

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

W1 Advantage

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Special points of interest:

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- Short Skip
- Election Results
- One Man's Bid...
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- ARRL SS CW Contest
- CQ WW SSB DX Contest
- Diehl Martin, W4TI (SK)

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

During a flurry of brief appearances of countries not in my log, I found myself away from powerful radios and decent antennas, and therefore only able to hear of others working these gems. On two successive Sundays, I did have the time to see what my little KX-1 and some wire could do.

The first easily-fixed problem was to replace the batteries stolen from my MFJ-269 SWR analyzer for use on this trip. I know that instrument devours batteries, but I truly thought they had a couple of hours of useful life in them. Perhaps a few temperature cycles riding around in the trunk of my rental car did them in. Just to be safe, I scoured the AA section of the grocery store display rack for the 16 and 20 cell megapacks, looking for stickers guarantying hundreds of QSOs. I couldn't find the sticker, but left the store armed with QRP power anyway, and a renewed appreciation for how much of the price of a battery must be devoted to packaging and marketing. Batteries are indeed an example of "cheaper by the dozen".

Now for a suitable /P QTH. Sunday, Oct. 21 was an absolutely beautiful day in the mid '70s, so hiding from the elements was no issue. I had toyed with the idea of bringing my home-brew Easy-hang knock-off to aid in raising an antenna, but wondered what the TSA inspectors might think of this. The first few times I send my QRP paraphernalia case inside another suitcase, that item of luggage arrived one flight later than I did, so I have taken to labeling it "amateur radio equipment". Whether by coincidence or what I don't know, but since then I've had no unusual luggage problems, even though I always find the little TSA greeting card inside my suitcases.

At any rate, no Easy-hang, so I resorted to my reasonably proven record of tying a rock to the end of the spool of antenna string. After a few

heaves, the string was as far up in the tree as it would ever be, so the 26' antenna was hoisted into a position I had hoped would be vertical, to take advantage of the nice salt water ground plane nearby. The antenna wasn't quite vertical, but approximated that configuration within perhaps 60 degrees. The waterlogged picnic table operating position was reluctant to be dragged any closer to the tree, so this was as good as I could do. I laid out the radials, got out the log book, and got down to business.

It was now about 14:15 UTC. I tuned around on 20m, as was astonished to hear so much European activity. I felt as though I had a metal wall to my west, though—one station in Rhode Island was the sole North American station I could hear. Surely I was out of luck. I called CQ, and managed to raise NOUR in Minnesota at 14:30 UTC. We gave each other glowingly overrated signal reports through the deep QSB, and sensibly cut the QSO short.

I wondered if any of these Europeans could hear my mighty 2.5W emanating from this very questionable antenna. It took a few calls, but OH1SUF did. So did PA3GAF and OK1EW. By this time, North America seemed to be opening up on 40m, putting VE3KZ and WA1LWS in the log. It must have been those new batteries.

That day's most tantalizing experience was tuning around on 20m to catch MIOBPB answering VK6CD. I was very impressed with VK6CD's signal, and so was Andrew on the other end of that QSO. I suppose we both simultaneously realized we had left off a dit when Vlad gave his QTH as Baku. 4K is not in my log — in fact, I don't think I've ever hear Azerbaijan before. Andrew and Vlad's QSO was a short rag-chew, and my hope was 4K6CD hadn't been spotted, and some miracle would result in a KG4CUY/1-4K6CD QSO.

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Alas, I may have come close, but no cigar. After their goodbyes, 4K6CD called CQ again, and the throng had yet to assemble to snag him. I answered, and would like to believe the several “/1?” from 4K6CD meant he heard me. My opening was very brief. I think it was G4ZRL who got him next. Thanks Vlad for a valiant attempt.

