From the President’s Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO

You'll love this issue of the Gazette, I'm sure! Wow - a lot of water has gone under the bridge (over the dam? pick your cliché) since our last issue was published. At least it hasn't been a lot of water in our houses as a result of storms. Storm season is now nearly over and we couldn't have asked for much more of a calm, incident-free year. It's great to not have spend all your time rebuilding.

ARRL 10 Meter Contest 2009 results - WOW! I could write the entire column about just this topic, but for us to come within a few percentage points of the winning club when the conditions that were dealt to us were so horrible is a testament to how strong this club is! The FCG had more entrants than any club and came within 2.2% of the winning score posted by the PVRC! I sure hope that the weekend of Dec 11-12 is on your calendar for this year.

FQP 2010 - several records appear to be smashed; logs and total QSOs are down slightly, but 2009 was ARRL's "Year of the QSO Party" and other QSO parties are also down a bit this year. Again, FCG support made this happen, along with a great cast of mobiles and non-"contesters" who just enjoy the QSO Party format.

Field Day - tons of activity around FL as many FCGers supported their local clubs, spreading their knowledge and encouragement to the many hundreds of other FD attendees.

IARU - With WRTC-2010 happening simultaneously over in western Russia, and a welcome lack of thunderstorm activity, it was a really fun weekend.

There was still plenty of QRN from storms outside FL, though. It was great to see that most HQ stations were still on in force, since they are a big part of that event.
WRTC-2014 will be in W1! I've volunteered to be a Director and have been very busy trying to build upon the excellent set of Team Selection Criteria. Those of us in FL no longer have to compete with W1 for a Team Leader spot. We are in the newly-created "western W4" Selection Area, placing us in a geographical area with only GA, AL, TN and KY. So if you have any aspirations of qualifying to compete at WRTC-2014, I believe that this is your best shot ever! You'll need 12 scores over the next 3 years, so get busy this contest season! There are a *lot* of events and categories to pick from that all could lead to a seat at the big table.

Membership has soared well past the 250 mark again to a record high. To think that this club had about 35 members just 12 years ago is astounding! Thanks to everyone for being a part of this.

Thanks again to Sylvia and Eric, K9ES for volunteering to host the Melbourne BBQ/meeting! It seemed about 50 degrees cooler than last year's sauna and all attendees had a great time again this year.

Two of the three candidates for ARRL Southeastern Division Director and 1 of 2 Vice-Director candidates are enthusiastic FCG members. Results are to be tallied November 19, and may the best candidates win.

What are your plans for the fall contest season? CQ WW SSB is coming up real quickly! Look for K5KG/0 in SS CW from balmy, rare North Dakota (yes, he willingly volunteered to do this!). As the new SS Contest Manager, I'd love to see my home club mount a solid effort this year, but at the same time, I know that it's a very hectic time of year with lots of contest compressed into one stretch. Please do what you can to support the FCG this contest season.

OJ!! GO FCG!! 73/Dan K1TO

Contributors to this newsletter include K1TO, N4CJ, W1YL, WF3C, K5KG, K4PG, W4DN, pictures from Radio-Sport.net, W0CN, KE1F, NF4A, N4KM, WC4F, K1KNQ, KU8E, K1PT, The ARRL Contest Update Newsletter, HS0ZCW, N2NL, W4QM, N0AX, K4LQ, K9VV
Arlen “Ink” Bowen N4OO SK

Compiled from The Wakulla News and other contributions. This obituary is adapted from one written by G4BUE for the FOC FOCUS magazine. He also supplied the picture. Thanks Chris.

Arlan ‘Ink’ Bowen, N4OO, became a Silent Key on 23 January 2010 at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, Florida. He had been seriously ill for some time.

Ink was born on 14 October 1931 at Sparta, Wisconsin, attended public schools in Bangor and graduated from Bangor Union High School in 1949. He then attended Beloit College, leaving after his freshman year to enter the military. Ink took his basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas and was then transferred to Camp Carson, Colorado where he became a radio instructor in charge of the base amateur radio station. While in service he married Shirley and they made their home in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Upon his discharge in 1955 they returned to Wisconsin and settled in Milwaukee where Ink enrolled in the Milwaukee School of Engineering under the GI Bill.

Ink’s professional career centered with General Electric, supporting various Department of Energy programs in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Largo, Florida in 1966. He was known throughout the DOE complex as an authority on engineering and fabrication of neutron generator and detection test equipment, retiring as a Senior Technical Specialist in charge of the facility that engineered and manufactured neutron detectors to support Sandia National Laboratory programs. He was especially valued for his problem-solving skills and dedication to mentoring new employees.

Ink became a radio amateur, W9QYW, as a teenager in Wisconsin prior to being W4LCP when he moved to Florida in 1966. He was an active member of the Milwaukee Radio Club and was President in 1960-1961. Soon after moving to Florida he formed The Golden Triangle DX Club with other contesters and DXers, the triangle being Clearwater, St Petersburg and Tampa. Ink operated with N4TO, W4YA, N4ON, W4MJ, K7NG, W4QM and W4ZCB in the 1977 CWWWW CW Contest and won the multi-multi class for the USA.

Ink loved experimenting with antennas and built up considerable knowledge which he was only too willing to share with others, (his article on how to install a Beverage is on the Internet at <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/nordicdx/antenna/wire/beverage/index.html>).

Ink was a member of the FCG since not long after its inception. He was an Elmer in our Contest Buddy Program on ‘Effective starter antennas’, ‘Tower design and layout for beginners’ and ‘Mobile FQP operations’. He participated actively as a mobile in the FQP for many years in the Single Operator No Driver category. He and FCGer N4TO (SK) did an expedition to Guantanamo Bay in 1999 where he was QRV as KG4BV.

Ink was an active member of FOC since 1978 and a strong supporter of the Club’s activities, especially the Marathon. He was also a member of the A-1 Operator Club.

G4BUE recalls asking Ink how he got his nickname: when he was a small baby, one of the family said he looked just like an ink spot and the rest, as they say, is history! K3ZO recalls the first time he met Ink when Fred was W9SZR in Wisconsin and traveled to the Milwaukee Radio Club to give a presentation. He was nervous as he wasn’t used to public speaking at that time, but a member of the audience exclaimed, “Just go ahead and talk, Fred. You’re among friends”. That was Ink.

Amateur radio wasn’t Ink’s only interest and he had many others; as a resident of the Tampa Bay area, he pursued his love of fishing, especially the challenge of tarpon fishing. The annual Suncoast Tarpon Round-Up Tournament was a passion and he served as the organization’s Treasurer for a number of years. Another enjoyment was his gardening and after retiring, he and Shirley moved to rural Sopchoppy where they built their retirement home and Ink had a large garden.

