The LongPath

February 2024 – Volume 48 Issue 2

A North Alabama DX Club Publication



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AC4G AG4W

K8KI N4NM

NG3K WA4HR

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Notice: A vote on the 2024 club budget will occur at the February meeting. See page 12 for additional details.

From the President

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

We made it through the deep-freeze of 2024 that we all experienced a few weeks ago in early-January. We ended up with 8 inches of freezing rain and snow at my QTH in southern Tennessee. Luckily, all of my antennas survived this year's white furry of ice that in times past destroyed many of my vertical and dipole antennas. Timing of the cold front was essential to spare the wire and aluminum on my antenna farm. I hope you fared as well as I.

I did lose my HF amplifier during the 160m contest, but I do not think weather played a role. It appears that the age of my amplifier is beginning to show and my high voltage is wavering, causing my amplifier to fault out. With some technical know-how, my amplifier should soon be functional again. I have currently placed my back-up HF amplifier inline in case I need additional power. So far, I have been able to work everything with low power, even our friend, Vlad and TJ9MD team mate of Steve Werner (AG4W) who the NADXC donated funding to help in Vlad's Yemen operation as 702WX. Vlad will be ending his operation about the time we meet again for our February club meeting.

On a sad note, regrettably, we lost another club member, DX'er, and

friend in January. Mike Maples, K4ADK, long-time friend to many of us is now a silent key (SK). For many years that I can remember, Mike was very active in the NADXC. Mike was also at each Huntsville Hamfest checking QSL cards at the NADXC table for the hams in this region of the U.S. chasing their DXCC award. Mike showed and trained Steve, AG4W the ropes of checking cards. Thanks to Mike's huge assistance. Steve remains our OSL DXCC checker. Mike was the type of person to also help hams on the air. In the early-1990's, Mike helped me by spotting Sri Lanka (4S7) on the amateur satellites. I was able to add a new DXCC country for my "satellite" DXCC award. Mike also helped Lile, K4NA to work a new one on the HF bands. Whenever both Lile and I saw Mike later, he always reminded me of the assistance, but I always got a kick reminiscing the QSO as Mike listened to my QSO. To this day, the one Sri Lanka station was the only one I ever heard on the birds. I am glad Mike helped me. We will all miss Mike, K4ADK; 73 and RIP.

I am sure you have noticed, the DXpeditions continue to occur for to keep us DX'ers active in the winter months. The next major DXpedition

From the President (continued)

that I am looking forward to working is the Juan Fernandez DXpedition. CBOZA should be active from 10-24 February on all HF bands including 6m. This is one entity that I hope I can fill in some missing band slots. For many, this will be a new DXCC country. I encourage our NADXC members to check out the DXpeditions and not miss a chance for a relatively easy opportunity to add another country to your DXCC repertoire. Recently, we all had a chance to work Clipperton Island TX5S. Many of our club members even worked TX5S on 160m using their 80m dipoles and antenna tuner to work this entity and fill-in missing bands slots. I was fortunate to work Clipperton without my amplifier (low power) on all HF bands. I challenged myself to do this feat and was successful. If you did not work Clipperton Island this year, it is because the effort was not made.

I encourage each member to pay their clubs dues. Club dues provides the club with the funding to operate each year. I hope our active members will get paid up soon. I also want to encourage potential hams and inactive members to consider getting back with the club. One of the highlights of every year is the annual NADXC Banquet held in conjunction with the Huntsville Hamfest in August. Our club dues help us to fund this event. I hope each member, previous member, and potential member will become "radio-active" with our club and pay their club dues to help in 2024 to continue to be a light in the DX community.

Our next meeting will be held at the Signals Museum of information Explosion, 1806 University Drive, Huntsville, AL. The meeting begins at 6:30 P.M. and I look forward to seeing everyone again. We will be voting on our budget and we will be discussing other topics such as DX worked. We need to discuss a speaker for our banquet. Fred Kepner, K3FRK has lined up another great program for us as we will hear a great presentation by K4ZSR, Zachary Rozar on "How to Become DX". I look forward to seeing everyone at the museum. We will also have ZOOM up and running for those unable to make it to the meeting. Until then, 73 and good DX.

