



TALES FROM THE SWAMP

October 2019

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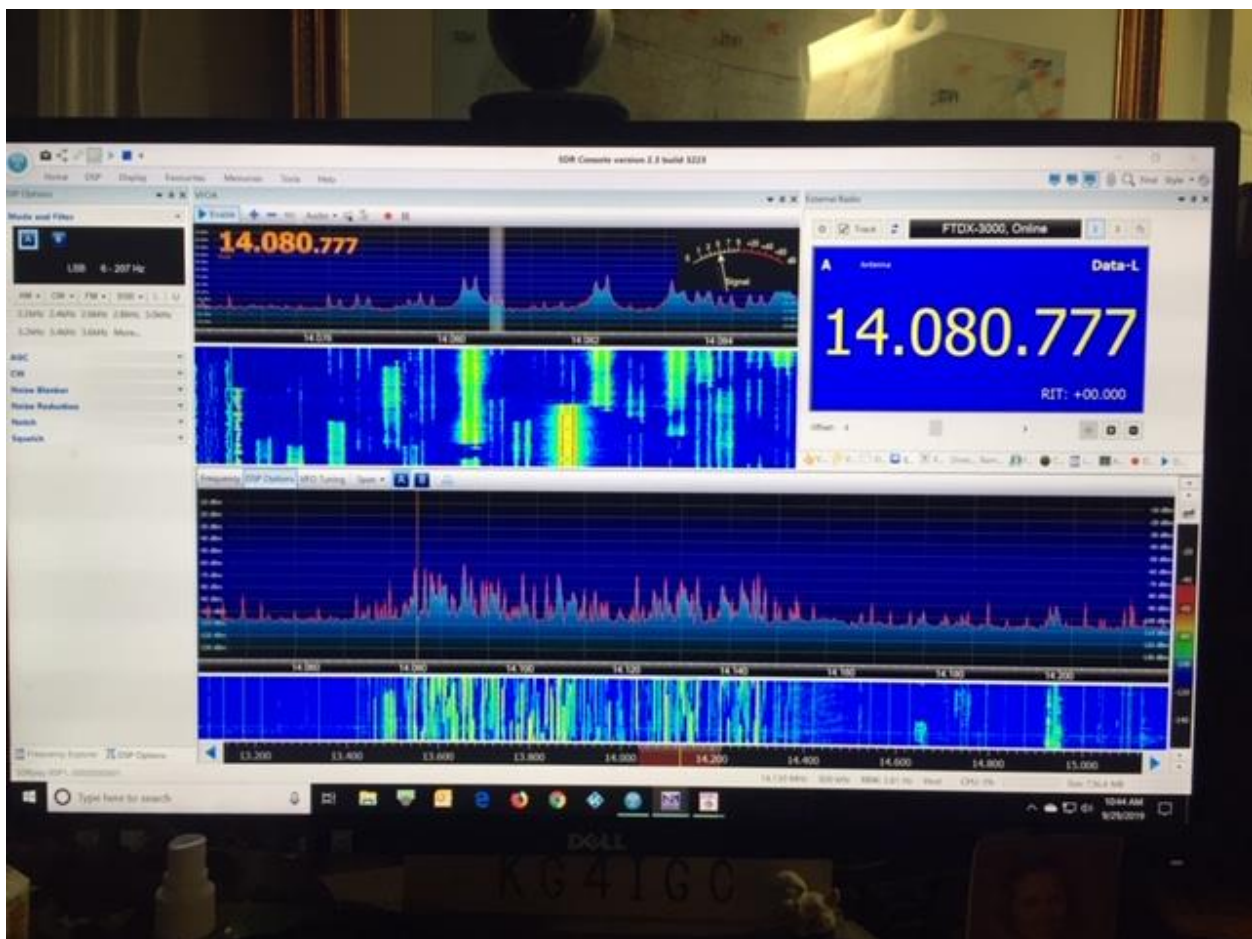
From the President:

I would like to say that it was really nice to see such a great turnout for the CQ WW RTTY DX Contest this year. I have to admit was a little skeptical about how well we would do because I had seen something about we were due to be hit with a solar storm over the weekend. Friday night was slow going and tough here at KG4IGC, with lots of stations from EU to work on 40, but the problem was QSB and lot's of QRM from US stations.

