etc. Anyone can post/reply messages.

### AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

I've added links to the latest news items from the ARRL. When you click on "More News", you'll get additional ARRL news items as well as news from the Southgate Amateur Radio Club (UK). In addition, there is computer virus information.

The Forum and News items along the lower left side of each page (as well as the "More News" page), will automatically be updated as new items are posted.

If there are any "specific" discussion topics, or additional "news" items you'd like to have added, please let me know.

Enjoy ...

Ron



*Here is a copy of the QSL card for WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center. Tnx Julio WD4R for the picture.*

## Welcome Aboard



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

**N1TO** - Edward C. Koerner, 1517 Dewitt Ln, Sebastian FL 32958 e-mail: marconi91@earthlink.net

**WB2QLP** - Jordan Mash, 2033 42nd St. S.W., Naples FL 34116 e-mail: WB2QLP@aol.com

**K4ADR** - Alex Randolph, 3790 Golden Gate Blvd E, Naples FL 34120 e-mail: k4adr@swla.rr.com

**WR3Y** - Robert Scott, 5184 51st Lane West, Bradenton FL 34210 e-mail: wr3y@arll.net

**N4RI** - Scott O'Keefe, PO Box 235, Largo FL 33779-0235 e-mail: Sokeefe@juno.com

**KI4DII** - Dennis E. Hunt, 1625 Old Spanish Road, Fort White, FL 32038 e-mail: towers92@alltel.net

Andrea Naseiro, (Not yet licensed) 20955 Pathfinder Road, Ste 100, Diamond Bar California 91765 e-mail: Acacua4420@yahoo.com

Membership now stands at **187**

## Activity Calendar

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Oct 30 to 2400Z,

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW 2100Z, Nov 6 to 0300Z, Nov 8

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB 2100Z, Nov 20 to 0300Z, Nov 22

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Nov 27 to 2400Z, Nov 28

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec 3 to 1600Z, Dec 5

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 11 to 2400Z, Dec 12

Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Dec 18 to 1500Z, Dec 19

### ARRL DX SSB FINAL SCORES

K9OM	352	175	184,800	SOABHP	<i>Ed. Note: Three members who reported scores to the reflector did not turn in their logs, and one Panhandle member reported as FCG, so the scores reported on the ARRL website do not agree with our Club claimed scores reported earlier.</i>
NJ2F	298	171	152,874	SOABHP	
W7QF	229	143	98,241	SOABHP	
W4/M0BUE	207	105	65,205	SOABHP	
NU4Y	171	104	53,352	SOABHP	
K4RFK	125	85	31,875	SOABHP	
N4IG	720	263	568,080	SOABLP	
AA4RX	426	231	295,218	SOABLP	
K4GKD	421	223	281,649	SOABLP	
N4EK	344	155	159,960	SOABLP	
NJ4M	312	141	131,976	SOABLP	WD4AHZ
K9AW	221	144	95,472	SOABLP	
N4GM	206	122	75,396	SOABLP	
K4LW	84	49	9,408	SOABLP	
KU3O	21	19	1,197	SOABLP	
K4XS	887	101	268,761	SOSB40HP	New 4th Call District Record
N4BP	1503	358	1,614,222	M/S	N4BP, OK1DTP
K9ES	1134	351	1,194,102	M/S	AD4ES, K9ES, K3ZM, KG4IPO, KI4TG
W4ARM	307	171	157,491	SA	
N4GM	200	120	72,000	SA	
<i>FCG Totals</i>			<i>5,242,787</i>		
FCG Panhandle					
N4PN	1663	124	618,636	SOABHP	
K4JAF	308	164	151,536	SOABLP	
P/H Totals			770,172		

### CLAIMED SCORES CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY

CALL	PWR	CW Qs	SSB Qs	MULT	SCORE
N4PN	SOHP	378	591	58	134,528
K4LQ	SOHP	168	57	51	31,518
K4XSS	SOHP	0	106	39	8,268
N4GI	SOHP	26	12	23	2,346
KN4Y	SOLP	300	0	51	45,900
WX4G	SOLP	172	164	52	43,888
NF4A	SOLP	86	175	53	32,224
K4ADR	SOLP				30,438
K4JAF	SOLP	0	277	53	29,362
K5KG/7	SOLP	151	0	43	19,479
W4ARM	SOLP	76	52	41	13,612
K8OSF	SOLP	8	108	45	10,890

## Hurricanes!

*Ed Note: Here is a summary of some of the problems our members encountered during the recent hurricanes, taken mainly from our reflector and edited for brevity.*

### CHARLEY

**NW5E** (Geneva) "Lost it all, tower is laying at 45 degrees in the trees. A few trees came down and took the guys on one off and the whole thing came down."

