



News and Events, August 2026 Edition

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Honor Still Matters

By now, nearly everyone has heard about the growing WRTC cheating scandal. The controversy itself is not exactly new. In private conversations, plenty of people believed that the Ukrainian team credited with winning WRTC 2022—held in Italy in 2023—had not actually earned that victory.

What is new is the amount of data now available and the depth of the analysis being performed. The current evidence appears to support the conclusion that the German team may have been the rightful winner not only in 2022, but in 2018 and 2026 as well.

That is not a small problem.

Cheating has always existed in contesting. Ours is a sport that still relies heavily on the honor system, and unfortunately, some people will place a win above their honor. Technology has given contest committees far better tools for detecting rule violations, but it has also given competitors more complicated ways to gain an advantage.

Whether every current allegation is ultimately proven or not, the reputations of the two Ukrainian WRTC teams involved have been permanently damaged. Once people begin questioning whether your results are legitimate, it is extremely difficult to ever completely remove that doubt. That is something every serious contester should think about.

When I began building the NJ4P station, I knew people might eventually question the signals coming from a station in rural West Tennessee. We have large antennas, multiple operating positions, significant terrain advantage, amplifiers and extensive remote capabilities. A strong signal from an unexpected location can naturally attract attention.

Because of that, I intentionally installed several safeguards.

There are cameras covering the operating positions and cameras monitoring the amplifiers. The amplifiers are PGXLs that can only do legal limit. I intentionally enter Assisted whenever the rules allow it. With the exception of FT-mode contests, my normal entry is Assisted High Power. I am not interested in pretending spots were not used merely to enter a different category.

I also retain SD cards containing video from past contests, showing which local operators were present and when they operated. The VPN, station-control programs and other systems maintain logs showing who connected, when they connected and, in many cases, what they were doing.

None of that comes from a guilty conscience. It comes from understanding that if a legitimate question is ever raised, "Trust me" may not be a sufficient answer. I want to be able to prove how the station was operated.

More stations...and more contest sponsors should think that way. Protecting the integrity of contesting cannot begin only after a major scandal erupts. Operators should document their operations, contest committees should preserve the available data, and credible concerns should be examined openly instead of being dismissed or quietly handled behind closed doors.

Winning is temporary. Your reputation follows you forever.

Juan Turns It Around From V4

On a much more positive note, during the RSGB IOTA Contest, and our own TCG Vice President, Juan, AC6ZM, operated as **V4/AC6ZM** from St. Kitts and Nevis, IOTA reference **NA-104**.

Juan started out a little slow. For a while, I assumed he had decided that the beach was more interesting than the radio!

He apparently remembered why he went down there, because he finished like a seasoned professional. As of this writing, Juan is leading North America in his class by a commanding margin.

Operating a contest away from home is never as simple as sitting down at your regular station. Travel, unfamiliar equipment, antennas, weather, local noise and propagation all become part of the challenge. Juan stayed with it, recovered from the slow start and produced an excellent result.

Congrats, Juan!

You still have a few days to get on an NAQP SSB Team ! Lets make it happen 👍

73,
Ron, WV4P

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TN QP Plaque Sponsorship:

The response was over the top. All 14 plaques now have sponsors. Mark did the best he could, first come, first served. If you didn't get what you asked for it was because both of your choices were already taken. Payment via paypal preferred (Tcgtreasury53@gmail.com). Please add a note regarding TQP plaque sponsorship. If there is specific wording you want on the plate, he will try to accommodate within the space available. Sponsors have first right of refusal for next year.

Sponsors:
First Place Outside of USA-Single Operator (AD4EB)

First Place Out-of-State-Single-Operator High Power (WF7T)
First Place Out-of-State Single-Operator Low Power (AA4CS)
First Place Out-of-State Single-Operator QRP (AC6ZM)
First Place Single-Operator Mobile (N4MCC)
First Place Multi-Operator Mobile (W4NZ)
First Place Rover (K3IE)
First Place Tennessee Single-Operator High Power (K4RO)
First Place Tennessee Single-Operator Low Power (K4KYN)
First Place Tennessee Single-Operator QRP (K4DXV)
First Place Tennessee Multi-Operator (W4UT)
First Place Tennessee Multi-operator – Low Power (W3TB)
First Place Tennessee Most Counties Worked (W4CMG)
First Place Out-of-State Most Counties Worked (W4CMG)

de Mark K0EJ

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TCG Most Radio Active Report for July 2026

