



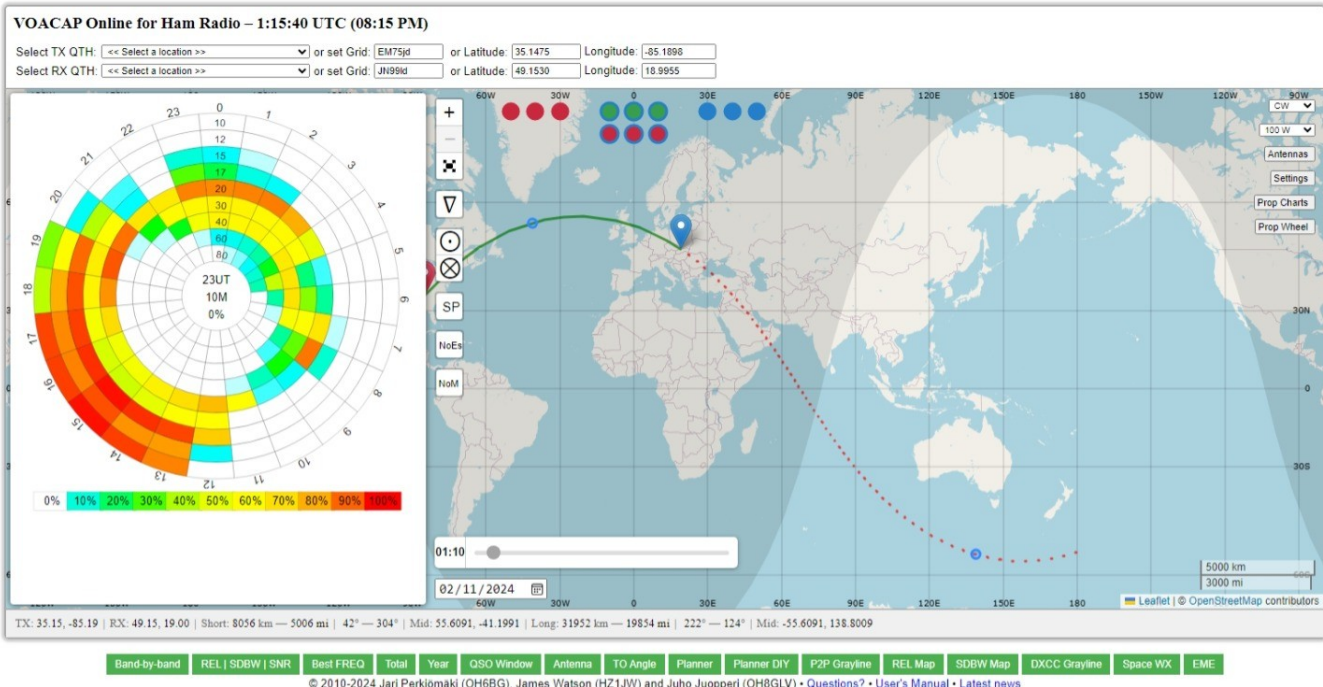
News and Events — February 2024

IN THE THICK OF CONTESTING SEASON

Hello TCG, and welcome to the home stretch of the traditional contest season. Back in the pre-Internet era, the contest season started with CQWW SSB in October and ended with ARRL DX SSB in March. Sure, there were the WPX contests and IARU, but most of the contesting action was concentrated over the fall and winter months. Spring and summer were for antennas. Nowadays, there are a multitude of contests happening every weekend. Add in the recurring weekday events, and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar now lists over nine-hundred (900) events for the 2024 calendar year! Some may argue that there is a “dilution factor” with so many contests to choose from nowadays, but no one can argue that the opportunities to make contest QSOs are as high as they have ever been. There is something for everyone on the contest calendar. Pick your favorite mode, band, time of day, and have some fun on the air! This newsletter is longer than usual, so please bear with us. We are in the midst of contest season!

