

The LongPath

August 2023 — Volume 47 Issue 8

A North Alabama DX Club Publication



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- AC4G
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- K3FRK
- NG3K
- NN4NT
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From the President

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

The Huntsville Hamfest and our annual NADXC Banquet is fast approaching. I know we all are excited about the upcoming banquet. I am looking forward to listening to our speaker, and the networking, fellowship, and comradery among fellow contesters and DX'ers. I would like to encourage all of our members to attend and support our CQ Contest Hall of Fame guest speaker, Ken Clearbout (K4ZW). He will be sharing his adventures with us detailing his past DXpeditions, contesting activities, and his success bringing amateur radio to resource-poor countries around the world.

You will not want to miss the delicious food which includes gourmet lasagna, grilled chicken with pesto alfredo bowties, tossed green salad, green beans, garlic rolls, amaretto cheesecake, and sweet and unsweet tea. Tickets are still available and can be purchased via PayPal or via check sent to Barry Barton, WA4HR at his QRZ address. More details can be found on the NADXC web page, www.nadxc.org.

Our banquet dinner will be held on Saturday evening, August 19th, at the Signals Museum of Information Explosion (SIGNALS MIE), 1806 University Drive NW, Huntsville, AL 35801, where

we have been holding our regular club meetings. Our Social is planned to begin from 5:00 - 5:30 P.M.; Dinner begins at 6:30 P.M. or earlier if most attendees are present; while our Program with our keynote speaker will begin at 7:30 P.M. or promptly after all have eaten their dinner.

We will raffle door prizes thanks to the many vendors generous enough to donate ham radio related items. Our GRAND Prize this year is a YAESU DX10 HF Transceiver thanks to Gigaparts and Yaesu. Each banquet ticket purchased allows you a chance at the prizes.

I do worry about a few things pertaining to the banquet. First, I wonder why all of our members do not purchase tickets and be involved with many DX'ers in the southeast that will be participating in our event. There is a wealth of knowledge from seasoned DXers and contesters that will be present. I would hope that we all might tap into that knowledge base to help each of us improve our stations performance and receive tips to help us all improve our operating skills. Secondly, our banquet helps us raise funding to support DXpeditions. If as a member, we do not participate, it limits our ability to fund DXpeditions and funding DXpeditions is part of why we fraternize

From the President (continued)

and discuss DX and/or contesting. For many years, the banquet has been a money loser. Yes, there have been some negatives that occurred with the banquet each year, but from lessons learned, we have spent lots of time making sure these don't happen again. I hope past blemishes do not deter our members from participating this year and having a good time. I hope that our members will support the banquet and help our club make this a successful banquet. You will not want to miss this year's banquet. As I mentioned earlier, I am looking forward to it. We very much hope to see you there to make our event a huge success!

I am always concerned that our newsletter is light on articles, but many of you have 'stepped up to the plate' to provide us with some interesting articles each month. This month, I have reviewed many of them and find the articles provided wet my appetite indeed, as I know it will yours. Please continue to think of ideas for an article and provide an article to Fred Kepner (K3FRK - our Longpath Editor) to include in the Longpath newsletter. Thanks to the several members that have provided articles and those members that continue to provide new articles. Your articles not only entertain, but provide a wealth of knowledge to each and every member of this club. In the past, it was your articles that have provided me with ideas to help propel me to where I am on the DXCC standings today, especially the low bands. Even small bits and short pieces of information in these articles can help all of our members to improve their stations and operating skills. Many Thanks! Keep it coming!

I want to congratulate Larry Crim, K4AB for being paired with another ham operator as one of

60 teams competing in the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) held in Italy this year. The WRTC was held this past month in conjunction with the IARU HF World Championship contest on 8 and 9 July. To be selected, you must be one of the best operators in the world. Those not traveling to Italy were afforded the opportunity to make QSOs with all of the teams during the IARU contest. All of the teams were setup with identical equipment, antennas, and special call signs. The teams were identified on the WRTC web site. Unfortunately, I worked many of the teams, but never did work Larry and his teammate. I suppose that with me operating strictly CW during the contest and only able to operate a few hours limited my ability to work all of the teams. I have to believe terrain and location may play a big factor with the number of QSOs each WRTC station were able make around the world. Again, we are privileged to have one of the "best of the best" ham radio operators in our club. Congratulations Larry, and glad you made it back home safely!

As a reminder, summer is quickly passing. If you need to do antenna work, do it before summer and fall passes. I procrastinated in doing antenna work in the spring, blaming it on cool weather. Now I am blaming it on rain and heat. If you are like me, just do it and get it done.

