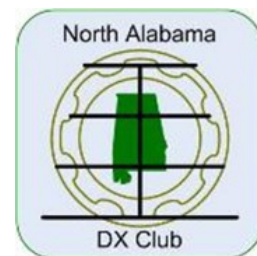


The LongPath

March 2023 — Volume 47 Issue 3

A North Alabama DX Club Publication



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AG4W

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From the President

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

This month I have been spending some time thinking how we can improve club participation for our regular club meetings, since the pandemic drove many of us to not meet in person. I am glad to see most pandemic activities are beginning to get back to normal. Although we are a small club, we have many members on the club roster, but many do not show up in person. I hope to get most members back in the mood and mode to come and participate in our meetings in person at the Museum of Information Explosion (MIE) located at 1806 University Drive at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

At last month's meeting, the club approved the 2023 NADXC budget. I believe the budget looks like it is in good shape and should allow us a platform to do club activities. We recently provided \$100.00 to the Sable Island DXpedition (CYOS). Many of our members need Sable Island for a new DXCC country and/or new bands and modes. We need member dues to help fund our club activities as outlined in our budget. If you have not paid your dues, please do so by clicking on the link on our web page at nadxc.org.

Bob DePierre (K8KI) established a standard of having phenomenal arti-

cles in the "Longpath" newsletters during his tenure as past NADXC President prior to 2023. Although, I naturally am in line to follow his shoes as the new NADXC President for 2023, I am floundering to get top-notch articles for the newsletter for our club member's edification. I need your help to write quality articles for our club newsletter that gets viewed routinely by other DX clubs throughout the U.S. Thanks to the many authors of articles in years past who gave up their time to share some interesting topics for us to read and challenge each of us with technical and practical articles to help us all grow as DXers. I hope our members can once again come to the aid of our club newsletter by writing an article.

Since our last meeting, several contests have come and gone. The CQWW RTTY WPX Contest kept many of us busy the weekend of February 11. The Radioteletype tones are still causing my ears to ring. During the weekend of February 18, many of us participated in the ARRL International DX Contest (CW) listening to the high-speed CW that allows myself and others to send and copy CW at speeds higher than normal. The weekend of February 24 brought out the Top Band gurus in the CQWW 160m (SSB) Contest. Final-

From the President (continued)

ly, as I write this article, I just surpassed 500 QSOs in the ARRL international DX Contest (SSB), taking a break from the activities on the typical contest bands (160m, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, and 10m) the weekend of 4 March. I have heard many of our club members transmitting their CQs, signal reports, and callsigns this weekend. The days of merely working South America on 10m in a contest are over. These contests provided me QSOs on every continent except Antarctica.

All the anticipation of working one of the rarest DXpeditions, which had not been activated for many years, has ended. Many of us have been preparing our equipment and antennas over the past several months in hopes of making many QSOs with Bouvet Island, but my hopes of making many QSOs did not materialize, although some of the NADXC members made it in the 3Y0J logbook. We do not know what the Bouvet team experi-

enced and the sacrifices they made while accessing the island and bringing their equipment and antennas ashore, but I am looking forward to hearing about their experiences. I am glad that safety was number one and all team members made it back to their prospective homes. My hope is that we can have one of the 3Y0J team members present at our DX Banquet in August to fill us all in on their journey to Bouvet Island and hearing many details of their experiences.

I am looking forward to our next club meeting and our presentation this month. DXpeditioners from the Dateline DX Group, Mr. Tom Harrell (N4XP) and Mr. Nathan Wood (K4NHW), will speak to us about the group's recent DXpedition to SVALBARD Island (JWOA). Tom and Nathan assembled this operation with several different goals from the usual operations. If you are able, please come out and meet Tom and Nathan via ZOOM on Tuesday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Museum of Information Exchange (MIE) at 1806 University Drive for our meeting, then on to our presentation which will follow.

