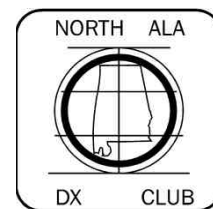


# The LongPath



A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## From the President's Desk



### The 'thrill' of DXing.

I'm writing this just as the 2002 ARRL DX contest is coming to an end. What a thrilling weekend for me, as this is the first

with the 'new' beam.

The 'new' beam is a used A3S on a TR-22 stuck on a 21 foot poll with a 5 foot mast attached to the house. Since putting it up on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, I've worked 20 new countries! Not bad for the FT-840 barefoot.. well, barefoot until March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The 'active' DXers on this side of the state all came out to help me finally get a decent antenna up. AE4HF, Jim Lee had the A3S in the basement. I had picked up the AR-22 at the Memphis hamfest and had the old Butternut HF5B on. So Jim, AB4MT, Michael Thigpen and N8DSG Bill Heitzenrater all helped me get the beam up in the air and running like a champ.

The world just opened up for me. For years, I had just use the MFJ vertical and the HF5B with Ok results. Having the A3S up has just made my enjoyment of the hobby much better.

Then Bill let me know he had an old Dentron DTR-1200L amp he needed to get rid of. I jumped on the chance and now it and an MFJ-989C tuner have been added to the W4PC hamshack.

And when I work the DX, the thrill is still there..

### Meeting Notes

The field trip to John's house was a great success. Everyone got a kick out of seeing the 756 Pro II in action. But above and beyond, John showed us his 'big stick'. Everyone was impressed with his 'big stick' and I think we all had 'big stick' envy. If you've never seen John's 'big stick', maybe he'll show it at the club meeting sometime.

Our next meeting is March 12<sup>th</sup> and the program a **Presentation and Demonstration of the TRX Manager for Software Control of Modern Amateur Radio Transceivers** by Dr. Carl Ferguson, W4UOA, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. This program will be a GigaParts and I don't think you want to miss it. I think that it's even going to be fun going to a ham store after hours too. I'm sure the GigaParts guys would be glad to sell some stuff too from the visit.

### Random Notes

In only 3 months, the club has pulled together like never before. I want to thank John Morris and John Drum for the EXCELLENT job

*(continued on page 3)*

Volume 26, Issue 3  
The LongPath  
March, 2002

### The Challenge of the Hunt

- *DX is working them all*
- *DX is All Modes*
- *DX is All Bands*
- *DX is All Power Levels*
- *DX is From Any Location*
- *DX is With Any Equipment*
- *DX is State-of-the Art*
- *DX is Classic Communications*
- *DX is for All to Enjoy!*

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March 12th Program  
**"TRX Manager for Software Control of Amateur Transceivers"**  
*by Dr. Carl Ferguson, W4UOA*

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

Please note that in March the club roster on the web site will be updated to reflect only those members who have paid their dues for 2002.

## "Short Skip" ...

- Those of you who made the field trip to John Morris' QTH last month saw a great example of total station integration, with lots of very interesting control features. But the most amazing device was John's custom-designed "magic wand," which he uses to manually activate various out-of-reach switches. Those of you who didn't see it in action should ask John for an explanation!
- Here's an item from the "believe it or not" category. At last month's meeting several members brought some of the more unusual DX QSL cards from their collections. Quite by chance, Bill Gerth (W4RK) and yours truly each brought a card from the same station - KZ5JJ in the Panama Canal Zone (now a deleted entity). We then noticed that both cards had the same date (August 8, 1956), the same time, and the same frequency/mode. Turns out Bill and I had a three-way QSO with KZ5JJ 46 years ago. Who wudda thunk it?
- I recently received some info from Bill Moore at the ARRL's DXCC desk concerning Ducie Island, which will soon be the newest addition to the DXCC entity list. Bill says the entity will not be added until June 1 in order to permit current DXCC Honor Roll members to retain that status through March 31, 2002, the date the next list of members will be published. After Ducie Island is added, the total number of entities will increase from 334 to 335. That means current Honor Roll members who have only 325 confirmed entities will need to add another confirmed entity in order to remain on the Honor Roll after June 1. There appears to be a DXpedition to Ducie Island still in the works for March, so watch for additional details. (Check out the interesting article on page 80 of the March issue of QST for more information about how Ducie Island's addition came to be.)
- The contest calendar for March includes the 2002 CQ World-Wide SSB WPX Contest scheduled for March 30-31. This is another of the "big" DX contests, and will be a good chance for some of us to pick up some new entities. See page 44 of the January 2002 issue of CQ for more details. (The CQ W-W CW WPX contest will be held May 25-26.)
- Those of you who were able to work the TI9M (Cocos Island) and/or PWØT (Trindade Island) Dxpeditons through the huge pile-ups can find some additional reference information about these activities at the following web sites: [www.qsl.net/ti9m](http://www.qsl.net/ti9m), and [www.trindade2002.com](http://www.trindade2002.com).
- Hello . . . anybody home? No one came forward with any used equipment needs or offerings after the request was made in last month's *LongPath*. If anyone does have any equipment-related advertising, how about letting either Jared or me know. We'd be glad to include your "wants" or "gots" in the newsletter.
- On the ARRL's web site home page, I recently noticed some interesting DX-related info contained in a recurring section called "Surfin'," written by Stan Horzepa (WA1LOU), a long-time contributor to QST. Check it out.
- Those of you who might be planning to submit QSL cards to the ARRL HQ DXCC Desk for awards/endorsements are reminded that Mike Maples (K4ADK) is a designated DXCC Card Checker and can verify confirmations without having to ship your cards to ARRL HQ. There are some restrictions on what cards