For our program this month, I am also excited to listen to Larry Savage, WA4CAX discuss "RF Amplifiers". If you currently operate bare-foot (typically 100 watts), you will not want to miss Larry's program. He might encourage you to begin operating QRO (high power) to help you pick up a few more DXCC entities that are always difficult to work from our location here in Northern Alabama. If you currently use an amplifier on the ham bands, Larry may present some designs that will help you to understand their operation and also might present something that will assist you in making repairs to your own RF amplifier. Please

From the President (continued)

make plans to attend and support Larry's program.

Our club meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8 August about 11 days prior to the Huntsville Hamfest and NADXC banquet at 6:30 P.M. at the Signals Museum of Information Explosion, 1806 University Drive, Huntsville, Alabama. We will need to finalize the club's plan before our big banquet event. We need to briefly discuss the upcoming club picnic to be held in late September. I look forward to seeing all of our members in person or via ZOOM and listening to the DX worked over the past month or hearing some stories how you worked a new one or how you made DXCC. I

will send out the ZOOM information prior to the meeting.



Bruce (AC4G) attended the Middle Tennessee HamQuest and promoted the NADXC banquet on the Ted Randall Show.

The Ham Radio Antenna & Tower

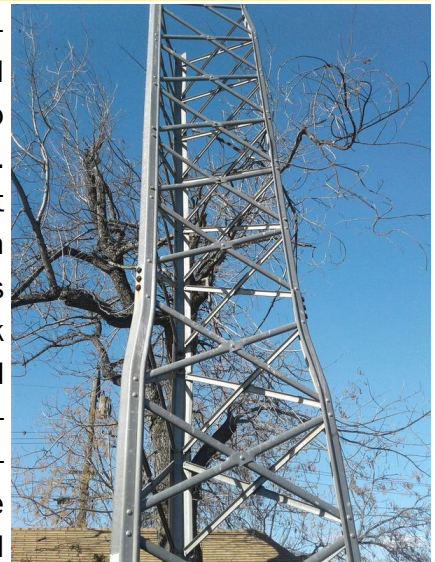
By M.D. Smith, WA4DXP

I have been an Amateur Radio operator since 1963. I got my call WA4DXP and not long after my wife got her WA4KUO callsign. I bribed her to learn Morse Code and pass the Tech test with a new dryer for our married student apartment.

We built a house on Monte Sano, and I put a 48' self-supporting (no guy wires) tower in the ground in three cubic yards of concrete. I had a three-element beam antenna on top to work distant countries.

We moved off the mountain into my parent's neighborhood in a larger house we bought built by Clark Hereford. I left the tower and put in a newer self-supporting 56' tower and even more yards of concrete. We had a corner lot, and our next door neighbor was a single older lady who baked cookies for our kids. After a few years, she moved away to be with her children in Florida.

New neighbors, a married couple, moved into the house shortly. They were not friendly at all. On rare occasions when we might talk while doing yard work, they'd complain about everything, including the weather. They'd already run a property line survey and lamented that the extreme rear of my backyard wooden fence encroached on their property by six inches. My wife's pleading spared us having to move about fifteen feet of it, but they only agreed grudgingly.



WA4DXP's self-supported tower

The Ham Radio Antenna & Tower (continued)

A few months later, a storm blew down a medium size tree in their backyard, and it fell on my fence, destroying about six feet of it. As the neighbor and I were surveying the damage, I'd already brought out my chainsaw and was cutting limbs off that were in my backyard.

He brought up the issue reluctantly, saying that maybe his insurance would pay for my fence repair since his tree did the damage. I told him to forget it. It was an act of nature, and I'd remove the tree parts on my side and repair my fence. He had a tree service come to remove all left on his side, and I had already sawed the tree off that was on my property and hauled it to the street with my son's help. I split the larger trunk wood for my fireplace and saved some money not having to buy wood that season.

I thought all was well until I got a formal-looking letter in the mail from him. He said he'd talked to a lawyer, and they'd consulted the city laws and that my tower and antenna were 'violating his airspace' and wanted it *all* removed. He said he and his wife felt the tower and antenna were a terrible eyesore for the neighborhood and wanted me to take everything down.



WA4DXP's tribander

I called my lawyer, and he read the law to me and said my neighbor was right, and I'd have to remedy the problem. Here was the issue. At the top of my tower, a shaft on a rotator supported a 3-element beam antenna. The boom, or main element, was 12' long, six-foot on either side of center, just barely protruding a few inches into his airspace. The three elements were 26' long or hung out 13' on either side and did significantly overhang our property line.

I hoped I could talk him out of it and invited him over to see my ham radio outfit on the basement level of our house. He came, and my wife brought us coffee and donuts. He watched as I demonstrated my radio by talking to another ham in Texas, then one in Montana. I showed him all my QSL cards on the wall from many other states and countries worldwide. I told him it was only possible because of that beam on top of the tower, and I hoped he'd reconsider. He said he would and left.

