

Swamp Fox Contest Group
2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

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February 3, 2026

The annual meeting of the Swamp Fox Contest Group (SFCG) was held via ZOOM on February 3, 2026, with 20 members connected to the call. The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm by President Ed Kucharski, K3DNE. Officers in attendance included:

- Ed Kucharski, K3DNE – President
- Dave Edmonds, WN4AFP – Vice President
- Scott Putnam, KG9V – Treasurer
- Kevan Nason, N4XL - Secretary

Secretary's Report - Kevan Nason, N4XL, as Secretary, presented the 2025 annual meeting minutes, which were unanimously accepted without change by the members in attendance. A copy of the minutes will be posted on the SFCG website.

Election of Officers - Messrs. Kucharski, Edmonds and Putnam had, prior to the meeting, indicated their willingness to continue in their current leadership positions. Mr. Nason indicated that he would like to retire from his current position as Secretary but would be willing to continue as Editor of the SFCG monthly newsletter. Dennis McAlpine, K2SX, volunteered to run to fill that position. There were no additional nominations from the floor. It was moved by Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, that the slate of nominees be elected by unanimous consent. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Accordingly, the officers for the year 2026 will be as follows:

- Ed Kucharski, K3DNE – President
- Dave Edmonds, WN4AFP – Vice President
- Scott Putnam, KG9V – Treasurer
- Dennis McAlpine, K2SX – Secretary.

Presentation of Roanoke Division director, Jim Boehner - Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, as Director of the Roanoke Division of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) presented an overview of the structure of the ARRL highlighting its five current committees and their function. He discussed the activities of the Programming and Services Committee, which has two subcommittees, the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) and the Contest Advisory Committee (CAC), which are of particular interest to the SFCG membership. He noted that making changes in the rules for various contests requires significant time and interest to be adopted and that any suggestions for changes be made well in advance. In that vein, he noted that although there had been several proposed changes last year to the rules for the ARRL Sweepstakes no changes were implemented. He urged members to contact their representatives for these committees (Don Daso, K4ZA, for the CAC and Hal Turley, W8HC, for the DXAC) with any suggestions, questions or concerns. He also noted that all elections for directors and vice directors of the ARRL are now being held electronically rather than by mail. He expects that electronic voting will soon be initiated for Section Manager elections. A brief Q&A session was conducted.

Treasurer's Report - Scott Putnam, KG9V, made the Treasurer's Report and stated that the Club is in good financial condition with a cash balance of \$2,300. He noted a positive cash inflow of \$400 for the prior year. He indicated that the proposed budget for 2026 be the same as last year since he anticipates

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little change in the coming year. He did note that there will be an additional expense this year for mailing Swamp Fox On – The - Air (SFOTA) awards to members rather than distributing them in person at the annual meeting. It was moved, seconded and approved that the 2026 budget be accepted as presented.

Membership Changes – K3DNE said that the club added 10 new members during the past year and currently has 67 members. He noted that one member, Steve Reichlyn, AA4V, had become a Silent Key (SK) during the year. Two other members had passed away in prior years, i.e. W1TEF and N4UFP. A moment of silence was observed to honor those three members. He then thanked the four founding members who started SFCG 11 years ago: Dave NJ4F, Frank KG4IGC, Ted K7OM and Mark KM4RK as well as the other members who have contributed to the success of the club.

New Business

What to do with awards received by the Club? – This year for the first time, the club received an award for being the highest scoring club in the Michigan QSO Party. The award was sent to K3DNE, apparently because he is listed as the Club's president. A discussion was held about who should be given this award and any others that may be given to the club in the future. It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted that this award and any future ones received by SFCG should be given to the highest scoring SFCG member in that contest unless that person had previously received that award. In such cases, the award would be given to the next highest SFCG scorer. However, a picture of the award and any future such awards should be posted on the club website in an Awards section. The awards should also be made available for use in any SFCG exhibits where their display would be beneficial and enhance the club's image and recruitment efforts. WN4AFP said that he would make space for the award photos on the club website.

Regional meetings – There was an extensive discussion about if the club should hold meetings at various locations throughout the club's membership area and if the annual meeting should be held on ZOOM rather than in person. The consensus was that an in-person annual meeting would create more camaraderie among members but that it would be good if the meeting were also available on ZOOM for members unable to attend in person. It was also suggested that get-togethers could be held at area ham fests if there was enough interest but there was no consensus on which ham fests would be suitable for such meetings. It was suggested that K3DNE contact W4EEY, who has extensive experience in using ZOOM, to see if it would be possible to broadcast any remote get-togethers as well as the annual meeting simultaneously on ZOOM. K3DNE said he would prefer that volunteers step forward to hold regional get-togethers on an ad hoc basis rather than on a more formal basis. He said he plans to do a regional meeting at his lakeside location. W7WZ volunteered to do the same at his QTH. KG9V volunteered to assist him.

