



Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

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From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO



First of all, my apologies for understating the FCG's achievements in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. I stated in the last issue that we were 2-time defending champions, but in fact we have won the past 3 and appear to be headed for a 4-peat! Frank, KA0GGI, the self-labeled "TallyMan", put together some FB analysis of recent 10-Meter activities for this issue. Based on actual logs received at ARRL HQ, the FCG entry count stands right at 50, putting us back into the Medium Club category and out of the way of the PVRC with their likely larger entry total. Keep your fingers crossed!

As promised, there are more details on CQ WW CW in this issue. Despite the hurricane effects, the FCG and FCG-P total appears to be close to 75 Million points, quite an achievement in a year with nearly no Europe to work! 50 Million of that was on CW - wow!

Welcome aboard to our newest member KR4U. David has worked with Ron, KP2N over at the W4GAC club station in St. Pete. That group has really made strides in the FQP and other contests -- great to see them bringing along a number of newbies in the process.

Membership levels remained steady as we ended 2005 with 192 members, one less than we ended 2004 with. That is the first decline in at least 8 years. However, I remain convinced that with a more focused approach, we could attract quite a few more members within, and beyond, Florida.

Each contest, there are plenty of Florida stations that are active that are not yet members. While club membership is apparently not for everyone, with a little campaigning, I bet a number of those folks would be interested in joining up. Anyone interested in leading that charge?

Then there is the interesting situation of the FCG-Panhandle. FCG-P exists only as a way for those outside the club circle (centered near Melbourne) to participate under the FCG name. In every other way, they are full FCG members, contributing their fair share to the club's progress. We could conceivably establish a different center point for the FCG-P, and given the proximity to the Gulf, it could easily be up in Georgia. I know of at least a few folks within that circle who

would be enthusiastic FCG members. Charlie, NF4A, the de facto President of the FCG-P, is in touch with many of the active testers in south Georgia (not VP8!) and Alabama already.

In rapid succession, Tony, W4OI announces that he's moving to HK, Charly, K4VUD is selling his house outside Orlando to relocate permanently to HS and the owners of the premier big station in Florida, Bill, K4XS and Holly, K4XSS, reveal their consideration of heading to KH6! The contributions that each of these folks have made to the club will be impossible to truly replace, but we can at least try to mitigate the impact.

Well, the word is out about WRTC 2006. Jeff, N5TJ and I have decided not to attend this time, due to a number of factors. In our place, the PY sponsors invited past champions K1AR and K1DG. 'AR also declined and N2NT took his place, thus forming a very formidable duo.

Meanwhile, CONGRATS to Bill, K4XS for beating out some tremendous competition to post the 2nd highest application

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score and thus win a bid from the Eastern USA!! Bill has chosen Tom, K1KI as his partner, so they make a very formidable team! Bill has a terrific attitude about this opportunity. Since the set-ups include an amplifier and 40M beam for the first time, the flavor is a bit different. Circle July 8 on your calendar now and plan to work as many of the PY teams as you can. Being the closest part of the USA to PY, we have arguably the best shot.

Also, it's great to see that we will have 3 referees attending - Ron, K8NZ joins NF4A and W4OI! I believe that the only club in the world with more representation is the mega-club YCCC.

Will, WJ9B gives us a neat insight into his ham career in this issue. In short time, Will has assembled a very nice array of yagis and has kindly offered a seat to at least one guest op. Just prior to moving down from NC, Will was operating the FQP using QRP, so it's great to see that phase has passed - hi!

George, K5KG and Kay had a fabulous trip to VK and ZL in late 2005, including a well-planned stop for the CQWW CW at a VK club station. George did a super job continuing to paint the world orange with the shirts and hats being handed out to the deserving. Great story in this issue.

On page 13, George, K5KG shares some of his pileup techniques. I'd love to see more of this type of article in the Gazette and on the reflector. Other than operating at a multi-op directly, sharing our experiences is the next best way to help each other grow as operators.

It's great to hear the callsign W3AU on the air, operated with integrity and skill. N4KW and K4GKD describe this in detail in this issue.

Sorry to see K9VV had such a horrible time in CX. Look at those pictures -- more than anyone should have to endure. I never would've dreamed that he would work more Asia than Europe on 20! Fred and Tom are working on getting the CX5BW team into the FCG fold as associate members - FB!

FQP log checking for 2005 is done. The plaque winners are listed in this issue. Thanks to all of those who contributed plaques and congratulations to all of you who won one (or more)! The efforts of getting the plaques made, certificates generated and results/write-up written are now under way.

Hope to see many of you in Orlando and Fort Walton Beach. In Miami, the DX Dinner hosted by our friends in the SFDXA was again a great time to mingle and meet some DX visitors. In Orlando, we are back at the Golden Corral in our own meeting room where we have met for a number of years prior to 2004.

GO FCG! OJ!

vy 73, Dan, K1TO

Welcome Aboard



KR4U - David R. Trewin, 5953 73rd Street N., St. Petersburg FL 33709-1323 e-mail: trewins@aol.com

We began the year with 192 members.

Orlando Luncheon Meeting

The Orlando Hamfest Meeting will be a luncheon meeting at the **Golden Corral**, 7551. W. Colonial Drive, Orlando Saturday Feb 11 at 12:00 Noon. This is the same restaurant we used for several years prior to last year. It is approximately 2.5 miles west of the Fairgrounds on the same street as the hamfest, Colonial Drive.

