

# The LongPath



A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## From the President's Desk

Greetings Folks! May has been somewhat slow DX month compared to previous months. The annual DXCC Yearbook appeared in my mailbox this past week and I have tried to compile a list of NADXC members that appeared in the listing. Several expeditions have popped up recently ET3TK, TU2WL, OJ0's. I did manage to work 5 new countries on RTTY in the past month (5U, TU, EK, KH2 & ET3) despite the poor conditions.



Please come out to the June NADXC meeting and learn about the exciting new features of the Logbook of the World.

I hope to see you there!

73's Tim/**KU4J**

Field Day is fast approaching (last rainy weekend in June), I encourage everyone to get out and participate. The Huntsville Hamfest is also fast approaching. Jess Lewis, KR4OJ from the T33C DXpedition has agreed to do a presentation for us at the Hamfest Banquet, lunch, etc. The board will meet soon to iron out the details of the Hamfest.

June 8th Program  
**"Logbook of the World"**  
by Barry Johnson, W4WB and  
Jim Roebuck, W4AXO

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

Volume 28, Issue 6  
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## "Short Skip" ...

## Myron Manker, W4UR

**Dayton Reflections** . . . Well folks, Dayton Hamvention 2004 is now history. The weather was not too cooperative over the weekend. Friday was overcast with occasional rain showers, Saturday brought light rain for most of the day, and Sunday morning was foggy. As to the attendance, I'd say it was less than last year, but still a healthy number. Over the weekend, the following NADXC members were seen roaming the commercial exhibit areas and flea market: K4JD, K4KFH (and XYL), K4XH, KA1DWX, KQ4VT, KY5R, N4KG, N4NM, W4RK, W4WB, and W4TCD. Also noticed among the crowd were Martti Laine (OH2BH) and Jim Smith (VK9NS). The total number of commercial exhibitors seemed less than last year, and it was also interesting to note how many more non-radio products were being offered. As expected, Yaesu introduced its new FTDX-9000 HF/Six-meter transceiver. It's very large, very expensive (in the \$11,500 to \$13,500 range), and not yet available in the marketplace! And so the annual pilgrimage to Dayton is over, and in spite of the rainy weather I thought the trip was well worth it.



**Field Day Is Just About Here** . . . The 2004 version of Field Day is getting very close now, and I hope as many NADXC members as possible will find time to participate. Field Day each year is an important opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of amateur radio in a very public forum. The value of the event transcends the DX-specific activity we all pursue, and really warrants the support of all of us. The K4BFT operations will be substantial again this year, and there will be plenty of ways to participate. Chris Reed (KF4MMF) is overall coordinator of the activities, so check with him if you have any questions about what will happen and when.

**NADXC Member Recognition** . . . Many of our members experience important events and/or achievements in their amateur radio lives and we'd like to recognize them when they occur - if we know about them. For example, Bill Gerth (W4RK) recently marked his 50th year of being a licensed amateur. Almost coincidentally, he worked an XU7 in Cambodia to log his first QSO with an elusive Zone 26 station. Congratulations, Bill. If any of you know of similar news about other members of our NADXC family that deserves sharing, please let me know.

**VHF DX Opportunity** . . . For those whose "DX-ing" involves chasing grid squares on "the magic band" (six meters), please note that the annual ARRL VHF QSO Party will take place from 1800 UTC on June 12 to 0300 UTC on June 14. The May issue of QST (page 107) has details, or check the League's web site.

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## Minutes from the May 11th Meeting

*Vic Holland, K4RVH*

The May meeting of North Alabama DX Club was called to order at 7:00 PM on May 11, 2004. Sixteen members were in attendance including one visitor. The visitor was Robert K8KI.

Members reported working V31, 5V, C08, HK0S, VP2, CT3, TI5, ZD8, V2, D2, HB, ZB, 7Q7, XU, HS during the past month.

Vic K4RVH gave the treasurer's report stating the funds on deposit and on-hand amounted to \$2849.26. This amount is the same from last month with no income or expenses incurred within the last month.

No new member applications were received this month.

Minutes from April meeting were approved.

Tim KU4J reported that the T33C op's were back home now including Jess KR4OJ but that Tim has not yet made contact with Jess to get a personal report on his experiences.

No further old business was presented.

New business discussions included the following:

John Morris made available a copy of the book 3Y0PI and Tom Duncan now has it. Once Tom finishes reading it will be available to other members.

Jared KQ4VT received an email from Dave K4TO asking Jared to pass along greetings to the club.

The attending membership was asked for a show of hands from those traveling to Dayton. About half of the group responded they would be going.

Discussion was held about the ARRL's Logbook of the World going live with the awards system this month. LOTW will be the subject of next month's meeting.

