



# Contest Gazette



## Florida Contest Group

<http://www.floridacontestgroup.org>

Volume 10 Issue 2

March 2004

### From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO



**T**hanks again to Fred for his tremendous efforts to collect and collate all of the K4OJ memorial material for the previous issue of the Gazette. As the founding father of this club, OJ will always be watching over us as we continue to pursue new heights. Efforts in ARRL DX by J7OJ, 6Y4OJ (NP4Z) and the C6 team were super special. If you don't already have your reservations for attending Dayton this year (May 13-16), you might rethink your decision. A number of activities are planned in recognition of Jim's contribution to our facet of the hobby, particularly in the evenings at the Contest Dinner and in several hospitality suites. Pack your orange shirts, hats, etc.

Welcome to yet another picture- and information-packed issue of the Gazette. Gotta love those ospreys teaching the K9ES crew and K1PT the finer art of searching and pouncing. Then there's the Buzzard Plantation. Despite that Backhand Pose, don't you think Badminton Playing is more up your alley, Bob? After all, you can take out your aggression by Birdie Pummeling...

Just as OJ built a solid foundation for this club, it's neat to see all the help that Steve, W4DTA got for his tower base digging efforts. Hey Jim (W4YA) – now we all understand why you waited for PC-generated CW before getting QRV again! Thanks to Duke for the 1970ish picture of 3 current FCGers in their younger days. Looks like that amp would do just fine today!

As this lead is being written, the WPX SSB contest is under way. Once again, it seems that despite low sunspots, conditions are pretty darned good, just as they were for the two modes of the ARRL DX Test. The detailed score listings in this issue show that FCGers amassed 34 Million points towards the club total. Working Europe on 10 Meters is not yet a lost art for this sunspot cycle as quite a few were worked from here during ARRL CW.

The FCG pulled off a fabulous club effort in last year's WPX. Between the two modes, we produced over 84 Million points and finished behind only the Northern Cal Contest Club and PVRC for top USA club!! Yes, that means we finished ahead of the YCCC, FRC and SOMC. Holy cow!! The NCCC deserves kudos for crushing the field from California

in a contest that gives significant weight to DX QSOs. Although DXpeditions played an integral part, it's nonetheless very impressive indeed.

FQP log checking is done and the line scores are out, as many of you have seen (thanks to WD4AHZ's postings). Despite some valiant efforts to create an alternate method, I was once again this year forced to use a less than optimal method of log checking – namely Excel spreadsheets with formulas. With just 4 weeks left before FQP 2004, I still hope to find enough time to piece together a write-up and the rest of the statistics for 2003. Certificates (thanks to WC4E's tireless efforts) and plaques (thanks to K4XS and K4XSS) are being produced and sent ASAP.

I cannot tell you how pleased I am to announce that our 662 logs for FQP 2003 was more than the 649 received in 2003 by the granddaddy of all QSO parties – the CQP!

There is no way to fill the FQP publicity director's shoes, but based upon the postings I've seen, it sure looks like a lot of folks around the country and the world have April 24-

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25 circled on their calendars for an effort in this year's FQP to honor K4OJ. Make sure you do the same if you can, please. Looks like K8OSF will join the mobile force this year for the first time (see pix in this issue).

In the meantime, don't forget to support those who support us. Specifically, the MI and ON QPs are the weekend before the FQP and the NEQP is the weekend afterward. We in the FCG have traditionally piled up big numbers in those events.

Welcome aboard to our new members. Joe, K4IK returns to the FCG after a short absence (intense MBA studies if I recall correctly). Charlie, K1XX will recall operating at the W1ZM Multi-Multi in 1975 next to a wide-eyed 15-year old kid who had taken a rickety old bus down from the Hartford area each weekend (yes, ARRL DX was 2 weekends back then) to get an introduction to DX contesting. Other W1ZM ops that went on to operate once or twice more after that included WA2LQZ (now K1AR) and WA2CLQ (now K1ZM/VY2ZM). Quite an experience! Jose, Michel, Ralph and Leslie – welcome aboard as well. Please let me or any of the other officers know how we can help in any way.