Club QSLs available – K3DNE and K2SX commented that they liked the club QSL cards made by KB3IFH and cited the rapid response time and flexibility of the printer. Several members indicated their intention to purchase club QSLs from KB3IFH soon. K3DNE pointed out that there is currently a discounted price for such QSL cards, but it will expire on March 4, 2026.

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Remote FLEX operation - N2OG made an extensive presentation about his efforts to establish a remote operating station at a location about 45 miles from his home using a variety of Flex radio equipment. It has taken several years to successfully build this station, but he believes he is now on the cusp of success. The technology required is complex but seems to be becoming more commonplace. The vendors have not been too helpful in the past in assisting with the creation of such a system but are becoming more cooperative. One of the keys to doing this successfully is to have a high-speed, e.g. 1 GBPS, reliable internet connection available with low latency. N2OG is looking forward to trying out the remote hookup and continuing to learn more about it.

Discussion of Club competitions in various contests – K3DNE described how the club membership fared in various club competitions. One highlight was the CQ WPX Contest where it seems likely the SFCG will be ranked among the Top 10 Club entries out of 63 club entries. Results of club entries in more individual contests will be posted on the SFCG website.

Results of the SFOTA competition – WN4AFP discussed the results of the 2025 SFOTA intra-club competition. Overall, there were 1,555 entries in individual contests by club members. These entries were made by 28 different members and consisted of nearly 130,000 total QSOs. WB4HRL made the most entries with scores submitted for 409 different contests. He also led the CW category with nearly 20,000 QSOs. K3DNE was Top Dog in SSB contests 9,500 QSOs. Other winners were KA2G with Most Digital QSOs, and K7OM with most RTTY contacts. KA2G also won the Fast Start Award with over 3,000 QSOs in 32 contests. Overall, the club member with the most total QSOs in all categories was WB4HRL. KE4EA came in second place while WN4AFP finished in third. More details, including the rules for SFOTA, may be found on the club's website.

SC QSO Party results - WN4AFP also discussed the results of the 2025 South Carolina QSO Party (SCQP) and changes in the 2026 SCQP. Winners for last year included W4ANT for Mixed Mode, K3DNE for SSB and KY4GS for CW with SFCG member K4FT finishing second. More details can be found on the SCQP web page at SCQSO.com. For the 2026 contest several changes were made in the rules; a 2-meter simplex category has been added as has been a club competition.

State QSO Party Challenge and Club Competition – WN4AFP said that the SFCG came in seventh place this year with 630 total entries from 23 members participating. To advance in the standings, SFCG will have to increase its scores from individual contests, but the participation is quite good.

Other awards – KG9V discussed the results of the 13 Colonies activity and the ARRL-250/Clubs on the Air program. During last year's 13 Colonies event, SC finished second in total number of QSOs made. 33 operators participated and made over 27,000 total QSOs. This year, which is the ARRL Year of the Club, there will be two weeks (Jan 14-20 and July 22-28) in which SC will be using the call W1AW/4. During the January week, 10 SFCG members participated, making 4458 QSOs out of a total of almost 19,000 contacts.

SC Section discussion – W1MRC, as SC Section Manager, made a presentation of activities taking place within the SC section. This will be highlighted by hamfests being held in Rock Hill in April and Charlotte

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in October. He also indicated that as part of the 13 Colonies activity, SC operators will be celebrating the Battle of Aiken.

Update of the W7WZ superstation – AA4VT gave an update on the W7WZ/K4NDX superstation in Fort Mill, SC. Activity continued to increase with significant improvements in scores for most of the major contests, including the CQWW, WPX and ARRL DX contests. Improvements included the addition of another C31XR tri-bander giving a total of four on the two 100' high towers. A new 8x4 antenna switch was also added. One goal for this year is to add a third station and possibly add remote capability. They also expect to replace the RG-213 coax with 7/8" hardline which will significantly reduce the power losses from the smaller coax. The next major activity will be for the ARRL DX CW contest on Feb. 21 - 22, 2026.

Meeting adjourned - The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Dennis McAlpine
Dennis McAlpine, K2SX
Secretary