



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- Historical Quiz
- Short Skip
- Christmas Party
- Ultimate DX Elmer

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

What has Ham Radio done for You Today?

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

What do DXers do when DXers aren't DXing? Do they crawl into caves to await the next DXpedition, or like locusts, disappear for years anticipating some magic point in the next solar cycle? Not NADXC members, nor indeed hams in general in our area.

Let's look at a few recent examples of local hams going outside the confines of their shacks to serve the public. These are cases which came to my mind immediately—a few more minutes of thought would no doubt have yielded many more.

Bill Gerth, W4RK, authored a three-part series in recent QST issues describing emergency communications in Williamson County, TN. As the misfortune of many proved, it could not have been more timely. It portrays the ability of ham radio operators to plan ahead and put in place equipment, arrangements with served organizations, and rosters of volunteers so that when needed, hams are a functioning part of the relief effort, not part of the problem. Hams don't just appear out of nowhere when the going gets tough: they are involved beforehand.

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, and Ron Shafer, W4VM, (my apologies to

those I left out) are examples of hams in the trenches, not for a day's preparedness exercise, but during the real thing, and for the long haul. As hurricane relief communicators, these hams delivered the traffic. Theirs was the burden to leave families, jobs and other commitments, bring radio equipment and handle their own logistics, to live off meals ready-to-eat as operators ready-to-communicate.

Madison County held an exercise on October 25th testing the ability to handle a scenario with a localized radiological hazard arising from terrorist weapons preparation gone awry. A host of hams were involved in official and volunteer capacities, including Chris Reed, KF4MMF, Jared Cassidy, KQ4VT, Rolf Goedhart, K4RGG, Rusty Russell, KF4NTX, Scott Worsham, W4SSW, and Ken Magnant, W4WEY. Practice sessions such as these hone the ability to respond when needed. In the post-911/tsunami/hurricane/earthquake environment, the value of those who just happen to be hams as components of operations such as these is increasingly appreciated. Ham radio was not part of this operation, but you can bet the liaison between ham volunteers and hams as officials fostered by ham such ham involvement comes in very handy when the going gets tough.

"What has Ham Radio done for You Today", Continued on p. 4

DX, Radio, Electronics... Historical Quiz

Program by You!

Remember "So You want to be a DX Millionaire"? The November program will be a historical variation on this theme, kinda, sorta...well, maybe not at all. At any rate, the LongPath staff have been working feverishly on a question pool to form the basis for this quiz. See page 4 for a few more obscure details. Most importantly, show up and see how it pans out.



The LongPath Staff

Interim Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Departments:

Myron Manker, W4UR, Short Skip

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Tim Pearson, KU4J, DX Elmer

Key Contributors:

Jason Amos, KD4BJW

Monte Bateman, WB5RZX

Photographer/Consultant:

Jared Cassidy, KQ4VT

The October meeting of North Alabama DX Club was called to order at 7:05 PM on October 11, 2005. This is the official yearly meeting of the club, at which a year end report is given by the president, and elections held for officers and directors for the upcoming year.

The attendance sheet has disappeared, but attendance was less than stellar. Visitors were welcomed, and included the family of John Fitzer, KA3TNS, the program speaker for the evening.

Tom, KG4CUY mentioned that Chuck Lewis, N4NM and others [see front page article – ed.] had served in some relief efforts for hurricane victims.

Tom and others commented on the K7C logging and the display on the web.

Minutes from the September meeting were approved as they appear in the October LongPath.

No treasurers report was given, but financials will be given in the year-end report to follow.

No old business.

New Business:

The nominating committee report was given by Michael Werner, KF4BOG:

President—Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Vice President—Bob De Pierre, K8KI

Secretary/Treasurer—Jason Amos, KD4BJW

Directors—Vic Holland, K4RVH and Mike Maples, K4ADK

Nominations were opened to the floor, but no nominations were made.

Nancy Morris, K4JD moved to accept the slate reported by the nominating committee by acclamation. Tom Russell, N4KG second, and the motion passed.

For purposes of ensuring fiscal continuity, the incoming and outgoing secretary/treasurers will meet.

The president submitted the following as a year end report, comparing the past two years at this time:

- Members: 2004=53; 2005=55
- Cash: 2004=\$3700, 2005:\$4080

2005 figures include banquet payments already made.