**NN4X** (St. Cloud) "I've got a few busted antennas, a bunch that twisted on their mounts."

**K4LQ** (Lake Placid) "As soon as I get a chance to burrow through the underbrush, I'll get some pix of my S-curved horizontal 80 meter vertical and crushed 6M beam."

**K4VUD** (Geneva) "Second tower folded over about 10' from the top. Both hy-towers laid out. Pool enclosure smashed."

**N4TO** (Sebring) "Lost several antenna elements and 80 M 4 square elements were bent but not broken. Lots of trees down."

### FRANCES

**K4XS** (New Port Richey) "Lost 40 meter dipole. One element tip on one of the 15 meter beams broken off The top 40 meter beam is now twisted 90 degrees..all elements are vertical and somewhat tangled in the wires below."

**W4ZW** (Nokomis) "The 402CD was twirled around and the elements turned askew into the SteppIR Both are a tangled mess, but nothing looks broken so maybe there's hope."

**K5KG** (Siesta Key) "All wire antennas are down and in a mess. The SteppIR vertical also bit the dust."

**NW5E** (Geneva) "Had another tree come down into the roof and second tarp nailed down."

**NU4Y** (Orange Park) "A large 40 year old oak tree came down during one of the bands hitting us about 60 mph and fell across the lower guy wire and that was it. The tower buckled at the lower attachment point and the tower is down. I have an inverted U tower now."

**K4GKD** (Riverview) "80 and 160 dipoles are down, but the yagis are okay."

**K9ES** (Indian Harbour Beach) "The 45 ft rohn 25G went over, taking the 500 lb block of concrete out of the ground, and ripping 20 feet of roof siding. Other tower had all antennas removed, but is bent to the west from about 32 feet up. Roof needs to be replaced, and our garage door is destroyed. House is dry. Fence is blown over. What a mess!"

**W4IX** (Port St. Lucie) "...Took down antennas before the storm Lost all my palm trees, most of my aluminum around the roof was gone, my screened porch and pool enclosure was totally crushed and mangled. Most of it laying in the pool. I saw tons of aluminum and roofing shingles all over my yard.."

**W4QM** (Cocoa Beach) My rain gauge showed 11 1/3 inches of rain. Tower stayed up, but my Sommer beam shows an element broken off."

**K4MM** (Port St. Lucie) "Pulled down antennas the day before the storm. 60' Rohn 25 tower down. One of the guys snapped and it laid down nicely. Will have to take it apart and reinstall."

**K4RX** (Crawfordsville) "A big 8-inch diameter limb blew from the hickory nut tree that supported my 160m Inverted-L and wrecked that entire aerial."

**K1PT** (Palm City) "Lost 1/2 of the driven element of the 2el 40. The huge tree in the front yard is gone. Sustained winds in Stuart were 105MPH. The C31XR seemed to handle the winds as rated."

**K4PB** (Jupiter) "Swaying pine trees busted all the wire antennas. The TH-11 has two reflectors turned vertical. Part of the last one came down. Rotary dipoles are busted and on the ground. High water is receding now."

**W4UM** (Sewalls Point) "Associated Press reported Sewall's Point as "ground zero" - what a dubious honor! Sherry and I took down the Big Stepp-IR, 160M vertical, and Butternut last Friday...We are on the wide Indian River, facing the east, two miles north of the Stuart inlet to the Atlantic, and the storm surge had the ground floor under three feet of water and muck - everything in the garage blew around and was totaled. Yard is a total mess - everything down but the palm trees. Lost the entire fence."

**W4OV** (Coconut Creek) Bruce reported by phone that he had a 70 foot Norfolk Island Pine in his front yard. The top 30 ft (weighing approximately 800 lbs) broke off and came through his living room roof landing just behind his recliner. Fortunately Bruce and Sandy were in the kitchen at the time, and not using the recliner!

**W4SAA** (Okeechobee) "My tower kinda stayed up, there is a kink and bend up at the 35 foot level which, I believe, occurred when the 70 foot push up pole vertical fell on the NW guy wire. The CL 33 is all over the county and my KT34XA is now underneath the trailer. Looks like both are history. The single wide trailer, which runs on an east west line is about three feet south of its former location. I am looking for a place to live, and have some prospects....."