The business meeting was closed and followed by a video presentation of The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

Vic **K4RVH**

## QRP on Monte Sano's Hiking Trails

*Tom Duncan, KG4CUY*

I am frequently encouraged to accompany my XYL and others on trips to Monte Sano State Park, there to breathe in the mountain air and commune with nature. All except myself are runners, although several are also hams who should be able to contrive excuses so as to engage in more "hamly" pursuits. Thus, I am generally left to wander through the woods while they build muscle and stamina, deluded by endorphin-based irrational exuberance.

Not wishing to waste this time entirely, I have been taking my KX-1 with me, along with sufficient accessories to get a QRP station on the air with short notice just about anywhere in the woods. Even with a sorry excuse for an antenna -- a wire thrown generally in the up direction -- and an equally lame ground system, this rig has produced quite a few nice QSOs running off a set of AA NiMH batteries.

My quandary is I have three homebrew QRPP single band rigs I had built with the idea of using them portable. Compared to the KX-1, they have several characteristics the casual observer might to be disadvantages:

- They put out 500 mW, 9 dB down from the KX-1
- They are somewhat (at least 9 dB) larger and heavier
- No built-in key, no keyer, so I get to lug my straight key with contacts reminiscent of a starter solenoid.
- Only a single band per radio (4.7 dB down from the KX-1)

The homebrew rigs fight back with their own advantages:

- Having real free-running VFOs instead of a wimpy DDS chip, the impressive tuning knobs come in handy.
- Real 1/4" jacks allow the use of the same full-sized headphones and keys found in more permanent stations.
- Passers-by marvel at my determination and fortitude lugging all this stuff through the woods for what appears to be some sort of radio re-enactment.

For now, the KX-1 is an acceptable rig for these outings, but I'm working on a tube rig for 17m. I figure if I use large tubes, all that volume filled with vacuum (in the tubes, that is) will help the weight situation. I'll let you know how it works.

73, Tom Duncan, **KG4CUY**

## 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.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. AC3A will be QRV as CE0/AC3A from June 20 to 24. He will be concentrating on 6 meters if the band cooperates. Scott will also be on HF during his evenings.

SLOVENIA, S5. Amateur Radio operators from Slovenia are celebrating their admission into the European Union. Some S5 operators are now QRV with special prefixes through the end of the year. Look for activity from S5040AAA to S5049ZZZ. Also active is special call S52004EU, during some contests. QSL via the Slovenian QSL bureau.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS, VP8. Op Oleg, CE9/RIANF, is currently active from Ardley Bay. QSL via RK1PWA, Nick Shapkin, P.O. Box 73, 164744 Amderma, Arkhangelskaja, Russia.

CRETE, SV9. SV9/SV8DTL will be QRV from June 5 to 15. QSL to SV8DTL via the bureau or via the QRZ.COM address. He plans to appear on 14255, 21255, 28495 and 50115 kHz.

BERMUDA, VP9. VP9/W9AEB, will be active from June 6 to November 6. QSL via WF9V.

LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0. 4Z4DX will operate HB0/M0DOV on June 27 and 28, using RTTY and PSK31 on 12, 17 and 30 meters. QSL via 4Z4DX.

## Frank McGonigal, W6DSQ

WESTERN SAHARA, S0. DL8YHR will use the callsign S01HA starting in in early June. He plans to be active on 6 meters every day. It is unknown what, if any, other bands he plans to be on.

ICELAND, TF. TF/SM6CMU will be on the air from June 3 to 10. He will be active from various points around the island.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. ZF2BI, operator K4BI, and ZF1DC will be on until June 9, using CW and SSB. They will also be active on 6 meters on 50125 kHz.

DENMARK, OZ. OZ7SM, will be active on Bornholm Island (EU-030) until June 18.

SPECIAL EVENT STATION, G. The special event station GB6DD will be QRV to remember the 60th anniversary of D-Day until June 28.

SPECIAL EVENT STATION, ZX. ZX7AA and ZW7AA will be special Brazilian callsigns from June 11 to 13 from Fortaleza Dos Reis Magos. QSL to PS7KC, bureau or direct, P.O. Box 251, Natal - RN - 59010-970, Brazil.



## NADXC Members in this Year's DXCC Yearbook

Here is a listing of NADXC members that appear in the ARRL's DXCC Yearbook. This reflects people who have submitted DXCC applications (new or endorsements from Oct 1, 2002 to Sept 30, 2003).