Events Calendar

Orlando Hamfest FCG Luncheon at the Golden Corral 12:00 Noon Feb 11

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 11 to 2400Z, Feb 12

North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 12

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Feb 18 to 2400Z, Feb 19

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 000Z Feb 25 to 2359Z Feb 26

North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 25 to 0600Z, Feb 26

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 4 to 2400Z, Mar 5

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 25 to 2359Z, Mar 26

**Claimed Scores
ARRL 10 Meter Contest**

	Call	QSOs	MULTS		US / VE DX		Score	Class	Section	HRS	OPERATOR(S)	
			TOTAL	MULTs	MULTs	MULTs						
1	N4DMD	103	47			9,682	SOLPSSB	SFL				
2	W4CEO	80	39	25	14	6,240	SOLPSSB	NFL	4.8			
3	K1HG	45	24	18	6	2,160	SOLPSSB	NFL	4.0			
4	K9OM	1053	146			487,056	SOLP-M	NFL	22.0			
5	W4TV	528	144			242,496	SOLP-M	NFL	23.0			
6	W3AU	506	136			216,784	SOLP-M	WCF	15.0		K4GKD	
7	KAOGGI/m	364	123			144,156	SOLP-M	WCF	21.0			
8	N4EK	320	90			88,200	SOLP-M	NFL	10.0			
9	W4EBA	257	91			81,900	SOLP-M	NFL	9.0			
10	NA4CW	276	91	67	24	75,712	SOLP-M	SFL	9.0			
11	AD4TR	227	59	44	15	55,304	SOLP-M	SFL				
12	N4AO	222	74	56	18	54,464	SOLP-M	WCF			WC4E	
13	W3TB	178	69			40,848	SOLP-M	WCF				
14	AJ2U	134	68			31,688	SOLP-M	SFL	16.0			
15	W4COW	109	55	44	11	20,680	SOLP-M	WCF	3.5		KP2N	
16	W4OV	103	57			19,038	SOLP-M	SFL				
17	K9ES/m	112	53			18,656	SOLP-M	SFL	6.0			
18	NU4Y					1,908	SOLPM	NFL				
19	KG8B	26	17			1,428	SOLP-M	SFL	2.5			
20	K1TO	1021	83	58	25	339,636	SOLPCW	WCF	34.0			
21	WD4AHZ	655	78	58	20	204,672	SOLPCW	WCF	34.0			
22	WB4TDH	687	74	58	16	203,648	SOLPCW	WCF	24.0			
23	WK2G	631	75	55	20	191,100	SOLPCW	WCF	23.0			
24	KE1F	281	61	47	14	68,808	SOLPCW	NFL	15.7			
25	AD4Z	45	24			4,320	SOLPCW	SFL				
26	NJ2F	579	79	53	26	91,482	SOHPSSB	SFL	18.0			
27	K4ADR	201	55	39	16	22,110	SOHPSSB	SFL	10.5			
28	K4XS	1517	165	112	53	715,440	SOHP-M	WCF				
29	K5KG	1256	158	115	43	612,092	SOHP-M	WCF	27.3			
30	WN1GIV	1171	126	98	28	513,576	SOHP-M	SFL	24.0		N4BP	
31	N4GI	868	127			331,724	SOHP-M	WCF	13.0			
32	K4LQ	600	128	89	39	276,992	SOHP-M	WCF	22.0			
33	K4MM	603	141	94	47	260,568	SOHP-M	SFL				
34	N8PR	352	118	82	36	130,272	SOHP-M	SFL	10.0			
35	W7QF	345	102	87	15	118,524	SOHP-M	NFL	8.8			
36	W4FDA					60,726	SOHP-M	NFL				
37	N4KK	229	78	59	19	58,812	SOHP-M	SFL			K9VV at K4FAU	
38	NA4AR	136				15,504	SOHP-M	WCF				
39	N4QV	31	20	17	3	1,360	SOHP-M	SFL	2.5			
40	K4OJ	1170	83	56	27	388,440	SOHPCW	WCF			N4KM at W1YL	
41	K1PT	1126	83	59	24	373,832	SOHPCW	SFL	29.0			
42	N4WW	1099	84	57	27	369,264	SOHPCW	NFL				
43	WJ9B	892	77			274,428	SOHPCW	NFL	32.0			
44	W4QM	669	75	56	19	201,000	SOHPCW	SFL	16.1			
45	W4ARM	336	84	71	13	94,752	SOHPCW	SFL	9.0			
46	N4TB	310	60			74,400	SOHPCW	WCF				
47	W4YA	120	42			20,160	SOHPCW	NFL				
48	K4DDR	503	134	92	42	164,552	MULTI-ONE	NFL	18.0			
49	W4ZW	176	70	48	22	45,220	MULTI-ONE	SFL	4.5			
50	W4WR	72	34	23	11	5,168	MULTI-ONE	SFL				
Total							7,830,982					
1	K4JAF	310	96	66	30	74,304	SOLP-M	NFL-P	10.5			
2	NF4A	180	53			28,930	SOLP-M	NFL-P	3.0			
3	KN4Y	420	59	48	11	99,120	SOLPCW	NFL-P	20.0			
4	KB4ET	8	3	3	0	100	MULTI-ONE	NFL-P				
FCG Panhandle							Total	202,454				
Other Scores												
	KG4WW	1047	77			161,238	SOHPSSB DX				KX4WW	

A LOOK BACK - A LOOK FORWARD ARRL 10 METER Contest



BY Frank Brewer KA0GGI

Since the Turn of the Century, the FCG has won **FOUR** 1ST Place "wins" in the rigorous ARRL 10m Club Competition:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CATAGORY</u>
2000	MEDIUM
2002	MEDIUM
2003	MEDIUM
2004	UNLIMITED

The table below displays our collective efforts over the past five years. The 2005 year is left blank ... perhaps we'll fill it in at Dayton this year ... perhaps we'll have to wait for the July, 2005 QST article before the truth is told.