### IVAN

**KB4ET** (Paxton) My HF tower/ant. is Ok.. My 6 mtr tower w/ M2 antenna is in shambles - no salvage anything. This whole area is without power and our best estimate is 3 W-E-E-K-S. I have a Gen. but am sharing it with seniors/neighbors on a 2 - hr basis to keep their freezers/refrig. going.

**KD5M** (Crestview) My house is fine but my Rohn 25G 160m tower vertical that supported antennas for 30m, 40m, and 80m is down. Tower stood up fine during much of the storm but failure mode is a tree limb on one guy that brought it down - folded it in half. Have no power or cable/internet/TV but my generator is powering the house okay (no A/C).

### JEANNE

**K4XS** - 15 meter stack...in bad shape...lots of broken and bent elements, broken boom to element mounts  
20 meter stack....several broken elements, missing elements and broken boom to element mounts  
10 meter stack...several broken elements - several A-3s screwed up  
It looks like the 20 and 15 stack may not be feasible to repair



**K1PT** - The 25 year old 40-2CD 40 meter beam is junk from Frances and Jeanne, but miraculously, the falling pieces caused no damage to the C31

**K4LQ** - My quad was ripped off the tower and is in pieces in the woods nearby. The 40 meter beam has some electrical problems but appears physically intact.

**W4IR** - All monobanders have electrical problems but appear to be physically intact. No house damage, but severe roof and water damage to workplace, working at home.

**AD4ES** - Chuck lost his antenna and tower. The Rohn 25G folded over right above the house bracket. The KT34 bent in a million new shapes, and the D3W looks like a pretzel. The 40M vertical on the roof blew off. So did his roof.



**Hurricane Pictures from Members**



*K4LQ's 6 Meter beam after cutting away most of the pine trees that had fallen on it.*



*KB4ET's 6 Meter Tower*



*During Frances a 30 ft 800 lb section of a Norfolk Island Pine in front of W4OV's QTH in Coconut Creek broke off and came through his living room ceiling. Tnx Bruce for the pictures.*

## Press Release from WX4NHC

Amateur Radio WX4NHC Operations During Hurricane Charley

Press Release 9-8-04

(Intended for Amateur Radio Media Use)

As the Florida west coast is still recovering from the destructive aftermath caused by Hurricane Charley only three weeks ago, Frances makes landfall on the east coast of Florida as a Category-2 Hurricane causing widespread damage and leaving as many as 2 million people without electrical power.

WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida, manned by 30 volunteer operators, kept it's station on the air, even through local severe weather, as Frances approached the Florida coast and stalled for many hours before making landfall.

WX4NHC received hundreds of "Surface Reports" from Amateur Radio Operators in the affected areas of Hurricane Frances' track through the Bahamas and Florida.

During Frances' trek, just north of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Beryl Nelson VP5DB kept us informed of his status in Providenciales with measured weather data and kept his automatic weather stations beaconing regularly on APRS.

He reported winds gusting to 82 MPH, but sustained only minor damage to his house, and was quickly back on the air as one of the veteran Hurricane Watch Net's Control Stations relaying information from the Bahamas.

Many stations were reporting from the Bahamas and receiving the Hurricane Advisories over the Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325 MHz. Some stations were on boats that had no other means of getting this vital information. They rode out the storm, periodically checking into the Net to hear these advisories and let us know their personal conditions.

Marti Brown KF4TRG in Marsh Harbor and Earl Russell C6AGH in Green Turtle Cay Abacos, were amongst many stations that were able to stay in constant contact with WX4NHC and later provide preliminary damages reports.

Florida stations were anxiously waiting for Frances to make her move as she stalled just off the coast for many hours. Once Frances started her attack on the Florida east coast she developed

one of the largest eye's in memory, almost 70 miles in diameter, but also decreased in to a Category-2. Although the winds would be less intense than a Category-4, the Hurricane force winds covered a very large area.

