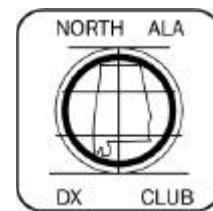


# The LongPath



A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## From the President's Desk

Boy, conditions have been awesome since the last meeting of the NADXC in early March. I noticed that conditions were ESPECIALLY good around the time of the equinox. In one day I managed to work HS (2), BV, AP and XV on 20m RTTY. There have also been quite a bit of DXpedition activity (XF4IH, 5V7C, R1FJ, TJ3G, 3B9, and T33 (just started)). Just because we're on the downward slide for solar activity doesn't mean things are boring! As I was writing this article the T33C DXpedition has just started up on 20m cw and ssb and it reminded me of what DXing is all about. DXing is about the thrill of the chase, you hear a huge pileup and wonder if you can make it through. There's always someone with a little better rig, or antenna, or maybe power so you have to hone your operating skills to compete with the BIG GUNS. It's just as exciting or more to find a DXpedition when they first pop up on a new band/mode and work them as it is to work them when the pileup is deep. I was tickled to be able to work T33C on 20m LP in the midst of a large European pileup.

Don't forget to read Myron's article on the FCC's request for comments on BPL. It is very important that we make our voice heard. On an issue close to BPL, I was if anyone else has noticed any Ethernet interference. Listen to 14.212, 14.334, 14.090, 24.900, 28.500 and see if you hear what appear to be birdies? I have 'birdies' almost every 60kHz. I have noticed these signals for quite a while and Vic, K4RVH and I finally found that these signals are coming from Ethernet equipment (computers, DSL modems, routers, etc). In my case it appears to be from a neighbor who has some sort of computer network or a DSL router/switch. In Vic's case it was his own equipment. If you look at the signal on a spectrum analyzer it looks like 4 or 5 carriers



within a 3khz window. We noticed that each one of the carriers roughly corresponds to a port on a DSL-router. In Vic's case using a shielded Ethernet cable helped reduce one of the carriers but without some major rewiring the other carriers were not easily reduced unless the router/switch was powered off. I believe this is going to be a problem 100 times worse than BPL if it is not addressed. Your neighbor is much more likely to have a \$50 DSL/router than BPL internet access. Please listen on these frequencies and email me if you noticed any 'birdies' on these frequencies ([ku4j@arrl.net](mailto:ku4j@arrl.net)).

I hope to see you at the April NADXC meeting!

73's Tim/KU4J

April 13th Program  
**"Modulation Envelopes  
and Sidebands"**  
by Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

7PM At Ryan's Steak House  
1808 University Drive  
Huntsville, AL

Volume 28, Issue 4  
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## "Short Skip" ...

*Myron Manker, W4UR*

**FCC's BPL Proposal - An Update** . . . In last month's *Long-Path*, I mentioned the FCC's recently announced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) concerning Broadband over Power Line (BPL) data transmission. Now it's now time to once again make our voices heard by the Commission by filing a comment concerning the proposed changes to Part 15 of the FCC rules. If you're not familiar with the implications of BPL, the ARRL web site ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)) has several useful items of information, including a two-page article titled, "BPL: Why Amateur Radio Is Concerned About Its Deployment," dated March 31, 2004. Then, please read the expanded article about the FCC's BPL proposal that appears later in this month's *LongPath*. It provides much more information about the NPRM and how to file comments. The filing deadline is Monday, May 3, and every NADXC member is strongly encouraged to prepare and submit a comment on this proposal. The importance of speaking out to protect our HF/low-VHF spectrum from harmful interference cannot be overemphasized. There is potentially much at risk for us, so please get involved and submit a comment before May 3.



**Alabama Section Convention** . . . The ARRL Alabama Section Convention will be held on May 1-2 in Birmingham. See page 103 in the April issue of QST for more information.

**Yaesu To Introduce New HF Radio** . . . A recent flurry of comments have been circulating about a new full-featured top-of-the-line HF transceiver that Yaesu plans to formally introduce at the Dayton Hamvention this year. Whether it's called the FT-2000D, or FTDX-9000, or something else, it promises to make a big splash. Together with the new Icom IC-7800 and the TenTec Orion, there seems to be an increasing availability of high-performance radios in the marketplace. (Too bad you have to pay so much for them!)

**Field Day 2004 Is Getting Closer** . . . The 2004 version of annual Field Day activities will be held the weekend of June 26-27. Many NADXC members will be needed again this year to help ensure another successful K4BFT operation. Plan to be involved in some way. If you're not asked to help - volunteer yourself. It's a great weekend experience.

**DXer - Police Thyself!** . . . I continue to be surprised at the large amount of "frequency policing" being done during attempts to work some of the rarer DX stations. It seems more prevalent on cw, but is noticeable on SSB, too. Folks who don't take the time to listen before they talk often wind up calling a DX station on his transmit frequency when he's working split and listening on another

*(continued on page 6)*

## Minutes from the March 9th Meeting

*Vic Holland, K4RVH*

The February meeting of North Alabama DX Club was called to order at 7:00 PM on March 9, 2004. Twenty-two members were in attendance along with two visitors. The visitors included John Piccirillo W4JXP and George McCanless W4SQ.

A few members mentioned some recent DX they had worked including YA8G, XF4, 5V7 and a VK6 on 160M.

Vic K4RVH gave the treasurer's report stating the funds on deposit and on-hand amounted to \$2709.26. A check in the amount of \$115.00 was mailed to Jess Lewis KR4OJ, as sponsorship to the T33C DXpedition. The \$115.00 was \$50 of club money and individual contributions by some members. Collected at the January meeting was \$67 toward possible DX Banquet shortfalls. A reminder was given by the treasurer for last call for dues.