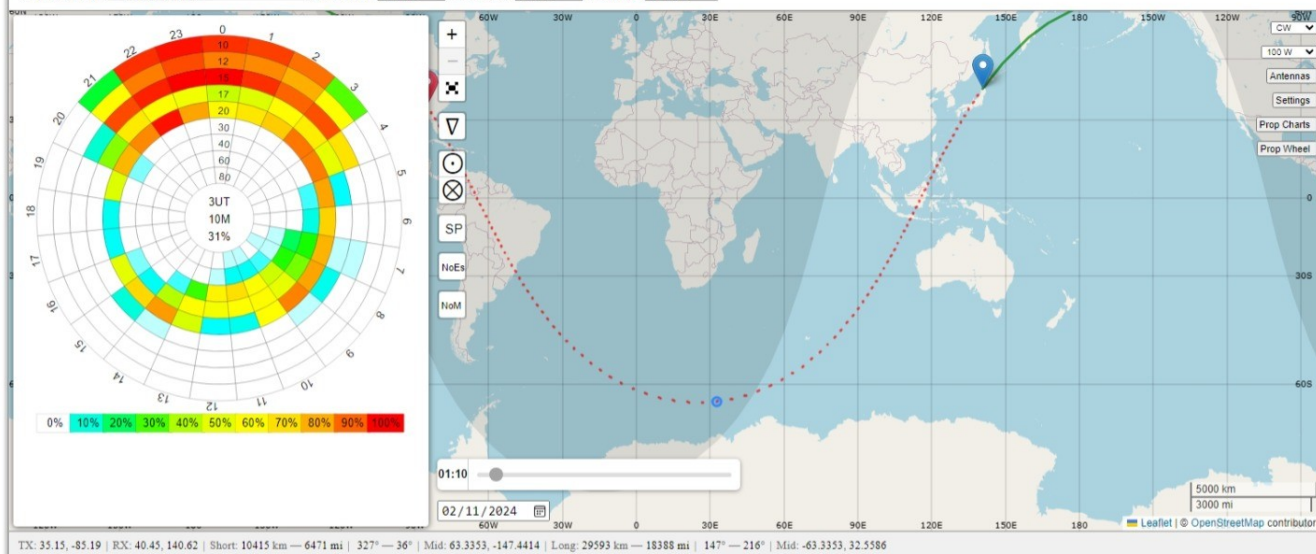
ARRL CW DX CONTEST

The next Big One is just around the corner. The ARRL CW DX Contest is coming up, and the bands are *hot*. K0EJ has prepared some very useful propagation forecasts using the VOACAP program. Of particular note are the “wheels” which show which band to be on at what time. DX contest veterans know that these types of patterns (Europe in the morning, Asia in the afternoon) recur year after year. Newcomers to DX contesting should pay special attention to these perennial propagation patterns. The following charts show the best time to work Europe, Asia, and South America. Mark prepared these forecasts assuming 100W and 3L Yagi antennas at 50' for 10/15/20 and dipoles at 50' for 40/80 for both ends. Many thanks to K0EJ for sharing these propagation forecasts!



VOACAP Online for Ham Radio – 1:19:02 UTC (08:19 PM)

Select TX QTH: << Select a location >> or set Grid: or Latitude: Longitude:
 Select RX QTH: << Select a location >> or set Grid: or Latitude: Longitude:

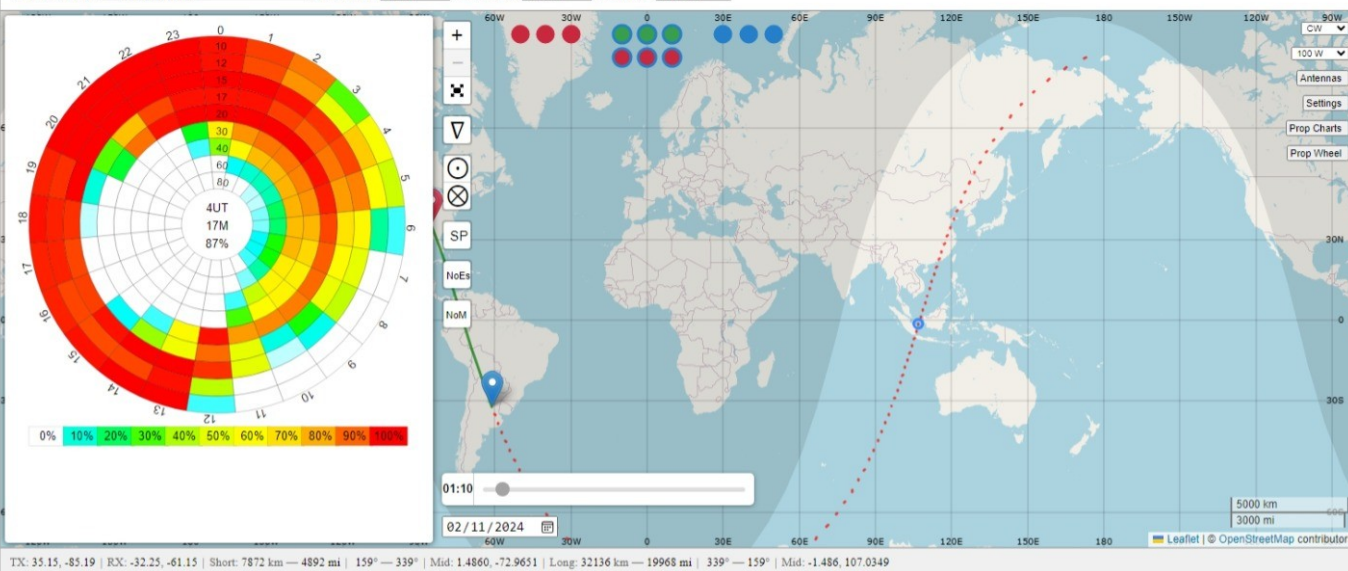


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VOACAP Online for Ham Radio – 1:17:14 UTC (08:17 PM)

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 Select RX QTH: << Select a location >> or set Grid: or Latitude: Longitude:



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CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY VICTORY

TCG took home the Joshua Tree Team Trophy for the 2023 California QSO Party! Several TCG members also earned themselves a bottle of California wine from the WK6I Twisted Oak vineyard. A huge thanks to everyone who got on the air in October in support of our concentrated effort towards another victory. We set a goal, and we achieved it. Well done TCG! As per TCG tradition, the Club plaque will go the highest scoring TCG member, which in this case was N4ZZ. Congratulations Don!

Place	Club	# of Logs	Log Scores	Bonus Points	Total Score
1	Tennessee Contest Group	24	967,280	290,000	1,257,280
2	Frankford Radio Club	25	867,936	300,000	1,167,936
3	Yankee Clipper Contest Club	27	647,635	320,000	967,635

It also looks like plenty of California wine is also on its way to Tennessee (and Georgia)...

US/VE/DX Wine Winners

Place	Callsign	Class	QTH	CW QSOs	PH QSOs	Mults	Score
1	K5TR	S/O HP	TX	336	902	58	163,096
2	N4ZZ	S/O-Assisted LP	TN	463	548	57	141,645
3	K4RO	S/O-Assisted HP	TN	444	527	58	138,388
4	NR4L	S/O-Assisted HP	TN	482	402	58	130,500
5	K7RL	S/O-Assisted HP	WA	377	473	58	120,466
6	K0EJ	S/O HP	TN	366	474	58	118,668
7	W7WA	S/O HP	WA	370	439	58	115,304
8	AB3CX	S/O-Assisted HP	NY	418	343	58	112,520
9	K4EA	S/O-Assisted HP	GA	473	246	58	110,838
10	N4OX	S/O HP	FL	276	484	58	104,168

MOST RADIOACTIVE AWARD 2023 FINAL REPORT

From the hard work of W4NZ, we present the MRA 2023 awards...

