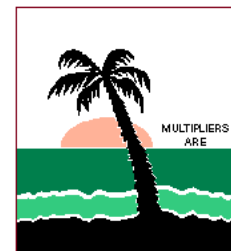




# Contest Gazette

## Florida Contest Group

[www.floridacontestgroup.org](http://www.floridacontestgroup.org)



Volume 17 Issue 2

From our Founder: "I love contesting. There is something about the camaraderie, discipline and knowledge contesting demands that fits me: it doesn't fit everyone . . . but it sure fits me." K4OJ

September 2010

### From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO

**Y**ou'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.

#### Inside this Issue

<i>Welcome Aboard,</i> .....	2
<i>Arlen "Ink" Bowen N400 SK</i> .....	3
<i>Orlando Meeting Report, Contest Supersuite</i> .....	4,5
<i>Orlando Pictures</i> .....	6,7,8
<i>PJ4X Operation in ARRL DX CW by K5KG</i> .....	9,10
<i>Claimed Scores ARRL DX CW</i> .....	11
<i>Contest Pictures from TI5N, P40N and HC8GR</i> .....	12
<i>Claimed Scores ARRL DX SSB</i> .....	13
<i>WPX SSB M/2 at N4UU by WF3C</i> .....	14,15
<i>VVICNIC 2010 Report and Pictures by K1TO</i> .....	16,17
<i>FQP Pictures</i> .....	18,19,20,21
<i>Dayton Hamvention Pictures</i> .....	22,23,24
<i>Field Day at W4MLB, Misc. news</i> .....	25
<i>N2NL Going Away Gathering</i> .....	26
<i>Events Calendar, CQWW Assisted Category Expanded</i> .....	27
<i>Melbourne Hamfest &amp; FCG Meeting Report</i> .....	28,29
<i>CW Skimmer Information by Chris WF3C</i> .....	30
<i>Station Perspectives by Dale W4QM</i>	
<i>Hope Springs Eternal by Ward N0AX</i> .....	31
<i>Claimed Scores IARU Contest</i> .....	32

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,

## Welcome Aboard



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

**KK9O** - Cliff Magnuson, 6827 Cyprus Cove Cir, Jupiter FL 33458  
e-mail: cliffjet@aol.com

**K9SRQ** - Robert Thornton, 2723 Parma Street, Sarasota FL 34231  
e-mail: k9srq@comcast.net

**W9OY** - Lee Crocker, 4205 Burkholm Road, Mims FL 32754  
e-mail: lee.w9oy@gmail.com

**N9RLR** - Noid Wilson, 8704 Baycrest Lane, Tampa FL 33615  
e-mail: noid@baycrestfl.com

**W3WW** - Don Mohny Jr., 1155 NE Oceanview Circle, Jensen Beach FL 34927 e-mail: w3ww@comcast.net

**KJ4NYK** - Jacob Durham, 450 Alison Drive, Palm Bay FL 32908

**W4IHI** - Gary A. Pierson, 105th Street, Largo FL 33773-3923 e-mail: w4ihi@arrl.net

**K4GOP** - Dave Mitchell, 12878 Beaubien Rd, Jacksonville FL 32258 e-mail: mitchdp@infionline.net

**N1XX** - Robert Entwistle, 1031 Pinellas Bayway S., Tierra Verde FL 33715 e-mail: rentwistle@tampabay.rr.com

**NY4I** - Thomas Schaefer, 323 Old Oak Cir, Palm Harbor FL 34683 e-mail: ny4i@arrl.net

**KR4ZA** - Kevin West, 9820 Main Ave., Palmdale FL 33944 e-mail: kr4za@hotmail.com

**W4TSP** - Johnnie Popwell Sr., 6949 15th Ave. N., St. Petersburg FL 33710-5327 e-mail: jpopwellsr@verizon.net

**AA4MD** - Jim Huhta, 3915 American Dr., Tampa FL 33634 e-mail: AA4MD@aol.com

**K3TW** - Thomas J. Warren, PO Box 185, Lecanto FL 34460 e-mail: k3tw@arrl.net

**N4KB** - Kemp Brinson, 185 Browning Cir., Winter Haven FL 33884 e-mail: kbrinson@gmail.com

**WA8YQJ** - Bob Brady, 6155 Bur Oaks Ln, Naples FL 34119 E-mail: rhbrady@comcast.net

## 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 and latterly N4OO. 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 CWWW 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....