### DXCC Challenge

N4KG 1944 [Ed. Note: Tom advises his total is actually 2887 worked, he just doesn't have all his cards into the League]

K4RP 1091  
AG4W 1013

### Mixed

N4KG - 362  
N4NO - 358

K4XH - 353  
KU4J - 345  
N4VB - 345  
K4NA - 344  
WA4OEJ - 343  
KR4OJ - 341  
N4VN - 338  
W4QB - 337  
K4RP - 270  
N5PA - 265  
W4UR 257

### Phone

N4KG - 351

## Tim Pearson, KU4J

N4NO - 348  
N4VN - 346  
W4QB - 336  
K4RP - 145

### CW

KU4J - 345  
N4KG - 345  
N4NO - 345  
K4NA - 340  
W4QB - 333  
N4VN - 273  
W4UR - 226

(continued on page 8)

## Other DX Rumors and News

### OPDX 661&662 May 31, 2004

#### ALBANIA NEWS

Tim Totten, N4GN, sent out the following press release from the "Project Goodwill Albania" team:

#### "A HEARTY THANK YOU FOR THOSE WHO RESPONDED TO A CALL FROM ALBANIA AT DAYTON 2004"

It was delighting to Geni, ZA1B, and other Project Goodwill Albania members to hear the sincere compliments for a project well executed from the visiting DXers in Dayton. Many complimented the dual-track idea of making amateur radio's entry to University level training and including a DX outing in the same package.

Many individual donors wanted to do their share in getting the students on the air. To that end, equipment support was received from AA4XR, N3BNA, K3LP, K7JA, VE1JF, W3BTX, W4MYA, W6EUF, W6OSP, W6UM and W9JUV in addition to those already reported earlier.

The highlight obviously was when Len Gerdali, K6ANP, President of the Northern California DX Foundation, announced at the DX Dinner that NCDXF and Vertex Standard (Yaesu) will combine forces to donate ten complete FT840 stations to the University of Tirana to boost the successful completion of the project. DXers around the world are reminded that NCDXF relies on the support of individuals like you in order to fund such DX projects.

As Bob Ferrero, W6RJ, stepped forward on behalf of Ham Radio Outlet with the same number of antennas and Bob Heil, K9EID, added the good Heil sound to the package, the event was ending happily, once again showing the power of the DX community and related industry for a good cause.

The First Albania DX Convention, scheduled for 19-20 June in the capital city Tirana, is the place to be to enjoy the camaraderie of the new ZA amateurs as well as many figures from the DX community who helped make the donated equipment work--G3LQP, G3TXF, I8NHJ, K2WR, W6UM, OH2BH, OH2PM, T93Y and others. Your participation will be welcomed! U.S. DXers may contact Rich, K2WR, at [k2wr@nidxa.org](mailto:k2wr@nidxa.org) for advice how to travel there easily. In case of your further equipment donation, these people will be happy to take them along and do the presentation on your behalf.

See a high-res photo at: <http://www.n4gn.com/za/>

Photo caption: Happy gathering at the Project Goodwill Albania 2003 QSL Service Desk at the Vertex Standard (Yaesu) booth in Dayton. Standing from left: OH2PM, W6OSP, K6AW, G3LQP, DL6LAU, OH2BH, K7JA and N4GN. Seated: Geni, ZA1B and Teemu, SM0WKA.

Please see <http://www.za1a.com> for further information."

#### QSL INFO AND NEWS

**EA9IE LOGS.** Juan, EA9IE, is celebrating his 25 years in

## Frank McGonigal, W6DSQ

ham radio (his first QSO as EA9IE was July 30th 1979). He has put his logs on the Web page at: <http://dx.qsl.net/logs/index.html> Logs contains his 212.576 QSOs with more than 95,000 different callsigns. The last date of QSO is May 18th, 2004, and he will update the log continuously. QSLing is OK direct or by the bureau. If QSLing direct, people can also include in the same envelope QSL cards for his XYL and her two callsigns: CN2MP and EA9AM.

#### 5W, SAMOA (Update)

Ted, K8AQM, reports that his upcoming trip to 5W will take place between July 7-21st. He will operate as 5W0TR from the Samoan Village Resort on 160-10 meters CW/SSB/RTTY and PSK. He also mentions that they will be active for the IARU Radiosport, hopefully using the special callsign for the contest only, possibly 5W0XX. All QSLs are via K8AA CBA. They will put the log on the "Logbook of the World" and eQSL. Also, look for them as KH6BB from Hawaii, July 5-6th and 22-24th.

#### 6W, SENEGAL

Conrad, DF7OL, is active as 6W8CK for the next year. He was spotted this past week on 15 meters PSK31 around 0900z and 1545z. His QSL Manager told OPDX to look for Conrad (for now) on 20 and 15 meters CW, PSK31 and RTTY. In November, he will go to Germany for a visit, but he will return with some other antennas for his new QTH. QSL Manager is Uli, DH7WW. QSL is "ok" via the bureau or direct to: Ulrich Moeckel, Muldenstr. 1, 08304 Schoenheide, Germany.