We have closed the books on the 4th year of the Most Radio Active competition. Some of our members may recall that the roots of this competition are founded in the TCG Radio Active Report (RAR) that was published from around 2003 to 2012. The goals then were very much the same as now, to have fun while promoting the sport of radio contesting in Tennessee and the radio amateur community at large.

Having fun on the radio is really more of a benefit or by-product. The real joy comes from competing and seeing the published results of our efforts. That is why it is very important to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of our members and reward the most outstanding performances. So, here are a few facts about our 2023 contesting efforts:

- TCG members accounted for 305,163 contest QSO's this year.
- TCG members participated in and submitted scores for 130 different contests.
- We spent a total of 7,441 hours playing on the radio. For perspective, there are roughly 2,080 hours in a work year. That's 3.6 man-years on the radio. Not bad for "just a hobby".
- Our most active month was November with 998 hours.
- Our least active month was June at 216 hours, as you might expect. Field Day is "not a contest"!
- 81% of this year's membership participated in the MRA competition by submitting at least one contest score.

Some individual highlights.

- Jim AD4EB made 46,189 QSO's. Kirk K4RO was second with 26,198.
- Jim spent 584 hours on the radio.
- Gene N9TF made 11,160 QSO's and participated in 97 contests.
- Gene spent 444 hours on the radio, second only to AD4EB.
- Jim participated in 89 contests, second only to Gene.
- Jim did a major portion of his efforts with 100 watts and a 7-foot whip @ 70 miles per hour and 38 wpm.
- Gene accomplished his with 100 watts to verticals and wires.
- As you might expect, Jim finished #1 in scoring, Gene was #2.

And now I am pleased to report ...

The Tennessee Contest Group's *MOST RADIO ACTIVE* member for 2023 is: Jim Hall AD4EB This is a Three-Peat for Jim. He once again has proven himself to be a high performer in a variety of contests. Having the highest number of QSO's and second highest number of contests proved to be a winning combination. Congratulations, Jim, well deserved!!

In the **West Tennessee** region, Bart Campbell NS4X, has again achieved a 1st Place win. This is his **FOURTH 1st Place finish**. You've set a high bar for the other regions, Bart. Congratulations!!

In the **East Tennessee** region, Juan AC6ZM edged out Mark K0EJ by 254 points. The closest race!!

Here are the **2023 MOST RADIO ACTIVE Regional High Scorers:**

East Tennessee	Middle Tennessee	West Tennessee	Out of State Members
1 st Place – Juan Lopez, Jr., AC6ZM	1 st Place – Jim Hall AD4EB	1 st Place - Bart Campbell NS4X	1 st Place – Bill O'Mara W4RM
2 nd Place – Mark Speck K0EJ	2 nd Place – Gene Gabry N9TF	2 nd Place – Kenny Johns WN8Y	2 nd Place – Mike Furfari K3FH
3 rd Place – Ted Bryant W4NZ	3 rd Place – Kirk Pickering K4RO	3 rd Place – Tom Goodman AI4DB	3 rd Place – Bruce Sawyer N6NT

Congratulations, gentlemen! And, congratulations to all those who participated in this year's MRA competition. Thank you for keeping TCG Radio Active!!