WX4NHC received reports via many methods from amateur radio operators and amateur weather enthusiasts, such as HF, EchoLink, IRLP, VHF, Email and even Fax. We heard from several Hurricane Chase Teams, such as from HIRT Hurricane Intercept Research Team, which reported wind gusts of up to 112 MPH from Stuart. HIRT had also set up a remote vehicle with weather instruments and internet video camera on Hutchinson Island. We also heard from Jason Foster N3PRZ, which reported measured wind gust of 105 MPH from Ft. Pierce over the EchoLink WX-Talk Conference. Although many of these Chase Teams are professionals that understand the risks and take extra precautions, we warn everyone not to risk injury or even death by going outside during a hurricane.

Hurricane Frances also directly affected some of our WX4NHC and HWN Operators. Mike Pilgrim K5MP, the HWN Manager suffered downed trees and is still without power. One of the WX4NHC operators, Bruce Phegley W4OV, that lives in Coconut Creek had a very close encounter with Frances, when the top 25 feet of this pine tree snapped off and speared through the roof into his Living Room and missed his easy chair by a few feet.

We are presently working Hurricane Ivan, Category-4, which just went over the island of Grenada and caused severe damage to Grenada, Barbados and Tobago. Several unconfirmed casualties have been reported so far. This major hurricane now has a forecast track that may include Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba and even Florida.

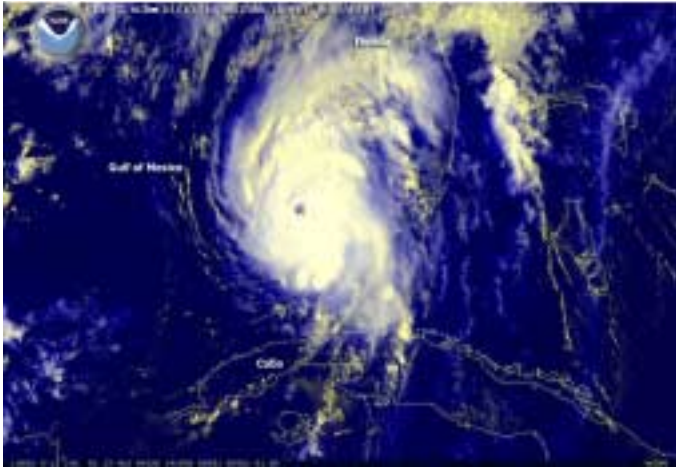
We extend our sincere gratitude for all those who volunteered their time and efforts during these Hurricanes and to those, not in the affected areas, who quietly monitored.

Our thoughts are with the people affected by these Hurricanes and we wish them a quick recovery.

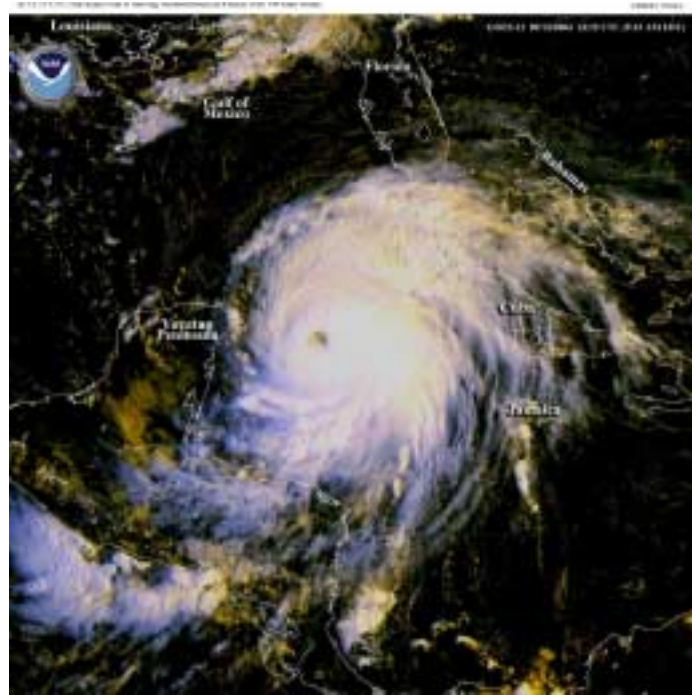
The WX4NHC Team

**Ed Note: WX4NHC Operators included FCGers W4OV, K9VV, KI4CCO and WD4R  
Photo credits NOAA, WX4NHC .Tnx Julio W4DR for press release and pictures**





