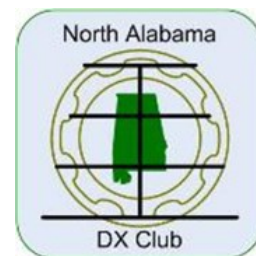


The LongPath

February 2023 — Volume 47 Issue 2

A North Alabama DX Club Publication



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Contributors:

AC4G

N4NM

NG3K

WA4HR

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From the President

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

As President of the NADXC, I am not worried about how this group can play a role in the future of DXing. I am not worried about having enough DX on the bands for any member to be allowed to work DX for an All-Time-New-One (ATNO) or a new band or mode. However, I do worry about how we can support Dxpeditons with our budget and the many members of the NADXC wanting to support more Dxpeditons. Since we are limited in our funding, perhaps the answer is additional donations by our members? The NADXC Budget Committee has been looking at the 2023 budget. We met and laid out a budget with consideration of all line items that we believe will have expenditures in 2023 to include support to DXpeditions. I am hoping that we will be able to approve the NADXC budget at the next NADXC meeting.

If you have noticed, my recent Longpath articles have not been technical articles. Evidence of this is my article this month on "How I Work a DX Pileup". I want to see articles that touch on DX operating to provide additional ideas for all new, seasoned, and old timer NADXC members in the NADXC, so that more DXCC countries can be added to each member's DXCC country repertoire. Do all articles or presenta-

tions have to be 100% technical? My thoughts are, "No", but a blend of technical and non-technical helps feed the interest of all NADXC members. Since we are a DX club, I would hope we could get articles/presentations from every NADXC member at some point, so that we can all achieve our individual DX goals. Each member has a unique point of view that may help mentor another member in this club, so consider helping another member this year with some of the knowledge locked up in each of us.

I hope all members have been on the air. There are many Dxpeditons on the air, many contests running, and daily activity to allow members to exercise their ham radio equipment. I have picked up some new bands and modes, mainly on 10m and 12m. I am glad to see the many stations on 10m and 12m every day keeping the CW, SSB, and digital band segments crowded daily. I recently worked Vietnam on both 10m and 12m, only minutes apart. I was lacking DXCC countries on 10m and 12m, so I am focusing on these bands which have paid off with the solar flux in the low 200's. Wow, it has been at least a decade since I have seen these high solar sun flux numbers, so take advantage of these band

From the President (continued)

conditions on the high bands. I would be remiss if I did not mention that due to these high flux numbers, that in the last couple of weeks, I finally made QSOs with Australia on 6m when I monitored 6m one evening to catch a 15-minute window open between EM65 and VK-land. I made QSOs with three (3) VK's. I was so excited to add another one to my DXCC totals. Please take advantage of these fantastic conditions on the higher bands. Time taken to operate on these higher bands will pay off.

We all have been patiently waiting for the activation of Bouvet Island, 3Y0J after a long wait. After the team arrived on Bouvet Island, I was waiting for their camp to be setup, antennas installed, and the team activating Bouvet once again. Weather has been a factor and slowed down their ability to get on-the-air. Finally, they got on-the-air on Monday, February 6, but their signals have been terribly weak. After monitoring their spots all day long, I finally heard a peep from the team on 30m CW, but not good enough to work them on Monday. On Tuesday, 7 February, I finally heard their 30m CW signals late in the afternoon, but the "Lidfest" had already plagued the bands and the frequencies where the 3Y0J team was operating. The 3Y0J signals were being maliciously and deliberately jammed and blocked by many ham operators all day long. I only hope that the FCC and Official Observer Group take these stations off the air. Maybe you are one of the lucky ones to have already been able to make a QSO. Hopefully, in the next few days, the 3Y0J team can get their gain antennas on the air, so that we all can make many QSOs with Bouvet and get it off our needs list.

Last month we started the year off with a

great North Alabama DX Club (NADXC) meeting and a great presentation by Steve Werner, AG4W, a member of the recent J28MD, Djibouti, Africa Dxpedition. This month we look forward to another great presentation by John Stensby, N5DF as John walks us through, shows off, and describes his Kenwood TS-890 HF transceiver. I am looking forward to this presentation, especially since I never have been up close and personal with any Kenwood TS-890 HF transceiver. I look forward to the February meeting and to hear John's (N5DF) presentation. Please take some time out to meet with us on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at the MIE Museum on University Drive. The atmosphere with antique radios all around us, sets a great stage for our meeting and also makes for a great time. Hope to see you all at the meeting. 73 and good DX! Bruce/AC4G

2023 NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Bruce Smith, AC4G
Vice-President	Mick Bell, N8AU
Sec./Treasurer	Barry Barton, WA4HR
Directors:	Fred Kepner, K3FRK
	Bob De Pierre, K8KI
	(Ex-Officio)

How to Join

Come to a club meeting or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)

Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held at the Museum of Information Explosion at 6:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Participants can also join the meeting virtually via [Zoom](#).

