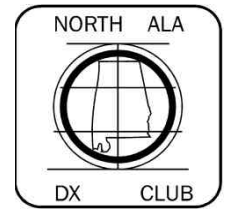


The LongPath



A North Alabama DX Club Publication

From the President's Desk

DX Goals . . . Never Ending Challenges!

The members of NADXC represent a collection of amateurs having all kinds of DX experience, and all levels of operating achievements. Some members are legitimate "old timers" as far as DXing is concerned, who have reached the summit of recognized operating achievement, while other members are relatively new to DXing and are still working toward their first 100 DXCC entities. But, regardless of our individual experience or our accomplishments, there is one characteristic we all probably have in common, and that is the setting of goals for ourselves . . . goals that may constantly change.

Those relatively new to "chasing DX" usually have a single objective – working and confirming their first 100 entities and getting that handsome DXCC certificate to hang on the wall. Probably the award is for mixed mode, representing any combination of phone, cw, and RTTY QSOs. After that, depending on personal operating preferences, there are more objectives available, such as incremental endorsements for additional mixed mode confirmations, separate DXCC awards and endorsements for each mode, a 5-band DXCC award, a QRP DXCC award, and many more. These just represent those offered by the ARRL. Other significant awards are available from CQ Magazine



for WAZ and WPX. If you need more, there are even RSGB awards for QSOs with Islands on the Air (IOTA) locations.

My point is that there is always another goal available to us, regardless of the one we have most recently achieved. We just need to define what it is. Personally, I've always felt a larger sense of satisfaction in working to reach the goal than in displaying the certificate proving I have reached it. At the moment, my single

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August 12th Program "DX RoundTable and Hamfest Discussion"

by *Tim Pearson, KU4J*

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

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"Short Skip" ...

Bill Gerth, W4RK



- DXCC Honor Roll in QST**... Nice to see the DXCC Honor Roll published in the August 2003 issue of QST. With all the cost consciousness, as exemplified by the deletion of contest score line listings in QST, the survival of the DXCC Honor Roll in print is probably an indication of its importance and standing in the ham community. Congrats to the several NADXCers who are among the exalted. This gives us "little pistols" something to aspire to!
- Automatic Shack Power Control**. . . . I have always been a fan of West Mountain Radio and their RI Gblaster series of computer-to-rig interface solutions that enable easy PSK-31, RTTY, and other soundcard implementations of various modulation schemes. Now they have a new DC power panel that utilizes a 100 amp FET switch for master control from the transceiver of the various hamshack accessories needing DC power . The Model 4010S has nine (9) outputs, each rated at 40 amps max. All outputs use the popular Andersen Power Pole connectors and include separate automotive blade-type fuses. Check out this and other neat stuff at www.westmountainradio.com.
- N6TR is Ham of the Year**. . . . Larry Tyree, N6TR, better known as "Tree" was named as Ham of the Year at the Dayton HamVention. Although Tree is probably best known for his popular contest logging software, TR Log, his honor as Ham of the Year was for his creation, organization, and promotion of the successful Kids Day event.
- Can't We Just Get Along?**. . . Contesters and Rag Chewers sometimes butt heads on contest week-ends, particularly around favorite frequencies. I found a very thoughtful article in the National Contest Journal for July/August 2003 written by K9LA, Carl Luetzelschwab. Carl's approach was to examine the issue from both perspectives and he came up with some common sense suggestions. Several contest organizers have published recommended frequencies to encourage spectrum conservation and leave some room for non-contesters. Of course, the exemption of the WARC bands from contest activity is a good gesture and seems to be well accepted. Probably the best advice is to avoid direct confrontation and remain polite, even in the face of aggressive behavior on the other side. The need for co-existence will become even more important as the declining sunspots cause the aggregation of more stations in the lower frequency bands.
- OH2BH Hamshack(s)**. . . If you've ever wondered how Martti Laine, OH2BH, generates such big signals from Finland when he's not off on some DXpedition, check out the article on Page 18 of the August, 2003 issue of CQ Magazine. This article written by ON4UN answers the question. When I was chatting with Martti at Dayton, he was especially proud of his full-sized 80 meter beam that had to be erected by a helicopter.

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Minutes of July 8th Meeting

The July 8 regular meeting of the NADXC was called to order by the President, Myron Manker (W4UR) at 7:10 PM at Ryan's Steakhouse.

