



# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## Special points of interest:

- Looking Forward
- Short Skip
- Special Needs
- Nominating Committee Report
- National Preparedness Month
- DX Contests

## 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

## Looking Forward from 9/11

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

As Monday is the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, our attentions are rightly focused on this event and its aftermath. Accordingly, the month of September has been proclaimed *National Preparedness Month*. Locally, Alabama's *Be Ready Day* activities are at the Space and Rocket Center this coming Thursday, September 14—see the announcement on page 4.

N4NM's *DXers and Public Service* article in last month's LongPath discusses our potential roles as communicators during an event, and in preparation for an event for training purposes. A lesson surmised from Katrina is that those who actually help out during and after an event function better having received targeted training beforehand. This is the thrust of ARRL EC-series and FEMA courses, and is weekly reinforced on the Thursday night 146.94 repeater training net: to wit, an ad-hoc posse may be glamorous, but it is not as effective as a trained militia.

Part of the ARRL's *When All Else Fails* program aims to inform the public — but hams themselves as well — of specific channels through which amateur radio has

been and will be of assistance during emergencies—ARES, RACES, NTS, and through coordination with served organizations such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army. As “insiders”, we may not appreciate the value of public relations, but at this time it is crucial. If the public perceives value in amateur radio, those in power will be less apt to auction off or promote the pollution of spectrum for immediate gain, at our expense.

The individual ham is in the best position to serve as ambassador to his own community. We must take advantage of opportunities to portray amateur radio as a national asset, certainly presenting our emergency communications face, but also in the broader sense. Do your neighbors know what that tower in your back yard does, or do they just suspect it causes TVI and makes the phone ring when the gray line is passing through? See KF4BOG's article on page 4, and the *Scout out this Important Event* section of this month's *Short Skip* for example of situations in which you can present ham radio to non-hams. A special field-day-like exercise is being cooked up at the ARRL as part of the *Hello!* project to let kids get on the air—more on this event, which we hope to hold locally at the Space and Rocket Center, as things unfold. Need more examples? Contact me.

See “Looking Forward” on p. 3

## 6 Meters

Program by Tim Winger, KY5R and Tom Russell, N4KG

Is it actually a Magic Band, or just hopelessly caught between HF and bands with antennas you can carry? Why is there tropospheric propagation? How dares the E-layer be more sporadic than the good old rock-solid always-predictable F-layer?

See you Tuesday at Ryan's for Tim's and Tom's insights into these and other low-VHF questions.



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Meeting Started at 19:00 local

Visitors: Karl Henry to discuss the a new concept of a ham class for new technician class amateurs.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Treasures Report: New balance of cash of \$4290.13, with more deposits expected and banquet bills to be paid.

Old Business

Vic's motion of the money on the map raffle. Discussion was that Tom would acquire some tickets and some discussion as to how to handle the winning of the map if the winner was not present nor there the next day. It was determined that we would give all the money to the 3Y0X crew and handle getting the map to the appropriate party. (However this later became superseded by the state law on lottery's.) The map was given away, but not based on a raffle. Money was collected for the 3Y0X crew at the banquet and presented to Bob Allphin. No records were kept as to the contributions made.

Hamfest booth needs people to man it during the days. Please sign up. There was discussion on the handling of money and distribution of the banquet tickets.

Cluster Report: New Grounding has been installed by Steve to help with some equipment issues. Routers keep blowing up. There is one IC8000, 1 UHF Yaesu radio and a 50 Amp Astron power supply that needs to be repaired from a likely power surge from one end or the other. Steve has his radios up and running for us at this time. Any help that can be offered for trouble shooting would be welcome.

Karl Henry talked about the new pro-

ject to keep some new graduates of Drake State Technical College. The new project is to develop a means to keep these graduates together, building home made transceivers, antennas and other projects. Allowing them to grow in the hobby as well as learn together. Help on basis of ideas, talks, forums, for the hams would be appreciated. The group is over a wide range of students ages 20 - 81. They can put up a station at the college. They have a desire to encourage these and other students to upgrade beyond the technician level.

Our new Alabama Young Ham of the Year, Robert Lock IV, KG4PLK was present at the meeting. Robert said a few words about himself and we look forward to continuing to see him in the radio community in the future.

Nominating committee members are: Bill Grimwood and Tom Russell. Good luck guys.

Meeting adjourned at 19:45 local

Banquet: A more detailed summary will be available in a future edition of the long path after all expenses are known. We sold 60 tickets to the banquet, I believe that is a record over the past several years, way to go everyone. The meal was again very good this year and the speaker, Bob Allphin, K4UEE, was once again a wonderful speaker. The presentation of the DXpedition to the Peter One Island was wonderful and it shows just how much effort this team put into making it possible for us to work one of the rare ones. Bob continues to produce excellent DXpeditions, thanks from all of us Bob. The map that was slated to be raffled away was instead given away. Bob had those who worked Peter One with modest antennas and 100 W

See "August Minutes" on p. 4

### DX Banquet A Success - AGAIN!

Those who did not attend the DX Banquet during the Huntsville Hamfest missed a real treat. Bob Allphin's presentation on the 3YØX Peter I DXpedition was exceptionally well done. It provided an insight into many interesting aspects of the venture that only he could share. Oh, the food was also first class, too.

### Ten-Tec / SEDCO Event This Month

Ten-Tec will hold its annual Factory Hamfest on Friday, September 29 and Saturday, September 30, at its headquarters in Sevierville, Tennessee. Admission is free. After the Hamfest ends on Saturday afternoon, the Southeastern DX and Contesting Organization (SEDCO) will hold its 2nd annual DX and Contesting Conference at the Mainstay Suites in Pigeon Forge. Details on both events can be found on the Ten-Tec website at (<http://radio.tentec.com/Hamfest>) and on the SEDCO website at ([www.sedco.homestead.com](http://www.sedco.homestead.com)).

### "Scout" Out This Important Event!

The annual Jamboree-on-the-Air ("JOTA") is scheduled for the weekend of October 21-22. This event is held annually to provide Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts an exposure to the world of amateur radio and an opportunity to communicate with scouts across the U.S. and in other countries. The event has been held since 1958 and always attracts a large number of participants. It isn't a contest - it's simply a fun activity. The September issue of QST has a brief article about this year's JOTA, and more detailed information is available on the ARRL website ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)).



Old Wouffie

### Pull Over - May I See Your My License!

Have you checked your amateur radio license record information shown on the FCC database lately? Maybe not. Is your mailing address correct? Maybe not! It's important that every licensee maintain his/her correct mailing address on file with the Commission. Recently, some amateurs have had their licenses suspended for not doing so. A quick way to check your address (without directly entering the FCC's website) is to go to [http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/dx\\_ss\\_routes.html](http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/dx_ss_routes.html). Find the box labeled "FCC ULS," enter your call sign, and click the adjacent "Srch" box. You'll then see your FCC database information. If you need to change your mailing address, you'll need to access the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) / Commission Registration System (CORES) database (at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>). That requires logging in with your assigned individual Federal Registration Number (FRN) and your password. Why not take a minute and check to make sure your license information is correct.

### FCC Still a "No Show" On Eliminating Morse Code

The FCC has still issued no ruling regarding the ARRL's proposal to completely eliminate Morse code as an amateur radio license testing requirement. The League speculates that because all spots on the Commission are now filled, some decision will be reached soon. We'll see!

### Swains Island QSLs Being Received

Some ops have reported having received their KH8SI QSL cards. That's pretty quick, considering the operations were so recent.

*73 es gud dx . . .  
de W4UR*

### Looking Forward from 9/11

(continued from p. 1)

In a perverse way, ham radio might use post-9/11 appreciation for emergency preparedness to gain recognition with the public. We need to hone our skills and be well-trained in this regard, but at the same time, take

advantage of opportunities to display our other wares.

Don't hide our candle under a bushel!

73,

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

### LongPath Ads

are available at rates you can afford. Want to buy, sell, or give stuff away? Contact Tom in the advertising department at

[duncant1@ds-s.com](mailto:duncant1@ds-s.com) or 705-2147 (w)

Ask for our Upcoming Equinox discounts.

## August Minutes

(cont'd)

or less come to the front of the room. He had them tell their story and the audience vote on the winner. He gave them several chances to embellish their story, but there were no takers. We had Mike Merk, Mike Fanning, Tom Homsley, and Vic Holland in the hunt. After round one we were left with Mike Merk who worked them mobile on CW and Vic Holland who worked them from home on a shortened 5 band vertical on SSB. After a couple tries Vic came out victorious and has the map. Congratulations to all these guys who showed perseverance and skill in bagging a rare one in less than ideal situations. Money was collected for the 3Y0X crew at the banquet and presented to Bob Allphin, no records were kept as to the contributions made.

