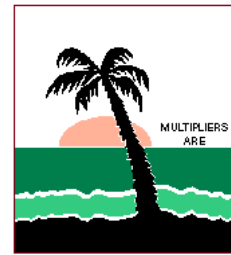




Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.qsl.net/fcg/ or www.fcg.club



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September 2002

WRTC 2002 - Helsinki - PART II

By Dave Mueller N2NL

Part 4: The Contest, Play by Play



Before I start with the play-by-play of the contest, let me first describe the rules of the WRTC competition. Although the competition was held during the annual IARU contest, the rules for WRTC competitors were quite different. Contacts with European stations were worth 1 point, and all other stations outside of Europe were worth 2. Multipliers consisted of DXCC entities and headquarters stations, once per band regardless of mode.

Although we were permitted two stations, the rules were quite strict. Only one radio was allowed to transmit. This station was allowed to be networked with the logging computer, which in turn was networked with the computer at the second station. The second station was not allowed to transmit nor be connected to the network.

We had spent months leading to the beginning of the contest to discuss and plan our strategy. Obviously, it was to our benefit to work as many 2-point stations as possible. We would have to work Europe at a 140/hr rate to match a 70/hr rate with USA. In addition, CW generally works better than SSB when running 100 watts, so we figured the majority of our QSOs would be with that mode. Finally, the low bands, 40 and 80 meters (we were not permitted to use 160m), have very narrow and noisy SSB sub bands so we decided to only work CW there unless we needed a multiplier on Phone.

I sat down with all the logs I could gather from the region to study and try to set up a band plan for the 24-hour contest period. I noticed that 10 meters did not open often, but when it did, it usually was E skip to the rest of Europe with astonishing rates. We would definitely have to keep an eye there so we would not miss any openings. It was obvious that 15 and 20 meters were the money bands, and both seemed open for the entire 24 hours of the contest. The nights are extremely short in Finland in July; the sun set at 10:30PM and came back up at 3AM, with the sky never getting darker than a twilight. As a result, we figured we would have to hit 40 and 80 meters hard and heavy during that short period to work as many multipliers and fresh QSOs as possible.

Our game plan was set. Dan mentioned that he always starts with a good first hour, so we mutually decided that he would start the contest. I really enjoy digging in the

noise for multipliers, so I was happy being delegated to the receive-only station. Although we didn't have a set schedule to change operating positions like many other teams had, it worked out well for both of us. Dan operated about 60% of the time, running the vast majority of phone. Neither of us took a break, whomever was on the multiplier station kept working the dial, looking for new multipliers and QSOs that needed to be worked. One final comment relates to the software. Although CT has an effective band map, we never used it due to some bugs in the software. We passed all multipliers and new contacts on a pad of paper, listing the call and frequency for the run up to see. We used some codes for additional information. For example, if the new multiplier seemed easy to work, we would circle the call. If it had a huge pileup, we'd just list it to check back on frequency later. Once it was worked we would cross it off the list. During the 24-hour period we completely filled a steno notebook with comments and call signs.

With all that explained, it's time to start the contest play-by-play...

As soon as the clocks read 1200z, 3PM local time, we quickly grabbed our headsets, threw them on, and turned up the volume on the rigs. Mika, our Judge, settled in with his own headphones, sitting on a couch behind us. We were hoping for 15-meter propagation to the states, so Dan quickly shuffled the dial up the band, looking for a hole, finding one at 21012. After the 1st CQ, K8MFO called in, followed by

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VE3KZ and RW9QA. Things were off to a good start! Although the signals weren't that strong, there were lots of stateside callers, a good sign. After the 1st 15 minutes, Dan had logged 43 stations, most of which were the more valuable 2-point stateside guys. During this time, I worked my way up and down the band, creating a long list of multipliers. Due to the low power and a clean transmitter, we were able to listen in the same sub band which we were running, making QSY's easier and making sure we didn't miss anything.

Unfortunately, after the 1st 20 minutes, the run seemed to dry out. The rate dropped, and we were worried. Dan started working down my list of multipliers, quickly knocking them off. We quickly worked a string of multipliers, including W1AW/5, 9H1ZA, JH7BZR, and P41HQ. I was surprised to find BD4XA calling high in the phone band with no takers, so Dan went there and snagged him quickly. I thought it was cool when he worked EK8WA until I realized he was probably as rare in Finland as a P4 is from W3! By the end of the first hour, we were quite disappointed. Although we had quite a few good mults in the log, we only had 92 QSOs, which was far too few. A small consolation was knowing a lot were worth double credit, but we were really bummed out and only one hour had passed. Dan and I decided that 15m just wasn't working, and we swapped operating positions while moving to 20 meters.

I quickly had a frequency at 14016 and began running European stations. The rate was absolutely incredible, and everyone calling was booming in. Wow – so this is WRTC! Cool! The rate meter jumped over 200, then 250 as the pileup continued. By 1330 we doubled our QSO totals and our spirits rose. The vast majority of QSOs were with Europe, but I was surprised when VE7CT called in. I operated about 30 minutes, and relinquished the seat to Dan once again. All the callers were loud, often with several calling at a time; it was almost exactly like playing the PED pileup program. Since Dan does so well at the game, I figured it would be right up his alley. I took my place back in the multiplier-spotting chair while Dan worked the PED Pileup.

Dan stayed on 20 CW for much of the remainder of the hour, and the rate continued. During quick lulls he began working some mults with the second VFO. Headquarters stations such as PA6HQ and DA0HQ were all loud and easily worked this way. The rate dropped in the last 15 minutes of the hour, and we went back to 15 after snagging VK2APK. There we finished out the hour working a string of JA's. The 1300z hour finished with 261 stations in the log.

Although the rate wasn't as good on 15, the callers were all worth 2 points so we stuck around. The extra time we had was spent snagging 20m mults such as 8N3JHQ (Japanese HQ station) and HB9A. After only 10 minutes however we realized that we were wasting our time here, and went back to 20, this time phone. Once again the rate skyrocketed. First 150, then 250, and then 350! This was my first time to watch Dan operate phone and I was amazed, laughing out loud at times at his skills. I looked back at Mika who himself was shaking his head in disbelief. By 1430Z, the rate (last 10) was peaking at 420 QSOs/hr! Unfortunately, the frequency was getting more and more crowded and the rate suffered until we were forced to QSY.

