

News and Events, July 2024 Edition

FIELD DAY 2024

Another Field Day is in the books, with many TCG'ers helping their local clubs or handing out a few QSOs from home under emergency, battery, and commercial power. Field Day is NOT a contest, but Field Day IS a place where, often, one is exposed to the same cacophony and mayhem that makes a contest what it is. That is to say: FUN.

Here is a of activations by TCG members, who put up scores on 3830Scores. Also find at the end of this newsletter of all TN stations, *as of this newsletter publication*, who submitted their FD Packets to the ARRL (<https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php>).

1A LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Op Time	Score	Club
K4KO				32		0		0	.50	64	TCG

1D HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Op Time	Score	Club
NS4X				45		12		0	1	102	TCG

1D LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Op Time	Score	Club
AD4EB	SO2R			1343		0		0	14	5,372	TCG
AF4T				355		0		0	8.42	1,570	TCG
K4AMC				199		0		0	2:39	796	TCG
WN8Y				0		58		0	4	116	TCG

1E LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Op Time	Score	Club
K3FH				215		0		0	7	1,010	TCG

1E QRP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Op Time	Score	Club
K4DZR				31		0		0	2:49	410	TCG

Don'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 contains the following line. This will ensure that your score will contribute to the TCG club aggregate score.

CLUB: Tennessee Contest Group

HOW IT ALL STARTED – W9WI, Doug Smith

One of my earliest childhood memories is sitting on the floor of the Menomonee Falls (Wisconsin) Public Library, reading every book I could find about radio. I think I was seven. Dad encouraged my pursuit; before entering high school, I'd built a Knight-Kit Star Roamer, and then a Heath HW-16. (which I still have!) I got my Novice license – WN9NME – at age 13 in 1973. After high school it was off to the University of Wisconsin in Madison. I got a real start in contesting and DXing at W9YT, and the competing station on the other end of campus.

After college I ended up with REAL QRO – the 18kw transmitter of WISC-TV. I've been in television ever since. After 13 years in Madison, the weather got to me, and I landed in Nashville. I built a modest station in Cheatham County and rolled off tens of thousands of QSOs. I suppose the highlight was winning the 2014 ARRL DX Contest CW, in the QRP class. I've enjoyed guest operating at some of the best-known stations in contesting: N4ZZ, K3LR, K0EJ, K4VX, W0AIH, and AA9D. More importantly, I met the founding members of the TCG. N4ZZ, K4RO, K0EJ, W04o, and K4AMC launched the successful organization we still enjoy today.

By 2018-ish I was ready to make some changes. The 30-mile commute on I-24 was frazzling, and my relationship with ex-KB3EKE was getting serious. (Zina & I celebrated our first anniversary a few days before last year's Phone Sweepstakes. I have not, however, been able to convince her to get licensed again.) I shut down the Pleasant View station and moved to Bellevue.



Today, I don't have time to be as active as I'd like. I expect that to change to some degree later this year. I've got two wire antennas hidden behind the fence at the back of the property, and a station in the storage building. QSOs aren't as easy as they were with 900 watts and a Yagi at 65', but I have made DXCC with invisible antennas, and I am fully compliant with the TCG Prime Directive. ("Have Fun!")

Here's hoping for plenty of contest fun!
73 Doug

WRTC-2026 TENT SPONSORSHIP, A REMINDER

WRTC-2026 is looking for contest clubs to sponsor operator tents. A WRTC tent sponsorship involves a non-trivial amount of funding, well in excess of a thousand dollars. Many TCG members would like to sponsor a tent collectively as a club. While this significant expenditure may not appear to directly provide much benefit to TCG, WRTC is a very high-profile event which has the potential to expose a world-wide audience to the joys of radiosport. TCG has been a supporter of WRTC tents going back to WRTC-2014 in New England. We would like to continue the tradition of supporting WRTC.

