



Davie/Cooper City Amateur Radio Club

a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization

We are Radio Active

NA4DC



The 2024 Florida QSO Party is sponsored by the Florida Contest Group:



Florida Contest Group

The [Florida Contest Group](#) (FCG), an ARRL affiliated club, is Florida's amateur radio contest club. It's members share a common interest in the sport of amateur radio contesting. FCG members have a wide range of contesting experience, from beginners to World Champions. They willingly share their knowledge and skills to promote ham radio contesting in Florida. Members, who number in excess of 300, range from Jacksonville to South Florida. FCG has a "Panhandle" division for those contesters living in the Florida Panhandle who are outside the ARRL's 175 mile "club circle".

The Florida Contest Group supports and encourages all types of contesting, from HF to light, all modes, power classes and skill levels.

About The Florida QSO Party

The Florida QSO Party is the one event where you can work each of the 67 Florida counties in one weekend! Every county from Alachua to Washington will be activated at least once during the 20 hour Florida QSO Party. I can't think of a better explanation of the Florida QSO Party than the following by Dan Street, K1TO Past President of the **Florida Contest Group** which sponsors the **Florida QSO Party**:

*Ron, WD4AHZ(SK) and I traveled across the state to the Melbourne Hamfest in September 1996 and '97. During those trips, we noted the likely rarity of the inland counties and vowed to rejuvenate the **Florida QSO Party** (FQP). Using the Wetjen family chat room as the venue, we formed the rules and foundation, along with a few others. Ron was a huge supporter of the FQP, citing it as *the* best State QSO Party, and helping to make it so. Thus, I had the privilege of appointing Ron as Vice President, FQP for the **Florida Contest Group** (FCG) circa 1998, a position that he held until last month (see below). Ron quietly and efficiently maintained the web sites and e-mail*

reflectors for both the FCG and FQP for all that time. For the first revived FQP in 1998, Ron and I (along with AE4MH) hauled a small tribander and several tower sections around with us to rare counties.

What's a QSO? [link](#):

QSO is another of Ham Radio's Q-Signals. These were developed in the early days of radio as shorthand to simplify communication—primarily to abbreviate what was sent via Morse Code and also between different language speaking operators. Ham Radio operators still make liberal use of them today. A QSO is another word for "contact," as in "I made 783 QSOs during the FQP last year!" or "Making QSOs with European stations was difficult during the contest."

About QSO parties: State, Regional and Province QSO Parties are a great entry point for new contesters and a nice break from the 48 hour madness of the major contests. They all have different characteristics and often dramatically different rules. Hours of operation are typically shorter and some have a unique focus on mobile operations. [Link](#)

Every state has a QSO party weekend during the year. There may be multiple states on the same weekend. There are also regional QSO parties (I.E. North West, South East, ...). Here's a [link](#) to the yearly calendar.

Normally DCARC only operates the two Field Day events each year. That leaves our stations unused for 50 weekends and our casual operators idle.

This year the FQP fell on the same weekend as our annual Pete Rimmel picnic which meant that we would have a lot of members at the club station AND Pete himself was a member of the FCG and a contester in addition to being a DXer. And moon bouncer. And ... And ...

Compared to Field Days, QSO parties relaxed (well, for many of us) and don't have the requirements of operating from emergency power out in the elements. They are a great way for new operators to get some HF experience.

Rich, WB4EHG, suggested to the board and picnic committee that we include the FQP in the weekend. Since the picnic was Sunday, we would have a low key operating experience Saturday.

About Our Event: We had rain both mornings which cleared in the early afternoon. Since we used our existing 10m-20m antenna the weather only effected getting the 40m Vee in the air (thanks George N8XH!). The electromagnetic weather was another story. The bands were not kind to

provinces. Note that Alaska (and Hawaii which we did not work) can be counted as states or DXCC entities (sort of countries). Here I counted Alaska as a state.