#### AFRICAN ACTIVITY (7P, 3DA0 and C9)

Look for Dave/K4SV and Neil/VA7DX to activate some African entities during late July and mid-August. Their expected plans are as follows:

Lesotho - July 29th through August 6th as 7P8DA (Dave) and 7P8NK (Neil)

Swaziland - August 7-11th as 3DA0SV (Dave) and 3DA0WC (Neil)

Mozambique - August 12-17th, their callsigns to be announced later.

Activity will be on 160-10 meters (subject to propagation) with an emphasis on the lower bands during their evenings. Modes will be CW, SSB, RTTY and other digital modes. A special effort will be made to work the General portion of the bands. Their QSL Manager for all activity will be K4YL: Stephen M. Grose, P.O. Box 183, Flat Rock, NC 28731-0183. Daily online logs will be available at: <http://www.K4SV.com>

#### D80, SOUTH KOREA

Look for the "Korea Keymen's Club" radio station, D80HQ, to be active as D80HQ/3 in the CQ WPX CW Contest (May 29-30th). Operators will be HL2UOK, DS3DGA and DS5EVU/3. QSL via DS1KVP.

(continued on page 8)

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

**Propagation Conditions Continue To Decline** . . . Combining the approaching summertime propagation conditions and the continuing decline in sunspot numbers, DX opportunities on frequencies above 14 MHz may likely be somewhat rare for the next few months. We'd better make sure our trusty wire/vertical antennas for the lower frequency bands are in good shape. We'll likely need them!

*73 es gud dx . . . W4UR*

## Return to Dayton (2004)

*Tom Russell, N4KG*

Thanks to Don Durk, KA1DWX, who did more than his share of the driving, I was able to return to the Dayton Hamvention for the first time in at least 6 years. I still recall my first visit with my college roommate W8CQN (now W8FJ) in 1966 or '67 and standing in awe in a room full of famous contesters at one of the downtown hospitality suites. One reason I remember them so well is that every time I returned to Dayton, I saw them all again. This year was no exception and for me, that is the main attraction to the Dayton Hamvention, the opportunity to renew old friendships, person to person. I was especially pleased to see my college Physics Lab Instructor Bill Myers, K1GQ (K2SIL back then), better known as KH6GPQ / KH6RS and designer of the KC1XX Contest Superstation.

The Dayton Hamvention is such a HUGE event that there is NO WAY to take it all in, even with the expanded 3 day duration. My approach is to spend Friday morning touring through the exhibit halls, visiting the exhibitors of interest before the real crowd arrives. Friday afternoon is then devoted to the Antenna Forum and mixing with the Big Gun Contesters usually in attendance. Typically, I spend most of Saturday at the Contest Forum followed by a quick sandwich before searching for a seat at the DX Forum. This year, both events were Standing Room Only. Don and I chose to skip the Contest and DX Banquets in favor of a light dinner and rest before going to the hospitality suites at the Crown Plaza in the evening. Note that I spent ZERO time in among the THOUSANDS of sellers in the flea market this year. One year, I spent ALL of my time in the flea market and didn't see it all!

After a leisurely group breakfast at the Plaza, Don and I returned to Huntsville, a 435 mile drive, which we completed in 7 hours. I compiled the following 'checksheet' of eyeball QSO's at Dayton 2004 while Don was taking us down Interstate 65. Apologies to those I failed to recall.

K1DG  
K1GQ  
W1JR  
AA1K  
NN1N  
W1WEF  
K1XM  
W1YL  
K1ZM  
  
W2GD  
N2OO  
K2SG

N3BB  
K3EST  
WA3FET  
K3LR  
W3LPL  
N3RD  
N3RS  
K3ZO  
W3ZZ

K4ADK  
N4AR  
K4BAI  
K4KFH  
W4NTI  
W4PA  
N4PN  
K4RO  
KZ4V  
KQ4VT  
K4VU  
W4WB  
K4XH

*(continued on page 7)*

## Return to Dayton (2004)...cont'd

K4XR  
K4XS  
K4XU  
NP4Z

K5KG  
N5KO  
K5NA  
KY5R  
N5RZ  
KG5U

N6BV  
W6PH (/VP9)  
W6RGG

N7IR (SteppIR)  
K7JA  
KC7V

KU8E  
K8JP

N8LJ  
W8TU

K9KM  
K9PG  
N9RV  
W9WI

W0GJ  
W0UN

MANY G's+  
G3RZP  
G3SXW  
G4UDU

OH2BH  
OH2PM  
ZA2B  
5B4AGN

73, Tom **N4KG**

## Field Day Reminder

I hope that everyone has taken the opportunity to check out the NADXC website. Two of our NADXC members Tom Russell, N4KG and Chuck Lewis, N4NM are on the main page greeting us with a smile. That picture was taken at a past Field Day. That could be you smiling in that picture. If you haven't checked out Field Day before, or it's been a year or two, come on out to Intergraph and join in on the fun.

