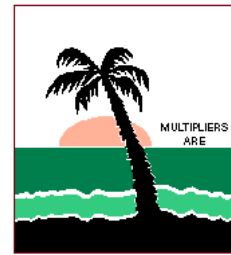




Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group

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



Volume 9 Issue 7

December 2002

From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO



W1CW. Just seeing the callsign in print conjures up so many images and memories. As a "Jack of all trades" back in high school, this long-haired kid spent many hours upstairs at ARRL HQ sorting outgoing QSLs with Bob. There were a few long weekends spent helping out the W1CW-led DXCC branch, as well. And Jim, K4OJ and I fondly recall our summer in the Contest Branch doing primarily the ARRL DX Test logs under the watchful eye of Ellen, W1YL and right next door to W1CW. Turn the calendar forward a bunch of years and here we are all reunited here in Florida. No surprise to find a top-notch station built in Seffner, using many unique techniques to achieve excellence. On top of all that, the White Family built this club and has tirelessly supported it right along. Their tremendous gesture of having W1CW memorial donations sent to the FCG is the epitome of their mindset.

CQ WW SSB. FCGers found that conditions were not what they were a year ago, not to mention the disturbance that affected primarily the first half of the weekend. Nonetheless, we piled up some real nice scores and ended up roughly around 40M for the weekend, well ahead of 2001. Members ventured to participate in big multi-op efforts in PJ2 and KP2, as well as staffing multi-ops at N4TO, K9ES and N4PN. The log deadline for this just passed, so send K3EST a note of explanation if you must send yours in late.

SS CW. After a mediocre (by our own standards) finish in 2001, the club dedicated its SS efforts to Paul, N4PK who passed away in late Sept. Amazingly, we amassed more entries on CW alone than we had on both modes combined last year! (This again despite less than perfect conditions.) Logs are due Dec. 4!

SS SSB. More valiant efforts from FCGers, resulting in preliminary totals that will push us to the edge of the Unlimited Club Category for the first time ever! K4XS dodges thunderstorms that pass through just in time and posts a cool 2100 QSO effort. Logs are due Dec. 18.

CQ WW CW. FCGers scattered to various overseas locations, including C6, J7, 9A, DU, ZF and V2 for the granddaddy of all contests. The new Multi-2 category (renamed from the W4SAA category, since Joe claims at least partial

credit for its establishment) was a big hit, with 4 FCG teams participating in this category. Our roughly 60 Megapoints on CW puts us right at 100 Meg for a club claimed combined score – not bad considering we had 84M last year with better conditions. Submit logs by January 15.

As you may have seen on the reflector, Fred reported that he had collected a total of \$225 towards the memorial scholarship fund in the memory of Paul Knupke, Jr., N4PK. Also, the FCG will be sponsoring a plaque for SS SSB in Paul's name.

On a similar track, monies are beginning to trickle in to the W1CW Memorial Fund. Look for the club to sponsor a plaque in Bob's memory, too, probably for the ARRL DX Test.

Our first meeting held after the ARRL mandatory meeting requirement went away was held at Applebee's, east of Orlando near the UCF campus on November 9th. Turnout was strong and it's uplifting to see that our members still enthusiastically show up for meetings without being forced to.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Welcome aboard to the latest group of new members. John, NP2B has been graciously hosting FCGers for various contests for a while now and already seemed like one of the bunch! Austin "Doc", N4WW is well known for his FB station near Orlando and the endless number of high-scoring multi-ops there over the years. Doc admitted that he really does have that 200th zone for 5BWAZ, by the way. Chuck, AD4ES completes the "ES es ES" picture over in Melbourne, as he frequents the K9ES station. Cary, K4HV lives close to WC4E and might be joining just to find out about all that QRM from nearby – hi. Ken, K1UM participated in his first ever CQWW CW test last weekend – FB! Jim, N4PSE has been in a few of them and did just tremendous with a very modest low power station just a few miles east of N4BP. Rumor has it that salt water enhancement is in play here.

Our next meeting will be a biggie at the FL State Convention in Palmetto. We have a room allotted to us from 10 AM – 2 PM and plan a lengthy agenda, with the FCG meeting most likely occupying the last hour of that time period.

In January, we hold our Holiday Party which is open to spouses and family. There is no meeting per se and it is more of a club gathering than anything. I need a volunteer to set this up. We've held several in the Orlando vicinity for geographical reasons, but there is nothing preventing this from taking place elsewhere. Please let me know if you can help.

A reminder – KU9C offered earlier this year to handle outgoing DX QSLs at a fraction of the cost of using the ARRL service. See the e-mail reflector for renewed discussion on this topic.

The K1TO tower projects progressed at warp speed through the first 3 weeks of November, since the concrete was not poured for the new tower until October 30. The number of folks that helped me and the amount of time that they devoted was staggering. I'm deeply indebted to all of you and look forward to being able to reciprocate.

Look out for Blake, N4GI, since he will get his antennas fully installed this coming weekend. A certain W1CW helped to cut the guy wires for that tower just a month or so ago and Blake is hot off of a huge Multi-Single effort down in ZF.

Before the next issue comes out, dues will be due. Fred now has an FCG bank account, so those checks should be made out to "Florida Contest Group" (just like your ARRL Club line in the Cabrillo file – exact spelling – hi) this time.