County	Total	FL Volusia	2
-----	-----	FL Alachua	1
FL Broward	10	FL Citrus	1
FL Brevard	5	FL Highlands	1
FL Lake	4	FL Hillsborough	1
FL Liberty	4	FL Indian River	1
FL Bay	3	FL Jackson	1
FL Collier	3	FL Leon	1
FL Escambia	3	FL Martin	1
FL Walton	3	FL Miami-Dade	1
FL Duval	2	FL Monroe	1
FL Hernando	2	FL Okeechobee	1
FL Orange	2	FL Pasco	1
FL Osceola	2	FL Polk	1
FL Palm Beach	2	FL Seminole	1
FL Pinellas	2	FL St. Lucie	1
FL Suwannee	2	Total = 31	

Country	Total	%
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USA	690	85
Canada	78	10
Federal Republic of Germany	13	2
Italy	4	0
Poland	4	0
Slovak Republic	4	0
Puerto Rico	3	0
US Virgin Is.	3	0
Alaska	2	0
Mexico	2	0
Spain	2	0
Brazil	1	0
Costa Rica	1	0
Croatia	1	0
England	1	0
Lithuania	1	0
Panama	1	0
Total = 17		

We made 811 contacts, 455 on CW at 2 points per and 356 on phone at 1 point per contact.

Score Statistics	
Total Contacts	811
Total QSO Points	1,266
Total Multipliers	113
Total Score	143,058

Of the station's using the N3FJP logger and their on-line [scoreboard](#) we placed 2nd out of 209 stations using the site.

CALLSIGN	SCORE	QSOS	CATEGORY
N4KS	187,416	1,233	I H N
NA4DC	143,058	811	I H A
KO4DN	134,874	751	I L N
NL7WA	71,565	1,101	I H A

We also uploaded to [contestonlinescore.com](#) where we were the only M/M LP entrant

Contest Online ScoreBoard  29 Apr 2024 16:41 UTC Florida QSO Party (27 Apr 16z - 28 Apr 22z)

Closed: Florida QSO Party

M/M LP	Score	QSO	Count./DXCC/ST/Prov.	Last	Log
1 NA4DC	143,058	811	113	18:29	Davie Cooper City Amateur Radio Club N3
M/M LP	Score	QSO	Count./DXCC/ST/Prov.	Last	Log
1 K4SBZ	544	32	17	18:27	Florida Contest Group N3
M/S LP	Score	QSO	Count./DXCC/ST/Prov.	Last	Log
1 W4MLB	88,412	713	62	19:06	Florida Contest Group N+
2 K1RQ	12,584	77	44	18:31	Yankee Clipper Contest Club N+
SO-ALL HP MIXED	Score	QSO	Count./DXCC/ST/Prov.	Last	Log
1 N4Y (N4UU)	440,945	2,040	145	18:38	SLAARC DX
2 W3US	337,512	1,583	147	18:28	The Villages Amateur Radio Club N+
3 K3SV	191,316	964	107	18:28	Florida Contest Group N+

I don't have a complete list of the operators since several did not enter their names on the logger when they took over the station. I sent an email asking who operated so I can update the list.

We had 8 operators. New member Paul WA4PAW lead the pack with approximately 450 CW contacts over both days! Thanks Paul! KO4SYU Dan who has only operated a few times in the past did very well with 122 contacts. N4BJC Betty made her first EVER contacts! KZ4EL Marty made his first event contacts and N8XH George added to his QSO count from Winter Field Day.

These guys operated but the logging program wasn't changed when they took over the station so we don't know how many contacts they made: Randy N4QV, operated Sunday afternoon. Harlan K4BZ and Mike KQ4LXV worked as an operator (Harlan) and logger (Mike) team which is a great combination that we encourage.

