



# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## Special points of interest:

- Let's Remember
- July Program
- DX Banquet
- Short Skip

## Let's Remember

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

The North Alabama ham community has lost an unusual number of members in the last few months of 2008 and so far in 2009. Among these are

Bob Brown	W4YNT
Dieter Schliemann	KX4Y
Dick Swan	K4FAZ
Don Tunstill	W4NO
Ed Clark	K4KFH
Al Bacon	W6GBG

Bob was always around for every HARC meeting and hamfest until his health failed him several years ago. At one time or another, his interests included just about every aspect of ham radio. Dr. Brown was the faculty sponsor of the UAH amateur radio club for some years, and the head of the UAH Industrial and Systems Engineering department, where a scholarship was established in his name on his retirement after 23 years service to the College of Engineering.

Dieter was a key figure nationally in AMSAT, and one of the organizing figures of the Scottsboro club and of repeaters in Jackson country. Through serving with Dieter and many other local hams providing communications support for the Cotton Row 10K and a couple of bicycle races, I discovered Dieter and I had in common years of work in the engineering and construction phases of nuclear power plants, so I always looked forward to trading war stories with him.

Dick was licensed continuously for 73 years. Many of the luminaries of radio's early years were alive while Dick was a young ham—Armstrong, De Forest, Sarnoff, and even Marconi. Dick's ability to tell a good story was legendary, and the ones I heard were guaranteed to set Dick laughing along with his audience. I worked Dick numerous times on 40m CW, and several times worked hams who, when they heard my QTH, asked "Do you know K4FAZ?" He was active on the air right up to the end.

Don placed his stamp on just about every aspect of ham radio in our area, and it's hard to imagine a North Alabama ham who wasn't

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## 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

## Working Title: Not 2nd Order Partial Differential Equations

Emergency Communications Program by Chris Reed, KF4MMF

Chris advised his program would contain plenty on Emergency Communications, but absolutely nothing on the explicitly excluded topic, so be advised. Chris does this sort of thing for a living: hear his take on how you can help in time of need. We're at Ryan's again, not Terra Nova (but we do want to talk about Terra Nova at the meeting), so see you at Ryan's around 6:15 pm for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and 7:30 for Chris' program. Thanks, Chris!

7 PM Tuesday, July 14th, 2009 at  
Ryan's Steak House on University



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touched by him somehow. From the hamfest to VE testing; as a president of HARC and NARA several times and a mover in the NADXC long before my time; as trustee of K4BFT and the K4BFT "QSL Bureau" manager, Don was part of everything, and the driving force behind a good bit.

My first recollection of Ed was after announcing at one of the first NADXC meetings I attended as a new member that we had been able to purchase the HARC/NADXC/Red Cross computer projector from the proceeds of equipment given to us by the XYL of John Fox, then a recent SK. Ed told me "I knew John, his house is right across the street from me". Ed was an NADXC president on at least two occasions. His 2x3-400 homebrew amplifier and homebrew tower tiltover mechanism are legendary.

Al and XYL Jeariene, KI4MLS moved to the area scarcely over a year ago it seems. It took no time for Al's exuberance and enthusiasm for every aspect

of ham radio he encountered to become apparent to all. Having never been to a K4BFT field day, Al volunteered to take over the Field Day Power and Light duties in their entirety. He helped liquidate several SK's radio equipment. He became interested in DXing and contesting, and so joined the NADXC and ACG. Al approached things whole-heartedly.

Our losses have not been limited to hams, and indeed others close to our ham community are gone as well. Because it is the informal policy of the NADXC (and HARC and NARA) to inform our members by the LongPath and Vox or e-mailings to all members of the passings of hams only, these others have been omitted, but certainly not forgotten.

Hoping not to repeat this article any time soon,

73 de Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

**From the Internet**

By Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI

This month I have for your surfing pleasure a few websites of interest. The first is for the home experimenters. The website <http://www.soldersmoke.com/> and its blog <http://soldersmoke.blogspot.com/> provide podcast (Downloadable Audio Files) and information homebrew projects taken on by the contributors. There is a wealth of information to be had by experimenters and seasoned professionals alike.

If you like old radios then sooner or later you will want the service manual. The Boat Anchor Manual Archive or BAMA (No connection to the school) has one of the most extensive collections of antique radio manuals available for

FREE! Here is their web site and the mirror: <http://bama.sbc.edu/>, <http://bama.edebris.com/manuals/>. This site uses queuing for users to download information so if the main site is too slow try the mirror.

I couldn't leave you without getting you ready for the upcoming DX. We are all aware of the Midway Island DXpedition coming up in October. Please check out their website and go ahead and bookmark it for future reference. <http://www.midway2009.com/>

That's it for this month. Hope to see you at the meeting.