In Sopchoppy, Ink became a Small Claims Court Mediator and volunteered his time at the Wakulla and Leon County Courthouses. He served as Treasurer of the Wakulla County Historical Society for several years and participated in Grady’s Bunch, an informal investment group. Ink was also a country music-lover and enjoyed playing his guitar and singing with the Pickin’ n Grinnin’ group on Fridays at the Wakulla Senior Center.

A memorial service was held for Ink on 20 February. Amateurs attending included K1TO, K4RX, K4WJ and W4YA. There were also representatives from all of Ink’s other interests and organizations and much country music. W4YA said although he had known Ink and his family for 41 years, he realizes now that he was only exposed to a small part of Ink’s life and interests.

Our condolences go to Ink’s wife of 56 years Shirley and their daughters Angela of New Orleans, Louisiana; Patricia of Maitland, Florida and Julie of Gainesville, Florida.

HS0ZCW Assigned E2E

FCG’s lone Asian member Charley K4VUD / HS0ZCW has recently been assigned the call E2E by the Thai authorities. Keep an ear out in the pileups this fall.....
FCG activities this year at Orlando added a couple of major firsts for the club.


This plaque will be awarded later this week to the Correctest Man)

This plaque was awarded later at the Yaesu booth to NSF1L (ex VQ9ZZ) gave brief autobiographies.

Fred K4LQ gave the Treasurer’s report. Balance in the treasury is $5154.98. Coming into this weekend 60 people had not paid dues, but many did do so in person, leaving 44 unpaid.

Dan thanked Chris WF3C for his fantastic efforts in coordinating all the action in Orlando that made the SuperSuite happen. Chris reviewed SuperSuite activities in detail (see separate report.) Ideas for improvements next year included: staggering the pizza for multiple times (17 pizzas that arrived just before 7 PM disappeared in 21 minutes!) and projecting the FCG laptop slideshows onto a screen. W4TBB volunteered his projector for next year.

Dan asked for a show of hands on more ideas for next year:

How many people would attend a Contest Dinner Friday PM to precede the SuperSuite? ~ 75%

How many people would attend a Contest University Friday AM? ~ 50%

At the FCG SuperSuite a code copying contest was held, supervised by WF3C using RUFZ, with NCJ subscriptions donated by ARRL as prizes. Results: 1 - K8NZ 2 - AD4Z/HI3A 3 - W4PA

No, Virginia, no CW Skimmers or SuperCheckPartial Databases were allowed.

Dan recognized plaque sponsors and winners for last year’s Florida QSO Party:

Top FL HP CW (honoring K4OJ/W1CW)
Sponsored by W1YL Won by N4BP
Top FL QRP N4BP Won by W5JBV
Top VE CW N4LZ Won by VE3UTT
Top FL Mobile + Driver N4LZ Won by N4EEB + Tracy
Top FL Mobile Multi-op WC4E Won by K4KG
Top FL Single K5KG Won by VE3DZ
Top FL Multi Single K4PG Won by W4MLB
(AF4Z, K4QD and WF3C represented the 12 ops)
Top FL Club Station K4LQ Won by W4GAC
(14 ops) (This plaque will be awarded later this week to SPARC op N2ESP by K5KG!)
Top Golden Log K1TO Won by K4GKD
(This plaque was awarded later at the Yaesu booth to the Correctest Man)
Top FL Mobile No Driver K1TO Won by NF4A
(This plaque will be awarded in person at Dayton!)
Top FL Mobile Multi-op CW (honoring N4TO)
* K1TO Won by K1TO/K8NZ
Top FL Mobile Multi-2 K9OM Won by N4KK
(AA4NC, K9VV, W4RIS, WA0USA)
Top Non FL QRP NA4CW Won by K3TW
Top Non FL School W4TBB/AE4TE Won by K0HC
(W0BH op)
Top EU CW KE1F Won by DL3DXX
Top Non FL SSB KT4PD Won by HI3CCP
Thanks to the prompt efforts of N4BU and N4PJ, another plaque was later awarded to Jim, W8FNW by sponsors N4EEB + Tracy for winning Top FL Mobile SSB. Jim drove over an hour back to the hamfest for the impromptu award ceremony and was beaming from ear to ear!

Dan thanked Jeff WC4E for his hard work on the FQP certificates. Jeff has completely redesigned the FQP certificate and passed around a sample of the new design.

Dan noted that he had received a request from the Georgia QSO Party for the FCG to sponsor a plaque for "Top Score from an adjoining State". Those present agreed it was a great idea, so we will sponsor and make a reciprocal request to them for the FQP.

Eight FCGers, including WD4IXD and KJ4EUT in attendance, and a few other folks will make a DXpedition to the Dry Tortugas March 11-15. That rare grid square is particularly sought on 6M.

Lots of other upcoming DXpeditions were also mentioned during the meeting: ARRL CW next weekend will see K8DD and AC8W back to YN, N4BP and K4PG back to C6, and K5KG at PJ4X with others. AC8W will visit JD1 (Ogasawara) in early April. N4LZ will join the PJ2T group for WPX SSB next month. KD2JA will be in VP5 in June.

The FCG has grown to 250 members without any formal recruiting program. Fred K4LQ will resurrect and update the FCG pamphlet. Marsha N4BU has volunteered to forward the pamphlet to prospective members. Please note FL non-members that you work in contests or know in local clubs, then forward their calls to Marsha. Perhaps we will get a booth at upcoming hamfests if we can get a crew to man it to pass out FCG pamphlets.

When she was in the ARRL Communications Dept. many years ago, Ellen W1YL received an autographed copy of a Gil W1CJD cartoon depicting an ARRL Sweepstakes Contest manager sobbing behind and under the mountain of paper SS logs. She presented the cartoon to Dan, K1TO who was recently named the ARRL November SS Contest Manager. (Thunderous applause).

Thanks Dan K1TO for editing this report.

73/Fred K4LQ
Secretary FCG

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Islands QSO Party Coming UP

The following note received from John W4AJA Contest Manager: “I’ve noticed an oddity in our Islands QSO Party-NO Florida entries lately. With almost 500 islands in the program available in FL, surely someone can make some noise for at least a little while during the QSO Party! Oddly enough, most entries were from Tennessee. If this could be included in your newsletter, we’d appreciate it!!!

