

TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP

VOL. 3, ISSUE 5

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AUGUST 2020



Tennessee QSO Party
TNQP



Upcoming Contests



The Vote Is In



The Learning Page



Tennessee QSO Party

sponsored by the
Tennessee Contest Group



TNQP is Sunday, 6 September 2020

If you are looking for a way to increase your “Radio Active” time, here is the perfect opportunity—the TN QSO Party. Let’s help TCG to shine at this annual event. Time to start thinking about the times, modes and frequencies you can work the contest. Please mark September 6th, 2020 in your calendar for the next running of the TNQP block your calendar (so nothing else sneaks in— it IS a holiday weekend!). As of Sunday, August 9, **there are only 9 of 95 Counties registered.** We can do better than that! Please register, so those who are “hunting” for counties know which will be active. Let’s get all 95 counties on board with some TCG representation! Get full details at: www.tnqp.org

The Vote is In!

The recent ballot regarding TCG Dues and a Constitutional change to a Single Membership Definition has been closed, and both measures have passed. See the article in this edition for results and additional details.

Member Spotlight

Our **Member Spotlight** for July features Ned Swartz, K1GU. Learn some Ned’s travels, early HAM experience, and his way of throwing wires out the window or over a tree with some fantastic results!

Upcoming Hamfests/Conventions

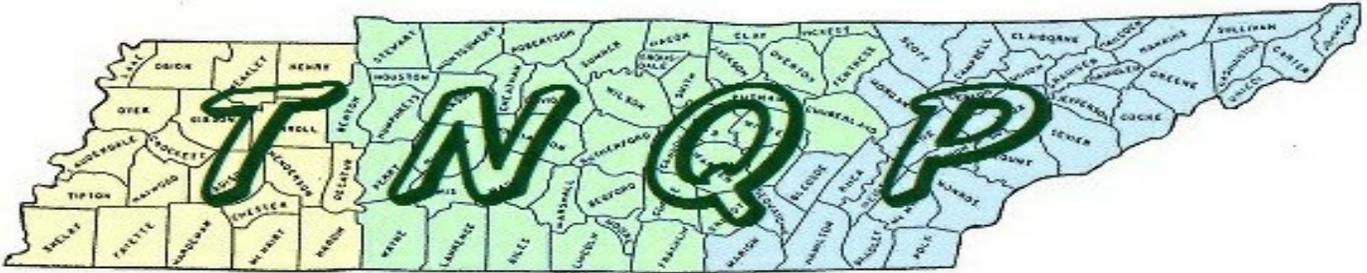
Most of our opportunities to gather, share stories, and buy some things that we need—and don’t need but buy anyway—have disappeared from the calendar as a result of COVID-19. As of this time, there are just a couple that are still on the schedule for September in TN and our neighboring states.

TCG HF Net

We’re missing you... on the **TCG Weekly Net!** Join us each **THURSDAY** night at **7:30 p.m. Central Time Zone** on **3.620 MHz** for some friendly discussion, TCG News, and a little bit of rag-653chewing with TCG members.

The Learning Page

Visit the Learning page for some current and prior learning opportunities, and to find out how to share your information with our TCG Members!



CQ TN QSO PARTY, CQ TNQP

About the TNQP: [Source: <https://tnqp.org/about-2/>]

“The Tennessee QSO Party is an annual amateur radio event which takes place on either the first or second Sunday of September. All amateur radio operators in the great state of Tennessee are encouraged to participate as antennas around the world rotate and point to the volunteer state.

The Tennessee QSO Party is hosted by the Tennessee Contest Group. Each year tens of thousands of QSOs occur between Tennessee amateur radio operators and hams worldwide. Plaques are awarded for category winners.”

You can find all of the details about the Tennessee QSO Party on the the TNQP site <https://tnqp.org/> , but here are a few things to keep in mind:

Register using the link to the [Tennessee County Registration Form](#)

If you plan to participate in the upcoming TNQP from one or more Tennessee counties, please let us know by registering at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-RKkqRqPMz8Au9iZEbXTVkGyDix8UWSc92x2FCS8VnwwuQ/viewform?fbzx=2276411436893591816>

NOTE: As of Sunday, August 9, there are **only 9 of 95 Counties registered**. We can do better than that! Please register, so those who are “hunting” for counties know which will be active. Let’s get all 95 counties on board with some TGG representation!