73, Kevin KG4TEI

The annual DX Banquet will be held on Hamfest Saturday, August 15th in the Ballet Room of the VBC. Our speaker will be NADXC Past President Tim Pearson, K5AC (ex KU4J), of the K5D Desecheo DXpedition.

We haven't yet committed to the menu, and that decision will impact the ticket price. We've been stuck in a rut for the past few years menu-wise, so in case you're interested in a change, a few options from the Von Braun Center catering guide are presented to the right. We must choose the same item for everyone, based on this only beef, chicken, and beef/chicken combinations are shown to the right, but a complete listing may be found on [www.vonbrauncenter.com](http://www.vonbrauncenter.com). Choosing the menu will be an item of new business as Tuesday's meeting.

Whatever the final menu and ticket price, you can get your tickets from Jason Amos, KD4BJW, kd4bjw@arrl.net or (256) 963-6833, or give your intentions to Jason or Tom, KG4CUY at the next meeting.

By the way, we did look into holding the banquet at the Holiday Inn based on very favorable reports from the YLRL dinner held at last year's hamfest, but because we didn't discuss it with them early enough, logistical problems made that impossible. So we'll look into that again next year.

See you at the banquet!

## Beef

### Beef Tenderloin Roulade \$ 34

Whole beef tenderloin stuffed with roasted red peppers, spinach, mushrooms, bleu cheese, and spices. The whole tenderloin is roasted and sliced into medallions. A single medallion is presented on a pool of Madeira wine sauce with a drizzle of red pepper coulis. Served with roasted potato wedges, mushroom quarters, steamed asparagus spears, and baby carrots.

### Beef Tournedos \$ 32

Two petite towers with each consisting of medallions of sautéed beef tenderloin, grilled potato round, sliced roasted tomato. Served with Bordelaise sauce and crowned with a sautéed mushroom cap. Served with grilled vegetables.

### Beef Tenderloin Filet \$ 28

Six- ounces of super tender beef is grilled and basted with our special seasoning. Served in the center of plate with roasted potatoes, mushroom quarters, green beans and pearl onions in a pool of roasted mushroom demi-glace.

### Grilled Rib Eye Steak \$ 23

A generous ten-ounce cut of beef grilled and basted with our special seasoning. Served with baked potato and roasted vegetables.

### Prime Rib \$ 23

A whole loin of beef is herb crusted and slow roasted. A nine-ounce slice is served with roasted potatoes, steamed vegetables, au jus and horseradish sauce.

### Top Sirloin \$ 18

A six-ounce top sirloin steak marinated and char grilled. Served with chefs choice of potato and fresh vegetable.

## Combinations

### Beef Tenderloin with Chicken \$ 31

We can offer any of the chicken dishes described in this menu. Please discuss your options with your menu planner.

### Top Sirloin with Chicken \$ 24

Six-ounce sirloin steak with your choice of: Honey Dijon Chicken, Apricot Chicken, Marinated Grilled Chicken or Teriyaki Chicken. Served with wild rice blend and steamed vegetables.

## Chicken

### Stuffed Chicken Breast with Grapes and Pearl Onions \$ 21

Chicken filled with a blend of bleu cheese, parmesan cheese and herbed cream cheese, lightly breaded and sautéed in olive oil. Served in a pool of white wine sauce surrounded with roasted potato wedges, red grapes, pearl onions and asparagus spear.

## DX Banquet Reminder

(cont'd from p. 3)

### Prosciutto Wrapped Chicken Breast

\$ 21

A six-ounce chicken breast filled with smoked gouda cheese, fresh herbs then wrapped in prosciutto; served on a bed of wilted greens with a creamy shallot and basil risotto.

### Honey Almond Chicken

\$ 19

Marinated chicken breasts braised in olive oil with rosemary and shallots, then crusted with almonds and brushed with honey. Toasted in a hot oven and served with rice pilaf and grilled vegetables.

### Pasta Gallina Pomodoro

\$ 19

Penne pasta with grilled chicken strips, roasted leeks, sun-dried tomatoes, pesto, parmesan cheese and olives. Served with breadsticks.

### Honey Dijon Chicken

\$ 18

A full six-ounce chicken breast marinated in honey Dijon sauce & grilled. Served with rice pilaf and steamed vegetables.

### Marinated Grilled Chicken Breast

\$ 18

An six-ounce chicken breast marinated in a blend of herbs and spices then seared on a hot grill and served with white barbeque sauce. Served with rice pilaf and steamed broccoli.

### Chicken Parmesan

\$ 18

Breaded chicken filet topped with marinara sauce and mozzarella cheese and served with bow tie pasta and chefs choice of vegetable.

## Give Hamfest a Hand

Those of us not already part of the Huntsville Hamfest crew still have time to get in on the behind-the-scenes fun, and help bolster our reputation as the friendliest hamfest around. If you have time between 10:00 AM Friday, August 14th and 5:00 PM Sunday, August 16th, sign up at [www.hamfest.org](http://www.hamfest.org). On the left hand side you'll see "Volunteers Click Here". Do it, and let hamfest chairman Charlie, N4OKL know your availability. Not only will the hard-working hamfest crew appreciate your efforts (after all, you'll be one of them!), but so will all the visiting hams soaking up Huntsville Hamfest Hospitality.

## Diamond Terrace Brick

At the June 10th HARC meeting, it was proposed that Huntsville Hamfest, HARC, and NADXC sponsor a brick on the ARRL Diamond Terrace in memory of Don Tunstill, W4NO. Charlie Emerson, N4OKL committed \$ 100 from Huntsville Hamfest, and the HARC membership in attendance committed \$ 75.

Let's discuss at Tuesday's meeting as new business NADXC providing the additional \$75 in Don's memory.

## NADXC Officers

President: **Tom Duncan**, KG4CUY

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De Facto Vice President: **Kevin Hibbs**, KG4TEI (thank you Kevin)

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Secretary/Treasurer: **Jason Amos**, KD4BJW

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**CQ Dude**

Toshiba has teamed up with American microprocessor giant Intel to produce Clique, a handheld, thumb-operated device that uses only three keys to text using Morse code. <http://mhpbooks.com/mobylives/?p=6535>

**Young Hams Top Ten**

CQ magazine (page 74, June 2009) has an article by a YL with some ideas to "youngify" our hobby. Here's my Top-Ten: (10) Name change - Xtreme Wireless, (9) Schools - new course called "Where in the World is Tango-Alpha and how do they say hello and count there"?, (8) Other activities - demo your hobby during Scout activities, (7) Free time -see CQ Dude above, (6) Field-Day - youth-oriented activities such as slip-and-slide and tower-climbing (first one to 100 feet gets to help me this weekend - LOL), (5) Hamfest - free attendance for kids under 18 and a place to socialize, (4) Family - get your kids and grand-kids involved, (3) College - help set up and Elmer on-campus stations, (2) Clubs - have a kids night in a place accessible to kids, (1) Give them something to do that exposes them to your hobby while doing something they enjoy.

**CQ Worldwide's new "Xtreme" category**

CQ magazine (page 32, June 2009) describes the Xtreme Category for CQWW in which contesters are encouraged to make the most of the new gadgets, software, and remote station links flooding into the radio world. A special normalized scoring algorithm will be applied, plus there will be an opportunity for recognition of meritorious efforts. The Xtreme Team can be anywhere but transmitters must be in the same country and same zone. Anyone can key the transmitter from anywhere - BUT - the transmitter must be in a fixed location, all operators must be properly licensed to key the transmitter, etc etc etc. Think of it as a "distributed multi-single". Your receiving band partner need not be at your elbow - even in another country or continent! Receiving stations can be anywhere in the world! The restriction on location to a single country and zone applies to only the transmitting site - the operator working with you may be linked via the Internet from anywhere. You can have several operators receiving anywhere in the world and using 'partner mode' to identify calls out of the pileup for the transmitting operator - wherever that may be. It really opens things up for experimentation. (thanks to Ward Silver for the clarification on transmitting and receiving location). This would allow software-defined radios with distributed receiving array elements. However, latency would

restrict the array separation, technically-speaking.

**Solar Update**

Remember that international panel of experts led by NOAA and sponsored by NASA a few years ago that had two predictions for Cycle 24 that didn't agree? That same panel has released a new prediction for the next solar cycle that doesn't agree with either of those two previous predictions. Solar Cycle 24 will peak, they now say, in May 2013 with a peak sunspot number of 90 - the lowest since 1928. The panel consensus is that cycle 23 finally reached its sunspot minimum in December 2008, almost 13 years after it began. The first sunspots from cycle 24 were seen in December 2008, but a recent lull shows that cycle 24 is starting slowly. In the past, when early activity has been low, the cycle has tended to have little activity overall. "Usually, when a new sun cycle starts, it takes off pretty quickly. This one is just chugging along," says David Hathaway of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville.

[http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/29may\\_noaaprediction.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/29may_noaaprediction.htm)

**Breaking News!**

Sunspots are finally back! A new group of sunspots that developed over the weekend were the most significant in many months.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,530275,00.html>

**July Contests**

IARU HF World Championship is this weekend. 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/july.pdf>.

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

**So long 'til next time...**

**de N4WBS**