The LongPath

December 2025 — Volume 49 Issue 12 A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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Contributors:

AC4G
K8KI
N4SEI
N4NM
NG3K
W1WSF

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From the President

by Bruce Smith, AC4G

I trust all of you had a great Thanksgiving with your friends and families. The cold temperatures have made their place in our Fall mornings and evenings. I hope we all completed our outside projects like antennas installations & modifications, outside yard work, etc. This month, the solar cycle has been very active, sometimes making the bands difficult at times to make QSOs, especially on the higher bands. However, I have been able to make good QSOs around the globe with these conditions and trust you have as well. November has quickly passed, and Christmas is just around the corner.

Speaking of Christmas and the holiday season, we will NOT have our typical meeting this month. For DECEMBER, we will have our Annual CHRISTMAS (Holiday) DINNER on DECEMBER 10, Wednesday night, at the Full Moon BBQ Restaurant, 1009 North Memorial Pkwy, Huntsville, AL 35801-5927 at 6:00 P.M. I hope you have made plans to attend. Suzy and I look forward to seeing you.

Speaking of our Christmas (Holiday) Dinner, I am looking forward to a good meal, good fellowship, inducting our new officers into their club officer positions for 2026, and listening to your DX stories that occurred over the past month. I look forward to seeing the faces of our members receiving awards (plaques) for "Best Article of the Year", "Best Program of the Year", and "DX'er of the Year".

At our November meeting, our members spoke by casting their votes for three members to receive awards for 2025. I am looking forward to awarding the forementioned awards along with our Vice-President, Fred Kepner, K3FRK. I will present the President's Plaque to a member who I believe meets the most criteria that I shared at our November meeting. I also have some other special things that will make our time together an enjoyable night. I have added a couple of things that we did not see at the previous two CHRISTMAS (HOLIDAY) Dinners. I hope that you can bring your spouse, a friend, and/or perhaps some family members to this event. Please be there for our final event of 2025. I look forward to seeing all our members, even if you have not been able to attend regularly this year – be there to close out the year. Unfortunately, we will not be able to ZOOM this event.

I hope you all were able to participate in the CQWW CW Contest on the weekend of November 29. On Fri-

From the President (continued)

day night, the low bands were not so good from my QTH in southern Tennessee. On Saturday morning, the higher bands seem to be good, especially 10m. As I always say, working contests sometimes can help each of us acquire new band countries, if not ATNOs.

Again, I look forward to seeing everyone on DECEMBER 10 at 6:00 P.M. for our Christmas get-together at Full Moon Barbeque. Until then, good DX and 73.

Uninterruptable Power Supplies (UPS) in Amateur Radio

by Don Bertram, N4SEI

Why you would want to use a UPS on your Amateur Radio equipment.

You would want a UPS on an amateur radio station for two main reasons: continuous, stable power and uninterrupted operation during power outages. A UPS provides a buffer against power fluctuations, spikes, and drops, which protects your sensitive equipment and allows you to maintain communication, even if it's just for a short period, during an emergency as well as providing a graceful and controlled shutdown of valuable equipment.

Benefits of a UPS for amateur radio

- Power stabilization:

  A UPS regulates voltage, protecting your radio and other equipment from surges, spikes, and brownouts that can cause damage and shorten their lifespan.

- Emergency backup:

  It provides immediate, seamless power to your radio during a power outage, allowing you to continue to monitor, transmit, and receive communications.

- Graceful shutdown:

  A UPS gives you enough time to properly shut down your equipment if the power is out for an extended period, preventing potential damage that can occur from a sudden loss of power.

- Bridge to long-term power:

  A standard consumer UPS is designed to provide power for a few minutes to a half hour, enough to bridge short outages. For longer outages, it can serve as a temporary backup until a generator or other long-term power source is brought online.

