



# TALES FROM THE SWAMP

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January 2019

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### **From your President:**

Season's greetings my fellow Swamp foxes! I hope that everyone had a wonderful and enjoyable Christmas. We had a small family get together this year at our house, and it was really nice to have some of our family here who lives locally. There are no new toys to brag about at KG4IGC, but that is perfectly fine with me as I have enough ham radio toys to last me a lifetime.

I just got word that the South Carolina QSO Party results have been posted, here is the link for the [2018 results](#). The Pennsylvania QSO party results have also been posted, here is the link: [PAQP Results](#). Lots of good contests are coming up in January, starting with the ARRL RTTY Roundup Jan 4<sup>th</sup> and-5<sup>th</sup>. We also have the North America QSO Parties later in the month, so we need to start putting together our teams. The CQ 160 is in the latter part of the month

as well for you top banders. Guys, let's have a good turnout this year for these contests, GO SWAMP FOXES!

Our annual meeting is right around the corner on January 26, 2018 at 3 PM. The meeting is at our usual place, the Lizard's Thicket in Lexington. The address is 4616 Augusta Road Lexington, SC and their phone number is 803-785-5560. For those of you who are new to the club, we will be in the meeting room at the back of the restaurant. As usual, XYL's and guests are welcome to attend.

It is also that time of year for club dues; annual dues are 10.00 per year. This can be paid via the club website, mailed to Dave NJ4F or at the club meeting. We will be casting votes for club officers so please be sure to email Dave WN4AFP before the meeting with your nominees and your votes.

I would like to remind everyone that the time has come for some new officers. Although your current officers enjoy the positions they hold, as a club we really need to elect new officers from time to time. Please support your club and consider either running for a position or nominating someone that you feel would make a good officer. That is all for now, so I would like to wish each and every one of our members a happy and prosperous New Year!

## **Club Happenings:**

A lively conversation was started by Bill N4IQ about the new FT-8 RU. Bill gave out some good advice on setup for this contest and recommended that you use the JTAlert software which integrates with WSJT-X and, if setup properly, will identify dupes, new stations, new state and country multipliers, and stations calling CQ. The software also logs directly into N1MM which helps with multiplier IDing, scoring, and dupes.

Tom W1TEF filled us in with the saga of the OM trying to dip his toes into the swirling waters of the digital world. Tom had some issues trying to set up for FT-8, and his way of telling the story is quite humorous to say the least. I think we all can relate in one fashion or another about the difficulties of trying to get

your rig to communicate with any of the digital software programs floating around the internet. In the end, he got some help from a couple of our members so hopefully he got things working, perhaps you could fill us in Tom?

We had a really good turnout for the ARRL 10 meter contest this year. Band conditions were surprisingly good on Friday night and Saturday, but a complete dud on Sunday.

As a group experiment, Frank KG4IGC tried out the chat room abilities that are included with groups.io. for the first time. This worked out well, is accessible to all of our members and will be set up for future contests. This will come in handy not only for seeing how your team-mates are doing in the contest, but also for such things as reporting band openings. Please remember the rules of each contest about things like self spotting and giving out frequencies for mults if you decide to join in the chats.

Dave WN4AFP asked a general question "If I have my AGC in the off position, will my neighbor (K4YYL) who sports a 150' tower and is running 10,000 watts?" {Just kidding folks...ed.} blow up my front end? The reason for the question is because Dave is having trouble hearing weak stations when his neighbor is transmitting. The general consensus was that Dave's front end should be OK if his signal meter is only reporting 40-60db.

Frank KG4IGC introduced our newest member Kevan Broughton K4KWB who is from Ladson, SC.

Tom W1TEF let everyone know about a page that he found on the ARRL website where you can download certificates from past years contests. [The page can be found here](#), a few of our members found certificates that they were not aware of that they had been awarded.

Bill N4IQ let the club know that the [FT-8 RU results](#) have been posted.

