



# TALES FROM THE SWAMP

**July 2018**

**Author: Frank KG4IGC**

## **From Your President:**

Hello fellow Swamp Foxes, I hope that you and your families have an enjoyable Fourth of July! This is the time of year that we celebrate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress. The 13 Colonies regarded themselves a new nation, and that we were no longer part of the British Empire. Speaking of which, it is time for the [13 Original Colonies Special Event!](#) This will be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event we expect the pileups to be HUGE. The SFCG will be sponsoring this event going forward, along with the Columbia ARC and the Dutch Fork ARC. The event runs from July 1 (9AM EST) to July 7 (Midnight EST).

There has been a change in leadership for the South Carolina team K2L this year. Paul, NN4F has stepped down, and we would like to thank him for all of his hard work over the past few years. Tom W1TEF has been appointed the new team manager for South Carolina. We also have a new team, which now consists of 13

operators. Tom has done a fantastic job of organizing everything for the event in a very short time, and we really appreciate his efforts.

If you have not worked this event before and plan on participating, you are in for a treat! Over the past few years, the 13 Colonies Special Event has become one of the most popular week long events. The object of the event is to work each of the 13 Original Colonies Stations for a clean sweep. There will be stations operating in several modes including SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31, and FT-8. For those of you who enjoy the thrill of QRP, we will be listening for you. This yearly event is a whole lot of fun, so please come out and join us!

Another Field Day has come and gone, and a few of our members participated with their local clubs or had a setup of their own. We would love to hear about your activities so be sure to share your stories with the club on the groups.io reflector. I was hoping to get something together myself but unfortunately I had a number of projects going on which prevented me from participating.

Things have been a little slow this month for contesting; there really have not been any major contests to speak of. Don't get me wrong, there are still plenty of smaller contests each month, so take the time and give them a try! The smaller contests are more laid back which makes them very enjoyable. By the way, you might want to start checking 6 & 10 meters during the upcoming contests. Rumor has it that there have been quite a few openings in the past month.

The Swamp Fox Contest Group (SFCG) and South Carolina DX Association (SCDXA) are sponsoring another Competitive Contesting class Saturday August 18th in Gray Court, South Carolina. If you missed the last class back in April and wanted to attend, here is your chance to attend. This is a very interesting class, and I highly recommend it. [Details of the class can be found on page 2 of the newsletter.](#)

## **Brag List:**

### WN4AFP:

Plaque 2017 **PA QSO Party** 1<sup>st</sup> Place QRP Out of State

Plaque 2018 **VA QSO Party** 1<sup>st</sup> Place outside Virginia Mixed QRP

### KS4YX:

**World Wide Flora & Fauna** Certificate for 88 WWFF references

## **Member Contributions:**

### **Competitive Contesting Class**

**By Kevan N4XL**

The Swamp Fox Contest Group (SFCG) and South Carolina DX Association (SCDXA) are sponsoring a Competitive Contesting class Saturday August 18th in Gray Court, South Carolina. Its goal is simple. To help those already familiar with contesting improve their scores. To achieve that goal operating techniques, station design choices, and contest radio characteristics will be presented.

*Please Note: This is not a beginner's class.* People choosing to attend should have previously participated in contests or serious Field Day efforts. They will already be familiar with how a contest style contact is conducted and now want to figure out what they can do

differently to help achieve competitive state, regional, and national scores. Skills discussed can be used for Field Day but will be focused on participating in contests happening throughout the year. Heavy emphasis is placed on HF SSB operations, however much of the information to be presented is common to all types and modes of contesting.

Kevan Nason, N4XL, will present topics which include the following:

- Methods to make contacts flow more efficiently
- Breaking through pile ups
- HFTA and take off angles
- Improving your Search and Pounce technique
- Tips on Running stations
- Using N1MM+ contest logger tools to increase contact rate per hour
- Internet sources to help with your self-improvement efforts

Most importantly, for those of you not yet in the know the “Big Secret” used by all the highest scoring contesters will be revealed! It is virtually impossible to be a top contester without incorporating this critical knowledge into your personal operating style.

SCDXA member K9JDP is graciously opening his large shack for the class. It's located in Laurens County at [3056 Greenpond Rd, Gray Court, South Carolina](#) 29645. Kickoff is at 8:30 AM. We'll discuss contesting for about 5 hours. There will be an additional 60-minute break in the middle for lunch meaning we should be done by 3:00. "GT's Quick Stop" is just a few minutes away. They serve pizza, hamburgers, hot dogs, wings, BLT's and BBQ sandwiches. If you would rather bring your own meal Jim has a full kitchen in the shack

with a stove, refrigerator and microwave. Bottled water will be available.