- High-efficiency systems:

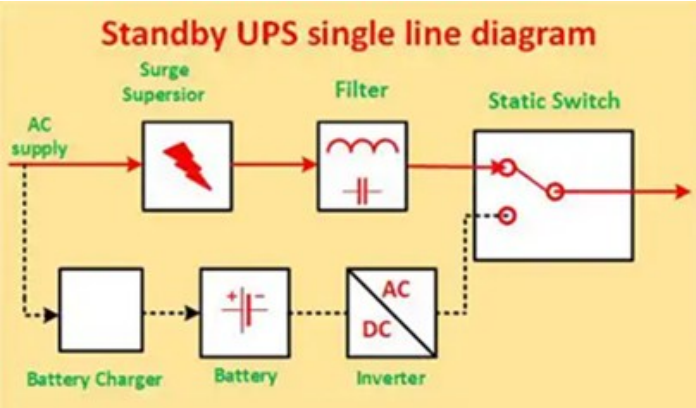
  Some advanced setups use a dedicated DC UPS, which can be more efficient. These systems use a charge controller to manage a battery, directly powering the radios from the battery and trickle-charging it from the main supply power. This allows for instant, seamless switching to battery power without the 120VAC to 12VDC conversion loss of a traditional UPS.

Types of Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) systems

The three main types of Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) systems are standby, line-interactive, and online double-conversion. They differ based on how they provide power to connected devices and the level of protection they offer.

Uninterruptable Power Supplies (UPS) in Amateur Radio (continued)

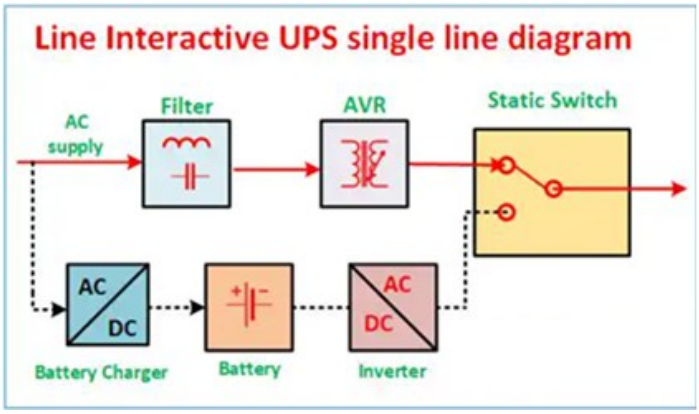
1. Standby (or offline) UPS



This is the most basic and cost-effective type, providing protection for entry-level electronics like home office computers.

- **How it works:** Under normal conditions, the UPS powers equipment directly from the wall outlet. When it detects a power failure, it switches to battery backup.
- **Protection:** Offers basic surge suppression and battery backup for a short duration.
- **Drawback:** There is a brief transfer time, typically 5 to 10 milliseconds, as the unit switches to the battery. For most electronics, this is not an issue.

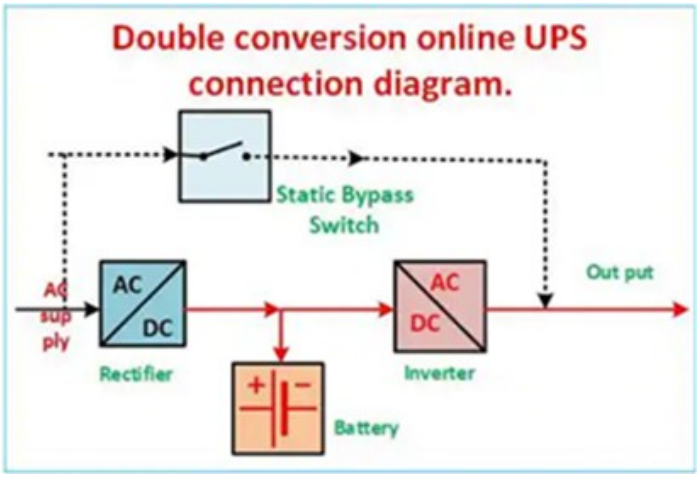
2. Line-interactive UPS



A step up from standby models, the Line-Interactive type provides better power conditioning and is often used for communication/network equipment, computers, workstations and servers.