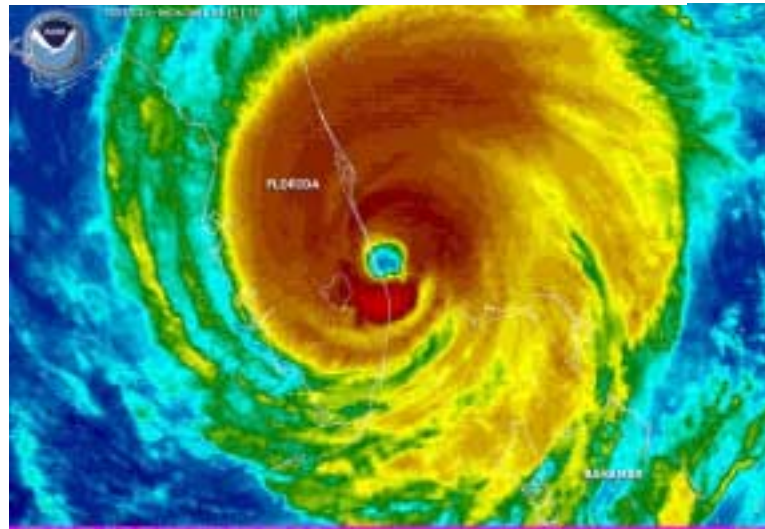
*Above - Hurricane Charley*



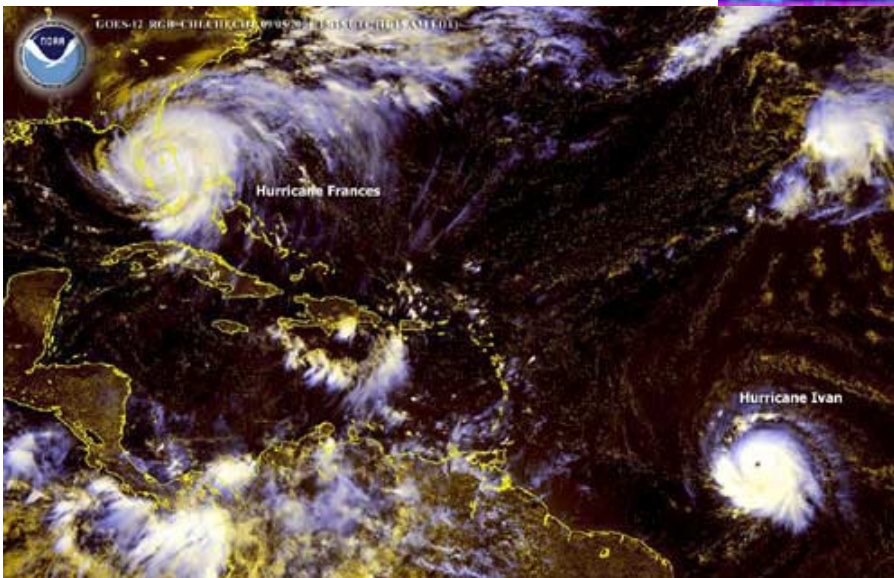
*Above - Hurricane Ivan*



*Above - Hurricane Frances*



*Above - Hurricane Jeanne makes landfall near Port St. Lucie*



*Left - Hurricane Ivan follows Hurricane Frances across the Caribbean toward Florida*

*Ed Note: The following article is reprinted from September WorldRado by permission of the Author . It is an address given at the Contest Dinner of the Visalia DX Convention by Ward Silver N0AX. It seemed to me to be particularly appropriate as a subject for the Gazette.*

## What Makes a Good One?

By Ward Silver, N0AX



In the past few years we've lost some "good ones"- W6CF, K4OJ, N8SM, W4AN, W7BX, and W6BIP come to mind. There are many others. Why were these guys "the Good Ones"?

We all kind of know, but there really isn't a checklist or certificate for it. We know it when we see it. Rather than become, as Tom Lehrer said "Soggy with Nostalgia," I'm going to ramble this evening about what makes a Good One, and why they are so important to contesting. No, there's no poetry, and I'll restrain myself from any interpretive dance. We won't sing Kumbiyah and group hug, I'll just try to put into words my feelings on the subject.

Let's begin with some possible qualifications that could make a contester a Good One.

- Station expertise: the ability to construct and maintain a station competitive at the highest level.
- Operating skill: the savvy and understanding to make the best use of one's resources, squeezing out every last QSO.
- Stamina & Willpower: as N6TJ says, "cut the mustard," keep that butt in the chair and overcome adversity.