The Rules: [Source: <https://tnqp.org/rules/>] See Key details below: Refer to <https://tnqp.org/rules/> for specific details about Safety, the Exchange, Categories, and Scoring! You will also find sections on “Where To Look” for suggested frequencies, Award details, Bonus stations and Logs on the Rules page.

Safety First! As COVID-19 impacts in our communities, it is important that we stay safe and healthy for ourselves, our families, and our communities, including our Tennessee Contest Group members!

- **Contest Period:** 1800z Sunday, September 6 until 0300z Monday, September 7, 2020
- **Bands:** All amateur bands are valid, with the exception of 60, 30, 17 and 12 meters.
- **Modes:** Phone-SSB (no repeater QSO’s), CW, Digital
- **Exchange:** RS(T) and Tennessee County, U.S. state, Canadian province/territory, or DXCC entity.

Don’t Forget: Logs must be received by **7 October 2020**. Submission details are included on the Rules page <https://tnqp.org/rules/>

GOOD LUCK!!!

The Vote Is IN!



Dues/Membership Category Voting Results

From Hunter Mills, K3IE:

The voting results are in and both measure have passed:

- #1. \$10 Annual Dues received 97% "Yes" votes
- #2. Constitutional Change to a Single Membership Definition passed with 94% "Yes" votes.

Both measures will take effect in January 2021. More information regarding payment methods for dues will follow in the Fall.

Moving to a single membership category will provide every member with the opportunity to vote on club business and run for a club office. In essence, it will provide all of our members with the ability to get involved.

The dues/membership category discussion provided some spirited comments on our Reflector, some helpful and some not. Diversity of views are always welcome on our Reflector as long as they are civil and respectful. Posts that are contrary to this decorum will not be tolerated.

Above all, your officers want to provide a positive club experience for all of our members that promotes contesting, camaraderie, and the ability to improve our operating skills. A great example of this spirit of camaraderie was our recent "distributed Multi/Multi" W1AW/4 operation in last month's IARU HF Championship.

Our upcoming Tennessee QSO Party on September 6th will provide another opportunity for club members to participate, as a group, in operating our club Bonus station K4TCG - more news on that will follow in the coming days.

Our club has a lot to be proud of. Some of our members are nationally known for their contesting skills and awards. But all of us, collectively, are known as a club that is well respected in the contesting community and one that "brings it" on contest weekend.

Thank you all for keeping TCG "Radioactive".

- Hunter K3IE

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"Dit-Dit Dit"

Member Spotlight

Meet Ned Swartz K1GU

Our **Member Spotlight** for August, features Ned Swartz, K1GU. Learn some Ned's travels, early HAM experience, and his way of throwing wires out the window or over a tree with some fantastic results!

Hello from Friendsville, a sleepy hamlet in Blount County not too far from the Knoxville airport. The one in my call is real. Prior to coming to Tennessee and TCG in 2003, and with the exception of military assignments, I lived my entire life in suburban Boston (proximity to EU.) I met my wife in west Texas where we were stationed. She's from Hamblen county and went to school in Knoxville. While the kids were growing up we were here three or four times a year visiting friends and family, so we weren't exactly new to the area.

I went from college, to the air force, then the air guard ending with 27 years total service. I was a navigator in three models of KC-135s. I've been to around 40 DXCC entities, QRV in Guam, Okinawa, and sometimes over places where Nixon said there were no Americans. Most all of the DX operating was running phone patches for the troops and my crew. On the civilian side, I'm retired from a defense lab run by MIT. (I was only smart enough to work for MIT, not smart enough to go to school there.)

When I was in the 6th and 7th grades (1960ish), my parents had a Westinghouse "table" radio about the size of a large microwave. It had a shortwave band. In the evening Radio Moscow, BBC, VOA, Radio Free Europe, came booming in between 7200-7400. In the daytime there were hams on AM, many speaking French (VE2s and their W1 cousins.) I thought it was magic. That led me to an 8 week novice license class at the science museum. A few weeks before the big license exam, I couldn't copy 25 letters straight without a mistake. I bought an Ameco 33 1/3 rpm LP code practice record. When I had memorized too much of the exercises to be of benefit, I played it at 45 rpm. I managed to pass the test and began the long 3 1/2 month wait for my license and call, KN1SOP, to arrive from the FCC. My first "station" was a Heathkit AR-3 receiver and a Globe Scout 680 transmitter. Within six months I passed the General exam on my second try. Going in to Boston to face the FCC examiner was a pretty harrowing experience for a 14 year old. I wasn't ready the first time. Even if I was, I probably would have been too nervous to copy 100 characters.

