

# The LongPath

September 2023 — Volume 47 Issue 9

A North Alabama DX Club Publication



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## Contributors:

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W4NBS  
AG4W  
K3FRK  
N4BCD  
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## From the President

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

A few weeks ago, many of us supported the Huntsville Hamfest. Thanks to Mark Brown, N4BCD, Huntsville Hamfest Chairman, Steve Molo, KI4KWR, and the HARC Club membership, the hamfest was another success story. This was the first Huntsville Hamfest for me since 2019. I believe the larger area makes for a better setting to pack a large crowd, but provides for more elbow room. Everyone seemed to enjoy the 'fest with plenty of space to browse around.

It seemed like to me that there were more commercial vendors. I had questions for Ham Radio Deluxe. The owner WA9PIE answered my questions. I also dropped off QSL cards at the NADXC booth on Saturday for Steve Werner, AG4W and Mike Maples K4ADK to check. Fred Kepner (K3FRK) assisted Steve handling the administrative part of card checking. Steve, Fred, and I went around trying to get a few additional door prizes for the NADXC Banquet to add to those gathered by Barry, WA4HR shipped by major vendors prior to the hamfest. However, I spent most of my time at the flea market table selling equipment which was donated to our club by Al Watson, W4ABW. The proceeds went directly into the NADXC bank account. Kevin

Hibbs, KG4TEI, managed the DX forums and had some exciting programs ready for everyone. I saw many of our NADXC membership and hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

I feel that our NADXC banquet was a huge success. I have received many positive, complimentary accolades. The venue really made a tremendous difference over having the banquet in hotel banquet rooms as we have had in the past. The Signals Museum of information Explosion (SMIE) captivated the crowd. The positive comments regarding the venue really shows how location makes a difference.

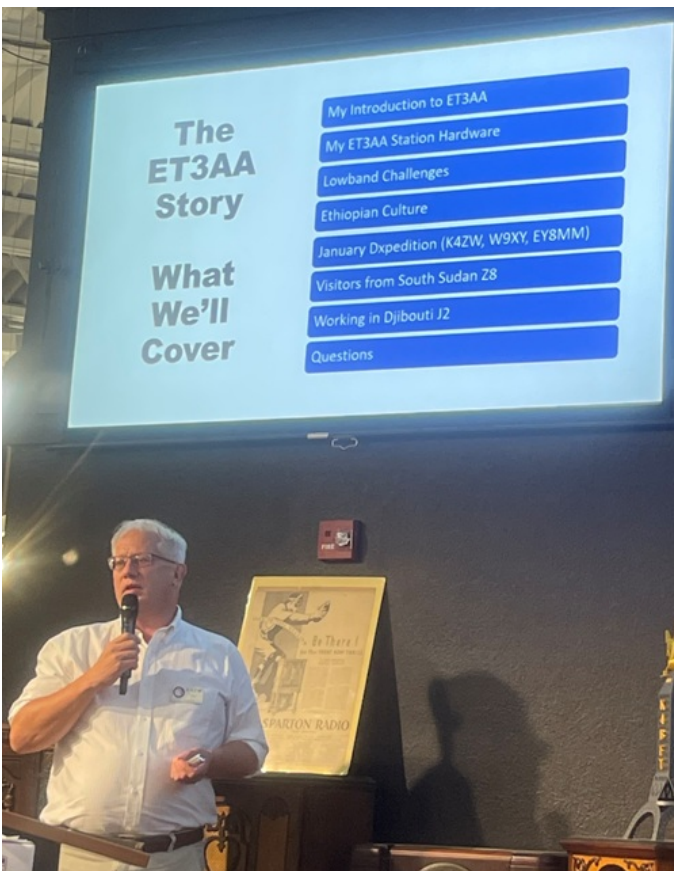
The social hour went very well. Our door greeters, Mary DePierre (XYL of K8KI) and Janet Duncan (KI4WLX) did a wonderful job of checking people in and welcoming our visitors to the DX Banquet. Our caterer had arrived promptly at 5:00 P.M. about the same time I arrived. They served us during the social. After the social hour, Chaplain Retired (COL) Mick Bell said a prayer prior to us eating. For dinner, the caterer had prepared delicious food to our expectations that gained positive feedback from everyone. We even had some chicken and other food left over. Thanks to Bob DePierre, K8KI for coor-

## From the President (continued)

dinating the food and social.



