



## News and Events, April 2026 Edition

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hello TCG members,

I am honored to serve as the new President of the Tennessee Contest Group.

I was licensed at Field Day in 2017 after seeing an ad on Facebook to take the test and deciding to give it a try. I had no electronics or radio background. By trade, I am a mechanic and wrecker operator. But soon after getting licensed I discovered contesting, I took to it almost immediately. I have always been competitive by nature, and contesting was a natural fit.

Along the way, my XYL Trina, NR4L, and I built the NJ4P contest station here in West Tennessee. The station's record speaks for itself, but what I enjoy most is not just winning. I prefer multi-op contesting because it is simply more fun than sitting in a corner by myself, and the wins get shared by everyone involved. I truly enjoy seeing others succeed, especially those I have had the chance to help along the way.

This is also a great time to be a contester. Live scoreboards have helped create a spectator aspect to contesting that never really existed before, making it more exciting for operators and club members alike. Remote stations have also opened the door to far more opportunities to operate from major contest stations or from unique and interesting locations. There are more ways than ever to get involved, improve, and enjoy the sport.

As President, my goals for TCG are straightforward. I want to increase activity both on the air and within the club. I want to bring back Zoom meetings, promote use of the online scoreboard, and work to remove any barriers to entry that may exist.

One thing I have learned is that you cannot *make* a contester. They have to be interested first, and that includes young people. We may not be able to force interest, but we absolutely can provide opportunity when it appears. We have had many youth operators at NJ4P, and I would like to see more chances like that across Tennessee.

I also want to promote multi-op activity in Tennessee, even when the goal is not necessarily high-level competition. There are few better ways to meet other members, spend time together, and learn than by participating in a multi-op effort.

Another thing I would like to encourage is the return of Eyeball QSO Parties. I am going to work hard to help get them established in all three sections of the state, preferably on different weekends so that members in central locations might be able to attend more than one. K4RO

and Suzie have been great hosts in Middle Tennessee in the past, and I believe K0EJ has done the same in East Tennessee. Maybe we can get them back on board.

Overall, I want to make TCG more approachable, more member-oriented, and most importantly, more competitive. That is not to say the club is falling short now, because it is not. But I do believe we can do better and be better.

We have some incredibly smart and accomplished members who can help lift up the rest of us. New members and longtime members alike all have room to grow and learn, and I want to help build an atmosphere that supports that.

I really appreciate the opportunity to serve, and I will do my best not to screw it up too badly.

I also want to give a big shout-out to the other elected officers, many of whom have already built a strong record of leadership within TCG:

**President** – Ron Koenig, WV4P  
**Vice President** – Juan Lopez, AC6ZM  
**Secretary** – Cathy Goodrich, W4CMG  
**Treasurer** – Mark Speck, K0EJ

I am excited about what is ahead, and I look forward to working with all of you.

**73,**

**Ron Koenig, WV4P**

President, Tennessee Contest Group

### **Write-Up for CQ WPX SSB de WV4AM @~~WW4LL~~**

I had a pretty good time with Fred's group during the hours I could operate. Being 15yo restricts a lot of BIC time, but I managed to work about 10 or 12 hours total. It was my brother's birthday on Saturday so sadly I was gone for most of the day :(

There were plenty of complications before the contest. Fred doesn't own the [beloud.us](http://beloud.us) website anymore so I had to learn how to switch from that to SmartSDR. Thankfully I'm very well versed in Flexradio so that was a breeze. But the real problem was getting my antennas to switch and the PGXL to activate in the SDR window. We played around and troubleshooted those several times but they decided to fix themselves once I started the contest, so total disaster avoided!

I got Fred's mic working on his Flex (he never uses it) so that was good. Our actual scores however weren't too great. We were down by 50% from last year (really not good!!) yet we managed to get only 2,000 less QSO's and a little under 300 less prefixes. Not entirely sure how that worked out but I think it has something to do with what contacts were made on what band and that points per regular QSO increase drastically as mults increase.