W/VE Islands QSO Party, 16:00 UTC Oct 23 to 23:59 UTC Oct 24, 2010
160-6 m, all modes
Rules at www.usislands.org
Orlando - Friday Contest Supersuite and Saturday Luncheon Meeting

Julio AD4Z - CW Speed Contest

Fred K4LQ takes notes as Dan K1TO runs the meeting.

Dan and Ron K8NZ

Ed Note: Many pictures show members getting FQP Plaques. Not enough room to caption the specific awards.

Dan and Will AA4NC

Jeff WC4E and George K5KG

John N4EEB and XYL Tracy

Ed K8DSS and Jan K4QD

Dan K1TO and Tino HI3CCP

“Mayor” Ed Koch N4EK

NS1L and Hank K8DD

Will WJ9B and Jim W4YA

Chris WF3C, Julio AD4Z and Ron K8NZ

Jeff WC4E and George K5KG

Ellen W1YL and Bob N4BP
Orlando Hamcation Pictures - Yaesu Booth

**Ellen W1YL and Dennis K7BV**

**Chris WF3C and Dennis K7BV in front of the Yaesu 1st Prize Radio**

**Let’s take a chance!**

**Chris WF3C and Fred K4LQ in full raffle ticket selling mode.**

**N4EEB’s XYL Tracy pulls out the winning ticket.**

**George K5KG holds up the second prize, an ARRL Handbook.**

**Jim W8FNW with Tracy and John N4EEB**

**Jeannette NP2C, John NP2B and Dan K1TO**

**Dick N9CM with Dan K1TO**

**Tino HI3CC, Dan K1TO, Ron K8NZ and Blake N4GI**

**Reinaldo YV5AMH, George K5KG and Dan K1TO**

**Getting ready for the presentation.**
At the Feb. Orlando Hamcation, W1YL presented her decades-old treasure to K1TO; (at right) an original W1CJD cartoon depicting the Nov. SS "administrator" being buried by logs. BUT that was during the paper-log period over 30 years ago! At that earlier period of time Dan (and Jim White "OJ" - our FCG founder) both worked for W1YL during summers at ARRL Hq. As many of you know, Dan has recently been named Sweepstakes Contest Manager by ARRL.
These photos are from my visit to the island of Curacao in the Netherlands Antilles. I spent a day there on my way to Bonaire. While in Curacao I visited the town of Willemstad, and also the ham station of PJ2T, where I was able to operate for a couple of hours. It was a real treat being able to visit this famous station.
These are the photos of my trip to the island of Bonaire in the Netherlands Antilles for the 2010 ARRL DX CW Contest. Bonaire is about 50 miles offshore from Venezuela. Our team consisted of myself, Charlie, K1XX, Craig, K1QX, and Marty, W1MD. We made in excess of 7,900 contacts, and scored 2nd in the world in our multi-two category. A good time was had by all.

Radio Huis in Rincon, Bonaire. C31 on the front tower, and 2el 40 and C3 on the back 90’ tower. Commercial radio service on the hilltop in the background.

K5KG with the PJ4X contest two-radio set up. IC756ProII and FT1000MP, each with an AL1200. Laptops running WinTest logging software.

Slave huts from the early days in Bonaire
### ARRL DX CW Contest - Claimed Scores

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<th>Call</th>
<th>QSOs</th>
<th>Mult</th>
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**Note:**

- W4LT claimed their score with a band sweep on 80M and 40M, achieving a total of 267,000 points. The claim is under review.
- W4ZGR claimed a high score of 3,780 points. The claim is under review.
- W4ZGR’s score is under review due to potential irregularities in the reporting process.
- W4ZGR’s claim is under review for potential irregularities.

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**Score Analysis:**

- **W4ZGR:** Claimed a score of 3,780 points.
- **W4ZGR:** Claimed a score of 3,780 points.
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**-operating result**

73, Bob Patten, N4BP Plantation,
Photos of ARRL DX SSB @ TI5N

By Dan Hausauer W0CN

Ed Note: FCGer Dan W0CN has been gone from Florida for a while to a military assignment in the Washington DC area, but he actively follows the FCG Reflector and reads the newsletter, keeping up with FCG activities. Dan sent us the photos on this page of his recent trip to TI5N. He joined WA4PGM, W4DC, KA4RRU and AJ3G in an M/2 operation in ARRL SSB in March 2010. Dan noted that he worked Dan K1TO on six bands.

Dan pre-contest getting everything set up and checking out the bands.

Dan on Station 2 running 40M at the start of ARRL SSB DX

The famous TI5N Quad, used by a number of FCGers over the years when visiting Keko TI5KD

This is from the 2010 ARRL DX SSB Contest in Aruba. Left to Right: Ed N4OC/P40N, Scott K0DQ/P40Q, Carl AI6V/P49V, Jacky P43P, Retired US Navy Admirals N4OC and K0DQ operated M/S from Carl’s QTH as P40N. Thanks to Jamie NS3T at Radio-Sport.net for the picture. Read an article about this operation at his site.

From the 2010 CQ WPX SSB Contest, as Glenn Rattmann K6NA(L) and FCGer Dan Street K1TO (R) pose with their HC8GR hosts Antuca and her son Raul. Thanks to Jamie NS3T at Radio-Sport.net for the picture.
## ARRL DX Phone Contest - Claimed Scores

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<td>114,774</td>
<td>SOSB 20HP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N4FCG</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>76,650</td>
<td>SOSB 15HP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K4UTE</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>61,396</td>
<td>SOSB 40 HP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N4QV</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>46,656</td>
<td>SOSB 80 HP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FCG Total**  
9,798,531

### Honorary Overseas Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Sign</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Multiplier</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Award</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>CW7T</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>435,000</td>
<td>SOABHP/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KH7B</td>
<td>6571</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>6,298,683</td>
<td>SOABHP/KH7XS</td>
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<tr>
<td>HS0ZCW</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>49,539</td>
<td>SOSB20HP/K4VUD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Honorary US Members (FCGers who moved out of FL)

- TI5N | 8322 | 316 | 7,889,256 | Multi-Two | Dan W0CN + 5

---

WRTC winners announced

1. RW1AC/RA1AIP
2. ES5TV/ES2RR
3. N6MJ/KL9A
4. S50A/S57AW
5. K5ZD/W2SC
6. RV3BA/RA3CO
7. LY9A/LY6A
8. UA3DPX/UA4FER
9. G4PIQ/G4BUO
10. LY9Y/LY7Z
WPX on any mode is a favorite contest of mine. With tons of multi-ops available right here in the USA, and USA stations counting one point apiece, serious rate is very available. I love multi-ops on any mode, and so had discussed operating with K5KG in Sarasota. George thought his wife was planning to be out of town for the contest weekend and had offered to host if things worked out that way. I had secured operating commitments from K8NZ and a tentative commitment from K1TO. Dan thought we could talk with some of the other Sarasota crowd into joining us as well. Things were shaping up wonderfully.