## Orlando Hamcation Meeting Report

*By Fred Perkins K4LQ*



FCG activities this year at Orlando added a couple of major firsts for the club.

First, the Friday evening (6-10 PM) FCG SuperSuite: Attendees included: AA4NC, AC8W, AD4Z, HI3CC + XYL, HI3TEJ, K0LUZ, K1TO, K2EUH, K4CC, K4DLF, K4DMH + XYL, K4LQ, K4MF, K4PB, K4PG, K4SSU, K5KG, K7BV, K7JA, K8DD, K8NZ, K8PWE, K9BTQ, KD4ZZK, KE1F, KF4WZH, N2RM, N3ND, N4BU, N4KM, N4KW, N4LZ, N4PJ, N4UU + XYL, N6UME, N9CM, ND4V, NE3H, W1YL, W3TB, W4AA, W4DAS, W4DTA, W4KPG, W4LT + XYL, W4OA, W4PA, W4QN + XYL, W4SLR, W4TBB, W4TV, W4UM, W4YAhttp://lh6.ggpht.com/\_osOQJ-uBpsU/S3IkVeO3sml/AAAAAAAKKc/kJCldgzx4A/s640/DSC01574.JPG, W4ZGR, W4ZW, WA4AW, WA4GIF, WA4OAB, WB4JUJ, WF3C + XYL. (66) (See separate write-up by Chris WF3C for detailed report)

Second, our thanks to Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV who arranged the donation of a Yaesu FT-857D HF/VHF/UHF transceiver to be raffled off by the Club. Chris WF3C, George K5KG and Fred K4LQ actively sold raffle tickets for hours at the Yaesu hamfest booth, the SuperSuite and the Golden Corral luncheon. Chris also handled Internet orders. As a result of Yaesu's generosity, we were able to cover the SuperSuite expenses without dipping into the Club treasury at all. Thanks to the many FCG members who participated in the raffle. A little less than 60% of the tickets were sold to FCGers, yet all 3 prizes were won by FCGers!

Our Saturday luncheon meeting was held at the Golden Corral. Dan opened the meeting by asking attendees to identify themselves.

Attending were: guests AA4NC and AC8W, AD4ES, AD4Z and family (7), AF4Z, guest GW4JUN, HI3CC, K0LUZ, K1TO, K2EUH, K4LQ, K4LRP, K4LW, K4PB, K4PG, K4QD, K5KG, guest K8DD, K8DSS, K8NZ, KD2JA, KD4BRJ, KE1F, KJ4EUT, KT4Q, N4BP, N4BU, N4EEB + XYL, N4EK, N4GI, N4KM, N4LZ, N4PJ, N4WO, N6AR, NA4CW, NP2B, NP2C, guest NS1L, W1YL, W3TB W4KPG, W4LT + XYL, W4QN, W4TBB, W4TV, W4YA, guest W4ZGR, W4ZW, WC4E, WD4IXD, WF3C and WJ9B. (63)

Also spotted at the hamfest that did not attend the SuperSuite or luncheon were:

AB4GO, K4AC, K4CC, K4RX, K5AUP, K5RQ, K9GCF, KI4SNI, KP2N, KP3AC, KR4U, N2ESP, N2WB, N4RI, NN4X, W3AZD, W3TMZ, W4DN, W4EBA, W4KFH, W4RIS, WA4EEZ, WB3ANE, WC4H

Did we miss spotting (or listing) you? Let us know and we'll add you to the list! We might try using Skimmer next



**Dennis  
K7BV**

year to scan all areas of the hamfest simultaneously. First-time meeting attendees W4ZGR (ex N1AFC) and NS1L (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
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(K5KG, VE7ZO ops)

First Station to work all counties

	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
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(14 ops) (This plaque will be awarded later this week to SPARC op N2ESP by K5KG!)

