

# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## Special points of interest:

- The Year Ahead
- January Program
- Short Skip
- DX Contests
- DXer of the Year
- 2008 NADXC Calendar

## How to Join

- \* Come to a club meeting;
- \* or send in an application by mail (form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org))
- \* or call  
Jason Amos at  
(256)963-6833

## The Year Ahead

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Where is the NADXC headed in 2008 and beyond? What issues, big and small, one-time and perennial, confront us? Let's just go down the list.

**Membership**—is dwindling, and in particular, we have a dearth of younger members. A certain number of members in regular attendance is necessary to keep the meetings going, and of course dues are necessary to keep the club's finances in order.

Any suggestions you have on improving membership are welcome. I hope to begin a structured "sales campaign" with HARC, but haven't quite figured out the structure yet. Do you have ham friends who would appreciate a "sales call" from NADXC?

**Programs**—the Vice President's great burden. We are very fortunate to have January and February's programs in the queue already. Our members put on some great programs, but programs by non-NADXCers are every bit as welcome, and tend to be less predictable than the DX issues we relish. If you have such an outside candidate in mind, or a program of your own, please let our new vice president Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI, know about it.

**Web site** — could serve as an advertising tool to lure new members, but unfortunately has been neglected and fallen into disrepair. It still works, mostly, but only the front page changes, once a month, and usually only to update the most recent LongPath date. Kevin has threatened to do something about this, and I'm sure we're all for that. If you have specific suggestions about content or formatting, please relay these to Kevin or me.

**Monthly challenges** — we have had these, but somehow the idea got lost. "Work three coun-

tries in a mode you have never used" is an example. That one itself is good for another month: how many of us have three countries on Olivia or Hellschreiber? We see spots for both modes regularly. The challenge to you is: come up with challenges.

**Banquet speaker** — Bob Allphin, K4UEE, might in fact be our permanent banquet speaker. The little slip accompanying my 3X5A QSL cards says the video will be out by the middle of the year, but I'm sure the story from the horse's mouth is even better. Still, we're in danger or getting into a rut, even if it's a very good one. Might any of the FJ/OH crew be coming to the hamfest? Ideas? Those of you who know DX movers and shakers outside our area, please put on your thinking caps.

**Sprucing up the LongPath**—You may have noticed that the LongPath layout department is no proponent of change for change's sake, so this refers to content rather than format. A few features periodically pop up and then go back into hiding, e.g., This Month in Electrical History and Unusual QSL Card. If there is a feature which deserves a permanent or at least periodic place in the LongPath, please let the staff know, preferably by way of a sample.

The LongPath is read outside the NADXC: witness the fact that N4KG's antenna pieces ad was answered by non-NADXCer Jack Hemby, W5WQQ. We hope it portrays a positive image of the NADXC, and is something we can all be proud of.

Looking forward to a good year,

73,

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

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Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

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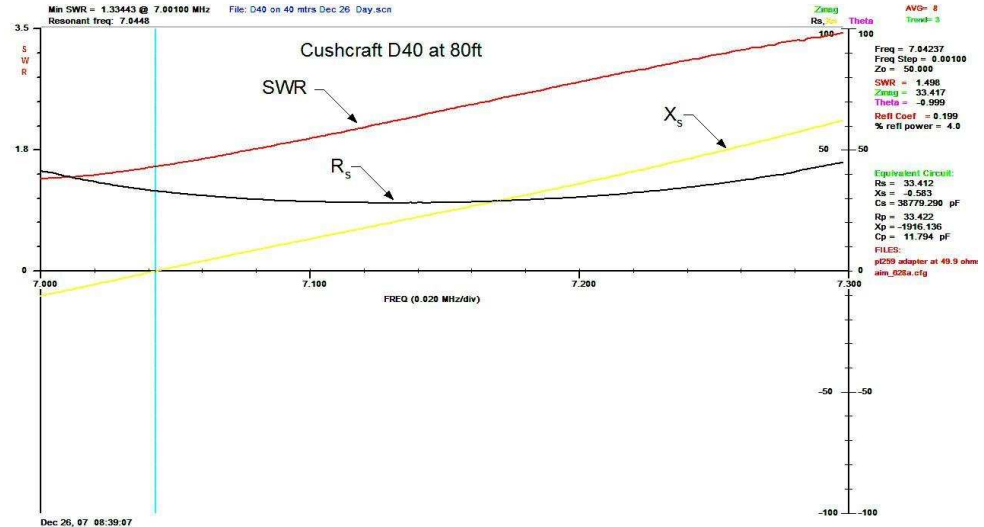
Tom Russell, N4KG

