



TALES FROM THE SWAMP

June 2018

Author: Frank KG4IGC

From Your President:

Greetings fellow Swamp Foxes! This month I have a few exciting things to talk about, starting with the Dayton Hamfest! In case you haven't heard, two new transceivers were introduced at the Dayton Hamfest this year. One rig that got my attention was the Yaesu [FT-DX101d](#). This came as kind of a surprise because I heard that Yaesu wasn't ready to jump into the SDR market yet; boy were those rumors wrong!

Here are some of the features offered in this rig according to what's out there on the web: SDR Technology and Waterfall Display, a large touch panel precision color display, active band monitor enables rapid band changes with LED illumination of the operating band, independent control of the Main and Sub Bands allows effortless

operation for the serious contester needing to move quickly between the amateur bands, high-Q VC tuning front-end, main tuning dial for main and sub band frequency control includes an outer dial for clarifier, VC tuning, fine tuning or custom settings.

Kenwood also announced a new rig as well, the [TS-890S](#). Although it is not an SDR capable rig, it does offer a nice 7-inch color TFT display, full down conversion RX, built in 500Hz, 2.7kHz 6kHz, 15kHz roofing filters, and a 100 watt built in antenna tuner. As most of you know, Bill N4IQ made the pilgrimage to Xenia this year and got to see all the new toys first hand. Bill did a really nice write-up of his trip to the Dayton Hamfest for the newsletter, be sure to check it out below.

It seems that the bands played very well for the CQWW DX CW Contest this year. There were plenty of great contacts to be made across the pond over the contest weekend. 40 meters was in the best shape that I have heard in a long time, and I hear that 20 and 15 were in pretty good shape as well. It was nice hearing not only Europe, but also quite a few stations from the Middle East & Africa as well. Our claimed aggregate score this year was 1,270,814 points compared to last year's total of 1,242,778 points, great job guys!!

During the CQ WW DX CW Contest I was curious of which way the propagation on 40 meters was going so I started to wonder if there was a way to map my Q's. After doing some searching on the internet, I found an interesting tool called [QSO MAP](#) that allows you to do just that. This nifty online tool lets you upload up to 500 Q's in ADIF file of which then it places on a world map. The service is free but does require that you set up a user account.

I want to thank Gil KS4YS for reminding us about The Cookie Crumble Contest this Sunday, June 10, 2018, 1700 – 2200Z. This is a fun QRP contest sponsored by two famous POTA participants, Emily

Sandia KB3VVE and Tim Carter W3ATB. If you do not have a Cookie Crumble number, you can apply for one by sending an email to: tim@w3atb.com , and here is the link to the official [rules for the contest](#) .

The [ARRL Field day](#) is right around the corner, June 23-24. Field Day is always the fourth full weekend, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 1800 UTC Sunday. If you are planning to operate with one of the local clubs, please be sure to tell us about your activities and share your photos with the club, as always we love seeing Swamp Foxes in action! If anyone is interested in getting together here in the low-country, please [email me](#) ASAP and we can put something together.

One final note, the [13 Colonies Special event](#) is July 1 1300 UTC (9AM EST) to July 7 0400 UTC (Midnight EST). There has been a change in leadership for the K2L team here in SC; it is now under the direction of Tom W1TEF. Tom has been working diligently to put together a new team of operators, of which are some of the best operators in the state of South Carolina! He is currently working on setting up a new K2L page for QRZ and putting together a new system for taking care of the incoming QSL requests.

Tom is also working with Charlie KD4CB to create a new 10th anniversary QSL card for K2L, of which we think is going to be the most sought after card in the entire event. If you have never worked the 13 Colonies special event, it is definitely one you do not want to miss. We are hoping to bring the Top State and Top Operator awards back home to SC this year, so please give us your support!

Notable Mentions:

One of our founding members Ted K7OM and his wife Marie celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary May 27, 2018. On behalf of the club, we would like to wish the two of you congratulations and best wishes for many more!

