



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication



2009 in Review

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Special points of interest:

- 2009 in Review
- DXpedition Sponsorship
- CQ WW CW
- DX Contests
- DXer's Night before Christmas

It is customary at this time of the year to reflect on the past twelve months, and express our hopes for the future. This year continues on the heels of 2008 as a great year for DXpeditions, more numerous than we perhaps deserve, and a real delight, diverting our attention from the high-band doldrums.

Here are some of the DXpeditions—large, small, and in-between — we saw in 2009:

TS7C	Tunisia
FT5WO	Crozet
K5D	Desecheo
FT5XS	Kerguelen
E51SIX	South Cooks
K4M	Midway
VK9GMW	Mellish Reef
FT5GA	Glorioso
3D2OCR	Conway Reef
T07RJ	Mayotte
4W6FR	East Timor
A35A	Tonga
TX3A	Chesterfield
A31A	Tonga
TX5*	Australis & Marquesas

In terms of manpower and equipment brought to bear against pent-up desire for QSOs, the largest of these were spectacular indeed. But some of the smaller ones were important in their own ways. E51 may not be high on many HF lists, but it certainly is on 6 meters, the thrust of W7GJ's E51SIX operation. Similarly, Tonga is not especially rare, but A35A brought it to us on 60 meters. The TX5 Austral and Marquesas operations were exemplary for the tremendous QSO output of two guys in a small ocean-going boat.

My personal year-end ruminations include memories of the past five years as NADXC president. I must thank many NADXC members for help they have given me with programs, the LongPath, hamfest help, and more importantly, with my ever-continuing education in DXing and ham radio in general. This will be my last LongPath front-page column as president, although as editor, I reserve the right to put whatever I think appropriate on the front page, most importantly, contributions from other NADXCers.

As to the future, it will be whatever we make of it. Let's keep that in mind over the next several months as we revitalize our club.

Thanks and 73,

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

How to Join

* Come to a club meeting;

* or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)

* or call

Tom Duncan at 256-705-2147

NADXC Christmas Party

The NADXC Christmas Party will be held this coming Tuesday, December 8th, at Terra Nova on Paramount Drive near Gigaparts, beginning at 6:30 pm. We'll be in the private room toward to right rear looking from the front door. Just ask for NADXC, DX Club, Tom Duncan, or pull out your QRM locator and follow the path of maximum field strength. See you there!



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Members in attendance at the November 2009 meeting voted to support the 3W6C and TX3A DXpeditions, each for \$100. The donations were submitted a few days following the meeting.

The club logo appeared on the 3W6C web site as soon as I notified 3W6C's

sponsor coordinator Paul Schreier, AA1MI/HB9DST. This DXpedition is schedule for April next year. For more details, see www.3w6c.qrv.ch.

By the time you read this, TX3A will be history, and we'll all hopefully be in the log.

CQ WW CW

One of the great DX contests of the year is now in the record books for 2009—CQ WW CW. NADXC members KY5R, W4NBS, KR4F, N4NM, K8KI, N4KG,

KG4CUY, and possibly others, submitted scores. Let's take a look at some of N4KG's numbers:

QSO BREAKDOWN BY CONTINENT

station: N4KG SOAB(A) HP
 contest: CQ World Wide DX Contest 2009 CW

	160	80	40	20	15	10	total
N America:	22 (11%)	37 (19%)	35 (18%)	47 (24%)	43 (22%)	6 (3%)	190 (20%)
S America:	3 (2%)	10 (8%)	21 (17%)	31 (25%)	37 (30%)	18 (15%)	120 (13%)
Europe:	12 (2%)	87 (21%)	121 (30%)	144 (35%)	38 (9%)	0	402 (43%)
Africa:	0	11 (16%)	19 (29%)	17 (26%)	18 (27%)	0	65 (7%)
Asia:	4 (4%)	20 (20%)	21 (21%)	42 (43%)	9 (9%)	0	96 (10%)
Oceania:	3 (6%)	4 (8%)	12 (25%)	11 (22%)	17 (35%)	1 (2%)	48 (5%)

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From the Internet

By Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI

A few months back I brought you a site that had the history of WLW in Ohio, <http://www.ominous-valve.com/wlw.html>. I got good feed back about this site and found a new video of a ham that toured the facility. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaaRRGi-jRM&NR=1>. So grab some popcorn, sit back and relax for a few minutes.