Then, a little less than two weeks before the contest, I received an email from K5KG with bad news. His wife was not going out of town after all, which meant he would not be able to host any sort of multi-op for the weekend. The next time I spoke with Dan, I asked him for some ideas of anybody who might be interested in operating M/S or M/2 in the contest. We batted around a few ideas, then Dan thought of N4UU in Chiefland. Martin had hosted M/M a few times for WPX sideband as AD4TR, and he has built a very capable station in Chiefland in Levy County as well. I sent Martin an email that night and received an enthusiastic reply. Martin said he was glad to host a M/2 for the contest, and said “the more the merrier.” I immediately tried to recruit a few other ops, but everyone I called or emailed had a conflict or was unwilling to drive such a distance. The next time I spoke to Martin he said he had one other operator who was joining us, and we decided that a M/2 with the second chair occasionally empty was better than a M/S with one of us essentially unable to operate.

Everything was set. I arrived in Chiefland on Friday afternoon after a half day at the office. Martin would plan on working a half day as well, then we would have some time to get the station ready and rest before the contest. Martin’s station setup is pretty simple and intuitive. Position 1 was the left half of Martin’s SO2R position. Position 2 was set up down the bench a bit. Antenna and bandpass filter switching were in the center. Each position had a computer with dual monitors and a TenTec Orion II with external tuning pod. Our only voice keyer was the Orion’s built-in unit, which was keyed with an external keypad. The amplifier at position 1 was a TL922, and at position 2 an SB200.

Before the contest, I ran a few guys on 20m using N4UU. Conditions on Friday afternoon on 20m were not stellar, but I was getting answers from Europe. I took a break after an hour or so to get my clothes and other stuff out of the car. Martin showed me around the place a little bit, including the spare bedroom where he would sleep. He also gave me a tour of the antennas. Martin’s main tower has a pair of TH5 tribanders at 98’ and 40’ and a 160m loaded vertical. The second high band antenna is a 2-element quad at 40’. For 40m, Martin is experimenting with a pair of phased verticals. For 80m, he has a full-sized vertical. All the verticals have four elevated quarter-wave radials.

Martin and I settled into Position 1 and 2, respectively, at about 2300z to try to hold a frequency before the contest. Martin tuned up on 14170 and I started on 7141. Immediately I started to feel the pressure: even an hour before the contest started I was having a hard time keeping the frequency clear and hearing any but the loudest Europeans. As the clock ticked closer to 0000z, I was having a harder and harder time hearing Europeans, though USA was still workable.

At 0000z, I worked three USA stations before 0001z, and then got pushed off the frequency. Between the loud USA stations on either side of me, I was totally unable to hear any EU that might be calling me. I went S&P hoping to concentrate on six point QSOs and make the best I could of the difficulty on 40m. The rest of Friday night was short runs on 40m interspersed with S&P. I spent some time checking for Europeans running split below 7100, but found maybe a dozen all weekend. I did have a good run of primarily USA at 7208 listening simultaneously on my simplex frequency and on a range of frequencies around 7630.

While I was struggling on 40m Martin was doing exceptionally well on 20m. His first hour was 149 and he averaged over 100/hr for the first three hours. Around 0226 Martin moved to 80m and picked off a number of loud Europeans as well as some Caribbean and South American six pointers. I was reminded of why I love this contest as Martin ran an endless stream of DX and stateside callers on 20m. I see in post-contest writeups that 10m and 15m may have been open for the first hour of the contest as well, which bodes well for conditions in the summer and fall contests even though we missed the opening in this one.

Martin and I alternated bands and chairs all weekend pretty seamlessly. There were no extended daylight periods when there weren’t two ops in the shack. WW4B came over for a while on Saturday and most of Sunday to help out and get his phone fix for the next few sunspot cycles. When I left early Sunday afternoon, Glenn and Martin worked until forced off the air by a thunderstorm, and Martin worked the last hour and a half by himself.

Overall, I was incredibly pleased with how the weekend went. With relief from WW4B, Martin and I both got naps on Saturday afternoon for 90 minutes or so. Even with a nap, I turned in around 0400 on Sunday morning so I would be rested enough to drive back to Orlando on Sunday afternoon. After I left, Martin and Glenn fought the good fight for the rest of the contest, with the exception of a few hours when they were forced off the air by a thunderstorm and the associated terrible noise levels. I’m convinced that with two more part-time ops we would have added at least another 1M to our score.

Other highlights of the weekend included:

1. Having YE0X call me, then having to fight off the pileup of casual tuners-by calling him on my frequency on 20m.
2. A few (too short) runs of EU on 15m. When 15m will support running most of the day instead of just for a couple of hours in the afternoon, phone contesting will be a lot more fun from the Southeast USA.
3. Hearing HC8GR often and spotting them at every opportunity, including overhearing a USA station /AG making his first DX contact ever with HC8GR on 10m.
4. The 20m over-the-pole opening on Saturday night, with a number of loud Russians, JAs, 9K2, and B1Z. I worked more stations in Kazakhstan over the weekend than I ever have before.

I had only a few regrets after the contest. The biggest one is that we missed HC8GR and KH7XS on 20m. I’m sure we left some points on the table running so much on 20m when we should have been S&P to work DX, but those stateside runs are very seductive. Other lessons and observations:
1. I heard fewer stations that were excessively wide this contest, though there were definitely a dozen or so. Maybe some of the more active EU multis who are guilty of this in CQWW and ARRL DX sat this one out.

2. Packet is nearly useless in WPX, though I wanted access to spot other FCG-ers at PJ2T, HC8GR, and KH7XS.

3. Can the organizers of Contest University take up the QSOB4 issue? I tried to work two stations (one stateside, one DX) and both refused, claiming prior QSOs that definitely did not exist. Both gave me times and my sent numbers (at my insistence) and neither was in my log. It took longer to give me times and numbers than it would have taken to just log me and move on! I bust as many QSOs as the next guy, and more than some, and I always work dupes, as does every serious contester I know. Why does this attitude persist?

4. I missed HH4-K4QD altogether. I heard Jan running primarily stateside on 20m but he was super weak on the quad and inaudible on the yagi. I figured that we’d be able to work on 40m or 20m where conditions would be more favorable, not realizing that he’d be doing 15m single-band.