73, Ted W4NZ

2023 MRA Scores			East Tennessee		Middle Tennessee		West Tennessee		
Call	Region	Score	Call	Score	Call	Score	Call	Score	
AD4EB	M	505,246	AC6ZM	77,625	AD4EB	505,246	NS4X	37,286	
N9TF	M	105,755	K0EJ	77,371	N9TF	105,755	WN8Y	10,522	
AC6ZM	E	77,625	W4NZ	74,778	K4RO	70,741	AI4DB	3,795	
K0EJ	E	77,371	AA4DD	44,406	K3IE	55,808	WB4YDL	2,450	
W4NZ	E	74,778	K1GU	27,413	W4KW	40,737			
K4RO	M	70,741	AF4T	27,256	AC4G	30,622			
K3IE	M	55,808	N8UM	19,163	W4CMG	20,907			
W4RM	XNC	48,311	W4XK	14,105	WF7T	20,769			
AA4DD	E	44,406	K4DR	9,530	K4AMC	13,658			
W4KW	M	40,737	KE0L	8,878	W3TB	12,531			
NS4X	W	37,286	NK4I	7,046	N4MCC	11,416			
AC4G	M	30,622	WK9M	6,545	WA4JA	7,134			
K1GU	E	27,413	W6UB	6,271	N4ZZ	3,848			
AF4T	E	27,256	W4UT	4,545	AA4NU	3,245			
W4CMG	M	20,907	W4SSF	2,950	WM4Q	3,133			
WF7T	M	20,769	K3JWI	2,249	K9QJS	3,000			
N8UM	E	19,163	W1EG	2,071	W0AG	2,273			
W4XK	E	14,105	WA4AA	1,546	WD4CFN	1,876			
K4AMC	M	13,658	W9SN	1,519	N9CB	1,209			
W3TB	M	12,531	K4VIG	1,019	KA4OTB	1,177			
N4MCC	M	11,416	KC4NX	735	AJ6T	1,036			
K3FH	XPA	11,112	W4IL	442	W4BCG	1,024			
WN8Y	W	10,522	K4DXV	386	WB5WAJ	932			
K4DR	E	9,530	N4ARO	327	WA4VGZ	697			
KE0L	E	8,878	K9UC	243	W9WI	545			
WA4JA	M	7,134			K4AL	419			
NK4I	E	7,046			K4KO	358			
N6NT	XNC	6,763			WD8RYC	344			
WK9M	E	6,545			KK4OVW	286			
W6UB	E	6,271			K4DZR	107			
K4EA	XGA	6,149			NG4V	89			
W4UT	E	4,545			KC1DWP	34			
N4ZZ	M	3,848			KO4DDG	27			
AI4DB	W	3,795							
AA4NU	M	3,245							
WM4Q	M	3,133							
K9QJS	M	3,000							
W4SSF	E	2,950							
WB4YDL	W	2,450							
W0AG	M	2,273							
K3JWI	E	2,249							
W1EG	E	2,071							
WD4CFN	M	1,876							
K4KR	XGA	1,734							
WA4AA	E	1,546							
W9SN	E	1,519							
N9CB	M	1,209							
KA4OTB	M	1,177							
AJ6T	M	1,036							
W4BCG	M	1,024							
K4VIG	E	1,019							
WB5WAJ	M	932							
KC4NX	E	735							
WA4VGZ	M	697							
W9WI	M	545							
AR4PP	XNC	506							

Out of State Members		Call	State	Score
		W4RM	XNC	48,311
		K3FH	XPA	11,112
		N6NT	XNC	6,763
		K4EA	XGA	6,149
		K4KR	XGA	1,734
		AB4PP	XNC	506
		WF4I	XNC	244

Who Made the Most QSO's?		Call	Score
		AD4EB	46,189
		K4RO	26,198
		K0EJ	24,207
		W4RM	18,161
		K3IE	15,248
		W4NZ	13,186
		AC6ZM	12,913
		N9TF	11,160
		WF7T	10,873

Who Worked the Most Contests?		Call	Score
		N9TF	97
		AD4EB	89
		AA4DD	64
		W4NZ	62
		W4CMG	58
		AF4T	57
		W4KW	46
		AC4G	44
		WN8Y	43
		NS4X	40

Who Put in the Most Time? (Hrs)		Call	Score
		AD4EB	584
		N9TF	444
		K4RO	363
		K0EJ	328
		W4RM	328
		W4NZ	315
		N4MCC	310
		K3IE	308
		AC6ZM	300
		AA4DD	254

TCG FEATURED IN NCJ

NCJ has a new editor, K3TN. John has been around the scene for a while. Some of us knew him as WB2EKK back in the day. NCJ subscribers will have already seen the article by AC0W on the Minnesota Wireless Association, kicking off a series of NCJ articles on contesting clubs. The March/April 2024 issue of the National Contest Journal will feature an article about the TN Contest Group. A draft copy was circulated among TCG members on the TCG (members-only) email reflector. A copy of the final article will be posted to the TCG web site after it has appeared in the NCJ.