Hamcation was a Success

By Steve Werner, AG4W

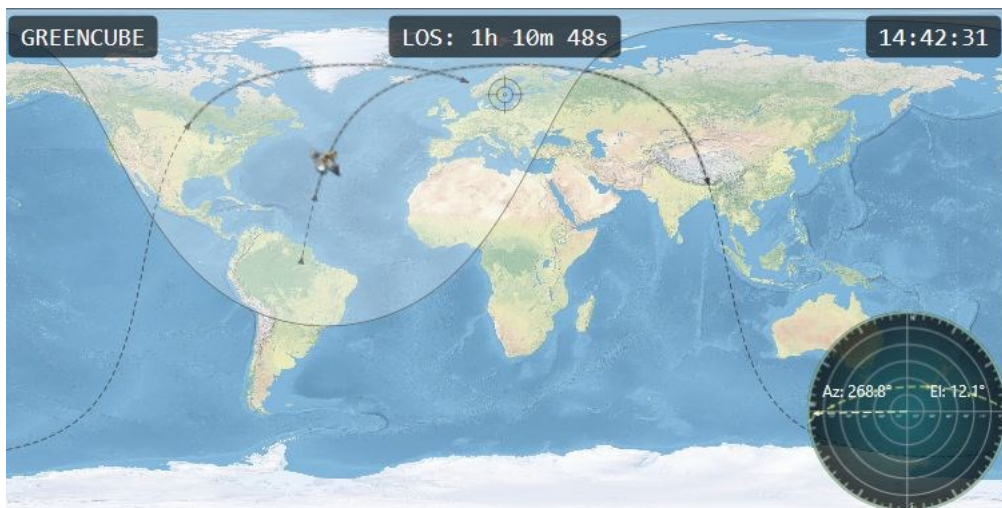
Bob (K8KI), Mike (KF4BOG), and I went to HamCation in Florida this year. I like this hamfest because of the warm weather during winter. There are many things that make a successful hamfest for me. The most important thing for me is to get inspired with new ideas for projects and get answers to questions that have current projects stopped. I also restock my inventory of tape, connectors, cable and tie wraps for upcoming projects. This year I got a flea market table indoors to sell off things that I don't use. They have an indoor and outdoor flea market. My last visit to HamCation was in 2019. I thought attendance was higher then.

Bob, K8KI (left) and Steve, AG4W (right) manned a flea market booth when they weren't shopping or attending presentations.



Hamcation was a Success (continued)

I enjoyed several of the forums this year. I was interested to learn more about Ham Radio Deluxe. It is like so many programs like Word or Excel that you tend to learn the minimum to get the job done. But if you spend just a little more time it can make your operating time more enjoyable and successful. Michael Carper, the sole owner of HRD, was there to explain how to use HRD and talk about the future. I was happy to hear they may have contest software in the future. I was also pleased to learn more about HRD Alert and the rotor control program.



AMSAT's GreenCube (IO-117) enables QSOs up to 8,000 miles away.

I also learned more about GreenCube, IO-117 from AMSAT. I operated satellites when we had high earth orbit satellites like AO-13 or AO-40. GreenCube is a MEO or medium earth orbit satellite. It operates at 3,642 miles above the earth. The low earth satellites have a very small footprint. With IO-117 you can work DX up to 8000 miles away as shown in the image above. This will require me to reactivate my 432 MHz antenna or build a new one and get my rotor tracking software PstRotator working again. A side benefit to this is that I will probably be able to work the big

guns on 432 EME. I also plan to upgrade my RigExpert Stick 230 to a Stick Pro.

I did sell some of my junk at the hamfest. The funny thing is I sold a scanner for \$25 and bought a better one for \$50. It has the addition of military frequency coverage. Scanners used to be fun to listen to when they did not encrypt all the police transmissions, but most do now. It is still interesting to listen to aircraft frequencies that still use AM. Even military aircraft use AM for some transmissions.

One of the disadvantages of going to Hamcation is I had to work Bouvet 3Y0J before we left. I worked them on 30M CW at 2AM local time after trying for 2 hours. This DXpedition was a disap-

pointment for everyone, but it certainly wasn't for their lack of trying. It is hard to imagine working CW on the floor of a tent with your radio on a bucket in an unheated tent.

We have been fortunate to have good propagation along with some other good DXpeditions recently such as 3B7M, ET3AA and FT8WW. It has been a little puzzling that the SFI, A, and K numbers

have been indicative of poor propagation when it was indeed very good. The weekend of the ARRL DX contest I worked 10M only and we had an opening deep into Asia up to an hour after dark. The pileups to Europe were amazing. I was pleased to work QRP stations in Europe and Asia.