Due to a procedural omission, the minutes of the February 2004 meeting were not approved due to no motion being made to approve. (We forgot!)

A vote on the budget was held and the budget was approved as presented during the previous business meeting.

New business discussions included the following;

A motion was made and carried to comp Rick's K4PC and Sydney's N4GDO membership in appreciation for the hosting of the clubs web site on their server.

A new membership application for John Piccirillo W4JXP was presented to the membership and voted on. John lost his visitor status for subsequent meetings as the vote was carried and his membership accepted.

Tim KU4J also reminded members of the upcoming DXCC honor roll deadline.

The business portion of the meeting was closed and followed by a presentation by Barry W4WB and Don AA4VN on HF mobiling.

Respectfully submitted,

Vic **K4RVH**

## QRP Homebrewer Sprint

*Tom Duncan, KG4CUY*

This year was my first "competing" in the NJQRP Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint. Like Straight Key Night, participants are out to have a good time, and if by chance they rack up a few points, so much the better. In that sense, it is a contest in name only, and a low-stakes one at that! The fairly rotten conditions severely restricted activity, so soon everyone had worked everyone else, and the contest turned into an on-the-air comparison of gear.

It is testimony to the quality of QRP kits that these mostly VFO-controlled rigs rightly earned the 9 for T in RST, and that they were at the same frequency at the beginning and end of an exchange. Still, there were a few rigs (and I suspect mine was one), which tested the range of the RIT control. Just as the deserving sinner shrinks into the pew as every bolt from the pulpit hits home, I was certain the message I heard an hour into the contest, to the effect:

ITS 0100Z, DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR VFO IS? DE A1OP K was aimed straight at me.

Nonetheless, QSOs were made. I'm sure those of us who don't run exclusively on homebrew rigs felt very pleased with ourselves at having again braved the dread manual T/R switch, and maybe even tuning transmitters and receivers separately. When it was all over, I was very proud of my little homebrew rigs.

But I didn't have any problem reacquainting myself with the ease-of-use of my "real" radio!

Tom Duncan, **KG4CUY**

## ARRL DX Bulletin

*Frank McGonigal, W6DSQ*

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, QRZ DX, the OPDX Bulletin, The Daily DX, 425DXnews, DXNL, WA7BNM and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

**QATAR, A7.** Ali, A71BX is usually QRV on 30 meters around 2300z. QSL direct.

**TAJKISTAN, EY.** Edi, EY7AF has been QRV on 40 meters CW usually around 0100z. QSL direct.

**GUADELOUPE, FG.** Antonio, IK8SUT and Maurizio, IK8YTN are QRV as FG/homecalls until April 20. QSL to home calls.

**AMERICAN SAMOA, KH8.** Volkmar, DF2SS is QRV as KH8/DF2SS and has been active using RTTY on 20 meters between 0240 and 0840z. He has also been active on 40 meters around 1900z. QSL via DL2MDZ.

**ARGENTINA, LU.** A number of Argentinean operators will be QRV as homecalls/D from Wood Island, IOTA SA-021, from April 9 to 11. Activity will be on all HF bands, including the newer ones, using all modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

**BANGLADESH, S2.** Rashid, S21AR has been QRV on 15 meters usually around 1400z. QSL direct.

**GABON, TR.** Alain, TR8CA has been QRV on 80 meters around 0015z. QSL via F6CBC.

**CHAD, TT.** Philippe, TT8PK has been QRV on 15 meters around 2200z. QSL via F4EGS.

**SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND.** Mike, GM0HCQ may be QRV as VP8SGK from Bird Island Station from April 14 to 19. QSL to home call.

**SOUTH ORKNEY ISLAND.** Mike, GM0HCQ may be QRV as VP8SIG from Signy Base from April 10 to 12. QSL to home call.

**INDONESIA, YB.** Stan, OK1JR will be QRV as YB0AJR/4 from Bangka Island, IOTA OC-144, from April 9 to 12. Activity will be on 40, 15 and 10 meters using CW and SSB. He may also be active in the JIDX contest. QSL to home call.

**IRAQ, YI.** Kaspar, YI9ZF has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters around 1630z and then on 30 meters. QSL via SM1TDE.



**SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, ZK1.** Harald, LA5UF will be QRV as ZK1UFF from April 11 to 16 while vacationing on Rarotonga. QSL to home call.

The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: YI9MD, effective February 17, 2004.

## Other DX Rumors and News

### OPDX 644 & 655 April 5, 2004

#### SECOND NOTICE FOR DAYTON TOPBAND GATHERING

George Taft, W8UVZ, states, "STILL TIME TO SIGN UP! All 160 meter enthusiasts are cordially invited to the Topband dinner on Friday night of the 2004 Dayton Hamvention. This annual event brings together 160 meter fans from around the world for food, drink and camaraderie." The event will be held May 14th, at Neil's Heritage House Restaurant (2323 Schantz Avenue, Dayton). Important times: 6:30 PM (Social Hour with Cash Bar) and 8:00 PM (Dinner). Tickets are: 28.00 USD each (includes complete dinner, taxes and gratuity). For more details, contact George Taft, W8UVZ, by E-mail at: [w8uvz@arrl.net](mailto:w8uvz@arrl.net) Reservations must be paid by May 1st.

#### DXCC NEWS

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL DXCC Manager, reported that the following are approved for DXCC Credit:

Myanmar - XZ1DA XZ6ST

Operations from February 23 to March 10, 2004

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL DXCC Manager, advises, "The DXCC Branch recently received a letter from Robert Felicite, 3B9FR, indicating that he has not sent any logs to F6FNU since 1999. Robert asked us to pass this along to the DX community. While we continue to receive these cards, the DXCC Branch will no longer issue 3B9FR credit for F6FNU-confirmed contacts made after 1999. Requests for QSL cards for 3B9FR should be sent direct to: Robert Felicite, P.O. Box 31, Citronelle, Rodriguez Island, REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, Indian Ocean."

#### 3B9C RODRIGUES ISLAND DXPEDITION (Update)

As this was being written on Sunday morning, the 3B9C team has hit over 126,000 QSOs. Remember, you still have a little over a week to work them. Their activity will last until April 13th, so who can guess what their total QSO count will end up as. According to the updates on their Web page, the team will now move more into the U.S. general parts of the bands. Look for more RTTY and PSK activity (over 3500 QSOs have been made so far). 6 meters and EME activity will continue. They have made four EME contacts on 70cm and one on 6 meters. QSL via the RSGB QSL Bureau or direct to: FSDXA, PO Box 73, Church Stretton, SY6 6WF UK. For more information and updates about the DXpedition (plus online log and a form to request bureau cards), please visit the 3B9C Web page at:

<http://www.fsdxa.com/3b9c/>

## Frank McGonigal, W6DSQ

#### 7P, LESOTHO

Bernie, ZS4TX, has made an early announcement that he will be active as 7P8Z during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 30-31st) as Single-Op/All-Band/High Power entry. QSL via ZS4TX. Visit his Web at:

<http://www.zs4tx.co.za/7p8z.htm>

#### 7Q, MALAWI (Update/Reminder)

Steve, G4JVG, reminds OPDX readers that the UK Malawi DXpedition is only 2 weeks away. The callsign to be used by the UK Malawi DXpedition between April 18th and May 1st will be 7Q7MM. Operators will be Mark/G4AXX, Dick/GU4CHY, Steve/G4JVG and Rich/M5RIC, and they will be active on all bands from 160-10 meters on CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK, and possibly 10 meters FM (subject to demand and propagation). Activity is likely to be limited on April 18th and 19th while the stations and antennas are being built. The operation is expected to start in earnest on April 19th or 20th. Updated detailed propagation predictions to nine locations around the world were uploaded to their Web site at the beginning of April. Logs will be uploaded to the Web site and updated regularly during the DXpedition. Two high-power stations will be on the air as close to 24 hours a day as possible. A third station at 100W will be in use during peak hours of propagation. QSL via G3LQP direct (Roger Brown, 262 Fir Tree Road, Epsom KT17 3NL, England) or via the bureau. The UK Malawi DXpedition Web is available at:

<http://www.malawi.digital-crocus.com>

#### EN60, UKRAINE

Seven stations from Odessa will be active using the EN60 prefix from April 3-17th. Here is a list of stations that will be active with their QSL routes:

EN60FJ - Sam, UT9FJ - QSL via home callsign to Bureau or direct to: Box 100, Odessa, 65065, UKRAINE.

EN60FT - Vlad, UT0FT - QSL via home callsign

EN60FEL - Alex, UR5FEL - QSL via home callsign

EN60FHY - Vlad, UX5HY - QSL via home callsign

EN60FEO - Serge, UR5FEO - QSL via home callsign

EN60FA - Serge, UT2FA - QSL via home callsign

EN60FY - Eugene, UX0FY - QSL via home callsign

#### FO/M, MARQUESAS ISLANDS

Look for Hiro/JI1JKW and Ari/JI1WTF to be active as FO/JI1JKW and FO/JI1WTF, respectively, from Hiva Oa (OC-027) from April 28th to May 2nd. Activity is planned for 160-6 meters on CW/SSB/RTTY. A 6 meter beacon will be on 50110 kHz. QSL via their home callsigns, direct or by the bureau.

(continued on page 10)

## "Short Skip" ...cont'd

frequency. The result . . . you can't copy the DX station! This brings out the "frequency policemen" who then call the offending QRMer, also on the DX station's transmit frequency. The result is momentary mayhem. We can all help avoid contributing to this all-too-frequent chaos by taking time to find out where the DX station is listening, and who he's calling, before we transmit. It might take a few minutes longer to log a QSO, but it will avoid exhibiting bad behavior on the air. Good DXers don't need to be policed - they just need to police themselves.

*73 es gud dx . . . W4UR*

## Another Cork from the Pop-Gun

*Don Wolfe, AA4VN*

Hello again, fellow DXers.

I really enjoyed doubling with Barry Johnson to provide the March mobile operations program for the NADXC group. Barry obviously put a lot of effort into putting the presentation together, and I learned some new things about mobile antennas, myself.

Well, it has been another very busy month with not much time for DXing, but I do have a couple of things to report. Shortly after our March meeting, I tuned down into the CW part of the band and heard XF4IH. I listened for a good opportunity, hit the memory play button, and out went "AA4VN/M". Pure dumb luck or whatever, he came back to my first call and I made the contact! Wish I could say that happens all the time, but no such luck.

I'm wondering how BPL is going to affect mobile ham operations. Power line noise is bad enough now, especially along some rural roads where you can't hear an S-9 signal within half a mile of ancient power lines with deteriorating insulators. Is BPL going to add to the noise?

Last month, I wrote about the new Kenwood TH-D7AG handheld with built-in packet mode, and told you that would be my next ham purchase. Well, it was and I now have one and it works to expectations. Right out of the box at GigaParts, we programmed in the DX spotting channel, put it in packet mode, and the spots started rolling in. Now I can be anywhere, including riding around in the mobile, and get DX spots. On the way to work this morning there was one for 3B9FR on 7007.3. I flipped to my 40 meter antenna while zipping down I-565, tuned down

and there he was! But, the QSB was very bad, and even though I called a couple of times, and think he may have even answered me once, I couldn't be sure so it didn't go in the log.

Another nice feature of the TH-D7AG is APRS. I can flip to that nation-wide channel and, besides getting the current location of many hams, can get a quick readout of weather conditions and temperatures wherever I am. Now on my "to do" list is figuring out how to wire in my GPS so I can provide automated reports, also.

