



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- 50' Mast Program
- October and November Programs
- Short Skip
- DX Contests
- Upcoming Election
- A New Contest Season Begins

Get Ready for 2007 ARRL National Convention

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Work has already begun on next year's Huntsville Hamfest, by the way also the 2007 ARRL National Convention. Our hamfest is always the combined effort of a fairly stable cadre of volunteers, plus the dealers and vendors, and of course attendees. The next one will be no exception, but perhaps "more so".

Because the spotlight will be on the convention aspect of the hamfest, it will be a little different than the average hamfest of the past few years. The ARRL will require much more floor space. The forum schedule will probably expand. The kids' kit building session will return. With likely increased

attendance and another great speaker like K4UEE, the NADXC Banquet might even overflow the ballet room.

Do you have ideas regarding events, forums, logistics, etc. for the National Convention hamfest? Perhaps a special event station, or W1AW/4? A favorite forum speaker? It's up to your imagination. If you have suggestions and don't know who to go to, contact me and I'll try to head you in the right direction. There are of course no guarantees, but good ideas are important.

If we do it right, we'll have good memories of the 2007 hamfest until the next time the national rolls in to Huntsville.

October Program—Rapid Deployment 50' Mast

Program by Barry Johnson, W4WB

There's more than one way to support an antenna, as the rather unusual inflatable mast used for *Be Ready Day* at the Space & Rocket Center demonstrated. Come hear about a more conventional, but modernized, approach using a highly-portable 50' mast. Barry will begin the program around 7:30, after the busi-



November Program Reminder

The DX Quiz is returning! You've had nearly a year to concoct the most obscure questions arguably related to DXing, to unleash on all in attendance at the November 14th meeting.

The room will again be divided into teams based on attendance and other spur-of-the-moment considerations, 3 or 4 teams will probably do it. Questions submitted to the interim LongPath editor over the next month, plus those brought to the meeting on slips of paper (preferably including the answer) will be

added to the pool of unused questions remaining from last year.

From this pool, the quiz master will randomly draw a question and read it. Teams will receive a chance to answer the question first in rotation. After the dust settles, the team with the correct answer will receive one point.

The team with the most points wins absolutely nothing, but goes away with esteem and adulation suitable for such a victory.

Don't miss this (yearly?) classic—next month's program, at the usual time and place.

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

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Meeting was called to order at 19:00 local. Robby Lock, KG4PLK, was a visitor. Fifteen members were present.

DX worked was discussed.

The Treasurer's report was given as 4290.13 from the previous month with expenses of \$82.76 for the speaker's hotel room, \$109.89 for prizes, \$100 for room deposit and \$1,197 for the dinners. Plus the remaining undeposited amount of the 60 sold tickets. A full report will be handed out at the yearly meeting in October.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Membership applications: One for Robby Lock. Michael Werner motioned to accept Robby as a member and Tim Pearson seconded and motion carried.

Bill Grimwood motioned that we waive the membership fee for one year as Robby was the Alabama Young Ham of the Year. Seconded by Ron Shaffer, motion passed.

The yearly meeting will be next month where the voting on the 2007 officers as well as a budget review will be given.

Michael Werner mentioned the Alabama Be Ready Day at the Space and Rocket Center on Thursday to come out if you could.

Nominating Committee Report: Some fun with chants of 4 more years was had, but to the chase, the nominations are:

President: Tom Duncan

Vice President: Tom Russell

Secretary/Treasure: Jason Amos

Directors: Mike Maples and Vic Holland.

Also of note: this was to be the last regular meeting attended by long term member, past president, former vice president Tim Pearson. Tim has done a lot for this club and we wish him and his family well in the future with the new antenna plantation in the Lone Star State.

Meeting adjourned at 19:22 local time.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Amos

Miscellanea

By the LongPath Staff

Look for Tim - KU4J in CQWW - SSB (October 28th and 29th), he will be operating with a M/M group from Grenada. The call will be J3A during the contest. Tim hopes to have his old call J37ZE, otherwise look for J3/KU4J before and after the contest.

A follow-on to the VU4 Andaman DXpedition, National Institute of Amateur Radio in India is promoting a similar international DXpedition for VU7, Lakshadweep, in December, 2006. For details, visit www.vu7.in. Further information will be available at Tuesday's

meeting.

