



TALES FROM THE SWAMP

November 2019

Author: Frank KG4IGC

From your President:

The club had a great turnout for the California QSO Party this year, our club entered under the small club category. I had pretty good luck working several counties, but did not work any mobile stations that I know of which was quite surprising. It has been a pretty busy month for QSO parties, but propagation for these contests hasn't been very good in my opinion. It seems that the money bands these days are 20 and 40 meters for the past few contests including the RTTY Macrothon and JARTS RTTY.

Earlier this month one of our members who is rather new to contesting asked for some suggestions on how to get started in contesting. I was very pleased to see that several of our club members were happy to help and offered many suggestions on

things to do. This is really great to see, and I would like all of our “newbies” to contesting to know that *any time* that you have a question about contesting, antennas, propagation, or anything else please know that we are more than happy to help. There are also many subjects on contesting covered on our club website that you can refer to, you can find that information on the club website under the [resources](#) tab.

Things are going to get even more exciting this month as the winter contesting season is upon us once again! The CQWW DX Contest SSB is this upcoming weekend, and we hope good participation from our club this year. The SFCG did pretty good last year; our claimed score was 2,246,491 points with 8 entries. I think we can top our score from last year if we can get as many of our club members on the air as possible. I am looking for operators of all skill levels, both full and part time. For you newbie’s to contesting, this is your opportunity to shine! With any luck, band conditions will be good this weekend; Last week’s JARTS RTTY Contest had some pretty decent openings to into AF, EU, VK, and Asia.

FYI, there is a new contesting webinar available concerning the CQWW DX Contest by the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation, it can be found [here](#). The CQ WW Contest Director John Dorr, K1AR will be giving an update on the upcoming CQ WW DX Contest as well as a Q&A session. The webinar is also available on [YouTube](#) if that is you preferred place to watch videos.

As most of you all know, there will be an abundance of DX stations on the air for this contest so if you're working on DXCC, this is definitely the contest for you. A good station to look out for is 9H6A , they will be active from Xghajra, Malta, IOTA EU - 023 in MO Category. The VP6R team on Pitcairn Island will also be on the air for the CQWW DX Contest as MO. We look forward to see you guys on the air this weekend, *GO SWAMPFOXES!*

Notable Mentions:

Ron N4VZ and his family have arrived safely to DU-land, hopefully we will hear him operating via remote very soon!

ARRL DX News: [VP6R: Accident at the Pitcairn Island DX-pedition](#)

The 2019 ARRL November Sweepstakes is right around the corner!

CW: 2100 UTC Saturday, Nov. 2-0259 UTC Monday Nov. 4

Phone: 2100 UTC Saturday, Nov.16-0259-0259 UTC Monday, Nov.18

Tamitha Skov's Space Weather:

[Two Coronal Holes Keep Us in Suspense: Solar Storm Forecast 10-17-2019](#)

Member Contributions:



W4DXCC

DX and Contest Convention

By Bill N4IQ

SEDCO 2019 was a huge success this year!! I know because I attended the convention and can attest to the outstanding programs and camaraderie. For those not enlightened, the W4DXCC convention is sponsored by the South East DX and Contesting Organization (SEDCO) and is normally held every year on the third weekend of September at the Main Stay Hotel and Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, TN. The convention was founded with one overriding



goal:to bring DXers and Contesters together in fellowship.

In a nut shell, the convention is centered on a Friday Ham Radio Boot Camp Program for beginner and intermediate level hams while on Saturday the programs concentrate on DX, contesting and technical topics. The convention ends Saturday evening with a delicious catered banquet and drawings for the Grand Prize and Special Raffle radios.

Topics for the Boot Camp included “Basic Station Setup”, “How to Tune in Weak Signals”, “Propagation” and “Antenna and HOA



Challenges” – the latter presented by SFCG member Gary Wise, W4EEY (picture at left).

Some of Saturday’s Main Program topics included “How Hams helped in Puerto Rico”, “Parks on the Air”, “RF Issues”, DXpedition Pilot Duties Explained”, and ”So, You Want to be a Contester... But do Not have a Beam” – the latter presented by yours truly, Bill Chartier, N4IQ. So the SFCG was well represented in the convention program. Other SFCG members attending were my brother, Phil Chartier, AC4Q and our new member Matt Kromm, NU4E. This year, we missed having fellow SFCGer Ted McDonald, K7OM, who normally attends these meetings.

While the programs were excellent, the vendor displays were just as



interesting. Major equipment vendors were there, not to sell equipment, but to answer

questions about new products and to let the “button pushers” and “knob turners” do their thing with their new gear. In previous years, even some antique radio displays (spark gap – is that old enough?) were available to touch and feel. Some of the vendors showing their wares were: Icom, Yaesu, Elecraft, SteppIR, Gigaparts, and Expert Linears, to name a few.