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## Minutes of the February 12th Meeting

The NADXC meeting on Feb. 12, 2002, at Ryan's Steakhouse on University Dr., was called to order by President Rick Ruhl, W4PC

Barry Johnson, W4WB gave a brief report on the new concept of e-qs1 and what the DXCC desk and Bill Moore's position is initially on it. Logbook of the World is still being worked on. Further information on this will be forthcoming in the future.

All members and visitors introduced themselves and new DX worked and confirmed since the last meeting were discussed and exhibited.

The minutes for the January, 2002 meeting were approved as published in the LongPath.

The treasurer's report as of 1/31/2002. Bank balance of \$2433.69. Total of 25 members dues paid for 2002. The treasurers report approved as presented.

Two new applications for membership, J.T. Harriman, WA1TDH and Vic Holland, KF4YGT were presented and will be voted on at the March meeting.

The NADXC discussed and will continue to fully support the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club in their Field Day efforts as has been done in the past.

Some discussion was held on the future use of the W4QB club call in some future DX contests.

A motion was made and seconded to pursue getting Jim Smith, VK9NS to come up and attend a future ham fest.

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

they have done on the programs for the year so far. It takes a good membership to make a good club and I think that the membership this year has the 'fire' to make it happen. Again, bring a friend to the meeting and let's get more members to join! Donnie Murray is right; we are all 'club membership evangelists'. Let's promote the DX Club and show the new hams how much fun DXing can be.

Also, please remember that when you talk to your ham radio vendor or dealer, to act with kindness. This week, I've received abusive emails from hams in regard to product support and activation (not from anyone in the club, mind you). It can be quite upsetting when you're in a small market like the

**Please check the NADXC web page for the latest roster information.** If you are not listed and have paid up recently or if your information needs to be corrected please send an email to:  
Bill Hull at: [w4gbf@arrl.net](mailto:w4gbf@arrl.net)  
and also to Jared Cassidy at:  
[kq4vt@arrl.net](mailto:kq4vt@arrl.net)

The February program was a presentation of the new IC-756 PROII by John Morris, K4XH. The February meeting was adjourned for a club field trip to John and Nancy's QTH for a live demonstration of the IC-756 PROII.

Respectfully submitted,  
William G. Hull, **W4GBF**  
Sec. /Treasurer

The treasurer's report as of 3/1/2002.  
Bank balance of \$2366.93, outstanding checks of \$161.40.  
We now have 32 members dues paid for 2002.

ham radio market is and some fellow ham abuses you because he's mad at himself. Not too many people making a profit on just ham stuff alone (even MFJ has commercial versions of their products).

This attitude even extends to working DX. Too many times I've heard hams just blast other stations for asking a question. I thought all of us learned how to share and be kind back in Kindergarten. How soon we forget.

See you at the meeting.

Rick – **W4PC**

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

are eligible for field checking, so please refer to the ARRL web site ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)) for specific information on this, or contact Mike directly. (Mike's contact info is on the NADXC member roster.)

- It's almost here! The Dayton Hamvention is now less than 90 days away. If you're planning to go, don't wait any longer to make your lodging reservations.
- Thanks to all those who responded to our member survey questionnaire. A total of 47 questionnaires were distributed, and 23 were returned. The responses will be consolidated and summarized in the next couple of weeks. Your comments will be invaluable in helping our current officers, directors, and committee chairmen do a better job of developing and coordinating our activities for the remainder of the year.
- Please remember, if any of you would like to contribute an item to be included in next month's "Short Skip," just let me know via e-mail ([w4ur@arrl.net](mailto:w4ur@arrl.net)).

