



News and Events — August 2023

TCG CELEBRATES 30 YEARS!

August 2023 marks 30 years of contesting excitement with TCG. It has been an amazing ride, and I am grateful to have been a part of it. Thanks to all of you for keeping TCG going, and Happy Birthday to us! Be sure to join us for the NAQP contests in August, and join the 30 year celebration. More info available at this link: <http://k4tcg.org/2023/07/21/celebrate-30-years-of-tcg-in-the-august-naqps/>

LEBANON HAMFEST AND TCG LUNCHEON REPORT

The Lebanon “Hamquest” was held in a new facility in 2023. The event was held in a recently-completed building which allowed the entire hamfest to be under one air-conditioned roof. Everyone I spoke with agreed that the new facility was a significant improvement. There was plenty of room to spread out, and the place was well-lit. TCG members gave the new venue two thumbs up.

Bert W4KW procured a room at Shoney's on the day of the Lebanon HamQuest. We had 20-some TCG types attend, and a great time was had by all. Few things in life compare to the camaraderie of our fellow contest operators. Special thanks to those who made a significant trek to be there. K3FH even got on a plane! It was good to see everyone, and we hope to have more gatherings in the future.



L-R: W3TB, W4KW, AC4G, AD4EB, WN8Y, K3FH, AC6ZM, K4RO, K4VIG, AI4DB, WF7T, W4CMG, N4MCC, WA4VGZ, K1GU, N4ZZ, W4NZ, K4AMC

NEXT ZOOM MEETING – AD4EB on Mobile Contesting

The next TCG Zoom meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 24 at 7:00PM. “Doors” will open at 6:30PM for those who want to check in early, test their camera and microphone settings, and get everything ready for the meeting. While a recording of the session will be provided, we encourage TCG members to show up for the live meeting. Live attendance allows us to ask questions and exchange ideas in real-time. It’s also an opportunity to put a face and a voice with the folks we’ve been working for years, and to just hang out together as a group.

We are very lucky to have the undisputed heavyweight champion of mobile contesting in our ranks, Jim Hall, AD4EB. Jim (and Melody!) have demonstrated a level of efficiency and proficiency unmatched in the mobile contesting world. A top-flight operator from his his well-engineered home station, Jim has taken those same skills on the road to create an impressive resume of mobile contesting achievements. Jim and Melody have traveled far and wide to provide county hunters with prized QSOs from rarely-activated counties. There will also be some tips that you’ll surely want to know before heading out on the road for the TN QSO Party in September. We hope that you’ll join us August 24 for what promises to be an interesting and informative presentation.

TN QSO PARTY

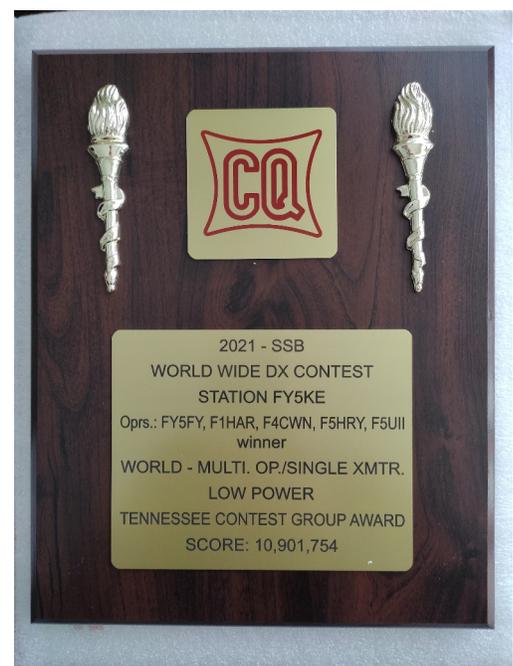
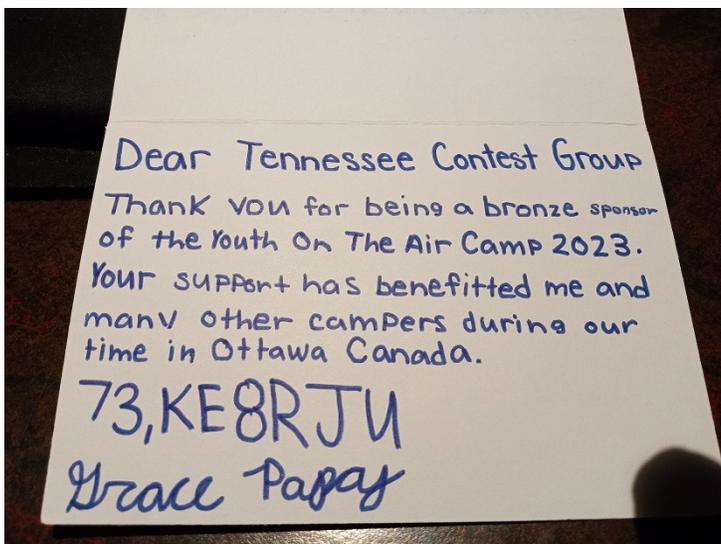
Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday September 3, for the Tennessee QSO Party. We would like to get as many folks on the air that afternoon from Tennessee as we can. Please spread the word, help someone get set up, host a multi-op. If you can, hit the road and activate a rare county or two. The TN QSO Party is our one shot per year to be the sought-after multiplier; let’s make the most of it. We would also like to express our gratitude to Andrew McCluskey N4MCC for volunteering to do the writeup for the 2023 TN QSO Party. Thanks in advance Andrew!

