



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- Catch-All
- February Program
- Short Skip
- \$90 Transceiver
- February DX Contests
- 2006 Proposed Budget

How to Join

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

Catch-All

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

This month's column is a catch-all, touching on several areas of interest based on comments I've recently received from club members.

The January meeting was seriously impacted by our customary meeting room having been snatched out from under us by ladies of the Red Hat Society. As it happens, one of my co-workers is involved with this shady organization. When confronted with my accusation of usurping our room, she quickly blamed it on a competing Red Hat club in the area—apparently there are several. I haven't gotten to the bottom of this yet, but I have begin requesting our room the day after the preceding meeting, rather than a week before as has been the case for the past several years. Hopefully we'll fare better in the future. Even so, due no doubt to thousands of hours with our ears inside headphones, a few of us have a tough time hearing past the QRM outside our room at Ryan's. While we briefly entertained the idea last year of moving all our meetings to Green Hills Grille (which worked quite well for the Christmas Party), the consensus was that it was a bit pricy on a monthly basis. Let's think about this again.

Coming up with programs is a daunting task, as any former NADXC or HARC vice president will attest. K4SAV graciously offered January's

program at the Christmas Party, and even hampered by the noisy surroundings, we couldn't have asked for a more timely (right before the CQ 160m CW contest) or better-planned program. Thanks, Jerry—we hope others will follow your lead.

Rather than to leave the request for programs at that, here are some suggestions aimed at our position in the sunspot cycle:

- Low-band operating experiences
- Top-band propagation—is it “80m, but more so”, or really a unique band?
- Low-band DXing strategies: how to compete with other call areas and Europe.
- For the circuit-conscious, noise blankers, noise limiters, and DSP noise reduction.
- DXpedition videos, like this month's.

Step up to the plate with your program or suggestion.

Five years have flown by since the last NADXC survey, which solicited input from members on a range of topics. Following is a list of most of those questions — don't be alarmed if you don't see your favorites from 2002. Please review this list, and add to it questions you think are now appropriate, but don't answer the questions at this time. We'll collect the additional questions

See “Catch-All” on p. 7

3YDX Video

Courtesy of Bob De Pierre, K8KI

Those of you who attended “Bombay Bob” K4UEE's DX Banquet presentation at the last Huntsville Hamfest, or have seen one of his other presentations on Peter One, know that an extensive video of the operation was being distilled from many hours of raw footage. Here it is, and just in time for Valentine's Day! See you for dinner around 6:15 pm, meeting at 7:00, program at 7:30.



The LongPath Staff

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Meeting was called to order at 19:00 local time.

Treasurer's report given with \$3330.33 on deposit and new membership dues to be deposited.

Secretary's minutes were posted in the Dec. Long path from Nov. These were approved as written.

Old Business:

There was trouble in getting money to the VU7LD team. The club had approved \$300, but it has not been sent. Tom Duncan to explore other avenues. *[This is apparently undeliverable, and we should discuss reallocating this contribution. Note that DXpeditions to Scarborough Reef and Agalega, among others, are planned for later this year.—Ed.]*

\$150 sent to the VU7RG team and a thank you note received and read at the Jan. meeting.

Note that Dues are currently payable and they are \$15 for single member and \$20 for family.

New Business:

Proposed budget will be posted in the February LongPath, and a vote on the proposed budget will be held at the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 19:09 local and Jerry Montgomery gave a presentation on Low Band antennas.

Thanks to all who attended.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Amos, KD4BJW
Secretary

5A1A Dayton Trip Aid

From John Kjos, W9RPM

Hi, my name is John, W9RPM. I am a friend of Abubaker Assid, 5A1A/DL1AL. As many of you may know, he is currently in Germany going to school. Over the years before going to Germany, he provided many of us with 5A1A in our log.

He has always dreamed of going to the Dayton Hamvention. Now that he is in Germany, he is able to get a Visa to come to the United States.

He has very limited financial resources currently. He is going to school and working a part time job.

I, with the help of Scott, KA9FOX am trying to help him financially to be able to come to Dayton this year. I am asking for donations from individuals and clubs to help make this happen. If any of you would be able to send a donation, I would ask that you send a check or money order to me at:

John Kjos-W9RPM

2723 East Burr Oak Street

La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

Please make them out to me, John Kjos.

Most Wanted

Scarborough Reef still heads Top 10 most-wanted DXCC entities list as of Jan 15, 2007 – *The DX Magazine*, published by Carl Smith, N4AA, has released the results of its 2006 most-wanted DXCC entities survey, *The Daily DX* reports. The newsletter notes that the survey list omitted Swains Island (KH8/S), which joined the DXCC List last July 22 and may otherwise have been number one. For 2006, Scarborough Reef (BS7) remains on top. The second most-wanted entity is Lakshadweep Islands (VU7), where a second DXpedition in as many months with the call signs VU7RG and VU7MY has just gone QRT. North Korea (P5) still holds the number-three slot, followed in order by Yemen (70), Navassa (KP1), Glorioso (FR/G), Bouvet (3Y/B), Desecheo (KP5), Marion Island (ZS8) and Heard Island (VK0/H). Displaced from the Top 10 in 2006 were Peter I (3Y/P) and Andaman Islands (VU4). The complete listing of the Top 100 most-wanted DXCC entities eventually will appear on the [DX Publishing](#) Web site.

More on Morse

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. On or after that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, starts a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse re-

quirement - still a matter of controversy within the amateur community - is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

February Contests

Information concerning coming events is provided in the February issue of QST and on the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/feb.html>.

New country?

The Financial Times reports that Kosovo (currently YU8) is "set to declare statehood in months" according to the Daily DX.

Honor Roll.

2007 DXCC Honor Roll deadline approaching: The deadline for inclusion in the next DXCC Honor Roll listing is March 31. Submissions must be post-marked by that date. The Honor Roll list will appear in August QST. There are 337 current entities on the DXCC List, and you must be at 337 to qualify for Top of the Honor Roll or within the numerical top 10 to qualify for Honor Roll. The current minimum number for Honor Roll is 328. (Deleted entities do not count toward Honor Roll). "Top of Honor Roll" and "Honor Roll" plaques and lapel pins are available to all past and current Honor Roll members. Visit

The ARRL DX Century Club Program Web page <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc> for information on how to order

Speaking of Swains Island

Well-traveled Hrane, YT1AD with team: K1LZ, K3LP, N6TQS, RA3AUU, UROMC, RK3AD, N3KS, Sv2BFN, K6SRZ, YZ7AA, KD7RCD, YZ1BX and potential members of team: YU7NU, YU1DX and YZ1EW, will activate Swains Island between March 29 to April 21, 2007. The team will stay on Swains Island 10 days and will operate with 6 stations with amplifiers. <http://www.yt1ad.info/n8s/index.html> The callsign will be N8S and QSL is via YT1AD.

Daylight Saving Time Change

This year Daylight Saving Time (DST) extends by approximately four weeks. In compliance with this provision in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, DST dates in the United States and Canada will start three weeks earlier (2:00 A.M. on the second Sunday in March) and will end one week later (2:00 A.M. on the first Sunday in November).

So long 'til next time.

In days of old, when ops were bold, and sidebands not invented,

The word would pass, by pounding brass, and all were well contented."

73 es gud dx . . . de N4WBS

YWØDX in CQ WW WPX RTTY Contest

Forwarded by Tom Russell, N4KG

A New Jersey DX Association Calendar of Events posting:

Starting: February 10, 2007

End: February 11, 2007

Headline: YWØ, AVES ISLAND

Dear friends

YWØDX Aves Island is an DXpedition sponsored by the 4M5DX group, which I'm member, and in this occasion we want to privilege the digimodes (RTTY and psk31), for that reason we invite you to contact the Dxpediton and we also appreciate your collaboration in

forwarding this information to your own local organizations. In the same way, we like to inform that for the first time in history we will participate in the CQ Worldwide RTTY WPX Contest, February 10 - 11, 2007.

We invite you to visit our URL: www.yw0dx.4m5dx.org to gather all the information regarding this activity and also to publish which bands you required to work, the log will be available on-line.

Thanks for your collaboration and we look forward to contact you.

Best regards.

Pasquale Casale,

YV5KAJ - 4M5RY - YW5RY

email: yv5kaj@yahoo.com

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Phone: 58-416-6245502

QSL via EA5KB or www.eQSL.cc.

P.O. Box 50240 Caracas 1050-A Venezuela

⌘90 Transceiver

By Steve Werner, AG4W

I just finished my first contact with the Firefly SDR. It was on 20 Meter CW running 3 watts into my loop antenna. I received 579 into Maine. It has been a long time since I used a homebrew receiver and transmitter. I ended up using the Rocky software with a laptop. I expect it will work much better when I figure out how to use the Power SDR software. The surface mount components made the project quite a challenge. It turned out I had to make one run to

W&W to get extra capacitors. Two of them got lost trying to mount them. I also had to repair some of the toroid connections. The insulation that was supposed to melt didn't do it as expected. I have included pictures. The front panel includes the Transmitter VXO and keyer speed control. The switch is for spotting and the push button for programming the keyer. The jacks on the front panel are for keyer sidetone and keyer input. On the back

are connections to power, antenna and computer. Receiver tuning on the computer was interesting and took some getting use to. I expect we will see more of software defined receivers in the future. With the sun spot cycle at a minimum it is a great time to build some equipment.