73 es gud dx . . . .W4UR

## W4UAO Bio, Guest Speaker March 12



**Carl Ferguson, Jr.**  
**Associate Dean for Research and Technology, Professor of Marketing, and Director, Center for Business and Economic Research**  
**The University of Alabama**  
**Office: 127 Bidgood Hall,**  
**205/348-2943**  
**[cferguso@cba.ua.edu](mailto:cferguso@cba.ua.edu)**

Dr. Ferguson is the Associate Dean for Research and Technology, Director of the Center for Business and Economic Research, and a professor of marketing. He is a past president of the national Association for University Business and Economic Research, and a co-developer of the Alabama Econometric Model and the Alabama Regional Economic Information System.

He is a member of the American Marketing Association and has published in a number of journals such as *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, *Journal of Statistical Computation and Simulation*, *Journal of Applied Psychology*, and *Journal of Marketing Research*. In addition to his duties as the Associate Dean for Research and Technology, Dr. Ferguson teaches a doctoral seminar on Structural Equation Model and Theory Development.

John, [W4BXI]

On a personal level I would add:

Married to Katie Seals Ferguson, a practicing attorney; two children, Susan Sluser and her husband Derron live in Nashville and Joshua Ferguson and his wife Meredith live in Annapolis, Maryland. Susan and Derron have one daughter, Elizabeth who is 7 months old.

I earned my doctorate from Missouri and came to Alabama in 1975—27 fb years!

First licensed as W0LNL in 1965.  
 Carl

**The NADXC Repeater is back on the air and is up on Monte Sano. The frequency is 147.30MHz with a plus offset and a 103.5Hz pl tone. Let's start using our repeater for DX spotting!**

## Another Cork from Pop-Gun

Hello again from the ol' mobile shack.

DX conditions seem to have been much better the last week or two than during the shorter days of winter. I have quite a few new band countries to report this go 'round, and even a new country – yea!

Lunch time listening has been pretty good this week, with several DXpeditions to chase. The TI9 was fairly easy to log on 15m CW, but my usual low-power technique of lurking on the edge of the pileup didn't work on 10m at all. After no luck on three separate occasions, I finally jumped into the middle of the pile and was then successful after only a couple of minutes. I also got the H7 and a 9K on CW. Sideband catches during lunch and the work commute included a 5R, 7X, 7Z, 9G, EA8, EL, JY, OD, SV/8, VK, ZL, and Z2. These were all on 14, 21, and 28 MHz bands. I also chased the PW0, but it was a lousy operation, they didn't have a clue!! And, they spent too much time on phone! When are they leaving? (Refer to last month's LongPath for interpretations.)

I could hear a 3W on today, but very weak on SSB and work-



ing simplex. Those calling were definitely big guns, as they were about to blow my doors off, so I was sure I wouldn't be able to get it without stretching my lunch hour well beyond its limit (got to get those priorities fixed – ha). Sure wish I could work someone in that part of the world to finish up my WAZ, as well as to add to my country count. I think it is somewhere around 250 now, so there are many left to work.

On the other front, I've broken under the 300-to-go level for County Hunting. There are now 3077 of them, with a new one having been added recently in Colorado. Of course, true to the Ham spirit, there was someone sitting there ready to put it on the air at the stroke of mid-

night on the day it took effect. Nice DX-stile pileups for a couple of days whenever someone put it out.

Well, enough for this time – keep those electrons flying, 73 and good DX.

Don - AA4VN/Mobile

### *Don't Forget Club Dues are Due!!!!*

- \$15.00 for individual membership
- \$20.00 for family membership

Send Checks to:  
NADXC Secretary/Treasurer  
Bill Hull, W4GBF  
405 Gwendolyn Ave.  
Huntsville, AL 35811-1344

## ARLD009 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, QRZ DX, LU3DR, The Daily DX, KD2DL, WA7BNM and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

VIETNAM, 3W. Conny, DL1DA is QRV as 3W9KCS until March 15. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW. Since he is here on holiday, activity may be limited. QSL to home call.

JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLANDS, CE0. Eliazar, CE0ZIS has been QRV on 10 meters using SSB around 1900z.

CUBA, CO. Don, VE3ESE and operators from the University of Oriente ARC will participate in the ARRL DX Phone contest as T48RAC. QSL via VE3ESE.

FRENCH GUIANA, FY. Laurent, F6FVY and others will be QRV as FY5KE as a Multi/Single entry in the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL via operators' instructions.