Freeze Fest

By Steve Werner, AG4W

I decided to start the new year with Freeze Fest. It was a hamfest on January 6th in Blout County at Locust Fork High School in their cafeteria from 8AM to a little after noon. I have plenty of junk to sell that needs to find a new home. My problem is that I have an eye for good deals and bring more junk home. As I was looking at all the targets of opportunity, I could not resist a Metrotech Metal Detector. It included a manual and was purchased new on 3/19/1973 for \$149.50. It was being offered for \$10. I have needed a metal detector several times, including now to locate

buried cables. At that price, I knew it didn't work. I offered \$5 and we settled at \$6.

I was now the proud owner of a broken ancient metal detector. The manual states that the "amplifier section contains the circuits with five high gain transistors, equal to eight ordinary radio type transistors." The



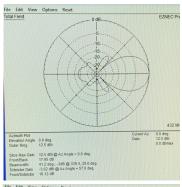
1973 Instruction manual for AG4W's new metal detector.

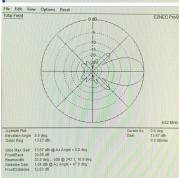
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Freeze Fest (continued)



AG4W diagnosed and fixed the metal detector in just 15 minutes.





AG4W will add 4 elements to each of his 14-element yagis to improve the front to back performance.

MHz EME contacts last year and plan to work more this coming year.

I have also made plans to go to HamCation

vintage meter, old style headphones with cloth jacket cable, and metal case made it a fun project to fix. It only took me 15 minutes to replace the 9-volt battery and find a loose connection and it was back to life. It is amazing how many failures are due to bad connections and not active parts.

I am going to run hardline to my 432 MHz dual yagis and need to locate the other cables running to that antenna using the metal detector. This will be done in the or when a spring, spring-like day comes along. I have also modeled my 14 element 432 MHz yagis and plan to turn them into 18 element yagis, mostly to improve the front to back ratio for EME. The new pattern looks good. I did manage to work three 432

in Florida this year in early February. It is the second largest hamfest in the US and the weather is usually very nice. Last year I got plenty of ideas for new projects. I encourage everyone to try something new this year. DX can be worked on any band and mode. You will be amazed at how much fun it is to try something new. In many cases you may not need to buy new equipment.

Recently I uncovered a dead battery with a nice case and a cigarette lighter plug. I saved the case, replaced the battery with another one I had that would take a charge and used power poles instead of the cigarette lighter plug. Now I have both emergency power, as was demonstrated on Mike KF4BOG's ID-5100, and also a source of portable power for those important antenna or other projects, like finding noise.



AG4W refurbished and updated an old portable power pack. It was tested on Mike, KF4BOG's ID-5100.

On Saturday, January 20, I sure had a great time operating. I worked 70cm on Greencube Satellite, gave out 6-meter contest FT8 contacts, worked 2-meter EME, and even tried to make a 70cm EME contact. I could hear PA2V Peter, but he didn't copy me. Then on Sunday morning I worked TX5S Clipperton and UT1FG/MM on the Greencube satellite on 70cm. This month I upgraded to the OZ9AAR terminal program. I wish I had done it sooner. I am still learning some of its features.

With the big freeze I also had time to get caught up on QSLs. It is amazing how many you can still get through the ARRL bureau. It was fun-

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Freeze Fest (continued)

ny to receive another bureau mailing the day after I sent out cards. I hope everyone has envelopes

on file. I also submitted an update for endorsements to my WPX Awards. This is sponsored by CQ Magazine. I am very worried that CQ Magazine may not publish again. CQ not only sponsors so many contests and awards, but also serves as another valuable source of information and opinion.

Six Meter QSOs - "You Must Be Present to Win"

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

If you have been an amateur radio operator for a few years, no doubt you have heard that the six-meter (6m) band is also called the "magic band" by 6m enthusiasts. If you are unaware of this terminology, perhaps you are a newly licensed ham or simply, you may have never been active on this band to understand what this means. The bottom-line up front (BLUF) and challenge is to find when 6m is open. My hope is that it will be obvious why many hams have called 6m the "magic band" after reading this article. I also hope this article entices each NADXC club member to not forget 6m when they chase DX.

