



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- The Next Race
- April Program
- Short Skip

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

The Next Race

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Over the last weekend of March, and for a few days either side, I acted as crew for my XYL Janet and four running buddies. The race was the Umstead 100 Mile Endurance Run, held at Umstead State Park near Raleigh, NC.

While I had tagged along to ultra-marathons before, this was my first over 50 miles. In theory the runner could stop off for a good night's sleep in the middle of a 100-miler: in practice this means running the whole thing straight through, for 15 to 30 hours in a row, pounding the trail with 220,000 paces, give or take a few tens of thousands depending on the stride.

Around daylight Saturday, forty minutes after about two hundred runners trotted off for eight loops of a 12.5 mile winding trail many had never trod before, I was one of the friends and families comprising the aggregated crew, remaining to stand watch. While a few wandered into the unheated camp building to devour what remained of the runners' breakfast provided as part of the event, many of us huddled outside in small groups, wondering why anyone would be outside at this hour in 38-degree temperatures, being covered by alternate layers of pine pollen and campfire ash as each billowed forth from its respective source.

At this point, memories of the pre-dawn hours of Field Day Sundays, the second mornings of 48-hour contests, and picking up hamfest donuts in the wee hours at Krispy Kreme convinced me Yogi Berra had just whispered one of his famous lines into my pollen-clogged ears. Hams and runner, and their respective activities, share marvelous similarities.

Our demographics are similar. Hams bemoan their aging population, and while endurance runners average much older than the Olympic track star, I think this is viewed as another accomplishment. This race's oldest runner was 70, and many were in their sixties. Hams and runners represent all walks of life, but both groups members are generally able to support the demands on their time and pocketbooks.

Stretching the analogy only slightly by focusing on hams who participate in contests, or study the solar and geomagnetic indices to pounce on DXpeditions, the top echelons of both groups comprise persons of the highest athletic or technical caliber, yet the average contesteer and distance runner demonstrate skill and perseverance which may indeed be within the reach of many, but are realized only by those who apply themselves relentlessly to the task at hand. The moral

See "The Next Race" on p. 3

The Elecraft K2—An Education in Radio Design and Operation

Program by Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI

Come hear Kevin's experiences with his own K2, in construction, on the lab bench, and on the air. Kevin is the de facto HARC K2 fixer, having at one time or another resuscitated his own and W4HFU's.

Be at Ryan's around 6:15 for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and 7:30 for Kevin's program.



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Table of Contents

The Next Race	1
April Program	1
March Meeting Minutes	2
Short Skip	3
Field Day Update	3

Meeting was called to order at 19:10 local time.

Minutes from February were in the LongPath and were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: \$3487.56 on deposit.

Discussion of DX

Tom announced that Tim Pearson, ex KU4J and now K5AC was the current President of the Lone Star DX Club.

Chuck Lewis N4NM announced that the cluster was connected in with the Alabama Contest Club's cluster in a manner such that we can issue talk commands between the two clusters when logged in for quick chats.

Also some new software updates or config options had been enabled to allow you to better limit which spots you receive based on areas. Please contact Steve Carroll, K2SC for more information.

There was a discussion of the Alabama Contest club and the participation that had been going into contest. That there were 30 active members and they had been averaging 20 members per contest.

Old Business:

No further action is required on the plaques for the Alabama QSO party as they had all be filled.

Surveys were to be turned into Jason Amos the secretary for accumulation and result summary. (NOTE: There were not enough turned in so we are going to attempt another month at gathering data.)

We received a request from the BS7 DXpedition, however as approved earlier we have already sent in \$150.00 to the cause.

New Business:

Discussion of Scarborough Reef was had. Tom Russell N4KG brought in a QSL card from a previous DXpedition.

Bob Allphin, K4UEE will be our speaker this year at the Banquet to discuss VU7.

Tim Pearson announced the HAM-Com Hamfest in June, if you can come, Glenn Johnson is going to be the speaker for the banquet also discussing VU7.

Meeting Adjourned at 19:35

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Amos, KD4BJW

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DXCC Desk approves operations for DXCC credit

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved these operations for DXCC credit: DX0JP (Spratly Islands, 2007 operation), 9M4SDX (Spratly Islands, 2007 operation), 9U9Z (Burundi, 2007 operation), YWODX (Aves Island, 2007 operation) and 1A4A (Sovereign Military Order of Malta, 2007 operation).

Visalia

Visalia programs announced: The 2007 International DX Convention program will include presentations on the KH8SI, VU7RG, XF4DL, YI9MD and ZL8R DXpeditions. The Saturday night banquet will feature the 403T operation from Montenegro. The Sunday breakfast will include a presentation on the 5A7A DXpedition to Libya. The 58th annual International DX Convention <http://www.dxconvention.org/> takes place April 27-29 in Visalia, California.

April Contests

Information concerning coming events is provided in the April issue of QST and on the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/apr.html> [and check DX Contests in the LongPath! - ed.]

Contest Station Hardware

Some people will stop at nothing to have the best station on the air as seen in the PT5L description in the Finnish "Pileup" newsletter at http://www.helsinki.fi/~korpela/PU/PU1_2007.pdf. And the next time you work the OT5A contest station you will know what goes on behind the scenes by looking at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3LX3dfg0Wg>. There are other DX station links on the same page.

N8S (KH8/S)

The [Swains Island N8S DXpedition](#) now is on the air and will continue until April 15. The international N8S team got up and running on April 4 with early activity noted on 80, 40, 30 and 20 meters (CW and SSB). The DXpedition expects to operate on all HF bands as well as moonbounce on 6 and 2 meters. The same team plans to operate from Samoa as 5W5AA from April 17 to April 24. YT1AD will handle cards for N8S; YZ7AA will handle QSLs for 5W5AA. Swain's Island appears atop at least two lists of most-wanted DXCC entities. (www.arrl.org). More info at <http://www.dxeer.org/>

BS7H

Scarborough Reef will be on the air in late April from Huang Yan Dao in the South China Sea. Check out the latest at <http://www.scarboroughreef.com/>

Contesting

Information for new-comers to HF who might be interested in contesting can be found at http://www.qsl.net/zs1an/contesting_faq.html

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.*

*But now today, these ops are gray,
and software modes are growing,*

*Young ops turn up, like little pups, so
zeros and ones are flowing"*

73 es gud dx . . .

de N4WBS

The Next Race (continued from p. 1)

of the story of the Tortoise and the Hare is common to both groups.

We know hams approach the hobby from different perspectives, and pursue different goals with different methods, all under what to the outsider is the same umbrella. DXers, contesters, rag-chewers, ECOMM experts... are all operators. There are tinkerers, analyzers, socializers, and philosophers who might seldom get on the air. Some runners want to run the race, some are happy to finish, some argue every detail of shoe types and electrolyte balance. There are organizers, leaders, followers, and back-benchers. A confusing lot, and not a bit different than hams.

Hams and runners both love their contests. And for both, there's always the next race.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

(By the way, I was QRV on 20m QRP CW during a lull in my crewing duties. Did that ever fetch some funny looks!)

Field Day Update By the LongPath Staff

KG4CUY visited Drake State Technical University for a look at the likely HARC K4BFT Field Day 2007 site (a meeting with the school's administration is still required). The large field is fairly flat, and has never been built upon, so it is likely not a problem for guy anchors. The site is entirely fenced in and patrolled by Drake security at night.

Field Day Chairman is Leigh Bartlow, WD4CPF. Expect emails as setup day, Friday, June 22nd draws near.