AFFILLIATED CLUB COMPETITION - ARRL 10m CONTEST

2000	UNLIMITED	CLUB	POINTS	LOGS	AVG SCORE
	1st PLACE	PVRC	35,787,298	66	542,232
	2nd PLACE	SMC	28,946,170	113	256,161
	3rd PLACE	YCCC	21,095,582	52	405,684

	MEDIUM	CLUB	POINTS	LOGS	AVG SCORE
	1st PLACE	FCG	18,824,194	31	607,232
	2nd PLACE	FRC	18,587,022	28	663,822
	3rd PLACE	NCCC	11,741,580	26	451,599

2001	UNLIMITED	CLUB	POINTS	LOGS	AVG SCORE
	1st PLACE	PVRC	32,649,320	77	424,017
	2nd PLACE	SMC	30,517,920	96	317,895

	MEDIUM	CLUB	POINTS	LOGS	AVG SCORE
	1st PLACE	YCCC	17,959,348	50	359,187
	2nd PLACE	FCG	17,189,872	30	572,996

2002	UNLIMITED	CLUB	POINTS	LOGS	AVG SCORE
	1st PLACE	PVRC			
	2nd PLACE	NCCC			
	3rd PLACE	SMC			

	MEDIUM	CLUB	POINTS	LOGS	AVG SCORE
	1st PLACE	FCG	27,200,000	47	578,723
	2nd PLACE	CCO			
	3rd PLACE	FRC			

2003	UNLIMITED	CLUB	POINTS	LOGS	AVG SCORE
	1st PLACE	PVRC	17,812,020	79	225,469
	2nd PLACE	NCCC	9,832,036	61	161,181
	3rd PLACE	SMC	7,343,450	62	118,443

	MEDIUM	CLUB	POINTS	LOGS	AVG SCORE
	1st PLACE	FCG	6,882,444	50	337,649
	2nd PLACE	CTDXCC	4,858,336	14	347,024
	3rd PLACE	YCCC	4,129,304	41	100,715

2004	UNLIMITED	CLUB	POINTS	LOGS	AVG SCORE
	1st PLACE	FCG	10,275,302	52	197,602
	2nd PLACE	PVRC	7,002,838	81	86,455

	MEDIUM	CLUB	POINTS	LOGS	AVG SCORE
	1st PLACE	NCCC	3,462,774	37	93,588
	2nd PLACE	SMC	2,835,472	27	105,017
	3rd PLACE	SECC	2,802,728	13	215,594
	4th PLACE	FRC	2,216,214	11	201,474

2005	UNLIMITED	CLUB	POINTS	LOGS	AVG SCORE
	1st PLACE				
	2nd PLACE				
	3rd PLACE				
	4th PLACE				

	MEDIUM	CLUB	POINTS	LOGS	AVG SCORE
	1st PLACE				
	2nd PLACE				
	3rd PLACE				
	4th PLACE				

Although we cannot be absolutely sure until the final scores are in, FCG has made a fine 2005 10m effort in submitting logs and assuring confirmation of receipt at the League.

If you "know" our competition, perhaps you'd like to take a shot at predicting the 2005 10m 1st through 4th place finishers for both the Unlimited and Medium club categories. Consider that as of Wednesday night (04 Jan), the following number of electronic logs, BY ARRL SECTION, has been received at the League. At that time we had 49 logs submitted, but will go well over 50 if our remaining participants submit their logs. With this info, and knowing how our competitions 175 mile radius circles are drawn, fill in your guesses.

VA	54	NNJ	17	NLI	10	QC	5
MDC	44	SC	17	NM	10	SD	5
OH	41	CO	16	SDG	10	SJV	5
MN	38	SCV	16	AL	9	ID	4
IL	32	BC	15	MT	9	NNY	4
STX	32	EMA	15	NH	9	UT	4
WWA	30	LAX	14	NV	9	VT	4
ON	29	OK	14	SF	9	AB	3
EPA	25	ENY	13	WTX	9	ME	3
SFL	25	KS	13	EWA	8	NL	3
TN	25	SNJ	13	LA	8	PAC	3
CT	24	SV	13	AR	7	PR	3
NFL	24	WPA	13	MS	7	SB	3
WCF	24	ORG	12	RI	7	SK	3
GA	22	WNY	12	WMA	7	WY	3
NC	22	KY	11	EB	6	AK	2
MI	19	MO	11	MAR	6	MB	2
WI	19	NTX	11	WV	6	ND	2
IN	18	OR	11	DE	5	NT	1
AZ	17	NE	10	IA	5		

Top Five 10 Meter Contest Analysis

BY Frank Brewer KA0GGI



To compliment our in-depth look at FCG performance in the 2005 ARRL 10m, here's an interesting look at the "Top 5 Box" scores distribution, by "entry category" for all claimed scores received by the ARRL. Noteworthy, of course, is FCG's fine performance (in **BOLD**) indicating two category winners and some stiff intra-club competition. The FCG, being one of the Top 5 premier contest clubs, certainly takes note and congratulates the other winning category efforts from the members of our Sister Contest Clubs across the country ... the Box scores show competitive category efforts from a multitude of ARRL sections all across the USA!

The Boys from South Texas dominated the QRP and QRO CW, QRO SSB and MULTI-ONE categories, while our Brothers in the north/northeast demonstrated their winning prowess in several of the other categories. Three Florida sections, guided by the Spirit of 'OJ with N4KM @ W1YL, kept K5NA "honest" in the QRO CW battle. K4XS and K5KG both put in a dauntless challenge in the QRO-MIXED category, but that WV multiplier from N8II appears to have been the winning ticket this year. If you like the "Top 5 Box" display, and it can help you in planning your entry category for the 2006 running of the ARRL 10m, let your GAZETTE newsletter editor know and perhaps we can include a similar analysis in another of the upcoming big events.