**This edition of The LongPath published by:
Fred Kepner, K3FRK**

How I Work a DX Pileup

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

Recently, I spoke to a friend of mine, Dave, WW2AVG who I got to know in the Marshall Islands. We discussed working the DX-end of a pileup. He and I operated as V73UX (now WW2AVG) and V73CW (now AC4G), respectively. We reminisced how we handled the huge pileups and discussed a few techniques that we learned on-the-fly to make more efficient use of our time to increase our QSO rates. Dave also mentioned he recently heard a Parks-On-The-Air (POTA) station trying to work a small, unruly pileup that could be handled if the operator had some experience and used some of the techniques we came to know. I reminded Dave of the upcoming granddaddy of all dxpeditions, Bouvet Island (3Y0J) and stated we hoped that this DXpedition was not as unruly as the last Bouvet DXpedition in the late 1990's which I recorded on cassette tape. The discussion between Dave and myself brought me to present some thoughts on DX pileups in this article.

I have been in many pileups in the past, on both sides of the pileups. I've worked as a DXer at my current home QTH and when I was V73CW (Marshall Islands) and AC4G/KH9 (Wake Island) in the past. I cannot say this too many times, but first, every ham operator should LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN. In order to work any DXpedition, you must know what is going on and follow the directions of the DX station, so listen.

As mentioned, I believe one key to breaking a pileup is LISTENING before transmitting. You cannot follow the DX directions if you are transmitting. You cannot know how the DX is managing their pileup if you do not listen prior to joining in. Let me add that when following a cluster spot or tuning across a random pileup, the ham operator

needs to be able to hear the DX station, copy his callsign, adjust your antenna rotator to be able to copy to determine if you are hearing well enough to figure out who the DX is, and what the DX is doing; otherwise, there is no need to transmit. Next, when you figure out what the DX is doing, you must figure out where the DX is listening. Is the DX simplex, or is the DX working split? Most major DXpeditions that I have worked always operate split. A little preparation prior to a DXpedition, knowing the DX frequencies, and whether they always work split goes a long way to making a successful QSO.

If the DX station is operating in simplex, then it is rather easy to call, but sometimes simplex can turn into a true mess; hence, why many DXpeditions operate split, listening up 5KHz – 10 KHz. If the DX ham operator is operating split, once you can hear them well enough, try finding where the DX is listening. This can be easily achieved by using an HF transceiver that allows hearing both the DX and where the DX is listening simultaneously.

One major rule is do not tune your HF amplifier on the DX station's frequency. Tune away from the DX station's transmit frequency when tuning; otherwise, the DX police will be after you and you will be known as a "LID". This caused much chaos in the previous Bouvet DXpedition as well as in any DXpedition.

Propagation may prevent you from copying the DX if spotted by hams on other continents. If this occurs, you might want to check other frequencies for other DXpedition operators or simply wait for propagation to favor your area. Bad propagation can also prevent you from hearing who

How I Work a DX Pileup (continued)

the DX station is calling. You will need to continue listening and tuning until propagation improves before calling.

Once you are able to copy the DX station, you can determine whether the DX station listens in one spot or tunes up and down the band finding stations to make a QSO. The best place to be when you transmit is on the exact spot where the DX station is listening on or close to where he worked the last station. Many hams try to "tail-end" the previous station; that is, rapidly throw their callsign out right after the previous non-DX station clears with the DX station. This technique has been very successful, but sometimes many hams try exercising this causing the DX station to move his receive VFO to find another non-DX station either up or down in frequency. Be careful not to insert your callsign too soon or you will interrupt the QSO and affect the rhythm of the QSOs being made by the DX.

Keep your calls short. Transmit your full callsign. Then listen. Repeat this cycle until you hear the DX station transmitting a callsign. Once the DX station transmits a callsign, then there is no need to keep transmitting. Wait until that QSO is complete before you start calling again.

You might ask yourself, "who are the stations the DX is working?" Are they working big guns? Are they working tailenders? Are they working the strongest callers? Are they working those at the high end of the pileup? As a DXer, you must be able to figure out the pattern and who they are working and adjust your calling according to who the DX station is working.