Thanks to webmeister WD4AHZ's efforts, the on-line FCG application page now includes a free-form entry box that allows applicants to tell us a bit more about themselves than just the standard information. Several recent applicants did just that!

On a personal note, please excuse my relative lack of visibility lately. After a relatively long self-imposed hiatus from the working world, I started a new job in early February that has required my primary focus for a while. Missing the Miami and Fort Walton Beach hamfest meetings was unusual for me and I hope it's a one-time deal.

Speaking of meetings, we're entering the period of the year when we have no major hamfests around which to plan a meeting. Thus, in past years at this time, a number of club members have graciously opened up their homes to us for a meeting. We've also found convenient restaurants to meet at as well all around the state. I might be away the weekend of April 17-18 (which is just before the FQP), so the first 2 weekends in May appear to be our best shots to avoid other major contests. The NEQP is that first weekend and several FCGers took top prizes in 2003, so maybe that is less desirable than the weekend of May 8-9. Any ideas or volunteers?

GO FCG! OJ

Vy 73, Dan

## Welcome Aboard



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

**N4IS** - Jose Carlos, 4710 SW 133 Ave., Ft Lauderdale FL 33330 e-mail: n4is@bellsouth.net

**KU4YP** - Michel Prevatt, 1575 Margaret Ave., Bartow FL 33830 e-mail: ku4yp@verizon.net

**W4REB** - Ralph Beverly, 5919 Northridge Dr. Naples FL 34110 e-mail: REBeverly@comcast.net

**K4IK** - Joe Subich, 380 Seminole Woods Blvd, Geneva FL 32732 e-mail: k4ik@subich.com

**K1XX** - Charlie Carroll, 2055 Highway A1A, Indian Harbour Beach FL 32937 e-mail: k1xx@ptcnh.net

**WA4EEZ** - Leslie Johnson, 6601 Bougainvillea Ave So, St Petersburg FL 33707 e-mail: dljohns@earthlink.net

**W4WR** - Warren Rothberg, 9 Waterford Ave. Delray Beach FL 33446-1515 e-mail: w4wr@bellsouth.net

This brings our membership up to 178!

## Events Calendar

*Michigan QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 17 to 0400Z, Apr 18*

*Florida QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 24- 0159Z, Apr 25 and 1200Z - 2159Z, Apr 25*

*MARAC County Hunters Contest, CW 0000Z, May 1- 2400Z, May 2*

*New England QSO Party 2000Z, May 1 - 0300Z, May 2 and 1300Z - 2400Z, May 2*

*CQ WW WPX Contest, CW 0000Z, May 29 - 2400Z, May 30*

*ARRL June VHF QSO Party 1800Z, Jun 12 - 0300Z, Jun 13*

### Claimed Scores - CQ 160 CW

	QSOs	States	Countries	Mult Score		
				s		
W4AA	318	34	27	61	73,482	SOLP
K4GKD	231	45	20	65	40,105	SOLP
W4SAA	234	42	12	54	29,052	SOLP
K4JAF	147	34	20	54	24,948	SOLP
N4QV	89	34	17	51	15,096	SOLP
K4MM	92	34	15	49	14,308	SOLP
N4EK	105	31	8	39	10,491	SOLP
KN4Y	99			36	8,064	SOLP
N4TB	695			93	193,500	SOHP
K5KG	629	52	33	85	151,640	SOHP
K9OM	358	45	31	76	84,056	SOHP
N8PR	149	28	44	184	44,784	SOHP
K4LQ	139			52	18,512	SOHP
W7QF	143			45	15,930	SOHP
N4WW	337	52	43	95	137,560	SO-U
NU4Y	153	73	39	112	51,830	SO-U
Totals					913,358	

### Claimed Scores - ARRL RTTY Roundup

	QSOs	ST	PROV	DX	SCORE
N4BP	1281		58	48	135,786
KC4HW	1000		56	48	104,000
N4IG	500	47	8	39	47,000
K4HV	494		55	29	41,496
KE1F	361		81		29,241

**FCG Antennas are for the Birds!**



*Eric K9ES shared with above and to the right us these pictures of the osprey who has taken over his yagi. At least it looks like he's not underfed!*