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Welcome Aboard



126 K9AW Gary G Dein, 3040 NE 16th Ave A110, Oakland Prk FL 33334 e-mail: k9aw@aol.com

127 W3WW Don Mohny Jr. 1255 NE Oceanview Circle, Jensen Beach FL 34957 e-mail: w3ww@adelphia.net

128 K9VV Fred Kleber, 4401 NW Third Ave. Boca Raton FL 33431 kleberf@bellsouth.net

Next Meeting - Melbourne Hamfest 9/14

The next meeting will be at the Melbourne Hamfest Saturday September 14. Meet at the ticket barrel at noon We will head out for some pizza at Franco's followed by the meeting and dessert at Eric K9ES's QTH Directions Below:

FRANCO'S RISTORANTE & PIZZERIA (Birthplace of the FQP)

1369 S BABCOCK St.

(312) 722 2780

The parking lot that the flea marketers gather in to show their wares is on the South side of Hibiscus Blvd.... the ristorante is in a shopping plaza West of there, on the North side of Hibiscus...

When you get onto Hibiscus go West to the first major intersection which is Babcock St., the shopping plaza is at that corner, on the North East corner of the intersection (where else would a European restaurant be?), there is a Publix grocery store in that plaza... you can't miss it. We usually order a bunch of pies however you can sample their other Italian fare as well.

Instructions from Melbourne Hamfest to K9ES QTH:

When leaving the Melbourne Hamfest, go east on Hibiscus to US 1. At US 1, go North for about 4 or 5 miles to Eau Gallie Blvd (SR 518). Get in the Right Hand Lane for a right turn. Take Eau Gallie Blvd East over the bridge until you reach A1A.

At A1A make a left (North) for 1/2 mile. You will see a Shell Station and a Space Coast Credit Union at Atlantic Blvd. Make a left, and look for the towers.

Meeting starts at 2:30 PM. It takes 20 minutes to drive it.

July 27 Vicnic Largest Ever

The annual FCG Vicnic on July 27 was the usual unqualified success. 71 attendees put away lots of hotdogs and hamburgers with all the fixins as well as lots of beans, chili, cookies, cake and copious amounts of cerveza and soft drinks. The expected Vicnic thunderstorm held off until just after the festivities.

Four new members signed up during the event. They were:

K4NW - Mike Murdoch - Clearwater
 K4LOG - Richard Woodford - Venice
 K4SXY - Michelle Woodford - Venice
 W4QN - Norm Alexander - Jupiter

Several other members were attending their first FCG event. They were:

K4LW - Bob Higgins - Orlando
 KA6R - Ben Wilbanks - Sebring
 KU3O - George Perkins - Lutz
 ND4AA - Norm Duxbury - Ponce Inlet
 NP3G - Terry Burkholder - Avon Park
 W4YA - Jim Roux - Longwood
 WA4OAB - Bob Flynn - Clearwater

Dave Curran, KB4ET from Paxton in the Panhandle made his first visit to a non-Panhandle FCG event, winning the travelled farthest title by leaving home at 1:30 am in the NF4A Charliemobile.

As one who attends "most" meetings, I must say I enjoyed this one more than most. It was great to see so many new faces and get to meet so many who we've only known before as calls on the reflector or in the Club score listings.

Dan K1TO began the meeting by thanking Vic N4TO for his hospitality.

The hat (actually a diet coke carton) was passed. Dan pointed out that members are not expected to invite 71 of their closest friends by for lunch on their nickel.

Dan welcomed the new members and first time meeting attendees (listed above) and asked that they introduce themselves.

Fred K4LQ gave a brief Treasury report and reiterated the \$800 WRTC contributions from WRTC members.

Dan thanked myself, Ron, WD4AHZ, Jeff WC4E, Jim K4OJ, Bill K4XS and Art, AB4RL for our continued contributions to the Club.

I would like to note here that Dan himself has spent countless hours working behind the scenes helping me edit the newsletter, constructing spreadsheets to help me keep track of club activities, and in general providing a very high level of support in everything I do related to the club. Thanks Dan!

Since Ron had to leave a bit early, Dan discussed FQP-2002. 450 logs were received this year vs 400 last year. The most ever county sweeps were recorded from outside FL, the most remarkable of which was from Clive, GM3POI.

Dan noted the interest of the sponsors of the Georgia QSO Party to look into merging their QSO Party with ours. Some of the arguments against this include the dilution of activity level because of the large numbers of counties in GA, and the difficulties in mobiles supporting activities in both states. It doesn't appear at this time that any further consideration will be given to merging FQP/GQP.

Dan noted that we came a close second to YCCC in the Medium Category in the last ARRL 10 Meter Contest. We turned in 30 logs, they submitted 50 logs. With our increased membership we should have a good shot at the top spot this year.

Dan was asked about rumors of locations for WRTC-2006. They are: YCCC, (NewEngland), China, Brazil and United Arab Emirates (A61AJ QTH).

There was some discussion about the FCG hosting the next WRTC. It was generally agreed that at that this time in FCG's evolution we are not really equipped to handle the mechanics of such an operation. The logistics of finding locations for, obtaining and setting up 52 exactly duplicated antenna systems, as well as housing, moving and administering all the competitors are significant. Substantial commercial sponsorships would also have to be sought and obtained, based on the experiences in past WRTCs. There is also the high thunderstorm frequency that time of year which could present some significant difficulties Dan noted that we could continue this discussion on the reflector, but it appears too big an operation for us to tackle right now. One attendee declared: "This is no Mickey Mouse Contest"!

Dan congratulated Dave, N2NL for his 4th place WRTC win with fellow WRTC Rookie Dan N6MJ. The youngest WRTC team ever beat many veterans of multi-WRTC's handily. Dave spoke briefly about his experiences in Finland. (Dave is writing a detailed account of his WRTC experiences which will appear in an upcoming Gazette.)

Dan asked Jeff WC4E to tell us a bit about his refereeing experiences in Finland. Jeff said that the hardest part was not being able to comment or make suggestions to the operators about possible opportunities. I have asked Jeff to send along some comments on his experiences for the Gazette.

