

TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP

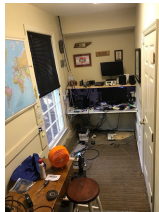
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Top stories in this newsletter

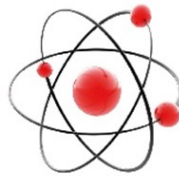
DECEMBER 2020



2020 Year in Review



TCG Member Accomplishments



Most Radioactive MRA



Upcoming Contests



2020 Year in Review

From our President, K3IE: "2020 was no doubt a very challenging year for all of us. However, we are very fortunate to have such a great hobby that provides a wonderful distraction from the daily grind and allows us to safely "socialize" with the world. And, we did in a big way!" See highlights of our TCG activities in this edition...

Most Radioactive (MRA)

TCG Most Radioactive Changes: the final MRA scores will include a limited number of scores from the "Qualifying Contests" list. Each operator's best 5 scores from each category (Domestic, DX, QSO Party), will be used for the calculation of QSO points. Operating time and multipliers will still be based upon the 15 Qualifying Contests plus all the remaining "non-qualifying" contests that were operated. Please consult the Guidelines for a full explanation of how the scores will be determined.

Contesting Schedule

Although any contest is fun, with the new Most Radioactive guidelines, it is important that you submit your scores for those on "The List". Here are the upcoming contests that will be included in the MRA stats!

Membership Renewal

It is now time for the annual membership renewal and payment of dues for the upcoming year! As a reminder, during this past summer our Voting Membership approved a constitutional change to a Single Membership definition with annual dues of \$10 starting in 2021.

A Year Full of Fun—Member Accomplishments

Being "stuck" in the house can be a Radio Operator's dream, as long as you can get past the list of chores. Here are some of the things that our TCG members have been "up to", making the most of the "at home" time that this year has given to us.

TCG HF Net

We're missing you... on the **TCG Weekly Net!** Join us each **THURSDAY** night at **7:30 p.m. Central Time Zone** on **3.620 MHz** for some friendly discussion, TCG News, and a little bit of rag-chewing with TCG members.

The Learning Page

Visit the Learning page for some current and prior learning opportunities, and to find out how to share your information with our TCG Members!



2020 Year in Review

de Hunter Mills (K3IE):

2020 was no doubt a very challenging year for all of us.

However, we are very fortunate to have such a great hobby that provides a wonderful distraction from the daily grind and allows us to safely "socialize" with the world. And, we did in a big way.

The contest participation level of our membership was fantastic. Thanks in part to the hard work of Ted W4NZ and Mark K0EJ to re-establish our TCG MRA "Most Radio Active" Award program. This program encourages all of our members, regardless of station size, to compete and be recognized as the most active TCG contest stations. The results are almost in for 2020 and we look forward to continuing these awards for 2021.

In July, TCG and the Deep Dixie Contest Club (DDCC) had the honor of conducting a joint operation of IARU member society HQ station callsign W1AW/4 during the IARU HF World Championship. Juan AC6ZM and Ron WV4P co-chaired our "Distributed Multi-Op" effort - a contest category that would become popular during COVID-19 restrictions. With the help of Ned K1GU, Juan and Ron implemented this Hamachi VPN based network of stations that made over 8,000 QSOs and roughly 5.4 Million points. The news of this flawless operation soon hit the "ham grapevine" and contest clubs from across the country were asking Juan/Ron for advice on how to replicate.

Our TCG momentum continued to roll with our 2020 Tennessee QSO Party (TnQP) held on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. It was our best TnQP - ever. We had a record 415 entries (prior record was 279 in 2017) containing over 38k QSOs (also a record by 5k q's). 93 of our 95 counties were active and all 50 states were worked along with 4 Canadian provinces and 5 additional DXCC entities. A LARGE shoutout to Doug W9WI and Mike W0AG for all of their hard work to process the logs and post the results. And, of course, to Mark K0EJ for his world famous TNQP plaques!

Finally, the heart of any club is its members. We are blessed to have a very diverse membership; from well-known contesters to those who are just getting started. All of us benefit from one another and share our common passion for radiosport. We welcome our new members for 2020:

AG4CC, AC3D, K4DR, WU5E, K8PO, W4RM, W4SSF, AF4T, AJ6T

On behalf of the TCG leadership I want to wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.

We look forward to even better 2021 - may Solar Cycle 25 be kind to us.

Thank you for keeping TCG Radioactive!

Best 73, Hunter K3IE

Most Radioactive (MRA)

Most Radio Active Guidelines 2021

A BIG THANK YOU to Ted Bryant, W4NZ, for driving the improvements on the TCG Most Radio Active Guidelines, with the assistance of Mark Speck, K0EJ. The revamp of the MRA guidelines for 2021 to make scoring simpler and easier to understand while still meeting our original objectives is a major accomplishment. The updated MRA 2021 will be released soon. See highlights of the MRA below.

