



## News and Events, January 2026 Edition

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Welcome to the first TCG newsletter for 2026. December had some pretty good contest action, with the ARRL Ten Meter and ARRL 160 Meter contests being the major events of the months. The Stew Perry contest featured some occasional 160 meter propagation openings to Europe, a sign of things to come as the sunspot number begins its inevitable decline.

Thanks to those who post their contest scores and especially their contest stories to the TCG email reflector. I enjoy reading every write up, and I know that I am not alone in my desire to read more post-contest stories.

In last month's newsletter, I thanked the many people who keep TCG running smoothly in the background. An organization like ours does not run itself and depends heavily on the volunteer work by our members. With the start of the new year, it is time to start thinking about new TCG leadership. It would be great to have some new blood at the helm and in the engine room. The grizzled guard is always here ready to help. Perhaps even more importantly, we are ready to get out of the way in order to make way for new leadership. Growth sometimes requires change. Change can be hard, but it can also be healthy. Quoting directly from our Constitution and By-laws:

OFFICERS: Article II

A. The officers of this club shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary

B. The officers shall be nominated during the first 22 days of March by all members in good standing. Voting occurs the final week of March, after which officers will be announced. Elected officers serve for a term of one year — March 31 through April 1.

C. Vacancies occurring between elections shall be filled by special election at the first opportunity following the withdrawal or resignation.

D. Officers may be removed by a three-fourths majority of the voting membership.

E. The president may solicit volunteers for special events.

Whether you wish to run yourself, or nominate someone else, please give some thought about running for a TCG officer position. There are a lot of smart and capable people in this group. We need your help.

One thing that I've learned over the last 30+ years of TCG is that contesting means different things to different people, but there is an indescribable essence that we all share in common. That essence has been my guiding light. I hope that future TCG leaders and members will remember what brings us together when differing opinions occur.

Here's to another great year of contesting in 2026!

—Kirk K4RO TCG President



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

**ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2025**

**M/S HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K4EA		x	727	76	10	14	128,140	TCG

**Single Op HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K1GU			527	62	2	9.00	67,840	TCG
KØEJ			445	57	2	4	52,864	TCG
AA4NU			326	66	3		45,609	TCG
AC4G			219	52	2	5.5	23,976	TCG
W6UB			184	52	1	7.8	19,136	TCG
AF4T			161	49	1	3.72	16,250	TCG
KM9P(KØEJ)			122	35	0	1.5	8,540	TCG
AC6ZM			76	11	7	2	5,040	TCG
W4NZ			50	29	0	00:45	2,900	TCG

**Single Op Limited-Ant HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AA4NU			326	66	3		45,609	TCG
AF4T			161	49	1	3.72	16,250	TCG

**Single Op LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
WM4Q			118	50	0	2.4	11,800	TCG

**SO Unlimited HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AD4EB			635	70	10	6.5	104,000	TCG
WV4P		x	465	76	10	11	82,560	TCG
K4RO			234	54	0	2:30	25,272	TCG

**SO Unlimited LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N9TF			392	55	1	16.5	44,072	TCG
K3IE			338	59	3	7	42,470	TCG
W9SN			231	50	0	2	23,715	TCG
K4DXV			21	16	0	2	672	TCG
NS4X			3	3	0	0.5	18	TCG

**SO Unlimited Limited-Ant LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N9TF			392	55	1	16.5	44,072	TCG
K4DXV			21	16	0	2	672	TCG

◆◆◆◆

**Stew Perry Topband Challenge 2025**

**Single Op HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
K4RO			255	5:14	891	TCG
WV4P		x	200	6	825	TCG
NS4X			238	4	592	TCG
AJ6T			37	3	293	TCG
KØEJ			123	~3	283	TCG
AA4DD			130	5	273	TCG
WK9M			78	2	197	TCG
W6UB			78	3.2	186	TCG

**Single Op LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
N9TF			183	9	634	TCG
WM4Q			55	1.5	187	TCG
W4CMG			40	2:30	126	TCG

**Single Op QRP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
KEØL			200	8	1,395	TCG

**ARRL 10-Meter Contest 2025**

**OK DX RTTY Contest 2025**

**SOAB HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Pts	Countries	OK Stns	Op Time	Score	Club
AA4DD			218	565	52	13	7	36,725	TCG
WV4P		x	105	277	60	16	2	21,052	TCG
W4SDX			178	305	35	6	4.5	12,505	TCG
NS4X			112	168	28	6	2	5,712	TCG
WN8Y			54	88	32	3	5	3,080	TCG