*Left: W4OSPREY - This guy is almost a member of our family. He takes his breakfast and dinner daily atop the 40 meter beam, usually a 14 inch mullet that he grabs from the canal behind the house....73 Paul KIPT*



*Left:  
Buzzards In Action  
This has got to be a classic! OKIDTP is here for the week and we're planning a M/S in the DX Phone this weekend. Maybe Murphy is planning an all out visit?  
73, Bob Patten, N4BP Plantation, FL*

### Claimed Scores NAQP CW

N4FCG	1133	240	271,240 (N4BP)
K4FCG	861	260	223,860 (K4OJ)
W4SAA	596	197	111,412
N4IG	586	176	103,136
N4TB	535	167	89,345
K4LQ	450	165	74,250
WD4AHZ	437	143	62,491
K1PT	388	148	57,424
N2NL/MM	401	132	52,932
KN4Y	320	140	44,800
W4EBA	185	84	15,540
N4GI	227	64	14,528
KB4N	155	80	12,400

### Claimed Scores NAQP SSB

	QSOs	Mults	Score
K4XS	1227	242	296,934
KK4TA	381	112	42,560
K8OSF	160	75	12,000
N4GI	183	59	10,797
K4LW	143	70	10,012
KB4ET	100	62	6,200
WD4AHZ	106	48	5,088

**SOAPBOX CW : K1PT** - Wanted to spend more time operating but other priorities conspired against me. **KN4Y** - contest was really a HOOT. Found I was not a Fast contester nor a slow contester. Guess I am a half fast contester. With the name ED I had no problem with the exchange. I had a no tap scotch doubles tournament Saturday evening so did not get to operate the allotted time. After a couple double scotches as things slow down. Hi. The bands were all good. I heard stations working N2NL/MM but did not work him, I even CQ'ed some hoping. It was fun. **K4LQ** - Murphy struck 10 minutes before the contest when my HF Quad suddenly became intermittent. So...my 80 meter quarter wave vertical was called into action on 10, 15 and 20 Worked surprisingly well, although no one in Florida could hear me on those bands except K4OJ.

Conditions were good on all bands. After the 10 Meter contest, NAQP is #2 in contests I enjoy. Still a lot of folks out there with suspect copying abilities, amazing how many requests for repeats that guy using the name 'Putz' was getting. <) **N2NL** - Wow - LOTS of FCG activity! **K9OM**, **WD4AHZ**, **N4FCG/N4BP**, and **OJ/K4FCG** were all very big here, about 30 miles offshore, midway between Galveston and Corpus Christi TX. 10m seemed long - I never heard FL there, with one exception, **K1PT** who had a huge backscatter signal. Unfortunately he was calling someone, and I missed working Paul again. The hamsticks really work out here - I'm going to have to get the 80m stick To expand my capabilities before my next 60 days beginning March 27. Counting down the days till we get back.