THANK YOU NOTE FROM YOTA

See attached note from Grace, KE8RJU. TCG is proud to sponsor activities such as YOTA provides.

CQWW M/S LP Plaque Sponsored by TCG

TCG continues to sponsor the CQWW Multi-Op / Single Transmitter Low Power World Winner plaque. Funds have been disbursed to the World Wide Radio Operator’s Foundation for next year. We recently received a thank you note from the operators at FY5KE, with an image of their award.



WHERE IT ALL STARTED

MY STORY...Ted Bryant W4NZ

I grew up in Gallatin, a small town about 30 miles northeast of Nashville.

"CQ, CQ, CQ 40 meters W4WGH, William Four William George Henry". Those were the first words I ever heard on amateur radio. They came through the earphones of a crystal radio I had gotten for Christmas when I was in the eighth grade. Ray, W4WGH became my Elmer. I remember sitting in his garage shack on cold December nights copying code practice from W1AW through the 10-inch Hallicrafters speaker sitting atop Ray's SX-71. He helped me get my Novice license, KN4SXD, in January 1960. My first setup was a used Heathkit AT-1 transmitter and a National NC-60 receiver. Eventually they were replaced by a DX-100B/SX101 combination. This led to chasing DX, CW traffic nets and CW contests. The old CD Parties were a favorite.

Because of amateur radio, my interests gravitated toward an electrical engineering path in college. But a 3-year tour in the US Army interrupted my college career at Tennessee Tech. During that time I was sent to Germany on a 2-year assignment. While there, I put a station together and was assigned the call DL4EG. Operating the CQ WW and ARRL DX contests from the "other side" was a lot of fun. The Army was finished with me in 1969. That Fall, I returned to Tech to finish my EE degree, graduating in 1971. While at Tech, I met future TCGers Steve, NA4K and Pat, W4PV (both now SK's). Later I met Don N4ZZ (K4PUZ then). Over the years Don and I have spent countless hours building, playing with antennas and comparing results. After a 32-year career with TVA, I retired in October 2003.

A letter from Ric WA6KUI (aka WO4O) invited me to join the Tennessee Contest Group in 1999. That re-kindled my radio interests then, and CW contesting became a serious interest. What contesting showed me were all the deficiencies in my station. Upgrading from a 25-year old Drake C-line to an Icom 765 was like a breath of fresh air. This started a series of equipment changes that are continuing today. The current station is a Flex 6600M, an AL1200 and an Alpha 99 (Tnx K3IE!). Antennas are spread between two towers. One is 80 feet with a 2L40, 4L20 and 4/4 on 10m. The other tower is 50 feet with a 3L20 and a 5/5 stack on 15M. An 80m dipole and 160m inverted "L" finish taking the rest of the available space in my small back yard.

I enjoy the fellowship of TCG. My first meeting with the members was at K4JNY's in Cleveland. There, among others, I met Jeff, K4JNY and Scott, W4PA. The eventual association with them led to many hours of fun doing multi-ops or small projects (like a 4/4 stack rebuild on 20m!) or getting ready for the next contest. It also led to meeting K0EJ, K4RO, AA4NU and W9WI. The camaraderie is one of the things that keeps my interests and keeps me motivated. I'm looking forward to many more years in our wonderful hobby and to seeing you all on the air soon. *Photo: W4NZ and NA4K*

73, Ted W4NZ
Chattanooga, TN



MRA UPCOMING CONTESTS

Following 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 AD4EB for this list, and to Ted W4NZ for administering the TCG Most Radioactive Award.

August 5, 2023 North American QSO Party, CW Aug
August 12, 2023 Maryland-DC QSO Party
August 12, 2023 WAE DX Contest, CW
August 19, 2023 North American QSO Party, SSB Aug
August 19, 2023 SARTG WW RTTY Contest
August 26, 2023 Hawaii QSO Party
August 26, 2023 Kansas QSO Party
August 26, 2023 Ohio QSO Party
August 26, 2023 World Wide Digi DX Contest
August 26, 2023 YO DX HF Contest

September 2, 2023 All Asian DX Contest, Phone
September 2, 2023 Colorado QSO Party
September 2, 2023 CWOps CW Open
September 3, 2023 Tennessee QSO Party
September 9, 2023 Alabama QSO Party
September 9, 2023 ARRL September VHF Contest
September 9, 2023 WAE DX Contest, SSB
September 10, 2023 North American Sprint, CW Sep
September 16, 2023 New Hampshire QSO Party
September 16, 2023 New Jersey QSO Party
September 16, 2023 Texas QSO Party
September 16, 2023 Washington State Salmon Run
September 16, 2023 Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW
September 16, 2023 Iowa QSO Party
September 17, 2023 North American Sprint, RTTY Sep
September 18, 2023 144 MHz Fall Sprint
September 23, 2023 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY
September 23, 2023 Maine QSO Party

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 5 and August 19 - NAQP CW and SSB. Celebrate 30 years with TCG:
<http://k4tcg.org/2023/07/21/celebrate-30-years-of-tcg-in-the-august-naqps/>

August 19 Huntsville Hamfest.
August 24 TCG Zoom meeting.
September 3 TN QSO Party

73, —Kirk K4RO