See you this Saturday and on the air the following weekend in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest. Happy Holidays to all. BE SAFE, HAVE FUN AND GO FCG! And RIP, Bob.

vy 73, Dan

QST ARL ARLB070

ARLB070 DXCC legend Bob White, W1CW, SK

Former ARRL Headquarters staff member Robert L. White, W1CW, of Seffner, Florida, died November 22 from complications arising from pneumonia. He was 83.

Known to many as "Mr DXCC," White was the manager of the ARRL's DX Century Club program from 1952 until 1976, establishing the award--and its stringent standards--as Amateur Radio's premier DX achievement. White codified the rules for the DXCC program and oversaw the checking of some 250,000 QSL cards submitted yearly, often working as many as 90 hours a week to ensure that the job got done right. During his tenure at Headquarters, White also oversaw the ARRL QSL Service. He belonged to the ARRL for 62 years and was a Life Member.

"Dad was the guy who made DXCC what it was," said White's son, Jim, K4OJ, in a posting to the CQ Contest reflector. "He didn't cut any corners--everyone was held to the same high standard--and this is what made holding DXCC meaningful."

Introduced to Amateur Radio in his youth, White was first licensed in 1938. He served as a radio operator in the US Navy during World War II.

White was an avid DXer and CW enthusiast. Active in the First-Class CW Operators' Club, White was also inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame in 1998.

His wife Ellen, W1YL, and his son Jim, K4OJ, survive him; both are former ARRL staff members. Friends may send condolence messages via e-mail to w1cw@tampabay.rr.com or to 6607 Flicker Ct, Seffner, FL 33584. The family invites memorial donations to the W1CW Memorial Fund-Florida Contest Group, c/o Frederick M Perkins Jr, 3437 Lake Josephine Dr, Lake Placid FL 33852. Per White's request, there will be no public service.
NNNN



Ellen and Bob White at a recent Meeting

Orlando November Meeting

The meeting was held for the second straight year at Applebee's, east of Orlando near the UCF campus. Thanks again to Eric, KU4TF for setting things up for us with a private room there.

The following members attended the meeting:

AD4ES, K0LUZ, K1TO, K4IK, K4LQ, K4LW, K4OJ, K4VUD, K5KG, K9ES, KK4TA, KU4TF, N4IG, NA4CW, NS4W, W4JN, W4YA, WC4E.

Dan noted that the collection for the N4PK memorial scholarship continues, with checks made out to Fred Perkins going to K4LQ. Fred will put out an e-mail to the reflector announcing a deadline for receiving checks, after which he will let members know on the reflector the amount collected and forward the club contributions to those administering the fund. Fred expects to wrap things up in another 10 days or so. \$145 had been collected going into the meeting and over \$200 has now been collected.

Dan is investigating what plaques are available for sponsorship in Paul's memory in the SS SSB SE Division, since SS SSB was Paul's favorite contest.

Dan welcomed N4WW to the club. Austin could not attend the meeting because of work commitments, but sent his dues payment in with frequent co-operator K0LUZ. Austin is a well known con-tester and DXer from Apopka, whom many of us have worked frequently over the years. As it turns out, a small group met with Austin at another restaurant for dinner shortly after this meeting concluded to more officially welcome him into the club!

KK4TA described the features of his fascinating SteppIR triband beam. The element lengths are adjustable from the shack and allow very quick 180 degree "rotation". How long will it be before we see SteppIR-style antennas for monobands?!

The FCG made about 2.8M points in last year's SS with just 28 entries total. We are on a pace to exceed 4M this year and will likely have enough entries to push us over the 50 mark into the Unlimited category with the mega-clubs!

A comparison between last year's CQWW and this year's was also made. 84M points were generated by FCGers last year and with the 40+M so far on SSB, we have a legitimate shot at breaking 100M, or as we termed it, getting into 9 digits!

We are currently set up to make a contest presentation at the Tampa Bay Hamfest - we have a room available for 4 hours on Dec 7. Dan asked for ideas. Jeff, WC4E had recorded all of his PJ2 operation and he will share some of that along with some pictures.

Jim, K4OJ has a basic contesting video that he will loan for use. That led to an interesting idea of starting the program on the basic end of the scale and maybe capping it off with a WRTC video and/or presentation at the end. George, K5KG will discuss his J7 operation, as well as lightning protection. George is looking into scheduling a pizza lunch. Since the ARRL 10M Test is the following weekend, we will definitely devote part of the schedule to operating tips for it. Further presentations are being sought - c'mon you Elmers!

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Bob, K4LW will check with the club running the Orlando Hamfest to see if there will be an opportunity to do anything there in the way of contest presentations.

George, K5KG discussed the Contest Buddy program. More and more members are filling out their sheets and submitting them and George will soon begin the task of matching Elmer's to "Elmos". He would like to build a database of skills, based upon the Contest Buddy input and is looking for some help from anyone in the club familiar with MS Access.

George will next be active from Dominica with John, W4IX November 16 through 26 as J75KG and J79JRC respectively. They will operate the CQWW CW Contest as J75KG. They will be QRV on 6 meters if antenna arrangements can be made.