Visitors present were Jerianne Trammell (KG4IDB) and Rudd Johnson (W4TCD).

The NADXC had very good participation in Field Day. Although propagation was poor, Field Day was a success.

Minutes of the June 10, 2003 meeting were approved as published in the July LongPath.

The President led a discussion of the FCC's recent request for comments regarding regulation of BPL technology. This technology involves injecting broadband digital signals into electric power lines using high-frequency RF from 2 to 80 MHz. The potential for interference is great. He urged everyone to visit the ARRL web site, www.arrl.org/bpl/ to learn more about this issue.

The World Radiocommunication Conference just ended. There was a resolution of some duplicate frequency allocations on 40 meters. Commercial broadcast users must vacate the 7.100 - 7.200 MHz segment by 2009.

Nancy Morris, K4JD

The previous international licensing requirement of demonstration of ability to send and receive Morse code has also been dropped. Code requirements are now left to individual countries. More information can be found on the ARRL web site.

The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$1957.58, with no expenditures since the last meeting, and checks on hand not yet deposited in the amount of \$195.00.

The President presented a membership application from Jerry Trousdale (K4ZIN) for consideration. Bill Gerth (W4RK) moved that the application be accepted, John Morris (K4XH) seconded, and the application was approved.

The President reported that he had received a request from G3SWH for a contribution from the club to help fund a DXpedition to French Polynesia. Since there is no line item in the budget for such contributions he invited comments from the membership. After discussion, John Drum (W4BXI) moved that we not contribute to any DXpedition this year due to lack of resources. A budget line item may be considered in the future. Tom Russell (N4KG) seconded, and the motion carried. Vic Holland (K4RVH) will craft a proposal for

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From the President's Desk ...cont'd

most important goal is to finally work a station in CQ Zone 26 on the other side of the world, something that has thus far eluded me. Logging that QSO, and getting the QSL card to confirm it, will enable me to obtain the CQ Worked All Zones (WAZ) award. Based on their particular situations, other NADXC members doubtless have their own current goals.

Another goal for many DXers (including many of our members) involves contesting, which has its own set of challenges and rewards. Throughout the year, there is hardly a weekend that passes without some type of DX contest on the calendar. Some are more significant than others, but they all represent a potential double benefit. First, they offer a substantial short-duration challenge in

a very competitive environment; and second, they offer a chance to bag some new DXCC entities or band-mode combinations. For those who relish these kinds of challenges it represents a set of renewable goals.

Regardless of whether we're newcomers to DXing or "old timers," the enjoyment of DXing, like the enjoyment of other personal activities, is in setting and achieving goals for ourselves. It's a challenge that really never ends, since there can always be another goal ahead of us. Set your own goals, and then enjoy the challenge of reaching them.

73,
Myron , W4UR

ARRL DX Bulletin

Frank McGonigal, W6DSQ

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by HL0Y, the OPDX Bulletin, The Daily DX, QRZ DX, 425DXnews, DXNL, WA7BNM and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

MONACO, 3A. Christophe, F8ASY will be QRV as 3A/F8ASY from August 12 to 16. QSL via 3A2MD.

MALAWI, 7Q. Nick, G4FAL will be QRV as 7Q7NT from Blantyre from August 13 to 30. He is on holiday here with his family, so activity will be limited to mostly 20 and 15 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Uwe, DJ9HX is QRV as 8Q7HX from Lhaviyani Atoll, IOTA AS-013, until August 16. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

MALTA, 9H. Thomas, DL1ASA is QRV as 9H3TM from Gozo until August 15. This includes an entry in the Worked All Europe CW contest. QSL to home call.

NEPAL, 9N. Kiyoo, JH3PAS will be QRV as 9N7AS from Kathmandu from August 10 to 20. Activity will be mostly on 30, 17 and 12 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL to home call.

CUBA, CO. Special event station CO0R is QRV from Santiago de Cuba City until August 10 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Cuban national hero Jose Marti. QSL via bureau.

TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40. Dan, JA1PBV and Kazuo, P29KM will be QRV as H40V and H40H, respectively, from the Santa Cruz Islands from August 11 to 16. QSL to home calls.

SOUTH KOREA, HL. Members of the Yonsei Amateur Radio Research Association are QRV as HL0Y/2 from Chawal Island, IOTA AS-105, until August 12. Activity is on 40 and 15 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

MONGOLIA, JT. Timur, JT1BE has been QRV using SSTV on 20 meters around 1630z. QSL direct.

SOUTH ORKNEY ISLAND. LU1ZA has been QRV on 20 meters around 2030 to 2140z and 80 meters around 0300z. QSL via operator's instructions.

FAROE ISLANDS, OY. Karl, OY/DK4ARL is active using CW and SSB until August 13. QSL to home call.



DODECANESE, SV5. Andrea, IK7YTT is QRV as SV5/homecall from Rhodes, IOTA EU-001, until August 13. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL to home call. Meanwhile, Goran, SM0CMH is active as SV5/SM8C from Kalymnos, IOTA EU-001, until September 5. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using mostly CW. QSL to home call.

MALI, TZ. A multi-national team will be QRV as TZ6RD from August 12 to 23. Activity will be on all bands, including 6 meters and satellite AO-40, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via EA4URE.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Matt, IK2SGC is QRV as VP5/IK2SGC from August 10 to 19. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters. QSL to home call.

CAMBODIA, XU. Danny, M0GMT and Oliver, DJ9AO are QRV as XU7ACT and XU7ACU, respectively, from Sihanoukville until August 18. This includes an entry in the Worked All Europe CW contest. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL both calls via G3SWH.

IRAQ, YI. Abel, YI/KC0LEK and Mark, YI/NG5L are usually QRV on 15 meters between 1800 and 1900z. QSL via operators' instructions.

Other DX Rumors and News

The Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin No. 619
Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, for the following DX information.

DX HOLIDAY WEBSITE

Kenny, K2KW, reports that the "DX Holiday Website" has been updated. The Web site lists information on where to operate overseas. Categories included are: Rent-a-QTH, Ham Friendly Locations, Club Stations and general information. The recent updates include:

New Rent-a-QTHs in PJ2, 9M8, ZP, PEI (VE)

Recent Rent-a-QTHs in HC8, ZK1, YL, G.

It also includes new Ham friendly locations or information updates in:

NA - 6Y, C6, FM, FS, HR and VP2V

OC - W, H4, H40, KH6, KH8, P2 and ZK1/s

SA - P4 and PJ2

AS - 1S/9M0 and BV

EU - 9H, CU, DL, SM and TA

AF - 3B8, 3DA, 7P, 7Q, A22, C5, C9, CT3 and S9

There's also great DXpedition Reference material in the "DXpedition Resources" section. The Web page's URL is:
<http://www.dxholiday.com/>

DXCC NEWS

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL DXCC Manager, wants to remind everyone that once again, the deadline for submitting applications for the **2003 DXCC Annual List** is rapidly approaching. Applications must be postmarked September 30, 2003.

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL DXCC Manager, reports that the following are approved for DXCC credit:

Guinea - 3XY1L (1/Jan/2003 - 31/Dec/2003)

Guinea - 3XD02 (19/Mar/2003 - 31/Apr/2003)

Sudan - ST2CF (17/Mar/2003 - 2/Apr/2003)

Guinea-Bissau - J5UCW and J5UDX (8/Mar/2003 - 6/Apr/2003)

Afghanistan - YA/N4SIX (Ongoing)

Angola - D2CR (1/Jan/2003 - 31/Dec/2003)

Uganda - 5X2A (24/Jun/2002 - 1/Jul/2003)

Hal, K4HB, states, "The '**Foreign Postage Rates**' Web page has been updated

DX RENTALS

SUPERSTATION RENTAL (PEI DX Lodge). Robby/VY2SS and Ken/K6LA/VY2TT are pleased to announce the opening of the Prince Edward Island (PEI) DX Lodge - Rental Superstation. Check this out at: <http://www.peidxlodge.com/>

Frank McGonigal, W6DSQ

Charles Harpole, HS0ZCW, reports that he will have within the next 6 to 8 months a ham shack rental in **Bangkok**, Thailand. It is a single room air conditioned condo with American style bath on the top (14th) floor of a large condo building in north-central Bangkok, about 20 minutes from the airport. Automobile parking all around the condo. There are plenty of taxis. There is a very large food court and other shops as a part of the complex. The radio is TS-50S with separate memory keyer, Bencher, Heil, and IBM laptop, with an all band wire antenna for now. Bringing your transmitter into Thailand is not legal without declaring it upon arrival and waiting a month or more for approval of it. Operating licenses can be obtained in advance by writing (for citizens of USA, UK, and a few other countries) via reciprocal agreements. Contact Charles directly for more details if you are planning a stop-over in Bangkok in the future. His E-mail address is: k4vud@hotmail.com

W9DXCC 2003

The Northern Illinois DX Association is pleased to announce the 51th annual W9DXCC convention at Rolling Meadows (a NW suburb of Chicago) Illinois on September 19-20th. This will be the 50th anniversary of the first W9DXCC initiated by Bob Baird, W9NN, and held in Chicago in 1953. Their banquet speaker will be Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL CEO. Dave's topic will be the recently completed World Radio Conference 2003 from the DX'ers perspective. Dave is also Secretary of the International Amateur Radio Union, and has been instrumental in acquiring new frequencies for amateurs, as well as protecting current allocations. The complete W9DXCC schedule, and on-line registration is available at the W9DXCC website at: <http://www.w9dxcc.com/>

Contact W9VA for info and questions via E-mail at: w9va@aol.com

W0DXCC 2003 CONVENTION

The doors of the Bloomington, Minnesota, Holiday Inn on Highway 35W and 94th Street will open to Amateur radio operators with DX in mind on October 18th at 8 AM. Well-known W0-DX speakers will be featured! CQ Hall of Fame Inductee and "Mr. W0DXCC 2002" Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, will speak on his experiences with four-square antennas and will offer us the latest news from Bhutan, and Ralph Fedor, K0IR, will present a seminar on his DXpeditions to various rare and very rare Antarctic DX Entities. Radio City, Mounds View, will present a fascinating demo comparing today's top radios and Timewave Technology will demonstrate the art of digital signal processing technology. Other outstanding speakers already booked for the Convention include K9LA, Carl Leutzelschwab with an intriguing talk on the challenges of W0-land propagation and W0IZ, Igor Zdorov, with a

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"Short Skip" ...cont'd

- **PSK31 for Dummies**. . . . Although many of you have likely dabbled or seriously gotten involved in PSK31, for those who have not yet taken the plunge, there is a nice "getting started" article in August, 2003 CQ Magazine on page 72, written by N2IRZ, Don Rotolo. This article lists a number of options for getting on the air with PSK31, ranging from total homebrew to out of the box solutions
- **NADXC Banquet August 16th - DON'T MISS IT!**. . . . It is still not too late to get your tickets to the DX Banquet sponsored by NADXC at the Huntsville HamFest. This has become a real highlight of the year and promises to continue the great camaraderie of DXers that we've come to expect along with a great program. The program is aimed at XYL's as well as OM's, so bring the entire family and join in the fun. Contact Nancy Morris, K4JD, for tickets prior to August 12th.

73 es gud DX de W4RK

July 8th Meeting Minutes ...cont'd

determining criteria for possible future DXpedition contributions. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Plans for the Huntsville Hamfest August 16 & 17 are proceeding on schedule. There will be no free club memberships offered this year, but information packets will be sent to those who express interest in joining. Volunteers are needed to help man the booth. The DX Banquet will be Saturday evening August 16 in the Ballet Room of the VBC. The deadline for buying banquet tickets is August 12. For tickets send a check and SASE to Nancy Morris (K4JD).

Ron Shaffer (W4VM) announced that some Field Day activities were rebroadcast remotely over the 147.30 repeater. He urged everyone to utilize the repeater. He asked that we

consider adding a phone line to the repeater, perhaps on the basis of individual contributions. Ron will investigate the cost of this and report for consideration at a future meeting.

Skip Richardson (AA4U) suggested informal lunch meetings weekly for fellowship.

The President introduced Frank McGonigal (W6DSQ)

who presented a program entitled "Steerable Vertical Antenna".

The next regular NADXC meeting will be August 12, 2003. Tim Pearson (KU4J) will moderate a DX Roundtable.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Morris (K4JD)
Secretary/Treasurer

Don't Forget the Huntsville Hamfest on August 16-17!

Help is needed with Hamfest operations and also NADXC functions. We will need plenty of people to help with the NADXC booth and the DX Banquet. Get with Myron or Bill if you would like to help.