**N4IG** - Hoot" was a HOOT ;>) then along came "Dink", thought I was watching "Croc Dundee" **W4EBA** - Lack of antennas for 80 put a real dent in the score this year. Even 40 essentially closed down early so had to scramble in early evening to find some contacts. Did get N2NL/MM on 40 along with KP4, ZF2 and a bunch of W6s but nothing else. 80 sounded pretty good but I can't load a 40 meter dipole unto 80 so no luck. N2NL was only FCGer that I heard here in mid-state. **WD4AHZ** - Was doing well, until a TVI problem popped up and forced me off the air. Now to find the problem - which was never a problem before! **K4OJ** - one radio, one vfo today - after several years of learning to do it with two... boy this was weird! What do I do - how long do I wait with no answers to my CQs before I QSY???? I am not doing anything (reality check it has been all Of 2 minutes between QSOs) Too many personal things going on to fully enjoy this one - then I got distracted during a break watching NE and TN go at it (ended up being 1 1/2 hr off time - DOH!), uh oh too late to 40 meters.... but, NAQP is a personal favorite...I had one software freeze up - fisted an explanation to the calling pileup and heard back a GL CU :-)... a reboot and all was well...Thanks to all the guys who QSY'd - a couple of times we did not make the trip successfully but thanks for trying...Really dumb stuff I Missed. With the second rig you can focus will smashing that F1 key subliminally without it it is back to: "Should I stay or should I go" Tnx W1YL for the sliders! **SOAPBOX PHONE: KK4TA** - Worked harder and longer and had 50 fewer qso's than last year. I have improved the low band antennas some but not enough to compensate for the loss of the higher bands so early in the day. Next year will see the SteppIR higher (47' going to 67') along with the rotatable dipole on 40 (Or a replacement 2L being refurbished at this time. With the higher support the dipoles will be higher too. Receive loops are planned for 80 and 160 as well as some variety of low band vertical or inverted L. Much to be done here, but I guess that's the case for everyone. **WD4AHZ** - After last week's poor CW showing, another lame NAQP effort. Thought I had my flaky SWR problem licked during the week, but apparently not. Back to the drawing board before the next one. Did get to play with the new voice keyer, tried out some SSB filters, and help TOad with a tower project at N4LML's ... so at least the day wasn't a total waste! **K4XS** - QSO totals for 160 through 15 were at or above what they were for the last winter NAQP...and most of the mult totals for those bands were about what they were last year too. 10 meters just plain sucked! 28 QSOs and 14 mults ain't a lot of fun. Whether I called CQ or whether I tried to move guys up there from other bands, nothing worked. There was no backscatter, and the skip was extremely long. So, unless you wanted to S/P W6 stations there was not much for the taking. Biggest surprises of the contest were being called by an OX, and the huge run on 75 that developed from my CQ. The meter was in excess of 200 even though the QRN level was 20 over 9 with the approaching T-storms Thanks to all of the stations from the "good multiplier sections" who moved to other bands. See you all in the Sprint.



FCGers at the Miami Hamboree



*L - R Bob N4BP, Joe W4SAA*



*Dave AE4MR*



*L - R Hope WB3ANE, Mike W4UM*



*Seated—Don W3AZD*



*Right - Pete N8PR*

*Left L - R Sandy Donahue W4RU  
ARRL SE Division  
Vice Director, Sherry  
Brower, W4STB,  
ARRL Section Man-  
ager, South Florida*



## Summary of the Orlando Hamfest Meeting

Our February meeting was held at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Orlando

Attendees included: K0LUZ, K1PT and KD1BG, K1TO, K4DDR, K4IK, K4LQ, K4LW, K4XS, KE1F and Ann, KK4TA, KU3O and Tammy and David, N4GM, N4OO, N4TO, W4IR, W4QM, W4YA, WC4E, and WD4AHZ.

Members spotted at the hamfest included K4GKD, KX4WW, W3TMZ, W4FDA, W3AZD and WB3ANE, NP4Z

Dan opened the meeting by noting the recent death of our founder Jim White K4OJ and called for a moment of silence. Dan asked for a show of hands on members who had exchanged personal e-mails with Jim, nearly the entire room responded. Despite failing health Jim stayed actively involved with the membership the right up to the time of his death.

The next issue of our Gazette Newsletter will be dedicated to K4OJ. Please send any inputs you may have to Fred. Dan reviewed the fine performance of K4OJ and N4KM operating mobile in the FQP. He also noted the outstanding job that Jim had done in publicizing the FQP around the internet reflectors.

NCJ Editor Carl K9LA will be featuring a profile of Jim in an upcoming NC issue.. The article will be done by Dan and K9PG

FCG Member operations in the upcoming ARRL CW DX Contest which will be dedicated to K4OJ include K5KG and W4IX at J7 and N4BP and K4PG at C6.

The meeting lasted another 5-10 minutes, but I had to leave the room and did not capture the activity for that period.

Fred, K4LQ

## Station Profile K8OSF Davenport FL

Has your station not been featured lately in the Gazette? Send along some pix of your rig, antennas, on any combination thereof, we will try to feature at least one set of pictures per issue

Thanks for sending in your pictures Jim.

Home station --  
Yaesu FT847 and TenTec Omni V  
Gap vertical Antenna



Mobile station--  
VW Beetle (turbo diesel)  
Yaesu FT857  
Hustler Antenna

Ready for the FQP 2004.





# New Tower installation at W4DTA

The pictures tell it all.....