If you are not active on 6m, you may not understand the characteristics of 6m. You almost have to experience the band activity and propaga-

tion in order to understand. Hams utilizing 6m or the 50-54 MHz band can be joyous when the band opens with a sudden flurry of stations or can be heartbroken waiting for the band to open, anxiously waiting to hear a single signal. Signals appear to come from out of nowhere, but like a rock dropping, can suddenly vanish. As Steve Werner, AG4W has informed me several times, "You must be present to win!"

Propagation varies from ground wave, sporadic-E, F2 layer, trans-equatorial, meteor scatter or burst, tropospheric ducting, and perhaps aurora borealis propagation types. In my opinion, the fun begins when the solar flux rises above 150-200 and worldwide contacts can occur. DX on 6m can be fairly reliable. We have been recently

achieving flux levels above 150 and the fun has begun. But remember Steve Werner's expression, "You must be present to win!" That is, you must be active on 6m in order to make long distance QSOs. One approach to see if 6m is open is to check DX clusters routinely and monitoring the 6m band. Another method is to check the network of 6m beacons. Some use the Weak Signal Propagation Reporter Network



Map 1: 6m activity (courtesy of DXMAPS)

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Six Meter QSOs - "You Must Be Present to Win" (continued)

(WSPR) and setup a map to see signals from around the world being reported. Also, DXMAPS (see map on previous page) provides a graphical representation of active stations. One last source is to simply get on the air to determine if any 6m signals are present. Whatever source one may use, the use of several sources will help define if the band is open somewhere.

Just a few days ago, I looked back in my logbook to find that I became active on 6m back in 1996. I wanted to see if I had made DX contacts from years ago. I also recently looked in my logs to go on a data mining escapade to seek and find old QSOs made years ago in order to get my DXCC totals up. My approach was a simple one seek and find OSOs for DXCC entities that I never sent for a QSL card. My plan was to simply send my QSL card to them, hoping to get a confirmation QSL card back. My goal was to achieve DXCC (confirmation of at least 100 DXCC entities) on 6m. Unfortunately, I was unable to find the necessary QSOs to add to my current DXCC 6m collection. Therefore, I am now on a mission to work as many new countries on 6m as possible, while the high bands are open, taking advantage of the current Solar Cycle 25.

At a few of our NADXC club meetings in recent months, I polled the North Alabama DX Club (NADXC) members regarding DX our members worked. Many of the club's members have added new DXCC entities to their ham radio repertoire by making QSOs on the HF bands. I was fascinated that several members have added 6m DXCC QSOs to their plan. One must understand and be reminded that any QSO on 6m never comes easy, but requires long hours of dedication or just plain luck to work a new DXCC country on 6m. Cycle 25

offers this opportunity.

There have been many times in the past six months, and going back a year, when I have announced on the club 2m repeater rare DX on 6m. But to my surprise, I do not believe anyone was around to hear my verbal spots because I never saw or heard anyone making any attempt to work the DX. Recently, and within the past month, I worked some fairly rare DX on 6m and fortunately, some members heard my 2m repeater verbal spots and were around to work some VKs and ZLs (approximately 10,000 miles away). I also recently verbally announced the presence of some FKs (New Caledonia). Just a couple of week ago, we had a brief opening to ZL7DX, Chatham Islands which I was able to pick up on 6m. I once again verbally announced this DX on the club 2m repeater, but by the time some of the club members made it to the band, the DX was gone. If you have not already surmised, 6m openings are usually brief and do not hang in there too long. Remember these words of advice, "You must be present to Win"; hence, why we 6m DXers call 6m the magic band.

When a major DXpedition distributes their band plan to operate, I always check to see if they are going to operate on 6m, knowing that sometimes I don't have any chance to work them. Recently, in mid to late January 2024, a team arrived on Clipperton Island as TX5S and began operating their typical activity utilizing the HF bands 10m through 160m. I went back to see if they would be on 6m knowing the distance was approximately 2200 miles. Indeed, they offered 6m as one of their planned bands.

