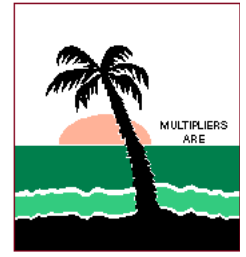




Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

www.floridacontestgroup.org



Volume 15 Issue 1

March 2008

From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO



Sadly, 2008 kicked off with us losing long-time member Jordan, WB2QLP and past member John, W4AI, plus the tragedy that took the life of Shannon Harps, the daughter of members Ron, K8NZ and Angela, KC8FOD. A friend to many members, Laci, W1PL also passed away recently. Our e-mail reflector has passed along more information on each, and in this issue is some more background on Jordan and John. February marked the 4th anniversary of the passing of FCG founder and chief FQP cheerleader Jim White, K4OJ. Our thoughts and support continue to go out to each surviving family and friend.

Despite the official arrival of sunspot Cycle 24, band conditions have been pretty rough this season. Nonetheless, the FCG fielded a solid level of activity this contest season. Thanks to all of you who persevered in order to boost the club total! You'll find long lists of scores for SS, ARRL 10 and ARRL DX CW in this issue. Bob, N4BP went away twice – to John, NP2B and Jeannette, NP2C's place for SS CW, then to C6AKQ for ARRL DX. Kevin, K4PG and Fred, K9VV accompanied Bob to C6 in Feb and all 3 had bang-up single-band efforts. A group that included Charlie, NF4A and Paul, N4PN (but not George, K5KG) activated J7DX for ARRL DX. Bill, K4XS, who does not profess to know the code, did pretty darned well despite that with his single band 40 effort (and followed that up with an even more impressive effort on 20 SSB last weekend).

Many other contests have taken place in recent months, including a number with substantial FCG participation – ARRL 160, Stew Perry, CQ 160s, NAQPs, RTTY Roundup, January VHF, NA Sprints and ARRL SSB come immediately to mind! In last year's ARRL SSB, the Florida advantage on 15 led to an advantage of hundreds of QSOs. No such opening this year, but we did still have a few interesting moments of propagation. At 2130Z Sunday, K1TO was reported in Italy to be 4+ S-units louder than anyone else from the USA on 20 SSB. How many others were on at that same time to exploit the advantage? Another neat opening on 20 that nobody to the north apparently had was to the South Pacific after midnight. The volume of VK foundation license QSOs on 40 for some of the big stations was quite impressive and made up for a pretty dismal opening to Europe.

Amazing FCG attendance at Orlando! With the Miami Hamboree no longer on the calendar, many from SE FL head up for this one. The central location draws in FCGers from all corners of the state and we had nearly 100 of us there, with the majority attending the luncheon/meeting. Full details later in this issue.

Time flies. FQP 2008 is only 7 weeks away! Please make sure you have some time set aside on April 26-27 to activate your county during the FCG's biggest activity of the year! Plaques, certificates

and the write-up for FQP 2007 are being taken of. FQP 2007 log submissions set a new high water mark of 778 and the number of county sweeps was close to an all-time high, despite it being essentially a 2-band weekend! Wait until you see some of the 40-meter totals!

CQ WPX results are just out and the FCG posted a VERY impressive #4 USA finish, closer to #3 than we've ever been! Since the FCG now sponsors the plaque for Top USA Multi-Two on each mode, perhaps you'd like to host, or operate at, a M/2 this year. Single ops are limited to 36 of the 48 hours, but multi-ops can operate the full time. I expect our friends at HI3C to mount a big multi-op effort again this year.

This weekend, there are no less than 15 contests on the list, including 2 sponsored by FCGers -- the SOC Marathon Sprint and Idaho QSO Party! No wonder Senor Tally decided to step aside just in time! Mega-kudos to Frank, K4EJ for his relentless score tracking efforts, and now to Fred, K9VV for picking up while Frank is away.

Welcome to our new members and welcome back to several returning members! Kudos again to Marsha Burke, KJ4CBE who just 3 weeks ago passed her Tech at Orlando and now passed her General already. Perhaps by the time this newsletter reaches you, she'll be an Extra!

Now that we are over 200 members, we can continue to think like a large club. Many of the large clubs have an appointed individual to track scores towards internal awards of some sort.

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I like the idea of not just awarding the top scorers, but more importantly recognizing the Rookie of the Year, Most Improved Player, Comeback Player of the Year, etc to steal sports analogies. Several have approached me about this general idea, so let's get the ideas flowing and get something implemented this year, pending a volunteer to do that tracking.

Any volunteers to find a spot to host an FCG meeting on the weekend of April 12-13? Our Okeechobee BBQ spot is not an option for this year.