Member Contributions:

WRTC 2018

By Kevan N4XL

The IARU HF Championship is the second full weekend in July. It isn't as popular as some of the other contests, but every four years there is a contest within a contest that weekend. The World Radiosport Team Challenge (WRTC) 2018 is happening this year. If you aren't familiar with the WRTC, think of it as being the equivalent of the Olympics for Ham radio contesting. Qualifying events happened for a couple years leading up to this year's event and the best testers in the world will gather in Germany to participate.

Much effort is made to make as level a playing field as possible. Contestants bring their own radio's and some accessories, but the remaining of the station is as identical as possible. Same antennas. Same terrain profile. Same power. Same geographical location so as to give the same propagation. Same callsign style. Same rules to

prevent computer aids. Every effort is made to remove any technical advantage one station has over another. It is up to the operator to choose their preferred operating “weapon” (radio, computer, filters, etc.) and take it to the field in a tent to do battle. May the best operator win.

Here are some rules that are put in to keep the playing field as level as possible.

- Apart from 5nn no other abbreviations are allowed when sending the exchange either on SSB or CW. Operators must say 5-9 28 on SSB resp. 5nn 28 or 599 28 on CW. Further cut numbers such as enn28 are not allowed. Operators may increase the speed of the exchange up to a maximum of 50 WPM. Voice recorders are allowed to send the exchange on SSB.
- WRTC 2018 stations must be QRT for at least 15 minutes prior to the contest start (by 11:45 UTC). The receiver volume of both radios must be turned fully off and no monitoring or transmitting is allowed within this 15-minute timeframe. The radios may be left powered on.
- The operators are not allowed to intentionally identify themselves (i.e., revealing their own callsigns) before or during the contest or reveal their team identity in any way.
- Use of DX spotting (e.g., Packet, Web, etc.), skimmer or any other spotting and supplementary information network is not allowed. Operators are not allowed to receive any assistance to learn the callsign or exchange of any station other than by tuning the radio and listening by human ear.
- The use of any callsign database or the ‘Super Check Partial’ tool is not allowed.

- The WRTC Contest is the equivalent of the Ham Radio Olympic Games. To maintain the spirit and credibility that this name implies, the Judging Committee may disqualify a team that commits any of (but not limited to) the following actions:
 - Violation of the rules of the contest.
 - Unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - Taking credit for excessive unverifiable QSOs or unverifiable multipliers.
- WRTC stations should not encourage "cheerleading", i.e. QSOs in which supporters make QSOs with only a favored team or exclusively spot that team on the DX-cluster. Cheerleading should be actively discouraged by the competitors and abuses through the use of cheerleading may result in QSOs being removed from logs as deemed necessary to assure a fair competition.
- The callsigns assigned to the competitors will be selected from special calls in a "to be determined" series. The process of assigning calls and stations will be randomly designated by lottery on Friday, July 13th, 2018 before the contest. The competition callsigns will be given to the teams by their referee at the station 15 minutes before the contest at 11:45 UTC on Saturday, July 14th, 2018. Team members are not allowed to know the callsign before this time.
- Logging software must be configured to broadcast current score information for publication during the contest.
- After the contest, each team must provide to the referee a continuous stereo audio recording of Radio A and Radio B on one of the following storage devices:

- USB2 compatible device (USB flash memory, USB hard drive)
- CD/DVD disk
- Radio A and Radio B can each use only one antenna connector. This means that every transmission and reception must go through a single antenna connector of that Radio. No external receive antennas are allowed.
- Radio A and Radio B are each limited to 100 watts (KEY DOWN in CW, single tone in SSB) maximum power output. The power will be measured by a peak power monitor provided by the WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee.
- Band-pass filters are allowed for both Radio A and Radio B. External antenna tuners are allowed for all antennas. These devices must be connected after the power detector. Any power losses from these devices may not be compensated for in any way.
- The teams must provide an audio output for both radios for use by the referee.
- Teams may adjust the length of the 80M antenna to move its resonance from the low end of the band to the SSB portion or back. This may be done by opening or closing a connection at the ends of the 80m-dipole. The center, the length of the various sections and ends of the antenna must not be moved. This adjustment must be made while standing on the ground.
- Participants are not allowed to change or cut antenna coaxial cables provided by the organizer. All such cable lengths must remain unchanged. Any filters or other devices allowed as previously described must be connected after the entire length of cable provided.

- During the competition the Referee may permit repair of any equipment or antennas reported damaged during the operation. This can be done by the operators or by the WRTC support staff only. No third party is allowed in the operating area at any time during the competition.

Google WRTC2018 for more information. Join in the fun and help the contestants with their efforts.

2018 Dayton Hamvention (Xenia, Ohio)

By Bill N4IQ

My Initial Impression

The 2018 Dayton Hamvention was great! After hearing horror stories about last year's mud fest at Xenia, Ohio, I was pleasantly surprised by both the weather and the organizational efforts of the Hamvention organizers and the Fairgrounds owners. They rectified most of last year's parking problems. The last time I went to the Dayton Hamvention was in the mid-1980s when I experienced frigid, weekend long rainy weather, long lines and mobs of people in crowded conditions. What a change this year at Xenia: modern, clean, spacious facilities with plenty of easy access parking (main lot with six remote parking lots, no less!) with shuttles to the main gate. While there was some mud in the main parking area, I did not see any cars stuck or having major problems. Also, the flea market area, which had a significant mud problem last year, sported new pulverized tire material on the foot traffic areas. While I was glad I wore my "junker" shoes, mud was not really a problem. Now for the rest of the story!

Travel to and from Dayton

Travel time to Dayton from Greenville was 7 ½ hours with no major slowdowns. On Wednesday, my longtime friend, Bill KW4J, drove from Birmingham to my house in Greenville. This enabled us to get an early start Thursday morning so we could be at the Thursday CW Ops Awards dinner in downtown Dayton by 5:30 PM. Our route was I-85, I-26, I-40 and I-75. Easy driving. The trip going home was equally uneventful.

Events

The Hamvention is full of banquets, dinners, club meetings, forums, and vendors with new equipment debuts. Oh, did I also mention an extensive tail gate area? Bill and I were fortunate to be able to attend the CW Ops Awards dinner (mentioned earlier) and the South West Ohio DX Association DX banquet on Friday night.

The CW Ops dinner hosted over 106 members and guests at the Dayton Spaghetti Warehouse. Great food and great company. I met many CWT ops I have worked over the air, but had never met face to face. Numerous awards were presented and CWT medallions were handed out. (I managed to earn a Silver Medallion for 2017 participation.)

The SWODXA awards banquet food was also delicious but the event was even bigger. My guess: 200+ attendees. I saw and talked to a number of DXers (and more CWT ops) that I knew and many that I didn't, but all were friends. I sat at a table of distinguished Birmingham based DXers courtesy of my friend, Bill. Some unbelievable prizes were handed out which resulted in many happy, smiling faces. Unfortunately, I was not one of them but just the fellowship was enough.

Bill and I went to the Kenwood forum on Saturday which centered on maintaining legacy radios. We both have a lot of Kenwoods.

Radio Debuts: Yaesu and Kenwood both presented new HF products. Both radios were behind plexiglass boxes, so I am not sure how functional they were. Both were prototypes but interesting. The Yaesu introduction was the FT-dx-101D, named after the famous ancestral FT-101 transceivers of the 70s. (I still have my original 101 lineup.) The FT-dx-101D is SDR based while the new Kenwood TS-890S uses advanced DSP technology. The Kenwood is scheduled to be available early fall. Being a Kenwood man, I really liked the appearance and layout of the TS-890. It will fill a gap between the TS-990 and the TS590. The specifications are comparable with the new Icoms and Yaesus but I am sure price will determine how truly competitive it can be.

