TALES FROM THE SWAMP

July 2019

Author: Frank KG4IGC

From your President:

Hello fellow Swamp Foxes, I hope that everyone is doing well. Can you believe that 2019 is just about halfway over? Summertime is officially here and so is the summer contest season. Despite the fact that there are not any major contests on the schedule for July, there certainly are a good variety of smaller contests to participate in.

Most of us tend to stick to the traditional contests operating either SSB or CW but what to do when there are no major contests going on? Well, why not try some of the contest with alternative modes like Feld Hell, RTTY, FT8 and other digi modes? They are certainly a lot of fun and can be very competitive.

If you would like to get your feet wet in the digi modes, than there are a few upcoming contests that fit the bill. For instance, as Bill N4IQ pointed out, the Feld Hell Sprint is this weekend, June 29,

00:00 until June 29 23:59. There is also the NCCC RTTY sprint, CWops Mini CWT test, and the DL-DX RTTY Contest on July 6th.

Be sure to mark your calendars, the 13 Colonies Special event starts on Monday July 1 (9AM Eastern) to July 7 (Midnight Eastern). We co-sponsor K2L along with the Columbia ARC and Dutch Fork ARC in this event, and our team consists of members from each of these clubs. You can find more info below about this years upcoming event.

A quick update on my station: As you all know, I took a direct lightning hit to our pole for SCE&G and AT&T last month. Progress on the rebuild is going very well. I have bought and installed two new rigs, a Yaesu FT-DX3000 and a Yaesu FT-991A. I have also replaced the damaged power supply, switchboxes, and antenna tuners. All new outlets and power surge units have been put in.

Thanks to the help of K4KWB and N4VZ one the PC's and a laptop that were destroyed have been replaced. All the antennas check out with the exception of the hex, which has 30 plus SWR across all bands. Not sure what the problem is, but I suspect that the lightning somehow got the antenna as well. Until I can get some help to get the antenna down, I am not really sure what is wrong with the antenna as of this writing. I suspect that the 1:1 balun may be bad, but who knows.

I am in the process of getting the rigs programmed and getting all radio related software installed and set up. It has been a daunting journey this past month, but I am happy to report that things are starting to look up again. I plan to be fully operational (sans one hex beam) in time for the upcoming 13 Colonies event. I want to thank each and every one of you for your devoted support, I was going through a very tough time with this and I appreciate it very much.

One last thing, for those of you who were lucky enough to remember the old days of the Dayton hamfest, the old O'Hara building is no more. The roof was blown off the Hara Arena during storms and tornadoes on May 27-28, 2019. [Here is some aerial drone footage](#) of the damage from the storms.

Brag List:

N4IQ Feld Hell Club First Place June 2019 Field Day Sprint Home Commercial Category

N4IQ Feld Hell Club First Place May 2019 Hamvention Sprint NA QRO Category

WN4AFP 2019 ARRL DX Contest 1st Place South Carolina Section SOLP

WN4AFP 2018 ARRL 10 Meter Contest 1st Place SC Section 2nd Place Roanoke Division Single Op Unlimited, Mixed Mode, LP

K2L South Carolina

The Annual 13 Colonies Special Event

GB13COL   *K2Z Bonus Station*   WM3PEN

NY - K2A

VA - K2B	DE - K2E	MA - K2H	NH - K2K
RI - K2C	MD - K2F	NJ - K2I	SC - K2L
CT - K2D	GA - K2G	NC - K2J	PA - K2M

It is time once again for the week long fun filled extravaganza known as the 13 Colonies Special event!

Tom W1TEF has done an amazing job of organizing K2L and has put together a team 15 members strong! This year's team includes the following:

Jeff Vortisch **W4JRV**	Doug Anderson **W4NWS**,
Matt Case **WG4MC**	Elaine Thorp **N4EHT**,
Hans Helland **WU0B**	Jim Porterfield **K9JDP**,
Gary Lyons **K4EEU**	Kevan Nason **N4XL** (SFCG),
Bob Partain **KF1P**	Frank Baranek **KG4IGC** (SFCG)
Suzanne Yester **N1SUZ**	Jim Yester **KJ4WKD**
Tim Smith **K4OIW**	

For those who might not be familiar with the week-long event, we are celebrating the formation of the original 13 colonies. Each of the 13 original states will have their own 1X1 special event call. The event runs from July 1, 2019-1300 UTC to July 8, 2019-0400 UTC. You can find more information about the special event stations here.

Member Contributions:

The Adventure at NR4M, One Amazing Weekend!

By Dave WN4AFP

In March 2019, I received an invitation to be part of the NR4M contest team at the Goat Farm during the 2019 CQWPX CW contest. I was very surprised to receive this invitation. I shared this with the family and they encouraged me to pursue the adventure and so I did!