Total Contacts by Operator:		
Operator	Total	%
-----	-----	---
WA4PAW	310	38
????	259	32
KO4SYU	122	15
KJ3Q	73	9
WB3ISP	26	3
N4BJC	11	1
KZ4EL	5	1
N8XH	5	1
Total = 7		

(This doc is focused on the FQP part of the weekend, the picnic deserves its own write up [*someone interested in doing it?*]) Saturday Fred WB4BAG brought food, Fred and George brought sodas and ice. Tony W6TNY set up his grill for lunch dogs, browned onions and chili then later cooked up ???. Sunday he made pancakes and fresh eggs. Sunday afternoon was our Peter Rimmel picnic. Tony cooked dogs and burgers, Phil K4OMD Elsa not only did the shopping but they brought plenty of salads, deviled eggs, chicken kabobs all freshly made at home. I know that others brought food but I don't have a list. If you will email me (wb4ehg@rjoerger.com) I will add you to this doc.

Everyone that participated made this a great first FQP for our club. I think there's interest in operating the QSO parties for other states. Thank you everyone for the great job!

Postmortem - What went wrong, what we can do better (if we don't acknowledge what went wrong, we can never improve. This is not meant to insult or blame anyone; it's meant to help us improve and remind us to do some maintenance (power supply and beam).

Training:

Since we had so many new operators it's not surprising that several needed some help when they took over the mic. Better training is first on the list of what we can do better.

- Provide list of county abbreviations to our operators.
- Schedule a mandatory in person/Zoom meeting to
 - ✚ Review the event rules and operating suggestions (like frequencies to avoid).
 - ✚ Go over the event exchange, esp. the abbreviation for our county
 - ✚ Review how to operate the IC-7300 (many of you have Yaesus and Kenwoods)
 - Change mode (USB – CW – USB-D (for FT8)).
 - Change band on the radio and change antenna when changing bands (our triplexer and filters for allowing 20m+15m+10m to be used at the same time).
 - Adjust the receive filters.
 - ✚ Go over how to use the N3FJP logger (unique for each event but a common layout for all events) and where to find the things we expect to do during the event:
 - Change operator when a new op takes over.
 - Ensuring the logger recognizes band and mode changes.
 - Changing the receive filter width and pass band tuning to pull out stations with a lot of interference.;

DC Power problem:

When transmitting a full carrier on Station 1 in the trailer, the power pole distribution panel flashed its "Under" voltage LED and the radio lost power. We switched to a 120VAC supply. We need to determine what caused it (RFI? Too much current draw? Old batteries? ...) We probably need to buy another 120VAC power supply, WB4EHG brought one from home.

Laptop Networking problem:

On every computer, the N3FJP networking feature could not locate the other three stations. Paul found it had to do with each of the station not being named in Windows. He used the IP address of each computer. I'm surprised that this did not work because networking did work at the past Winter and Summer Field Days.

Whatever fixed the problem needs to be documented so we know how to solve it next time.

- Use Network Scanner pgm to search for names on the network
- Settings – About – "Rename this PC" to set the names

Front of Beam Indicator:

That sounds a bit odd doesn't it. We don't have a rotator on our beam, we use the "arm strong" method – a rope is tied to one end of the beam and we pull it (can't push a rope) to where we want it to point.

The problem is that I (EHG), at least, expect the rope to be tied to the **front** of the beam. Well, it's tied to the rear. Or several of us think it is. If it's not then we pointed to South America (or somewhere in the south Atlantic ocean) all weekend.

Jeff WB3ISP thinks we can find a rotator, controller and cable pretty easily and since the tower is easy to tilt-over we can get it installed quickly.

If anyone is interested in getting that done before ARRL Field Day (June 22-23 so it will probably be installed June 21), please step up and make it happen. Ask for help and finding the components including the cable which has two larger diameter wires for the motor voltage.

Randy N4QV thinks we need to check the position of the 3 elements on the boom, they look like they are in the wrong places which could have happened when we replaced the (bent) boom last year.

If you spot errors, missing info (within reason) please email me off list [email Rich](mailto:rich@wb4ehg.com)

Thanks for reading! 73, Rich WB4EHG