



# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## 160m and 80m Openings de N4KG

Excerpted from the ACG Email Reflector, and as reported by K7RA

### Special points of interest:

- 160m and 80m Openings
- January Program
- Short Skip
- DX Contests
- DXers of the Year
- 2010 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 Tom Duncan at 705-2147.

The ARRL Propagation Bulletin published weekly is written by Tad Cook, K7RA. Regular readers of the bulletin know Tad frequently goes by an ever-changing Sun-related pseudonym, which may seem to indicate his interest is in the bands which benefit most from high solar activity. Perhaps, but certainly not to the exclusion of the low bands. The January 8th edition featured information edited from a submission by N4KG, sent to the Alabama Contest Group email reflector prior to inclusion in the propagation bulletin. Here are excerpts from the reflector email, with editorial license.

Tom Russell, N4KG of Harvest, Alabama won't wait for a reliable batch of sunspots. Now he concentrates on 160m and 80m, which do just fine at a solar minimum — particularly lately — thank you Ol' Sol.

Tom has a fine antenna at his place in the woods west of Huntsville, including large ground plane antennas for 80 and 160, inverted L for 160, and dipoles on 80. Check out <http://www.bing.com>, clicked on Maps, then entered his address and ZIP code from his QRZ data. His QTH is slightly west of the location that you land on, at the end of a road. Click on Aerial, then Bird's Eye, and note you can click on vantage points from four directions, and can also zoom in. Look for multiple telltale Yagis in the woods.

Tom reports November and December had some fantastic 160 and 80 meter conditions, including impressing openings to Russia and Northern Europe from December 11-13, most on December 12 and most on 160 meters. He notes more shortpath UA9s in two months than in 30 years operating in Northern Alabama: "These Russian openings are not daily events by any means but there have been (and con-

tinue to be) several very good nights (and mornings).

N4KG notes that fellow NADXCer Jerry Cross, N4NO (PhD in electromagnetic Field Theory and Communications and very active DXer) suggests these openings are the result of historically low geomagnetic activity, a "seminal event."

Among N4KG's contacts over those days on 160 (mostly CW) were 4O3A, EI2CN, ES2DJ, LA5HE, LY2J, LZ1ANA (S9++), RA0ALM (Zone 18, just north of JT), RA1AOB, RA3DOX, RA4LW, RU3DX, RU4SU, RX4HZ, RX9FM (Zone 17), SM6CPY, TF3SG, TF4M, UA3BS, UA3TCJ, UA4CC, UA4HBW, UA9MA, UROMC, UW7CN, UX1UA, UYOZG, YL2SM, and ZC4VJ.

On 80 meters N4KG worked RA4CC, RK3ER, SM40TI (S9+), TF3SG (S9 SSB), UA3TCJ, UA4HBW, UA4LY, UA9FMZ, UA9YAB, UU9DX, and UX4UU. At the end of it all, his amplifier died on December 13 and then he worked RA0ALM, RA1AOB and UA3TCJ barefoot.

"On January 2, RZOAF had been camping out on 160 and 80 Meters (3521), morning and night, around 1200 to 1300Z and Friday evening from 2300Z to 0400Z, well past his sunrise which is around 0200Z. He is located in Krasnoyarsk, about 300 miles north of the NW border with JT, in Zone 18. Is there a Big 160M station in UA0Y (Zone 23 - my last needed Zone on 160M)?"

"UA9MA has also been active on 160 and 80M from Omsk in the SE corner of Zone 17, peaking 569 on 3524 at 0342Z last night (Jan 2 in GMT). UA9KAA was running NA on 1823 (up 1) from 0500 to 0600Z, peaking 569 at times. He is in Northern Siberia in Zone 17. RX4HZ was 599+ on 40M with a little help from his 4L Quad at 30M high at 0600Z."

### The LongPath Staff

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The NADXC is in the enviable position of having programs lined up for January through April, 2010. John Stensby, N5DF will present the first of a two-part series investigating the indirect method of measuring coax and tuner losses, ultimately providing a proof of the method.

We're back on our regular schedule, so the meeting begins at 7:00 pm next Tuesday, January 12th, at Ryan's on University, and John's program will be-



gin after the business meeting, around 7:30. Get there around 6:15 for dinner, and to reconnect with your radio-active brethren after the holidays.

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### Miscellanea

By the LongPath Staff

Here's a reminder that **2010 NADXC dues** are now payable. Send your \$15 to:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY  
1107 Alta Vista Avenue  
Huntsville, AL 35801

Or bring it with you to the next meeting.

The 2010 NADXC Calendar appears on page 5 of this month's LongPath. Along with boxes denoting the nominal LongPath publication dates and regular club meeting dates you'll see a series of boxes beginning January 22nd and extending every Friday until March 5th (occluded there by a LongPath date), and ending March 6th. These denote class and test dates for HARC's upcoming Technician-grade ham license classes.

These classes will run from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm on the noted Fridays, culminating in a practice test session on

March 5th, and the honest-to-goodness CAVEC test session on Saturday, March 6th, at 9:00 am. Classes and tests are held at the Red Cross, 1101 Washington Street in Huntsville.