The next day, he said he and his wife talked further, but he would *not* rescind his demand for me to remedy the problem. Besides, he repeated, "Your tower and antenna are an eyesore, and we feel it decreases our property value. We want it removed from the side of your house."

An eyesore, huh? Well, the tower didn't overhang the line and was grandfathered before the city enacted any tower laws, so it would stay. Then I had an idea. The same company made a 2-element beam antenna. While the long elements were the same, the boom, or center mast, was only ten feet long and would NOT overhang his property *if* I left the antenna with the long elements lined up horizontally with the property line. I usually only rotated it at night, and on those rare occasions, he'd never see it. That would leave it oriented East and West, and I used the beam in those directions to talk to Europe, the West Coast,

The Ham Radio Antenna & Tower (continued)

and Hawaii.

That's what I did. I took the bigger one down and sold it, put the shorter one up. The neighbor came to his backyard as I finished up and climbed down the tower. I pointed up. "See? It doesn't overhang your airspace anymore."

"What if you turn it?"

"I won't." *At least not that you'll ever see.* I could see he was very disappointed. I'm sure he and his wife had hoped not only would I take the

top antenna down but the tower as well, since I wouldn't need it anymore. He didn't understand that I used the tower to support the center of my dipole long-wire antennas that ran from trees in my front yard to the back. Having the center supported fifty feet in the air made them work much better. I'd still need the tower even if I had no beam on top of it. But now I was set, just as before, and almost as good.

For good measure, I displayed my pride tower by stringing many strings of Christmas lights from top to bottom every holiday season and kept it lit night and day. Lovely sight.

VP6A: The Future of Island DXpeditions?

by Rob Suggs, NN4NT

After working VP6A Ducie Island (part of the Pitcairns) on 7 band/modes in June, I became curious how they were doing it so well. A little research revealed their secret sauce – Rig in a Box (RIB). Here's the idea. A major hassle in DXpeditions is the camping – getting the team ashore, setting up housing, operating locations, toilet facilities, etc. The wildlife agencies that have control of so many of those remote islands are not keen

on people camping on their islands due to possible disruption to the critters. The RIB contains the radio, amplifier and 900 MHz IP link that allows the operators to stay on the ship and operate in comfort. The box is weatherproof and uses water cooling to avoid overheating and BBQ RIBs (pun intended). Sure, a team had to paddle in to deploy the 4 RIBs, the antennas, and a generator and go ashore to refuel the generator periodically, but



Ducie Island VP6A transmitters and antennas as viewed from the ship (from <https://dxnews.com/vp6a/>)

VP6A: The Future of Island DXpeditions? (continued)

there is minimal impact on the island environment and the setup and tear-down time is vastly reduced. The generators are the Honda EU2000i inverter generators which the NASA club uses for our Field Day operations. The RIB contains FlexRadio 6700 radios, homebrewed water cooled LDMOS 1.5 kW amplifiers, a tuner and the control system.

The VP6A team consisted of W6IZT, KN4EEI, and AA7JV. There were also 15 remote operators who operated the RIB stations through the Starlink satellites. The latency in the satellites hampered full use of the remote operators but at least the 3 “local” ops were comfortable aboard the Magnet, a 158-foot powered catamaran.

The RIB system was funded by a grant from the Northern California DX Foundation and led by George Wallner AA7JV. Tim Duffy K3LR had a great interview with Wallner which is available to watch on the [On All Bands website](#). Additional de-

tails of the VP6A operation are shared on [DXNews.com](#).

So, is this the future of DXpeditions to remote islands? This relatively small-scale operation netted 62,000 QSOs. Others may disagree but it seems to me that having the transmitters and antennas on the island and the operators nearby constitutes valid operations from the DX entity but that will likely be debated for some time. This approach could dramatically reduce the cost and risk of DXpeditions while enabling more of us to “get in the log”. What if the Bouvet team had been able to deploy RIB systems?



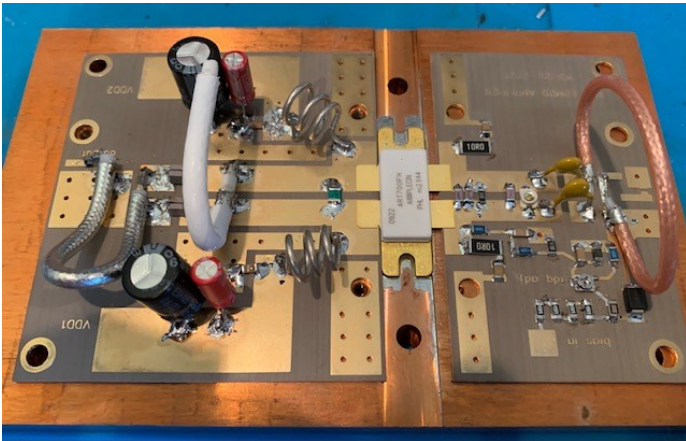
RIB operations in the CQWW CW contest from the Magnet – from DX Engineering [YouTube channel](#)



