



News and Events, November 2025 Edition

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The CW Sweepstakes Contest is happening as I write this. I plan to get on later today and make some QSOs. With temperatures dipping into the 40's and the days growing shorter, it feels like radio season indeed. I have been spending some of the sunrise and sunset gray line periods times playing with various receive antennas and doing some AM broadcast band DX'ing. My radio journey began with short wave listening. Doing some SWLing has reminded me of some of the original thrill of radio that I felt when it all started.

October provided some spectacular propagation for the CQWW SSB Contest. It ain't over until the log checking is finished, but it looks like some very old world records may have fallen. Here in Tennessee, ten meters provided excellent run-able paths to Europe both days, and stations were heard calling CQ as high as 29.4 MHz! Activity was off the charts.

Your president has been in somewhat of an activity lull for the last year or two. My love and respect for the game remain as strong as ever. Various life events, less available time and energy, and yes, some burnout (see N2NT's excellent "Contester Shock Syndrome" article in the NCJ archives.) I plan to be back, so don't count me out just yet. I am looking forward to operating the CQWW CW Contest from K3LR with fellow TCG operators AD4EB and WF7T at the end of this month.

Three major contests during the month of November include the CW and SSB running of the November Sweepstakes. As mentioned on the TCG groups.io email reflector, please take some time to operate and generate some points for the club. Then of course is the one that some of us consider the king of contests, the CQWW CW at the end of the month. There are a few TCG operators making a DXpedition to somewhere in the Caribbean. This is exciting stuff and will be the first DXpedition for some of them. I don't want to spoil their announcement, so will leave that to the team.

I hope that everyone enjoys a nice Thanksgiving weekend, however you wish to spend it. I will be with my "radio family" and am looking forward to some interesting propagation on the bands this year. Stay healthy, and C U in the pileups.

73, — Kirk K4RO TCG President

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CONTEST ACTIVITY

Here is a selected list, as of this publication, of those who put up scores on [3830 Scores Summary](#) in July:

California QSO Party 2025

SO LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
KT4RH				124		30	44	6		19,052	TCG
AI4DB				0		174	49	9		17,052	TCG
AC4G				92		50	40	4		15,406	TCG
W4UT				50		0	32	1		4,800	TCG

SO QRP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
W9WI				15		2	15	0.6		735	TCG

SO(A) HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
KØEJ				447		0	57	10		76,437	TCG
N6NT				362		92	54	14:38		68,580	TCG
K4EA		x		318		0	55	9		52,470	TCG
K4RO				234		104	56	5:23		50,960	TCG
K3IE				216		43	53	5		38,902	TCG
W4NZ				224		13	55	6		38,390	TCG
AC6ZM				232		0	53	6		36,888	TCG
K1GU				201		0	51			30,753	TCG
WN8Y				0		74	38	8		5,548	TCG
W4SDX				0		42	32	1		2,688	TCG

K9QJS				5		0	4	.5		60	TCG
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SO(A) LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
NR4L	SO2R	x		472		311	58	22:42		118,204	TCG
WM4Q				162		0	51	3.2		24,300	TCG
W4CMG				158		0	49	6:30		23,226	TCG
AD4EB				167		0	40	3		20,040	TCG
WA4JA				0		81	30	5		4,800	TCG

SO(A) YL LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
NR4L	SO2R	x		472		311	58	22:42		118,204	TCG

Oceania DX Contest, Phone 2025

SOAB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WA4JA			7	7	1		91	TCG

SOSB/10 LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
AC4G			11	6	1		192	TCG

Arizona QSO Party 2025

SOCW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
AC6ZM				7		0		7		0	1		98	TCG

SOCW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
W4CMG				432		0		12		0	1.5		432	TCG

SOMixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
W9WI				5		2		4		2	1		72	TCG

SOSSB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
WA4JA				0		15		0		13	2		195	TCG

