



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- Our Efforts are Appreciated
- Program Announcement
- Short Skip
- Bottom of Cycle 23 Prediction
- Orion 2 vs FT-1000MP

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

Perspective

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

The recently completed Glorioso DXpedition has I fear exposed a very unsightly face of ham radio. Whatever might have been done differently by the DXpedition itself was no excuse for DXscape, DX Summit, and all the unmoderated internet spots listings turning into forums for spleen-venting. The gap between an occasional helpful suggestion and all-out trashing of the DXpedition and its participants is not a fine line, but a great gulf.

Being so high on the most wanted list ensured competitive pileups. Many times I heard hams who had innocently stumbled onto FT5GA's calling frequency, or had gone there on purpose thinking they might be working simplex respond to the first "up" with a TU or SRI or by just disappearing. When they lingered the slightest bit longer the wrath of the entire UP police force would be unleashed upon them with a vengeance, obliterating the DX's readability. The messages in this mayhem were seldom limited to UP or QSY or QRL for more than a few seconds. With limited antennas and much less than legal limit power, I did not spend long in phone pileups, but the supposedly gentlemanly mode of CW was replete with the same language as on the web spots, which would make a sailor blush. One spot (not a spot really, but the whole internet spot mechanism had fallen into useless

disorder as far as FT5GA was concerned) said "temper your language: my 10 year old grandson can read this stuff, thank goodness he can't copy code." What a fine way to encourage that ham's help promoting the next ham generation!

I'm sure we all wish we had worked Glorioso on more bands and modes than we did. For the record, I didn't manage to work them at all. But another thing I didn't do was intentionally act boorishly so as to prevent other hams from working them.

When anyone places themselves in a very public position, as I suppose DXpeditioners do with regard to the "ham public", they should have thick skin, for all eyes (ears really) will be upon them. Should their performance fail to meet the expectations of their public, that skin will need to be all the thicker.

There are a few DXpeditions, some of them very limited, to the Pacific and Indian Oceans just now, and some ran parallel with FT5GA. While our hopes for Glorioso may be dashed for a number of years, we shouldn't look on that as being the end of the world.

That's what I see from my perspective.

73 de KG4CUY

Some Mechanical Aspects of Electronics

Program by Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

How different in appearance is your current radio from your novice rig? Many of those difference reflect an evolution in ways to perform functions common to all radios, past and present. Come participate in this program/discussion. Business meeting at 7:00 pm, but get to Ryan's around 6:15 for dinner. Bring plenty of opinions and observations.



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

Oct. 3, 1600Z to 1959Z

Call, S.N., Name, Other Call

See page 78, Oct. QST and www.eusprint.com

OCEANIA DX CONTEST (SSB), 160-10 meters

Oct. 4, 0800Z to Oct 4, 0800Z

Exchange: RS plus serial number

See page 78, Oct. QST and www.oceaniadxcontest.com

RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, (SSB/CW), 15 & 10 meters

Oct. 4, 0700Z to 1900Z

Exchange: Ser. number & UK district

See page 78, Oct QST and www.vhfcc.org/hfcc/rules/2009/r2128.shtml

YLRL Anniversary Party, (SSB/CW/Digital), 160-10 meters

Oct. 9, 1400Z to Oct. 11, 0200Z

Exchange: RST, Ser. number & section/province/country

See page 78, Oct QST and www.ylrl.org

Makrothen Contest, (Digital), 80-10 meters

Oct. 10, 0000Z to Oct. 11, 1600Z

Exchange: Grid Square

See page 78, Oct. QST and home.arcor.de.waldemar.kebsch

Worked All Britain HF Contest, (SSB), 20-10 meters

Oct 10, 1200Z to Oct 11, 1200Z

Exchange RS plus serial number plus DXCC entity or WAB area

See page 78, Oct. QST and www.worked-all-britain.co.uk

EU Autumn Sprint, (CW), 80-20 meters

Oct. 10, 1600Z to 2000Z

Call, S.N., Name, Other Call

See page 78, Oct. QST and www.eusprint.com

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

Oct. 17, 0000Z to Oct. 18, 2400Z

Exchange: RS(T) & age; YL: 00

See page 78, Oct. QST and www.edsoftz.com/JARTS

Stew Perry Warmup Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Oct. 17, 1500Z to Oct. 18, 1500Z

Exchange: Grid Square

See page 78, Oct. QST and web.jzap.com/k7rat/stew.rules.txt

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

Oct. 17, 1500Z to Oct. 18, 1459Z

Exchange: RS(T) & serial number or DOK code

See page 78, Oct. QST and www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcg.htm

Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, (CW), 15 & 20 meters

Oct. 18, 0000Z-0200Z,

Exchange: RST plus serial number

See page 78, Oct QST and www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt

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

Oct. 24, 0000Z to Oct 25, 2359Z

Exchange: RS & CQ zone

See page 78, Oct. QST and www.cqww.com

New WAZ Award

In celebration of the Worked All Zone award program's 75th anniversary, [CQ magazine](#) is announcing a limited-term "Diamond Jubilee WAZ" award. A special certificate will be issued to amateurs who make contacts in all 40 CQ Zones of the World between November 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010. Certificates will be numbered but there will be no endorsements. Confirmations will not be required. Full details are available on the CQ Web site or in the October issue of CQ. (ARRL Contest Update)

Alpha sold

A newly-formed [RF Concepts, LLC](#), has acquired Alpha and all its products as of September 2009. The entire product line will continue to be manufactured in Boulder, CO. Alpha will continue to be available at the same phone number. Extra efforts are being made to reduce the backlog of orders and maintain inventory for off-the-shelf shipping. (ARRL Contest Update)

Stew Perry

The Stew Perry Topband Distance

Challenge has established itself as the "friendly" 160 meter contest. While it enjoys strong activity, the band is slightly less crowded than the major 160 meter contests. This provides more opportunities for the "non super-stations" to make intercontinental QSOs. The next pre-Stew is coming on October 17th/18th 2009. The next Stew Perry is coming on December 26th/27th 2009.

Times for both events are 1500Z to 1500Z. Operate a maximum of 14 hours. Exchange your four digit grid square. Click [here](#) for full rules.

Solar Update

The NOAA/USAF forecast predicts the same very quiet geomagnetic conditions we've seen for some time, with a planetary A index around 5. Two very small increases are predicted for October 11-12, with an A index of 7, and October 24-25, with the A index at 8. Average sunspot numbers for the week dropped 15.3 points below the September 24-30 period, and average daily solar flux for the week declined 2.2

points to 70.5. Sunspot numbers for October 1 through 7 were 11, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0 with a mean of 1.6. 10.7 cm flux was 72, 71.6, 71.6, 71.1, 69.9, 68.9, and 68.5 with a mean of 70.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 2, 2, 1, 4, 2, 1 and 2 with a mean of 2. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 0, 1, 4, 2, 1 and 1 with a mean of 1.6. (ARRL K7RA Propagation Report)

October Contests

The Oceania DX Contest, CW: 0800Z, Oct 10 to 0800Z, Oct 11. And of course, the CQWW SSB test 0000Z Oct 24 to 2400Z, Oct 25. Information concerning other upcoming contests is provided in the current issue of QST in the new Contest Corral section. Also see the WA7BNM contest calendar at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php>

So long 'til next time. . .



de N4WBS

October DX Contests (cont'd from p. 2)

OTHERS:

FISTS Fall Sprint

1700Z-2100Z, Oct 10

ARCI Fall QSO Party

1200Z, Oct 17 to 2400Z, Oct 18

Stew Perry Topband Challenge

1500Z, Oct 18 to 1500Z, Oct 19

W/VE Islands QSO Party

1600Z, Oct 17 to 2359Z, Oct 18

RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB

1900Z-2030Z, Oct 8

Ukrainian DX Contest

1200Z, Nov 7 to 1200Z, Nov 8

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

Chuck, N4NM



Miscellanea

Radio Stolen

My Icom IC-91AD was stolen out of my car this weekend. Let me know if you hear of someone trying to sell a IC-91AD with a bunch of accessories for a cheap price, it'll likely be my stolen radio. Serial# is 267455.

Since the thief left the rubber duck antenna behind, I suspect he didn't really know what he was stealing.

Thanks,

Charles Boley, KI4VFW

ki4vfw@mac.com

For Sale: Titan 425

Hello all: As a result of my purchase of the Alpha 91B owned by our late friend, KS4Q, my Titan 425 is now excess to my needs. I purchased the amplifier new in 1988. It was not used from 1992 until 2006, so its tubes don't have the hours of use you might expect from an amplifier in my shack. So, it is one owner, who is not a smoker. I am asking \$2200.00 plus shipping if shipping is necessary. It has just been reworked at the TenTec factory. Includes original manual. It is, of course, a full power, full QSK amplifier.

The amplifier is now in Sylvania, GA at the home of K4BG, who picked it up for me from the factory at the TenTec hamfest. It can be picked up or shipped or we may find some way to deliver it within a reasonable distance.

73, John, K4BAI.

k4bai@worldnet.att.net

Lamar County/Fayette County Tailgate

5th Annual Lamar County-Fayette County Amateur Radio Tailgate

9:00am until Everybody Is Ready To Go Home

No Fees to Set-Up or Sell (Bring your own Tables)

Vernon City Park, Vernon, Alabama.

Live Entertainment

We Will Be Giving Away A Portable 2meter Radio

J Circle, off Beaver Creek Road

Great Food - Hamburgers And BBQ With All The Fixins

(\$1.00 Per Chance)

Take 17 North from Town and turn Right on Beaver Creek Rd.

(Please Give A Donation)

Talk-In on 145.430 Mhz - Offset

(Watch For Signs)

Buy, Sell, Or Trade Your Used Radio Gear,

(No Tone)

Saturday, October 10, 2009

Or Anything Of Value

For Further Info Contact Dave Robertson, W3CO dave@ki4qah.com

From the Internet

By Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI

After a brief period of sunspots appeared I know we all began to get hopeful for some really good propagation. So, for this month I thought I would do a sunspot special with the websites. Enjoy!

Kevin
KG4TEI

General Solar Information

<http://www.spaceweather.com/>
<http://www.solarcycle24.com/>

Ionosonde Data

[http://www.ips.gov.au/
HF_Systems/6/8](http://www.ips.gov.au/HF_Systems/6/8)
[http://www.radiosport.ca/zoneprop/
index.php](http://www.radiosport.ca/zoneprop/index.php)

MUF Map

[http://www.spacew.com/www/
realtime.php](http://www.spacew.com/www/realtime.php)
[http://www.ips.gov.au/
HF_Systems/6/6/1](http://www.ips.gov.au/HF_Systems/6/6/1)