The Magnet (from <https://www.dx-world.net/kh7z-mm-gridding-across-the-pacific/>)

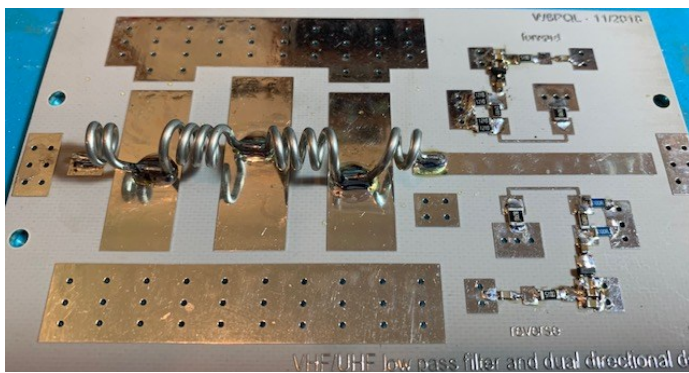
AG4W Station Update by Steve Werner, AG4W

This month I began construction of a W6PQL 432MHz 500-watt ART700FH LDMOS amplifier kit. I continue to be amazed at the small parts and their power handling capability. There is an input and output board that mounts on a copper heat spreader. A heat spreader is required with LDMOS parts running high power. The LDMOS part is soldered right to the heat spreader. Just getting the very small surface mount parts out of their packaging requires great care since they can end up flying out of the packaging and finding them is very difficult. I was lucky to find one dual diode that went flying.



AG4W's 432 MHz 500-watt amplifier kit

The 1 KW low pass filter kit was also interesting to build. It includes a dual directional coupler. The capacitors for the low pass filter are part

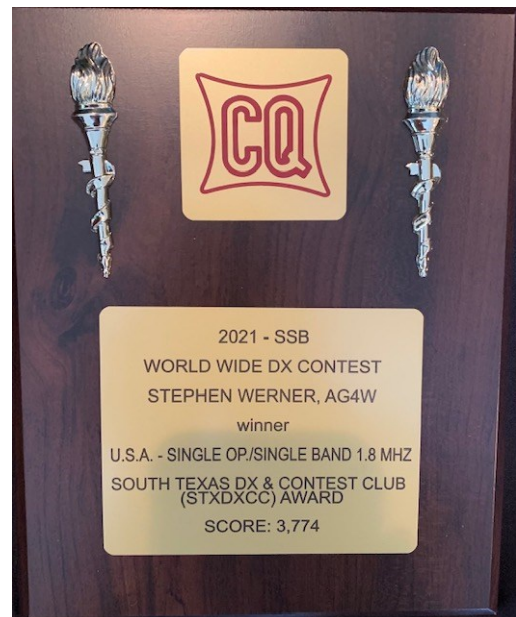


AG4W's 1 KW low pass filter kit

of the board. The secret to this board is the coils are wound in different directions to avoid coupling. The low pass filter reduces the second harmonic by 40 dB and the third harmonic by 60 dB with only .1 dB insertion loss.

I thought I would get more feedback from my VHF High Power Dummy Load article in QST this month. Be sure to vote for the article you like best in the Cover Plaque poll online.

I was pleased to receive a plaque for the 2021 CQWW SSB contest for winning 1.8 MHz USA last week. I also got my Satellite VUCC with the 150-endorsement sticker. VUCC is a great way to have fun on the way to working DXCC. I also got the 600-endorsement sticker for 6 Meter VUCC. 6 Meter openings to Europe were disappointing this last month. I was hoping to work a few new countries this summer. I have spent most of my operating time on the IO-117 satellite. That satellite seems operational about 70 percent of the time.



AG4W received his plaque for earning the top US score in the 2021 CQWW SSB contest on 1.8 MHz

AG4W Station Update (continued)



AG4W received his VUCC endorsement stickers for 600 grids confirmed and for 150 grids by satellite confirmed.

I was pleased that the new Geochron Atlas 4K software update now includes a USA and Europe only screen. I believe this is some of the best eye candy you can have for your station, and it keeps getting better. It makes so much real time information available. The DX spots on all bands is color coded.



The Geochron Atlas 4K now permits zooming in on the USA and Europe.

Did You Know – Where and What is SMOM?

by Bruce Smith, AC4G

Recently, I received information via several DX news outlets that 1A0 - Sovereign Military of Malta's (SMOM), Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps Amateur Radio Station, 1AOC, will be active in late-July to early-August 2023 on the amateur radio bands. A large team of amateur radio operators will be active on the air 24/7 to allow as many ham radio operators around the world as possible to make multiple QSOs with this team.