Tom mentioned we needed to improve the regular attendance, and announced the new unusual QSL card area in the LongPath.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chuck Lewis and seconded by Michael Werner.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm, and followed by a program by John Fitzer, KA3TNS, on the HARC-6 receiver.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason KD4BJW

Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| What has Ham Radio done for You? | 1 |
| October 11th Meeting Minutes | 2 |
| Short Skip | 3 |
| DXer of the Year Voting | 3 |
| NADXC Christmas Party | 4 |
| Historical Quiz Rules | 4 |
| The Ultimate DX Elmer Experience | 5 |
| Unusual QSL Card | 6 |
| DX Contests | 7 |
| Thanks, Turkey | 7 |

LongPath Ads

are available at everyday low prices. Want to buy, sell, or give stuff away? Contact Tom in the advertising department at

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

We'll hold a spot for you.



K7C Log Data Now Available

The recently completed K7C DXpedition to Kure Atoll has now posted its final log information. To access it, go to the DXpedition's website (www.cordell.org/htdocs/KURE/index.html) and click on the "DXA (realtime)" link in the upper right corner. Then, click on the log-in box in the lower left corner of the DXA page, enter your callsign, and check for your "greenies."

Don't Forget the CQ World-Wide (CW) Contest

Hopefully, every interested NADXCer had a chance to participate in the SSB version of the CQWW contest last month. The CW version will be held 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.

House Action Moves Ahead on Bill to Allow KP1/KP5 Access

On October 19, the Committee on Resources of the U.S. House of Representatives referred H.R. 1183 to the full House for further consideration. The bill, if ultimately adopted by Congress, would require the Secretary of Interior (through the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) to permit public access to the wildlife refuges on Navassa Island (KP1) and Desecheo Island (KP5). Wildlife preservationist and environmental protectionist organizations are sure to mount an aggressive campaign to defeat the legislation when debate begins, so it will require effort by DXers to contact their Representatives to aid in getting their support. To see the full text of H.R. 1183, and to determine the name of your Congressman/Congresswoman, go to www.house.gov. You can either call your representative at 1-888-818-6641 or send an e-mail.

2005 Field Day Results Now Available . . .

The ARRL has now released the results of 2005 Field Day activities. The HARC/K4BFT operations were again successful, recording the ninth highest score of all 2,202 Field Day entries submitted. Among the 72 participants in Category 5A, K4BFT ranked first in the number of total QSOs and second in the number of total points. Complete results will appear in the December 2005 issue of QST.

Comments Pour In on FCC's "No Code" Licensing Proposal

At the time this column is being written (just prior to the October 31 filing deadline) there have been almost 3,200 comments filed with the FCC in response to its proposal to eliminate Morse code testing as a requirement for all U.S. amateur radio licenses. The

Commission's deadline for reply comments is November 14, but any final decision will probably not be issued for a few more months. We'll see how this turns out, but I would be very surprised if the proposed rule change is not adopted. (Dah . . dah-dah-dah . . dah-dah-dah // dah-dit-dit-dit . . dit-dah . . dah-dit-dit!)

Veteran's Day Remembrance . . .

On Friday, November 11, Veteran's Day, we should all pause again to remember the countless Americans who have served in our country's armed forces over the years. With many thousands of our military personnel still serving overseas in dangerous and difficult duty assignments, Veteran's Day 2005 has a special significance. We thank them, we honor them, and we salute them.

73 es gud dx . . . de W4UR

DXer of the Year Voting By the LongPath Staff

Members present at the November meeting will vote for NADXC DXer of the Year: a club member who exemplifies the art and spirit of DXing. While the details of how this is interpreted are left to the voter, it is the shared opinion of the LongPath moral, legal, and philosophical editors that a real DX operator of some sort is an appropriate choice.

As has been the custom, your ballot may include up to three votes, the first vote having the greatest weight, and the third having the least — you may use the ballot below and save on printing costs. The NADXC electoral college will tabulate the ballots, and in a method as

straightforward and open as the Coach's Poll, determine the winner, after which the ballots will be burned. The winner will be recognized at the Christmas party on Tuesday, December 13th.

DXer of the Year Sample Ballot

| | Name | Call |
|-----|-------|-------|
| #1: | _____ | _____ |
| #2: | _____ | _____ |
| #3: | _____ | _____ |



What has Ham Radio done for You Today?

(continued from p. 1)

This month's DX Elmer column shows Tim Pearson, KU4J and Monte Bateman, WB5RZX planting seeds for the next generation of public-spirited communicators. Their mixture of group fun, educational material, and gee-whiz excitement is a recipe for certain success. The kind of patience and persistence needed to make it through a pileup no doubt comes in handy dealing with a group of energetic youngsters. The ham's ability to invest this way in the future requires faith in these young individuals, and in the power of the message. Such work is necessary to ensure names and calls are available when another article like this is written in a generation's time.

