

TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP

VOL. 3, ISSUE 3

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JUNE 2020



Upcoming Contests



ARRL Field Day Temp
Rules Waivers 2020



IARU HF World
Championship



Member Spotlight
Bert Noll W4KW



IARU HF World Championship: IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

TCG and the Deep Dixie Contest Club (DDCC) have the honor of conducting a joint operation of IARU member society HQ station callsign W1AW during next month's IARU HF World Championship.

ARRL Field Day Rule Changes for 2020 Will Benefit TCG

ARRL Field day exercise this year has brought some changes that will Benefit TCG. With the one time ability to work the Field Day exercise (not a contest) from home and to work everybody, we may have a collective TCG score! This is something we all need to take advantage of for Field Day. As an extra benefit, this can also be a trial run for our TCG TN QP.

Member Spotlight

Our **Member Spotlight** for May features Bert Noll, W4KW. Learn some interesting facts about the voice frequently behind the microphone during our weekly TCG HF Net. And, just in... "A big "Atta Boy" to Bert for his recent first place "Outside 7th Call Area - High Power Assisted Phone" finish in the recent 7QP" (Thank you Hunter for letting us know!)

Ham Station Comfort & Layout is Critical for Contesters & DX'ers

By: Bruce Smith/AC4G

"Do you have room to improve your ability to endure in contests while perhaps being a top contender in most of the major amateur radio contests and DXpeditions? Stand back, make an objective evaluation of your shack, make a realistic plan, and execute the plan even if it is only moving clutter out and rearranging equipment"

MOST RADIO-ACTIVE (MRA) Report

Did you know.... There is a monthly "TCG Most Radio Active Report" (MRA Report) published by Ted. W4NZ? Although it comes to all members through the reflector, it may be lost in the emails that are generated. Did you make the "Top 25" list? Find out more about the Most Radio Active Guidelines at <http://k4tcg.org/files/2019/12/TCG-2020-Radio-Active-Award-Guidelines.pdf>

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 **3.618 MHz** for some friendly discussion, TCG News, and a little bit of rag-653chewing with TCG members.

Contest University 2020

Contest University 2020 recording is now available on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEEUpsWUtAA>

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

2020 IARU HF World Championship (July 11-12th)

From Hunter Mills, K3IE, President, Tennessee Contest Group

It is with great pleasure that I announce that TCG and the Deep Dixie Contest Club (DDCC) have the honor of conducting a joint operation of IARU member society HQ station callsign W1AW during next month's IARU HF World Championship.



This is truly an honor - the last time TCG represented the HQ station W1AW/4 in the IARU Championship was back in 2006.

With this honor comes a huge responsibility. TCG and DDCC will be solely responsible for providing the HQ W1AW/4 multiplier to the world.

The leadership teams of both clubs are currently identifying the member stations that can provide the optimum coverage for all six bands (160/80/40/20/15/10) and modes (CW/SSB) for the 24 hour contest period. Operations will primarily take place from COVID-19 compliant Multi-Op stations but there will be opportunities for members to operate a shift from their own station.

Juan, AC6ZM, is spearheading this effort for TCG and will be the prime contact. Ned K1GU and Ted W4NZ have graciously offered their consultative expertise regarding scheduling logistics and N1MM/Network IT coordination.

If you are comfortable being on the "chaos side" of running a large pile-up and feel your station performs particularly well on a certain band, please reach out to Juan and his team. Or, you may volunteer for a shift at one of our Multi-Op stations. Knowledge of N1MM contest software is critical since it will be used by all entrants.

Shortly, Juan will be providing a Scheduling Grid that will indicate available slots. Please be on the lookout.

The contest is only 5 weeks away and it will take a huge effort from both clubs to put our best foot forward. I have no doubt we will deliver an operation of which we can all be proud.

Along with our friends at Deep Dixie Contest Group, TCG will make W1AW/4 Radioactive!!

Best 73, Hunter K3IE

2020 IARU HF World Championship (July 11-12th)

The IARU HF World Championship is fast approaching. It is essential that the global COVID-19 pandemic must be taken into account when planning participation, including by IARU member-society HQ station teams.

Multi Operator and IARU Member Society HQ Station operations must adhere strictly to the regulations and physical distancing guidelines issued by the responsible health authorities and the World Health Organization and in effect at the time of the event, even if observing the guidelines is not legally required in their locations. This requirement also applies to Single Operator stations and especially to those hosting guest operators. This may reduce participation but it is vital that the IARU, its member societies, and individual radio amateurs behave as responsible members of the global community.