Well anyway I had plenty of fun at least. We got some interesting DX, including Uganda, Egypt, and a few others. I got to use macros this time 🎧. Saved my throat a lot pain . . . 73's CU next year! Jake WV4AM

**CONTEST ACTIVITY** : Here is a selected list, as of this publication, of those who put up scores on [3830 Scores Summary](#) in March:

**North Carolina QSO Party**

**SO CW HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
N6NT				750	0	0	109	10				244,696	TCG
AC6ZM				86	0	0	45	3:30				11,710	TCG
W4CMG				14	0	0	12	1				504	TCG
NJ4P(WV4P)		x		10	0	0	10	15 min				300	TCG
NR4L				10	0	0	10	1				300	TCG

**SO CW LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
AD4EB				54	0	0	25	1				4,050	TCG
K4KYN				17	0	0	17	3				927	TCG
WM4Q				8	0	0	8	:15				192	TCG

**SO Mixed LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WV4AM				239	47	0	83	5				67,280	TCG
W4NZ				78	5	0	48	3				11,862	TCG
AA4CS				4	9	0	11	.75				380	TCG

**SO SSB HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WN8Y				0	26	2	18	2.5				986	TCG

**SO SSB LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WA4JA				0	20	0	16	2				960	TCG

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**Idaho QSO Party**

**SOABCW HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Dig	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
AD4EB				39	0	0	32	0	0	0.5							3,744	TCG
WV4P		x		6	0	0	4	0	0	1							48	TCG
K9QJS				5	0	0	4	0	0	1							40	TCG
W4CMG				3	0	0	2	0	0	00:30							12	TCG
AC6ZM				2	0	0	2	0	0	1							8	TCG

**SOABCW LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Dig	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
W4NZ				4	0	0	3	0	0	1							21	TCG
WM4Q				3	0	0	3	0	0	1							18	TCG

**SOABMixed HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Dig	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
NR4L		x		6	0	1	5	0	1	1							84	TCG

**SOABMixed LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Dig	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
AA4CS				4	0	1	2	0	1								21	TCG

**SOABSSB LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Dig	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WA4JA				0	7	0	0	5	0	1							35	TCG

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**Russian DX Contest**

**SO CW HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Countries	Oblasts	Op	Time	Score	Club
AD4EB				34	0	17	6	1			4,577	TCG
W4NZ				26	0	16	8	1			4,392	TCG
W4CMG				23	0	18	5	1			3,082	TCG

**SO CW LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Countries	Oblasts	Op	Time	Score	Club
W9WI				4	0	4	0	1			60	TCG

**SO SSB LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Countries	Oblasts	Op	Time	Score	Club
WA4JA				0	6	6	0	1			180	TCG

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**ARRL DX Contest, SSB**

**M/S LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
N4SS(@W5MX)			1315	339	48		1,336,338	TCG

**SOAB HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
W4KW			400	170	9:30		204,000	TCG
K4DXV			213	173	9:39		110,547	TCG
WN8Y			150	447	10		42,465	TCG
W4SDX			96	68	2.5		19,584	TCG

**SOAB Limited-Ant HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
K4DXV			213	173	9:39		110,547	TCG

**SOAB LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WV4AM			366	175	11:06		191,625	TCG
K4HWS			156	99	6		46,332	TCG
W4SSF			128	87	5		33,408	TCG
KS4X			105	74	4		23,310	TCG
WA4JA			89	53	3		14,151	TCG
AA4CS			61	52	3		9,516	TCG
W3TB			43	29	1:43		3,741	TCG

**SOAB Youth LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WV4AM			366	175	11:06		191,625	TCG

**SOAB Limited-Ant LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WV4AM			366	175	11:06		191,625	TCG
WA4JA			89	53	3		14,151	TCG
W3TB			43	29	1:43		3,741	TCG

**SOSB40 LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
N4MCC			57	32	4:30		5,472	TCG

**SOUAB HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
K0EJ	SO2R		1821	368	23:40		2,010,384	TCG
AD4EB			1114	303	12		1,012,626	TCG
NS4X			415	180	8		224,100	TCG
W4NZ	SO2R		355	188	11		200,220	TCG
WV4P		x	200	200	5		120,000	TCG
N6NT			79	55	1:19		13,035	TCG
NR4L		x	50	50	1		7,500	TCG

**SOUAB Limited-Ant HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
N6NT			79	55	1:19		13,035	TCG



## South America 10-Meter Contest

### SO CW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Zones	Op Time	Score	Club
NR4L		x	30	23	8	2	3,472	TCG
AD4EB			9	8	4	0.5	408	TCG
W4CMG			3	3	2	.5	60	TCG