George has been asked to help with a J7 licensing program for new hams. There are currently no hams in the NE "quadrant" of Dominica where George operates. He was shipped 10 lbs. of study materials from the ARRL and will use these to conduct classes and leave behind. The class will get some practical experience with how to put up antennas as the J75KG antenna farm is readied for the contest!

The meeting wound up with a discussion of some operating tips for the upcoming SS Phone and CQWW CW.

Tips sent out just before last year's SS are repeated below since they take in everything that was discussed at the meeting plus some additional material.

The following SS specific tips were adapted from the Sept 1998 Gazette:

1. Look over your past logs. SS, more than any other contest, is repeatable from year to year. See which hours worked for you and which did not.
2. Be there at the beginning and for as long as you can hold up the first night. Activity is highest on Saturday night. On Sunday, many folks are taking forced off time. Consider a pre-SS nap.
3. Call CQ as much as you can. Even for QRP stations, there is usually one band that will allow for successful CQs, even at the edge of the activity.
4. Don't worry about hunting for multipliers. Unless your QSO number is very high, the worth of one more multiplier is not worth the sacrifices needed (unless of course your coffee cup collection is in danger of having a hole). A good strategy is to vary the bands that you spend time on. Be wary of simplistic strategies like "always stay on the highest band open". That could lead to never working the closer-in multipliers needed and constantly tuning past W6s and W7s.

5. Small stations do well in SS. That's where those high angle signals radiate best!

6. Be aware of any key football games on Sunday and their potential impact on activity.

These "Efficient Operating Techniques" are reprinted from the Sept 1998 Gazette as well and are not SS specific:

Search and Pounce

Look at 160 - 10 M as one giant band. When S&P'ing do not go over the same range of frequencies that you just tuned. There are several important ways to improve on this technique.

1. Tune in the direction of the sideband. This is true on both CW and SSB. On SSB, tune from the bottom of the band up on USB, (20 - 10) and from the top of the band down on LSB (40 - 160). On CW, Kenwood radios tend to run in LSB mode. So, start at the top of the band and work your way down. Tuning in the direction of the sideband allows you to begin to hear signals before you actually get to them. This works great on CW with the wide filter in and almost as well on SSB when turning the "Donald Duck" sound into a human voice.

2. Put the frequency that represents the "top" of each band (e.g. 7099 or 3810 on SSB and 070 up on CW) into a memory. When you reach the bottom of the band, just hit memory recall to move instantly to the top of the next band, giving you a fluid tune through the bands. This could be tougher for those who cannot make quick band changes.

3. Open up the filter on CW when tuning to the next station. My experience is that I get there that much quicker. This is especially important on a band that only has a few signals on it such as 10M during non-peak hours. Although a CW filter is extremely helpful, only use it when you need to.

4. If you have a radio with A and B VFOs, increase your S&P rate by utilizing both VFOs as follows: Start at the edge of the band and call the first needed station. If he does not come back to you, hit A=B and tune to the next station. Periodically flip between VFOs A and B until the first station is ready to be called again. This way, you can systematically move down (or up) the band without wasting valuable time sitting in a pileup. It takes some practice to time when to flip back, but even if you time it wrong, you're still being efficient by timing and working stations on the other VFO.

If you are multi-op or even as a single op early on, using the band-map feature can help you ID stations who may not be signing their calls frequently enough.

The meeting concluded with a brief discussion of CQWW CW strategies. Maximize efforts the first day, run EU whenever you can. Based on earlier contests, 10M is best 12-17Z, run 20M during the night, 40M can be good up until 08z, 80M peaks at 06-07Z

Tnx Dan K1TO for his usual FB job editing my basic report.

Fred K4LQ Secretary

Pictures from Orlando



l to r: Jeff WC4E, Jim K4OJ



Foreground: Eric KU4TF, Background facing camera, l to r Frank NA4CW, Bob K4LW



Bob K4LW



Dan K1TO conducts the meeting



L to R Fred K4LQ, back to camera Charly K4VUD, George K5KG and Eric K9ES.



Joe K4IK

Seen on the Reflector

Contest Buddy Program Up and Running

Gang,

We are getting in a lot of good skills information on the Contest Buddy Program survey. I have received Elmer - Elmo info from the following:

AA2MF
AB4RL
K3MQH
K9ES
N4DL
N4OO
WD4AHZ

Please go to <http://www.qsl.net/fcg/buddy.html> to get the survey form. Fill it out and send it in if you would like to be a part of the program.

73, Geo...K5KG

Scholarships Offered

Foundation for Amateur Radio Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington D.C. plans to administer fifty-eight (58) scholarships for the academic year 2003-2004 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds seven of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual hamfest. The remaining fifty-one are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they pursue a full time course of studies beyond the high-school level and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college, or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference being given in some cases to residents of specific geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meeting, in their club newsletters, during training classes, or on their net and their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by a letter or QSL card postmarked prior to April 30, 2003 from:

FAR Scholarships
Post Office Box 831
Riverdale Md 20738

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

2002 CQWW SSB Claimed Scores

Call	Cat	Q	Z	Cty	Scores	Operators	
N4TO	M/M	6347	178	729	14,326,972	N4TO,AD4Z, K1TO,K4MM,N2NL,N4DL,NS4W,VE7ZO,W4IX	
PJ2T	M/2				7,745,876	FCG had 1 Operator , WC4E	
NP2B	M/2	9433	139	511	2,418,108	FCG had 1 Operator, WD4JR	
VP5DX					2,403,072	FCG gets 20 percent of 12,015,360	
K9ES	M/S	1736	135	497	3,020,960	K9ES,AD4ES,KC4HW,KG4IPO	
K0LUZ	SOABHP		1084	91	323	1,268,496	
N4WW	SOABHP		773	105	344	968,044	
W3WW	SOABHP		513	71	216	412,132	
K4FK	SOABHP		414	77	210	328,615	W4SAA
W7OF	SOABHP		355	78	269	269,724	
N4GI	SOABHP		285	64	152	169,992	
N4IG	SOABLP		1054	107	348	1,338,155	
KK4TA	SOABLP		771	75	236	681,712	
KB4N	SOABLP		431	76	195	325,471	
KU3O	SOABLP		523	62	176	306,544	
N4EK	SOABLP		450	56	184	303,360	
K4LOG	SOABLP		434	49	139	209,432	
W4YA	SOABLP		159	39	106	62,930	
K5KG	SOABHP(A)		1772	137	509	3,434,136	
K1PT	SOABHP(A)		1496	135	491	2,617,306	
K4OJ	SOABHP(A)		956	98	370	1,263,132	at W1CW QTH
W4ZW	SOABLP(A)		258	73	170	169,614	
N4BP	SOSB10		1636	32	126	712,738	
K4XS	SOSB40		726	31	113	302,688	
N8PR	SOSB40		191	28	90	61,614	
K4VUD	SOAB15		959	34	118	390,792	
W4UM	SOAB	73	23	47	12,250		
K4LQ	SOAB Q		131	41	113	56,518	
TOTAL					45,580,383		



*Foreground - Jeff WC4E
Background - Novice Contester KIAR
Operating at PJ2T*

FCG Panhandle Participants

N4PN	M/S	3437	162	620	7,236,628	N4PN,N4OX,NF4A,KB4ET
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*Right:
Eric K9ES
At Home*



*Left:
Jim
KC4HW
at K9ES*

CQWW CW 2002 Claimed Scores

Ed Note: Claimed scores shown in this newsletter are those received up until publication, and are still subject to revision

**Florida Contest Group
CQWW CW 2002 Claimed Scores**

Call	QSO'S	Zones	Cntrys	Score	Cat	Operators
9A1A	11270	193	751	3,166,775	M/M HP	N4PN,NF4A,2 0F 13 Ops FCG gets. 2/13 of 20,584,864 Other Ops: 9A5W,9A7R,9A4WW,S51R,9A5E,9A6A 9A2EU,9A4OM
J75A	8765	147	519	14,584,068	M/2 HP	K5KG,W4IX
N4WW	3722	170	633	8,386,971	M/2 HP	N4WW,K0LUZ
N4TO	3306	168	626	7,204,756	M/2 HP	N4TO,G4BUE,K4LQ,N1TO,N4TB,W4IR,W4QM,W4SO
K9ES	1358	140	509	2,479,935	M/S HP	AD4ES,W4UUM
ZF1A	6698	159	608	2,076,780	MS/HP	N4GI 10F 6 Ops, FCG gets 1/6 of 12,460,682 Other Ops: K6AM,K9MK,K5GU,N9XX,W5ASP
C6AKP	2913	104	287	2,502,400	M/2 LP	N4RP,W4SAA
4G1A	2612	134	293	3,284,057	SOAB HP	N2NL
N2AN	1742	119	423	2,671,518	SOAB HP	WC4E
K1PT	1294	128	446	2,108,302	SOAB HP	
K4PB	658	114	337	817,663	SOAB HP	
W3TMZ	368	102	304	403,564	SOAB HP	
W4UM	12	11	12	713	SOAB HP	
K4MM	860	126	427	1,319,458	SOAB HP A	
K4LQ	718	121	393	1,043,934	SOAB HP A	
W4ZW	642	110	301	735,690	SOAB HP A	
N8PR	495	126	368	663,442	SOAB HP A	
K1TO	2294	141	528	4,292,973	SOAB LP	
N4IG	1196	113	396	1,722,965	SOAB LP	
WD4AHZ	515	54	170	337,344	SOAB LP	
W7QF	334	89	204	274,392	SOAB LP	
N4EK	300	60	156	180,792	SOAB LP	
KB4N	271	69	163	173,768	SOAB LP	
K4LW	150			51,660	SOAB LP	
K4HV	126	43	91	46,632	SOAB LP	
W4YA	79	41	62	20,497	SOAB LP	
KU3O	77	38	53	18,665	SOAB LP	
K4FB	162	50	37	74,158	SOABQRP	
NU4Y	451	28	112	182,840	SOSB/10HP	
N4BP	1427	32	116	579,420	SOSB/10HP	
V21CW	848	90	26	239,540	SOSB/10LP	
ND4AA	479	30	119	204,577	SOSB/10LP	
K1UM	401	27	94	141,449	SOSB/10HP	
K4NNN	772	35	119	331,100	SOSB/20HP	K4OJ
W4/G4BUE	329	35	115	135,900	SOSB/20HP	
Total				62,458,698		
FCG Panhandle Participants						
KN4Y	437	74	197	332,517	SOAB LP	
N4OX	673	30	111	268,887	SOSB/10LP	
P/H Total				601,404		



Dan K1TO works to raise the C3 to the top of his new 160 foot tower



Scott W4SO at N4TO

NP2B St. Croix U.S. Virgin Islands CQWW SSB Contest 2002

By Julio Ripoll, WD4JR/KP2

For many years, John Ellis, NP2B, has hosted contest teams at his house on the eastern tip of St. Croix. John's house sits on a hill, about 130 feet above the water, facing north with a beautiful view of the Atlantic ocean from his pool patio.