I don't usually comment on DXpeditions, this being a contest club and all. But the VP6DX operation warrants at least a quick note, since they managed to weave a major expedition into several contests without completely disrupting them, and set the all-time DXpedition QSO record. Their web site shows the first 100 stations to work them on all band/mode combos and there are at least 9 FL stations on that list.

A reminder that our very own FloridaContestGroup.org web site has a very solid list of Links that should be part of your regular contest reading. I would emphasize 3830, CQ-Contest and radio-sport.net as three of the best links. Also, make sure to subscribe to the bi-weekly Contest Rate Sheet if you are an ARRL Member. The prolific and incredibly talented Ward, N0AX manages to edit that one and there is a tremendous amount of helpful information in there. Don't miss it!

How many of you have already obtained a CW Skimmer? Usage of Skimmers is multiplying almost as fast as Cuban Tree Frogs do here in Florida and both seem to be choking off "normal" life. Still, this technology is with us to stay and we must figure out how best to adapt, including whether to regulate its usage during our FQP.

Have any members heard or worked Reidar, YI9PT yet? He is active on most HF bands, including 20 which I would guess as the most likely band to work him on.

With Daylight Savings Time kicking in this weekend, even us working fools should be able to find time in the evenings now for antenna work! What are *your* plans for upgrading your station? Need some help? Just ask!

Go FCG! OJ and vy 73, Dan, K1TO



A picture from Charlie K1XX shows FCG to be very much in evidence at his ARRL DX SSB M/S operation with W1MD as V26X in Antigua last weekend.

Content credits for this Issue: K4EJ, K1NSS, K1TO, W4ZW, W1MO, K4LQ, NF4A, K9ES, ARASWF Newsletter, ARRL Contest Rate Sheet, ARRL Letter.

Welcome Aboard



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

N3ND - Dan Atchison, 308 Celtic Court, Oviedo FL 32765
e-mail: N3ND@aol.com

K4CVL - Mike Ryan, 3828 Commonwealth Rd., Palmetto FL 34221 e-mail: mryan001@tampabay.rr.com

W4QN - Norm Alexander, 18883 SE Jupiter River Drive, Jupiter FL 33458 e-mail: w4qn@bellsouth.net

K4XS - Bill Kollenbaum, PO Box 490, Laupahoe, HI 96764
e-mail cqtestk4xs@aol.com Bill will contest from KH7XS or KH7B.

KH7YL - Holly Kollenbaum - PO Box 490, Laupahoe, HI 96764

K4FB - Paul Womble, PO Box 873, Highland City FL 33846 e-mail: pwomble@tampabay.rr.com

KJ4UY - Melanie Wolf, 3528 Oak Grove Court, Haines City FL e-mail: mello1@tampabay.rr.com

KJ4CBE - Marsha Burke, 1102 S 9th Street, Leesburg FL 34748 e-mail: mburkefl@comcast.net

KI4OFU - Mike Oliver, 8008 Apache Ln, Lakeland FL 33810 e-mail: ki4ofu@arrl.net

K4PBY - Chuck Jones, 522 Carolina Ave., St. Cloud FL 34769 e-mail: 407-892-2105

KI4RBY - James H. Armstrong, 401 Capeador St NW, Palm Bay FL 32907 e-mail: Unresolved

Events Calendar

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 29 to 2359Z, Mar 30

Georgia QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 12 to 0359Z, Apr 13 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 13

Florida QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 26 to 0159Z, Apr 27 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 27

Correction: W4SO's score did not appear in the Gazette listing of CQWWCW Scores. Scott ran SO 20M HP. HE had 34 Z 136 C for a score of 533,888 in 25 hours.