On January 21, 2024 at 0130Z, I happened to see a spot for 6m EME activity by the Clipperton Island, TX5S team. This drew my interest even though I am not setup on 6m EME, so, I QSY'ed any way to the frequency spotted (50.189)

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Six Meter QSOs - "You Must Be Present to Win" (continued)

MHz) and heard FT8 tones. When I began receiving and decoding signals, I heard one station during even transmissions and several stations on the odd transmissions. This was a sign of Fox-Hound FT8 mode. To my surprise and after examining the callsigns, it turned out to be the Clipperton Island, TX5S station working stateside stations on 6m. The TX5S station peaked at +24 signals strength, but I was unlucky to make a QSO at that level. I moved my transmit frequency a few times and kept calling as their signal gradually began to get weaker. When the TX5S signal strength was around "0" and to my surprise, TX5S called me and I successfully worked a new DXCC country on 6m. "Halleluiah!!"

My output power was low power, approximately 150 watts (do not own 6m amplifier). My antenna is merely a 5 element M2 antenna up about 40 feet (Reference Picture 1) which many of our NADXC members saw during our annual picnic by the pavilion. I must note that I was also using my normal Yaesu 101MP HF transceiver that has 6m capability. The software I used on my

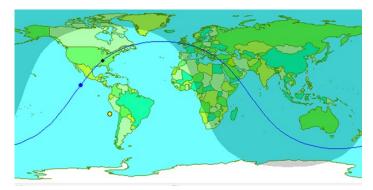


Picture 1: AC4G's 5element 6-meter antenna.

logging personal computer was the freeware, WSJT-X software that allows capability for one to operate FT8, which many DXpeditions have resorted to during weaker signal activity and if propagation is questionable. As one can see, my 6m station is simple and does not require any special equipment to make QSOs on 6m.

When I made the QSO with TX5S on 6m, I

must admit that I had an adrenaline rush and was so elated to work a new DXCC country, especially on the "magic band". So why the hype? Where is Clipperton Island?



Map 2: Clipperton Island (yellow dot) and AC4G's QTH (black dot)

Reference Map 2 of Clipperton Island. Clipperton Island is fairly close, relatively speaking, and is toward the Southwest and off the coast of North America. The distance is about 2219 miles from Taft, TN. The shortpath rotor heading from my (AC4G) QTH is 225 Degrees. Clipperton is a fairly easy DXCC entity to make a QSO as demonstrated by my 6m QSO. Reference Clipperton Island details in the table on the next page.

The hype is that I have added another entity on 6m to my DXCC repertoire. It is so difficult to work countries on 6m as it stands. When the band comes alive and one is surprised to hear rare DX, I am elated to work a new country. Reference Picture 2: FT8 Screenshot of AC4G <-> TX5S FT8 QSO. Even though this was a fairly easy QSO, I believe I could have made the QSO on other modes, such as SSB and CW, but one never knows when the band will drop like a rock, so one cannot be choosy, but take the QSO as it comes.

After I made my TX5S QSO and verbally announced Clipperton Island on the 2m repeater, a couple of our NADXC club members in the Huntsville area fired up their rigs, but could not see any signal trace from TX5S station, even as I was still

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Six Meter QSOs - "You Must Be Present to Win" (continued)

copying the TX5S signal. I could not understand why two members only 25 miles away were not able to copy TX5S signals that I was copying, being within 25 miles of each other. This is part of the 6m meter complexity. I don't understand why 6m behaves as described, but I will note that Johnny, KR4F (NADXC member) performed some analysis several years ago explaining why one NADXC member on the other side of Huntsville was copying a station, while he was unable on the

opposite side of Huntsville on 6m. As I recall, his explanation dealt with their terrain and the angles of attack being received by both NADXC stations being affected by the terrain, but I refer you to do additional research and possibly locate the KR4F program for further details.

Perhaps, I truly did not convince you, the reader, that 6m is a "magic band" and that QSOs on 6m are few and far between. I will tell you that much fun in anticipation of a signal arriving on 6m can be had. I hope this will motivate our members to try the 6m band and find out if 6m is for them. Six meters is fun if you like a challenge. I

am always curious and looking to find interesting and difficult situations and 6m fits the bill. I am glad I was alert, checked 6m band, and "worked a new one" on the "MAGIC BAND". Always remember when operating on 6m, "YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!"