DX'ers need to be patient. With a major DXpedition like Bouvet Island and a rare DXCC en-

tity, the DX'er will need to be patient because with hundreds or even thousands of DXers calling at once, there is a good chance it could take an hour or two and perhaps no QSO that day with the DX station. Remember, do not get discouraged. Wait until the pileup is worked down or even wait for another day when all of the "big guns" have already made their QSO. In most cases, big gun stations will overpower many of us and make the contact. However, smart timing for the "little gun" will gain a QSO. Perhaps propagation changes in your favor or out of your favor. You cannot help that or control that. Simply QRT for another opportunity. If you do not work them today, do not get discouraged, try working them again later.

Timing, QSO pace, and the flow of exchanges is very important. If the DX station calls a station with only a part of the callsign, transmit your callsign if your call has those letters. It may be another ham being called and not you. Don't call if he responds back to another station. Wait for another opportunity and insert your callsign at the right time.

If the DX station comes back to you with your correct callsign, DO NOT SEND your callsign again. If you send your callsign again, you confuse the DX station and the DX station believes they mis-copied your callsign, so they waste time trying to understand why you are transmitting your callsign again and if they mis-copied your callsign. Send only the signal report such as 599 and/or "TU" (if CW) or 59 and "thanks or 73" (if SSB) while using standard phonetics and varying phonetics when appropriate if using SSB. Transmitting ambiguous information and repeating a correct callsign only slows the pace and other hams get anxious and begin sending their callsigns, slowing the pace even more.

So, what does the DX hear on their end? They hear a huge roar of heterodyne almost like

How I Work a DX Pileup (continued)

music being generated when the pileup is large with hundreds or thousands of DX'ers calling in unison. For the DX'er trying to find the non-DX station being worked, it is sometimes impossible. The DX station is searching for callsigns. The DX station will adjust their VFO to continue to keep their QSO rate up and make changes to allow them to copy full callsigns. This may mean tuning several Kilo-hertz above or below their last QSO, work tailenders, or trying other tricks to make the QSO rate stabilize or improve. The DX station will try different things to keep up the pace and continue working hams in the pileup. Some operators work by the numbers or by areas. If so, follow the DX operator's instructions.

Remember, LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN. Learn good traits from other hams in the pileup. The DX station is the boss of the pileup and runs the pileups as they see fit. Follow their directions, send short transmissions, follow propagation, be patient, do not send your callsign again if the DX has it correct, and you should find yourself in the logs on many bands and modes of some of the largest DXpeditions ever. Also, remember the DX Code of Conduct. Please be courteous and polite. There is no need to cause more chaos by sending or speaking rude comments to everyone over the top of the DX station. Good Luck with 3Y0J and future DXpeditions! If you have other pileup breaking techniques, share with your local DX community. Good luck DX'ers and hope to see you in the DX pileups.

Upcoming NADXC Meeting

Tuesday, February 14th, 2023

5:45 PM doors open / 6:30 PM business meeting and program

Location: Museum of Information Explosion and via [Zoom](#)

Business: Proposed 2023 Club Budget discussion and vote

Program: John Stensby, N5DF will show off and describe his Kenwood TS-890 HF transceiver



Club Business and Announcements

Congratulations NADXers!

Chuck, N4NM confirmed a QSO with Crozet Island, FT8WW for (current) DXCC entity #331. The ARRL DXCC Honor Roll is reserved for those who have confirmed contacts with at least 331 of the 340 current DXCC entities. Including deleted entities, Chuck has confirmed 341 DXCC entities. Chuck, congrats on making the Honor Roll!

ARRL Honor Roll 331 to 339 Entities Confirmed



Steve, AG4W's EME antenna array is featured in August of this year's CW calendar. The calendar is currently on sale for \$5 off (now \$14.95 w/shipping) at this [link](#). Congrats Steve!



2023 Program Plan and Calendar

Mick, N8AU has put together the below list of presenters for 2023. Topics will be advertised each month in the LongPath. This month's topic is an overview of the Kenwood TS-890 by John, N5DF.

January	Steve Werner, AG4W Report on J28MD DXpedition
February	John Stensby, N5DF Overview of the Kenwood TS-890
March	Tom Harrell, N4XP
April	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI

May	Mike Rozar, N4CNZ
June	Rob Suggs, NN4NT
July	Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT
August	Bob DePierre, K8KI
September	Club Picnic
October	Barry Johnson, W4WB
November	Barry Johnson, W4WB USB & Serial Interfaces
December	Club Christmas Party

NADX Club Represented at Orlando Hamcation

Steve (AG4W), Bob (K8KI), Michael (KF4BOG), Steve (KI4KWR), Mark (N4BCD), and Kelley (W4VPZ) made the trek down to Orlando for the 2nd biggest hamfest in the United States, held February 10 to 12th.



January 2023 Meeting Minutes

The January 10, 2023 minutes were recorded and submitted by Barry Barton, WA4HR.

- The meeting was called to order by Bruce Smith, AC4G at 6:30pm.

Old Business

- Installation of new Officers for 2023 took place.

President, Bruce Smith AC4G

Vice President, Mick Bell N8AU

Secretary / Treasurer Barry Barton WA4HR

- Christmas Party was held at Amerigo's

New Business

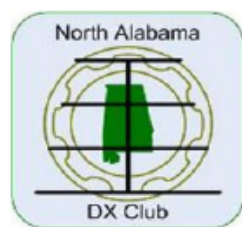
- Barry Barton, WA4HR presented the financial report for the start of the 2023 calendar year.
- Mike Rozar, N4CNZ from Taft, TN introduced himself to the club and was voted in as a new member.
- Ray Meyers, KK4URS introduced himself to

the club and expressed interest in joining NADXC.

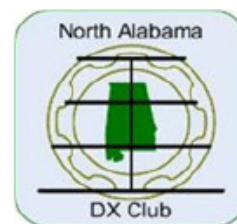
- Mark Brown, N4BCD accepted Bob, K8KI's 10yr-old ARRL Antenna Handbook.
- Chris Reed, AI4U spoke about the upcoming Winter Field Day on January 28th & 29th
- Chuck Lewis, N4NM spoke about the Museum Of Information Explosion's club station, K4MIE. Dues are free and people are invited to join.
- Michael Werner, KF4BOG spoke about QTH HAMS
- Bruce, AC4G spoke about the various DX that club members have worked.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm
- Immediately following the meeting Steve Werner, AG4W gave a very informative presentation on J28MD Djibouti, the DXPedition he recently returned from.

Proposed 2023 Club Budget

The Budget Committee met and developed the below draft operating budget for 2023. The budget will be presented by club President Bruce Smith, AC4G at the February 14th meeting. A membership vote to approve the budget will be held following any discussion.



Proposed 2023 NADXC Budget



Budget Category	2023 Targets	2022 Totals
Year Start	\$8,366	
Dues In	\$1,000.00	\$978.70
Recurring Exp	-\$683.00	-\$216.88
repeater elect	-\$160.00	
web hosting/domain serv	-\$73.00	
repeater maint	-\$100.00	
to HARC for Zoom	-\$50.00	
use of museum	-\$300.00	
Donation of equip to sell		\$600.00
Dxpeditons	-\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00
Picnic	-\$160.00	-\$150.00
DX Banquet	\$380.00	\$455.64
venue	-\$600.00	-\$753.00
food	-\$2,350.00	-\$2,326.00
speaker	-\$400.00	-\$384.36
tickets	\$3,800.00	\$3,605.00
raffle	\$700.00	\$700.00
grand prize	-\$390.00	-\$386.00
beer/wine	-\$250.00	
insurance	-\$130.00	
Bank Delta	-\$463.00	\$667.46
Year End Bank Balance	\$7,903	

Upcoming DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

CQWW RTTY WPX Contest, (DIG), 80-10 meters



Feb 11, 0000Z to Feb 12, 2359Z

Exchange: RST & Serial No.

See page 69, Feb. QST and

www.cqwprrty.com/rules.htm

CQ160 Meter Contest, (SSB), 160 meters



Feb 24, 2200Z to Feb 26, 2200Z

Exchange: RS & SP or CQ zone

See page 69, Feb QST, and

www.cq160.com/rules.htm

Asia-Pacific Sprint, (CW), 40 & 20 meters



Feb 11, 1100Z to Feb 11, 1300Z

Exchange: RST & serial #

See page 69, Feb. QST and

www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt

UBA (Belgium) Contest (CW), 80-10 meters



Feb 25, 1300Z to Feb. 26, 1300Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.; ON stns. send province

See page 69 Feb. QST and www.uba.be/en

KCJ Topband Contest, (CW), 160 meters



Feb 11, 1200Z to Feb12, 2359Z

Exchange: RST + continent code; JA send prefecture

See page 69, Feb QST and www.kcj-cw.com

ARRL Intl. DX Contest, (PHONE), 160-10 meters



Mar 4, 0000Z to Mar 5, 20, 2359Z

Exchange: RS plus State/Province; DX send RS plus pwr

See www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

ARRL Intl. DX Contest, (CW), 160-10 meters



Feb 18, 0000Z to Feb 19, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus State/Province; DX send RST plus pwr.