Dan answered some questions about his winning effort in Finland, covering WRTC scoring, strategies, and equipment transportation. He said it was hard to get used to the sun being up until Midnight in Finland. I hope to have Dan tell us some of these details in an upcoming Gazette article

Dan said that another WRTC competitor VE7ZO might soon be moving to FL giving us yet another WRTC "local".

Ink, N400 suggested that we not leave the subject of WRTC-02 without an ovation for our three-peat team winner, Dan K1TO.

Dan noted that a Cayman Island station has contacted him who is willing to swap some tower climbing work for an opportunity to do some contest operating in ZF. Contact Dan for details.

Speaking of tower work, Dan is putting together a 3rd tower at his QTH and will need some help with putting up the tower and antennas. As most of you know, Dan spends many weekends each year doing tower climbing work for members. Here is a chance for members to reciprocate.

I have a large number of pictures from both WRTC and the Vicnic. We will cover both in the next couple issues of the Gazette, subject to articles being written in between the work schedules of the authors.

My thanks to Dan K1TO for help in editing this summary



Ink N400

Dave N4IG



Larry KJ4UY & Melanie



Down from the Panhandle were (l to r) Charlie NF4A and Dave KB4ET



Sherry W4SLR, Steve W4DTA & Elizabeth



Ben KA6R and Bob WA4OAB



Dan K1TO, Dave N2NL and George K5KG



L to r: Host Vic N4TO, Paul K1PT, Dan K1TO & Mary Ann



*Left
Norm W4QN &
Carol*

*Below:
Jim K4OJ
Kevin N4KM
Bob W1CW
Ellen W1YL*



Michelle K4SXY & Richard K4LOG





Terry NP3G

Karen NP3F



George KU30



Above, standing Jim W4YA seated Dale W4QM



Vic N4TO Dave KB4ET Jim K4OJ



Left, standing Bob K4LW Seated Alan K4PB



Left: Bill W2CQ



Bob K4LW and Gary N4DL



Mike K4NW

Summer NAQP CW Claimed Scores

N2NL	870	231	200,970at K1PT
NP4Z	788	221	174,148
K4XS	734	210	154,140
K4FCG	534	212	113,208Op: K4OJ
NF4A	603	176	106,128
W4AA	466	157	73,612
WC4H	482	144	69,264
AD4Z	406	152	61,712
N4IG	419	148	62,012
K4FB	395	134	52,930
KN4Y	345	132	45,540
W4SAA	338	137	44,936
NA4O	325	136	44,200Op WC4E
K4LQ	300	140	42,000
NU4Y	311	132	41,052
K0LUZ	378	100	37,000
K1TO	265	110	29,150
K4PB	204	112	22,848
ND4AA	164	93	15,252
KB4N	148	83	12,284
K1PT	143	75	10,725at AF1Z
W4ZW	192	50	9,600
N4TO	116	75	8,700
K9ES	137	63	8,316
KE1F	128	64	8,192
N4PK	118	69	8,142
KB4ET			6,954
NA4CW	104	53	5,512
K4LW	110	46	5,060
N4BP	100	37	3,700

FCG Killer D CW Team Scores

TEAM 1	Totals	
K0LUZ	37,000	
K4OJ	113,208	
K4XS	154,140	
N2NL	209,970	
W4SAA	44,936	559,254
TEAM 2		
K4FB	52,930	
K4LQ	42,000	
N4AO	44,200	
N4GI		
N4TO	8,700	147,830
TEAM 3		
K4LW	5,060	
KA6R		
KB4N	12,284	
KW4CW		
NP4Z	174,148	191,492
TEAM 4		
AD4Z	61,712	
KB4ET	6,954	
N4OX		
NF4A	106,128	
WC4H	69,264	244,058
TEAM 5		
K1PT/4	10,725	
K9ES	8,316	
KE1F	8,192	
NU4Y	41,052	
W4AA	73,612	141,897
TEAM 6		
K1TO	29,150	
K4LOG		
K4PB	22,848	
K4RFK		
W4ZW	9,600	61,598
TEAM 7		
KN4Y	45,540	
N4IG	62,012	
N4PK	8,142	
NA4CW	5,512	
ND4AA	15,252	136,458



Dave, N2NL in Action at the K1PT QTH

FCGers meet with Jim, VE7ZO who was visiting Tampa August 15th

By Jim White, K4OJ

Ed Note: Jim VE7ZO whose team placed 6th in Helsinki, expects to be moving to the Tampa area sometime this fall.

What a great time last night - Jim will be a great asset to our "market" - his priorities appear to be in order :-)

We spent a lot of time warning him about deed restricted communities and lightning - looks like we have arranged a demonstration for him today of the lightning!

Not that the Pacific Northwest is any stranger to rain but the lightning capital of the world (which we all agreed last night is WC4E's QTH) is here it seems and nothing beats a hard disconnect!

Well, Jim now knows all he needs to know about proceeding to being a FL station owner - I encouraged him to take his time looking for a home - hoping to increase the number of contests he will be available for contesting multi-ops at the W1CW/W1YL QTH - but faced stiff competition from N4TO who was also luring him - and when K4XS was n't trying to sell him tower, he sorta hinted as well - lets just say that Jim should not have any problems getting on the air on the appropriate weekends!

VE7ZO will make a great addition to our club - we hope to see him on board when he moves here in a coupla months - looks like he may just miss the Melbourne meeting weekend as far as his ETA in FL... :-)

In addition to talk with VE7ZO talk about antenna plans by K1TO and K4OJ as well as K4XS' project of stacked tri-banders was prevalent..., good eats and a good time were had by all - K4XS even consummated antenna/tower deals with both K4OJ and K1TO !

Welcome Jim - I am sure the rest of the club looks forward to meeting you and having you join us here in what we feel is a ham heaven (wait 'til you try ten meters when you are the only one everyone else can work at the bottom of the cycle - almost like being DX - no its not HC8 but it is fun!)

Jim appropriately asked the question - how long 'til the FQP, so he will not need any re-educating.

Attendees - the Sebring twins N4TO and K4LQ, W1CW, W1YL, K4XS, K4OJ, K1TO and of course VE7ZO (who was driving a PT Cruiser - kul)
'OJ



Summer NAQP SSB Claimed Scores

KB4N	200	90	18,000
N4BP	953	166	158,198
NF4A	783	178	139,374
K1PT	652	183	119,316
K4XS	561	140	78,540
K5KG	439	133	58,327
WC4E	345	118	40,710
W4SAA	229	112	25,648
K4NW	190	96	18,240
KB4ET			16,884
W4ZW	132	59	7,788
NA4CW	118	60	7,080
K4LOG	76	46	3,496
K4RFK	73	40	2,970
N4GI	22	13	286

FCG Killer DSSB Team Scores

TEAM 1	Totals	
K1PT	119,216	
K4FCG		
K4XS	78,540	
N4BP	158,198	
NF4A	139,374	495,328
TEAM 2	Totals	
KK4TA		
N2NL		
NA4CW	7,080	
W4SAA	25,648	
WC4H	27,900	60,628
TEAM 3	Totals	
KB4N	18,000	
N4GI	286	
N4OX		
N4PK		
WC4E	40,710	220,996
TEAM 4	Totals	
K4LOG	3,496	
K4RFK	2,970	
K5KG	58,327	
W4ZW	7,788	
	69,264	141,845

Left of table - Fred K4LO, Jim VE7ZO, Vic N4TO, Bill K4XS, Right of Table - Dan K1TO, Jim K4OJ, Bob W1CW (W1YL Photo - Tnx Ellen)

New Member Surveys Received Recently

1. Call: W4YA
2. Year first licensed: 1951
3. Years in Florida: 40
4. Other clubs you are a member of: Central Fla DX Association
5. Favorite Mode(s): CW
6. Favorite Contests: ARRL
7. Current Equipment: TS440
- 8: Current Antennas: R7000
- 9: How did you find out about FCG? N4TO, N4OO, W4QM

-
1. Call: K9AW
 2. Year first licensed: 1980
 3. Years in Florida: Arrived May 1982
 4. Other clubs you are a member of: Life Member ARRL
 5. Favorite Mode(s): CW - SSB
 6. Favorite Contests: CQWW CW/SSB, WPX CW/SSB, ARRL DX CW/SSB, IARU
 7. Current Equipment: Just arrived in State, shopping in progress
 - 8: Current Antennas: Just arrived in State, shopping for site, purchase of array(s)
 - 9: How did you find out about FCG? Internet Friend (N2NL)
73 de Gary K9AW

-
1. Call: K3UU
 2. Year first licensed: 1961
 3. Years in Florida: 2 years
 4. Other clubs you are a member of: Frankford Radio Club, Yankee Clipper Contest Club
 5. Favorite Mode(s): CW
 6. Favorite Contests: CQWW
 7. Current Equipment: K2 transceiver

8: Current Antennas: 40 meter dipole 15 feet off ground (deed restricted /stealth)

9: How did you find out about FCG? Other contest sites on internet

10. Any skills/interests you might share with the group? I work professionally in engineering (computers and communications systems,) hold a current Professional Engineering license. Have designed and built many HF and VHF transmitter/receiver/high power amplifier systems, which is something I don't get into much more. Professional work has included cable TV equipment and systems design, microwave communications systems, satellite communications systems. While employed at North America Philips Labs contributed to development of MPEG specification and deployment of Direct TV satellite system.

God this is beginning to sound like a job resume, so I'd better stop. I don't know how I can help out, as my schedule is fairly full. I'm pretty much a very part time op, and am having a lot of fun with the K2 and QRP operation. I really haven't been that active prior to moving to Florida two years ago and have recently got back into CW and QRP. Hope this is of some interest and please free to share this with other club members.

73 es 88
Karin Anne Johnson K3UU

-
1. Call: N8MV
 2. Year first licensed: 2000 (extra light!)
 3. Years in Florida: Since 1996
 4. Other clubs you are a member of: Orlando Amateur Radio Club, Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society, FISTS, ARRL
 5. Favorite Mode(s): CW - does it show on the air? No!
 6. Favorite Contests: Every one I stumble across - have not started planning my life around them yet
 7. Current Equipment: TS430S, MFJ Tuner, Schurr, Bencher and March keys, KWDTM741A
 - 8: Current Antennas: Inverted Vee for 10 - 40 (have not tried 80 yet) abt 30 feet high
 - 9: How did you find out about FCG? Internet
 10. Any skills/interests that you might share with the group? Skills - hopefully soon

1. Call: K4LOG ex < KF4LHM>
 2. Year first licensed: 1996
 3. Years in Florida: 21
 4. Other clubs you are a member of: none, Amateur related
 5. Favorite Mode(s): currently ssb, perhaps I will find CW more enjoyable as my proficiency grows.
 6. Favorite Contests: Haven't been at it long enough yet, So I'd have to say which ever one I was in last! But find each so far to be some serious fun.
 7. Current Equipment: Swan 270b with 20,40&80 working with around 20-40 watts output with (10-15m) at no output. HR2510 - 10m mobile on the desk to get another band.
 - 8: Current Antennas: wire up for the low bands, using a MFJ-941 tuner and a vertical at 45' for 10m.
 - 9: How did you find out about FCG? First through Ron WD4AHZ, and after watching all the FCG guys and some operating at Field Day, decided I needed to find more information locally to help me set up a station, and learn to be a better operator, the correct way.
 - 10: Any skills/interests that you might share with the group? I can sometimes be found at some of the local race tracks, relieving some built up road rage and have been known to be a wallbanger and enjoy a good crash and burn in the enduro and special event's as well. I cannot offer many skills in the hobby, but if any member of the group has a need for pool/ spa equipment related needs please contact me.
- BTW I have to say that everyone I have had contact with so far from the FCG, has been very friendly and supportive, contesters really are a different breed!

WAE CW Claimed Scores

	Q	QTC	Mult	Score
W4SAA SOHP	583	583	254	295,910
W4QM SOHP	408	408	94	177072
NF4A SOLP	365	365	87	145,469
W4ZW SOHP	323	322	82	120,582
W3TMZ SOLP	186	208	150	55200

1. Call: K9VV / Trustee WO4G
2. Year first licensed: 1972
3. Years in Florida: Zero, but lots of vacations / work
4. Other clubs you are a member of: ARRL, Society of Midwest Contesters
5. Favorite Mode(s): CW
6. Favorite Contests: CQ WW (both modes), ARRL DX (both modes), NCJ Sprint(both modes), ARRL VHF tests
7. Current Equipment: FT-1000MP / FT-726 (U/VHF) / TR4/RV4, FM/packet stuff
- 8: Current Antennas: None yet, just moved in.
- 9: How did you find out about FCG? About 3am in a Dayton hospitality suite from some crazy drunk guy named "OJ" in an orange shirt.
- 10: Any skills/interests that you might share with the group?

Here's my bio from the K3LR (where I've operated many times) web page:

Fred, K9VV - Licensed in 1972 is an operator of many tongues. Fluency in several languages, contest proficient in many others, he strives to attract QSOs from those stations uncomfortable in speaking "contest English". He carefully tunes the bands in search casual non-contest QSOs for those prized elusive multipliers. His lingual skills are complemented by lightning fast keyboard fingers (he doesn't use an outboard paddle) and knowledge to leverage that often neglected "band" - The Internet.

An accomplished DXpeditioner, he understands logistics & teamwork. Past expeditions include: C31WK, FS5PL, J87J, P4ØM, PA9AWG, TI5N, VP2V DX, VP5FUX, XE1FUX, XE7X, XF4DX, XX9VV, ZF2VV and portable operations from C6A, CT1, EA3, KH6, KP2, VE3, VS6 and 6Y5. Several of these expeditions resulted in top in class finishes, including world high ARRL DX contest scores. Recently he and his frequent "band-mate", K8GL elevated the 40m ARRL SSB m/m multiplier record to an amazing 126 countries.

In the other side of life, Fred is a consulting engineer in the wireless cellular / PCS industry and makes his home in Boca Raton, Florida. He used to make the lengthy drive to the K3LR multi-multi to escape less than ideal propagation in the proverbial "Black Hole". (Mid-west USA) His other hobbies include: Indy-car racing, playing drums, scuba diving, and golf.

Seen on the Reflector - Notes from K1TO

CQWW 2001 WOW !

FCG was the #5 USA club with a whopping 84,756,594!!!!

Only the 3 behemoths (YCCC, FRC, PVRC) and the North TX CC beat us. Behind us, in order, were:
 Southern California Contest Club
 SOMC (W9+)
 Northern California Contest Club
 North Coast Contesters (PA, OH, VE3)
 Southeast Contest Club (GA)

Actually, only 4 DX clubs beat us, so we made the Top Ten Clubs in the World!!

There were many fine individual efforts from club members, but this truly shows the power of everyone contributing something!!

To show just how far we've come, just a year before, we were the #8 club in the USA with 55 Meg. So, we jumped up 3 spots and made over 50% more score last year - WOW!!

CQ Mag - FB Article with WD4JR

Not only does the Sept CQ contain all that good news about the 2001 CQWW results, but it also contains a lengthy article about hams assisting in hurricane-related communications.

Our own Julio, WD4JR is pictured on p. 52 and the article spans several pages around there, as part of a regular column on Public Service.

Nice job, Julio!

FCGer leads 60 Meter Experiment (From the ARRL Letter of 8/16)

“Responding to an ARRL petition earlier this year, the FCC has proposed allocating 5250 to 5400 kHz to US amateurs on a secondary basis. US operation under the ARRL's WA2XSY Experimental license continues on an occasional basis. Charly Harpole, K4VUD--a WA2XSY participant in Florida--reports that Paul Gaskell, G4MWO, in England confirmed reception of Harpole's 5-MHz CW signal on August 8 at 0200 UTC.”

J75KG in 2002 IARU Test

Text and Pictures from ARRL Contest Soapbox on the



George J75KG/K5KG - Fred J79MM/N2AU

This was our third IARU contest from J75KG. This year's operation was by George, J75KG/K5KG and Fred, J79MM/NA2U. We used a two radio setup with the second radio (FT890) being used to spot mults for the main station (IC756ProII/AL572). The two rigs' laptops were networked, and WriteLog was used for logging. Antennas were a C3@20' plus full wave loops on 40 and 80.

The 10-day operation went off without a hitch, thanks in part to assistance from Lambert, J73LC, our resident prime-minister-of-how-to-get-things-done-in-an-island-way! The most memorable happenings were finding a very angry land crab with my toe, and a experiencing a violent wind-rain-thunder-lightning storm during the wee hours of the contest. We had to shut down due to the lightning for about an hour. The crab met his Maker!

Qsls for J75KG go to Steve, KU9C, to whom we are forever grateful for his efforts in keeping the wall paper moving. Qsls for J79MM go directly to Fred, NA2U. -- K5KG



Atlantic Ocean to the East. Palm tree on left was one of three supports for 80 meter full-wave loop.

Continued from Page 2

Since I had put together a decent sized list of mults on 15, we went there and worked several, including 8N3JHQ and E21EIC. We were both amazed by how well the simple antenna setup was working.

At 1440z, it was back to 20CW where I was running Europeans at a reasonable 150/hr rate. I kept thinking in the back of my head, if the rate here is this good, how much better would it be on phone? We tested the theory at 1500z, now with more than 400 stations logged. Before moving, however, we quickly worked a loud ES9A on 10m, our first QSO on the band and an easy one, since Estonia is just a short hop across the sea.

The rate was better on phone, but not for long. 15 meter was still open stateside, so we went there to work a few more USA stations, including K6AM in California. The band was open but we couldn't get anything going. On 10, we worked R3HQ, our second QSO there. It looked like we wouldn't get any openings like I'd seen going through past logs. On the contrary, 20 CW was opening up nicely worldwide so we went back there, running Europe and the additional 2 pointers from North America and Asia. Nice multipliers that called in included BA4DW and HL5UOG. The clock read 1600Z and there were 505 stations in the log.

20m was open nicely to Asia and Europe, and the UA9's kept calling in. We kept the second VFO on 15 meters, moving back there for multipliers. 9V9HQ and Robin 4D70RG were both good ones worked. We were happy to break the pileup to ZD9IR and V51NAM on 15 phone. I was listening on the multiplier station to 5Z4IC, who had a huge pileup. There were plenty of OJ stations calling, but none getting through. Dan remained on 20, running stations, while I listened to the pileup. That's when I heard the 5Z station asking for everyone "Will everyone please QRX, are there any World Radiosport teams on frequency?" I yelled to Dan who quickly changed VFOs and called. Damn - another OJ beat us. I'm nervous as Dan calls again. Cool! We got him! After us, he went back to working Europe, and I still hear a couple OJ's calling. Phew - that was cool! Man contesting is fun - little things like that make it all worthwhile. Later on 20 we snag 9V9HQ once again. We finish the 1600z hour with another 100 stations logged.

We're on a rate to make nearly 3000 contacts, would that be enough? Before the contest, most of the Finns believed that the winning team would have somewhere around 1800 QSOs, taking into consideration the Aurora which often rears it's ugly head this far north. The morning of the contest, while eating breakfast with Steve, N2IC, he mentioned that the winning team would need 2800 QSOs. I'm not sure where he came up with that number, but as you'll see, his prediction was pretty close!

20 meters is still rocking and rolling, and we stick around a while longer. We keep an ear on 10m, hoping for some life, and about 20 minutes into the hour we start hearing signals! We log G3TXF, SN0HQ, and G3WVG, who's calling "CQ OJ". While the band is showing some signs of life, the conditions are odd. Signals pop out of the noise, quickly come up to S9, and disappear to nothing within a

minute. It reminded me of meteor scatter. The other OJ's are swarming the band by now, all searching for multipliers. We work several, and the band quickly opens to Argentina, where we work several before they disappear into the noise.

By 1740z, 10 has dried up again. It is obvious that we're wasting our time there. We try 15 meter sideband, and find the band open stateside. The rate picks up again as Dan knocks out the QSOs. I find a lonely 9Q0AR and he makes a quick QSY to work him. The band is open across the states, with W7's logged amongst the eastern USA stations. We finish the hour there, now with 737 QSOs.

20 seems good, so we go back there for a try. It is a mistake, as the rate plummets. After only 5 minutes, it is back to 15, now CW. K3ZO is logged, followed by VU2UR. The rate just isn't as good as the previous hour. We pop the VFO back to 10 to work PA6HQ and S50HQ, and then try 40, which is now filled with loud Europeans.

The morning before the contest started, as I was heading toward Mika's car for the ride from the hotel, I ran into John, W2GD. He pulled me aside and gave me this tip: go to 40 early. He had operated from OJ0 before and noticed that the low bands opened early, even when it was bright daylight out. At 1821z, I hopped quickly to 40 and ran a few eastern Europeans. Dan tuned up 10m and noticed signals again. I quickly QSyed there, and began to run Eastern Europeans. Is this the big Sporadic E opening we were hoping for? We quickly found out it wasn't, as the signals dropped into the noise after about 20 quick contacts. Back to 40 we go.

I tuned up the band, noting that it was sunrise in Japan. I was hoping to find a Japanese station to work before it was too late. There! JH4UYB is Cqing, and loud too! I called several times, never getting a response. It got very disappointing, so I spun the dial to the bottom of the band with the intention of tuning and quickly search and pouncing some multipliers. Right above band edge, there's 8N2JHQ, sitting fat and pretty, Cqing away. I call him, and he comes back quickly for the double mult. It turns out we were one of only a couple teams to work the JA headquarters station; several teams never worked a JA on the band. We settled in on a frequency, and began running guys. The band was wide open into eastern Europe and Asia, and there were many UA9s and UA0s intermixed with the OK's and DL's. The 1800z hour finishes up when JH4UYB, whom I wasted 3 minutes trying to work, calls in for an easy contact. There are 836 QSOs in the log.

10 meters is showing some signs of life again, so we return there to work CT9M, OI2HQ, and a couple more OJ's before everyone fades into the mud. Unfortunately we waste nearly 15 minutes there, and once we return to our senses we go back to 40 which is still hopping. It is 10:30PM local time, and while the sun is just beginning to set here, most of Europe is in darkness. While I was on 40, Dan compiles a huge list of multipliers he heard on 15. He went there, and work a large string of needed HQ stations, as well as J75KG and OA4O. HS0AC is one noted double mult we easily worked. After a string of about 15 multipliers, it is back to 40 for the remainder of the hour, with Europe and the occa-

sional UA9 calling in. We stay there through the hour and on into 2000z, as the rate is very good. At 2045z, we make the hop to 80 where we find the band also wide open to Europe. We finish the hour there, working mostly Europeans and even some UA9's where are now coming into sunlight. The clock strikes 2100Z, midnight local time, and we've finally hit the 1000 QSO mark.

20 is starting to sound good stateside, as it is coming into late afternoon there. We move there and begin a good run of stateside stations with a few Europeans mixed in. Although the rate is better on 40 and 80, these guys are all worth double points. We finish the hour there, with another 160 stations logged.

Dan comments that since we have limited darkness, we need to be on 40 and 80. He comments that 20 will be open all night stateside, and we better work the guys on the low bands while we can. I agree with his thinking, and we move back to 80 at 2200z. The rate is incredible once we get spotted, jumping above 250/hr. Not bad for CW! By now all of Europe is in darkness, and we feed on the endless pit of Europeans. Dan is running, I'm on the spotting radio. While he's running CW, I hop up to SSB and search for multipliers. Our strategy for the low bands is to only run guys on CW there, and to work SSB only for mults. I find several, mostly headquarters stations, which Dan jumps up to work. Once the packet pileup starts to dry up on 80, we decide to hop back to 20, sideband this time.

20 is still wide open stateside, and we start the run off with P40B. We work a long string of stateside guys, and it's time to go back to 40 once again. We really want to maximize our QSOs there. While 20 will be open for the entire contest, we only will have about 4-6 hours of propagation on 40 and 80. We finish the first 12 hours there, hopping between 40 and 80.