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- KA0GGI

- 2005 FCG Contest Season "TallyMan"

W2MF	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP SSB	SNJ	49,364
K9DXR	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP SSB	IL	46,814
KR1ST	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP SSB	SC	31,200
KG4IGC	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP SSB	SC	19,764
KC8QAE	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP SSB	OH	12,510
KG5U	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP CW	STX	112,828
W6QU	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP CW	SDG	50,796
N8AP	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP CW	MI	49,060
AA1CA	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP CW	NH	45,320
N6WG	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP CW	EB	39,200
KA1LMR	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP MIXED	NH	106,832
WA8ZBT	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP MIXED	NTX	90,138
W6YRA	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP MIXED	LAX	86,664
W5GZ	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP MIXED	NM	66,528
VA3DF	SINGLE-OP	10M	QRP MIXED	ON	58,828
HI3CCP	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW SSB		228,374
K4WI	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW SSB	AL	161,392
KE3WM	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW SSB	WPA	99,542
N6IIU	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW SSB	SJV	72,588
W8DD	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW SSB	OH	66,156

K5TR	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH SSB	STX	339,306
W5PR	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH SSB	STX	297,712
W0SD	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH SSB	SD	218,052
N2EOC	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH SSB	NNJ	195,468
N3HBX	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH SSB	MDC	185,658
K1TO	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW CW	WCF	339,636
WD4AHZ	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW CW	WCF	204,672
WB4TDH	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW CW	WCF	203,648
N4ZI	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW CW	TN	197,428
WK2G	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW CW	WCF	191,100
K5NA	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH CW	STX	457,600
K4OJ	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH CW	WCF	388,440
K1PT	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH CW	SFL	369,328
N4WW	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH CW	NFL	369,264
N5DO	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH CW	WTX	309,232
K9OM	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW MIXED	NFL	487,056
WD5K	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW MIXED	NTX	433,998
K2PS	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW MIXED	SNJ	395,920
W4TAA	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW MIXED	WCF	381,350
N7LOX	SINGLE-OP	10M	LOW MIXED	WWA	247,500
N8II	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH MIXED	WV	791,820
K4XS	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH MIXED	WCF	715,440
K5KG	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH MIXED	WCF	612,092
WE3C	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH MIXED	EPA	579,228
K4EA	SINGLE-OP	10M	HIGH MIXED	GA	553,104
NX5M	MULTI-ONE	10M	HIGH MIXED	STX	982,440
W6YX	MULTI-ONE	10M	HIGH MIXED	SCV	663,984
W4MYA	MULTI-ONE	10M	HIGH MIXED	VA	617,440
W5YAA	MULTI-ONE	10M	HIGH MIXED	STX	516,906
K4FJ	MULTI-ONE	10M	HIGH MIXED	VA	494,032

It's Magic!

By Will Baber WJ9B



As for many of you, radio has been for me nothing less than magic. At a very young age I received as a Christmas present, a 3 transistor radio, which I destroyed in a few days. My mother, of course, understood me when I explained that I wanted to find out where the sounds were coming from, but my father didn't. Soon after that I built several crystal sets, and each time I was amazed that they worked. I came to know about concepts such as speed of light, electrons, EMF, and wavelength at a fairly young age. However, such terms seemed then closer to the tricks that a magician is professionally obligated to conceal. How does radio really work? By 1979 I had acquired the skill to build a modest solid-state receiver (Simple, Band-Switching Receiver Design, QST, December, 1979). Later, I built a version of Doug DeMaw's "high performance" receiver. Still, it's all magic to me!

I was in Boy Scouts before I knew that ordinary citizens in nations around the world could engage in amateur radio communications! Before this, I somehow associated short waves with war, governments, and spies. How could a spy feel any more adventurous than I would, if I can only know Morse code?

Behavior on my part, related to the magic of radio, wasn't exactly unnoticed by others. I was the one child who would likely burn down the house. My siblings still recall the day I filled our small house with smoke after a cap popped during the testing stage of building my first transmitter. My mother would simply plead with me to make sure that I don't forget to unplug my soldering iron, but my siblings would hide it from me! As a licensed amateur, my first receiver was a Mosley CM-1, and my first transmitter was an Eico 720. I used these units, a homebrew antenna switch, and a 14 AVQ vertical, or dipoles, until I started college, in 1968.

I earned the general class license in 1966, and remained in that class until 1988. In that year I embarrassed my younger son, who had just passed a general class exam at a hamfest in Indiana. He was 7 1/2 years old, and a big attraction at the hamfest. My son, enjoying the spotlight, commented to others that I was an "extra class" ham. He seemed horrified when I told him in front of many other people that I held a general class license. On that day I took the advanced and extra class exams, and passed them. Incentive licensing works after all.

To be perfectly honest, I initially found contests and contesters annoying. For the first decade of my amateur radio experience (1966-1976) my idea of a good Saturday morning was to turn on the radio and have an

interesting qso with someone, on CW. Occasionally on a Saturday morning I would turn on a receiver and I would hear utter chaos! Darn contesters!

An important decision for me occurred in 1972, whether to take a job out of college or pursue graduate studies. I pursued graduate studies, leading to an MA (1974) and Ph.D. (1979) in anthropology, both from Stanford University. These degrees were the outcomes of my interest in different people in different places, and my increasing realization that it wasn't "radio fantasy"---I **could** actually live in different places in order to understand other people. Academic anthropology became a way of life. I have worked at four universities; Tuskegee University (1978-80), Purdue University (1980-89), University of North Carolina, Greensboro (1989-2004), University of Florida (2004-present). Professionally, my most significant work is an ethnohistorical analysis of Booker T. Washington National Monument, Franklin County Virginia, and work associated with ecology and the NeoSynthesis Research Centre, in Sri Lanka. My current research relates to biodiversity, HIV/AIDS, and masculinity.

I operated in the 1977 ARRL DX Contest from Martinique, FWI, where I completed my doctoral dissertation research. I used a Kenwood TS520S and dipoles. I had to QRT frequently. The TS 520S receiver would simply collapse in the presence of many very strong stateside signals; this stimulated my interest in receiver design, and in the publications by Wes Hayward, and Doug DeMaw (Solid State Design for the Radio Amateur, ARRL, 1977). But in addition, there was nothing like responding well, which I didn't do, to many stations calling me!

