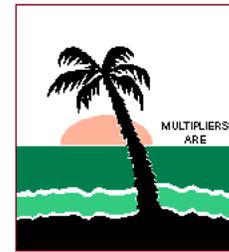




# Contest Gazette

## Florida Contest Group

<http://www.floridacontestgroup.org>



Volume 11 Issue 1

Jim White K4OJ Memorial Issue

March 2004

### OJ Remembered

By Dan Street, K1TO



One of the many wonderful things about ham radio is that it transcends age.

Thus, as a teenager in CT, I spent the majority of my free time with the Murphy's Marauders members who had welcomed me enthusiastically into the group. The White family was a prominent segment of that group and, despite a few years of age difference, Jim and I became friends quickly.

Drove to/from Dayton 1977 with Jim. My Opel Manta's water pump blew on rte 80, with Jim driving and we spent the next hour sorting through incoming WA1QNF QSLs while we waited for help to arrive. Amazingly, there was an Opel dealer in the thriving metropolis of nearby Clearfield and we were able to resume the journey home by Monday afternoon. One of the scariest moments in my life was looking over to realize that Jim was having an epileptic seizure, very likely because he'd not brought along enough medicine for that extra day.

"Happiness is a good run." That was the byline on the 1977 ARRL DX Test results, authored by Jim White, K1ZX/WA1NNC and Dan Street, WA1QNF. Along with Bill Jennings, WA1AHI/K1WJ, who became a tragic SK 2 summers ago, the three of us spent a fabulous summer checking logs and yukking it up. I had just graduated from high school, while Jim was dating the girl that ended up being his (first) wife.

Not long after that, the Whites all moved to Homestead, FL, just south of Miami. Bob, K1XA, another good ARRL friend, and I took a week of vacation in Fort Lauderdale one spring and made a special trip down to see Jim.

Soon after that, Jim had a very serious auto accident and was laid up with multiple injuries for quite a while.

For a number of years from then, the only time I'd see Jim would be in Dayton. Many have, very appropriately, chronicled Jim's adventures at Dayton. Despite being immersed in a ham radio family day in and day out, Dayton was consistently the highlight of Jim's year. It was during those years that Jim met and married Teresa and became an instant grandparent.

After Hurricane Andrew destroyed Ellen and Bob's home, the Whites all moved to the Tampa area on the other coast of FL.

There, they collectively began to build up a very solid contest station.

In March 1994, just under 10 years ago, Jim established the Florida CW Contest Group which soon became the Florida Contest Group. Jim served as President for the first 4+ years of the club. When this writer took over in September 1998, the club foundation was solid and it's been a pleasure to build and build upon that.

Jim particularly liked to host multi-ops and consistently invited anyone and everyone to his operations. Perhaps operating at W2PV in the mid 1970s seeded that interest. Here are some recent highlights:

#### IARU

- W1AW/4 in 2000 was a huge success, due greatly to OJ's coordination. With WC4E and I overseas for WRTC, Jim led the effort to have 6 separate stations on the air across Florida with 2 band/modes each. I believe that the score attained by W1AW/4 that year remains the record for all of the W1AW/\* operations. There was a terrific write-up about this in NCJ, I think.

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SS

- In Nov 1996, Jim kindly asked me to join him for an SS CW M/S, even though he had finished 4th as a Single Op the year before and was itching for a win. We managed to win M/S that year, unseating the four-year championship run of AA5B.

- The following Nov 1997 saw Jim sport his new K4OJ call-sign. Along with his folks, he piloted the station to a second straight win in the M/S category.

- 2 weeks later, K1TO hosted a pair of Multi-Singles for SS SSB and Jim enthusiastically operated some SSB (a mode that was largely banned at the W1YL/W1CW QTH), all in the name of maximizing FCG points.

- Initially, it appeared that the K0RF team had pushed K4OJ down to 2nd place in SS CW 1998, but revised results published a month later showed that the Whites had their threepeat.

- 2 weeks later, OJ returned here for another fun battle of Multi-Singles (although one of the entries never got published). Jim had by far our best hour, something like a 157 hour. The fun that he had doing that was just mesmerizing for the rest of us to watch.

ARRL DX

- Feb 1997 - Jim invited me back for a M/2. When another promised op failed to materialize, we did essentially a 2-man effort, giving me a good intro to DX from FL.

- Feb 1998 - Time to try a Multi-Multi. One of the absolutely mind-blowing experiences of my "career" was hearing JAs peaking at 599+30 on 160 Meters!

And with a single yagi, we still beat all the M/Ms on 15M.

- Feb 2000 - Along with Kevin, N4KM, Team OJ beat out Team N4WW for top W4 M/S to sneak into the box at #5, less than 5% from #2.

- Feb 2003 - Less than one year ago, and using the K4NNN call-sign, another #5 finish.

CQ WW CW

- After the passing of Bob, W1CW in November 2002, Jim and Ellen set out to expand the station capabilities, in preparation for a W1CW Memorial operation for CQWW 2003 on essentially the one-year anniversary of Bob's passing. While those results are not out yet, it was again a labor of love as many contributed to the station upgrades and the ultimate operation. With 10 operators, and using the W1CW call-sign, they achieved their goal of honoring Bob.

Jim's health declined over a long period of time, but as many of you recognized and emphasized, his enthusiasm and positive outlook were staunchly consistent. In one of my last e-mail exchanges with Jim, he told me that I'd soon be able to retire from antenna work at the W1CW station because he would once again climb proudly.

When WC4E and I wearily exited our return plane from the WRTC in Finland in July 2002, we were met with a K4OJ-organized group of FCGers waving banners and greeting us back. Quite amazing since we were something like 4 hours late

and arrived at 1 AM.

Long road trips to Fort Walton Beach and Miami in recent years gave us a chance to crank up the classic rock and get caught up.

One of Jim's greatest pleasures was developing funny phonetics. For some odd reason, N4BP and WC4E were the butt of many of those cracks.

There are just a zillion stories like this and there is just no way to give a comprehensive recall here and now, but I hope this has provided a flavor of the man that OJ was, from my personal perspective.