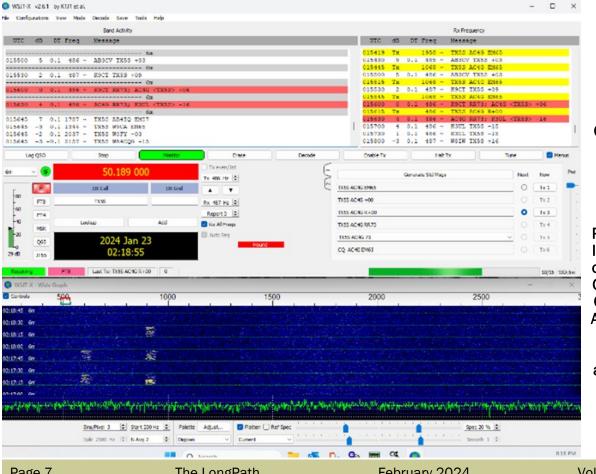


Table on upper left: DXCC and location information for Clipperton Island.

Picture 2 on lower left: A screenshot of AC4G's 6m FT8 QSO with TX5S on Clipperton Island. AC4G was present at the right time for the opening and scored a very rare QSO.

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Upcoming DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

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



Feb 10, 0000Z to Feb 11, 2359Z Exchange: RST & Serial No. See page 76, Feb. QST and www.cgwpxrtty.com/rules.htm

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



Feb 19, 1100Z to Feb 19, 1300Z Exchange: RST & serial # See page 76, Feb. QST and www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt

全国CW同好会 KEYMEN'S CLUB OF JAPAN

KCJ Topband Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Feb 10, 1200Z to Feb11, 2359Z

Exchange: RST + continent code; JA send prefec-

ture

See page 76, Feb QST and www.kcj-cw.com

Dutch PACC Contest, (CW, SSB), 160-10 meters



Feb 10, 1200Z to Feb 11, 1200Z Exchange: RS(T), + serial # or PA province See page 76, Feb. QST and pacc.veron.nl

Balkan HF Contest, (CW, SSB), 80 & 40 meters



Feb 11, 1300Z to Feb 11, 1700Z Exchange: RS(T) + Serial #

See page 76, Feb QST and arabih.ba

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware. See also: http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html

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



Feb 17, 0000Z to Feb 18, 2359Z Exchange: RST plus State/Province; DX send RST plus pwr.

See page 76, Feb. QST and www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

CQ160 Meter Contest, (SSB), 160 meters



Feb 23, 2200Z to Feb 25, 2200Z Exchange: RS & SP or CQ zone See page 76, Feb QST, and www.cq160.com/rules.htm

REF French Contest (PH), 80-10 meters



Feb 24 0600Z to Feb 25, 1800Z Exchange: RS plus Serial No.; F stns. send Dept.

See page 76, Feb. QST and <u>concourse.r-e-f.org/contest/</u>

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



Feb 24, 1300Z to Feb. 25, 1300Z
Exchange: RST plus Serial No.; ON stns. send province

See page 76 Feb. QST and www.uba.be/en

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



Mar 2, 0000Z to Mar 3, 20, 2359Z Exchange: RS plus State/Province; DX send RS plus pwr

See www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW), 160 meters



Mar 9, 1500Z to Mar 10, 1500Z Exchange: 4 Character Grid Square See www.kkn.net/stew

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DXpeditions in February 2024

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2024	2024	Morocco	CN2DX	EA5GL	By F5LRL fm nr. Kenitra; 40-6m; CW SSB FT8
Jan20	Feb10	WIOTOCCO CIVEDA		LAJGE	
2024	2024	Yemen	702WX	IZ8CCW	By OK2WX fm Socotra I; HF w/ focus on low bands; monoband
Jan25	Feb12	remen	702	IZOCCVV	verticals for 160 80 40m; QRV for CQ 160m CW
2024	2024	Senegal	6W7	Club Log	By ON4AVT as 6W7/ON4AVT fm Warang; 80-10m; FT8
Feb03	Apr16	Schegar		OQRS	
2024	2024	Philippines	DU3	LoTW	By WA7WJR as DU3/WA7WJR fm Pampanga; 20-10m; CW SSB +
Feb04	Feb09	Timppines			digital; spare time operation; QSL via WA7WJR (B/d)
2024	2024	Reunion	FR4AV	EA5GL	By FY4JI fm IOTA AF-016; HF
Feb04	Feb11	reamon	11(1/(4	ENOGE	
2024	2024	Vanuatu	YJ	LoTW	By JH3QFL as YJ0AA and JH3VAA as YJ0MN; HF; mainly FT8; QSL
Feb04	Feb11	Varidata			via JH3QFL w/SASE (as in QRZ.com
2024	2024	Aruba	P49X	LoTW	By WOYK fm IOTA SA-036; HF; CW RTTY; QRV for CQ WPX RTTY
Feb05	Feb12		1 437		
2024	2024	Antigua &	V26CV	LoTW	By KG9N fm Antigua; HF; CW; QSL via KG9N
Feb06	Feb20	Barbuda	VZUCV		
2024	2024	Fiji	3D2	Home	By YT1AD as 3D2AD, YU3AA as 3D2AB, UA9OLY as 3D2LY, RC9O
Feb07	Feb10			Call	as 3D2RC; HF
2024	2024	Senegal	6W7	Club Log	By ON4AVT as 6W7/ON4AVT fm Warang; 80-10; SSB + digital;
Feb07	Feb29	Seriegai OW		OQRS	QSL via ON4AVT; operation to continue until Apr 13
2024	2024	Georgia	4L	LoTW	By K6VHF as 4L/K6VHF fm Rustavi; 80-6m; CW SSB FT8 RTTY;
Feb10	Feb18	ocorgia			1kw; QSL via K6VHF direct
2024	2024	Samoa	5W	Home	By YT1AD as 5W8A, YU3AA as 5W0AA, UA9OLY as 5W0LY, RC9O
Feb10	Feb19	Samou	311	Call	as 5W0RCYT1AD; HF
2024	2024	Juan		CBOZA LOTW	By NP4G HI3R XQ3SK AB5EB AD5A W8HC N2IC fm IOTA SA-005;
Feb10	Feb24	Fernandez	CB0ZA		160-6m; SSB CW RTTY FT8 + EME; QSL via N2OO direct w/ 2USD
		· citianacz			+ SASE; dates subject to change; see Web for full QSL details
2024	2024	Solomon Is H44MS		LoTW	By DL2GAC fm Ql01hp; 160-6m; SSB FT8; 800w; QRV for CQ
Feb10	Feb28				160m SSB; QRV holiday style until Apr 29
2024	2024	Vietnam	XV9WJR	LoTW	By WA7WJR; 20-10m; CW SSB + digital
Feb12	Feb22	victiaiii	7. A 2 A A 2 A	LOTVV	_





DXpeditions in February 2024 (continued)



