



TALES FROM THE SWAMP

October 2017

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From your President:

Hello again fellow Swamp foxes! Fall is finally here and man I sure am excited about the upcoming fall/winter contest season! I just wish this heat and humidity would break and let the cool weather begin already. I don't know about you guys but I have plenty of antenna projects that need attending to and this guy is not going to work in the heat hihi!

OK...first order of business. [CQ WW SSB](#) is two weeks away folks! It is time to plan ahead and get your strategies in place. Some strategies you can look at are to remember to work the different zones, (don't forget zones 3, 4, & 5) pick up the easy multipliers, and something

that I learned, don't waste time in pileups. You will most likely pick them up later. Run times are another thing to watch out for; you really need to gauge yourself and know when to run and when to S&P. I have also learned not to keep calling a station over and over. If he/she is calling CQ and they can't pull you out, shouting louder into the mic doesn't help! Move on and work the next one.

Last year we had a score of 543,722 points from the combined efforts of seven members. I am pretty sure if we put our minds to it we can easily top last year's score which means more planned BIC time! Remember, all scores count, big or small.

I would also like to remind everyone to mark their calendars for Sunday, January 28, 2017. We will be holding our fourth annual meeting at the Lizards Thicket in Lexington, SC. I have been working with the board to put together an interesting meeting that hopefully everyone will enjoy and hope that we have good attendance at the meeting.

A couple of items we have in store for the club meeting: Bill N4IQ has agreed to give a presentation on SO2R. I know a lot of you guys would like to learn more about SO2R so here is your chance! I also have invited Marc Tarplee N4UFP to attend. He has graciously accepted and said that he will be happy to update us with what's going on in the ARRL.

We will be talking about the SFOTA program and announcing winners for each category. For this being the first year doing the SFOTA

program, I think it has been pretty successful and a lot of fun. I really hope that you guys are enjoying it as much as I am. Of course, we will have some other items to talk about like the upcoming SCQP and we will have our annual elections.

Please start considering nominations for next year's officers, as this is an important step in the elections process. Dave WN4AFP will be putting together an election committee here sometime soon and hopefully we will start taking nominations sometime in the next month or so.

As for membership: I have sent out about six invitations to SC hams today in hopes to recruit some new blood. Two of the guys that I invited are SO2R stations which would be awesome if they decide to join the club. Gang, let's start a new trend; if you happen to work someone in SC during a contest, jot down their call and send them an invite to join the club! The more the merrier not to mention the more active members that we have the higher the overall club scores will be. That is all for now, so let's get those SFCG stations on the air and make some noise!

Brag List:

Congratulations to the following members for an outstanding performance in the following contests!

W4SLT: 10 Meter Contest 2016 First Place South Carolina Section Single Op, Phone Only, High Power 16,632 points

WN4AFP: 10 Meter Contest 2016 First Place South Carolina Section Single Op, Unlimited, CW only, Low Power 11,532 points

KS4YX: 10 Meter Contest 2016 First Place South Carolina Section Single Op, CW only, QRP 8,236 points **7th Place-United States**

KS4YX: CQ World Wide RTTY WPX 2017 Contest #8 call area 4-USA Single Op, Low power, All Bands 288,906 points

N4VZ: CQ World Wide RTTY WPX 2017 Contest #2 call area 4-USA Tri-bander/Single-Element High Power All Bands 899,640 points **#7 North America**

KG4IGC: CQ World Wide RTTY WPX 2017 Contest #1 call area 4-USA Single Op, Low power, SSB 40 Meters, 92,480 points **#1 North America, #1 United States**

KG4IGC: 10 Meter Contest 2016 First Place South Carolina Section Single Op, Mixed Mode. QRP 1,862 points

N4IQ: North America QSO Party RTTY July 2017 Single Op Top Score in SC 76,538 points

Other News:

Al NE4EA asked the group if a station effectively S&P running a tube amp and what the allowable frequency range would be. One good hint from Dave NJ4F was to keep a cheat sheet for your tuner. Bill N4IQ told Al that you can effectively S&P with a tube amp on 20 & up, but

on the lower bands there would have to retune due to changes in antenna impedances.

