



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- CQ 160M Contest
- February Program
- From the Internet
- DX Contests
- Proposed Budget

How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

CQ 160M CW Contest—N4KG S0(A) HP

By Tom Russell, N4KG

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2010

Call: N4KG
Operator(s): N4KG +PACKET
Station: N4KG

Class: Single Op Assisted HP
QTH: ALA
Operating Time (hrs): 16

Summary:

Total: QSOs = 440 State/Prov = 57 Countries = 61 Total Score = 210,394

Club: Alabama Contest Group

Comments:

As a Multiplier Junkie, I was glad to see the addition of the Single Operator Assisted Category. The earlier starting time was a nice change as well.

I started by doing S&P for Domestic stations. Europeans were heard (weakly for the most part) from my Sunset through European Sunrise, both nights. They were often found under or near Big Domestic Signals, usually not on the East Coast.

Signals from EU improved through the eve-

ning but were never really strong and often difficult to work from Alabama. Working Europeans through other Europeans was especially 'difficult'. I was surprised and dismayed to not hear LZ9W, even after checking multiple spots. Similarly, it was frustrating to have YTOA and YT5W CQ in my face even though they were quite readable here.

The Best Signals from Europe occurred between 0500 and 0800Z Sunday, as the Sun rose across the continent. I picked up 27 10-point contacts and 7 multipliers in those final hours.

After the first night, I found myself still missing SC LA OK NV ND SD VE4 VE9. After hearing an OK station near the bottom the the band, I moved up a few KHz and started CQing. Sure enough, W5TM soon called me from OK followed by W5WMU from LA a while later. I was hoping VE4EAR and KD4POJ in ND would drop in but no such luck. N7QQ in NV was found while doing another scan of the band.

Finally, KD4POJ was spotted high in the Band with several 'motivated' callers. Later a Western Station spotted NOSXX in SD. Obviously he was stronger there

The Indirect Method—Part I

Program by John Stensby, N5DF

At last month's meeting, we were given a fine presentation by Mark Brown, N4BCD, of a ham's-eye view of Aruba. With questions and the fine presentation itself, this ran to the point that we decided to postpone The Indirect Method of Measuring Coax and Tuner Losses until February. See you there!



The LongPath Staff

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Hello folks. I missed my deadline last month so this month we are going to double up on the new links.

To lead us off I have the mystical story of the doobie. No, it is not what you're thinking. This is a glass insulator. I found one of these not long back and added it to my junk box, but after reading this article I believe I might just use it. <http://www.qsl.net/wb1gfh/doobies.html>

The next website is a Maidenhead Grid Square locator. Just enter a call sign or an address and a map displays the location, and the grid square. http://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php

The next site is a daylight map or a gray line map for our purposes. A basic page, but it does represent the night and day with some good pictures. <http://www.daylightmap.com/index.php>

If you regularly have to deal with dust storms and the static associated with them then this site might be for you. I know most of us do not have this problem, but I thought the site was interesting. <http://www.hpfriedrichs.com/rr-bleeder.htm>

These next sites will make most of us have a serious case of tower envy. I know many of you are members of the Alabama Contest Group, but just in case you're not I have included the YouTube link for NR5M's setup. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASq2cwJLnrl> Very impressive for a ham setup.

This next link is for the shortwave station IBB located in Kuwait. I think it would be great to try one of these out for a while. <http://www.shortwaveradioreceivers.com/shortwaveradioantennas/rotatable-shortwave-transmitting-antenna/>

Speaking of trying one out; check out this site from AE5X. <http://www.ae5x.com/blog/?p=1198> Evidently, some lucky ham in Nigeria has been **testing** the new antenna to be used as the *Voice of Nigeria*.

That is all for this month. Hope you enjoy the links as much as I enjoyed finding them.

73 for now,

Kevin -- KG4TEI

Miscellanea

By the LongPath Staff

The NADXC bank account holds \$ 3515, reflecting dues payments received from the following members:

- | | |
|--------|--------------|
| KY4F | W4WEG |
| W4NBS | N4KG |
| N4BCD | KG4TEI |
| N4NO | N5DF |
| K0BS | K4XH & K4JD |
| KG4CUY | NR4F & N4HIX |
| K4XQ | K4MLR |

Future programs have been pouring in, thanks to John Stensby, N5DF, and the Q-Track crew: Bob DePierre, K8KI, Mark Brown, N4BCD, and Steve Werner, AG4W. This is absolutely superb news, and we're in a program backlog condition to carry us through the summer. Great job, all.

ARRL Continuing Education Courses

Registration remains open through Sunday, February 21, 2010, for courses beginning on Friday, March 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)

DX on the air

BONAIRE, CURACAO, PJ2 -

Goose, W8AV will be QRV as PJ2/home call from Curacao, IOTA SA-006, from February 9 to 22.

NAURU, C2 -

Dieter, DJ2EH, and his XYL Anneli, DL8NBH, are active as C21DL and C21YL from Nauru and will stay there until Feb 14.

PALAU, T8 -

Mike, JA6EGL and Hiro, JA6KYU will be QRV as T88SM and T88HS, respec-

tively, from Koror Island, from February 10 to 16.

BRUNEI, V8.

Kanzi, JA4ENL is QRV as V85NL until February 8.

CAMBODIA, XU.

John, 9M6XRO is QRV as XU7XRO from Sihanoukville until February 9. (ARRL and DARC DX Newsletter)

Solar Update

Sunspot 1043 emerged, high in our Sun's northern hemisphere recently. The average daily sunspot number this week fell more than 13 points to 14.6; the average daily solar flux declined nearly 7 points to 75. Geomagnetic activity was up, and the average daily planetary A index rose 2 points to 5.1. The average daily sunspot number for January was 21.3. The predicted planetary A index for February 4-9 is 5, 5, 8, 10, 10 and 5. The predicted solar flux for those same days is 78, 80, 82, 85, 88 and 90. (ARRL)

RTTY Tutorial

A lot of information on RTTY is available in tutorial form at www.rttycontesting.com (ARRL Contest Update)

Speak Their Language

Learn to speak another language for free at www.bbc.co.uk/languages

February Contests

On February 13-14, the CQWW RTTY WPX Contest is on the agenda. Check out the Northern California Contest Club's presentation "[RTTY Contesting for Newbies](#)". Also see [WA7BNM's Contest Calendar](#) and [SM3CER's Contest Calendar](#)

[So long 'til next time...](#)

■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■ ■■■■
de N4WBS

than in ALA but contact was made for the Last State. KH6ZM and KH6/N6RZ were worked. They were not strong. One was on 1830 under a Nasty Broadcast Harmonic or Birdie. Word to the Wise: Avoid using frequencies that are a multiple of 10 KHz to avoid BC birdies in the USA. KL7RA had a good signal into ALA.

Note to VE9DX: It was Extremely Difficult to copy your Barefoot Signal on 1857.3 due to the Sidebands from a USA ham-radio AM Broadcaster on 1860 KHz.

CW 160M CW Contest
(cont'd from page 1)

N4KG QSO Statistics

10 point QSO's 96
5 point QSO's 45
2 point QSO's 299

Con. QSO DXCC

NA 344 12 50 st + DC, missed VE4, VE8, VY0, VY1 VO1, VO2
SA 8 7 CE HC LU P4 PJ PY PYOF - CX6VM was 579 but just 'disappeared'
EU 79 37 Missed LY LZ SP YO YU
Z3 - RU1A UU7J only Z16 stations worked
AF 5 3 CN CT3 EA8
AS 2 1 C4M C4N - A7 / MOFGA detectable but not readable
OC 2 1 KH6

Highlight of the Contest: Beating W8JI to SM2EKM - Clearly a case of Selective Fading and being in the Right Place at the Right Time. The more typical situation came Sunday night when W8JI gave the A7 a 579 report while I was trying to decide if the scratching I was hearing in my headphones came from the A7 or my imagination. Back to the Reality of 160M DXing from Alabama!