SMOM's location is located in Rome, Italy. This is a separate DXCC Entity and ranks number 77 on the Club Log's DXCC Most Wanted List. Traditionally, SMOM is activated to donate funding generated by the DXpedition to support various projects. The callsign of a previous SMOM DXpedition that I worked held the callsign 1AOKM back in December 1995 and was located in the extra-territorial zone of Villa Magistrate "Aventino" in

Rome, Italy. Another callsign, 1AOC was previously activated in July 2012, December 2014, and July 2019.

The 1AOC SMOM DXpedition this month will donate all the proceeds and monetary donations generated by this DXpedition team to the Order of Malta reconstruction projects caused by flooding in Romagna. Members of this team are Spanish, Italian, Japanese, and Russian. They will be active on all HF bands 6m - 160m and QO-100 satellite. Originally, the team was not going to activate 160m, but now a few days before shutting down their operation, have decided to activate 160m as well. To date, I have not heard their signals on top band even though it would be a new DXCC entity for me. I AM KEEPING MY FINGERS CROSSED, hoping for the best before they shut down and go "QRT".

Did You Know – Where and What is SMOM? (continued)

What is SMOM? SMOM is a fully independent entity with an ancient tradition and history. SMOM was founded before the conquest of Jerusalem in 1099 A.D. by the crusaders and recognized by Pope Pascal II in 1113 A.D. SMOM held sovereignty on the island of Rhodes from 1310 to 1522. They also held sovereignty on the island of Malta from 1530 until 1798. The Order finally established itself in 1834 in Rome where it holds several extraterritorial areas today.

Members of SMOM are known as “Knights of Malta”. Under the provision of International Law, the order maintains diplomatic relations with 64 countries around the globe as well as many

international organizations. His most Eminent Highness the Prince and Grand Master of the Order rules over this world-wide organization dedicated solely to provide assistance in the hospitals, charities, and social fields.

My first QSOs with 1A0KM back in 1995 was via Amateur Oscar 13, Mode “B” on SSB and on 80m CW. For the old-timers, perhaps this operation is not too sexy, but for the new DXer, this may be a new DXCC entity. By the time you read this article, the operation will be QRT. I hope everyone took advantage of working this DXpedition. Since I had SMOM on all bands including satellite except 160m, I made only a few QSOs with this team to give the deserving a contact and a potential new country. At our next meeting, I would hope you would share some of your SMOM stories with the NADXC membership.

K4A

“9/11 Still in Our Heart and Mind” Special Event Station

The Alabama Contest Group will be conducting a special event under the callsign K4A to honor the victims of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks.

The special event will run from 00:01 UTC on September 8, 2023 through 23:59 UTC on September 12, 2023

More information can be found on the [K4A QRZ page](#)



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

New Tower Installation - Part 4

by Fred Kepner, K3FRK

This article is the final installment of a four-part series documenting the acquisition and installation of my tower and antennas. Parts 1 through 3 were in the April, May, and June 2023 issues of the LongPath. Those issues can be viewed on the [NADXC webpage](#) if you'd like to read the first three installments.

As I wrote in Part 3, my concrete was poured in early June but a month was required for the concrete to properly harden and set. Waiting was tough but I worked on antenna construction during the wait. The 3 antennas going up on the tower are a Cushcraft X-7 10m/15m/20m trib-ander, a Cushcraft X-740 40m rotatable dipole, and a Cushcraft D3W 12m/17m/30m rotatable dipole. Construction wasn't bad at all since we only took apart what was necessary to get them on the trailer and transport them to my house when we removed the antennas and towers from Tom's (KG4CUY SK) station. I set up the antennas on cement blocks in the yard and carefully measured all of the element lengths when reattaching the aluminum elements.

I had previously run the coax from the radio position in the shack to the location where the coax would exit the shack. I had also previously installed the antenna disconnects and baluns at the exit location. I built the 2 waterproof utility enclosures a few months back but they still needed to be mounted. The utility enclosures hold the lightning arrestors for the 3 coax lines and the rotator cable. I built an aluminum fixture to mount the enclosures near the tower. The aluminum rails mount to the underside of the roof rafters and hang down along the wall. This installation method allowed me to mount the enclosures without damaging or using the surface of the shack

wall in any way. After hanging the enclosures, I ran the coax lines from inside, through an opening on the under hang of the roof, and into the enclosures. Each enclosure was attached to a ground rod with 6-gauge solid copper wire. Pictures of the inside of the enclosures can be found in

Part 3 of this article, in the June 2023 Longpath. I've included a picture of the enclosures mounted on the outside of my shack in this article.