I left Greenville, SC on 5/23 and I arrived at my Airbnb in Lynchburg, VA after driving about 6 hours. On Friday morning, contest day, I drove approximately 2 hours through the beautiful countryside and arrived at NR4M station about 4 hours before the contest.

I meet Steve, NR4M and Lucy the dog at the station house. He gave a quick tour and I met some of the other ops including my friends KC4D and K7SV. Other ops arrived closer to 8 pm. I got a bite to eat and then my goal was to talk with some of the ops and get acquainted with the operation stations, so I can a productive part of the team.

K7SV and several others were doing some last minute repairs several towers. N3AC had his climbing harness on. A few minutes before 0000z, all was in usable condition. The operating stations included K3, N1MM, paddles and an amp running the full legal limit. We operated 160-10m, with mult stations on 40m, 20m and 15m, so 9 ops could work the contest at the same time.

My first slot on the team was to be the 20m Mult op. I had never done this before and I had barely used N1MM. I didn't reveal this fact to Steve until the after the contest. Since you couldn't have more than on signal on a band at the time, I had to work Mults while the run station was 'running'. The run operator was Chuck K4QS. I had to quickly learn how to operate the station while I learned to 'dance' with Chuck on 20m. It was similar to operating SO2R. It's an 'art' and it took about 30mins or so before I was rolling.

At this station, with band-dedicated towers at 200 feet, the bands were always open and I heard call signs that I'd never had heard before. After doing the multi op on 20m, I moved into the 'run' slot on 20m. Running was a 'piece of cake' compared to the mult op job. I did both positions on all the bands during my first 10 hours shift. The ops were amazing... This was my first experience in huge multi-

op and everyone but me had been to the Goat Farm many times. I was the 'new guy' on the team. After my first 30 mins on the air, all my jitters were gone and I was flying just like I had expected. I ran 20m most of the night and I heard B4T and stations from all over the world at S20! It was amazing! By the way, there was always something good to eat and an endless supply of beverages.

After 10 hours on the air, I crashed in my bunk at the main house. I slept for about 4-5 hours, showered and went back to work at the station. There were 18 team members but only 6-8 of us were there the entire weekend. I put in about 38 hours of air-time during the contest.

We didn't have a operator schedule. You relieved ops as needed and there were always ops available. I worked the night shift again on Saturday night, got some rest and then worked until the end of the contest. During late night on Saturday, we were always watching the online score board, we learned that LN8W had moved ahead of us in

the top spot on that scoreboard. We put things into high gear and resumed our lead.

As I said earlier, with the amazing antennas and high power, we made our own band openings. Band conditions were great for us on all bands. A bit slower overnight, but we were still making lots of contacts. On Sunday afternoon around 5 pm or so, I worked the 40MULT station with N2YO as the run guy. Around 6 pm, Chip had to leave due to family situation, so I moved to the 40RUN position. We were at 1425 Qs on 40m at that time and Chip mentioned that it was going to be difficult if not impossible to break 1500 Qs by the end of the contest. I had two hours to kick-it, so I did. The band was crowded and noisy…. It was truly a 40m jungle at this time. I was running at 36 wpm for the first hour and then bumped it up to 38-40 wpm during hour 2. I was working probably 2-4 per minute during the last hour. At the end, we passed 1500 Qs with more to spare.

At 2400z, the rigs went dark and we wished one another safe journeys home. Most of the ops were from the local area, so they traveled home, but I stayed another night at the Goat Farm. Steve and I reflected on the contest in the den of the main house. On Monday, Steve and I had lunch in Fredericksburg. During lunch, he gave me an open invitation to join the NR4M in the future.

Kevan, N4XL told me that contesting would be different for me after my NR4M experience. He was correct. I am thankful to have had this awesome experience and I'll definitely be returning to the hills of Virginia for another contesting adventure.

From the Reflector:

Dave WN4AFP has a Heathkit SB-634 Station Console and also a SB-614 Oscilloscope for sale. If interested please contact Dave via email.

Tom AJ4UQ participated with the Charleston Amateur Radio Society on Museum ships weekend. Tom helped put all three vessels the USS Yorktown, The USS Laffey, and the USS Clamagore were put on the air. A couple of hundred contacts were made, including contacts with other museum ships and the past ARRL President N3KN.

Dave WN4AFP informed the club about a new 3830 Group/Club Activity Trackers feature. Now you can click on a group or club to view its list of score postings by members. If you would like to check out this new feature, [click here](#).

Ted K7OM reported that the activity was low in this years DRCG WW RTTY contest.