Through the rest of jr. high and high school I kept trading up. Some of the stuff was a Hallicrafters S-85, then a Drake 2B, a Johnson Ranger and a Gonset amp with four 811s. By then I had a multiband dipole and a Johnson Matchbox. Sometime during college, I traded the Ranger and the amp for a Drake TR-3. That was like heaven. I transceived on SSB and listened on CW with the 2B. My favorite activity was the ARRL DX CW contest. There's a European theme here. I really don't remember doing much else besides SS. I think the only time I came home from school to operate was for the ARRL DX contest. After graduation, I sold all my gear before leaving for parts unknown with the air force.

A year into the air force, I was in flying school in Sacramento and sharing a 3 bedroom house. The sister of one of my roommates worked at the place that made the old Globe equipment back in Nebraska. With her employee discount I got a Galaxy GT-550. It was a solid-state SSB transceiver with a tube final. I got it on the air the day of the 1969 phone SS. I still have my log on yellow legal paper. K4L-TA is in it. My contesting exploits were short lived as I spent most of the next four years flying in Asia. At least I got about a year at home base in Abilene, Texas, long enough to meet Kathy (XYL) who lived in my building. Abilene had a radio store owned by a ham couple. I traded the still new GT-550 for a full Collins S-Line which didn't get used much until we left active duty as my next assignment was going to be to Korea alone. At that point we had been married less than two years and had maybe 150 days together.

Member Spotlight (cont.)

Meet Ned Swartz K1GU

Our **Member Spotlight** for August, features Ned Swartz, K1GU. Learn some Ned's travels, early HAM experience, and his way of throwing wires out the window or over a tree with some fantastic results!

The next few years determined the course of my occupational life. We left Texas for Boston where my prospects seemed better than Atlanta. We rented a house. I put some wires in trees, worked Europe. Eventually I went back to school full-time on the GI Bill. The air force decided to start farming out KC-135s to guard and reserve units that were on active bases and they needed experienced help fast. I joined a tech start-up. We bought a house. Then the kids came. Before moving, I played in ARRL DX, CD parties, and a little SS CW. I have a log sheet from the '74 SS with Qs from some familiar faces. K4SXD (W4NZ), K4PUZ (N4ZZ), and K4BAI. After we moved, the S-Line never came out of the boxes and was sold. I bought a used Ten-Tec Triton 4 that sat idle for some 20 years while I juggled home life, work, and 100+ days per year flying and going on and off off active duty. If I wasn't on alert weekends, sometimes I'd fly a mission to EU and back. It really helps to be close and have a fast jet. Post military retirement, I flew light planes for fun, only it wasn't. I found it difficult to maintain currency. It was expensive. What ever "high" I got from it ended when I landed. Then one day in May

I threw a random wire out the window and over a tree branch. I dug out my old WB4VVF Accukeyer and connected the Triton. There were lots of signals on 15. Calls were all weird but many began with "J". I listened to the Qs and figured out it was a contest. The stations were all sending "TU". I never heard that and didn't know what exactly it meant. So I called when I felt I had the call sign right. The stations came back with a number, I answered with "R" and my number. The others all answered with TU. So I started sending TU in place of R. Seemed to work. I made about 50 contacts, half Japan. I made another 50 or so contacts each in the next few weekends. Random wire over a tree? Easy! I decided I was going to be a contester. Little did I know what I was getting into. I had forgotten everything I knew about antennas, said I didn't need a computer to log, and never heard of CAT. All that didn't last long and having YCCC for a resource helped change things, although I was too stubborn to see the light at first. Before the move to Tennessee, I had wires for the six contest bands 160-10. YCCC competes with FRC in CQWW and ARRL DX. The mantra was and still is, work Europe, work Europe, and when done with that, work Europe. I still do that. The key is to know when the propagation gets too long for W1-2 and favors us.

