

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- Last Call
- Program Announcement
- Short Skip
- Short Skip
- Late Night on 20 m
- Don't forget 6 m!
- DX Contests

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

Last Call for Field Day

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

As of this LongPath's publication, Field Day 2006 is just two weeks away. For those of you participating in K4BFT's Field Day, here is a compendium of key information.

Summary

Field Day deployment begins at 11:00 AM, Friday, June 23rd, at the back yard of Frank Emens, W4HFU, 3714 Lakewood Cir., Huntsville. A few of us will meet there to load Bill Grimwood's trailer and haul the towers and other paraphernalia to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center site adjacent to the Marriott.

At 1:00 PM the same day, we will begin unloading and erecting towers. Station managers are responsible for attaching the antennas—one or two tall stepladders will be helpful as temporary tower supports. Ron Lamb is the tower safety man: his word is law when towers are being erected or taken down.

Power cables are laid Friday afternoon. Generators may arrive Friday or Saturday.

As early as possible Saturday morning, camper haulers will meet Ron Lamb for escort into the arsenal, where four campers

will be hauled back to the site for immediate placement. Chris Reed will provide the camper for the 40 SSB station, and Ron Shaffer will provide the camper for 20 SSB. As soon as campers are ready, radios, power supplies, computers, etc. will be set in place.

At 1:00 PM Saturday, continuous on-the-air operation begins.

Picnic preparations begin around 3:00 PM Saturday, and the picnic itself around 4:00 PM. Please make sure Peggy Bell receives \$2/person to defray picnic expenses. A few tables are still needed.

The final QSO is at 1:00 PM Sunday afternoon. Equipment is immediately removed from campers, and the camper haulers will return the campers to the arsenal as soon as possible.

Tower takedown begins once campers have cleared the site. As each tower is taken down, anchors for that tower will be removed. Towers and other paraphernalia stored at Frank's are loaded back onto the trailer, and the trailer and crank-up tower are taken back. A few volunteers are needed to unload everything at Frank's end, and to help tow generators back to Ron Shaffer's.

See "Field Day" on p. 4

Being DX

Program by Tim Winger, KY5R

We all know what it's like wading through pileups, guessing where the other guy will listen next, and biding your time. What do you suppose it's like on the other side? Tim Winger, KY5R, will tell us in our June program.

See you at Ryan's next Tuesday. The business meeting beings at 7:00, the program around 7:30. Be there around 6:15 for dinner.



The LongPath Staff

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Meeting Started at 19:00.

We had no visitors to sign the sign-in sheet this month. We had 18 members present.

DX worked was discussed.

Treasures report submitted and approved with a current balance of 3171.13 with \$42.00 outstanding and \$95 ready for deposit.

April minutes which did not make the April LongPath were distributed to members present and were approved.

There were no membership applications this month.

Again mentioned that dues were currently owed and several members were delinquent.

Ron updated us on the repeater status with the PowerGate and relay board installation. Ron mentioned that he had a 100 Watt radio that we could potentially upgrade the transmitter. The repeater has had the de-emphasis circuit repaired and now is working and sounding well. Please monitor and use

the repeater, several are on and talking about DX.

Discussion about the Mobile Hamfest ensued mainly to point out that they were back and working to build it back up.

A tailgate party in Moulton for the following weekend was also mentioned.

Old Business:

On moving to Green Hills Grill for normal meetings was not a good idea as they require a guarantee of so many seats to receive or you have to pay and also more expensive.

The Christmas Party still looks to be at Green Hills Grill.

New Business:

Due to the bad weather on the night of the meeting, it was discussed about how to notify everyone of a meeting cancellation if one were to occur. The summary of the discussion was to listen to the DX repeater for information.

Meeting closed at 19:31.

Miscellanea

By the LongPath Staff

Michael Werner's weather web site has moved from www.mgwerner.tk to michaelwr.shorturl.com. The NADXC web site link has been changed accordingly, Contact KF4BOG for further information.

QSLs for 3Y0X are being mailed now, according to QSL manager N200 and as reported in the Daily DX. Check the www.peterone.com web site for details.

Planning for **Huntsville Hamfest 2006** is well underway. Again this year, the NADXC will have a booth, with Mike Ma-

ples, K4ADK, checking QSL cards for DXCC credit. Any ideas concerning photos, video presentations, printed material, and the like which might be shown at the booth will be appreciated.

The **NADXC Hamfest Banquet** will again be held in the Ballet Room. Doors will open at 6:30, with dinner served at 7:00. We will discuss menu preferences as the June meeting. Our speaker Bob Allphin, K4UEE, will recount tales of the Peter I DXpedition.

Dayton Hamvention Reflections

Well, the 2006 Dayton Hamvention is over, and I'd say it was generally a success. It was hard to tell whether the crowds were larger or smaller than last year. I'd say maybe a bit smaller. Nevertheless, the commercial vendors and flea market folks seemed to do a brisk business. A local ham who goes to Dayton every year to dispose of accumulated "stuff" in the flea market said he sold everything he had (which was quite a variety). I didn't see any great new equipment of interest, but maybe others did. The nicest thing about this year's Hamvention was the weather. For a change it was very nice - cool in the mornings and no rain Friday or Saturday. Several NADXCers were seen in the crowd, and it appeared they were all enjoying themselves.

Field Day Almost Here

We're just a couple of weeks away now from Field Day. If you haven't planned to participate in some way, you're missing a great opportunity. The "Big Fat Turkey" is expected to squawk loudly again this year, this time from a totally new operating location. Why not be part of the event - you'd enjoy it.

Kids Day Coming This Month

The ARRL's semi-annual "Kids Day"

operating event is scheduled for Saturday, June 17. For those of you who haven't participated in this exercise before, why not do so this time. If you don't participate, at least tune in to hear the young folks try their hand at radio communications. It's a blast. Once you listen, you may be hooked! The event is only six hours long, and it's extremely low stress (except for some of the kids). Rules and suggested operating frequencies are found on page 53 of the June issue of QST, and on the League's website.

"Eye Are See"

That's cryptic for International Reply Coupon (or IRC). In his "How's DX" column for June, Bernie McClenny (W3UR) offers some interesting tidbits of information concerning this important mechanism for getting some of those badly-needed DX QSL cards. It's interesting reading. See June QST, page 85. (The ARRL website also has some info on the new IRC that will become effective for use on July 1.)

3YØX Story Chronicled

Ralph Fedor (KØIR), one of the Peter One DXpedition team members, has

written a very interesting article about the 3YØX experience. It appears on page 13 of the June issue of CQ magazine. It's a good glimpse of what's in store for NADXCers when Bob Allphin (K4UEE) speaks at our DX Banquet in August.

Spraty Islands On The Air

Check the ARRL website for some last minute information about an imminent operation from Spraty Islands (IOTA AS-051). This isn't a DXCC entity, but it is a very rare location. Better be quick on this one, the operation won't last but a few days.

*73 es gud dx . . . de
W4UR*

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LongPath Ads

like these may be placed by one and all. If you have stuff to sell or trade, or want to buy something, list it in the LongPath. Satisfaction is guaranteed, or your money back. Contact Tom at

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

Key Personnel

Field Day Committee Chairman

Kevin Bardon, KG4RCP

Station Managers

- 40 SSB

Chris Reed, KF4MMF

- 80/20 CW

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, Johnny Winter, KR4F, Mike Maples, K4ADK

- 40 CW

Tom Russell, N4KG

- 75/15 SSB

Jordan Townsend, KI4HBO

- 20 SSB

Ralph Hogan, W4XE

- GOTA

Chris Best, KB3DXR, and Paul Paelian, KB4UEE

Campers and Cooker

Ron Lamb, WB7VDN

Tower Erection and Takedown

Ron Lamb, WB7VDN

Tower Hauling

Bill Grimwood, W4WEG

Anchor Placement

John Morris, K4XH

Picnic

Peggy Bell, K4EGB

Power

Ron Shaffer, W4VM

Space & Rocket Center Site Contact

Melissa Snider, KI4CWU

ATV

Gary Dion, N4TXI

Photography/Videography

Dick Christiansen, W1TV

Site Layout

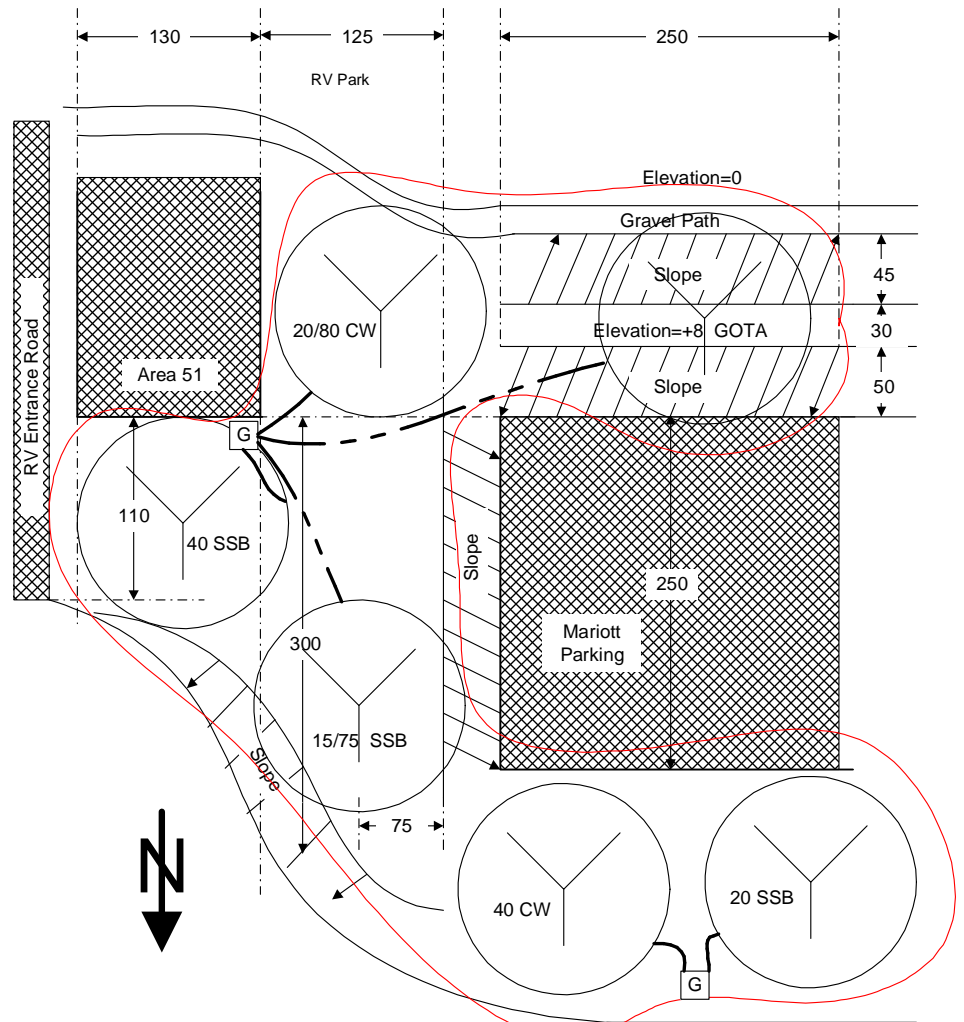
See drawing below.

We are guests of the Space and Rocket center, which owns the land on which the Marriott sits. This is a great opportunity to display ham radio in action to those driving in and out of the

Space and Rocket Center, Space Camp, and the Marriott. We expect the curiosity of students for the following week's Space Camp sessions will draw them out to have a look at what we're doing: this is our opportunity as Ham Radio Ambassadors to plant seeds for the future.

To all those participating in K4BFT's field day or field days elsewhere, best of luck for a good contest. Always keep safety in mind, particularly where towers are concerned.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY



Potential 2006 FD Site - Space & Rocket Center
NOT TO SCALE
Dimensions in feet

13-May-2006 Rev 2

Reparaciones Garantizadas

By the LongPath Staff

The pictures below were taken by Steve Hetzel, a co-worker of the interim LongPath editor, while in Madrid on a business trip. While Steve is not a ham, he clearly has an eye for priceless gadgetry, and would no doubt appreciate a romp through a hamfest flea market.

The right-hand picture reveals in detail some of the antiquities which may

well have been in service in an EA's shack a generation ago. Close inspection of the left-hand photo shows the reflection of a modern motorcycle, the only way to date these pictures in the solid-state era.

While most of the pictured items are clearly of an electrical nature, including the flat iron used for surface mount

soldering, the device just in front of the iron and immediately behind the CRT is a little puzzling—perhaps it's a transformer winding jig.

It is refreshing to know Nacional Union Radio's repair guarantee survives until this day, even though the sign is a little worse for the wear.



Late Night on 20 Meters

By Thomas Russell, N4KG

If you've been waiting for round-the-clock DX Propagation on the Middle and High Bands, NOW is the Season !

Propagation during the Summer Months is unlike that of any other season. During our summer, the North Polar Region above the Arctic Circle is in Daylight, 24 hours a day. This has a pronounced effect on Polar Path MUF's (Maximum Usable Frequencies).

While Solar Heating does cause the ionosphere to rise which results in polar path MUF's that typically do not exceed 22 to 25 MHz, the long hours of daylight do result in MUF's that support the Middle Bands (10, 14, and 18 MHz) throughout much of the day. Another phenomenon that results from solar heating is that the MUF's tend to rise more slowly as the sun rises. The ex-

panded ionosphere results in openings being delayed relative to the usual times observed in Winter.

At local Sunrise, the Low Bands may stay open to the West longer than during winter months with 40 and 30 meter openings lasting two hours or more past sunrise. The High Bands may exhibit openings to Central and Eastern Asia in the Morning on 17 and sometimes even on 15 Meters with All Day openings to Asia on 20 Meters. European openings are often weak in the morning due to absorption over the Atlantic with improved signal strength in the afternoon and evening, sometimes lasting all night on 20 meters, even with Low Sunspot Activity such as we are now experiencing.

The CQ WPX CW Contest on the last

weekend of May confirmed these observations with an excellent opening to Japan on 20 Meters after local sunrise. Central Asians were heard throughout the day, including JT1CO just before local noon, and UA9's throughout the afternoon and evening.

Western Asia and Europe was quite loud on 20M from late afternoon until after midnight (and probably later if you were willing to stay awake through the wee hours). N4NO set a personal Best QSO total for the CQ WPX CW contest with 1501 contacts, mostly by hunt and call operating, but with some CQing on Sunday to drum up 'fresh meat'.

Stations in SE Asia (4S, 9M2, 9V1) were heard and worked on 17 Meters

See "Late Night" on p. 6

Late Night on 20 Meters

(cont'd from p. 5)

around breakfast time (1200 to 1400 GMT) along with many Eastern Asians on 20 Meters after sunrise in early May.

Bottom Line: High Sunspot activity is NOT the only means of producing reliable DX Communication on the 10, 14, 18, and 21 MHz. Bands. The 'Long Hot Days of Summer' are also capable of producing excellent polar path propagation on the Middle Bands, even during Low Sunspot periods.

ENJOY!

73, Tom Russell, N4KG

Don't Forget 6 Meters!

Summertime often brings excellent Sporadic-E layer propagation to the high bands which is especially prevalent on 28 and 50 MHz.

In the last few weeks of May, Sporadic E openings have occurred on 6 Meters to ALL 10 Call Areas with some interesting DX openings as well. Some stations on the East Coast have been working into Europe and several stations from W6 to W4 had an unusual opening to Japan this week. KY5R in NW Alabama worked 27 JA's in 6 Meters while K5UR in Arkansas worked over 100!

The ARRL June VHF QSO Party is scheduled from 1800 Saturday June 10 to 0300 GMT Monday June 11. The rules can be found on the ARRL website under Operating / Contests / Calendar / Rules.

DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

DX CONTESTS for the coming month include:

ANARTS WW RTTY/Digital Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Jun 10, 0000Z to Jun 11, 2400Z

Exchange: RST, CQ Zone and time (UTC)

All Asian DX Contest (CW), 160-10M

June 17, 0000Z to June 18, 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus age; YLs send 00

IARU HF World Championships (SSB/CW), 160-10M

July 8, 1200Z to July 9, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus ITU zone; IARU HQ stns send HQ abbrev.

See <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/iaru.html>

OTHERS:

WW South America Contest, (CW),

1500Z June 10 - 1500Z June 11

Asia- Pacific Sprint (SSB)

1100Z - 1300Z June 10

Portugal Day Contest, (SSB)

0000Z - 2400Z June 10

RSGB 80m Club Championship, (CW)

1900Z-2030Z, Jun 14

ARCI Milliwatt Field Day

1800Z, Jun 24 to 2100Z, Jun 25

Marconi Memorial HF Contest (CW)

cancelled

His Maj. King of Spain Contest (SSB)

1200Z, Jun 24 - 1200Z, Jun 25

Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest, (SSB/CW)

0000Z, Jul 1 - 2359Z, Jul 2

Original QRP Contest

1500Z, Jul 1 to 1500Z, Jul 2

DL-DX RTTY Contest

1100Z, Jul 1 to 1059Z, Jul 2

DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest

1100Z-1700Z, Jul 2

RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW

1900Z-2030Z, Jul 3

VK/Trans-Tasman 160m Contest, Phone

0800Z-1400Z, Jul 8

RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB

1900Z-2030Z, Jul 12

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

Chuck, N4NM