



## News and Events — June 2023

### WPX SCORES

TCG had a strong showing for the CQ WPX CW Contest at the end of May. The WA7BNM 3830scores web site reports 24 scores from the TCG. The average TCG score was almost 1 million points per entry, with an estimated club total of over 37 million points! Well done TCG. While the log submission deadline has long since passed, this is another reminder to make sure that your logs are submitted to the contest sponsor on time. I like to submit my log immediately after the contest is over. That way, I don't forget to do it. One year I stayed up for 47 hours operating the ARRL DX Contest, then promptly forgot to submit my log. Don't be that guy.

### ZOOM LICENSE

TCG has acquired a Zoom license for one year. This will allow us to conduct presentations to the entire Group. Given that Tennessee is 440 miles long, it's simply not practical to serve every member with in-person meetings. A survey was conducted to see what topics TCG would like to see covered. The top two choices were Operating Technique and Station Automation, so we will likely begin there. We also hope to have some expert speakers from outside TCG present topics of interest to the group. Your TCG officers would like any feedback on particular topics that you would like to see covered. We would also like to hear from anyone who would like to give a presentation to the TCG.

### FIELD DAY

ARRL Field Day is right around the corner. Since its inception, TCG has not held a club operation of its own, but has instead had members attend their own local club's FD operations. FD has been used as an outreach effort, where TCG ops assist and in some cases help to train the locals on contest-style operating. A large number of our members got their first exposure to contesting via Field Day. We encourage all TCG members to participate in a FD operation of your choice, and to help out your local club. If no club is available, you can always operate from home, either alone, or with a few friends. You can use commercial power, or even better, you can get creative and operate using emergency power. There are many ways to have fun with Field Day. Demonstrating efficient operating is another way of giving back. Let's just say that FD operating is not quite at the level of say, the Sprint, and there are a LOT of new ops listening. Operate at high standards (we always do in TCG) and let the world hear how to have a really good time on the air.

### NASHVILLE ARC PRESENTATION

K4RO gave a talk to the Nashville Amateur Radio Club on June 15. There were a dozen-plus NARC club members present. The audience was attentive and asked intelligent questions. At least one attendee expressed a desire to join TCG, so it was definitely worth the trip. The Nashville ARC has a very nice club house in the Donelson area, and their members seem enthusiastic and interested in many aspects of ham radio. TCG thanks NARC for the opportunity to share our passion for contesting with them. A PDF of the slides are available at: [http://k4tcg.org/files/2023/06/Contest101\\_NARC\\_2023.pdf](http://k4tcg.org/files/2023/06/Contest101_NARC_2023.pdf)

## **WHERE IT ALL STARTED**

Thanks for the nice feedback regarding “My Radio Father” in the last TCG newsletter. I always find it fascinating to learn how others got the first spark which introduced them to this wonderful hobby. Thankfully, a few other TCG members have replied with some memories of how they got started with radio. We welcome your stories, of any length. How did you get started with ham radio and/or contesting?

**Don, N4ZZ** shares with us...*“It’s interesting to me how many of us got started in ham radio by first listening to some type of simple broadcast radio. In my case, I built a crystal radio. With headphones, I could hear our local WATO AM broadcast station, which was about a half mile from where I lived. Shortly after that, my sweet mother read in the local Oak Ridge news paper that the local ham radio club was giving free lessons on how to learn the Morse code. They offered a two week course.”*

Where would we be without someone to point us in the direction of radio and Morse code when we were young? What amazes your editor the most is how Don’s passion and enjoyment of radio continues full-strength to this day, well over 6 decades later.

**Bert, W4KW** writes...*“I personally believe, in your case and probably mine and others, this is more than a Hobby, it’s a passion, a release and a means for self-acceptance, self-respect and self-gratification, as well as an avenue to face and enjoy the challenges to be a better person, Ham and Contester.”*

*“Early on, I too listened to HCJB and have a QSL card from them dated February 1955. I also have QSL cards from TGNA (Telling the Good News Abroad) {Guatemala} and 4VEH (Haiti) also dated in 1955. I listened to these with a National SW 54. “*

*“I was hooked “Big Time”, after I assisted logging in the 1956 CQ WW DX SSB contest at W4ZMC’s Donelson station. Steve was a salesman for Graybar Electric Supply and called on my father, who was an estimator for Edenfield Electric Company. Steve was my First and most influential Elmer. When I started school at Father Ryan, I was thrown in classes with the sons of Doctors, Lawyers, very influential and prominent Nashville individuals. I truly didn’t fit in.”*

*“My only salvation there, was the Radio Club, with Father Joseph Julius (from Memphis) who was the science teacher along with being the moderator for the Club. His call was W4DQG. The members enjoyed learning and being able to participate in Ham Radio. After two years at Ryan, my parents and I were told it would be in my best interest if I attended high school somewhere other than Ryan. This was after a friend and I built a three-foot snowball, rolled it into the school, down the steps towards the cafeteria. How was I to know the Principal would be coming out of the Cafeteria and receive the full force of the snowball. It only took two weeks for him to find out who produced the snowball. ‘Nuff said. HI”*

*“Father Ryan’s exit was a blessing in disguise. I attended Hume Fogg Tech (back then), after Ryan. Had Radio & TV as my vocational class. I was Vice President my Junior year, President my Senior year along with being the President of the initial Hume Fogg National Honor Society. Turned around, in the right direction. “*

Well done Don and Bert! Thanks for sharing your “radio origin” stories with us.

## **MRA UPCOMING CONTESTS**

Thanks to AD4EB, we will start publishing a list of the upcoming contests which qualify for the Most Radioactive Award. For more information on the MRA, please refer to K4TCG.ORG under the TCG INFO section. Thanks to Jim for this list, and to Ted W4NZ for administering the MRA.

June 3, 2023 ARRL International Digital Contest  
June 3, 2023 Kentucky QSO Party  
June 10, 2023 ARRL June VHF Contest  
June 10, 2023 GACW WWSA DX  
June 17, 2023 All Asian DX Contest, CW  
June 17, 2023 Stew Perry Topband Challenge-Jun  
June 17, 2023 West Virginia QSO Party  
June 24, 2023 His Majesty King of Spain Contest, SSB

July 1, 2023 DL DX RTTY  
July 1, 2023 Marconi Memorial HF Contest  
July 1, 2023 RAC Canada Day Contest – July  
July 8, 2023 IARU HF World Championship  
July 15, 2023 CQ Worldwide VHF Contest  
July 15, 2023 North American QSO Party, RTTY Jul  
July 29, 2023 RSGB IOTA Contest

## **IARU HF World Championship**

The IARU HF World Championship is right around the corner, Saturday July 8 from 1200Z to 1200Z (24 straight hours.) This year's running of the IARU promises to be especially enjoyable, because the WRTC happens at the same time. The World Radiosport Team Championship is modeled somewhat after the Olympics, with teams from around the world competing together in the same geographic area. There should be above-average activity, and plenty of top-tier operators to work. There will also be a live WRTC scoreboard, in addition to the LiveScores web site for the non-WRTC participants. Now is the time to get your station ready for this very fun contest. IARU is a contest where you can make a lot of QSOs from Tennessee. Everyone counts for points, and DX QSOs count for even more points. Please get on and have fun, while helping TCG achieve a higher Club score. You do not want to miss this contest, which is bound to experience record activity this year. For more information on the IARU HF Contest, visit the IARU HF web site at:  
<https://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship>

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Please mark your calendars for the Lebanon Hamquest on July 22. TCG is arranging meeting space around lunch time at a nearby restaurant. We hope to have a private room with some time to catch up with those who are making the trek for the hamfest. Stay tuned for more details from W4KW in a future newsletter. Now, let's go get everything prepared for Field Day, and remember, **safety first!**

73,

—Kirk K4RO