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Makrothen RTTY Contest

MO/Single Xcvr LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op	Time	Score	Club
NJ4P		x	1002	24		5,850,216	TCG

SO/Single Xcvr HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op	Time	Score	Club
AC6ZM			230	5:31		959,192	TCG
W4SDX			108	1.5		700,094	TCG
NS4X			114	2		612,818	TCG
AA4DD			127	3		524,700	TCG
WN8Y			110	8		524,688	TCG
AF4T			39	1.28		113,502	TCG

SO/Single Xcvr LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op	Time	Score	Club
K4HWS			716	24		3,849,110	TCG

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Nevada QSO Party 2025

SOCW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op	Time	Score	Club
W4CMG				2		0		0	2	00:15		12	TCG

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Pennsylvania QSO Party 2025

SOCW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AC6ZM				79	0	34	3:05	5,572	TCG	
K3FH				59	0	40	1.5	4,920	TCG	
W6UB				28	0	20	2.38	1,120	TCG	

SOCW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WF7T				59	0	28		3,704	TCG	
W4CMG				51	0	31	3.0	3,362	TCG	
W3TB				37	0	20	1:52	1,880	TCG	

SOMixed HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
NS4X				29	2	25	1	1,500	TCG	

SOMixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KØEJ				18	4	17		680	TCG	

SOSSB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WA4JA				0	52	32	5	2,264	TCG	

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Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB

SOAB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WN8Y			6	1	1	36	TCG

SOSB/20 LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WA4JA			2	2	.3	4	TCG

SOSB/20 Classic LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WA4JA			2	2	.3	4	TCG

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South Dakota QSO Party

SO FixedCW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AC6ZM				1	0	1	1	102	TCG	

SO FixedCW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4CMG				2	0	2		108	TCG	
WF7T				2	0	2		8	TCG	

SO FixedSSB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WA4JA				0	5	5	..5	125	TCG	

New York QSO Party 2025

SO MobileCW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AD4EB/M				30	0	0	18	1	1,080	TCG		

SOCW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
NS4X				25	0	0	17	1	850	TCG		
AC6ZM				23	0	0	17	1:00	782	TCG		
W6UB				22	0	0	14	1.18	616	TCG		
WD8RYC				16	0	0	16	1	512	TCG		
K3IE				15	0	0	14	00:15	420	TCG		

SOCW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K4KYN				81	0	0	33	4	5,440	TCG		
W4CMG				63	0	0	24	2	3,024	TCG		
K4AMC				57	0	0	26	1:30	2,964	TCG		
W3TB				42	0	0	22	2:22	1,848	TCG		
AC4G				36	0	0	18	1	1,296	TCG		
WM4Q				30	0	0	21	:74	1,260	TCG		

SOCW YL LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4CMG				63	0	0	24	2	3,024	TCG		

SOSSB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
A14DB				0	34	0	19		646	TCG		

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Stew Perry Topband Challenge 2025

Single Op HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
K4RO			54	1	120	TCG
AA4DD			30	1	54	TCG

Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Op Time	Score	Club
WF7T			72	3	217	TCG
AF4T			45	1.17	147	TCG

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Worked All Germany Contest 2025

SO CW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	SSB	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K3IE				158	0	67	02:30	31,758	TCG	
AC6ZM				6	0	6	1:00	108	TCG	

SO CW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	SSB	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4CMG				20	0	19	1:05	1,140	TCG	

Illinois QSO Party 2025 Oct 19

Fixed HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW-Dig	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
NS4X				59	0	32	2		3,776	TCG
AC6ZM				54	0	29	1:01		3,132	TCG
W6UB				35	0	23	1.88		1,610	TCG

Fixed LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW-Dig	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W3TB				43	0	30	2:00		2,580	TCG
WA4JA				0	43	25	2.5		1,175	TCG
K4AMC				27	0	19	00:39		1,126	TCG

Mobile LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW-Dig	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AD4EB				1603	0	67	8		214,802	TCG

