

# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## Special points of interest:

- Summer Doldrums
- May Program
- Short Skip
- DX Contest

## 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

## Summer Doldrums

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

The summer DX doldrums appear to be on their way—most of the big DX contests taking a rest, QRN on the low bands, no sunspots for the high bands, and not a whole lot in the way of DXpeditions. Look on the bright side—there are still plenty of reasons to turn on the radio.

### DX Isn't Gone

All DXers haven't gone to sleep for the summer. This is a good time to watch out for the DX vacationers, who spend a few hours a day on the radio from some out-of-the way, but not entirely exotic, places. These hams can help you fill in the WARC band slots you can't touch in contests. VP2V/NY6X send a 17m QSO my way just last week. Nothing earth-shaking, but no need to wait for hours in a pileup, either.

There are always special events, and there seems to be no end to the strange calls commemorating some anniversary or founding date. UE8OMC, 9A2009OS, DR800GRZ, and SQ2009WARD are a few examples from my log. Last week, we had a flurry of RP calls commemorating the 64th anniversary of the end of WWII. Many of these have interesting QSL cards you receive without asking via the bureau.

### E-Layer Season

We all hope for 6 meters to spring to life about this time. Given Ol' Sol's unblemished face, we're happy to have some of that E-layer magic work its way down to 10, 12, and 15m. The key word here is of course *sporadic*—you just have to be there at the right time. Thankfully, there are beacons we can monitor for help.

### Contests

Field Day is next month, don't forget, and a great opportunity to practice your ability to mobilize in case of emergency, along with several tens of thousands of ham buddies, on the last weekend in June. Regardless of band conditions, there will be plenty of activity on some band for 24 hours in a row. At best, you'll be in the field in one or more capacity participating in this important exercise, but if you can't do that, get on the air from your home station and pass out points.

### QSO Parties

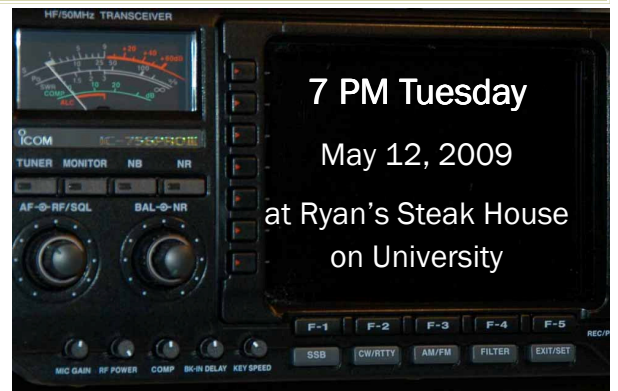
Summer is QSO party season. We live in a country so big that the distances to most other states would be DX if we lived in Europe, the middle East, Central America, the Caribbean, south Asia, or west Africa. QSO parties are a way to work some of that "local DX", and you can catch

## Broadbanding your 80m Dipole

Program by John Stensby, N5DF

The size of the 80/75m band makes for a real challenge matching to a near-resonant antenna intended to cover the entire 500 kHz. Hear John explain how he flattened the SWR curve by creating two additional resonant points.

We'll meet at Ryan's again this month—see you there around 6:15 for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and 7:30 for John's program.



# Alabama QSO Party

## The LongPath Staff

### Interim Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

### Departments:

Tom Homsley, N4WBS, Short Skip

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

### Photographer/Consultant:

Jared Cassidy, KQ4VT

## Table of Contents

Summer Doldrums	1
May Program Announcement	1
Alabama QSO Party	2
Short Skip	3
Google	3
DX Contest	4

Its coming, and if you're a contester in Alabama, you need to be part of it. The Alabama QSO Party will be held the first weekend of June: your opportunity to serve as an on-the-air ambassador to our state. You can operate phone, CW, or both. It's a great opportunity to hone your contest running skills.

Negotiations are still under way, but we believe a severe weather moratorium will be in effect the weekend of the party, so we'll see nothing but blue skies, mild temperatures, and great propagation. Should you be able to afford a drive through some portion of our beautiful state, county hunters will thank you.

If you're the stay-at-home type, that's fine too: there will be plenty of opportunity to follow propagation across the world — DX stations are welcome — from the comfort of your shack.

For this year's rules (they've changed, so even veterans will need to brush up), a county map, lists of supported logging software, exact dates and times, past years' results, and anything else you can think of, visit AQP's official web site, [www.alabamagsoparty.org](http://www.alabamagsoparty.org).

We'll be listening for you!

73, The Alabama Contest Group

## Summer Doldrums (cont'd from page 1)

band-states needed for your 5 band Worked All States award. I still need Kentucky on 20m!

Speaking of QSO parties, don't miss our own from 1600 UTC June 6th through 0400 UTC June 7th. If you're planning on operating the Alabama QSO Party, drop Jim a line at [kc4hw@alabamagsoparty.org](mailto:kc4hw@alabamagsoparty.org) with your county, or if you plant to operate mobile, what counties you might cover.

Then there are all those off-the-air chores: antenna work (like drying out soaked traps), inspecting those outdoor

coax connections, giving towers a close look, refurbishing the station and tower ground connections, and who knows what else. For those real scorcher days we know are just around the corner, the shack itself and its precious contents may deserve some special care while waiting for an E-layer cloud to pass by.

Now that you think about it, summertime at a solar minimum is hardly boring. There may not be enough hours in a day!

73 de Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

## LongPath Ads

Are you headed to Dayton? Do you suppose your shack will hold all the booty you haul home? If you have your doubts, there's no better time to take advantage of the LongPath guaranteed results policy. Place an ad listing yesterday's treasures you need to unload, and if you're not completely pleased with the results, we'll happily refund the cost of your LongPath ad, no questions asked.

**Contact Tom KG4CUY at [duncant1@ds-s.com](mailto:duncant1@ds-s.com)**

Spam Radio

A cohort at work asked me jokingly if there is such a thing as spam radio. I dismissed it at first but then I thought of the good old boys on 80 meters. If only we could invent a spam radio filter.

Sandy Donahue (SK)

Southeastern Division Vice Director Sandy Donahue, W4RU, of Dothan, Alabama, passed away on May 4. He was 63. Donahue, an ARRL Life Member, served as Vice Director since January 2002 and as Georgia Section Manager from 1997-2001. In his professional life, Donahue worked at a television station in Atlanta for almost 25 years before retiring. (ARRL)

Dayton Hamvention Forums

The ARRL National Convention will be held at the Dayton Hamvention May 15-17 at Hara Arena. Forum presenters include Laura Smith, Esq. the FCC Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division, Richard Garriott, entrepreneur, programmer, astronaut and ham, and Bob Heil of Heil Sound will present a forum on ham station audio <http://www.hamvention.org/forums.php>

Solar Update

The 3-month average of daily sunspot numbers is slipping to another new low. If you look at the sunspot numbers for

the three days with sunspots in April -- April 21, 29 and 30 -- the numbers 11, 15 and 12 only add up to 38. Divide that by April's 30 days, and the average is about 1.267, less than the latest 3-month average. If we have no sunspots at all through the end of May, that average would decline from approximately 1.494 centered on March, to 0.681 centered on April.

The only days with visible sunspots over the past three months were February 11-14 and 24-26, March 6-7 and April 21, 29 and 30. Sunspot numbers for April 23-29 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 15 with a mean of 2.1. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.6, 69.7, 69.4, 69.2, 67.7, 68.8 and 69.5 with a mean of 69.3 (ARRL K7RA Solar Update)

Stop the presses, the Sun lives!

NASA's STEREO-B spacecraft is monitoring an active region hidden behind the sun's eastern limb. On May 5th, it produced an impressive coronal mass ejection (CME) and a burst of radio

emissions signaling the passage of a shock wave through the sun's outer atmosphere. Activity continued May 6th, with at least two more eruptions. The blast site is not yet visible from Earth, but the sun is turning the region toward us for a better view. Is a new-cycle sunspot in the offing? Readers with solar telescopes could see it emerge as early as May 7th or 8th. Visit <http://spaceweather.com> for images, movies and updates.