Hello Fellow Contesters,

Hot days and lots of sunshine usually slow things down in July, that and the high solar absorption. But this year we had a bright spot with the running of the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) competition which is held every four years during the IARU HF World Championship contest. The 2026 event was held in Southeast England. Our own K0EJ participated in this as a referee for one of the teams. We're looking forward to hearing Mark's account of his adventures in the UK.

The IARU HF Championship drew the interest of 21 members who contributed over 9,100 QSO's while chasing the WRTC competitors. Leading the way were strong single-operator performances by Kirk K4RO @1.684M, Jim AD4EB @1.64M and Ron WV4P @1.144M. Juan AC6ZM and Jim K0XV teamed up with Bryan W5MX in a Multi-Single High Power effort as N4SS, earning 1.681M points from Bryan's contest station near Berea, KY. WTG, folks!!

July, by the Numbers:

- We operated 6 contests
- We had 32 members reporting scores
- We made 19,145 QSO's
- We spent 401 hours playing on the radio

But these are just some of the highlights for this month. Take a look at <https://tcgscores.com> for the rest of the story including some notable efforts by other members.

Thank you for keeping TCG Radio Active!

73 and Good Contesting,
Ted W4NZ



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

RAC Canada Day Contest

Single Op HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Team
AC6ZM			67	0	15	0	2:36	9,480	TCG					

Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Team
K4KYN			73	0	17	0	5	11,900	TCG					

Single Op Assisted HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Team
AA4DD			95	0	23	0	5	21,344	TCG					
W4CMG			23	0	13	0	1	3,510	TCG					
WN8Y			0	22	0	226	5	2,034	TCG					

Single Op Assisted LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Team
K4HWS			44	58	17	20	38,776	TCG						
K1GU			52	0	21	0	1.2	11,760	TCG					
W4SSF			30	0	15	0	1:45	4,800	TCG					

Single Op CW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Team
W4NZ			60	0	18	0	2	10,008	TCG					

Single Op CW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Team
W3TB			60	0	12	0	2:00	6,144	TCG					

Single Op Phone HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Team
WV4P		x	0	721	0	46	16	219,604	TCG					
NR4L		x	0	140	0	15	2	15,840	TCG					
W4SDX			0	86	0	16	2	11,904	TCG					

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Marconi Memorial HF Contest

SOAB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Countries	Op	Time	Score	Club
NR4L		x	33	25	3	825	TCG	
AC6ZM			22	12	2	264	TCG	
WV4P		x	17	14	1	238	TCG	
W4CMG			14	14	01:15	14	TCG	

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Alabama QSO Party

IARU HF World Championship

SOAB(A)CW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Zones	HQ	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
AD4EB	SO2R		2138	0	119	119	24	1,640,772	TCG				
W4NZ	SO2R		1028	0	83	91	20	605,172	TCG				
N6NT			782	0	61	70	11:46	342,172	TCG				
W4CMG			261	0	43	42	08:30	54,315	TCG				
K3IE			200	0	38	54	5	48,392	TCG				
W4UT			104	0	15	22	3	15,466	TCG				

SOAB(A)CW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Zones	HQ	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
K3FH			222	0	30	40	8	50,750	TCG				
W4SSF			90	0	25	18	3	11,266	TCG				
KE0L			13	0	1	0	.25	65	TCG				

SOAB(A)Mixed HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Zones	HQ	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
K4RO	SO2R		1965	112	129	123	22	1,684,116	TCG				
WV4P		x	855	245	133	136	20	1,144,326	TCG				
NR4L		x	60	40	16	34	3	17,000	TCG				

SOAB(A)Mixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Zones	HQ	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WF7T			141	1	23	18	3	20,213	TCG				
K4HWS			33	70	24	27	4.25	15,759	TCG				

SOAB(A)SSB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Zones	HQ	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
N4MCC			0	49	11	15	5	4,342	TCG				