Other DX Rumors and News...cont'd

presentation on his DXpedition exploits to rare African and Asian DX Entities. "We are adding more great speakers and will be releasing the information shortly", Chairman Lou Sica, AC0X, reports. The Convention will conclude with a 7PM Banquet at the Holiday Inn with a Keynote Speaker. Details for the Convention can be requested by E-mailing w0dxcc@w0dxcc.com or sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: W0DXCC 2003, PO Box 390633, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55439-0633. Information is also available on the W0DXCC 2003 home page at: <http://www.w0dxcc.com/>

3B8, MAURITIUS

Mart, DL6UAA, informs OPDX that Jacky, 3B8CF, is now active on RTTY everyday (except weekends) between 1300-1430z on 15 meters (around 21083-21084 kHz). He has repaired his old TONO-7000 and is now active. NA stations try 0300z on 14084 kHz (That's the time before he goes to work).

3B9, RODRIGUES ISLAND

Guy, FR5ZL, is a new operator on the island as 3B9ZL. He will be there for about the next three weeks. His activity has been on 15 and 20 meters CW/SSB. Watch around 21022 and 21275 kHz after 1100z and around 14017 and 14190 kHz 0230z. QSL via FR5ZL. Meanwhile, Robert, 3B9FR, (ed. NOW a NODXA member!) continues to be active on 20 meters CW around 14024-25 kHz usually after 0300z and sometimes after 1100z.

3C0, ANNOBON ISLAND (Update)

Operators Franz/DJ9ZB/3C0F, Elmo/EA5BYP/3C0A, Victor/EA5FO/3C0R and Vicente/EA5YN/3C0V will be active from Annobon Island, between September 27th and October 10th. Activity will be on all modes/bands CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK, some SSTV and 160-6 meters. They hope to have at least two stations on the air 24 hours a day. Mounting this DXpedition is an expensive operation for operators. Any donations to help the operators, as small as it may be, will be gratefully appreciated and can be sent via the DX Club Tabarca Island, c/o President Elmo EA5BYP, P.O. Box 3097, 03080 Alicante, Spain. E-mail is: cayuco@telefonica.net Any additional donations included with your QSL card requests will be much appreciated. They would like to say thanks in advance. QSL via DJ9ZB.

TS7, TUNISIA

About 17 OMs and 3 XYLs will operate from Kerkennah Islands (IOTA AF-073) from November 19th to December 1st. Their activity will include the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest (November 29-30th) as a Multi-2 entry using the callsign TS7N. During their time there, they plan to have five active stations on all modes and on 160-6 meters. Operators men-

tioned are: 9K2RR, JH4RHF, DK1BT, DJ9CB, DJ7IK, DK7YY, DL3KDV, DF2SS and possibly more. QSL via DL9USA. More information is forthcoming, and an online Web page will be available in August at: <http://www.qsl.net/ts7n>

TZ, MALI (Update)

The international team going to Bamako, Mali, August 12-22nd, have announced that their callsign for the operation will be TZ6RD. The QSL Manager will be EA4URE the Spanish National Bureau. Currently, operators confirm are: XE1L, N6TQS, I8NHJ, EA5RM, EA5RD, EA5KY and EA5XX.

VP6, PITCAIRN ISLAND

Lyle Burgoyne, VP6LJ, is back on the island. He used to serve as priest on the island for two years in the mid 90's. He is expected to be there for at least one year. Over the past few weeks, he has been active on 20 meters SSB. Watch 14190, 14245 and 14268 kHz after 0500z (sometimes earlier).

XU, CAMBODIA (An IOTA and possibly XW!)

Jaak, ES1FB, reports he will go to Shianoukville, Cambodia, from October 19-28th. His callsign will be XU7ACE, and he plans to be active in the CQ WW DX SSB Contest as a Single- Op/All Band entry. He also plans to be active as XU7ACV from Koh Poah Island (IOTA [AS-133](#)), October 21-23rd. Plans also include a trip to Vientienne, Laos, October 30th through November 4th. Possible callsign is XW1FB (?). QSL all operations to his home callsign ES1FB. For updates and a log search, visit the Web page at: <http://www.hot.ee/xu7ace>

XZ, MYANMAR

Sigi, DL7DF, reports, "We actually had a special target in Africa for our 2003 DXpedition, however we ran into trouble getting the license. But we will go to another country instead - Myanmar, XZ. Myanmar is not amongst the top 10 of the most needed DXCC entities anymore but we hope for a success anyway." Operators DL7BO, DL7UFR, DL7DF, DL7KL, DJ6TF, DK1BT, DL4WK and plus two of their XYLs are planning to be active as XZ7A between September 30th and October 17th. They will have four stations active from two different operating places. One of the places is in the capitol, the other one in a sea village. The location in the capitol is very promising because they will be using a roof on a 25m high building. Their planned activity will be on

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NADXC Members Score in CQ WW SSB Contest *Myron Manker, W4UR*

The recently published results of the 2002 CQ WW SSB Contest reflect the success of several NADXC members. **Tom Russell (N4KG)** posted the top score among all USA and North American Continent participants in the QRP/all-band category, and was fourth in the world. Well done, Tom! **Steve Werner (AG4W)** ranked 14th among all "4" call sign stations in the high-power/all-band

category and **Bill Gerth (W4RK)** ranked 35th. In the low-power/all-band category, good scores were posted by **Michael Thigpen (AB4MT)**, **Rick Ruhl (W4PC)**, and **Frank McGonigal (W6DSQ)**. Congratulations to you all.

Nominating Committee Appointed

As required by the NADXC Constitution/By-Laws, the Board of Directors has appointed a Nominating Committee for the purpose of recommending a slate of officers and directors to serve for 2004. The Committee is chaired by **John Drum (W4BXI)**, with **Jared Cassidy (KQ4VT)** and **Vic Holland (K4RVH)** also serving as members. Between now and September 1, the Committee will consider possible nominees for next year. NADXC members are encouraged to contact John Drum

(w4bxi@aol.com) or one of the other Committee members if they wish to be considered for one of the leadership positions, or would like to suggest other members as candidates. The recommended slate will be published in the September *LongPath* and the election held at the October 14 meeting.

Other DX Rumors and News...cont'd

160-6 meters, CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. They will have two linears, beams, a Titanex V80 vertical, a R7 plus a 6m yagi. On this operation they will be emphasizing the low bands because the last activity was in 1998 and 2000. Pilots will once again be Bernd/DF3CB and Floyd/N5FG. Updated news, online logs and pictures, will be available during the DXpedition at: <http://www.qsl.net/dl7df/>

YJ, VANUATU (Update to OPDX.617)
Trent, VK4TI, informs OPDX that the team who will be active as YJ0X in the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest, intends to be in YJ8-land roughly 4 days prior and two days after the contest. They intend to leave the antenna at the site for future operators. He also mentions Les, VK3WA, is an excellent CW op, and they have

had requests for RTTY. Their main focus was for the CQWW Contest as well as sightseeing. However, it does look like Vanuatu is a bit more needed than they thought by judging by the E-mails received here since the posting of their operation. QSL via VK4TI, using the **QRZ.com** address.

XU, CAMBODIA

Hugo, LA5YJ (ex-9N7YJ), informs OPDX that he will be active as XU7ACW at least until September 9th. He was heard this past week on 40/30/20/17 meters CW. Watch 7006, 10105 and 18075 kHz after 1330z, and 14030 kHz after 1830z. QSL to LA5YJ with a SAE and please 1 IRC (If not available, 2 USD or equivalent). Postage from LA is 1.50 USD.

NADXC Members on DXCC Honor Roll *Myron Manker, W4UR*

Nine NADXC members were included on the March 31, 2003 DXCC Honor Roll listing published in QST, by virtue of their having confirmed at least 326 of the total 335 current DXCC entities. Those noted on the Honor Roll and the total number of entities each had confirmed (mixed, phone, and cw) were:

<u>Name / Call</u>	<u>Mixed</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>CW</u>
Tom Russell / N4KG	335	334	334
Butch Schartau / KØBS	334	334	
Tim Pearson / KU4J	334		333
Josh Kelly / N4VB	334	334	
Fred Duran / W4NKI	334	334	
Larry Underwood / W4NK (ex-N4CIW)	333	331	
John Morris / K4XH	330	327	
Ron Bailey / N4VN	330		
Bernie Vatz / WA4OEF	329	328	

Tom Russell tops the list, having confirmed all 335 entities mixed mode, and only one short of that on both phone and cw modes. Butch Schartau, Tim Pearson, Josh Kelly, and Fred Duran were close behind with 334 entities mixed. Congratulations to all nine of you.

DX Contests for the Coming Month

Chuck Lewis, N4NM

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

Aug 9, 0000Z to Aug. 10,
2400Z
Exchange: RST plus serial no.
See page 91, August QST

SARTW WW RTTY Contest,

(RTTY), 80-10 meters
Aug. 16, 0000Z – 0800Z and
1600 – 2400Z;
Aug. 17, 0800Z – 1600Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial
Nr. See page 91, August QST

Keymen's Club of Japan Contest

(CW), 160-6 meters
Aug. 17, 1200Z to Aug. 18,
1200Z
Exchange: RST and prefecture or continent
See page 91, August QST

OTHERS:

YO DX HF Contest 1200Z, Aug
30 - 1200Z, Aug 31

SCC RTTY Championship 1200Z,
Aug 30 - 1159Z, Aug 31

SARL HF CW Contest 1330Z -
1730Z, Aug 31

All Asian DX Contest (SSB),
0000Z Sept 6 – 2400Z Sept 7

WAE DX Contest (SSB), 0000Z
Sept 13 – 2359 Sept 14

Dates & times often change or are

misprinted in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM



My First License

Introduction

Several years ago, I had the pleasure of meeting Dick Peacock, W2GFF, on a visit to Mobile, Alabama. At that time, I was considering acquiring a Hex-Beam and learned that Dick owned one. During a most enjoyable phone call in which he made a convincing argument that the Hex-Beam would be well worth my consideration, he invited me to visit him on my next trip to Mobile. Happily, my wife and I had planned a trip to visit her brother in Daphne, whose home is only a few miles from Dick QTH, a couple of weeks later. When I spoke to Dick on the phone, I learned that he had retired to our fine State after a long engineering career in New Jersey as I recall. He sounded like he had just retired and was full of energy.



Figure 1. HX-5B Hex-Beam at W2GFF.

Dick Peacock, W2FF

Well imagine my surprise when he greeted me at his home and I quickly learned that he was then almost 82 years old! After he gave me a tour of his shack, he took me out to see his Hex-Beam and the installation, which is shown in Fig. 1. He is using a 40' Aluma Tower that he modified to raise and lower the tower using an electric motor, and his special mounting brackets. As you can see, the tower is in its lowered position and a ladder can be seen in the far right. When Dick shows you his antenna, Dick really shows it to you! Yep, he flew up the ladder telling *me* to be careful. Dick persuaded me to acquire a Hex-Beam, which I did soon thereafter. W2GFF is an avid DXer and shows 320 Mixed and 204 Phone in the 2002 DXCC Yearbook.

During our several conversations, Dick told me what it was like to be a ham 70 years ago. Some of it I knew, but mostly not. I asked Dick if he would write it down so that this bit of history could be shared with the NADXC. Hey, have you ever worked a station having a call sign like W2ZZCF? No? Then read and find out from Dick about 1x4 call signs and a lot more!

Tnx Dick es 73,
Barry Johnson - W4WB

My First License

My brother, Bill, and I took our first amateur tests together on January 14, 1933. Bill was 19 and I was 13. We lived in Caldwell, New Jersey, and we rode the train and ferry to the Federal Radio Commission office in downtown New York City for the testing. The code test was both sending and receiving at 13 WPM, and my recollection is that the written test involved drawing diagrams and writing the answers to the questions. I do not believe there were multiple choice procedures at that time, but I might be mistaken about that.

Bill and I both passed our examinations and each of us received a Federal Radio Commission Radio Operator License, Amateur First Class. I still have my original document, which is a fancy form with engraving all around the border.

Bill and I proudly accepted our Operator Licenses, and then asked about our Station Licenses and call letters.

My First License ...cont'd

Much to our surprise, we were told that we could only have one station at the same address. Since Bill was the older of us, he proceeded to make the application for Station License. He received the call W2EXQ in his name. Of course I was disappointed to not have my own call, but we were not about to challenge the U.S. Government.

I believe Bill's station license was mailed to him, but I do not have a clear memory about that. At any rate, it was a couple of months later that we put up our first antenna, a 40 meter end-fed Zepp 65 feet 10 inches long. The day we put it up was March 4, 1933. I can positively confirm that date because while we climbed around the roof of our house securing the antenna and feeders we listened to the radio broadcasting the first inauguration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

My brother had built a regenerative receiver using a 24A detector and a 27 AF amplifier. He had also built a transmitter using a pair of 45s in a self-excited push-pull oscillator. The power supply for both the receiver and the transmitter was the same, an old Majestic "B-Eliminator" that put out 135 volts DC at maybe 100 mils. The send-receive switch was an open knife switch that switched the antenna and the HV. Coax was unknown until years later. The transmitter DC input was 6 watts.

My first QSO was with W8IER, on the first night I tried to work the radio. Other than daily contacts with W2BXM, across town from me, I had no other successful QSOs for a month or so. Somewhere along the line things started to work and I began to have answers. One day a visitor appeared in my town with the call W2ZZCF. I arranged to meet him and find out what that strange call letter combination meant. He explained it was his call assigned for "Portable in the United States".

In those days the Radio Commission issued amateurs a separate station license and call for portable operation, and it was only good for a certain specified location, or a very narrowly defined area, and you had to keep the RI (Radio Inspector for your district) informed of where and when you would be operating portable, and be sure you had provided him with a means to reach you if there was any problem. I am not sure if mobile

operation was permitted under the portable license.

I saw in this license provision a way for me to get my own call, and thought it would be neat to have a W2ZZ- type call that would catch some attention. So I applied for a "Portable in the United States" station license. On July 21, 1933, a week before my 14th birthday, I received the "Amateur Radio Station License for W2GFF Port.in the United States." No fancy call, and no fancy document--just a typed form. But my own call now and I did not have to use Bill's call any longer. I still have the same call 70 years later.

I notice that these old operator licenses and station licenses were issued for three year periods. There were also requirements to show activity when you applied for renewals. There was a lot of different paperwork in those days. I really wonder if it was more or less than present day paperwork.

73

Dick Peacock, **W2GFF**
Fairhope, Alabama

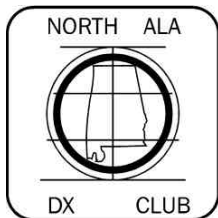
Activities in the VHF World

Sometimes we forget that "DX" means more than 20-meter QSOs with islands in the Pacific Ocean thousands of miles away. To many amateurs it also includes operations on VHF frequencies, where much shorter distances are often involved, but the operating challenges are just as great . . . perhaps even greater. Lest we forget our VHF-oriented members, it is appropriate to acknowledge the achievements of **Dave Sublette (K4TO)**, our Kentucky representative, who scored very well in the January 2003 ARRL VHF Sweepstakes. Dave placed eighth highest among all participants in the single-operator, low-power category, and had the third highest score among all stations in the Central Region (which includes the ARRL's Central and Great Lakes Divisions plus the Ontario Section). Nice job, Dave. In the future, we'll try harder to report more of our member activities on VHF.

Myron Manker, **W4UR**

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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Web:
www.nadxc.org*

***How to Join:** Come to a club meeting; or send in application by mail
(form on www.NADXC.org); or call Nancy Morris at (256)859-8920*

Editor's Soapbox

The end of summer is beginning to draw near. In a couple of weeks the Huntsville Hamfest will be here with its many forums of interest, dealers, groups, fleamarketters and of course the DX Banquet. Last year's Huntsville Hamfest was a success, in my book, for the NADXC. We always seemed to have a crowd around the booth and had an overwhelming turnout for the DX Banquet, the likes of which I had not seen since we brought Jim Smith, VK9NS, to be our speaker a few years back. Make sure to get with Nancy, K4JD, to get your banquet tickets, only \$25 each... you don't want to miss getting a ticket because they were sold out early. Bernie's, W3UR, program on the Johnston Island DXpedition is sure to be interesting.

I took a look at the forum schedule on the Huntsville Hamfest website at: www.hamfest.org and saw where a number of NADXC members and past speakers are presenting interesting programs. Tom, N4KG is presenting his "WARCing DX" program, Mark Clark, W4CK, is presenting a program on operating from V73BL, Tim, KU4J, is giving two programs, one on RTTY/PSK and one on worldwide beacons, Scott Robbins, W4PA of Ten-Tec is presenting a program on the Orion HF transceiver and Dr.

Hathaway is presenting a program on the solar cycle. There are many more programs, so check the schedule.

Of course you want to make sure and support the dealers the are showing at the hamfest. It is hard to get a better deal than at our hamfest. We will have all the usual folks, ICOM, Alinco, Yaesu, Kenwood, MFJ, ARRL, CQ, C.T. Morgan, Ham Station, HRO, Cubex, Ten Tec and of course our own local amateur radio store, Giga-Parts. Oh, one thing you might find useful as you are shopping around for MFJ products is that if the dealer doesn't have the item they can still sell it to you at a good price and you can pick it up at the MFJ booth. That's a nice perk for the dealers because MFJ doesn't make any discounts at hamfests, so as "not to compete" with their dealers.

Well, that is about it from me this month. See you at the meeting and at Huntsville Hamfest!

73, Jared Cassidy, **KQ4VT**