**SOAB LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Pts	Countries	OK Stns	Op Time	Score	Club
N4MCC			71	203	26	8	8	6,902	TCG
K4HWS			47	130	17	5	2	2,860	TCG
W4GKM			52	134	17	1	3	2,412	TCG

◆◆◆◆

**RAC Winter Contest 2025**

**Single Op HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs Ph	Qs CW	Mults Ph	Mults Op	Time	Score	Club
W6UB				95 0	0	0	0	4:28	5,920	TCG
WV4P		x		5 0	3	0	1		146	TCG

**Single Op LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs Ph	Qs CW	Mults Ph	Mults Op	Time	Score	Club
K4KYN				101 0	23	0	5		22,448	TCG
K4KO				41 0	12	0	2		5,280	TCG
WA4JA				0 10	0	5	0.5		460	TCG

**Single Op Assisted HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs Ph	Qs CW	Mults Ph	Mults Op	Time	Score	Club
K3IE				127 32	23	18	3		51,250	TCG

**Single Op Assisted LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs Ph	Qs CW	Mults Ph	Mults Op	Time	Score	Club
W4CMG				241 0	34	0	07:33		51,340	TCG
W4UT				38 0	17	0	1		7,820	TCG

**Single Op CW HP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs Ph	Qs CW	Mults Ph	Mults Op	Time	Score	Club
AC6ZM				205 0	35	0	5:45		45,780	TCG

**Single Op CW LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs Ph	Qs CW	Mults Ph	Mults Op	Time	Score	Club
AC4G				53 0	17	0	2		9,690	TCG
KQ4E				20 0	14	0	1		3,360	TCG

◆◆◆◆

**FT Challenge 2025**

**SO Unlimited LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4SDX		SO2R	564	67	23	51,322	TCG
AA4DD			202	87	10:38	31,146	TCG

**SO Unlimited Classic LP**

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4SDX		SO2R	564	67	23	51,322	TCG
AA4DD			202	87	10:38	31,146	TCG

◆◆◆◆

**ARRL 10-Meter Contest 2025 (cont.)**



<b>M/S HP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
NJ4P		x	2585	320	33	2,732,800	TCG

  

<b>SO CW HP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4UT			100	45	3	18,000	TCG
W6UB			67	1	3.5	7,772	TCG
AA4NU			60	22		5,280	TCG
AC6ZM			76	18	2	5,040	TCG

  

<b>SO CW Limited-Ant HP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AA4NU			60	22		5,280	TCG

  

<b>SO CW LP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W3TB			179	62	6:00	44,392	TCG
WM4Q			53	33	6	6,996	TCG
KQ4E			40	15	1	5,440	TCG
K4KO			56	20	1	4,480	TCG

  

<b>SO CW Limited-Ant LP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W3TB			179	62	6:00	44,392	TCG

  

<b>SO CW Unlimited HP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AD4EB			1001	154	15	616,616	TCG
N6NT			578	138	13:45	319,056	TCG
K1GU			460	114	8.3	209,760	TCG
W4NZ			138	70	2	38,640	TCG

  

<b>SO CW Unlimited LP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WF7T			555	131	16.75	290,820	TCG
WV4AM		x	197	88	03:43	69,344	TCG
W4CMG			55	22	2:30	4,840	TCG

  

<b>SO CW Unlimited Youth LP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WV4AM		x	197	88	03:43	69,344	TCG

  

<b>SO CW Unlimited Limited-Ant LP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4CMG			55	22	2:30	4,840	TCG

  

<b>SO CW Unlimited QRP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WD4CFN			135	51	5:30	27,540	TCG

<b>SO CW Unlimited Youth LP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WV4AM		x	197	88	03:43	69,344	TCG

<b>SO CW Unlimited Limited-Ant LP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4CMG			55	22	2:30	4,840	TCG

<b>SO CW Unlimited QRP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WD4CFN			135	51	5:30	27,540	TCG

<b>SO Mixed HP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KØEJ			1389	236	14	975,152	TCG
W4SDX			182	30	7	12,120	TCG

<b>SO Mixed LP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AC4G			580	153	10 1/2	276,012	TCG