When the end of the 30-day wait was in sight, I removed the concrete form. I supposed I went a bit overboard when I built it. It took several hours in the hot sun with my impact driver and a shovel to get all of the screws and boards removed but the concrete appeared perfectly formed so I was very happy.

With the form removed, I needed to move the tower into position. The tower uses a winch system to raise it from horizontal to vertical but the tower needs the hinge bolts attached between the tower and the base on the concrete pad. The tower needed to be rotated about 90 degrees and moved 10 or 15 feet from where it was resting in the yard. The tower weights close to 1,000 lbs. but I managed to move it into position rather easi-



Two waterproof utility boxes were mounted on the outside of the shack, near the base of the tower

New Tower Installation - Part 4 (continued)

ly and all by myself. I placed scrap plywood on the ground for the path of movement to facilitate rolling the tower into position. I then jacked up the tower and placed it on furniture dollies and rolled it into position. I had to raise it slightly with the jack to line up the bolt holes but once the bolts were installed, the rest was easy. I installed the mast into the rotator, bolted the winch system onto the tower base, ran the winch cable over the pulley on the tower and back to the winch arm, and then slowly turned the winch. Everything worked as expected and the tower slowly lifted off the ground. I cranked...and cranked...and eventually the tower was perpendicular to the ground. The base has levelling nuts but the tower was perfectly level on the base and did not need adjusting. I excitedly ran the motorized winch that extends the tower sections and extended it fully. Everything looked great so I retracted and lowered the antenna-less tower and began final preparations.

I built my ground system by pounding 8 8-foot ground rods into the earth near the base. I spread them out as much as possible and ran 3 sections of very heavy copper wire, connecting each tower leg to a different ground rod and burying the middle section so of each wire. I then bonded the 8 ground rods to each other using

Cadweld One-shot exothermic weld kits. If you are unfamiliar, these kits are pretty slick. A ceramic mold mounts on top of the ground rod. You then run copper wire through the mold, leaving enough length to reach the other rods that you will bond to the current one. You then pour the primary reaction material into the mold (a metallic powder). After placing the lid on the mold, you pour a small amount of “starter material” into the top and use a sparker to start the reaction. The reaction happens very quickly and burns very hot so care must be taken and you must get out of the way very quickly. Molten metal forms inside the mold and then hardens as it cools. When it is cool, you simply knock the mold off with a hammer and are left with your copper wire permanently bonded to the top of your copper ground rod. Unfortunately, I found that the mold lids tended to break during shipping so I had to have replacements sent to me, but DX Engineering customer service was great and took care of me. If using the Cadweld One-shot, you will need to make sure you buy the correct kit, based on your ground rod diameter, the number of connections (1 to 4 connection versions are available), and the gauge of the wire you will use. In my case, I used kits designed for 5/8 in. ground rods, 6-gauge solid wire, and 1 or 2 connections (1 connection on my end rods and 2 connections on rods in the middle of the line).

Although I was able to move and raise the tower myself, I knew that mounting the anten-



The tower was moved into position by placing furniture dollies underneath and making a plywood path.

New Tower Installation - Part 4 (continued)



The US Towers winch fixture makes raising and lowering the tower a breeze.

nas would take a few more sets of hands. My friends Wil (AI4QT) and Garry (no call) came over the following Saturday to help me get the antennas mounted. The SWR was tested with my Rig Expert analyzer and everything looked good. We also tested moving the rotator with the control box and had no issues. We then mounted the 12m/17m/30m dipole. It was light and easy and was mounted perpendicular to the direction that we would mount the beam. The beam weighed about 80 lbs. so we cranked the winch to raise the tower off the ground to just the right height to rest the back of the boom on the ground while tightening the antenna's saddle clamps onto the mast. The 40m rotatable dipole is an add-on kit to the beam so it was mounted onto the X7's boom and did not need to be independently attached to the mast.

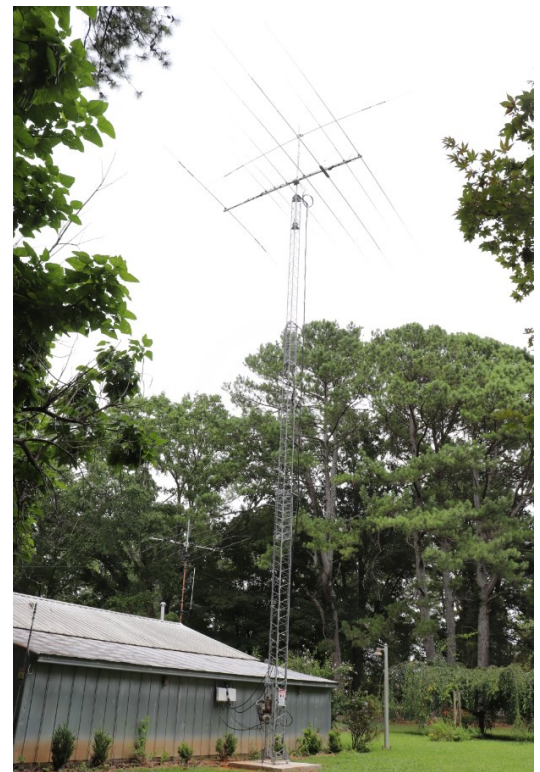
With the 3 antennas mounted, we ran the 3 LMR-600 coax lines and the rotator cable down through the tower offsets. We taped the lines together for their entire length to alleviate strain on any individual line and to make coiling the excess

