



News and Events — September 2023

TENNESSEE QSO PARTY

Another Tennessee QSO Party is now in the books. Murphy delivered an M6 magnitude solar flare before the start, just to make things more challenging. There were still lots of QSOs made: over 16,000 CW QSOs and nearly 12,000 SSB QSOs were logged during the nine hour operating period. The mobile team of AD4EB, N4ZZ, and KI4HVY of course led the pack once again, amassing an amazing 1370 QSOs from the road. As I type this, Jim and Melody are driving across Texas, once again rapidly handing out TX counties to the deserving.

In other TN QSO Party news, an informal vote was cast to determine whether to allow self-spotting in our own party. Of 44 ballots cast, the results were Yes (27 votes, 61.4%) No (13 votes, 29.5%) Abstain (4 votes, 9.1%) We will likely amend the TQP rules in favor of self-spotting, as it seems to be a popular tool used by mobiles in particular. Finally, we'd like thank Andrew N4MCC for volunteering to do the writeup for the 2023 TN QSO Party.

ARRL CLUB BOUNDARY

The ARRL has announced the following change to Club Competition: "The eligibility circle radius for clubs in the unlimited and medium categories active in the club competition will increase from 175 to 250 miles." TCG is putting together a map of all members to see exactly how this change might affect us. QRX for more information, once we have all of the data in hand.

ZOOM MEETING – AD4EB on Mobile Contesting

We were very lucky to have AD4EB give an excellent presentation on mobile contest August 24. Jim shared details of his hardware installation, planning strategy, operating techniques and safety concerns. It was a comprehensive look at mobile contesting that is worth a watch. You can see Jim's presentation on YouTube by going to the following link: <https://youtu.be/xgjZHOGDFfk>

While recordings of the TCG Zoom sessions will be provided, we'd like to encourage TCG members to show up for the live meeting if possible. Live attendance allows us to ask questions and exchange ideas in real-time. It's also an opportunity to put a face and a voice with the folks we've been working for years, and to just hang out together as a group.

W4DXCC/SEDCO

TCG has purchased four (4) gift certificates for a one year subscription to the National Contest Journal. These will be given away as door prizes at the W4DXCC convention held September in east Tennessee. Several of your fellow TCG members will be in attendance, so use the opportunity to share some contester-style camaraderie among the Dxers.

WHERE IT ALL STARTED – K4UU

It all started when a very inquisitive young boy who sat by his dad's work bench and constantly asked questions about everything he was doing. My dad and I built a crystal radio so I could listen to local AM radio stations and be occupied by the Lone Ranger or Fibber Magee and Molly and not bother him with my constant questions. I was fascinated that a few parts on a piece of board and a magic green wire run out our basement window brought in sounds and entertainment. It was magic.

Later in life as a teenager, I discovered an old RCA radio that I could listen to Rock and Roll on the many clear channel stations from around country. To my surprise I found it covered the short wave bands. I spent many happy hours listening to stations from around the world. I also heard stations that I later learned were amateur radio operators. I was truly fascinated by the whole experience. My dad had a collection of the Tom Swift series which I read that sparked my interest in everything about electricity and radio.

My life took the usual turns, girls, sports, high school and college. Along came Vietnam and a letter from the President of the United States. I joined the Navy and was sworn in on the day I was supposed to be inducted in the Army. I became a radioman on a 172 foot wooden minesweeper. While stationed at Little Creek, Virginia, one of my neighbors was a Ham, and he gave me my novice test. I got my license, but never got on the air. After I got out of the Navy, I returned home and finished college. I moved to Glasgow, KY, for a new job with a printing company. I got a new account called QST. I got re-licensed and became WB4FLB.

Another move brought me back to Bowling Green, KY, and a house with a tower. I did a lot of tower climbing for the locals which helped finance my hobby and helped me make many new friends. One of my new friends was K4ISV, and Bud introduced me to contesting and DXing. I have worked several contests from his station as a multi operator and from his VP5B station. I've also been very lucky to operate from other (not rare) entities. In 1996 I changed my call to K4UU.

I feel fortunate to have been in a great hobby for over 50 years and met so many hams, both on the air and in person. I still get the same wonderful feeling each day as I make a new contact as I did when I made my first novice contact. I used to make the trip to Nashville to have breakfast with the guys when they started the TCG. I have made many good friends and always look forward to seeing the green shirts at the hamfest. Thanks for letting me be an out-of-state member. *[Thanks very much for sharing your story with us Gary.]*

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. Let's make a concerted effort to place #1 again this year!

NEW MEMBERS

TCG is very pleased to welcome the following new members to our group in 2023: W1EG, WF4I, AB4PP, N9CB, K4KR, KQ4E, AA4NU and KO4DDG. With increasing sunspots coming our way, the fun is really just beginning! We're glad to have you aboard with us.

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.

September 2, 2023	All Asian DX Contest, Phone
September 2, 2023	Colorado QSO Party
September 2, 2023	CWOps CW Open
September 3, 2023	Tennessee QSO Party
September 9, 2023	Alabama QSO Party
September 9, 2023	ARRL September VHF Contest
September 9, 2023	WAE DX Contest, SSB
September 10, 2023	North American Sprint, CW Sep
September 16, 2023	New Hampshire QSO Party
September 16, 2023	New Jersey QSO Party
September 16, 2023	Texas QSO Party
September 16, 2023	Washington State Salmon Run
September 16, 2023	Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW
September 16, 2023	Iowa QSO Party
September 17, 2023	North American Sprint, RTTY Sep
September 18, 2023	144 MHz Fall Sprint
September 23, 2023	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY
September 23, 2023	Maine QSO Party
October 7, 2023	California QSO Party
October 7, 2023	Oceania DX Contest, Phone
October 7, 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 29-30	W4DXCC Convention
October 7	California QSO Party
October 28-29	CQWW SSB