

TopBand Multi-OpTeam W2GD

**Celebrating 25 Years of
160 Meter Group Contesting**

**2012 Dayton TopBand Dinner
John Crovelli W2GD/P40W**

160M operators dream of having a station with ...

Salt water as far as the eye can see



(View toward EU at our current contest QTH)

You would quickly learn to love frozen salt water too! (Sandy Hook - 1999)



So What's the Big Deal about 160M Multi-Op Contesting?

- **Intense Competition** between multi-op teams:
Orig. WW2Y, now KC1XX, W1KM, K1LZ, W8JI
(+ W2FU, WE3C, K1TTT and others)
- **Engineering Challenge** ... it takes LARGE antennas to play this game successfully
- **FD Style Operations** (*under winter conditions*) puts a special premium on planning and setup – its much like going on a **DXpedition**
- **GROUP FUN** – we've been doing this together and sharing fellowship for nearly 30 years

Team Members Contribute in their own Unique and Special Ways

- **Varied backgrounds and occupations**
- **Very dedicated – its not easy to do this from a remote station location**
- **Egos are left at home**
- **We all have some “specialty” to offer**
- **It’s definitely NOT all about operating skills...**

“Divison of Labor”

- **Leadership & Management – W2GD**
- **Planning & Logistics – W2CG, N200**
- **Antenna/Station design & construction – K2TW, W1GD, W2GD, W2CG, W2NO, N200**
- **Electrical & electronic expertise – W2NO**
- **System/Network communications – W2CG**
- **Troubleshooting and Problem-Solving - Everyone**
- **Operating proficiency** – every member performs to their best ability. W2RQ is our EU run specialist

Critical Skills – who needs a plumber



W2GD 160M Multi-Op Locations

- **1987 – 1995** My former Home QTH
65 miles inland from the NJ coast
- **1995 – 2001** Sandy Hook, NJ
On the coastline - 13 miles south of NYC
- **2001 to Present** West Creek, NJ
Tidal salt marsh adjacent to Barnegat Bay,
20 miles north of Atlantic City

1987 to 1993 – Home Station

- Modest 160M station in West Jersey – expansion limited
- 70' shunt-fed 25G tower and 2 Beverages
- We placed **#1 WORLD** in our first CQ160 CW Multi – *beginners luck?*

Core Team: W2GD, K2TW, KU2C

1995 to 2001 – USCG Rescue Station, Sandy Hook, NJ

- **Sandy peninsula between ocean and bay**
- **True FD Style Operation – antennas erected the day of the contest**
- **100 and 200 foot SS towers**
Delta Loop TX antennas at 100 and 190 feet
- **Acres of sand dunes for 7 Beverages**

Expanded Core Team: K2TW, KU2C, W2GD

+ K2SQ, N2AA, W2CG, W2NO

Our Sandy Hook Home and Primary Skyhook



Only half way up, next stop 200 feet



900 foot NE Beverage crossing the dunes



View toward EU – 3527 miles of Atlantic to London



View toward South America – miles of salt water bay



View to the West – 8 miles to next landfall



East toward Africa – blue ocean all the way



W2GD - Sandy Hook 1999

- **Several Work Parties Prior to each contest to pre-install TX and RX antenna supports**
- **Note N2AA in His Siberian Head Gear**



W2GD - Sandy Hook 1999

- A larger room was provided in 1999 after years in much smaller space on the 3rd floor.
- But we had **NO HEAT!**



W2GD - Sandy Hook 1999

- Rear view of the station setup - Three (3) Xcvrs, Two (2) Amplifiers, Three (3) computers, and a 2M packet station
- Maze of feedlines from 2 TX and 7 RX antennas



W2GD - Sandy Hook 1999

- Tom, K2TW scans for multipliers on the “Mult” station
- John, W2GD and Gene, N2AA digging out 2nd and 3rd layer Europeans on the “Run” Station



W2GD - Sandy Hook 1999

- N2AA giving W2GD some operating technique “coaching” at the run position
- K2TW and W2CG busy finding more QSOs on the Mult. station



W2GD - Sandy Hook 1999

- The *Other* GD – Gerry, W1GD, starts the Saturday morning shift on the run radio
- K2TW keeps tuning between CQs at the mult position



W2GD - Sandy Hook 1999

- Marty, W2CG
manning the
Multiplier chair

- W2GD running

- Ed, K2SQ
handles the
'slave' receiver
on the run
position



W2GD - Sandy Hook 1999

- The *Best Part* of spending the contest together with friends is telling and listening to “stories” all weekend long.

L-R K2TW (zzz),
W2RQ, W1GD,
W2GD, N2AA



THE 1999 W2GD CQ160 CW TEAM

W2NO

W2CG

W2GD

K2SQ

N2AA

K2TW

W2RQ

Missing:

W1GD

N2NC

N5RA



Since 2001 – WYRS-FM, West Creek, NJ

- Former site of maritime coast station WSC
- 300 foot 55G tower in a tidal salt marsh
Custom designed 3 element vertical TX array
Apex at 240 feet
- 50 acres of wooded fresh water marsh for RX
antennas

7 Beverages 560 to 900 feet

20' RX vertical 2000 ft. away

Core Team: K2TW, W2CG, W2GD W2NO
+ N2OO, W1GD, W2RQ

The Studios of WYRS-FM – our current 160M contest home



300' tower surrounded by tidal salt marsh...



Tower in the marsh...another view from the station building



500' runs of 7/8 inch Andrews Heliax run out to tower base to feed our TX array





NE-2 near end

NE 60' Tower (TA33)

SE 60' Tower

60' Tower

NE Sloper

SW Sloper

WYRS Main Tower

Edwin B. F

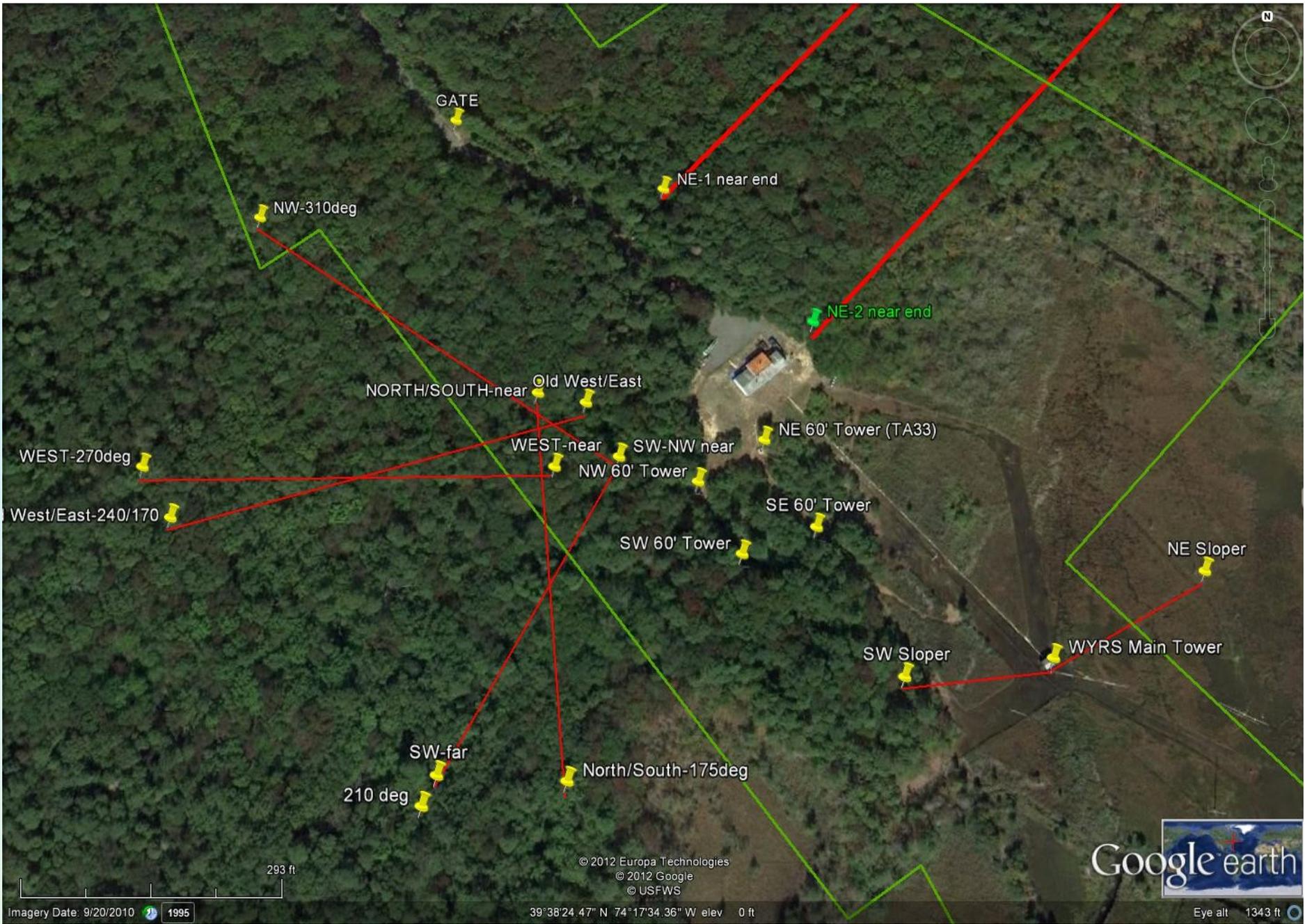
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Google earth