easier when the tower is retracted. With the antennas mounted, the tower was a little harder to winch up but, taking turns cranking, we had it up in no time. Once the tower was completely vertical, we installed the remaining 7 bolts that hold the tower to the base and connected the 3 coax lines and rotator cable to the lightning protection in the utility enclosures.

So, you are probably wondering, how is it working? Well, I really haven't had an opportunity to get it fully up and running. There is an issue or two that I need to troubleshoot and track down as soon as work and family obligations slow down a bit. Trust me, I'm chomping at the bit to get working on it.

Wil (AI4QT) put together a short [YouTube video](#) showing parts of the install and raising. Thank you to everyone who helped with this project over the past 5 or 6 months, from planning and logistics to extra hands and hard physical labor. I certainly couldn't have completed this project without the generous help received from club members and friends.

The tower and antennas are up and operational.



Club Business

July 2023 Meeting Minutes and Financial Report by Barry Barton, WA4HR

- Club President Bruce Smith, AC4G called the meeting to order at 6:30pm
- Bruce spoke about the various DX club members worked.
- Barry, WA4HR Treasurer gave the monthly treasury report for June.
- Bruce spoke about our speaker for the banquet, Ken Clearbout K4ZW.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm
- Following the meeting Gary Sutcliff W9XT (via ZOOM) gave a very informative presentation

on technical aspects of Low Band Receiving Antenna Systems.

The following members attended the meeting: Bruce Smith AC4G, Jack Hemby W5WQQ, Chris Arthur NV4B, Chris Arthur, Mike Werner KF4BOG, Fred Kepner K3FRK, Rob Suggs NN4NT, Laura Morgan K4CNY, Barry Barton WA4HR, Bob DePierre K8KI, Billy Gold KM4BGF, Jerry Rossano N4JR, Jim Clifford NK3V, Bill Grimwood W4WEG, John Stensby N5DF, Steve Werner AG4W, Rodney Durrett, AK4PR, Mick Bell N8AU, Sandy Bell KBODLS, Tim Huffaker KM4ESU, Ghee Fry WL7T, and Mark Brown N4BCD.

2023 NADXC Financial Status– 07/31/23

Budget Category	Targets	Year Totals	June Subtotals
Year Start	8,365.65	8,365.65	8,609.17
Dues In	1,000	1,103.87	
Recurring Exp	-683.00		
repeater elect	-160	-160	
web hosting/domain service	-73	-16.88	
repeater maintenance to HARC for Zoom	-100		
use of museum	-50	-300	
Bank checks	-300	-22.5	
Donation of equipment to sell			
Dxpeditons	-1,000	-305.00	
Picnic	-160		
DX Banquet	380.00		
venue	-600	-600.00	
food	-2,350		
speaker	-400		
tickets	3,800	1,049.03	1,250.37
raffle	700		
grand prize	-390	-400.00	
beer/wine	-250		
insurance	-130	-105.00	
EOY Bank Delta	-463		
Year End Bank Balance	7,903	9859.54	9,859.54

Upcoming NADXC meeting:

Tuesday, August 8th, 2023
5:45 PM Doors Open / 6:30 PM Meeting
Program will start about 7:00 PM
August Program: “RF Amplifiers”
by Larry Savage, WA4CAX

Location: Signals Museum of Information Explosion, 1806 University Drive NW, Huntsville, AL 35801 and via [Zoom](#)

HELP NEEDED

A volunteer is needed to publish the September edition of the LongPath.

If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Bruce (AC4G) and Fred (K3FRK).



Huntsville Hamfest

Von Braun Center South Hall August 19 & 20, 2023

700 Monroe St SW, Huntsville, AL 35801

Hours: Saturday 9 AM — 4:30 PM, Sunday 9 AM — 3 PM

See the [Hamfest website](#) for the full event schedule and dealer list.