I ran across this next site because it has a *what is it* contest about once a week. Hacked Gadgets, <http://hackedgadgets.com/>, has lots of hardware hacking (making something do something it shouldn't), plus forums and the like. Perfect for the bored inventor or ham radio operator. It is worth a look if for no other

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ARRL 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Dec. 4, 2200Z to Dec. 6, 1600Z
Exchange: RST plus ARRL/RAC Section
See page 66, Dec. QST and www.arrl.org/contests

Tara RTTY Melee, (RTTY), 160 – 10 meters

Dec 5, 0000Z to Dec. 5, 2400Z
Exchange: RST plus State, Prov. Plus serial #
See page 66, Dec. QST and www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html

ARRL Ten Meter Contest, (SSB & CW), 10 meters only

Dec. 12, 0000Z to Dec. 13, 2400Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus State or Province. DX: RST plus Ser. #.
See page 66, Dec. QST OR www.arrl.org/contests

Croatian CW Contest, (CW), 160 – 10 meters

Dec. 12, 1400Z to Dec. 13, 1400Z
Exchange: RST + SER. #
See page 66, Dec. QST and www.hamradio.hr

Upcoming Programs

Be prepared for some great programs in the coming months. John Stensby, N5DF will present the January program titled *The Indirect Method for Determining Coax and Antenna Tuner Loss*. Steve Werner, AG4W has two in the works—one on adding a panadapter to the Orion, and another on putting together a 160m vertical.

Thanks John and Steve. Have programs of your own? Please volunteer!

Russian 160 Meter Contest (CW/SSB) 160 meters

Dec. 12, 2100Z to 2300Z
Exchange: RS(T)+ Serial # + square ID (see website)
See page 66, dec. QST and www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results/

UBA Winter Contest, (CW, SSB, Digital) 160 – 40 meters

Dec. 12, 1700Z to Dec 13, 1000Z
Exchange: RS(T) and UBA section or serial #
See page 66, Dec. QST and users.telenet.be/on6ly

OK DX RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80 – 10 meters

Dec 19, 0000Z to Dec. 20, 2400Z
Exchange: RST plus CQ Zone
See page 66, Dec. QST and www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE.HTM

RAC Winter Contest (CW & PHONE), 160-2 meters

Dec 19, 0000Z to 2359Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial No.; VEs send RS(T) plus Province
See page 66, Dec. QST and www.rac.ca

DARC Christmas Contest, (CW & SSB), 75/80 & 40 meters

Dec. 26, 0830Z to 1100Z
Exchange: RS(T) [+DOK or special code for DL]
See page 66, Dec. QST or www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcx.htm

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW), 160 meters

Dec. 26, 1500Z to Dec. 27, 1500Z
Exchange: Grid square only
See page 66, Dec. QST and www.jzap.com/k7rat/stew.rules.txt

**RAEM Contest (CW), 80-10 meters**

Dec. 26, 0200Z to 0959Z
Exchange: Serial # plus Lat/Long (degrees)
See page 66, Dec. QST and http://www.srr.ru/CONTEST/cup_raem_engl_07.php (old date)

OTHERS:**PSK Death Match,**

0000Z Dec 12 – 2400Z Dec 13

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

Chuck, N4NM

**From the Internet
(cont'd from p. 2)**

reason than to see what people are doing with electronic junk.

I will leave you with two Christmas stories. Enjoy.

The Night Before Christmas – Ham Radio Style

http://home1.gte.net/longri2/humor/nb_hams.html

And A Hams Night Before Christmas (ARRL)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2004/12/24/2/?nc=1>

73, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Kevin

CQ WW CW
(cont'd from p. 2)

K5KA CBS report

Contest: CQ-WW-CW 2009

Callsign: N4KG SOAB(A) HP

Operators:

Category: SINGLE-OP-ASSISTED ALL HIGH CW

Hour	160	Q S O 80	R a t e 40	S u m m a r y 20	15	10	Total	Pct
0000	0	0	19	25	0	0	44	4.7
0100	0	0	65	0	0	0	65	7.0
0200	0	14	26	0	0	0	40	4.3
0300	0	0	35	0	0	0	35	3.8
0400	7	24	8	0	0	0	39	4.2
0500	0	13	0	0	0	0	13	1.4
0600	2	1	5	0	0	0	8	0.9
0700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
0800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
0900	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
1000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
1100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
1200	10	13	0	0	0	0	23	2.5
1300	0	3	10	9	0	0	22	2.4
1400	0	0	0	75	0	0	75	8.0
1500	0	0	0	4	43	0	47	5.0
1600	0	0	0	0	25	0	25	2.7
1700	0	0	0	16	9	4	29	3.1
1800	0	0	0	24	0	0	24	2.6
1900	0	0	0	0	9	16	25	2.7
2000	0	0	0	0	17	0	17	1.8
2100	0	0	0	16	0	0	16	1.7
2200	0	0	0	0	21	0	21	2.3
2300	0	0	0	15	0	0	15	1.6
0000	0	0	12	3	0	0	15	1.6
0100	0	0	20	0	0	0	20	2.1
0200	0	22	1	0	0	0	23	2.5
0300	0	17	0	0	0	0	17	1.8
0400	0	22	0	0	0	0	22	2.4
0500	6	11	0	0	0	0	17	1.8
0600	3	16	0	0	0	0	19	2.0
0700	16	3	1	0	0	0	20	2.1
0800	0	5	1	0	0	0	6	0.6
0900	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
1000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
1100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
1200	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	0.5
1300	0	0	10	0	0	0	10	1.1
1400	0	0	0	38	0	0	38	4.1
1500	0	0	0	5	26	0	31	3.3
1600	0	0	0	29	0	0	29	3.1
1700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
1800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
1900	0	0	0	0	4	1	5	0.5

**DXer's Night before
Christmas**

T'was the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the trees, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, now Generals,
Took their laptops to bed,
And remoted thru the net
to the rig in the shed.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
by a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver
who looked slightly mean.
So I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas
To clean up the bands.

N4KG CQ WW CW
(cont'd from p. 4)

2000	0	0	0	3	6	4	13	1.4
2100	0	0	5	1	3	0	9	1.0
2200	0	0	13	4	1	0	18	1.9
2300	0	0	0	25	0	0	25	2.7

Total 44 169 231 292 164 25 925

Gross QSO's=932 Dupes=7 Net QSO's=925

Unique callsigns worked = 607

The best 60 minute rate was 79/hour from 0049 to 0148
The best 30 minute rate was 94/hour from 0055 to 0124
The best 10 minute rate was 126/hour from 0114 to 0123

The best 1 minute rates were:
3 QSO's/minute 17 times.
2 QSO's/minute 103 times.
1 QSO's/minute 668 times.

There were 44 bandchanges and 1 probable 2nd radio QSO's.

Number of letters in callsigns

Letters # worked

3	15
4	423
5	318
6	155
8	8
9	1
11	5

----- M u l t i p l i e r S u m m a r y -----

Mult	160	80	40	20	15	10	Total	Pct
15	0	44	60	69	17	0	190	20.4
14	12	31	43	62	20	0	168	18.0
08	7	12	18	15	18	2	72	7.7
25	4	10	4	27	8	0	53	5.7
09	2	7	9	9	11	0	38	4.1
13	0	0	5	8	10	12	35	3.8
20	0	5	15	13	0	0	33	3.5
04	7	12	5	4	3	2	33	3.5
33	0	6	9	5	6	0	26	2.8
11	0	2	2	7	11	3	25	2.7
16	0	11	10	3	1	0	25	2.7
05	1	4	3	7	4	2	21	2.3
32	0	0	4	3	11	1	19	2.0
07	1	3	2	5	6	0	17	1.8
35	0	3	4	5	4	0	16	1.7
03	3	3	1	5	4	0	16	1.7

DXer's Night..
(cont'd from p. 4)

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Re-soldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp
(Never worked right before --
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV,
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box,
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!"
(If he thought I'd been bad
it might be QRP!)



N4KG CQ WW CW
(cont'd from p. 5)

31	3	3	2	3	4	0	15	1.6
06	1	1	4	4	4	0	14	1.5
38	0	2	4	4	3	0	13	1.4
01	1	1	1	5	3	0	11	1.2
10	1	1	2	2	3	2	11	1.2
27	0	1	4	3	2	0	10	1.1
19	0	2	1	6	1	0	10	1.1
12	0	0	2	3	2	1	8	0.9
21	0	3	3	0	0	0	6	0.6
02	1	1	1	1	1	0	5	0.5
37	0	0	1	1	2	0	4	0.4
36	0	0	1	2	1	0	4	0.4
30	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	0.4
24	0	0	1	3	0	0	4	0.4
29	0	0	1	3	0	0	4	0.4
17	0	1	2	0	0	0	3	0.3
39	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	0.3
40	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	0.3
28	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0.2
18	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.2
34	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.1
26	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.1

Total	44	169	231	292	164	25	925	

Multi-band QSO's

1 bands	425
2 bands	101
3 bands	41
4 bands	27
5 bands	11
6 bands	2

The following stations were worked on 6 bands:

6Y1V HC8GR

Thanks, Jason and Kevin

Thank you Jason, KD4BJW, for your several years of service as secretary/treasurer of the NADXC.

And thanks Kevin, KG4TEI, for serving as unofficial vice president and "program getter" for the past year.

The club has enjoyed the benefits of both these fellows operating behind the scenes, without having to endure rantings, ravings, or sermons.

73 to you both.



DXer's Night..
(cont'd from p. 5)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent,
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pile-up was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."

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So long 'til next time. . .



de N4WBS