I put up my first tower in Indiana in 1984, topped with a Hygain rotor and a Cushcraft A3 at 35 feet. This was no small feat within family income and the needs of three children, ages 3, 8, and 12. I worked the ARRL Sweepstakes full-time, CW, in 1984, for the first time at age 34. I began contesting on a regular basis after moving to North Carolina in 1989. In 1991 I put up a 50-foot tower in Greensboro, topped with the same Cushcraft A3. In addition, I had a 90 plus foot oak tree from which to hang a delta loop for 80 meters, which worked well also on 40 meters, using ladder line and a tuner. At the time that Bert, N4CW, invited me to join PVRC I was very much a causal operator but I had grown to enjoy ARRL Sweepstakes, CW.

North Carolina PVRC guys would meet monthly, and I grew accustomed to a 75-minute drive to Raleigh, NC. I could not attend every month, but I did find these meetings informative because different members were into contesting in different ways, at different levels of

investment in money, time and energy, and at varying degrees of operator skill. I learned the common denominator of large and small stations, beginner or experienced op: stay in the chair, and stay awake. Contesting itself is simple, really; just improve upon operating skill and/or station, each year, and for the fun of it.

Between 1993-1997 I added two sections to my tower (it had a house bracket), and a set of guys at 68 feet. I also added a Cushcraft 40 meter beam just 6 feet below the A3, a Bencher SkyHawk at 45 feet, fixed NW, and another A3 at 30 feet, fixed S. I shunt fed the tower on 160 meters. My goal was to win Roanoke Division in ARRL Sweepstakes, CW. Over this same period of time I became competent using computer programs such as CT, NA, and TRLOG, introduced to me by Jim, K4QPL. I recall several memorable achievements during the years 1993-2003 (low power or QRP): (1) ARRL Sweepstakes CW Roanoke Division Winner, 1996 and 1997, (2) Unlimited Club Category, ARRL 160 Meter Contest, PVRC Gavel winner; (3) PVRC 5 Million Award, (4) 1st place, 2003 New England QSO Party SO QRP; (4) 9th place ARRL DX CW, 2003, USA and Canada, and (5) invitations to operate NY4A, M/M. In 2002 I won First Place, SO CW only, First Place SO CW only QRP, and Seventh Place, SO CW Only, Florida QSO Party!

With my kids grown--all 3 are now college graduates and my daughter just earned a Ph.D. in chemical engineering, Michigan State University--my life changed in 2004. From the study of kinship systems (as an anthropologist), it didn't really surprise me to experience the importance of consanguineal kin (those related by descent) compared to affines (those related by marriage), given my age. However, if my life is to change, I reasoned, then let it! I was invited to apply for a job at UF, and was hired in April of 2004.

Howie, N4AF, put me in touch with Doc, N4WW, and I found Dennis, a very good tower man. My goal was to rotate 15 and 10-meter yagis under the top set of guys on a rotating tower base, using Rohn 55, and place 20 and 40 meters yagis above the top set of guys. Instead, due to limited guy space, I placed a M2 15M6 at 112 feet, M2 20M4 (46 foot boom) at 94 feet (above the top set of guys), and a Hygain 105CA at 70 feet and a 2 element 40 at 57 feet, rotating under the top set of guys. The low 40-meter beam is an advantage during SS CW, but very much a compromise otherwise. During the summer of 2005 I put in an 80 meter 4 square using ropes off the first guy ring. I used top-loaded wire verticals, each with 4 radials elevated 7-10 feet (K1KI configuration). I use a shunt feed on the tower for 160 meters, but low power only. Recently, I placed a bearing plate on top of the tower, and added a 15-foot 2 meter beam, and a 21-foot 70cm beam. Dennis also put up 62 feet of Rohn 25, part of my old tower, which will

hold a small six-meter antenna. Radio is very much about antennas, but I am set up for SO2R and HP, inside the shack (TenTec and Yaesu rigs, INRAD cw roofing filters, plus an Alpha 99). I use Yaesu an FT736r on 2 meters and 70cm.



I'm now experiencing the excellent fraternity of FCG (but once PVRC always PVRC), and learning how to maximize my current antenna system, and the use of high power. I have a good signal into Europe on all bands except 40 meters. By the way, I still use my old tri-banders; one of

them is offset directly S at 42 feet and another one SW at 32 feet (under the lower guys), when the monoband beams are NNE.

Recent results: 2005 WPX, HP..... 2,164 qsos, 731 prefixes, 33 hours, 4.1M claimed score;
2005 CQWW, HP.....1,701 qsos, 100 zones, 290 Countries, 38 hrs, 1.774M claimed score.

Let's see now, what can I do about 40 meters before ARRL DX, CW, and do I have time apart from work to do it?

73, Will, wj9b, dit dit

K5KG Trip to VK/ZL

By George Wagner K5KG



My XYL, Kay and I jokingly said that there were only two places in the world we had never been - Australia and North Dakota. With that in mind, and not being able to find much of a reason to go to North Dakota — although I am considering it for SS — we decided that a trip Down Under was in order. After months of planning with the help of a wonderful travel agent from Melbourne, we took off on a five week venture in early November with both VK and ZL in our sights. Obviously, ham radio had to be part of the trip, although in moderation since the trip was with Kay, whose sole objective was to get to Ayers Rock. There were so many highlights to the trip, but to name a few, they were:

- Seeing Tasmania from a local's perspective - VK7GN was our tour guide and host for three full days on-the-go.
- Climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge on a cold rainy day for Kay's birthday.
- Feeding kangaroos, wallabies and Tassie Devils by hand. Well, almost. Kangaroos and wallabies yes; Tassie Devils from a distance!
- Being taught to drive on the wrong side of the road by VK7GN, and then driving over 1000 km on the Great Ocean Road from Melbourne to Adelaide.
- Taking the 20 hour overnight Ghan train through the outback from Adelaide to Alice Springs.
- Visiting the School of the Air in Alice Springs where children living on remote sheep and cattle stations in the outback are taught via HF radio and satellite links. Early radio gear was all built by a ham in Alice Springs.
- Spending quiet time to rest up and unwind at Ayers Rock, or Uluru as the Aborigines call it. Uluru is a massive sandstone rock in the middle of the outback, and very sacred to the Aborigines.
- Kay visiting Steve Irwin's Australia Zoo in Brisbane while I worked the CQWW CW contest in Sydney.
- Spending several days in the Southern Alps and on the Tasman Sea beaches on ZL's South Island.
- Getting a personal tour of a Maori village by ZL1ANH followed by a barbie with his family
- Sheep, sheep and more sheep!