John Stensby, N5DF

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Jared Cassidy, KQ4VT

The scalar SWR reading on your rig or tuner is a simple representation of something going on between the shack and antenna, but is it all you need to know? Come to the Tuesday, January 8th meeting to hear some more details from John Stensby, N5DF. The plot below shows John's antenna. What does yours look like?



## Table of Contents

The Year Ahead	1
January Program	2
Miscellanea	2
Short Skip	3
Ten Tec in the News	3
DX Contests for January, 2008	4
K4SAV: 2007 DXer of the Year	4
2008 NADXC Calendar	5

## Miscellanea

By the LongPath Staff

Secretary/Treasurer Jason Amos, KD4BJW reminds us that **2008 NADXC dues** are now payable. Send your \$15 to him at:

Jason Amos  
1323 Dan Ave.  
Albertville, AL 35950

Or bring it with you to the next meeting.

A quickly-accessible **summary of the band-countries you have and need** is a valuable operating table fixture. N4KG has supplied us with just the thing, and it can be downloaded from the [web site](#). One summary is in order by [prefix](#), the other is organized by [continent](#). MS Word format is available for those who want to keep these forms up-to-date on their computers, and PDF is available for hard copy. Look for these forms to be updated as new entities arise or the calls are changed, e.g., T9 will turn into E7.

### From VP Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI:

"I wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year and let you know that I am excited to serve as your Vice President for the following year. We already have a good lineup for programs for the next couple months and some promised for later in the year. I am currently looking for anyone that would want to take the program for March. If you are willing please let me know, I don't want to have to start twisting arms this early in the year!

"We are also looking to update the website in the coming months. If you have any suggestions or pictures that you would like to add please let me know. We will do our best to get our website updated.

"That's all for now. Hope to see you at the meeting this month.

73, Kevin, KG4TEI"

## CQ Magazine DX Marathon

CQ magazine invites everybody to join the 3rd annual DX Marathon in 2008. The DX Marathon starts on Jan 1 and you should work as many countries and zones as possible until the end of the year 2008. Read the rules at: <http://www.dxmarathon.com> (CQ Magazine)

## Map Quiz

Here's something to test your world geography IQ. Most DXers should do well on this. <http://www.minijuegosgratis.com/juegos/hwdykyworld/hwdykyworld.html?b415=0766>

## FJ - Saint Barthelemy (ST BARTH), NA-146

The US State Department added Saint Barthelemy to its list of Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty" Dec 14 which is one of the criteria used to designate a location as a

separate DXCC entity. The French government gave St. Barthelemy a new status as an "overseas collective" on Feb 21, 2007. (DX Newsletter)

## January Contests

The ARRL RTTY Roundup is the first weekend of this month. Information concerning other coming events is provided in the December issue of QST and on the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/jan.html>

## Small Antennas

In these days of antenna restrictions, there has been much discussion of small, easily transported, and discretely deployed HF antennas. One of these antennas is the small transmitting loop, which generally consists of copper tubing formed in a loop with diameters ranging from less than a foot (for VHF use) to large structures intended for 80 and 160 meters. The loop circumference can be less than 1/10 wavelength

and the loop is brought to resonance with a capacitor across the endpoint of the loop. Efficiencies can run very high, even into the 90 percent range, and the antenna seems to operate quite well even close to the ground. The loop, however, exhibits extremely high Q, and bandwidths can be in the low tens of KHz. This necessitates constant tuning of the antenna capacitor to resonate the desired operating frequency. This project is targeted for the HPSDR group and implements such a small transmitting loop antenna and automatic tuner. The antenna tuning capacitor of the loop is driven by a stepper motor that is controlled from frequency information originating from an HPSDR radio. <http://hpsdr.org/wiki/index.php?title=HELIOS>

So long 'til next time...



de N4WBS

## NADXC Officers

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## Ten Tec in the News

By the LongPath Staff

Huntsville Times readers were treated to an article on Ten Tec in the December 31st business section, page E2. It recounted the origins of the company, and a bit about the product line, including ham gear.