The special rules governing IARU Member Society HQ Stations allow for multiple sites to be used, again subject to national regulations. HQ stations will be able to be active, but possibly not at their usual level.

For more information about the IARU HF World Championship Rules see:

<https://www.iaru.org/on-the-air/iaru-contests/rules/>

ARRL Field Day Rule Changes for 2020

Temporary Rule Waivers Announced for 2020 ARRL Field Day

[Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/temporary-rule-waivers-announced-for-2020-arrrl-field-day>] "With one month to go before 2020 **ARRL Field Day**, June 27 – 28, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) has adopted two temporary rule waivers for the event"... "Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many radio clubs have made decisions to cancel their group participation in ARRL Field Day this year due to public health recommendations and/or requirements, or to significantly modify their participation for safe social distancing practices. The temporary rule waivers allow greater flexibility in recognizing the value of individual and club participation regardless of entry class."

Temporary Rule Waivers:

1) For Field Day 2020 only, Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points.

Field Day rule 4.6 defines Class D stations as "Home stations," including stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D stations ordinarily may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C, E, and F Field Day stations, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows Class D stations to count contacts with other Class D stations for QSO credit.

2) In addition, for 2020 only, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club (similar to the aggregate score totals used in ARRL affiliated club competitions).

Ordinarily, club names are only published in the results for Class A and Class F entries, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows participants from **any Class** to optionally include a single club name with their submitted

ARRL Field Day Rule Changes for 2020 Will Benefit TCG

[Thank you Bert W4KW for translating these rules for us!]

Field Day 2020 is an Excellent Opportunity to allow TCG to "Shine", once again.

Field Day Rule 4.6 has been revised to allow Class D Stations (Home Stations) to be permitted to count contacts with other Class D Stations. This is in addition to counting contacts with Class A, B, C, E & F Field Day Stations. In addition, **for 2020 Only**, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of ALL of the individual entries indicating a specific club (TCG).

Score Submission guidelines from Paul Bourque, N1SFE, ARRL Contest Program Manager: The 3830 scores submission is not an official ARRL Field Day entry. All entries must go to the ARRL via the web submission form at <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php> or vial postal mail. Complete Field Day rules are available at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day#rules>

NOTE: You DO NOT need to be an ARRL member to participate and submit scores!!!

While you're waiting for the big event, take advantage of the time to set up your N1MM+ logger for Field Day, and then use your Field Day experiences with the tool to get prepped for our TCG QP in September! It will be here sooner than you think!

Member Spotlight

Meet Bert Noll W4KW

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BERT!!! 73, de TCG

Our **Member Spotlight** for May features Bert Noll W4KW. Learn some interesting facts about the voice frequently behind the microphone during our weekly TCG HF Net. A big “Atta Boy” to Bert for his recent first place “Outside 7th Call Area - High Power Assisted Phone” finish in the recent 7QP (thank you Hunter for letting us know!)



I was born and raised in East Nashville. I attended Father Ryan High School my Freshman and Sophomore years and was a member of the Radio Club which was directed by Father Joseph Julius (W4DQG). I attended Hume Fogg Technical and Vocational High School my Junior and Senior years. My Junior year I was President of my Class. My Senior Year (1958-1959) I was Vice President of my class, also President of the Initial Honor Society for Hume Fogg. I attended Radio and T V Classes both years. I obtained my Novice Class Amateur Radio License my Junior year. I enjoyed SWLing for several years prior to taking my Novice Test. I also helped W4ZMC (Steve Lawrence) complete his paper contest logs during the 1955 CQ WW SSB Contest.

After Graduating High School, I attended the NEJATC Four year Electrical Apprenticeship Program Evening classes (in addition to working a 40 hour day job). I graduated as Outstanding Apprentice of my class. A year and a half after completing my Apprenticeship classes, I returned to be an Evening Instructor for Nine and a Half years in the NEJATC (in addition to working a 40 hour day job). While working on construction at Vanderbilt University Hospital I re- connected with my wife Judy (she was a year behind me at Hume Fogg) and we married a little over a year later in 1963.

During my 52 plus years in the Electrical Contracting Industry I was employed for over five and a half years at E I Dupont Company, during this time I spliced and terminated High Voltage cables along with other duties. Following that I was employed by one of the Largest Electrical Contractors in Nashville for nineteen and a half years, a portion of this time I served as a Vice President. Later in my career, I started and was President of two separate Electrical Contracting Firms. Throughout this time, I also held various Local and National Positions with the National Electrical Contracting Association. I have been retired since 2012.

I enjoy Traveling, Photography, Antique, Classic, Muscle Cars and of course my 62 plus years of Ham Radio. Our most enjoyable vacation was a week-long cruise on the Inside passage of Alaska. The second most enjoyable would be a week in Maui. A trip to North Caicos to participate in the CQWW SSB at Bud's VP5B Multi-Multi station in 2002 was also a very enjoyable trip. This trip culminated several years of operating at K4ISV's Kentucky station during the CQWW SSB.

The month of June, this year, brings two personal milestones, **my 79th Birthday and our 57th wedding anniversary**. Judy and I have two children, five Grandchildren and three (soon to be four) Great Grandchildren. Our family has lived “On the Ridge” (Ridgetop) for over forty – four years, after living in Hendersonville for twelve years. We have enjoyed renovating (several times) our almost Century old Farm House type home. Maintaining our 21 acres along with everything else keeps me busy and mostly out of trouble.

I have enjoyed many facets of Ham Radio over the years, but in 1968 I unexpectedly received a Washington State QSO Party Participation Certificate, currently called the Salmon Run. I was further inspired when, in 1970, I received a Beautiful Brightly Colored 25” x 19” Picture Certificate for my participation in the Venezuela Independence Day Celebration. I was hooked on Contesting. The rest is Contesting history.

I continue to enjoy “Elmering” young and not so young individuals by physical support and any other way I can be of assistance to further individual's enjoyment of this Great Ham Radio Hobby. My Father and Grandfather were pictured in the famous 1917 Radio Club of Tacoma “Spark Gap Station”. (Regretfully neither obtained their Ham license).

It is mind boggling just how much this great hobby has evolved over one hundred plus years.

73's Bert W4KW (Ex K4BBN, K4UVH, KN4UVH)

Member Spotlight—TAG, YOU'RE IT!!!

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** “star”, Bert Noll W4KW is saying **“Tag, You’re It”** to **Ted Bryant, W4NZ** and **Ned Swartz, K1GU**. **Looking forward to seeing a brief bio in my inbox (w4cmg.dx@gmail.com) from both Ted, W4NZ and Ned K1GU so we can share your stories in a future edition!**

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for someone to take over managing the TCG web site. We need someone with the interest and time to keep the TCG web site regularly updated. Tasks would include maintenance of the official TCG Roster, the Photo Gallery, TCG Newsletter postings, and any other pertinent information useful to TCG.

Knowledge of the Wordpress content management system would be a huge plus, but anyone with knowledge of computers could learn the tasks. Assistance will be readily provided along the way.

Please contact k4ro@k4ro.net directly to enquire.



MOST RADIO-ACTIVE (MRA) Report

Did you know.... There is a monthly “TCG Most Radio Active Report” (MRA Report) published by Ted. W4NZ? Although it comes to all members through the reflector, it may be lost in the emails that are generated. Did you make the “Top 25” list? Find out more about the Most Radio Active Guidelines, including the topics below, at: <http://k4tcg.org/files/2019/12/TCG-2020-Radio-Active-Award-Guidelines.pdf>

Goals and Objectives	Operating Time
Qualification Period	Score Calculation
Operating Classes	Qualifying Contests
Scoring	Particulars
Multipliers	Awards

CONTACT INFO:

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tcg1@googlegroups.com

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

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

WEEKLY TCG NET

Each **THURSDAY** night at 8:30 p.m. ET/7:30 p.m. CT
Frequency: **3.618 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!

Upcoming Contests



There is a LOT of activity through the end of the month, for both CW and other mode operators! Not to mention, of course Field Day, which will present some unique opportunities for TCG this year. See the “short list “ below, and check these links to some of the commonly used websites more information:

Date	Contest Name	Mode
10-June	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW
10-June	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW
13-June	DRCG WW RTTY Contest	Dig
13-June	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CQ
13-June	GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	CW
13-June	REF DDFM 6 Meter Contest	CW Ph
13-June	ARRL June VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig
17-June	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW
20-June	All Asian DX Contest, CW	CW
20-June	West Virginia QSO Party	CW Ph Dig
20-June	ARRL Kids Day	Ph
21-June	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW
24-June	SKCC Sprint	CW
25-June	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW
27-June	ARRL Field Day	CW Ph Dig
29-June	10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party	CW Ph Dig
29-June	QCX Challenge	CW
1-July	RAC Canada Day Contest	CW PH
4-July	DL-DX RTTY Contest	Dig
4-July	Marconi Memorial HF Contest	CW
4-July	Original QRP Contest	CW

Contest Calendar Links

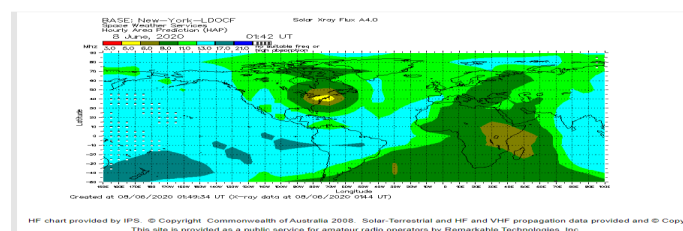
- ⇒ CQ Amateur Radio: For links to Contests, plus tips for New Hams, Awards, Amateur Radio Club Listings and more: http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_hobby_radio_links/cq_hrl_contest_links.html
- ⇒ June Contest Corral is available at: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2020/June%202020%20Corral.pdf>
- ⇒ 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

Plotted data: January 05, 2015 - In Propagation - No Comments

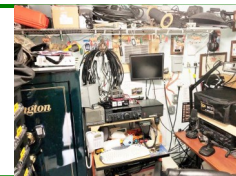


Real-time band conditions



Ham Station Comfort & Layout is Critical for Contesters & DX'ers

By: Bruce Smith/AC4G



Being an “ole-man” (OM) DXer and contestator for at least forty-two years, I have accumulated a lot of junk. I must admit to some degree I am a pack-rat and do not desire to get rid of many hand-me-downs. I see junk from others as treasures that I can possibly use in the future to benefit my ham station contesting & DXing capabilities. However, this mind set can have its pitfalls that we will focus in the remaining portion of this article.

The picture(s) of my current ham shack (Picture 1) explains it all, showing a lack of mobility within the shack. The challenge is determine if the shack is laid out in an efficient and comfortable manner for DXing and contesting. The obvious thought is not a chance! One might ask, “How does he even maneuver with all of that clutter?” This is a good point, how do I?



Picture 1: Junk in AC4G Ham Shack



Picture 2: AC4G's Primary Operating Position

This view of my shack shows absolutely no room for additional storage or movement within the shack, not even socializing a guest visitor. Can you find the 2m transceiver under the computer monitor in the picture above? Can this station be improved? Can you see where improvements can be made? What can I do to make my ham shack better for operating especially long duration operating required for contesting? You are probably thinking that, “I hope none on the junk on the shelf falls on his head? Why does he have patch cables hanging? Do I see a gun safe in that small area? ” Perhaps you have many proactive ideas to provide to me.

Picture 2 is my main operating position. Perhaps there are many thing that can be done to improve the operating position. One may ask, “Why is my secondary operator a four-legged “dear? What benefit is my four-legged “dear” during a contest or working a DXpedition? Why does he have three microphones and a Heil Pro Series headset within arm's reach? How did AC4G get all of that equipment on such a small desk? Why are two (2) HF amplifiers next to each other?” These are all valid points and reasons why I need to renovate my ham shack.

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Ham Station Comfort & Layout is Critical for Contesters & DX'ers (cont.)

Recently, after a major contest perhaps the CQWW CW Contest, I realized that my score was not good enough to be a top contender. I began wondering why and what I could do to improve my scores for all future contests, state QSO parties, and general DXing. I first had to figure out some of the strengths of my shack (if any?), but most of all identify the many weaknesses regarding my ham station and ham station layout. From Picture 3, one can see a major fallacy with my station configuration with the CW key and logging computer.

The problem with this layout is that operator must send CW with their right hand, while logging with their left hand resulting in crisscrossed arms. Yes, typing a callsign and utilizing N1MM+ logging software at the same time. The same situation occurs during phone contests speaking into the microphone with the right hand, while logging with the left hand/arm. Some may call me superman, while other may call me an idiot. Please hold comments to yourself.



Picture 3: CW Key (right hand) and Computer Logging (left hand)

Other concerns with my configuration (seen in previous Picture 2) are that I also have rotor control boxes on shelves too high and unreachable unless partially standing up to move antenna rotor position. I also have power supplies powering the HF transceiver which have no business on the same level as the transceiver. Likewise, antenna switches cannot be reached with ease. Finally, the logging computer box should not be at the same level as the HF transceiver and on the right side of the transceiver as shown in Picture 3.

Can you image how long an operator can endure this position in a major contest running 48 hours? I quickly became exhausted, frustrated, and could only sit at the operating position for two or three hours at most before giving it up, powering down all equipment, and turning in for the night or lasting only a few hours on a morning trying to survive these conditions and add QSOs to my contest log. Sometimes I got all tangled up in cords and my arms became tangled.

I already alluded to many problems with my existing ham shack configuration. The first major issue here is combining two (2) hobbies in one small room. I have all of my hunting supplies, boxes of ammunitions, a gun safe, and other supplies in this small area with my ham radio gear & equipment. Second, I have ham radio equipment sitting on shelves and under the desk top making it difficult to maneuver. Third, the layout of ham equipment is very inefficient. The current layout did not take into consideration comfort and efficient operating. Yes, I have seen other ham shacks on QRZ.com; in online pictures on the internet, and in different presentations throughout the years also only to find most not being configured properly. But I want to correct my stations to make it more efficient. I pondered many times how to do this. I know when setting up a contest station, much thought needs to be considered for comfort, but a close second is function by the operator.

Where could I get some ideas and expertise? Finally, after discussing my ham shack deficiencies with one of my Elmers, Bob DePierre, K8KI, we both concluded that a total renovation of the AC4G ham station was in order. We first realized that I had to remove everything out of the current shack. Secondly, I had to commit to keep other hobbies out of the ham shack in order to provide a layout conducive to serious contesting, DXing, and general operating. Third, I had to plan out a layout that makes common sense, but a layout that I wish I currently had in place making comfort a primary role in the design of a winning contest station and ham shack. I made a commitment to adhere to these simple rules.

Next, with the help of Bob, K8KI, and after some discussion regarding logical placement of ham equipment, to include power supplies, rotor control boxes, antenna switches, and the computer & monitors, we converted my desires on paper to include measurements of the room and the furniture to be included in the shack. Below in Picture 4 is the simple layout to improve my operating abilities and increasing my contest scores to hopefully be a top contest contender.

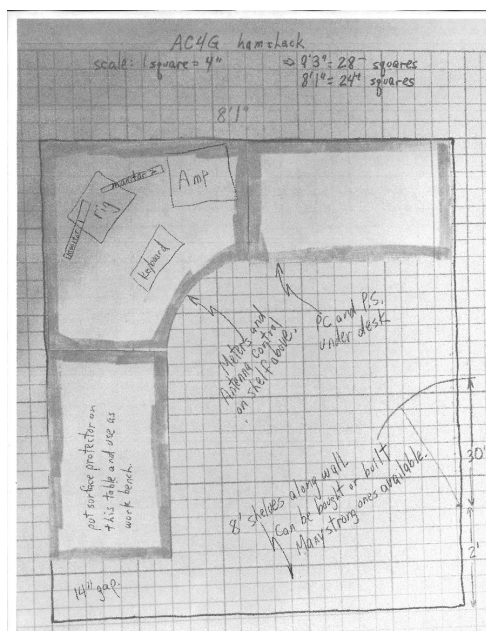
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Ham Station Comfort & Layout is Critical for Contesters & DX'ers (cont.)

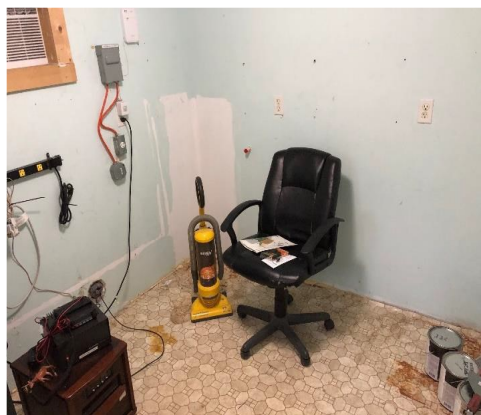
After we formulated a plan, I began removing everything out of the shack. My problem was to figure out where to permanently place my hunting gear and the extra ham radio treasures collected over the years. After figuring out a home for these treasures, I was on my way to developing a first-class ham shack.

The inside of the shack shown in Picture 5 shows lots of work to be done such as relocating electrical outlets for the amplifier and basic AC components, repairing drywall, painting walls, installing a new standard 36" door, new carbon fiber flooring or hard wood floors and finally place nice looking desk/tables to hold the ham equipment. My son and I will make these renovations. Afterwards, I will install some nice cherry finished furniture. Then I can work on some shelving to be placed under the desks to hold power supplies and one or two computers. I will also be designing and building table-top shelving for antenna switches and rotor control boxes.

As of this writing, I am in the middle of this renovation/construction project (Pictures 6 and 7), but have a goal to finish soon, especially since we are entering the six (6) meter season.



Picture 4: Future AC4G Ham Shack Configuration



Picture 5: Inside of Empty AC4G Ham Shack Today



Picture 6: Faulty Floor Joists



Picture 7: Down to the Dirt

I need some new countries for my DXCC challenge award and gaining QSOS on 6m will add to my Challenge Award totals. Unfortunately, due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, many needed DXpeditions this summer 2020 to exotic countries have been cancelled, but this is allowing me to wisely execute my major renovation plan of a complete ham shack renovation make-over due to the “stay-at-home” orders directed by the President of the U.S., Leaders of other world-wide countries, and Governors of most U.S. states.

After completion of this renovation, I believe I will be able spend more time in a more comfortable operating position boosting my contest scores and DXCC countries. This will require the addition of a nice comfortable chair. I also hope to be able to have my computer keyboard straight in front of me making computer logging much more easier by being able to enter callsign/contest exchange information by typing on the keyboard directly in from of me and viewing the monitor off to each side of the HF transceiver.

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Ham Station Comfort & Layout is Critical for Contesters & DX'ers (cont.)

I will also be able to adjust my HF transceiver sitting directly in front of me, be able to tune my amplifier with ease, change antenna positions & turn my rotor control box, and adjust an antenna switch with ease sitting in my chair instead of having to stand up or partially stand up as I had to do before. I will be in the cockpit of a sophisticated and complex contest station. Picture 8 depicts the newly added floor joists and black plastic laid above the dirt. Termite guards have also been added. Progress continues daily.



Picture 8: New Floor Joists/Plastic/Termite Guards

The next items to be completed will be installing electrical outlets in the floor, adding a new breaker box to the outside of the shack, a new subfloor, new carbon or hardwood flooring, a new door and case, and painting the ceiling and walls.

There are many ideas and pictures on the internet that show good and bad ideas. With a common sense approach and well thought plan by executing a wish list of ideas, anyone can be a top contender in any ham radio contest or be on top of the Dxpediton pile-ups.

Perhaps you too should weigh the pros and cons of your ham shack. Should you step back and seriously evaluate your station? Do you have room to improve your ability to endure in contests while perhaps being a top contender in most of the major amateur radio contests and DXpeditions? Stand back, make an objective evaluation of your shack, make a realistic plan, and execute the plan even if it is only moving clutter out and rearranging equipment. I'd recommend a serious evaluation sooner than later! I am glad I took time to do it.

Contesters and DX'ers beware.

de Bruce Smith/AC4G

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.

Contest University 2020 was held online free via Zoom

Thursday, May 14th

[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>

Click on the presentation to view/download the slide deck

8:45 am EDT/12:45 UTC Welcome to CTU 2020 from W8CI, K3LR and N9JA

9:00 am EDT/13:00 UTC [W3LPL – “Effective Low Band Receiving Antennas”](#)

10:00 am EDT/14:00 UTC [W2NAF – “2020 Solar Cycle Update and the HF Response to Ionospheric Storms and Traveling Ionospheric Disturbances”](#)

11:00 am EDT/15:00 UTC [N6TV – “Everything You Need to Know About USB and Serial Interfaces”](#)

12:00 pm EDT/16:00 UTC K1AR – Memorial reading of the Silent Keys for 2020

12:05 pm EDT/16:05 UTC Lunch on your own

12:30 pm EDT/16:30 UTC [NN1C – “Exuberance and Youth Contesting – Update on What is Going On”](#)

1:00 pm EDT/17:00 UTC [W0YK – “Digital Contesting Hints & Kinks”](#)

2:00 pm EDT/18:00 UTC [K1DG – “Optimizing your Station for Contest Operations”](#)

3:00 pm EDT/19:00 UTC [N0AX – “Grounding & Bonding for Contest Stations”](#)

4:00 pm EDT/20:00 UTC [NC0B – “Contest & DX Performance A Complex Subject Today: Great RX Performance – TX Limitations”](#)

5:00 pm EDT/21:00 UTC [W3LPL – “60 Years of Competitive Contesting — the W3LPL Story”](#)

6:00 pm EDT/22:00 UTC K3ZJ – Presentation of CQ Contest Hall Of Fame 2020

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