GUANTANAMO BAY, KG4. Vance, N5VL will be active as KG4VL from March 1 to 6. This includes an entry in the ARRL DX Phone contest. Look for some 160 meters operations using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. Tony, N2TK is active as N2TK/NP2 from St. Croix, IOTA NA-106, until March 7. QSL to home call. He will be QRV in the ARRL DX Phone contest as WP2Z. QSL via KU9C.

SOUTH ORKNEY ISLAND. Claudio, LU1ZA has been QRV using RTTY on 15 meters around 0700z and then on 20 meters around 0930z. QSL via LU4DXU.

ARGENTINA, LU. The Radio Club Tandil will be QRV as LR7E using QRP during the ARRL DX Phone contest. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters. QSL via LU2EE.

PERU, OA. Olli, OH0XX will be QRV from the OA4O club station during the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL via operator's instructions.



ST. MAARTEN, PJ7. Bert, PA3GIO will be QRV as PJ7/PA3GIO/m from March 5 to 6. Activity will be on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters using SSB. QSL to home call. Meanwhile, Brian, KD2DL will be QRV as PJ7/KD2DL from March 2 to 9. Activity will be around 18080 kHz using QRP equipment. QSL to home call.

ANTARCTICA. Mike, RW1AI is QRV as RW1AI/ANT and has begun activities from Vostok Base, IOTA AN-016. QSL to home call. Mike also plans on being QRV with Alan, UA1PAC during the ARRL DX Phone contest using the club call R1ANC. QSL via DL5EBE.

BELIZE, V3. Walt, W0CP and Jim, W1LU are QRV as V31JR until March 8. They will be active in the ARRL DX Phone contest as V31DJ. QSL both calls via W1LU.

SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND. Mike, GM0HCQ hopes to be QRV as VP8SGK from March 4 to 6. QSL via operator's instructions.

CHAGOS ISLANDS, VQ9. Mel, W3MR is QRV as VQ9MR from Diego Garcia, IOTA AF-006, until March 7. This includes an entry in the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL to home call.

VANUATU, YJ. Michel, F6COW and Dominique, F6EPY will be QRV from the island Efate and Espirito Santo, IOTA OC-035, as YJ0AOW and YJ0APY, respectively, from March 4 to 15. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters, including the newer bands, using CW and SSB. QSL to home calls.

QSL MANAGER CORRECTIONS. As reported in DX Bulletin ARLD008, the CORRECT QSL Manager for P40A is WD9DZV. The CORRECT QSL Manager for 7Z1AC is WA4JTK, direct only.

## Other DX Rumors and News

The following is courtesy of the OPDX Bulletin and KB8NW/OPDX/BARF80:

5R, MADAGASCAR (IOTA Activity). Bruno, F5DKO, is expected to be here now through March 17th. Activity will be on 20 and 15 meters. He is also expected to be active from Nosy Be (AF-057) now through March 10th and on Sainte Marie Island (AF-090) from March 11-17th. QSL via IZ8CCW.

5W, SAMOA (IOTA Operation). Tommy/VK2IR and Bruce/VK2KLM will be active from Apia, Upolu Island (OC-097) between March 28th and April 3rd. Their operation will be on all bands 80 through 6 meters, SSB only. QSL to VK2IR, direct only, via call book address (Tommy Horozakis, PO Box 1, South Bexley, Sydney, NSW 2207, AUSTRALIA). DXpeditions come at a very high cost and all donations are very welcome. A web page has been set up for the DXpedition, updates, and log search at:

<http://www.qsl.net/va3rj/5w0ir.html>

A mirror web page has also been set up at:

<http://webhome.idirect.com/~va3rj/5w0ir.html>

A3, TONGA. Paul, A35RK, informs OPDX that after being QRT for over 6 months (because of a 3 month trip to the United States, 2 cyclones, broken antennas, and a bad case of "Polynesian Procrastination"), A35RK is back on the air. He states antennas are now up for 80-10 meters, and he will be actively pursuing "new ones". He will try to work Europe as much as possible. His current modes of operation are CW (75%), SSB (25%), and he will be trying to get set up for HF RTTY and 6 meters. His hours of operation are (generally speaking): 1800-2000z (sunrise-early morning) and 0300-0800z (late afternoon and evening). However, he has limitations. There is a 100w power limit in Tonga; his equipment is battery powered and the Force-12 C-3 beam must be rotated by hand. No 160 meters, no PSK-31 and no SSTV. QSL via W7TSQ....only! PLEASE NOTE: NO "DIRECT" or "via A3 bureau" QSLs can be answered. He has no cards there, his "CBA" is incorrect, and there is no A3 bureau. Requests for schedules may be directed to: W7TSQ@aol.com

ANOTHER INTERESTING WEB SITE. If you enjoyed going to the "DAWG X-RAY CLUB" Web page last week, Hal, K4HB, also suggests to check out the following URL at: <http://www.qsl.net/aa0mz/dxer.htm>

D2, ANGOLA. Joao, CT1BFL, will be here for the next two years. His callsign will be D2U. Activity will be on 160-10 meters CW/SSB. QSL via CT1BFL.