SOABCW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Zones	HQ	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
K4DXV			84	0	21	31	2.5	13,520	TCG				

SOABCW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Zones	HQ	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
AC4G			112	0	11	21	3	14,720	TCG				

SOABMixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Zones	HQ	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
W9WI			295	39	35	47	6	68,880	TCG				
KS4X			31	27	11	18	3	3,886	TCG				

SOABSSB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Zones	HQ	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WN8Y			0	6	4	1	1	110	TCG				

SOABSSB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Zones	HQ	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WA4JA			0	150	37	40	9	31,520	TCG				

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CQ Worldwide VHF Contest

SOAB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
AJ6T	SO2R		73	51	12:23	5,508	TCG	

SOSB/6 LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
N9TF			13	12	2	156	TCG	

SOCW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WV4P		x		18	0		9	0	1				324	TCG
NR4L		x		4	0		3	0	1				24	TCG
W4CMG				4	0		1	0					8	TCG

SOCW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
W4NZ				19	0		10	0	1				380	TCG
K4KYN				11	0		8	0	1.5				176	TCG

SOMixed HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
AA4DD				22	3		11	3	2				700	TCG

SOSSB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WA4JA				0	4		0	2	.5				16	TCG

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North American QSO Party, RTTY**M/2 LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Team
NJ4P		x	1142	227	12		259,234	TCG

Single Op HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Team
K4DXV			100	58	02:51		5,800	TCG

Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Team
K4HWS			346	179	10		61,934	TCG
AA4DD			211	84	5		17,724	TCG
N4MCC			192	49	9:30		9,408	TCG
WN8Y			125	53	8		6,625	TCG
W4NZ			100	64	3		6,400	TCG
W4SDX			117	45	2		5,265	TCG
KS4X			71	45	4		3,195	TCG

Single Op Assisted LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Team
AD4EB	SO2R		746	204	10		152,184	TCG
NS4X			253	106	5		26,818	TCG
K3FH			106	53	4		5,618	TCG

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IOTA Contest**SO(A)12CW HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Qs	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WV4P		x		200	136		0	0	0	12			408,000	TCG
W4CMG				26	18		0	0	0	3			7,020	TCG
NR4L		x		16	10		0	0	0	1			1,620	TCG

SO(A)12CW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Qs	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
K3FH				16	5		0	0	0	2			485	TCG

SO(A)12Mixed HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Qs	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WN8Y				0	0	38	336	4					5,712	TCG

SO(A)12Mixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Qs	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WK9M				24	23	9	7	5					14,850	TCG

SO(A)12SSB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Qs	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
AI4DB				0	0	54	24	5					11,640	TCG

SO(A)12SSB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Qs	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WA4JA				0	0	15	8	2					808	TCG

SO(A)24Mixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Qs	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
V4/AC6ZM(@V47JA)				575	85	247	46	20					829,885	TCG

SO12CW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Qs	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
W4NZ				135	60	0	0	5					73,140	TCG

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

73 de Cathy W4CMG



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 (be sure to check out all of the club-oriented activities planned in 2026!). This event will be exclusively driven only by QSOs uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW).

ARRL Tennessee Section Activity

The ARRL America250 W1AW/4 Tennessee second run will be September 16 - 22. Our week in June was very successful, with ~4000 QSOs total, including SSB, CW and Digital modes. The weeks for each state run from Wednesday through Tuesday UTC, so our activities start on Tuesday night.

The general TN Section sign-up, which is a placeholder for dates and times, is open at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hhOY3ieYGvS4hvYQAqUP49nOyzRIGqFj/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107171941561179044637&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Feel free to specify dates and times you would like to operate in the General TN spreadsheet. These will be broken down to hourly shifts as we get closer to the event.

The dates and times will be further divided using the larger Activator Sign-up spreadsheet at the beginning of the second week in September, so the hourly “reservations” can be made close to Tennessee’s week as W1AW/4 TN.

Note that we have secured permission for W1AW/4 TN to use the station that will be set up at WD4DXCC (SEDCO) for part of the week, so if you are at the event, there will be a special sign-up on site for those who wish to have a run as W1AW/4 TN.

As for any event, there can only be one operator per band per mode (CW, SSB, Digital) on the air at any one time, so there was a lot of coordination to ensure that operators were scheduled as such – and stayed within their operating times and modes! I’ll be looking more closely at club reservations so that we keep some slots free for individual operators.

de Cathy W4CMG

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Upcoming Hamfests:

Huntsville Hamfest: August 22 & 23

- Huntsville Hamfest: <https://hamfest.org/> in Huntsville, AL – a great place to try out equipment before you buy it!
- Sponsored by the Northern Alabama DX Club, there will be a DX dinner on the Saturday night of Huntsville Hamfest

Huntsville Hamfest 2026

The World's Friendliest Hamfest®

In our 73rd year!



Saturday August 22 9 AM to 4:30 PM
Sunday August 23 9 AM to 3 PM

Von Braun Center South Hall
700 Monroe St. SW, Huntsville, AL 35801

- World Class Educational Forums
- License Exams both days
- Outstanding Youth Lounge
- Over 50 Commercial Vendors
- Huge Expanded Flea Market
- ARRL National Convention
- All indoors & air-conditioned
- DX Card Checking
- Grand Prizes both days + hourly prizes
- Special Event Station: W1AW/4 America250 WAS

Plus: scheduled gatherings before & during the weekend! YouTubers at Monte Sano State Park, DX Banquet, Expanded after-hours Hospitality Suite at on-site Hotel, Microwave group activities, YL Breakfast, and more! Check the website for details & times.

www.hamfest.org

W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention by SEDCO

- DATE: September 19, 2026
- LOCATION: LeConte Hotel and Convention Center (Formerly the MainStay Suites) Ascend, 410 Pine Mountain Rd, TN
- W4DXCC is back in Pigeon Forge TN after a brief break and a reboot of the Convention. The Hotel is available for September 18th and 19th with a special Convention price. Expect a new experience that is tailored to old and new amateur radio operators. We will also be having a Flea Market on Saturday morning.
- See the lineup of Presentations [here](#)

Hamfest Chattanooga

- Oct 15-17, 2026 – <https://w4am.net/hf2026/>

An ARRL-Sanctioned Hamfest



Hamfest Chattanooga 2026

Fri. Oct. 16 & Sat. Oct. 17, 2026

Ham & GMRS Radio Shopping, Fun & Education	Inside & Outside Vendors Spaces / Outside Flea Market
Forums & Door Prizes	FCC Testing Sessions
Exciting, New Venue: The Colonnade Civic Center catoosacolonnade.com	Free Event Parking Free Overnight Vendor RV Parking
2.5 Miles from I-75 GA-2 Exit 350	Fun for All Handicap Accessible

Check Our Website for the Most Up-To-Date Info:

HAMFESTCHATTANOOGA.NET

hamfest@w4am.net - 423-591-5091

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My road to WRTC 2026....de K0EJ

The story is long and with post WRTC travel, I didn't have enough time to get the whole thing written down before Cathy wanted to get the newsletter out. Part 1 will focus on the period before the contest. Part 2 will focus on Saturday and Sunday (contest days). Part 3 will be some post-WRTC stories and reflections.

Part 1 Before the contest

In the Beginning: I assume most testers would love the opportunity to participate in a WRTC but as in many instances, life's priorities have a different idea so it's a limited opportunity. Nothing like testing yourself against the "best of the best". Being in the 4th quarter of life, but NOT in the last inning, and never having been a part of a WRTC, I figured this may be my last opportunity to get there. I do love those summer contests – from WPX CW through WAE, conditions are just so different from the other BIG contests. Long days, short, noisy low-band nights, 20M open around the clock even during low sunspot years and those hollow-sounding polar path UA9s. YESSSSS! The IARU test is a great one which I do in those years I can, but our wedding anniversary is July 12 so sometimes I have to pass. When WRTC 20223 was completed and G-land was selected for 2026, after consultation with my girlfriend/1st wife/life-boss and getting her approval, I decided to make an effort to qualify as a Team Leader...however, when NA area splits were announced lumping TN in with VA/NC, I knew it would not be easy. I have a pretty good station to play from but it's tough to overcome laws of physics..but you never know. I wanted to shoot for the TL slot operating from the contest QTH. I even got K4RO to agree to be my partner, just in case a miracle happened. Kirk upheld his end of the bargain and qualified with the necessary 3000 points. After the first few qualifying events, it became clear; those East (Easy) Coast PVRC guys were in the TL hunt and my pursuit of the top slot might be futile..But plenty of people have dropped out in the past so I soldiered on. My backup plan would be to try and get selected as a referee When all was over, I qualified but had to settle for 5th place in our region behind NN3W, N4YDU, N2YO, and K4ZW. TL NN3W picked another PVRC member (KD4D) to be his teammate. Oh well! Apply to be a ref and keep my fingers crossed...and Referee it was.

Travel Plans: Once the dates for WRTC activities were firmed up, we decided to extend our stay in Europe. Since our anniversary fell on contest Sunday, (not much of a celebration), we added a week in Paris and an 8-day river cruise on the Seine which included a visit to the WW-II beaches at Normandy. About 3 weeks total.

Referee Planning: WRTC set up a reflector and a WhatsApp chat-room for participants and other interested parties. Various topics discussed, some at agonizing length but useful nonetheless. Referees were to provide their own headphones with a means to switch and control volume. I opted for a simple approach. Have continuous stereo audio and if I need to switch to one channel, I pull the speaker off that ear. If I need to adjust the volume I move that speaker away from my ear. Some guys wanted to make it rocket science, me?..not so much. It ended up being a non-issue in the end. The schedule of events got filled in with various receptions/tours for spectators and participants along with bus transfers from airport to venue and back afterwards. The planning committee did a great job juggling the balls and herding the animals.

The Transit and Arrival: Eventually D-Day arrived. Chattanooga>Atlanta>London-Heathrow. Sure enough, we get off the plane, get our bags, go through customs and there is M0CFW (AKA 3B9KW in CQWW) with a WRTC sign. Check-in with him. Now just kill time til the transfer bus arrives. We went off to a lounge, actually took a shower and changed clothes, feeling pretty fair after the flights.

Since I have seldom been to Dayton and only know most of the players by way of “callsign/5NN TN or 5NN4”, I tried my best to touch base with as many folks over the course of the event as possible. That proved challenging as many hung in cliques/clusters or kept to themselves staring at their phones. I am not a super-social guy unlike my wife who says she is an introvert but is never at a loss when it comes to meeting people and making friends. I did have a short list of folks I wanted to catch up with. AA3B who is my “boss” in helping with WPX SSB/CW contest writeups. N5TJ, K1ZM, N2IC, OM2VL, W2GD and VE5MX who WV4P asked me to hug. I did it Ron – twice! He is a BEAR!

The Venue: Wyboston Lakes Resort was a 2+hour warm bus ride north of London, not too far from Cambridge. The nearest little town is St. Neots. The weather was warm..very warm..unseasonably warm as in the 90’s. Not quite as hot as a few weeks prior but warm nonetheless. Got in line to check-in, received our room assignment, did some admin, and got our goodie-bag which included our lanyards/nametags and various event tickets, shirts, mugs, water bottles, etc. The lanyards were your ticket to admission to the HQ venue. Also included was an excellent “magazine” with all sorts of info on the event, event timelines, and pictures of all the participants. I ended up using this to collect autographs and serve as an ice-breaker to meet as many folks as possible. Since I wouldn’t be operating the contest and filling out my “bingo card” working WRTC stations, I used the signatures to track who I had/had not chatted with. I did not get a clean sweep and actually had a few who would not sign but it still was an effective tool. Did I say it was warm? The guest rooms did not have air-conditioning. It was uncomfortable to say the least. One of the few down-sides of the event.

Events Timeline: I will only mention some of the highlites-precontest:

Wednesday: arrival/check-in/dinner/attendee cocktail hour/Ham Widow’s Ball. Judy is good friends with Miriam/K1ZM’s XYL so she started there. Needless to say, she had probably already met more people than me!

Thursday: Competitor/Ref meeting and a separate ref meeting. Some tours if interested, opening ceremony and dinner. Judy went to Bletchley Park to learn about the Allies breaking the Enigma code. She was quite happy with the tour. Finally, the callsign block is announced – MB#*. I thought it was a great block and very distinctive. Of course some callsigns are going to be better than others.

Friday: Site/Referee/Callsign draw. Travel to site and set-up. I was paired with TL HB9ARF (Phillip) and TM LY4A (Roli). Phillip is the 1st HB9 ever to be a competitor. Location 805. LY4A is a “big gun” with a bit of a reputation and some WRTC experience. As I picked up the referee box, N9RV comments to me, “you are going to have your hands full”! Roli drove to WRTC from Lithuania and had essentially both stations packed up in his car. He got GPS coordinates for the site and after a bit, we head out. Finding our site took some doing. Drive time was almost 2 hours. We drove past one site (a very nice one that we later discovered belongs to N2NT/NP4Z) and GPS indicates it’s not ours so we continue. We find it but it’s not labeled so we circle back hoping to catch the site manager to confirm our site. It’s not ideal with a bit of an up-slope NW-N-NE but gentle down-slope in the southern half direction. The tent is nestled close to a row of trees which provides good shade. That shade along with a good breeze made a warm day of setup quite tolerable. Though I was a bit concerned about Roli driving, it certainly ended up being fortuitous as most sites only had 2-3 hours to set-up before their buses were returning to HQ. Station equipment was all provided by Roli except for Phillip’s paddles, headset and an antenna tuner for 75SSB. Rigs were a pair of FTDX101MPs with a 3rd one for a spare along with 4O3A bandpass filters, triplexer, and a 2x6 antenna switch. A non-networked computer served as the audio stream recorder. As a bonus, Roli had a referee audio switchbox and set of headphones already to go. Roli also brought 2 shelves which supported the large monitors above the

rigs. The 2 tables provided weren't quite big enough but eventually we were able to get everything put together. It looked pretty cool but was probably a bit of "overkill". Once the rigs were powered up, all we heard were the rig fans.....no signals. After a lot of head-scratching, troubleshooting, disconnecting, reconnecting, we ended up replacing 3 coax jumpers, making repairs to the internals of the 2x6 switch and one of the BP filters. Finally, they were ready to test. We spent over 6 hours trying to set up and could've used more. To top it all off, as they were about to finally put RF out for testing, the generator died. It took some time but we (site manager) finally got it going. We finally got some RF out and get some Qs in the log to confirm that the scoring computer was communicating with HQ. That link was problematic throughout the contest. I even got to make a few Qs as M/K0EJ. As we were wrapping up, having kept the site manager (James) with us much longer than any of us expected, I asked him about what appeared to be deer stands in the trees near our site. James said, "Oh, after dark, there is sometimes a lot of shooting around here. You might hear some tomorrow night". Phillip, Roli, and I looked at each other thinking, "What have we gotten into??" We covered up the station equipment, sealed the tent and finally headed back to HQ. We arrive there shortly before the 1930 end-of-meal period. Roli and Phillip feel confident Saturday will go well and decide to leave HQ at 10AM for the 1300 (1200Z) contest start time. Now for a warm night's sleep..

To be continued....



L: One of my "gotta do's" was to meet up with OM2VL. Laci (pronounced "LOT-see". He has more TNQP trophies than anyone outside TN... and more than just about anyone inside TN!

R: Each participant received a "goodie bag" which included color-coded lanyards, book, mug, water bottle, pen, shirts, ballcap, etc. The participation plaque was given after the awards ceremony.



L: Tent sponsor

R: Immediately adjacent to the operating tent was the “restroom”. It even came with a roll of toilet paper. More on this next month!



L: Our official “team photo” taken immediately after site/referee/callsign selection and just before heading off to our site. LY4A/Roli and Phillip. Roli is 72 y.o., and Phillip is 74. Phillip is the 1st HB9 to compete in a WRTC

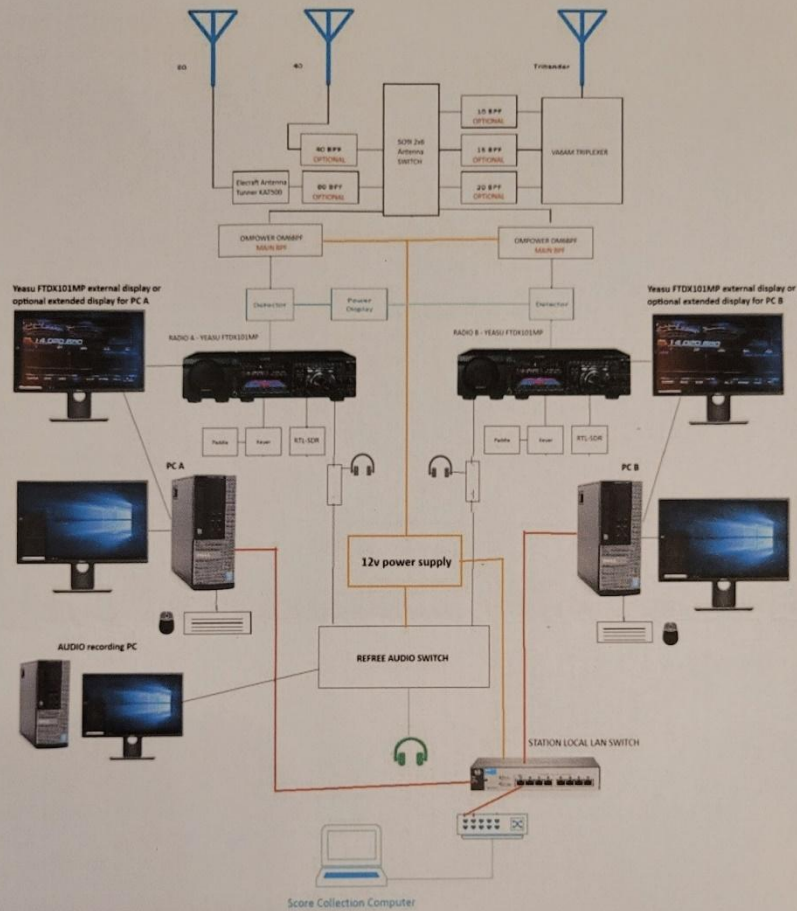
R: Site 805 nestled along a row of trees. Great shade during the day and windbreak at night. This site was one of several on a farm between several large fields. No other sites were visible and the closest

was N2NT/NP4Z almost a mile away. I failed to get a picture of James our site manager. He managed 3 adjacent sites and circulated between them or responded to calls if needed. The small Honda generator ran great but several issues with the fuel system were problematic for us...and others!



Antennas at Site 805. 7-element trapless tribander at about 30' and inverted vees for 80 and 40.

WRTC 2026 Team EU3_4 HB9ARF & LY4A Station layout



BACUP EQUIPMENT



Each team had to submit a station layout to the organizing committee for review and approval. One of the referee responsibilities was to ensure the actual setup was consistent with the approved setup.

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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 under the TCG INFO section. Thanks to Jim AD4EB for this list, and to Ted W4NZ for administering the TCG Most Radioactive Award.

August 1,2026	North American QSO Party, CW Aug
August 8, 2026	WAE DX Contest, CW
August 15,2026	North American QSO Party, SSB Aug
August 15,2026	SARTG WW RTTY Contest
August 22,2026	Hawaii QSO Party
August 22,2026	Ohio QSO Party
August 22, 2026	YO DX HF Contest
August 29,2026	World Wide Digi DX Contest
August 29, 2026	Kansas QSO Party
September	
September 1, 2026	All Asian DX Contest, Phone
September 5, 2026	CWOps CW Open
September 6,2026	Tennessee QSO Party
September 12, 2026	ARRL September VHF Contest
September 12,2026	Colorado QSO Party
September 12,2026	WAE DX Contest, SSB
September 12,2026	New Jersey QSO Party
September 13,2026	North American Sprint, CW Sep
September 19,2026	Iowa QSO Party
September 19,2026	New Hampshire QSO Party
September 19,2026	Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW
September 19,2026	Texas QSO Party
September 19,2026	Washington State Salmon Run
September 20,2026	North American Sprint, RTTY Sep
September 26,2026	Maine QSO Party

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Progression of solar cycle 25

Sunspot numbers including predictions: <https://helioforecast.space/solarcycle>