My first station also cost about \$90 40 years ago. It was a Heathkit HR-10 and DX-20 which was crystal controlled.



Front Panel—Knobs are for VXO and keyer speed control. The switch is for spotting and the push button for programming the keyer. The jacks are for keyer sidetone and keyer input.



The work gets done here. Note the many surface-mount parts.

More pictures on p. 5—see ⌘90 Transceiver

\$90 Transceiver (continued from p. 4)



The rear panel, with just enough connectors to get the work done. Audio I/O to the computer is on the left, and power on the right.



The finished product. And, it works!

Miscellanea by the LongPath Staff

SP9MRO and crew are planning a DXpedition to the Agalega Islands, 3B6, beginning March 22, 2007. They are presently trying to arrange for transportation, preliminary estimates for which are €70,000. One of our VU7 contributions is apparently undeliverable, so we may wish to consider a contribution to

this DXpedition. You may keep current with their progress and cast your votes for bands and modes needed by visiting 3b6.goDX.eu. Thanks to the Feb. 5, 2007 Daily DX for this tip.

Our very own NADXC immediate past president and 2006 DXer of the Year Tim Pearson, KU4J, is the incoming president of the Lone Star DX Association. In this position, we wonder how long he will be able to hold on to a “4” call. Good luck, Tim!

The LongPath research department was pressed into service after the November DX Quiz program. One of the questions was “Who was K6DXK (SK), who directed *West Side Story*, *North by*

Northwest, *Sabrina*, *Hello! Dolly*, *The Sound of Music*, and *The King and I*. For an extra point, what other famous director was a ham?” The question should have been worded “... who wrote the screen play for ... For an extra point, what famous director was a ham?” While Robert Wise /Jerome Robbins, Alfred Hitchcock, Billy Wilder, Gene Kelly, Robert Wise, and Walter Lang respectively directed these movies, Ernest Lehman, K6DXK, wrote the screenplays for all, wrote the original story for *North by Northwest*, and produced *Hello! Dolly*. John Huston, 6UK, was the famous director.

NADXC Officers

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LongPath Ads

We've kept the lid — on prices, that is. The 150% increase in LongPath ad rates for 2007 has been put off for yet another year. If you need to unload that Meissner Signal Shifter, or the lava lamp next to it, send the details to Tom at

duncant1@ds-s.com or 705-2147 (w)

We'll fit you in.

February DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

DX CONTESTS for the coming month include:

CQWW RTTY WPX Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Feb 10, 0000Z to Feb 11, 2400Z

Exchange: RST & Serial No.

See page 100, Feb. QST and

<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>

RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest (CW only), 160 meters

Feb 10, 2100Z to Feb 11, 0100Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No. (& UK district)

See page 100, Feb. QST and

<http://www.rsgbhfcc.org>

ARRL Intl. DX Contest, (CW), 160-10 meters

Feb 17, 0000Z to Feb 18, 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus State/Province; DX send RST plus pwr

See page 99, Dec. QST

CQWW 160 Meter Contest (PHONE), 160 meters

Feb 24, 0000Z to Feb 25, 2400Z

Exchange: RS plus State/Province/DXCC Entity

See page 98, Jan. QST

REF French Contest (PHONE), 80-10 meters

Feb 24, 0600Z to Feb 25, 1800Z

Exchange: RS plus Serial No.

See page 98, Jan. QST

UBA (Belgium) Contest (CW), 80-10 meters

Feb 24, 1300Z to Feb 25, 1300Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.

See page 98, Jan. QST

ARRL Intl. DX Contest, (PHONE), 160-10 meters

Mar 3, 0000Z to Mar 4, 2400Z

Exchange: RS plus State/Province; DX send RS plus pwr

See page 99, Dec. QST

OTHERS:

Dutch PACC Contest 1200Z,

Feb 10 to 1200Z, Feb 11

FISTS Winter Sprint

1700Z-2100Z, Feb 10

Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW

1100Z-1300Z, Feb 10

RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data

(Feb) 2000Z-2130Z, Feb 14

RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW

(Feb) 2000Z-2130Z, Feb 22



Russian PSK WW Contest

2100Z, Feb 23 to 2100Z, Feb 24

DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest

1100Z-1700Z, Mar 4

RSGB Commonwealth Contest

1000Z, Mar 10 to 1000Z, Mar 11

AGCW QRP Contest

1400Z-2000Z, Mar 10

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

Chuck, N4NM

over the next month or so, and publish a new questionnaire in an upcoming LongPath, and try to use it as guidelines for NADXC.