VK2GC Contest Report

Enough of the sight seeing, and on to ham radio. In advance of the trip, I put out a "CQ Australia" on the CQ-Contest reflector asking for a place from which I could operate CQWW CW. Aussies in VK2, VK4, VK3 and VK6 all responded with juicy invitations and, after sorting out the choices, locations and constraints in our itinerary, I decided to accept the offer from David, VK2CZ/VK9XD, to operate the contest from his local club's station north of Sydney. (Incidentally, VK2CZ holds the VK FQP record!) Once I accepted the offer, Bernd, VK2IA/VK9AA, who is also a member of the same club — the Manly Warringa Radio Society, VK2MB — got involved in the planning along with David. Bernd got the doors open in Canberra with the VK licensing authorities, and I managed to get one of the last two-letter calls — VK2GC — before they stopped issuing two-letter calls (for reasons I never understood). Incidentally, I tried to get VK2OJ but, unfortunately, that call is unavailable, as was VK2KG and any other obvious two letter combination I could think of. VK2GC was meant to be.

David and Bernd mobilized the club members to ready up the station, which included replacing a defective rotor on their TH6 and adding 40 and 80 meter antennas. The 40m antenna was a "CZ-special", a full size half-wave vertical that worked extremely well, and the 80m antenna was an inverted vee at 100 ft. The terrain at the station is high and David says you can see the Pacific from up on the tower. My contribution to the effort was INRAD filters for their new FT1000MP MkV, which they installed upon my arrival in Sydney. The station is co-located in a facility with a coastal marine monitoring station and a fire brigade. The club had previously had some RFI problems with these other services, but fortunately got them rectified in advance of the contest so I was able to operate without getting any knocks on the door in the middle of the night!

The contest is now history. All in all, I was pleased with the results. I ended up with 2300+ Q's and a score of 2.52 meg. Runs were excellent on 10 through 40. On 80m, I was an alligator due to QRN, and there was no 160m antenna. Difficulties were: unable to get radio control working with N1MM Logger; RFI in the computer on 15m forcing me to run bare-foot on that band; QRT on Saturday night for two hours due to lighting.

On a positive note, we used a pre-production microHam CW Keyer loaned by Joe, W4TV, which worked flawlessly. The advantage offered by the CW Keyer was that keying was fully integrated with the logging program and code generation was handled external to the CPU, thereby resulting in perfect CW. No more stuttering CW when the CPU got overloaded!

Knowing that we would meet a number of hams along the way, I took a supply of FCG Orange — hats and shirts! Spreading the Orange proved to be a big hit, as the photos will tell.



The picture above was taken at a VKCC meeting that K5KG attended in Sydney. L to R: Richard 9M2CNC / G4ZFE / 3W2ER, George K5KG, Bernd VK2IA (ex DL1VJ), and Sergey VK2IMM (ex UW0LNW).



TH6 in the background. The 80m inverted vee was strung from the commercial tower in the foreground. Note the preponderance of antennas - most belong to the coastal marine monitoring station and the fire brigade.



VK2JNA, Dom, earned Orange for hanging the 80m antenna at 100 ft. in the rain!



George K5KG at VK2GC



Graeme Hunt ZLIANH

Graeme lives in the town of Rotorua on the North Island, known for its extensive geothermal pools and large population of Maoris. Graeme and I had worked in the OC Contest in October, so when we got to Rotorua, I gave him a cold call. He immediately came over and picked us up at the hotel and took us for a tour of a Maori village and a close up look at the geothermal wonders. From there, it was to his home to meet his XYL and family, open a bottle of local red and throw steaks on the barbie. This was all impromptu, as he had no advance warning of our arrival. After a delicious dinner, it was to the ham shack in the basement. It didn't take long to warm up the 220 and find an antenna, and we spent the next hour running JA's, UA9/0's and Euros on 40 and 20 CW as ZL/K5KG.

Working CW Pileups

By George Wagner K5KG

The folks at the VK Contest Club that I visited recently asked for some suggestions on running big CW pileups. Here is what I offered:

1.) If the pileup is heavy, back off on the RF and Audio gain controls to the point where you can only hear the strongest stations. As you work off the strong ones, gradually increase the RF gain to bring in the next level of stations. Keep your audio gain way down so you don't overload your ears. I find that excessive volume blurs the pileup. (Keeping the audio level very low is a suggestion I got years ago from Dean Straw, N6BV. It has been helpful.)

2.) Use nothing less than a 500 Hz filter and nothing less. There is a tendency to narrow down the bandwidth to something less when many are calling, but this limits your ability to hear a range of tones among the calling stations. Keep your bandwidth comfortably wide and learn to filter with your ears and brain. Crank the bandwidth down to a few hundred hertz to single out a station only as needed.

3.) Learn to listen for stations calling both high and low in the pileup. Try answering stations that are high or low without retuning. Once you identify a station's tone, stick with that station until you work him. Try to concentrate on pulling out the station that you have mentally identified. Try to get a full call before you go back to him. It is tempting to ask for partial calls - and I sometimes do it - but, in the long run, it is probably best to only go back to full calls. Experienced Contesters will send their call every few seconds in a repeatable pattern, so if you miss the full call, just wait a few seconds to pick up the rest of it.

4.) Set your TX frequency in your second VFO and work split when you are running the pileup. Try replying only to stations that are not zero beat on your frequency. I prefer listening up a few hundred hertz. Use your main VFO with the big knob for tuning the pileup. Avoid using RIT as much as possible as the small knob is awkward to twiddle over a long period of time.

5.) Practice between contests by running CW pileups every day. I try to do this from home as much as possible outside of contests. It is like playing the piano or golf - of which I don't do either - you need the repetition and practice. A friend of mine who was a semi-pro golfer said that you only get good by hitting thousands of golf balls. I think the same is true of contest pileups.