Thanks to all of you who have already posted tributes to Jim. Some of the suggestions regarding memorial awards are great, and the FCG will be setting up a number of awards as well. Thanks also to K5KG, W4IX and K3TEJ for dedicating their J7 effort next weekend in Jim's memory. I'm also hearing of some plans to honor Jim at Dayton in May.

This issue of the FCG Gazette is solely dedicated to K4OJ, the founding father of this great club.

Since promoting the FQP was yet another source of joy for Jim, I encourage everyone to circle the last weekend of April on your calendars and get on the air as much as you can in the Florida QSO Party, in honor of Jim.

As mentioned earlier, Jim became a devoted father and grandfather, in addition to all of his contesting interests. Teresa White would appreciate hearing from any of you at: 3527 King George Ln., Seffner, FL 33584-6117

As an only child, Jim ("Jamie") was the apple of Ellen's eye and I just hope that we can all help Ellen through this staggeringly difficult time of losing her husband and only son in less than 15 months.

At Ellen's request, the W1CW Memorial Fund is now the W1CW/K4OJ Memorial Fund. In lieu of flowers, Ellen prefers that contributions be made in Jim's name to that fund. Any donations should be made out to the Florida Contest Group with a note to the effect that it is designated for the K4OJ Fund. Please mail any donations to the FCG Treasurer: Fred Perkins, 3437 Lake Josephine Drive, Lake Placid, FL 33852.

RIP and Keep Smiling, old friend.

Dan, K1TO/4

*Jim White K4OJ  
FCG Founder  
1955—2004  
RIP*



*WIYL captioned this picture:*

*“This is a test, how many days till the FQP?”*

## From the ARRL Letter February 13, 2004

### JIM WHITE, K4OJ, SK--J7A OPERATION DEDICATED TO POPULAR CONTESTER

The Amateur Radio contesting community is mourning the death of James A. "Jim" White, K4OJ, (ex-K1ZX and ex-WA1NNC), of Seffner, Florida. The well-known ham radio contesting enthusiast underwent heart valve surgery February 11, but succumbed to liver failure the following day. The J7A operation from Dominica during the ARRL International DX Contest (CW) <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/intldx.html>> February 21-22 will be dedicated to White.

"Jim White, K4OJ, was a dear friend and a continual inspiration to contesting," said George Wagner, K5KG, in announcing the planned on-the-air tribute. "OJ, as we affectionately called him, was always positive and ready to help, inspire, learn, tease, quip, pontificate and challenge all of us."

A member of The Florida Contest Group (FCG) <<http://www.floridacontestgroup.org/>> which White organized, Wagner, fellow FCG member John Colyard, W4IX, and John Bednar, K3TEJ, will be the J7A operators. Wagner says FCG members will always remember White as the father of the organization, which he founded a decade ago, serving as its first president. "When you see that sea of orange shirts at Dayton, you will remember OJ," he said, referring to the group's brightly hued signature apparel.

An ARRL Life Member and a Headquarters employee during the 1970s, White was the son of Ellen White, W1YL, and the late Bob White, W1CW, both well-known amateurs and former ARRL staff members. Not surprisingly, Jim White worked in the ARRL Contest Branch. Over the years, he also authored articles for National Contest Journal as well as for QST.

After Bob White died in 2002, Jim White established the R. L. White Memorial Operators' Club to keep his father's W1CW call sign active during various operating events. Always sporting a big signal out of South Florida, Jim White shared a multiop contest station with his mother. Ellen White said K4OJ was on the air during the First Class CW Operators' Club <<http://www.firstclasscw.org.uk/>> Marathon just this past weekend. "His operating abilities were manifest, and he almost always was the first one to volunteer his help, in spite of his declining physical abilities," she said.

White once said he was bitten by the contest bug after being enlisted as the Novice op for the Connecticut Wireless Association's Field Day effort. In the years since, his call sign has turned up regularly in the results of various contests--often at or near the top of the pile.

"I love contesting," he said in his call sign listing on QRZ.com. "There is something about the camaraderie, discipline and knowledge contesting demands that fits me; it doesn't fit everyone . . . but it sure fits me."

In addition to his mother, White's survivors include his wife Teresa and five stepchildren. Per his wishes, there will be no formal service. The family invites memorial donations to the Florida Contest Group White Memorial Fund--now honoring both W1CW and K4OJ--care of Fred Perkins, K4LQ, 3437 Lake Josephine Dr, Lake Placid, FL 33852.

*Ed. Note - The Dominican Govt issued J7OJ for this operation.*

## From the ARRL Contesters Rate Sheet February 24, 2004

### In Passing

It would be difficult for me to add significantly to the wonderful testimonials of friendship posted on behalf of Jim White K4OJ after his most untimely passing last week. From all corners, the stories and observations rolled in, day after day. If wealth is measured in friends, then Bill Gates has nothing on OJ. Permit me to ramble a bit in reflection.

Jim was not the only one to have lately entered the ranks of the Silent Keys, but his demise caused many to take keyboard in hand and strike a few capitals in his honor. Others knew him better, but I think it's fair for me to say that it's because Jim exemplified many individual qualities that we all value.

Enthusiastic? Who more? If there was a club to be formed, a contest to be managed, or a station to be built, then Jim was involved. That kind of approach to life rubs off on everyone in the neighborhood, to the betterment of all. Roll up your shirtsleeves and get busy!

Generous? To a fault. We all get the same twenty-four hours in a day to spend as we like, don't we? Jim chose to spend his being generous with his time, compliments, suggestions, and observations while being equally stingy with the grouching, complaining, and gossip. Would that we all do the same.

Friendly? Ask any of the newcomers to the Florida Contest Group. Ask anybody that happened upon the Dayton contest suite scene. Jim had a keen understanding of what it means to welcome and be welcomed. We're all here today because someone like Jim welcomed us into ham radio. Pass it on, OK?

He was one of "us" in many ways - either by camaraderie or by example - and when we lose one like Jim...well, it sets you back. On the other hand, if we reflect on those very qualities and resolve to carry them on ourselves then ham radio and the world at large will be a better place.