A co-worker who had read the article asked if I knew of this company, which gave me the opportunity to bring in my only Ten Tec rig, a Scout, for demonstration. (I would have brought in an Orion II, but...) The discussion turned to whether "everything else" was made "somewhere else", at which Elecraft (presumably the domes-



tic competition referred to in the newspaper article) and MFJ came up as U.S. success stories.

If anyone has further detail on the Al Kahn legacies of Electro-Voice and Ten Tec, there is time at the next meeting, or room in the next LongPath.

## DX Contests for January, 2008

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

### DARC 10 Meter Contest, (CW/SSB), 10 meters

Jan 13, 0900Z to 1059Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial No.

See page 98, Jan QST

### Dutch Midwinter Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Jan 12, 1400Z to 1800Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.

See Page 98, Jan. QST

### Dutch Midwinter Contest, (SSB), 80-10 meters

Jan 13, 1000Z to 1400Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.

See Page 98, Jan. QST

### HA DX Contest, (CW), 160-10 meters

Jan 20, 1200Z to Jan 21, 1200Z

Exchange: RST + S.N. HA send county or HADXC member #

See page 98, Jan QST

### LZ Open Championship, (CW), 80 & 40 meters

Jan 19, 0400Z to 1200Z

Exchange: S.N. + last S.N. rcvd (6 digits total)

See page 98, Jan QST

### UK DX RTTY Contest (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Jan 19, 1200Z to Jan 20, 1200Z

Exchange: RST + S.N. UK stns. send UK region code

See page 98, Jan QST

### CQWW 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Jan 26, 0000Z to Jan 27, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus State/Province/DXCC entity

See page 99, Jan. QST

### REF French Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Jan 26, 0600Z to Jan 27, 1800Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No. ( F stns. give Dept/pfx)

See page 99, Jan. QST

### UBA (Belgium) Contest (PHONE), 80-10 meters

Jan 26, 1300Z to Jan 27, 1300Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial No. ONs add province abbr.

See page 99, Jan. QST



### OTHERS:

#### Hunting Lions in the Air CW/SSB,

0000Z, Jan 12 - 2400Z, Jan 13

#### NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW

0530Z-0730Z, Jan 13

#### NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB

0800Z-1000Z, Jan 14

#### BARTG RTTY Sprint

1200Z, Jan 26 to 1200Z, Jan 27

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM

## K4SAV: 2007 DXer of the Year

Congratulations Jerry Montgomery, K4SAV, recipient of the 2007 NADXC DXer of the Year plaque, awarded at the Christmas Party at the Greenbrier on December 11th. The award is based on the votes of members present at the November meeting.

Jerry worked on the CQ DX Marathon throughout 2007, turning in 280 countries and 40 zones for a score of 320 in the unlimited class. Here's what he had to say on the last day of 2007:

"DX isn't dead at the very bottom of the sunspot cycle, but it is more difficult. When I worked both E4 and CE0 (Juan Fernandez) on Dec 14, I thought that would be it for the year. But then the new FJ (St Barthelemy) came along. I think I'm going to submit FJ5KH instead of FJ/OH2AM. Then again on Dec 21, I was surprised to find 3DA2AG/P on Rotuma. I was sure that would be the last one.

Then the last day of the year Dec 31, Managed to break thru a JA pile-up at 0530 UTC on 20 meters to work T22V on Tuvalu. I'm amazing that he heard me at that time of night on 20. I also heard JD1BMH on Ogasawara on 80 meters around midnight, but I couldn't get thru the pile. So I got up early this morning and was able to work him on 80M at 1300 UTC. He had a good signal this morning. "

# 2008 NADXC Calendar

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

Budget Due

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Field Day

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Huntsville Hamfest

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Nominating Committee Report

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Annual Meeting  
Election of Officers/Directors

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DXer of the Year Vote

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Christmas Party  
Installation of Officers

  Meeting at Ryan's      LongPath Due Out