As President of the NADXC, naturally I was Master of Ceremony (MC) trying to keep us on schedule. We had the pleasure of having Mr. Mark Bendiction (SMIE Owner) provide some opening remarks as well as the ARRL CEO Mr. David Minster, NA2AA who filled us in on what the league is doing



with respect to the stock trading HF potential interference concern that the FCC recently requested comment. We had several ARRL Division Directors and Region Directors in attendance as well as hams from many surrounding states. We had fun learning who achieved the most DXCC countries. The oldest ham in attendance was 85 years old! Wow!

Our speaker Ken Claerbout, K4ZW kept us captivated with his program about Ethiopia and the ET3AA club station. The door prizes winners were happy to receive a door prize. The process we used to draw and handout prizes went smoothly. And the finale was the grand prize donated by Gigaparts, a Yaesu FTDX10 HF Transceiver, which was won by our very own Chuck Lewis, N4NM



(Grand prize winner). Congrats to Chuck! Everyone had a grand ole time socializing with each other and getting to know each other, sharing their experiences in ham radio with one another. I was told by one ham that “this was the best run banquet that they had seen in their 30 years of attending the NADXC Banquet.” I was glad to hear that someone was happy with the banquet planning and execution.

Thanks to the vendors for donating prizes. I mailed personal letters to every vendor thanking them for their donation. We cut the ticket sales off on Saturday prior to the banquet, because we

## From the President (continued)

had to inform the caterer the number of meals to prepare. The deadline for tickets sales was announced several times. We had to draw the line somewhere, so Saturday 12 August was the dead-



line for tickets sales. I had conversations with NADXC members who did not make it to the banquet because they waited too late to make the purchase before the cutoff date.

In the past, the banquet ticket sales typically did not sustain a banquet net zero balance after expenses except for last year. Last year, the extra raffle ticket sold helped the club to remain with a positive bank balance. This year we limited the extra raffle tickets to two (2) each. However, we raised an additional funds helping us offset banquet costs. Barry Barton, WA4HR will be providing the next financial summary this month with more details to be shown in the Longpath newsletter as he had not provided me details at the time of this article.

On another note, per the club constitution, the officers will meet to appoint a nominating committee to come up with a slate of officers for next year (2024). If you are selected to serve on this committee, I trust that you will consider those willing to run as an officer for next year that can move the club in a positive direction. I also trust you will select someone who desires the office(s) and those who can perform the duties for each position sought.

We will not have a meeting in September. At the last meeting, it was announced that our club picnic would be held in September, since the weather in October tends to be cold, blustery, and raining. Suzy and I will be hosting the club picnic on **Saturday, 30 September at my QTH in Taft, TN. You can find my address and driving directions on the QRZ web site.** The club will provide BBQ Pulled Pork, while Suzy and I will provide plates, napkins, fork/spoons, condiments, etc. We asked that you provide any non-alcoholic drinks, deserts, chips, and other foods you may desire. At the last meeting, many of you completed the sign-up sheet. If you did not, feel free to RSVP me via email, so we can get an accurate number of attendees for the BBQ order. **We anticipate eating at 11:30 A.M., so figure on arriving in time to prepare food and eat.** I believe some members will bring HF transceivers to operate. We will have some games and might have a pending hay ride using the tractor and wagon [We currently have cotton in the fields and may not be harvested by that time].