Mom Ellen W1YL, thanks so much for sharing your Jamie (and Bob) with us. There will never be a time when I hear a "K4..." call in the pileup and don't think of Jim. We depend on the enthusiasm, generosity, and friendship of the other Jims sprinkled around ham radio to keep it going. In closing, I'll paraphrase from the DX Hall of Fame nomination for Jim's dad, Bob White W1CW. "If you listen to the bands on any contest weekend, there you will find Jim."

See ya, OJ.

73, Ward N0AX

## OJ WAS EVERYWHERE IN FCG

### Operating mobile in FQP



***Kevin N4KM and Jim K4OJ with Kevin's SUV Mobile***

Teresa, Ellen, family and friends of Jim White K4OJ,

I really don't even know where to begin with this e-mail. Jim was such a great guy and a wonderful friend, I have so many stories, but I will try to keep it to one or two.

Back in 1999 when my wife and I decided to move to Florida, I was talking to Vic K9UIY through a series of e-mails telling him of our plans and so forth. One of the first things that he said when he found out the area we were moving to was that I had to make sure and contact the Whites (K4OJ, W1CW, and W1YL) as soon as I got settled.

Even before I really got settled I got a call at work on day and the voice on the other end said KS9O this is K4OJ welcome to Florida! Jim and I spent the next hour or so talking about contesting and the really neat thing was, Jim and I had never met me, but he said "Hey, FQP is coming up in about a month, I am looking for someone to go mobile with. How about we do it together?" Little did I know what I was getting myself into. Jim and I became the fastest and best friends that weekend

don't think I have ever become friends with anyone that quick. Over the next almost 5 years Jim and I operated 4 FQP's mobile, and just about every other major cw contest I was involved in a multi at the White's.

Also numerous antenna projects and shack building and changing, rearranging and mostly improving. I learned so much from Jim that I will never be able to repay. I could have never asked for a better friend.

Jim had the ability to light up a room, and before long he would have everyone in the room laughing. He added to much to our hobby of ham radio and especially contesting. We are so much the better for having had him in our ranks.

Somehow I imagine Jim and Bob (W1CW) are right now designing antennas in heaven and trying to get the best signal out. I am sure Bob was waiting for Jim so they could continue the work on the antennas that were started here.

Jim my friend I am going to miss you more than I can imagine. Thanks for the good times. It is really going to be hard to think of anything to do with hamradio without thinking of you. There really is a hole in my heart this evening.

73 my friend, I will do a multi with you again one day,  
Kevin N4KM

*Ed Note: There is now a K4OJ Memorial Countdown Clock on the FQP Website - tnx WD4AHZ*



***Above - OJ operating mobile in N4KM's SUV  
Below: OJ receiving award for an FQP mobile operation***



**In the thick of FCG Activities**



*Hosting with WIYL a departure bash for our only European Member OM6NM*



*Attending FCG Meetings—here at K9ES*



*Here at K5KG*



*Presenting Dan KITO with the “mutant operator” polo shirt at Dayton*



*Helping to nominate KITO to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame at Dayton*



*Helping to show the FCG colors at Dayton His goal - “a sea of Orange “!*



*Right: Organizing the pizza at the FCG corner in Dayton.*

*Left: Receives the 2 meter Award from NF4A (not OJ’s favorite band)*





*Greeting Dan, KITO at Tampa Airport at 1 in the morning on Dan's return from WRTC 2002*



*The Tampa Airport Greeting Committee organized by K4OJ*



*FCG Meeting at Rio Bravo Restaurant in Tampa - Jim, Wife Teresa, Mom Ellen*



*Holding a KITO #1 flag he had created for meeting KITO at the Tampa Airport*



*Facing the camera, Ellen WIYL, Bob WICW and Jim K4OJ at the Orlando Hamfest*



*At Field Day in Sarasota*



*OJ makes a point at the October 2002 Meeting at K4XS*

## Writing for the Gazette

*Ed. Note - A pre SS article began:*

### SS CW Ideas

*By Jim White K4OJ*

“There was just a post on CQ Contest about how you can sort the scores in a contest by any of the line score information and then you can output to a file which you can massage with Excel or other spreadsheet...There has not been much talk in the FCG about SS, and that saddens me as a big SS fan. Perhaps it is time for me to stoke some of the FCG fires! “



*Ed Note: Jim's final article for the Gazette was written in December 2003 and is reproduced below:*

### W1CW Operation in CQWW

*By Jim White K4OJ*

Thanks, W1CW

After Hurricane Andrew left their Homestead home ruined, Bob and Ellen White (W1CW, W1YL) were persuaded to move to the Tampa area where Jim (K4OJ) their son had moved the year before.

After finding a location which had great ham radio opportunity W1CW decided to "have some fun" and started work on designing a respectable station capable of doing well on the HF bands in contests.

After the first few towers went up, it was decided that the station would be a home for new contesters in the Florida Contest Group to get some exposure to contesting at a multi-op. Many hams passed through the W1CW station on the appropriate weekends.

This Summer, W1YL and K4OJ decided that since November marked the one year anniversary of the passing of W1CW it would be fun to honor him with a contest operation in the CQ WW CW. W1CW was a member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame and a showing of the new W1CW club callsign in the Worldwide would be fitting.

Over the course of the Summer many FCG members helped bring the aging station back to life. While K4OJ

had plans for adding all kinds of antennas, the Summer turned into a series of repairing and replacing of feedlines and rotators. An electrician was hired and four 220V outlets were added to the porch on the back of the house. The screen doors were replaced with French doors and the old porch became a room on the house...

Runs of coax and control cables brought into the porch as well as the wonderful Cat4E LAN computer network. 10 through 40 meter operations during the CQWW

CW memorial were manned on "the porch". All four bands were able to have two men manning them - a runner and a tuner/spot chaser... The traditional shack had 80 and 160 meters in it. Being Florida these were left as "one man bands".

The dirty dozen were assembled for the weekend carnage and, surpassed the 5200 QSO target set by K4OJ to end up at 5705 X 181 Zones X 621 Countries, DXCC on 40 meters and up... 83 countries on 80 and 33 on 160.

Our operator contingent was: K1KNQ, K4LW, K4OJ, N4BP, N4GI, N4KM, W1FJ, W1YL, W4IX, W4SAA, WC4E, and WK2G. The FCG will net about 11.25 Million points.

The pictures show some of the operation. W1YL and K4OJ wish to thank the other operators and those who helped resurrect the station over the Summer... we look forward to more multi-multi operations, please contact K4OJ if you would like to join us in the next MM operation.

AR

K4OJ



### Station Building - Contest Preparation



*Hosting, with WIYL, the Friday night pre-contest dinner*



*Hooking up the 220 for the amplifier.*



*Setting up the CAT4E Network*



*Physical limitations prevented him from climbing, but OJ was always in action on the ground crew, here at K5KG*



*The afternoon ceremonial passing of the rotor box from 10 to 40 meters... the 40 meter yagi shares a common mast with the high 4 element 10 meter beam*

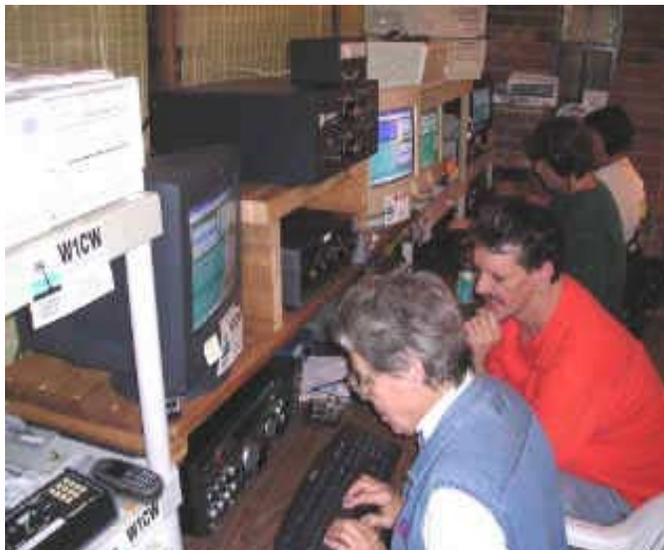
**And of course, Operating!**



***CQWW 2003 WICW Memorial operation:  
Far End N4BP on 10, 15: blocked WC4E,  
blocked but you can see the orange shirt K4OJ  
20: W4IX and W1FJ 40: K4LW***



***OJ at the key in an unspecified Contest***



***Ellen WIYL takes a break from hosting the operation to spend a little time behind the key.***



***K4NNN ARRL DX Test 2001***

***Ed Note: There are numerous tributes to K4OJ on internet reflectors. In addition to those on the FCG reflector, many are contained in the archives on the CQ-Contest reflector.***

***If you haven't read them already, they can be accessed in the following manner: go to [www.contesting.com](http://www.contesting.com) In the lower left corner of the page left click on CQ-Contest under Contest List Archives. Opposite 2004-02 Click on Thread. This brings up a list of all the threads discussed in February.***

***Tributes to OJ start about 1/3 of the way down the page.***

## **N4BP Scores World Record on 80 M in ARRL DX Test from C6AKQ, dedicates it to the memory of K4OJ**

1455 QSO's  
59 Mults  
257,535 points

New world record dedicated to the memory of K4OJ

One highlight:

Our prez K1TO temp called me with what sounded like 50WPM, but gave me the point that put me over the previous world record. :-)

--

73, Bob Patten, N4BP Plantation, FL



*The "CAT", ferry from Ft. Lauderdale to Freeport Grand Bahama Island*



*C6AKQ (N4BP) on 80 Meters*



*C6APG (K4PG) trying to stay awake on 10 Meters*



*C6ALK (K7RE) struggling on 160 Meters*

## ARRL DX CW in C6A - 2004

*By Bob Patton N4BP*

Brian (K7RE) and I have been making budget DXpeditions to Freeport each February for the past four years. Following the ARRL DXCW contest of 2003, Fred (K9VV), Tom (K6CT), and I made a return trip to the same location for the CQ WPX CW in May. While there, we discovered a group of rental apartments under a 160 foot unused tower. Fred and I introduced ourselves to the owner and discussed some possible commercial uses for that naked tower, and at the same time relayed our interest in a future ham operation there. On our return home, several e-mails crossed back and forth resulting in a plan to rent an apartment and use the tower for the ARRL DXCW this year. Brian, Kevin (K4PG), and I would be the participants since Fred had just started a new job and didn't have the option of taking sufficient time off.

Brian and I left Port Everglades on Feb. 17 for Freeport on the new "CAT" ferry that had just begun a daily crossing this past November. Kevin had also recently begun a new job and could only join us for three days. The CAT turned out to be a wonderful mode of transportation, one advantage being a considerably lower fare. Although seas were 9-11 feet in the Gulfstream, the ride was quite smooth for the most part. We arrived at the dock in Freeport at 6PM and waited about a half hour on board while the baggage was unloaded. Customs was a snap and our taxi arrived at the apartment complex at about 7:30PM. Since it was already dark, we would have to wait until the next morning to erect antennas. We unpacked, had a leisurely meal of Lipton flavored rice (this really WAS a budget operation!) and got to sleep fairly early. Brian became impatient though, and strung a wire around his bedroom to listen on 30M with his K2.

Wednesday morning, we first set up our stations in the control room beneath the tower. The building had been used only for storage for several years, so it was necessary to clear space for our equipment. Brian's station consisted of an Elecraft K2/100 driving an Ameritron AL-500M. He also had a low power MFJ tuner to cover the WARC bands for pre-contest operation. My station was an Icom 706MKII and AL-811H. During the packing, I had left my LDG AT-11 auto-tuner behind, but the AL-811H's pi-network did a good job of matching the 80 Meter dipole on most bands.

Now we were ready to tackle the antennas. Brian had measured out a 160 Meter dipole and constructed a coaxial balun on 4" PVC to feed it. This antenna went up first at about 110 feet. It was originally planned to put it near the top of the 160 foot tower, but that morning began with a very stiff breeze. By the time I reached the 110 foot level, the unguayed tower had quite a bit of sway! Next, my 80 Meter dipole was secured at the 80 foot level with another coaxial balun, this one just an air wound coil of coax.

