

Tales from the Swamp

December 2015

Swamp Fox
Contest Group



WW4SF

Pres NJ4F Dave Fuseler
& Newsletter Editor

VP W4ANT Alan Fitzsimmons

Sec N4IQ Bill Chartier

Tres K7OM Ted McDonald

PIO WN4AFP Dave Edmonda

Webmaster KG4IGC Frank Baranek

It has been an interesting year. The club has grown beyond any expectations that were had when it was founded. We have evolved. Our goals have been revived several times, trying to adjust to a statewide club as opposed to a local or regional club. We have a wide variety of members, some of us are very casual contesters, make a few Q's, and we are happy. A few others are 100% BIC, win or die. I think the mix works gud. I know I have learned a few things along the way, and I hope a few others have learned something from me.

I started the newsletter a couple of months ago, mostly as a recap of what transpired during the month, and I was surprised at all that was done. I wonder if other clubs can boast as much activity during a months time?

I look forward to another productive year, meeting the members we have, and gaining more.

[Frank KG4IGC](#) has put some information about shirts, hats, etc. with logos with a link on the website to Lakeside Enterprises, compliments of [Tom, W1TEF](#).

SCQP announcement: They have changed the date to Feb 27. The South Carolina QP will be on Saturday, and the North Carolina QP will be the next day. Seems a lot of hams from around the country come to rove, and this way they can work both states in one weekend. Both states are hoping this will increase participation dramatically for both events.

[Dave WN4AFP](#) lost his 730 due to finals going dead because of the fan dying. He has picked up an ICOM 751 to use in the meantime.

Discussions:

There was a very lively discussion on CW contesting and the new technology being utilized by super stations in achieving their high scores.

There was another discussion of 5NN vs 599 in RTTY and CW. Lots of thoughts about UOS, whether to do it or not, consensus ending with use it . Also about the time involved in shifting between letters and figures, probably not an issue with software programs. Most agreed it was to be done. Some gud thoughts on both sides of the fence.

Another discussion about FSK vs AFSK. Nothing really new here, but it centered around being spot on freq when clicking on spots, and soundcard and volume control levels when using AFSK. And of course being able to use RTTY filters in FSK.

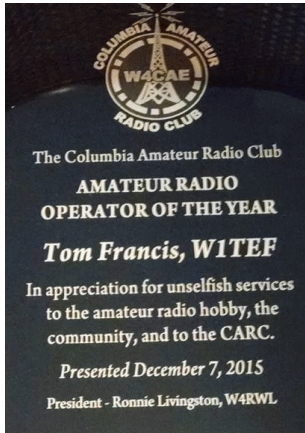
More discussion on how to change the tone freq of RTTY signals.

One of the members got a QSL card for a contact that wasn't in his log, which created a lengthy discussion on the ethics of whether to send a card. It appeared that it could have been a valid contact, as there was evidence that the call was copied wrong, and very well could have been the correct call. There were several different viewpoints, but most agreed to send the card since there was no evidence of the station trying to circumvent the system. Seems we all have had the same problem before.

There was another discussion about why west coasters weren't hearing us east coasters in the 160M contest. Possible reasons: directional loops clicked away from us (nj4f); electron spin (http://k9la.us/Feb15_One-Way_Propagation_Revisited.pdf) ; What physical mechanism causes the path to be unidirectional? (Tom W8JI); related to aurora's (ARRL).

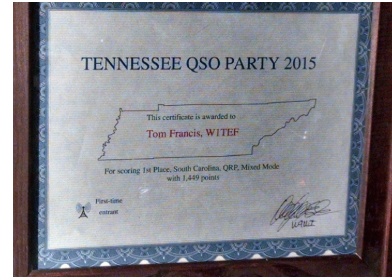
Tom W1TEF asked about a soldering station for SMT, so naturally a number of members had to tell him about their setups and of course, each of us expected Tom to get one like theirs. This was followed buy comments on crimp-on vs soldered on connectors. That led to crimpers for coax, then to a crimping die that bolts shut. That led to the question is silicone tape gud ??

Awards & Certificates Received:

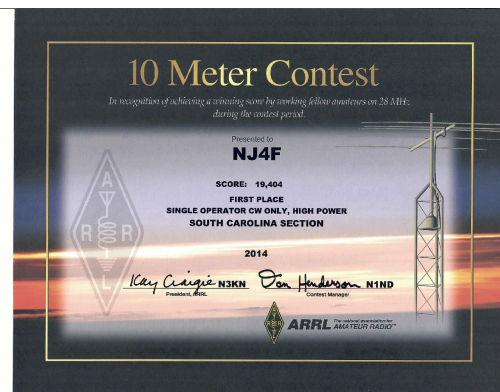


Tom W1TEF received a plaque for “Amateur Radio Operator of the Year” from the Columbia Amateur Radio Club.

Also: TNQP, 1st Mixed Mode, SC, QRP



Dave NJ4F received a certificate from ARRL for 1st place SC SO High Power in the 2014 10M contest, CW only.

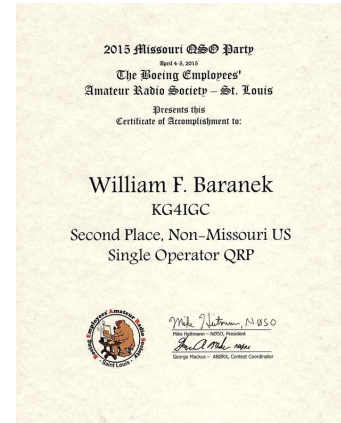


Ted K7OM received an award for 3rd Place in North America SOAB-RTTY in the Russian WW MultiMode Contest.



Frank KG4IGC received the following:

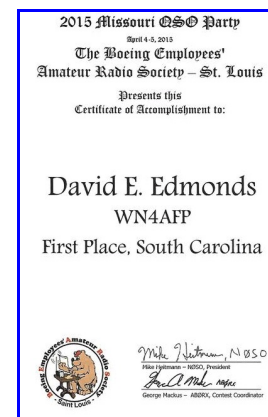
1. "S H O W - M E" award from the Missouri QSOP for working counties where the first letters of each spelled "SHOWME".
2. ARRL RTTY Roundup, SC Section, 1st place, single op, unlimited
3. Missouri QSO Party, 2nd place, non-Missouri US, single op, QRP



Bill N4IQ received an award from the ARRL for being first place in SC, SO unlimited,, high power, in the RTTY Roundup last January.



Dave WN4AFP received a certificate from the MOQP for 1st place SC, #7 out of 87, low power.



Dave NJ4F qualified for several WPX certificates and endorsements:

Type	# Qs	Continents
Mixed	1546	AS, EU, NA, SA
CW	757	EU, NA
SSB	414	NA
Dig	992	EU, NA



Contests: (Number Q's - score)

Dec 4 ARRL 160M CW

W4IX 1149 - 208,260
KG4IGC 92 - 6,080
WB5NHL 192 - 22,605
NJ4F 288 - 42,021
K7OM 245 - 29,290

Dec 6 10M RTTY

NJ4F 45 - 1,080
K7OM 32 - 448
KM4RK 25 - 350

Dec 5 TARA RTTY

K7OM 41 - 1189
KM4RK 9 - 9

Dec 2 CWops - CWT

WN4AFP 50 - 2450

Dec 10 CWops - CWT

WN4AFP 17 - 289

Dec 12 - 13 ARRL 10M

NJ4F 103 - 15,656 CW&S&P only
WB5NHL 165 - 20,460
N4CO
KM4RK 32 - 768
K7OM 121 - 21,808 CW&S&P only
KG4IGC 15 - 540
W4SLT 124 - 6,572

Dec 19 OK DX RTTY

NJ4F 108 - 9,000 all S&P
K7OM 190 - 22,450 all S&P
KM4RK 62 - 6,786
KG4IGC

Dec 23 CWops - CWT

WN4AFP 29 - 841 1300z
WN4AFP 33 - 957 1900z

Dec 26 **Stew Perry 160 CW**

NJ4F 118 - 290
K7OM 130 - 336
N4XL 20 - 61
N4IQ 257 - 588

Dec 27 **RAEM**

WN4AFP 8 - 663

Dec 30 **Mini-CWT Test**

WN4AFP 24 - 576
W1TEF 35 - 1225
W1TEF 41 - 1581 1900z

Dec 30 **Phone Fray**

WN4AFP 15 - 120 1300z
WN4AFP 46 - 1,610 1900z
W4IX 92 - 6,716 1900z

Dec 31 **CWops - CWT**

WN4AFP 62 - 3,844 0300z