### SO CW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Zones	Op Time	Score	Club
AA4CS			6	5	4	.6	198	TCG

### SO Mixed HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Zones	Op Time	Score	Club
WV4P		x	16	16	8	2	1,448	TCG

### SO SSB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Zones	Op Time	Score	Club
WN8Y			18	8	2	2	576	TCG

### SO SSB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Zones	Op Time	Score	Club
WA4JA			12	11	4	2	720	TCG

## Stew Perry Topband Challenge

### Single Op HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
K1GU			153	3.3	344	TCG
NS4X			103	1.5	265	TCG
AC6ZM			116	2:40	259	TCG
KØEJ			105	1:10	242	TCG
AD4EB			100	1.25	227	TCG
NR4L		x	51	2	153	TCG
WV4P		x	32	2	139	TCG
AA4DD			46	2	127	TCG
W4CMG			45	1	95	TCG
W6UB			35	1.5	83	TCG

### Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
K4DXV			45	2:18	147	TCG

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## Wisconsin QSO Party

### SO Fixed HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW-Dig	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AD4EB				19	0	16	1	608	TCG	
AC6ZM				13	0	8	1	208	TCG	
NR4L		x		10	0	9	1	180	TCG	
K9QJS				5	0	5	1	50	TCG	
WV4P		x		5	0	4	1	40	TCG	
W4CMG				3	0	2	00:30	12	TCG	

### SO Fixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW-Dig	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
NS4X				21	0	15	1.5	945	TCG	
WA4JA				0	25	20	3	900	TCG	
W4NZ				15	0	11	1	495	TCG	
WM4Q				3	0	3	1	27	TCG	

## NA Sprint RTTY Contest

### Single Op HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
WV4P	2BSIQ	x	118	28	FOUR	3,304	SWACC #1
WØSD(KTØW)		x	53	20	1:20	1,060	TCG
NR4L		x	31	17	3	527	TCG
AD4EB			25	14	0.5	350	TCG

### Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
W4SDX			89	26	3.75	2,314	TCG
AA4CS			92	24	3.6	2,208	SWACC #2
K4HWS			82	23	4	1,886	SWACC #2
AA4DD			79	23	4	1,817	TCG
K4DXV			21	9	00:48	189	TCG

#### SWACC #1

K6LL	3,625
WV4P	3,304
N4ZZ	2,968
K3MM	2,781
N3QE	2,716

Team Total: 15,394

#### SWACC #2

WT9U	2,652
WD0T	2,352
AA4CS	2,208
K5AM	2,002
K4HWS	1,886

Team Total: 11,100

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## Oklahoma QSO Party

### SOABCW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AD4EB				51	0	0	0	39			5,967	TCG
AC6ZM				41	0	0	0	20	1:34		2,400	TCG
W4CMG				8	0	0	0	8	00:30		192	TCG
NS4X				9	0	0	0	7	1		189	TCG
K9QJS				5	0	0	0	5	1		75	TCG
WV4P		x		3	0	0	0	3	1		27	TCG

### SOABCW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4NZ				32	0	0	0	22	2		2,112	TCG
WM4Q				3	0	0	0	3	1		27	TCG

### SOABMixed HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
NR4L		x		15	0	1	13	1			624	TCG

### SOABMixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AA4CS				2	6	0	0	8			144	TCG

### SOABSSB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WA4JA				0	16	0	15	2			480	TCG

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## BARTG HF RTTY Contest

### SO Expert HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Countries	Call Areas	Continents	Op Time	Score	Club
NR4L		x	597	115	57	6	28	616,104	TCG
WV4P	2BSIQ	x	400	102	55	6	14	376,800	TCG
AD4EB			10	5	4	2	0:15	180	TCG

### SOAB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Countries	Call Areas	Continents	Op Time	Score	Club
AA4DD			156	42	30	5	9	56,160	TCG
W4SDX			137	36	27	5	8	43,155	TCG
NS4X			136	31	26	4	6	31,008	TCG
K9QJS			19	8	12	3	1	1,140	TCG
WN8Y			22	7	9	2	2	1,056	TCG