5. With another full-time op or two more part-time ops, we could have kept three stations on the air for more of the contest and taken advantage of the M/2 rules that allow for 8 band changes per hour. I don’t think we had more than 3 band changes in any clock hour in the whole contest, which meant a lot of flexibility and short openings on non-peak bands potentially missed. I suspect that another full-time operator would have been worth at least 1M points.

6. My new Heil ProSet Plus apparently is susceptible to RF ingress in a HP environment. This was the first time I’ve used it on phone, and the first time I’ve used it near an amplifier, and I could definitely hear RF getting into the earphone circuitry. To the best of my knowledge there were no problems with my transmitted signal, fortunately, but I think some ferrites are warranted.

I’ll take this opportunity to thank N4UU and KF4WZH for their gracious hospitality to me and WW4B all weekend. They opened their home and made me very comfortable, and invited me back when I left. I’ll definitely make plans to return for some of the fall contests at Martin’s place, and I look forward to growing the station, scores, and operator lineup in the future.
Fred and Lisa provided another wonderful spread in 2010, the 4th time they’ve graciously opened their home to us all. They insisted that we not pass the hat this time, so we are all extra thankful for their efforts and thoughtfulness.

With this being a casual family-oriented event, and with several presentations to watch, the meeting portion was kept to a minimum.

After introductions and several rounds of applause for our wonderful hostess and host, we learned that Sherri, W4STB has decided not to run for another term as ARRL Section Manager for South Florida. This 14-county section covers ground as far north as Titusville and as far west as Fort Myers, even though it used to cover even more territory before the West Central Florida section was created about 10 years ago. Petitions are due June 5, ballots will be sent out in July and Sherri officially passes the baton on September 30. Anyone interested?

Many of the team members from the K4T Dry Tortugas expedition were present (AC2V, AI4QY, K9VV, W4UH and WA0USA), and an excellent video/slide presentation was given and discussed. They used only wind power, made the most Satellite QSOs ever on an expedition and made over 8000 QSOs during their stay.

Dan, K1TO then presented a PowerPoint document covering the station in HC8 that he recently visited. Included in the trip was the CQ WPX SSB weekend. Dan operated along with K6NA in the M/2 category.

In closing, the group wished Fred & Lisa well as they relocate over to St. Croix.

73, Dan, K1TO
President (and acting Secretary/Treasurer for a day!)
Left: Karen W4KNR and Bob W2DO and their children

Right: Mike W4DL and family

Left: John KE4IDW and Kathryn

Left: Kevin K4PG

Right: Sherri W4STB

Below Left: Hope WB3ANE, Don W3AZD
Right Chris WF3C

Right: Randy N4QV
Left: Dan K1TO

Right: Jeff WA4AW
Left: Ron K8NZ

Right: John W2TX
Left: David W4DKB

Above: David K4DLF

Above: L-R Pete AI4QY, Dan W4UH

Above: Bob K12G

Above: Hank N3HV
FQP Mobile Pictures

K4KG/m

L-R George K5KG and Jim VE7ZO with the K4KG Mobile

The K4KG Trailer Mounted Antenna System

K4KG “Secret Weapon” - An MFJ Super Battery Booster

Jim VE7ZO in action at the operating position.

The K4KG Operating Position

A driver’s mirror view of the K4KG operation
NF4A/m

Two pictures of Charlie NF4A in Calhoun County (Thanks N4PJ)

K4OJ/m

K4OJ/m was operated by Kevin N4KM and Red K0LUZ. The pictures above are from the PAL/HAR county line. The bottom picture shows Red K0LUZ at the controls. (Thanks N4KM)

N4AO/m (WC4E)

At Skyway Bridge
N4AO/m with K1KNQ/m at right

K1KNQ/m

Jack K1KNQ/m at the Skyway Bridge Rest Stop
(Thanks WC4E)

K1KNQ/m Operating Position

K1KNQ/m Power Source

KU8E/m
Contest Gazette

**N4O/m**

Dan K1TO and Ron K8NZ dedicated their N4O/m operation to the memory of Ink N4OO

Dan K1TO at the Operating Position

Ron K8NZ in Action

Maybe these guys were planning a multi-multi operation!

K1PT, K4MM and W4DAS used the Martin County Amateur Radio Association call K4ZK to operate FQP this year

L—R K1PT, K4MM and W4DAS

Above - Tom K1MM

Above - Doug W4DAS
Dayton Hamvention Pictures

Dan K1TO presents FQP Plaques to (L) Charlie NF4A and (R) Paul N4PN

Now there are some mobile antennas!

Bill KH7XS holds up a certificate from Green Heron Engineering to buy one of their controllers and get one free.

L-R Lou KE1F, Dave K1ZZ. Lou volunteered to take pix for the newsletter at Dayton, and did just that. Thanks Lou!

Four FCG Shirts L-R Charlie NF4A, Dan K1TO, Bill KH7XS, Lou KE1F

This is where it happens!
Dayton Hamvention Note

You’d smile, too, if you could copy calls and take home the top prize like KCDX Club CW Pileup champ Top Gun, Fred K1VR.

The 30th running of the Kansas City DX Club's CW Pileup Competition was a hit again this year, filling the hospitality suite with cheers and jeers until the wee hours of Sunday morning. When the last of the 99 scores were tallied, the winners were K1VR, K4BAI, W9WI, K1TO and YT6W tied with VE3DZ for fifth. (That should have provoked a refrain of "99 listings of calls on the wall, 99 listings of calls..." but it did not for reasons unclear to your editor.) The call signs used by K0VXU were a historical set based on the 1932-1938 logs of long-time KC DX Club member and recent Silent Key, WOJM.

Below: Kenwood’s New TS-590 Transceiver.

The transceiver offers digital signal processing, an automatic antenna tuner, 100 watt output, covers 160 through 6 meters

See next page for more new equipment.
Icom IC-9100 Multi-band, w/ dual independent receiver

The IC-9100 covers 100W on HF, 50MHz and 144MHz, 75Q on 430/440MHz bands and 10W on the 1200MHz bands. *1 The radio simultaneously receives two different bands (1. HF/50MHz + VHF/UHF, 2. VHF + UHF, 3. 430/440MHz + 1200MHz) and works as if there are two independent receivers in one radio. For example, you can arrange a 7MHz schedule QSO using a D-STAR repeater on VHF/UHF band, while watching 7MHz band activity using the simple band scope.

*1 Optional UX-9100 1200MHz band unit required.

The FT DX 5000 Series HF/50 MHz 200 Watt Transceivers are a new Premium Class of Yaesu radios with 2 Independent Receivers plus many unique options and accessories designed to meet the Performance Requirements of even the most demanding serious Amateur Radio operator.