Brian tied out the ends of the dipoles (160M ran roughly east to west, 80M ran north to south) while I ran the RG-58 (Brian swears it was RG-59, but the diameter is too small) down the sides of the tower. All antennas but one leg of my 80M dipole were contained on the property while that leg crossed the road to a vacant lot. Brian's 160M dipole needed about a foot trimmed from each end. My 80M dipole, which had been used for four years on the roof of the Bell Channel Inn, came up short. I found a three foot length of telephone cable laying on the shack floor, spliced it into one end, and obtained a perfect 1:1 SWR just above the band edge. At that point, we took a break from the antenna work and spent the rest of the day making QSO's - Brian on 30M and me on RTTY. Kevin's 3el 10M Yagi (borrowed from N4GM) went up the next day. Although the beam was to go up only fifty feet, it turned out to be the toughest to erect. I found a wood dowel beneath the tower about twice as long as the boom and U-bolted it to the boom. Brian held it away from the tower with a piece of nylon string while I hoisted it up to its final position. The trick was to get the free end of the dowel through the tower, but it was finally clamped to the tower with the beam reasonably horizontal and facing 320 degrees.

For the next two days, we played radio. We avoided making CW stateside contacts on 10/80/160 so as to maximize our score during the weekend. I did get on 80M two nights, but only worked N4GM stateside with the other 80+ QSO's being mostly EU. I also made just over 100 RTTY contacts, again mostly EU. RTTY is near impossible from C6A! The European operators don't seem to understand that the computer cannot copy ten signals, all the same strength on the same frequency. I would pick up a prefix, struggle through the QRM, pick up a letter or two of the suffix, and then <sometimes> pull out a complete call. The rest of the pack would simply not wait, even after a complete call was pulled out! Working split helped to some extent, but the Europeans were very adept at finding where I was listening and again endlessly throwing in their calls even when asked over and over not to. Several times, I gave up in disgust and went back to CW where at least my brain was able to distinguish calls. A summary of our non-contest and contest activity follows, with comments from C6ALK (K7RE) and C6APG (K4PG):

C6AKQ (N4BP)}  
Non-Contest QSO's  
700 CW contacts  
105 RTTY contacts

ARRL DX CW (SB80):  
1456 QSO's  
59 Mults  
257,535 points (New world record!)

{{C6ALK (K7RE)}}  
 Non-Contest QSO's  
 9 QSO's on 10M All Europe  
 13 QSO's on 17M Almost all Europe  
 412 QSO's on 30M About half DX and half US  
 126 QSO's on 160M - Almost all Europe

ARRL DX CW (SB160)  
 858 QSO's  
 57 Mults  
 146,718 points (New world record!)

{Brian adds:}  
 Some QSL's are being sent to the wrong operator: I.E.:  
 C6ALK to C6AKQ and visa versa. Can't think of any-  
 thing else to add except maybe the dead curly-tailed  
 lizards on the floor of the "shack".  
 {end Brian's comments}

{C6APG (K4PG)}  
 ARRL DX CW (SB10)  
 604 QSO's  
 56 Mults  
 100,968 points

{Kevin adds:}  
 I certainly enjoyed the contest and had the best situa-  
 tion any operator could ever dream about. Single band  
 10 Meter effort with a 3 el Yagi at approximately 55 feet  
 pointed right at the U.S. and the ability to run the legal  
 limit in the Bahamas, 250W.

Conditions did not favor C6. I could barely hear 1's, 2's,  
 3's and 4's (Southern states) at any time. I had to dig  
 those out of the noise, of which there was almost none!

Seemed like I had a pipeline to 6 land, 7 land, some 0's.  
 It seemed like there was an endless supply of 6's. 6  
 and 7 comprised most of my runs of two or three, when  
 runs occurred. Search and Pounce yielded nothing. I  
 had worked all of the stations I could hear and the oth-  
 ers were Caribbean or South American. There were  
 many LU's and some LZ's ... So, I finished up Sunday  
 night and was glad it was over. Staying awake during  
 the dead spells was a problem.

W2CQ, Bill in Ft. Lauderdale (near the ocean), was the  
 loudest Florida station I worked. I could hear K9ES, al-  
 though weakly, for many hours, using his F1 key.

I wish I had a better effort to honor OJ, but I stayed at  
 the operating position the entire time and this was the  
 best I could do under the circumstances.

When I tried to work 40 meters EU after the contest, I  
 was QRM'd intentionally and mercilessly by two sta-  
 tions, one in particular, which prompted some nasty  
 comments from other stations to remove him. I did go

"listening up 1 and 2". This frustrated the QRM'r be-  
 cause he could not stop me from working stations. So  
 he clicked on his mike and xmitted over modulated  
 hash over 6 or 7 Khz for about 30 minutes. When it  
 stopped, I tried again, but he found me and clicked it on  
 again. I wrapped it up at that point. I might have  
 worked about 40 stations up to that point.  
 {end Kevin's comments}

All in all, a very successful operation, laying to rest our  
 nervousness at trying a complete departure from our  
 previous four years. We are already discussing plans  
 for next year.

## **The J70J Story** **A memorial to Jim White K4OJ**

*By George Wagner K5KG*

This trip to operate in Dominica, J7, began pretty much  
 like the seven others I have made. Two friends and I  
 had planned the trip over many months and we had ac-  
 counted for every detail and contingency. We had ob-  
 tained individual operating licenses and had been is-  
 sued a special contest call sign, J7A. We shipped  
 equipment ahead, and even had J7A shirts made for  
 the occasion. We were primed and equipped for any-  
 thing, or so we thought. What we were not prepared  
 for, however, was the distressing but courageous email  
 we received from Ellen White, W1YL, two days before  
 we were to depart. Ellen wrote,

*"Dear friends:*

*In September of 2002 K4OJ sat at this  
 computer and wrote a poignant obitu-  
 ary honoring his father, W1CW, who  
 had died that very morning.*

*On this afternoon of February 12, 2004,  
 it is my reluctant turn to sit here and tell  
 you that Jim did not survive yesterday's  
 surgery. He left us about 11:30 a.m.  
 this morning following liver failure after  
 the somewhat risky heart valve re-  
 placement.*

*Just this past weekend he had a tre-  
 mendous time operating the FOC  
 Marathon and producing a splendid ac-  
 counting of himself. This was just one  
 more achievement during his lifetime of  
 fun in and service to Amateur Radio  
 and, in particular, the Florida Contest  
 Group of which he was the first presi-  
 dent. His operating abilities were mani-  
 fest and he almost always the first one*

*to volunteer his help, in spite of his declining physical abilities.*

*I know many of you will share my loss.*

*Ellen, W1YL/4 "In"*

We, along with many others, were devastated at the news of Jim's passing. Tributes to his many accomplishments and overall ham spirit came from far and wide and continue even as I write this.