ARRL November SS CW Claimed Scores

Station	Score	QSOs	Sect	Class	Section	HRS	Operator(s), Comments
N4PJ	35,916	246	73	SO QRP ALL	NFL		
W4EE	41,464	284	73	SO LP UNLIM	SFL	15.0	
KT4Q	15,552	144	54	SO LP UNLIM	NFL	9.0	
WJ9B	170,324	1078	79	SO LP ALL	NFL	24.0	
WD4AHZ	98,252	638	77	SO LP ALL	WCF	18.0	
N4LF	60,000	400	75	SO LP ALL	SFL	11.5	
W4ZW	54,300	363	75	SO LP ALL	WCF	5.2	golf is good !
K4GKD	51,324	329	78	SO LP ALL	WCF	9.0	
W4LT	49,248	342	72	SO LP ALL	WCF	12.6	
W4KPG	19,650	131	75	SO LP ALL	SFL	12.0	
K4PG	18,368	165	56	SO LP ALL	SFL		
KT4PD	6,480	81	40	SO LP ALL	SFL	5.1	
N4WO	960	24	20	SO LP ALL	NFL	2.5	
NP2B	180,00	1125	80	SO HP UNLIM	VI	22.4	N4BP
N4EEB	131,722	833	79	SO HP UNLIM	NFL	24.0	
W1MD	104,960	656	80	SO HP UNLIM	SFL	13.5	DX-88 vertical
K4PB	48,000	300	80	SO HP UNLIM	SFL		
N4WW	205,920	1287	80	SO HP ALL	NFL	24.0	WQ5W
N4TB	168,586	1067	79	SO HP ALL	WCF	21.5	SO2R
K1PT	87,680	548	80	SO HP ALL	SFL	10.0	
W4ARM	76,908	493	78	SO HP ALL	SFL	10.8	
K4LQ	70,200	450	78	SO HP ALL	WCF	15.0	
W7QF	43,878	309	71	SO HP ALL	NFL	8.3	
W4ZE	5,520	69	40	SO HP ALL	SFL		
K2EUH	248			SO HP ALL	WCF		
W4GAC	85,280	533	80	Multi-Single	WCF	24.0	KI4SNS, KP2N, KR4U, N1XX,
Total:	1,830,492						

ARRL November SS SSB Claimed Scores

Station	Score	QSOs	Sect	Class	Section	HRS	Operator(s), Comments
NF4A	74,796	542	69	SO UNLIMITED	NFL	8.4	First contest from new home
N2NL	65,440	409	80	SO UNLIMITED	SFL	6.0	80m stayed long
W4EE	28,470	219	65	SO UNLIMITED	SFL	10.5	TS-440S, G5RV & R7000
N4KK	22,400	161	70	SO UNLIMITED	SFL		K9VV, opr
KT4PD	11,550	105	55	SO UNLIMITED	SFL	8.8	IC-756 F12 Flagpole
W4LT	114,268	742	77	SO LP ALL	WCF	21.8	N1MM Logger V7.10.12
K4GKD	41,272	268	77	SO LP ALL	WCF	9.0	N1MM Logger V7.10.7
K4PG	3,696	56	33	SO LP ALL	SFL		N1MM Logger V7.5.10
K1TO	10,530	117	45	SO LP 40m	WCF	1.0	
KT4Q	6,536	76	43	SO LP 40m	NFL	3.0	
W4ARM	16,506	131	63	SO LP 20m	SFL	5.0	
K4PV	217,920	1362	80	SO HP ALL	NFL	23.5	N1MM Logger V6.7.5
N4BP	187,356	1201	78	SO HP ALL	SFL		Elecraft K3, AL-1500
N6AR	91,630	595	77	SO HP ALL	NFL	8.0	N1MM Logger V7.10.7
N4PJ	45,600	300	76	SO HP ALL	NFL		N1MM Logger V7.8.7
WF3C	37,816	326	58	SO HP ALL	SFL	5.5	at W4MLB/Writelog
W7QF	23,736	172	69	SO HP ALL	NFL	6.3	N1MM
W4ZW	570	19	15	SO HP ALL	WCF	0.5	N1MM Logger V7.1.7
K4FAU	45,360	324	70	S - Coll/Univ	SFL		KI4WFJ, W4RIS @ FAU club stn
W4GAC	97,120	607	80	Multi-Single	WCF		KB9LXM, KP2N, KR4U, N1XX, N2ESP
NJ4M	65,758	427	77	Multi-Single	WCF	23.0	N4OJ, W4CU, W4HNQ, WB2SUN KI4PJB, KI4PJC, WD4AHZ at KI4LNU
Total:	1,208,330						

Orlando Hamfest Meeting Report

By Dan Street K1TO

The FCG once again held its Orlando Hamcation meeting off site. Attendance overflowed the Golden Corral meeting room!



67 attendees included Members: AD4Z, AF4Z, HI3CCP, K1RQ, K1XX, K2EUH, K4LQ, K4PB, K4PG, K4QD, K5AUP, K5KG, K9ES, N4EK & XYL KD4BRJ, KC4HW, KI4RBY, KR4U & XYL KC4YAW, N4BP, N4EEB & XYL Tracy, N4GI, N4IG, N4KM, N4LZ, N4PJ & XYL Marsha, N4RI, N4WO, W0CN, W1MO, W1YL, W3TB, W4AMS, W4CU & XYL Joy, W4EIP, W4KPG & Peggy, W4LT, W4QM, W4SAA, W4STB & OM W4DKB, W4TBB & XYL KG4TPZ, W4TV, W4YA, W4ZW, WA4EEZ, WC4E, WF3C & Dad WA4FJK, WJ9B, WK2G, WO4D and Guests: AC8W & XYL KA8AMX, HI3LFE, K8DD, KE4MMI, KL7MF, W5JAY & XYL WQ5T, Johnny (friend of KC4HW)