This activity on 20m was dominated by Europeans and those W1s not outside enjoying a beautiful Indian summer day. It was an example of the “W1 advantage” I’ve heard about, principally from N4KG. With my first hop over salt water, even peanut power made it into Europe, and perhaps even western central Asia. Thus, at the right hour, the US eastern seaboard can fight it out with Europeans for stations in EU’s back yard, while those of us further inland must wait our turn.

I’m sure all is not a bed of roses for W1. The next weekend, I attempted to improve the verticality of my antenna by moving my QTH to Miles Standish State Park, directly under a tall tree. The antenna went straight up, the radials were perpendicular to it, and the salt water was not all that far away. HB9BQR and I1YRL were easy to work, but K0RU/M in Kansas City on 20m, and WB3AAI in Sandy Ridge, PA on 40m were like pulling teeth.

Now I’ve experienced the “W1 Advantage” first-hand. I think I know

why I hear them working stations I don’t hear. That gives them the jump on us in competition with EU, at least at certain times, and in certain directions. I’m glad to have been able to see this phenomenon in action first hand.

All-in-all though, I don’t think I’m ready to move.

73 and Happy Thanksgiving,

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

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WANTED

I need a short piece of 2 inch Diameter Boom stock (3 to 4 ft). Also, looking for various pieces of Aluminum Tubing from old / broken / damaged Cushcraft, HyGain or Mosley Antennas.

What have you got that is cluttering your garage?

Any damaged TH3, TH6, or TA33 antennas available?

Contact Tom N4KG@AOL.com

Short Skip

By Tom Homsley, N4WBS

ARRL Front Page

Earlier this fall, ARRL introduced the third edition of its [Low Power Communication](#) book, authored by Rich Arland, W3OSS. This new edition includes the complete assembly manual for a 40 meter transceiver kit produced by [MFJ Enterprises](#). "ARRL has also [bundled the book with the kit](#), giving readers a firsthand experience at project-building and operating," said ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. This is the first time ARRL has offered a publication bundled with a radio kit. The kit selected for this offering is the MFJ 40 Meter CW Cub Transceiver Kit. The project includes some pre-assembled parts such as surface mounted components. Kit builders get to solder on connectors, inductors, trimmer capacitors and potentiometers. It takes only a few hours to complete the kit and get it on the air. (ARRL)

Listen to yourself on the radio

Hear yourself working W7EJ at CN2R in recordings of his 27 contest operations (and 97,000 QSOs) from Morocco from 2001 through 2007.

http://cn2r.net/cn2r/cn2log_interface/QSOs/Logbook.asp.

[The LongPath staff listened to some staff members' QSOs, and encountered examples of great ears in action. Aspiring DXpeditioners would do well to hear what they're in for. The rest of us who complain about pileups will appreciate the work put in by the DX op, and imagine how it feels after several hours in the chair.—Ed.]

November DXpeditions

V8 will be on from Brunei November 4 – 18th; see details at

<http://www.v8.pa7fm.nl/> (Daily DX)

November Contests

The CQ Worldwide CW DX Contest is the last weekend of this month. Information concerning other coming events is provided in the October issue of QST page 91 and on the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/nov.html>

Big Antennas

The OH8X/OH8NC super-station, not far from the Arctic Circle, sports a full-sized 3-element, 160 meter Yagi on a rotating tower with elements made out of very large steel tower section? Or a full-sized 5- or 6-element 80 meter Yagi,

80 meters high. (Both scheduled for installation next year.) The radios will be state-of-the-art digital designs with DSP to optimize receive and transmit phasing of the stacked monobanders. <http://www.radioarkala.com> (ARRL Contest Rate Sheet)

World's Smallest Radio and Tower

Scientists at Berkeley have designed a fully functional, fully integrated radio receiver, orders-of-magnitude smaller than any previous radio, from a single carbon nanotube.

<http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~argon/nanoradio/radio.html>

So long 'til next time. . .