Frank KG4IGC told the group that the new rigs, tuners, and other various station equipment for the rebuild of his ham shack had arrived.

Kevin N4XL posted a tip from the June 12, 2019 ARRL Contest Update about turning off the AGC to increase digital decoding accuracy.

Kevin N4XL talked about USB surge protection and why it is important.

Frank KG4IGC reminded the club about the upcoming 13 Colonies SES.

Contests:

Kentucky QSO Party   June 5, 2019

WN4AFP SO Fixed LP 15 CW Q's, 4 Ph. Q's 16 mults 1,488

WB4HRL SO Fixed LP 2 ph. Q's 2 mults 108

CWops Mini CWT Test 1300z   June 5, 2019

N4IQ SOHP 77 Q's 74 mults 5,698

CWops Mini CWT Test 1900z   June 5, 2019

N4IQ 87 q's 82 mults 7,134

DRCG WW RTTY Contest   June 8, 2019

K7OM SOAB HP 66 Q's 14 Countries 20 Call Areas 19,840

WB4HRL SOAB LP 30 Q's 5 Countries 8 Call Areas 2,327

ARRL June VHF Contest   June 8, 2019

NI7R SOHP 10 Q's 8 mults 80

AJ4UQ SOLP 1 Q 1 mult 1

CWops Mini CWT Test 1300z   June 12, 2019

N4IQ SOHP 85 Q's 78 mults 6,630

CWops Mini CWT Test 1900z   June 12, 2019

N4IQ SOHP 55 q's 53 mults 2,915

West Virginia QSO Party   June 15, 2019

WN4AFP SO Mixed LP 11 CW Q's, 6 Ph. Q's 8 mult's 524

WB4HRL SO SSB LP 1 Ph. Q 1 mult 101

Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest   June 15, 2019

K7OM SOAB HP 24 Q's 6 mults 324

WB4HRL SOSB/20 LP 8 Q's 3 mults 30

Stew Perry Topband Challenge Summer   June 15, 2019

K7OM SOHP 11 Q's 25

ARRL Field Day June 22, 2019

WB4HRL 204 Ph. Q's 186

Upcoming Contests:

CWops Mini-CWT Test, Jun 26, 1300z to Jun 26, 1400z and, Jun 26, 1900z to Jun 26, 2000z and, Jun 27, 0300z to Jun 27, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: June 29.

RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB, Jun 27, 1900z to Jun 27, 2030z; SSB; Bands: 80m Only; RS + Serial No.; Logs due: June 28.

Battle of Carabobo International Contest, Jun 28, 0000z to Jun 30, 0000z; Phone; Bands: 40, 20, 15, 10m; YV: RS(T) + state, Non-YV: RS(T) + Serial No.; Logs due: July 31.

QRP Fox Hunt, Jun 28, 0100z to Jun 28, 0230z; CW; Bands: 20m Only; RST + (state/province/country) + name + power output; Logs due: June 29.

NCCC RTTY Sprint, Jun 28, 0145z to Jun 28, 0215z; RTTY; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: June 30.

NCCC Sprint, Jun 28, 0230z to Jun 28, 0300z; CW; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: June 30.

Feld Hell Sprint, Jun 29, 0000z to Jun 29, 2359z; Feld Hell; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6m; (see rules); Logs due: July 3.

UFT QRP Contest, Jun 29, 0600z to Jun 29, 0900z and, Jun 29, 1400z to Jun 29, 1700z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: RST + QRP/QRO + UFT member no., non-member: RST + QRP/QRO + "NM"; Logs due: July 29.

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 1, 0001z to Jul 8, 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 15.

IQRP Quarterly Marathon, Jul 1, 0800z to Jul 7, 2000z; CW, SSB, Digital; Bands: All; RS(T); Logs due: July 21.

RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW, Jul 1, 1900z to Jul 1, 2030z; CW; Bands: 80m Only; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: July 2.

Fireflies QRP 72 Sprint, Jul 2, 0000z to Jul 2, 0200z; CW, SSB; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Firefly: RS(T) + (state/province/country) + Firefly no., non-Firefly: RS(T) + (state/province/country) + power out; Logs due: July 10.

ARS Spartan Sprint, Jul 2, 0100z to Jul 2, 0300z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + (state/province/country) + Power; Logs due: July 4.

QRP Fox Hunt, Jul 3, 0100z to Jul 3, 0230z; CW; Bands: 20m Only; RST + (state/province/country) + name + power output; Logs due: June 29.

Phone Fray, Jul 3, 0230z to Jul 3, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: June 28.

CWops Mini-CWT Test, Jul 3, 1300z to Jul 3, 1400z and, Jul 3, 1900z to Jul 3, 2000z and, Jul 4, 0300z to Jul 4, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: June 29.

NRAU 10m Activity Contest, Jul 4, 1700z to Jul 4, 1800z (CW) and, Jul 4, 1800z to Jul 4, 1900z (SSB) and, Jul 4, 1900z to Jul 4, 2000z (FM) and, Jul 4, 2000z to Jul 4, 2100z (Dig); CW, SSB, FM, Digital; Bands: 10m Only; RS(T) + 6-character grid square; Logs due: July 18.

SKCC Sprint Europe, Jul 4, 1900z to Jul 4, 2100z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6m; RST + (state/province/country) + Name + (SKCC No./power); Logs due: July 11.

NCCC RTTY Sprint, Jul 5, 0145z to Jul 5, 0215z; RTTY; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: June 30.

NCCC Sprint, Jul 5, 0230z to Jul 5, 0300z; CW; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: June 30.

FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint, Jul 6, 0000z to Jul 6, 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 5.

Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest, Jul 6, 0000z to Jul 6, 2359z; CW, SSB, PSK; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RS(T) + Serial No.; Logs due: July 15.

DL-DX RTTY Contest, Jul 6, 1100z to Jul 7, 1059z; RTTY; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + QSO No.; Logs due: July 14.

Marconi Memorial HF Contest, Jul 6, 1400z to Jul 7, 1400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: July 21.

Original QRP Contest, Jul 6, 1500z to Jul 7, 1500z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20m; RST + Serial No. + "/" + Power category; Logs due: July 31.

PODXS 070 Club 40m Firecracker Sprint, Jul 6, 2000z to Jul 7, 2000z; PSK31; Bands: 40m Only; RST + (state/province/country); Logs due: July 14.

Phone Fray, Jul 10, 0230z to Jul 10, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: June 28.

CWops Mini-CWT Test, Jul 10, 1300z to Jul 10, 1400z and, Jul 10, 1900z to Jul 10, 2000z and, Jul 11, 0300z to Jul 11, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: June 29.

RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB, Jul 10, 1900z to Jul 10, 2030z; SSB; Bands: 80m Only; RS + Serial No.; Logs due: June 28.

VHF+ CONTESTS

See Feld Hell Sprint, RAC Canada Day Contest, SKCC Sprint Europe, above.

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	44	4152	444	37	2543	7176
2)	K7OM	25	1435	543	0	1409	3387
3)	WN4AFP	52	1819	903	0	290	3012
4)	KG4IGC	13	293	1045	0	1090	2428
5)	NI7R	12	1840	15	0	332	2187
6)	WB4HRL	31	258	1394	1	65	1718
7)	KS4YX	8	280	49	38	1086	1453
8)	N4XL	1	1269	0	0	0	1269
9)	N4VZ	7	0	612	321	271	1204
10)	KG6MC	9	755	393	0	54	1202
11)	WU0B	8	0	761	0	42	803
12)	NJ4F	6	310	54	0	115	479
13)	W1TEF	4	332	79	0	0	411
14)	K4KWB	1	0	125	0	0	125
15)	NE4EA	3	0	43	2	74	119
16)	AJ4UQ	4	1	0	1	100	102
17)	KD4CB	3	9	35	0	0	44

2019 INDIVIDUAL MODE STANDINGS

CALL	CW QSO'S
N4IQ	4152
NI7R	1840
WN4AFP	1819
K7OM	1435
N4XL	1269
KG6MC	755
W1TEF	332
NJ4F	310
KG4IGC	293
KS4YX	280
WB4HRL	258
KD4CB	9
AJ4UQ	1

CALL	SSB QSO'S
WB4HRL	1394
KG4IGC	1045
WN4AFP	903
WU0B	761
N4VZ	612
K7OM	543
N4IQ	444
KG6MC	393
K4KWB	125
W1TEF	79
NJ4F	54
KS4YX	49
NE4EA	43
KD4CB	35
NI7R	15

CALL	DIGITAL QSO'S
N4VZ	321
KS4YX	38
N4IQ	37
NE4EA	2
AJ4UQ	1
WB4HRL	1

CALL	RTTY QSO'S
N4IQ	2543
K7OM	1409
KG4IGC	1090
KS4YX	1086
NI7R	332
WN4AFP	290
N4VZ	271
NJ4F	115
AJ4UQ	100
NE4EA	74
WB4HRL	65
KG6MC	54
WU0B	42

Newsletter Contributions:

If you would like to submit an article, contesting news, or perhaps a write up on any projects you are working on that you would like to share with the club please send them to kg4igc@att.net.

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SFCG Newsletter July 2019