2023 North Alabama DX Club Banquet

Saturday, August 19th, 2023

5:30 PM Social / 6:30 PM Dinner / 7:30 PM Program

Location: Signals Museum of Information Explosion

1806 University Drive NW, Huntsville

Keynote speaker: Ken Claerbout, K4ZW

Grand prize: Yaesu DX-10 HF radio

Tickets can be purchased on the [NADXC website](#).

Tickets sales will close on August 12th.

Buy your tickets now!





DXpeditions in August 2023

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2023 Jul27	2023 Aug17	Iceland	TF	LoTW	By SP7VC as TF/SP7VC and SQ7ORL as TF/SQ7OYL; 20m + VHF
2023 Jul31	2023 Aug14	Turks & Caicos	VP5	See Info	By N5VOF as VP5/N5VOF and KI5UBT as VP5/KI5UBT fm Providenciales I; 40-2m; SSB FT8; 100w; QSL via N5DVF and KI5UBT direct w/ SASE
2023 Aug06	2023 Aug08	St Barthelemy	FJ	FG8OJ	By FG8OJ as FJ/FG8OJ; 10 6m; 10w; dipole
2023 Aug07	2023 Aug09	Faroe Is	OY	LoTW	By PF3X as OY/PF3X fm IP62pb; 160-6; SSB + digital; holiday style operation; QSL via PF3X direct w/ SAE + 2 UDS or 2 Euros
2023 Aug08	2023 Aug11	Saba & St. Eustasias	PJ6	FG8OJ	By FG8OJ as PJ6/FG8OJ fm Saba I; 10 6m; 10w; dipole
2023 Aug11	2023 Aug14	Greenland	OX	LoTW	By DL8JJ as OX/DL8JJ fm Tasiilaq (HP15eo); HF; CW; 10w
2023 Aug11	2023 Aug16	St Martin	FS	FG8OJ	By FG8OJ as FS/FG8OJ; 10 6m; 10w; dipole
2023 Aug11	2023 Aug25	Iceland	TF	LoTW	By PF3X as TF/PF3X fm various grid squares; 160-6; SSB + digital; holiday style operation; QSL via PF3X direct w/ SAE + 2 UDS or 2 Euros
2023 Aug13	2023 Aug15	French Polynesia	FO	LoTW	By F1SMB as FO/F1SMB fm Tahiti (OC-046, BH52ek); 40-10m; SSB FT-8
2023 Aug14	2023 Sep07	Namibia	V5	LoTW	By DL5GAN as V5/DL5GAN fm various locations; 40 30 20 17 15 10m; CW FT8 SSB; QSL via DL5GAN (B/d)
2023 Aug15	2023 Aug17	French Polynesia	FO	LoTW	By F1SMB as FO/F1SMB fm Moorea I (OC-046, BH52cl); 40-10m; SSB FT-8
2023 Aug17	2023 Aug20	French Polynesia	FO	LoTW	By F1SMB as FO/F1SMB fm Tahiti (OC-046, BH52ek); 40-10m; SSB FT-8
2023 Aug19	2023 Aug22	Bermuda	VP9	K5BLS Direct	By K5BLS as K5BLS/VP9 fm Sandys Parish; 20 17m; SSB
2023 Aug20	2023 Aug23	French Polynesia	FO	LoTW	By F1SMB as FO/F1SMB fm Bora Bora I (OC-067, BH43dl); 40-10m; SSB FT-8
2023 Aug20	2023 Sep09	DR Congo	9Q2WX	IZ8CCW	By OK2WX; HF; CW SSB + digital
2023 Aug23	2023 Aug25	French Polynesia	FO	LoTW	By F1SMB as FO/F1SMB fm Tahiti (OC-046, BH52ek); 40-10m; SSB FT-8
2023 Aug25	2023 Aug28	French Polynesia	FO	LoTW	By F1SMB as FO/F1SMB fm Fakarava I (OC-066, BH37hn); 40-10m; SSB FT-8
2023 Aug28	2023 Sep05	French Polynesia	FO	LoTW	By F1SMB as FO/F1SMB fm Tahiti (OC-046, BH52ek); 40-10m; SSB FT-8
2023 Aug28	2023 Sep12	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	LoTW	By W5JON fm Calypso Bay; 160-6m; SSB FT8; yagi, verticals; QSL also OK via W5JON direct
2023 Aug29	2023 Sep04	Palau	T8	See Info	By JA6UBY as T88RR and JH6JWE as T88HV; 160-6m; SSB FM FT8 FT4; QSL T88HV via LoTW, Club Log OQRS, JA6UBY (B/d); QSL T88RR via JA6UBY direct
2023 Aug31	2023 Sep14	Mariana Is	KH0	LoTW	By DL2AH as KH0/DL2AH fm Rota I; 80-6m; SSB FT8; Windom, TripleLeg; QSL via Club Log OQRS or DL2AH direct



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