If you read further in this newsletter, you will see an article written by Steve Werner, AG4W with news regarding a major DXpedition to occur from 2 November through 15 November with 13 skilled operators operating from Cameroon, Africa (TJ). Steve, AG4W is one of the team members. The team has a license in-hand and will be operating

## From the President (continued)

round -the-clock using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8, on the amateur radio HF bands from 160m through 6m, including 2m EME. Steve has requested funding to support this DXpedition. This leads me into the next meeting topic. The club needs to review our DXpedition budget and make plans for DXpedition support for the rest of the year to include support for the TJ9MD DXpedition in November which is just around the corner. I would recommend \$750 as a donation and would like to move out immediately. If you have an objection or need further discussion, send me an email or give me a phone call. This is less risky than Bouvet where we donated a large amount of funds to see the DXpedition fizzle out a few years

ago and ended up paying for a boat ride.

The line-up for the remaining months of this year is to vote on DXer of the year, election of officers, analyze the DXpedition budget, and plan our annual Christmas Party in December. These are topics we can discuss at future meetings. So let us have a club picnic in September at AC4G residence, a club meeting in October at the Signals Museum of Information Explosion at 1806 University Drive with a meeting to begin at 6:30 P.M. The October Program will be conducted by Barry Johnson, W4WB. We will also have ZOOM setup for those not able to make it in person. I look forward to seeing you in person at the club picnic in September and the club meeting in October.

## Alabama Contest Group Readies for the AL QSO Party by Tom W4NBS

The 2023 Alabama QSO Party will be held starting 1500 UTC 09 Sept, 2023 until 0300 UTC 10 Sept, 2023, (1000 CDST until 2200 CDST Saturday, 09 Sept, 2023).

Rules can be found at: [alabamacontest-group.org/aqp/rules](http://alabamacontest-group.org/aqp/rules)

73, Tom, W4NBS

Alabama Contest Group



## Upcoming DX... Cameroon, Africa (TJ). by Steve AG4W

I am excited to announce that a new MDXC's (Mediterraneo DX Club) expedition is coming very soon. This year we are heading to western Africa, to one of the biggest countries facing the Guinea's Gulf, silent since 2018: TJ – Cameroon.

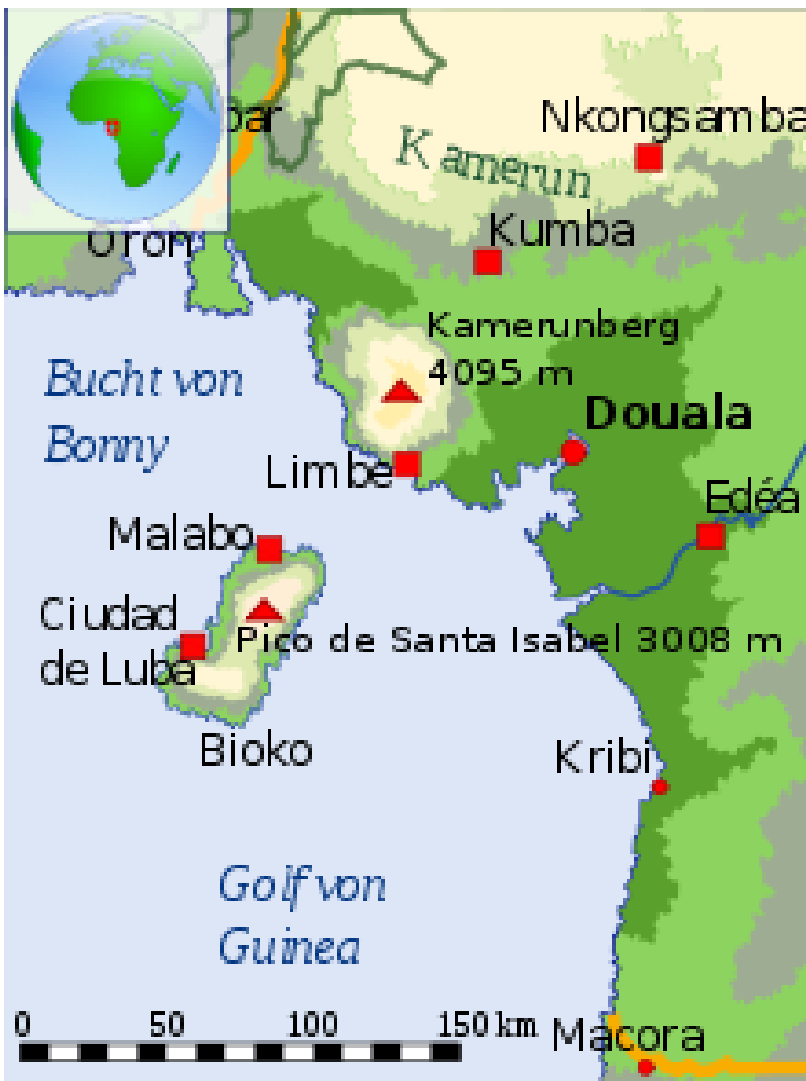
The 13 skilled operators of the expeditionary team (IZ8CCW, IZ2GNQ, F6IRA, OK2WX, AG4W, DL8JJ, IZ4COW, IU3PMA, HB9DHG, HB9TOC, ON7RN, IK5BOH and IZ4UEZ) are thrilled about the happy results of MDXC's efforts, and now they are eager

to bring back that big African country on the radio waves: starting from 2 November till the 15 November, from Kribi, on Atlantic Ocean shores. At least four stations will be on air "round the clock" on CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8, 160 through 6m. Isn't enough? On top of that, after the great experience during J28MD, for the Moon Bounce enthusiasts an E.M.E. station will offer a chance to increase their 2m DXCC with this New One. This DXpedition has the same leadership and some of the same operators that made over 90,000 QSOs from J28MD.

While the team starts to pack their luggage, you should start to plan to raise your antennas and warm-up the rigs... Stay tuned for more news!

I request that NADXC help sponsor this DXpedition. The club can look forward to another exciting presentation after I return.

Steve Werner AG4W



The MDXC Italian staff faced a long significant effort to obtain the commercial import permit for each transceiver and, even more time and frustration to get the Amateur Radio License... but "who endures wins" and September 1 the signed paper for TJ9MD is in IZ8CCW's hands.

## Huntsville Hamfest 2023—Photo by Dick W1TV



### 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](http://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:

Mark Brown N4BCD.

Fred Kepner, K3FRK will return next month.

# Huntsville Hamfest Stats

by Mark N4BCD

The Hamfest Board is still busy wrapping up from a great show. While I haven't had time to write an article, the following are prepared notes for the Hamfest Worker's Party at the September 8 HARC meeting.

73, Mark—Hamfest Chairman

Vendors reported good sales.

Sunday morning traffic surprised everyone.

Some stats:

Attendance: 5642 last year 5420

Vendors: 53

Vendor badges: 122

30 Clubs and Organizations attended to promote their cause.

Adult Solder Classes – both full.

Radio Merit Badge – first year. 23 successful candidates

Forum rooms were very well attended. 32 speakers.

Flea Market – 429 sold out tables. 161 FM vendors

Youth Lounge had 155 kids. 125 last year.

One Indian wedding.

29 Media personalities. Most were YouTubers.

97 Volunteers and 17 Committee chairs. Need to grow.

DX Banquet was full with 96 seats occupied and great reviews by the attendees.

A few things we'll work on next year:

More trash cans

Round tables instead of rectangular in front of concession

Staffed Information table or booth near the main doors.

IT infrastructure

Display TV's location & content

Embassy Hotel room rates

My personal highlights:

Thursday dinner meeting with ARRL CEO David Minster NA2AA and Bob Interbitzen NQ1R to discuss our National Convention in 2026. Indian restaurant.

Seeing the crowd from the stairs in the pre-function hallway at 8:50 Saturday morning.

Jack Gerbs – past General Chair of Dayton Hamvention gifted me a bottle of Buffalo Trace Bourbon.

Young Ham of the Year's dad – Mark van Oosbree, Kees's father. Minnesota guy was a PIA on the hotel & travel logistics. I assured him all was well. We met face to face on Saturday and realized we worked in the same CMOS Programmable Logic design department at Texas Instruments from 1984 through 1987.