2024	2024				By OZ7AM as OX7AM, OZ5DM and OZ7AKT likewise, fm
Feb13	Feb22	Greenland	OX	See Info	Kangerlussuaq; OZ7AM QRV in ARRL DX CW; HF; CW FT8 SSB; see
					grz.com for QSL details
2024	2024	Guyana	8R7X	A7X LoTW	By MOSDV DK6SP DJ4MX HA8RT; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; QSL
Feb14	Feb24	Guyana	ONTA		via M00XO OQRS
2024	2024	Sint PJ7		LoTW	By DM7HB as PJ7/DM7HB and DM2PF as PJ7/DM2PF; 20 15 10m;
Feb15	Feb28	Maarten	137	LOTVV	100w; ground-plane; may use proper PJ7 call signs
2024	2024	St Kitts &	V47JA	LoTW	By W5JON fm Calypso Bay; 160-6m; SSB FT8; yagi, verticals; QSL
Feb17	Feb27	Nevis	V4/JA		also OK via W5JON direct
2024	2024	Madagascar	5R	S53BV	By S53BV as TBD fm Nosy Be I; 80 40m; CW SSB; 300w
Feb17	Mar03	Wiadagascai		Direct	
2024	2024	Tanzania	5H4AYL	OM4AYL	By OM4AYL fm Pemba I (IOTA AF-063); HF
Feb18	Feb28	Tarizariia			
2024	2024	Wallis &	FW8	LoTW	By LZ1GC as FW8GC and LZ5QZ and TX8GC fm Wallis I (IOTA OC-
Feb19	Mar09	Futuna		LOTVV	054); 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY FT8 FT4
2024	2024	Mauritius	3B8	LoTW	By OK6DJ as 3B8/OK6DJ; 40-10m; CW; QSL via Club Log OQRS
Feb20	Feb27	Madridus			
2024	2024	Tonga	A35	Home	By YT1AD as A35AD, YU3AA as A35AA, UA9OLY as A35LY, RC9O
Feb20	Feb27	Toliga		Call	as A352RC; HF
2024	2024	Temotu	H40WA	LoTW	By N7QT N6PSE VE7NY OE1JUN DJ9RR HA0NAR W7XU N6XG fm
Feb22	Mar07	Temota			IOTA OC-065 (RH29vg); 160-10; CW SSB FT8 (f/h); QSL via
2024	2024	St Kitts &	V4	K1ZN	By K1ZN as V44/K1ZN fm St Kitts; HF
Feb25	Mar04	Nevis	٧٠	KIZIV	
2024	2024	Mauritius	3B8	LoTW	By OH1NA as 3B8/OH1NA; HF; CW SSB FT8 FT4
Feb25	Mar07	Madridus	200	LOTVV	
2024	2024	Cambodia	XU7GNY	LoTW	By DL7BO; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via DJ6TF or Club Log OQRS
Feb26	Mar15	Carribodia			
2024	2024	Fiji	3D2	Home	By YT1AD as 3D2AD, YU3AA as 3D2AB, UA9OLY as 3D2LY, RC9O
Feb27	Mar01	. 131		Call	as 3D2RC; HF
2024	2024	Lord Howe I	VK9L		By GM4DLG as VK9L/GM4DLG; 80 40 20m; SSB; 100w
Feb27	Mar03	Lord Howe I	VICE		
2024	2024	US Virgin Is	NP2R	LoTW	By K4BEN W3MLJ KC1KUG fm St Thomas I; 160-10m; CW SSB,
Feb27	Mar04	05 VIIgiii 15	INITZIN	LOTVV	perhaps FT8; 100w; Spiderbeam, dipoles, sloper; QSL via KC3UII





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Club Business and Announcements

January 2024 Meeting Minutes and Financial Report by Barry Barton, WA4HR

January 9th, 2024, Minutes

- Club President Bruce Smith, AC4G called the meeting to order at 6:30pm
- Bruce spoke about the various DX club members worked.
- Bruce also spoke briefly about the budget for 2024. There will be a more detailed discussion of the budget during the upcoming February meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm
- Following the meeting, Steve Werner, AG4W gave an excellent and informative presentation on his recent DXpedition to Cameroon, TJ9MD, Well done Steve.
- There were approximately 25 amateur radio operators in attendance in person and via zoom.

Announcement: It's time to pay 2024 membership dues.

Dues can be paid electronically at the MADXC website. Contact Barry, WA4HR (treasurer@nadxc.org) for information about other payment options.



Jan. 2024 NADXC Financial Status	Year to Date
Budget Category	as of 01/31/2024
Year Start	9,131.95
Revenue	
Dues In	40.00
Donation of equipment to sell	
Huntsville Hamfest Donation	
Recurring Expenses	
repeater elect	`
web hosting/domain service	-16.88
repeater maintenance	
to HARC for Zoom	
use of museum	
Other Expenses	
Dxpeditions	
Picnic	
DX Plaque	-70.00
DX Banquet	
ticket sales (income)	
venue	
food	
speaker	
raffle	
grand prize	
beer/wine	
soft dirinks/glasses	
insurance	
Bank Balance	9,085.07

Upcoming NADXC meeting

Tuesday, February 13th, 2024 5:45 PM Doors Open / 6:30 PM Meeting

Presentation: Zach Rozar, K4ZSR - Becoming the (mini) DX: Operating QRP Portable in Europe

Location: Signals Museum of Information Explosion, 1806 University Drive NW, Huntsville, AL 35801 and via Zoom

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Proposed 2024 Budget

by Bob DePierre, K8KI

February is a good time to discuss budgets and expenses. We just closed out 2023 and are about to approve a budget for 2024. So where are we going, and what are we trying to do?