Most Radio Active Guidelines

The Tennessee Contest Group Most Radio Active Guidelines 2020 document provides the information needed to promote contest participation and encourage recognition of TCG club and member accomplishments. The 2020 Qualification period was from 00:00 UTC, Jan 1, 2020 through 23:59:59 UTC December 31, 2020. The 2021 Qualification period will be from 00:00 UTC, Jan 1, 2021 through 23:59:59 UTC December 31, 2021.

The document includes:

- ⇒ Goals and Objectives
- ⇒ Operating Classes
- ⇒ Scoring, with consideration to
 - ◇ QSOs
 - ◇ Operating Time
 - ◇ Multipliers
 - ◇ Score Calculation timing and process
 - ◇ Other Particulars
- ⇒ Awards

While we are awaiting the final 2021 version, please see the full content of the Tennessee Contest Group Most Radio Active Guidelines 2020 at: <http://k4tcg.org/files/2019/12/TCG-2020-Radio-Active-Award-Guidelines.pdf>

SUBMIT YOUR SCORES! Part of being “Radio Active” is closing the loop, and submitting your scores to be included in the overall TCG statistics. This is a reminder from our TCG Constitution <http://k4tcg.org/tcg-constitution-by-laws/>

TCG has a large number of members across the state (and a few beyond), and we love having our members actively participate in contests, both within the US and Worldwide! To keep our membership up to the TCG Constitution, though, we really need our members to submit their logs to keep their membership up do date.

Here is a gentle reminder about the guidelines from the constitution to stay on the active member roster. They're pretty simple, and the leadership team and other members are always happy to help if you need some assistance:

- 1) Contribute to at least one TCG composite score in a sponsored contest
- 2) Host a TCG guest operator.
- 3) Guest-operate at another station or
- 4) Participate in a multi-operation, as long as the score is credited to the TCG.

The score contribution must be submitted to the contest sponsor with credit to TCG. We also ask that all scores are reported to the public score reflector at <http://3830scores.com/>

Membership Renewal



Annual Dues/Membership Renewal

It is now time for the annual membership renewal and payment of dues for the upcoming year! As a reminder, during this past summer our Voting Membership approved a constitutional change to a Single Membership definition with annual dues of \$10 starting in 2021.

Constitutional Change to a Single Membership Definition with annual dues of \$10

Moving to a single membership category will provide every member the opportunity to vote on club business and run for a club office. The Associate and Family Membership categories will be discontinued.

The following options are available for remitting the \$10 annual dues payment:

⇒ Log into [HamClubOnline](#) with your previously established username/password when you initially signed up for TCG membership. You can use the secured PayPal link in [HamClubOnline](#) to renew your annual membership. PayPal will provide a receipt for your transaction via email.

⇒ You may login directly to the Ham Club Online system at the following link:
<https://secure.hamclubonline.com/club/home.php?id=49>

After logging in click "Add Membership Time / Make a Payment" in the left column. Then click on the blue button labelled "Click here to renew your existing membership!"

⇒ Log onto my PayPal account and then send money to the email address of the recipient. In this case it's TCGtre...@gmail.com

⇒ Dues can also be paid by check made payable to our Treasurer, Mark Speck K0EJ. Please indicate "TCG Dues" and your callsign on the check memo line. Mark's address, as published on QRZ.com, is:

Mark Speck K0EJ
2219 Baypointe Drive
Hixson, TN 37343

Although 2020 has been a challenging year for many of us, due to events unrelated to our hobby, it has been an extremely successful year for our club. We have seen a marked increase in contest score submissions and we have added a number of new members.

And, we look forward to an even better 2021 - especially with the improved operating conditions provided by Solar Cycle 25!

Thank you all for keeping TCG Radioactive!

Best 73 - Hunter, K3IE

CONTACT INFO:

Tennessee Contest Group
tcg1@googlegroups.com

Cathy Goodrich W4CMG
TCG Secretary/Event Coordinator
Email: w4cmg.dx@gmail.com

Click to unsubscribe [here](#)

WEEKLY TCG NET

Each THURSDAY night at 8:30 p.m. ET/7:30 p.m. CT
Frequency: 3.620 MHz

Topics: TCG News, Technical discussions, upcoming contests and events, friendly discussion (aka a little bit of rag-chewing with TCG members).

Got a topic? Call into the net and speak up!

Member Accomplishments 2020

Personal Goals and Accomplishments...

Are so important to keep us moving forward, enhancing our skills by the addition of new equipment, reorganizing, or practicing to meet new personal "best". As we approach 2021 and start making our "New Years Resolutions", each one of us can think back to some goal or accomplishment that we set for 2020. A lot of unanticipated impacts this year might have changed things we planned mid-stream, but there are still things to celebrate or get into our personal "brag book".