Top Golden Log	K1TO	Won by K4GKD
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(This plaque was awarded later at the Yaesu booth to the Correctest Man)

Top FL Mobile No Driver	K1TO	Won by NF4A
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(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
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(AA4NC, K9VV, W4RIS, WA0USA)

Top Non FL QRP	NA4CW	Won by K3TW
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Top Non FL School W4TBB/AE4TE		Won by K0HC
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(W0BH op)

Top EU CW	KE1F	Won by DL3DXX
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Top Non FL SSB	KT4PD	Won by HI3CCP
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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

## 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](http://www.usislands.org)

## Orlando Supersuite Activities

*By Chris Plumlee WF3C*



Dear FCG Members,

Thank you for your attendance and support at the various FCG events this weekend at the Orlando HamCation. It was great to see all of you at the SuperSuite on Friday night, and the Golden Corral meeting on Saturday afternoon was well-attended as usual. Your support of the raffle was up to your usual outstanding standards, and I'm pleased to report that the club's out of pocket cost for rental of the American Legion hall, pizza, subsidized beer, soda, and prizes was more than offset by the income from the raffle.

Speaking of the raffle, I'm very pleased to say that all three prizes in the raffle were won by FCGers. K4CC won the third prize, an ARRL antenna book. W4UM won the second prize, a 2010 ARRL Handbook, and K8DSS won the grand prize, the brand new FT-857D. Congratulations to the big winners, and thanks to all of you for participating in the raffle.

The other contest this weekend was the CW Copying Contest at the SuperSuite on Friday night. As we did not have any entries in the special categories (ops < 30 years of age and ops licensed < 10 years) we awarded subscriptions to the NCJ to the top three finishers. The grand champion was K8NZ, who posted the first score of the night and had it stand up to every subsequent challenger. Second place went to HI3A/AD4Z, aided by his extensive experience on the other end of the pileup. Third place went to a hired gun from Tennessee, W4PA who did the TCG proud with a close third place finish, though K2EUH was nipping at his heels. Bob will be working hard to practice for next year to get onto the podium.

I am very pleased with the outcome of all the events this weekend, and I'm excited to say that we have plans for bigger and better events concurrent with the Orlando HamCation next year. Thank you for your usual excellent attendance and support of your club activities at the biggest hamfest of the year in our state. A more thorough report of both the SuperSuite and Golden Corral meetings will be forthcoming within the next few days.

vy 73,  
Chris WF3C

**Orlando - Friday Contest Supersuite and Saturday Luncheon Meeting**

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



**Julio AD4Z - CW Speed Contest**



**Fred K4LQ takes notes as Dan K1TO runs the meeting.**



**Dan and Ron K8NZ**



**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.***

## General Hamcation Pictures of FCGers



Steve W4DTA and Sherry W4SLR



Bob N4BP and GW4JUN



Sjaak W4RIS and Friend



Greg N4WO



Tom W4TBB



Alan K4PB



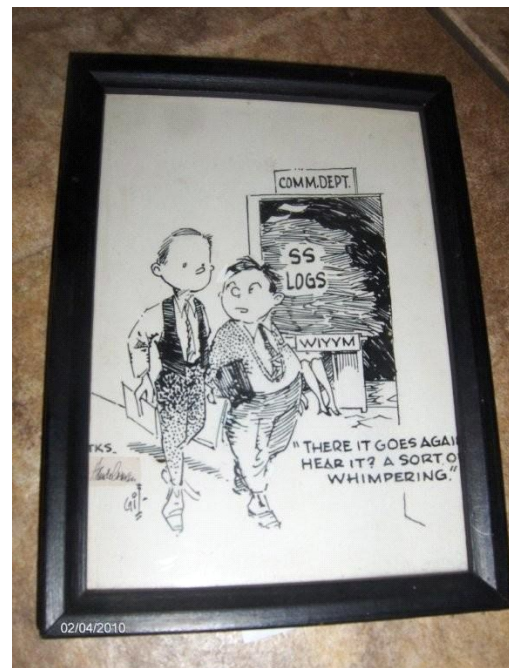
Eric W4KPG

Jeff WC4E and  
Chip K7JA

## W1YL Awards K1TO Original Gil Cartoon



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.





## ARRL DX CW at PJ4X by K5KG, K1XX, K1QX and W1MD

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.

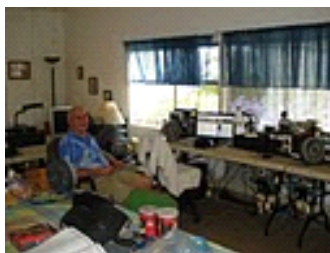


*Street Scenes*



*PJ2T Scenes*

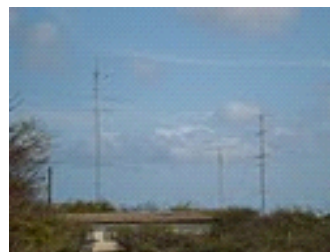
*George K5KG operates at PJ2T*



*PJ2T Equipment Layouts*



*PJ2T Antenna Farm*





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.



*Marty W1MD*



*Craig K1QX*



*Slave huts from the early days in Bonaire*

## ARRL DX CW Contest - Claimed Scores

Call	QSOs	Mult	Score	Op/Band/Pwr	
WJ9B	2149	317	2,043,699	SOABHP	
K5RQ	1510	218	987,540	SOABHP	
N6AR	1025	246	756,450	SOABHP	Appearing in August QST. (ARRL DX CW)
K4LQ	748	247	554,268	SOABHP	
N4KW	551	197	325,641	SOABHP	(This refers to their operation from the Bahamas)
N4LZ	360	166	179,280	SOABHP	
NE8J	306	119	109,242	SOABHP	Kevin, K4PG "edged out" IR1Y for the 40M victory. (317,361 vs 300,900).
N3ND	212	129	81,657	SOABHP	Sorry, no sponsored plaque, but available for \$75.
WB2REM	224			SOABHP	
K4MF	861			SOABHP	I prevailed on 80M with 254,880. Closest competitor was G10KOW with 171,171. Again, no sponsored plaque and not worth the \$75 to me.
WD4AHZ	1391	243	1,014,039	SOABLP	
N9CM	1074	289	931,158	SOABLP	
WK2G	1409	220	929,940	SOABLP	Mike, K4RUM beat KV4FZ with another close race (123,291 vs 113,100). Michael's is the only low band sponsored plaque (by Fred Race, W8FR).
N4IG	1088	274	894,328	SOABLP	Note: listing don't show K4RUM as operator, so might have to follow up with ARRL to receive deserved plaque.
N4LF	288	137	118,368	SOABLP	
N3ND	212	129	81,657	SOABLP	
N4WO	220	121	79,860	SOABLP	
N4EK	213	104	66,456	SOABLP	
W4KPG	141	90	38,070	SOABLP	So we once again made the low band sweep!
W4ZGR	44		3,780	SOABQRP	73, Bob Patten, N4BP Plantation,
K0LUZ	2117	356	2,260,956	SOABHP/A	
N4WW	1250	418	1,556,246	SOABHP/A	
K4PB	1036	353	1,097,124	SOABHP/A	
K1PT	942	338	955,158	SOABHP/A	
W4CU	1090	285	931,950	SOABHP/A	
W4ZW	452	229	310,524	SOABHP/A	
W4LT	500	178	267,000	SOABHP/A	
N4DXI	137	81	33,291	SOABHP/A	
KD2JA	360			SOABHP/A	
W4FDA	351			SOABHP/A	
KE1F	286	158	139,587	SOABLP/A	
K9OM	1062	96	393,552	SOSB40HP	
N4TB	1307	96	372,672	SOSB 20HP	
K2EK	1010	94	284,820	SOSB15HP	
W1MO	278	80	66,240	SOSB 15HP	
N4EEB	218	96	62,784	SOSB15LP	
N3LL	81	26	6,240	SOSB10LP	
K4PBY	102	45	13,770	SOSB 15 QRP	
PJ4X	7919	342	6,055,965	M/2	K1XX, W1MD, K5KG, K1QX
			PJ4X Score is 8,074,620		FCG gets 75% of PJ4X Score



## Photos of ARRL DX SSB @ TI5N

*By Dan Hausaeur 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

K1TO	2587	349	2,708,589	SOABHP	
K5RQ	1344	237	948,474	SOABHP	
N6AR	505	223	337,845	SOABHP	
K4ADR	256	168	129,024	SOABHP	
NE8J	274	127	104,394	SOABHP	
N4TB	228	111	75,924	SOABHP	
K2EK	881	289	763,827	SOABLP	
N4IG	610	186	340,380	SOABLP	
N9CM	475	202	287,850	SOABLP	
K1KNQ	177	90	47,790	SOABLP	
N4LF	141	96	40,608	SOABLP	
W4AMS	115	82	28,290	SOABLP	
N4DXI	105	70	22,050	SOABLP	
N4GI	100	60	20,000	SOABLP	
K2EUH	63			SOABLP	
KT4Q	1195	311	1,114,935	SOABHP/A	
K0LUZ	617	303	742,653	SOABHP/A	
K4PB	608	222	404,928	SOABHP/A	
K4LQ	527	207	327,267	SOABHP/A	
KD2JA	418	220	275,880	SOABHP/A	
W4LT	403	164	193,848	SOABHP/A	
WA4ASJ	413	150	185,850	SOABHP/A	
W4ZW	61	34	6,222	SOABHP/A	
WD4AHZ	599	101	343,227	SOABLP/A	
W4KPG	161	100	49,200	SOABLP/A	
N4BP	407	94	114,774	SOSB 20HP	GW4JUN
N4FCG	365	70	76,650	SOSB 15HP	
K4UTE	237	87	61,396	SOSB 40 HP	
N4QV	220	73	46,656	SOSB 80 HP	

**FCG Total** **9,798,531**

**Honorary Overseas Members**

CW7T	1000	145	435,000	SOABHP/A	CX7TT
KH7B	6571	311	6,298,683	SOABHP	KH7XS
HS0ZCW	337	49	49,539	SOSB20HP	K4VUD

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

TI5N	8322	316	7,889,256	Multi-Two	Dan W0CN + 5
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## 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 SSB M/2 @ N4UU

By Chris Plumblee WF3C



WPX on any mode is a favorite contest of mine. With tons of multipliers 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 I 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 7030.

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 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 new existed.

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.



*A pair of Tentec Orion IIs, with an amplifier for each rig, a TL-922 and an SB-200.*



*N4UU Tower with two TH5 Tribanders.*

*Not Shown: the 2 element quad for 40 Meters*





## VVICNIC 2010

*By Dan Street K1TO*

VVicnic #4 – April 17, 2010

### Attendees:

AC2V & KG4EMB, AI4QY, K1TO, K4DLF, K4PG, K8NZ & KC8FOD, Hosts K9VV & W4LIS, KE4IDW & Kathryn, KI2G, N3HV & KG4TIG, N4QV, W2DO & W4KNR, W2TX, W3AZD & WB3ANE, W4DL & family, W4OV, W4QH & Pat, W4RIS & W4ANA, W4STB & W4DKB, W4UH & Mary Ellen, WA4AW, WA0USA, WF3C

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!)



*Above - Chowing down on the porch*



*Host Fred K9VV in full cooking mode*



*L-R Sjaak W4RIS, Ana W4ANA and Hostess Lisa W4LIS*





**Left: Karen  
W4KNR and Bob  
W2DO and their  
children**



**Right: Mike  
W4DL and family**



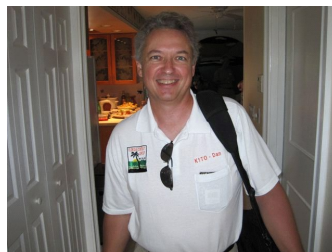
**Left:  
John KE4IDW and  
Kathryn**



**Left:  
Kevin  
K4PG**

**Right:  
Sherri  
W4STB**

**Below Left: Hope WB3ANE, Don W3AZD  
Right Chris WF3C**



**Right  
Randy  
N4QV**



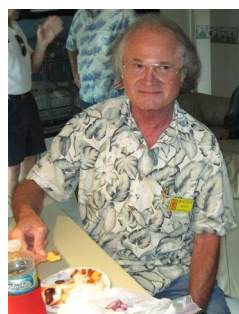
**Left:  
Dan  
K1TO**



**Right:  
Jeff  
WA4AW**



**Left:  
Ron  
K8NZ**



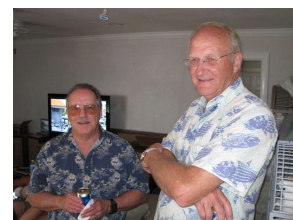
**Right:  
John  
W2TX**



**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*



*The K4KG Operating Position*



*K4KG "Secret Weapon" - An MFJ Super Battery Booster*



*Jim VE7ZO in action at the 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)



