



TALES FROM THE SWAMP

August 2017

Author: Frank KG4IGC

From your President:

Greetings fellow Swamp foxes! Well, most of the major summertime contests are over and the heat is in full swing with the dog days of August upon us but no worries, the upcoming fall contest season is almost here!

This is the time to start thinking about station maintenance and planning for serious club competition so make sure you check those jumper cables and look for loose connections at the control point. I think we all have experienced at one time or another that something has went wrong with the connections from your rig to the PC, loose cables, bad com ports, aggravating interfaces that worked perfectly last weekend but for some dumb reason doesn't want to co-operate today...

Fall and winter are great for the lower bands so if you plan on working these bands, it might be a good idea to do some maintenance checks on your antenna. If you do not have one already, this would be a good time to construct and put up a new antenna.

You might want to also make sure that your existing antenna farm is operating correctly ready to go. Check your coaxes, ladder lines, and connections to your antennas for corrosion, breaks, and loose connections. I don't know about the rest of you but there have been many a contest that I decide to enter only to find out at the beginning of the contest that my antenna has a nice 10:1 SWR or even worse, is lying on the ground! And then there are those of us with backhoes and buried coax and control cables.....

August is going to be an exciting month for solar activities. On August 11th- the 13th, we have the Perseid Meteor Shower. For those of you who are interested in meteor scatter, this will be an excellent time to try to make some meteor scatter contacts.

Rates in past years were about 80 meteors an hour, but scientists are calling this an outburst year and are expecting between 150-200 meteors an hour. The meteor shower's peak is estimated to be around 1 p.m. EDT Aug. 12, which will have the best visibility and rates.

NASA advises that people who want to catch the shooting star display should allow their eyes 45 minutes to adjust. Then of course we have the upcoming solar eclipse on the 21st of August. This is a once in a lifetime (well for some of us youngsters) event that you do not want to miss.

The Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation is preparing for the Solar Eclipse QSO Party on Monday, August 21st. If you plan on participating, Here is the link to the rules and a good presentation given at the Dayton hamfest earlier this year about the Solar Eclipse QSO Party: <http://hamsci.org/solar-eclipse-qso-party>

Brag List:

Congratulations goes out to Bill N4IQ for earning the Level II medallion for the 1500 band-countries Challenge Award, great job Bill!

Other News:

Dave WN4AFP gave us the heads up about an upcoming contesting article in the September QST. The article discusses some changes that are going to be made to improve the quality of the competition and reporting of results.

Some of the changes will include shortened log submission deadlines, making all logs public once the contest results are published, encouraging in HF competition that logs use 1 kHz accuracy for improved log checking, & remote-controlled-station contest entries.

There was a lengthy discussion on the Yahoo reflector about the 1 kHz rule, most of our members did not agree with this rule. The full article can be found [here](#)

Thomas AJ4UQ has reported that the Charleston Hamfest Committee has had a meeting to plan for the upcoming 2018 Charleston Hamfest. The ARRL speaker will be ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher NY2RF.

The 2018 Charleston Hamfest is scheduled for Saturday 3 February 2018 at the Danny Jones Armory in North Charleston. Tables are \$10 in advance, \$5 admission. Thomas has also told us that there will be a NASA Space Grant balloon launch from the recreation complex in Moncks Corner on August 21st for those who may be interested.

Frank KG4IGC let us know that the results for the 2017 BARTG HF contest have been posted, results can be found [here](#).

Notable Mentions:

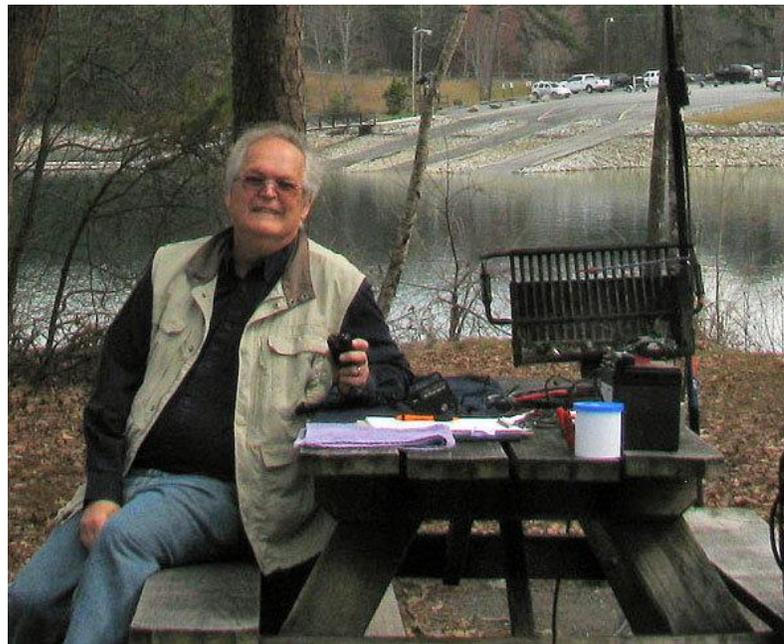
The SFCG would like to congratulate Russ and Nancy Warmath, they celebrated their 50th Anniversary on July 22, 2017. We would like to extend best wishes for many more years of togetherness, happiness, and prosperity!

Our very own Gil KS4YX was the featured ham July 30th on QRZ which officially makes him “Swamp Fox Man of the Year”
Congratulations Gil!

Contributions from our members: *The SFCG would like to thank Gil KS4YS for this months featured article. If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, please forward your writings & photos to Frank KG4IGC before the publication date of the 15th of each month. All members are welcome to submit your articles, thoughts and ideas for the club newsletter*

The World Wide Flora and Fauna Experience

By: Gil Huggins – KS4YX



Back in mid-March, fellow Swamp Foxes, Steve – W4SLT, Russ – W4STR, Tom – KK4CEW and I decided that we wanted to become active in the World Wide Flora and Fauna program. This is a radio activity that is very similar to the NPOTA event of last year. This is a worldwide event and stateside is known as Parks on the Air.

Upon investigating the various places to activate, it became apparent that there are more official sites than there were with the National Parks event. In fact, within our home territory, there were seven official sites within a short drive. We chose Devil's Fork State Park. The official designator is KFF-2892. Parks in the United States have a KFF prefix and an assigned number.

We arrived early and strung up our end fed wires. We used KX3s were our rigs and the total set-up time was less than 30 minutes. Russ W4STR got off to a rip roaring start by working approximately 30 stations. I struggled trying to activate the park as a digital station. It was extremely hard and almost impossible to see the computer screen. I finally gave up and went SSB. It also took me two trips to work about thirty stations.

On a third trip, we almost got skunked. The band conditions were terrible, and the fruits of our labor garnered us only three contacts. As Steve - W4SLT said, "It is not so much the destination as it is the trip." Well, he is right, although the sights at Devil's Fork State Park are outstanding, and the picnic area where we play radio could not be better. Part of the appeal of the event is getting out of the shack. It is also an excuse to tell the XYL that it requires some really low priced equipment. You know, an end-fed antenna wire doesn't cost much.

A fellow Swamp Fox - Tom Francis - W1TEF is also quite active in the KFF program. I frequently see post on Facebook where he is activating a park downstate. So if you want to experience something different, the WWFF program may be the ticket for you. For

complete information on the “World Wide Flora and Fauna” program, and to get to the web page, use a Google search. I would like to encourage you to become a part of this exciting program. Just based off of the parks and stations I worked during the NPOA program, I qualified for several certificates. This was quite a surprise and added to the excitement of the KFF program. I hope to work you soon.

Contests:

North America QSO Party CW: Only had one team this year but we did pretty good. Propagation seemed to be directed toward the West coast and the North East throughout the contest. There were also reports of openings to Central America and EU.

SFCG Team: KG4IGC, NI7R, AJ4UQ, WN4AFP, KS4YX Total: 56,845

NE4EA Al did a great job as well finishing with a total score of 12,166

North America QSO Party RTTY: The SFCG had two teams this year in the NAQP.

SFCG Team 1: N4IQ, KS4YX, N4VZ, AJ5E, NJ4F score: 131,793

SFCG Team 2: KG4IGC, NI7R, K7OM score: 33,942

Total: 165,735

Flight of the Bumblebees QRP contest:

Thomas AJ4UQ played in this one for a couple of hours. Thomas tells us that his dog got tangled in his antenna but he had a great time. Despite band conditions, he managed to make six contacts with the BB multiplier which gave him a total of 216 points!

SFOTA:

Bill N4IQ is still in the lead for the CW, DIGI and Total QSO's....time to **turn up the heat guys**, who will be the first to catch Bill? At the moment Dave WN4AFP leads in the SSB but that may change with the upcoming NAQP SSB contest on August 19, 2017. Remember, all Q's from any contest, sprint, and CW ops count so don't forget to include them!

OVERALL STANDINGS

	CALL	CW QSO'S	SSB QSO'S	DIGITAL QSO'S	TOTAL QSO'S
1)	N4IQ	9083	153	2986	12222
2)	WN4AFP	2803	1045	222	4070
3)	KG4IGC	985	339	1776	3100
4)	NJ4F	691	0	1728	2419
5)	K7OM	840	252	1311	2403
6)	KS4YX	670	145	1395	2210
7)	NI7R	1459	0	114	1573
8)	N4VZ	0	77	1349	1426
9)	W4SLT	0	971	0	971
10)	AJ5E	0	182	732	914
11)	WU0B	0	270	82	352
12)	NE4EA	294	0	0	294
13)	AJ4UQ	6	0	241	247

INDIVIDUAL MODE STANDINGS

CALL	CW QSO'S	CALL	SSB QSO'S	CALL	DIGITAL QSO'S
N4IQ	9083	WN4AFP	1045	N4IQ	2986
WN4AFP	2803	W4SLT	971	KG4IGC	1776
NI7R	1459	KG4IGC	339	NJ4F	1728
KG4IGC	985	WU0B	270	KS4YX	1395
K7OM	840	K7OM	252	N4VZ	1349
NJ4F	691	AJ5E	182	K7OM	1311
KS4YX	670	N4IQ	153	AJ5E	732
NE4EA	294	KS4YX	145	AJ4UQ	241
AJ4UQ	6	N4VZ	77	WN4AFP	222
				NI7R	114
				WU0B	82

From QST Affiliated Club Competition:

2017 ARRL RTTY Roundup Results (Pg. 93 Aug. 2017) Affiliated clubs #22 252,632 points, 9 ops

Upcoming Contests

[NAQCC CW Sprint](#), Aug 9, 0030z to Aug 9, 0230z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20m; RST + (state/province/country) + (NAQCC No./power); Logs due: August 13.

[Phone Fray](#), Aug 9, 0230z to Aug 9, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: July 28.

[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#), Aug 9, 1300z to Aug 9, 1400z, Aug 9, 1900z to Aug 9, 2000z, Aug 10, 0300z to Aug 10, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: July 29.

[QRP Fox Hunt](#), Aug 11, 0100Z-0230Z; 20m Only; RST + (state/province/country) + name + power output; Logs due: Aug 12

[NCCC RTTY Sprint](#), Aug 11, RTTY; 0145Z-0215Z; Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: Aug 13

[NCCC Sprint](#), Aug 11, CW; 0230Z-0300Z; Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: Aug 13

[WAE DX Contest CW](#), 0000Z, Aug 12 to 2359Z, Aug 13; 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + Serial No; Logs due: Aug 28

[SKCC Weekend Sprintathon](#), 1200Z, Aug 12 to 2400Z, Aug 13; 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6m; RST + (state/province/country) + Name + (SKCC No./"NONE"); Logs due: Aug 20

[Maryland-DC QSO Party](#), 1600Z, Aug 12 to 0400Z, Aug 13 and 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 13; CW, Phone, Digital; 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, 432, MDC: entry class + county non-MDC: entry class + (state/province/country); Logs due: Sep 12

[4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint](#), Aug 14, 0000Z-0200Z; CW, SSB; 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m, Member: RS(T) + (State/Province/Country) + Member No., Non-member: RS(T) + (State/Province/Country) + Power; Logs due: Aug 31

[Phone Fray](#), Aug 16, 0230Z-0300Z; SSB; 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country)non-NA: Name; Logs due: Aug 18

[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#), 1300Z-1400Z, Aug 16 and 1900Z-2000Z, Aug 16 and 0300Z-0400Z, Aug 17; CW; 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No.;non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: Aug 12

VHF+ CONTESTS [MMonVHF/DUBUS 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint Contest](#), 2200Z, Aug 11 to 2200Z, Aug 13; 2m Only; Signal report; Logs due: Sep 15

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