



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- Field Day in the Trough
- July Program
- Short Skip
- July DX Contests
- K4BFT FD Pix

Field Day in the Trough

By Tom Duncan, K64CUY

Everybody knows there's no high band activity now. That's among the reasons K4BFT pulled back to 4A for Field Day this year and last. Just to drive the point home, we excerpt K5KG's 3830 posting:

Band	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs
80		0		0
40		4		82
20		225		161
15		131		114
10		69		130

Wait a minute—that's from Sarasota, where they benefit from a hop over the gulf to 5 and 6 lands. After all, another Florida station, K9ES, also did unreasonably well on high bands:

Band	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs
80		0		0
40		4		82
20		225		161
15		131		114
10		69		130

from the other coast—probably a lot of EU contacts. Lets go elsewhere. How about VE2CWT?

Band	CW	Qs
160		5
80		112
40		440
20		298

15	157
10	137

They said it was raining, which no doubt contributed to 12% of their score being 10m. How about AA3B—surely a reasonable low-solar-activity score there...

Band	CW	Qs
160		5
80		112
40		769
20		453
15		254
10		104

The soap box comments include "Conditions on Sunday were wonderful, including sustained openings on 15m and 10m". Some guys have all the luck.

Let's compare apples to apples—how about another non-peninsular, continental southeastern station—say N4PN in Macon, GA:

Band	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs
80		48		12
40		236		132
20		268		616
15		74		155
10		73		256
6		4		7

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

Transistor!

Video Expedition into the Guts of your Radio—Circa 1948

Well, not exactly, but there is some truth there. Fortunately, when it comes to semiconductors, they just don't make 'em like they used to. This ~ 45 minute video covers history surrounding the 1948 Bell Labs transistor announcement, including intrigue and in-fighting. See you at Ryan's, 6:15 for dinner, 7:00 meeting, 7:30 for the program.



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17% above 28 MHz—thanks, Paul!

I know, all this is E_s, not real F-layer propagation we can rely on, hundreds of QSOs notwithstanding. Some of these were class 1D stations, not real Field Day stations with operators living an entire weekend off one stick of beef jerky. Some of the QSOs were made on Sunday. And, this is a leap year.

There are two morals to this story. The first is to expect the unexpected, something entirely in keeping with the charter of Field Day. Make provision for

antennas for those bands that won't be open, and check them every once in a while. The second is that you can't just listen to determine if the band is open: some intrepid station has to call CQ. And when it does — well, you see what happens.

73 and Happy July 4th,

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

2007 DX Marathon Official Standings

DX Marathon standings for 2007 are in, and once again our own Jerry Montgomery, K4SAV places near the top. Here are the top 20 competitors:

Call	Class	Score	Countries	Zones
NOFW	U	328	289	40
OM3EY	U	329	289	40
RU6YY	U	323	284	39
W1JR	U	321	281	40
PY2OMS	U	321	281	40
K4SAV	U	318	278	40
I4TJE	U	316	276	40
OZ7YY	U	314	274	30
OK2PAY	U	313	273	40
WT8C	U	312	272	40
N5AU	U	305	265	40
K9QVB	U	302	263	40
US7MM	U	300	260	40
UX1UA	U	299	259	40
F1JKJ	U	298	258	40
SM6CNN	U	298	258	40
KODEQ	U	297	257	40
W4VQ	U	296	257	39
K8SIX	U	293	253	40
UY0MM	F	289	249	40

NOFW was winner of the unlimited class, W4VQ took the all-CW class, and UY0MM took the formula class.

CQ magazine sponsors the DX Marathon, which amounts to an annual Work-as-Many-as-You-Can competition. As can be seen from the list, the winners don't leave many countries or zones on the table, working almost every CQ entity on the air during the year. 295 countries appeared on the air during 2007.

For details, see the June issue of CQ, pages 22-25, or

dxmarathon.com/2007results. Congratulations Jerry and all other participants.

FOR SALE

I have a U.S. Tower MA-40 that I am not using and would like to sell to someone who can put it to good use. For details, see www.ustower.com/tubular.html. I would accept 50% of the Retail Price.

Contact Tom N4KG@AOL.com

ARRL Courses

Registration remains open through Sunday, July 6, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, July 18, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 ([EC-002](#)), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 ([EC-003R2](#)), Antenna Modeling ([EC-004](#)), HF Digital Communications ([EC-005](#)), VHF/UHF – Life Beyond the Repeater ([EC-008](#)), and Radio Frequency Propagation ([EC-011](#)). (ARRL.org).