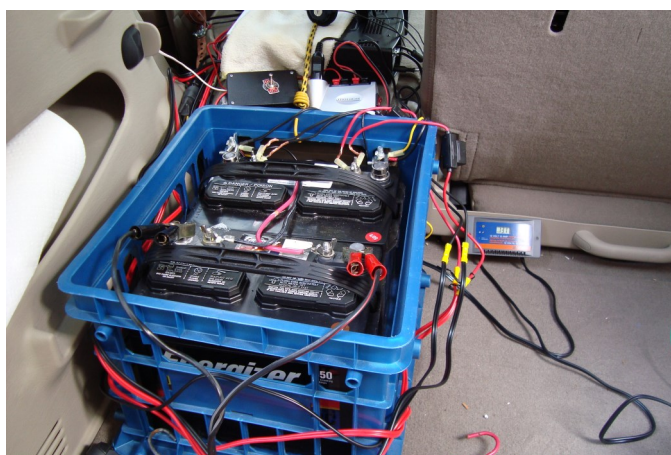
*At Skyway Bridge*





*N4AO/m with K1KNQ/m at right*

*K1KNQ/m*



*K1KNQ/m Power Source*



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



*K1KNQ/m Operating Position*

*KU8E/m*





*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*



*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*



*Now there are some mobile antennas!*



*This is where it happens!*



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





*L-R Dan K1TO, Hiro JA1WSX*



*The three tower Amigos! L - R Don K4ZA, Dan K1TO and John W2GD*

### 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 KØVXU were a historical set based on the 1932-1938 logs of long-time KC DX Club member and recent Silent Key, WØJM.

*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.



Alpha 8406 Amplifier - Uses a single 4CX1500B tetrode to comfortably deliver full legal limit output on the 6 meter band. No duty cycle limitation



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



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.



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.

### Field Day Activities at W4MLB in Melbourne

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



***YCCC Visitor K1QX at Station 1 at W4MLB in Melbourne***



***L-R FCGers WF3C and K4PX on Station 2 at W4MLB***

### K1KNQ/m Prepares For Field Day



h

***As seen above and below, Jack set up his PT Cruiser with solar recharging for Field Day.***



### K1TO Comments on 10 Meter Contest Results

#### 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!!!!

Thank you and 73, Dan



## N2NL Going Away Gathering

*By Dan Street K1TO*

On short notice, 12 FCCers 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.

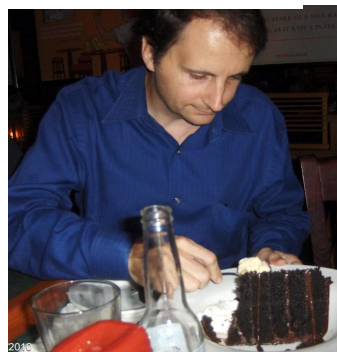


Above: Dave's new uniform—Below The honoree himself Dave N2NL. Dave will still be with us as an honorary member from his new QTH in KH2.



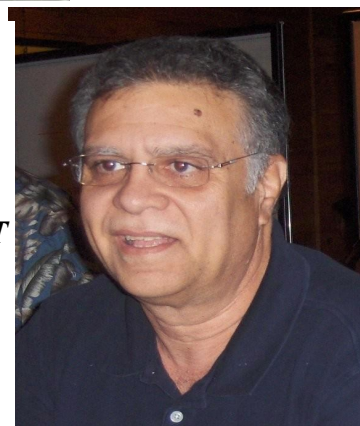
*Bob K2EUH and Pat KJ4AFB*

L to R: Dick N9CM, Larry N6AR and Ron WD4AHZ



*Jeff WC4E*

*Lu W4LT*



*L-R Ellen W1YL and Gary K4CC*

## Events Calendar

**CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Oct 30 to 2400Z, Oct 31**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ARRL RTTY Roundup 1800Z, Jan 8 to 2400Z, Jan 9**

**North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Jan 8 to 0600Z, Jan 9**

**North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Jan 15 to 0600Z, Jan 16**

**CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2200Z, Jan 28 to 2159Z, Jan 30**

**CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 12 to 2400Z, Feb 13**

**ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Feb 19 to 2400Z, Feb 20**

**North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 26 to 0600Z, Feb 27**

**ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 5 to 2400Z, Mar 6**

**BARTG HF RTTY Contest 0200Z, Mar 19 to 0200Z, Mar 21**

**CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 26 to 2400Z, Mar 27**

**Florida QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 23 to 2159Z, Apr 24**

**CQ WW WPX Contest, CW 0000Z, May 28 to 2400Z, May 29**

## K3EST Announces Expansion of the Assisted Category in CQWW

Dear Fellow tester,

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 news letter that the ASSISTED CATEGORY award program has been greatly expanded.