D4, CAPE VERDE. Five members of the radio club VOEST will be signing the callsign D44TA now through March 13th.

The operators: Rupert/OE1VBL, Gerhard/OE3GEA, Hubert/OE5MKM, Roman/OE5MRP and Roland/OE5RHO will be active the Island Santiago (AF-005). The team will concentrate on the 40 meters and up, including 6 meters if propagation permits. For more details of the operation go to:

<http://www.qsl.net/d44ta>

QSL via bureau or direct to OE5XVL.

DXCC NEWS. From Bill Moore, NC1L, DXCC Manager.....  
\* ZK1ETW (North and South Cook Islands operations in 2001) has been on hold awaiting supporting documentation. This has been received, and upon review, it is now being accepted for DXCC credit. Anyone who had this rejected during a recent submission can contact DXCC at < [dxcc@arrrl.org](mailto:dxcc@arrrl.org) > for an update to their record. Or, it can be sent with the next submission for credit.

\* ZK1TUG (North Cook Islands operation in 2001) has been on hold awaiting supporting documentation. This has been received, and upon review, it is now being accepted for DXCC credit. Anyone who had this rejected during a recent submission can contact DXCC at < [dxcc@arrrl.org](mailto:dxcc@arrrl.org) > for an update to their record. Or, it can be sent with the next submission for credit.

\* The 2001 DXCC yearbook is currently being assembled. We expect the yearbook to be ready for mailing sometime in late May or early June 2002. The period for the Annual List in this issue is from October 1, 2000 to September 30, 2001. If you submitted an application postmarked during this period, and you are a current ARRL member, you are entitled to one free copy. You are also entitled to one free copy if you qualified for the DXCC Honor Roll during this period and were an ARRL member, even if you did not submit an application. If you are entitled to a free copy of the DXCC Yearbook, one will be mailed to you automatically. You do not need to do anything to receive this copy. If you are not entitled to a free copy, but would like one, you may order copies from the DXCC Branch for 5.00 USD each, postpaid. Orders may be placed after June 1, 2002. We wish to thank you all for your continued support for the DXCC Program!

J3, GRENADA. Look for Manfred, DJ7RJ, to be active as J3/DJ7RJ until March 14th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters CW/SSB.

J3, GRENADA. William, VE3EBN, will be active as J37LR until March 31st. His activity will be on 40-10 meters CW/SSB. QSL via home callsign direct or via the Bureau.

P5, NORTH KOREA. This is the week Hrane/YT1AD and Voja/YU7AV are expected to fly to Pyongyang. The start of

*(continued on page 8)*

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

their activity as well as their callsign is unknown. Stay tuned and LISTEN, LISTEN and LISTEN. Remember, they are expected to train North Koreans. AMATEURS SHOULD BE ON THEIR BEST BEHAVIOR AND SET A GOOD EXAMPLE OF OPERATING SKILLS. DO NOT SCARE THE NEW OPERATORS AWAY (as well as their government listening over their shoulders).....

P5, NORTH KOREA. Ed, P5/4L4FN, will be off the air until about the middle of March. According to the KK5DO's Web page, Ed will be traveling around North Korea and will be making a trip to China. By the way, Ed made an interesting (rare) QSO this past week with the boys from PW0T.

VI, AUSTRALIA. Remember to look for the VI3GP special event station for Grand Prix Formula I race in Melbourne. VI3GP has been active on 20 meters this past week. Activity will continue until March 15th. QSL via VK3ER.

VK9L, LORD HOWE ISLAND. Jack, VK6CTL, is expected to be active as VK9LT between April 11-22nd. Activity will be mostly on SSB on 80-10 meters. QSL via HB9QR: Erwin Fink, Toedistr 7, Ch-8572 Berg, Switzerland.