<b>SO Mixed Unlimited HP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K3IE			948	258	18	800,316	TCG
K4RO			535	193		367,472	TCG
NS4X			418	109	5	180,722	TCG
K4DXV			55	32		6,272	TCG

<b>SO Mixed Unlimited LP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N9TF			552	163	18:56	307,774	TCG

<b>SO Mixed Unlimited Limited-Ant LP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N9TF			552	163	18:56	307,774	TCG

<b>SO SSB HP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WB5WAJ			100	44	10	8,800	TCG

<b>SO SSB LP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KR4EE			82	40	6	6,560	TCG
N4MCC			9	8	2	162	TCG

<b>SO SSB Limited-Ant LP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KR4EE			82	40	6	6,560	TCG

<b>SO SSB Unlimited LP</b>							
Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K9UC			273	84	19:46	45,864	TCG
K4HWS			135	68	10	18,360	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.



## TCG Member Spotlight – Ryan Banks: AC4NK

de Ryan AC4NK

What's up good people! First off, I'm glad to be here. I've talked to several of you now, and this has proven to be a fantastic group.

I'm a husband and father of 3 girls. My youngest is 11 which means while they're busy not worrying about dad, I have time to play radio. I'll be 36 years old on January 4th 2026, and for a big chunk of my time on Earth, I've been interested in amateur radio as far back as I can remember. I work in the IT/OT space. That's basically anything I.T. related but on the industrial plant floor keeping processes running and whatnot.

Earlier this year I decided to stop wondering and just went for it. I passed my Tech in March. I was excited to try to talk to people on vhf and uhf, only to find out my area isn't active much. So I put my HT down for a couple of months, but I wondered if HF would be better. That led me to passing my General in May and my Extra in June.

Getting my general ticket is when the fun came rolling in!

You need some kind of equipment in order to become a better operator. My Icom 7300 and 705 have been my daily drivers. I started with a 40 meter end fed half wave in the backyard. I added an 80 meter EFHW in mid December. It's up in an inverted V pointed north to south. I'm working to try out multiple radios before making a bigger purchase. I have a buddy that has loaned me his Kenwood TS-590S. Who knows where this will go.....there're so many options!

My interest in radio has always included morse code, and with that, radiosport. I'm a competitive person with a background in high school and college basketball followed by years of mixed martial arts training and competing. The work ethic, especially the MMA part, has followed me in everything I do. I'm adamant about wanting to become a better operator/contester. Practice makes perfect, and I needed a way to do just that. Insert POTA!

Parks on the Air has been the best practice for me, until I started the CWTs. POTA has not only given me the opportunity to set up different equipment, but to also be the person other people want to work. I have the most fun when I'm running! I didn't have a lot of SSB activations before swapping to CW. Right after passing my Extra, work kept me away from radio for all of June. I was back on the air in July with CW and haven't looked back. My first CW activation was with a straight and MAYBE 12 wpm hahaha. When I do the CWTs, I run at 35 wpm now. I even run my POTA activation at 30 wpm and sometimes 35 wpm to get practice manually sending. And with that I get copy practice when somebody comes at me at 40 wpm haha.

At this point, POTA will still be beneficial for certain things, but I'm on into contesting now. I've been active on a lot of the 0300z mini contests, specifically the CWTs, but I've started doing the MSTs and SSTs for N1MM practice. I will also start to use MorseRunner for contest training. 2026 will be my first full year of contesting. I'm looking forward to it! I know it's about to be a blast.

I'm an open book and hope to be full of knowledge one day to where I can pay it forward. So if you ever have any pointers or anything for me, please know that I'm ready to accept it. With that, I'd like to say thank you to Jim Hall - AD4EB, Steve Higgs - KT4RH, Billy Cox - AA4NU, and Ron Koenig - WV4P. Thanks for reaching out, offering advice, answering my questions (I know I have a lot haha), and just being so welcoming. I'm looking forward to meeting more of the group and one day working as well as working with some of you.

Let's have a great 2026!

My first CW POTA Activation

[https://youtube.com/shorts/jMMrYK\\_zVBg?si=75NbFqr1dgKX868m](https://youtube.com/shorts/jMMrYK_zVBg?si=75NbFqr1dgKX868m)

100th POTA Activation

[https://youtube.com/shorts/7v4kyGr5QWg?si=1ZXvoT\\_icZJ7Qgxx](https://youtube.com/shorts/7v4kyGr5QWg?si=1ZXvoT_icZJ7Qgxx)

Just a video using my new N3ZN paddle

[https://youtube.com/shorts/uCQgnR\\_exkq?si=W24ZKTKftKjVHCmd](https://youtube.com/shorts/uCQgnR_exkq?si=W24ZKTKftKjVHCmd)

73!