With our trip following this terrible news by only two days, we wanted to memorialize Jim as a part of our operation. We realized that getting a special "OJ" call sign would be difficult, if not impossible, at the last minute. We tried to think of other ways of recognizing Jim during the contest. Could we send a contest exchange that would include "OJ"? Should we send "GO OJ" at the end of each QSO? With these unanswered questions in the forefront of our thoughts, we left for Dominica as planned early on Valentine's Day morning.

The target contest for this trip was the 2004 ARRL DX CW Contest. My trip mates were John Bednar, K3TEJ, a veteran of fifteen Caribbean contest DXpeditions and John Colyard, W4IX, who had accompanied me to J7 in 2002 for the CQWW CW contest. Being devoted and passionate testers, K3TEJ from the Frankford Radio Club, and W4IX and I from the Florida Contest Group, our shared objective was to take first prize in the multi-two category.

We had shipped gear ahead via air freight, and what we would carry and check through in our luggage was planned down to the last connector and cable. One amplifier, three transceivers, three laptops, wire, coax, bandpass filters, keyers, paddles, tools, snacks and various odds and ends made up the complement. Advance emails alerted our Dominican host, Lambert Charles, J73LC, to have additional materials gathered for our arrival: power supplies, backup transceivers, transformers and, most of all, some tall bamboo poles. Lambert would secure our operating licenses and clear our air shipment through customs so it would be ready for pick up when we arrived.

Our trip via KP4 and arrival at the Melville Hall Airport in Dominica was uneventful, although our approach was delayed with a flyby due to local rain showers. The approach into Melville Hall in a two engine turboprop is always a thrill, to which anyone who has ever flown in there can attest. The field is on the eastern (Atlantic) side of the island where a 3000 ft airstrip runs across an open grassy field and ends at the road across from the beach. Dominica's terrain is very mountainous, which makes the approach into Melville Hall, let's say, interest-

ing. Since landings must be into the wind, and the prevailing winds are off the ocean from the east, aircraft must first fly westward inland toward a large, extinct volcano, make a left turn and their final approach to the east. The final 5 minutes – it seems like an hour - is down a narrow valley with palm trees whizzing by on hillsides higher than the aircraft, over a precipice, and finally onto the runway. A final sigh of relief is always in order. (Incidentally, a Boeing 727 lands there weekly with air freight from Miami. Seeing a 727 land and take off at Melville Hall is something you have to see to believe!)

As always, J73LC was there to greet us after a quick pass through immigration and customs. Unfortunately, W4IX's checked luggage did not make it. It was packed with radio equipment, but fortunately contained nothing essential for that night's operation. We expected the luggage to make it in on the next day's flight from KP4, which it did.

Our operating location in Dominica was Sea Cliff Cottages. Sea Cliff is an attractive collection of ham-friendly rental units owned by Gwen and Jim, a Canadian couple who winter there. Sea Cliff is located on a bluff 160 ft. above the Atlantic beach. Adjacent to the cottages is a large area of open land which eventually goes down to the beach and has many large palm trees suitable for the unhindered stringing of antennas.

I keep a certain amount of antennas and equipment stored at Sea Cliff so, upon arrival, the first chore was to unpack everything and get a C3 yagi erected. The C3 mounts on a collapsible aluminum pole along with an antique HD-73 rotor. Lambert has donated his A3 yagi to the cause, and that would be mounted later on a bamboo pole. By the time the C3 was up, it was dark and time for a visit to Domcan's restaurant in the local village of Calibishi and a drop by Gus's grocery store for grub and a supply of Kabuli, local 807s.

#### **J7OJ License Request**

At dinner, we told Lambert, about Jim, K4OJ, and how we wanted to memorialize him in our operation. I asked Lambert if it would be possible to get a special memorial call sign, J7OJ, to use solely in the contest. Lambert thought briefly about the request, and quickly said "done"; he would speak with the authorities about it. He asked that I write a request to the J7 licensing office explaining the reason for wanting a license with a special call sign. As I wrote that request the next day, I did not realize the emotional impact that using the J7OJ call would have on all who knew and loved Jim.

Following dinner, the next order of business was to get the luggage unpacked, a 746Pro setup and get on the air. We managed to erect a long 170 ft. Zepp high atop a bamboo pole in the dark. K3TEJ, who was now the proud owner of J79Z, spent a few hours that night and

again at sunrise on 20m, 30m, 40m and 80m running his first J7 pileups. His first QSO was with WA3IKQ on 20m CW at 0229Z on Feb 15, only 8 hours after arrival. By breakfast, he had nearly 300 QSOs in the log.

The next day was spent putting up an 160m inverted L, a 80m full wave loop, a 2 element 40m delta loop, a 12m full wave loop and the A3. Our 160m antenna was an inverted L with four raised radials. The vertical portion of the 160m radiator was connected from the same tie point as one corner of our 80m loop, which proved to be a constraint in our operation that I will discuss later.

My secret ingredient in J7 for erecting wire antennas quickly and efficiently is Donford, a young man and cousin of Lambert who climbs palm trees. Over the past two years, I have had Donford install stainless steel hooks and sailboat-grade pulleys in the tops of several palm trees. Now, to install wire antennas, up the trees he goes with Kevlar cords which he simply threads through the pulleys and comes back down again. With this arrangement, we are able to put up wire antennas in fairly short order. Donford works as an electrician and has a good understanding of what it takes to assemble and take down our setups, so he has proven to be a great help. He has also developed a keen interest in ham radio, and will sit for hours with headphones on listening to us run CW pileups. Of course, he doesn't understand the CW, but he definitely follows the rhythm of the QSOs as evidenced by his excitement when someone comes back to a CQ! I have begun to teach him the code. He seems to have good aptitude for it, so I am hopeful that we are planting the seeds for a future J73. One afternoon, I set him up with a keyer and a paddle, and he sat there sending givver-ish for over an hour, and enjoyed every dit and dah of it

Once the wire antennas were up, checked out and all coax cables labeled, it was time to assemble and erect the A3. The bamboo that Lambert cut out of the jungle for us was the biggest piece of bamboo we had ever seen. It was some 40 ft. tall and about 6 inches in diameter at the base. (A bit of trivia: bamboo is the world's tallest and fastest growing grass.) The A3 was attached at the 35 ft. level with the bamboo lying horizontal. With the help of the three of us plus two other men whom we commandeered to help, we managed to walk-up the bamboo and secure it to the water tank structure at the back of the cottage. While walking it up, the weight of the A3 caused the bamboo to flex into a substantial bend, but it didn't break and once it got high enough, the bamboo snapped upright and into place where it stayed for the next 9 days, winds and all. A screwdriver was driven through the bamboo and used as an armstrong rotator to turn the A3.

The final chore was assembly of the additional stations — two 756Pro2s, an AL 572 amp, an Acom 1000

amp and related bandpass filters, wattmeters and keyers. W4IX, now operating as J79JRC, was next to be QRV, with his first QSO with W4DF on 15m CW at 1831z. I was the last one to get on the air, and the first J75KG QSO of this trip was with AI4DW on 12m CW at 1929z, approximately 24 hours after arrival. This was Sunday, and we would continue to operate as J79Z, J79JRC and J75KG around the clock as much as sleep and hunger would permit until Wednesday morning.

We had arranged to take a tour of the island on Wednesday with Lambert. This turned out to be a wonderful day, and gave us an excellent idea of the many natural attractions that make Dominica the Nature Isle. A highlight was swimming into Titou Gorge, a freshwater underground river high in the mountains. The swim ends at a large waterfall deep inside a cave, at which point you can't go any further. The water in the cave was cold but, upon emerging, we were treated to a bath in another waterfall, this one of naturally warm water coming out of the mountain. The swim at Titou Gorge was at dusk which added to an overall blending of out of the ordinary sensations — swimming in a dark cave, cold water, a rushing loud waterfall, warm water and cold air.

#### **J7OJ License Is Issued**

On Thursday, we were back to our favorite pastime, operating. Lambert phoned us in the afternoon to tell us that we had been issued J7OJ, and that we could immediately begin to use it. We were very pleased at this wonderful news. We had chosen, however, to restrict the use of J7OJ to the contest and, furthermore, to keep it a secret until we would go public with it in the contest. There was one exception. We wanted Ellen to know in advance about the J7OJ license. I had my xyl, Kay, phone Ellen about an hour before the contest to tell her about it. For Ellen, and ultimately many contesters, J7OJ was a complete and overwhelming surprise!

Once we knew that J7OJ had been issued, we decided to do an on-the-air trial run of our station using J7A in a multi-two mockup beginning 24 hours before the start of the actual contest. This would not only be a test of the RF components of our stations, but a test of our use of WriteLog, the laptop network, our ability to communicate among ourselves, and a way to understand what propagation might be like on 15m through 160m some 24 hours later. In a message relayed to Tom, K5RC, we told him of our intentions and asked him to post this on the CQ-Contest reflector. We ran the test, beginning on 15m and 20m and, in the subsequent six hours, worked our way down to 160m and bagged an average of 266 per hour for a total of 1593 QSOs. Everything worked well.

Friday was spent running more DX pileups, but we did nothing strenuous that would take away from our stamina for the contest. Being the "station engineer", I decide that W4IX and K3TEJ would be the opening operators for the contest. That would leave me free to respond to problems. Fortunately, none came up at the beginning, so I was able to get some sleep, or at least think about sleep. (Who can sleep with contest adrenaline flowing?)

### J7OJ Contest Operation

The contest started off well and continued rather smoothly for the entire 48 hours. We were very pleased to work Ellen in the first hour. During the contest, many stations signed off with a "Go OJ" instead of the characteristic "TU".

Late on Saturday evening, the 220 vac that was powering our operation abruptly dropped to 175 volts. Lights dimmed and keying relays refused to activate, which prevented the amps from keying. Not realizing what was happening, we shut off the amps. Seeing that the voltage was low, but stable, we cautiously turned the amps back on and resumed a barefoot operation. I recall watching the high voltage on the AL 572, which had dropped to about 1500 vdc, slowly climb back to normal. At some point, the amps began to key again, and the lights returned to their usual brilliance. Within 15 minutes, everything was back to normal; this was the only power "glitch" in our entire 10 days of operation. (A standby 5 kW generator was ready and tested for us to use in the event of a power failure. It was only a crank away, but we never needed it.)

At about 6 a.m. on contest Sunday morning, the VSWR went high on the 160m antenna. I stumbled out in the dark with a flashlight and found that the end of the inverted L had fallen out of the tree; about one foot of the end of the wire was totally burned off. The wire had been connected to a cord with a plastic egg insulator which had melted through, causing it to fall out of the tree. We figured that the end of the wire was at a very high potential - we were running about 1 kW at the time - and with the morning dampness, there must have been an arc over to the cord, thereby causing the plastic to melt. So much for plastic insulators.

### J7OJ Results

We were quite pleased with our results since we proved to be fairly competitive with much larger Caribbean stations with permanent antenna installations. (We were essentially a field day operation.) The score we reported to the ARRL was 8,026,200 points from 7,644 QSOs and 350 multipliers. This put us in fourth place among the preliminary results reported from all non-W/VE multi-two stations - PJ2T, FS5UQ, PJ4R and J7OJ. Actually, there is only a 180 thousand point spread (2.2% ) among these top four stations, so it will be very interesting to see the standings once log checking is complete and the final results are tabulated

With the motto of the Florida Contest Group being MULTIPLIERS ARE, we paid particular attention to working as many band-sections as possible throughout the contest. It is possible that our constant attention to multipliers cost us some QSOs. However, the 350 sections in our log are first among all other non-W/VE stations that have reported, proving without a doubt that MULTIPLIERS ARE!