30 others spotted at the hamfest but not at the meeting: AB4GO, AI4QY, K1PT & KD1BG, K4RX, K9VV, KI4PJC, KJ4UY & K4JUY, KP2N, N4KW, N4OO, N4WW, N8PR, NP2B, W1RG, W3AZD & WB3ANE, W4DN, W4EEQ, W4IR, W4OV, W4QG, W4UM & W4SLR, WA4AW & K3PGH, WC4H, WD4AHZ and WW4E.

Applause was given for Jim, W4YA who once again secured the reservation at the Golden Corral. (Given the attendance, perhaps a larger facility is in order for 2009!)

Dan spoke for a few minutes about Reidar, K2PT who joined the FCG last year. Reidar (aka Radar) is a US Marine now serving in Iraq who was able to get licensed as YI9PT. Thanks to Dan, W0CN for posting some information afterward about the YI9PT web site. Reidar's Stepp-IR arrived this week and he is looking for contributions towards an amplifier to be shipped over soon. Loud applause for Reidar ensued for his efforts on behalf of the USA.

Dan passed along comments from Ron, K8NZ who expressed gratitude at the outpouring of sympathy and support after his daughter Shannon was murdered in Seattle on New Year's Eve.

Jon, W4ZW kindly took on the task of photographing the entire group present. Jon posted his pictures to <http://www.flickr.com/groups/fcg2008>

Fred, K4LQ updated the group...

"Treasury status - \$4353.56"

"W1CW / K4OJ Memorial Fund - \$1530"

"We finished 2006 with 187 members, 2007 with 210 members. As of today we have 213 members. Right now, we have 55 members that have not yet paid dues. At the end of this month we will delete unpaid members from the roster. I will publish a list of deleted members on the reflector. I have asked for anyone moving out of state or quitting the club for any reason to let me know. I've heard nothing from anyone."

"We currently have honorary members in HI, HS, KP4, OM6, V44, VQ9 and YI. I will be sending an e-mail this week to our stateside members who have left FL inviting them to retain their membership on an honorary basis - no dues. We currently have members in AL, GA and HI."

"Thanks to members for their continued high level of contributions to the newsletter. Hope to have the next issue out by the end of the month."

Members attending their first meeting were asked to take a minute to describe their station and contesting interests. N4WO, K2EUH, KI4RBY, W4CU, WA4EEZ, KR4U and K5AUP all spoke to the group.

Art, N4PJ's wife Marsha passed her Technician exam the morning of the hamfest and is interested in learning CW, among other things. Applause ensued.

Guests included a group from our Mad River Radio Club friends that was headed to a rental QTH in PZ5 for a multi-op in ARRL CW. Other planned FCG operations for ARRL CW were single-band efforts in C6 by N4BP on 160 as C6AHQ, K4PG on 80 as C6APG and K9VV on 40 as C6AHU, plus a group going to J7 that included N4PN and NF4A. K1XX announced that he and W1MD are headed to V26X for an ARRL SSB M/S.

TallyMan duties seem to be peaking with no less than 13 contests the weekend of the meeting! Several members are operating the WPX RTTY.

FQP plaques for 2007 are being made, but were not quite available in time to be presented at the meeting. Those present at the meeting who sponsored plaques were individually recognized with applause. WC4E noted that FQP certificates should be out soon.

George, K5KG handed out cards for the club apparel supplier in Sarasota - StitchinWaves. Dan pointed out several shirts in the crowd that have the new and improved logo on which the water is actually blue. Info is also available on the FCG web page. George also had QSL cards on hand from his FB effort at E51 back in November.

He applauded the efforts of Julio HI3A who worked him on 6 bands when George was at E51.

Jim, KC4HW presented the plaque for the top club score in the Alabama QSO Party, amazingly won by the FCG. Jim has done a super job in vastly improving the AQP and also

getting the Alabama Contest Group going in a big way.

Tatino, HI3CCP spoke briefly to the group about his FB station on Loma del Toro in the Dominican Republic and invited members to come over to operate there. Others from the D.R. at the Orlando meeting included Lorenzo, HI3LFE and two ladies from the Indotel licensing authority – Patria Heredia and Carmen Rodriguez.

Ted, W3TB brought up the concept of an “internal FQP” and posted a follow-up note to the club reflector which spawned some good ideas for club activities.