### SOAB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Countries	Call Areas	Continents	Op Time	Score	Club
AA4CS			181	35	37	5	21:36	65,160	TCG
K4HWS			117	22	34	4	9	26,208	TCG

### SOSB/40 LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Countries	Call Areas	Continents	Op Time	Score	Club
N4MCC			144	17	15	5	16:02	23,040	TCG

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## CQWW WPX Contest, SSB

### SOAB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
W5MX			2571	1106	34	7,275,268	TCG
KM9P(KØEJ)	SO2R		2782	1003	30.5	6,073,165	TCG
WV4P		x	2170	961	36	4,809,805	TCG
AD4EB	SO2R		2311	908	32	4,399,260	TCG
K4RO			585	411	7	563,892	TCG
AC6ZM			403	268	7:34	227,532	TCG
WA4WZR			326	243		199,746	TCG
WN8Y			204	172	15	88,752	TCG
NS4X			189	160	4	80,000	TCG
NR4L		x	150	138	3	65,826	TCG

K4BP			138	112	3	45,396	TCG
W4SDX			100	92	2.5	25,024	TCG
KT4VC(K4DXV)			81	80	04:32	16,320	TCG
K9QJS			22	21	1	1,281	TCG

### SOAB Classic HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
WA4WZR			326	243		199,746	TCG

### SOAB TB-Wires HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
W4SDX			100	92	2.5	25,024	TCG
KT4VC(K4DXV)			81	80	04:32	16,320	TCG

### SOAB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
N4MCC			342	247	15:30	232,180	TCG
WA4JA			250	176	9	119,152	TCG
DM4KW			259	54	21	87,889	TCG
KS4X			103	97	7	26,093	TCG
K4HWS			39	37	1.7	3,552	TCG

### SOAB Unassisted LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
WA4JA			250	176	9	119,152	TCG
DM4KW			259	54	21	87,889	TCG
KS4X			103	97	7	26,093	TCG

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## CQWW WPX Contest, SSB (Continued)

### SOAB Unassisted LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
WA4JA			250	176	9	119,152	TCG
DM4KW			259	54	21	87,889	TCG
KS4X			103	97	7	26,093	TCG

### SOAB TB-Wires LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
WA4JA			250	176	9	119,152	TCG

### SOSB10 LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
AC4G			126	108	4	36,612	TCG

### SOSB10 Classic LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
AC4G			126	108	4	36,612	TCG

### SOSB20 HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
W6UB			10	10	.41	200	TCG

### SOSB20 Unassisted HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
W6UB			10	10	.41	200	TCG

### SOSB20 LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
W4SSF			106	89	6:52	21,360	TCG

### SOSB20 Unassisted LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
W4SSF			106	89	6:52	21,360	TCG

### SOSB20 TB-Wires LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
W4SSF			106	89	6:52	21,360	TCG

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## Virginia QSO Party

### SOAB/CWFixed HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AC6ZM			47	0	0	24	3				2,232	TCG
AD4EB			20	0	0	18	0.5				756	TCG
W4CMG			21	0	0	17	1				748	TCG
WV4P		x	7	0	0	5	1				50	TCG

### SOAB/CWFixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N4ZZ	SO2R		36	0	0	21	00:43				1,533	TCG
W3TB			28	0	0	22	1:07				1,276	TCG
K4KYN			20	0	0	14	1.5				560	TCG

### SOAB/MixedFixed HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
NR4L			8	0	2	8	1				168	TCG
K4DXV			3	4	0	6	00:42				78	TCG

### SOAB/MixedFixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4UT			26	38	0	38	2:15				3,546	TCG
W4NZ			38	2	0	29	2				2,402	TCG
AA4CS			4	0	1	5	.5				55	TCG

### SOAB/PhFixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WA4JA			0	52	0	34	4				2,650	TCG

### SOSB/Mx/40Fixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W9WI			9	4	0	12	1				264	TCG

Didn't see your score listed? Next time, make sure to submit your score summary to 3830scores.com, and use the pull-down menu under "Club" to select "Tennessee Contest Group." Of course, it's also important to make sure that the Cabrillo file that you submit to the contest sponsor also contains the following line: CLUB: Tennessee Contest Group. This will ensure that your score will contribute to the TCG club aggregate score.

