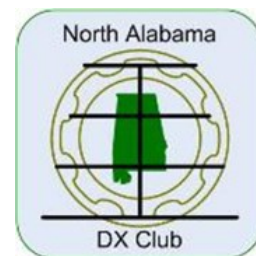


The LongPath

August 2022 — Volume 46 Issue 8

A North Alabama DX Club Publication



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Contributors:

AG4W

AI4U

K4AB

K8KI

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N4NM

NG3K

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From the President

By Bob DePierre, K8KI

This month I only have two things to worry about, and I'm worrying more about them every day. They both involve the help and involvement of our club members. Those are interesting problems. One is the DX Banquet and the other is the Long Path newsletter. Of course, I/we need your help every month; it's just that August is a little bit more interesting.

You might notice that our Long Path is just a little bit lighter than it has been in a while. The Long Path is, of course, a community endeavor. It's only as good as you, as a whole, want it to be. We're not a very big club, so there is a limited number of members who can pitch in. But every month it's the same group of folks who volunteer to pitch in, and write articles. It's not that we need new blood in the organization; we need more blood. We are lucky to have such an abundance of skill and interest in our favorite subject. So, I'm pleading: if you are one of those with the skill and interest, please write us an article or two. If you are not one of those, just whisper in my ear and I'll help show you what you can do. I'm sure you'll be very pleased.

As you know, we've made a lot of changes to our DX Banquet this year. We've got a lot riding on its success.

But when you make so many changes, there's no telling how it's all going to work out. We've been aiming at an attendance of 125 for the past few years. And we know that if you're not growing, then you're dying. The changes this year: 1) new venue 2) \$2 lower ticket price and 3) use of the banquet to support DXpeditions. For many years we just had a big party at the hamfest with no connection to DXpedition support. Of course, it was always a money loser. Which brings up the question: should we care if it makes money or not? If we have a good time, and we still have money in the bank, why should we care? I invite your comments. If I don't get any comments, I'll have to assume no one cares.

Please go to NADXC.com and look at our home page, as well as the [Banquet page](#). Please give me feedback on what you see there as well – would this prompt you to buy a ticket? I've met banquet speaker, Ward Silver/NOAX. He's a very engaging guy, and has a good historical story to tell. If you haven't attended a DX Banquet in the past, please come and give it a try.

At our August meeting, you'll see that the museum is still in the midst of renovation. The new walls are now up, and it's starting to look like a real mu-

From the President (continued)

seum. Display areas are everywhere, and those displays are for the radios that are our history. This is enough to get me excited, and I want to be a part of it. I hope you do too.

Our speaker this time will be Dr Rob Suggs. His subject will be "The X's and O's of Ionospheric Propagation." The program will be a description of a long-known but little-discussed aspect of HF propagation. The X's and O's explain some peculiar phenomena we have all experienced but may not be aware of. I'll try to remember to record this one (remind me). Last month Michael Werner/KF4BOG put three of our recordings on YouTube. Just search on NADXC and you'll find them.

So, let's plan to have the next NADXC club



The Museum of Information Explosion

meeting on Tuesday, August 9, at the Museum of Information Explosion at 1806 University. The Zoom sign-on will be a new one, the one we now will share with HARC. I'll send you the Zoom invitation on Sunday just before the meeting. Again, remember to pick up your dinner on the way over. I'll get a few of you to help set up the tables and we'll just eat here. I'll open the doors by 5:45. The meeting will start at 6:30, and the program by 7:00.

Fall Station Maintenance

By Steve Werner, AG4W

August is the time to make sure your station is ready for the contest season to begin at the end of September with CQWW RTTY. It is far easier to do a little preventive maintenance than wait for a failure in the winter in the middle of a contest or chasing 3Y0J. Most of us are getting older and maintenance is always riskier with freezing temperatures and ice or snow.