This year's Field Day will be the last full weekend in June. Several DX Club members have agreed to be station managers. Thus far, all station manager positions have been filled with the exception of the 20M Phone station. We have a couple of potential candidates, but no one "official" as of this writing. If you would like to help, or have questions, feel free to contact me at [kf4mmf@arrl.net](mailto:kf4mmf@arrl.net).

The current station managers are as follows:

15/75 Phone	Ralph Hogan W4XE and semi-retired Jared Cassidy KQ4VT
40 Phone	Chris Reed KF4MMF
20 Phone	<b>Currently Vacant</b>

## Chris Reed, KF4MMF

20/80 CW

40 CW  
GOTA

Field Day Power  
Tower Erection  
Field Day Picnic  
Field Day Campers

Chuck Lewis N4NM and Mike Maples K4ADK  
Myron Manker W4UR  
Chris Best KB3DXR

Ron Shaffer W4VM  
Scotty Neustader W4WW  
Peggy Bell K4EGB  
George Duncan K4TFJ

We have a great team of other folks that will be there, but we need plenty of help to ensure that safety of everyone. Contact a station manager and sign up to operate. Operating is always a lot of fun and is sure to generate many a grin as the contacts enter the log. Don't forget to visit with other folks while your there and enjoy some good fixin's at the Saturday picnic around 4 pm. While your enjoying yourself, be sure to smile. You could be the next to appear on candid camera and the NADXC website.

73 de **KF4MMF**

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

### EL, LIBERIA

Pat, EI5IF, has been trying to obtain an EL callsign but has not managed to contact anyone in Liberia by phone or E-mail. However, he will be based in Monrovia from June until Nov/Dec and will use the callsign EL/EI5IF. Pat will try to get on the radio as much as possible, but this will depend on his work load. He mentions that he is going to bring a small Alinco DX70TH and hopefully also use their military HF gear.

### HAMCOM 2004

The Lone Star DX Association is proud to announce its 2004 Ham Com DX programs and luncheon speaker for June 18-19th at the Arlington Convention Center. Luncheon tickets are 30.00 USD, and online registration is available at the Ham Com website. Tickets will not be mailed out this year as in the past. All tickets will be available for pickup at the Arlington Convention Center during Ham-Com. For questions on Ham Com itself, there is a questions link on the Ham Com Web page. As usual there will be many door prizes given out at the luncheon and at each program session. In addition, there will be some special "YL/XYL ONLY" door prize drawings. For additional information please check the LSDXA Web page at: <http://www.dxr.org/lstdxa> Also, visit the main Ham Com Web page at: <http://www.hamcom.org>

### IS0, SARDINIA

Look for Franc, S59AA, to be active as IS0/S52A in the CQ WPX CW Contest (May 29-30th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via S59AA. Outside of contest, he will operate as IS0/S59AA.

### OJ0, MARKET REEF

Look for Seppo, OH1VR, to be active as OJ0VR, May 24-27th. Activity will be on all bands (also 6 meters) CW and SSB. QSL via OH1VR CBA: Ojakatu 3 A 18, 33100 Tampere, Finland.

### OY, FAROE ISLANDS

Tom/DL2RMC and Heiko/DL1RTL will be active on a holiday DXpedition as OY/DL1RTL and OY/DL2RMC between August 30th and September 9th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters CW/SSB/RTTY/PSK/SSTV. QSL via their home call signs. Also, visit the Web page for updates at:

<http://hkmann.de>

### ST2, SUDAN

Michael, PA5M (ex-YI/PA5M and 9U5M) is now in Sudan and will be active for about one month using ST2DX. He will use his vertical from the hotel or a 10 element log periodic antenna from his work QTH with 100 watts from his FT-857. Operating times...work permitting. All info about this operation including on-line log search, is available on:

<http://www.pa7fm.nl>

### VP8, SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND

The "425 DX News" states that Mike Gloistein, GM0HCQ (VP8CMH/mm), is reporting amateur radio operator Alex Cottle (home callsign not provided) is currently wintering at the British Antarctic Survey base, Jordan Cove, on Bird Island. He was expected to be active after May 12th, but no QSNs have been reported yet. Alex operates SSB only, and it was mentioned that he has little experience of amateur radio operations and no experience at all of pile-ups. So, please go easy on him. Alex is likely to operate after 1800z, presumably starting on 20 meters. QSL via GM0HCQ. Further information is expected from Mike and will be posted on his Web site once he is back home in early June. His Web page is at:

<http://www.gm0hcq.com>

### VK9L, LORD HOWE ISLAND

Bill, VK4FW, announces that "At this time we still need 1 more YL operator and 1 CW operator." Operation will take place between September 25th and October 16th. Activity will be on all HF bands CW/SSB/RTTY and 6 meters. For more details, visit the following Web page at:

<http://www.odxg.org>

### ZL7 OPERATION POSTPONED

Chris, ZL1CT (GM3WOJ), states, "Sorry to say that our ZL7V DXpedition is postponed - completely bogged-down in paperwork trying to secure the callsign at the moment." They hope to proceed maybe by Easter 2005, but it looks as if they might actually be able to activate ZL8 before then with an international team. Chris will keep us fully informed.

