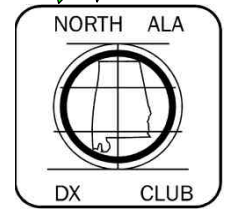


The LongPath



A North Alabama DX Club Publication

From the President's Desk

Passing the Torch

This is my last column as NADXC President for 2003, and I'd like to express my sincere thanks to all of you, our members, for the support and assistance you've given to me and to the other officers and directors this year. We've had a really good year, thanks to the collective efforts of many people. All of us should be proud of what we have accomplished together.



My very special thanks go to the other officers and directors for 2003 who have helped make everything go smoothly: Vice President Tim Pearson (KU4J); Secretary / Treasurer Nancy Morris (K4JD); Director Chuck Lewis (N4NM); and Director Bill Gerth (W4RK). They've worked hard, done a great job, and I'm honored to have served with them.

We've added 12 new members to our NADXC family during the year, with our current member roster standing at sixty-two. Our members are located from coast to coast, including Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, California, Minnesota, and Kentucky. We recognize that the out-of-state folks cannot regularly attend our meetings, but they're just as important to us as those who can. We wish we could see them more often.

Activities were plentiful during the year, including a special NADXC-hosted ICOM visit and equipment demo in May, Field Day in June, and the Huntsville Hamfest and our annual DX Banquet in August. Beyond these more "formal" events, members helped other members move towers and antennas, and an-

swered questions about equipment capabilities and operating techniques. There is a wealth of experience and assistance that rests within the NADXC membership, something I wish we would share more often.

The necessary administrative work within the club also kept up a steady pace throughout the year. The Board of Directors met regularly, our Constitution and By-Laws were reviewed and revised, dues were collected on time, and the member roster was validated. An operating budget for the year was estab-

(continued on page 3)

December 9th Program "NADXC Christmas Party"

6:30PM At Greenbrier Bar-B-Que
Greenbrier Road
Exit 3 off I-565

Volume 27, Issue 12
The LongPath

December, 2003

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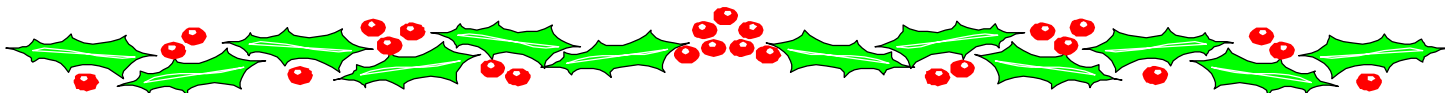
"Short Skip" ...

Bill Gerth, W4RK



- **ARRL & RSGB Team Up...** A new book is just now available from ARRL and RSGB called "International Antenna Collection." The book features various antenna designs from around the world from 136 KHz all the way to 1.3 GHz. This ought to be an interesting addition to any ham's library. Priced at \$19.95 on the ARRL website.
- **CQWW DX CW '03 Enjoys Nice HF Propagation.** ... As this is being written, I'm in the midst of playing in the CQWW DX CW Contest. Since I'm antenna limited to 10, 15, and 20 meters, it is nice to have such nice propagation on all the upper HF bands. From all indications, the participation is excellent and I have found wall to wall sigs from bottom to top of CW band segments.
- **ICOM 746 Pro and 756 Pro II Compared.** ... If you're tempted to take the plunge for one of these nice HF transceivers with enthusiastic year-end discounting, I'd recommend that you take a look at a well-written comparison in the Nov/Dec 2003 Issue of the National Contest Journal (NCJ). The author is George Wagner, K5KG. He does a nice job of comparing the two radios and tells you in clear terms what you get for the additional 1 kilodollar if you go for the 756 Pro II. As usual, it boils down to what your intended use may be and a match of capability to the task. Although I'm a Yaesu enthusiast, my limited use of W4UR's 746 and this article leads me to believe that you would not be disappointed with either of these two rigs.
- **Elecraft Does It Again.** Elecraft continues to add to its nice product line with another kit that is sure to also be a winner. Their new offering is the KX1, and ultra-compact HF QRP rig. The form factor is very interesting with the controls and indicators located on the top of the 1.3"H X 5.3"W X 3"D case. The stock rig covers 20 and 40 meters, but a \$29 option adds 30 meter capability. The base price is \$279. The internal batteries will supply 20-30 hours of casual operation. Check it out at "www.elecraft.com"
- **Cuban Field Day Bridges Political Barriers.** ... If you haven't yet read Chip Margelli's (K7JA) article in the December 2003 QST, you should do so. Most of you probably know Chip from his many visits to the Huntsville Hamfest as one of the Yaesu-Vertex staffers manning their booth. This excellent article with lots of color pictures shows how Chip and others managed to operate FD from Cuba and enjoy the hospitality and friendship of several CO hams. Nice that the ham fraternity can overcome political stumbling blocks! Maybe we need to get Fidel to get his ham ticket :-)
- **NADXC Christmas Party Should Be A Good One.** ... Just a few more days until the NADXC Christmas Party! The new venue at the Greenbrier Restaurant and the opportunity to order off

(continued on page 6)



Minutes of November 11th Meeting

Nancy Morris, K4JD

The President, Myron Manker (W4UR), called the regular monthly meeting of the NADXC to order at 7:02 PM at Ryan's Steakhouse. He asked all those who had served in the military to stand in special recognition and thanks for their service to our country on this Veteran's Day.

The President welcomed all members, especially one our newest members, Jerry Trousdale (K4ZIN), and visitors Jerianne Trammell (KG4IDB), Kayleigh Trammell (KG4QII), and Steve Bell (KD4TFN). He noted that there were now 62 members on the roster, and the roster is on the NADXC web site.

The 2003 Field Day scores have been released by the ARRL. Huntsville ARC (K4BFT) placed first in class 5A, and ranked seventh among all FD participants. Thanks to all NADXC members who participated.

It was noted that a planned DXpedition to Peter I Island has been postponed from 2004 to 2005.

The Christmas party will be December 9, at 6:30 PM at the new Greenbrier Restaurant, which is at Exit 3 on I-565. Families are encouraged to attend. The only business will be installation of new officers and directors and the presentation of awards.

The President distributed ballots to be used for the DXer of the Year award voting. He urged members to read the criteria for this award listed at the top of the ballot and vote for the members who meet those criteria. The Secretary will tally the results.

It was noted that Steve Werner's father had passed away recently. A contribution to the American Cancer Society will be made in his memory by the NADXC.

Ron Shaffer (W4VM) reported that the 147.30/90 repeater was down about a week, but he has repaired it and it is now operational again. He added that there might be more traffic than usual on the repeater due to the fact that the HARC 146.34/94 repeater is having problems.

Jared Cassidy (KQ4VT) reported that he had received a message from Rick Ruhl (W4PC) that improvements to the server are underway and these changes may make improvements in the web site possible.

The Minutes of the October 14 regular/annual meeting were accepted as published in the November LongPath.

The Treasurer reported a current bank balance of \$2,214.41, with no checks outstanding and no expenditures since the last meeting.

The program was a virtual tour of NADXC member stations. Earlier in the year Tim Pearson (KU4J) asked members to send him photos of their stations, including antennas. He then organized those he had received into a Power Point presentation. Each member who was present explained his own setup and Tim read the narration for those who were absent. There was high participation in this activity, but Tim also urged those who had not yet sent photos of their station to send them now for use at a later time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Morris – **K4JD**
Secretary/Treasurer

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

lished in February and we have maintained our expenses well under that budget. As we end the year 2003, NADXC is in sound financial condition.

At our regular meetings, programs have been well prepared, well presented, and very interesting. In terms of internal communications, we've tried to be much more "in touch" with our members this year through both e-mail and snail mail, and we've tried to make visitors and new members feel welcome. The quality and content of the *LongPath* newsletter continues to get even better with each issue, thanks primarily to the ef-

forts of Jared Cassidy (KQ4VT) and those who have dependably contributed material each month.

Now, the leadership "torch" passes to Tim Pearson and his fellow officers and directors for 2004. Please join me in making a commitment to support them as much as possible and let's make next year even better than this year has been. Warmest holiday wishes to all of you and your families and I hope to see you at our Christmas Party on December 9!

73 and GREAT DX,
Myron - **W4UR**



ARRL DX Bulletin

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

MAURITANIA, 5T. A group of Japanese amateurs are QRV as 5T5AFF, 5T5GDR, 5T5RQ, 5T5CPS, 5T5HC and 5T5TY until December 17. QSL to home calls.

AUSTRAL ISLANDS, FO. After his Marquesas Islands activity, Vlad, UA4WHX will be QRV as FO/AC4LN from Rurutu Island, IOTA OC-050, from December 10 to 12. QSL to home call.

MARQUESAS ISLANDS, FO. Vlad, UA4WHX will be QRV as FO/AC4LN from Atuona Island, IOTA OC-027, from December 6 to 9. QSL to home call.

THAILAND, HS. Mirek, VK6DXI is in Pattaya on business until December 23 and will operate in his spare time as HS0/VK3DXI. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters. QSL via DL4DBR.

DJIBOUTI, J2. Baldur, DJ6SI is QRV as J20DA and has been active on 20 meters around 1530z, 30 meters around 1600z and 40 meters around 1930z. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

ST. VINCENT, J8. Wayne, K8LEE and Peter, N0FW are QRV as J6DX until December 16. This includes entries in the ARRL 160 and 10 meter contests. Outside the contests, activity is on 160 to 6 meters. QSL via W8QID.

JAPAN, JA. Osamu, JR1EEU is QRV from Aoga shima Island, IOTA AS-043, until March 2004. Activity is on all HF bands. QSL direct.

JORDAN, JY. JY8YB has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters between 0930 and 1130z. QSL direct.

ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL ROCKS, PY0S. Joca, PS7JN is QRV as ZW0S until December 15. Activity is on all HF bands, including 6 meters, using SSB and RTTY. Since this is a work-related trip, activity will be limited, typically after 1900z. QSL to home call.

CHAD, TT. Allen, N5XZ is QRV as TT8XZ, and will be here until December 19. QSL to home call.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Larry, KJ4UY is QRV as V47UY until December 16. This includes entries in the TARA RTTY Melee, PSK Death March and possibly the ARRL 160 Meter contests. Although this is a vacation, he will try to be

Frank McGonigal, W6DSQ



active as much as possible. QSL to home call.

COCOS-KEELING ISLAND, VK9C. VK9CJ has been QRV on 20 meters around 1200z. QSL via JA1KJW.

CAMBODIA, XU. Dick, N6FF is QRV as XU7ACB for about two weeks. Activity is mostly on 160 meters, but will try other bands, depending on propagation. QSL to home call.

UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC4. Geoff, ZC4CW is QRV as ZC4T and will participate in the ARRL 160 and 10 Meter contests. QSL via G3AB.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Joe, W6VNR will be QRV as ZF2AH in the ARRL 160 Meter contest. QSL via N3ME.



Other DX Rumors and News

Frank McGonigal, W6DSQ

This issue brings to a close another year of great DX information from some very dedicated individuals and organizations. It is another example of how the internet and affordable PC's have enhanced our ability to fit chasing DX into our hectic day to day schedules. There are two sites that you need to add to your Favorites pull-down in Internet Explorer. The first <http://www.ng3k.com/Contest/index.html> has information as to what DX stations will be active in the upcoming contests and their QSL information. For example, there is a great list of stations that will be on in the 160 and 10 Meter contests this month. The second site is the OPDX Bulletin at <http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>. This site has a weekly bulletin containing all kinds of DX information and planned DXpeditions. With a little planning one should be able to work DXCC in a weekend, increase your single band totals, all while watching Tennessee beat Alabama or Auburn. Anyways, we all need to say thanks to those dedicated individuals who make our DX chasing life easier. Special thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn Packet Cluster Network, AB5K & the AR TelNet Clusters Network.

EDITOR'S SPECIAL NOTICE

This month's bulletin basically covers the CQWW DX Contest and a few of the stations active during the month of December. It's a consolidated listing of the CQWW DX CW Contest participants. See NG3K's site (above) for activity planned for the 160 and 10 meter contests.

7X, ALGERIA

Con, DF4SA, informs OPDX (just before going to print) that he will be active from the Algerian's Amateur Radio Association (ARA) club station, 7X2ARA, in the CQWW DX CW Contest as a Single-Op/All Band/ Low Power entry. The QTH is downtown Algiers City. The equipment will be a TS-570, using their existing multi-band vertical (40-10m) and a wire vertical for 80/160 meters (which Con installed on the roof). QSL 7X2ARA (only for this period of November 21-30th) to DF4SA by the bureau or (with sufficient return postage) direct to: Cornelius Paul, Adelberger Weg 3, D-73104 Breech, Germany.

9M2, WEST MALAYSIA

Masaru, JI1ETU, who has been active as 9M2/JI1ETU, will be going QRT at the end of December. He can usually be found on 40 meters CW after 1400z (or later after 2200z). Masaru has also been active on 20/17/15 meters CW. Please send QSL to the JARL Bureau via JI1ETU or send direct to: Masaru Funakubo, 2-10-11 Tsujidou-Motomachi, Fujiwara, Kanagawa, 251-0043 JAPAN.

A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Ghis, ON5NT, informs OPDX that A61AJ will be active in the CQWW CW Contest, operated by the UN WFP operators Mats/SM7PKK, Robert/S53R, Dane/S57CQ, Mike/PA5M and himself. Eugene/N2AA is also flying in to strengthen the team. Please remember to QSL to the new QSL Managers (since early October 2003) as follows: K2UO (for North, Central, South America, Caribbean, US territories in the Pacific) and DJ2MX (rest of the world). In the mean time all logs before October 2003 have now also been transferred to both managers. ADDED NOTES (by Ghis): "Due to our actual workload at the WFP, the IOTA operations from AS-021 and AS-124 are postponed until Feb/March 2004. All of us will still be in Dubai anyway at that time. I will have received the YI/ON5NT (multicolor picture) cards from the printer on my return home on December 20th, and they will be mailed out immediately."

AH2, GUAM (Update)

Members of the Guam Contest Club will be on the air as AH2R during CQWW DX CW Contest (November 29-30th). This time they set a target as the Oceanic leader in a Multi-OP Single-TX category and World Op 5. Also, they are trying to build an Oceanic record in this category. Operators are: Aki/JI3ERV/NH2C, Toshi/JR7OMD/WI3O, Hiro/JH0USD/KH2VO and Sam/JR8VSE/NH2N. QSL via JH7QXJ (direct, see QRZ.com) or JA bureau. Please DO NOT QSL via the KH2 bureau. Sunrise/Sunset: 2040/0750z.

B4, CHINA

David, BA4RF, will be active as B4RF in the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest (November 29-30th) as a Single-Op/Single Band (40m)/High Power entry. QSL via the address on QRZ.com.

DXCC NEWS

Wayne Mills, N7NG/1, Manager Membership Services Department of the ARRL, announced this past week: "After receipt of the necessary documentation yesterday (courtesy of Bill, W9VA), ZW0S, the St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks operations of April 2001, February 2002, April and September 2003 and a planned visit from November 26th to December 19th, 2003, by PS7KM (See ZW0 below) are approved for DXCC credit."

Also, the recent operation of 3C0V from the Island of Annon has been approved for DXCC credit.

OC-NEW. Johan, PA3EXX, will be active as VK4WWI/9 from Cato Reef in the Coral Sea Islands Territory South Group, December 2-6th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters CW/SSB. QSL via his home callsign. (continued on Page 7)



“Short Skip” ...cont’d

the menu should make for a more relaxed atmosphere and a great time for all. Come on out and help us to close out the year with a fun gathering of NADXCers and family members! Check out the details elsewhere in this issue.

•**W4RK Short Skip Handoff Back to W4UR.** . . . Hard to believe that this is the 12th Short Skip that I've done. As you may recall, Short Skip was originated in 2002 by Myron, W4UR. I agreed to take over the column for Myron as he fulfilled his term as President in 2003 and wrote the "From The President's Desk" column in the Long Path. As in most things, Myron is a hard act to follow, but hopefully, I have presented some worthwhile tidbits and faithfully continued the tradition of Short Skip. I have certainly enjoyed the effort and thanks to those of you who have offered encouragement. I'm proud to now hand the Short Skip pencil back to Myron for his continuation.

•**TU NADXC!** . . . As I complete my term as a member of the Board of Directors of NADXC, I'd like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve this past year. It was a great pleasure to serve with such fine folks and to see NADXC moving forward with such enthusiasm and energy. The great team of new officers is sure to make 2004 even better! TU NADXC!

73 es gud DX de W4RK

DX Elmer

Tim Pearson, KU4J

40 Meter DXing

As winter sets in the low-bands will become THE hot spot to work DX. During the winter months the static crashes on 40 meters will start to lessen and there will be times when the band will be very quiet. 40 meters is one of my favorite bands for working DX, this weekend during the CQWW-CW, I managed to work TO4WW on Europa, TS7N (3V8), 5U5Z (Niger), T32, etc. I also managed to work KH7U/KH5 last week for an all time new one on 40m RTTY!!

Most people have dipoles, slopers or verticals on 40m so this band is kind of an equalizer. That's not to say there aren't people with mega antennas, they just aren't the norm. With 100 Watts and a dipole you would be surprised what you can work on 40 meters.

Working SSB on 40 meters is a little more challenging because almost everyone has to work split frequency. Most of the DX stations will transmit below 7.1 MHz and will listen in the US part of the band. They will announce the frequency that they are listening on. If you find 5U5Z on 7.085 MHz you might hear him say "This is 5U5Z listening 7224 7224", you will need to transmit on 7.224 and listen on

7.085. Be careful because if you transmit on the wrong VFO you will be transmitting out of the US phone band. You also have to contend with all of the broadcast station QRM, but hopefully in a few years this will no longer be a problem.

Working 40 meter CW is my favorite and this is also the primary motivation for getting your extra class license because the vast majority of DX is found at the very bottom of 40 (7.000 to 7.015 is prime DX).

I've found that a 40m dipole is probably the best all around antenna for working DX on that band. If you can get it up fairly high and oriented NE/SW you CAN'T go wrong. A sloper is a close second if you have a tower to act as the counterpoise. A good audio filter or radio with a DSP/IF also makes working 40m DX much more enjoyable.

Propagation on 40m tends to follow the greyline somewhat but with a +/- 1 hour overlap. It's best when there is darkness between both paths but I recently heard V8A on 40 RTTY for more than an hour after our sunrise.

Merry Christmas and Best DX in 2004, Tim, **KU4J**



Other DX Rumors and News...cont'd

JY8, JORDAN

Operators Helgert/JY8YB and George/JY9QJ will be active as JY8B in the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest (November 29-30th) as a Multi- Single entry. QSL via DL5MBY.

PIRATE ALERT

Wally, LZ2CJ, informs OPDX that there has been an unknown operator using the callsign, ZA1MM, making QSOs and giving out as his QSL Manager LZ2UU. Wally states, "THAT THIS IS NOT TRUE! His friend Danny, LZ2UU (LZ0A and VP8/LZ2UU), is NOT a manager for any ZA station. Please spread the word and let the DXers know about this pirate. A lot of QSLs are arriving at Danny's post office box and of course Danny can not send them any QSLs for the illegal QSOs made by ZA1MM pirate."

QSL INFO AND NEWS

Vance, N5VL, reports that he has started mailing out the **CY9A** cards; however, not the RTTY QSOs at the present time and also the Buro cards (which will not be mailed until later). Vance states that if you just sent a card with no return postage, your card will be in the Bureau cards.

NEED A V51AS QSL? Bob, K8BL, informs OPDX that he had a rough time getting QSLs from Frank, V51AS, over the last few years for 3 new band QSOs. Five attempts have not gotten through to him and Bob was ready to give up, but sent a bare QSL to him with a request that Frank E-mail Bob with instructions due to his mail being emptied/stolen. He finally got Bob's bare QSL (Bob guesses it was because there was nothing about it worth stealing). Below are his instructions for a better chance of getting your QSL through to him. Frank, V51AS, states, "In V5, IRC are not accepted. Please send 2 USD and registered mail. Sorry for very bad postworkers..... Send to P.O. Box on QRZ.com."

CQWWCW QSL ROUTES. Zik, DL/VE3ZIK (4N1DX), informs OPDX that the latest QSL info from the CQWW DX CW Contest will be published next Thursday, December 4th.

RRC ACTIVITIES

Members of the Russian Robinson Club (RRC) are planning a unique mountain radio expedition into Africa to the highest apex of African continent - mountain of Kilimanjaro (5985m) in Tanzania. The team plans to climb to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro and erect the Russian Robinson Club flag. The team will consist of RW3GW, RW3GU, RZ3EM, mountain climber Gennadi Khryukin (g.Lipetsk) and video operator and journalist - Boris Mamlin (g.Novosibirsk). The expedition is planned to take place between December 2-17th. Also, look for them to be active from the United Arab Emirates as

A61AR during the evening of December 2nd to 3rd and December 16th to 17th. From Tanzania, they will use the callsign 5H3GW and also 5H3AA (EK6DO), 5H3RK (VK4VB). The climb to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro will take 8 days, while the descent taking 2 days. QSL via operator's instructions.

TO4, EUROPA

The TO4E team is now active and should be active as TO4WW for the CQWW DX CW Contest weekend. Floyd Gerald, N5FG, East Coast USA Pilot Station for TO4E/TO4WW, reports that Rafik, F5CQ, has lost E-mail contact with the FR/E team on Europa due to malfunctioning PSK (??) equipment. This means that unless they are able to get the problem fixed, there will be no updates or skeds sent to the pilot stations. This also means they will not be able to upload any logs to the on-line log on the web site. All the antennas are not installed yet, especially for the low bands. However, they think that they will be ready with the antennas before the contest. Flo, F5CWU, Editor of "La Gazette du DX", also provided OPDX with the following update on the latest news from Europa (dated Nov. 27th): "Tonight, I (F5CQ & F5IPW) spoke with Dany F5CW on 20m and I asked him why the team has to QRT so often. He told me that they must QRT due to restriction with the generator, probably due to a lack of gas, even if the propagation is so good. The team will not have the possibility to work around the clock except during the CQWDXCW (QRV 24/24).

Here is the schedule of their operation:

from 0400-0730z

from 1000-1030z

from 1300-1330z

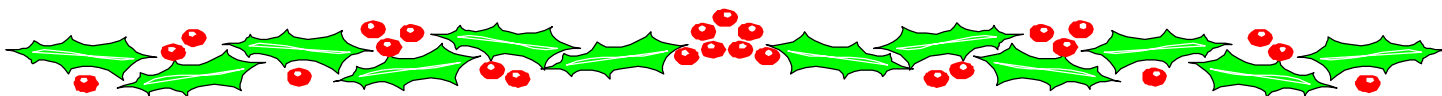
from 1515-1945 or 2000z

Tomorrow, Friday November 28th, they will finish to setup the low bands RX antennas. During the CQWW, the TO4E callsign will be used on the WARC bands." Remember, the TO4E Europa Web page is at: <http://europa2003.free.fr/>

V47, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

Larry/KJ4UY and his fiancée Mel will be leaving Orlando on December 2nd for St. Kitts/Nevis. They will be taking a ferry to Nevis on the 3rd and Larry will start operating as V47UY then. The weekend of December 6th, Larry plans to operate in the TARA RTTY Sprint, the PSK31 Death March and/or the ARRL 160 meter Contest. He states, "I will probably do all to give others a new multiplier and just have fun doing it." On the weekend of December 13th, Karl, V44NK, and Larry will be operating the ARRL 10 Meter Contest using the callsign V47UY. As this is Larry's first vacation in 2 years, it is also not all radio. They will be doing some scuba diving and plan on taking a side trip to St. Barts. He will, however, be on the

(continued on page 10)



December Crossword

Jared Cassidy, KQ4VT

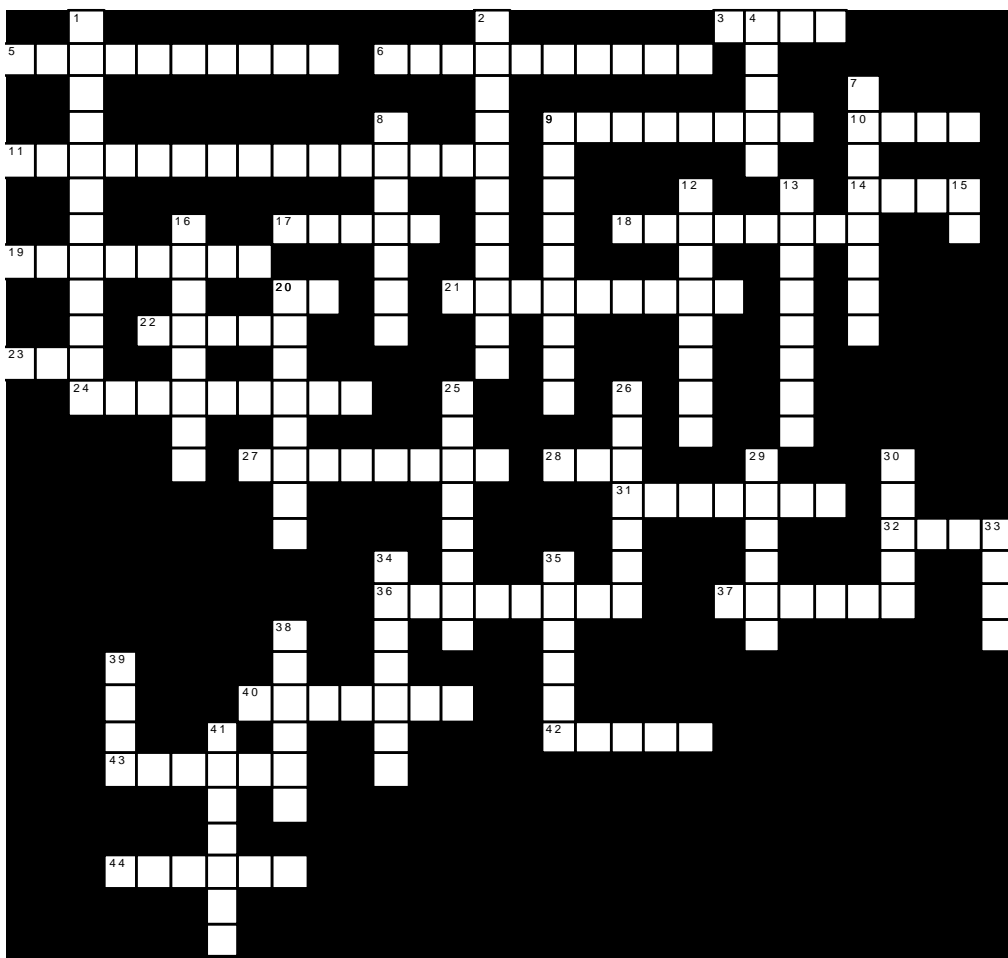
ACROSS

- 3. Radioteletype abbr.
- 5. Worked All _____
- 6. Often requires more than one
- 9. _____ Gardens Resort, 9M6AAC
- 10. Big DX contest abbr.
- 11. Where Santa goes after his midnight flight
- 14. Franz Josef _____
- 17. Capital of Ecuador
- 18. Follows the terminator (not Arnold's career)
- 19. VK9NS
- 20. K1EA's popular logging program
- 21. The Tropic of _____ runs through Madagascar
- 22. _____ loop
- 23. Receiver Incremental Tuning abbr.
- 24. The higher this number the better, usually
- 27. Popular propagation method and DX publication
- 28. Yagi's cohort
- 31. DX _____ Club
- 32. The Brits' ARRL
- 36. Cyclical little buggers
- 37. DX "country"
- 40. Every amateur has to have one
- 42. Rig
- 43. Sierra
- 44. Reunion Island is a _____ Department

DOWN

- 1. Add-ons to the basic DXCC award
- 2. VK0IR DXpedition location
- 4. The Brits call'em valves
- 7. Editor of "The Daily DX"
- 8. Polar _____
- 9. When you work'em all you get put here
- 12. Format now required for computer contest logs
- 13. AKA a "full gallon"

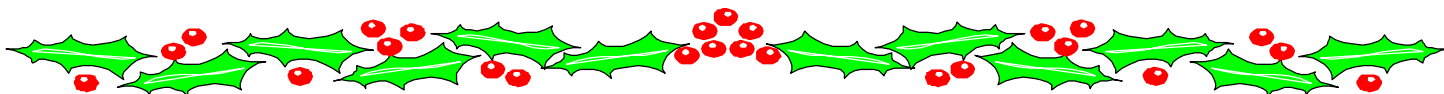
- 15. What we work
- 16. Single _____
- 20. Giant address book that is no longer a book
- 25. Bechuanaland, formerly
- 26. NCDXF has several
- 29. Wallis and _____ Island
- 30. "Work First, _____ Later"
- 33. QSL via _____
- 34. _____ On The Air, IOTA for short
- 35. "The Complete DXer" author
- 38. Equatorial _____
- 39. Mfr. of the HC-4 element
- 41. Gotta have one to work'em



For Sale

I have a friend who just returned from England with a bunch of European size Airmail envelopes. \$5 for a package of 25. I will bring them to the Christmas party. Tim, KU4J





DX Contests for the Coming Month

Chuck Lewis, N4NM

ARRL 160 Meter Contest, (SSB & CW), 160 meters only
 Dec. 5, 2200Z to Dec. 7, 1600Z (42 hours)
 Exchange: RS(T) plus ARRL Section. DX: RST only
 See page 112, Nov. QST

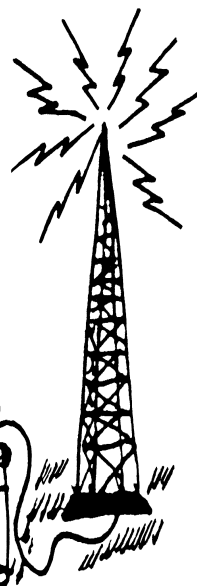
Russian 160 Meter Contest, **CW/SSB**, 0000Z – 0200Z, Dec. 20

Tara RTTY Melee, (RTTY), 80 – 10 Meters
 Dec 6, 0000Z – 2400Z
 Exchange: RS plus State/Province. DX: RS plus Ser. #.
 See page 84, Dec. QST

Croatian CW Contest, **CW**, 1400Z, Dec. 20 – 1400Z Dec. 21

AGB Activity Party (Belarus), **CW/SSB**, 2100Z – 2300Z, Dec. 19

PSK31 Death Match, (PSK31/53), 80 – 6 Meters
 Dec. 6, 0000Z – 2400Z
 Exchange: Name plus State/ Province/Country
 See page 84, Dec. QST or <http://www.mdxal.org/deathmatch.html>



DARC Christmas Contest, **CW/SSB**, 0830Z - 1100Z, Dec 26

Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge, **CW**, 160M, 1500Z Dec. 27 – 1500Z Dec. 28

Original QRP Contest, **CW**, 1500Z, Dec. 27 – 1500Z, Dec. 28

SARTG New year RTTY Contest, **RTTY**, 0800Z – 1100Z Jan. 1

AGCW QRP Winter Contest, **CW**, 0900Z, Jan 1 - 1200Z, Jan 1

ARRL Ten Meter Contest, (SSB & CW), 10 meters only
 Dec. 13, 0000Z to Dec. 24, 2400Z
 Exchange: RS(T) plus State or Province. DX: RST plus Ser. #.
 See page 112, Nov. QST



ARRL RTTY Roundup, **RTTY**, 1800Z, Jan 3 - 2400Z, Jan 4

OK DX RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80 – 10 meters
 Dec 20, 0000Z to 2400Z
 Exchange: RST plus CQ Zone
 See page 84, Dec. QST

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

Chuck, N4NM

RAC Winter Contest (CW & PHONE)
 Dec 27, 0000Z to 2400Z
 Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial No.; VEs send RS(T) plus Province
 See page 84, Dec. QST

ARRL RTTY Roundup, (RTTY), 80 – 10 Meters
 Jan. 3, 1800Z to Jan. 4, 2400Z
 Exchange, RS plus State/Province. DX: RS plus Ser. #
 See ARRL Website

OTHERS:
 QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew CW Sprint, 2000Z – 2400Z, Dec 7

Digital Prefix Contest, **Digital Modes**, 0000Z - 2400Z, Dec 13





Other DX Rumors and News...cont'd

air as much as possible. Please, QSLs for USA stations go to KJ4UY with return postage and for everyone outside the USA, QSL to KJ4UY direct with return postage or via the bureau. All QSLs are answered 100%. He is hoping to give the deserving a new country or new band/mode country. They will leave December 16th.

ZA, ALBANIA (Press Release - QSP from Martti, OH2BH)

News From Tirana On A Rainy Wednesday,
November 26, 2003

A memorable second week came to an end when the U.S./ARRL delegation headed by K7WX and K9LA departed Tirana with many fond memories and new friendships they were taking back home. The group accomplished several objectives, among them relations to Telecom authorities and academics at the University as well as student contacts with

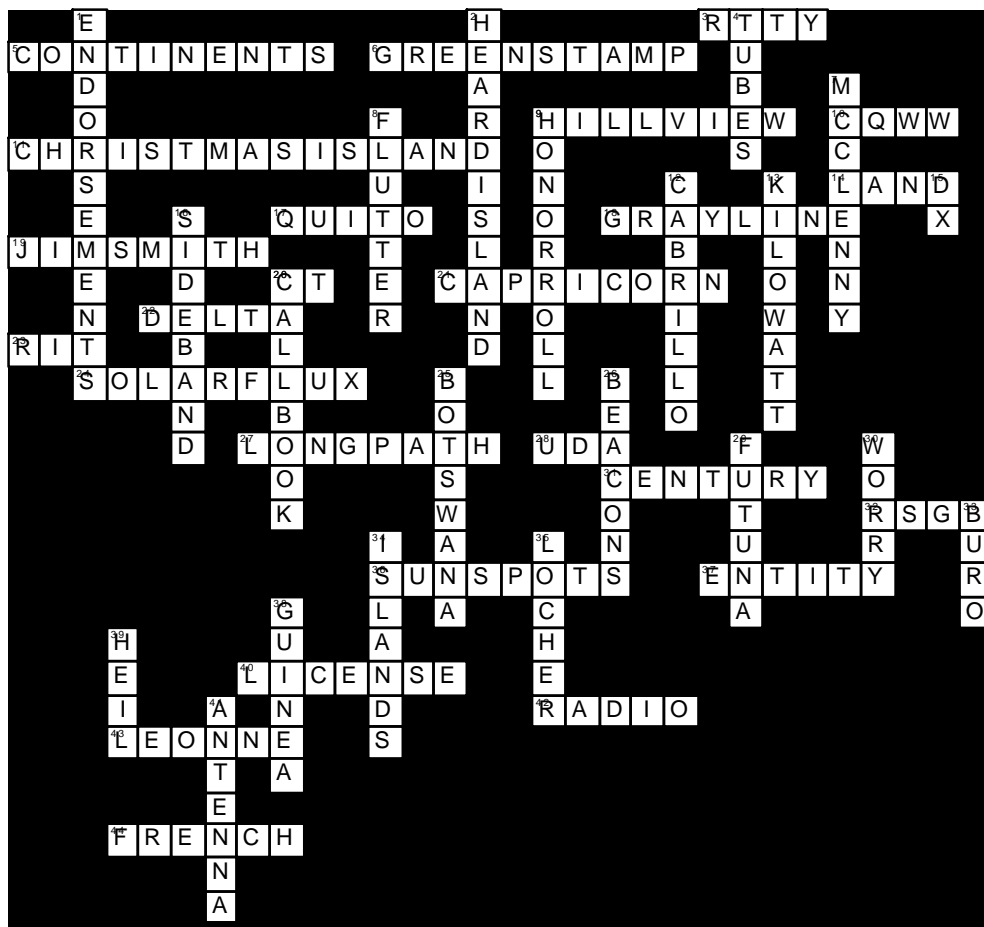
many soon-to-be amateur radio licensees.

On the radio side, several U.S. callsigns were aired specifically on 75/80M and PSK 31, resulting in the radio side, to many too be thousands of QSOs, such as 4,000 on 75/80M, including 1,000 to the U.S. and reaching even the West Coast over the long-haul grayline. The 160M activities will continue through the efforts of Robin, WA6CDR. The theory exam was conducted today Wednesday with 33 students getting a passing mark on the CEPT 1 level. Now the course will move on to pure amateur radio related subjects under the leadership of Uli, DJ2YA, while John, G3OKA, will head back to the UK after a job well done. Britain's RSGB deserves credit for their support of the first part of the program. The Albanian authorities released the callsign ZA1UT (University of Tirana) symbolizing this program. Another wave of lecturers have now arrived representing Finland and Germany for the following week. You will soon find DJ2YA, DL3DXX,

(continued on page 11)

December Crossword Solution

Jared Cassidy, KQ4VT





Other DX Rumors and News...cont'd

DL6LAU, OH0XX, OH2BH, OH2KI, OH2PM, OH2TA, OH2UA as well as K3NA, K6RLE and WA6CDR on the bands.

The Albanian Amateur Radio Association (AARA) will launch a multi-multi effort for CQWW led by their ZA1B, ZA1D, ZA1E, ZA1I, ZA1S, ZA1Z and others assisted by their foreign guests. You will hear the ZA1A team appearing during the contest period. A special event QSL card can be obtained for all callsigns active during this program from: Project Goodwill Albania 2003
P.O. Box 73
02380 Espoo, Finland or, via OH2BH

ZF, CAYMAN ISLAND

Pete, N2LM, will be active as ZF2PD on Grand Cayman Island (NA-016) from December 28th through January 8th. Activity will be 80-6 meters CW/SSB. Requests for QSL cards can be sent to his home callsign, N2LM.

ZW0, ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL ROCKS

Karl, PS7KM, plans to be active as ZW0S from St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks (SA-014) between November 26th and December 19th. QSL direct to PS7JN: Joaquim das Virgens Neto, Rua Carlos Serrano 1969, 59076-740 Natal RN, Brazil.

Rodrigues Island DXpedition, 3B9C

The Five Star DXers Association (FSDXA) is pleased to announce Project Star Reach, a large-scale DXpedition to Rodrigues Island, 3B9.

FSDXA, closely linked to CDXC (Chiltern DX Club), the UK DX Foundation, is the group which brought you the very successful 9M0C DXpedition to the Spratly Islands in February 1998 and the subsequent record-breaking D68C DXpedition to the Comoros in February 2001.

Yaesu have kindly agreed to be Principal Sponsor, and will be providing ten complete state-of-art stations consisting of FT-1000MP MkV Field transceivers and Quadra VL-1000 linears.

The centrepiece of Project Star Reach will be a major DXpedition to Rodrigues Island, to take place next March/April. However, the project also encompasses a range of other activities both before and after the DXpedition itself, including magazine articles showing newcomers to HF how to work DX. The DXpedition will also be a test-bed for StarLog and StarServer, a software system designed specifically to facilitate major DXpeditions of this sort.