Here is the rundown of the 2023 financial statement. How did we do? We had planned to drop the bank account by \$463 since we felt we had too much money being held. But we managed to increase the account by \$765. We held the DX banquet in a new location that was a tight squeeze, but worked out great. The venue was far less expensive than others we used in the past. We raised the ticket price pretty substantially for the Banquet last year, but it didn't seem to affect ticket sales. We did manage to lose \$594 on the event, though. The big expense item was support for the speaker, although he was due every penny of it. BTW, we invited the speaker just 3 days before the Hamvention, only to find out that he would be inducted into the Contest Hall of Fame just 4 days later - what a find!

Over the past couple of years, we received a few valuable donations from SK estates and from the Hamfest Committee – to whom we are most grateful. I wish we could budget for those – and actually we are now going through that process one more time. We contributed to four DXpeditions last year, and were helped along in that process by estate donations.

Our proposed 2024 budget currently shows us dropping our bank account by \$455, so we cut back on the DXpedition funding a little, but that will depend on how the donations work out. Last year, AG4W persuaded us to wait until near the end of the year to donate to his highly successful DXpedition to Cameroon. The extra wait turned out well, since so many other DXpeditions

don't get scheduled until the end of the year. So again, we'll wait a bit and see how the donations work out before we increase that line item.

The dues line went up again last year. Hopefully we can keep attracting new members.

We had a really great picnic at the AC4G farm, although the weather was a bit warm. In 20 years, I haven't found a picnic venue as good as Bruce's farm. If you attended, you know why.

Below is the updated 2024 proposed budget, along with the January entries. The board of directors met in January to assemble the 2024 budget, which we intend to vote on at the February meeting.

Proposed 2024 NADXC			
	2023	2023	2024
Budget Category	Budget	Actuals	Proposed
Year Start	8,365.65	8,365.65	9,132.00
Dues In	1,000	1,124	1150
Recurring Exp	-683	0	-605
repeater elect	-160	-160	-160
web hosting/domain service	-73	-17	-20
repeater maintenance	-100		
to HARC for Zoom	-50		-50
use of museum	-300	-300	-400
Misc		-23	-475
hamfest donation/M Brown		500	500
Other Transactions			-820
Donation of equipment to sell		1,535	
Dxpeditions		-1,160	-700
Picnic	-160	-140	-120
DV B	200	504	470
DX Banquet	380	-594	-170
venue	-600	-600	-700
food	-2,350	-2,306	
speaker - room + travel	-400	-776	-450
tickets	3,800	3,560	3650
raffle	700	270	400
grand prize	-390	-400	-400
beer/wine/soft drinks/glasses	-250	-237	-200
insurance	-130	-105	-120
EOY Bank Delta	-463	765	-445
Year End Bank Balance	7,903	9,131	8,687

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2024 Program Schedule

Compiled by Fred Kepner, K3FRK

Meeting	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
January 9, 2024	Steve Werner, AG4W	Cameroon DXpedition (TJ9MD)
February 13, 2024	Zach Rozar, K4ZSR	Becoming the (mini) DX: Operating
		QRP Portable in Europe
March 12, 2024	Mark Wohlschlegel, WC3W	CQ DX Marathon Overview
April 9, 2024	Krish Kanakasapapathi,	VU4A and VU7N DXpeditions
	W4VKU	
May 14, 2024	Barry Barton, WA4HR	Remote FT8 Operation
June 11, 2024	Rob Suggs, NN5NT	NN4SA Club and Activities Overview
July 9, 2024	Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA	W8S Swains Island DXpedition
August 13, 2024	Gene Spinelli, K5GS	TX5S Clipperton Island DXpedition
September 10, 2024		Fall picnic, no September meeting
October 8, 2024	Barry Johnson, W4WB	Elecraft KH1 Features and Operation
November 12, 2024	Bob DePierre, K8KI	K8KI's Views on Wire Antennas
December 10, 2024		Holiday Dinner, no December meeting

2024 NADXC Officers and Directors

President Bruce Smith, AC4G
Vice-President Fred Kepner, K3FRK
Sec./Treasurer Barry Barton, WA4HR
Directors: Mick Bell, N8AU

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

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