6-meter DX

After a slow start, the 6 meter band came into its own in May and has been open in some direction from almost every location in the US almost every day. Sporadic E peaks around the summer solstice, on or around June 21. (ARRL.org)

Tower climbing

Working on those towers this fall? Steve K7LXC has published [The 10 Most](#)

[Common Tower Building Mistakes](#) on his Web site. Be careful out there; have a plan, get help and take your time. (ARRL Contest Corral)

Home-brewing

Don't throw away those old PC cards. Bill N15X noticed that edge connectors on ISA and PCI cards make good Manhattan-style pads. The ISA card's pads line up with standard DIP ICs and PCI card pads line up with most surface mount ICs. <http://www.eham.net/articles/16536> (ARRL Contest Corral)

Alabama QSO Party logs

Logs are due July 7; email logs to: logs@alabamagsoparty.org, paper logs and diskettes to: Jim Johnson, KC4HW, 6274 South CR 49, Slocomb, AL 36375-5528. Web site: <http://www.AlabamaQSOParty.org>

July Contests

It's time to start thinking about the upcoming contest season. Get tuned up with some summer fun. 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/jul.pdf>. Also see the WA7BNM contest calendar at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

So long 'til next time...

■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■
de N4WBS

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First Annual Lakeway Amateur Radio Club **ALL HAMS PICNIC and TAILGATE SWAP MEET**

August 2, 2008—10:00 AM til ?

Panther Creek State Park

Spoone Shelter

2010 Panther Creek Road

Morristown, TN

**For further information, contact June McClary, AI4SO
(AI4SO@hughes.net) or Gloria Pritikin, KJ4BFH**

July DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

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

July 12, 1200Z to July 13, 1200Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus ITU zone; IARU
HQ: +HQ abbr.
See Page 78, April QST

DL-DX RTTY RTTY Contest (RTTY), 80-10M

July 5, 1100Z to July 6, 1059Z
Exchange: RST+Serial #
See page 78, July QST

DMC RTTY Contest (RTTY), 80-10M

July 19, 1200Z to July 20, 1200Z
Exchange: RST plus S.N.
See page 78, July QST and
www.digital-modes-club.org

RSGB IOTA Contest (CW/SSB), 80 - 10M

July 26, 1200Z, to July 27, 1200Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial # ; Is-lands: + IOTA#
See page 78, July QST and
www.rsgbhfcc.org

OTHERS:

DARC 10- Meter DX 'Corona' (RTTY, AM-TOR, FACTOR, PSK, Clover)

1100Z-1700Z, Jul 6

VK/Trans-Tasman 160m Contest, Phone

0800Z-1400Z, Jul 5

Original QRP Contest (CW)

1500Z July 5 - 1500Z July 6

Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest

0000Z, Jul 5 to 2359Z, Jul 6

RSGB 80m Club Championship, (CW)

1900Z-2030Z, Jul 7

FISTS Summer Sprint (CW)

0000Z-0400Z, Jul 12

QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint (CW)

2000Z-2400Z, Jul 13

RSGB 80m Club Championship, (SSB)

1900Z-2030Z, Jul 16

RSGB Low Power Field Day

0900Z-1200Z and 1300Z-1600Z, Jul 20



RSGB 80m Club Championship, (Data)

1900Z-2030Z, Jul 24

European HF Championship

1200Z-2359Z, Aug 2

WAE DX Contest, (CW)

0000Z, Aug 9 to 2359Z, Aug 10

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

Chuck, N4NM

K4BFT Field Day Pictures



Taking the cue from Decatur FD last year, Barry, W4WB, uses a lift to support the 40m SSB hexbeam and dipole.



Here's a better view of the hexbeam. The dipole below, later raised to the bottom of the bucket, is oriented for an E-W pattern.



20m CW quad, 80m CW dipole



20m SSB's new Moxon, and 75m G5RV



40m CW wire beam, dipole hanging below



Lift controls for the 40m SSB station. Rent one for your next antenna project at Mullins'.

DX Banquet Reminder

Hamfest committee meetings are under way, so we're assured of having one again this year. W1AW/4 is again on the agenda, this year with an improved antenna. Keep your fingers crossed for good daytime conditions and low QRN.

The annual DX Banquet will be held on Hamfest Saturday, August 16th in the Ballet Room of the VBC. Our speaker will be Ann Santos, WA1S, of the TX5C Clipperton DXpedition.

Tickets are \$35 per person. Since both the YLRL Convention and ARRL Southeastern Division convention are held in conjunction with the hamfest, we're hoping for a good crowd at the banquet. Get your tickets today from Jason Amos, KD4GJW, kd4giw@arrl.net, or (256) 963-6833. Check out www.hamfest.org for official Hamfest updates.

Wouff-Hong Ceremony

For two years running, Huntsville Hamfest will again host a Wouff-Hong ceremony sometime just before midnight on hamfest Saturday. VP Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI, has again volunteered to coordinate this event with the keepers of the fabled instrument itself in Newington. Little more is known by the uninitiated, and the cognoscenti are sworn to secrecy, so to find out more, you'll just have to attend. Check out the hamfest web site or the August issue of the LongPath for further information.