## DXCC Yearbook...cont'd

### RTTY

K4NA - 295

N4VN - 211

AG4W - 133

KU4J - 127

There were also many individual band listings but I did not list those. If I have omitted your call from the list I would like to apologize and I would also like to hear from you so I may correct the mistake. The fonts on the DXCC yearbook seem to be shrinking!!

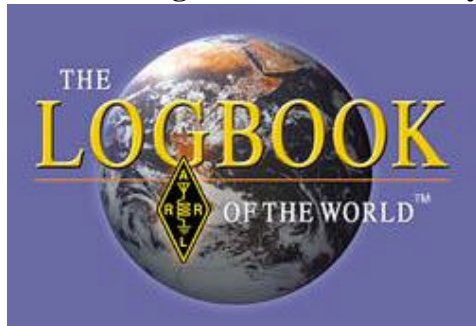
73's Tim/**KU4J**

email: [ku4j@arrl.net](mailto:ku4j@arrl.net)

## Upcoming Programs

**Barry Johnson, W4WB**

### NADXC Program Preview for May 2004



Presented by  
**Barry Johnson,  
W4WB and  
Jim Roebuck,  
W4AXO**

ARRL's *Log-  
book of the  
World (LoTW)*  
system is a re-

pository of log records submitted by users from around the

world. When both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit.

The LoTW offers a great method to confirm QSOs quickly and economically for DXCC credit and soon for a number of other awards as well. Barry and Jim will explain how to get started using LoTW and how to use it. This is truly an outstanding new service from the ARRL.

## DX Contests for the Coming Month

**Chuck Lewis, N4NM**

### ANARTS WW RTTY/Digital Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Jun 12, 0000Z to Jun 13, 2400Z

Exchange: RST, CQ Zone and time (UTC)

See page 98, June QST

### All Asian DX Contest (CW), 160-10M

June 19, 0000Z to June 20, 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus age; YLs send 00

See Page 98, June QST

### IARU HF World Championships (SSB/CW), 160-10M

July 10, 1200Z to July 11, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus ITU zone;

IARU HQ stns send HQ abbrev.

See

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/iaru.html>

### OTHERS:

VK-ZL Trans-Tasman Contest, CW 0800Z - 1400Z,  
June 5

QRP TAC Sprint (CW, SSB, PSK31), 1800Z - 2359Z  
June 5

WW South America Contest, (CW), 0000Z June 12 -  
1600Z June 13

IARU Region 1 Field Day, (CW), 1500Z June 5 -  
1459Z June 6

Asia- Pacific Sprint (SSB) 1100Z - 1300Z June 12

Portugal Day Contest, (SSB) 0000Z - 2400Z June  
12

RSGB 80m Club Championship, (SSB) 2000Z-  
2130Z, June 24

ARCI Milliwatt Field Day 1800Z, Jun 26 to  
2100Z, June 27

UK DX Contest, (CW) 1400Z, Jun 25 to  
1400Z, June 26

Marconi Memorial HF Contest (CW),  
1400Z June 26 - 2100Z June 27

His Maj. King of Spain Contest (SSB),  
1800Z, June 26 - 1800Z, Jun 27

Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest, (SSB/CW),  
0000Z, Jul 3 - 2400Z, Jul 4

DL-DX RTTY Contest, 1100Z, Jul 3 - 1059Z, Jul 4

DARC 10-Meter **Digital** Contest 1100Z-1700Z, Jul 4

RSGB 80m Club Championship, (CW) 2000Z-2130Z, Jul 5

UK DX Contest, RTTY 1200Z, Jul 10 to 1200Z, Jul 11

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

Chuck, N4NM



## RV Nomad

*Craig Behrens, NM4T*

This issue of the *LongPath* finds Pam and me in Oklahoma City dodging tornadoes. Last night a supercell slowly worked its way through the area, dropping 6 tornadoes along the way. Fortunately, it passed just 20 miles north of our campsite. Everyone in the KOA campground was required to be in the main clubhouse building. As you would guess, it was total chaos with kids running rampant and animated adults providing real-time commentary on the TV storm-tracking coverage. The club house was a log cabin, so how safe was it? Surrounding small towns reported severe damage.

We have traveled almost 3,000 miles since the April RV Nomad column. We left the Palm Springs area for Chula Vista, just south of San Diego and 8 miles north of the Mexican border. The RV resort there is on the Bay next to a large marina and adjacent public park area. Here we visited the world famous Hotel Del Coronado Resort, Fisherman's Wharf, the Point Loma Lighthouse and various naval areas. The climate was absolutely delightful. We went on a day-long tour into Mexico that took us to Ensenada where we did some shopping and dined on lobster. We had 2 whale sightings during the trip, visited a resort hotel that celebrities frequent and explored movie sets seen in the movie *Titanic*.

Next, we headed north to Malibu Beach to mingle with the stars. Our oldest daughter, Kimberly, flew out from Atlanta to spend the week with us. From our 1,000 foot cliff-side vantage point, we watched porpoise and occasional whales pass below. Catalina Island was an apparition on the horizon. Pam and Kim participated in an extensive tour involving everything Hollywood while I decompressed at the RV, reading a great suspense novel. We also spent a day on Catalina Island. The 85-foot aluminum catamaran shuttle boat provided a scenic and very enjoyable hour long crossing each way. Although we enjoyed these adventures, it wasn't long before we were ready to escape the Los Angeles area. The express(less) ways are all that I remembered and we had a very close call one evening while driving at 65 mph in heavy traffic when a queen-size box spring unit flew out of a pick-up truck in front of us, just barely floating over our little Jeep Liberty roof.

Next, we made our way to Sacramento planning to do lunch with Arnold Swartzenegger. He flies in to the Capitol regularly and, since California has so few problems to worry about, we thought it was the least he could do. Well, it didn't happen...he did say "I'll be back." So we went to Napa Valley instead, where we took a train ride into the heart of California's wine district, enjoyed a gourmet lunch and toured a wine distillery.

It was a hard decision for me, but I decided to save visiting the Northwest until some future time. Having become some-

what travel weary, we decided to return home, several months sooner than originally planned. So we turned the coach east and zipped over, the High Sierra Mountains to Reno, NV. Here we stayed at the Hilton KOA where we lost more \$\$\$ to the slots but really enjoyed the joint KOA and Hilton Convention Center facilities. Side trips to Lake Tahoe, Carson City and Virginia City were fantastic! I was amazed at how much Tahoe has grown since I last visited. Pam thought Virginia City, an old mining town and the largest Historical District in the U.S., ranked as one of her favorite (top 10) places.

Salt Lake City was our next stop. According to the tour director, approximately 44 percent of the folks in this city are Mormons, almost 70 percent for the state of Utah. We went on a tour of their temple grounds after watching the world renown Tabernacle Choir do their 75<sup>th</sup> year live radio performance—an experience beyond description. There were 360 in the choir, 2 choir directors, a harp, flute and oboe. We learned from 2 sister missionaries that outsiders and even new Mormons are not allowed to enter the main temple until they have achieved appropriate standing for it is regarded as a most sacred place. It took 40 years to build the temple which is (I understand) different from other churches in that there are so many rooms for private worship within it.

We did a 3-day travel blitz to get to Oklahoma City, electing to not explore Denver or Kansas. So here we are, enjoying a beautiful summer-like day after a night of tornadoes. Tuesday we head to Memphis for a week of blues, jazz and BBQ—3 of my favorite things. Memphis is part of our traditional extended playground which will make us feel like we're almost home again.

There's a chance that I may make the next NADXC meeting if all goes well. Perhaps you can help me straighten-out my priorities again so that I can get back into chasing DX. Needless to say, it will be great to see ya'll again!

I'll be looking for work again, having taken this last year off for adventures. It would be great if I can find something in the Huntsville area. Please keep your sharply honed DXing ears to the ground for me and let me know if you have any ideas.

Till then, 73/72 and DX,  
Craig—NM4T

## Madman

*Barry Johnson, W4WB*

Ever thought about doing some DXing while taking a walk? A FT-817 is often used to provide a very modest 5 watts. Some folks use other radios to achieve an impressive 50-100 watts. While at the Dayton Hamvention, I ran into my friend Bob Curry, KC3VO, who is also known to many of us as "Madman" or "Motorcycle Bob." I am sure that many of you who attended the Hamvention saw Bob walking about and wondered what he was carrying. Read on and you'll understand why Bob is called "Madman!"



Bob Curry, KC3VO, the "Madman"  
Photo by W4WB

For a while, Bob has been interested in creating a portable "HF Backpack" rig capable of OVER 700 watts CW or SSB output power! For the transceiver, Bob uses the Yaesu FT-817 mounted in a chest pack. He extensively modified a TOKYO HY-POWER HL-700B amplifier using DIFFERENT transistors and input circuitry. It is configured as a two-stage amplifier and draws up to 90 amperes at 15 VDC from his custom 6.5 pound, 52 cell, \$900 Lithium-Polymer battery pack (1,350 watts DC input power!). The battery is usable for about two hours of QSO using 500 watts SSB output on transmit. The portable antenna used is a modified "Little Tarheel" 40-6 meter motorized antenna, which is rated for 400 watts in STOCK form. Madman serves as the "counterpoise", being capacitively coupled to the amplifier by an aluminum plate inside the pack, measuring 12x18 inches, that fits against his back. I went with Bob to the Alpha Power booth to act as the "official witness" for the output power measurement of his "creation." As you can see in the photo, he achieved his goal (the Alpha Power wattmeter showed 737.1 watts). In fact, he hit over 750 watts saying ahhhhh into the microphone on another try!

Bob works full-time as broadcast engineer for a UHF TV station in the Washington, DC area, which has an effective radiated power of 5,000,000 watts from an antenna on a tower that is located about 200 feet from his desk, and the antenna is about 750 feet up the tower. Also, there are other stations on the tower, among them are two more UHF TV antennas with 4,400,000 watts and 2,700,000 watts, as well as two 50,000 watt FM broadcast antennas, and numerous cellular, and 2-way antennas. He has worked at this location for over 20 years and claims to still have above-average vision for his 57 years, and is in generally good health in spite of all the "RF exposure." Bob also now runs up to 1,500 watts output power while MOTORCYCLE MOBILE. He started motorcycle mobile operation in 1971, using a SWAN 500C transceiver and a modified Army helicopter battery for power. His current motorcycle is a 6-cylinder 1500 cc HONDA GOLD-WING S.E. with a trailer for the modified Yaesu QUADRA linear amplifier, gasoline generator, and VHF/ UHF solid state linear amplifiers. This rig can output 1,500 watts on HF/6meters, 350 watts on 2 meters, and 225 watts on 432 MHz on all modes.

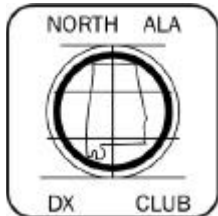
As a high-school student in 1964, Bob enjoyed demonstrating RF by allowing it to pass through his body to light a 100-watt incandescent light bulb! Of course, he DOES NOT recommend that anyone attempt to do this even though he is still here. Bob also readily advises folks NOT to try his "Backpack Portable" at higher frequencies where the human body dimensions approach or exceeds a 1/4 wavelength. He notes that chances for RF hotspots would GREATLY increase. Contacts are usually EASY to make with the setup, even from INSIDE the Dayton Marriott Hotel! For example, he worked Austin, Texas on 20-m phone from the conference room (the hotel light dimmers were affected by the RF with the lights brightened on voice peaks)!

Even with all of his fascinating accomplishments and RF exposures, Bob really does seem to be normal although I swear I saw his eyes glow and modulate during the power output tests at the Hamvention!

73, Barry W4WB

# A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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***How to Join:*** Come to a club meeting; or send in application by mail  
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## Editor's Soapbox

Once again time has arrived for getting the LongPath put together. It really is amazing how little time there is between issues. I know the calendar shows four weeks but it seems like only two.

The big Dayton Hamvention has come and gone, along with the Birminghamfest. I enjoyed my trip up to Dayton this year and finally got to do something I have wanted to do for the past 10+ years of going and that was to visit the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson AFB. If you have not been before it is definitely worth taking the time, especially if you are any sort of aviation or history buff. Make sure to allow at least 4 hours, as it is quite large (5 or 6 would be better), anything that can house a B-52, B-1B, B-2B and hundreds of other planes takes up a lot of real estate and will take some time to get around. As usual the Hamvention was good, but I did notice quite a few empty commercial booths inside than I have ever seen. The crowd seemed to be pretty good, but did seem to be less than previous years. Several NADXC members were there along with other folks from the area that I knew.

The passing of the Dayton and Birmingham hamfests can only mean one thing and that is Field Day is just around the

corner. Chris Reed, KF4MMF is again heading up the K4BFT Field Day Operation. Make sure to check out his article in this issue. You will note that we do not currently have a 20M SSB station manager and one is desperately needed, so please get with Chris if you can help out there. You might also notice that under 15/75M SSB I'm listed as sem-retired; I have been trying to take a step back from heading up the station so that I can do some other things at FD, along with just needing a break from the responsibility of managing the station. Ralph Hogan, W4XE is one of the NARA's technical gurus and will do well; I am going to help him out with getting setup this year since it will be his first time of managing a station, although he has been an operator at the station for many years. I have amassed a great group of operators over the years and hope that everyone will continue helping with the station.

Well, guess I better finish here and get the last little bit of dressing on the LongPath finished. I hope to see everyone at the meeting and, if not, at least at Field Day sometime.

73, Jared Cassidy, **KQ4VT**