If you are like me and own a tower you may be reluctant to climb it. It is important that you always use a climbing belt and make sure it is in good condition. First check the condition of the base of the tower. Make sure you take care of any rust you see. I have been amazed to see stainless hardware or galvanized steel rust. Stainless steel can rust due to removal of the chromium oxide layer or galvanic corrosion when 2 different metals come together. As you climb the tower make

sure all the bolts are tight. Also inspect the welds and tubes for any cracking. If you see a major problem, stop the inspection and get down off the tower. Do not climb a tower if it is unsafe. An example would be a tower that is buried in dirt and the legs are badly rusted (N4KG) or damaged guy wires. Fixing an unsafe tower may require the assistance of a crane and some professional help. Also inspect the coax, rotor and switching cables on the way up. Look for worn or cracked jackets. Many anten-



Stainless and galvanized steel do rust and should be inspected.

Fall Station Maintenance (continued)



Check your ground connections, cables, and connectors for damage and loose connections.

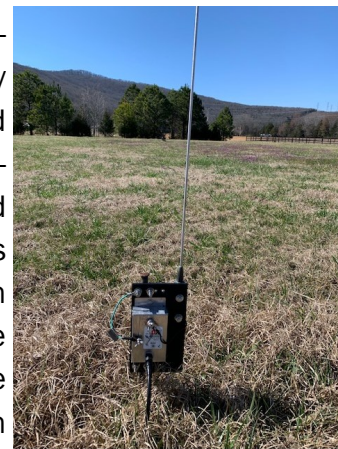
na or rotor failures are cable or connector failures. Inspect the tie wraps to make sure they have not been damaged by UV. Only use black tie wraps. The other colors do not hold up under the sun. The other colors can be used for Christmas lights that will only be up for 2 weeks.

Pay close attention to rotor hardware. It gets a lot of stress from wind on the antenna and

is the most likely cause of difficulty rotating your antenna. Some rotors such as Yaesu use castings that care must be taken not to over tighten. If your SWR has had recent SWR changes check the coax connectors. I have moved to crimp coax connectors for the shield with a soldered center conductor. These tend to hold up better outside. Also check the tape on connectors. I use rescue tape for waterproofing and electrical tape to add strength.

Next check all your ground rods. These can also have corrosion and loose connections. Any coax that is run underground can also be subject to animal destruction. This is a common problem with ground mounted verticals. Also inspect the vertical radial connections. I also use a lot of 4X4 treated poles for supports. In recent years carpenter bees have done damage by drilling holes in them. These need to be repaired and the poles stained if needed. After 10 years I have had rivets in aluminum tubing break. Also be sure to snug up

rope that is used for antenna supports. They stretch over time and some may need to be replaced. Be sure and check beverage resistors and any relays outside. In mid September it is time to reinstall any receive antennas you took down because of summer lightning risk. For me it includes the active amplifiers on my receive vertical antennas.



Reinstall any antennas or hardware that you took down for the summer.

Now is also the time to do any radio firmware updates. These have some risk of breaking the radio which would require a trip back to the factory. I rarely do an update during contest and DX season. It is also time to decide on software updates. Much like firmware updates some offer significant new features. Now is also the time to repair any rig or station accessories. At the same time it may be an opportunity to upgrade less reliable station equipment. If you have had problems with DC power connections consider upgrading to power pole connections.

Computers seem to be less reliable than the radios. I am usually slow to upgrade working computers and operating systems. I still use Windows 10 even though my computer can handle Windows 11. I upgraded my computer in the last year and it is nice to see it boot up in 20 seconds instead of over 2 minutes. Now is also a great time to consider upgrading your monitors. I think two monitors are a must and I recommend 24 inch monitors.

If you get started soon you will have a nice list of things you need to find at the Huntsville Hamfest.

NADXC Contests Results

By Larry Crim, K4AB

Bob K8KI has asked me in my role with the Alabama Contest Group to make a report highlighting some of the recent contest accomplishments of NADXC club members.

Last month Bob mentioned some of the 2021 results, so this report will only deal with contests that have occurred so far this year. Some of the results are preliminary and are pending log checking, but it's doubtful any of the results will change.

First congratulations to Steve AG4W. Here are some of his results so far this year:

- #6 ARRL DX Phone Contest Single Op Assisted 15 meters
- #4 ARRL DX CW Contest Single Op Assisted 160 meters
- #4 ARRL RTTY Roundup Single Op Assisted Mixed Mode
- #6 CQ WPX Phone Single Op 15 meters
- Steve is ranked #1235 in the world WARCA rankings

Bruce AC4G:

- #1 ARRL DX Phone Contest QRP
- #10 CQ RTTY WPX Classic Low Power
- Bruce is ranked #1776 in the world.

Johnny KR4F

- #2 ARRL DX Contest Single Op Assisted Low Power 10 meters
- Johnny is ranked #3600 in the world.

Larry K4AB

- #9 ARRL DX Phone Single Op All Bands
- Larry is ranked #19 by the WARCA

Christopher NV4B

- #3 June VHF Contest Limited Rover
- Chris ranked #13,474 in the world

Chuck N4NM

- #2 ARRL DX CW Contest Single Op Low Power 10 meters
- Chuck is ranked # 27,387 in the world

Some other NADXC club members who are ranked in the top 10,000:

- Bob K8KI is ranked #3146 in the world
- Mark N4BCD is number 5996
- Tim AB4B number 7261
- And Jim N4KH is number 8236 in the world.

The WARCA is an organization in Switzerland and compiles ranking based on a number of things like contest importance throughout the world, contest placement with categories, and is weighted on various measures such as station location and even operator age. You can go to WARCA.org for all the information.

Congratulations to these NADXC club members on their accomplishments.

Upcoming NADXC meeting:

Tuesday, August 9th, 2022

5:45 PM Doors Open / 6:30 PM
Meeting

Location: Museum of Information Explosion and via Zoom

Club Business and Announcements

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2022

By Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI

Bob opened the meeting at 6:30pm

- Bob discussed finances and the new way he is showing it
- Bob discussed the Banquet and asked us to hurry and buy tickets
- 3 past meeting videos are now on YouTube (via Michael Werner, KF4BOG)
- Bob needs help getting prizes to the Elks club.
- Starting next month there will be a new zoom meeting sent out.
- Larry, K4AB talked about contest scores for club members
- Steve, AG4W, has written an article for NCJ.
- Steve also discussed 6m activity. It has been incredible for the last month. China, Indonesia, and Japan have all been heard.
- Bob introduced Kim Hemsly, WG8S, to talk about AC line noise. To contact Kim about RFI line noise email him at WG8S@hotmail.com to let him know about issues in your area.
- Mark gave an update about the Hamfest, bring your friends.
- The business meeting was adjourned.
- Steve Molo gave the presentation.

Financial Report

By Bob DePierre, K8KI

NADXC Financial Report			August 2022
Budget Category	Targets	July Activity	Year to Date
Year Start	\$7,521		
Month Start		\$9,463.05	
Dues In	720		918.7
Recurring Exp	-668		-216.88
Sales	300		300
Miscellaneous			60
Discretionary Exp	-1000	-1000	-1000
DX Banquet	650		2064.18
venue			-325
food		-74.54	-74.54
speaker			
tickets		1258.49	2463.72
Bank Delta	2		2126
Month End		\$9,647.00	\$9,647.00

NOTE: Several large banquet expenses are due in August. If you have not purchased your banquet ticket, please purchase it ASAP. The club is currently projected to lose several hundred dollars on this year's banquet. Tickets can be purchased on the [NADXC website](#).

Upcoming DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

SARL HF Phone Contest (SSB), 80-20 meters



Aug. 7, 1400Z to 1700Z

Exchange: RST, serial no.

See page 70, Aug. QST

全国CW同好会 KEYMEN'S CLUB OF JAPAN

Keymen's Club of Japan Contest (CW), 160-6 meters

Aug. 13, 1200Z to Aug. 14, 1200Z

Exchange: RST and prefecture or continent

See www.kcj-cw.com



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

Aug 13, 0000Z to Aug. 14, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus serial No. See web for QTC rules.

See page 70, August QST and www.darc.de



SARL HF Digital Contest (DIG), 80-20 meters

Aug. 21, 1400Z to 1700Z

Exchange: RST, serial no.

See page 70, Aug. QST

SARTG



SARTG WW RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Aug. 20, 0000Z to Aug. 21, 1600Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.