*Steve begins the action*



*Jackhammer Time*



*Shovel Some More!*



*Supervisors are always required!  
(N4GM, W4BP, W3AZD)*



*Planning the erection is a necessity!*



*L to R standing: W1RG, N8PR, W4BP, AC4VU, W3AZD Squatting : W4DTA*



### Claimed Scores - ARRL DX CW

K9OM	1256	361	1,360,248	SOABHP	
W4QM	1148	389	1,339,716	SOABHP	
N4AO	1200	336	1,317,600	SOABHP	WC4E
KD5M	1035	354	1,099,170	SOABHP	
W1MO	831	305	760,365	SOABHP	
K4LQ	746	319	713,922	SOABHP	
W4/G4BUE	784	256	602,112	SOABHP	
K4PB	662	301	597,786	SOABHP	
N4TO	333	209	208,791	SOABHP	
K1PT	1819	405	2,210,085	SOABLP	
K4GKD	1183	389	1,390,561	SOABLP	
WK2G	1600	246	1,168,992	SOABLP	
NJ4M	1190	301	1,074,570	SOABLP	WD4AHZ
N4IG	1084	327	1,063,404	SOABLP	
W4SAA	806	331	800,358	SOABLP	
NF4A	661	278	551,274	SOABLP	
W4YA	525	223	350,556	SOABLP	
KN4Y	525	217	341,124	SOABLP	
K9AW	367	178	195,978	SOABLP	
N4QV	298	172	153,768	SOABLP	
K1TO	316	157	148,836	SOABLP	
N4EK	309	159	147,393	SOABLP	
N8PR	236	161	113,988	SOABLP	
K4WJ	133	81	32,319	SOABLP	
K4RFK	99	72	21,384	SOABLP	
KE1F	89	65	17,355	SOABLP	
KB4N	65	41	7,995	SOABLP	
K4MM	833	338	844,662	SOABLP(A)	
W4ARM	643	242	466,818	SOABLP(A)	
KU3O	358	180	193,320	SOABLP(A)	
K9ES	543	93	151,497	SOSB10HP	K1XX
N4GM	186	67	37,386	SOSB10HP	
N4WW	1515	112	508,704	SOSB15HP	K0LUZ
WB4TDH	736	101	223,008	SOSB15HP	
N4PN	1421	120	495,360	SOSB40HP	
K4XS	777	79	184,149	SOSB40HP	
N4CC	402	89	107,334	SOSB40HP	
KC4HW	75	65	14,625	SOSB40HP	
W4ZW	77	44	9,768	SOSB40HP	
NA4CW	13	11	429	SOSB160	
K1RQ	540	284	460,080	M/S	NJ1F
W4YY	318	190	181,260	M/S	K9VV, K6CT
J7OJ	7644	350	8,026,000	M2	K5KG, W4IX, K3TEJ
C6APG	604	56	100,968	SOSB10HP	K4PG
C6AKQ	1455	59	257,535	SOSB80HP	N4BP
<b>Totals</b>			<b>28,664,795</b>		
<b>FCG - Panhandle</b>					
N4PN	1421	120	495,360	SOSB40HP	
NF4A	661	278	551,274	SOABLP	
KN4Y	525	217	341,124	SOABLP	
K4JAF	109	61	19,947	SOSB80HP	
<b>Totals</b>			<b>1,407,705</b>		

### Claimed Scores ARRL VHF CONTEST - JAN 04

NW5E	462	121	64,735
NJ2F	330	73	27,740
K9VV	56	23	1,541
N4GM	54	21	1,134
K4GKD	17	10	170
Total			95,230

### FCGers KA6R and KA6AFK Named Officers at HCARC

Congrats are in order for husband and wife Team Ben and Suzanne Wilbanks, KA6R and KA6AFK who were named recently to the posts of President and Treasurer/Newsletter Editor for the Highlands County Amateur Radio club in Sebring. *Ed Note: Suzanne sent me a copy of her first electronic issue of "Radio News", she did a very professional job.*

### 2003 FQP Results Now Available

Florida Fixed - Fixed - [www.floridaqsoparty.org/results/florida.pdf](http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/results/florida.pdf)  
 Florida Mobile - [www.floridaqsoparty.org/results/floridamobile.pdf](http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/results/floridamobile.pdf)  
 US - [www.floridaqsoparty.org/results/us.pdf](http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/results/us.pdf)  
 VE - [www.floridaqsoparty.org/results/ve.pdf](http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/results/ve.pdf)  
 DX - [www.floridaqsoparty.org/results/dx.pdf](http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/results/dx.pdf)  
 Checklogs - [www.floridaqsoparty.org/results/checklogs.pdf](http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/results/checklogs.pdf)

Complete results, including write-up, statistics and soapbox will be posted to the FQP Web site when complete.