I encourage club members to use the club repeater. You will get some help to work the most difficult DX contacts. It can be very helpful to know where the DX is listening, whether it was worked long path or whether he is operating fox/hound on FT8.

Club Business

By Barry Barton, WA4HR

February 2023 Meeting Minutes

- NADXC President Bruce Smith (AC4G) called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. on 14 February 2023. He welcomed all members and asked if there were any guests or potential members in attendance. He mentioned that WA4HR had received an application for a potential member, but that person was not in attendance to introduce themselves. He also thanked Steve Werner for his presentation last month as a team member of the Djibouti J28MD DXpedition.
- Bruce covered the sign-in sheet regarding DX worked and contest participation over the past month. Bruce also mentioned that Bouvet Island was on the air and approximately three members had indicated that they had worked 3Y0J. Bruce encouraged every member to make an attempt to work Bouvet since it had been so many years since the last activity from that island.
- The NADXC Treasury Report was presented by Barry Barton (WA4HR), NADXC Secretary/Treasurer. The bank balance is currently \$8,366.00. Afterwards, Barry discussed the 2023 NADXC Budget showing the path ahead. The club members voted in favor of approving the budget which was carried by unanimous vote and no opposition.
- The Program for February was presented by John Stensby (N5DF) who presented an overview of his Kenwood TS-890 transceiver.
- The Program for March will be presented by Tom Harrell (N4XP) and Nathan Wood (K4NHW) discussing several different goals that the Dateline DX Group achieved during

their DXpedition to Svalbard (JWOA).

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M. and the floor was given to John Stensby.

Attendees: Rodney Durrett (AK4PR); Fred Kepner (K3FRK); Kevin Hibbs (KG4TEI); Janet Duncan (K14WLX); John Stensby (N5DF); Steve Werner (AG4W); Bruce Smith (AC4G); Billy Gold (KM4BGF); Mark Brown (N4BCD); Kelly Johns (W4VPZ); Jared Cassidy (KQ4VT); Chuck Lewis (N4NM); Mike Rozar (N4CNZ); and Bob DePierre (K8KI)

Via ZOOM: Jim Spikes (N4KH); Walt Miller (AJ6T); and Barry Barton (WA4HR); may have been few others.

February 2023 Financial Report

- Current bank balance as of March 8th is \$8,704.94
- Membership dues - five members paid for a total of \$101.34
- Total expenditures paid were \$122.50, \$100.00 donation to Sable Island DXpedition and \$22.50 for new checks

March Program

Tom Harrell, N4XP and Nathan Wood (K4NHW) will discuss their JWOA DXpedition to Svalbard.



Upcoming DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

YB DX RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters



Mar 11, 0000Z to Mar 11, 2359Z

Exchange: RST, Serial #

See page 71, Mar. QST or <http://rtty.ybdxcontest.com>

UBA Spring Contest, (SSB), 80 Meters



Mar, 19, 0700Z to Mar 19, 1100Z

Exchange: RS, Serial, UBA section (if any)

See page 71, Mar. QST or www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW), 160 Meters



Mar 11, 1500Z to Mar 12, 1500Z

Exchange: 4-Character grid square

See page 71, Mar. QST or <http://www.kkn.net/stew/>

CQWW WPX Contest (PH), 160 – 10 meters



Mar 25, 0000Z to Mar 26, 2359Z

Exchange: RS plus Serial #.

See page 71, Mar. QST or www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm

FIRAC HF Contest, (CW), 80 – 10 Meters



Mar 12, 0700Z to Mar 12, 1700Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial #

See page 71, Mar. QST and www.firac.de

Other contests:

Tesla Memorial Contest, 1800Z Mar. 11 to 0559Z Mar.12

South American 10 Meter Contest, 1200Z Mar 11 to 1200Z Mar 12

OK1WC Memorial, 1630Z Mar 13 to 1729Z Mar 13

SP DX Contest 1500Z April 1 to 1500Z April 2

EA RTTY Contest, 1200Z April 1 to 1200Z April 2

JIDX CW Contest, 0700Z April 8 to 1300Z April 9

OK/OM DX Contest, 1300Z April 8 to 1200Z April 9

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

BARTG HF RTTY Contest, (DIG), 80 – 10 Meters



Mar 18, 0200Z to Mar 20, 0159Z

Exchange: RST plus 3-digit S.N. plus 4-digit UTC time.