Elecraft and Flex had huge exhibits of their radios. Both are, of course, major technological leaders in the hf field, but unfortunately, no new products. When I went by their booths, both had large crowds looking at their gear, as did Icom. Icom was featuring the IC-7610 which was introduced earlier in the year.

Although not a part of the Hamvention, the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting had extended touring hours to accommodate hamfest attendees. The museum is about a forty-five-minute ride from Xenia and is located at the former VOA Bethany Station site. This site still houses the transmitter building and antenna switchyard used by VOA and now exhibits commercial and amateur equipment from the spark gap era until the late sixties. It even has an impressive Drake radio collection and Morse radio key exhibit. I remember growing up listening to the VOA broadcasts on my old four-foot-high AM / shortwave radio. As much as I enjoyed

the dinners and forums, I think the Bethany station was the highlight of my trip.

Miscellaneous

If you are in the market for a new radio, the Hamvention is a good place to buy. Icom had specials on their IC-7610 and IC-7300 radios. The flea market is the largest I have seen with all the junk... er – used equipment you might want. People watching is fun as well, but you cannot leave without noticing the aging ham population. (Yes, I would be in that group.) Also, you never know who you may meet – long lost friends and those who you just saw at the last club meet at home.

Conclusion

If you have never been to the Dayton Hamvention, you must go. It is your ham duty. It is your trip to ham Mecca. I advise you to go with a friend or group of friends for the most fun. Before you go, raid the penny bank. Go prepared. And be prepared to have a great time.

Other News:

Al NE4EA passed along information about scoring changes in the 2017 CQWW CW Contest. From CQWW Management: “A change in scoring methodology for duplicate contacts (dupes) in the CW weekend of the 2017 CQ World Wide DX Contest led to an inconsistency with the standards by which logs submitted for the SSB weekend of the same contest were scored.

After considerable discussion and debate among members of the CQWW Contest Committee and consultation with CQ management, it has been decided to restore the original scoring methodology and to rescore all CW logs for 2017. It is not expected that this will result in any changes to the order of finish.

Updated scores will be published online on the CQ website <www.cq-amateur-radio.com> and the CQ World Wide DX Contest website <www.cqww.com>. The contest community will be notified once the re-scoring is completed.

2017 CQ WW DX Contest results have been posted, you can find them [here](#).

Phil Ni7R let the group know that the [RTTY Roundup full results](#) article have been posted

Bill N4IQ told the group that he was heading to the Dayton Hamfest, leaving Thursday May 17th and returning on Sunday 20th

Kevan N4XL has been sharing information about his SO2R Project with the club. He has given some very good information on types of filters, attenuation, and automated antenna switching. He has warned that all filters are not created equal, and to make sure you do your research before purchasing your filters. A good filter design should have at least 60-80 dB isolation for a 100-watt station. Duty cycle is a very important thing to watch out for when considering what filters to purchase. Kevan has decided to go with Array Solutions Filtermax, which is rated for 200 watts.

Other things to consider are having separate power supplies for each rig to help isolate RFI and where your antenna switch is located. If you intend on using two rigs to feed a single multiband antenna you will need higher levels of filtering. Another factor is how close are your antennas to each other and type of rigs you will be using. Kevan noted that there are several options for SO2R boxes to switch audio/mic/keying focus between rigs. He was originally going to use a Micro-ham u2R box, but has since decided to go with an Array Solutions/Hamation lineup instead.

Contests:

His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW

K7OM	SOAB HP	760
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Volta RTTY

N4IQ	SOAB HP (SO2R)	41,471,760
K7OM	SOAB HP	15,550,158
KG4IGC	SOAB LP	8,144,940

CQWW WPX CW Contest

NI7R SO(A) SB20 HP	189,996
WN4AFP SOAB LP	329,894
WN4AFP SOAB TB-Wires LP	329,894
K7OM SOAB HP	181,879
KG6MC SOAB HP 1	116,964
KG4IGC SO(A)SB40 LP	122,187

Club Total: 1,270,814

SFOTA:

2018 OVERALL STANDINGS

	CALL	Contests	CW QSO'S	SSB QSO'S	DIGITAL QSO'S	RTTY QSO'S	TOTAL QSO'S
1)	N4IQ	82	6420	289	0	3599	10308
2)	K7OM	24	1129	596	16	2643	4384
3)	WN4AFP	58	2683	785	0	0	3468
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	3599
WN4AFP	2683	WU0B	800	AJ4UQ	1	K7OM	2643
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....

"What Hath God Wrought" (1844)

Samuel F.B. Morse was originally a painter, and a good one. His portraits still rank among the finest produced in the US. However, he is best remembered for having developed the telegraph and the code of dots and dashes that bears his name. In 1844, Morse demonstrated the practicability of his instrument to Congress by transmitting the famous message "What hath God wrought" over a wire from Washington, DC, to Baltimore.

From: The Free Dictionary

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/>

This Day In History - May 24, 1844

Contributed by Kevan N4XL

Upcoming Contests:

DRCG WW RTTY Contest, Jun 9, 0000z to Jun 9, 0759z, Jun 9, 1600z to Jun 9, 2359z, Jun 10, 0800z to Jun 10, 1559z; RTTY; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters; RST + CQ Zone; Logs due: June 17.

VK Shires Contest, Jun 9, 0600z to Jun 10, 0600z; CW, SSB; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters; VK: RS(T) + Shire, non-VK: RS(T) + CQ Zone; Logs due: July 1.

Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB, Jun 9, 1100z to Jun 9, 1300z; SSB; Bands: 20, 15 meters; RS + Serial No.; Logs due: June 16.

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, Jun 9, 1200z to Jun 11, 0000z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 meters; RST + (state/province/country) + Name + (SKCC No./"NONE"); Logs due: June 17.

Portugal Day Contest, Jun 9, 1200z to Jun 10, 1200z; CW, SSB; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters; CT: RS(T) + District, non-CT: RS(T) + Serial No.; Logs due: September 1.

GACW WWSA CW DX Contest, Jun 9, 1500z to Jun 10, 1500z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters; RST + CQ Zone No.; Logs due: July 30.

Cookie Crumble QRP Contest, Jun 10, 1700z to Jun 10, 2200z; All; Bands: All, except WARC; RS(T) + (state/province/country) + cookie no. + name; Logs due: July 31.

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, Jun 11, 0000z to Jun 11, 0200z; CW, SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters; Member: RS(T) + (State/Province/Country) + Member No., Non-member: RS(T) + (State/Province/Country) + Power; Logs due: June 13.

NAQCC CW Sprint, Jun 13, 0030z to Jun 13, 0230z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20 meters; RST + (state/province/country) + (NAQCC No./power); Logs due: June 16.

Phone Fray, Jun 13, 0230z to Jun 13, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 meters; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: June 15.

CWops Mini-CWT Test, Jun 13, 1300z to Jun 13, 1400z, Jun 13, 1900z to Jun 13, 2000z, Jun 14, 0300z to Jun 14, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: June 16.

[RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW](#), Jun 13, 1900z to Jun 13, 2030z; CW; Bands: 80 meters only; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: June 14.

VHF+ CONTESTS

[UKSMG Summer Contest](#), Jun 2, 1300z to Jun 3, 1300z; not specified; Bands: 6 meters only; RST + Serial No. + 6-character grid square + (optional UKSMG member no.); Logs due: July 1.

[REF DDFM 6m Contest](#), Jun 9, 1600z to Jun 10, 1600z; CW, SSB, FM; Bands: 6 meters only; RS(T) + Serial No. + 4-character grid square; Logs due: June 18.

[ARRL June VHF Contest](#), Jun 9, 1800z to Jun 11, 0259z; All; Bands: 50 MHz and up; 4-character grid square; Logs due: June 21.

Also, see [Kentucky QSO Party](#), [Dutch Kingdom Contest](#), [SKCC Weekend Sprintathon](#)