Those of you who aspire to see your own article on the front page of the LongPath now have your chance. The regularly-scheduled articles from the president are on hiatus until we find a new president, so the front page is open to you. Submissions may be sent to KG4CUY. Should the editorial staff be inundated with articles, it reserves the right to publish them in whatever order seems fit. There is, after all, only one front page.

### Kon-Tiki

Knut Haugland, LA3KY ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knut\\_Haugland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knut_Haugland)) passed away at the age of 92 on Dec 25, 2009. He was the last living crew member who accompanied Thor Heyerdahl on his famous 1947 Kon-Tiki expedition crossing the Pacific on a balsa wood raft. Knut Haugland and Torstein Raaby (callsign LI2B) were the radio operators of the 101 day expedition. Amateur radio was crucial for the safety of this adventure. Here you can read original story in the [December 1947 issue of QST](#) (DX Newsletter and ARRL)

### DX QRV

CEOY – Easter Island Jan 8-11 on PSK, Liberia EL8RI mainly CW on 30m, AD7AF will be QRV from Rarotonga (South Cook) as E51WWA between Jan 12 and Feb 1. His next stop will be on Manihiki (North Cook) from Feb 3-15, call sign to be determined. Activity is also possible back on Rarotonga from Feb 17-20, again as E51WWA. Participation in the ARRL International DX CW Contest is likely. (DX Newsletter)

### ARRL Continuing Education Online Courses

Registration remains open through Sunday, January 24, 2010, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, February 5, 2010: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. (ARRL)

### Dayton Hamvention 2010

Mark your calendar for May 14-16 2010 for Dayton.

### Solar Update

Each day since December 9 (except for Christmas Day), sunspots have been visible. The average daily sunspot numbers for the week December 24-30 were 12.9, an 18.5 point drop from the previous week, which was a 10.3 point

rise from the previous week, December 10-16. Sunspot numbers for December 24-30 were 11, 0, 13, 17, 17, 17 and 15 with a mean of 12.9. (K7RA Solar Update)

### January Contests

Information concerning upcoming contests is provided in the current issue of QST in the new Contest Corral section. This section is also available in pdf format at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/jan.pdf>. Also see the WA7BNM contest calendar at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php> and [SM3CER's Contest Calendar](#)

So long 'til next time...



de N4WBS

## DX Contests for January, 2010

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

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

Jan 10, 0900Z to 1059Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial No.

See page 79, Jan QST and

[www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm](http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm)

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

Jan 16, 0000Z to 0600Z

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

See page 79, Jan QST and

[www.lzopen.com](http://www.lzopen.com)

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

Jan 16, 1200Z to Jan 17, 1200Z

Exchange: RST + S.N.

See page 79, Jan QST and [www.ha-dx.com](http://www.ha-dx.com)

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

Jan 16, 1200Z to Jan 17, 1200Z

Exchange: RST + S.N.

See page 79, Jan QST and

[www.ukdx.srars.org](http://www.ukdx.srars.org)

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

Jan 29, 2200Z to Jan 31, 2200Z

Exchange: RST plus State/Province/DXCC entity

See page 79, Jan. QST and

[www.CQ160.com](http://www.CQ160.com)

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

Jan 30, 0600Z to Jan 31, 1800Z

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

See page 79, Jan. QST and [www.ref-union.org/concours](http://www.ref-union.org/concours)

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

Jan 30, 1300Z to Jan 31, 1300Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial No.

See page 79, Jan. QST and

[www.uba.be/en/hf](http://www.uba.be/en/hf)

### OTHERS:

#### NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW

0630Z-0830Z, Jan 10

#### NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB



0900Z-1100Z, Jan 10

#### YLISSB QSO Party, SSB,

0000Z, Jan 23 – 2359, Jan 24

#### BARTG RTTY Sprint

1200Z, Jan 23 to 1200Z, Jan 24

#### WAB Top Band Phone Contest,

Jan. 30, 1900Z – 2300Z

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

Chuck, N4NM

## 2009 DXers of the Year

Voting from members present at the November 2009 meeting resulted in the unusual situation of a dead heat for 2009 NADXC DXer of the Year. Congratulations are therefore in order to Johnny Winter, KR4F and Tom Duncan, KG4CUY.

As was the case last year, the Long-Path plaque department was tardy in getting the orders in for plaques customarily given to the recipients, and this should be rectified some time in the

near future, but not so near as to be available for presentation at the January meeting. Cheap paper substitutes were therefore passed out, but be assured these carry the same weight as the real thing.

DXer of the Year honors are not based solely on DXing prowess, but reflect the recipients' contributions to the club in all ways.

# 2010 NADXC Calendar

January 10

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 10

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						

March 10

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 10

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 10

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 10

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			

July 10

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 10

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				

September 10

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		

October 10

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						

November 10

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				

December 10

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	

  Meeting at Ryan's    
   LongPath Due Out    
   HARC Technician Classes