

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- HARC-6 Receiver Program
- Short Skip
- DX Contests
- Unusual QSL Card of the Month
- Upcoming Election

How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Vic Holland at (256)721-9106

Supporting DX Operations

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

As the DX Banquet, August and September NADXC programs brought out, many costs accompany the thrill of being the DX in a DX outing. Cheap and easy places have indigenous hams, so while island hunters may get an IOTA number as the byproduct of a family vacation, sought-after entries on the DXCC list require extraordinary travel and logistics. Hence, the stories of Kerguelen, Banaba, North Korea, and many others are fraught with challenges, mishaps, delays, and costs.

Like any great adventure, a DXpedition goes more smoothly when well planned, and this is the job of the head organizer, a sort of DX Impresario. Having assembled a list of fifteen or so operators from the above outings and comparing them with the DXCC Honor Roll, I was intrigued that not all are on the list. So it should be: putting together a DXpedition requires a different set of skills than a ham is apt to acquire through time on the air. Operating is different as well, though those skills can be honed by operating as a "big gun" in contests. Perhaps hams at the DX end of DXpeditions are cut from different cloth than the rest of us.

Cost and effort don't end with the trip home. The flow of QSL cards will gradually subside after the first tens of thousands are answered, but even a trickle of direct cards and those coming through sometimes circuitous bureau routes will amount to some effort for years to come. Bills for shipping, postage, and expenses of all sorts paid sometimes on the spur of the moment by whomever was in the right place at the right time must be reconciled among expedition members.

During the planning stage, help for DX adventures may take many forms. Equipment loans and donations, shipping arrangements, help with visas and customs, and tried and true tips and techniques from outings past may be worth more than money. They address the need directly, and remove the burden of shopping from the organizer, who probably has enough to do. Post-adventure, monetary contributions are best.

When you bag that next rare one, give a few minutes thought to the hams at the other end. They might never work the countries they bring you. Remember their needs when you send your QSL to the manager for Atlantis, Never-never land, or Zambonia.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

HARC-6 Receiver

Program by John Fitzer, KA3TNS

The Hamfest kit building session centered around a regenerative receiver designed to be built by newcomers to the soldering iron, and to work the first time, with no alignment steps. All the parts except the soldering iron were in a plastic bag, along with an instruction manual, best wishes, minimal supervision, and plenty of crossed fingers. Hear John Fitzer, KA3TNS, tell how it was done.



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The September meeting of North Alabama DX Club was called to order at 7:00 PM on September 13, 2005.

There were 14 members in attendance. There were two visitors in attendance, Joanna Lewis and Lloyd Barnett W4RFZ.

Vic K4RVH gave the treasurer's report stating the funds on deposit amounted to \$4079.83. Note was made that the Banquet expenses were still outstanding. Two former members, Mike K4GU and Gayle K4GW renewed their memberships in the previous month.

Minutes of the August 2005 meeting were approved.

No membership apps were received in the previous month.

Announcements were again made regarding the recent article in QST by NADXC member Bill Gerth, W4RK.

Ed Clark announced he'd recently received his 5 Band DXCC.

Tom KG4CUY reminded members that October's meeting will be the annual meeting as called for by club by-laws.

Ron W4VM reported on his recent efforts in disaster relief support in south Mississippi. Ron also reported the .30 repeater suffered some damage during Katrina's pass through the area but that it had been cleared now after some tower climbing to restore some coax.

Ed K4KFH reported on the status of equipment that Charlotte Richardson still and and was trying to move from Skip AA4U's collection.

Tom KG4CUY expressed his thanks to all those that helped with getting the Hamfest activities taken care in August.

The nominating committee, Ed Clark K4KFH and Mike Werner KF4BOG, reported they had secured a slate of officers for upcoming elections. They reported the following;

For President: Tom KG4CUY

For Vice-President: Bob K8KI

For Sec/Treasurer: Jason KD4BJW

Directors: Mike K4ADK & Vic K4RVH

The slate was accepted and nominations would be accepted at the next meeting.

Barry W4WB reported on the recent P5 attempt and what happened such that prevented any operations.

Meeting was closed and followed by a presentation from Jess KR4OJ on his participation on T33C Banaba.

Respectfully submitted,

Vic K4RVH

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

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CQ World-Wide Contests Almost Here

Two of the really big annual DX contests will take place in October and November. The two CQ World Wide events always draw a crowd of participants, and this year will likely follow that pattern in spite of not being the best year for HF propagation. The SSB contest will take place the weekend of October 29-30, and the CW version the weekend of November 26-27. For complete details, see the September 2005 issue of CQ magazine or check out the contest website at www.cqww.com.

