



## **OCTOBER ZOOM MEETING – N1MM Logger+ and California QSO Party**

A big round of thanks to Ted W4NZ, Brad WF7T, and Mark K0EJ for presenting our topics. Ted gave us a quick but thorough tutorial on how to configure N1MM Logger+ for the California QSO Party. Also included were several tips on using the logger in general, plus some techniques for making subtle changes in Winkeyer's CW output. Follow Ted's tips today, and join us in the California QSO Party this weekend!

WF7T followed with an analysis of some propagation prediction models for this weekend's CQP. Brad included some really interesting information. For example, we might think that we should be on 20m after local sunset, but 15 and 10 may still be our best bands at that time. This is especially true if we have superior antennas on 15 and 10, versus 20. Understanding propagation can really help maximize our fun (and our scores) on the radio. It can also help us select the best times to operate when we are on a limited schedule.

K0EJ and K4RO wrapped up the California QSO Party discussion with some notes on strategy and band/mode choices. Lots of agreement that trying to run California on 10 meter SSB was a key element to success. Mark also mentioned several resources on the CQP.ORG site, as well as sharing some insights on what it's like to actually operate the contest from California.

Thanks again to our presenters, and to those who showed up to participate. We would like to encourage all TCG members to consider participating in these Zoom discussions. While it's obviously not a substitute for in-person meetings, it provides another way for us to connect outside of the contests. We hope that you'll consider joining us next time.

A recording of last night's Zoom session is now available at the link below. You will need the Passcode (listed below the link) in order to view the video.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/dA3UzjyAq77YZSRMf3gMQpdydcdu5fc4JX9M8y1YMxN\\_4Nn\\_dk6mMV-TbXVn\\_s21v.-nH\\_KOU2rRdHWhke](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/dA3UzjyAq77YZSRMf3gMQpdydcdu5fc4JX9M8y1YMxN_4Nn_dk6mMV-TbXVn_s21v.-nH_KOU2rRdHWhke)

The Passcode is: NY.t0&35

## **TENNESSEE QSO PARTY**

The last part of the October 5<sup>th</sup> Zoom session was used for a discussion about the TN QSO Party. Several topics were discussed, and TCG will soon do some polling to see how the membership feels about any potential changes. First, we congratulated W0AG and N4MCC for their outstanding work. Mike and Andrew worked hard and produced a professional-quality results writeup in less than a month after end of the contest! We are indebted to them for taking the TQP reigns, and for keeping our results among the best. K0EJ's TQP plaques are also the best! Among other TQP topics we discussed:

- Adding a rover category
- Allowing county-line contacts
- Whether to continue to include VHF/UHF
- Whether to continue to include RTTY
- Whether or not to add FT8
- Possibly shifting the start time earlier
- Possibly extending the length to 10 hours

Stay tuned for more information and some polling about potential rules changes.

## **SEDCO/W4DXCC**

TCG gave away four (4) gift certificates for a one year subscription to the National Contest Journal at SEDCO/W4DXCC. Several of your fellow TCG members were in attendance, and we thank SEDCO/W4DXCC for their generous \$100 donation to help support TCGs mission of promoting contesting.

## **TCG AT HUNTSVILLE**



W4NZ (Ted), AI4DB (Tom), K4VIG (Gary), W4KW ( Bert), W3TB (Ted), WN8Y (Kenny). W4DTA (Steve) was also present. Sorry, I don't know who snapped the photo. W4DTA perhaps? Thanks to W4KW and N4RFP for flying the TCG banner at the hamfest, as well as handing out TQP flyers as well as general information about TCG.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

No new members to report this month.

## **HOW IT ALL STARTED – K0EJ**

Growing up in a small river town in southeast MN, I was bitten by the bug on a warm summer night in July 1967 when I stepped into the shack of an OT, Carl/WA9NIX (literally a shack in his backyard). Later I would discover the station consisted of a Hallicrafters SX117, Eico 723 transmitter, matching modulator and VFO, and a Eico keyer. All I sensed were lights, sounds, smells, knobs. Just what a 12 year-old nerd, infatuated with science and the space program needed. I soon started my path to license, attending weekly code and novice theory classes at the home of George/K0DHI. I licensed on May 28, 1968 as WN0URW.

My first station consisted of a Heath DX20, a Knight R55A, and a roof mounted Gotham vertical (soon improved by just sticking a piece of wire into the SO239 of the DX20 ). I eventually upgraded to General, Advanced, then Extra by examination at the FCC Field Office in St. Paul. The station went through many changes, principally funded by my lawn-mowing, snow-shoveling, handy-man business. Early interests were rag-chewing, achieving WAS, CW traffic handling, and a little DXing. I received field appointments as an Official Relay Station, served as a section CW Net Control Station, and served as Route Manager for one of the section CW nets. Early contesting forays were Field Day, ARRL CD parties, and Sweepstakes. I wasn't great at it and the local club had no active contesters so me and my buddy Dave (WN/WA0VDG (now SK) tried to figure it out on our own.

Ham radio served as an anchor during my high school and college years in the 60's/70's, keeping me out of trouble (or at least keeping me smart enough not to get caught). I lived at home, attending a local college. By this time my station consisted of a Yaesu FT401B xcvr, a TH3 at 40' and 80/40M dipoles. I worked as a technician/sales help at a local radio shop run by Les/K0BAD during my last year in college. During that senior year my father passed away (Mom died when I was 4) and in a strange turn of events, I applied for and was subsequently accepted as a Navy Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate. I also was eligible for a 1x2 vanity call and got my first choice – K0EJ (E.J. were my dad's initials).

After graduation with a degree in physics, I completed Officer Candidate School, received my commission, completed nuclear training, submarine school, and then on to a 20-year career as a submariner. During my various assignments, I got married (Judy for 42 years now), had 2 children (Maegan and Ryan), and assembled stations in FL, ID(x2), CT(x3), SC(x2), and with my last navy assignment, finally TN. Along the way, we took a family vacation to VP2M in 1984, staying at a rent-a-shack and did my first operation from "the other side" in the ARRL SSB DX test. Over 5000Qs using my TS830 to a tribander@30' and a vertical with over 3000+ Qs just on 10M.

I also got a chance to guest-op at some well-known stations including K7NHV in ID (then-a perennial Top Ten CW SS finisher) and W1ZM in CT. Jerry/ZM would become my "adopted dad" and we remained close from 1979 until his passing in 2011. Contesting became my sole focus in ham radio as it allowed me concentrated doses of radio in between life's other, more-important endeavors.

Arriving in TN in 1993, I quickly got involved with some of the local contesters including WA6KUI, N4ZZ, K4AMC, W9WI, and WR3O. Living in Hendersonville (northern suburb of Nashville), I assembled my first 2-tower contest station and helped start the TCG. I disassembled that station and moved to Hixson in 2004 with a career change. Living in a HOA neighborhood, I operated using various wires in the backyard and multi/guest-op'ing for serious contesting forays, I was a regular at

NQ4I and K4JNY/W4PA. I also did a series of ARRL DX CW ops with 100W and wires as V49A, some CQP mini-expeditions, and got licensed as VY2EJ and did several operations from PEI. I looked for a place to grow a new station for several years and finally purchased the current Soddy-Daisy station location in 2009. With the help of fellow TCGers, most notably W4NZ, we constructed the multi-tower QTH I now principally operate from though I still use 100W and a wire at home. I refer to the site as “Project Phoenix” as it consists of the “ashes” of several different contest stations (mine, W1ZM, and K4JNY/W4PA). The current contest station consists of 4 towers with mostly HB antennas. Tower #1 is 90’ of 25G with 5/5 on 20, Tower #2 is 80’ of 45G with 6/6/6 on 10M and a 3L40, Tower #3 is 75’ of 25G with 5/5 on 15, Tower #4 is 40’ of 45G with a 40M rotary dipole and a tribander set away from the main towers and serves as my “off-direction go-to” antenna- usually SE. An 80M 4-square and 160M inverted L round out the outside. Inside I have a Flex 6600M, a pair of old Alpha amps (upgraded to 3CX800s) and an extra operating position with a TenTec Titan amp for multi-ops. At home I use a TS590 to a 40M horizontal delta and an 80M wire vertical (when mowing season is over).

My 40-year full-time professional career was as a public servant with 20 years in the navy, several years teaching (Naval Postgraduate School, Vanderbilt University, and Nashville State Technical College), and 13 years as a field inspector/trainer with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I retired from full-time work in 2016 and have been a part-time consultant in the commercial nuclear industry helping utilities deal with regulatory issues. I am hoping to wrap up that chapter this year! Other hobbies include cooking, reading, traveling, music (listening not playing), and in retirement have also picked up woodworking and golf. Pictured below: W4NZ, K0EJ, K1GU – at Dayton 2016.

*[Ed.Thanks for sharing your wonderful story Mark!]*



## **MRA UPCOMING CONTESTS**

Following 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.

October 07, 2023	California QSO Party
October 07, 2023	Oceania DX Contest, Phone
October 07, 2023	Russian WW Digital Contest
October 14, 2023	Arizona QSO Party
October 14, 2023	Makrothen RTTY Contest
October 14, 2023	Nevada QSO Party
October 14, 2023	Oceania DX Contest, CW
October 14, 2023	Pennsylvania QSO Party
October 14, 2023	Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB
October 14, 2023	South Dakota QSO Party
October 21, 2023	New York QSO Party
October 21, 2023	Stew Perry Topband Challenge-Oct
October 21, 2023	Worked All Germany Contest
October 21, 2023	YBDXPI FT Contest
October 22, 2023	Illinois QSO Party
October 28, 2023	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB
November 04, 2023	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW
November 11, 2023	OK/OM DX Contest, CW
November 11, 2023	WAE DX Contest, RTTY
November 12, 2023	North American Sprint SSB Contest, Nov
November 18, 2023	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB
November 18, 2023	LZ DX Contest
November 25, 2023	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW

## **CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY**

The California QSO Party is coming October 7. TCG has come in First Place on more than one occasion. Now with the return of sunspots, we can once again enjoy 10 meter openings to the west coast, and rack up a LOT of QSOs, especially on 10 meter SSB. Let's make a concerted effort to place #1 again this year! Take a look at the resources available at CQP.ORG, and be sure to listen to the TCG October Zoom meeting. Links above.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

October 7	California QSO Party – The King of State QSO Parties. Let's win again!
October 28-29	CQWW SSB – The Biggest SSB Contest of the Year!
November 4-5	ARRL CW Sweepstakes – Let's go for a TCG WIN this year!
November 18-19	ARRL SSB Sweepstakes – Let's go for a TCG WIN this year!
November 24-26	CQWW CW - The Biggest CW Contest of the Year!