



TALES FROM THE SWAMP

September 2017

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From your President:

Greetings everyone, I hope that everyone affected by Tropical Storm Irma made out ok. Most of the lower counties had tropical storm and flood warnings. With the threat of a possible 2nd landfall into SC earlier in the week, I got busy and took apart my ham shack, got everything off of the floors, picked up everything on the lawn and boarded up the house in preparation for the coming storm. Things got a little crazy here in the low country with high winds, a couple of tornado warnings, lots of rain and a lot of flooding. In the end, Irma spared our house; I did have a little bit of flooding in my ham shack because our house is built on a slab but it wasn't too bad. The floors are pretty much dried up now and I am in the process now of putting my shack back together.

August was a slow month for contesting, plus bad propagation did not help matters much. Hopefully things will start to pick up in the coming months when we get into the fall and winter contesting season. As a club, I would like to see us get into more team competitions and have good participation from our members in the bigger contests sponsored by the ARRL and CQ. In the meantime, there are plenty of smaller contests out there so dust off that equipment and let's put our club on the air!

Preparation of course is the key to good contesting. What do you do to prepare yourself for an upcoming contest? There are many variables in getting ready for a contest such as making sure your equipment is working right, coming up with a strategy on how you will work the contest, making sure that your antennas are in good working order, and setting up software. I know that one of my biggest headaches in any contest is setting up the software before the contest. For some reason, despite how many times I check to make sure everything is working before the contest starts, something software related freezes up and doesn't want to work at the start of the contest! I swear that I have a gremlin that lives behind my desk and loves to mess with things when I am not looking.

If you are looking for some really good tips on how to get ready for a contest, K9JY wrote a really good article called [30 Days- 30 Ham Radio Contesting Tips](#). Scot gives some really good tips to get you prepared for the upcoming fall/winter contest season. It is a good educational article and is well worth the read.

Brag List:

Bill N4IQ received a certificate for 1st place SC section Single Op Unlimited High Power Score 96,280 in the 2016 ARRL Sweepstakes.

WW4SF (operated by Frank KG4IGC) got a certificate for participating in the 2017 Solar Eclipse QSO Party.

Dave WN4AFP got a certificate for participating in the 2017 Solar Eclipse QSO Party. Dave also received notice that he is the new high score record holder for SC in the Pennsylvania QSO Party and received a bag of Minnesota Wild Rice from the MNQP!

Ted K7OM received a certificate for 1st place single op, CW only, High Power SC Section with a score of 6,136 points in the 2016 ARRL 10 Meter Contest.

Other News:

Dave WN4AFP informed us that he contacted Bruce Horn, WA7BNM about adding SO2R in the contest results. This feature has now been added. He also let the club know about a website that provides a band by band real time view of band conditions.

Bandconditions.com is a very useful tool, be sure to give it a try!

Ted K7OM asked the question "If you do NOT send in your contest logs after it's over, will the contacts you've made count, or not count

for those who you've worked?" A good discussion was had and it was determined that is dependent on which contest you are working. Some contests have specific rules that pertain to valid contacts and scoring while others are not so strict. It also depends how well the contest scoring system checks the log entries at the end of each contest.

Solar Eclipse QSO Party: Frank KG4IGC put WW4SF on the air for the event. The modes ran were a mix of SSB, CW, and RTTY on 20 and 40 meters. He logged 47 contacts in 37 different grids before he was shut down by thunderstorms. Dave WN4AFP made 87 contacts and worked 36 grids while watching the eclipse. He shared some amazing pictures of totality that he took with the club. Bill N4IQ operated the Solar Eclipse special event station N4A . They operated from Aug 20th until Friday midnight- August 25th and made about 8000 contacts total. Bill made about 1400 Qs mostly SSB.

Bob, KG6MC operated WSPR on 20 Meters and reported that he got several thousand spots total, as well as 50 spots of his transmission during totality. He also received well over a thousand spots. Thomas AJ4UQ went to Moncks Corner and launched weather balloons for the event. Thomas tells us that he used 2 meters for coordination, and APRS that died shortly after launch. Unfortunately, the balloon got separated in a thunderstorm and the payload crashed to the ground a few hundred feet away.

Frank KG4IGC ran into an issue with scoring mobiles in different counties in the Kansas QSO Party. It seemed that he ran into trouble trying to log a mobile call sign more than once without N1MM+ proclaiming it a DUPE. This happened even if you worked the mobile in a different county. The solution was to enter a /"county name" after the call. This automatically corrected the zero points issue with the correct points for the call. Once Frank figured this out, he went into tools>rescore current contest and his score was corrected as well.

Al NE4EA asked some advice about which filters would be best for his Kenwood TS-480. His choices were a 500 Hz or 270 Hz CW filter and a 1.8 Filter for SSB. There was a lengthy conversation and good advice given by several members. Al ultimately decided on the 500 Hz and the 270 Hz CW filters for his rig. He also ordered the TCXO package as well.

Bill N4IQ shared some details of his SO2R operation. A lot of interest has been generated by members and a good discussion ensued. Bill also shared some nice pictures of his N1MM+ setup. He explained his setup using two panadapter's with two CW skimmers plus two DX clusters and how it is all tied together with VAC's, VSPE's, and OMNIRig. This data allows him to see which stations are multipliers

and/or which stations are good for points. Bill now has SO2R capabilities for CW, RTTY, and SSB.

KG4IGC Frank reminded the club that you can watch the scores in whatever contest you are participating in using the [online contest server](#). This tool is easily set up in N1MM+ and allows you to see scores in real time. It is a great way to inspire you to push yourself a little harder when you can see how fellow club members & others are doing in the contests score-wise.

Notable Mentions:

The SFCG would like to congratulate Ron N4VZ and Kate K4VZT, they celebrated their wedding anniversary on September 9th 2017! Best wishes to the both of you on this special occasion. Kate just celebrated her birthday as well on September 2nd! Hope you had a wonderful day Kate!

Contests:

North America QSO Party, SSB

SFCG Team: KG4IGC, NE4EA, WN4AFP total score: 27,215

Solar Eclipse QSO Party

WN4AFP: 6,156

WW4SF (KG4IGC):3,145

SARTG WW RTTY Contest

K7OM: 84,500

SCC RTTY Championship

K7OM: 14,322

KG4IGC: 3,104

Kansas QSO Party

KG4IGC: 19,344

WN4AFP: 3,978

Ohio QSO Party

KG4IGC: 817

WN4AFP: 16,206

Hawaii QSO Party

KG4IGC: 12

CWops CW Open

K7OM: 4,154

WN4AFP: 6,643

NE4EA: 5,780

SFOTA:

Well guys, it looks like Bill N4IQ is still top dog in the CW, Digital, and total QSO totals. WN4AFP Dave is leading in the most SSB QSO's. Guys: this inner club contest is far from over. There are still four months left in 2017 and plenty of contests so don't give up! Let's see who will take the challenge to pass these guys up and have a good time doing it!

OVERALL STANDINGS

	CALL	CW QSO'S	SSB QSO'S	DIGITAL QSO'S	TOTAL QSO'S
1)	N4IQ	9717	153	2986	12856
2)	WN4AFP	3190	1206	222	4618
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	9717	WN4AFP	1206	N4IQ	2986
WN4AFP	3190	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 International DX Contest- Phone

Top 10 {P.86 Sept. QST}

Single Op QRP: #8 W1TEF 20,904

Single Op 20 Meters #8 W4SLT 39,744

Affiliated clubs {p.90 Sept. 2017 QST}

Swamp Fox Contest Group #31 1,242,954 points, 9 entries

Regional Leaders Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke, & Southeastern Divisions) {p.88 Sept. QST}

W1TEF: 21,306 SOQRP

W4SLT: 39,951 SO-20

Division Winners: {p.89 Sept. 2017 QST}

W4SLT: 39,951 SO-20

Upcoming Contests

[NCCC Sprint Ladder](#), Sep 15, 0230z to Sep 15, 0300z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, **6m**; Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: September 17.

[AGB NEMIGA Contest](#), Sep 15, 2100z to Sep 16, 0000z; CW, SSB,

Digital; Bands: 80m Only; AGB Member: RST + QSO No. + Member No., non-Member: RST + QSO No.; Logs due: October 15.

[Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW](#), Sep 16, 1200z to Sep 17, 1200z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: September 22.

[All Africa International DX Contest](#), Sep 16, 1200z to Sep 17, 1200z; CW, SSB, RTTY; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RS(T) + Serial No.; Logs due: October 2.

[SRT HF Contest SSB](#), Sep 16, 1300z to Sep 17, 1300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RS + CQ Zone; Logs due: see rules.

[Iowa QSO Party](#), Sep 16, 1400z to Sep 17, 0200z; CW, Phone, Digital; Bands: All, except WARC and 60m; IA: RS(T) + County, non-IA: RS(T) + (state/province/"DX"); Logs due: October 17.

[Washington State Salmon Run](#), Sep 16, 1600z to Sep 17, 0700z, Sep 17, 1600z to Sep 18, 0000z; CW, Phone, Digital; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, **6, 2m**; WA: RS(T) + County, non-WA: RS(T) + (state/province/country); Logs due: October 1.

[QRP Afield](#), Sep 16, 1600z to Sep 16, 2200z; All; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RS(T) + (state/province/country) + (power or NE QRP No.); Logs due: October 16.

[New Hampshire QSO Party](#), Sep 16, 1600z to Sep 17, 0400z, Sep 17, 1600z to Sep 17, 2200z; CW/Digital, Phone; Bands: All, except WARC; NH: RS(T) + county, non-NH W/VE: RS(T) +

(state/province), DX: RS(T) + "DX"; Logs due: October 31.

[New Jersey QSO Party](#), Sep 16, 1600z to Sep 17, 0359z, Sep 17, 1400z to Sep 17, 2000z; CW, Phone; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; NJ: RS(T) + county, non-NJ: RS(T) + (state/province/"DX"); Logs due: October 1.

[Feld Hell Sprint](#), Sep 16, 1800z to Sep 16, 1959z; Feld Hell; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, **6m**; (see rules); Logs due: September 20.

[North American Sprint, RTTY](#), Sep 17, 0000z to Sep 17, 0400z; RTTY; Bands: 80, 40, 20m; [other station's call] + [your call] + [serial no.] + [your name] + [your state/DC/province/country]; Logs due: September 24.

[BARTG Sprint 75](#), Sep 17, 1700z to Sep 17, 2059z; 75 Baud RTTY; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Serial No.; Logs due: September 24.

[Run for the Bacon QRP Contest](#), Sep 18, 0100z to Sep 18, 0300z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + (state/province/country) + (Member No./power); Logs due: September 24.

[Phone Fray](#), Sep 20, 0230z to Sep 20, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: September 22.

[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#), Sep 20, 1300z to Sep 20, 1400z, Sep 20, 1900z to Sep 20, 2000z, Sep 21, 0300z to Sep 21, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: September

23.

[RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW](#), Sep 20, 1900z to Sep 20, 2030z; CW; Bands: 80m Only; [other station's call] + [your call] + [serial no.] + [your name]; Logs due: September 23.

VHF+ CONTESTS

[ARRL EME Contest](#), Sep 9, 0000z to Sep 10, 2359z; CW, Phone, Digital; Bands: 50-1296 MHz; Signal report; Logs due: December 6.

[ARRL September VHF Contest](#), Sep 9, 1800z to Sep 11, 0300z; All; Bands: 50 MHz and up; 4-character grid square; Logs due: September 20.

[ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest](#), Sep 16, 0600 (local) to Sep 18, 0000 (local); Any; Bands: 10 GHz to light; 6-Character Maidenhead Locator; Logs due: October 17.

[SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest](#), Sep 16, 1000z to Sep 17, 1000z; Analog (CW/SSB/FM), Digital; Bands: 50 MHz, 70 MHz, 144 MHz, 432 MHz, 1296 MHz; RS + 6-character grid locator; Logs due: October 9.

[144 MHz Fall Sprint](#), Sep 18, 1900z to Sep 18, 2300z; not specified; Bands: 2m only; 4-character grid square; Logs due: October 2.

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