These are admirable and necessary, but not sufficient. Mathematicians say "necessary but not sufficient" when a condition must be true for a hypothesis to be true, but that isn't enough to prove it true. In our case, it means those things are not enough to be a Good One. To be sure, you have to be able to operate skillfully and consistently. You have to be able to pound the bands hour after hour as an Iron-Butt Contester. But there is more to being a Good One than just these things. .

We have a tendency to get wrapped up in our own competitive world. Above all, excellence demands focus and resources. Operating consumes time, and there are only 24 hours in a day (unless you rubber clock). How many of us have an "idea hamster" going all the time - how to get a better signal over the pole, getting more full calls out of a pileup, finding the extra multipliers, where to put another tower. Make no mistake, the good ones spend a lot of time working the details. It's necessary but insufficient.

The lion's share of us want to be Good Ones but you don't get to decide you're a Good One. We do. The harder you try to convince us, the less likely we are to agree. While good ones are rarely shrinking violets, neither are they arrogant or selfish. Looking out into the audience, I see plenty of Good One material. Being a Good One is a relative thing and we need to realize that we have the opportunity to act as role models for beginning contesters. They need us. Contesting, the sport, needs us. They need us to do more than just contesting.

What other criteria makes a Good One?

- Proponent of Operating Ethics and Fair Play: A Good One has a strong sense of what's fair and what isn't and is willing to publicly defend a point of view.
- Enthusiasm and Interest in Others: Taking genuine interest in the welfare of others, both successes and failures, giving appropriate advice and encouragement
- Generosity of personal time: Assists and participates in person at clubs, multi-ops, and meetings and the Visalia Contest Dinner.
- Knowledge of history and rules: Knowing the legends and structure of contesting puts the whole thing in context with respect and honor.
- It also helps to have a sense of humor

Funny thing, these are all about relating to other people, not contesting.

Contesting is a funny sport. We have to cooperate to make points. We win by cooperating better than the other guys. Contesting consists of thousands of little interactions with other operators that you may never, ever see in person. A lot of the time, we cooperate in splendid isolation. Locked away in basements or garages, we can make thousands of QSOs in a weekend, but if can be difficult for us to reach out.

Think back to when you first started contesting. I know you read the writeups and listened to your heroes in awe of their scores and skills. Surely, these guys ate ambrosia and walked on air, conversing with The Old Man every other evening at 50 words per minute. Remember when you first met one of your heroes at a convention or multi-op? Gulp! I'll bet, as well, that they welcomed you and made you feel part of the action.

Here's a tip - there's twenty operators out there in your community or in your logs that feel just the same about you! They're watching you off to the side at meetings. They're hanging around your run frequency after making the QSO, listening to you operate. They glow with pride after they put your call in the log. They put your QSL on the wall - you DID answer their card, didn't you? Don't be surprised! We all have the QSLs of our heroes somewhere in our shack, still. I'm sure that you can still hear the echoes of a tip or bit of praise from them ringing in your ears back when you were WN4 - something, or AD6 - something, or WB0 - something.

Imagine what would have happened if they had been dismissive or snotty! Would you have continued with the same enthusiasm? A smile and a handshake can make a budding contester feel like a million bucks! What would have happened if they hadn't been there for you to meet? The Good Ones are out there meeting and yakking and



shaking hands.

Once upon a time, in response to a student's demand to be taught the entire Jewish Torah while standing on one leg, a sage gently replied: "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor...all the rest is commentary." Turned inside out, this becomes the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you wish other to do unto you." And here we start to get to the heart of the question.

The Haida people of the Pacific Northwest have a tradition of potlatch where a chief establishes his reputation by giving away as much as possible. A great chief gives away more than any other. What kind of contradiction is this? We work and work and work and work in pursuit of coming out on top of the heap. Even once! Some of us never make it. Even those that do make it to the top, work even harder to do it again. And we're supposed to turn around and give away? Yes. We all have many opportunities to make contesting (and by extension, ham radio) better. Sometimes, that means personal sacrifice. A competitive operation might be sacrificed in favor of mentoring a new contester, for example. Have you ever sat with a new contester as they manage their first big run? It's great isn't it? Even if you know you could get a higher rate or pull more calls out on the first try, it feels GOOD. It's said, "Those that can't do, teach." Well, those that can do, teach, too, and they can teach better than anybody else.

