

Frank Donovan, W3LPL

Frank's contesting career began as a twelve-year-old at the Providence Radio Assn. 1959 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 a densely populated urban neighborhood.

Frank's ham radio story began 100 years ago when his grandfather collected parts and built one tube radios for friends and family during the early days of AM broadcasting. His 1923 parts and expertise were eight year old Frank's introduction to radio and antenna construction during the mid-1950s.

While in high school at age 17, he finished first place USA in the 1964 ARRL CW DX Contest low power category. In 1968 he was the leader of the W1OP/1 Field Day that finished first place in the 4A category from a former World War II FCC Radio Intelligence Division direction finding and signals intelligence collection site in Scituate, RI. Immediately after college, he was commissioned in the US Air Force as a 2nd lieutenant where he worked as an engineer under PVRC member W3GN and as a colleague of one of PVRC's great multi-multi station builders, W4BVV.

Frank and his teams finished first place U.S.A in more than 75 of the 200 CQ Worldwide and ARRL DX Contest categories they've entered since 1964. Frank finished first place USA single operator in four CQ Worldwide CW and four ARRL CW DX contests from 1973 to 1978. His first multi-multi experience was as a member of the world high scoring 1974 PJ9JT CQWW CW team. His multi-operator teams have completed more than one million DX QSOs and achieved more than 50 first place USA finishes out of 180 multi-operator entries in the CQ Worldwide and ARRL DX Contests since their 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, a few months before multi-multi great W2PV became a silent key.

Frank was inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame in 1999 and is a regular presenter at Contest University and to radio clubs and conventions around the world. He retired 13 years ago as a Chief Engineer at General Dynamics Corporation after a 45 year career in electronics research, development, engineering and operations of military spaceborne, terrestrial, subterranean, seaborn and subsea electronic systems.