Writelog and the network connection between the two laptops performed faultlessly; they provided the vital link between the operators that facilitated the passing of multipliers. We were successful in moving many stations and in making skeds to get needed sections into the log. Here are some interesting findings about our multipliers:

- Clean sweeps on 80m through 10m, with the exception of four sections not worked on any band - LB, NWT, YT, YU
- Sections not worked on 160M - DC, ND, NB, LB, MB, NWT, YT, NU
- Sections worked only once on some bands - AB, AR, DC, ID, MT, NB, ND, NE, NV, PEI, QC, SD, SK, WY
- PEI was worked 6 times, but only once on each band!

In addition to 7644 QSOs, we had an additional 398 dupes, or 5.2%, which we felt was high. This was, no doubt, partially due to bad packet spots. Dave, K1TTT, ran a packet spot analysis for us and reported the following

Call spotted	Nr. Spots
J7OJ	248
J7ØJ	20
J7OM	1
J7OA	1
J7JZ	1
J7ØJ/BUST	1

During 14 out of the 48 contest hours, we had rates in excess of 205/hr. Our best rates were 315/hr and 314/hr during the 1500z and 1900z hours, respectively, on Saturday. Lowest rates, averaging 64/hr, were from 0800z to 1100z on both Saturday and Sunday.

Although we had an excellent start — on time and without incident — we did not achieve the initial rates that we had hoped for. K3TEJ declared before the contest that we must get a running start, and he expected that we would get at least 1000 QSOs in the

first three hours. In actuality, we only managed to log 830 QSOs in the first three hours. We started on 15m and 20m and, by the third hour, had transitioned to 80m, 160m and 40m. K3TEJ later wrote, "Had we done the 1000 q's in the first 3 hours as I projected, we would have been number 2 at this point. I knew at the end of 3 hours that we were not off to a rip roaring start that I always feel is necessary to set the quick pace for the entire contest."

K3TEJ also added, "Our other weak point was Saturday morning when the US was busy running and beaming Europe. Look at our rates for those hours, they [... bleep...]. I just couldn't get a run going no matter what I tried. I got so desperate I was answering CQ's because a low rate is better than no rate! Those few poor hours are what really hurt us. The rest of the time we were crankin' em out."

Being a multi-two operation, we constantly had to decide which two bands would yield the best rates. During the day, the trade off was among 10m, 15m and 20m. Our set up permitted the two operators to choose any combination of these bands to work at any point in time. We were fortunate to have no inter-station interference. The evening hours were a different story, however. As mentioned earlier, our 160m inverted L was hung from one of the same tree supports as a corner of the 80m loop. Because of the close proximity of these two antennas, we could not be on 80m and 160m at the same time. We were therefore relegated to having one station on 80m or 160m and the other on 40m or 20m. From about 0600z to 1000z each night, 20m was "slim pickins" and 40m rates dropped off significantly. There were times we needed to be on 160m and 80m concurrently and we simply couldn't. (Curiously enough, I planned for one station to work only 80m or 160m and the other to work only 40m or 20m during the nighttime hours. My assumption that a combination of 40m and 20m would be productive all night long was flawed.)

### Conclusion

We were saddened by the passing of a great contester, Jim White, K4OJ. His presence will be felt in our hobby for many years to come. We were honored to be able to pay a tribute to his good works and his life through an operation which offered an "OJ" to the world once again.

73, George Wagner, K5KG / J75KG  
K5kg@arrl.net



*George J75KG*



*Above: John J79JRC*

*Below: John J79Z*



**And, of Course, the Support Team**



*John K3TEJ, Donford and John W4IX*



*Gwenneth makes sure K3TEJ is properly fueled for contesting*

*Ed Note: Ellen W1YL requested I add a note that she will be attending contest activities at Dayton this year.. She will bring K4OJ Commemorative Badges with her, saying "The Florida Contest Group Remembers K4OJ" . As I write this It appears that we will have a good turnout of FCGers at Dayton.*

**NP4Z works ARRL SSB as 6Y4OJ**

Shortly before the ARRL DX SSB Contest a note was sent to the FCG Reflector from Felipe NP4Z saying that he had been issued the call 6Y4OJ for the contest.

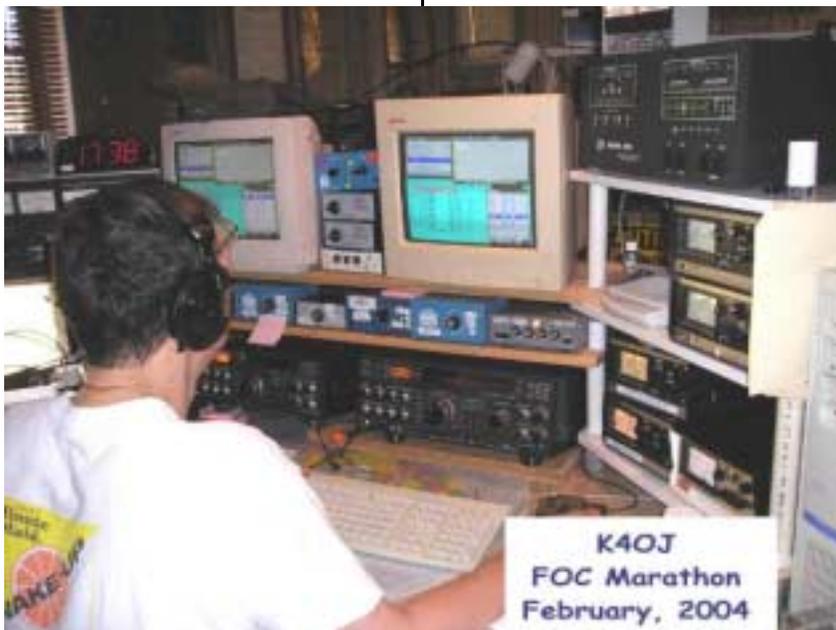
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*And, to wrap up this issue....*

*Left:  
Jim K4OJ working his last contest, the FOC Marathon Feb 6-8*

*It was my privilege to work him on 6 bands during that event.*

*Fred K4LQ*