I enjoyed Dave's (K4TO) Logbook Memories article in the last LongPath. Even though I got bitten by the ham bug about the same time and put in quite a bit of time studying for my novice license, it was many years later before I was finally able to follow through and actually take the test. His article brought back fond memories of all the stuff you had to learn at that time and what you had to go through to get licensed. I'm sure it was that background that helped me skip Novice and jump directly to Technician when I finally got my first license. Then, my first piece of "Wall Paper" was the TAD award for working all 10 districts of the US. Now, I am closing in on the other extreme of the worked-all-(whatever) of the US with only 34 left for all counties. I still need Bourbon, Boyle, Daviess, Greenup, Harrison, Magoffin counties in KY for those of you going to Dayton (hint-hint).

Until next time...

Don - AA4VN/Mobile

## ARRL DX Contest SSB

Tom Russell, N4KG

QRP Phone can be a LOT of FUN when 10M is filled with Europeans spread out over 800 KHz all morning long. That didn't happen this year, forcing everyone into 250 KHz on 15M, 200 KHz on 20M, and 60 (or 80) KHz on 40M for DX with QRM and Splatter the order of the day. In addition, we in the USA got to share 40M SSB with the EU BC stations who also migrated to the lower frequencies at night. I decided to give QRP Phone another go this year, just to ensure that whoever won the plaque made a sincere effort and to exploit my Low Band Antenna advantage.

10M Propagation suffered from a major drop in MUF. 9A1A was the only EU heard (and worked) on Saturday. Sunday provided propagation to EA7RM, CT1DVV, CN2R, EA8BH, 5U7JB and VK4UC in addition to lots of activity from NA and SA DX stations.

15M was the 'Money Band' to EU but JA's seemed less plentiful than on CW.

20M was also good to EU most of the daylight hours with only 2 JA's worked.

40M is always difficult, having to overcome the BC interference in EU. This year was the MOST difficult ever. Can you imagine not even getting a QRZ from the BIG GUNS such as HB9AUS, HG1S, HG6N, LY4A, M4A, OM7M, RK4FF, or RW2F? Or an exchange with G4BUO that went "KG? KG? Is that you N4KG?", followed by Roger, Roger, Roger, Roger. In spite of those missed contacts, 45 multipliers were still logged.

80M was blessedly quiet with good propagation to EU (CT, F, G, GI, I), AF (CN, CT3, EA8), NA (14 NA mults), and SA (FY, HC8, HK, P4, PJ, YV, 8R).

160M provided surprisingly easy contacts with most of the Caribbean DX stations except PJ4G and TI8M who obviously had difficulty hearing the second and third tier USA stations.

After only 4 hours sleep Thursday night, several NAPS helped get through the weekend. Another hour was lost early Friday evening due to Severe Thunderstorms and Lightning passing overhead. 'Chair time' was 33 hours.

Multi-band Contacts were noticeably impacted by the lack of 10 and 40M Europeans with only 57 stations worked on 3 Bands or more. It was difficult to find 'fresh meat' after mid-morning on Sunday and Packet Pileups were especially unpleasant. QRP on Phone is hard and frustrating for both the QRP operator and especially the DX operator under marginal conditions. More power on the Low Bands would be a lot

more effective and enjoyable. Special THANKS to all the DX stations for their patience and persistence in pulling my call and report out from their noise floor.

**6B - 7 Q's** SA - FY5KE, P40L, PJ2T, NA - TO5A (FM), WP2Z, WP3R, 8P1A

**5B - 12 Q's** EU - CT1DVV, AF - CN2R, EA8BH, SA - PJ4G NA - KP2A, KP4KE, TI5A, TI8M, V26DX, VP5B, VQ5A, VP9/W6PH

**4B - 7 Q's** EU - F6DZU, SA - 8R1K, NA - J88DR, TI2VW, V31MD, V47KP, 6Y8Z

**3B - 31 Q's** EU (20), AF - EA8ZS, 5U7JB, OC - KH7X, NA - C6ANM, 8P6EX SA - HC8L, HK3JJH, LU1NDC, LU6ETB, OA4SS, PX2A, 5K1X

**2B - 63 QSO's** (mostly EU)

**1B - 306 QSO's**

Band	QSO's	Countries
160M	14	12
80M	37	30
40M	73	45
20M	174	71
15M	273	78
10M	84	36

Total 655 Q's 272 Mults = 534,488 Points

Radio: FT-990 reduced to 5 Watts Output

### ANTENNAS

160M NEW Tree supported Inverted L at 60 ft over 50 radials / wet land

80M Dipole between 130 ft towers favoring NE / SW (KILLER ant)

Wire vertical over same radial field as 160M Inv. L Elevated GP

40M CC 2L40 at 95 ft (GREAT Ant)

Dipole SA / Carib (100 ft Center Fed w/ Ladderline + Matchbox)

20M Telrex 3L20 at 75 ft + TA32, TH3, TH7

15M CC 4L15 at 55 ft + TA32, TH3, TH7

10M HB 5L10 at 62 ft + TA32, TH3, TH7

TA32 at 60 ft fixed South

TH3 at 40 ft fixed SE

TH7 at 40 ft (THANKS to KY5R / KP4BZ for replacing bad Rotor/Cable)

73, Tom Russell **N4KG**

## FCC Seeks Comments on Proposed BPL Rules

### **URGENT . . . Comments Needed on FCC's Proposed BPL Rules**

The FCC recently published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM") involving Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology. The NPRM proposes changes to Part 15 of the FCC rules that would, among other things, establish criteria for dealing with the potential radio interference problems that widespread deployment of BPL systems might create. It also proposes measurement guidelines that would be used to verify the level of BPL system emissions.

Comments on the NPRM are due to the FCC by Monday, May 3. The ARRL web site ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)) has considerable information about the NPRM and some helpful suggestions on how to file a comment using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). The web site also has a link to the full NPRM, which should be read carefully before filing a comment.

Due to the potentially significant adverse impact that BPL interference might have on communications in the 2 MHz to 80 MHz frequency range, it is absolutely imperative that as many amateurs as possible file comments with the FCC before the May 3 deadline. Here are some thoughts to consider before preparing a comment:

First, it's very important to read the NPRM and understand it before filing a comment. By doing so, you will be able to make your comment more thoughtful and objective. (Uninformed or emotionally based comments do more harm than good.)

Second, please realize that the NPRM does not propose the authorization of BPL. This technology is already authorized under Part 15 of the rules, so don't say you are opposed to it. We just need to emphasize how important it is that the FCC rules changes ensure BPL will not create harmful interference to existing communications now using the HF/low-VHF spectrum.

Third, read the ARRL web site articles and the points that the League has mentioned. There is a regular flow of new BPL-related information being posted that is very useful.

Fourth, bear in mind that the FCC's NPRM acknowledges the possibility of BPL-created interference to other licensed services and the need to protect these other services from any such harmful interference. This is critical to emphasize. The NPRM also proposes changes to FCC rules that would (in the Commission's opinion) prevent BPL interference, although its proposal(s) will likely not be adequate to accomplish this ob-

jective. Any rules changes should ensure an absolute prevention of interference, not a presumed prevention. Independent and technically valid field-testing and other objective demonstrations should be used as the standards on which the rules changes should be based.

So, when preparing a comment, please consider including some or all of these points as you wish, or add others of your own:

Many federal, state, and local governments, military operations, and licensed private sector individuals and entities now use the 2 MHz to 80 MHz spectrum and these services must be absolutely protected from disruption due to harmful BPL-generated interference. Many of these licensed users have previously expressed to the Commission their concerns about potential BPL interference problems.

Amateur radio and other communications services using HF and low-VHF frequencies often involve weak received signals that would likely be totally masked as a result of harmful BPL interference, thereby making communications impossible.

Many licensed HF and low-VHF services require or use directional antenna arrays in order to sustain effective communications. Suggesting that these antennas could simply be pointed away from overhead power lines (or suggesting the use of other non-directional antennas) to reduce Access BPL-generated interference is not a practical or realistic alternative, and would effectively subordinate these existing services to Access BPL service.

Access BPL systems will use unshielded conductors (i.e., overhead power lines) to transmit broadband data. These power lines clearly represent "antennas" that will radiate RF energy. However, these same conductors will also be capable of receiving RF energy radiated by other currently licensed users of the same HF frequency spectrum, which could disrupt Access BPL service. If that happens, Access BPL service providers might try to assert that these other licensed services should be considered as interfering with their BPL service, which could lead to prolonged and unnecessary legal conflicts. The rules changes must be crafted in such a way as to prohibit judicial resolution of harmful interference claims.

The FCC's proposed rules changes do not appear to have effectively considered potentially harmful BPL-generated interference to mobile HF radio communications, which are often critical during public service/emergency situations. Please make certain this important issue is fully evaluated before adopting any final rules changes.

*(continued on page 9)*

## FCC Seeks Comments on Proposed BPL Rules...cont'd

Any changes to Part 15 rules that would establish standards for Access BPL service, and be intended to prevent harmful interference from Access BPL systems, must be based on objective and accurate technical analyses. They must also be supported by valid field tests made under normal operating conditions in areas where other licensed services are co-located. Please make sure you obtain and evaluate the results of several field observations that have already been made by various competent organizations before adopting final rules changes. Decisions of this importance must not be based on presumed, unverified conditions, and must provide for immediate termination of Access BPL-generated interference when it is identified and confirmed. The changes must also ensure absolute, not partial, protection from harmful interference.

The nation's electric power transmission systems were neither designed nor intended to be a carrier of broadband data using the 2 MHz to 80 MHz radio frequency spectrum. Thus, it is important that the relative convenience of these systems not result in the unintended consequence of producing harmful interference to other services. Other means of delivering broadband data (such as fiber-optic cable, DSL, and wireless communications) might be more effective and less expensive

in many locations, and would not be a potential source of harmful interference.

(8) Above all, the HF and low-VHF spectrum now used by government agencies, tens of thousands of U.S. amateur radio operators, and many other licensed services must be totally protected from any harmful interference that BPL could cause. Rules changes that would result in existing services having to accept and endure BPL-generated interference simply to accommodate widespread deployment of BPL technology cannot be considered acceptable.

So, please take a look at the ARRL web site and get informed about BPL, the NPRM, and what's at stake. Then, before Monday, May 3, file a comment with the FCC (referencing ET Docket No. 04-37) using the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). It's terribly important. If we amateurs don't collectively voice our concerns about the FCC's proposed BPL rules, we may pay a huge price . . . a substantially reduced (or perhaps totally eliminated) ability to communicate on many of our allocated HF/low-VHF frequencies.

Thanks for your help.

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## For Sale and Other Misc Stuff

### Free Beam and Tower

10m 3-el beam, 20 feet Rohn 20 or 25, currently attached to house. Available free to whoever will dismantle and remove. Contact the owner at 881-3102. The owner is not a ham, and will not be able to answer any particulars about the equipment.

### Free for the taking:

19 inch equipment rack

Measures 45" high, 22" wide, 26.5" deep  
Sloping face (15 deg tilt) 17.5" high by 19" wide  
Lower face 24.5" high by 19" wide.

Tom N4KG

### Looking for Someone

Looking for DXers who had Ham radio contact with WB6MID/8R3 in the late 1970s. This is the call used by the Peoples Temple Jonestown settlement. Email me with details.

joey  
jdieckma@gladstone.uoregon.edu

### Tower for Sale

Already taken down. Leave message on recorder.  
Sally Watters  
828-7537

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## Other DX Rumors and News...cont'd

### **JW, SVALBARD**

Francois, F8DVD, is now active as JW/F8DVD. Activity will last until April 10th (Refer to OPDX.653). Activity will be on SSB 80-10 meters. He was heard over the past weekend between 14190-14200 kHz. QSL via F8DVD to the French Bureau or direct.

### **KH4, MIDWAY ISLAND (Update to OPDX.654)**

Jeff, KA1GJ, updated OPDX on his possible band activities from KH4-land. He states, "I am trying to determine if the KH4 club antennas are still up and operational. If so, I will be on all bands that I can --- otherwise, I am carrying a 10/12/15/17/20 meter vertical which I will put up after I land." (ed. Does anyone know if the antennas are still up at the club station? I will pass the word onto Jeff... TNX). Remember, Jeff will be operating as KA1GJ/MM from April 16th through May 12th, and is expected to be active as KA1GJ/KH4 on Midway from April 23-25th. QSL via V73GJ, P.O. Box 1050, APO AP 96555 USA.

**NOT THE QSL MANAGER.** Joe, W3HNC, reports that he is receiving lots of mail for **C4M**, and he is NOT the QSL Manager for this station. This station was active during the CQ WPX SSB Contest weekend, and the operator was RW3QC. The correct QSL route is via Alex, RW3RN. Visit Alex's QSL Service Web page at:

<http://www.tmb.ru/~i011f/service.html>

### **T33C BANABA DXPEDITION**

The international team of 19 operators are now on the island. Activity seems to have started early Sunday, April 4th, on 20 meters CW. The DXpedition is expected to last until April 16th. As this was being written Sunday morning, activity was mainly 20 meters (probably because the rest of the team is setting up the other stations). Watch for updates on their Web page. The Web page for the operation is at: <http://www.dxpedition.de/banaba2004/> QSL via F5CWU: Flo Moudar, 25 Rue du Castel Salis, 37100 Tours, France.

### **VP8, SOUTH ORKNEY AND SOUTH GEORGIA ISLANDS**

"The Daily DX" is reporting that Mike, GM0HCQ, is heading to Signy Base, South Orkney, and might operate as VP8SIG (possibly for 1 day) between April 10-12th. Also, he may operate as VP8SGK from Bird Island, South Georgia, between April 14-19th. Mike is currently active as VP8CMH/MM from the ship "James Clark Ross". He was heard this past weekend on 30/20/17/12/10 meters CW between 1300-2030z. For more details on his trip on the "James

Clark Ross", please visit Mike's Web page at:

<http://www.gm0hcq.com>

### **HN0, IRAQ (Attention Prefix Hunters!)**

Kaspars, YI9ZF (YL1ZF), was active during the CQ WPX SSB Contest this past weekend as HN0Z. If you missed him using this new prefix that has NEVER been issued before, you will have another chance. Look for him to be active again as HN0Z during the CQ WPX CW Contest (May 29-30th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via SM1TDE.

### **KH4, MIDWAY ISLAND**

Jeffrey, KA1GJ/V73GJ, informs OPDX that he will be operating as KA1GJ/MM from April 16th through May 12th, and is expected to be on Midway Island from April 23-25th. He will be active as KA1GJ/KH4. QSL via V73GJ: P.O. Box 1050, APO AP 96555 USA.

### **VK9L, LORD HOWE ISLAND**

Look for Skip, JE2HCJ, to be active this week as VK9LU from March 31st to April 9th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters mostly CW. QSL via JE2HCJ.

### **ZL7, CHATHAM ISLAND (Update to OPDX.653)**

Both Franz/ZL2III/DK1II and Dom/DL5EBE, members of the "Rhein-Ruhr DX Association" (RRDXA) and "Radio Telegraphy High Speed Club" (HSC), have informed OPDX that they will be active from Chatham Island over the Easter Holidays from April 7th (arrival) until April 14th (departure). They plan to be active on all bands, mainly CW and SSB and also digital modes (PSK31 and RTTY). They will have linears and a kite supported verticals / delta loops for 160 and 80 meters. Their callsigns are ZL2III/7 and ZL7/DL5EBE; however, they have applied for a special callsign which will be announced after it is granted. QSL via DL5EBE, using the callbook address.

## Upcoming Programs

**Barry Johnson, W4WB**

### NADXC Program Preview for April 2004

**"Modulation Envelopes and Sidebands"**  
presented by Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

The math is covered in a simple way, and discusses the time domain and frequency domain representations of AM, CW, DSB, SSB, and NBFM. The CW part takes a little side road on keying waveshape.

### NADXC Program Preview for May 2004

**"The Ham Radio Olympics - WRTC 2000"**

This is an excellent 30-minute video that tells the story of the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) 2000. The Slovenians were outstanding hosts for the various teams. You might even see the faces of some of those you have worked on-the-air!

## DX Contests for the Coming Month

**Chuck Lewis, N4NM**

### EU Spring Sprints, (SSB), 80-10M

Apr. 10, 1500Z to Apr. 11, 1859Z  
Exchange: Both calls, Serial number, your name.  
See page 106, Apr. QST.

### Japan Int'l. DX CW Contest (CW), (80-10M)

Apr. 10, 0700Z to Apr. 11, 1300Z  
Exchange: RST plus CQ zone; JAs send RST plus prefecture #  
See page 106, Apr. QST

### QRP ARCI Spring Party (CW), 160-10M

Apr. 10, 1200Z to Apr. 11, 2400Z  
Exchange: RST plus  
State/Province/DXCC Country and  
ARCI # if member  
See page 106, Oct. QST

### EU Spring Sprints, (CW), 80-10M

Apr. 17, 1500Z to Apr. 11, 1859Z  
Exchange: Both calls, Serial number,  
your name.  
See page 106, Apr. QST.

### YU DX Contest (CW & SSB), 160-10M

Apr. 17, 1200Z to Apr. 18, 1200Z  
Exchange: RS(T) plus ITU zone  
See page 107, Apr. QST

### OTHERS:

YLRL DX to NA Contest (SSB), 1400Z Apr. 7- 0200Z Apr. 9

ARCI Spring QSO Party 1200Z, Apr 10 to 2400Z, Apr 11

CIS DX Contest, (SSB), 1900Z, Apr 10 to 1900Z, Apr 11

UBA Spring Contest (SSB), 0600Z - 1000Z Apr. 11

JIDX CW Contest 0700Z, Apr 10 to 1300Z, Apr 11

Low Power Spring Sprint 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 12

RSGB 80m Club Championship, (SSB), 2000Z-2130Z, Apr 14

YLRL DX to NA Contest (CW), 1400Z Apr. 14 - 0200Z Apr. 16

ES Open HF Championship, 0500Z - 0859Z  
April 17

GACW CW DX Contest (CW), 1200Z April 17 -  
1200Z April 18

TARA Skirmish (Digital), 0000Z- 2400Z Apr. 17

Holyland DX Contest (CW & SSB), 0000Z-  
2359Z Apr. 17

RSGB 80m Club Championship, (Data), 2000Z-  
2130Z, Apr 22

Helvetia Contest (CW/SSB/Dig), 1300Z Apr. 24 - 1300Z  
Apr. 25

SP DX RTTY Contest (RTTY), 1200Z April 24 - 1200Z  
April 25

ARI Intl. DX Contest, 2000Z May 1 - 1959 May 2

RSGB 80m Club Championship, (SSB), 2000Z-2130Z,  
May 3

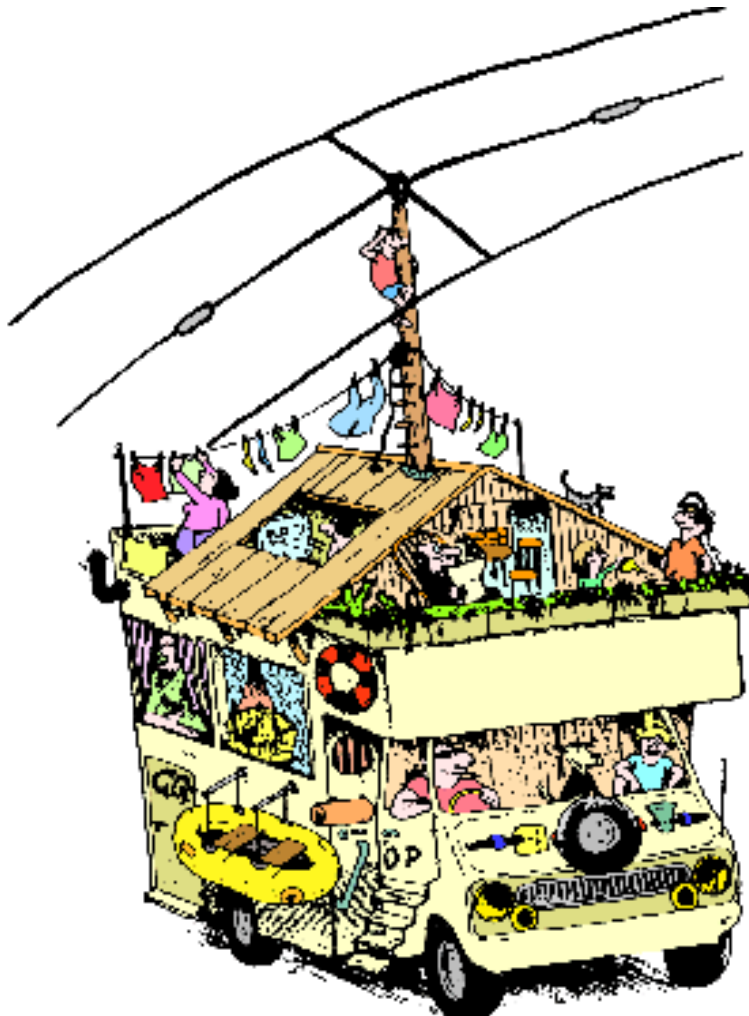
Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals;  
beware.

Chuck, N4NM



## RV Nomad

*Craig Behrens, NM4T*



In Las Vegas, we camped right on the Las Vegas strip adjacent to the Circus Circus Resort. We visited around 20 Casinos/Resorts, losing quarters in slot machines in many of them (they're set up with impossible odds these days). We also saw 3 great Vegas shows, went up over 1,000 feet in the Stratosphere Tower (tallest in the U.S.) and went bowling 3 times.

However, we did have some hard times fall upon us. Two days after we arrived in Las Vegas, our Lhasa Apsa, Eliot, who has been our dearest companion for almost 14 years, started having major health problems. After a struggle that included 8 vet visits over 9 days his health deteriorated so badly that he had to be put away. We flew Pam's Uncle Roy out to Las Vegas to spend 8 days in the coach with us--his first 2 days were Eliot's last. As folks say, life goes on, but it's really hard to lose a loved one. Thank God we are blessed with the sweet memories.

I'm writing this column from Palm Springs, California, where the weather has been wonderful. We're staying at the 5-Star Emerald Desert Golf and RV Resort on a shaded lot looking out at the 8<sup>th</sup> hole. The resort is magnificent with everything one could desire--just what we needed after a tough March. While driving here, it was really awesome to see hundreds of giant wind mills generating electricity as the wind blew through the San Bernardino mountain pass, surrealistic.

This last month has been a blur...and I'm sad to report that I've not been very active with radio operations or new projects during this period. Of course, that's one of the neat things about our hobby—it can sit a spell while one pursues other interests. And...the fun is always waiting there for you when you can carve out the time, still the king of hobbies.

Since the last column, we stayed in Mesa (near Phoenix), Flagstaff and Las Vegas. We made several side trips in the Jeep, including a ghost town where the world's largest gold mine is, a day in spectacular Sedona, visits to the Lowell Observatory where the planet Pluto was discovered and the ski resort in Flagstaff and had a big time in Las Vegas.

Saturday, we plan to start our trek through California. We'll stay in the San Diego area on the ocean a couple weeks before heading north of Las Angeles where we will spend a week with our oldest daughter, Kimberly—she (and her mom) wants to see Hollywood and the Stars, etc..

That's it for this installment. Sorry for the short column this time--I expect to be back on track with more radio-relevant news to share with the May edition. Hope all is well with the NADXC gang. We miss ya'll.

72/73 & DX,  
Craig W. Behrens—NM4T

## ARRL Field Day - An Introduction

*Chris Reed, KF4MMF*

My first experiences of DX and HF contesting in general came at ARRL Field Day several years back. To say I was "hooked" would be an understatement. I have participated in Field Day in some capacity every year since that time. I can't get enough of it. Thanks to the DX Club and HARC working together, Field Day in Huntsville has always been fun. This year will provide an abundance of fun as well. Plans are now being made for Field Day 2004 at Intergraph. The fun of operating and fellowship with other hams makes Field Day a special event.

For the beginner, the first time at the mic or key in a contest environment can be an intimidating one to say the least. Often this first time experience can introduce the fellow amateur to DX for a lifetime. During this year's Field Day I would like to shift focus a bit from the contest and to the operator. By this, I mean we focus on helping new operators to become better operators without intimidation and do so in a friendly

helpful manner. For several years, thanks to the DX club and efforts of many dedicated amateurs, Huntsville has finished very high nationally in Field Day. While this is a great achievement, we must not forget we were once a new operator with a slow rate. We must continue to introduce the beginners to the fun of DXing and contesting. Field Day is one of the best avenues for this introduction.

Field Day 2004 will be the last full weekend in June as always. Many DX club members will be there alongside HARC members helping new hams to have their first HF or DX experience. We will be there calling CQ Field Day with the others and working to put many entries into the log. Most of all, we will be there to have a lot of FUN. Hope to see you there!

73 de **KF4MMF**

## 3B9C Rodrigues Island Update

**Thursday April 8, 2004**

### Picture of the day:

Earlier in the DXpedition, we worked four stations on SSTV during some tests.

### SSTV

We are planning to get SSTV operational either today or tomorrow.

### Operations

We're nearing 140,000 QSOs and, of course, the end of the DXpedition. We will be operational through until dawn on Monday 12 April, then the whole DXpedition will close down and start dismantling.

We looked into perhaps keeping a few stations operational through Easter Monday but unfortunately it is not practical, with the container being in Port Mathurin and with so much stuff to decommission.

### LF Bands

We are QRV throughout the night-time hours on the LF bands. Conditions have been rather poor until this morning when I was lucky enough to be on for a really good opening to USA on 160m. Over 50 USA stations got into the log, with about 15 of those on SSB, including Daily DX Editor Bernie, W3UR. We will be there again tomorrow, Friday.

### RTTY & PSK

RTTY and PSK operation continues to dominate the scene during the HF hours. We have now broken our own world record, set at D68C for RTTY and PSK. So far, 4,400 stations are in the RTTY



log and 1,400 stations in the PSK31 log. There's still plenty to go for though and we will continue data mode operations right to the end.

### SSTV

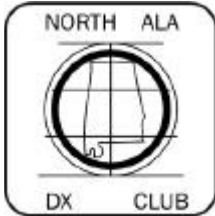
We are planning to get SSTV operational either today or tomorrow.

### Satellite

Sadly, although we have tried on several occasions to make QSOs via satellite, no-one seems to have been listening and no QSOs have resulted. We will continue to try, in between other commitments such as SSTV.

# A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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*We're on the  
Web:  
[www.nadxc.org](http://www.nadxc.org)*

***How to Join:** Come to a club meeting; or send in application by mail  
(form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org)); or call Vic Holland at (256)721-9106*

## Editor's Soapbox

Well, it looks like spring has finally arrived. It is time to start working on the antenna projects we dreamed about during those long winter nights. We did not really have any disastrous winter weather so most of last year's antennas should still be up in the air. You know the old saying that if stayed up during the winter then it wasn't big enough.

We've got quite a bit of stuff packed in this month's issue of the LongPath. Much of what we have is home-grown from the club again, which is great. Many thanks to all of you have contributed. I think this issue might have the most for sale ad posters than any recent issue. Remember, if you have something you would like to sell trade or otherwise give away just shoot me a message and I will do my best to squeeze the ad into that month's LongPath.

There has been a lot of scuttle going on about BPL, so make sure to check out what Myron talks about in his "Short Skip" column and also the more detailed article

beginning on page 8. This is something the club needs to really study and make informed responses.

Looks like Craig and his wife are really enjoying traveling across county. Check out his article in this issue to see what they've been up to lately.

Chris, KF4MMF is trying to get the Field Day fires lit early. Actually, Field Day is not too far away, a little less than three months. Take a look at his article and start thinking about how you can help out this year. This is the one operating event that a good portion of the NADXC members participate in every year together at the same location. Make sure to let Chris know how you can help, as there are a lot of things that have to happen. We will need station managers, people to help move the trailers, etc.

Well that's about it from me. See you at the meeting!

73, Jared Cassidy, **KQ4VT**