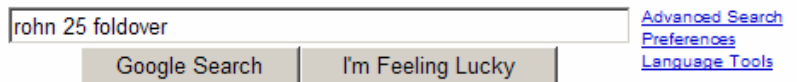
May Contests

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/may.pdf>. Also see the WA7BNM contest calendar at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php>

So long 'til next time...



de N4WBS



Upgrade to Google Chrome, a faster way to browse the web. [Install now.](#)

[Advertising Programs](#) - [Business Solutions](#) - [About Google](#)

[Make Google my homepage](#)

©2009 - [Privacy](#)

Google users know that the trademark logo shown to the right is occasionally modified on special occasions. The one above appeared April 27th-- Samuel F.B. Morse's birthday.



**NADXC Officers**

President: **Tom Duncan**, KG4CUY  
 duncant1@ds-s.com or 256-539-7544

Unofficial Vice President: **Kevin Hibbs**, KG4TEI  
 kg4tei@gmail.com or 606-224-0175

Secretary/Treasurer: **Jason Amos**, KD4BJW  
 kd4bjw@arrl.net or 256-963-6833

**CQ-M Intl. DX Contest (CW & SSB), 160-10M**

May. 9, 1200Z to May. 10, 1200Z  
Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial #  
See page 80, May QST and [www.cq-m.andys.ru](http://www.cq-m.andys.ru)

**Allessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest, 80-10M**

May 9, 1200Z to May 10, 1200Z  
Exchange: RST, plus S/N, and CQ zone  
See page 80, May QST and [www.con-testvolta.com](http://www.con-testvolta.com)

**Worked All Britain Contest, (SSB), 160-40 meters**

May 17, 1000Z to 1400Z  
Exchange: RS, Serial # and WAB # or DXCC entity  
See page 80. May QST and [www.worked-all-britain.co.uk](http://www.worked-all-britain.co.uk)

**Baltic Contest (CW & SSB), (80/75M only)**

May 16, 2100Z to May 17, 0200Z  
Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial #  
See page 80, May QST and [www.lrsf.lt/bcontest](http://www.lrsf.lt/bcontest)

**His Majesty King of Spain Contest, (CW), 160 – 10M**

May 16, 1200Z to May 17, 1200Z  
Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial # or EA Province  
See page 80, May QST and [www.ure.es](http://www.ure.es)

**All America Contest, (CW), 80-10M**

May 16, 1500Z to May 17, 2359Z  
Exchange: RST plus continent (CWJF add /M, /QRP, /YL)  
See page 80, May QST and [www.powerline.com.br/cwif/eng4.htm](http://www.powerline.com.br/cwif/eng4.htm)

**EU PSK DX Contest, 80-10M**

May 16, 1200Z to May 17, 1200Z  
Exchange: RST and Serial # (or EU area code)  
See page 80, May QST and [www.srars.org](http://www.srars.org)

**CQ WPX CW Contest (CW), 80-10M**

May. 30, 0000Z to May 31, 2400Z  
Exchange: RST plus serial #  
See page 80, Mar. QST or [www.cqwpw.com](http://www.cqwpw.com)

**OTHERS:**

**Portuguese Navy Day Contest**

1500Z, May 2 to 1500Z, May 3

**RSGB 80m Club Championship (SSB),**

1900Z-2030Z, May 4

**F.I.S.T.S. CW Club Spring Sprint (CW),**

1700Z – 2100Z, May 9

**VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, (Phone)**

0800Z-1400Z, May 9

**RSGB 80m Club Championship, (DATA), 1800Z-2030Z, May 13**

**EU PSK DX Contest**

1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17

**RSGB 80m Club Championship, (CW), 1900Z-2030Z, May 21**

**ARCI Hootowl Sprint (CW)**

2000Z-2400Z LOCAL, May 31



**RSGB 80m Club Championship, (Data)**

1900Z-2030Z, Jun 2

**Alabama QSO Party**

**1600Z, Jun 6 to 0400Z, Jun 7**

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

Chuck, N4NM