Dave WN4AFP gave a contesting tip on how to maximize your score in a mixed mode contest that used both SSB and CW: *“RUN on CW and use phone to get those missing multipliers. By doing this you will maximize your QSO points and multipliers. If you are in a contest in which multipliers are by mode, then using this method, your score will grow even faster. Another advantage is that assisted players will find you via Reverse Beacon Network.”*

Frank KG4IGC asked the group what the category in the ARRL contests “Unlimited” meant. For example, (SO LP unlimited) The best answer came from Bill N4IQ, *“Assisted - unlimited : means you can use spotting clusters, skimmers and the like. Also, if you use any form of multichannel decoder - i.e. Fldigi using psk and you are getting multi-channel decodes, or using WSJT-X and getting multichannel FT8 decodes - you are automatically classified as “assisted” or “unlimited”. The two usually mean the same thing.”*

## **Tamitha Skov’s YouTube Channel:**

[A Bit of a Mixed Bag: Solar Storm Shortie 12-20-2018](#)

*Interesting tidbit of Space News that has nothing to do with contesting but is interesting just the same:*

[NASA's New Horizons probe on course for historic New Year's Day flyby of Ultima Thule](#)

## **Contests:**

### **NCCC RTTY Sprint** December 28, 2018

N4IQ **SO2R** SO LP 35 q's 14 Mults 490

### **Feld Hell Sprint**

N4IQ **SO2R** SOLP 9q's 6 State/Prov. 1 DX 162

### **OK DX RTTY Contest** December 15, 2018

K7OM SOAB HP 145 q's 26 Countries 9 OK stations 13,160  
NJ4F SOAB HP 38 q's 7 Countries 1 OK station 800

### **ARRL 10 Meter Contest** Dec 8, 2018

K7OM SO CW HP 27 q's 12 mults 1,144  
W1TEF SO CW **QRP** 14q's 7 mults 392  
KG4IGC SO Mixed LP 50 q's 19 mults 2,686  
WN4AFP SO Mixed Unlimited 55q's 21 mults 4,326  
W4SLT SO SSB HP 60qs 21 Mults 2,520

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**Club Total Aggregate Score:** 11,068 points

### **FT-8 RU** December 1, 2018

N4IQ SOLP 200 q's 48 Sections 19 DXCC 13,400

### **NE4EA SOLP**

### **ARRL 160 Meter Contest** November 30, 2018

K7OM SOHP 202 q's 52 Sections 5 Countries 21,632

KG6MC SOHP 142 q's 50 Sections 6 Countries	14,500
NJ4F SOHP 79 q's 41 Sections 2 Countries	6,847
NI7R SOLP 122 q's 37 Sections 3 Countries	10,120

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**Club Total Aggregate Score:** 50,099 points

## Upcoming Hamfests:

### **Charleston Hamfest, Computer Show & ARRL 2019 State Convention**

Saturday, February 2, 2019 Doors open 8:00 AM and close at 3:00 PM

Armory Park Community Center, 5000 Lackawanna Blvd., N. Charleston, SC  
(32.885° N, 79.993° W).

Exit 213 off I-26, East Montague Ave, the Center is close to Tanger Outlet.

**Talk in:** The WA4USN linked Repeater System (146.790- No Tone Charleston, 146.940- Tone 123.0 Summerville and 147.045+ Tone 103.5 St. George).

Other area repeaters are 145.450-, 146.760-, 147.180+, 147.270+, 147.300+, 147.345+, 443.800+, and 444.825+ (all with Tone 123.0) and 147.150+ Tone 91.5

**Tables: Pre-registered** - \$10.00 per 8ft table.

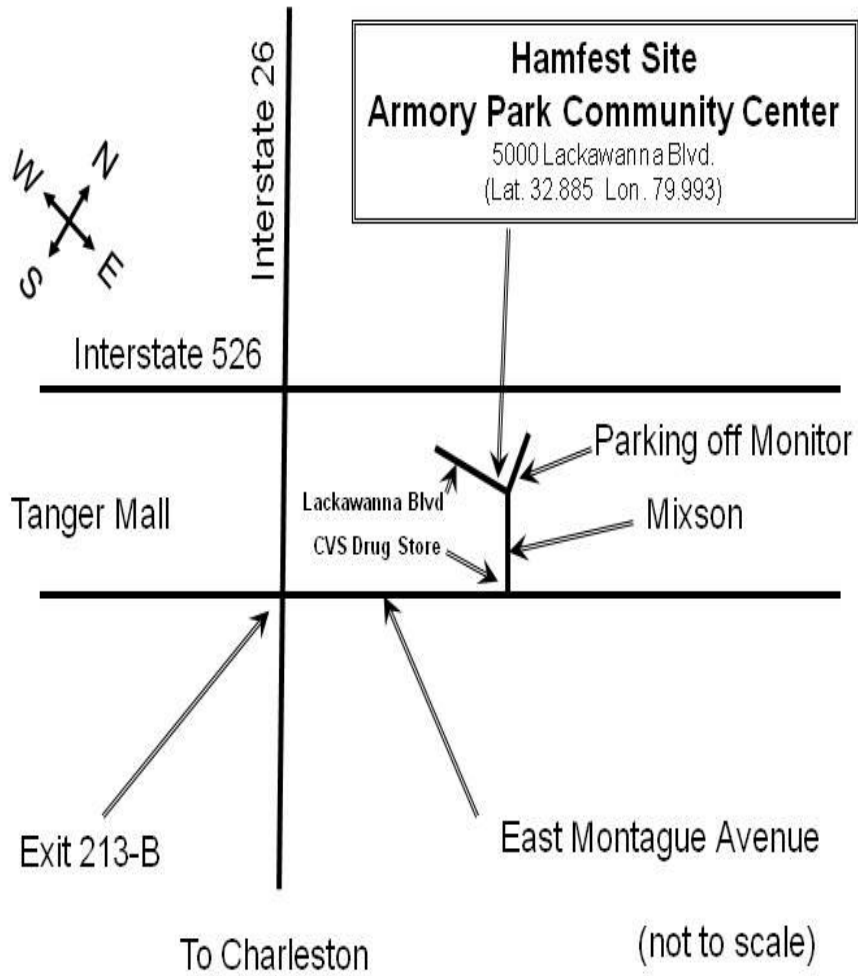
**At the door** - \$12.00 per table, if available. Chairs \$2.00 each.

**Tailgating:** Tailgating fee is \$8.00 (must purchase admission ticket).

**Camping:** *No camping facilities are available. Self-Contained Only parking.*

Questions or comments: [CARSinfo@wa4usn.org](mailto:CARSinfo@wa4usn.org)

To Columbia



# SFOTA

This year's SFOTA program has concluded for 2018.

## **Notice from Dave WN4AFP:**

As some of you have noticed, the SFOTA system experienced a 'gremlin' this week...Several members have reported missing and incorrect contest data. Thanks to our amazing SFOTA system designer, the system is working again, but we need each member to review their SFOTA data (contact totals) for each contest to make sure that their data is accurate and to make any corrections as needed.

The SFOTA system will allow members to correct any previous data entered into the system. The system will be closed for corrections after December 31st.

Here's the process for reviewing your data and how to make corrections:

1. Login to SFOTA
2. In the Leaderboard Overall Standings, CLICK ON YOUR CALLSIGN.
3. You will be on your "Contest Entries To Date" page. Review the data for each contest list and make a list of the corrections you need to make to your data.
4. In the right hand column, CLICK ON THE "LIST ALL EVENTS" LINK
5. You will now see a list of all the contests that have been created in the system for the year. To make a data/score correction on a specific contest, CLICK ON THE NAME OF THE CONTEST.
6. You will now see a list of all the members who participated in specific contest along with their scores. TO CORRECT YOUR SCORE, ENTER THE



CORRECT SCORE IN THE FIELDS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE AND CLICK SUBMIT. After submitting your score, the leaderboard will be updated to reflect your corrections

If you have any questions regarding this process, please email me at [daveedmo@...](mailto:daveedmo@...). Please include your telephone number and your concern. I will follow-up with you asap.

Thanks for your patience!

Dave Edmonds, WN4AFP SFOTA team

**2018 OVERALL STANDINGS**

	CALL	Contests	CW QSO'S	SSB QSO'S	DIGITAL QSO'S	RTTY QSO'S	TOTAL QSO'S
1)	N4IQ	126	9842	453	297	6538	17130
2)	K7OM	43	2378	797	16	5004	8195
3)	WN4AFP	85	4337	1604	0	0	5941
4)	NI7R	18	2533	184	0	754	3471
5)	KG4IGC	20	576	1096	0	1034	2706
6)	N4XL	4	990	1570	0	0	2560
7)	NJ4F	10	467	20	0	1494	1981
8)	WU0B	8	0	1073	0	307	1380
9)	KG6MC	4	463	621	0	0	1084
10)	KS4YX	4	272	0	0	692	964
11)	NE4EA	10	496	242	87	0	825
12)	W4SLT	6	0	641	0	0	641
13)	WB4HRL	6	0	394	0	0	394
14)	AJ4UQ	6	1	132	1	119	253
15)	W1TEF	0	14	0	0	0	14

## 2018 INDIVIDUAL MODE STANDINGS

CALL	CW QSO'S	CALL	SSB QSO'S	CALL	DIGITAL QSO'S	CALL	RTTY QSO'S
N4IQ	9842	WN4AFP	1604	N4IQ	297	N4IQ	6538
WN4AFP	4337	N4XL	1570	NE4EA	87	K7OM	5004
NI7R	2533	KG4IGC	1096	K7OM	16	NJ4F	1494
K7OM	2378	WU0B	1073	AJ4UQ	1	KG4IGC	1034
N4XL	990	K7OM	797			NI7R	754
KG4IGC	576	W4SLT	641			KS4YX	692
NE4EA	496	KG6MC	621			WU0B	307
NJ4F	467	N4IQ	453			AJ4UQ	119
KG6MC	463	WB4HRL	394				
KS4YX	272	NE4EA	242				
W1TEF	14	NI7R	184				
AJ4UQ	1	AJ4UQ	132				
		NJ4F	20				

## Upcoming Contests:

[RAC Winter Contest](#), Dec 29, 0000z to Dec 29, 2359z; CW, Phone; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, **6, 2m**; VE: RS(T) + (province/territory), non-VE and VE0: RS(T) + Serial No.; Logs due: January 31.

[Stew Perry Topband Challenge](#), Dec 29, 1500z to Dec 30, 1500z; CW; Bands: 160m Only; 4-Character grid square; Logs due: January 14.

[Original QRP Contest](#), Dec 29, 1500z to Dec 30, 1500z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20m; RST + Serial No. + "/" + Power category; Logs due: January 31.

[Bogor Old and New Contest](#), Dec 31, 0900z to Dec 31, 2359z; SSB; Bands: 80, 40m; RS + operator age; Logs due: January 31.

[AGB New Year Snowball Contest](#), Jan 1, 0000z to Jan 1, 0100z; CW, SSB, Digital; Bands: 80m Only; AGB Member: RST + QSO No. + Member No., non-Member: RST + QSO No.; Logs due: January 7.

[SARTG New Year RTTY Contest](#), Jan 1, 0800z to Jan 1, 1100z; RTTY; Bands: 80, 40m; RST + QSO No. + name + happy new year (native language); Logs due: January 2.

[AGCW Happy New Year Contest](#), Jan 1, 0900z to Jan 1, 1200z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20m; AGCW: RST + Serial No. + "/" + Member No., non-AGCW: RST + Serial No.; Logs due: January 6.

[QRP ARCI New Years Sprint](#), Jan 1, 1500z to Jan 1, 1800z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + (state/province/country) + (ARCI number/power); Logs due: January 7.

[QRP Fox Hunt](#), Jan 2, 0200z to Jan 2, 0330z; CW; Bands: 80m Only; RST + (state/province/country) + name + power output; Logs due: January 3.

[Phone Fray](#), Jan 2, 0230z to Jan 2, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: January 4.

[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#), Jan 2, 1300z to Jan 2, 1400z and, Jan 2, 1900z to Jan 2, 2000z and, Jan 3, 0300z to Jan 3, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: January 5.

[UKEICC 80m Contest](#), Jan 2, 2000z to Jan 2, 2100z; CW; Bands: 80m Only; 4-Character grid square; Logs due: January 8.

[AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest](#), Jan 2, 2300z to Jan 3, 2300z and, Jan 5, 2300z to Jan 6, 2300z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40m; RST + Eqpt Year + Input Power (see rules for format); Logs due: January 10.

[NRAU 10m Activity Contest](#), Jan 3, 1800z to Jan 3, 1900z (CW) and, Jan 3, 1900z to Jan 3, 2000z (SSB) and, Jan 3, 2000z to Jan 3, 2100z (FM) and, Jan 3, 2100z to Jan 3, 2200z (Dig); CW, SSB, FM, Digital; Bands: 10m Only; RS(T) + 6-character grid square; Logs due: January 9.

[SKCC Sprint Europe](#), Jan 3, 2000z to Jan 3, 2200z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + (state/province/country) + Name + (SKCC No./power); Logs due: January 9.

[NCCC RTTY Sprint](#), Jan 4, 0145z to Jan 4, 0215z; RTTY; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: January 6.

[QRP Fox Hunt](#), Jan 4, 0200z to Jan 4, 0330z; CW; Bands: 80m Only; RST + (state/province/country) + name + power output; Logs due: January 10.

[NCCC Sprint](#), Jan 4, 0230z to Jan 4, 0300z; CW; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: January 6.

[PODXS 070 Club PSKFest](#), Jan 5, 0000z to Jan 6, 0000z; PSK31; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + (state/province/country); Logs due: January 11.

[WW PMC Contest](#), Jan 5, 1200z to Jan 6, 1200z; CW, SSB; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; PMC: RS(T) + PMC abbreviation, World: RS(T) + CQ Zone; Logs due: January 12.

[RSGB AFS Contest, CW](#), Jan 5, 1300z to Jan 5, 1700z; SSB; Bands: 80, 40m; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: January 5.

[ARRL RTTY Roundup](#), Jan 5, 1800z to Jan 7, 0000z; RTTY, Digital; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; W/VE: RST + (state/province), non-W/VE: RST + Serial No.; Logs due: January 12.

[ARRL Kids Day](#), Jan 5, 1800z to Jan 5, 2359z; SSB; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, 2m repeaters; name + age + QTH + favorite color; Logs due: January 6.

[EUCW 160m Contest](#), Jan 5, 2000z to Jan 5, 2300z and, Jan 6, 0400z to Jan 6, 0700z; CW; Bands: 160m Only; Affiliated Club Member: RST + name + club + membership no., Other: RST + name + "NM"; Logs due: January 9.

[IQRP Quarterly Marathon](#), Jan 7, 0800z to Jan 13, 2000z; CW, SSB, Digital; Bands: All; RS(T); Logs due: January 19.

[ARS Spartan Sprint](#), Jan 8, 0200z to Jan 8, 0400z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + (state/province/country) + Power; Logs due: January 9.

[QRP Fox Hunt](#), Jan 9, 0200z to Jan 9, 0330z; CW; Bands: 80m Only; RST + (state/province/country) + name + power output; Logs due: January 10.

[Phone Fray](#), Jan 9, 0230z to Jan 9, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: January 11.

[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#), Jan 9, 1300z to Jan 9, 1400z and, Jan 9, 1900z to Jan 9, 2000z and, Jan 10, 0300z to Jan 10, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: January 12.

## VHF+ CONTESTS

[AGCW VHF/UHF Contest](#), Jan 1, 1400z to Jan 1, 1700z (144) and, Jan 1, 1700z to Jan 1, 1800z (432); CW; Bands: 144 MHz, 432 MHz; RST + "/" + Serial No. + "/" Power class + "/" + 6-character grid locator; Logs due: January 2.

Also see [ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW](#), [ARRL Kids Day](#), [RAC Winter Contest](#) above.