Jessica Molo did another great interview for Channel 19. Her previous one was at Field Day.

## Club Business

### August 2023 Meeting Minutes and Financial Report by Barry Barton, WA4HR

August 8, 2023, Minutes

- 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 July.
- Bruce gave a last minute update for the upcoming DX Banquet set for August 19th.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm
- Following the meeting Larry Savage WA4GAX gave an excellent and extremely informative presenta-

tion on the design and features of his home brew HF solid state amplifiers.

The following members attended the meeting.

Rodney Durrett AK4PR, John Stensby N5DF, Mark Brown N4BCD, Bruce Smith AC4G, Mick Bell N8AU, Sandy Bell KB0DLS, Billy Gold KM4BGF, Rob Suggs NN4NT, Jared Cassidy KQ4VT, Mike Rozar N4CNZ, Steve Werner AG4W, Jim Perillat K2LAT, Barry Barton WA4HR, Mike Werner KF4BOG, Bill Grimwood W4WEG, Jack Hemby W5WQQ, Walt Miller AJ6T.

2023 NADXC Financial Status— / 08/30/23			
Budget Category	Targets	Year Totals	August Subtotals
Year Start	8,365.65	8,365.65	9,859.54
Dues In	1,000	1,123.87	20.00
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		1,535.00	1,535.00
Dxpeditions	-1,000	-305.00	
Picnic	-160		
DX Banquet	380.00		
venue	-600	-600.00	
food	-2,350	-2,305.97	-2,305.97
speaker	-400	-400.00	-400.00
tickets	3,800	3,559.41	1,260.01
raffle	700	270.00	270.00
grand prize	-390	-400.00	
beer/wine	-250	-157.39	-157.39
soft drinks/glasses		-78.69	-78.69
insurance	-130	-105.00	
EOY Bank Delta	-463		
Year End Bank Balance	7,903	10,002.50	10,002.50

**Upcoming NADXC meetings:**

Picnic at Bruce AC4G on Saturday,  
September 30, 11:30 AM

Then...

Tuesday, October 10, 2023  
5:45 PM Doors Open / 6:30 PM  
Meeting

Program will start about 7:00 PM

October Program by Barry Johnson,  
W4WB.

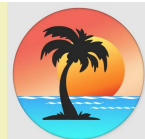
Location: Signals Museum of Informa-  
tion Explosion, 1806 University Drive  
NW, Huntsville, AL 35801 and via  
[Zoom](#)





# DXpeditions in September 2023

By Chuck N4NM



## DX CONTESTS for the coming month include:

### Worked All Europe (WAE) DX Contest (SSB) 80 -10M

Sept 9, 0000Z to Sept 10, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.

See page 70, Sept. QST and [www.darc.de](http://www.darc.de)

### Scandinavian Activity Contest, (CW), 80 – 10M

Sept. 16, 1200Z to Sept. 17, 1200Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial #

See page 70, Sept. QST and [www.sactest.net/blog/rules](http://www.sactest.net/blog/rules)

### CQ WW RTTY Contest, (DIG), 80 – 10M

Sept 23, 0000Z to Sept 24, 2359Z

Exchange: RST, State/Province, and CQ zone; DX sends RST and CQ zone

See page 70, Sept. QST and [www.cqwwrtty.com](http://www.cqwwrtty.com)

### UK/EI DX Contest, (SSB), 80-10M

Sept. 3-, 1200Z to Oct. 1, 1200Z

Exchange: RS, Serial #, district code for UK/EI

See page 70, Sept. QST and [www.ukeicc.com](http://www.ukeicc.com)

### OTHERS:

ARRL EME Contest

0000Z, Sept 9 to 2359, Sept10

Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest

0600Z, Sept 30 to 0559Z, Oct 1

Oceania DX Contest, Phone

0600Z, Oct 7 to 0600Z, Oct 8

*Don't forget our Alabama QSO Party: Oct 9, 1500Z to Oct 10, 0300Z*



GET PREPARED. GET OUT THERE.

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