There's Outreach is THE challenge for contesting, BPL notwithstanding. If we don't replenish our ranks, ten years from now, only a third of us will remain and this room will be considerably grayer and emptier. For a group that can make electrons dance halfway around the world at the flick of a switch, we have a tough time sticking out our hands. But we have the examples of the Good Ones to show us that it doesn't have to be that way at all. How is that new General going to get interested in high speed CW if you don't sell her on it? It's not enough to have big scores, (although it beats a poke in the eye with a stick). The good ones make it possible for others to have big scores too. The more big scores we have in the results, the healthier contesting is for everybody.

There's a lot of complaining today that ham radio "ain't what it used to be" and that maybe contesting isn't headed in the right direction. As columnist George Will would say, "Well" So, who's going to fix it? Don't sit around waiting for your champions to fix it, because you are the champions. If operating standards aren't up to snuff, then you have the power to change it by example and by showing the way. If there's something that needs to be fixed or created, you have the clout and connections to get the ball rolling. Don't wait for K3EST or K1ND to take on yet another project.

When I read the obits of our departed friends, a consistent theme runs through them. They touched the lives of others. Many others. At W4AN's funeral, hams came from hundreds of miles to pay their respects to Bill and his family. Not because he made 400 QSOs in the Sprint. Not because he had a big station with plaques on the wall. Because he made a difference in their lives by giving of himself.

There's nothing like that first late night bull session at Field Day with the unshaven older guys drinking that muddy coffee and telling the most amazing stories, maybe even telling one of your own, while the generators putter and throb in the night and the lights in the radio tents dim in sync with each dot, dash, and syllable. In our sweaty work duds through the day and then gathered around at night under the kitchen fly lantern wearing old camp jackets, the distinctions between Old Timer and newcomer fray and dissolve."

I'm not talking about Elmering. I'm talking about Eldering. The Elders of the hobby - looking around, that's us - are the ones that should be passing on the traditions by explaining why they are useful and good. The Elders are the ones that tell the accumulated wisdom and history of the tribe. As one of the younger baby-boomers, it feels really strange to have people treat you as an elder. After all, our generation has been pretty much peer oriented, like Wally and the Beaver, with solemn wise Ward Cleaver dispensing the wisdom from his study. Guess what? We are the Ward Cleavers of Ham Radio and contesting now. Isn't that a scary thought?

We have to step up and take responsibility for carrying our part of the hobby forward. It isn't enough to participate, we have to lead and teach. Simultaneously, we have to guard against turning into crusty old farts for whom nothing is ever as good as it was in some misty-eyed past when a cathode-keyed 6L6 was good enough for sweepstakes and the most advanced logging software was a mechanical pencil. If we want to see certain traditions and methods retained, then, by golly, ARRL President Jim Haynie is absolutely right - we need to sell those ideas. Believe it or not, they may not be self-evident to every new ham that walks in the door. If we just hang around breathing each other's exhaust and telling each other what great guys we are, who's going to keep the Beav from turning into Eddie Haskell? (One good thing about being Ward Cleaver, we can kick Eddie's butt if we want to.)

The good ones have the courage and self confidence to reach out to others. We all have the mechanics of contesting down pat. Now it's time to do our part to keep the tribe healthy.

To be a Good One, all you have to do is to listen for that little voice that says, "Here's your chance!" There is nothing, not double mults at sunrise on 160, not pushing the rate meter to a 200 plus hour, there is nothing like the payback from connecting with another learning Ham and seeing that light bulb come on. Savor the smile from the fellow with that 2-by-3 call sign that worked up the nerve to come over and say, "Hi!" These are the things that make life worth all the trouble it causes.

A quote from the artist Robert Motherwell really sums it up. "What could be more interesting, or in the end, more ecstatic, than in those rare moments when you see someone look at something you've made, and realize they got it exactly, that your heart jumped to their heart with nothing in between" That, my friends, that's what really makes a Good One.

**K9ES' damaged Trylon tower coming down**



*Left - Crane hooks on Tower*



*Right - Tower starts down*



*Left - Nearly down*

*Below - Loaded up and ready to go!*

*Charlie K4VUD on the left.*



## Pictures from around the Club



*George K5KG/7 working NAQP CW from W7CT's QTH in Salt Lake City Utah.*



*L-R Fred K4LQ, John W4AI, Dale W4QM in front of a truckload of W4AI tower sections etc. headed to Miami for transshipment to GM3POI*

*John W4AI is currently a neighbor of K4LQ and N4TO. Some members may remember John's activity from ZD8J back in the 1960s when he was world high in both the CQWW CW and ARRL DX CW from Ascension, a couple of years running if I remember correctly*