See page 70, August QST and www.sartg.com



RTTY Ops WW DX RTTY Contest (RTTY), 160-10 meters

Aug 26, 2200Z to Aug. 28, 2359Z

Exchange: RST, 4-digit year first licensed

See page 70, Aug. QST and rttyops.com

YO DX Contest, (CW,SSB), 80-10 meters

Aug. 27, 1200Z to Aug. 28, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T), Serial or YO district

See page 70, August QST



Worldwide Digi DX Contest (DIG – FT4, FT8) 160-10 Meters

Aug. 27, 1200Z to Aug. 28, 1200Z Exchange: 4-character grid square + SNR

See: Page 70, Aug. QST and <https://ww-digi.com/>

Upcoming DX Contests (continued)

SARL HF CW Contest (CW), 80-20 meters



Aug. 28, 1400Z to 1700Z

Exchange: RST, serial no.

See page 70, Aug. QST

All Asian DX contest, (SSB), 80-10 meters



Sept. 3, 0000Z to Sept. 4, 2400Z

Exchange: RS plus 2-digit age

See: https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2018AA_rule.htm



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

Sept. 10, 0000Z to Sept. 11, 2359Z

Exchange: RS, serial no.

See <http://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/referat-conteste/worked-all-europe-dx-contest/en/>

Others:



ARRL EME Contest

Aug, 27 0000Z to Aug, 28, 2359Z

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

NADXC Banquet Information

Date/Time: Saturday, August 20, 2022. Social hour starts at 5:00PM, Dinner begins at 6:00PM

Location: Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin Street, Huntsville, AL 35801

Dinner: Lasagna, grilled chicken with pesto alfredo, green beans, garlic rolls, amaretto cheesecake bars, and sweet/unsweet tea. Catering by Bubba's Silver Spoon.

Beverages: The Elks Lodge offers a fully stocked bar.

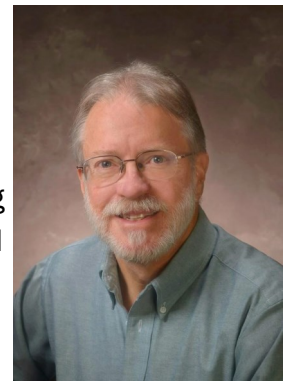
Grand prize: Yaesu FT-DX10 provided by Yaesu and Gigaparts

GigaParts Technology Superstore **YAESU**



Other prizes: Numerous additional door prizes will be provided by Hamfest sponsors and vendors.

Speaker: Ward Silver, NOAX, is an award winning author of many ARRL publications and articles, including his recent book "Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur". Ward will give a presentation titled: The DXing History of the Yasmé Foundation.



Tickets: Tickets are \$36 and can be purchased online at the [NADXC website \(https://www.nadxc.org\)](https://www.nadxc.org) or by mailing a check to:

NADXC
100 Short Gait Circle
Harvest, AL 35749

Ticket sales will be cut off on August 13th so get your tickets now!

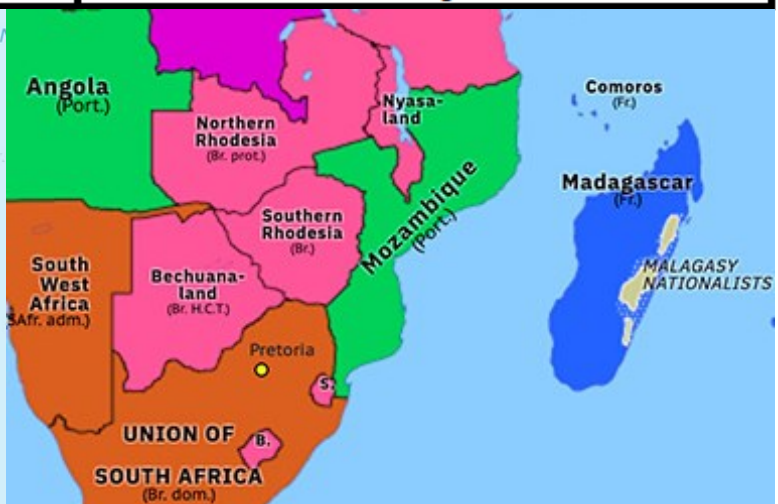
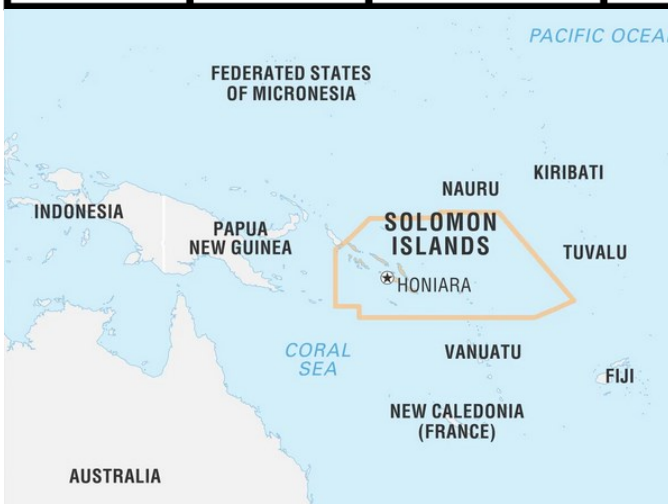


DXpeditions in August 2022

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August				
Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	QSL via	Info
2022 Aug01	2022 Sep09	Madagascar	5R8LH	By IV3FSG; HF; SSB + digital
2022 Aug01	2022 Sep21	Solomon Is	H44MS	By DL2GAC; 80-6m; SSB, some FT8; 800w; begin date uncertain
2022 Aug05	2022 Aug09	Rodrigues I	3B9	By 3B8FA 3B8GF 3B8CF 3B8FV 3B8BAN; HF; 100w; G5RVs; also 3 QO-100 portable satellite stations
2022 Aug07	2022 Aug20	Tonga	A35JP/p	By JA0RQV fm Niuafo'ou Island (OC-123)); 80-6m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via JA0RQV (B/d, d w/ SASE); exact dates subject to change
2022 Aug08	2022 Aug14	Tanzania	5J2JK	By DL8AAI fm the Kilimanjaro region and Moshi; check 18.144, 21.244 MHz; SSB
2022 Aug08	2022 Aug18	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	By NT5V as V4/NT5V fm St Kitts; HF; CW SSB FT8
2022 Aug08	2022 Aug20	Maldives	8Q7AG	By IZ2DPX fm IOTA AS-013; HF + 6m; SSB + digital; 100w; vertical; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2022 Aug09	2022 Aug23	Seychelles	S79	By EA3BT as S79/EA3BT and EA3WL as S79/EA3WL fm Praslin, La Digue, Mahe Is (IOTA AF-024); mainly satellites, but holiday style SSB CW FT8
2022 Aug10	2022 Aug16	Svalbard	JW	By KA1IS as JW/KA1IS; @JW5E; HF; CW SSB
2022 Aug12	2022 Aug16	Angola	D2TX	By ZS4TX; HF + 2m EME
2022 Aug12	2022 Aug19	Grenada	J3	By N9GB as J3/N9GB; 40-10m; CW, some SSB FT8; holiday style operation
2022 Aug20	2022 Aug31	St Kitts & Nevis	V47FWX	By G0FWX fm St Kitts; HF
2022 Aug23	2022 Aug23	Albania	ZA	By Z35M as ZA/Z35M; 40-15m; CW SSB; 5w; QSL via Z35M
2022 Aug28	2022 Sep25	Tonga	A35JP	By JA0RQV fm IOTA OC-049; 80-6m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via JA0RQV (B/d, d w/ SASE); exact dates subject to change





Huntsville Hamfest 2022



The World's Friendliest Hamfest®

In our 69th year!

Saturday August 20 9 AM to 4:30 PM

Sunday August 21 9 AM to 3 PM

Von Braun Civic Center in Huntsville, AL

- Expanded to use ALL of South Hall
- World Class Educational Forums
- License Exams both days
- Outstanding Youth Lounge
- Over 50 Commercial Vendors
- Huge Expanded Flea Market
- DX Banquet
- All indoors & air-conditioned
- DX Card Checking
- Hospitality Suite at on-site Hotel
- YL Breakfast
- Saturday Grand Prize - tbd
- Sunday Main Prize – Icom IC-9700
- Hourly Door Prizes both days

Also: This year we will again host the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention

By attending you are acknowledging that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. By attending Huntsville Hamfest®, you assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 and agree not to hold Huntsville Hamfest, Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, American Radio Relay League, Von Braun Center, or any of their directors, officers, employees, contractors, vendors, or volunteers liable for any illness or injury. The Huntsville Hamfest will follow all Federal, State, and Local guidelines to keep our visitors safe.

www.hamfest.org