HAMVENTION 2024

There has already been some good discussion on the TCG email reflector about the upcoming Dayton Hamvention. If you have not already booked your hotel room and Contest University registration, now is the time. Dayton has a little bit of something for everyone. I highly recommend that every avid contest operator check out The Hamvention at least once. There's nothing quite like being among a bunch of testers. Nobody really understands testers except other testers. The Dayton Hamvention provides the ultimate opportunity for such encounters to take place.

STATE QSO PARTY CHALLENGE

AC6ZM reminds us of the State QSO Party Challenge for 2024. See the following from WN4AFP:

The SQP Club Challenge will use individual claimed scores submitted to 3830scores.com. You can enter your contest data/score by going 3830scores.com and click on the "Contest Submittal Form" of the contest in which you participated. You must select one of the clubs which are included on the 3830scores.com submittal form. That's all there is to it. We always encourage participants to submit their logs to the contest.

Detailed rules will be posted on the stateqsoparty.com website within the next week or so.

Enjoy

73 Dave WN4AFP
SQP Challenge

TCG FEBRUARY ZOOM SESSION

Please mark your calendars for the next TCG Zoom session: **WEDNESDAY February 21** at 7:00 PM Central time. That's 8:00 PM Eastern time. By popular request, we are going to have another N1MM Logger+ learning session, covering topics raised in recent Zoom sessions, as well as other topics, including an ARRL DX CW contest postmortem. If you have any specific questions about N1MM Logger+, now would be a good time to prepare them. There will be a wealth of knowledge shared, and you won't want to miss this session.

The TCG Zoom sessions are fun, informative, and a good way to say hello to your fellow members outside of the hurried pace of a contest. We'd like to encourage more members to join in. Details on how to join the session have been posted to the TCG email reflector by WF7T. It's always a good idea to check in early, especially if you have not used Zoom in a while. It can take several minutes to update the software and test your microphone and camera setup. We hope that you will join us for the next session.

HOW IT ALL STARTED – Mike Furfari, K3FH

Since my pre-teen years, I always loved radio. AM broadcast provided me with music back in the days before FM took over. I always considered the transmission of radio waves a fascinating concept. My portable radio opened up the world for me.

My interest in radio communications began when I received a pair of walkie-talkies one Christmas, probably around age 13. I then was on 11 meters for a short while, but my uncle, Tony K3IEX, convinced me to learn the Morse Code by giving me the parts to build a cigar-box code practice oscillator. I took a course taught by the local club and passed the Novice test in 1967—getting to 5WPM was most difficult for me, more than increasing my speed to get to 13WPM to pass the General exam.

I was first licensed in 1967 as WN8YCC in Morgantown, WV. My first station consisted of a home-brew 35-watt crystal-controlled transmitter and an old Hallicrafters S-120 general coverage receiver which I got from a CBer friend by trading the old Lafayette CB. It wasn't much of a receiver but with a Novice ticket and being rock-bound it didn't seem like a big deal—ignorance is bliss. I remember my first-ever QSO, with another Novice in Camden, NJ, on 40 meters one Sunday night. The home-brew transmitter was from a QST article and was all tubes. Voltage regulation wasn't too good, and I had more than one report of a chirpy signal, maybe even a notice from the ARRL Official Observer.

I upgraded to General in 1968 and then Advanced in 1969. I spent most of my time on 40 meters, as a 40 Meter dipole was the only antenna that I could easily install on our small city lot. I built a Heathkit HW-22A single bander and got on SSB, and I was a very early participant on the new ECARS 7255 in the early 70s. After graduation from West Virginia University in 1973 with a BSEE, I went to work for General Electric in Pittsburgh. I started my career as a Field Engineer, doing installation and service of industrial controls and drives for production equipment in steel mills, chemical plants, and other industries.

Of course, courtship, marriage, kids, house, dogs, etc. kept me totally occupied for a number of years. When I passed my Extra Class license in 1993 I really dug into CW, and it's been my preferred mode ever since. I also like to contest in RTTY and chase DX. I haven't yet tried FT8, but it's on my to-do list for 2024.

I went to Tennessee in mid-2005 to start a new job with GE. I traveled the whole state, from Bristol to Memphis, Chattanooga to Dyersburg. I looked up AD4EB since I lived in Spring Hill, and he introduced me to a real contest station. We moved back to PA in 2010, but I've learned so much from the TCG gang!

De Mike K3FH

NEW MEMBERS

TCG is very pleased to welcome the following new members this month:

WV4P, Ron Koenig
NR4L, Trina Koenig
W4SDX, Matthew Oakley
K4HWS, Howard Stanley

Thanks for being part of the Tennessee Contest Group. We really appreciate your support!

NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT

[Editor's note... This is a dupe, but it is a message that we wish to continue to spread.]

Several TCG ops have reported working lots of new call signs from TN and the surrounding area during recent contests. These call signs are not on the TCG roster, and in some cases they are brand new (or at least unfamiliar) call signs. There has been some discussion on how to reach out to folks and let them know about the TCG. Some of the different ideas discussed included creating a database of new calls, initiating a letter writing campaign, a telephone call campaign, and other approaches. Many thanks to those of you who volunteered to help out.

After looking at all of the options, your TCG officers have concluded that the best way to reach out to new potential members is also the simplest. Namely, we suggest that each of our members take a moment to send a QSL card to any non-members in our club circle worked during a contest. Perhaps include a sentence or two about TCG and where to find us at K4TCG.ORG. Just imagine getting a half dozen cards from some group that you never heard of. You might even check them out, just out of curiosity if nothing else. Please consider taking a moment to find new TCG-area call signs in your contest logs, send out a few cards, and help spread the word about the Tennessee Contest Group. Let's reach out and introduce more people to the joys of contesting.

TCG DUES RENEWAL REMINDER

TCG dues renewal notices are arriving via the Ham Club Online system. The easiest and most efficient way to renew your membership dues is use the PayPal link provided. Other methods include sending a check to our treasurer, K0EJ, or sending dues directly to the TCG PayPal address, available directly from K0EJ. It takes considerable time to keep up with the edge cases. We appreciate our members paying dues promptly, thus keeping your TCG membership current.

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

February 3, 2024 British Columbia QSO Party
February 3, 2024 Mexico RTTY International Contest
February 3, 2024 Vermont QSO Party
February 3, 2024 Minnesota QSO Party
February 4, 2024 North American Sprint, CW Feb
February 10, 2024 CQ WW WPX Contest, RTTY
February 10, 2024 Dutch PACC Contest
February 17, 2024 ARRL International DX Contest, CW

February 23, 2024 CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB
February 24, 2024 North American QSO Party, RTTY Feb
February 24, 2024 South Carolina QSO Party
February 25, 2024 North Carolina QSO Party
March 2, 2024 ARRL International DX Contest, SSB
March 9, 2024 Idaho QSO Party
March 9, 2024 Oklahoma QSO Party, South America 10 Meter Contest
March 9, 2024 Stew Perry Topband Challenge-Mar
March 10, 2024 North American Sprint, RTTY Mar
March 10, 2024 Wisconsin QSO Party
March 16, 2024 BARTG HF RTTY Contest
March 16, 2024 Russian DX Contest
March 16, 2024 Virginia QSO Party
March 24, 2024 North American Sprint SSB Contest, Spring
March 30, 2024 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

Good luck to everyone in the ARRL DX CW Contest this weekend!

73, —Kirk K4RO