It is recognized that a class on August 18th will conflict with the NAQP SSB contest which many like to participate in. After looking at facility, scheduling requirements and other conflicts this proved to be the best date.

Seating is limited to 25 people. Contact Kevan Nason, N4XL, for registration or additional information. The class was first presented last spring and was well received. Attendees gave many positive comments. There are currently no plans for a third, so if interested you are encouraged to register now rather than waiting.

### **Contact Information:**

Kevan Nason, [knason00@gmail.com](mailto:knason00@gmail.com)

SFCG, <http://www.swampfoxcontestgroup.com/>

SCDXA, <http://www.scdxa.org/>

### **Other News:**

Gil KS4YS mentioned that the Cookie Crumble contest was a bust this year, not many stations to be heard. There were plenty of stations on the air, but the band conditions were not so favorable.

Thomas AJ4UQ is having some issues with the noise floor at his QTH. He been working with the Trident Amateur Radio Club (TARC) with activating SC Parks on the Air and also helped activate two ships at Patriots Point during Museum Ships on the Air.

Bill N4IQ has set up a new chat room for our groups.io reflector.

Tom W1TEF asked the club to sponsor the 13 Colonies SES, and the club has voted to do so.

Robert AJ5E fired up his rig to see if his FT-8 gear was still in working order and stumbled upon a great 10 meter opening that lasted for hours. He managed to log 200 Q's and 96 grids, way to go Robert!

Frank KG4IGC announced that Kevan will be teaching a second Competitive Contesting class Saturday August 18th in Gray Court, South Carolina.

## **Contests:**

### ARRL June VHF Contest

NI7R SO 3Band LP 320 points

### DRCG WW RTTY Contest

N4IQ SO Unlimited HP 97,836 points

K7OM SOAB HP 103,414 points

## Kentucky QSO Party

WN4AFP SO Fixed LP 12 Points

### SFOTA:

Current Leaderboard

#### 2018 OVERALL STANDINGS

	CALL	Contests	CW QSO'S	SSB QSO'S	DIGITAL QSO'S	RTTY QSO'S	TOTAL QSO'S
1)	N4IQ	83	6420	289	0	3726	10435
2)	K7OM	25	1129	596	16	2800	4541
3)	WN4AFP	61	2734	785	0	0	3519
4)	NI7R	11	1239	183	0	584	2006
5)	KG4IGC	17	547	676	0	722	1945
6)	N4XL	2	380	1037	0	0	1417
7)	NJ4F	7	437	20	0	887	1344
8)	WU0B	4	0	800	0	302	1102
9)	KG6MC	3	316	620	0	0	936
10)	KS4YX	4	229	0	0	692	921
11)	W4SLT	5	0	528	0	0	528
12)	NE4EA	5	222	46	0	0	268
13)	AJ4UQ	6	1	132	1	119	253

#### 2018 INDIVIDUAL MODE STANDINGS

CALL	CW QSO'S	CALL	SSB QSO'S	CALL	DIGITAL QSO'S	CALL	RTTY QSO'S
N4IQ	6420	N4XL	1037	K7OM	16	N4IQ	3726
WN4AFP	2734	WU0B	800	AJ4UQ	1	K7OM	2800
NI7R	1239	WN4AFP	785			NJ4F	887
K7OM	1129	KG4IGC	676			KG4IGC	722
KG4IGC	547	KG6MC	620			KS4YX	692
NJ4F	437	K7OM	596			NI7R	584
N4XL	380	W4SLT	528			WU0B	302
KG6MC	316	N4IQ	289			AJ4UQ	119
KS4YX	229	NI7R	183				
NE4EA	222	AJ4UQ	132				
AJ4UQ	1	NE4EA	46				
		NJ4F	20				

## ***Did you know....***

### I'll be done in a "Jiffy"

Dating to at least 1785, the term "jiffy" is used informally to refer to any unspecified short period of time, often the brief moment it will take to finish a task. Certain fields of science use the word technically to denote a specific unit of time—typically a fraction of a second. In electronics, for example, a jiffy is defined as the time between alternating current power cycles. In computing, a jiffy is the duration of one tick of the system timer interrupt.

*Credit: From The Free Dictionary*

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com>

## **Upcoming Contests:**

**28 Jun - 11 Jul 2018**



## HF CONTESTS

CWops Mini-CWT Test, Jun 27, 1300z to Jun 27, 1400z, Jun 27, 1900z to Jun 27, 2000z, Jun 28, 0300z to Jun 28, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: June 30.

RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB, Jun 28, 1900z to Jun 28, 2030z; SSB; Bands: 80m Only; RS + Serial No.; Logs due: June 29.

NCCC RTTY Sprint, Jun 29, 0145z to Jun 29, 0215z; RTTY; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: July 1.

NCCC Sprint, Jun 29, 0230z to Jun 29, 0300z; CW; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: July 1.

Battle of Carabobo International Contest, Jun 30, 0000z to Jul 1, 0000z; CW, Phone, Digital; Bands: 40, 20, 15, 10m; YV: RS(T) + state, Non-YV: RS(T) + Serial No.; Logs due: July 31.

Feld Hell Sprint, Jun 30, 0000z to Jun 30, 2359z; Feld Hell; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6m; (see rules); Logs due: July 4.

RAC Canada Day Contest, Jul 1, 0000z to Jul 1, 2359z; CW, Phone; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2m; VE: RS(T) + province/territory, non-VE: RS(T) + Serial No.; Logs due: July 31.

10-10 Int. Spirit of 76 QSO Party, Jul 2, 0001z to Jul 9, 0000z; CW, SSB, PSK31, RTTY, FM, AM; Bands: 10m Only; 10-10 Member: Name + 10-10 number + (state/province/country), Non-Member: Name + 0 + (state/province/country); Logs due: July 16.

IQRP Quarterly Marathon, Jul 2, 0800z to Jul 8, 2000z; CW, SSB, Digital; Bands: All; RS(T); Logs due: July 22.

RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW, Jul 2, 1900z to Jul 2, 2030z; CW; Bands: 80m Only; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: July 3.

ARS Spartan Sprint, Jul 3, 0100z to Jul 3, 0300z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + (state/province/country) + Power; Logs due: July 5.

Phone Fray, Jul 4, 0230z to Jul 4, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: June 29.

CWops Mini-CWT Test, Jul 4, 1300z to Jul 4, 1400z, Jul 4, 1900z to Jul 4, 2000z, Jul 5, 0300z to Jul 5, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: June 30.

NRAU 10m Activity Contest, Jul 5, 1700z to Jul 5, 1800z (CW), Jul 5, 1800z to Jul 5, 1900z (SSB), Jul 5, 1900z to Jul 5, 2000z (FM), Jul 5, 2000z to Jul 5, 2100z (Dig); CW, SSB, FM, Digital; Bands: 10m Only; RS(T) + 6-character grid square; Logs due: July 19.

SKCC Sprint Europe, Jul 5, 1900z to Jul 5, 2100z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + (state/province/country) + Name + (SKCC No./power); Logs due: July 12.

NCCC RTTY Sprint, Jul 6, 0145z to Jul 6, 0215z; RTTY; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: July 8.

NCCC Sprint, Jul 6, 0230z to Jul 6, 0300z; CW; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: July 8.

FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint, Jul 7, 0000z to Jul 7, 0400z; 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: August 6.

Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest, Jul 7, 0000z to Jul 7, 2359z; CW, SSB, PSK; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RS(T) + Serial No.; Logs due: July 22.

DL-DX RTTY Contest, Jul 7, 1100z to Jul 8, 1059z; RTTY; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + QSO No.; Logs due: July 15.

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, Jul 7, 1200z to Jul 9, 0000z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6m; RST + (state/province/country) + Name + (SKCC No./"NONE"); Logs due: July 15.

Marconi Memorial HF Contest, Jul 7, 1400z to Jul 8, 1400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: July 22.

Original QRP Contest, Jul 7, 1500z to Jul 8, 1500z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20m; RST + Serial No. + "/" + Power category; Logs due: July 31.

[PODXS 070 Club 40m Firecracker Sprint](#), Jul 7, 2000z to Jul 8, 2000z; PSK31; Bands: 40m Only; RST + (state/province/country); Logs due: July 15.

[4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint](#), Jul 9, 0000z to Jul 9, 0200z; CW, SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: RS(T) + (State/Province/Country) + Member No., Non-member: RS(T) + (State/Province/Country) + Power; Logs due: July 11.

[Phone Fray](#), Jul 11, 0230z to Jul 11, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: June 29.

[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#), Jul 11, 1300z to Jul 11, 1400z, Jul 11, 1900z to Jul 11, 2000z, Jul 12, 0300z to Jul 12, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: June 30.

[RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB](#), Jul 11, 1900z to Jul 11, 2030z; SSB; Bands: 80m Only; RS + Serial No.; Logs due: June 29.

## **VHF+ CONTESTS**

See [RAC Canada Day Contest](#), [Feld Hell Sprint](#), [SKCC Weekend Sprintathon](#), above.

## **From QST**

2017 ARRL 10-meter Contest: (pg. 89) Roanoke Regional Leader  
W4SLT SO HP PH 72 points.

*SFCG Newsletter July 2018*