See page 71, Mar. QST or www.bartg.org.uk



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

Mar 18, 1200Z to Mar 19, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial #; or RS(T) plus Oblast #

See page 71, Mar. QST or www.rdx.org

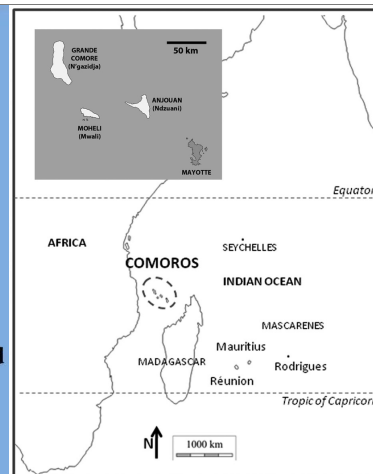
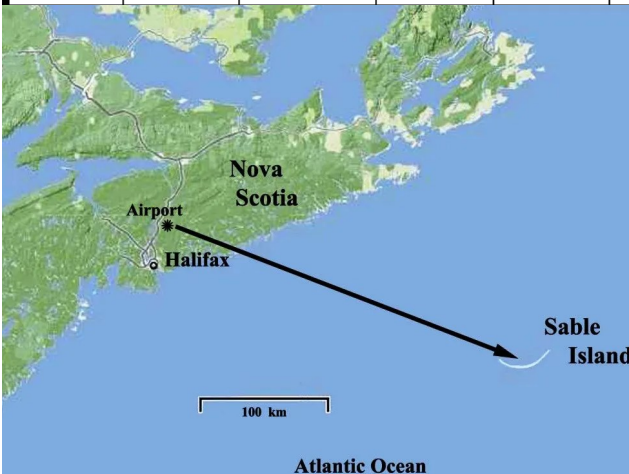


DXpeditions in March 2023

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2023 Mar01	2023 Mar08	Sint Maarten	PJ7EE	LoTW	By KC9EE; 40-10m; mainly CW, perhaps FT8 FT4; holiday style operation
2023 Mar01	2023 Mar10	Balearic Is	EA6	LoTW	By OK2PYA as EA6/OK2PYA fm Mallorca (IOTA EU-004); 40-10m; CW; fm WWFF locations
2023 Mar01	2023 Mar10	Galapagos	HD8M	See Web	By WB2REM KE2D VO1IDX K4LT fm Santa Cruz I; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8 FT4 (f/h)
2023 Mar01	2023 Mar10	Panama	HP9	LoTW	By VA3QR as HP9/VA3QR fm Pedasi; 80-10m; SSB FT8; 100w; QSL via VA3QR
2023 Mar02	2023 Mar17	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	LoTW	By G0TLE as V4/G0TLE fm St Kitts I; 40-10; CW; holiday style operation; QSL via G0TLE direct
2023 Mar03	2023 Mar13	Azerbaijan	4K7DK	LoTW	By DK1DKE; 80-10m; SSB FT8; 100w; dipole; QSL via DK1DKE (B/d)
2023 Mar03	2023 Apr01	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	LoTW	By AA9A fm IOTA NA-105; HF; CW SSB FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS or AA9A direct
2023 Mar04	2023 Mar10	Cayman Is	ZF2RJ	LoTW	By NF3R fm Grand Cayman I; HF; FT8 FT4
2023 Mar04	2023 Mar22	Curacao	PJ2	LoTW	By DK5ON as PJ2/DK5ON; 160m-6m; SSB CW FT4/8 RTTY; QSL via DK5ON (B/d) or Club Log OQRS
2023 Mar07	2023 Mar14	St Vincent	J8	LoTW	By F4HPX as J8/AG7JQ; 40-10m; CW; 100w; wires; holiday style operation; QSL via REF Buro
2023 Mar08	2023 Mar22	Turks & Caicos	VP5	Club Log OQRS	By N9EAS as VP5/N9EAS fm Grand Turk I (IOTA NA-003) nr Pillory Beach; HF; SSB, some CW; possible LoTW
2023 Mar08	2023 Apr05	Cape Verde Is	D44KIT	LoTW	By HB9OBD fm Sal I (IOTA AF-086); 40 20 15 10m; SSB FT8; QSL via EB7DX
2023 Mar09	2023 Mar22	Comoros	D67X	LoTW	By JF1OCQ; 160-10m; SSB CW FT8 FT4; 500w; vertical
2023 Mar09	2023 Mar22	Turks & Caicos	VP5	LoTW	By N9EAI as VP5/N9EAI fm Grand Turk I (IOTA NA-003); HF; SSB, some CW; QSL via N9EAI/N9EAI
2023 Mar09	2023 Mar24	Ogasawara	JD1	LoTW	By JA1UII as JD1BON and JI1IET as JD1BOI; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY FT8 FT4; QSL via JA1UII JI1IET respectively
2023 Mar11	2023 Mar20	Panama	HP3	LoTW	By VA3QR as HP3/VA3QR fm Potrerillos Abajo; 80-10m; SSB FT8; 100w; QSL via VA3QR
2023 Mar12	2023 Mar19	Dominican Republic	HI0LT	EB7DX	By Loma del Toro DX Club; 160-2m; CW SSB RTTY FT8 FT4
2023 Mar13	2023 Mar16	Crozet	FT8WW	LoTW	By F6CUK; 20m and up; QSL via Club Log OQRS or F6EXV Buro; see Web for direct options