I would like to hear from others about their pileup secrets.

...

The W3AU Memorial Operators Club

By Pete Raymond, N4KW

Ed Note: This appeared some time ago on the reflector. It is repeated for the benefit of members who don't subscribe to the reflector



News Release

With the new fall contesting season just around the corner The W3AU Memorial Operators Club is pleased to announce the availability of Ed's call to be used in various contests by members of this club.

The W3AU Memorial Operators Club was formed to keep the memory of Ed and all that he enjoyed about amateur radio alive. And in some way to keep the memories of all who had operated from Ed's big multi op station alive as well. Let's rekindle these memories by hearing W3AU during various contest and see the call listed in the contest results etc.

The W3AU Memorial Operators Club will primarily be made up of licensed amateur operators who have previously operated from Ed's station or who knew Ed. To become a member one has only to apply along with a brief description of when you operated from Ed's station or when you knew him. There are no dues. Once you have become a member it will be a simple request to use the call sign for a particular contest. The request will be honored by a first come first serve basis. We will use the same procedures that ARRL requires when the W1AW call sign is used during the I.A.R.U. Contest. All request must be made in writing to either Dick Kline, K4GKD, President, or Pete Raymond, N4KW, Club Trustee.

We will advise the requester by letter that he will be authorized the use of the call for the period requested and a copy of the license will be forwarded. Once that period has expired the requester is required to return the copy of the license to the club trustee. The person using the call shall be responsible for all QSL'ing responsibilities for contacts made during that period.

Here's another thought -- I think it would be great to get as many guys together who have operated from W3AU or W3MSK together again for a multi multi run during some contest.

73

Pete Raymond, N4KW

Claimed Scores CQWW CW Contest

Call	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Score	Class	Operators
N4WW	3102	158	584	6,293,644	M/2	N4WW K0LUZ
K3LR	6199	174	677	1,027,035	M/M	N2NL and 13 non-FCG Operators
K1TO	1169	107	380	1,572,523	SOAB QRP	
KP3Z	5638	130	472	8,224,000	SOABHP	NP4Z
K1PT	1524	131	470	2,554,851	SOABHP	
VK2GC	2347	110	261	2,500,000	SOABHP	K5KG at VK2MB
WJ9B	1701	100	290	1,774,500	SOABHP	
N4TB	932	105	329	1,116,682	SOABHP	
W4QM	886	108	360	1,115,492	SOABHP	
VQ9JC				962,240	SOABHP	ND9M
K4LQ	719	98	312	815,080	SOABHP	
W4FDA	525	103	312	611,295	SOABHP	
W4ZW	376	94	243	338,685	SOABHP	
W7QF	209	61	148	123,728	SOABHP	
K4CC	52	11	36	6,909	SOABHP	
K4MM	775	107	364	1,019,715	SOABHP (A)	
N8PR	444	103	298	485,210	SOABHP (A)	
W4ARM	265	59	160	155,052	SOABHP (A)	
K4GKD	838	104	337	1,019,592	SOABLP	
WK2G	1193	87	254	985,149	SOABLP	
NA4CW	595	93	276	593,721	SOABLP	
KE1F	506	77	235	417,456	SOABLP (A)	
WD4AHZ	403	60	171	258,489	SOABLP	
N4EK	317	58	158	181,440	SOABLP	
NL7AU	127	47	106	54,774	SOABLP (A)	
W4EBA	148	40	92	50,424	SOABLP	
N4QV	104	34	74	30,132	SOABLP	
KG8B	46	26	36	6,510	SOABLP	
CX7TT	914	26	89	303,140	SOHP 10	K6CT at CX5BW
K1UM	302	27	107	109,076	SOHP 15	
CW5T	2683	39	132	1,352,781	SOHP 20	K9VV at CX5BW
K9OM	1215	36	129	560,010	SOHP 20	
K4XS	1510	36	119	642,785	SOHP 40	
WB4TDH	353	28	111	138,583	SOLP 15	
K4PG	113	14	44	13,340	SOLP 40	
AD4Z	290	25	94	89,488	SOLP 80	

FCG TOTAL 37,503,531

FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP - PANHANDLE

NQ4I	5093	170	650	10,863,360	M/M	W1MD N4GI N4OX VE7ZO
K4PV	1221	98	278	1,149,808	SOABHP	
KN4Y	398	75	199	298,934	SOABLP	
K4JAF	121	50	98	47,804	SOABLP	
KB4ET	211	45	119	95,448	SOABLP (A)	

FCG PANHANDLE TOTAL 12,455,354

K9VV at CW5T Summary

By Fred Kleber K9VV

Ed Note: I thought it would be worthwhile to reprint Fred's CW5T commentary from the reflector on his activity in Uruguay during CQWW CW, as several members have not seen it.



CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW

Call: CW5T

Operator(s): K9VV

Station: CX5BW

Class: SOSB/20 HP

QTH: La Provincia de Canelones

Operating Time (hrs): 37.5

Summary:

Band QSOs Zones Countries

20: 2683 39 132

Total: 2683 39 132 Total Score = 1,352,781 (Really sucked to miss zone 2!)

Club: Florida Contest Group

Comments:

This operation was a pair of single band efforts, the other being a 10m SOSB HP effort by fellow FCger (and my hotel) Tom, K6CT / CX7TT. We were graciously hosted by Pedro, CX5BW, who I had met during a previous CX trip 15 years ago!

Pedro has a FB QTH in a rural area well North of the QRN / QRM of Montevideo. A pair of 150 foot towers has monobanders for 15 & 20 meters. Originally my effort was slated to be a 15m single band. However, S8 line noise quickly changed that decision, 7 minutes into the contest. As Tom had 10m covered, the only other logical choice was 20m. (At least it wasn't a phone contest, hi hi) We switched everything to 20m and it was off to the races.

This was my first experience operating from waaaaay south of the border. As one would expect, condx differ significantly from FL. Being so far from so many stations, it was hard to "feel" loud. The benefit was the awesome ears Pedro's station had. In many aspects, it reminded me of VK. The band is relatively void (by our standards) of big "local" signals due to remote QTH and low station density. (K5KG can confirm)

Not having done any long haul contesting in a while, 20m was a ball buster. I could have used a good massage after the first couple of hours, hi hi. 20 stayed open all night and the JA / Asia openings were awesome! I never knew so many JAs were still QRV. The band stayed open all night and Pedro filled the IV bag with the bueno CX coffee.

I was surprised when he told me that 20m would close around 10:30am local due to the high absorption. True to form he was right and it was then I grabbed my first nap. He said the band would open again around 3pm. Tom, Pedro and I enjoyed a great lunch on the patio and I think we solved about half of the world's problems.

On day two, I heard a horrendous noise from the other operating room, where Tom was handling the 10m crowd. Pedro and I rushed into the room to see a surprised K6CT on the floor laughing and saying, "I'm OK". Seems the plastic chair had gone QRT when he reached to the sky to yawn & regain his brain cells.

After our post contest celebration, I was QSLing the good CX "cafe" en el bano. It was here I had an interesting experience. After the rate went to zero, I looked for the familiar handle to flush. Nada. Nothing on top of the toilet either. I finally located a button on the side of the toilet and gave it the obligatory push. As the avalanche of water ensued, I was greeted by a multiplier I neglected to put in the log; FR0G! He leapt out of the bowl looking for my log, but landed on the wall instead. Back to net....

Some interesting stats:

NA QSOs = 51.9%, EU QSOs = 19.5%, Asia QSOs 23.4% (wow! Keep in mind that JA is 11,000+ miles from CX land!!!!),

Country QSOs JA=539, BY=10, HL=19, same as the Italians. (Surprisingly little activity from Italy this contest) Average points / QSO = 2.95.

In closing, Tom and I owe Pedro a zillion thanks for hosting a couple of hacker gringos at his FB station. I'd also like to thank him for making a special trip to the CX FCC to obtain CW5T. That call ROCKED!

73
Fred

**Pictures from the
CW5T Operation**



A Very Tired K9VV



CX5BW—CX7TT



CX5BW—155BA Tower



Yummy CX Vittles

Plaque Winners Florida QSO Party 2005

SPONSOR PLAQUE

AB4RL Top Florida Mixed Mode
 K1PT Top Florida CW
 W1YL Top Florida CW High Power (NEW 2005)
 K9ES Top Florida SSB
 KA6R Top Florida QRP
 K1TO Top Florida Mobile No Driver
 W4CEO Top Florida Mobile Plus Driver (NEW 2005)
 K4RX Top Florida Mobile CW
 KK4TA Top Florida Mobile SSB
 WC4E Top Florida Mobile Multi-Op
 N4TO Top Florida Mobile Multi-Op CW
 N4TO Top Florida Multi-Single

 K4LQ Top Florida Club Station

 YCCC Most QSOs Florida Single Operator

WINNER

K4XS
 WK2G
 K4LQ
 K4JAF
 KX2J
 W1NN
 W4SAA
 KN4Y
 AG4ZG
 W4OV (+N4BP)
 N4TO (+K1TO)
 W4GAC
 (K4OB KF4GSE KG4KXK KP2N KR4U N4GD N4RI WA4EEZ OPS)
 W4MLB
 (AB4ET AF4Z K1XX K4AW K4PX K4QD KG4CZU N8KH OPS)
 K4XS

NF4A Top Non-Florida Mixed Mode
 N4OO Top Non-Florida CW
 K4XS Top Non-Florida SSB
 NA4CW Top Non-Florida QRP
 K4PG Top Non-Florida School
 K4XSS Top Non-Florida YL (NEW 2005)
 K5NZ Top Score Texas (NEW 2005)

W8MJ
 N2CU
 K3BZ
 K3TW
 W6YX
 N3KN
 K5WAF

N4PN Top Canada Mixed Mode
 W4CEO Top Canada CW
 K4CC Top Canada SSB

VE3KZ
 VA3DX
 VA3OX

N2NL Top Oceania
 NF4A Top DX Mixed Mode
 KE1F Top Europe CW

NO ENTRIES
 LY3BA
 G4BUE

K1TO Largest Golden Log (Zero Errors)
 K5KG First Station to Work All Counties

VA3DX
 W8MJ

SPECIAL AWARD - Case of Louisiana hot sauce
 W5WMU Most QSOs with Mobiles

N2CU

Claimed Scores ARRL 160 Meter Contest

CALL	QSOs	US/VE	DX	Score	Class	HRS	Section	Operator
K1PT	204	61	11	32,184	M/S	HP4.5	SFL	
N4TB	483	68	11	78,921	SOHP		WCF	
K9OM	418	61	21	75,194	SOHP	7.5	NFL	
WN1GIV	422	56	8	55,360	SOHP		SFL	N4BP
AD4Z	269	64	10	42,476	SOHP		SFL	
W4FDA				33,180	SOHP		NFL	
K4JAF	210	63	13	27,783	SOHP		NFL	
WJ9B	221	53	6	27,140	SOHP	7.0	NFL	
N4EK	203	48	6	22,896	SOHP	8.0	NFL	
K4LQ	152	63	12	21,420	SOHP		WCF	
W4ZW	158	52	4	18,032	SOHP	2.5	SFL	
N8PR	103	53	11	15,488	SOHP	2.4	SFL	
KC4HW	28	19	0	1,064	SOHP	1.5	AL	
W4AA	529	72	18	100,890	SOLP	24.0	NFL	
W4SAA	300			55,000	SOLP		SFL	
W3AU	350	62	11	53,728	SOLP	10.0	WCF	
KN4Y	225	54		24,786	SOLP		NFL	
KE1F	59	31	2	4,092	SOLP		NFL	

TOTAL 689,534

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