ARRL To Propose Bandwidth-Based Spectrum Allocations

At its July meeting, and culminating a three-year period of discussion and debate, the ARRL Board of Directors approved a proposal to petition the FCC to regulate amateur sub-bands by emission/signal bandwidth rather than by mode of emission. The League has been concerned that the current sub-band allocation rules need to be modernized in order to encourage and guide the development and application of current and future digital technology. If you haven't followed this discussion before now, take time to read about it. An initial commentary appeared on page 9 of the September 2004 issue of QST ("IT SEEMS TO US . . ."), with a more recent commentary on page 9 of the October 2005 issue. Additional information is posted on the ARRL website. The petition acting on the Board's decision will be submitted to the Commission at a later date.

Even More Additional DXCC Entities Possible

In the July *Short Skip* column, I mentioned the possibility that some new DXCC "entities" may soon be created as a result of independence movements among several Dutch islands in the Caribbean. Those movements still continue. Now it seems that even more new entities could be coming, depending on the outcome of political events brewing within the former Yugoslav republics. In a recent issue of *The Weekly DX*, Bernie McClenny reports the possibility of a possible split in the current union of Serbia & Montenegro, whereby Montenegro would become an independent political entity. We'll need to watch this development as well.

Comments on FCC's "No Code" Licensing Proposal Due by October 31

If you want to comment on the FCC's proposal to eliminate Morse code testing as a requirement for all amateur radio licenses, please remember that the comment filing deadline is October 31. See last month's *Short Skip* column for more complete information about the proposal and how to file your comments.

Extra Class Certificate Still Available

Quite some time ago I mentioned that the ARRL offered a nice looking certificate for those individuals holding an Amateur Extra Class license. The certificate is still available to League members for \$7.50. I've got one framed on my wall and it looks very nice. For more info, see page 95 of the October issue of QST or look on the web at www.arrl.org/awards.

K7C Operation Underway

As this month's Short Skip is being written, the K7C DXpedition to Kure Atoll is underway full force. One of the interesting resources associated with the operation is the "DXA" satellite-internet link, which provides some very interesting real-time information about the operation's current activities, plus a fairly up-to-date on-line log. (Do you have a "greenie" yet?) If you haven't seen DXA, take a look, it's pretty neat. You can launch it from the K7C website (www.cordell.org/htdocs/kure/index.html). The team is scheduled to remain operational through Thursday, October 6.

73 es gud dx . . . de W4UR

DX CONTESTS for the coming month include:

OCEANIA DX CONTEST (SSB), 160-10 meters

Oct. 1, 0800Z to Oct 2, 0800Z
Exchange: RS plus serial number
See page 99, Oct. QST

EU AUTUMN SPRINT, (SSB), 80-20 meters

Oct. 1, 1500Z to 1859Z
Call, S.N., Name, Other Call
See page 99, Oct. QST

RSGB 21/28 MHz. CONTEST (SSB), 15-10 meters

Oct 2, 0700Z – 1900Z
Exchange RS plus serial number
See page 100, Oct. QST and www.rsgbhfcc.org

OCEANIA DX CONTEST (CW), 160-10 meters

Oct. 8, 0800Z to Oct 9, 0800Z
Exchange: RS plus serial number
See page 99, Oct. QST

EU AUTUMN SPRINT, (CW), 80-20 meters

Oct. 8, 1500Z to 1859Z
Call, S.N., Name, Other Call
See page 99, Oct. QST

JARTS WW RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Oct. 15, 0000Z to Oct. 16, 2400Z
Exchange: RST plus age
See page 100, Oct. QST

Worked All Germany Contest, (CW/SSB), 80-10 meters

Oct. 15, 1500Z to Oct. 16, 1459Z
Exchange: RS(T) & serial number or DOK code
See page 100, Oct. QST

RSGB 21/28 MHz. CONTEST (CW), 15-10 meters

Oct 16, 0700Z – 1900Z
Exchange RS plus serial number
See page 100, Oct. QST and www.rsgbhfcc.org

CQ WW SSB, (SSB), 160-10 meters

Oct. 29, 0000Z Sat. to Oct 30, 2400Z Sun.
Exchange: RS & CQ zone
See page 101, Oct. QST and www.cqww.com



OTHERS:

Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint,

CW 0000Z-0200Z, Oct 16

ARCI Fall QSO Party

1200Z, Oct 22 to 2400Z, Oct 23

10-10 Int. Fall Contest,

CW 0001Z, Oct 29 to 2359Z, Oct 30

Ukrainian DX Contest

1200Z, Nov 5 to 1200Z, Nov 6

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware. Also, check the cluster: "sh/contest". Have fun!