Ron WD4AHZ.

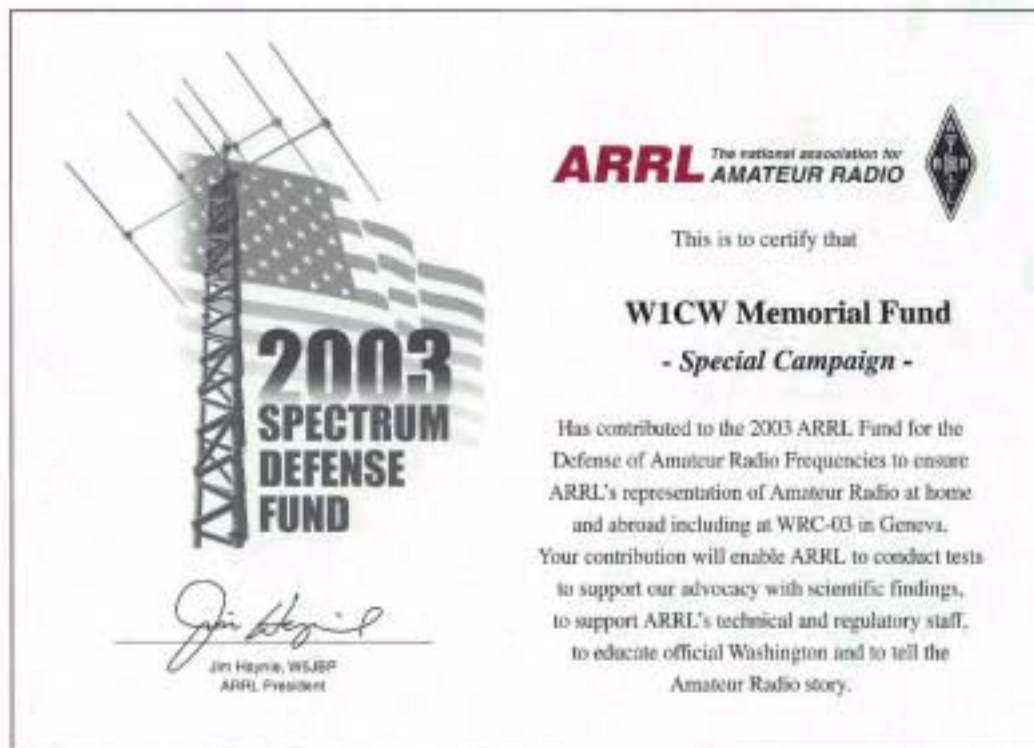
### KN4Y scores # 1 in World for 10 - 10 Contest

From the FCG Reflector: Got a neat surprise. I was First Place in the World in the 2003 CW Ten-Ten Fall CW contest. Received a nice certificate. The ten meter Gods enjoy a good CW contest. Ed KN4Y

Ellen W1YL passed on a scan of the certificate to the left.

This was in response to a \$100 donation sent from the Club earmarked for the BPL Fund, monies donated from the FCG W1CW Memorial Fund.

Ellen noted that The ARRL does not offer anything specialized for BPL fund donations, but uses one all-inclusive special campaign spectrum defense fund certificate to acknowledge donations for any of their programs.