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## **A New TCG Scores Weekly Digest is live**

de Ron WV4P

The [TCG Scores Weekly Digest](#) is now live!

The goal is to cut down on emails generated from copied [3830](#) and replace them with one clean weekly digest that is easier to follow and packed with useful data. The dashboard and digest now include much more history, scoring detail, operator credit, and audit information than we have had before.

**Posts with stories, high-water marks, operating notes, station highlights, or anything else an operator thinks is worth sharing with the group are still perfectly fine and encouraged. In fact, they will probably get more attention now with fewer emails for everyone to sort through.**

There will definitely be corrections and cleanup needed, especially in the historical data. Please report any issues you find, including missing entries, scoring problems, callsigns that need to be linked together, portable or DX variants that should roll into a home call, or anything else that looks wrong. This is very much a work in progress, and I am completely open to more changes, additions, and upgrades. If there is something you want to see, just ask.

It is formatted so it will work OK on most modern email servers, and on mobile devices. Please let Ron WV4P know if you have any specific issues that he can work to resolve.

[3830](#) data is scraped hourly, with Weekly resets at 23:59 UTC on Fridays. Right now, it goes back to 2015, there were a lot of changes made to [3830](#) before that and it's going to be a lot of work importing the earlier data.

<https://tcgscores.com/>

Thanks,  
Ron WV4P

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## ARRL America250 WAS Event

ARRL America250 Worked All States <https://www.arrl.org/america250-was>

ARRL is celebrating a year-long Worked-All-States operating event celebrating America's 250th Anniversary. This is in conjunction with ARRL's 2026 Year of The Club celebration. This event will be exclusively driven only by QSOs uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW).

### Summary:

The America250-WAS begins as a **Basic Worked All States Award** by contacting all 50 States in 2026. In addition to the basic awards, operators can earn additional **Endorsements**:

### ARRL Tennessee Dates: W1AW/4 – TN Region

Dates: (in UTC)

- June 10 – 16
- September 16 – 22

**This is our chance for Tennessee Contest Group to participate in the event and to operate as W1AW/4. SIGN-UP as a CLUB IS REQUIRED**, so let's start thinking about when we can get our TCG'ers to operate! Since our members are located throughout Tennessee, this gives us the opportunity to work as TCG from our home locations (or maybe congregate at someone's super-station and take turns during specific timeslots).

**Cathy, W4CMG, is the ARRL Schedule Coordinator for TN Region W1AW/4.** This helps TCG, since our TN Section leadership has been very interested in a strong TCG presence during the event and would really like seeing TCG on the list! Please email Cathy W4CMG at [w4cmg.dx@gmail.com](mailto:w4cmg.dx@gmail.com) with the times, dates and modes you might be interested in operating as W1AW/4, so that you can get on the list of operators.

### Shifts: Listed in Eastern Time

**You may request more than one shift per day on your area's assigned dates.**

- **Early Morning:** 6 a.m. – 9 a.m.
- **Morning:** 9:00 a.m. until noon
- **Afternoon:** noon to 3:00 p.m.
- **Late Afternoon:** 3:00PM until 6:00PM
- **Evening:** 6:00PM until 9:00PM
- **Night:** 9:00 p.m. - Midnight
- **Overnight:** Midnight – 6:00 a.m.
- **Full Overnight:** 9 p.m. – 9 a.m.

**A FULL Overnight shift from 9:00 PM until 9:00 AM can be requested. Please ensure the clubs are committed to covering this full time span, or request based on the hours above.**

Shift assignments, including timeslots, bands and modes will be sent to all clubs mid-May to make time for Clubs to finalize their participant lists and raise any questions or issues prior to our dates.

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## TCG Member Spotlight – K4DXV

By Steve K4DXV Carpenter

My journey to ham radio and contesting was, as it is for all of us, a journey, and although it did start in childhood, my journey did not begin with a parent or other family member or even a kind neighbor, And that first license did not come as a teenager. My road was very winding and full of detours, some unavoidable and some of my own making.

