

Frank Donovan, W3LPL

Frank's contesting career began as twelve year old at the Providence Radio Assn. 1959 ARRL Field Day, W1OP/1, on Neutaconkanut Hill two miles from his home in Providence, Rhode Island. Soon afterwards he began to slowly build his own small contest station on 1/10th acre in his densely populated urban neighborhood. At 15 years old he produced the highest score in the 1962 New England QSO Party.

At 17 years old he finished first place USA in the 1964 ARRL CW DX Contest low power category. He was the leader of the 1968 W1OP/1 Field Day that finished in first place in the 4A category from the former World War II FCC Radio Intelligence Division signals intelligence monitoring and direction finding site in Scituate, RI. Immediately after college, US Air Force 2nd Lieutenant Frank Donovan's first military assignment was in the Washington D.C. area where he worked under PVRC member W3GN (SK) and with his multi-multi mentor W4BVV (SK).

Frank finished first place USA single operator in four CQWW CW and four ARRL CW DX contests from 1973 to 1978. His first multi-multi DX contest experience was with the world high scoring 1974 PJ9JT CQWW CW team. W3LPL multi-multi teams started 45 years ago with a small entry in the 1977 ARRL Phone DX Contest. Five years later two incredible long nights of 10 meter JA runs unexpectedly produced his team's first USA multi-multi win in the 1982 ARRL Phone DX Contest, the same year that renowned multi-multi competitor W2PV became a silent key.

W3LPL multi-multi teams have completed more than one million DX QSOs and achieved more than 50 first place USA finishes out of more than 150 multi-multi entries in the CQWW and ARRL DX contests. Frank was inducted into the prestigious CQ Contest Hall of Fame in 1999 and is a regular presenter at Contest University. He retired 11 years ago as a Chief Engineer at General Dynamics Corporation after a 45 year career in electronics and systems engineering.