

AJ Stockton, NK4O

AJ Stockton, NK4O, serves as the Vice President of the Florida Contest Group and is a dedicated CW operator based in Miami, Florida. Born into an amateur radio legacy—his parents are AA4RO and AG0K—AJ's journey began at age six, driven by a curiosity to decipher the private Morse Code messages his parents sent one another while commuting. By 1979, at the age of nine, he had mastered 5 WPM and earned his Novice certificate, KA0EFG.

AJ honed his operating skills early in Missouri, where he learned to pull high-speed CW out of pileups while sitting sidebar with his mother (then WB0NIE) during the November Sweepstakes. He further refined his technique by competing in the Novice Roundup and operating with Tom Hammond, N0SS (sk) and the Mid-Mizzou Field Day crew. Motivated to access better DX and the quieter frequencies of the lower bands, he quickly advanced from his 20 WPM certificate through the General and Advanced exams to earn his Extra Class license.

AJ's amateur radio activity came to an abrupt halt in 1992 when Hurricane Andrew struck, destroying everything he owned, including his entire amateur radio station. Following this total loss, he took a long hiatus to focus on raising his family. He eventually returned to the airwaves during the COVID pandemic, sparked by the modern "cross-pollination of computing and hamming." Inspired by the technical demonstrations of Max, NG7M, AJ embraced the integration of software dashboards with traditional radio operations.

Since his return, AJ has also become addicted to operating mobile in the Florida QSO Party. This passion began when Chris Blake, NX4N, recruited him to fill a 15m CW operator slot in his vehicle. AJ describes the thrill of working these "DXpedition-style" pileups without leaving the country as riveting.

Today, AJ demonstrates that competitive success is possible even with modest station limitations. Operating with "wires in the palm trees" in Miami, he achieved a #1 ranking in the US and North America (and #5 World) in the 2024 CQ WW WPX CW (Classic Mode). He remains active in mentoring, helping guide new operators toward the "CW side" of the hobby.

Read more at QRZ.com/db/NK4O