n 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.

n All Low Power and QRP assisted entrants will be specifically listed and eligible for awards as is already the case for unassisted entries.

n A band-by-band breakdown for all band assisted World, Europe and USA will be provided within the 2010 results.

n 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

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 memoriam 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 contender 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 memoriam 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

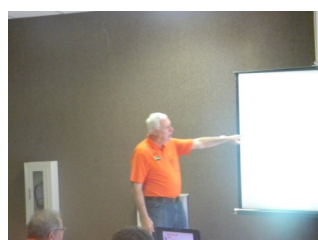


*Watching FCG presentations at hamfest*



**Doug K4AC**  
**VHF/UHF Contsting**

**Blake N4GI**  
**A Remote Contest**  
**Operation**



**Kevin K4PG**  
**ARRL DX Contesting**  
**From C6**



## 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 soundcard, 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 to anybody else?

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 testers, use of the RBN is considered the same as packet assistance by the CQWW Committee and ARRL because stations are only spotted when their callsigns 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 testers 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](http://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 Analyser - software written by Stan EI6DX/UA1OUT. The log database now contains almost 13 million QSOs 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!

<http://www.cqww.com/cq-ww-cw-2009.htm>

(Thanks ARRL Contest Update Newsletter)

## Station Perspectives

By Dale Strieter W4QM

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 Chevrolet 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 to 10 seconds or so if you were skilled.

We never have had it so good!

## Hope Springs Eternal

By Ward Silver N0AX

(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 descend. 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 N0AX

The 10 meter tower at K3LR looks ready and able at his Pennsylvania QTH, don't you think? (Photo by K3LR)



### Claimed Scores IARU Contest

Station	Score	QSOs	Zns	HQ	Class	Ops	HRs
W4QN	330,460	923	63	61	MSMixHP		
W4CU	24,408	123	36	36	MSMixLP		
K1TO	1,793,288	2135	115	133	SOCWHP	N2NL	24
NH2T	1,095,600	1325	104	72	SOCWHP		20
N4BP	795,317	1715	81	70	SOCWHP		
K0LUZ	585,879	1013	65	96	SOCWHP		14
N4UU	374,920	1280	67	36	SOCWHP		
NP2X	210,395	545	145		SOCWHP	K9VV	12
WB4TDH	366,398	686	85	82	SOCWLP		19.5
WK2G	261,360	1012	49	41	SOCWLP		17
KE1F	110,670	419	46	56	SOCWLP		
W1MO	34,091	169	32	41	SOCWLP		6
W2TX	9,823	89	34	13	SOCWLP		
N4EEB	561,956	930	73	75	SOMixHP		18.5
N6AR	177,912	448	62	64	SOMixHP		7.5
N4LZ	23,973	163	25	36	SOMixHP		8
N9CM	201,609	549	62	69	SOMixLP		12
K5KG	1,193,250	1798	106	116	SOMSHPA		24
K4LQ	258,492	475	74	82	SOMSHPA		15
K4PB	177,992	391	72	80	SOMSHPA		16
N4WW	35,669	173	18	35	SOMixHPA		
W4AMS	?	66			SOPHLP		2
Overseas Operations							
NH2T	1,095,600	1325	104	72	SOCWHP	N2NL	20
OM6A	780,949	1459	76	93	SOMixHP	OM6N	18.2
NP2X	210,395	545	145		SOCWHP	K9VV	12
HS0ZCW	158,224	520	53	35	SOPHHP	K4VUD	
9V1/W4LT	21,672	158	32	11	SOMixLP	W4LT	8.1
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 !

#### Florida Contest Group

Dan Street, K1TO, President  
9993 289th Street East  
Myakka City, FL 34251  
k1to@aol.com

George Wagner  
V.P. Operations  
5113 Higel Avenue  
Sarasota FL 34242  
Georgek5kg@aol.com

Ron Wetjen, WD4AHZ  
V.P. Florida QSO Party  
5362 Castleman Drive  
Sarasota, FL 34232  
wd4ahz@arrl.net

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