Ryan, AC4NK



— • • • —

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS

Just a reminder... We are fresh into the New Year, and it's time to submit your TCG membership dues for 2026, if you haven't already done so. Thanks in advance for your generous support of TCG and its activities.

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.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *A reminder that in order to more efficiently maintain MRA awards, HamClubOnline, TCG reflector roster, TCG website roster, and the financial spreadsheet, members who are not current with dues will be removed on March 1, 2026. Now is the time to make sure that your TCG dues are current.*

— • • • —

### 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>

## TCG 2025 End-of-Year Financial QTC

**Beginning of year balance: \$419.21**

**Receipts: \$1294.46**

<b>Projected expenses</b>		<b>actual</b>
MRA plaque plates	95	92.41
MRA Mailing	45	54.84
WPX plaque-sponsor	60	55
NAQP plaques sponsor	100	100
CQWW SSB plaque sponsor	70	70
K4TCG.org domain name renewal	15	15
TQP plaque plates	175	252.48
TQP plaque mailing	175	234.55
TNQP website annual fee	59.25	59.4
YOTA donation	100	100
 TCG reflector transition to groups.io		 220

Total outlays: \$1253.64

End-of-year balance carried forward: \$459.99 which includes \$40 for new member 1<sup>st</sup> year dues thanks to an anonymous donor.

Projected expenses for 2026:

MRA plaque plates	100
MRA Mailing	50
WPX plaque	60
NAQP plaques	100
CQWW SSB plaque	70
K4TCG.org domain name renewal	15
TQP plaque plates	250
TQP plaque mailing	250
TNQP website expense	60
YOTA	100
TCG reflector groups.io	220
 Total	 1275

de Mark K0EJ, TCG Treasurer

- . . . -

## **Evolving a Modern M/2 Contest Station: The NJ4P Experience**

de Ron WV4P

NJ4P is a multi-operator contest station located in West Tennessee, optimized primarily for high-rate operation in multi-transmitter events. The station operates 100% remotely, a design choice that introduces a unique set of technical and operational challenges. Over the past year, NJ4P underwent a significant expansion and redesign aimed squarely at improving competitive performance in a high-RF, multi-operator contest environment.

While the on-air results have been notable, they were not incidental. The primary objective of the work described here was to maximize competitive performance — building a station architecture capable of sustaining the highest possible rates for extended periods, under heavy RF conditions, while maintaining reliability and operator effectiveness. Every design decision was evaluated in terms of its impact on score, rate, and the ability to win.

### ***Station Expansion and Physical Infrastructure***

During the past year, NJ4P added four new towers, expanding the antenna footprint across multiple bands. A dedicated 80-meter vertical was also installed to improve low-band performance and flexibility during multi-operator events. Several additional receive antennas were deployed to support low-noise reception and directional diversity.

As the physical station expanded, it became clear that the existing receive antenna switching and control infrastructure would not scale effectively. This drove a comprehensive redesign of the receive system rather than incremental changes.

### ***Receive System Architecture and Diversity Operation***

A major component of the upgrade was the complete replacement of the receive antenna switching system. The new design emphasizes modularity, isolation, and flexibility, allowing operators to select and compare multiple receive antennas quickly without complex manual intervention.

Additional MOAS units were deployed to manage the increased number of receive paths and control functions. This architecture enabled the implementation of a multi azimuth diversity receive approach that allows operators to evaluate multiple antennas simultaneously under contest conditions.

In practice, this capability has proven particularly valuable during high-rate pileups, where subtle differences in polarization, directionality, or noise environment can significantly affect copy. When combined with experienced operators, the diversity receive system has improved both rate sustainability and overall competitive effectiveness.

### ***Remote Operation and Operator Coordination***

Operating NJ4P as a fully remote station adds a layer of complexity that extends well beyond RF and antenna systems. In a multi-transmitter environment, effective coordination between operators is critical, particularly when run and in-band operations are conducted simultaneously by operators located in different states — or even different countries.

Traditional voice coordination alone becomes inefficient at very high rates. To address this, NJ4P worked closely with the developers of N1MM Logger+ and with K1XM, the creator of the MOAS system, to develop a visual operator-awareness framework that augments — and in some cases replaces — audio communication.