Dan asked for a show of hands from those who listened for the 40 Meter moonbounce echoes from the HAARP station in Alaska. Only a few had listened this time around. Radar was a prevalent theme at the meeting.

Joe, W4SAA is working on a location in Okeechobee County for an April FCG meeting. The FCG has met at Camp Grace the past two years, but that facility is not available this year. Since the meeting, Joe was unable to find a suitable location with a covered meeting area and picnic/cooking facilities, so we are looking for other volunteers to locate an April meeting site.

73, Dan

Meeting Photos by Jon W4ZW

(In high resolution at www.flickr.com/groups/fcg2008)



K2EUH



K4PB



K1RQ



W4YA



K4QD



K4LQ



WJ9B



N4GI



W3TB



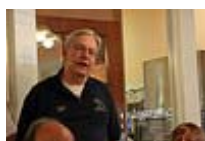
KC4HW



Guest



WO4D



KR4U



WA4EEZ



K4PG



K5KG N4BP



K8DD K1XX



N4WO W4AMS W4SAA



W4TV N4LZ



Marsha N4PJ



K1TO W4STB



WQ5T W5JAY



AC8W KA8AMX



WF3C WA4FJK



N4EK KD4BRJ



W1MO W4QM



W4TBB Tracy & N4EEB



KL7MF W1YL



WC4E K5AUP



W4KPG Peggy



K9ES



Group



**L-R HI3CCP
HI3LFE
HI3A/AD4Z**



**Jim KC4HW
awards the
plaque for high-
est scoring club
in the Alabama
QSO Party to
Dan K1TO**



**Dan K1TO
conducts the
meeting.**

W1MO's Towers Are Up!

Had a note from Norm W1MO to let us know that his two new towers are up. Norm said "Blake N4GI blew into town and tore through my tower woes like a tornado"!

These are AB-105 towers built with tower sections from W4AI's station building project.



Two 70-footers with Phillystran guys. SteppIR on one, nothing on the other (yet).



From the bottom up

Jordan Mash, WB2QLP SK

Longtime Member Jordan Mash WB2QLP passed away on February 15, 2008. The Memoriam paragraph and picture below is taken from the Amateur Radio of Southwest Florida (ARASWF) February newsletter.

IN MEMORIAM

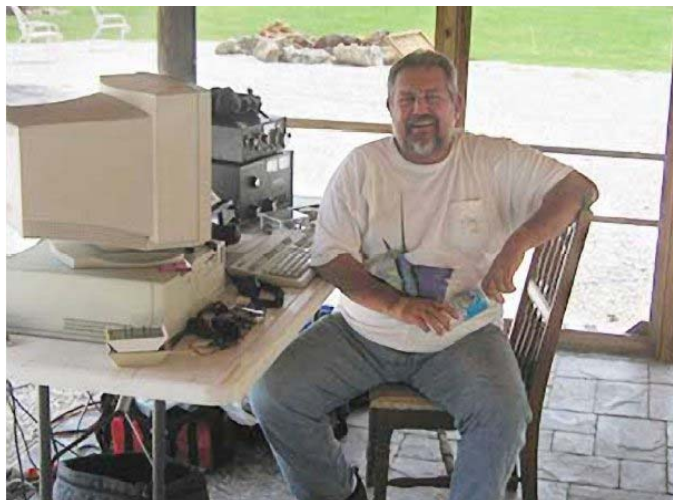
It is with great sadness that we have to announce the passing of Jordan Mash WB2QLP. His passing will be a great loss to all members of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida, as well as the entire Amateur Radio Community.

Jordan died peacefully in the early morning hours of February 15, 2008 at Naples Community Hospital from complications from cancer. His mother, Freida, was present with Jordan at the time of his passing. As you all know, Jordan was a lifelong Radio Amateur and Life Member of ARASWF, who made many contributions to our fraternity.

Services will be held in Long Island, New York on Tuesday February 19th 2008 at 12:00 pm at Gutterman's Funeral Home in Rockville Center. Rabbi Chiger will preside at the services.

Jordan's mother, Frieda, will be sitting shiva for the week following the services.

In lieu of flowers, Frieda has requested that donations be made to the American Cancer Society in the name of Jordan Mash WB2QLP.



John Beck, W4AI SK

Former Member John R. Beck, W4AI passed away at a Sebring nursing home on Feb 11, 2008. He was 89.

John was originally licensed as W6MHB in San Francisco. In 1955 he went on his first DXpedition to Cocos Island as TI9MHB.

The following year he joined RCA on the Air Force Eastern Test Range, where he worked as a Resident Engineer on many of the tracking stations. During this assignment he held the calls VP7BT on Eleuthera Island, VQ9J in the Seychelles, ZD8J on Ascension, and VP2A and VP2AAA on Antigua.

After he left the Range he worked with RCA Alaskom in Alaska where he held the call KL7AI. He retired from RCA in Alaska and returned to FL where he was licensed as K4LIV then W4AI. He also spent a year in Brazil as PY1ZFO.

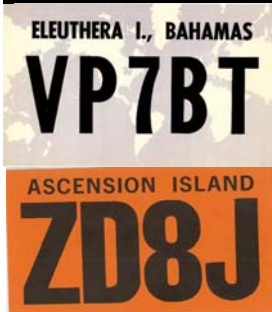
John was an avid DXer and contester, and had worked all but two countries. He is best remembered in the contesting world for his two # 1 World placements in CQWW DX CW Contests in 1966 and 1967 as ZD8J. He also had some outstanding scores in many ARRL DX CW contests from his DX locations.

He was most proud of a number of letters he had received from contest sponsors over the years attesting to the quality of his logs. John logged all his contests in pencil, then retyped them on a typewriter for submission.

John moved to Sebring in 1992 with plans to build a contest station with three 140 ft towers, stacked yagis on the HF bands and substantial antennas on the low bands. Unfortunately his health failed before he was able to complete this project. He entered a nursing home in October 2004.

Today many FCGers are using equipment from John's station building project. John is gone but his equipment continues to be used not only in Florida, but at DX locations ranging from Hawaii to Scotland

RIP old friend! Fred K4LQ



L-R Fred K4LQ, John W4AI, Dale W4QM in front of a truckload of W4AI tower sections etc. headed to Miami for trans shipment to GM3POI in September 2004.

Left - John at VP7BT In 1956



Below - John at VP2AAA in 1980



Above: John's plaque for winning # 1 World in CQWW CW in 1967 with 1,616,873 points.

In 1966 he also won # 1 world in the same contest with 1,597,726 points, which earned him the Larry LeKashman W9IOP Cup.

J7DX Pictures

Operators Jim/WI9WI, Don/W9IU, Kevin/WN9O, Paul/N4PN and Charlie/NF4A were active as J79WI, J79IU, J79KM, J79PN and J79PC, respectively, between February 11-19th.

They also were active as J7DX in the ARRL DX CW Contest as a Multi-Multi entry. QSL J7DX via W9IU and all others via their home callsigns.

Charlie NF4A sent along the pictures below



*20M Monobander on a freshly cut bamboo pole
Below: NF4A/J79PC on 40M during the contest.*



*L-R Redman the official chewing tobacco and
Kubuli the official beer of J7DX*

FCGers at Skywarn Recognition day



*Above - Seated at console of WX4NHC at The
National Hurricane Center - Fred K9VV and Lisa
W4LIS Just behind Lisa and to her right is Julio
WD4R*



*L-R Scott KT4PD and Eric K9ES at WX4MLB
(Melbourne NWS Site)*

ARRL DX CW Claimed Scores

Station Claimed	QSOs	MULTS		Class	Section	HRS
		DX				
W4YA	29,016	156	62	SOHP - 40m	NFL	5.8
K1UM	27,918	141	66	SOHP - 80m	NFL	
WJ9B	1,508,100	1832	275	SOHP - ALL	NFL	40.0
N4KW	284,085	536	177	SOHP - ALL	NFL	16.0
N4LZ	86,760	241	120	SOHP - ALL	NFL	19.0
W7QF	50,490	170	99	SOHP - ALL	NFL	4.5
K9OM	1,177,200	1308	300	SOHP - ALL(A)	NFL	25.6
N4WW	578,460	622	310	SOHP - ALL(A)	NFL	
W4AA	56,700	180	105	SOLP - ALL	NFL	
N4EK	56,055	185	101	SOLP - ALL	NFL	
N3ND	52,938	173	102	SOLP - ALL	NFL	
N4WO	25,080	110	76	SOLP - ALL	NFL	10.6
W4FDA	28,800	120	80	SOQRP - 20m(A)	NFL	6.0
KN4Y	168,858	354	159	SOLP - ALL	NFL-P	26.3
K9ES	17,496	108	54	SOHP - 40m	SFL	4.0
NA4CW	27,594	146	63	SOHP - 80m	SFL	9.0
W4QM	530,020	732	245	SOHP - ALL	SFL	22.0
K4ADR				SOHP - ALL	SFL	
K1PT	708,864	833	284	SOHP - ALL(A)	SFL	15.0
K4PB	445,410	606	245	SOHP - ALL(A)	SFL	28.0
W4ARM	13,356	106	42	SOLP - 40m	SFL	
N4LF	101,394	262	129	SOLP - ALL	SFL	8.5
K4MM	91,332	236	129	SOLP - ALL(A)	SFL	
KT4PD	36,156	131	92	SOLP - ALL(A)	SFL	7.5
W4ZW	394,128	556	238	SOHP - ALL	WCF	14.1
N4TB	55,257	163	113	SOHP - ALL	WCF	8.0
K2EUH	20,304	72		SOHP - ALL	WCF	10.8
K4LQ	558,279	713	261	SOHP - ALL((A)	WCF	22.5
W4CU	443,802	646	229	SOHP - ALL(A)	WCF	
WB4TDH	14,490	105	46	SOLP - 15m	WCF	15.0
WK2G	710,040	1256	194	SOLP - ALL	WCF	
N4IG	527,775	775	227	SOLP - ALL	WCF	
K1TO	370,548	564	219	SOLP - ALL	WCF	10.0
WD4AHZ	324,972	612	177	SOLP - ALL	WCF	23.0
W3TB	142,680	328	145	SOLP - ALL	WCF	14.0
W4LT	83,835	243	115	SOLP - ALL	WCF	