SPE Expert 2KFA—Billed as the most advanced solid state automatic linear amplifier in the world. Double the power of the 1KFA. The only solid state linear amp delivering 2 KW through 54 mhz. 6 selectable antenna positions. Continuous operation. Capable of driving an external set of band pass filters for a perfect SO2R or multi station operation for contests and dxpeditions. And it can be yours for a paltry $9535.

Above - Elecraft KPA500 Amplifier—Solid state, 500 watts, 1.8-54 Mhz, auto band select, full QSK with a diode switched T/R.

Alinco DX - SR8 Home station or mobile 160-10 meters, including 5 mhz band. 100 watts cw/ssb, detachable front panel, direct data entry via key pads.

Alpha 8406 Amplifier - Uses a single 4CX1500B tetrode to comfortable deliver full legal limit output on the 6 meter band. No duty cycle limitation
FCG members K4QD, AF4Z, WF3C, K4PX, and YCCC visitor K1QX accounted for the vast majority of points and contacts at W4MLB's Field Day activities. Jan coached the GOTA station under his own call and managed to find time to operate CW overnight as well. Don, Chris, George, and particularly Craig were iron men, logging nearly 1300 CW qsos and, in a first for PCARS, keeping two stations manned on CW for the first four hours of Field Day. Rigs were TS-850s at both main HF positions. Antennas included a PRO-67C @ 70', A4 @ 35', TH3JR @ 28', 80m dipole, and G5RV.

73,
Chris WF3C

ARRL 10 Meter Contest Results
Quoting from the write-up:
"Six clubs entered the Unlimited Club category (three more than last year), which retains limits on the geographic locations of the club stations but not on how many members can enter on behalf of the club. Moving up one spot in the rankings from last year, the Potomac Valley Radio Club just edged out the competition to claim victory in the Unlimited Club category. 61 club members combined to score 2,048,194 points. Moving down one spot in the rankings, the Florida Contest Group fell short of victory by just 2.2%. The FCG had 64 logs that combined for a total of 2,004,124 points. The margin of victory was less than 700 points per log!"

This is downright remarkable, folks! We had extremely poor propagation, especially over here in Sporadic-E deprived WCF. None of us came close to competing for a national title in our individual categories, yet we all banded together and produced a score that was just 2% down from the top?!?!
Wow!!!!
I'm proud of everyone who toughed it out and got us that close! Heck, we had 64 entries out of a club size of about 250. The PVRC is several times our size, yet "only" mustered 61. To me, that is a victory in and of itself! GO FCG!!!!
N2NL Going Away Gathering

By Dan Street K1TO

On short notice, 12 FCGers assembled at the Brandon Smokey Bones on June 2 to wish Dave, N2NL well in his new position as Chief Warrant Officer with the Coast Guard. Dave and family are headed to Guam later this month for his second stint there and they will be on KH2 for at least 3 years.

From his Key West salt-water enhanced QTH, Dave worked 38 Zones and over 200 countries on 160 and all 40 Zones on 80 Meters!

Those present to wish Dave well were: K1TO, K2EUH & KJ4AFB, K4CC, K5KG, N6AR, N9CM, W1YL, W3TB, W4LT, WC4E and WD4AHZ.

Clearly I have an issue with red-eye when using my flash! I'll have to study the manual to see about reducing that, since I usually don't need the flash, even indoors.

Above: Dave’s new uniform—Below The honoree himself Dave N2NL. Dave will still be with us as an honor-ary member from his new QTH in KH2.
Dear Fellow contester,

Many of you do not subscribe to the contest reflector or CQ magazine and you may have missed our public announcement. The CQ WW Contest Committee would like to inform you via this newsletter that the ASSISTED CATEGORY award program has been greatly expanded.

- We announce the strengthening of the assisted awards program. Starting with the 2010 CQ WW contests, the assisted category award program will be greatly expanded.
- All Low Power and QRP assisted entrants will be specifically listed and eligible for awards as is already the case for unassisted entries.
- A band-by-band breakdown for all band assisted World, Europe and USA will be provided within the 2010 results.
- Lastly, the number of plaques available to assisted entrants will be increased to include Europe Assisted All Band and all World Assisted Single Bands.

We hope that this action provides an incentive for entrants using a QSO spotting system to join the assisted category.

Please make a note that the log submission deadline for SSB has changed to Nov 21, 2010 and for CW to Dec 21, 2010.

73,

Bob, K3EST
Melbourne Hamfest and FCG Meeting Report

Presentations at the FCG-sponsored Contest Forum at the hamfest included:

The K2BSA Operation at the 2010 Boy Scout Jamboree - George K5KG
My Trip to 9V1- Lu W4LT
VHF / UHF Contesting - Doug K4AC
A Remote Contest Operation - Blake N4GI
2009 ARRL DX CW Contesting from C6 - Kevin K4PG

An afternoon meeting was held in conjunction with a cook-out hosted by Sylvia and Eric, K9ES.

Meeting attendees included AA4HP, AD4ES, AD4Z/HI3A, K1KNQ, K1TO, K4AC, K4LQ, K4MVO, K4PB, K4QD, K5KG, K8NZ, K9ES, KD2JA, KD4BRJ, KJ4AWM, N4EEB, N4EK, N4GI, N4KM, NA4CW, W2TX, W3AZD, W4KFH, W4LT, W4QH, W4SLD, W4WQ, WB3ANE and WF3C.

Spotted at the Hamfest, but did not attend meeting: K1PT & KD1BG, K4GRD, K4PG, K4XS & KH7YL, K5AUP, KE1F, N4GD, W1MO, W4QM, W4STB

Dan K1TO opened the meeting by thanking Eric and Sylvia for their hospitality. The hat, (actually a plastic pool chemical jug!) was passed.

Attendees made short work of the hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fixins', as well as salads, corn, desserts and other items too numerous to mention.

Each attendee described their plans for the upcoming contest season. Interest in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest was at its typical high level, but encouraging was the increase in ARRL November Sweepstakes enthusiasm. Both CQ WW weekends were frequently mentioned, too.

10 Meter Contest - Dan noted that in last year's 10 Meter contest, the FCG's performance was outstanding considering the very poor propagation we had. We were beaten by PVRC by only 2.2 percent. The FCG had more logs entered (64) than any other club in the USA.

CQ WW - Julio AD4Z noted that some of our CQWW teams had finished well up in the standings. Dan noted that there was strong possibilities of good propagation for both CQWW contests this year since counting back 27 days from the SSB weekend, we had very low A and K readings and they tend to move in 27/55 day cycles.

FQP - Dan noted that he has completed log checking for this year's FQP, although compiling the scores and writing the summary report may take a while due to other commitments.

at this time of year. The number of logs was down about 10 percent from last year, but the total contacts were almost as many as last year. At least one mobile team made over 3000 QSOs for the first time ever.

SS - Dan was named ARRL Sweepstakes Contest Manager earlier this year and encourages the FCG to give it a shot for a while this year. He noted that FL stations have good opportunities in SS as we usually have good propagation to population centers on both 20 and 40 meters,

Blake N4GI summarized his excellent presentation on remote contesting for the benefit of members who had not been able to attend the hamfest presentation.

Fred K4LQ gave the secretary treasurer report:

Membership: at an all time high of 257.
Club Treasury: at a four year high of $5226.57.

The Club received a memorial donation last week of $1000 from Dale Strieter W4QM in honor of former member John Beck W4AI (SK). Fred noted that John was in ill health by the time he joined the FCG and was no longer able to contest, but that he had been a formidable conteste in earlier years. In both 1966 and 1967, John took first place World in CQ WW CW from ZD8J. He also turned in many notable scores from VP2A, VQ9J and KL7AI.

Newsletter Status - Fred noted that the newsletter team has been quite busy this summer, and unable to spend as much time with the newsletter as usual. Dan has been busy with his tower business, WRTC and many other activities, Fred K9VV with moving to KP2 and Fred K4LQ with some nest-egg enhancing activities. But during this time K4LQ has been filling up the newsletter template with articles and pictures submitted by members, and now has a 32 page newsletter about ready for publication. We hope to get that out in the next few weeks.

Dan asked for suggestions on how the money from the memorial should be spent by the club.

George K5KG suggested a possibility would be to sponsor a plaque in CQWW for the Top SOABHP score from Africa, where W4AI had made his top scores. A check will be made to see if a plaque for that specific area already exists.

Chris WF3C suggested putting the money toward a CW skimmer node somewhere in Florida. Currently there are no CW skimmer nodes in Florida. The nearest are in Atlanta and northern Alabama. Optimal configuration would cost about $1800. Lu W4LT said if the Club decided to go ahead with this he would donate a suitable computer, which would reduce project costs by about $500. Discussion continued for about a half hour as to the pros and cons of the club sponsoring a skimmer node.
The reverse beacon network (of which the proposed node would be a part) is a network of stations listening to the bands (usually with wide-band receivers and vertical antennas) and reporting what CW stations they hear, when and how well. It could be used to determine if the band is open to a particular part of the world, and can also be used to see who is hearing you in any part of the world when you send a CQ on CW. In the contesting world it would be of use to assisted and multi-op stations. For plain old DXers it would also help to bust pileups by identifying who just worked the DX and on what frequency. Further details are beyond the scope of this report, but the subject can be researched by looking at several URLs, including:

http://www.reversebeacon.net/index.php

http://www.dxatlas.com/CwSkimmer/Files/Skimmerintro.pdf

Further research and discussion of this subject will continue, including WF3C checking with CQ and ARRL reps as to the suitability of a contest club sponsoring a CW skimmer node.

Ron K8NZ made the suggestion that since FCG members have been active participants in a number of previous WRTC competitions (winning 4 of them), and that the 2014 WRTC will be in the US for the first time since 1996, and that the WRTC is a very costly activity for the sponsoring country - perhaps it would be worthwhile for the FCG to work out a way to contribute some money to the upcoming WRTC. Members generally agreed. Some discussion ensued as to the possible mechanics. One suggestion was for the treasurer to allocate one dollar of each five dollar membership dues for the next 3 years to a WRTC 2014 Fund, along with any other donations members might care to make. Another suggestion was to keep dues at $5 and collect extra dollar(s) only from those who wish to contribute. This subject will also be discussed further before a decision is made.

Dan noted that qualifying for WRTC 2014 for Florida contesters has been made less difficult by the adoption of new regional boundaries that mean we no longer have to compete against the W1/2/3 call areas that are much closer to Europe, but only with those in our western W4 region, which consists of FL, GA, AL, TN and KY. http://wrtc2014.org/ has lots of info.

The meeting wound up with a discussion of the planning needed for the Orlando hamfest contest-related activities coming up in February. The American Legion location we used for our Friday night Hospitality Suite for 2010 is also available for a Contest Dinner, so we will likely pursue this approach. Chris WF3C will continue liaison activities with them. Various ham radio companies will be contacted for support of raffle prizes. Potential dinner speakers will be approached. Details will be noted on the FCG reflector as they are available.

The usual thanks to Dan K1TO for editing my notes.

73/Fred K4LQ
Secretary, FCG
CW Skimmer Information

By Chris Plumblee WF3C

During the FCG picnic at K9ES’s QTH, the attendees conducted a pretty exhaustive discussion of CW Skimmer, and more specifically of setting up what’s known as a Skimmer Server (or Skimmer Node) here in Florida. I was asked to provide more information about CW Skimmer, how it works, and what its capabilities are so that the club can make a more informed decision about its potential benefits and drawbacks or concerns.

CW Skimmer is a software package written and distributed by VE3NEA (who also wrote DXAtlas, MorseRunner, HamCap, and a number of other ham radio programs available at DXAtlas.com). By itself, CW Skimmer is a powerful CW decoder, capable of simultaneously decoding CW signals through the entire passband of a given receiver. Simply feed audio from your receiver into your sound card and the program takes care of the rest. Connect the audio output from your contest transceiver to your computer sound card and CW Skimmer will decode every CW signal within the passband of the receiver (~3kHz on most transceivers with all optional filters disabled). Connect the audio output of a wideband SDR (Software Defined Receiver), and CW Skimmer becomes more than just another decoder.

With an intentionally broadbanded SDR connected to a relatively modest computer and a decent sound card, it becomes possible to decode every CW signal over 96kHz of a given band. That means that every CW signal from the bottom of the band to .096 is decoded virtually instantaneously, giving you a real-time picture of what’s happening on a given band. Every station calling CQ, every station answering a CQ, every station calling in a DX pileup along with their exact frequency is visible on CW Skimmer’s panadaptor display.

However, it’s difficult to co-locate such a device with an active contest station. Every time you transmit on any band, the broad-as-a-barn-door front end of the SDR is swamped with RF from your transmitter. Avoiding this limitation is problematic. Receive antennas for your SDR need to be far enough away from transmitting antennas that they are totally unaffected by transmitted RF. If you’ve ever tried to run multi-op or SO2R at any station, no matter how well-equipped, you know that is difficult to say the least. The logical way around this is to remotely locate the Skimmer and somehow get the resulting spots back to the transmitting station. Hmm...does that sound much like packet援助 anyway?

VE3NEA thought so. He wrote a software package called Skimmer Server that acts as a front end for CW Skimmer. Place a computer, SDR, and antenna system far enough away from the transmitting site that no interference is possible. Connect the computer to the internet and run CW Skimmer and Skimmer Server, and every station that CW Skimmer decodes with specified tags, like “CQ,” “TEST,” “FD” (for ARRL Field Day), “SS” (for ARRL Sweepstakes), or “QRZ,” generates a pseudo-packet spot. Skimmer Server also automates band switching. With a sufficiently capable SDR, it takes ~7 minutes to scan 7 bands and spot every audible CQer. I’ll say it again...EVERY AUDIBLE CQer on seven bands gets spotted every seven minutes.

K4TD and N4ZR, among others, have headed up an effort to aggregate all the individual Skimmer Nodes worldwide into what’s called the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN). All spots from those Nodes connected to the RBN are freely available to anyone with internet access worldwide, either via HTML at http://reversebeacon.net/main or via telnet at telnet.reversebeacon.net:7000. Best of all for contesters, use of the RBN is considered the same as packet assistance by the CQWW Committee and ARRL because stations are only spotted when their call signs are accompanied by tags such as CQ or QRZ.

The club is considering sponsoring a Skimmer Node to be located in Florida for the benefit of FCG CW contesters as well as to post spots to the Reverse Beacon Network. We are investigating potential locations around the state and other logistical issues. Further details will be posted to the reflector in the coming weeks, with the goal to have Skimmer in place at least in a temporary site in the coming weeks.

For more specific information about CW Skimmer and the Reverse Beacon Network, visit dxatlas.com/CWSkimmer and http://reversebeacon.net.

CQ WW CW Logs Online

CQ WW CW are now on-line for public viewing. They have also been parsed by the CQ WW Analyzer - software written by Stan EI6DX/UA1OUT. The log database now contains almost 13 million Qs from nearly 30,000 SSB and CW logs submitted in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Stan notes that 2009 activity was up 12.5% compared to 2008!


(Thanks ARRL Contest Update Newsletter)
In 1958, I moved from Michigan to Florida on accepting a job with General Electric as a Missile Guidance Engineer. As a recent graduate from Michigan State University with a MS degree in EE, my starting salary was $7K. BS EE's were getting $6.5K per year.

Then, the “dream station” for a Ham was a Collins 75A4 receiver and a Collins KWS1 transmitter. The KWS1 could operate 80-10M giving full KW input on CW and SSB. By 1960, I knew personally two people that had this set up. One was a commercial pilot in Lansing, Michigan and the other was a Physics Professor at a Georgia college. The 75A4 cost $750 and the KWS1 ran $2.2K for an approximate total cost of $3K.

As a possible comparison, I bought a brand new Studebaker Scotsman automobile to make the trip from MI to FL and it’s cost was $1.8K. A Ford, Plymouth or a Chevolet sedan cost about $2K. A midrange automobile like an Olds 88 or Buick ran about $3k. A low end Mercedes Benz cost about $3.5K. So a dream rig back then was equivalent in cost to buying a mid range automobile.

In 1964, I was fortunate to be able to purchase a used 75A4 and KWS1 at a cost of $1K and these were used until about 1984 when I upgraded to a newer transceiver and amplifier.

Fast forward to 2010 and the “dream station” would probably be an Elcraft K3 transceiver with all the options at around $4K plus an Alpha 9500 linear amplifier capable of 1.5KW output at a cost of about $8K. Total cost would be in the range of $12K.

There are not too many new cars that one can buy for less than $20K and a new midrange auto would be $30K or so. A low end Mercedes is in the range of $35K.

The starting salary for a graduate engineer with a BS degree is in the area of $55+K.

So, a dream station in 2010 is a real bargain when one compares it's real cost to the 1958 era. The cost is a lot lower as $12K may get you a pre-owned automobile but certainly not a new mid range one. And think of all the wonderful features of the new rigs. No tuning needed when changing bands. One can have the transceiver and amplifier synced which allows a band change in a second. Not like back in 1958 when it took many seconds as a minimum to change bands.

On the KWS1, it took probably 20 to 30 seconds when going from 40 to 80 meters. The higher bands were in the order of 5 to10 seconds or so if you were skilled.

We never have had it so good!

Hope Springs Eternal

(From the ARRL Contest Update Newsletter)

Or should that be "Falling In Love Again"? I am referring, of course, to the beginning of contest season as autumn brushes broad its palette across the hills and valleys of North America. If baseball is in the post-season, can CQ Worldwide and ARRL Sweepstakes be far away? I think not.

Here and there, last-minute antenna projects are taking shape in increasing haste as the afternoon shadows lengthen earlier and fingers get a little stiffer in the cooler evenings of fall. The HF bands have vivified a bit and the Top Banders are agog from a good start to the trans-oceanic months, too. October seasons every State, Province, and Country with pinches of prestidigitation for the radio amateur.

Take a few minutes to savor those outdoor hours, whether you are launching a line upwards or resting comfortably in your harness after a climb up the tower. In the warm, yellow light, the bravura of colorful hillsides and thickets make for a memorable view. I have been known to ascend a ways just to get up above the ground and listen to the wind and the rustle of dry leaves that before the hurricane will surely fly, even once surprising a passing flock of geese descending. So, here's to those of you out there in the back yard, on the rooftop, and at the top rung, wrestling wire or armstronging aluminum against the coming winter - and to our southern siblings just now getting entering their vernal season - I toast you with a cup of apple cider, inhaling the tang of fallen leaves and squinting skyward at the antenna farm festooning the trees and towers. Is it big enough and high enough? Of course not, but it's ready - and so am I. See you on the bands!

73, Ward NØAX
### Claimed Scores IARU Contest

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<th>Score</th>
<th>QSOs</th>
<th>Zns</th>
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### Overseas Operations

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**TOTAL**  10,890,102

There were also prizes awarded for the IARU contest participants who worked the WRTC teams and sent a log to the WRTC-2010 committee in support of the competition's log checking. In the Single Operator category, US plaques were awarded to the high CW (AA1V), SSB (NN1N), and Mixed Mode (K3WW) scorers and from Canada, VE3OM (CW), VE3KZ (SSB), and VE3FU (Mixed-Mode). In Multi-Operator, the US winners were *CW (K5KG)*, SSB (N4VV), and Mixed Mode (KM3T). A complete table of winners is online for your enjoyment.

Congratulations George K5KG!