Those hams who have helped out this year alone for bicycle, foot, automobile, and motorcycle races in our area are too many to be numbered here. On a good day, ham radio traffic may be as routine as reporting the positions of lead runners, but when a bicyclist is down or a rest stop runs out of food, a handy ham in an area with spotty cell phone coverage is a blessing indeed. Events like this occur in countless locations every weekend across America.

The glass-is-half-full, spectrum-grabbing "why to we need these archaic brass-pounders anymore" nay-sayer may well (and certainly has in the past) bring out that just by chance these few examples include hams. Indeed, it just so happens hams are members of the general population, who like the doctor or the cop, are sometimes called upon to use their knowledge and training in unusual circumstances. Long may it be so.

It is months until the sultry days of late June, but the U.S. Space and Rocket Center has offered to make space available for Field Day, thanks to Space Camp's Melissa Snider who, you

guessed it, just happens to be KI4CWU. A few of us will be giving these three sites a once-over. While the new Intergraph site turned out to be a good one for us (as K4BFT's ranking attests), it never hurts to have a backup site. If they turn out to be good locations in other respects, and prone to draw interest from the summertime Space

Camp sessions, let's give serious thought to trying out this new location. Space Camp attendees, like Scouts, are a well-targeted audience for the ham radio message.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

NADXC Christmas Party—Tuesday, December 13th

The NADXC Christmas Party will again be held at Greenbrier's Barbeque at I-565 and Greenbrier Road, near the big white water tower. This is the Greenbrier's right off I-565, not the one further north on Greenbrier Road. We'll begin around 6:30 pm.

While there is no business meeting, there are a couple of important items of business to be handled:

- Installation of Officers

- Presentation of DXer of the Year award
- Presentation of the David L Reasoner award

As a subtle hint, we hope to have both the official NADXC photographers present to record the proceedings for the LongPath. Others wishing to record this event for posterity are encouraged to do so.

See you Tuesday, December 13th, at 6:30 pm.

DX, Radio, Electronics... Historical Quiz Rules

Member participation will be the key feature of the November program. A pool of questions will be provided. The judge (KG4CUY, or any volunteer) will draw questions from the pool. The first person to answer the question receives one point. Questionable questions may occasionally arise, so discussion aimed at ferreting out the question's intent may be appropriate prior to actually answering. The judge may invoke censure on such discussions, but it is highly unlikely.

Participants may supply their own questions. Questions may be added to the pool, in the form of paper slips tossed into the proverbial hat, at any time before or during the quiz. Participants may elect to identify themselves as the author of the question, in which

case the author will receive a point when the question is correctly answered.

The topics are DX History, history of radio and other electronic communications, and the history of electronics, or perhaps even physics. The judge may throw out questions he deems deviate too far from these topics, at the risk of starting an argument.

Prizes may be awarded, depending on whether the prize committee comes up with some in time for the meeting.

Sample Question: In 1880 while searching for a way to prevent soot deposits from blackening the newly-developed carbon filament light bulb, what important discovery was made?

Oct 15-16, 2005

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) from Pack 351 in Madison, Alabama

Monte Bateman, WB5RZX and Tim Pearson, KU4J both of Pack 351 in Madison setup two (2) HF stations in LeatherTree park. The weather was perfect and we were able to locate our stations on a picnic table right next to a small shade tree.

We had an Icom 735 and a Yaesu FT-1000MKF both operating from deep cycle marine batteries and using tripods and vertical antennas (tnx K4RVH!).

On Saturday the conditions were

excellent and we were able to make contact with scout stations from many states along with Puerto Rico (KP4), England (MO), France (TM6), Germany (DL) and Luxembourg (LX1JAM). The highlight on Saturday was working a scout station in South Africa (ZS6WRS), if that's not a way to hook potential new hams/DX'ers I don't know what is!! . Sundays conditions were not quite as good but our CQ's were answered by many US stations along with Jamaica (6Y5) and Yukon (VY1). We also exchanged 73's & 88's with a group of Girl Scouts in Montana (K2BSA/7).

We were visited by approximately 25 scouts from ages 6 to 13 with all scout programs represented; Tiger, Cub, Webelos, Boy Scouts and a few Girl

Scouts, the majority being Cubs and Webelos. Many troops/packs from the Huntsville/ Madison area were represented.

We came prepared with a globe, a detailed map of the U.S., a white board and a stack of QSL cards. We also brought an album with QSL cards from every country! Every scout was able to contact another scout station, during each QSO we would locate the other station on the map or globe. They got to ask the other stations about the weather and what they liked best about scouting. Many scouts were very curious about how they were able to talk so far away, so on the white board we

"DX Elmer", continue on p. 6



gave them a quick tutorial on the ionosphere and how the radio waves bounced off of the ionosphere.

It was really rewarding seeing the look on a scout's face when the other station would come back and address the scout directly by name. Every scout came away with a new scout friend elsewhere in the world, a geography lesson, a science lesson, a QSL card with details of their contact and an opportunity to obtain a neat JOTA patch to wear on their uniform.

Hopefully we have sparked an interest in ham radio in some of these youngsters and may hear them in the next big pileup with their own callsign! That's how I (KU4J) got my start in ham radio some 35 years ago when a ham visited our cub pack meeting and worked Clovis, NM on 40m CW. Back then learning morse code was a requirement for the radio merit badge.

Many thanks to other JOTA participants from around the country and world that made this event a rousing success!

Unusual QSL Card
By the LongPath Staff

This month's unusual QSL card depicts the perils of the old-growth antenna farm. Those towers which are manageable and cute when first planted can over decades grow into behemoths capable of snagging both aircraft and signals from the skies. The accomplishments to the right of the tower indicate the occasional visit from the FAA didn't dampen AB5T's on-the-air ardor.

**A
B
5
T**



Richard Pippin
Rt. 2, Box 25
Lawton, Ok 73501 U.S.A.

W.A.S.
DXCC
50 Mhz VUCC # 318
144Mhz VUCC # 146
432 Mhz

Comanche County
Locator: Grid EM04

Ex: WA5NOZ
ARRL LIFE MEMBER
1x2 W.A.S. # 269
2x1 W.A.S. # 3
W-1x2 W.A.S. # 8
N-1x2 W.A.S. # 10
K-1x2 W.A.S. # 9
W.A.S.² # 4

Yesterday I got Alaska,
Hawaii and a nasty
letter from the FAA.



DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

Ukrainian Dx Contest (CW/SSB/RTTY), 160-10 meters

Nov. 5, 1200Z to Nov. 6, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus S.N. (+ Ukr. Region)

See page 103, Nov. QST

JA International Contest (SSB), 80-10 meters

Nov. 12, 0700Z to Nov. 13, 1300Z

Exchange: RS plus CQ zone

See page 99, Apr. QST or jidc.org/jidrxrule-e.html

WAEDC Contest (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Nov. 12, 0000Z to Nov. 13, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus serial number

See page 94, Aug. QST or www.aedc.de

OK/OM DX Contest (CW), 160-10 meters

Nov. 12, 1200 to Nov. 13, 1200Z

Exchange: RST plus serial number; OK/OM will add district code #

See page 103, Nov. QST or <http://okomdx.crk.cz/>

LZ DX Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Nov. 19, 1200Z to Nov. 20, 1200Z

Exchange: RST plus ITU zone or 2-letter LZ district

See page 103, Nov. QST or www.qsl.net/lz1fw/contest

CQ Worldwide CW, (CW), 80-10 meters

Nov. 26, 0000Z to Nov. 27, 2400Z

Exchange: RST & CQ zone

See page 101, Oct. QST or cqww.com

OTHERS:

DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest

1100Z-1700Z, Nov 6

SARL Field Day Contest

1000Z, Nov 12 to 1000Z, Nov 13

All Austrian 160-Meter Contest

1600Z, Nov 19 to 0700Z, Nov 20



RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW

2100Z, Nov 19 to 0100Z, Nov 20

ARRL 160-Meter Contest

2200Z, Dec 2 to 1600Z, Dec 4

ARRL 10-Meter Contest

0000Z, Dec 10 to 2400Z, Dec 11

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

Chuck, N4NM

NADXC Officers

President: **Tom Duncan**, KG4CUY
duncant1@ds-s.com or 256-539-7544

Vice President: **Steve Werner**, AG4W
stevewr@comcast.net or 256-882-6826

Secretary/Treasurer: **Vic Holland**, K4RVH
k4rvh@arrl.net or 256-721-9106

Director: **Chris Reed**, KF4MMF
creed@hiwaay.net or 256-837-8564

Director: **Stephen Carroll**, K2SC
k2sc@arrl.net or 256-828-2077

Thanks, Turkey!

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY and Chris Reed, KF4MMF

Congratulations! We did it! After all the uncertainty which surrounded K4BFT Field Day 2005 from the outset, the Big Fat Turkey again ranked in the top ten overall.

A hearty round of thanks to all who helped out in many ways to make this possible. Let's do it again in 2006.

73, KG4CUY and KF4MMF

Free Firewood—Already Cut, 6' lengths

FREE FIREWOOD - All Hardwoods
Over 50 pieces. Diameters range from 3 inches to 10 inches
Large limbs and 3 recently downed trees also available.

Each 3" log equivalent to 20 6146s for 3 hours.

Contact Tom Russell, N4KG