This system provides operators with immediate visual context about their partner's activity, including run status and operating state, allowing QSOs to be interleaved smoothly for extended periods without additional verbal coordination. In practice, this has enabled long stretches of highly efficient operation with minimal operator "chatter," an advantage that becomes especially significant in CW and SSB contests, where audio bandwidth and operator focus are at a premium.

### ***Automation and Operator Workflow***

As station complexity increases, automation becomes less about novelty and more about necessity. At NJ4P, automation efforts were focused on reducing operator friction without compromising operator judgment or situational awareness.

Receive antenna selection, switching logic, and integration with contest software were designed to minimize

distractions while preserving flexibility. The objective was to allow operators to concentrate on managing pileups and making rate-driven decisions, rather than interacting with hardware controls or coordinating basic status verbally.

### ***Operational Results***

The upgraded station was exercised extensively throughout the contest season in major RTTY and SSB events. The station demonstrated the ability to sustain very high average rates for extended periods, particularly in multi-operator RTTY contests, while maintaining operational discipline under heavy RF loading.

Receive system improvements and enhanced operator coordination were most noticeable during peak operating windows, where dynamic range, antenna choice, and rapid situational awareness often determine whether a station continues to gain ground or begins to fall behind.

### ***Team and Construction Effort***

Although NJ4P operates as a highly competitive contest station, its performance is rooted in extensive hands-on construction and continuous refinement rather than off-the-shelf solutions. A substantial portion of the physical work — including tower erection, concrete work, antenna construction, feedline installation, and system integration — was completed by local operators.

In particular, K4HWS and W4SDX contributed extensive sweat equity to the station, providing the labor, craftsmanship, and persistence required to translate design concepts into functioning infrastructure. Their efforts were foundational to the year's progress.

WV4P coordinated the overall system design and integration, while NR4L provided critical support that enabled sustained construction and contest operation. As with many large stations, the end result reflects a team effort far beyond what any single individual could accomplish alone.

### ***Looking Ahead***

Future plans for NJ4P include the installation of a Rohn 25-based 160-meter array, continued tuning and optimization of receive antennas, preamplifiers, feedlines, and common-mode chokes to further improve dynamic range, and increased emphasis on CW operation.

All future development remains guided by a single principle: increasing station capability in ways that directly translate to higher rates, stronger pileups, and improved contest outcomes.

### ***Conclusion***

The past year at NJ4P demonstrates that winning at the highest levels of contesting is the result of deliberate engineering choices, disciplined construction, and careful attention to operator coordination — especially in a fully remote, multi-operator environment. Towers, antennas, and automation create opportunity, but it is the integration of systems and people that ultimately converts that opportunity into results.

We're looking forward to keeping NJ4P competitive — and having some fun along the way — in 2026.  
73,

The NJ4P Team



### **2025 Most Radio Active Report Summary de Ted W4NZ**

Each year it is good to take a moment to remember and understand the “WHY” of the Most Radio Active competition. The MRA has its roots in 2003 when the first TCG Radio Active Reports (RAR) were published and distributed by Chuck KE4OAR via the TCG reflector. After Chuck, Greg K4KO took on this task, gathered the data and published the reports. The objectives then were much the same as now, to publicly celebrate the successes of our members while recognizing and rewarding their contesting efforts. The reports were well received as it gave everyone a much clearer picture of our club's activities rather than impressions based upon random comments and conversations carried on the reflector. It also stimulated friendly competition among our

members for the coveted annual Most Radio Active Amateur plaque. The RAR continued to be published until around January, 2012. In 2019 there were discussions on the reflector about trying to revive the RAR. But this time we wanted to expand the recognitions with multiple awards rather than just one. So, I volunteered to develop a new set of guidelines for this activity that we now call the Most Radio Active competition. Along with the help of Mark K0EJ, a TCG Founding Member as well as the primary author of our constitution, and other ad hoc advisors, the guidelines were developed and published. The first running of the MRA competition began on January 1, 2020 and ran for the entire calendar year. It has continued each year since.

The guidelines are reviewed and revised as necessary on an annual basis. The 2026 revision of the guidelines were recently published on the reflector and will soon be made available on the TCG website.