I'll skip the trials and tribulations, rig progressions and end with my current setup. My antennas are a four element SteppIR and a 40M Moxon on a US Tower crank up. The Moxon started life as a Cushcraft XM-240 until lightning blew one of the coils apart and I melted the undersized balun. I hang an 80M Inv-V and a 160 Inv-L from side arms. I also have two reversible Beverages. My full time radio is a tricked out K3 with another as a spare for mobile and portable operations. I have been operating the spare K3 remotely for a couple of weeks with the eventual goal of remote controlling the main station when I travel. My amplifier is a super reliable Ten-Tec Centurion that I hope will last forever or at least until we have to move into a condo. I have hosted a few M/2 and M/S contests but I am not regularly capable. Once the virus is killed, I will be open again for guest ops and M/S. These days I rarely go on SSB. I'm all CW and some RTTY when there isn't a CW contest. I welcome any antenna challenged phone ops. In some contests, I operate about half the hours if I can, usually much less except in the big ones.

Stay safe - Ned K1GU

Upcoming Contests



There is a LOT of activity through the end of the month, and into September, for both CW and other mode operators! See the "short list " below, and check these links to some of the commonly used websites more information:

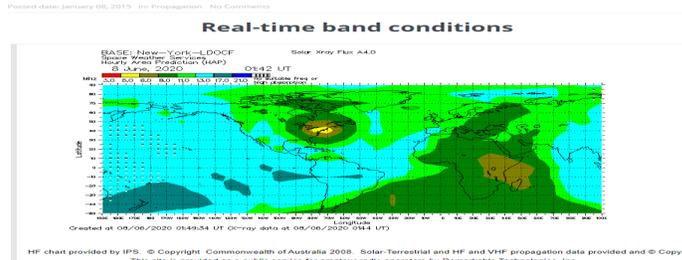
Date	Contest Name	Mode
12-August	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW
15-August	North American QSO Party—SSB	Ph
16-August	ARRL Rookie Round-up—RTTY	Dig
22-August	Hawaii QSO Party	CW, Ph, Dig
22-August	Ohio QSO Party	CW, Ph
29-August	ALARA Contest	CW, Ph
29-August	fWprld Wide Digi DX Contest	Dig
29-August	Kansas QSO Party	CW, Ph, Dig
31-August	QCX Challenge	CW
2-Sept.	CWops CW Open	CW
5-Sept.	Colorado QSO Party	CW, Ph, Dig
6-Sept.	Tennessee QSO Party (TNQP)	CW, Ph, Dig
7-Sept.	MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	CW
12-Sept.	Texas QSO Party	CW, Ph, Dig
12-Sept.	Alabama QSO Party	CW, Ph, Dig
12-Sept.	North American sprint CW	CW

Contest Calendar Links

- ⇒ CQ Amateur Radio: For links to Contests, plus tips for New Hams, Awards, Amateur Radio Club Listings and more: http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_hobby_radio_links/cq_hrl_contest_links.html
- ⇒ July Contest Corral is available at: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2020/July%202020%20Corral.pdf>
- ⇒ DX Zone Contesting Calendar listing: <https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Contesting/Calendars/>
- ⇒ WA7BNM Contest Calendar: <http://www.contestcalendar.com/> - 8-day, 12 month, etc.
- ⇒ Annual CQ Contest Calendar: http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_annual_contest_calendar/cq_annual_contest_calendar.html
- ⇒ DX Zone Contest Calendar: <https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Contesting/Calendars/> \
- ⇒ Click pictures below for real-time band conditions, courtesy of QRZnow.com



Real-time band conditions



Member Spotlight — TAG, YOU'RE IT!!!

During a recent “get to know your teammates virtual event, one of my fellow project management team at my “day job” decided to write a bit about himself in an email, then send it out to the team, TAGGING another person on the team to do the same! We had a lot of fun learning about each other about their experiences, families, and interests. In the spirit of fun and getting to know our fellow Tennessee Contest Members, our featured **Member Spotlight** A big THANK YOU to **Ned Swartz, K1GU**, who stepped up to the “Tag” challenge, and provided his bio for this month.. **Ned, or any others who would like, please “TAG” the next candidate for the Member Spotlight, so we can include our “star” in the September Edition!** Email Cathy Goodrich, W4CMG (w4cmg.dx@gmail.com) with your suggested Member for the Spotlight, so we can reach out to them with a request for their information!

HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS:

Sadly, most of our opportunities to gather, share stories, and buy some things that we need—and don't need but buy anyway—have disappeared from the calendar as a result of COVID-19 and the safety precautions to keep communities safe. It is important to maintain the guidelines that our state and counties have put forth, though It does change the way we gather and communicate off the air.

As of this time, there are just a couple that are still on the schedule for September in TN and our neighboring states, in chronological order, that are still active on the ARRL website. An update will be provided in each “next month” newsletter as scheduled event status is still changing regularly. Please check the sponsoring club website for the latest updates before heading out for the events. Sadly, SEDCO and Chattanooga Hamfest, which have been frequented by our TCG members, have been canceled.

09/12/2020 - Dalton Swapfest ; Location: Dalton, GA; **Sponsor:** Dalton Amateur Radio Club
Website: <https://facebook.com/events/s/darc-swapfest/2638699726449402/?ti=icl>

09/19/2020 - Sevier County Amateur Radio Society ; Location: Sevierville , TN;
Sponsor: Sevier County Amateur Radio Society & 470 Amateur Radio Group
Website: <http://seviercountyars.com>

SUBMIT YOUR SCORES! A Gentle reminder from our TCG Constitution <http://k4tcg.org/tcg-constitution-by-laws/>

TCG has a large number of members across the state (and a few beyond), and we love having our members actively participate in contests, both within the US and Worldwide! To keep our membership up to the TCG Constitution, though, we really need our members to submit their logs to keep their membership up do date.

Here is a gentle reminder about the guidelines from the constitution to stay on the active member roster. They're pretty simple, and the leadership team and other members are always happy to help if you need some assistance:

- 1) Contribute to at least one TCG composite score in a sponsored contest
- 2) Host a TCG guest operator.
- 3) Guest-operate at another station or
- 4) Participate in a multi-operation, as long as the score is credited to the TCG.

The score contribution must be submitted to the contest sponsor with credit to TCG. We also ask that all scores are reported to the public score reflector at <http://3830scores.com/>

CONTACT INFO:

Tennessee Contest Group
tcg1@googlegroups.com

Cathy Goodrich W4CMG
TCG Secretary/Event Coordinator
Email: w4cmg.dx@gmail.com

Click to unsubscribe [here](#)
Next edition: August 2020

WEEKLY TCG NET

Each THURSDAY night at 8:30 p.m. ET/7:30 p.m. CT
Frequency: 3.620 MHz

Topics: TCG News, Technical discussions, upcoming contests and events, friendly discussion (aka a little bit of rag-chewing with TCG members).

Got a topic? Call into the net and speak up!

ARRL Learning Network

[Source: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-learning-network>]

For those who may be members of the ARRL, there is an opportunity to attend learn about some new tools and techniques by participating in some of their Webinars, offered by the ARRL Learning Network. The network offers both live and pre-recorded webinars that can introduce you to some new modes and offering some new topics to add to your amateur radio toolbox.

August offerings include:

- Introduction to Digital FM Modes
- Introduction to Computer Logging
- Capture the Magic of 6 Meters
- The Sport of Finding Hidden Transmitters on Foot

NOTE: Registration is Required through the ARRL Learning Network at: <http://www.arrl.org/ARRL-Learning-Network#calendar>

There are also several previously recorded webinars available through the ARRL Website.

NOTE: This is not meant to promote membership in ARRL. This information is being provided to our TCG members who may not be aware that this opportunity for learning exists.

Contest University 2020 was held online free via Zoom

[Source: <https://www.contestuniversity.com/course-outline/>]

The Contest University took place as scheduled using remote technology on May 14, 2020. You may not have been able to attend, or to dedicate your whole day, but never fear... ***YouTube comes to the rescue!***

Here is the YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEEUpsWUtAA>

See the website for more information at: <https://www.contestuniversity.com/course-outline/>

Interested in???

Is there a new mode (FT4, FT8, RTTY...) that you might be in? Or do you have an active interest in a radio-related topic that you would like to share with our TCG members? In today's world of Virtual meetings via Zoom, MS Teams, freeconferencecall.com and many other modes (not to mention some VERBAL radio discussions) let's find some common interests and get a group together. If you are not interested in meeting, but would like to see a topic in print, or have an article to share, we can do that too! Please send you ideas to topics to learn, or to share, to Cathy Goodrich at w4cmg.dx@gmail.com, or post them on the TCG Reflector to start the conversation.