John installed a new KT34 M2 4 element beam, just before this contest, and it worked very well. The NP2B Shack looks like a console for the Space Center. In fact, John worked for NASA for many years in Houston during the Lunar Landings and shared some very interesting and humorous stories about the taping of the Apollo 11 Lunar Landing and his meeting with Neil Armstrong.

Our Contest Team was composed of experienced contest operators from far and near. Joe VE3BW is a very active contester from St. Catherine's (Niagara Falls) Canada and avid DXpeditioner, having operated from many exotic islands in the past, such as Mellish Reef, Cook Islands, Roatan, Barbados, and St. Kitts, just to name a few. Gregg W5IDX is VP of the Northwest Amateur Radio Society and is an avid contester recently contesting from Mexico. Jimmy KP2BH and Manny NP2KW both live on St. Croix and were real assets to our efforts. Jimmy had contested with me on a Multi-Multi effort from Puerto Rico as NP3X a few years ago. Manny used to be an Air Traffic Controller, so his calm but swift and consistent style was very impressive. He almost had the Europeans calling in alphabetical order....

As for myself, been around, done a few things.....

The two Contest stations worked flawlessly. John had set up the main station on the KT34 M2 beam with the Ten Tec Omni V and alternate rig, the Paragon, both using the Ten Tec Titan Amp. The Main station was also used for 80 meters on a dipole and 160 meters on an Inverted L that ran from the top of the tower to a (non-energized) utility pole on the bottom of the hill, across the street.

The neighbors thought we were trying to steal power from the electric company...hi...)

The second station, an Icom 706MKIIG, with Dentron Amp (TNX N4FD), used the Hygain Explorer 14 and Cushcraft 40 meter rotatable dipole (TNX N4FD) on 20 foot masts using custom built hazers on pulleys made by John. (He should patent this system.)

Our St. Croix experience was also complimented by the great team camaraderie, warm sunny weather and incredible diving. Lou KV4JC's witty humor and John's famous "Bean Zoup" gave us some high energy (and other effects) for the contest and we even shared friendly dinner with the WP2Z FRC Contest Team (N2TK, K3NZ & K3OO), the evening before the contest, and treated them to all the Cruzan Rum they wanted...hi...

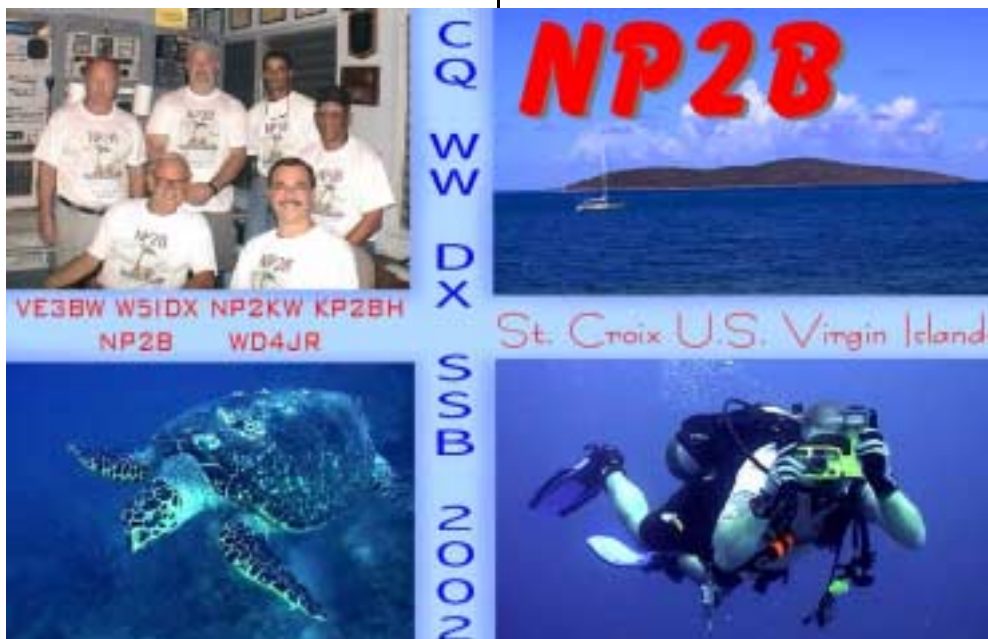
Of course, you can't visit a Caribbean island without going in the water. Several on our team are avid divers and Joe VE3BW is also a PADI Dive Instructor.

We not only had fantastic dives, but Joe certified Gregg and myself as "Deep Divers", one of PADI's Specialties. Our six dives ranged from 63 to 107 feet along brightly colored coral encrusted walls that go down to thousands of feet. One of the most memorable interactions with the sea life was a large 300 pound sea turtle trying to mate with Gregg. Fortunately, Gregg was faster than the turtle. No kidding, I have it on video!

Then entire experience above and below sea level was fantastic and we extend our sincere thanks to John Ellis NP2B and his wife Jeanette NP2C for hosting our Contest Team.

Our sincere thanks also to our families that allowed us to leave home for a week of Ham Radio and Diving fun in St. Croix. Honey, I promise to treat you and Jason to Disney World next month.... (now there's a little contest thing in March I'd like to talk to you about...)

73,
Julio
KP2/WD4JR





The NP2B Antenna Farm



John NP2B at "The Big Switch"



The NP2B Main Console



The North view from NP2B

Short Take

Bruce, W4OV will be visiting Willie VP5WW December 3-9 on Providenciales getting a little pileup practice for upcoming contests.

CQ-RJ-RTTY score left out of last newsletter

N4BP 2489 points X 162 mults = 403,218 points - Sorry Bob

Success in the ARRL 10M Contest from Florida - Be the Band!

By Jeff Bolda, WC4E

Ed Note: With the 10M contest just around the corner, this is a reprint of Jeff's article from a couple years ago.

The ARRL 10M contest is one of my favorite contests! I have had some fun in the Mixed Mode category for the last few years. Below is a summary of thoughts of the 10 meter contest at this part of the sun spot cycle broken down by time during the contest. I did a similar article in 1996. I have added a few thoughts from the past two years. Sunspots are still great, conditions should be the best this cycle in 2002!

00z-04z The start. This part of the contest is mixed with thoughts of "This is really Hot" or "Man, this stinks". Usually, the band is great about an hour BEFORE the contest and seems to die at 2359z. In 1996 I ended Friday evening with 86 qsos, '97 I had over 250. It is a good time to meet all the other guys in FL with ground scatter. I wouldn't stay up too much longer than 04z, you'll work those guys tomorrow. Get some sleep, It's going be a very busy day tomorrow.

1100z-1400z , I'm up early, I can't stand the thought of missing something in a single band contest. Turn the beam due east and slowly scan the band for Africa. Late in the 11z hour will most likely net a few SE stations along with an African or two. During high normal conditions, long path to Asia can net a JA or VR2. The band will gradually open up to Europe toward 11:30z, A EU few stations with high antennas can be worked but the band may not be "runable" yet. At 12:00z the band should be fully runable to Europe. Find a frequency, CQ and hang on. The next 3 to 4 hours should produce hours over 100 Q/hr!

14z-18z Along with Europeans, more USA and Canada stations will also call in. It is also a good time to S&P (Search and Pounce) for the EU and Africa stations that are still calling CQ and that don't S&P themselves.

18-23z Most of the stations on the band are North America, and South America with some Pacific. Keep CQing that rates may still be good. When they drop off, it a good time to S&P, Africans are loud during this time. Even some SW EU (I/CT/EA8...) is still workable. At the top of the cycle, it is possible to work Europe and JA at the same time during this period.

23-01z During this time, the band is mostly USA and Canada with Asia. Here just off the top of the Cycle, many JA's can still be worked along with HL, BY, BV type mult. CQ toward the west to get plenty of VK and ZL QSOs.

01-04z E-Time. **Sporadic-E** that is. It's now well after sunset and the northeast starts to give up on the band. Most of the stations left on the band are the diehards continually calling CQ. This is the most important time of the contest.

This is where we can WIN the contest. It is very important This is where we can WIN the contest. It is very important not to give up at this time at all. Why? Sporadic E. In 1993, 1985 and 1987, 1997 E-Skip carried several FCG members to a victory with an extra 600 qsos after 01:00z!! In 1994 and 1997, an afternoon of hours in the 60's the band blasted open with a pipeline to W8 and W3 with hours over 180 Qsos and hours with a peak 210 hour at 02:30! No-one else in the world is doing this but Florida. This part of the contest is so exiting, the band is almost dead quiet and you're running guys over 200 an hour! Many guys on the band seem to camp on your run frequency and just sit listen and comment on how they can't hear a single station you're working. I even got into an argument on frequency with a guy who was convinced I was reading out of the call-book. It's a great time to Psych-out the competition. Of all the lower sunspot years I've done, the sporadic-E opening happened most of the years.

In general, we can get Sporadic-E if the A Index is less than 10.

Sunday: Most of the openings should happen nearly at the same time if the Flux and the A&K Indexes stay the same. Naturally, the all hourly rates will not be the same but some hours may meet or beat Saturday. The last few hours pick up very well and at 0000z Monday I'm left on frequency with many more stations still calling and the feeling there just isn't enough daylight in one weekend for this contest.

A few other notes about the contest...

- Saturday, Run like there is no tomorrow. There just might not be. Just a slight uptick in the A and K index can make Sunday a long day. Keep an eye on the WWV numbers to know what to expect. Higher A and K indexes mean bad news for NE stations, go in for the kill when this happens.
- Ever since Novices could go on 10M SSB, I have rarely called CQ above 28.500. Novices/Techs are our friends. I love them. I hand hold them the entire contest. I sat and listened to Bill K4XS for hours running them non stop. (The Xraaaaay-Sugar school of begging) I learned to be super nice, teach them how to contest, this could their first contest exposure. If on SSB while calling CQ tell them why you need their QSO (.. collecting as many states as I can this weekend..., or: trying to work 3000 QSOs this weekend...) Giving them a reason to work you brings out even multiple family members to mic. They have picked up on the last 2 letters habit from somewhere and I try to gently remind the pile-up that full calls get answered first.
- **CQ - BE THE BAND!** You've got to call CQ, often. Even if the band sounds dead and no one else is around calling CQ, call CQ your self, You will be surprised sometimes. Be aggressive, be a beacon.

- Mixed mode. If you can, use 2 radios! One on SSB and one on CW. A lull on SSB makes for great opportunity to make

CW QSOs. The contact can be preprogrammed into keyer memories. It is a must to move needed mults from SSB to CW. It took me over 20 SSB QSOs with WV to finally move one to CW. I have found Extra / Advanced ops are less likely to move than Novices!! Then, of course, I worked another 5 WV stations later Sunday afternoon.

- Single mode. Still try to use 2 radios! We have discovered that it is totally useless to listen to your own CQ! 10 Meters is wide enough to CQ on one side and still be able to hear on the other. At least use it to listen for multipliers on Sunday. If you work one station S&P on the second radio while running on another, it was worth it. I did CW only category for 10 years and have gone up to SSB (just for fun) and managed to move at least a couple of multipliers to CW.

- Remember: CW QSOs = 4 points and SSB QSOs are 2 points and Novice CW QSOs are 8 Points. Of the 7 times I have done mixed mode, CW QSOs have accounted for over 30%.

- Europe is easier to work on CW than SSB during low spot years and disturbed conditions. It also easier to work Eu early in the opening and band closings. I learned from past years that even if there is slight opening to Europe, CQ often to Europe with the beam skew path around 60 deg. If the band is wide open point the beam direct at 40-45 deg.

- DC, District of Columbia is a multiplier. If you hear it, anywhere, work it! Keep an ear out for W3USS.

- The LU novice band is 28.900 - 29.000 mhz. I never did go that high, I worked tons of LUs below 28.500.

- 10 Meter beacons can be found between 28.175 and 28.300. Comprehensive lists of beacons can be found in the Amateur Radio Almanac, The "New Short-wave Propagation Handbook", and the ARRL Operating Manual. Study them before the contest to learn the openings.

- **You CAN win with a small station.** I took the Mixed mode prize in 1985 using a TS-530, Clipperton-L (400w) to a A3 at 35'. Others have done very well using 100w and a tribander. The *will* to win and some good Sporadic-E can make a successful weekend.

- Propagation forecasts. Watch them closely. Low A index mean conditions will be good but even better for the NE. High A index 10-15+ may mean it will better for us in the south.

- Most of all: **Have fun!** This is one of my favorite contests. Big rates, plenty room to call CQ, and a real chance to WIN a contest with a slight advantage for "us", for a change. The North East has their DX contests, West Coast has the Domestic contests, WE have the ARRL 10 Meter contest.

Directions to FL State Convention / Hamfest In Palmetto FL - Dec 7, 8

Manatee Civic Center - Palmetto, Florida

The address is 1 Haben Blvd. The Civic Center is located at the northeast corner of Haben Blvd and US 301. This is just north of the Manatee River and downtown Bradenton.

The Civic Center is located about three miles west of exit 43 on Interstate 75. Go west on US-301 (also known as 10th Street) take a left on Haben Blvd (there is a sign directing you to turn for the Manatee Civic Center.) Follow Haben Blvd until you reach the Civic Center.

From Pinellas and West Pasco County take Interstate 275 south across the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, and exit at US-19 (Exit 2) and continue south. After US-19 ends when it merges into US-41, watch for the US-41/Business US-41 split. Stay on US-41 (left fork.) When you go over US-301, take the next left, Haben Blvd. and the civic center is on your left. The Civic Center is five miles south of the southern toll bridge on Sunshine Skyway.

Remember that Parking is FREE so you can come and go as many times as you like all weekend as your admission ticket is good all weekend.

The Civic Center is easily accessible from either Tampa International Airport-TIA (about 35 minutes) or the Sarasota/ Bradenton International Airport-SRQ (about 15 minutes.)

Talk-in is on 145.430 and 442.950 and will be available around noon Friday Dec 1 until about 8:30 PM and starting early Saturday and Sunday.

The automated bulletin station will be available starting Friday morning on 147.555 simplex. Listen here first, you'll most likely find your answer without having to call for talk-in!

Ed Note: Charlie, NF4A sent in some FB pictures from 9A taken during his and Paul N4PN's trip to support CQWW CW



Paul N4PN working 20 Meters from 9A1A



NF4A on 20 and N4PN on 160



L to R Emil 9A9A and Paul N4PN at a pre-contest dinner 3 nights before the contest.