I was nine years old and in fourth grade in 1964 when the magic of radio brought me under its spell. A kid named Roger brought a walkie-talkie to school in his lunch box and showed it to us at recess. Several of us boys gathered around excitedly. It was probably the first time any of us had ever had a first-hand, up-close view of two-way radio. Roger's dad was a truck driver, and Roger claimed to be able to talk to him on the walkie-talkie. I still remember him pushing the button and saying, "Calling KK1940, Calling KK1940." We never heard him talk to his dad, but we did hear other voices coming out of the speaker talking to each other. I was hooked like a fish. And to this day that cold November morning on the playground of my elementary school is etched deeply into my memory as the day I became a radio geek.

Of course, I was nine years old so nothing much came of it at the time, but the seed had been planted and that walkie-talkie stayed in my memory. It was a "Space Phone" and had a rather unique angled speaker-microphone area. (The physical construction of my Yaesu FT-60 handheld reminds me of it, so I wonder if my subconscious was at work when I chose it?) I was determined to have a Space Phone, not realizing at the time that they came in pairs or the actual capabilities and limitations of a 100 mW, 27 MHz walkie-talkie.

We lived in a rural area. In fact, I still live on the remainder of the old family farm. Most people in the area worked as farmers or at the nearby ALCOA aluminum plant, or both, or at various small stores, etc. No one I knew was even slightly "technical," except for my paternal grandfather who was an electrical systems supervisor at ALCOA. At the time, I had no idea what that meant, and I did not understand until much later in life just how well educated my grandfather was compared to most people of his generation. The only antennas I ever saw above anyone's roof was the inevitable TV antenna to receive the three stations from nearby Knoxville.

I had heard the term ham radio occasionally but vaguely associated it with what I had heard on Roger's walkie talkie. And after hounding my parents incessantly for a couple of years I eventually got my own walkie-talkies in 1966. They weren't Space Phones. They were made by Kensington and came from a local S.S. Kresge store. What I was hearing and using was, of course, CB...usually channel 14. I had no concept of different radio services and not a clue about the radio spectrum. With no one around to steer me in the right direction, my feeble 12-year-old brain equated ham radio and CB. Two-way radio was two-way radio. For Christmas 1967 I graduated (so I thought) to a Sears ten-transistor base station, complete with a headphone and a Morse code key, along with a chart of the code. It didn't take long to discover that it could talk to and hear my walkie-talkies. I loaned one to my best friend who lived a couple of miles away. We were both pretty disappointed to find that we could barely hear each other. Still, that base station was a lot of fun and I kept it for many years.

Still, I wanted more. More power, more distance. Ah, tell me I didn't have the soul of ham! I had somehow figured out that my walkie-talkies and even the base station were pip squeaks

in their power output, and after discovering S9 (a CB-centric magazine) in a bookstore, I realized from the ads that there were radios which would kick out an amazing five watts of power. But those things cost money – big money, especially for a kid. Stuff like newspaper routes and lemonade stands you see in movies were laughable to us out in the hinterlands. Newspapers were delivered by adults in cars, since most routes were 20-mile trips. Most of the kids I grew up with – if they worked for money at all, which not many did – worked on farms, helping to haul hay, shoveling cow dung, slopping hogs, or working in tobacco fields, all of which I've done plenty of myself. Mostly, too, that kind of work was just part of life; you did it because it had to be done. But I had an ace that most of my 13 or 14-year-old friends didn't. As a home builder with his own business, my dad had put me to work a couple of years earlier, mostly cleaning up and fetching tools early on. By the time I was 14, though, I was beginning to learn a few things about the trade and was getting paid. Not much, but it was a start.

Along with a dollar or two my mom paid me for helping with household chores on the Saturdays I wasn't fishing, I was able to scrimp together enough by the summer of 1970 to begin seriously looking for a "real" radio. (And God bless my mother for teaching me how to vacuum, dust, do laundry, and clean a bathroom!) The rig I settled on was a Realistic Navaho bought from the Radio Shack on Gay Street in Knoxville. My parents paid for a ground plane antenna and fifty feet of RG-58 coax.

Until his dying day my dad never understood my fascination with radio, but he tolerated it and helped me when he could. He found a long piece of galvanized pipe from his stock of building supplies to use as an antenna mast, and he helped me route the coax into my bedroom without destroying part of the house. He also hid the microphone to the Navaho, because...well, because he knew his son. In 1970, the national CB craze had yet to hit. Licenses and actual call signs were required and enforced. And, even though CB licenses didn't require a test, much like ham licenses they took weeks before arriving in the mail. I nearly climbed the walls with impatience until that ticket arrived. The call sign was KDR 2371.