Frank KG4IGC ran into some issues with his rig at the start of the BARTG 75 Baud Sprint. He could not understand why he could not get NIMM+ to decode anything nor could he get anyone to answer him in the contest. After seeking help from Ted K7OM and Bill N4IQ, it turned out to be a real head scratcher. The rig was transmitting at 45 baud, even though the settings in NIMM+ were at 75 baud and everything in his rig settings were correct. After about an hour on the phone with Bill, the culprit was finally tracked down to the fact that Franks Yaesu FT-DX3000 would only do 45 baud over the USB cable that controls everything. Frank needs to order a dedicated FSK RTTY cable for his rig.....

WU0B Hans had some trouble in the NA Sprint RTTY with his sound card /interface and macros. Looks like Murphy made his rounds, when he finished with Hans he headed right to Frank KG4IGCs QTH!

Ted K7OM informed us that he would be attending SEDCO. Ted let us know that there was a good turnout and that SEDCO was very big this year! Unfortunately, this event falls on the same weekend as the CQ WW RTTY contest. Ted did get a couple of hours in though on Sunday. For more info on SEDCO, [click here](#).

Gil KS4YX informed us about a nifty way of seeing you logs analyzed in many ways by a program called [Qscope](#).

The program allows you to see via graphs and charts how you performed in a contest. It is free but you must establish an account.

Dave WN4AFP spent some time practicing his already fantastic super-human CW copying skills on LCWO.net

This is a great website to hone your CW copying skills, and a few of our club members are taking advantage of it. If you want to join in the fun, Dave has set up a Swamp Fox group on the site.

Wondering if the bands are open? There is a great website that you can check out called DXmaps. This site came in really handy during the California QSO Party. Frank KG4IGC used it to check if 10 meters was open and he was able to catch two great openings to the West coast!

Contests:

California QSO Party

Small club category

KG4IGC: 11,811

W4SLT: 11,552

WN4AFP: 5,975

NI7R: 5,796

Total aggregate score: 35,134

CQ WW RTTY

N4IQ: 462,024

KG4IGC: 160,160

KS4YX: 110,838

AJ5E: 66,440

NI7R: 52,884

KM4RK: 33,672

K7OM: 32,520

WU0B: 23,744

Total aggregate score: 942,282

NA Sprint RTTY

N4IQ: 3,422

WU0B: 30

BARTG 75 Baud RTTY

K7OM: 3,168

N4IQ: 2,560

Iowa QSO Party

WN4AFP: 60

New Hampshire QSO Party

WN4AFP: 8

SFOTA:

Well guys. We have a little over two and a half months to catch up to Bill N4IQ! He sure is cleaning house in this competition so far this year but there is still time to catch him. One thing is certain, Bill is doing a fantastic job of racking up those Q's with his SO2R setup....which is a very good reason to come to the meeting in January so we all can get a few pointers on how to set up our very own SO2R stations and start cranking out some serious scores for yourselves & the Swamp Fox Contest

Club! I think looking at the next two months, we all need to put some serious efforts into the upcoming contests and work on getting our Q' counts up. Good luck everyone and hope to see you all on the air!

OVERALL STANDINGS

	CALL	CW QSO'S	SSB QSO'S	DIGITAL QSO'S	TOTAL QSO'S
1)	N4IQ	10007	153	3940	14100
2)	WN4AFP	3261	1214	222	4697
3)	KG4IGC	1112	339	1776	3227
4)	KS4YX	670	145	1684	2499
5)	NJ4F	691	0	1728	2419
6)	K7OM	840	252	1311	2403
7)	NI7R	1459	0	289	1748
8)	N4VZ	0	77	1349	1426
9)	W4SLT	0	1186	0	1186
10)	AJ5E	0	182	732	914
11)	WU0B	0	270	88	358
12)	NE4EA	294	0	0	294
13)	AJ4UQ	7	0	241	248

INDIVIDUAL MODE STANDINGS

CALL	CW QSO'S	CALL	SSB QSO'S	CALL	DIGITAL QSO'S
N4IQ	10007	WN4AFP	1214	N4IQ	3940
WN4AFP	3261	W4SLT	1186	KG4IGC	1776
NI7R	1459	KG4IGC	339	NJ4F	1728
KG4IGC	1112	WU0B	270	KS4YX	1684
K7OM	840	K7OM	252	N4VZ	1349
NJ4F	691	AJ5E	182	K7OM	1311
KS4YX	670	N4IQ	153	AJ5E	732
NE4EA	294	KS4YX	145	NI7R	289
AJ4UQ	7	N4VZ	77	AJ4UQ	241
				WN4AFP	222
				WU0B	88

Upcoming Contests:

[10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint](#), Oct 10, 0001z to Oct 10, 2359z; All; Bands: 10m Only; 10-10 Member: Name + 10-10 number + (state/province/country), Non-Member: Name + 0 + (state/province/country); Logs due: October 18.

[NAQCC CW Sprint](#), Oct 11, 0030z to Oct 11, 0230z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20m; RST + (state/province/country) + (NAQCC No./power); Logs due: October 15.

[Phone Fray](#), Oct 11, 0230z to Oct 11, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: October 13.

[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#), Oct 11, 1300z to Oct 11, 1400z, Oct 11, 1900z to Oct 11, 2000z, Oct 12, 0300z to Oct 12, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: October 14.

[NCCC RTTY Sprint](#), Oct 13, 0145z to Oct 13, 0215z; RTTY; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: October 15.

[NCCC Sprint](#), Oct 13, 0230z to Oct 13, 0300z; CW; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: October 15.

[Makrothen RTTY Contest](#), Oct 14, 0000z to Oct 14, 0759z, Oct 14, 1600z to Oct 14, 2359z, Oct 15, 0800z to Oct 15, 1559z;

RTTY; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; 4-character grid square; Logs due: October 22.

[Oceania DX Contest, CW](#), Oct 14, 0800z to Oct 15, 0800z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: October 31.

[QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party](#), Oct 14, 1200z to Oct 15, 2359z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; ARCI: RST + (state/province/country) + ARCI No., non-ARCI: RST + (state/province/country) + power out; Logs due: October 29.

[Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB](#), Oct 14, 1200z to Oct 15, 1200z; SSB; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: October 20.

[Arizona QSO Party](#), Oct 14, 1600z to Oct 15, 0600z, Oct 15, 1400z to Oct 15, 2359z; CW, Phone, Digital; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2m; AZ: Serial No. + state + county, non-AZ: Serial No. + (state/province/country); Logs due: October 31.

[Pennsylvania QSO Party](#), Oct 14, 1600z to Oct 15, 0500z, Oct 15, 1300z to Oct 15, 2200z; CW, Phone, PSK, RTTY; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2m; PA: Serial No. + County, non-PA: Serial No. + ARRL/RAC Section; Logs due: November 15.

[FISTS Fall Unlimited Sprint](#), Oct 14, 1700z to Oct 14, 2100z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; FISTS: RST + (state/province/country) + first name + FISTS No., non-FISTS: RST + (state/province/country) + first name + power; Logs due:

November 13.

[PODXS 070 Club 160m Great Pumpkin Sprint](#), Oct 14, 2000z to Oct 15, 2000z; PSK31; Bands: 160m Only; RST + (state/province/country); Logs due: October 22.

[Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW](#), Oct 15, 0000z to Oct 15, 0200z; CW; Bands: 20, 15m; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: October 22.

[Run for the Bacon QRP Contest](#), Oct 16, 0100z to Oct 16, 0300z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + (state/province/country) + (Member No./power); Logs due: October 22.

[ARRL School Club Roundup](#), Oct 16, 1300z to Oct 20, 2359z; CW, Phone, RTTY/Digital; Bands: All, except 60, 30, 17, 12m; RS(T) + Class (I/C/S) + (state/province/country); Logs due: November 4.

[Telephone Pioneers QSO Party](#), Oct 16, 1900z to Oct 17, 0300z; CW/Digital, Phone; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF/UHF; Members: RS(T) + chapter no. + name, non-Members: RS(T) + name; Logs due: December 10.

[Phone Fray](#), Oct 18, 0230z to Oct 18, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: October 20.

[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#), Oct 18, 1300z to Oct 18, 1400z, Oct 18, 1900z to Oct 18, 2000z, Oct 19, 0300z to Oct 19, 0400z; CW;

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: October 21.

[RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data](#), Oct 18, 1900z to Oct 18, 2030z; RTTY, PSK; Bands: 80m Only; [other station's call] + [your call] + [serial no.] + [your name]; Logs due: October 20.

VHF+ CONTESTS

[UBA ON Contest, 2m](#), Oct 15, 0700z to Oct 15, 1000z; CW, Phone; Bands: 2m Only; ON: RS(T) + Serial No. + ON Section, non-ON: RS(T) + Serial No.; Logs due: November 5.