### Claimed Scores - ARRL DX SSB

N4IG	730	264	578,160	SOABHP	
K4VUD	699	179	374,826	SOABHP	
W4/M0BUE	221	106	70,278	SOABHP	
K4RFK	127	84	32,004	SOABHP	
K4GKD	425	224	285,600	SOABLP	
N4EK	346	155	160,890	SOABLP	
NJ4M	317	141	134,091	SOABLP	WD4AHZ
K9AW	227	146	99,426	SOABLP	
N4GM	206	122	75,396	SOABLP	
K8OSF	115	63	21,735	SOABLP	
K4XS	895	101	271,185	SOSB40HP	
N4BP	1532	357	1,633,357	M/S	N4BP, OK1DTP
K9ES	1206	353	1,271,859	M/S	AD4ES, K9ES, K3ZM, KG4IPO, KI4TG
K1PT	353	1056	218,592	S/U	
FCG Totals			5,227,379		
K4JAF	124	167	162,336	SOABLP	
P/H Totals			162,336		



***OK1DTP running Europe on 21 Mhz at N4BP M/S***



***OK1DTP and N4BP taking a tennis break between the pileups!***



## How I Got into Ham Radio

By Jim Roux W4YA

In 1950 at age 14, I was tuning around the dial of my new BC band radio and heard a station sending Morse code. I could tell that the message was repetitive, and I thought I could decipher it by listening for the first letter, then the second and so forth. Then I could look up what the dots and dashes meant and figure it out. I guess I must have heard it a hundred times, and I finally got it - DE WID26 K. It didn't make any sense, but it was fun doing it. I must have had a lot of idle time on my hands back then.

I tuned around some more and found more Morse stuff. Using the same process I decoded messages from stations like WCC, WSL and some others. By then I could write down some of the letters from memory. But I still had to look a lot of them up.

Then I found NSS, a Navy station not far from my home. It was loud and had no note to it, just a hiss. Every day at 4:00 it sent some regular text, and numbers and letters in groups of five. When I heard something that I didn't recognize, I wrote out the dots and dashes and looked it up. Soon I could get all of the numbers with no problem. After a few months I could copy the whole hour with few mistakes. I kept all the sessions in a spiral notebook.

A guy (W3IYU) came to our Scouts meeting and tried to teach us the Morse code. The next week I told him I already knew it and showed him my notebook. He invited me to see his ham station. I had never heard of ham radio and was impressed with all of his war surplus radios - BC457, BC348, etc. He could send code but couldn't copy it. But he said, "Let's try something." He would call somebody and I would write down what the guy sent. He read it and answered the guy, and so forth. The first guy was somewhere in Pennsylvania - WOW!. I was hooked. I guess that was my first half-QSO.

He lent me a License Manual and Handbook and told me to study them, which I did. Then I went to the local FCC office and told them I wanted to take the ham test. I guess it was unusual to see a teenager there in the pre-novice days. The code test was easy since I was used to twenty WPM five-letter groups. I didn't know I was required to send code, too. I never used a key before, but I faked it OK, I guess. After the Engineer-In-Charge graded my test and told me that I passed, he said, "One piece of advice, work on your sending - it's pretty awful."



## M/S Contesting in FL - Circa 1970

By Ink Bowen, N4OO

Above is a multi-single team of present FCGers in action way before FCG was ever thought of - around 1970 in Clearwater FL. Duke W1ZA (W4QBK) standing, Jim W4YA (K4THA) sitting center, and Ink N4OO (W4LCP) sitting foreground. (Pix courtesy W1ZA at whose QTH this operation took place.)

Of interest in the picture (in addition to N4OO having some hair) are several things. The first would be the amplifier on the dresser at left. It was prototype 1 or 2 of Dick Ehrhorn's first amplifier, a vapor phase cooled affair.

You cannot see the radiator on the back. The coolant was a Freon type liquid. It was subsequently found that the radiators and coolant were a difficult manufacturing and procurement problem and use of the vapor phase cooled tube (however efficient) was discontinued in favor of air cooled tubes. You could not hurt this amplifier. As an aside, the amplifier was subsequently sold to Bob James, W4WS, also a Clearwater resident. When Bob died, the amp was acquired by Vern Burkett, KF4RT, who subsequently traded it back to Dick Ehrhorn for a more modern amp

Next would be the homebrew TO keyer on the shelf upper right. Jim, W4YA, built it. In another room was a 75A4 and a Viking Ranger, which we used to make a few contacts on 160M. With the crummy antenna we used, it was miracle that we worked the other 2 USA zone multipliers. The receiver being used was a 75S3 I think. We cannot see the transmitter, but I think it was the 32S3

73, Ink N4OO

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