■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■
de N4WBS

2008 NADXC Election Results

By the LongPath Staff

2008 election for officers and directors of the NADXC was held at the official Annual Meeting on October 9th. The slate presented by the nominating committee was elected by acclamation, as follows:

President:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Vice President:

Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI

Secretary/Treasurer

Jason Amos, KD4BJW

Directors

Vic Holland, K4RVH

Mike Maples, K4ADK

Thanks Tom Russell, N4KG for a job well done as vice president for 2007.

Thanks to Kevin for accepting the position of Vice President. We hope all members will support Kevin in his search for monthly programs. Thanks also to Jason, Vic, and Mike for returning in their positions as officers and directors.

Beyond ham radio, is Morse code relegated to history's dustbin? Read about Chuck Adams' very unusual efforts to save it at online.wsj.com/article/SB119161604206850468.html?mod=hps_us_pageone.

The LongPath's interim editor frowns on undisguised copying of copyrighted material, even though all sorts of arguments might be made about attribution

being given, and non-commercial, educational use. The LongPath staff has, however, attempted to obtain permission to reprint certain articles, e.g., another interesting one also referred to us by Tom Homsley, N4WBS, on three-time All Star Joe Rudi, NK7U (sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2007/baseball/mlb/06/25/watn.rudi/index.html). Ham publishers like Bernie McClenny of Daily DX and the ARRL are generally willing to see their material propagated in this

manner, but others such as Sports Illustrated seem to seem otherwise inclined.

So the LongPath will continue to publish links to articles when that seems to be the appropriate means of bring the information to members.

By the way, when was the last time you heard “.-----.“ in a QSO?

DXer of the Year Voting By the LongPath Staff

The LongPath's mailbox last week contained a friendly reminder from the plaque factory that our DXer of the Year plaque order needs to get in the production queue pronto.

This means you need to cast your votes at the November meeting. Because of unusual circumstances at Ryan's (at least we hope they're unusual), our meeting room has been preempted for the second time this year, and we have been dumped into the rather noisy area to the right of the meeting room. Realizing that this may reduce attendance and impact the vote count, emailed votes, or votes otherwise cast by members not in attendance at the actual meeting will be accepted, unless there's a tremendous outcry in opposition to this one-time practice.

Your task is to think of from one to three NADXC members who deserve the title 2007 DXer of the Year, according to the following rules:

In selecting the recipient of the NADXC DXer of the Year Award, consideration should be given to the context in which the recipient's achievements were made; with experience, prior success, or operating resources being neither barriers nor prerequisites. Rather, the relative significance of the achievements and the recipient's skill, determination, and commitment, applied in accordance with the Amateur's Code, should be the primary determinants.

Achievements need not be limited to operating successes, and may include a variety of other activities. For example, research, technical publication, national or international recognition, and participation in activities both inside and outside NADXC are, among others, within the scope of this award, provided the other criteria detailed above are met.

With this in mind, fill out the following ballot or a facsimile and return it at or before the Tuesday, November 13th meeting.

NADXC DXer of the Year Sample Ballot

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

Regrettably, the scheme for calculating the winner is nowhere near as simple and crystal-clear as the guidance for voting, so suffice it to say the #1 vote on a particular ballot has more weight than the #2 vote, etc., and that the plaque factory will be notified of the winner's name and call sign so as to crank out a plaque in time for the Christmas Party to be held on Tuesday, December 11, at Green Hills Grille.