Total 9,748,192

DX OPERATIONS

C6AKQ	124,992	744	56	SOLP - 160m	C6	
C6APG	246,384	1416	58	SOHP - 80m	C6	30.0
C6AKU	331,167	1871	59	SOHP - 40m	C6	40.0

DX Total 702,543

FCG Total 10,450,735

HONORARY MEMBERS:

KH7B	301,962	1706	59	SOHP - 40m	HI	
HS0ZCW	38				HS	

Cycle 24 Here - Experts Say

From The ARRL Letter

With the appearance of Sunspot 981 -- a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot -- on Friday, January 4, experts at NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said that Cycle 24 is now here. "This sunspot is like the first robin of spring," said solar physicist Douglas Biesecker of the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC), part of NOAA. "In this case, it's an early omen of solar storms that will gradually increase over the next few years."

Solar physicist David Hathaway of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama concurred, saying that new solar cycles begin with a "modest knot" of magnetism, like the one that appeared on December 11 on the east limb of the Sun: "That patch of magnetism could be a sign of the next solar cycle. New solar cycles always begin with a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot." The region of magnetism that appeared back in December achieved high latitude (24 degrees North) and was magnetically reversed, but no supporting sunspot appeared until 25 days later.

Reversed polarity describes a sunspot with opposite magnetic polarity compared to sunspots from the previous solar cycle. High-latitude refers to the Sun's grid of latitude and longitude. Old-cycle spots congregate near the Sun's equator; new-cycle spots appear higher, around 25 or 30 degrees latitude. Sunspot 981's high-latitude location at 27 degrees North and its negative polarity leading to the right in the Northern Hemisphere are clear-cut signs of a new solar cycle, according to NOAA experts. The first active regions and sunspots of a new solar cycle can emerge at high latitudes while those from the previous cycle continue to form closer to the equator.

While experts vary in their predictions on when the solar cycle will peak and how strong it will be, NOAA, in April 2007, in coordination with an international panel of solar experts, predicted that the next 11-year cycle of solar storms "would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months, and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012." In the cycle forecast issued in April 2007, half of the panel predicted a "moderately strong cycle of 140 sunspots, plus or minus 20, expected to peak in October 2011. The other half predicted a moderately weak cycle of 90 sunspots, plus or minus 10, peaking in August 2012. An average solar cycle ranges from 75 to 155 sunspots. The late decline of Cycle 23 has helped shift the panel away from its earlier leaning toward a strong Cycle 24. The group is evenly split between a strong and a weak cycle."

NASA's Hathaway, along with colleague Robert Wilson at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco last month, said that Solar Cycle 24 "looks like it's going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago." They believe the next solar maximum should peak around 2010 with a sunspot number of 160, plus or minus 25. "This would make it one of the strongest solar cycles of the past fifty years -- which is to say, one of the strongest in recorded history." Four of the five biggest cycles on record have come in the past 50 years. "Cycle 24 should fit right into that pattern," Hathaway said.

According to Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, "As for improvement in propagation on the higher bands, we still have a way to go before that happens, and it depends on the magnitude of Cycle 24. The Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel has published predictions for Cycle 24, but unfortunately the panel did not reach one consensus prediction. If the larger of the two predictions comes true, we should expect consistent F2 propagation on 10 and 12 meters to start toward the end of 2009. If the smaller prediction comes true, this will be delayed about one year."

