

## SOAPBOX – NON-FLORIDA

**AE4O** - Ten Tec Eagle @ 90W to horizontal loop at 50 feet Was only able to get on a couple of hours but, lots of fun Thanks for a great contest (a favorite) and see you in 2012! **DK5AI** - Great QSO party and lots of fun even with limited time due to some family commitments. Nice to work all those exotic counties I visited last year on vacation. Hope to receive some QSL cards for my USA-CA. Will be back next year! **DL5MC** - It was the first FQP with my daughter as no more FL-resident... After Merritt Island and Orlando and short stay in Gainesville she moved to the Atlanta area, her boyfriend's hometown. Happy, got a lot of mobiles again with still not tunable clubstation beam ... Thanks folks !!! Still no contest-log-program, was typing the Cabrillo file manually again... Great pileup for especially N4TO. **HA2MN** - Due to a geomagnetic storm in progress condx was poor during activity periods. Most of Q's were on the edge. Bands rarely seemed to be open somewhat so much noise featured this event over here. Many thanks for Q's and hoping better condx see you next year! Rig TS-530SP 100W ant end-fed wire 21 mtrs long above flat roof. **I4VEQ** - It is always a pleasure operating the FQP. Finally I had time to operate the whole contest, but on Sunday from 1200-1700 20m was closed to EU so I missed most of the mobiles. 15m was open but only a few fixed stations were there. See you next year! **K0GEO** - Congratulations to all FQP operators for the fine 2011 QSO Party, which was very well organized and run. Both the email and snail mail flyer advertisements were very appreciated, in addition to the website. Keep up the great work. Thanks for the QSO's and see you next year. 73! **K0JPL** - Condx not very good here. Tnx to all the mobiles for their GREAT effort! **K3WW** - Last mixed mode County K4OJ in HOL at 1231 Sunday morning... CW sweep K4OJ in OKA at 1317 **K4ORD** -: Many signals on both 40 & 20 were very weak here in VA from FL during the daytime. Still had fun. **K7SV** - Fun as always, despite some miserable condx. The challenge of copying the ESP mobiles made it kind of fun in a demoted sort of way! Couldn't get on most of Sunday due to other commitments. **K8IJ** - Accidentally made the first 12 QSOs QRP, so stayed QRP - hi. Many thanks to all, especially the

mobiles. **KA9JAC** - What a party it was! With a geomagnetic storm to get it started, I really wondered what would happen. At the end of Saturday I found I only needed to try to get 14 more for a sweep. Sunday was a slow start, but with about an hour to go KN4Y managed to give me county #67! **KJ4OAP** - Great to make a decent showing here. Heard a bunch more stations, but I guess poor band conditions didn't allow me to contact everyone I heard. Glad to make a few contacts on 40M as I had previously been unable to tune my antenna to that band and be heard. **KJ8O** - Had a great time in spite of the less than ideal conditions. My thanks to the organizers. **N2JNZ** - Good fun , lousy bands .... Flex 1500 , 5 watts here to a ZeroFive 40 meter vertical and using a Vizkey Vertical Bug. **N4ARO** - From this QTH the FL stations left 40 meters to go to 20 too soon on Saturday and came back to 40M too late near the end of the contest. I missed six of the panhandle counties due to this as skip did not allow me to hear the mobiles working there on Sunday. Thanks to all the mobiles for providing many of the counties not otherwise available. They were great operators. **N4GG** - Tough going from here. Too far for ground wave, too close for skip on 20 and 80M still against the rules... We do the best we can with the situation we have! **N4PN** - Thanks for the QSOs...lots of activity but too close to Florida here to work very much. Most mobiles stayed on 20m. Thanks to the fixed stations who called in on 40m SSB to keep me in the chair. **N5RZ** - Lots of fun!!! Couldn't put in full time, but was able to spend most of Sunday afternoon getting after it. Tks for a great contest! **N8XX** - Wow! A solar flare, or something similar, wiped out 10 and 15 meters from this part of Michigan. 20 was the "best" of the "so-so" for QRP with a wire antenna. Sometimes I think my antenna would be better if I exchanged it for a dummy load and placed it 6' under ground. :) Many mobiles couldn't hear me, or were so inundated with calls I was covered up by QRM. Saturday, signals got marginal on 20 (for QRP) about 2100Z, 40 opened up about 0000Z. Was able to work only a few Mobiles on 40, but they added multipliers! Thought I wouldn't have any time on Sunday, so sent info to the 3830 reflector. Found a bit of time late in the day Sunday, but rate was very poor. Many of the mobiles couldn't hear me, and I had

worked most of the fixed stations, or else they were doing S&P. Tnx to the Florida Contest Group and, especially, all the Florida Ops who dug down deep into the noise to pull out a pipspeak signal! **ND3R** - Fun contest. I could only work it for a limited time due to other commitments but still had a good time. See you all next year. **ND4V** - Conditions were long on 20m. I could only hear the Miami guys on 20. 40m was pretty fair. Enjoyed playing. See you in February in Orlando! **NE0S** - Great party as usual . Gotta love all the activity around the FQP! Too bad 15m and 10m were not in play but 20m was real good here in MO. Terrific job from the mobile ops they really make the party roll. **NO2D** - Heard lots of Florida stations. Could not get thru to the mobiles with 4.5 watts. **NU6N** - Interesting contest! Suddenly ALL the bands closed on Sunday just a bit after 19:14Z and no CW signals whatsoever could be heard on any bands for the rest of the contest period! I thought maybe my radio had died but was able to hear some SSB signals and even AM broadcast stations. I think it was the geomagnetic disturbance wrecking propagation but it will be interesting to see if others observed the same. Thanks for the opportunity to participate in an excellent stateside contest. **VA3DX** - Condx at times seemed so-so , my birthday weekend and the family was here, qrv time limited K4KG crew sure had the SSB qsys to an art, wish others would do this as well! **VA3OX** - I enjoy and will continue to enjoy this QSO Party above all others!! **VE3KZ** - This year I decided to stay on the air after working all counties! Since it took over 7 hours longer to get to that point, no problem. **W1WBB** - First-time participant in FQP...amazing mobile activity. 70% of my QSOs were with the mobiles. Other activities Saturday meant I missed the early activity from MONroe...the only county I missed! Hope to see "the Keys" more active on CW in future FQPs. Just 100w and wires here...20m EDZ up @ 45' aiming at Pensacola and 133' flat top OCF dipole @ 30' for 40m. Kudos to the many terrific mobile ops...the chase was fun! **W2UDT** - Missed all of Saturday due to various commitments. I was able to put some time in on Sunday. 20m seemed to be the main band. I tried 15m and only worked one station. 40m started to move during the last hour on Sunday. Lots of mobiles and very good activity. I just wish

I could have been around on Saturday! Keep the format, which works so well! See you next year! **W6OAT** - What fun! My thanks to all the mobiles for making the sweep possible. **W7YAQ** - Next time I'll start when the gun goes off and have a Florida map to monitor the progress of the mobiles. They did a great job!!! **W8KNO** - Saturday was the third nice day since the snow left and I spent it outside. Sunday it rained and I had some time to play. Thanks to everyone. This is the first time I was a real mixed entry. **W9QL** - Worst band conditions here in Illinois in the seven years I have been participating in the FQP. Very few stations above the noise level and most Q's took several tries to complete. I heard many non-Florida stations working counties that I simply could not hear. My worst score ever and very disappointing. Thanks just the same to those who I was able to log. Maybe next year. **WA6KHK** - I had to go to a good friends' funeral. He was in my infantry unit in Vietnam. Lost 4 hours there. I didn't realize until about 4 hours left in the contest as to why my noise level was high and I wasn't hearing many of the mobiles! I had reverse propagation on the west coast! I turned the beam 180 degrees long path and everyone, including the rovers, was 59(9)! Oh well, we still got 58 of the 67 counties and had a lot of fun. Hats off to all the Florida mobiles! They did a bang up job. Very good participation from many fixed stations also. See you next year! **WD8E** - The time off is right on the mark, I wish other contests would do the same thing.

## SOAPBOX – FLORIDA

**K1KNQ** - Mobile, SO (no driver) Very tough going on Saturday. I kept checking the rig and antennas to see if something was amiss. **K2CIB** - Seemed like more activity than last year. Shame that 15 and 10m very poor but was good last week! Enjoyed CW the best and ran rates of 120 Q's per hour for 15 minutes or so after changing counties. **K3TW** - Greetings from my new QTH in Lecanto, FL. Operating the FQP from Florida for the first time was a great experience. Now I know how the enormous pile-ups sound at this end! It was fun to listen to the mobile stations as they passed nearby, and it was a thrill to have a good QSO rate through the entire weekend. Many thanks to all the DX stations that participated and found the 15m band wide open on

Sunday. **K4FC** - This was our first real contest try at the Lake Amateur Radio Association clubhouse. Went fairly smooth for 30 ft beam and a make shift 40M dipole. Was able to train several operators in the beauty of radiosport. **K4MTI** - Had to work Sunday so only could operate 12.5 hours. In my 40 plus years in the FQP, this was one of the best. **K4Q/M** (K4QD & W4EIP) - Great contest. First time mobile. **KC4MYV** - wow what a great 6 and half hours! I had to work last night so I had to sleep a few hours today but almost doubled last years score. **KF4DVG** - Where are the sunspots? Bands didn't seem as good as last year + multi interrupts @ QTH = Low score :( . Still had a great time! **KJ4LEN** - This is the first FL QSO party I've submitted a log for. I only got to work about 8 hours but it was fun even with the poor band conditions. I'm looking forward to next year. **N3AWS** - This was the mobile operation which almost did not happen. I had planned to operate from our RV with my wife driving, but the RV had become non-operational during my last two years in Korea. Next plan was to use our 2000 Nissan Quest. That didn't work either. At the 11th hour, I switched to my new Kia Soul and went driverless due to the limited space and last minute frantic re-organization efforts. I had not operated the FL QSO Party since 2004 and really wanted to pass out the counties again. As before, I operated QRP SSB only, but instead of my Icom 706 MKIIG, I used my 756 Pro II and despite the larger size felt that the improved receiver and band scope really helped. I had no success calling CQ so the voice recorder was less helpful than I had hoped for. Once I realized I had to search and pounce, I fell into a rhythm of answering the same stations each time I changed counties. I worked Keith WA3HAE from every county and only missed W8MJ from one. I hit all the counties I had planned and was able to add Liberty & Calhoun by request on the second day. Altogether I activated 15 counties which might be my best effort to date. Late on the first day, I had a catastrophic event. The hustler antenna came off while traveling at highway speed--this necessitated stopping early in Washington County. I lost several hours the first day and started late the second, but I was able to repair it and make sure it was safe & secure. Weather, bugs, traffic, etc. weren't bad this year. I hope to be doing this for years to come.

The FL QSO Party remains my favorite! **N4CJ** (G4BUE & M0BUE) - A bit more of a struggle from previous years, partly because we were using the K3 barefoot at 100 watts, but mainly because of poorer conditions, especially on 15m. Despite that, it was still very good fun with June, M0BUE, doing most of the SSB and Chris, N4CJ (G4BUE) doing CW. **N4DXI** - It's been a long time since I've seen 10 and 15 meters so barren and even the signals on 20 m were fluttery and weak. What happened to the solar cycle? At least there were no lightning storms here in FL. **N4TO/M** (K1TO & K8NZ): In honor of Vic, N4TO (SK 2008). Thanks for all the QSOs! **N4WZ** - Very poor band conditions, but it was fun, anyway! **W4KPG** - Visting friends in Hawthorne on Friday, and the Gainesville Hamfest on Saturday morning cut into my operating time. Made a few contacts on Sunday but never really got on a roll. **W4MLB** - We were missing two top CW ops this year. Bands were up and down and could not get anything going on 15 or 10 meters but 40 was solid. Our score was down but everyone enjoyed the contest. **W4SO** - my computer acted up with the program for logging and took all the fun out if things. Conditions seemed a little slack. Little league play off's took most of Saturday and flag football obligation took some of my time on Sunday. Trade off kids or radio. The kids will win out all the time. **WA4OAB** - The Band Gods were not to friendly and Sunday well we all know there were only 2 bands most of the weekend. I had a good Saturday, was pleased and ahead of last year and looking forward to Sunday. Sunday came but conditions didn't. Had to work quite hard for the QSO's I worked with the only high light was working many FL stations on 40 Sunday afternoon. And to finish the weekend with about 1 1/2 hours to go, my 811H decided it had enough and gently shut down, the heck with this heat. Overall I enjoyed the weekend as always and looking forward to next year already. Boy, this is a fun weekend no matter what happens.