DX Contests for November

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

WAE DX Contest (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Nov. 10, 0000Z to Nov. 11, 2359Z
Exchange: RST plus serial number
See page 96, Aug. QST

Japan Int'l DX Contest, (SSB), 80-10 meters

Nov. 10, 0700Z to Nov. 11, 1300Z
(48 hours)
Exchange: RS plus CQ zone; JAs send prefecture
See page 97, Aug. QST

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

Nov. 10, 1200Z to Nov. 11, 2359Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus serial number
See page 101, Nov. QST

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

Nov. 17, 1200Z to Nov. 18, 2100Z
Exchange: RST plus ITU zone
See page 101, Nov. QST

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

Nov. 24, 0000Z to Nov. 25, 2400Z
Exchange: RST & CQ zone
See page 91, Oct. QST

OTHERS:

Ukrainian DX Contest,

1200Z Nov. 3 – 1200Z Nov. 4

YO International PSK31 Contest

1600Z-2200Z, Nov 16

All Austrian 160-Meter Contest

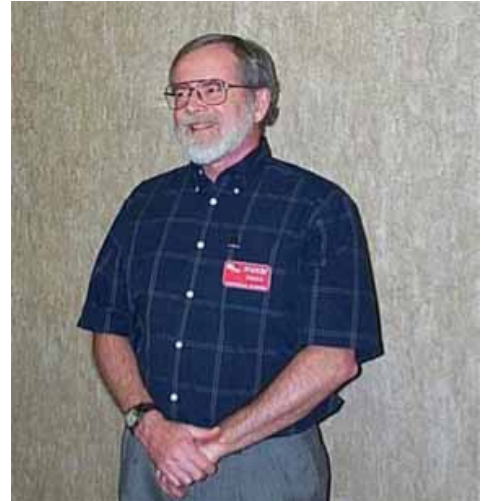
1600Z, Nov 17 to 0700Z, Nov 18

RSGB 1.8 MHz. Contest, CW,

2100Z Nov. 17 – 0100Z Nov. 18

ARRL 160-Meter Contest

2200Z, Nov 30 to 1600Z, Dec 2



ARRL 10-Meter Contest

0000Z, Dec 8 to 2400Z, Dec 9

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

Chuck, N4NM

K4BFT Field Day Results

By the LongPath Staff

It's November, so Field Day 2007 results are out at <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/scores.html>. It was a tough decision for Field Day chairman Leigh Bartlow, WD4CPF to pull K4BFT back to a 4A operation. The results show this was successful strategy, with K4BFT ending up #1 in class 4A, and #13 overall. As usual, the unusual (sic) dedication of station managers, operators, and all volunteers has once again made this possible.

Congratulations go out to all NADXC field day participants at all field day operations. Field day proves our ability to mobilize and move traffic by radio.

November Non-Program

It's happened again, but this time with somewhat longer notice. Ryan's reservation book turns over a new leaf at the beginning of the month, so I have been advised not to book our room during the preceding month, lest the reservation be lost. Calling bright and early on November 2nd (I was unable to call on the 1st), I was told our customary room had already been turned over to a party of 60, who would be taking both meeting rooms. We have again been relegated to the noisy area to the right of the meeting room.

To avoid problems hearing our program (you may recall this happened at the January meeting), the scheduled program has been canceled and replaced by a DX Quiz. Bring your questions!

Christmas Party

The NADXC Christmas Party will be held at Green Hills Grille Tuesday, December 11th, at 6:30 PM. This year we must reserve meals beforehand, and pay for the meals with one check. Therefore, get your reservations in to Tom Duncan ASAP, and by not later than Thursday, December 6th. More on this at next Tuesday's meeting.

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest CW

By Tom Russell, N4KG



ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW

Call: N4KG

Operator(s): N4KG

Station: N4KG

Class: SO Unlimited LP

QTH: ALA

Operating Time: 8 hrs

Summary:

Band QSOs

160:	0
80:	195
40:	30
20:	107
15:	18
10:	0

Total: 350 Sections = 80 Total

Score = 56,000

Club: Alabama Contest Group

Comments:

I'm a Multiplier-Oriented Guy so I started on 15M, thinking I would make a quick scan of the band to pick up those Western Multipliers. Well, the 6's were there, but at 100W, I was taking a back-seat in the pileups. The Strongest Signals on 15M at the start were from WP3R and NP2B whose pileups I could NEVER Break, even with the Beam turned on them!

On to 20M which was MUCH more productive. By the time I left that band (2351Z), I had ALL of the Western Multipliers (W6 / KH6, W7 / KL7, CO, KS, NM, WTX, plus VE7,6,5,4, and VE1) In the Log. Time for Dinner and a 40 minute break. (Did I mention this was a CASUAL entry geared to making a Sweep?)

At 0031Z, the Sun was Down and 40 Meters was LONG. 40 sounded more like 20 with lots of LOUD W6/7 stations plus WP3R and NP2B who were worked on the First Call with 100W and my NW / SE Dipole. It just doesn't pay to stay in high band pile-ups! I made 30 Q's in 35 minutes but could NOT get a RUN going. NOT ONE answer to my CQ's!

On to 80M at 0108Z. Scrolling up the band at one a minute, I found a clear spot near 3550 and started CQing. Someone must have spotted me shortly thereafter as the Rate Meter Peaked at 116. Not Bad for 100W to a Too High Dipole (130 ft high and Broadside to EUROPE)!

The Close-In Sections came rolling in. I decided to keep running to complete a full 2 hours just to see how I could do. When K0CIE from OK called in at 0314Z, I was tempted to go looking for W5WMU in LA as the last 'easy' multiplier I needed. Something made me stay 'just a little longer' until N5YE called in from LA. NOW it was time to go hunting for ND, NL, and NT, after 150 Q's in 2 Hours (and 2 minutes).

NO JOY. Off to bed at 0500Z. Maybe those elusive "N" sections would show up in the morning. Sure enough, K0RC was found high on 40M at almost 1500Z but NO VO or VY was heard in a scan of 20M. DRAT! The prospect of tuning 20M ALL DAY looking for those last 2 multipliers was too much.

With only NL and NT separating me from a Low Power Sweep, I gave in to temptation and resorted to Packet to find VO1HP and much later, VY1EA.

YEP, I failed to heed the advice I give to those who ask: "Go to the Band most likely to have Propagation at the time, Point your Antenna towards the needed section, and CALL CQ!"

I'm told that several who did use this technique were rewarded by a call from VY1JA. I guess I've been away from the SS Game for too long :-)

Tom N4KG in North Alabama



2007 CQ WW SSB DX Contest—N4KG Multipliers

By Tom Russell, N4KG

N4KG SOAB (A) HP	CQ	WW	SSB	DX	CONTEST	2007	MULTIPLIERS
01	3D2	9V	EP	HL	OA	TF	VP9
02	3D2/c	9X	ER	HM	OD	IG	VQ9
03	3D2/r	9Y	ES	HP	OE	TI	VR
04	3DA	A2	ET	HR	OH	TI9	VU
05	3V	A3	EU	HS	OH0	TJ	VU4
06	3W	A4	EX	HV	OJ0	TK	VU7
07	3X	A5	EY	HZ	OK	TL	XE
08	3Y/b	A6	EZ	I	OM	TN	XF4
09	3Y/p	A7	F	IG9	ON	TR	XT
10	4J	A9	FG	IS	OX	TT	XU
11	4L	AP	EH	IT9	OY	TU	XW
12	4S	BS7	FJ	FJ	OZ	TX0	XX9
13	4U1	BV	FK	J3	P2	TY	XZ
14	4U1U	BV9P	EM	J5	P4	TZ	YA
15	4U1V	BY	FO	J6	PA	UA	YB
16	4W	C2	FO/a	J7	PJ2	UA2	YI
17	4X	C3	FO/c	J8	PJ7	UA9	YJ
18	5A	C5	FO/m	JA	PY	UK	YK
19	5B	C6	FP	JD/m	PY0F	UN	YL
20	5H	C9	FR	JD/o	PY0S	UR	YN
21	5N	CE	FR/j	JT	PY0I	V2	YO
22	5R	CE0A	FR/l	JW	PZ	V3	YS
23	5T	CE0X	FR/t	JW/b	R1FJ	V4	YU
24	5U	CE0Z	FT8W	JX	R1MV	V5	YV
25	5V	CE9	FT8X	JY	S0	V6	YV0
26	5W	CM	FT8Z	K	S2	V7	Z2
27	5X	CN	FW	KG4	S5	V8	Z3
28	5Z	CP	FY	KH0	S7	VE	Z3
29	6W	CT	G	KH1	S9	VK	ZA
30	6Y	CT3	GD	KH2	SM	VK0H	ZB
31	70	CU	GI	KH3	SP	VK0M	ZC4
32	7P	CX	GJ	KH4	ST	VK9C	ZD7
33	7Q	CY0	GM	KH5	SU	VK9L	ZD8
34	7X	CY9	GM/s	KH5K	SV	VK9M	ZD9
35	8P	D2	GU	KH6	SV/a	VK9N	ZF
36	8Q	D4	GW	KH7K	SV5	VK9W	ZK1/n
37	8R	D6	H4	KH8	SV9	VK9X	ZK1/s
38	9A	DL	H40	KH9	SV9	VK9Y	ZK2
39	9G	DU	HA	KL	T2	VP2E	ZK3
40	9H	E3	HB	KP1	T30	VP2M	ZL
1A	9J	E4	HBO	KP2	T31	VP2V	ZL*
1S	9K	EA	HC	KP4	T32	VP5	ZL*
3A	9L	EA6	HC8	KP5	T33	VP6	ZL*
3B6	9M2	EA8	HH	LA	T5	VP6/d	ZL*
3B8	9M6	EA9	HI	LX	T7	VP8	ZL*
3B9	9N	EI	HK	LY	T8	VP8/g	ZL*
3C	9Q	EK	HK0/a	LY	T9	VP8/h	ZL*
3C0	9U	EL	HK0/m	LZ	TA	VP8/o	ZL*
					TAI	VP8/s	ZL*

Diehl Martin, W4TI (SK)

By Barry Johnson, W4WB



On the morning of 27 October 2007, Diehl Martin, W4TI, passed away at the age of 56. Shortly after moving to Guntersville from Huntsville in 2004, he was diagnosed to have Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma, which is typically deadly and swift. Diehl, with the help of folks at the UAB Hospital in Birmingham, fought hard to beat the odds of near zero. The fact that he remarkably lived for just over three years is a testimony to his determination and the support of his family and friends.

Diehl received his first license in 1963, and has held various calls, viz., WN6MTT, WB6UUB, WD5CYZ, N5AQ, and finally W4TI. While Diehl was working at my company, I helped him acquire the W4TI call sign. As Diehl said, "This is a truly great CW call, and one which I intend to hold on to forever. After all these years, I have come to

very much enjoy CW. It started out as the great obstacle to my becoming a ham radio operator, and has become my favorite mode." He was good at CW and could copy 30+ WPM in his head. Diehl did like DXing, but enjoyed nice CW rag chews even more.

Diehl served in the U.S. Navy and later graduated from the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He and his family moved to Huntsville in 1988, after working two years as an engineer at the TV station in Weslaco, Texas, and for a number of years as an electronics design engineer at Hughes Aircraft Company in Fullerton, California.

Ham radio, along with singing, music, church, and photography, was always an important part of Diehl's life. After the illness struck, he said, "... ham radio

was one of the few things I could do which could be done without having to go somewhere else to do it. I could participate fully, even though I was largely home-bound." He really enjoyed his fine station, 5-band Hex-Beam, and 40-m dipole shown in the photos. In the near future, his equipment will be available for sale. Diehl asked me dispose of it for his wife.

Diehl, W4TI (SK), is survived by his wife Monica (N6PSD) and their daughter Marie Martin, Ph.D. (KA6YHS), who lives in Mesquite, Texas and works for The Texas Engineering Extension Service.

Barry Johnson, W4WB