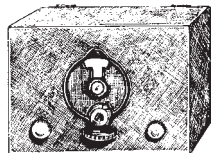


# AMATEUR RADIO

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## Contest Announcements and Retrospectives

It seems like yesterday, when our event year started, but here we are with three of our four major contests behind us. All that is left is the John Rollins Memorial DX contest that will take place later this month. Please see Event Coordinator Bruce Howe's announcement below. Full contest rules are available on our website [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org). Click on "Amateur Radio Events."

As I said my last column, anyone not able to get the data online is welcome to call me at 203-454-4376, or write me (address at head of the column), and I will mail you the log sheet and details. So far, I have a mailing list of two, which is manageable.

Also found below will be reports on the outcomes of the Bruce Kelley Memorial 1929 QSO Party and the Linc Cundall Memorial OT Contest. Complete score summaries for these events will be found on line at [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org). Click on "Amateur Radio Events."

I was reminiscing about the 1929 QSO party after the event was over, and decided to share some of my experiences with you. I am still absolutely amazed at how small a parts count is required to put a signal on the air with 1929 equipment. The corollary to this is how much fiddling and tweaking it takes to get a reasonably clean note with acceptable power out of the rig. As Mike, WU2D, pointed out in his two-part article on the TPTG (in the previous two *Journals*), you can only pull the frequency down with the grid condenser, NEVER UP. Some years ago when I was just getting on the air with a TPTG made by John Rollins and I'd worked a couple of stations when the phone rang. There was John wanting to know if I was proud of the chain-saw noises that I was making!

Keep the grid tank frequency tuned to, or just below, the plate frequency and you will have a pretty good signal. The grid condenser is also a very convenient way to slide your signal a little bit to avoid congestion on the band. A vernier dial helps a lot here.

My next item was triggered by an OO card. The OO heard me calling John a couple of days before the contest. He was nice enough to give me a decent signal report, but reported chirp on my signal. He said it sounded like power supply problems. An old (non digital) voltmeter showed a 10-15 volt drop as I keyed.

My power supply uses an Acme transformer and choke with an 83 rectifier. It has a low-value bleeder resistor to improve the regulation, yet there was the drop!

After stewing over this for a while I went back to my 1930 QSTs. There I noticed that vintage power supplies used very little capacitance in the filter; 2 to 4 uF was pretty standard. My power supply had a 20 uF condenser in the filter. Now that I've replaced it with a 4 uF unit the voltage drop occurs fast enough so that you no longer hear the chirp.

Finally, I've noticed that, during a QSO, my 80-meter TPTG exhibits a slow downward drift in frequency. It is not a lot, but yet is annoying. My 40-meter Colpitts does not have this problem. That is the reverse of what one would expect considering the operating frequencies.

After much frustration I finally identified the problem. The 40-meter transmitter uses a single 211. Why? Because I wanted to. The filament is 10 V at 3.25 A, or 32.5 watts. The plate input is only 300 V at 33 mA for 10 watts input. The TPTG uses 2.5 V at 3.0 A for two 245s. That is 7.5 watts filament power for 10 watts of plate power. Thus, key down on the TPTG more than doubles the total power to the tubes. Whereas, key down on the Colpitts only increases the input power by 31%.

After changing the tubes in the TPTG to 210s (7.5 V at 2.5 A for 18.75 watts), the drift problem is now insignificant. None of this has increased the overall efficiency of the transmitter, but there is always a price to be paid for a quality signal.

73 for now, Tim Walker

### The Rollins Memorial OT DX Contest By Bruce J. Howes, W1UJR

The Second Annual John Rollins Memorial OT DX Contest will take place on April 21-22 and 24-25. You may recall this contest was formally known for a number of years as the "Linc Cundell Memorial Contest" There had been two AWA contests named after Linc; one held in January, and this event held in April.

With the 2008 passing of long-time AWA member John Rollins, W1FPZ, it was felt that some permanent acknowledgment of John's many contributions should be made. John was well known as an exceptionally generous gentleman, giving away advice, parts, and even

complete rigs to those interested in participating in the AWA contests.

Some may not know that John was also an avid DXer. So the suggestion was made, and approved by the AWA board, to rename the DX contest in memory of John. More information about John can be found at <http://www.w1ujr.net/w1fpz.htm>.

Keep in mind that one no longer needs to be an AWA member to participate in, or even to win, the contest. The winner will be asked to send in a photo of his or her station. In fact, I'd really like to see photos of all stations, so by all means send along a photo with your log sheet. We'll use the best of these in the contest report, and as in previous years, we'll present the winner of the event with a plaque at the AWA Conference in the fall.

This contest, held on 40 and 20 meters, gives the West Coast and DX operators a more favorable chance to participate and accords a higher point earning status to the great rigs and circuits of the 1950s and earlier. In 2009, contest participation was down slightly from previous years, so please encourage your fellow ham friends to join in the fun, AWA members or not.

These are low-key affairs, with many of us working at 10 WPM. If we hear you signing or calling AWA, you don't need to worry about your speed, everyone will QRS for you. In the event you don't have old time gear, don't let that put you off, the main thing is to join in the fun!

You will notice the 20-meter contest window is only fifteen kilohertz wide again this year. That should make it a little easier for us to find each other on the band. Remember, use old time tuning methods for AWA contests, that is, tune up or down four or five KHz from your calling frequency to get those rockbound operators.

I will soon be sending out log sheets and rules to those who have regularly participated in previous years' events. You'll also be able to download the log sheet and rules directly from the AWA website. If you have not received contest materials by April 5, you may contact me directly, Bruce J. Howes, W1UJR, 312 Murphys Corner Road, Woolwich, ME 04579, or email to [w1ujr@arrl.net](mailto:w1ujr@arrl.net).

On a closing note, as one of the newer contest managers I am eager to hear your suggestions for how we can improve and increase participation in this contest, and look forward to hearing from you via post or email [w1ujr@arrl.net](mailto:w1ujr@arrl.net).

## Results of the 26th Anniversary Bruce Kelly Memorial 1929 QSO Party

This event was held on the first two weekends

of December, 2009. Between the RTTY contestants, CW Nets, and non-QSO Party CW stations, the bands were jammed with signals. In spite of the challenges, 66 1929 stations showed up and made over 1323 QSOs compared to 909 QSOs last year. The winner this year is N8YE with 66 QSOs followed by K4JYS with 60 QSOs. Congratulations to N8YE for an outstanding score.

I was pleased to see many new call signs, and it's always a pleasure to hear old friends. It is also a bit sad when a few of the regulars aren't heard. We missed you and hope you can make it again this coming December.

It is very interesting to note the huge showing of 12 Minnesota stations in the event. One reason for the strong MN showing was the efforts of Harold, KB0ROB, who uses his '29 equipment throughout the year, talks up the AWA 1929 QSO Party in his daily hamming activities, and encourages new '29ers with coaching and parts. Kudos to Harold!!

I admire you guys who are operating the event with true 1929 style receivers as well as transmitters. While QSOs may be harder to come by with a regen receiver, I imagine that those QSOs are the most satisfying of all. I may have to do that next year. I have a nice National SW-5 that receives some of the most wonderful sounding CW that I've ever heard.

The first 1929 QSO Party was held in 1983. Nineteen stations participated in that first event and 26 years later the '29 QSO Party is still going strong with 66 stations participating. The event was started in 1983 by Bruce Kelley, Linc Cundall, and George Batterson. Bud, K2LP was the first QSO Party administrator and I'm pleased to see that he is still participating.

Here are the top ten scores. All scores will be listed on line as well as this year's "Soapbox" (collected participant comments.)

### Top Ten Scores

N8YE	66	KB0ROB	52
K4JYS	60	VE3CUI	44
WU2D	58	WA9WFA	44
W0LS	54	N4GJV	43
W0NYQ	53	K0KCY	43

## Results of the January 2010 Linc Cundall Memorial OT Contest

By Mike Murphy, WU2D

The Linc Cundall CW Contest was the first AWA Amateur event of this year. Picture this: It  
*(continued on page 29)*

is a crisp January evening; you are sitting in your comfortable overstuffed chair with a hot cup of coffee; a single 6L6 glows on a black crackle chassis with your favorite crystal and key jacked in and the Hallicrafters SX-28 is just about warmed up, because there is a cat sleeping on top of it...

Yes, the Linc always brings out the classic homebrew and commercial CW rigs of the '20s and '30s and plenty of wartime sets too. We had everything on the air from 1929 Hartleys to 6L6 TriTets and Command Sets. Of course, the classic receivers were there too with folks using Regens, and all varieties of Nationals and Hallicrafters. I counted no less than four National NC-101xs!

Even if they won't admit it, most of the regulars were there, and when I counted participants from the log sheets I counted 42 participants, perhaps 35 being active AWA members. But I received less than 20 logs! In general, conditions were very poor for mid-winter, with storms across the country during both sessions causing a lot of QRN. This noise situation had an effect such that many of the outlying stations like VE7SL and W8GKI/7 felt somewhat isolated, hearing very few stations. "Not much activity out here in New Mexico, but I had fun.—Jim Hanlon, W8KGI/7"

The band was actually in great shape under this noise and there was no noise to the east of me. But there is nothing of me east but ocean—Hi. In fact yours truly worked over the pond during the first 15 minutes using my regen receiver

which is simply a pair of 76s. "I calculate we are 3164 miles apart. It's not the winning that matters but the taking part.—Pat G3IKR"

Both sessions of the contest are within a few days of one another and this worked against us this year with the QRN conditions. 160M activity is normally light but with limited station activity on 80M, the 40M activity was even lower than usual, miserable in fact, and 20M was non-existent. We have to evaluate whether a two-weekend event like the 1929 Bruce Kelley enjoys, might be a better solution to pepping up the contest participation and result in of better conditions, at least in one of the sessions. "Not much activity and sat for hours spinning dials with no stations.—Stu, W2AO"

The big winner this year was KB0ROB, with 312 points. Compare this with Harold's score in 2006 of 511 points and W1ZB's winning score of 1383 points in that same year and you can see that the effect poor conditions can have on participation.

Here are the top ten scorers. Visit [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org) for the complete score summary.

### Top Ten Scores

KB0ROB	312	K9VKY	120
WA9WFA	204	W1ZB	120
W0GLU	219	W0VLZ	108
VE3AWA	198	N9HAL	109
WU2D	198	AA9DH	90