See page 69, Feb. QST and www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW), 160 meters



Mar 11, 1500Z to Mar 12, 1500Z

Exchange: 4 Character Grid Square

See www.kkn.net/stew

REF French Contest (PH), 80-10 meters



Feb 25 0600Z to Feb 26, 1800Z

Exchange: RS plus Serial No.; F stns. send Dept.

See page 69, Feb. QST and <https://concours.r-e-f.org/contest/>

Other contests:

Balkan HF contest, CW/SSB, 1300Z, Feb 12 – 1700Z, Feb 12

Russian PSK WW contest, DIG, 1200Z, Feb 18 – 1159Z, Feb 19

UBA Spring contest CW, 0700Z – 1100Z, Mar 5



DXpeditions in February 2023

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2023 Feb01	2023 Feb22	Bouvet I	3Y0J	LoTW	By LA7GIA LA7THA LB1QI + team; 160-10m; CW SSB FT4/FT8 RTTY; QSL: M00XO; about 22 days; dates tentative
2023 Feb01	2023 Feb21	Seychelles	S79	LoTW	By G4HSO as S79/G4HSO; HF; CW
2023 Feb04	2023 Feb27	Burundi	9U4WX	LoTW	By OK2WX fm Bujumbura; also IV3FSG using 9U5R; 80-10m; CW SSB; 100w; QSL via Club Log OQRS or IZ8CCW
2023 Feb06	2023 Mar31	Senegal	6W	LoTW	By ON4AVT as 6W7/ON4AVT fm Warang; 80-10m; SSB CW FT8; 100w; QSL via Club Log OQRS (preferred) or ON4AVT direct
2023 Feb07	2023 Feb13	Ogasawara	JD1BQB	LoTW	By JA1PFP fm Chichijima (IOTA AS-031); HF
2023 Feb08	2023 Feb15	Honduras	HR9	LoTW	By K6VHF as K6VHF/HR9; 80-10m; FT8 RTTY, perhaps SSB CW; QRV for CQ WPX SSB
2023 Feb09	2023 Feb16	Antigua	V26DX		By N9GB; 40-10m; OCF dipole; holiday style operation
2023 Feb09	2023 Feb23	Vanuatu	YJ0A	LoTW	By W7Yaq K7AR fm Port Vila; 160-10m; CW FT8 SSB; 2 stations; M/S in ARRL DX CW
2023 Feb11	2023 Feb26	Bonaire	PJ4	LoTW	By NE9U as PJ4/NE9U; HF; QSL via NE9U direct w/ SASE; QRV in ARRL DX CW with PJ4 team
2023 Feb14	2023 Mar14	Gambia	C5C	LoTW	By F5NVF F5RAV; 80m-6m; SSB CW FT8
2023 Feb15	2023 Feb21	St Vincent	J8	LoTW	By PA2LO as J8/AJ4YX fm Ratho Mill (IOTA NA-109, FK93jd); 80-10m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS preferred, PA2LO direct
2023 Feb15	2023 Apr30	Solomon Is	H44MS	DL2GAC	By DL2GAC; HF; SSB FT8
2023 Feb17	2023 Feb24	Cocos Keeling	VK9CVG	M00XO	By G0VJG fm IOTA OC-003; 80-10m; mainly SSB, a little FT8
2023 Feb20	2023 Feb26	Dominica	J79BH	Club Log OQRS	By VE3DZ FM5BH; HF; QSL via FM5BH direct w/ SASE
2023 Feb20	2023 Mar03	Curacao	PJ2	LoTW	By W1USN as PJ2/W1USN, AA1M as PJ2/AA1M, W1SR as PJ2/W1SR; HF; QSL also OK respective call (B/d)
2023 Feb24	2023 Mar02	Palau	T8	See Info	By JH7IPR as T88UW, JF6CHA as T88CH; HF; mainly FT8, some CW SSB; QSL T88UW via LoTW, Club Log OQRS, JH7IPR (B/d)
2023 Feb24	2023 Mar05	Agalega & St Brandon	3B7M	LoTW	By OM5ZW OK6DJ OM3PC OM4MW OK2ZA OM4MM fm St Brandon I (IOTA AF-015); 160-6m; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; QSL details
2023 Feb27	2023 Mar05	San Andres & Providencia	HK0	LoTW	By HK3EA as 5J0EA and HK3MKQ as 5K0VT fm Providencia I (IOTA NA-049); 80-10m; SSB, perhaps FT8; 100w; QSL via W4GDV



Announcement: It's time to pay 2023 membership dues

Dues can be paid electronically at the [NADXC website](https://www.nadxc.org). Contact Barry, WA4HR (treasurer@nadxc.org) for information about other payment options.

— GET PREPARED. GET OUT THERE. —

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