Imagery Date: 9/20/2010 1995

39°38'23.34" N 74°17'28.52" W elev 0 ft

Eye alt 700 ft



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 © USFWS



Imagery Date: 9/20/2010 1995

39°38'24.47" N 74°17'34.36" W elev 0 ft

Eye alt 1343 ft

Tower in the marsh...on a cold January day



Another tower climber photo ... it's what I do



View to EU...do you feel **LOUD** yet?



Looking toward SA – tidal marsh and bay for 20 miles to Atlantic City just visible on the horizon



Looking inland toward the NNW is equally impressive



Hardware: Three K3s, Alpha 99 – 1.5 KW

W2RQ “mult” W2NO “run” W1GD “slave”



K2TW K9CT W2GD with N200 in the background



K4ZA W2RQ N2NT with W2GD standing



W1GD W2NO W2RQ K9CT with 'Sleepy GD' in the background



W2GD mult K9CT run K2TW slave



Team Members since 1987 – about 40 and the list just keeps growing

K2TW KU2C W2GD

N2AA WA2MKM KD2RE W9NGA KB2JAQ

K2SQ W1GD W2CG W2NO W2RQ W3CF N5RA

N2EA N2HM N2OO N3RD NO2R K2XT WA2VUY

K2GN K2RET K2SG W2ARP W2KP W2OB

N2NT K2PS W2REH NA2U

N2NC N2NU WW2Y

Out of Area Guest Operators:

K4ZA K8NZ K9CT N4GN

Technical Assistance and Support:

W3LPL, W8JI, N6BV, W1FV, N6TV, W3PP (SK), N6RK, K6SE (SK), K3LR, K9RS, NO2R, N6BT and many others

The Team's Achievements – after **83,145** QSOs

	ARRL 160	TBDC	CQ160 CW	CQ160 PH
No. of Entries	11	11	24	3
First Place <i>World</i>	-	4	1	3
First Place <i>USA</i>	3	5	11	-
2nd Place USA	2	-	9	-
3rd Place USA	3	1	2	-

Hope you didn't end up feeling like this "Sleepy GD" character tonight.....

Thanks for listening and 73!