A. Membership Profile

1. What class of license do you hold?
2. How many years have you been licensed?
3. Your age?
4. How many years have you been a NADXC member?
5. How many NADXC meetings did you attend in the past year?
6. Are you a HARC member?
7. Do you belong to any other ham radio clubs?

B. Member Operating Capabilities, Preferences, and Activities

1. Have you ever entered a DX contest?
2. Do you regularly participate in DX contests?
3. On what bands are you now able to operate?
4. On what modes are you now operating?
5. Do you have and/or operate a mobile rig?
6. Do you have a VHF or UHF HT?
7. Are you interest in QRP operation?
8. Do you now own a QRP HF transceiver?
9. What DX operating awards to you now hold?
10. Have you ever participated in a DXpedition?

C. Meetings and other club activities

1. Have you ever presented a program at a NADXC meeting?
2. Would you be interested in presenting a program at a future NADXC meeting?
3. In general, how interesting have you found the NADXC meeting programs you have heard in the past 12-24 months?
4. What day of the week would be the LEAST convenient for NADXC meetings?
5. What day of the week would be the MOST convenient for NADXC meetings?
6. Do you normally come early to have dinner with other members before the meetings?
7. Is the combination dinner/meeting arrangement important to you?
8. Which of the following program topics would be of interest to you:
 - Antennas
 - Contesting
 - DXpeditions
 - Propagation
 - Towers
 - Station Design
 - Equipment Reviews
 - Power Line Noise
 - Packet Cluster
 - RFI
 - QSL Routes
 - Logging software
 - Internet resources
 - Satellite work
 - DXCC history
 - QRP operation
 - FCC issues
 - RF exposure
 - PRB-1
 - Solar Power
 - ARRL organization

- Beacons
- ULS/CORES
- Kit building
- DXing tricks and tips
- Software-defined radios
- Transmitter technology
- Receiver technology
- PSK31
- Principles of electronics

D. NADXC Web Site

1. How often do you view the NADXC web site?
2. What web site information do you find most useful?
3. What web site information do you find least useful?
4. What changes to the web site would make it more useful to you?

E. LongPath Newsletter

1. How would you rate the length and content of the LongPath?
2. What changes in length/content would make the LongPath more interesting to you?
3. Do you usually print a copy of the LongPath for future reference?

Until next month, there's plenty of DX out there—work all you can.

73,

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

2007 Budget Proposal
By the NADXC Officers and Directors

Below is the proposed budget for 2007. For comparison, the past two years' budgets and actual figures are also shown. Please review these figures, and be ready to discuss the

budget at the February meeting. A vote to accept the budget, with potential modifications, will be held following discussion.

73,
NADXC Officers and Directors

	2005		2006			2007
	2005 Budget	Actual	Budget	Notes	Actual	Proposed
Income						
Dues	785	755.00	755	6	675.00	675
Contributions		10.00				
TOTAL INCOME	785	765.00	755		675.00	675
Expenses						
Reproduction & mailings	50		25		0.00	25
Web site upgrade	100	105.84	75		59.98	35
Misc	100	82.80	100		42.15	100
Awards	150	116.52	125		82.77	125
Repeater	100	123.62	100	1	42.00	50
Packet Cluster	200	82.80	150	2	0.00	50
DX Sponsorship	100		200	3	150.00	200
Programs	150	87.32	100		0.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	950	598.90	875		376.90	585
Budget Net	-165	166.10	-120		298.10	90
Hamfest Banquet Income						
Tickets (55@\$25)	1375	1392.00	1440	4	1653.00	1595
TOTAL BANQUET INCOME	1375		1440		1653.00	1595
Expenses						
Meals (55@\$18)	990	1017.45	1020	7	1197.00	1155
Speaker Travel	200	176.00	200		82.76	200
Door Prizes	100	100.27	100		109.89	120
Misc	25	100.00	100		100.00	100
TOTAL BANQUET EXPENSES	1315	1393.72	1420		1489.65	1575
Banquet Net	60	-1.72	20		163.35	20
TOTAL NET	-105	164.38	-100.00	5	461.45	110.00
Notes:						
1 - \$58 carry over from previous year; \$ 60 earmarked for power						
2 - \$ 217.20 carry over; \$ 60 earmarked for power						
3 - 2006 Includes \$ 100 carry over; 2007 doesn't include \$300 VU7 undeliverable						
4 - 2005 actuals were 48 tickets @ \$ 29; 2006 estimate is 48 tickets @ \$ 30 2007 estimate 55@\$29						
5 - In summary, our budget predicts we will gain \$20.						
6 - 2007 estimate based on 49@\$15						
7 - 2005 actual meal \$ 18; 2006@\$ 19.95; 2007 est'd \$ 21						