



TALES FROM THE SWAMP

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From Your President:

Another year, another SCQP has come and gone. This year however, was a little different for me. Instead of being a competitor, I volunteered to be a bonus station. As an added twist, I decided to take a trip upstate and put the rare county of Chesterfield on the air. This was my very first time as a portable SCQP bonus station, and man it was fun! If you have never operated as WW4SF, you should really give it a try some time. As a bonus station in the SCQP, you get to experience the thrill of being on the other side of the pileup.

The wife and I set up in Cheraw State Park in a pavilion with a great view of Lake Juniper. Learning from the ARRL State Parks on the Air event, we made sure that we stopped by and talked to the park

rangers before setting up shop. The park ranger could not have been nicer and gave us his blessing. He made sure that the other park rangers knew that we would be there so that we would not run into any issues. The weather was absolutely beautiful; it was sunny in the upper 70's with a nice cool breeze coming from the lake.

There were a few bumps along the way, but nothing that I could not handle. My setup was simple...a Yaesu FT-847, a 40 meter dipole attached to a tuner, a marine battery, and my laptop for logging. I did bring along pen and paper just in case something went wrong with the computer. As luck would have it, something did go wrong. Windows decided to do an update as soon as I opened the case and promptly killed my laptop battery in the process! Fortunately, I had brought along an inverter and was able to recharge the laptop with my marine battery.

I was only able to operate for a little over three hours, but I sure had fun doing it. What took up a lot of my time was having to lug everything from the car to the pavilion plus the setup of the antenna and equipment. It was at least a quarter mile walk from the car to the site and I sure was glad that I had my XYL helping. Then of course I had to tear everything back down, pack up and be out of the park before it closed at 6 PM.

I operated QRP for a little over an hour with 10 watts, as I wanted to conserve my battery. In reality I could have run 100 watts easily the whole time having a fairly new marine battery. I was getting good

reports from the NE & SW with 10 watts though so the band was in great shape. Contacts were at a relatively easy pace, and easy to make. I want to say that I only had trouble copying about three or four stations, most likely because of my antenna orientation. In the end, I really had a blast getting outdoors and getting some much needed practice of setting up a station on the fly and also sending/receiving traffic. Operating from a State Park was just icing on the cake. I absolutely enjoyed it and would encourage all of you to give it a try and at the same time support our State Parks.

While I'm on the subject of using the club call, I think that a refresher of the use of the call is warranted, especially for our new members. If you would like to use the club call in the future, please remember to get permission from Dave NJ4F, as he is the trustee of the call. You also need to read the [rules for using the club call](#). This way you will have a complete understanding of how to properly use WW4SF. Of course, if you have any questions about the use of the call, please do not hesitate to ask.

There will be times that we as a club will be using the club call amongst several stations, a good example being the SCQP. The question was brought up recently about use of the club call by multiple stations. It is an accepted norm to use the same call sign more than once at the same time on the same band using *different modes*. Although it isn't against FCC rules, etiquette and good operating practice says not to use the same call sign on the same band and mode at the same time. The club call is available for all club members to use, so if you want to put it on the air in an upcoming contest just follow the above guidelines and have fun!

Brag List:

WN4AFP: NC/SC QSO Party Spelling Bee Certificate for successfully contacting amateur radio stations in the NC/SC QSO Party, located in counties that helped him spell the word “Carolina”.

Notable Mentions:

W4STR Russ celebrated his birthday on February 14th.

One of our “oldest” and dearest members Gil KS4YX celebrated his birthday on February 16th.

We heard through the grapevine that there was a shortage of candles in Seneca, SC that week due to Gil’s birthday.

On behalf of the entire club, happy belated birthday Russ and Gil!

Member Contributions:

The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation

By Kevan N4XL

We are lucky. We enjoy a great hobby which fortunately has two extremely active sub-cultures called DXing and Contesting. Every

time I hear those two words I feel the thrill of working a new one or the anticipation of the next time I get to sit in front of the rig and say, “CQ Contest N4XL” and watch the q count climb upwards.

For the first 35 years of my ham career I took for granted that the CQWW or ARRL DX or SCQP would simply happen when the WA7BNM calendar said it would. Or the upcoming DXpeditions to 4B4B or H44R were going to happen just because some rich people somewhere wanted to have fun and NG3K was nice enough to put them on his website so we could hear about it. I never gave a thought as to what it must take to pull that stuff off – or how much it must cost in terms of someone else’s time and money for me to enjoy my hobby.