VP6/D, DUCIE ISLAND. A press release sent out early last week states the plans for the Ducie Island DXpedition are now complete, and the group is in the final countdown phase. The team expects to depart from Mangareva, French Polynesia on March 12th. The team consists of VP6TC, VP6DB, VP6AZ, VP6MW, VP6BK/JA1BK, JF1IST, K9AJ, K5VT and N9TK. Mac, JA3USA, has had to leave the team because of unforeseen business conflicts, and Jim, N9TK, has replaced him. They will head to Pitcairn first to pick up supplies and equipment left there from their first attempt and then head on to Ducie Island. Their operations are expected to be for one week. The VP6 callsign is expected to be announced at the beginning of the activity. As announced earlier, their main activity will be on 21020 kHz (CW) and 21295 kHz (SSB) 24 hours each day until the demand falls. This is to allow more individuals to find and work the group, depending upon propagation to their area. Vince/K5VT and Mike/K9AJ will primarily operate the CW station while Jin/JF1IST and Jim/N9TK will be the primary SSB operators. Other prime SSB frequencies are 28495 kHz, and 14195 kHz, with 14020 kHz being the other prime CW frequency other than 15 meters. It is planned that there will be some operations on all bands, 160-6 meters, and RTTY in addition to SSB and CW operations. It is expected that low band and WARC operations are more likely to take place in the last days of the operation, as concentration from the beginning will be to allow as many operators as possible to work this rare IOTA and new DXCC Entity. The team will be chartering the ship BRAVE-

HEART". The charter will cost them 68,000 USD, and support would be appreciated. Donations may go to the group's treasurer, JA1BK: Kan Mizoguchi, 5-3 Sakuragaoka 4 Chome, Tama-city, Tokyo 206 JAPAN. QSL Manager is VE3HO for all bands except 6 meters. 6 Meter cards go to JA1BK. Pilot stations will be WA2MOE and JE2EHP. For up-to-date info on this DXpedition and for log searches, go to the Web site at: <http://www.qsl.net/wd4nbg/ducie.htm>

XQ0X, SAN FELIX (6 meters). Dick, K5AND, reports the group will be active on 6 meters between March 15-30th. They will have a beacon on 50106 kHz, and when the band opens, they will move to 50145 kHz for transmit and listen from 50150-50160; when things shut down, they will move back to 50106. They request to please help them make more contacts by spreading the word NOT to send grid info; their grid will be EG93WT, just for the record. Equipment will be a 8 element yagi on a 40 ft. boom (at 65 ft. over the ocean) with a 3CX800 1KW amp; they will monitor 28885 kHz with IC-706 and 3 element yagi. By the way, they will be on all bands from 160-6 meters using the callsign XR0X. The XR0X team will have 14 operators. QSL via N7CQQ. Check out their web site for more info at: <http://www.cordell.org/SFX>

XW, LAOS. Mauro, IN3QBR, is expected to be active until July 31st as XW3QBR

XZ, MYANMAR. Members of the Central Arizona DX Association (CADXA), Dan Brown, NA7DB, and two others (Sarah and Jessica; callsigns not provided), will be on the air from Myanmar during the week of March 29th through April 4th as XZ1SB, XZ1JB, and XZ1DB respectively in Yangon, and then from Mandalay as XZ5SB, XZ5JB, and XZ5DB. Their activity on the air, however, will not be like a fullblown DXpedition. This is really a Diplomatic DX visit. Their main purpose is to keep the CADXA ties and relationships strong with the government officials and lay the groundwork for a future fullblown DXpedition to Mandalay. They are really carrying on the work of Martti Laine, OH2BH, and Warren Hill, N7NG, in helping keep a rare DX country open for Amateur Radio activity.

ZY0, ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL ROCKS. Joa, PS7JN, is once again active as ZY0SAT until March 10-12th. Activity will be limited to his spare time, dipole and low power. It is suggested to watch around 7060, 14250, 21350 and 28600 kHz. However, he was heard this past week on 14253 kHz after 2330z, 14260 kHz after 2200z and 21260-21265 kHz after 1900z. QSL via PS7JN: Joaquim das Virgens Neto, Rua Carlos Serrano 1969, 59076-740 Natal RN, Brazil.

## K4XH Corresponds with ICOM President

September 11, 2001

VIA AIRMAIL

Tokuzo Inoue, JA3FA  
3-8 Kamikuratsukri  
Higashisumiyoshi  
Osaka, Japan

Dear Mr. Inoue,

When I received the August 2001 issue of CQ MAGAZINE and saw the picture of you and your ham radio station I was profoundly impressed. Your station is very similar to mine (see enclosed photos). After reading the "Mr. ICOM" article I discovered that we were almost the same age, I was born in 1929, and our start in radio was very similar. We both grew up in the time period when radio was just tubes, colorful resistors, condensers, transformers, chokes and etc. I read the article in CQ several times and felt that I had to write and tell you about me and my Ham radio station.