Needless to say, I was ecstatic. My best friend, with whom I had experimented earlier with the base station and the walkie-talkie, also caught the bug and saved his pennies from a Grit Newspaper route until he was able to get a rig from J.C. Penney. We were in radio heaven...or so we thought. Until I discovered a copy of QST magazine at Gateway Bookstore. It was then that I began to understand that amateur radio was what my little heart really desired. Gateway also carried an extensive line of ARRL publications, and my first purchase was The Radio Amateur's Operating Manual. I still have it. I have read it and studied it dozens of times.

One thing all of these books stressed in those days was a receiver. According to them, a good receiver should be a ham's first purchase. So, my next big purchase was a Realistic DX-160 shortwave receiver with a matching speaker. I built my first dipole antenna to get better signals, although I couldn't get it much over ten feet off the ground. But, it worked, and the many world radio services in those days were fascinating, especially Radio Moscow! By using information found in my books, I was able to finally tune in and listen to actual hams on the air. I fairly salivated at the thought when I heard stations talking to each other across the continent. I even began to pick out bits of Morse code, not knowing I was going about it the wrong way, hearing something and then looking at a chart to figure out what I had heard. But, I figured I could eventually get good enough for the 5 word per minute Novice class test.

There was just one thing missing: someone to administer the test. Try as I might, I just could not discover a place to take the test, and even though I knew that a General class licensee could administer it...well, I just didn't know any. And there was another problem...or problems: I had a car, was active in DeMolay, played in the school band and attended numerous camps and clinics, and I was soon to graduate high school and head off to college. There was too much going on to worry about a ham license. I knew I would get it someday in some vague, undefined future. I just didn't realize how far in the future that would eventually be.

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During college I still worked summers and school holidays with Dad, but a college kid always needs more money, so I sold the Navaho – an easy sell since the CB craze was in full swing by then – and pawned the DX-160. But I kept my ARRL books and still flipped through them wistfully from time to time. Before I knew it, I was out of school and into a full-time teaching career, then I was married, started a part-time fishing guide service, became a freelance outdoor writer, and had a kid of my own. Life was busy, full, and rewarding, and I wouldn't change anything about any of that.

I had bought another small shortwave receiver some time in the early 90's and would occasionally tune around, usually on cold winter nights, but it gathered a lot of dust for several years. Then, one January evening, while tuning around, I realized that our daughter was the same age that I was when I had so desperately wanted to become a ham. The years had slipped by and the calendar now read 2000. I was 44 years old, and I decided that it was now or never. The Internet had appeared and I idly searched for a nearby hamfest where I knew I might be able to at least get more information and maybe make the contacts I had needed more than two decades previous. As luck would have it, the Knoxville Hamfest was being held that very weekend at the Kerbela Temple. There, I found a set of Gordon West Morse code tapes and an ARRL Technician class study book.

Another hamfest was coming up soon in Morristown, and a quick read of the Technician book showed me that I already knew more than enough to pass that test, so I made the trip to Morristown and walked out of the hamfest with a CSCE for a no-code Tech license and a study guide for General class. I don't remember now how long it took to get the license, but my call sign was KG4LDD. I went back to my old reliable outlet, Radio Shack, and picked up a mobile 2-meter FM transceiver, built a ground plane antenna out of coat hangers, and hung it on a piece of PVC pipe about nine feet high. I was on the air.

The General class study guide I had bought revealed that once again all that study and reading I had done in the old ARRL books decades prior was still with me and I only needed some slight brushing up on a few points. But, at that time a General class license and above did still require a 5 wpm code test, and that was my weak point. So, while I enjoyed messing around on 2-meter FM, that old desire for more power and more distance surfaced again. I dug into the Gordon West code tapes with a vengeance. It took a year, but when I visited the Morristown hamfest the next time I walked out with a CSCE granting me KG4LDD/G. It was time for a trip to Sevierville to Ten-Tec.

My first HF rig was a Ten-Tec Delta II, a 100 watt version of their vaunted Argonaut QRP rig. It was used but had been factory refurbished. Of course, the first thing I wanted to do with that General license was talk on SSB, but I was to learn that old Ten-Tec was one of the smoothest CW rigs probably ever made.

DXing was my first love, although contesting now runs it a close second. I was a little slow coming to contesting, but I think I've been a member of TCG now for over twenty years. After finally passing the Extra exam on my second try, I applied for and was granted my current call sign in 2007. When I expressed an interest in RTTY to neighbor, mentor, and fellow TCG'er Ned K1GU, I found a real love for RTTY contesting, and enjoyment of CW contesting came with more practice and more success. Today, I would rather do CW contests than others, although I'm still not very good.

I am now eligible for QCWA membership. Over those 25 years I have served as president of the Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club, as well as its PIO and newsletter editor, certified as a VE, given presentations to a couple of ham clubs, founded and sponsored the William Blount High School Amateur Radio Club K4GOV, and am trustee for call sign KT4VC, BSA Venturing Crew 4 in Knoxville. I still have a lot to do and a lot still to learn. And that's the great thing about ham radio. It is a journey – a journey of learning and growing, and of making friends both locally and around the world.

And, even though I didn't get to be a ham when I first wanted to, I look at it this way...I get to be a ham for the rest of my life!

73 de Steve K4DXV

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## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS**

TCG membership is open to all with an interest in contesting. There are no geographical limitations. All you need is a sincere interest in contesting, and the willingness to get on the air and operate with us. If you have someone that you would like to nominate as a new members, please e-mail K0EJ ([mark.speck.k0ej@gmail.com](mailto:mark.speck.k0ej@gmail.com)) so an invite can be sent out.

A reminder that in order to more efficiently maintain MRA awards, HamClubOnline, TCG reflector roster, TCG website roster, and the financial spreadsheet, members who were not current with dues were removed on March 1, 2026.

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## **Corporate Casuals – TCG Logo Items**

Corporate Casuals now uses what's called a /\*sharelink \*/in which they share the TCG logo with club members through their webstore platform. The link below will take you to their website and prompt you to create an account with them. The page will look like the screenshot below (and will show the logo at the bottom of the screen).

You can add a personal callsign as a personalization ("NAMES" icon in the product) and select the placement location on the purchased item (e.g., polo, bag, hat, etc.). Once the account is created, the logo will automatically upload to the account for use:

<http://www.CorporateCasuals.com/logoShare/tennesseecontestgroup>

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## UPCOMING CONTESTS

The following table is a list of the upcoming contests which qualify for the TCG Most Radioactive Award. For more information on the MRA, please refer to [K4TCG.ORG](http://K4TCG.ORG) under the TCG INFO section. Thanks to Jim AD4EB for this list, and to Ted W4NZ for administering the TCG Most Radioactive Award.

April 4, 2026	EA RTTY Contest
April 4, 2026	SP DX Contest
April 4, 2026	Louisiana QSO Party
April 4, 2026	Mississippi QSO Party
April 11, 2026	Missouri QSO Party
April 11, 2026	Georgia QSO Party
April 11, 2026	New Mexico QSO Party
April 11, 2026	IG-RY World Wide RTTY Contest
April 11, 2026	North Dakota QSO Party
April 18, 2026	CQMM DX Contest
April 18, 2026	Michigan QSO Party
April 18, 2026	Ontario QSO Party
April 19, 2026	Quebec QSO Party
April 25, 2026	Nebraska QSO Party
April 25, 2026	SP DX RTTY Contest
April 25, 2026	Florida QSO Party
April 26, 2026	BARTG Sprint 75
May 2, 2026	7th Call Area QSO Party
May 2, 2026	ARI International DX Contest
May 2, 2026	Delaware QSO Party
May 2, 2026	Indiana QSO Party
May 2, 2026	New England QSO Party
May 9, 2026	Canadian Prairies QSO Party
May 9, 2026	CQ-M International DX Contest
May 9, 2026	Volta WW RTTY
May 16, 2026	Arkansas QSO Party
May 16, 2026	His Majesty King of Spain Contest, CW
May 30, 2026	CQ WW WPX Contest, CW

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## Progression of solar cycle 25

### Sunspot numbers including predictions:

