



# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## Special points of interest:

- Hamfest Countdown
- August Program
- Short Skip
- DX Contests
- Family Tradition

## 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

## Hamfest Countdown—One Week and Ticking

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

See the nice big 2" button to the right? One of these will be worn by everyone passing through the doors of this year's Huntsville Hamfest. The Von Braun Center South Hall doors open at 9:00 am Saturday, August 16th and Sunday, August 17th.

There will be something to pique the interests of the greenest newbie, the crustiest old timer, and everyone in between. The forum schedule alone is reason enough to attend: check out the teasers on [www.hamfest.org](http://www.hamfest.org), and stay tuned for the times and places on both days.

Huntsville Hamfest is our hamfest by more than an accident of proximity. A review of the forum listing shows this, but incompletely. Behind the scenes are more NADXCers and close associates without which it is no stretch to say there would be no Huntsville Hamfest. This is something of which we can all be justly proud.

Ham radio frequently receives the great terminal prognosis: we're a dying hobby full of old men who are so set in their ways as to be oblivious to the realities of a new age of communications. Against this dire pronouncement, I am happy to report that the most recent "rag-chew age analysis" of my log actually shows a slightly decreasing trend: rag chewers are on the aver-

age 1.5 years younger than they were several years ago. We're not quite dead yet, and our hamfest shows it. New radios are not our fathers' radios: they're not even the last generation of radios we bought. Neither is a Stepp-IR our father's antenna. So, keep your head high as a representative both of Huntsville Hamfest and vanguard of the hobby in general—even if you didn't get that 1x2 call through the vanity program.

All this talk of age brings to mind the recognition of two young hams, to be made at our hamfest: the Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year and the Alabama Outstanding Youth Ham of the Year. The NADXC is proud to sponsor the plaque for the Alabama award. (If I remember to pick it up next Thursday!)

While we're not all old, neither are we all men. The Young Ladies' Radio League convention begins the Thursday before Hamfest, and continues through Sunday at the Holiday Inn.

Cont'd on p. 3

## Can Your Wattmeter Do This?

August Program by Bob DePierre, K8KI

Bob came back from Dayton laden with toys—this one is called a vector wattmeter, but it does much more. Come see it, and hear about how it can be attached to your radio and computer to perform some amazing feats. See you Tuesday at 6:15 for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and 7:30 for Bob's program.



**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

Throng of readers have suggested that newly-licensed hams lack appreciation for how things were in the good old days, and some have gone so far as to say that more experienced hams, who should know better, occasionally “go soft as an old 6L6” and scarcely remember how to tune up using a light bulb, or spot their transmitter without blowing out their own ears.

Whether or not there’s a shred of truth to these assertions, the LongPath staff has done it’s part by unearthing some reminders of that golden age.

In the inaugural installment of this column, we see the 8-tube S-20 Sky Champion by Hallicrafters, covering from the bottom of the broadcast band to just below TV channel 1 in four easy-to-use bands.

**Table of Contents**

Hamfest Countdown	1
Can Your Wattmeter Do This?	1
Boatanchor of the Month	2
Short Skip	3
August DX Contests	4
A Family Tradition	4

**OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
SKY CHAMPION  
Model S-20**



**the hallicrafters inc.  
2611 INDIANA AVENUE  
CHICAGO**

**Another Sale!**

Last month’s LongPath ad is now history because the item sold! You too can reap a sales harvest with the help of the LongPath: more space, less clutter, and who knows—even money! On a buying spree? the LongPath can help you there too. Each LongPath is perused by discriminating DXers ready to deal.

**For more info, contact Tom at [duncant1@ds-s.com](mailto:duncant1@ds-s.com)**

## 2008 Young Ham of the Year at Huntsville Hamfest

The 2008 Amateur Radio Young Ham of the Year (YHOTY) Award will be presented on Saturday, August 16, 2008 at the Huntsville Hamfest. Emily Stewart, KCOPTL, a 17 year old from Leavenworth, Kansas, was selected based on her commitment to Amateur Radio, along with leadership, outreach, and her technical and public service achievements of the Amateur Radio Service to others. When she got her ticket she wanted to share Amateur Radio and made presentations while in middle school about ham radio. That led to getting active in her local radio club and contributing articles to the club newsletter. Through her local activities, Emily was appointed in 2006 as the first Assistant Section Manager for Youth in the ARRL Kansas Section. Last August, while attending the ARRL Kansas State Convention, Emily conducted a survey of attendees, asking how many had persuaded their children or grandchildren to get involved in Amateur Radio. The slim response led her and

Brian Short, KCOBS, to develop the Kansas Legacy Project. In addition to a trip to the Huntsville Hamfest, Emily will receive ham radio equipment, various books and magazines and an all-expense-paid week at Spacecamp in Huntsville. The presentation of the YHOTY award is a regular feature of the Huntsville Hamfest and has been made possible through the generosity and kindness of the event's Planning Committee. (ARRL Newsletter).