Luetzelschwab, who writes the column "Propagation" for the National Contest Journal (NCJ), continued: "While we wait for improved high band conditions, don't forget the low bands. Around solar minimum and for the next year or so, the Earth's geomagnetic field is at its quietest. This is good for low band propagation. Thus, right now is the time to start (or add to) your 80 and 160 meter DXCC efforts."

According to NASA's Tony Phillips, many forecasters believe Solar Cycle 24 will be big and intense. "Solar cycles usually take a few years to build to a frenzy and Cycle 24 will be no exception. We still have some quiet times ahead," says Hathaway.

FQP Plaque Status

The 2007 Award Plaques have gone out in the mail. For those receiving a plaque for their winning participation in last year's FQP, congratulations. For those who sponsored the plaques, a sincere thanks. The current 2008 plaques are sponsored, but based on evaluation of last years participation, we may have categories that are worthy of additional plaques.



For the Top FL SSB Plaque, the sponsor is the Amateur Radio Association of SW Florida, in memory of Jordan WB2QLP. Jordan recently lost his battle to cancer, and was an active contester and member of the club. Martin, N4UU, requested the sponsorship, on behalf of the active amateurs in the Naples FL area.

We have received 50% of the funds for the 2008 sponsorship, and are still short a few for the 2007 plaques. If you have not paid for the 2007 plaque sponsorship, please send me a check.

73.

Eric K9ES

HI3CCP Tour

Tino, HI3CCP came to stay with us for 4 nights after the Orlando hamfest. We were able to squeeze in a number of station visits around south central Florida and Tino was very appreciative to those hosts. We saw stations and antenna farms at K4LQ, N4TO, N4TB, N4WW and AA4MM, while fitting in several meals with others, including W4QM, N6AR, WW4E and N4GI. It was a very fun and educational time for all of us and Tino and I thank you for having us visit!

vy 73, Dan K1TO

TOTAL RECALL



SOMETIMES I LIKE TO KICK BACK WITH THE *CLASSICS*.

THEY CONJURE-UP SO MANY CALLS, SO MANY MEMORABLE QSOs.

SIGH. LIKE *K7 WHAT'S-HIS-NAME*. I'LL NEVER FORGET THE DAY HE ANSWERED MY CQ. "YOU'RE FIVE AND SIX IN PARADISE VALLEY, ARIZONA AND THE HANDLE HERE IS..."

HLH.

THE BOOK SAYS *BARRY* BUT THAT MUST BE A TYPO. I'M SURE HIS HANDLE WAS *GODFREY*. YEAH. THE FAMOUS HAM WHO FIRED JULIUS *BOROS* ON THE AIR. NO WAIT. MAYBE I'M THINKING OF THAT HAM TODAY SHOW HOST *J. FRED MUGGS*. OR AM I CONFUSING HIM WITH *ANOTHER* FAMOUS HAM? RIGHT. THAT ONE. OF COURSE. THE SPACE CHIMP... *LAIKA*...REMEMBER?

YOU DON'T?

OLD MAN, *WAIT A FEW YEARS* AND YOU WILL.

TOTALLY.

YI9PT Reidar (K2PT)

Reidar Larsen, K2PT, is up and operational from Iraq as YI9PT. Reidar has not been able to work much North America in his first few days on the air (since 1 Feb).

Reidar joined FCG when he moved to Tampa area from PVRC-land last summer. Reidar is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Marine Corps and he will be in Iraq for up to 6 months or longer.

Links to YI9PT and photos:
<http://stafford-dx-association.org/>

73,
Dan, WØCN

New CQWW 160 Meter Contest Director

From ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet

From John Dorr, K1AR - "I am writing to inform you of a significant change in the CQ WW 160M Contest. Effective immediately, Dave Thompson, K4JRB, is retiring from his leadership position as contest director. Taking over the reigns will be Andy Blank, N2NT. Dave has been director of CQ's 160M contest for 16 years, stepping up and taking charge after former director, Don McClennon, N4IN (formerly W3EIS and W3IN), passed away. During Dave's watch, the contest has grown by over 300% in terms of entries, but more importantly has become one of contesting's top tier competitions. The task of contest director is a tiring and sometimes thankless job. Over the years, Dave has performed his job with quiet reserve and a smile on his face. His reliability in delivering the results to CQ and to the contest community at large will always be appreciated. As we move forward, Andy, N2NT, has some big shoes to fill. However, his contesting experience and organizational skills will prevail--we can all count on it. I encourage you to take the time to thank Dave for his faithful, 16 years of service. We wish both Dave and Andy the best. Dave will continue to support the contest behind the scenes as the transition to Andy takes place. In the meantime, I want to personally thank Dave for his commitment and dedication to our sport. Well done, OM, 73"

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