Meal for the crew at 9A1A Venison stew and grits (they have another name for them) plus the official beer of 9A1A "Ozujsko"



***Just a few
of the antennas
at
the 9A1A Contest***

***Station in
Kozjaca***



Dinner Party before the ARRL SSB Contest in March 2002 hosted by NF4A and N4PN



*Fore-ground
Niksa
9A5W
On 15*

*NF4A on
20*

*N4PN on
160*

Below - N4PN on 160



*Below - Emil 9A9A showing off a large collection of
ARRL DX Contest Plaques won by 9A1A in the past*



*Our Host Emil 9A9A at the club station in Zagreb.
(The contest station is located in a small village
named Kozjaca about 35 km SW of Zagreb).*



Robert 9A5E on 10 - (that Ozujsko is really popular) !



*N4PN taking a well deserved snooze durng the
contest*

Events Calendar

ARRL 160 Meter Contest Dec 6 - 2000Z Dec 8 - 1600Z
 FL State Convention/FCG Mtg - Manatee Cnty Civic Cntr- Dec 7
 ARRL 10 Meter Contest Dec 14 - 0000Z - Dec 15 - 2400Z
 Stu Perry Topband Challenge Dec 28, 1500Z - Dec 29 - 1500Z
 ARRL RTTY Roundup Jan 4 - 1800Z Jan 5 - 2400Z
 North American QSO Party, CW Jan 11 - 1800Z Jan 12 - 0600Z
 North American QSO Party, SSB Jan 18 - 1800Z Jan 19 - 0600Z
 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes Jan 18 - 1900Z - Jan 20 - 0400Z
 CQ 160 Meter Contest, CW Jan 24 - 2200Z Jan 26 - 1600Z
 North American Sprint, Phone Feb 2 - 000Z - 0400Z

Ed Note: Directions to the Manatee Civic Center where the FL State Convention / Hamfest will be held are on Page 11. See Map below.

Welcome Aboard



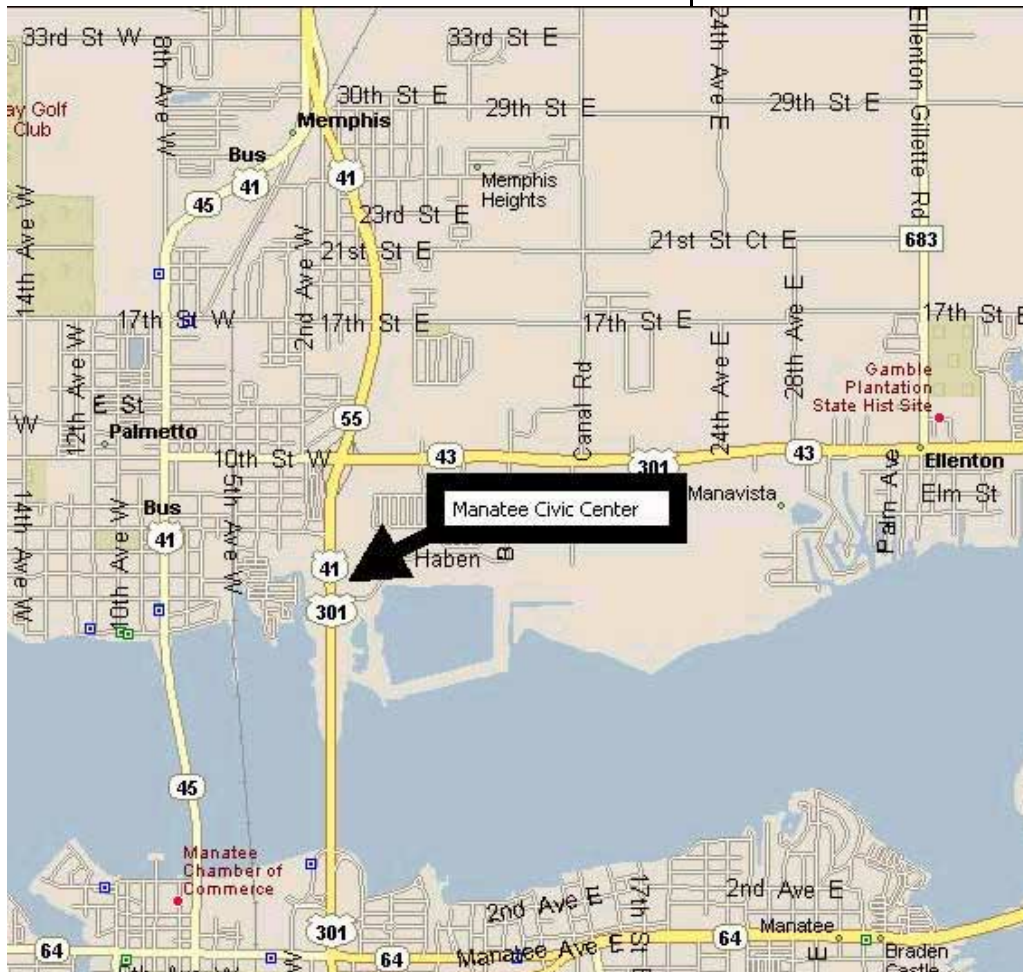
132 NP2B John Ellis, POB 24492, Christiansted VI (St. Croix) e-mail: np2b@thehelm.com

133 N4WW Austin Regal, 1245 Foxfire Trail, Apopka FL 32712 e-mail: n4ww@earthlink.com

134 AD4ES Chuck Green, 1720 Canterbury Dr., Indialantic FL 32903 e-mail: chuck@addressmail.com

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