N4KG, K8KI, KG4TEI, and KG4CUY made their first RTTY efforts in the CQ WW RTTY contest held September 23rd and 24th. It was a learning experience for all. These hams are now emboldened to chase the many DX operations running RTTY.

KG4CUY's business travel schedule may conflict with the November and December (Christmas party at Green Hills Grille) NADXC meetings, but be assured they will go on as scheduled.

Dayton Hamvention Attendance

According to published information, attendance at this year's Dayton Hamvention was 20,324, essentially the same as the 20,411 who attended in 2005. Both 2005 and 2006 numbers were higher than 2004.

Some IRCs to Expire Soon

Anyone who is holding older International Reply Coupons (IRCs) should check them for expiration dates. One series of coupons carries an expiration date of December 31, 2006. If you have any of that series, better use them before they can no longer be redeemed for postage.

Chip Margelli Changes Hats

Many of us who have attended hamfests in recent years have become accustomed to seeing the familiar face of Chip Margelli (K7JA) around the Yaesu exhibits. For a long time, Chip has been the most visible representative of Yaesu amateur products. He has also been active on the bands and been involved in several DX operations. It was recently announced that Chip has joined forces with Bob Heil (K9EID) to become Heil Sound's VP of sales and marketing.

Swains Island Approved for DXCC Credit

The ARRL has announced that it has approved the addition of Swains Island (KH8/S) to the list of DXCC entities. QSOs with stations on Swains Island made on or after July 22, 2006 will be given DXCC award credit. For more detailed information about this action and other recent changes in DXCC rules, check the League's website (www.arrl.org).

Propagation Forecasting Resources

The October issue of QST includes an interesting article on software useful in forecasting HF radio propagation. Some of the software is free, and others carry pretty reasonable prices, especially if you use the software on a regular basis. If you're interested, take a look at the article.

Fall/Winter DX Contests Are Here

Signaling the beginning of this season's big-league contests, the 2006 CQ World-Wide DX SSB contest will be held October 28-29 and the CW version next month on November 25-26. For details and complete contest rules, check the

CQ website (www.cq-amateur-radio.com).

Problems on Wake Island

A recent Pacific typhoon created extensive destruction on Wake Island (KH9), rendering the island virtually uninhabitable. According to *The Daily DX*, most of the island's buildings and infrastructure suffered significant damage. A planned DX operation from the island scheduled for October has been cancelled, and the U.S. Air Force is apparently considering whether or not to abandon the island altogether. In the meantime, don't expect any DX available from this rather rare location. Time will tell if any future occupation of the island, temporary or otherwise, will be permitted.

ARRL National Convention Coming to Huntsville

The ARRL Board of Directors has accepted an invitation to hold its 2007 National Convention in Huntsville, in conjunction with the 2007 Huntsville Hamfest which will be held August 18-19.

73 es gud dx . . . de W4UR

The slate of officers and directors for 2007 was reported to the president by nominating committee chairman Tom Russell, N4KG. It is:

President: Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Vice President: Tom Russell, N4KG

Secretary/Treasurer: Jason Amos, KD4BJW

Director: Vic Holland, K4RVH

Director: Mike Maples, K4ADK

Thanks go out to Jason, Vic, and Mike for staying on for another year, and to our current vice president Bob DePierre, K8KI, for a job well done providing a program for every meeting.

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, at Green Hills Grille, Tuesday, December 12th. We have a private room reserved. The party begins at 6:30 pm.

Finally, thanks also to Bill Grimwood, W4WEG, and Tom Russell, N4KG, for their work as the nominating committee. This yearly arm-twisting task is one most of us prefer to avoid like the plague!

OCEANIA DX CONTEST (SSB), 160-10 meters

Oct. 7, 0800Z to Oct 8, 0800Z
Exchange: RS plus serial number
See page 101, Oct. QST

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

Oct. 7, 1500Z to 1859Z
Call, S.N., Name, Other Call
See page 101, Oct. QST

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

Oct. 14, 1500Z to 1859Z
Call, S.N., Name, Other Call
See page 101, Oct. QST

OCEANIA DX CONTEST (CW), 160-10 meters

Oct. 14, 0800Z to Oct 15, 0800Z
Exchange: RS plus serial number
See page 101, Oct. QST

NADXC Officers

President: **Tom Duncan**, KG4CUI
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Director: **Mike Maples**, K4ADK
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Director: **Vic Holland**, K4RVH
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Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, (CW), 15 & 20 meters

Oct. 15, 0000Z-0200Z, Oct 16
Exchange: RST plus serial number
See page 102, Oct QST and
www.jsfc.org/apsprint

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

Oct 16, 0700Z - 1900Z
Exchange RS plus serial number
See page 101, Oct. QST and
www.rsgbhfcc.org

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

Oct. 21, 0000Z to Oct. 22, 2400Z
Exchange: RS(T) & age; multi: 99; YL: 00
See page 101, Oct. QST

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

Oct. 21, 1500Z to Oct. 22, 1459Z
Exchange: RS(T) & serial number or DOK code
See page 101, Oct. QST

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

Oct. 28, 0000Z Sat. to Oct 29, 2400Z Sun.
Exchange: RS & CQ zone
See page 101, Oct. QST and
www.cqww.com

OTHERS:

UBA ON Contest, SSB

0600Z-1000Z, Oct 8

ARCI Fall QSO Party 1200Z,

Oct 21 to 2400Z, Oct 22



IPARC Contest, CW

0600Z-1000Z,
Nov 4 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 4

IPARC Contest, SSB

0600Z-1000Z, Nov 5 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 5

Ukrainian DX Contest

1200Z, Nov 4 to 1200Z, Nov 5

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

Chuck, N4NM



Be careful driving while ghouls and goblins are about, officially on Tuesday, October 31st. Better yet, stay home, work some DX, and watch a Vincent Price movie.

A New Contest Season Begins

By Steve Werner, AG4W

The end of September always means the start of the contest season. What better way to start it than the CQWW RTTY contest. Each year this contest and the January RTTY roundup always do a great job of adding a few new ones to my RTTY DXCC count. RTTY contesting has come along way from the days of the old mechanical Teletype machines. I don't miss the typing which I'm still not good at. I do miss the clanking and the bell. My first Teletype machine was a strip printer. It didn't even print on a roll of paper, but instead on about a 3/8 inch wide paper strip. It was hard to find so I used it on both sides. The demodulator I homebrewed and used tubes. My tuning indicators were neon bulbs. Now using Writelog and MMTTY the contest requires no typing. Just function keys and mouse clicks will get you through the contest.

This year I worked all band high power. High power is 400-500 watts in my case. I hate to push my SB-220 linear harder than that with the 100 percent duty cycle of RTTY. It's over 30 years old and deserves a little break. I had several pleasant surprises during

this contest. The opening on Saturday morning to Europe on 15 meters was a surprise. With 13 sunspots both days I thought it would be more like Sunday with South America being most of the contacts. I was also surprised at the opening to Japan on 20 meters. They had to have good antennas, but they also had good ears. I did make a token 10-meter contact just to show I listened a few times. My new ones for RTTY were South Shetland and Senegal. I also got a new band country for Moldova on 40 meters. I really enjoy running contacts on RTTY. I can get the run rate indicator up to 100 per hour, which makes for some nice action. Even if you can only run stations for 10 -20 minutes the points add up. To bad most of them are US contacts.

DSP has really helped the number of successful weak signal DX contacts on RTTY. Every so often its nice to turn it off and remind yourself how many fewer contacts you would have made. With 546 QSOs at the end of the contest I was pleased particularly since I slept a lot each night (6 hours) and took my wife out to lunch both days (2 hours). Below I have included a summary of the QSOs and multipliers by band. I hope that the propagation holds out as well next month for the CQWW phone contest. See you all in the pileups.

Score: 282,982, details below.

Steve, AG4W

	QSOs	Pts	Zones	DX	St
80M	57	67	4	3	26
40M	220	336	16	32	43
20M	197	386	20	50	35
15M	71	194	16	36	4
10M	1	3	1	1	0
Total	546	986	57	122	108

Unusual QSL Card of the Month

By The LongPath Staff

The Norwegian statistics bureau says Svalbard's tourism, and coal production are all on the increase since becoming part of Norway in 1925, and that the population is again trending upward after 15 years of decline. This means polar bears share the place with around 2,500 humans (2004), including the occasional ham.

We're not sure if this pair is watching an open-air hockey match, or anticipating a tasty treat as hams wend their ways to and from the JW5X shack.

Thanks to N4KG and the polar bears for this card.