Jason, KD4BJW

## Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee, in consultation with nominees for officers and directors for 2007, reports the following slate:

President	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY
Vice President	Tom Russell, N4KG
Sec'y/Treasurer	Jason Amos, KD4BJW
Director	Vic Holland, K4RVH
Director	Mike Maples, K4ADK

Tuesday, October 10th is the date of the official NADXC Annual Meeting, at which the vote on next year's officers and directors will be held. At that time, in addition to the slate, nominations will be accepted from the members in at-

## Special Needs

By Michael Werner, KF4BOG

Do you have Special needs and want to get on the your ham radio during times of need? Well the Amateur Radio Emergency Services is the place to start. I, Michael KF4BOG, have been named the Special Needs Liaison for ARES District 6 here in Alabama. I work along side a good team of ham radio operators who help me when I have questions. Since taking on this new role I've learned a lot: as they say when you first start a job less talking and more listening is the rule. That is good training for a first-time ham before he or she gets their license and starts to use the radio. After passing the test and getting your call-sign, the fun part of the ham radio hobby begins: making your first few contacts, and learning about the SKYWARN and ARES nets.

If you know anyone with special needs who would be interested in ham radio, please email me at [kf4bog@amsat.org](mailto:kf4bog@amsat.org). (Note: I can only help persons in the Huntsville, AL area)



KF4BOG presenting "Hams with Special Needs" forum at 2006 Huntsville Hamfest.

## September is National Preparedness Month

By Greg Sarratt, W4OZK

Now is a perfect time to make sure you and your family are prepared for disaster. Use National Preparedness Month to prepare, what to do in emergency situations. Practice your household escape routes and meeting spot. Check your emergency food, water, flashlight battery supply and "Go-Kits".

There will be preparedness activities throughout the State in September, with a special event on September 14, 2006- Be Ready Day.

"Be Ready Day," an annual statewide community preparedness event, will be held in Huntsville, Alabama this year. Attendees will receive education and training on ways to prepare for disasters and emergencies, learn of volunteer opportunities in their communities, and have the opportunity to observe first responders demonstrating their preparedness and response capabilities.

### Where:

US Space and Rocket Center, One Tranquility Base, Huntsville, AL 35805

### When:

September 14, 2006, 10 am-3 pm

### Hosted by:

The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the Alabama Department of Homeland Security, and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency

"Be Ready Day" should be an informative and fun event.

Prepare yourself BEFORE the need!

73,

Greg, W4OZK

ARRL Alabama Section Manager

## DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

DX CONTESTS for the coming month include:

### IARU region I Field Day (SSB), 160 – 10M

Sept 2, 1300Z to Sept 3, 1300Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial #

See page 94, Sept. QST

### Russian RTTY WW Contest (RTTY), 80 – 10M

Sept. 2, 0000Z – 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus WAZ zone or Oblast

See page 94, Sept. QST

### DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest (Digital Modes), 10M

Sept. 3, 1100Z – 1700Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial #

See Page 94, Sept. QST

### NADXC Officers

President: **Tom Duncan**, KG4CUY

duncant1@ds-s.com or 256-539-7544

Vice President: **Bob DePierre**, K8KI

depierre1@comcast.net or 256-534-8163

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

Director: **Mike Maples**, K4ADK

mmaples9@comcast.net or 256-534-6563

Director: **Vic Holland**, K4RVH

k4rvh@arrl.net or 256-721-9106

### Worked All Europe (WAE) DX Contest (SSB)

Sept 9, 0000Z to Sept 10, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus QSO #

See page 88, August QST

### Scandinavian Activity Contest, (CW), 80 – 10M

Sept. 16, 1200Z to Sept, 17, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial #

See page 94, Sept. QST

### Scandinavian Activity Contest, (SSB), 80 – 10M

Sept. 23, 1200Z to Sept. 24, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial #

See page 94, Sept. QST

### CQ WW RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80 – 10M

Sept 23, 0000Z to Sept 25, 2400Z

Exchange: RST, State/Province, and CQ zone; DX sends RST and CQ zone

See page 95, Sept. QST

### OTHERS:

#### QRP Afield 1500Z-2100Z,

Sep 16



### Fall QRP Homebrewers Sprint, (CW/PSK31),

Sept. 25, 000Z – 0400Z

### RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest,

Oct 1, 0700Z – 1900Z

### TARA PSK Rumble Contest

0000Z-2400Z, Oct 6

### EU Autumn Sprint, (SSB),

Oct. 7, 1500Z – 1859Z

### Oceania DX Contest, (SSB)

0800Z, Oct 7 to 0800Z, Oct 8

### UBA ON Contest, (SSB)

0600Z-1000Z, Oct 8

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

Chuck, N4NM

### Thanks

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

A hearty Thanks to all who helped out at the hamfest club booths down “club row” from ARRL to NADXC. Thanks also to banquet attendees—it was a great turnout for a great program, both exceeding my expectations.

Finally, thank you Nominating Committee: Tom Russell, N4KG and Bill Grimwood, W4WEG for performing the yearly dreaded cajoling and arm-twisting.

73, Tom, KG4CUY