Non-IL LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW-Dig	Qs	Ph	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4CMG				29	0	19	1		1,102	TCG
K4RO				27	0	20	1:20		1,040	TCG

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Maine QSO Party

Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs	CW	Mults	Ph	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
WA4JA				0	61	0		45	3.5			3,102	TCG
W4CMG				2	0		2	0				16	TCG

144 MHz Fall Sprint 2025 Sep 22

Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	Analog	Qs	Dig	Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AA4DD				0	15	14	1		210	TCG
AJ6T				3	9	9	4		108	TCG

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CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB 2025

M/S HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
NJ4P		x	2698	150	544	40	5,086,326	TCG

SO(A)AB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AD4EB			2316	137	472	36	3,954,237	TCG
K3IE	SO2R		1766	129	427	32	2,809,468	TCG
K4RO			903	135	451	15	1,486,096	TCG
NS4X			942	82	268	15	949,900	TCG
N4BCD			107	31	73		31,824	TCG
WN8Y			68	24	46	5	12,530	TCG

SO(A)AB LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
WV4AM			430	49	191	15:09	293,280	TCG
K4HWS			211	53	150	12	112,259	TCG
WA4JA			203	62	134	8	103,096	TCG
N4MCC			215	50	126	11.5	92,576	TCG
W3TB			80	25	55	3:48	17,680	TCG

SO(A)AB Youth LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
WV4AM			430	49	191	15:09	293,280	TCG

SO(A)SB10 LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
WF7T			840	33	128	22.75	380,747	TCG

SOAB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K9UC			402	65	184	16:09	280,623	TCG
W4SDX			224	63	143	5	126,278	TCG
K9QJS			79	27	53	2,0	17,840	TCG
W6UB			69	25	45	6.5	13,230	TCG

SOAB Classic HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W6UB			69	25	45	6.5	13,230	TCG

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Didn'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 also contains the following line: CLUB: Tennessee Contest Group. This will ensure that your score will contribute to the TCG club aggregate score.

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TCG Heads to Montserrat for CQ WW CW!

CQ WW DX CW is fast approaching, and the Tennessee Contest Group (TCG) is gearing up for an exciting DXpedition to Montserrat! We'll be operating as a multi-single, low power entry under the callsign VP2MMA.



On-Air Dates: Outside of the contest, you can catch us on the bands from November 26 to December 4. We'll be active primarily on CW and FT8, including the WARC bands and 160 meters.



Team Members:

- AC6ZM
- W4CMG
- WK9M



Special Requests Welcome: If you're chasing a specific band slot or mode, let us know—we'll do our best to accommodate. We're happy to take on-demand requests via WhatsApp at the number listed below.



Station Setup Highlights:

- Dual Kenwood TS-590SG radios (Run & Mult)
- Mosley Tribander on a 65-foot tower
- 40m Delta Loop (covers 10–15–20m with balun)
- 80m Loop, 40m Dipole, 160m Inverted L
- DXE Receive Short Element Active Vertical
- Two Beverages (NA & EU)
- 200W BPF with Quadplexer
- Antenna Genius for automated band switching



Join the Adventure: We've had a couple of team members drop out due to unforeseen circumstances, so there's still room for one or two more operators. If you're interested in joining this exciting contest DXpedition, reach out via WhatsApp or phone at (757) 217-8899.



Gud DX and we hope to work you from VP2M land!



My Third and Last Tower Project - Mark N4BCD

It is said that a ham station is never finished. With distractions of running Huntsville Hamfest and other retirement projects it's taken two years to get functioning aluminum in the air.



Above: 43' Tower with Rohn base insulators was installed in October 2024. Lightning protection is 2 ground rods per tower leg spaced 16' apart bonded to #4 solid copper. Buried ground extends to house service entrance then another 15' to shack entrance.

Trench was dug in September 2025 to install 2" conduit carrying LMR-400, and two 8 conductor cables for rotor & DXE Antenna Switch.