So far, we have pledges totaling \$450 towards WRTC-2026 TCG tent sponsorship. If you would like to contribute to TCG WRTC-2026 tent sponsorship, you may send a check to K0EJ, or use the TCG PayPal address: <tcgtreasury53@gmail.com>

Be sure to memo your check or PayPal transaction with “WRTC-2026 tent contribution.” Thanks for your support of WRTC-2026!

DUES

Speaking of money, are you up-do-date with your dues? Do you need help navigating the HamClubOnline? Pop us a message via the Google Group (<https://groups.google.com/u/1/g/tcg1>) and we can assist!

NEW MEMBERS

TCG is very pleased to welcome W4GKM and W5MX as new members this month. 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.

LEBANON HAMFEST AND LUNCH

Bert W4KW would like to remind everyone of the upcoming lunch gathering to be held at the Shoney's in Lebanon, TN the day of the Lebanon HamQuest. Last year's lunch was a big success and a good time for those able to attend. The date is Saturday July 20 at the Shoney's in Lebanon. I'm sure that Bert would appreciate hearing from you if you plan to attend, so that he may give the restaurant an approximate head count. Watch our TCG Google group for up-to-date info.

<https://midtnhamquest.com/>

HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST

Billed as the “worlds friendliest hamfest”, the Huntsville Hamfest will be at the Van Braun Center South Hall on August 17th and 18th. Doors open at 9AM both days. There are great forums covering many topics, including contesting, along with dealer booths and an inside flea market. The Huntsville Hamfest will host the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention. This one is easy to get to and is always a crowd pleaser. Hope to see you all at this premier amateur radio event!

<https://hamfest.org/>

TENNESSEE QSO PARTY 2024

Another reminder that the TN QSO Party rules have been re-vamped for 2024. The contest is now *TEN hours long*, and a new Rover category has been added. Now is a good time to review the TQP rules for 2024, and start planning our operations. The sunspots should provide a boost this year. Let's hope for some good short skip. Here is a direct link to the 2024 TQP rules: <https://tnqp.org/rules/>

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.

July 1, 2024	RAC Canada Day Contest – July
July 6, 2024	Marconi Memorial HF Contest
July 13, 2024	IARU HF World Championship
July 20, 2024	CQ Worldwide VHF Contest
July 20, 2024	North American QSO Party, RTTY Jul
July 27, 2024	RSGB IOTA Contest
July 27, 2024	Alabama QSO Party
August 3, 2024	North American QSO Party, CW Aug
August 10, 2024	Maryland-DC QSO Party
August 10, 2024	WAE DX Contest, CW
August 17, 2024	North American QSO Party, SSB Aug
August 17, 2024	SARTG WW RTTY Contest
August 24, 2024	Hawaii QSO Party
August 24, 2024	Kansas QSO Party
August 24, 2024	Ohio QSO Party
August 24, 2024	World Wide Digi DX Contest
August 24, 2024	YO DX HF Contest
August 31, 2024	Colorado QSO Party

From: K6UFO Mark Aaker

The summer North American QSO Party (NAQP) contests are almost here!

NAQP RTTY on July 20

NAQP CW on August 3

NAQP SSB on August 17

Add them to your calendar, and start talking with your friends if you want to do a Multi-op, or assemble a Team of Single-ops.

Rules, results and records are all at the National Contest Journal:

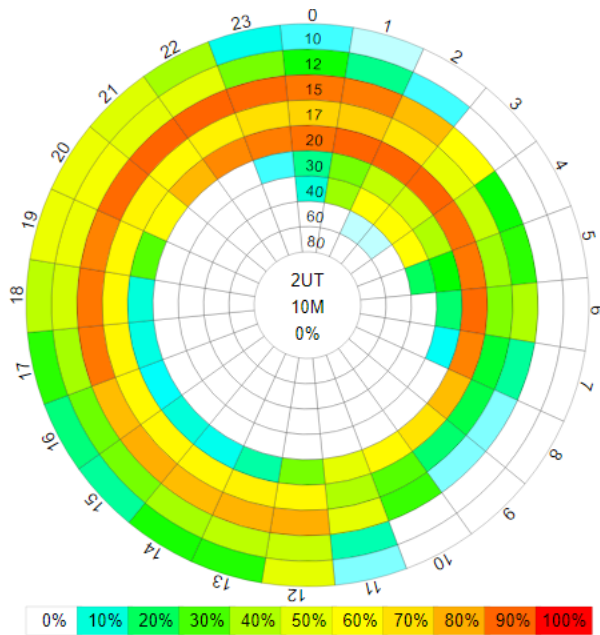
<https://ncjweb.com/naqp/>

VOACAP PROPAGATION PREDICTIONS for IARU 2024 from TN

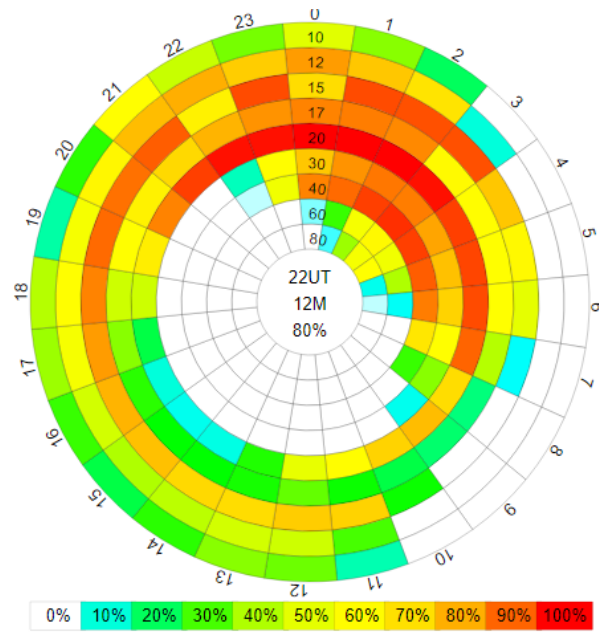
Assumptions: 100W CW. 3L@50' 20/15/10. Wires at 50' for 40/80. Same antennas on both ends.

Residential noise level. SFI=170. Disregard the info in the center of the wheel (e.g. 2UT 10M 0%). To read wheel pick a time and band, compare color to key at bottom to get likelihood of a QSO.(e.g. 15M 00Z=90% to DL)

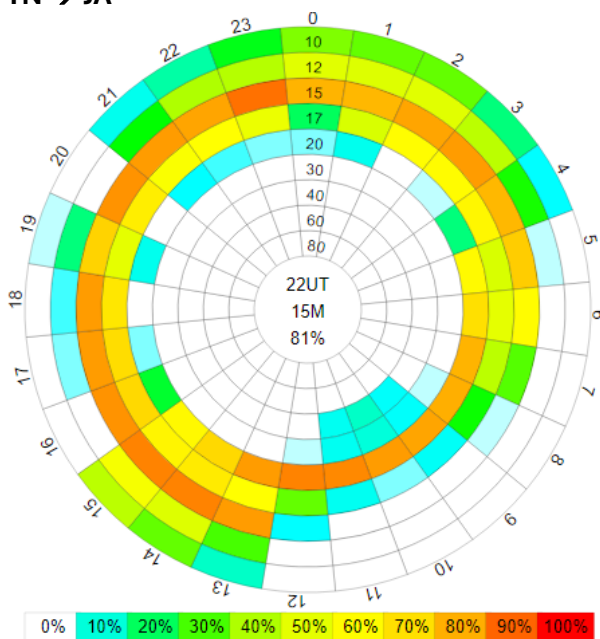
TN → DL



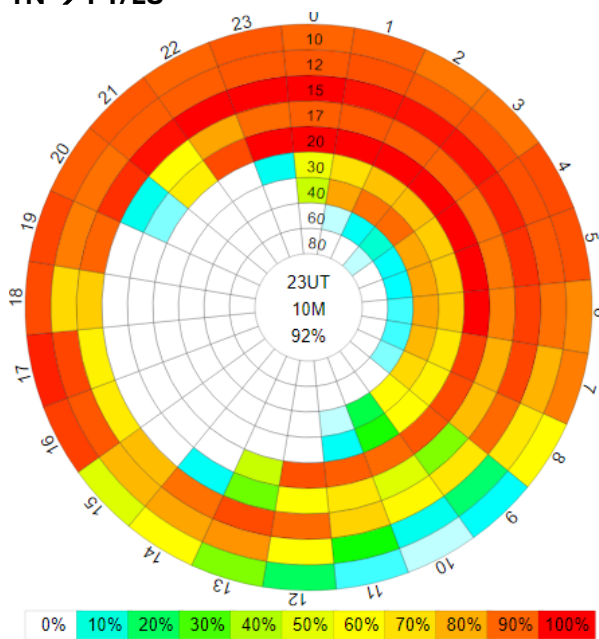
TN → EA



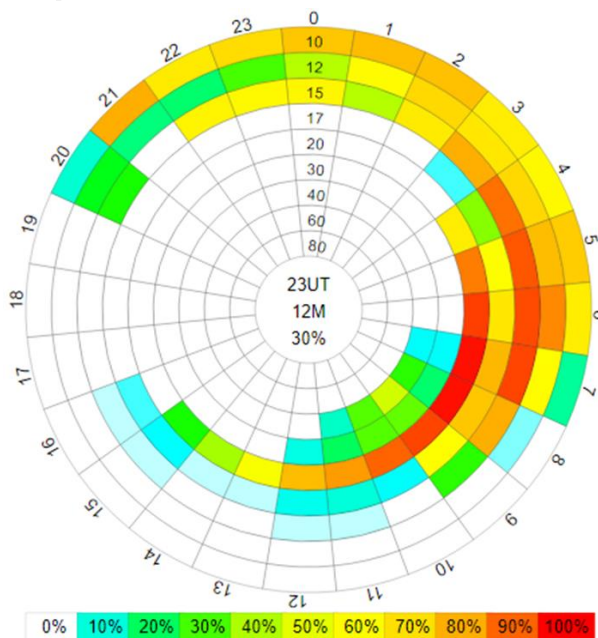
TN → JA



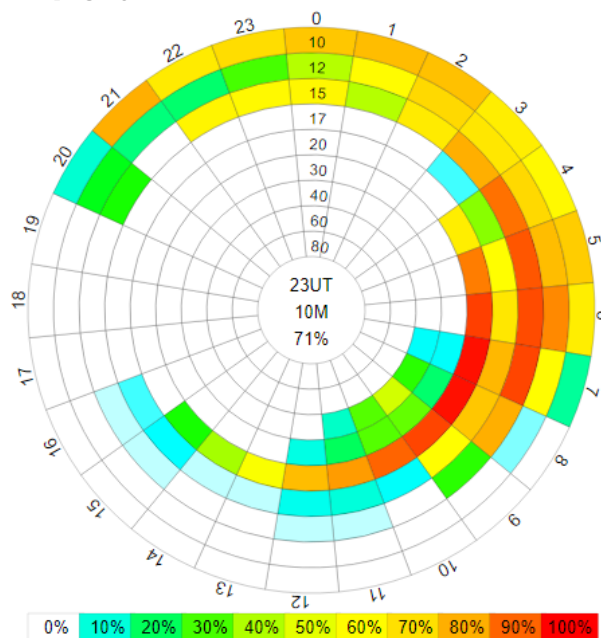
TN → PY/LU



TN → VK



TN → UA9



(Thanks to Mark K0EJ for the models!)

PARTIAL EMISSIONS

Good luck to everyone in the IARU contest! There will be a couple of TCG types joining a group operating from a location in Missouri as HQ station NU1AW/0. As well, W1AW/4 will be hosted at Bryan's W5MX Radio Ridge Contest Club in KY, with a number of TCG members remotely and in-person participating. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Lebanon lunch on July 20. Be sure to let Bert W4KW know if you are planning to attend the lunch. Until then...