I stuck to my guns though and slowly worked my way through the pileups the best that I could. The bands did improve greatly over the weekend, at least that is what I saw Saturday and Sunday. I heard stations on every continent except Asia and Australia. There were some Asian islands in the mix that I was able to work, but not many. I would have to say most of the action was on 20 and 40 meters for the majority of the contest. I had a good strategy; I planned on

working as many DX as possible on 40 & 80 at the beginning of the contest. After all, many of them were worth 2 and three points apiece, plus the multiplier. Then on Sunday I figured if the bands went south, I could start picking up stateside stations to boost my numbers.

If you missed out on the contest, you really missed a good one. There was wall to wall DX on 20 and 40 for the majority of the contest. Our club did a fantastic job this year in the contest. Last year the club made 1,008,574 points with six members. This year we topped that score utilizing six members again with a grand total of 1,396,913, a difference of 388,339 points! Way to go guys, you all rocked this year!!



Here is a sample of what 20 meters was like, mostly EU!

Membership is on the rise again, we have two new members in the Swamp Fox Contest Group. Please make sure that you welcome both Elaine Thorp N4EHT from Lexington, SC and NU4E Matt from Greenville, SC.

Elaine enjoys DXing, Island & Lighthouse Chasing, and of course contesting. She is also a member of our 13 Colonies team K2L. She has achieved many awards for her operating, including DXCC. Elaine is also involved in emergency communications, and she is a communications Officer for the Lexington Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol and involved in Auxcomm, SHARES. She is also on the Board of Directors for Columbia Amateur Radio Club.

Matt also enjoys DXing in all modes and contesting. He currently does not have a station set up at his QTH, but does put together a field day type station at his company from time to time. I'm told that he sometimes operates at Gary W4EEY's QTH and he also operates remotely from his station in Germany. Matt is also a member of the NCDXA, SCDXA and also the Greer radio club.

We are very pleased to have both Elaine and Matt on our team, and would like to extend a very warm welcome to the club!

Notable Mentions:

Ron N4VZ and Kate K4VZT celebrated their wedding anniversary September 10, 2019. We would like to wish the two of you a very happy anniversary and best wishes for many more!

I would also like to mention that Al NE4EA celebrated his birthday on Sept 30. Al, on behalf of the entire club we would like to wish you a belated happy birthday!

Brag List:

WN4AFP



DELWARE QSO PARTY

Sponsored by the
First State Amateur Radio Club



This Certificate is Presented To
WN4AFP
1st Place Outside Delaware

In Recognition of Participation In the
2019 DELAWARE QSO PARTY



For the Contest Chairman
W3ISR

First State
By Radio's side
U.S.
Contestman
DECEMBER 7, 1981



Alabama Contest Group

Alabama QSO Party

Presented to
WN4AFP

SCORE
1,120


FIRST PLACE
South Carolina

Single Operator - Low Power - CW

2018

September 13, 2019

Tim Winger, AB4B
President, Alabama Contest Group
<http://alabamacontestgroup.org>



Member Contributions:

How Do You Get Better? A few more ideas...

By KQ2M via N4XL

KQ2M wrote an email to the CQ Contest reflector in 2008 called “[CQ-Contest] How do you get better? A few more ideas...” There is a whole thread on this topic available in the CQ Contest Historical archives at the end of that year. Here are some things from this particular email that made me copy it for future reference. The email in its entirety can be found at:

[file:///C:/Users/knaso/Documents/Ham1/Contesting/\[CQ-Contest\]%20How%20do%20you%20get%20better%20A%20few%20more%20ideas .htm](file:///C:/Users/knaso/Documents/Ham1/Contesting/[CQ-Contest]%20How%20do%20you%20get%20better%20A%20few%20more%20ideas .htm)

It is worth noting Robert was a professional Stock/Bond/Commodities trader and simultaneously monitored 5 screens of frequently changing information to make trades. He actively worked to train his brain to better multi-task and recognized parallels between his work and Competitive Contesting.

- 1) The CQWW Log database is an INCREDIBLE source of operating information/strategies and techniques based on ops actually working people in the contests!

Want to know what propagation paths are/were possible on a given weekend? Then read the M/M, M/2 and single band logs of serious competitors.

Want to see what the competition was doing in your category? Then look at their log.

Even with having operated contests seriously for 35 years and still having most of the logs (with handwritten notations!), I am still learning; and "reading" the logs of others is an invaluable source of operating ideas/ information and strategy. With a few hours of "study" I can quickly figure out what I am doing better than others and what I can improve.

3) Listen to complex music (all types from Jazz to Classical to Rock, etc.) and try to pick out all the instrumental and vocal parts, one by one. When you get good at that, "dial it up a notch" and then try to "see" the artist actually playing their part of the piece with the actual fingering while you are focusing on them. The focus on the next artist and the next and so on.

The more complexity and detail that you can "see", the more successfully you are training your brain to develop concentration and focus and to multi-task.

4) I regularly watch DX-Summit on one of my computers to get the "feel" of daily propagation as it changes around the world. I also check the various www.noaa.gov solar activity websites and

monitor auroral cndx and A/K/SF indices in real time. After a while of doing this on a daily basis, I can

Usually reasonably predict the A/K/SF indices just by looking at DX Summit spots and seeing what bands they are on.

Although a lot of unusual propagation paths and weak stations are not spotted, overall this is a very useful strategy for learning current propagation and what to expect during a contest. Despite the often busted callsigns, this is an excellent way to become familiar with the DX and DXpedition callsigns BEFORE the contest, so you know who to look for DURING the contest.

There is a simple equation that I use every day:

Learning = Improving skills = Having fun!

From the Reflector:

Frank KG4IGC let the club know that there is a broken link on the clubs website for paying dues and donations. Just so everyone knows, I have spoken to Phil NI7R about this. He and I will be working to get this fixed when he returns from his trip.

There was an issue on the NAQP RTTY Sprint page this year. It seems that there was a problem registering teams and also with uploading logs. Bill N4IQ got to the bottom of this and here is what he found out from Ed Muns, W0YK:

“The NA RTTY Sprint is missing from the WA7BNM Perpetual Calendar. It is on the 12-Month Calendar. We inadvertently put the non-traditional date (one week early) in the Rules for the September 2019 RTTY Sprint and that propagated to the 12-Month Calendar.

The online systems are programmed for 22 September (Team Registration, log upload, logs received, etc.). The IT volunteer is out of town this week but we got log upload working, just not the Logs Received list. Team Registration works now if needed. If you receive a confirmation email from the log upload, your log is received.”

Dave WN4AFP asked for some help with macros for the CQWW RTTY DX Contest, Frank KG4IGC sent him a copy of his. Hopefully we will see Dave on RTTY more often now 😊

Bill N4IQ let everyone know that he was headed out to SEDCO, and sent out an invitation to anyone going to meet up at the event.

Ron N4VZ told us about his preparations for Hurricane Dorian and that he will be heading to DU land (Philippines) in October for 4 1/2 months. He has applied for a temporary license but is not sure that he will get one. Ron plans to try operating remotely this winter, so listen out for N4VZ!

Dave WN4AFP mentioned that the bands were not so favorable in the Tennessee QSO Party, and that there were quite a few mobiles out there sending fast CW

Dave WN4AFP provided us with the 2018 Alabama QSO Party results. Dave took first place SOLP CW for SC, 1,120 points.

Contests:

Tennessee QSO Party September 1, 2019

WB4HRL SO Fixed SSB HP 21 Ph. Q's 19 Mult's 1,297

Alabama QSO Party Sept. 14, 2019

WB4HRL SOSSB HP 3 Ph. Q's 3 Ph. Mults 18

WAE DX Contest, SSB Sept. 14, 2019

W4EEY M/S HP 230 Q's 113 QTC's 122 Mults 28,060

WB4HRL SOHP 32 Q's 17 Mults 1,302

Texas QSO Party Sept. 14, 2019

WB4HRL SO Mixed HP 16 CW Q's 15 Ph. Q's 20 Mults 1,560

Washington State Salmon Run Sept. 21, 2019

WB4HRL SO Mixed HP 1 CW Q 2 Ph. Q's 2 Mults 514

Iowa QSO Party Sept. 21, 2019

WB4HRL Out of State HP 2 CW Q's 1 Ph. Q 15

New Jersey QSO Party Sept 21, 2019

WB4HRL SOHP 7 CW Q's 3 Ph. Q's 7 Mults 119

WN4AFP SOLP 12 CW Q's 5 Ph. Q's 7 Mult's 406

Hawaii QSO Party Sept. 24, 2019

WN4AFP SOAB LP 1 CW Q 1 Mult 3

CQ WW RTTY DX Contest Sept. 28, 2019

SO(A)AB HP

N4IQ S02R 1053 Q's 169 ST/PR 128 DX 63 Zones 578,160

WB4HRL 362 Q's 90 ST/PR 79 DX 41 Zones 136,500

SO(A)AB LP

KG4IGC 328 Q's 66 ST/PR 86 DX 37 Zones 123,417

SOAB HP

K70M/4 560 Q's 124 ST/PR 82 DX 45 Zones 215,860

SOAB LP

NU4E 755 Q's 140 ST/PR 102 DX 58 Zones 334,800 **SOSB40 LP**

WN4AFP 103 Q's 28 ST/PR 18 DX 10 Zones 8,176

Clubs claimed aggregate score: 1,396,913

SFOTA

Current Leaderboard

2019 OVERALL STANDINGS

CALL	Contests	CW QSO'S	SSB QSO'S	DIGITAL QSO'S	RTTY QSO'S	TOTAL QSO'S
1) N4IQ	72	6611	506	560	4478	12155
2) K7OM	34	1484	543	14	2240	4281
3) WN4AFP	61	2634	1062	0	290	3986
4) KG4IGC	18	572	1262	0	1585	3419
5) WB4HRL	52	315	2111	1	580	3007
6) NI7R	16	2492	33	0	392	2917
7) KS4YX	8	280	49	38	1086	1453
8) N4VZ	8	0	612	483	271	1366
9) N4XL	1	1269	0	0	0	1269
10) KG6MC	9	755	393	0	54	1202
11) WU0B	10	0	1080	0	42	1122
12) NJ4F	6	310	54	0	115	479
13) W1TEF	4	332	79	0	0	411
14) NE4EA	5	47	72	2	74	195
15) K4KWB	1	0	125	0	0	125
16) AJ4UQ	4	1	0	1	100	102
17) KD4CB	3	9	35	0	0	44

2019 INDIVIDUAL MODE STANDINGS

CALL	CW QSO'S	CALL	SSB QSO'S	CALL	DIGITAL QSO'S	CALL	RTTY QSO'S
N4IQ	6611	WB4HRL	2111	N4IQ	560	N4IQ	4478
WN4AFP	2634	KG4IGC	1262	N4VZ	483	K7OM	2240
NI7R	2492	WU0B	1080	KS4YX	38	KG4IGC	1585
K7OM	1484	WN4AFP	1062	K7OM	14	KS4YX	1086
N4XL	1269	N4VZ	612	NE4EA	2	WB4HRL	580
KG6MC	755	K7OM	543	AJ4UQ	1	NI7R	392
KG4IGC	572	N4IQ	506	WB4HRL	1	WN4AFP	290
W1TEF	332	KG6MC	393			N4VZ	271
WB4HRL	315	K4KWB	125			NJ4F	115
NJ4F	310	W1TEF	79			AJ4UQ	100
KS4YX	280	NE4EA	72			NE4EA	74
NE4EA	47	NJ4F	54			KG6MC	54
KD4CB	9	KS4YX	49			WU0B	42
AJ4UQ	1	KD4CB	35				
		NI7R	33				

Tamitha Skov's Space Weather:

[Aurora People Get Ready for a Show: Solar Storm Forecast 09-26-2019](#)

[Q&A Live Mini-Course: Solar Screams Hit Home— Solar Flares & Radio Bursts at Earth Sept. 28, 2019](#)



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