Chuck, N4NM

1846—George Westinghouse is born. His first major invention was the air brake for rail cars. After a several years examination of natural gas for lighting, in the 1880s he developed and commercialized AC power transmission for electric lighting.

1851—The first armored telegraph cable is laid across the English Channel, enabling a public telegraph service between England and France.

1858—Michael Pupin is born in Idvor, Serbia. He studied under Helmholtz and Kirchoff, and developed the notion of loading coils to improve the frequency response of telephone and telegraph circuits. As a professor at Columbia, he had a profound influence on the career of Edwin Armstrong.

1915—John Carty, chief engineer of AT&T, demonstrates voice transmission

from a transmitter in Arlington, VA to a receiver at the Eiffel Tower. The 2500 Watt transmitter ran at 50 kHz.

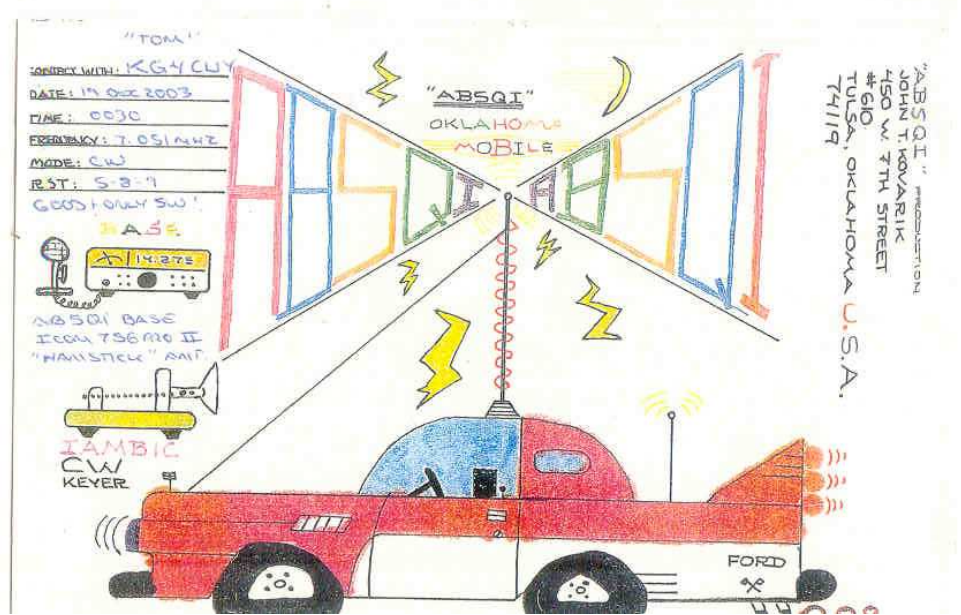
1925—Greenleaf Pickard's paper "The Effect of the Solar Eclipse of January 24, 1925 on Radio Reception" appears in the Proceedings of the IRE. It covers observations in the 57 kHz to 4 MHz range.

Unusual QSL Card of the Month

By The LongPath Staff

The LongPath layout department was able to allocate a few extra column-inches to a new feature, "Unusual QSL Card of the Month". Your submissions will be appreciated. Just email some sort of "card-image file" to the QSL desk, care of the interim editor, at duncant1@ds-s.com. Turn those overflowing shoe boxes into fame, or perhaps notoriety (but certainly not fortune). Depending on the volume of cards received, the editors may decide to run more than one card per month.

This month's card was received several years ago by KG4CUY from AB5QI in Tulsa, OK. It is hand drawn in colored pencil, and clearly took quite some time to make. There is great attention to detail on the mike, key, radio, and of course, the 1956 Thunderbird/Batmobile. Note the unusual forestay on the HF antenna. The lightning bolts from both antennas indicate some sort of cross-band operation, although our QSO was on a single frequency.



What appears to be feedline around a telescoping antenna mount is actually a spring to dampen the effects of the badly-in-need-of-air tires.

Shake the dust mites off those old cards,

scan 'em, and send 'em. It is permissible to use card images from QRZ.COM, but the editors are sticklers for these representing actual QSOs between the card's author and the submitting ham.

NADXC Officers

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Upcoming Elections

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

The slate of officers and directors for 2006 was reported to the president by nominating committee members Ed Clark, K4KFH, and Mike Werner, KF4BOG prior to the September meeting. The slate is:

President: Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Vice President: Bob DePierre, K8KI

Secretary/Treasurer: Jason Amos, KD4BJW

Director: Vic Holland, K4RVH

Director: Mike Maples, K4ADK

Elections will be held at the October Annual Meeting. At that time, additional nominations will be accepted from those in attendance.

Installation of Officers will be held at the Christmas party.

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