73, —Brad WF7T

LIST of TN FIELD DAY PARTICIPANTS, as of July 4th, from the (restored) ARRL website. There are some folks missing from this list. Gently remind your club leaders to upload their FD packets to the ARRL:

Call Sign	GOTA	Club	Class	Section
AA4DD		Bristol ARC	1D	TN
AA4HV			1B1B	TN
AB4NH			1D	TN
AD4EB			1D	TN
AE4GS		Cleveland ARC	1B1	TN
AF4T		Tennessee Contest Group	1D	TN
AG4HG			1D	TN
AG4P			1B2	TN
AI4IC			1D	TN
AK4GO			1D	TN
AL4US		American Legion Post 104	3A	TN
K0RGI			1B1B	TN
K4AMC		Tennessee Contest Group	1D	TN
K4CV			1D	TN

K4GUF			1B1B	TN
K4IDB			1E	TN
K4IRS		WCARESTN	1E	TN
K4KO		Tennessee Contest Group	1D	TN
K4MHR		Macon Area Ham Radio Society	3A	TN
K4PJ		Oak Ridge Amateur Radio Club	2A	TN
K4RFT	N4MJ	Reelfoot ARC	2A	TN
K4RST		MCMINN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	4A	TN
K9UQN			1D	TN
KA4J		Cleveland ARC	5E	TN
KC4TNQ			1D	TN
KD2EYH		Overlook Mountain ARC	1B1	TN
KE4FGW			1E	TN
KE4FVU			1D	TN
KF4DJQ			1D	TN
KF5RUO			1B1	TN
KG4BMG			1D	TN
KI4EZC		W4MHG Mile Highlander Group	1E	TN
KI4TV		Tennessee Valley Contest Club	4A	TN
KK9DX		CorTek Radio Association	1D	TN
KM1Z		Maury Amateur Radio Club	1D	TN
KM4VI			1D	TN
KN4JGH			1D	TN
KO4DCO		WCARESTN	1B1B	TN
KO4JFH			1D	TN
KO4PUU		West Tennessee Amateur Radio Society	1E	TN
KQ4AZN		Maury Amateur Radio Club	1E	TN
KS4BG			1E	TN
KW4JS			1B1B	TN
KW4LP			1D	TN
KW4LU			1D	TN
N1WEB			1E	TN
N4BCT	KC4AC	BLEDSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	4A	TN
N4JAB			1D	TN
N4KPT			1B1B	TN
N4LT		Tennessee Valley DX Association	3A	TN
N4OPI		WCARESTN	1E	TN
NG4V			1B1	TN
NK4I			1B1	TN
NM4N		WCARESTN	1D	TN
NR6T			1B1B	TN
NY4JB			1D	TN
W4BBB		Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville W4BBB	5A	TN
W4BJB		Williamson County (TN) ARES	1D	TN
W4C	WT4CC	SPRINGHILL REPEATER ASSOCIATION FIELD DAY	3A	TN
W4CDO			1E	TN
W4GAT			1E	TN
W4GGM	KO4HUV	Maury Amateur Radio Club	4A	TN

W4LSM		Great Smoky Mountian Amateur Radio Club	1E	TN
W4PV		East Tennessee DX Association	1E	TN
W4RG		WCARESTN	1E	TN
W4TIP	KZ4CR	Tipton Amateur Radio Society	4A	TN
W4TRC		Kingsport/Bays Mountain Amateur Radio Club	3A	TN
W4UOT	KE4LPL	Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Club	3A	TN
W5MND			1D	TN
W6UB		Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club	1D	TN
W8EYU	WA4WSZ	Cumberland Plateau Amateur Radio Club	3A	TN
WB0CJB		Maury Amateur Radio Club	1D	TN
WB8WDO			1D	TN
WF7T		Tennessee Contest Group	1D	TN
WM2W			1B1	TN
WN8Y	WF4Q	West Tennessee Amateur Radio Society	2D	TN
WX4TN	K4SDT	NE TN District 7 SKYWARN	3A	TN