## Solar Update

July ended with no sunspots at all – save for three days, July 18-20, when one weak sunspot group appeared and faded from view. Sunspot numbers for those days were 11, 12 and 11. Sunspot numbers for July 24-30 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 65.4, 65.8, 66.1, 66.3, 66.3, 66 and 66.5 with a mean of 66.1. Estimated planetary A indices were 11, 3, 5, 7, 7, 3 and 5 with a mean of 5.9. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 7, 2, 4, 4, 6, 2 and 4 with a mean of 4.1. ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org))

## Faros Beacon Tracker

From VE3NEA, the software author of CW Skimmer, comes Faros - an application that automatically tracks NCDXF beacons to give you a view of band conditions. <http://www.dxatlas.com/Faros/> (ARRL Contest Corral)

## August Contests

It's time to start thinking about the upcoming contest season. Get tuned up with some summer fun with the WAE DX Contest (CW) 0000Z, Aug 9 to 2359Z, Aug 10. 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/aug.pdf>. Also see the WA7BNM contest calendar at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

## So long 'til next time...

■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■  
de N4WBS

## NADXC Officers

President: **Tom Duncan**, KG4CUY

[duncant1@ds-s.com](mailto:duncant1@ds-s.com) or 256-539-7544

Vice President: **Kevin Hibbs**, KG4TEI

[kg4tei@gmail.com](mailto:kg4tei@gmail.com) or 606-224-0175

Secretary/Treasurer: **Jason Amos**, KD4BJW  
[kd4bjw@arrl.net](mailto:kd4bjw@arrl.net) or 256-963-6833

Director: **Mike Maples**, K4ADK

[mmaples9@comcast.net](mailto:mmaples9@comcast.net) or 256-534-6563

Director: **Vic Holland**, K4RVH

[k4rvh@arrl.net](mailto:k4rvh@arrl.net) or 256-721-9106

## Hamfest Countdown (cont'd from front page)

W1AW/4 will again be operating from the hamfest floor. As the NAQP SSB contest is the same weekend, we hope to have some lively activity from the start of the contest at 1:00 pm Saturday to close of the exhibit hall at 5:00 pm that day. Stop on by the booth, sit down for a few minutes, and pass out some points.

Hamfest Saturday would not be complete without the DX Banquet, and we hope to see everyone there. I recently received my TX5C QSL card, and our banquet speaker, Ann Santos, WA1S, will tell us just what went in to making the Clipperton DXpedition possible. The Tuesday 8/12 meeting is your last

chance to get tickets, because the head count goes to the VBC on Wednesday. Tickets are \$35—see Jason.

Because Huntsville Hamfest 2008 is also the ARRL Southeastern Division convention, there will again be a Wouff-Hong ceremony at 11:00 pm, probably at the Embassy Suites. You'll have just enough time to recover from the DX Banquet and get into the proper frame of mind to take in this great traditional spectacle of amateur radio. Beyond that, my lips are sealed—come see for yourself.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

## August DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

### WAE CW DX Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Aug 9, 0000Z to Aug. 10, 2359Z  
Exchange: RST plus serial No. See web for QTC rules.  
See page 74, August QST and [www.waedc.de](http://www.waedc.de)

### SARTG WW RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Aug. 16, 0000Z to Aug. 17, 1600Z  
Exchange: RST plus Serial No.  
See page 74, August QST and [www.sartg.com](http://www.sartg.com)

### Keymen's Club of Japan Contest (CW), 160-6 meters

Aug. 16, 1200Z to Aug. 17, 1200Z  
Exchange: RST and prefecture or continent  
See page 745, August QST and [www.jarl.com/kcj](http://www.jarl.com/kcj)

### Russian District Award Contest, (CW, SSB), 160-10 meters

Aug. 16, 0600Z to Aug. 17, 0800Z  
Exchange: RS(T), Serial or Russian District  
See page 74, August QST and [rdaward.org/rdac1.htm](http://rdaward.org/rdac1.htm)

### OTHERS:

#### SCC RTTY Championship

1200Z, Aug 30 to 1159Z, Aug 31

#### YO DX HF Contest

1200Z, Aug 30 to 1200Z, Aug 31

#### All Asian DX Contest, Phone

0000Z, Sep 1 to 2400Z, Sep 2

#### Russian RTTY WW Contest

0000Z-2400Z, Sep 6

#### IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB

1300Z, Sep 6 to 1300Z, Sep 7



#### RSGB SSB Field Day

1300Z, Sep 6 to 1300Z, Sep 7

#### DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest

1100Z-1700Z, Sep 7

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

Chuck, N4NM

## A Family Tradition

As told by Chuck Lewis, N4NM

Those of you who attended the July NADXC meeting heard Chuck Lewis tell a story of ham radio in the family. It's not the usual tale of the father passing the torch to his son.

For those of you who weren't there, Chuck recounted that he was originally issued the call WN8REG, and shortly thereafter graduated to W8REG. Out of the Michigan winters, and countless QSOs since, he is now N4NM.

Chuck has a younger brother, Paul, whom the ham bug didn't bite as a youngster. Even so, whether remembering Chuck's enthusiasm as a kid, or just by letting things stew for a few decades, in the last few months Paul de-

cidated to give ham radio a try himself. Paul passed his technician exam, but having waited this long to become licensed, decided not to stay with his sequentially-assigned call, but go for something special before his first QSO. That would be his brother's former call.

The rules and conventions of the vanity call system worked in Paul's favor: the call had been unassigned for two years, and had belonged to a close relative, so with no other claims outstanding, Paul was granted W8REG. His first QSO, on 2 meters, was with Chuck: W8REG working ex-W8REG, N4NM.

There is one final "it's a small world" note to this story. W8REG was assigned once between the times of the Lewis bothers' claims: to the father of ex-Huntsvillian, K4BFT 40m CW field day op and long-time Huntsville Hamfest security chief Bill Walker, KX4V.