Now that the contest is half over, we see that we've worked 1400 QSOs. Half way to the magical 2800 N2IC said would be needed to win. However, upon reflection, neither Dan nor I felt particularly good about our effort. We spent too much time calling multipliers, and too much time especially on 10 meters. While the QSO total is pretty darn good, we just had a feeling of "bad mojo" over the first half of the contest. It turns out that our thoughts were correct, as we had dropped into the middle of the standings. Mika told us after the contest was over that we had dropped to 26th place overall by the halfway point.

We started out the second half of the contest on 80 meters, by working a couple new headquarters multipliers we still needed on sideband. We discovered a major RF problem, with horrible RF feedback into our headphones. It's not something we checked ahead of time, and fortunately we spent so little time there that it didn't make a difference. After 20 minutes there, I hopped back to 20 CW for another decent run of stateside guys, with the last 10 on the rate meter pushing 250. Dan had made up a long list of multipliers we needed on 40, which was now beginning to open to NA. At 0030 we moved back there, quickly working VY2SS who was our first Canadian on that band. Also quickly worked were PJ2E, and P41HQ, a nice double multiplier. We still

needed a bunch of multipliers on the low bands, so we stuck it out there even though the rate was slower. Like Dan said, 20 would be open all night long. We finished the hour out there, swapping between 40 and 80 numerous times to work European multipliers we still needed.

It was back onto 20 CW for the 0100 hour, and the second caller was AA2F, who happens to be my ham radio Elmer. My mother told him I was competing, and he made an effort to work as many of the OJ stations as possible. Although it was disappointing not to be able to say hi, it was cool that I was at the rig when he called. The rate continued to be outstanding. Dan found NP4Z on 40, who had a large pileup with several OJ's in the mix. Dan listened for a while to the large pileup, and we were happy that none of the OJ's were making it through, since we didn't want to leave a good run to call someone we might not work. All of a sudden Felipe asked for OJ only callers! We made the quick QSY and called, and worked him immediately. We were the only OJ calling – all the others we heard had given up by that time! Before returning to 20, I hopped to 15 meters quickly to give KL9A a call. Although we had already worked KL7RA on that band, I wanted to give Chris a call. I cranked up the speed to 46WPM and ripped off a quick call. He came back immediately with my report. Chris is one hell of an op. Conditions were amazing – that's normally a difficult path and he was pounding in.

After working KL9A, it was back to 20 CW, our "meat-and-potatoes" band. We stayed there for the next couple hours, working an endless pit of USA stations. Infact, we stayed there for several hours, only leaving the band for quick QSYs for multipliers. The band was wide open to the entire world. Although the majority were stateside, we had other parts of the world call in such as VK8AV and a couple ZLs. We mixed up modes, switching from CW to SSB from time to time, to keep the rate going. We did this for the next 5 hours, adding another 500 contacts, the majority of which were worth 2 points. It turns out this was a smart strategy and we were beginning to claw our way up the standings!

Although the sun had been up for hours by the time the clock read 0600z, only then did 15 meters begin to open up. We were hoping for some real good 15 and 10 meter conditions to finish the last quarter of the contest. We started working Europeans at about this time, however the rate was still better on 20. The 0600z hour finished out on 20 meters with about 30 QSOs on 15 meters mixed in. We were hoping for a good run of JA's, who were surely interested in the rare prefix, but it never developed. We didn't work a single Japanese station this hour. We also were keeping an eye on 10 meters, hoping for that magical opening. About midway through the hour, we worked a loud LZ1NG there, the only signal on the band. It seemed like conditions were not as good anymore.

We continued to tune 10 meters while running 20, and at the top of the hour Dan heard the first JA of the morning – surprisingly on 10 meters! Even more surprising, he was louder to the south! Weird. We went there and quickly logged JA8RWU, who clearly was loudest beaming South. 10 was showing some signs of life, so we made the QSY

there early into the 07Z hour. The rate wasn't fantastic, but at 100/hr, it was good enough considering everything was a multiplier. The band was open to Eastern Europe, and we were working mostly Ukrainians with an occasional UA9 caller as well. It certainly wasn't the super opening we were hoping for, but it was better than nothing.

We finished the hour there, but decided 15 would be better and started the 0800z on Sideband there. It was a good decision as the rate exploded. We hadn't spent much time there so we were "fresh OJ" to the masses and a large pileup ensued. The Packet Pileup dried up after about 30 minutes, and after a short time on 10, it was back to 15 meters, CW this time, for another packet pileup explosion of Europeans. This was fun! At this point we changed our strategy somewhat. We would swap bands or modes about every 30 minutes. This would continue until the end of the contest. Every time we switched, we would have an instant pileup which would last for about 20 minutes then dry up. A mode of band switch would create a new pileup.

We continued to listen to 10 meters, hoping for an opening. There were a lot of OJ stations calling CQ there, but very few working any. We knew they were wasting their time as we concentrated on 15. During this period, I heard and worked the Japanese HQ station on 10, who was this time louder direct path. We wasted about 5 minutes calling the Taiwanese HQ station, who would have been a nice multiplier, but he never heard us. It was very weird listening to him. At times he was louder direct path, other times pointing south was best. We never worked any other Asian stations there, which was a disappointment.

The European pileups continued, and even the last 100 rate topped 200 for a while. We worked GM3POI on 10, who then asked us to QSY to 40. He was trying to work as many OJ stations on all the bands. I was like "yeah sure, its Noon here – no way!" but he asked us to try anyway. We went there, and there he was, 20 over S9 at noon. Wow – he's got quite a station! Up to this point we had moved very few multipliers. Most of the rare guys we would want to move were in locations where there was only one or two bands open to that part of the world at that time. I think for that reason very few guys were moved. I think we ended up moving 14 multipliers, which was about average for all the competitors.

The time flew by as the rate continued. We would be on 15CW, then 10CW, then 15SSB, then 10SSB. Every time we would QSY there would be a flurry of contacts made which then would quickly drop off, signifying as time to move again. 10 really never opened up although we spent some time there. The band was weird. For a couple minutes, we would work a bunch of guys. Then for another few minutes, nothing.

After the contest was over, I was finally explained why by a couple of the Finns. This far north, the Aurora mostly affects propagation. What was happening, was the Auroral zone was fluctuating, moving down over our location for a short while before receding back north. This happened all morning long. That's why the Asian stations were louder in different directions. When the Aurora was over us, we were working them scatter, pointed south. When it was receded, we could work them direct path. Very interesting!

We were lucky because the aurora could have affected us in much worse ways!

By 1100z, 15 meters was starting to dry up. We had simply worked everyone. Dan wanted to try 20 meter Sideband, which was a great decision. We hadn't been there all morning, and the band was wide open to Europe. He ripped off 139 QSOs in the last hour, including an incredible 14 in the final 2 minutes after a last minute spot. Mika and I sat there in amazement of his sideband operating ability. The pileup was incredible at the end!

At the final bell, we took off our headphones and looked at Mika. He's the one who would know how well we were doing. We had no idea of how well we were doing, however every hour he went into the other room to look at our real-time score on the web. Every once in a while he would look at him when he was walking back into the room, but he was always stone faced, not giving anything away. How well had we done? Mika said "I think you will be happy with your result". We went to the other room and saw our standing at 5th. Woo-Hoo! We'd done pretty well! We saw that the team of N6AA/N6TJ was at the top of the standings, but it was soon noted that their score was incorrect. We had finished 4th!! We had worked 2714 QSOs, of which 1692 were CW and 1022 on SSB. In addition, we had 436 multipliers, which would later drop a couple since the IARU regional secretaries didn't count for us. Not bad for 100 watts and modest antennas! As for N2IC's prediction; the top few teams were all at or close to the 2800 QSO total he had predicted.

PART 5: POST CONTEST, COMING HOME AND FINAL COMMENTS

After tearing down all the equipment, we had a late afternoon meal of soup and bread with our host and we loaded up in the car to return to the hotel. We returned to the hotel to find several other competitors there, all looking at the top claimed scores. N6TJ was running around telling everyone that his logging software miscalculated their score, so we confirmed our claimed 4th place standing.

I went up to the 4th floor where the log checkers were located to give them a hand written summary of our score and some notes I had taken during the contest. Dave, K1ZZ, had asked me for the summary so they had something to run off of as they began crunching all the logs. Dan and I were physically exhausted, so we both went to bed early. I wasn't able to sleep well; our room was located directly below the log checking room and there was bumping and banging all night long as they crunched the logs.

I had to get up early the next morning to catch the tour bus for the "Nature tour of Finland", hosted by OH5NQ. The day consisted of a long drive into the lakes region of eastern Finland, a boat ride and a light lunch on an island, and a ride to a horticultural park located on OH5NQ's property. All in all, it was a good trip, because I was able to spend considerable time chatting with W4AN, N6ZZ, N5KO, and others. I've worked these guys uncountable times in contests, and considered them good friends. It was

enjoyable to finally spend some time with them in person, exchanging stories and having a good time.

That evening, we left the hotel and boarded two passenger ferries for a ride through the harbor and around Helsinki to the dinner gala location. It seemed that the majority of the famous contesters in the world were all sitting on these two boats. Andy, N2NT, commented that if they sank, contesting as we knew it would cease to exist ☺

The boats pulled up to a small island located off the old district of Helsinki. Atop the island was a very old style building where the restaurant was located. It looked a lot like the Bates Motel ☺ Dan and I found seats and were joined by WC4E, RN9AO, and UA9BA. Although the Eastern Russian contesters seemed somewhat reserved, probably due to the language barrier, the UA9's were extremely cool and I was very happy to enjoy the dinner with them. As the top 10 teams were called up, I was hoping that maybe, just maybe, we would make it into the top 3 after log checking. It wasn't to be and we were called up as the 4th place team. All in all it was an enjoyable evening, and it wasn't until late into the night when we rode back to the hotel to finish packing.

Tuesday morning, I was up bright and early at 5AM for my departure flight. I got on the bus with W4AN and K4BAI for the ride to the airport, where we joined K1AR, K1DG, K1ZZ, K5ZD and others who were waiting outgoing flights. 7AM rolled around, I boarded the plane, and I took off for the long flight home.

In retrospect, WRTC was easily the most memorable ham radio experience in my life. I got to meet all the "famous" contesters of the world, and can now consider many as very good close friends. I am extremely happy about my 4th place finish. Dan and I were the only team in the top 10 who hadn't competed at WRTC before. I think we really turned some heads and perhaps gained some respect in the contesting community. On the other hand, it was a little frustrating to be the 1st team NOT on the podium, and the 1st team to go home empty handed.

My future goals? Originally my goal was to participate at WRTC. That goal is completed, but I want to WIN WRTC. That is my goal. I hope we will have the opportunity to do that in 2006. It is a long time away, and until then I plan to remain active and competitive on contests, and improve my friendship with those I met that week in July.

In closing, I want to thank a number of people. Without the Florida Contest Group, I probably would not have even made it to Finland. They helped me financially to offset some of the costs, and they were great supporters of me. Paul and Pidge, K1PT and KD1BG, who have opened their home to me many times in order to remain on the air and make competitive scores in contests. Dan, K1TO, who I knew was supporting me even with all the good natured ribbing. The Finns, OH2BH and others, who put on one hell of a program. And more than anything, my wife Mickey who stood by me and supports me with my hobby. Without these people and more, I would never have placed 4th, or even had the chance to compete in Finland. Thank you!

Event Calendar

North American Sprint SSB Sep 15 0000Z - 0400Z

Scandinavian Activity Contest CW Sep 21 1200Z - Sep 22 1200Z SSB Sep 28 - 29

CQWW DX Contest SSB Oct 26 0000Z - Oct 27 2400Z

ARRL Sweepstakes CW Nov 2 2100Z - Nov 4 0300Z

ARRL Sweepstakes SSB - Nov 16 2100Z - Nov 18 0300Z

CQWW DX Contest CW Nov 23 0000Z - Nov 24 2400Z

ARRL 160 Meter Contest Dec 5 2000Z - Dec 8 1600Z

ARRL 10 Meter Contest Dec 14 000Z - Dec 15 2400Z



The OJ3R Operating Positions

Ed. Note: The President's Corner and our other regular features, as well as accumulated scores from a number of contests, election results, as well as coverage of our Melbourne Hamfest Meeting will appear in our next issue.

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