Now, we will put the final touches on 2025, our 6th year of the MRA competition. "Competition" is a bit of a misnomer as the primary intent is to simply HAVE FUN playing on the radio. We are all winners when doing this. Still, there is joy in competing and seeing our call signs listed in print with results of our efforts. That is why it is very important to take the time to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of our members and reward the most outstanding performances.

Here are a few facts about our 2025 contesting efforts:

- TCG Members accounted for 359,170 contest QSO's this year!
- TCG members participated in and submitted scores for 129 different contests.
- We spent a total of 7,652 hours playing on the radio. For a little perspective, there are 2,080 hours in a "work year".
- Our most active month was February, spending 912 hours on the radio.
- Our least active month was June at 158 hours, as you might expect. Field Day is "not a contest".
- 78% of our members participated in the MRA competition by submitting at least one contest score.

Some individual highlights:

- AD4EB made the most QSO's, 39,393. AC6ZM was second with 29,062.
- AD4EB put in the most time on the radio, 494 hours. AC6ZM was next with 455. WV4P had 405. They were the only ones over 400 hours.
- W4CMG participated in the most contests, 69.
- W4NZ had 66 contests; NS4X with 65; and AD4EB with 64. No one else entered more than 60 contests.
- Ron WV4P, continues to encourage new contesters through his multi-op efforts. The increased participation from West Tennessee shows the fruits of his labor.
- Participation from our out of state members continues to grow. Jake WV4AM is making his mark.

And now I am very pleased to report ...

The Tennessee Contest Group's \*MOST RADIO ACTIVE\* member for 2025 is: .... Jim Hall AD4EB .... Jim continues to prove himself to be a high performer in a variety of contests. He and Melody KI4HVY have become the Gold Standard in mobile contesting. Jim has also distinguished himself as a valuable member of the multi-operator team at K3LR's superstation in recent DX contests. Congratulations, Jim (and Melody), very well deserved!!

Here are the 2025 MOST RADIO ACTIVE Regional High Scorers:

East Tennessee	Middle Tennessee	West Tennessee	Out of State Members
1st Place – Juan Lopez, Jr., AC6ZM	1st Place – Jim Hall, AD4EB	1st Place - Bart Campbell, NS4X	1st Place – Jacob Maltz, WV4AM
2nd Place – Mark Speck, K0EJ	2nd Place – Hunter Mills, K3IE	2nd Place – Ron Koenig, Jr., WV4P	2nd Place – Bryan Bydal, W5MX
3rd Place – Ted Bryant, W4NZ	3rd Place – Cathy Goodrich, W4CMG	3rd Place – Carson Shelby, AA4CS	3rd Place – Neal Sulmeyer, K4EA

This year was AD4EB's 5th consecutive 1st Place TCG Most Radio Active award; NS4X's 5th 1ST Place West Tennessee award and AC6ZM's 2nd consecutive 1ST Place East Tennessee award. Ladies and Gentlemen, congratulations on your top performances in 2025!

Congratulations to all of you who participated in this year's MRA competition. We wish you much success in 2026.

Thank you for keeping TCG Radio Active!

[NOTE: See the full MRA report on in the TCG groups.io:  
[https://groups.io/g/tcg/topic/tcg\\_most\\_radio\\_active\\_final/117085076](https://groups.io/g/tcg/topic/tcg_most_radio_active_final/117085076) ]

73, Ted W4NZ

— • • • —

## 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.

January 3, 2026	ARRL RTTY Roundup North American QSO Party, CW
January 10, 2026	Jan
January 17, 2026	ARRL January VHF Contest
January 17, 2026	Hungarian DX Contest North American QSO Party, SSB
January 17, 2026	Jan
January 23, 2026	CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW
January 24, 2026	BARTG RTTY Sprint
February 1, 2026	North American Sprint, SSB Feb
February 7, 2026	British Columbia QSO Party Mexico RTTY International Con- test
February 7, 2026	European Union DX Contest (new)
February 7, 2026	Vermont QSO Party
February 7, 2026	Minnesota QSO Party
February 8, 2026	North American Sprint, CW Feb
February 14, 2026	CQ WW WPX Contest, RTTY
February 14, 2026	Dutch PACC Contest ARRL International DX Contest, CW
February 21, 2026	CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB
February 27, 2026	North American QSO Party, RTTY
February 28, 2026	Feb
February 28, 2026	South Carolina QSO Party
February 28, 2026	North Carolina QSO Party

— • • • —

## Progression of solar cycle 25

### Sunspot numbers including predictions:

