



# The LongPath



A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## From the President's Desk

From the Prez.

First of all I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I only have one wish for Santa and that's a QSO with the VU4 DXpedition (My Last One!!). I have yet to HEAR them but I'm still hoping. This is the first time VU4 has been on the air since 1987 (17 years!!), hopefully it won't be 17 years before its on the air again. In the past month I've managed to work 4 new ones on RTTY (VP2E, 6O0, 9N7 and XT2).



and to present our 2 awards (DX'er of the Year and the David Reasoner Memorial Award).

73's Tim-KU4J



On behalf of my fellow NADXC officers I would like to thank everyone for giving us the opportunity to serve you during the 2004 calendar year. Let's give the officers for 2005 all of our support and input so we can make the NADXC the best club that it can be.

I hope to see everyone and their families at the NADXC Christmas Party on December 14th at 6:00 pm at the Greenbrier Restaurant just off of I-565 at the Greenbrier exit. There will not be a program but there will be a short ceremony to induct the new officers

December 14th Program  
"NADXC Christmas Party"

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

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### Inside this issue:

<i>From the President's Desk</i>	1
<i>"Short Skip"...</i>	2
<i>Minutes from Last Meeting</i>	3
<i>Know When to Hold'em, Know When to Fold'em</i>	3
<i>ARRL DX Bulletin</i>	4
<i>Other DX Rumors</i>	5
<i>Mt. Athos- "A World of its Own"</i>	7
<i>KP1 &amp; KP5- Navassa and Desecheo</i>	7
<i>Stray Cats</i>	8
<i>VU4GDG - The Thrill of Victory and The Agony of Defeat</i>	8
<i>DX Contests</i>	9
<i>Editor's Soapbox</i>	10



## "Short Skip" ...

*Myron Manker, W4UR*

**K4BFT Tops 2004 Field Day Competition** . . . The ARRL has released the results of 2004 Field Day operations, with K4BFT in Huntsville posting the highest score among all 73 entries in its class. The margin over the second place finisher was substantial. Although K4BFT is technically a HARC-sponsored activity, many NADXC members participated prominently during the event and everyone involved should take pride in this achievement.

**Peter I DXpedition Update** . . . The latest information on the Peter I DXpedition indicates all preparations are on schedule. The group expects to be operating from January 14 to February 10, which should provide ample opportunities for all of us to work this very rare location. It's not too soon to make sure our antennas and station equipment are in good working condition before we have to face the 3YØX pileups.

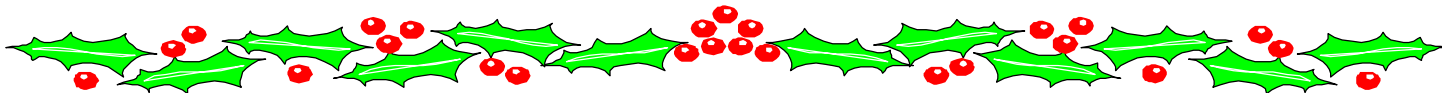
**Take Some Time to Help the Kids** . . . The first 2005 version of the ARRL's annual Kid's Day event is scheduled for Sunday, January 2. The League sponsors two Kid's Days each year for the purpose of providing young folks with actual on-the-air exposure to the world of amateur radio. It's always a real thrill for those involved (both young and old), takes only a little time, and is great fun . . . so why not plan to participate. If you can, why not invite a young person you know to your shack and let him/her operate under your supervision. If you can't do that, why not get on the air yourself and talk to some of the kids. It's an important investment of time in maintaining the ranks of licensed amateur radio operators. See page 43 of the December issue of QST for details.

**The Bands Were BUSTED!!** . . . Since the last issue of the LongPath was published, many of us have once again experienced first hand the power of the Sun to disrupt HF radio wave propagation. During the period November 8-10, the Sun exhibited some intense activity that essentially made HF radio communications impossible, especially on the upper frequency bands. However, good six-meter auroral propagation was also noted. The "K index" reached its highest possible level of "9" for several 3-hour periods, indicating extremely severe geomagnetic storms, and the "A" index reached 189 on November 8. Though temporary, effects were profound. (A good source of the 30-day history of K and A indices is at [www.sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/indices/DGD.txt](http://www.sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/indices/DGD.txt).)

**RF Exposure Safety Reminder** . . . We mentioned this subject several months ago, but it's important enough to warrant another reminder. Applications for all new amateur licenses and license renewals require that the applicant certify familiarity with the FCC's rules concerning RF exposure safety. Operators are also required to perform routine RF safety evaluations when their stations' transmitter power exceeds certain limits. There is a lot of good info about this subject on the

*(continued on page 9)*





## Minutes from the November 9th Meeting *Vic Holland, K4RVH*

The November meeting of North Alabama DX Club was called to order at 7:00 PM on November 9, 2004. The sign in sheet appears to have gone missing so I can't report a head-count or recently worked DX.

Visitors were recognized with the presence of WA4JA John Almon.

Discussions of favorable conditions during the recent CQWWSSB contest and particularly on 10 and 12M were made. This followed by high solar indices that made the vhf crowd happy though.

Vic K4RVH gave the treasurer's report stating the funds on deposit and on-hand amounted to \$2621.73.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Old business was presented. The book on 3Y0PI was transferred from K2SC to the hands of W4WB.

No further old business.

New business discussions included the following;

The annual Christmas party and officer installation will be held at Greenbrier restaurant. This is the same location as last year. Time is 6:00 PM on the regular meeting date.

The current editor, Jared KQ4VT, of the LongPath, our news-

letter, has requested for someone else to step up and take over so that he can have a break from this duty. Preliminary searching has begun with a possible candidate identified. Jared described some of the tools used to prepare the LongPath and the amount of time needed to typically prepare the LongPath of about 4-6 hrs/month.

Steve, K2SC, reported the cluster continues to run well and that there are new commands to view the spotting history. The cluster handled over 22,000 spots during the recent CQWWSSB 'test. Contact Steve for info on the cluster.

Ballots for electing the DX'er of the year were handed out along with a description of criteria for your choices. These ballots were taken up at the meeting's end.

Barry W4WB and Tom N4KG discussed a DSP speaker Tom had recently tried during some of his recent on-air testing. Contact Tom or Barry for more info.

No further new business was presented and the meeting was closed and followed with a presentation by WA4JA John Almon entitled "Hams Will Work Anything" relating the various awards related to islands including US islands. Even Hobbs Island at the river can be activated!

Respectfully submitted,

Vic **K4RVH**

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## Know When to Hold'em, Know When to Fold'em *Tom Russell, N4KG*

Do you remember those famous song lyrics?

That same sage advice applies to Ham Radio Contesting (and DXing). Two examples demonstrating both philosophies presented themselves to me during the CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest.

Friday night, only two and a half hours into the Contest, I tuned across D44TD on 20 Meters. There were many callers, including a local with a lot more power than my 5 watts, calling to no avail. After listening to several futile attempts, I decided it was best for me to just move on. A minute or two later, I found D4B from the same country with a BIG signal dispatching contacts expeditiously. A couple of calls and he was in my log, followed by CN2R, CT, and C40M (5B4), all in 6 minutes.

Due to a very sore throat and little sleep the night before due to my cold, I decided to go to bed (at 0230Z) and return whenever my body came back to life. I awoke at 0500Z to find D44TD still coming through on 20 Meters and easily logged him following a single call. It certainly paid off "to fold 'em" in this instance.

Early Sunday evening after picking up numerous Latin American stations from CE, CP, HP, HR, LU, PY, ZP, along with a few more Caribbean stations, I decided to take a final listen for the Pacific. WH0V was quickly found and logged for a new country and zone on 10 Meters.

Then I heard a faint signal that was fading in and out of my noise level. Ordinarily, I would just tune on by such a weak  
*(continued on page 8)*



## ARRL DX Bulletin

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

KUWAIT, 9K. Faisal, 9K2ID has been QRV on 15 meters around 1130 to 1230z. QSL direct.

MALAWI, 7Q. Les, 7Q7LA has been QRV on 40 meters CW around 0300z. QSL direct via G0IAS.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Klaus, DL5ZAH is QRV as 4F7RWW from Zweit, IOTA OC-129, for the next two weeks. QSL via operator's instructions.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Members of the Canary Islands DX Society plan to be QRV as EF8TDX from Tufia Rock, IOTA AF-004, on 15 meters only from December 11 and 12.

MARQUESAS ISLANDS, FO. Michel, F6COW, Dominique, F6EPY and Radi, F6GNZ will be QRV as FO/homecalls/M from Hiva Hoa, IOTA OC-027, from December 11 to 23. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters, including the newer bands, using mostly CW and SSB, but with some RTTY, SSTV and PSK31 as well. QSL to home calls.

JERSEY, GJ. Mat, F5SHQ will be QRV as MJ0ASP in the ARRL 10 Meter contest. QSL to home call.

HUNGARY, HA. Tibor, HG4I is QRV as HG05HNY until January 31, 2005 in celebration of the New Year. Activity is on all HF bands, including the newer bands, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. He will also try to be active in as many HF contests as possible. QSL direct.

ANTARCTICA. Mario, I0QHM and operator Danilo are active as I0QHM/KC4 from the Mario Zucchelli Station. Their activity is limited to about 30 minutes a day from 1820 to 1900z. QSL via operators' instructions.

JAPAN, JA. JL2LRO/6 and JK2HVD/6 plan to be QRV from Miyako Island, IOTA AS-079, Okinawa Prefecture from December 11 to 13. QSL direct to home calls.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. John, KL7JR is QRV as KP2/KL7JR until the end of April 2005. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, including 17 and 12 meters. QSL to home call.

NETHERLAND ANTILLES, PJ2. Fred, WW4LL and John, K4BAI are QRV as PJ4/homecalls until December 15 from Bonaire, IOTA SA-006. They will participate in the ARRL 10 Meter contest as PJ4Z. QSL all calls via K4BAI.

## Frank McGonigal, W6DSQ



EAST KIRIBATI, T32. Alan, K6SRZ is QRV as T32CK from Christmas Island, IOTA OC-024, until December 13. Doug, N6TQS is also QRV as T32QS. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters. QSL to home calls.

SOMALIA, T5. Joe, VA6JWT is QRV as 6O0JT from Gal-kayo. QSL via operator's instructions.

MALI, TZ. Mac, TZ6JA has been QRV on 80 meters around 0400z and then 40 meters around 0600 to 0700z. QSL via JA3EMU.

ANTARCTICA. Finn, VK4LL is QRV as VK0DX from the ANARE Davis Base Station. He has been active mainly on 20 meters using CW and SSB QSL via operator's instructions.

AFGHANISTAN, YA. Rene, DL2JRM is QRV as YA7X until January 5, 2005. Activity is on all HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via DL1JJI.

NEW ZEALAND, ZL. Serge, RA3XR is QRV as ZL/RA3XR until December 26. He is active on all HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call.

PARAGUAY, ZP. Tomas, ZP5AZL will be QRV as ZP0R in the ARRL 10 Meter contest as a Single-Op entry. QSL via W3HNK



## Other DX Rumors and News

*Frank McGonigal, W6DSQ*

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, AB5K & the AR TelNet Clusters Network, K1XN & GoList, NC1L, K2UO, NG3K, W3UR & The Daily DX, K4VUD, N4AA & QRZ DX, K5LBU, AC7DX, K7ZD, KL7JR, K8DD, K8YSE, 4X1VF, DL1EK & The DX News Letter, F5CWU & La Gazette du DX, F5NQL & UFT, HG4I, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, I1HYW, IZ8BRI, JI6KVR & JA-IOTA Islands News, LA5YJ, RA3XR, SM6WET and WAP Bulletin for the following DX information.

### 3G, EASTER ISLAND

A group of operators from Norway and one operator from Denmark (former S9LA-team of 2002) will be active from here January 8-18th in 2005. The callsigns for the operation will be 3G0YP (SSB) and 3G0YM (CW/Digi-modes). Activity will be on 160-10 meters. Look for more info to be posted on the LA-DX Group's Web page at:

<http://home.online.no/%7Es-roabr/ladx/>

### 3W, VIETNAM (IOTA Activity)

Masa, JA7GAX, is expected to be active here this week and will activate several Vietnamese islands over the next few weeks. His activity will begin as 3W2GAX from Ho Chi Minh City starting December 7th. On December 9th, he will be active as 3W2GAX/C from Con Son Island (AS-130). He'll head back to Ho Chi Minh City on December 16th. On December 19th, look for him to be active as 3W2GAX/4 or possibly 3W2GAX/p from Phu Quoc (AS-128). Masa will return back to Ho Chi Minh City to be active one more time between December 27-29th. QSL via JA7GAX, direct only.

### 6O, SOMALIA

It has been announced that the Italian group, which is going to Somalia in February 3-17th, now has a survey (for needs and wants on bands/modes) on their Web page. You are encouraged to fill out the survey (especially the Topbanders). The Web page can be found at: <http://www.i2ysb.com/6o/need.htm>

### AFRICAN TRIP (Operators Needed!)

Frosty, K5LBU, is planning to go back to Africa again for 2005. He states he would like to go to Botswana (A2) or back to Mozambique (C9). This time he would like to have some other operators join him. Frosty would like to have at least 3 other operators or more. Operators need to plan on at least 8 days but more likely 10 days from the time of arrival until leaving. He states, "If all else fails I will go back to 3DA0 Swaziland." Frosty's E-mail address is: [frosty1@pdq.net](mailto:frosty1@pdq.net)

### ANTARCTIC NEWS

Dr. Mario Pillon, I0QHM, (along with 2nd operator Danilo) continue to be active as I0QHM/KC4 from the Mario Zucchelli Station (WAP ITA-01). After the operators establish family connections on the air, they will then make an effort to make contacts with everybody else. They state that they will check-in regularly on 14180 kHz from 1830-1900z. However, due to limited time, Mario can only stay on the air for 30 minutes a day.

You have less than a month to work Finn, VK4LL (OZ2QK), as VK0DX from the ANARE Davis Base Station (AUS-03). His activity has been mainly on 20 meters CW/SSB. There has been a few QSNs on 17/15 meters. Look for him between 0000-0530z. QSL VK0DX via: Finn Olsen, P.O.Box 1544, Brisbane 4001, Australia. His Web page is at: <http://www.qsl.net/vk0dx/>

### DXCC NEWS

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL DXCC Manager, informs OPDX that the following operation is approved for DXCC credit: **TN3S - Congo; Current operation effective May 15, 2002**

### QSL INFO AND NEWS

Gary, K7ZD, will handle QSL duties for Tony's (W4OI), **5K5Z**, operation from last weekend's CQWW DX CW Contest and future operations from there. He states, "Please be patient as I don't have the printed cards or logs in hand yet. I'll see Tony sometime in the next 2 weeks and we'll get things set up." QSL via the Bureau or direct with SAE & return postage is OK. Cards received with the "old" IRCs will be returned via the bureau. Stateside stations please consider sending a SASE rather than using the bureau - thanks! The logs may possibly be entered into the LoTW in the future, it has not been discussed yet with W4OI. Gary's address is: Gary McClellan, 3422 E Altadena Ave, Phoenix, Arizona 85028-2010 USA.

QSL **A61AV/p** via ON5NT: Ghis Penny, P.O. Box 93, BE-9700 Oudenaarde, Belgium. Activity was from Sirat Al Khawr (**AS-124**), and the operators were Mohammed/A61AV and Ghis/ON5NT.

**A61AJ QSL UPDATE:** George, K2UO, reports that he has received all contest logs for the CQWW SSB and CW Contests, and all QSLs received direct (with an SASE) have been answered. Incoming cards are being answered the same day as received. Cards received without SASE or via the bureau are answered via the bureau when there are enough to warrant the postage, so please be patient if you do not send return postage. QSL A61AJ as follows:

North/South/Central America, Caribbean, U.S. possessions via K2UO The rest of the world via DJ2MX.

*(continued on page 6)*



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

**ADDED NOTE:** George mentions, "A box of over 1,000 cards sent directly to the UA bureau over one year ago was returned to me with no explanation, it was VERY beat up! I have resent these cards, this time via the ARRL outgoing bureau, hopefully they will be more successful at getting them delivered to the UA bureau."

QSL **VO2AAA** (November 24-28th) ONLY to K8DD's callbook address: P.O. Box 88, Attica, MI 48412-9312.

NOT THE QSL MANAGER. Vlad, UA0ACG, is not the QSL Manager for **JT1JA**. He can answer QSLs for JT1JA "only" for activity for September 8-9th (2002). All other requests go direct to **JT1JA** in Mongolia.

NOT THE QSL MANAGER. Ron, AC7DX, reports that he has been receiving many requests for **KH9/AH8H**. He IS NOT nor has he ever been the QSL Manager for this station.

### ST, SUDAN (Update)

Hugo, LA5YJ, informed OPDX last weekend that he was issued the callsign ST2YJ. He also mentioned that he has found a nice apartment where he can put up antennas (verticals and or dipoles). He will be active as work permits. This past week he was very active on 17 and 30 meters CW. Watch on/around 18068 kHz between 0700-0930z (also watch after 1530z). Watch on/around 10105 kHz between 1545-1845z (also as early as 0425z). QSL via LA4YW.

### TN, REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Reports indicate that Baldur's, DJ6SI, next stop is here, and he will be active as TN6X until December 12th (possibly the 14th). Activity will be CW ONLY on 160-10 meters. QSL via his home callsign.

### TO0, MARTINIQUE

Thomas, KC0W, will be active as TO00 from January 27th to February 13th. Look for him to be active in the CQ WW 160m CW Contest (January 29-30th) as a Single-Op/High-Power entry. QSL direct to KC0W (w/SASE or 1 USD).

### VU4, ANDAMAN ISLANDS (Update)

VU4NRO and VU4RBI are now active. It was announced this past week that the National Institute of Amateur Radio will be the QSL Manager for this operation. QSLs should be sent to VU2NRO: National Institute of Amateur Radio, Raj Bhavan Road, Hyderabad 500082, India. Activity will last through December 31st. Reports indicate that the five operator team is operating three stations from three different locations. According to "The Daily DX", VU2MY, VU2NRO/JOS, VU2MYL and PY7ZZ were the first stations to work VU4RBI. Also reported is that "NO CW" operations have been made by the VU4 operators as this was being typed

(1900z, Sunday). It seems the team is not sticking to the frequency suggestions on their Web page. Over past weekend activity was mostly on 20/15 meters SSB. However, there were QSNs on 17 meters. It was also reported that they do have plans to put their logs online, but specific details were not provided. It is suggested to watch their Web page for details. Web page is: <http://www.niar.org>

### YA, AFGHANISTAN

Rene, DL2JRM, is expected to become active as YA7X between December 7th and January 5th. Activity will probably be on 160-10 meters CW/SSB. QSL via DL1JJI.

### ZK1, NORTH AND SOUTH COOK ISLANDS

Magnus, SM6WET, informs OPDX that he and a team of operators will be active as ZK1WET, ZK1XMY, ZK1SDE and ZK1SDZ from North and South Cook Islands as follows:  
Aitutaki Island (South Cook) - January 31st to February 17th  
Manihiki Atoll (North Cook) - February 17-24th  
Aitutaki Island (South Cook) - February 24th to March 3rd

The DXpedition will concentrate mostly on 17 and 20 meters, although there will be activity on 160-10 meters. Operations will be mostly SSB, but ZK1WET will be active on CW and RTTY. They will have monoband yagis for 10/17/20 meters and verticals for the other bands. Also, look for ZK1WET to be active in the CQWW RTTY WPX Contest. They plan on having a double sided QSL card printed for each station. Do not QSL via the Bureau. QSLing is preferred via M3SDE direct.

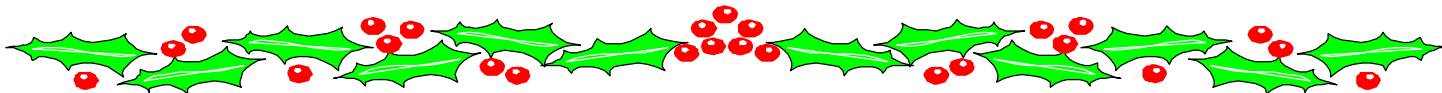
### ZP0, PARAGUAY

Tomas, ZP5AZL, will be active as ZP0R in next weekend's ARRL 10 Meter Contest (December 11-12th) as a Single-Op entry. QSL via W3HMK.

#### NADXC Dues Reminder

The end of the calendar year is here and NADXC dues for 2005 are due. Please get your dues to the Secretary-Treasurer, Vic Holland, K4RVH at one of the next meetings.

Dues are \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for families.



## Mt. Athos- "A World of its Own"

*Myron Manker, W4UR*

The Autumn/Winter 2004 issue of the *Northern California DX Foundation Newsletter* included an article by George Varvitsiotis (K6SV) about Mount Athos (SV2/A), one of the rarer DXCC entities in the world. The article piqued my interest in learning a little more about this very unusual place, and here is some of what I discovered.

A self-governing entity encompassing an area of about 150 square miles in the Macedonia-Thrace region of northern Greece, Mount Athos is situated on the easternmost arm of the Halkidiki Peninsula that extends southeastward into the Aegean Sea. Since the first inhabitants settled there in the middle of the first century, it has been dedicated entirely to prayer and the worship of God. Presently, there are 20 monasteries in Mount Athos, mostly Greek, with each being a separate administrative territory. A total of about 1,500 monks reside in Mount Athos, which is considered the center of Orthodox Christianity. Access is very restricted, and no women at all are permitted. The Greek name for Mount Athos in Greek is "Agion Oros," which means Holy Mountain. There really is an actual "Mt. Athos," a 6,670-foot high peak.

It is said that the Virgin Mary took refuge in the region after

encountering a fierce storm at sea while en route to Cyprus. She called it a beautiful garden and it has since been generally referred to as "The Garden of the Virgin Mary." It is today still called one of the most beautiful places on earth. Ironically, from a transportation standpoint it is virtually cut off from the rest of the world.

There is currently only one licensed amateur radio operator in Mount Athos, this being Monk Apollo (SV2ASP), who operates on an irregular and very limited schedule. According to the NCDXF newsletter article, he is more likely to be heard in the days following Easter week each year. Unfortunately, no other amateur operations are permitted from Mount Athos, and no visiting amateurs are permitted to operate Monk Apollo's station or use his callsign. Combining these severe restrictions with Monk Apollo's limited on-the-air time, the opportunities to add Mount Athos to your DXCC entity totals are rare indeed. Nevertheless, the entity is workable and when you do work it you should consider it a real prize. It is truly . . . a world of its own!

Myron, **W4UR**

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## KP1 & KP5- Navassa and Desecheo

This is courtesy Tim Pirkle, N5KI and from the SCDXA newsletter.

K4RT, Brad Farrell, filed a petition in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia requesting review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's denial of use permits for Amateur Radio for Desecheo (KP5) and Navassa (KP1) islands, and the agency's ban of Amateur Radio from these islands, generally. The proceeding may take many months to move forward. Thus, a legislative solution would be most welcome as it would save time and money.

The core of their legal argument is that the FWS has unlawfully interpreted the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act to close Desecheo and Navassa. The statute does not limit refuge use to wildlife-dependent recreational activities as the agency claims. The language of the statute identifies such activities as priority uses, but not exclusive uses. Furthermore, the evidence upon which the agency relied in closing the islands is speculative at best, which does not satisfy the evidentiary standards established by the federal courts for agency decision-making. The FWS's own records demonstrate that the agency has lied to Amateur Radio operators and Congressman about the purported safety issues on Desecheo and Navassa. In fact, the FWS has not, to date, denied this.

NA5U, Mike Thomas, put the grass roots effort together, and at least 30 other DXers and a number of DX groups are assisting to move the legislative effort forward. We couldn't have gotten to where we are now without him.

You can see the following documents in PDF format:  
Initial Administrative Appeal  
Initial FWS Decision  
Final Administrative Appeal  
Final FWS Decision

Brad asks that all US DXers contact their Congressmen supporting the bipartisan H.R. 5361. (sample letter). If you do not know your Congressmen's name click [here](#). Once you know your Congressmen's name you can go [here](#) for his/her snail mail address.

This bill is good for the lame duck session only. So we need to try to get it passed now. If it doesn't pass in the lame duck, it will be reintroduced in January. Staffers on Capitol Hill say that the more we can bring H.R. 5361 to the attention of Congressmen now, the better it may fare in January, and there is always the chance it will pass during the lame duck if there is enough support. Please do not put off sending a letter to your Congressman. Even if you don't need KP1 or KP5, think about those outside the US who do and can not support this effort. It will only cost 37 cents for the stamp.

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## Stray Cats

- Think you a geography whiz? If you're a ham you probably are! Check out this URL and take the quiz. [www.geographyolympics.com](http://www.geographyolympics.com)
- VU4DXpedition needs your support. Please see: <http://www.niar.org/donation.html>  
Main page is <http://www.niar.org/>
- NADXC's 2005 officers and directors wish to thank officers and directors from several preceding years for help received as we prepare to take the reins. We will no doubt continue to rely on your accumulated wisdom. We also thank Jared, KQ4VT, for all Ye Olde LongPaths he has edited, and a job well done. Happy Holidays and good DX to all.

### 2005 Officers and Directors

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## VU4GDG – The Thrill of Victory and The Agony of Defeat *Tom Russell, N4KG*

The last authorized operation from the Andaman Islands occurred between October 5 and October 26, 1987, culminating with an entry in the CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest. This operation was organized by the Coimbatore Amateur Radio Club of India. Two stations were manned by 8 operators on 6 Bands (160 through 10 Meters, NO WARC Bands). Since that time, VU4 has risen to #1 or #2 on the DXCC Most Wanted Lists, depending on whose list you look at and when the survey was conducted.

Prior to the DX contest, N4KG was fortunate to log VU4GDG on 20M CW and SSB and 40M CW. On October 20, I heard VU4GDG working Europeans on 3696 KHz with a 44 signal. This whetted my appetite for an 80M QSO. When I heard them on the 40M Long Path before my sunrise on October 23 with only 3 days to go, I asked if they would QRV 80M but was told NO.

About 15 minutes later, their 40M signal just 'disappeared'. On a hunch, I QSY'ed to 80 Meter CW and heard VU4GDG call CQ on 3503 KHz with a 559 signal! I called on frequency and K4CEF called 'up 2'. He came back to K4CEF and all H\*ll broke loose. For 15 minutes I called on my high Elevated GP antenna to no avail as several W4/5 stations using horizontally polarized antennas worked them. My 80M inverted Vee at 100 ft. had suddenly developed a very high SWR. I eventually attributed this problem to a resonance set up on my 130 ft tower after placing a 3L20 at the midpoint the week before!

What a DISSAPOINTMENT! I still need VU4 on 80 Meters.

On Sunday morning, October 24, 1987, I QSY'ed to 1830 KHz at 1145Z, just before my sunrise, to call an FK station on schedule for a multiplier in the CQ WW SSB DX Contest. I heard a faint signal respond slightly off frequency. After adjusting my VFO, I asked him to call again. To my amazement I heard "Victor United 4 Gulf Delta Gulf" rise from my noise level to a easily copied 55 signal! We exchanged contest reports J and I quickly asked him to QSY to 80M CW (to avoid having to blindly pick a clear SSB frequency during a contest!). He told me he couldn't go to CW because he was in the SSB DX Contest. I listened as the operator worked a few 9<sup>th</sup> call area stations also along the greyline. Then, after only 5 minutes, his signal faded back into the noise. What a THRILL to log VU4GDG on 160 Meter SSB !

So there you have it, probably my BEST EVER DX contact and my second BIGGEST DX DISAPPOINTMENT\*, all from the same station.

\*(someday I will write the story of how I missed VU7WCY in the Laccadive Islands on 75M SSB in 1983 by transmitting into an open coax switch as I was listening on a Beverage Antenna L !)

To me, these events represent my best examples of The THRILL of Victory and The AGONY of Defeat.

Tom Russell – N4KG

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## Know When to Hold'em, Know When to Fold'em ...cont'd

signal given that I am running in the QRP class but something made me 'dig' for this one. It sounded like an Australian accent saying "P29.." I called a few times only to have him answer closer stations from the West Coast. I called again and out of the blue, his signal rose from the noise giving N4KG a report! I gave him a report and asked him to confirm P29PH. He corrected me saying "KPH" and called QRZ. The double multiplier was certainly worth "holding on to" in this case.

Everyone who participated in the DX Contest this past weekend was surprised and pleased by the excellent conditions, especially the good European opening on 10 Meters along with the brief but strong opening to the Northern Pacific Islands and Japan. Knowing When to Hold 'em and When to Fold 'em added to the enjoyment.

Tom, N4KG



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

ARRL's web site (at [www.arrl.org/tis/info/rfexposure.html](http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/rfexposure.html)), and an excellent article in the December issue of *CQ*.

**Happy Holidays** . . . As we approach the end of 2004, I'd like to wish all NADXC members and their families happy holidays. Hope to see you at our December 14 Christmas party.

**73 es gud dx . . . W4UR**

## DX Contests for the Coming Month

**Chuck Lewis, N4NM**

ARRL Ten Meter Contest, (SSB & CW), 10 meters only  
Dec. 11, 0000Z to Dec. 12, 2400Z  
Exchange: RS(T) plus State or Province. DX: RST plus Ser. #.  
See page 104, Nov. QST

Croatian CW Contest, (CW), 160 – 10 meters  
Dec. 18, 1400Z to Dec. 19, 1400Z  
Exchange: RST + SER. #  
See page 85, Dec. QST

OK DX RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80 – 10 meters  
Dec 18, 0000Z to 2400Z  
Exchange: RST plus CQ Zone  
See page 85, Dec. QST

DARC Christmas Contest, (CW & SSB), 75/80 & 40 meters  
Dec. 26, 0830Z to 1100Z  
Exchange: RS(T) [+DOK or special code for DL]  
See page 85, Dec. QST

RAC Winter Contest (CW & PHONE), 160-2 meters  
Dec 18, 0000Z to 2359Z  
Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial No.; VEs send RS(T) plus Province  
See page 85, Dec. QST



ARRL RTTY Roundup, (RTTY), 80 – 10 Meters  
Jan. 8, 1800Z to Jan. 9, 2400Z  
Exchange, RS plus State/Province. DX: RS plus Ser. #  
See ARRL Website

MDXA PSK DeathMatch (PSK31/63), 80-6 meters  
Dec. 18, 0000Z to Dec. 19, 2400Z  
Exchange: Name + State/Country/Province  
See page 85, Dec. QST

OTHERS:  
SARTG New Year **RTTY** Contest 0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1  
AGCW Happy New Year Contest 0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1  
Original QRP Contest 1500Z, Jan 1 to 1500Z, Jan 2

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW), 160 meters  
Dec. 18, 1500Z to Dec. 19, 1500Z  
Exchange: Grid square only  
See page 85, Dec. QST

EUCW 160m Contest 2000Z-2300Z, Jan 8 and 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 9  
NRAU-Baltic Contest, **CW** 0530Z-0730Z, Jan 9  
NRAU-Baltic Contest, **SSB** 0800Z-1000Z, Jan 9  
DARC 10-Meter Contest 0900Z-1059Z, Jan 9

Russian 160 meter Contest, (CW & SSB), 160 meters  
Dec. 18, 0000Z to 0200Z  
Exchange: RS(T), Ser. #, Special Square  
See page 85, Dec. QST and

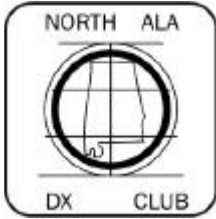
Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

[www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule/](http://www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule/)

Chuck, N4NM

# A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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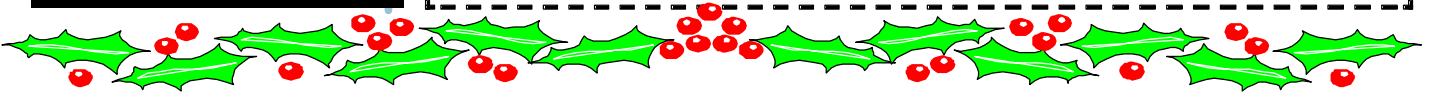
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***How to Join:*** Come to a club meeting; or send in application by mail  
(form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org)); or call Vic Holland at (256)721-9106



## Editor's Soapbox

Here we are at the end of another year. It's hard to believe, but it is true. Of course that means the annual NADXC Christmas Party is this month and it will again be at the "new" Greenbrier Bar-B-Que restaurant just off I-565 at the Greenbrier Road exit. Last's year's party was one of the most well attended we have had in a long time. The food was very good, reasonably priced and offered a casual family atmosphere.

I have enjoyed being the editor of the LongPath for the past few years and working with excellent officers and a wonderfully talented editorial staff. Making the decision to step down was a difficult one for me, but I was beginning to find having a deadline every month was starting to get a little stressful with all the other projects I have become involved with over the past year; not to mention the uncertainty of having to deal with disasters and other work commitments. Anyway, I would like to say thank you to all that have contributed to our wonderful newsletter, for without your input we would not have the quality publication that we do.

Beginning with the January 2005 issue of the LongPath, Craig Behrens, NM4T will take over the role of editor. If you will remember, Craig was the editor before I took over and did an excellent job. I was very pleased when he offered to take over, as I new the LongPath would be in good hands. Many thanks, Craig!

Well, that is about all I have for this month. You will see some things from me in the future as I assume the role of a contributing editor. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

73, Jared Cassidy, **KQ4VT**