The callsign 3B9C has already been assigned, and the plan is for an operation encompassing over three weeks of operation, including four weekends. The first members of the team will arrive in 3B9 on Tuesday 16th March 2004, and expect to spend the first two to three days installing antennas and equipment. Operations will commence before the weekend. Station breakdown will start on Monday 12th April, though operations may continue for a further day or two after that.

There are two main and several subsidiary objectives:

- To provide the possibility for every amateur radio station in the world - even those running QRP or a very simple an-

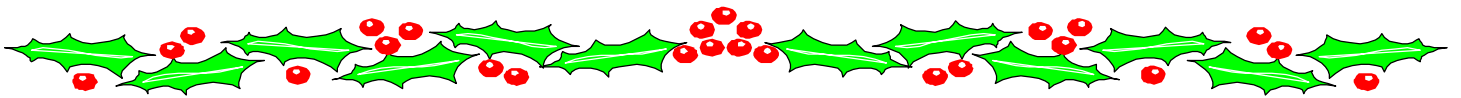
tenna - to make at least one contact with 3B9C; and

- To enable top DXers to put 3B9C in their log on as many bands and modes as possible. It should be possible for top DXers active on all bands and on all main modes to work 3B9C on at least 20 band / mode slots!

Subsidiary aims and objectives:

- To use the DXpedition as a focus for increasing interest in HF amateur radio, especially among those new to HF, through magazine articles, presentations, an awards programme with categories for both new and experienced operators and clubs, etc.
- To use the skills of team members to help the islanders of Rodrigues through various activities currently in the planning stages
- To test the StarSoftware server-based DXpedition software in the most demanding of environments, with a view to making it available to other DXpeditions in the years to come.
- To encourage activity on all bands and modes at a time when decreasing sunspots may be causing some operators to lose interest in HF and 6m.
- To be one of the first major DXpeditions to link fully with the ARRL's "Logbook of the World" initiative.
- By setting and maintaining high standards of operation, to uphold and demonstrate the highest standards of DXing practice.
- To encourage amateurs to explore new bands and modes, by being readily workable on all bands and modes over an extended period (one of the pleasant surprises with D68C was the way in which many HF operators made their first forays on to PSK31 and on to 10m FM especially to work the DXpedition). Specialist modes will include AO-40, EME and SSTV.

(continued on page 13)



RV Nomad

Craig Behrens, NM4T

It would be easy for me to say that there are no friendships like those shared in an organization like the NADXC. The fact that the club is still active after all the years, trials and tribulations further supports my comment (and personal feelings)-this fellowship is something really special.

Several of you remember "breaking bread" with me at Ryan's and several other sites over the years, the programs, the contests, the mischief and even a CQWW-SSB DXpedition to St Kitts. And, there were the special events: the NADXC Banquets, Ham Fest Programs and Christmas Dinners (I also remember the Picnics).

Well, I guess I'm like a bad check-I just keep coming back! I can't (and don't want to) forget the great friendships. So, I thought I better get my butt in gear and start making some deposits to the NADXC Friendship Bank. Perhaps contributing another column would be a good way for sharing fresh ideas and keeping in touch while my wife, Pamela, my dog, Eliot and I travel the North American Continent in our new motor home.

It took a few months for us to make the (trying and emotional) transition to full-time adventures-extreme down-sizing and parting with a lot of STUFF. The RV (perhaps "Land Yacht" would be more appropriate) is now, for a season, our only home, wherever that might be. We are excited about the possibilities now that the adventure has finally begun.

One could also say that "Full-Timing" is a major paradigm shift (anyone remember the play we did years ago?). It's another one of those things like scuba diving that folks are familiar with, think they accurately understand it, only to discover when they give it a try, that it's something quite different from anything they could imagine.

Although the motor home we have is technology rich, it still provides many unique amateur radio challenges compared to the comforts of home and having your very own Ham Shack. Yes, I miss the "Contest-Grade" system and 8-acre site I once had in an earlier life (glad to hear that many of

you are enjoying some of those goodies). So, I thought it might be fun to share the adventures, the results from my (slightly unusual) system design efforts and the special operational techniques employed to convert this motor home into "DX Communications Central."

Pam and I will make a special trip from Atlanta to Huntsville for a few days so we can attend the NADXC Christmas Gathering (I can hardly wait!). Later, we will bring the motor home to Huntsville for a week, starting on 12/26/03, a last stop before heading out to the South West, exploring this great country of ours.

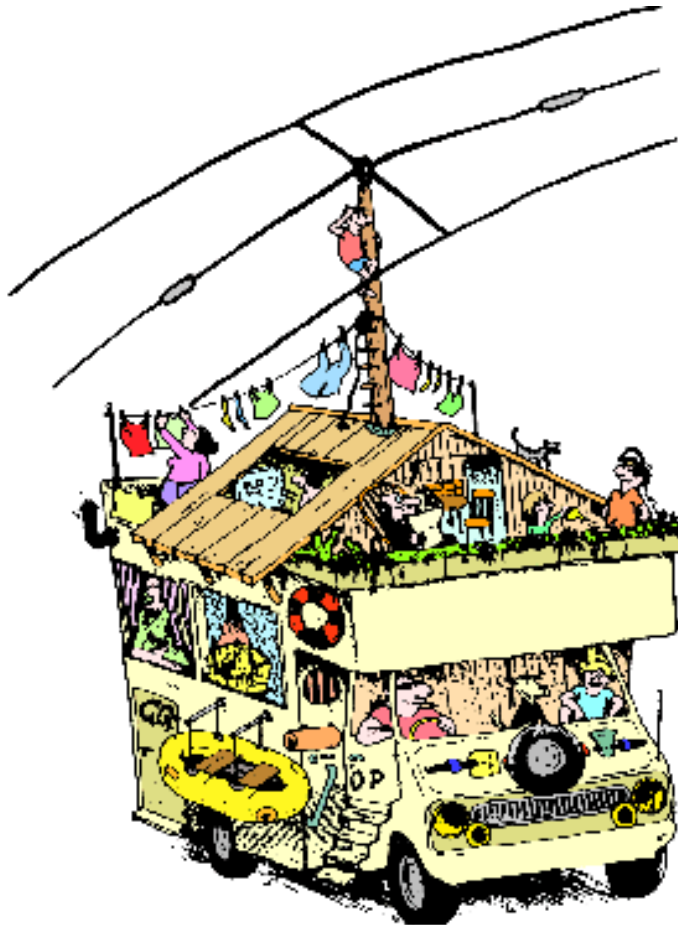
Finally, please let me know how you feel about adding an RV-centric, DXing on-the-road column to the LongPath and what kinds of things you would like to see in it.

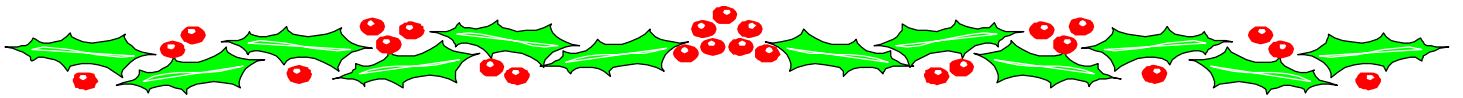
My e-Mail address is craigb44@msn.com and phone # is (561)312-0667 (North Palm

Beach, FL is our "Home Base" these days.)

See ya'll real soon.

73/72 and DX,
Craig-NM4T





Rodrigues Island DXpedition, 3B9C...cont'd

The last major activity from Rodrigues Island was the 3B9R DXpedition of 1999, which made some 47,000 QSOs. Since then this semi-rare DX entity has been activated almost exclusively by its one resident amateur, Robert 3B9FR. With the best will in the world, one individual cannot meet the world's needs for a DXCC entity, and 3B9 has worked its way back up the "Most Wanted" lists.

For those who are into statistics, Rodrigues stands at number 81 in the 2002 world-wide listing of 'Most-Wanted' DXCC entities, published by the DX Magazine. However, for specific areas of the world and specific modes, it ranks much higher, for example 27th in Europe for SSB, and between 30th and 50th in the central regions of the USA on both SSB and CW. It also ranks high on the RTTY "Wanted" lists. It should also be borne in mind that many of the higher-ranked countries in the 2002 survey have since been the target of substantial DXpeditions, likely to have brought them below Rodrigues in the rankings.



In any case, our experience with D68C suggests that not too much credence should be given to the "Most-Wanted" lists, as only a statistically small number of DXers respond to the annual questionnaires. These tend to be those DXers on or near the Honor Roll, whereas in 'real life' very many more DXers will call a DXpedition than would be imagined from its ranking on the "Most Wanted" lists.

3B9C will build on the experiences gained during the D68C and 9M0C operations (and distilled into the successful book "DXpeditioning Behind the Scenes" – see below), to give both seasoned DXers and "Little Pistols" a wide range of opportunities to work Rodrigues on many bands and modes. The date of the DXpedition has been chosen with propagation forecasts in mind, and spans the spring equinox. Good propagation to all major areas is expected on all bands from LF through 10 metres.

3B9C will have up to fifteen high-power HF stations active simultaneously when band conditions allow. Activities will encompass SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31 and, as appropriate, FM. There will also be satellite activity and possible EME. Large monoband antennas will be used on all bands, including a full-size two-element Yagi for 30m. There will be capability for working simultaneously on more than one mode on 10, 15, 20 and 80 metres when these bands are open. On LF we will use two phased pairs of Titanex verticals on 80m, one pair for CW and one for SSB. 40m will rely on our tried and

tested 4-square array. 160m operation will utilize the well-known Titanex verticals, with various loops and Beverages for receive. Full details of the equipment and antennas will be given in a subsequent bulletin. Some 3 tonnes of equipment will be sea-freighted by container to 3B9 ahead of the DXpedition to allow the team to put on an operation of this scale.

By operating over four weekends, the team expects to be able to work through the demand for Rodrigues to the point where even the most modestly equipped stations will have a good chance of contacts on several bands. The extended period of operation also opens up the opportunity for a 3B9C entry in the CQ WPX SSB Contest and, perhaps, other contest events taking place during that period.

The multinational team is still being formed, but already includes many well-known callsigns, as well as some up-and-coming DXpedition operators. So far, team members include DL7AKC (Jens), EI5DI (Paul), G0MRF (Dave), G0OPB (Tony), G3NUG (Neville), G3BJ (Don), G3IZD (Ivan), G3NHL (Chris), G3RAU (Derek), G3SED (Mike), G3WGV (John), G3WKL (John), G3XTT (Don), G4FRE/WW2R (Dave), G4JKS (Hilary), G4KIU (Nigel), G4TSH (Justin), G4VXE (Tim), GU4YOX (Bob), JA1RJU(Kazu), JH4RHF (Jun), KF7E (Jim), MODXR (Mark), M0GMT (Daniel), N7CQQ (John), NK7C (Pat), W3EF (Maury).

Donations in US dollars may be sent to Wes Lamboley W3WL, 690 Hunterhill Way, Roswell, GA 300075, USA (e-mail: BLamboley@aol.com). Please make checks payable to "Wesley Lamboley".

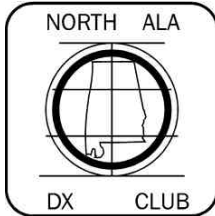
The logos of all DX clubs etc which have helped to sponsor 3B9C will be shown on the 3B9C QSL card (subject to a certain minimum amount), as will the names and callsigns of those who make an individual contribution in advance of the DXpedition (again subject to a certain minimum amount) - please let us know if you do not want your name and callsign to appear on the QSL card.

This first Bulletin is intended mainly to alert you to Project Star Reach. Between now and March further bulletins will be issued, but you can already find out much more by visiting the Web site which is up and running at www.fsdxa.com/3b9c

Don Field **G3XTT**, NK1G (g3xtt@lineone.net)
3 November 2003(3B9C Publicity Officer)

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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*We're on the
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 another year is here once again. I have enjoyed working with Myron and the rest of the board members this past year. They have done an excellent job in moving the club forward and helping to bring new members into the club. Kudos to each one of them! Thanks for your positive and optimistic leadership, Myron!

Nancy has done a bang-up job as Secretary/Treasurer this past year, especially with the minutes, which provide a pleasurable read on what happened at the previous meeting. Thanks, Nancy, for all your hard work this year.

Tim has done an outstanding job as Vice-President and de facto program scrounger. He has brought us some goodies.

Well, it seems that we will be losing one of our regular contributors to the LongPath, Bill Gerth, W4RK, is stepping down and passing the pen back to Myron to continue on with the Short Skip article. Myron started that column a year or so ago and when he became President, Bill

stepped up to the plate and took over. We will miss your little tid-bits, Bill, many thanks! I hope that Bill will continue to contribute to the LongPath, periodically.

This month we have an added feature, a crossword. I thought it might be a nice addition to the LongPath and solicit your comments on whether it is something you would like to see in future editions of our newsletter. Also, we have an article from Craig Behrens this month and hope to see more from him in the future.

Don't forget the NADXC Christmas Party to be held at the Greenbrier Bar-B-Que on Dec. 9. We hope the change in venue will allow for more participation from the membership in this festive event.

Well, I'm about to run out of room here so on behalf of the LongPath staff and NADXC board I would like to wish you a wonderful holiday season!

73, Jared Cassidy, **KQ4VT**