2023 Mar17	2023 Mar31	Norfolk I	VK9NT	LoTW	By VK3QB VK3HJ VK6CQ VK2PN K0BBC VK3FTOM fm IOTA OC-005; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8; VJ9N in CQ WPX SSB; QSL via M00XO
2023 Mar19	2023 Apr01	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	LoTW	By N4RF as V4/N4RF fm St Kitts; 160-10m; mainly CW, some SSB FT8; QSL via N4RF (B/d) or Club Log OQRS
2023 Mar20	2023 Mar29	Sable I	CY0S	LoTW	By WA4DAN K4UEE W0GJ K5YY N2IEN N2TU K4ZLE W4DKS WW2DX K9CT; 160-2m; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; QSL via Club Log OQRS (preferred) or WA4DAN direct w/
2023 Mar21	2023 Mar28	Martinique	FM	LoTW	By EA1BP as FM/EA1BP; HF, focus on WARC; SSB; QSL via EA1BP; QRV using TO7O in WPX SSB
2023 Mar11	2023 Mar20	Panama	HP1	LoTW	By VA3QR as HP1/VA3QR fm Nueva Gorgona; 80-10m; SSB FT8; 100w; QSL via VA3QR
2023 Mar22	2023 Mar30	Ghana	9G4X	LoTW	By W6IZT N4GRN W8HC 9G5AF W9AP K9UR WB0SND N2ZX 4X5ZS fm Langma Village; 160-6m; QRV for CQ WPX SSB; QSL via K4NHW
2023 Mar24	2023 Mar26	Monaco	3A	Club Log OQRS	By IK1TTD as 3A/IK1TTD; HF; FT8 (f/h); 100w; vertical
2023 Mar24	2023 Apr02	Antigua & Barbuda	V26EI	LoTW	By EIDX Group fm Antigua; HF; CW SSB + digial; QSL via M00XO OQRS
2023 Mar25	2023 Mar26	Madeira	CQ3W	See Info	By DF7EE; CQ WPX SSB; QSL via Club Log OQRS; Also QRV Mar 22-28 with CT9/DD8ZX, CT9/DJ9KM, CT9/DF7EEE; holiday style
2023 Mar27	2023 Mar31	New Caledonia	TX5L	F4FTV	By FK4QX FK4RD FK8IK; 40-10m; SSB CW; 500w
2023 Mar28	2023 Apr04	Saba & St Eustatius	PJ5	LoTW	By W5JON as PJ5/W5JON fm St Eustatius; 80-6m; SSB FT8; QSL via W5JON direct



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](https://zoom.us).

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

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