Personal Goals and Accomplishments... Hunter K3IE

Now that we are "empty nesters", I decided to make my pitch to get out of the dungeon. Our loft is a social gathering spot in our house for watching football games, etc. and the Mrs didn't want me "messing it up" with a bunch of wires and stuff. Thanks to the Flex Radio System, I was able

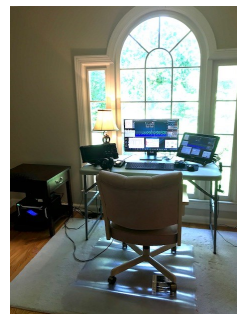


to show her how I could operate with minimal "rat's nests" - she liked it

What a difference this relocation has made for me. My operating environment is much more enjoyable and I find myself spending more time on the radio.

This summer I added the Flex PGXL amp to my Flex 6600 and now have full HP "SO2R in a box". The amp is rock solid and works like a champ. Its fans are a bit noisy for me, especially in "Broadcast Mode" during full out contesting, so I moved it into a closet in our loft. I operate the PGXL remotely from my shack computer and just close the door to the closet during contests - no noise. I also operate my Steppir DB-18, its rotor, and my HexBeam rotor remotely over our LAN using the PstRotator software from YO3DMU (it's awesome).

See you on the bands - Hunter K3IE



Member Accomplishments 2020

Personal Goals and Accomplishments... Mark K0EJ

From Mark: K0EJ

"I added a Flex 6600M to the mix for the main SO2R station and switched up the arrangements when configured as a M2".

2 pictures from the K0EJ shack-2020 below:



Personal Goals and Accomplishments... Kirk K4RO

From Kirk K4RO:

"One of my contesting goals in 2020 was to operate more phone contests. Most of my contesting efforts have been focused on CW, as I really struggled with that mode. While I still have a long way to go, I've improved enough to be able to really enjoy CW contests these days.

Unfortunately, all of that focus on CW left my phone contesting skills rather lacking. I also struggled with getting the technical details of digital voice keying ironed out, which limited my participation in SSB contests past a couple of hours, when my voice would start to give out.

In 2020, I finally got my act together and built an SSB audio system that seems to work reliably. By "system" I mean getting the microphone, sound cards, and contesting software to work together in a repeatable and reliable fashion. While I am still ironing out some rough edges, much progress has been made. I was able to operate a lot more SSB this year. I enjoyed hearing the sounds of my fellow contesters' voices, some for the first time ever. "

73, --Kirk K4RO

Personal Goals and Accomplishments... Cathy W4CMG

From Cathy W4CMG

As I think back on all the things I wanted to accomplish with Amateur Radio this year, there was one missing factor - TIME !!! (OK, so 2 things if you count the lack of real estate for another antenna!). On September 11, I said my final goodbyes to my "day job", and started to dive into some of the things I have had to put on the back burner.

My CW skills, as a few can attest, aren't quite up to those of the experienced folks in TCG, but I am working toward improving, thanks to a number of Elmers who have encouraged, guided, and pushed me into applying more time and focus to becoming proficient in CW. I joined a virtual CW Club, which specializes in the teaching of Morse Code, and thanks to some very patient teachers who keep raising the bar, I am finally on the air with CW. Thank you to our TCG members who are patiently working through my much slower speeds. 2021 will, I hope, bring a welcome addition to the TCG scores.

73, Cathy W4CMG



ARRL Learning Network

[Source: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-learning-network>]

For those who may be members of the ARRL, there is an opportunity to attend learn about some new tools and techniques by participating in some of their Webinars, offered by the ARRL Learning Network. The network offers both live and pre-recorded webinars that can introduce you to some new modes and offering some new topics to add to your amateur radio toolbox.

August offerings include:

- Introduction to Digital FM Modes
- Introduction to Computer Logging
- Capture the Magic of 6 Meters
- The Sport of Finding Hidden Transmitters on Foot

NOTE: Registration is Required through the ARRL Learning Network at: <http://www.arrl.org/ARRL-Learning-Network#calendar>

There are also several previously recorded webinars available through the ARRL Website.

NOTE: This is not meant to promote membership in ARRL. This information is being provided to our TCG members who may not be aware that this opportunity for learning exists.

Contesting 101 #19 Basic Antennas for Contesting

Installment number 19 - "Basic Antennas for Contesting" has been added to the "Contesting 101" page at K4TCG.ORG.

<http://k4tcg.org/contesting-101/>

Happy Solstice TCG, and stay tuned for more contesting articles in the future.

73, --Kirk K4RO

Interested in???

Is there a new mode (FT4, FT8, RTTY...) that you might be in? Or do you have an active interest in a radio-related topic that you would like to share with our TCG members? In today's world of Virtual meetings via Zoom, MS Teams, freeconferencecall.com and many other modes (not to mention some VERBAL radio discussions) let's find some common interests and get a group together. If you are not interested in meeting, but would like to see a topic in print, or have an article to share, we can do that too! Please send you ideas to topics to learn, or to share, to Cathy Goodrich at w4cmg.dx@gmail.com, or post them on the TCG Reflector to start the conversation.