My appreciation for what people did for Ham Radio began to grow as I started meeting and communicating with some of the folks who make the ham world go around. People like K4BAI, W1TEF, W8JI, WN4AFP, N7BV, N4ZR, and NQ4I to name a few. Their doing things for our hobby is critical to you and I enjoying contests or being able to log an “ATNO”. As that concept slowly dawned I felt I too should do something. I started giving presentations. Contributing to newsletters. Sponsored some contest awards. Contributed funding to the WRTC. And most recently I donated to the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF).

The who? I had heard of them every now and then, but didn’t have a clue what they did. One day I decided to take a look and found them

at wwrof.org. The first thing you read is a mission statement.

“Dedicated to improving the skills of amateur radio operators around the world, utilizing education, competition, advancement of technology and scientific research, promoting international friendship and goodwill, and preparing them to better serve society in times of communication need.”

A bit further down the page it says, “We believe that amateur radio contests provide a means of testing operating skill and that worldwide contest sponsors can benefit from the support we can provide.” Near the bottom of the home page it adds “Until now, many of the elements of modern radio contest operating such as log-checking software, log-submission robots, etc., have been developed and supported by volunteers. Many of the enhancements envisioned for the future will involve considerable expense, and no organization exists to support them. The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation was created to fill that need.”

Here are some of what they do.

- Support for, and enhancements to log-submission/processing infrastructure
 - Administer the [Cabrillo log format specification](#)
- Educational programs
 - Support of [Contest University](#)

- Support for [Webinars on topics of interest to Contesters](#)
- Creation of a [Contester's Code of Ethics \(CCE\)](#)
- Development of wideband recording systems
- [Contest Awards management](#)
- Equipment donation program
 - Young contesters
 - Developing-country contesters
- Support for events such as the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC)

They also manage the funds and execution of awards and plaques for the CQ WW DX Contest, CQ WPX Contest, CQ 160 Meter Contest, and 10 meter RTTY contest.

As active contesters you will likely recognize several of the people who run or are involved with administering their programs. These include: K1AR, K3LR, N5RZ, K8AZ, K1DG, N5OT, K3EST, VE3EJ, S50A, K5ZD, K7BV, N5KO, N6TR, K5TR, K1EA, W0YK, and N2NT.

Regardless of whether you too choose to donate, I encourage you to look over their website. You will find some useful contest information, webinars, and links.

Other News:

Kevan N4XL told us about a well-received presentation that he gave about EMP/CME (Electro Magnetic Pulse/ Coronal Mass Ejection/Solar Storm) and Faraday cages at his local club. He also reminded us of the importance of disaster preparedness. Are you ready if disaster strikes? Here is a link to an interesting video on making a [simple Faraday cage](#) to protect your electronics Kevan shared with the group.

Gil KS4YX noted that there seemed to be a growing trend within the club with computer issues. He shared a couple of free downloads that can help get you back up and running. First, there is [Berlarc Advisor](#), a program that will give you the serial numbers of your licensed software; tell you if you need security updates, and the amount of RAM and type of CPU that you have. Next is [Advanced SystemCare](#) which is a basic system cleaner, fix and optimization program for your hard drive. Thomas AJ4UQ advised us of the [Microsoft System File Check utility](#) in Windows that allows users to scan for corruptions in Windows system files and restore corrupted files.

Phil NI7R asked a question about "cut numbers" being used by stations from Puerto Rico in the ARRL DX CW Contest. NP4Z was giving his power as T or 0 and NP4G was giving his power as TT or 00. Dave NJ4F found a good explanation of [cut numbers](#) on AC6V's website. Kevan N4XL found this explanation of the Puerto Rican stations exchange:

On 2/18/2018 4:14 PM, rjairam at gmail.com wrote:

*> My guess, just a guess - is that the Puerto Rico folks are protesting
> the situation on the territory where they have NO POWER.*

This is exactly right. Rusty posted this on the NCCC reflector yesterday.

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Both NP4Z and NP4G are making statements that commercial power has still not been restored in much of Puerto Rico following last year's big storms, thus "power is zero".

73 de Rusty, W6OAT

Dave NJ4F was having some problems with his computer crashing last month. He seems to have found the problem; checking the back of his computer table, he noticed one of the 1/8" phone jacks almost 1/8" out on the CT-17, a level converter that goes to a COM port on the computer and the REMOTE jacks on the back of the ICOM radios. So far, this seems to have fixed the crashing problem.

Dave WN4AFP announced the WW4SF bonus stations for 2018:

N4IQ - Greenville County

N4XL Greenwood County

AJ5E - Charleston and Kershaw Counties

WU0B - Richland County

WN4AFP - Greenville County

KG4IGC – Chesterfield County (Portable)

There were also four or five W4CAE bonus stations on the air for the Carolinas Weekend.

Dean KK4ZMK ordered a new Signal link for his Yaesu FT-857 and successfully got it up and running. With the help of a friend, he made his very first PSK31 contact! Congratulations Dean and welcome to the wonderful world of digital!

Dave WN4AFP recently hit the 100 confirmed countries on 40m. Here is the count: 79 on CW, 20 on phone and he tells us that the last one is a mystery.... digital maybe?? For those of you who aren't familiar with Dave's antenna setup, his antennas are about ten feet off of the ground! Good job Dave!

Bill N4IQ officially has closed down the old Yahoo group. All messages, files, and photos have been transferred to the new groups.io page. Our privacy setting in groups.io has now been set to "Private". Outsiders are now unable to see our messages without being a member of the SFCG.

Ted K7OM asked what the difference was between "SO Unlimited HP" and "SOAB HP". Phil NI7R explained that SO Unlimited HP is the same as SOAB HP, except Unlimited means Assisted. ARRL uses the term "Unlimited". CQ and other contests use the term "Assisted". Also, in the ARRL DX Contest there is no Unlimited Single Band category, only All Band.

Dave NJ4F informed us that in the 2017 CQ WW DX RTTY Contest, the SFCG beat out CDXA, twice as many ops and more than doubled their scores. Here are the numbers:

Swamp fox Contest Group	8 entrants	score: 818,715
Carolina DX Association	4 entrants	score: 342,140
South East Contest Club	3 entrants	score: 228,090

Way to go guys! ***Go Swampfoxes!!***

Contests:

North America QSO Party, RTTY

K7OM: SOHPAB 14,472 (team) Swamp Fox RTTY Guys

NJ4F: SOHPAB 2,135 (team) Swamp Fox RTTY Guys

South Carolina QSO Party

WW4SF/WN4AFP SO Fixed Mixed LP 27,582 (Checklog)

WW4SF/N4XL: SO Fixed Dig LP 8,544 (Checklog)

WW4SF/KG4IGC SO Portable LP 8,800 (Checklog)

WW4SF/WU0B Single Op Fixed SSB LP 9,374 (Checklog)

WW4SF/N4IQ SO Fixed Mixed HP 107,562 (Checklog)

WW4SF/AJ5E SO Fixed LP SSB 6,732 (Checklog)

W1TEF SO Mobile Mixed LP 76,800

KG6MC SO Fixed Mixed HP 82,681

W4SLT SO Fixed SSB HP 7,410

KM4RK SO Fixed SSB LP 3,224

North Carolina QSO Party

WN4AFP SO Mixed QRP 8,084

W4SLT SO SSB HP 480

KM4RK SO SSB LP 920

ARRL International DX Contest, CW

NI7R SOU HP 271,614

KG6MC SOAB HP 113,787

K7OM SOAB HP 5,712

KS4YX SOAB QRP 16,770

WN4AFP SOSB/40 LP 19,152

ARRL International DX Contest, SSB

KG6MC SOAB HP 164,325

K7OM SOAB HP 48,600

NI7R SOAB HP 324

WN4AFP SOSB/15 LP 5,220

NA RTTY Sprint

N4IQ SOHP SO2R 3,570

Stew Perry 160 Top Band Challenge

K7OM SOHP 112

NJ4F SOHP 69

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	37	3847	44	0	2619	6510
2)	K7OM	14	644	336	16	1807	2803
3)	NI7R	7	1023	12	0	584	1619
4)	WN4AFP	31	1259	226	0	0	1485
5)	NJ4F	7	437	20	0	887	1344
6)	KG4IGC	4	0	661	0	560	1221
7)	KS4YX	4	229	0	0	692	921
8)	WU0B	3	0	480	0	302	782
9)	N4XL	1	380	71	0	0	451
10)	W4SLT	3	0	269	0	0	269
11)	NE4EA	5	222	46	0	0	268
12)	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	3847	KG4IGC	661	K7OM	16	N4IQ	2619
WN4AFP	1259	WU0B	480	AJ4UQ	1	K7OM	1807
NI7R	1023	K7OM	336			NJ4F	887
K7OM	644	W4SLT	269			KS4YX	692
NJ4F	437	WN4AFP	226			NI7R	584
N4XL	380	AJ4UQ	132			KG4IGC	560
KS4YX	229	N4XL	71			WU0B	302
NE4EA	222	NE4EA	46			AJ4UQ	119
AJ4UQ	1	N4IQ	44				
		NJ4F	20				
		NI7R	12				

From QST:

IARU HF World Championship

P.88 Regional Leaders/Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke & Southeastern Divisions)

NI7R Phil SOU-CW-LP 100,772 points

Upcoming Contests:

[QRP Fox Hunt](#), Mar 14, 0100z to Mar 14, 0230z; CW; Bands: 80m Only; RST + (state/province/country) + name + power output; Logs due: March 15.

[Phone Fray](#), Mar 14, 0230z to Mar 14, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: March 16.

[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#), Mar 14, 1300z to Mar 14, 1400z, Mar 14,

1900z to Mar 14, 2000z, Mar 15, 0300z to Mar 15, 0400z; CW;
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-
Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: March 17.

[RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW](#), Mar 14, 2000z to Mar 14, 2130z;
CW; Bands: 80m Only; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: March 15.

[QRP Fox Hunt](#), Mar 16, 0100z to Mar 16, 0230z; CW; Bands: 80m
Only; RST + (state/province/country) + name + power output; Logs
due: March 22.

[NCCC RTTY Sprint](#), Mar 16, 0145z to Mar 16, 0215z; RTTY; Bands:
(see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: March 18.

[NCCC Sprint](#), Mar 16, 0230z to Mar 16, 0300z; CW; Bands: (see
rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: March 18.

[BARTG HF RTTY Contest](#), Mar 17, 0200z to Mar 19, 0200z; RTTY;
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + Serial No. + 4-digit time (UTC);
Logs due: March 26.

[Russian DX Contest](#), Mar 17, 1200z to Mar 18, 1200z; CW, SSB;
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Ru: RS(T) + 2-character oblast, non-
Ru: RS(T) + Serial No.; Logs due: April 1.

[Virginia QSO Party](#), Mar 17, 1400z to Mar 18, 0400z, Mar 18, 1200z
to Mar 19, 0000z; CW, Phone, Digital; Bands: All, except WARC; VA:
Serial No. + county, non-VA: Serial No. + (state/province/"DX");
Logs due: April 15.

[Louisiana QSO Party](#), Mar 17, 1400z to Mar 18, 0200z; CW/Digital, Phone; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2m; LA: RS(T) + Parish, non-LA: RS(T) + (state/province/country); Logs due: April 17.

[Feld Hell Sprint](#), Mar 17, 2000z to Mar 17, 2159z; Feld Hell; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6m; (see rules); Logs due: March 21.

[UBA Spring Contest, SSB](#), Mar 18, 0700z to Mar 18, 1100z; SSB; Bands: 80m Only; ON: RS + Serial No. + UBA Section, non-ON: RS + Serial No.; Logs due: April 1.

[Run for the Bacon QRP Contest](#), Mar 19, 0100z to Mar 19, 0300z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + (state/province/country) + (Member No./power); Logs due: March 25.

[Bucharest Contest](#), Mar 19, 1800z to Mar 19, 2059z; CW, SSB, Digital; Bands: 80, 40m; YO: RS(T) + QSO No. + Sector/County, non-YO: RS(T) + QSO No. + Country Code; Logs due: March 31.

[QRP Fox Hunt](#), Mar 21, 0100z to Mar 21, 0230z; CW; Bands: 80m Only; RST + (state/province/country) + name + power output; Logs due: March 22.

[Phone Fray](#), Mar 21, 0230z to Mar 21, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: March 23.

[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#), Mar 21, 1300z to Mar 21, 1400z, Mar 21, 1900z to Mar 21, 2000z, Mar 22, 0300z to Mar 22, 0400z; CW;

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: March 24.

VHF+ CONTESTS

[AGCW VHF/UHF Contest](#), Mar 17, 1400z to Mar 17, 1700z (144), Mar 17, 1700z to Mar 17, 1800z (432); CW; Bands: 144 MHz, 432 MHz; RST + "/" + Serial No. + "/" Power class + "/" + 6-character grid locator; Logs due: April 2.