*Tnx Vic N4TO for the photo.*



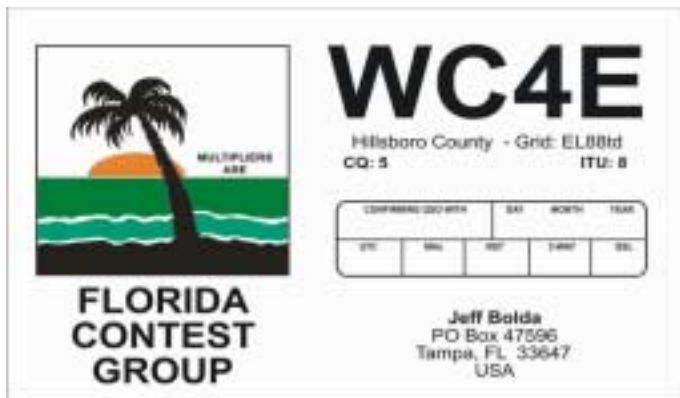
*WJ9B has moved in! Will just got his new tower installed in Gainesville. Antennas, top to bottom include M2 15M6, M2 20M4, Hygain 105CA, Cushcraft 40-2CD, all on a K0XG Rohn 55 rotating base.*



*L - Former member Eric KU4TF at Field Day with the St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association in Maryland (Tnx Eric for photo)*



**FCG QSLs by LZ1JZ**



This card is a copy of the original WX9X design. The QSO information box is 1" x 2.5" for use with Avery 8160/5160 (three-column) labels. The design provides room for three lines of information below the call and up to six lines, including the address, below the QSO info.

Thanks Joe K4IK who compiled the LZ1JZ information and presented it on one of his web pages. Joe has ordered and received QSLs from LZ1JZ within 3 weeks.

**FCG QSLs by W4MPY**

For members who wish to buy from an American Supplier, Wayne, W4MPY can provide the same designs as above.

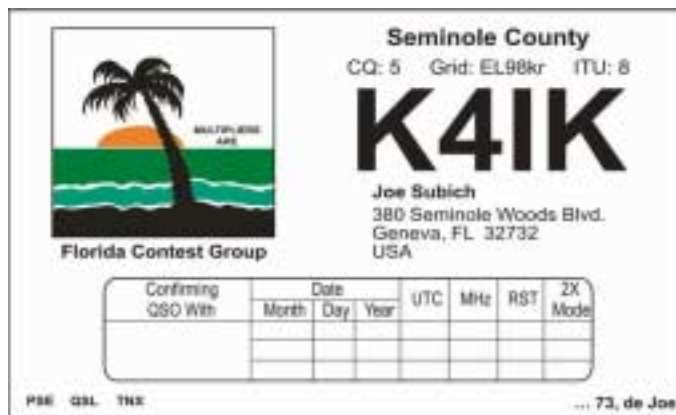
In answer to an e-mail query Wayne said:

"We have four standard stocks...they are 10 point semi-gloss white stock and three colors of 67 lb vellum bristol stocks (white, ivory and canary)

10 point glossy white - 250 = 63.95 500 = \$75.95  
 1000 = \$99.95  
 Canary or Ivory = 250 = \$59.95 500 = 72.95 1000 = \$94.95  
 All black on white - 250 = \$31.95 500 = \$39.95 1000 = \$52.95  
**ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING!**"

Wayne has done a good job supplying your editor's QSLs for many years. Believe George K5KG has recently ordered and received FCG QSLs through him.

Wayne's e-mail is w4mpy@pbtcomm.net His web page is www.w4mpy.com.



This is an adaptation of the original design to accommodate more QSOs. The QSO info box is 1" x 4" for use with Avery 8161/5161 (two-column) labels. The design provides room for two lines of information

Preliminary Prices:

500 1000 2000  
 Color - 200 gram glossy stock: \$60 \$75 \$140  
 Color - 145 gram plain stock: \$35 \$47 \$90  
 B&W - 145 gram plain stock: \$25 \$37 \$70

Prices include shipping and optional backside printing (station description, special information, etc.) for FCG members. For more information or custom designs, contact Tony, LZ1JZ (lz1jz@email.com). His web page is: www.qsl.net/lz1jz. Tony has a US collection agent ,N7RO, so there is no problem with currency conversion etc.

**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

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