I hope I whetted your appetite for the convention. If SEDCO sounds interesting to you, next year’s event is scheduled for September 25-26 2020. It is never too early to make your plans to attend!!! A lot more information is available on the W4DXCC website: www.w4ecc.com

Take a look!

Bill Chartier, N4iQ

bill.n4iq@charter.net

From the Reflector:

Dean KK4ZMK asked for some contest basics, several members responded with good suggestions and resources.

Kevan N4XL asked the group if anyone could offer some advice on using a Time Domain Reflectometer. Tom W1TEF offered this very useful information:”You can think of a TDR as a kind of radar - which it kinda sorta is. A signal is sent up the conductor and when it hits a discontinuity, it sends back a signal which is calculated and gives an

indication of where the bump is. The changes are actually changes in impedance level. There are different signals you can send - constant, pulse or for more sophisticated TDRs, a whole plethora of signal types. Once you remember that the base calculation is the speed of signal propagation along the transmission line, it all comes clear really quick."

Kevan N4XL informed the group about a [good article](#) written up about VK5ZAI.

N4VZ Ron reported that his remote station was working well from the Philippines.

Dave WN4AFP told us about a new webinar, "CQ WW SSB and CW Current News on Your Favorite Contests" - presented by John Dorr, K1AR.

Matt NU4E informed the club that CQWW RTTY raw scores are out, you can find them [here](#).

Dave WN4AFP has a vintage Apple IIe system (computer, imagewriter printer, dual disk drive and monitor) all in MINT condition with original boxes for sale.

Kevan N4XL offered a tip about how to display UTC time in N1MM plus. Right click anywhere in the entry window and you will see a menu with choices of things to display.

In light of the upcoming CQWW SSB contest, Frank KG4IGC mentioned to the club that we are coming up on the 9th anniversary of the loss of the C6APR team.

Tom AJ4UQ told us about an interesting interview with a contest scorer on [how logs are analyzed and validated](#).

Kevan N4XL told us about a presentation that he is making for the Greenwood ARC about materials that he likes to use when putting wires in trees. He also ran across a webpage about [different types of rope by Randy K5ZD](#).

Contests:

California QSO Party Oct. 5, 2019

WB4HRL SO(A)Fixed HP 65 CWQ's 32 Ph. Q's 44 Mults	11,396
KG6MC SO Fixed HP 144 CW Q's 58 Ph. Q's 53 Mults	29,044
N4XL SO Fixed LP 109 CW Q's 81 Ph. Q's 52 Mults	25,428
KG4IGC SO Fixed LP 129 CW Q's 55 Ph. Q's 46 Mults	22,862
WN4AFP SO Fixed LP 90 CW Q's 12 Ph. Q's 38 Mults	11,172
K4KWB SO Fixed LP 53 Ph. Q's 30 Mults	3,180

(Small Club Category)**Club claimed aggregate score : 103,082**

Oceania DX Contest, Phone Oct. 5, 2019

WB4HRL SOSB/40 5 Q's 4 Mults 100

432 MHz Fall Sprint Oct. 9, 2019

NU4E SOLP 9 QSO's 8 Mults Total Dist(km) 1770 72

South Dakota QSO Party Oct.12, 2019

WB4HRL Fixed HP 1 Dig Q 1Dig Mult 2

Makrothon RTTY Contest Oct. 12, 2019

K7OM/4 SO/Single Xcvr HP 220 Q's 960,228

WB4HRL SO/Single Xcvr HP 118 Q's 610,106

KG4IGC SO/Single Xcvr LP 38 Q's 231,522

Arizona QSO Party Oct. 12, 2019

KG4IGC SO Mixed LP 11 CW Q's 5 Ph. Q's 6 CW Mults 4 Ph. Mults 370

WB4HRL SOSSB HP 2 Ph. Q's 2 Ph. Mults 4

Pennsylvania QSO Party Oct. 12, 2019

WB4HRL SOMixed HP 39 CW Q's 57 Ph. Q's 43 Mults 6,205

WN4AFP SOMixed LP 116 CW q's 78 Ph. Q's 62 Mults 19,696

Nevada QSO Party Oct. 12, 2019

WB4HRL SOSSB HP 1 Ph. Q 1 Mult 2

New York QSO Party Oct. 19, 2019

WN4AFP SOCW LP 62 CQ Q's 32 Mults 3,968

WB4HRL SO Mixed HP 38 Ph. Q's 1 Dig. Q 24 Mults 984

Illinois QSO Party Oct. 20, 2019

WB4HRL Fixed HP 56 Ph.Q's 39 Mults 2,184

WN4AFP 24 CW-Dig Q's 22 Mults 1,056

Worked All Germany Contest Oct.19, 2019

WB4HRL SO SSB HP 12 SSB Q's 10 Mult's 360

KD4CB SO SSB LP 7 SSB Q's 7 Mults 147

JARTS WW RTTY Contest Oct. 19, 2019

WB4HRL SOHP 267 Q's 93 Mults 59,148

K7OM SOHP 245 Q's 96 Mults 57,216

KG4IGC SOHP 274 101 Mults 67,771

Upcoming Contests:

[SKCC Sprint](#), Oct 23, 0000z to Oct 23, 0200z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + (state/province/country) + Name + (SKCC No./power); Logs due: October 25.

[Phone Fray](#), Oct 23, 0230z to Oct 23, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: October 25.

[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#), Oct 23, 1300z to Oct 23, 1400z and, Oct 23, 1900z to Oct 23, 2000z and, Oct 24, 0300z to Oct 24, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: October 26.

[RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data](#), Oct 23, 1900z to Oct 23, 2030z; RTTY, PSK; Bands: 80m Only; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: October 26.

[NCCC RTTY Sprint](#), Oct 25, 0145z to Oct 25, 0215z; RTTY; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: October 27.

[NCCC Sprint](#), Oct 25, 0230z to Oct 25, 0300z; CW; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: October 27.

[CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB](#), Oct 26, 0000z to Oct 27, 2359z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RS + CQ Zone No.; Logs due: November 1.

[QCX Challenge](#), Oct 28, 1300z to Oct 28, 1400z and, Oct 28, 1900z to Oct 28, 2000z and, Oct 29, 0300z to Oct 29, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; RST + Name + (state/province/country) + Rig; Logs due: October 31.

[Phone Fray](#), Oct 30, 0230z to Oct 30, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40,

20, 15m; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name;
Logs due: November 1.

CWops Mini-CWT Test, Oct 30, 1300z to Oct 30, 1400z and, Oct 30,
1900z to Oct 30, 2000z and, Oct 31, 0300z to Oct 31, 0400z; CW;
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m; Member: Name + Member No., non-
Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: November 2.

UKEICC 80m Contest, Oct 30, 2000z to Oct 30, 2100z; CW; Bands:
80m Only; 4-Character grid square; Logs due: October 30.

SFOTA:

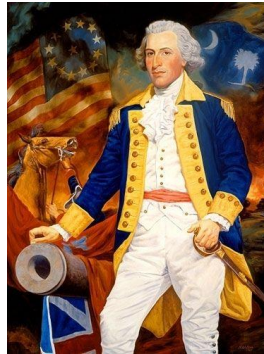
Current Leaderboard

2019 OVERALL STANDINGS

CALL	Contests	CW QSO'S	SSB QSO'S	DIGITAL QSO'S	RTTY QSO'S	TOTAL QSO'S
1) N4IQ	76	6787	506	572	4498	12363
2) K7OM	36	1484	543	14	2705	4746
3) WN4AFP	68	2984	1152	0	393	4529
4) KG4IGC	22	712	1322	0	1897	3931
5) WB4HRL	64	436	2314	1	967	3718
6) NI7R	16	2492	33	0	392	2917
7) KS4YX	8	280	49	38	1086	1453
8) N4VZ	8	0	612	483	271	1366
9) N4XL	1	1269	0	0	0	1269
10) KG6MC	9	755	393	0	54	1202
11) WU0B	10	0	1080	0	42	1122
12) NU4E	1	0	0	0	755	755
13) NJ4F	6	310	54	0	115	479
14) W1TEF	4	332	79	0	0	411
15) NE4EA	5	47	72	2	74	195
16) K4KWB	1	0	125	0	0	125
17) AJ4UQ	4	1	0	1	100	102
18) KD4CB	4	9	42	0	0	51

2019 INDIVIDUAL MODE STANDINGS

CALL	CW QSO'S	CALL	SSB QSO'S	CALL	DIGITAL QSO'S	CALL	RTTY QSO'S
N4IQ	6787	WB4HRL	2314	N4IQ	572	N4IQ	4498
WN4AFP	2984	KG4IGC	1322	N4VZ	483	K7OM	2705
NI7R	2492	WN4AFP	1152	KS4YX	38	KG4IGC	1897
K7OM	1484	WU0B	1080	K7OM	14	KS4YX	1086
N4XL	1269	N4VZ	612	NE4EA	2	WB4HRL	967
KG6MC	755	K7OM	543	AJ4UQ	1	NU4E	755
KG4IGC	712	N4IQ	506	WB4HRL	1	WN4AFP	393
WB4HRL	436	KG6MC	393			NI7R	392
W1TEF	332	K4KWB	125			N4VZ	271
NJ4F	310	W1TEF	79			NJ4F	115
KS4YX	280	NE4EA	72			AJ4UQ	100
NE4EA	47	NJ4F	54			NE4EA	74
KD4CB	9	KS4YX	49			KG6MC	54
AJ4UQ	1	KD4CB	42			WU0B	42
		NI7R	33				



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