Below: September 28, 2025. Raising the Cushcraft X7 (20/15/10m) with the X740 (40m) addon required a ground crew for spotting and to belay the 80lb antenna when moving from the bucket lift to the mast. The D3W rotatable dipole for 30/17/12m already in place. Tower crew: XYL Julie KK4CLG, Jim W1WSF, Jill K4TXT, and Bruce AC4G



With the switch working I swept all 3 antennas with my MFJ-259B analyzer. All 3 antennas are resonant out of band. While I can compensate for this with a Palstar auto-tuner, I'm making contacts and even breaking DX pile-ups. My next step on this diagnosis is to borrow a better analyzer to gain insight into what the problem might be.



Above: October 2025. Antennas in place, wiring completed and on the air. The guy wires are broken with compression insulators and dimensioned to be non-resonant on any band. They also provide capacitive loading to make the tower resonant at 3.65 MHz. Radials will be installed this winter. The antenna switch is mounted below the insulators to isolate the relays from the RF-live tower. The Davis weather station is at 10m (33').

With the rotor working and the tuner compensating for high SWR, I decided to spend some time in the CQ WW SSB contest. I didn't hear the PFZZZT noise coming out of the Alpha 91B because I was wearing headphones. Only noticed an issue when a glance at the bar graphs on the amp showed no gain at any setting of the Load & Tune controls.

So, while I have a functional station, I still have some bugs to work out.

73,
Mark N4BCD

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"Is This Thing On?"

by Steve Carpenter, K4DXV

It isn't unusual in ham radio generally that something goes kaput at the wrong time. We have all read and heard so many stories about incidents at the big contest stations or on DXpeditions, and even experienced them ourselves, that we know it's just part of what makes ham radio sometimes frustrating but simultaneously challenging and fun. I've had my share of instances where everything was working perfectly one day and then when I sit down to work a DXpedition or begin a contest...bam! You name it -- software won't load, software isn't working correctly, SWR is sky high, rig won't transmit, a heretofore nonexistent problem with RF in the shack, headphones are dead. The list is practically endless, and I stopped being surprised by such events years ago. So, it came as no big shock when one of these gremlins popped up as I was prepping for the ARRL November CW Sweepstakes a few hours ahead of time.

It has been a busy year around here. After several months of putting off the decision, the XYL and I finally decided to pull the trigger and move into my parents' house and put ours on the market. Not only is theirs paid off, but it also sits on the remaining 17 acres of my great-grandparents' farm. It's an economically sound move, doesn't involve moving more than about 75 yards, and it moves us off the main road. I knew the job would entail more, though, than just packing up our stuff and moving it down there. First, we had to go through everything they had accumulated in nearly 65 years of married life -- photos, clothes, family heirlooms, kitchen implements, tools (my dad was a home builder and a farmer...'nuff said), and more stuff I didn't even expect. Then, of course, we have been married almost 44 years ourselves and have accumulated our own collection we still need to sort through. All of that took more time -- and more of an emotional toll -- than I anticipated. Couple that with finding mold in their basement, having to do demolition on finished rooms, hire a foundation company to fix the water problem, sell off some furniture, replace carpeting in the bedrooms, and more little fixes. At this point I think we will be lucky to get moved in by early spring.

While all of that was occupying my spring, summer, and early fall, I just kept the antennas disconnected outdoors and the coax coiled up safely out of the way for mowing. In fact, I doubt that I've even had the rig fired up for so much as a CWT since March. Neglect does nothing good for anything, but I was hopeful that everything would work correctly when I hooked it all back up for Sweepstakes on Saturday. I knew I wouldn't have enough time to make much of an effort, but I wanted to put in a few hours at least. I only run a Gap Titan DX

vertical and an 80M inverted vee, which actually tunes up nicely on any band. I pulled out the coax lines, inspected the PL-259's, plugged both antennas up, went into the shack and connected those ends to the antenna switch, and fired up the rig. At least I had the presence of mind to crank the power down and do a quick test on both antennas. I checked the inverted vee first on 80. Flat SWR all the way from 10 watts to 100 in the CW portion of the band that it is cut for. I then checked to be sure it would tune up on a few other bands, and it worked admirably. I silently congratulated myself on the excellent build I did on this thing. It has performed without a glitch for over fifteen years. Then, I flipped the antenna switch over to the vertical.

It is normally flat across most of 10 meters, so I started there. Whoops. Even at just 10 watts, the SWR was infinite. I flipped the rig to 20 and did a short test. Same thing there. Well, I know I hooked it up, so there is definitely a problem somewhere between here and the antenna. I started by checking the connection to the antenna switch. Then I went outside and went down the whole length of the coax looking for nicks or cuts, evidence of squirrels, etc. Finding nothing there, I figured the most likely culprit would be the barrel connector, which is usually where I've had trouble in the past. The Titan DX is a multiband vertical with a primary element for 80 meters, and it contains a wiring harness that connects to various shorter elements for other bands mounted alongside it via short jumper wires. The wiring harness comes out the bottom of the main element as a pigtail terminated with a PL-259, thus necessitating the barrel connector. Nevertheless, I did a quick scan of the jumpers -- I had replaced all of them a few years ago with slightly heavier gauge than the factory jumpers -- and everything looked fine. I then reached down to disconnect the barrel connector, but the PL-259 on the Titan's pigtail practically fell off in my hand.

I venture to guess that the pigtail is probably a good foot or more shorter now than it was when the antenna was new 25 years or so ago. Despite a drip loop and keeping the plug taped, water invariably seems to make its way into the connection, causing an occasional necessity to clip off some of the pigtail to reach braid that wasn't corroded and solder on a new PL-259. There honestly isn't much pigtail left, but I went back to the shack and dug out a new PL-259 and adapter for the RG8-X, grabbed my toolbox and headed out to do what I figured would be about a 10 to 15 minute job. But, when I stripped the insulation back, the braid almost crumbled under my touch. Wow. Okay...as I said, there isn't much pigtail left to work with, but I went ahead and clipped off more of it, hoping I could reach braid that wasn't corroded. I decided to do a little checking, though, and carefully cut a little section of the insulation off quite a few inches above the newly cut end just to see what the braid looked like that far up. I figured I could tape that cut up good and maybe put some shrink tubing on it later. But the braid didn't look good up there either. The prospect of installing a new PL-259 at this point did not look promising. But, ham radio -- at least to me -- is about not giving up but rather finding a way to make something work. I've done lots of stuff over the years that would probably make actual engineers cringe. So, I put my imagination to work and came up with a solution that had no right to even come close to working.

First, I completed the cut around the insulation to expose quite a bit of the braid and touched it up lightly with some 220-grit emery cloth. I was a little surprised but also pleased to see a little bit of shine come back to it, even though it was still in pretty bad shape. Next, I went back into the shack and dug around in a drawer and found a 3-foot RG-58 jumper with PL-259's on each end that I bought at Radio Shack eons ago. I clipped one of them off and headed back outside. Then, I stripped it to a length to match the length of the pigtail from its end to where I

had exposed the braid. I figured there was no way the pigtail's braid was going to hold solder, so this was going to be jury-rigging to the max. I folded the braid of the jumper down and twisted it and then wrapped it around the exposed braid on the pigtail, followed by a pretty amazing amount of tape to hold everything in place. Next was to connect the center conductors, and I got a fair approximation of a NASA splice there. I reached for the small butane torch with the soldering tip and discovered it was empty. And, yes, no surprise -- I had no more butane with which to refill it. So, I sighed, twisted it as tightly as I could and taped the hound out of it to try and approximate the dielectric insulation. Finally, I used a lot more tape to wrap up the whole patch job, reconnected the barrel connector and coax and headed in to test it. I was not optimistic.

When I walked into the house, I told Dee, "Well, this absolutely has no right to work." I consoled myself that I could at least always fall back on the inverted vee and get reasonably good performance from it until I had a chance to tear into the vertical. I sat down at the station, tuned the rig to 10 meters, cranked the power down to 10 watts, closed my eyes and took a deep breath and held it while I pushed the transmit button. Both the rig's meter and the external meter registered about 10 watts and 1:1 SWR. I let my breath out and said out loud, "No way!" I eased the power up to maximum, keeping my fingers mentally crossed. It held. I switched to 20 meters. The Titan usually runs about 1.3:1 or so on 20 and that's where it held. Same for 40 meters. I shook my head in disbelief.

As it turned out I was only able to get a little more than an hour of operating time in for the contest, but it surely was a good feeling to know that every contact was the result of some homegrown engineering. Ham radio to me has never been about perfection, but, as I said earlier, about finding a way to make it work. I know this attitude isn't unique to me. Like all struggles and difficulties, too, we often find in retrospect that what was aggravating and frustrating at one point turned out to be some of the most fun times, even if the fix doesn't work initially. It's all about finding a way to ask the question, "Can you hear me now?" and hearing a response.

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MARAC Contest Note

de John WA4JA

One contest won't be around in 2026. The MARAC (Mobile Amateur Radio Club) County Hunter Contest will not be held in 2026. In fact, it is on the shelf for the foreseeable future. Normally held the last weekend in July, the contest was hampered by several factors.

Low participation numbers on Phone and CW, difficulties with getting compatible logging software, aging MARAC membership, publicity problems, and an odd-ball state/county exchange all played factors in the demise. A rule package that offered a way to participate in IOTA, POTA, US Islands, and WWFF got some traction, but apparently many of the POTA group is not into contesting. It was a fun contest as AC6ZM/m, Juan, can attest. He won national CW/Dig Mobile divisions in 2024 and 2025. Congratulations to him!

This contest had deep TCG ties with W4SIG, Kerry Long (formerly a Shelby County resident) being a spearhead at MARAC's board of directors. Jim Hall, AD4EB helped with a new rule package. John Almon, WA4JA was contest manager with incredible help from N7NU, Lee Hallin of Oregon. Another operator to offer suggestions was everyone's contest friend, OM2VL, Laci from the Slovak Republic.

For now, it appears that weekend will be a good one for RSGB's IOTA contest.

Corporate Casuals – TCG Logo Items

Corporate Casuals now uses what's called a /*sharelink */in which they share the TCG logo with club members through their webstore platform. The link below will take you to their website and prompt you to create an account with them. The page will look like the screenshot below (and will show the logo at the bottom of the screen).

You can add a personal callsign as a personalization ("NAMES" icon in the product) and select the placement location on the purchased item (e.g., polo, bag, hat, etc.). Once the account is created, the logo will automatically upload to the account for use:

<http://www.CorporateCasuals.com/logoShare/tennesseecontestgroup>

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS

Just a reminder... The year is coming to a close, and that means that it is time to submit your TCG membership dues for 2026. Thanks for your support of TCG and its activities.

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. If you have someone that you would like to nominate as a new members, please e-mail K0EJ (mark.speck.k0ej@gmail.com) so an invite can be sent out.

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

November 1, 2025	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW
November 8, 2025	OK/OM DX Contest, CW
November 8, 2025	WAE DX Contest, RTTY
November 15, 2025	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB
November 22, 2025	LZ DX Contest
November 23, 2025	North American Sprint SSB Contest, Nov
November 29, 2025	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW

December 5, 2025	ARRL 160-Meter Contest
December 6, 2025	FT Challenge
December 13, 2025	ARRL 10-Meter Contest
December 20, 2025	OK DX RTTY Contest
December 20, 2025	RAC Winter Contest – Dec
December 27, 2025	Stew Perry Topband Challenge-Dec

Progression of solar cycle 25

Sunspot numbers including predictions:

