The Black Hole

ARRL SS Unlimited Team Champs 2000, 2001, 2002

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2007 ARRL DX CW Contest – or—

How I Discovered My Contesting Secret Weapon

By George Zurbuchen K9CC/VP9

This was the fourth time I operated the ARRL DX Contest from my son's house in Bermuda. He had moved again since the 2006 contest so I had to plan how to set up the antennas without having seen the house. The pre planning was successful and the antennas went up without to much trouble. I used a Cushcraft A3S tri band beam and a Diamond CP6 vertical for 20, 15, and 10, a dipole for 40, an inverted vee for 80 and an inverted vee with loading coils for 160. The radios were Kenwood TS-570s. All antennas were at about 25 feet elevation. Since I had done very well on 80 meters in the two previous contests, I decided to start out on 80 meters a few Khz's from the bottom of the band. This turned out to be a good decision and I stayed there for almost four hours. I was called by VE7CC 90 minutes before his sunset, which I think is a good indication of how well the 80 meter antenna was working. I ended up with 2693 Q's and 2 million points in 34 hours of operation. I placed eighth in the low power class. A highlight during my non contest operating time was being called by two VK6s in a row while working a European pile up on 40 meters during my sunset. Western Australia is exactly on the opposite side of the world from Bermuda. Not bad for 100 watts and a dipole at 25 feet.

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SMC Summer Gathering

August 9th, 2008

Bloomington, IL

Please put Saturday, August 9th on your calendars for an SMC late summer gathering at Ralph's, K9ZO, in Bloomington, IL!

The plan will be to have a cookout and spend the day talking radio and contesting. Ralph has already been busy arranging some other entertainment, including a potential presentation on the TI9 operation.

ARRL DX CW 2008 from Nicaragua: H7/K9GY

By Eric, K9GY

When can I go again?

Once you have done a contest as DX then you want to do it again! I had thought about returning to El Salvador as soon as the WW CW contest weekend was over!

Now I just needed to convince my wife to let me get away again. We bargained for two years of contest-expeditions in exchange for a Sony 46" HDTV. Not a bad deal since hockey games show up nice and clear on the TV now, hah!

I contacted Raymundo YS1RR in regards to using his beach house QTH for the ARRL DX CW contest. Unfortunately there was going to be some remodeling done at the property soon.

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The Black Hole

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Membership in **The Society of Midwest Contesters** is open to all persons with a bona-fied interest in amateur radio contesting. The club doesn't collect annual dues, but instead funds everything through member donations. For more information contact one of the following officers:

SMC Needs Your Financial Support

As one of the top contest clubs in the nation, we continue to sponsor plaques for a number of major contests including Sweepstakes, ARRL DX, CQWW, and CQWPX, as well as make monetary donations in the interest of promoting radio sporting.

A few years ago we decided to eliminate the formal dues of $10 per year, and instead maintain funds through member donations. We encourage all members to consider making an annual donation to the club. Your generous donations allow us to continue to expand our support of radio sporting.

You can make your donation two ways:

1. Send a check, money order, or cash to:

   Zig Markowski - KM9M
   50 E. Eureka Drive
   Lemont, IL 60439-3970

2. Use Paypal and email your donation to dues@w9smc.com.

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Shirts

VHF Column -

2 Meter 48 states terrestrial

By Kevin Kaufold , W9GKA

One very interesting piece of trivia and operating lore has to do with terrestrial distance contacts on 2 meters. A small section of the US lies within Meteor-scatter and Es range of both coasts on 2-meters. See, the below map for the precise boundaries. Please note that some of the SMC service area lies within the theoretical area in which one can work all lower 48 states.

Not many people really know how far radio amateurs can work on 2 meters. But for years, serious VHF operators have circulated among themselves the call-signs of those who may have worked all 48 states on 2 meters using terrestrial means only. K0MQS was rumored to have achieved the feat as far back as the 1960's, although to this day, that has never been confirmed. We do know that K0MQS was the first to achieve 2 meter WAS in 1976, but that was done off the moon.

The November, 1979, World Above column may have been the first written source commenting on the possibility of working all lower states terrestrially (although there are also rumors that a 1960's era QST World Above column may have been written on the topic; I could not find anything). In an article appropriately entitled "Challenges", Bill Tynan asked:

"How many states can be worked without using the moon? Can the 48 continental states be worked using terrestrial propagation modes alone? I don't know but it sure would be interesting to try."

Little did W3XO know, but W0SD had just worked his last state in August, 1979. Tynan got wind of it the next year (news must have traveled slow back then!) when he commented in November, 1980 that:

"Few imagined how short a time it would be before someone would do it. That someone is W0SD. At the Central States Conference, Ed displayed the cards (all but one had yet to arrive from K1WHS; that one has now been received). I am sure that everyone congratulates W0SD on accomplishing a most notable feat."

Over the years, VHF ops continued to keep tabs on who else was close. It became sort of a guessing game, and also a badge of honor. "How many states do you have the hard way?" was a much bandied about question. It was generally felt that the moon was actually easier than working the same 48 states terrestrially. This was the case among even the biggest stations on 2-meters.

Then, in 1997, Emil Pocock, W3EP, heard that several people had worked 48 states over the intervening years, and he published two separate articles in his World Above column (see, below citations to the articles). Emil confirmed that seven different people had worked coast to coast on 2 meters. Emil even drew a map in one of the articles showing the locations of the first four ops that he confirmed (see below).

In 2003, Mike King, KM0T, published an article in CQ VHF on two-time accomplishment. Mike was then dominating the Above 50 MHz States Award sponsored by Central States VHF Society, and he worked all 48 states two years in a row towards his quest.

That is pretty much the extent of the printed knowledge on the subject. From time to time, I would hear about another person who may have worked all 48 states, or was close to it. In 2007, during the SMC's successful unlimited club effort in the June VHF QSO Party, I worked Craig, K9CT on all four bands. He commented that he had just worked his 43rd state

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Solving the Long Rotator Cable Problem for Larger Rotators

By Terry Zivney, N4TZ/9 [N4TZ@ARRL.NET]

Hams have struggled for many years with the problem of finding cost-effective methods of dealing with needing long runs of thick copper cable to run their antenna rotators. A variety of methods have been proposed for the ubiquitous Ham-M family. For short runs, up to 100' or so, the traditional method has used a specifically designed cable with 2 AWG 18 wires for the motor and 6 AWG 22 wires for the direction sensing, limit switches, and starting capacitor. For longer runs, more expensive cables with AWG 16/20, or even AWG 14/18 are available at greatly increased prices. Other hams have substituted multiple runs of Romex house wiring cable, which generally starts at AWG 14. Finally, it has been suggested that a booster transformer be added. This transformer is wired in series with the leads from the control box to the motor. The key is to make sure the voltage adds to (boosts) rather than subtracts from (bucks) the normal 24 vac output of the control box.

Those hams using larger rotators such as the prop pitch motor appear to have relied upon one of two methods to deal with long distances. The first uses large wire. At my station I have a run of approximately 500 feet from the shack to the top of the tower. When I had an M2 Orion ,the AWG 12 Romex was (barely) adequate. When I upgraded to a prop pitch, there was no rotation at all. Doubling up with another run of AWG 12 (for an equivalent cross-section of AWG 9) still left the antenna motionless. With the increase in copper prices a further investment in copper seemed unwise.

The second approach to dealing with long runs of cable has been to install a remotely-controlled power supply at the base of the tower. At the 2007 Dayton Hamvention, Green Heron was proudly offering such a unit. These units, whether commercial or home-brewed generally require a run of cable to carry 120 or 240 vac. In addition to safety and code considerations with using such high voltages external to the shack, there is an additional problem with many of the newer style control units. Both M2 and Green Heron use pulsed power to produce a ramped startup and slowdown of the antenna to reduce stresses on the tower and rotator. This means that the pulsed control feature needs to be housed at the base of the tower, a duplication of cost since it already exists at the control end and generally cannot be separated from the display electronics of

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My usual spot was already taken as RA3CO was planning to be on from C6. (As it turned out there were at least three stations on from C6…argh!)

I thought that for this contest the focus would be on finding a place with existing antennas in place so as to lighten the luggage load. I reviewed locations such as TI and V3 Even e-mailed about getting into KG4 "Gitmo" using my military etc. Also had some e-mail traffic with HQ9R on Roatan Island, Honduras. They were either already taken or too cumbersome to get to for a Thursday to Monday expedition.

During this process I was e-mailing Octavio YN2N about WW CW '08 when I asked whether ARRL DX CW '08 was available. K9NW had been there for CQ WW CW '07. I checked with Mike to see if he was going to return for ARRL DX CW. He was not able to return since he has some other commitments. Octavio's place was still available so I jumped on the chance to return to Central America again.

There were two flight paths to choose from: either AA via Miami or Continental via Houston. Although I had a bad experience with my return flight from Miami to Chicago for WW CW I ultimately went with American since that is were I have some frequent flyer miles (for WPX CW I've given up on AA and went with Continental!).

Contest Preparation

The computer I used for WW CW was beginning to become unreliable so it was time to start using a newer laptop. Only problem is that I've been using serial and parallel ports for the radio and CW interfacing. I ordered a MicroHam USB inter-

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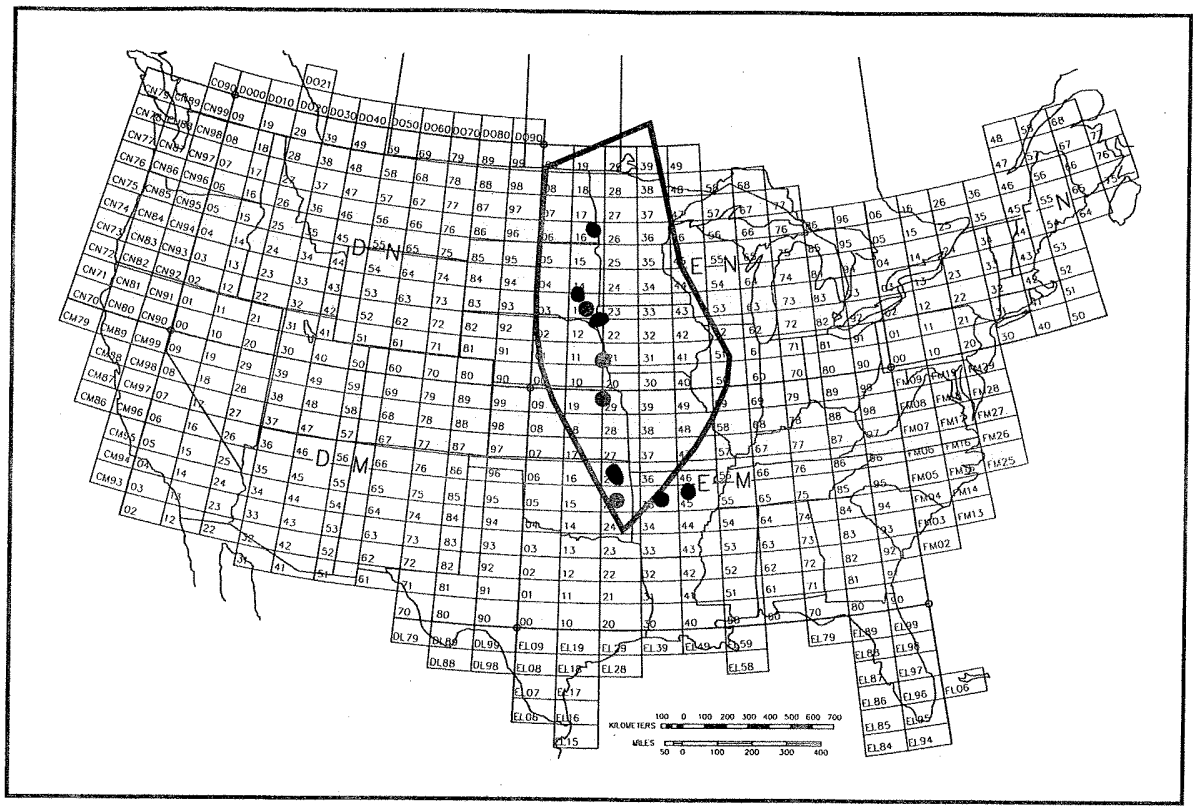

Figure 1—The outlined area lies within 2300 km (1400 mi) of all 48 states. The western side is 2300 km from the most westerly borders of Maine and Rhode Island. The eastern side is limited by the critical distances to California, Oregon and Washington. Florida limits the northern boundary. Dots show the locations of the four stations that have made contact with all 48 continental states on 144 MHz without resorting to moonbounce.

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on 2 meters non-EME, and was close to WAS on 2 meters with EME. Given his incredible signal on the VHF bands, I could believe it. That QSO made me wonder how close SMC members were to working the lower 48, as many of our stations are within the theoretical area.

So, I began collecting information on the VHF stations of the SMC. I ultimately broadened the scope of my inquiries to include all stations anywhere that may have worked 48 states, sending out requests to the VHF reflectors in February and March, 2008. I received well over two dozen replies, some with confirmed status. Many others gave me names of people to contact for more information. More e-mails ensued in follow-up information. The following list comprises the results of my research. For each call-sign, I have cited to the source of the information.

See table on page 9.

As can be seen from a review of the above list, I have confirmed to a reasonable degree of "rumor" that 11 stations have worked all 48 states terrestrially. Actually, all 11 stations are beyond rumor, as they are either based on published articles or have been confirmed directly by the operators themselves. Some of the stations that are close have more of a "rumor" aspect to them, although most of these are also based on direct e-mails from the stations involved. There may be more ops who have all worked the lower 48 on 2 meters, but the same call-signs kept surfacing in the responses that I received.

It is interesting to see exactly where the stations are located. The following map is taken from W3EP's June 1997 QST article. Emil had four dots on the map, for the four that he knew about at the time. I have added the other dots to indicate the rough location of all 11 stations.

The map shows a clear north-south line-up of stations. With the exception of the two Arkansas ops (both of whom had great stations at the time) everyone else lies in a due north-south line hovering around the western Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota borders. In fact, no one east of the Mississippi has worked the contiguous US, not even K2DRH, EN41, or K9HMB, EN52. While it may theoretically possible to work all 48 states from anywhere in the outlined area, it is amazing that only those stations in a very tight line have managed to do so. Perhaps the new K1JT digital modes will expand the practical range beyond the N-S line that is so apparent on the map.

K0MQS remains unconfirmed. Several people felt that he

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worked all lower 48 states at least once. Some even thought he may have worked all states twice. Ops having more recent contacts with K0MQS believe that he never worked California terrestrially. K0MQS may be inactive at the present time, having suffered wind and tower damage. He does not have an e-mail, and has not responded to a regular mail letter that I sent to him. Maybe someone else can confirm one way or another.

If anyone has information on other stations that may be at or close to all 48 states terrestrially on 2 meters, please send me a note. Also if anyone knows of other articles referring to the topic, let me that, too!

I wish to thank the following people who supplied information for this article. In alpha-numeric order: AA9D; K0ALL; K1BX; K1JX; K2DRH; K5QE; K5UR; K9AKS; K9CT; K9IMM; K9MU; K9PW; KG0VL; KG9IL; KM0T; KW0A; KY1K; N0JA; N0JK; N0LL; N0UK; N5TIF; N6CL; N9LR; N9TF; NN1N; W09S; W0FY; W0RRY; W3EP; W3ZZ; W5ZN; W7XU; W9RM; WW4T; and WY0X. I apologize if I forgot someone, as there were lots of people sending in information!

References ---

Nov. 1979 QST, at 81.

Nov. 1980 QST, at 77.

Nov. 1981 QST, at 85.

June, 1991 QST, at 91.

Oct. 1997 QST, at 101.

CQ VHF, Summer, 2003.

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Now to the secret weapon; I tend to get a back ache when I sit in a chair operating for hours. I had previously used the wooden chair that you can see in the operating position picture with the radios present. I would put cushions on it in an attempt to make it more comfortable. In looking around my son's house I saw my 9 year old grand daughter's "computer chair", which you can see in the other picture. This tiny little chair with minimal padding, turned out to solve my back ache problem. The back of the chair is at the right height to push against my lower back in the correct spot to prevent the back ache. This is a problem that I have also had with my more elaborate and expensive office chairs in my home station. When I returned home I found a similar chair at Office Depot for about $20. I think it was the cheapest chair they had. I believe it was called a stenographers chair. The more expensive chairs feel more comfortable when you first sit in them, but in the long run the stenographers chair is best for me. The other thing the works to prevent the back ache is to set the seat height to table height, high enough so that the computer keyboard is closer to shoulder high. The keyboard should be higher then the recommended keyboard height for typing. This may not work for others, but it stops me from crouching over the keyboard and ending up with a back ache. You can see in the picture that I accomplished this in Bermuda by fitting PVC pipe leg extenders to the table. I also discovered by accident when operating in Bermuda that I prefer to use a laptop computer to a desk top computer with a separate key board and monitor. I now use a lap top when operating from my home station. When I am running stations I like having the main operator interface all right in front of me in one compact space. Think of it as the radio contester's version of the fighter pilots heads up display. In contesting using a logging program and computer, I feel that the computer keyboard and monitor probably make up at least 80% of the "operator interface," and ironically the radio's are less then 20%. I also find it helpful to make labels for the function keys using pieces of "Post It Note" material. I mark them with the customized commands made possible in TR Log. These "discoveries" may not work for others but they might be worth a try. **(See pictures on page 11)**

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these units. I verified that the prop pitch worked by temporarily connecting the control box at the base of the tower. However, leaving the XYL outside to run the box during the contest seemed undesirable since I want to enter the single operator category.

Being short of funds and wanting to keep the XYL happy, I opted for a third approach. This is nothing more than a version of the bucking voltage used years ago with the Ham-M. Because the prop-pitch and newer Orions used DC motors, I inserted an inexpensive spare 12 vdc power supply in series with the negative (common) lead at the control box. The positive lead of the external power supply is connected to the negative lead at the control box. The wire from the rotator that went to the negative lead at the control box now goes to the negative lead of the external power supply. I am using a cheap Samplex switching supply I bought some years ago from Radio Shack for a packet radio. Since there has been no packet cluster available in my area for several years, the power supply was available at no extra cost. New ones are available for under $100, far cheaper than a long run of Romex or the external Green Heron controller. All features of the control box remain unchanged, including the speed control. It really is that simple.

As a side note, my TIC rings nicely turn my 10/15 duobanders through 450' of AWG 18 wire and one dc motor. However, the same ring with a full sized 5 element 20 and 2 element Cushcraft 40 needed the Romex treatment to pro-

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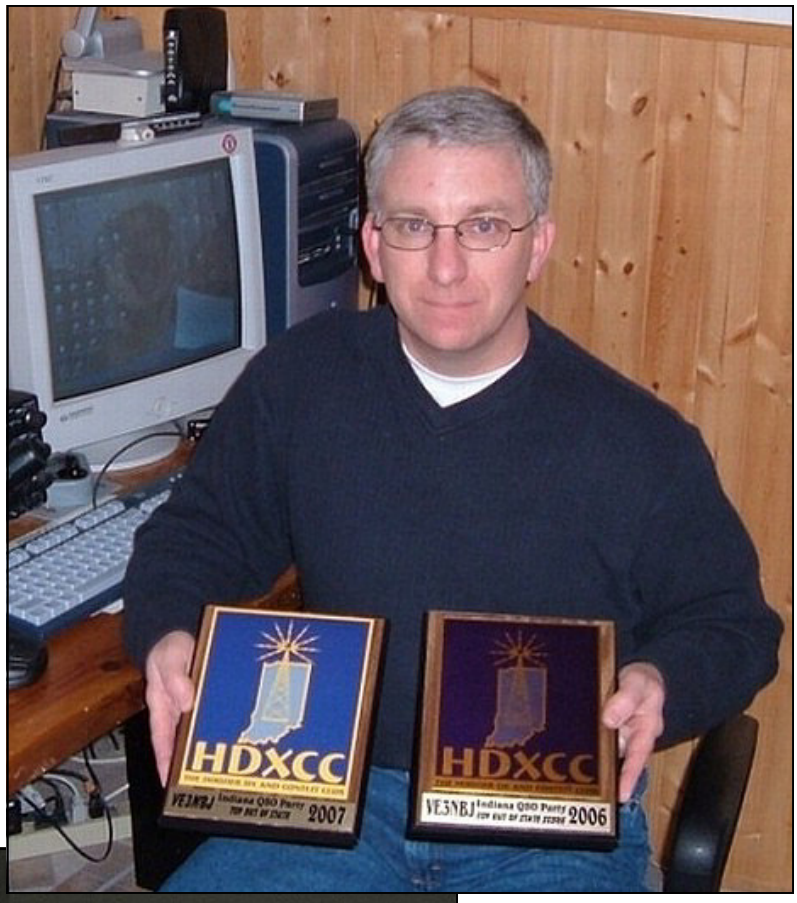
INQP 2007 Winners

Mel, KJ9C, shared these pictures of the plaque winners for the 2007 INQP.

To the right is out-of-state winner, VE3NBJ. Below is the top mobile WN9O/W9IU.



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vide rotation with the standard TIC box. Today, I would use the smaller wire and boost the voltage with an external dc power supply. TIC uses only two power wires and switches the polarity inside the control box so a small modification would be required inside the control box to insert the boosting voltage at the correct location.

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face so that the (newer) computer could be used with USB ports. Fortunately was able to get the MicroHam device the week before leaving for the trip! Got the computer, radio, and keying working on Monday night before the contest. Jerry KE9I and I tested the setup on 40m on Wednesday night. I was concerned whether the first couple of characters would be chopped off etc.

Also ordered a battery online from Dell but they lost the order. So no laptop battery for this trip…hope there are no power failures during the contest! (there were none).

The travel doctor recommended a malaria pill (Chloroquine) since there was a slight chance of malaria in the region. Initially I was a little hesitant but the doc said the pill is safe even for pregnant women. You take one pill a week starting between one to two weeks before you leave and continue taking it for four weeks after your return. For a total cost of $33 ($30 doc and $3 for pills) it was well worth it to have some protection against malaria.

Interesting difference between the WW and ARRL DX contests are that the ARRL DX contests are held during the cold/flu/winter weather season. So those factors add another dimension to the pre-contest worry wall. Especially since there were a bunch of people sick at work and Chicago's snow accumulation was rather heavy so far.

Furthermore, it felt that I may have a hernia developing on my lower right abdomen were my torso meets my right leg. Back in the 1990's I had a hernia repaired on the left side and was out for a week recovering! Definitely did not want any problems with that during the trip!

Typically, I packed everything the night before the flight! Not the best method to get packed! Fortunately I had decided early on that this trip was going to be without antenna baggage. Finished packing at 12:30am Thursday morning… ugh!

Getting there

After a quick 4-1/2 snooze I was up at 5am. Left the house at 6:40am. Another nice thing about not hauling antennas is that I don't have to borrow the XYL's car for the extra cargo space that it holds. Traffic on the Chicago tollway was great until it slowed down a little getting to the O'Hare exit. Ended up with a great parking spot near the elevators. At the check-in desk I was able to walk right up to the counter. Security was smooth too.

The flight to Miami was full although I was able to get about 30-40 minutes of sleep. Arrived in Miami to a sunny 73 degrees! Now that is how winter is supposed to be! The layover in Miami was about four hours that went fairly quickly.

The flight to Managua was also full. Arrived in Managua at approx 7:30pm. The bus personnel were easy to spot and customs was a breeze. The bus ended up being a van with one other rider and the driver. The other passenger in the van was a man who works as a Federal judge in Miami while his wife works down in Nicaragua tending to their butterfly farm. The drive from the airport to Granada took about 50 minutes and fortunately was uneventful.

Octavio met the van on the outskirts of Granada. It was great to finally meet Octavio so we had a lot to discuss etc. Although we passed up the road to his house a couple of times because it was dark and we were busy talking, hah! When we arrived at the house, Martha (Octavio's XYL) had made a nice pizza for us to eat which allowed us to discuss radio even more. Since it had been a long day already, I decided just to unpack the equipment tonight and worry about hooking it up tomorrow (Friday).

The station

Octavio's place is located outside of Granada at approximately 925 feet ASL. I believe that is a key reason his station plays so well. He has an estimated 10 to 13 acre lot with many fruit trees that were beautiful. The orange juice was fresh and was excellent!

Octavio's station is located in his house. The shack is a large room that is attached to the living/dining room of the house. The bedroom where I slept is on the opposite corner of the house. There are two bedrooms for guests that are connected by a bathroom so a multi-op effort can easily be accommodated.

Antennas supplied were dipoles for 160, 80, and 40m. A three element beam for 20,15, and 10m was also available. For WARC there were dipoles for 17 and 30m. Octavio operates mainly SSB so it was fortunate I brought along a small tuner. The beam had a 2:1 SWR in the CW portions but the tuner was able to bring that down to the 1:6 range. The SWR on the low band dipoles were all excellent at 1:5

There are many roosters on the property and in the area. I've always thought that roosters only crow right before dawn although I learned that they crow to display territorial be-

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havior to other roosters. The roosters are fairly active around the house! At one time in the early morning I monitored them to be crowing about every hour on the hour, hah! So I'll need to bring earplugs on my next visit.

Octavio mentioned that you could hear monkey groups that are on the volcano not far from his place. Sure enough, early in the morning on Sunday I heard the different monkey groups calling back and forth to each other. How cool is that! I later learned that you can take hiking trips to the volcano.

On Friday morning I connected up all the equipment and made sure it was ok for the contest. Around 10 am or so, we went into Granada for a little sightseeing. I was able to buy some souvenirs and enjoy the culture of the city .Of course some of the souvenirs were related to getting something for the QSL card.

The contest

Before the contest started I was able to catch a nap from 2pm until 4pm on Friday. I would of liked some more but the roosters were active, hah! Took a shower about 5pm

Octavio has a great wireless internet connection in the shack. I downloaded getscores about ten minutes before the contest started, hah! I was able to post my scores to the scoreboard all throughout the contest. Although it would have been nice to see more participants post their scores (especially ones in my category!).

I started the first two hours on 40m with rates of 130 and 138. COOL! From 02z until 05z I spent most of my time between 80 and 160 with rates of 113, 103, 72, and 117

At 0613z I thought there may have been a monkey outside the window but later learned it was a bird, hah! So much for this city boy knowing the animal sounds.

At 0730z there was S9+ noise on both 160m and 80m. So slept for about two hours from 08z through 1030z. After learning from WW CW 2007 that my non-sleep breaks ate up a lot of time, I was very conscious about how long my breaks were.

At 1555z ten meters was absolutely dead! Took a quick 10 min sleep break at 16z. I was trying for a 20 min break but a rooster woke me up. I set my goal for the end of day one to be 2,000 QSOs (ended up with 2,330).

Huge pileups on 15m from 18-22z Day 1...Wow! In those four hours rates were 142, 154, 148, and 126. I was having a lot of fun! These were the highest rates achieved for the contest.

One interesting thing I remembered from my Army basic training days was to stand up when I got sleepy. So I used that trick often when I noticed I might be getting groggy.

At 0345z on day two I tried to get two different Ohio stations to move to 160m but was not able to get Ohio! Seemed like I was not able to convey a QSY request very effectively. Not sure why "QSY 160?" or "QSY 80?" is hard to understand?

The original plan was to hang in there until 2am or 2:30am on Sunday morning but by midnight I was starting to see the fun was wearing off and it was more work than fun.

So I hung it up at 06z until approx 1130z. Little did I know that if I would of hung in there a little longer I may have placed first instead of third.

Between 15z to 16z on day two I experienced a lot of dupes on 15m. So must be the packet busters got the call wrong. After working a dupe I decided to send my call twice so that others in the pileup can figure out the correct call.

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On Day 2 it was mentioned that my 15m signal had a spur about 1 to 2 kcs up...so maybe time for the shop for my FT-857D? Jerry KE9I and I checked it out when back in IL but found no spurs. Yaesu mentioned it may be the power source but Octavio didn't agree with that.

In order to monitor 10m and not miss a band opening, I bought an ICE 10m bandpass filter for use with the FT-817 and the 30m dipole. Unfortunately when I operated on 15m I could not have the FT-817 on due to interference. It sure seemed like 10m was dead. Let's hope I did not miss an opening there! For the next trip, I'll need a different antenna or a better bandpass filter!

Overall I had 15 hours of 100+ rate (13 on Day 1...two on Day 2). Total time operating was 40 hrs with 3,758 QSOs and 258 multipliers for a claimed score of 2,908,692. No contacts on 10m. Based on claimed scores I placed third with a close race between first, second, and third.

Back to the cold

It was great to defrost from the Chicago winter...but now the fun and sun were over and time to pack up. Packing for the return trip always seems so much easier. Not all the worries about what may be forgotten etc.

My flight back to Miami was scheduled at 1:30pm on Monday. So there was enough time on Monday morning to pack. On the way to Granada my computer case fell in the car. Fortunately there was no damage and all contest files were accessible. Octavio dropped me off at the bus terminal around 9:30 or 10am. I had enough time to snap some pictures of the central park area that is next to the bus terminal.

Traffic in Granada was interesting in that bikes, people, animals, and autos all intermingle on the road. Sometimes at closer quarters than what I'm used to, hah! There are no real stoplights. People beep their horn before approaching an intersection then continue through the intersection.

The bus trip from Granada to Managua was longer due to collecting other travelers in the Granada area for transport to the airport as well. Since I hadn't eaten lunch yet the trip gave me a little sick feeling. Once I had some lunch I felt better. The Managua airport is very clean and I had an excellent chicken sandwich at the Subway restaurant there.

Flight to Miami was on time and uneventful. I got through customs very quickly! I walked right up to the customs officer's desk without waiting in line. I thought wow this is going to work out great….wrong! At the baggage re-check area I learned that my connecting flight to Chicago was delayed. So I ended up spending about 6-1/2 hours in the Miami airport. Fortunately there is a USO facility there at the airport that I could hang out in. It is quite nice with computers, TVs, and food.

This is the second time I've flown through Miami on my return from Central America. Both times were on American Airlines and both times I was delayed significantly on the leg from Miami to Chicago. I complained to AA but received a weak e-mail giving me nothing for my inconvenience. On the bus from Granada were some other Chicagoans that were taking Continental via Houston. I checked those flights and all three Continental flights from Houston to Chicago all arrived within 45 mins of scheduled arrival times. I finally arrived back in Chicago at 1:45 am Tuesday morning…argh!

Post contest analysis

In the first 24 hours of the contest, 62% of QSOs (2,330) and 95% of mults (244) were made. In the second 24 hours of the contest, 38% of QSOs (1428) and 5% of mults (14) were made. I've attached my rate sheet for Brian to include in the newsletter if he has the room.

Never worked mults: LB, NU, NWT, YT, or MB.

Missed OH, DE, and KY on 160m.

As mentioned earlier if I would of stayed up until 2am on Sunday morning as planned I probably would of made first place!

Might be beneficial to practice my typing, hah! Seems like I can receive the call quickly in my head but there's a slight lag in getting it into the computer fast enough, hah!

I was frustrated enough at AA that I canceled my WPX CW ticket (C6A) with them and booked a flight back to Nicaragua on Continental, hah!

Overall I think I managed my non-sleep breaks well. It helped that Martha brought food to me so I could continue to operate.

Many thanks to my wife, Bonnie, who lets me get away on these contest expeditions. Also thanks to Octavio and Martha for their hospitality.

See the H7/K9GY band summary on page 13.

Before the secret weapon.

The secret weapon.

48 States Terrestrial, 2 Meters Compiled by W9GKA, 3-08

Call	State	Grid	Date	Sources
1st published source				Nov. 1979 QST, at 81:
Confirmed -----				
W0SD	SD	Pre-grid; (EN13)	Aug. 1979	11-80 QST, at 77; 11-81, at 85; 6-97, at 91
K5CM	OK	Pre-grid; (EM25)	Dec. 1980	6-97 QST, at 91
W0EMS	NE	Pre-grid; (EN11)	Aug. 1981	6-97 QST, at 91; 11-81, at 85
K0ALL	ND	EN16	7-May-84	10-97 QST, at 101; e-mail K0ALL, 2-08
K5UR	AR	EM35	1985	10-97 QST, at 101; e-mail K5UR, 2-08
W0RRY / K5BXG	OK	EM26	1986	e-mail from W0RRY, 2-8-08
W5ZN (as WB5IGF)	AR	EM45	Aug. 1992	10-97 QST, at 101; e-mail W5ZN, 2-08
WQ0P	KS	EM29	Aug. 1993	6-97 QST, at 91
W7XU	SD	EN13	8-13-97	e-mail from W7XU, 2-7-08
N0QJM	SD	EN13	Late 1990's	e-mail from W7XU, 2-7-08
KM0T	IA	EN13	2001 / 2002	CQ VHF, Summer 2003
Unconfirmed -----				
K0MQS	IA	EN31	??? twice	May still need CA; conflicting sources
Close ------				
N0LL	KS	EM09	Missing ME	e-mail N0LL, 2-8-08
K9HMB	IL	EN52	Missing a 7?	e-mails W9RM, 3-08
W9UD	IL	EN41	Missing CA	e-mail K9AKS, 2-8-08
K0MO or W0MO??	MO?	???	Missing ME	e-mail KY1K, 2-8-08
KM0A	MO	EM48	CA, WA	e-mail W0FY, 2-08
N0UK	MN	EN34jv	CA, WA	e-mail N0UK, 2-08
N0JK	KS	EM17	ME, RI	e-mail, N0JK 2-08
K2DRH	IL	EN41	CA, OR, WA	K2DRH e-mail 2-08
W0FY	MO	EM48	CA, OR, WA	W0FY e-mail 2-08
KW0A	MO	EM48	CA, OR, DE	e-mail KW0A, 3-08
N9LR	IL	EN50du	CA, OR, WA	e-mail N9LR, 3-08
KA9CFD	IL	EN40om	CA, OR, WA	NN1N e-mail, 3-08
K9CT	IL	EN50	43 states	K9CT e-mail, 3-08
K1LL/0	SD	DN84	42 states	active 86-95; e-mail K1BX 2-08
AA9D	IL	EN52	41 states	AA9D e-mail, 3-08
WO9S	IL	EN52	40 states	WO9S e-mail, 3-17-08
W9GKA	IL	EM58cp	37 states	Need west coast and upper NE
K9IMM	WI	EN52	37 states	47 with EME; e-mail K9IMM 3-08
N9TF	IL	EN52	30 states	N9TF e-mail, 3-08
KG9IL	IL	EN52	21 states	e-mail KG9IL, 3-08

H7_K9GY Hourly breakdown

QSO/Sec by hour and band

Hour	160M	80M	40M	20M	15M	10M	Total	Cumm	OffTime
D1-0000Z	--+--	--+--	130/33	--+--	--+--	--+--	130/33	130/33	
D1-0100Z	-	-	138/7	-	-	-	138/7	268/40	
D1-0200Z	-	112/34	1/0	-	-	-	113/34	381/74	
D1-0300Z	7/7	96/7	-	-	-	-	103/14	484/88	
D1-0400Z	45/18	27/2	-	-	-	-	72/20	556/108	
D1-0500Z	-	117/3	-	-	-	-	117/3	673/111	
D1-0600Z	-	1/1	85/7	-	-	-	86/8	759/119	
D1-0700Z	10/3	-	36/1	-	-	-	46/4	805/123	
D1-0800Z	--+--	--+--	2/0	--+--	--+--	--+--	2/0	807/123	55
D1-0900Z	-	-	-	-	-	-	0/0	807/123	60
D1-1000Z	8/3	32/0	-	-	-	-	40/3	847/126	32
D1-1100Z	1/1	87/2	-	-	-	-	88/3	935/129	
D1-1200Z	-	12/3	81/4	-	-	-	93/7	1028/136	
D1-1300Z	-	-	17/1	83/31	-	-	100/32	1128/168	
D1-1400Z	-	-	-	119/10	-	-	119/10	1247/178	
D1-1500Z	-	-	-	96/5	3/3	-	99/8	1346/186	
D1-1600Z	--+--	--+--	--+--	48/2	18/7	--+--	66/9	1412/195	
D1-1700Z	-	-	-	131/6	-	-	131/6	1543/201	
D1-1800Z	-	-	-	8/0	142/27	-	150/27	1693/228	
D1-1900Z	-	-	-	-	154/8	-	154/8	1847/236	
D1-2000Z	-	-	-	-	148/4	-	148/4	1995/240	
D1-2100Z	-	-	-	-	126/0	-	126/0	2121/240	
D1-2200Z	-	-	-	1/1	88/2	-	89/3	2210/243	
D1-2300Z	-	-	-	64/0	56/1	-	120/1	2330/244	
D2-0000Z	--+--	7/0	43/0	23/0	--+--	--+--	73/0	2403/244	
D2-0100Z	-	72/1	-	-	-	-	72/1	2475/245	
D2-0200Z	4/1	33/0	4/0	-	-	-	41/1	2516/246	
D2-0300Z	1/1	25/1	39/1	-	-	-	65/3	2581/249	
D2-0400Z	-	-	79/0	-	-	-	79/0	2660/249	
D2-0500Z	1/0	13/0	27/0	-	-	-	41/0	2701/249	
D2-0600Z	-	1/0	-	-	-	-	1/0	2702/249	56
D2-0700Z	-	-	-	-	-	-	0/0	2702/249	60
D2-0800Z	--+--	--+--	--+--	--+--	--+--	--+--	0/0	2702/249	60
D2-0900Z	-	-	-	-	-	-	0/0	2702/249	60
D2-1000Z	-	-	-	-	-	-	0/0	2702/249	60
D2-1100Z	-	69/0	-	-	-	-	69/0	2771/249	25
D2-1200Z	2/0	5/0	79/2	-	-	-	86/2	2857/251	
D2-1300Z	-	-	4/0	54/0	-	-	58/0	2915/251	
D2-1400Z	-	-	-	65/0	13/0	-	78/0	2993/251	
D2-1500Z	-	-	-	1/1	97/2	-	98/3	3091/254	
D2-1600Z	--+--	--+--	--+--	9/0	43/1	--+--	52/1	3143/255	
D2-1700Z	-	-	-	87/1	1/1	-	88/2	3231/257	
D2-1800Z	-	-	-	94/0	-	-	94/0	3325/257	
D2-1900Z	-	-	-	1/0	71/1	-	72/1	3397/258	
D2-2000Z	-	-	-	-	105/0	-	105/0	3502/258	
D2-2100Z	-	-	-	2/0	48/0	-	50/0	3552/258	
D2-2200Z	-	-	-	99/0	24/0	-	123/0	3675/258	
D2-2300Z	-	-	59/0	24/0	-	-	83/0	3758/258	
Total:	79/34	709/54	824/56	1009/57	1137/57	0/0			

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