

Contest Club Spotlight: Alabama Contest Group

The Alabama Contest Group was organized in September 2006, and we became an ARRL-affiliated club two months later. Membership has quickly grown to more than 70. Although our numbers still are small, we have had great support from our members in many club competition events, and our recent effort in the ARRL 160-Meter Contest netted 20 logs.

In addition, the ACG fielded three teams for the January 2009 NAQP CW and two teams for the NAQP phone. This was a great turnout for these winter events. At this writing, I'm looking to similar participation in the NAQP RTTY.

You may have noticed that ACGers used "DAN" as the name in our NAQP exchange. This was in memory of Dan Jeswald, W4NTI, who became a Silent Key in December 2008. In fact I had a few that responded with "W4NTI RIP" when confirming the exchange. RIP, Mr Dan!

Last year, the ACG, in association with the South East Contest Club, the Tennessee Contest Group and the Florida Contest Group, hosted the first Sunny South Contest Forums and Hospitality Suite at the 2008 Huntsville Hamfest. The forums were great activities that promoted contest education throughout the day.



Alabama Contest Group officers (L-R): Vice President Rick Walker, K4TD; President Tim Wininger, KY5R; Secretary Jim Johnson, KC4HW, and Treasurer Tom Hardison, K4ZGB.

A hospitality suite included a technical demonstration of VE3NEA's *CW Skimmer* software as well as other technical demonstrations. Also, there was a "pileup contest." Standings were tallied according to the number of call signs correctly copied. The results were: K4BAI, 47; W4PA, 42; KTØF, 34; WA1S, 30; N4KG, 29; K4NO, 29 and N2WN, 21. *Congratulations to all who participated!*

The hospitality suite accommodated more than 50 contesters and visitors. All and all, this was a very successful first event. Tim, KY5R (ACG), Scott, W4PA (TCG), and Rick, NQ4I (SECC) were the primary organizers. *Great job!*

We in the ACG are looking forward to all the activities that contesting will bring during 2009. Now would be a nice time for a sunspot or two to help us along!