I was born and reared in Mobile, Alabama. I had a good friend whose father was a ham and owned a radio repair shop. I first learned about radio from him. When I was fourteen years old I went to a vocational high school in Arkansas. I had regular classes from eight o'clock until two, and vocational training, usually in the radio shop and the electric shop from two until five o'clock. After graduation in 1946, I joined the US Air Force and spent three years as a radio operator mechanic. When I was discharged from the Air Force, I went to Auburn University and earned my Electrical Engineering Degree in 1953. I received my first ham radio license in 1949.

Most of my career was with NASA as an electronic parts engineer in the quality area. Among other things, I worked on the electronics for the Saturn 5 Booster Rockets that took man to the moon. Dr. Werner Von Braun was the Center Director at Marshall Space Flight Center in those days. I retired from NASA in 1994.

The CQ Magazine article mentioned that your business philosophy "Technology first, the money will follow" was inspired by advice given to you by the late Arthur Collins. I was impressed by the technology and the quality of the Collins products I encountered in Ham Radio, the military and in my career with NASA. This equipment had the best and latest technology, excellent mechanical design, and real quality. These same qualities I have always found in ICOM products. I was once a Collins Ham and now I am an ICOM Ham.

At this time for HF I have a 781, 756 Pro, 706MKIIG, and a 4KL. A switch I built links these to one another. It switches everything, except the microphones, from radio to radio to amplifier instantly. All this is connected to a computer, so this computer can control the radios. A DX spot can come up on the packet cluster, and I can click on the DX spot and all three radios will tune to the indicated frequency and mode. The computer can also cause the antenna to rotate to the correct heading for the DX spot.

In addition, I have a Collins station; KWM-2 and 30L1; which is linked to my antenna system through switches and relays. I am also a member of and participate in the Collins Collectors Association.

*(continued on page 10)*

## K4XH Corresponds with ICOM President...cont'd

4008 GUNNISON LANE  
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35810  
U.S.A.

Your belief that communication technology can help bring people together is exactly my belief. We would certainly have a much more peaceful world if more people could get on the radio and just talk the way hams do. Like you, my favorite modes of operating are SSB, DX, and ragchewing. Maybe we can have a contact some day.

Since 1988, my daughter and her family have lived in the Seattle Washington area, and I visit them often. During my visits I often visit the ICOM America facility in Bellevue Washington. I have made quite a few friends including Ray Novak, John Gibbs, Gary Fiber, Dan Miles, Chris Lougee, and Dawn Larson-Baetke. I went on field day with them one year and I have been a beta tester for the PW-1 and the 756PRO. All the people at ICOM America have been very helpful and nice to me. Repair service as been excellent.

In closing, I would like to express my admiration for the 781. It is certainly a classic radio, which I think ranks up there with the Collins KWM-2 in its time. I feel the 781 will be a collector's item also. Thank you for giving the interview for the CQ article. If you were ever in my area I would welcome a visit from you.

73 and good luck,

John K. Morris  
K4XH  
Email: k4xh@aol.com

Enclosure (1)

(continued on page 11)

## DX CONTESTS for the Coming Month Include:

### RSGB Commonwealth Contest, (CW), 80-10 Meters

Mar 9, 1000Z to Mar 10,  
1000Z  
See page 102, Mar QST or  
[www.rsbhfcc.org/](http://www.rsbhfcc.org/)

### Russian DX Contest (CW/SSB), 160 - 10 Meters

Mar 16, 1200Z to Mar 17,  
1200Z  
Exchange: RS(T) plus serial  
No.  
See page 102, Mar QST

### BARTG Spring RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80 - 10 Meters

Mar 16, 1200Z to Mar 17,  
0200Z  
Exchange: 3 digit S.N. plus 4  
digit time  
See page 102, Mar QST

### CQWW WPX Contest (PHONE), 160 - 10 meters

Mar 30, 0000Z to Mar 31, 2400Z  
Exchange: RS plus Serial No.  
See page 102, Mar. QST

### OTHERS:

UBA Spring Contest, CW, 0700Z -  
1100Z Mar 10

EA RTTY Contest, RTTY, 1600Z  
April 6, - 1600Z April 7

SP DX Contest, PHONE & CW,  
1500Z April 6, - 1500Z April 7

Dates & times often change or are mis-  
printed in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM



## K4XH Corresponds with ICOM President...cont'd

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Phone: 06 6793 5302 Fax~ 06 6793 0013  
e-mail: [export@icom.co.jp](mailto:export@icom.co.jp)  
URL : <http://www.icom.co.jp/>

19 October 2001

Mr. John K. Morris, K4XH  
4008 Gunnison Lane, NW  
Huntsville, AL 35810-3959  
United States of America

Dear Mr. Morris,

First of all, let me express my sincere personal thanks for your kind letter, photos, QSL card and compliments with regards to the CQ article and ICOM products. It gives me great pleasure and pride to know that we have such loyal and grateful users like you, who appreciate our efforts to bring the best HAM products to market.

May I also add that I hope you and any of your family were not directly affected by the terrible events of 11 September. You mention that your daughter is in Seattle, so I trust all is well with her too. Our staff in ICOM America were thankfully all unaffected.

It was also a surprise for me to learn that you were directly involved with one of history's greatest events, in putting man on the moon. As with many technical achievements, many of the people involved 'behind the scenes' receive little attention, even though their contribution is often the very reason such achievements are ever accomplished.

You mention the late Arthur Collins. Meeting him personally is one of my most treasured memories and experiences in my career to date. I agree with your comments exactly. I have attempted to run ICOM from its inception to the present day based on the following principles.

- The spirit of service to our customers
- The spirit of creation of the best products
- Honesty in our way of business

Your praise of our products shows me that the first two principles are appreciated even across such diverse cultures such America and Japan. I think any true HAM would agree with your comments too.

I was also impressed with the system you have set up to simultaneously tune all the radios to a DX spot via a PC. Quite ingenious.

With regards to the HAM station you saw in the article, this is set up on the top floor of our HQ building, next to my office. Please find enclosed my QSL card, and the QSL card of ICOM's HAM club as a gift from me. If you are ever in Osaka, I invite you to come and see our showroom, and try the shack for yourself.

Finally, as you say that you often visit Seattle, and ICOM America, I extend you a personal welcome for any future visits you have, and hope that you continue to support ICOM for many years to come.

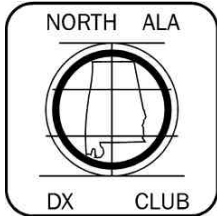
Again, my sincere thanks for your letter, and I wish you and your family all the best.

73,

Tokuzo Inoue  
President  
ICOM Inc.

# A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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

**How to Join:** Come to a club meeting; or send in application by mail (form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org)); or call Bill Hull at (256)539-3444

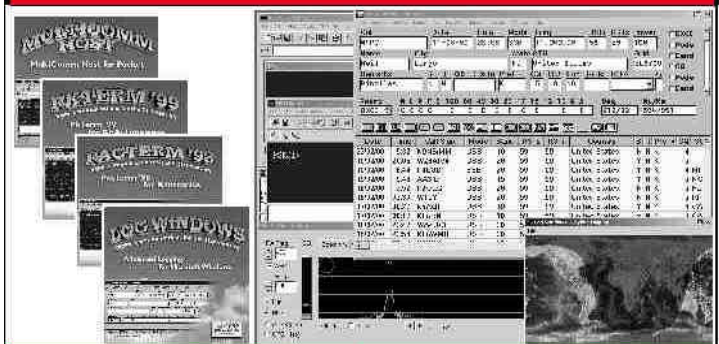
## Editor's Soapbox

Technology is wonderful. In this day and age we send people into space, build cars with robots and if Osama Bin Laden was using a cell phone the NSA could even listen in. But with all this technology and speed that we are capable there are still things that go wrong or we can't do right now like send people to explore Mars, make cars that don't fall apart and Osama is using two tin cans and a string not even the NSA can listen to him. What I am leading up to is the fact that all the technology at our disposal is great but it is not infallible. One of these great advancements of technology that many of us enjoy is email; we like the speed which we can send messages and that we can send them around the world. Email lets us communicate with our family, friends and throughout the workplace and the world. Al Gore did us a great favor when he created the internet. This past week up to the time I am writing this the provider of my connection to Al's internet has not been able to get their email server working. Arggh! The few days before the LongPath is supposed to come together is not the time for a failure in technology, but alas it happened. This week I got calls and messages from some of our contributors advising me that their emails to me bounced. I had actually started to get a little suspicious when I did not receive any email for a two days, but when I heard that email to me was bouncing I knew there was a problem and it had to be solved. Luckily for me I

had a back-up email account that was web based so with a few keystrokes my email was forwarded to that account. The moral of the story is to have a contingency plan, because when technology fails it can cause a lot of turmoil.

73, Jared Cassidy, KQ4VT

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