Total 440 61

Tom N4KG

LPDAs Anyone?

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

In the past week, many emails have been going back and forth on the ACG reflector regarding the relative virtues of log periodics and other yagis, principally tribanders. While I can contribute nothing to the technical discussion, I do have some pictures of an impressive antenna farm just east of Madrid shot out of a car window. One of these is shown to the right.

Nobody in our group was able to tell me about this installation, which sported eight log periodics in a large

circle, and five towers with wire elements between them. The tower looked almost like an array of verticals for the AM broadcast band, and a single larger tower for the FM broadcast band, and indeed the larger tower appeared to have a batwing array at the top. As for the wires... I don't know.

The log periodics are, as the picture shows, pointing somewhat downward. I have no idea about the purpose of this installation, but it's certainly no secret—right off the Madrid-Valencia highway.



February DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

XE International RTTY Contest. (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Feb 6, 1800Z to Feb 7, 1759Z

Exchange: RST and Serial # or XE state

See page 90, Feb. QST and <http://www.fmre.org.mx>

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

Feb 13, 0000Z to Feb 14, 2400Z

Exchange: RST & Serial No.

See page 90, Feb. QST and <http://www.cqwxrtty.com>

RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest (CW/SSB), 160 meters

Feb 13, 2100Z to Feb 14, 0100Z

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

See page 90, Feb. QST and <http://www.rsgbhfcc.org>

Asia-Pacific Sprint, (CW), 40 & 20 meters

Feb 13, 1100Z to Feb 13, 1300Z

Exchange: RST & serial #

See page 90, Feb. QST and jsfc.org/aprsprint/aprule.txt

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

Feb 20, 0000Z to Feb 21, 2400Z

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

See page 90, Feb. QST and <http://www.arrl.org/contests>

REF French Contest (PHONE), 80-10 meters

Feb 27, 0600Z to Feb 28, 1800Z

Exchange: RS plus Serial No.; F stns. send Dept.

See page 90, Feb. QST and <http://www.ref-union.org/concours>

CQWW 160 Meter Contest (PHONE), 160 meters

Feb 26, 2200Z to Feb 28, 2159Z

Exchange: RS plus State/Province/CQ zone

See page 90, Feb. QST and <http://www.CQ160.com>

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

Feb 27, 1300Z to Feb. 28, 1300Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.; ON stns. send province

See page 90, Feb. QST and <http://>

www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules

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

Mar 6, 0000Z to Mar 7, 2400Z

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

See <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/intldx.html>

OTHERS:

Dutch PACC Contest

1200Z, Feb 13 to 1200Z, Feb 14

FISTS CW Winter Sprint

1700Z-2100Z, Feb 13

RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW

(Feb) 2000Z-2130Z, Feb 18

Russian PSK WW Contest

2100Z, Feb 26 to 2100Z, Feb 27

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

Chuck, N4NM

		2010	
		Proposed	Notes
Income			
	Dues		
	Contributions		
	TOTAL INCOME	220	16
Expenses			
	Reproduction & mailings		17
	Web site upgrade		17
	Misc	200	17
	Awards	150	
	Repeater		17
	Packet Cluster		17
	DX Sponsorship	500	
	Programs		17
	TOTAL EXPENSES	850	
Budget Net		-630	
Hamfest Banquet			18
Income			
	Tickets (55@\$32)	1760	
	TOTAL BANQUET INCOME	1760	
Expenses			
	Meals (55@\$23)	1265	
	Speaker Travel	200	
	Door Prizes	100	
	Misc	100	
	TOTAL BANQUET EXPENSES	1665	
Banquet Net		95	
TOTAL NET		-535	19

Notes:

16-\$220 received so far in 2010

17-No expenses in these categories for several years

18-Assumes low travel expenses, as in 2009

19-I don't like deficit spending, but what are we going to do with the money?