- **How it works:** It features an automatic voltage regulator (AVR) that corrects minor voltage fluctuations (sags and surges) without switching to battery power. This saves the battery for complete power outages.
- **Protection:** Filters out some electrical noise and protects against brownouts and overvoltage's.
- **Benefit:** Its more efficient operation extends battery life and prevents data loss from power issues beyond a complete outage.

3. Online double-conversion UPS



This is the most advanced and reliable type, offering the highest level of power protection for sensitive, mission-critical equipment.

How it works: It continuously converts incoming AC power to DC and then back to a perfect AC signal, effectively isolating the connected equipment from the wall power.

Protection: Provides consistent, high-quality power and eliminates virtually all types of power disturbances, including outages, voltage fluctuations, and frequency variations.

Uninterruptable Power Supplies (UPS) in Amateur Radio (continued)

Benefit: It has zero transfer time to battery power because the inverter is always active. This is ideal for equipment like data centers and medical devices.

Drawback: Due to its complex design, it is the most expensive and least energy-efficient of the three types.

What are other important considerations when choosing a UPS?

When choosing a UPS, you should consider:

1. Your power requirements
2. The necessary runtime
3. The specific application
4. Key features and the UPS's physical specifications

A properly sized UPS must be capable of handling the maximum power load of all connected devices.

- **Calculate the load:** Determine the wattage (W) or volt-ampere (VA) rating for each device you plan to protect. The nameplate on the device typically provides these ratings.
- **Determine VA:** If a device only lists its wattage, you can convert it to VA by dividing the wattage by the device's power factor (PF), which is often around 0.9 for modern servers.
  VA = Watts ÷ Power Factor
- **Add a safety margin:** It is recommended to choose a UPS with a capacity that is 20–25% higher than your total calculated power requirement. This buffer accounts for power spikes and allows for future expansion.

Runtime

Runtime is the duration for which the UPS can power your equipment during an outage. Your runtime needs depend on your strategy for a power failure.

- **Graceful shutdown:** If your goal is simply to save work and shut down critical systems, a standard 5–15 minute runtime is often sufficient.
- **Extended operation:** For homes and businesses with backup generators, the UPS needs to provide enough power to bridge the gap until the generator starts.
- **Battery capacity:** The more equipment connected to the UPS, the shorter the runtime will be. Some models offer high capacity external battery modules (EBMs) designed to extend the runtime while on battery operation.

Output waveform

This is a critical consideration for sensitive electronics.

- **Pure sine wave:** Essential for expensive, sensitive equipment like servers with Active PFC (Power Factor Correction), medical devices, and high-end audio/visual gear. An imperfect wave can cause stress and damage to these devices. Online double-conversion UPSs always produce a pure sine wave.
- **Simulated sine wave:** Less expensive and acceptable for basic, low-end electronics like desktop PCs, monitors, and modems that are less sensitive to power fluctuations.

Form factor and size

Your physical space and installation environment will influence your choice.

- **Tower:** A standalone unit suitable for a single computer, home office, or any situation where the UPS can sit on the floor or a shelf.
- **Rack-mount:** Designed to be installed in a standard 19-inch equipment rack alongside other IT gear. Common in data centers and server rooms.
- **Weight:** Larger UPS units, especially those with lead-acid batteries, can be very heavy. Ensure

Uninterruptable Power Supplies (UPS) in Amateur Radio (continued)

your rack or mounting location can support the weight.

Additional features and connectivity

Many modern UPS systems offer extra features that can enhance reliability and management.

- **LCD control panel:** Provides real-time information on power conditions and battery status.
- **Hot-swappable batteries:** Allows you to replace batteries without shutting down connected equipment, maximizing uptime.
- **Remote monitoring:** Enables network administrators to manage and monitor the UPS remotely via a network connection (SNMP card).
- **Automatic Voltage Regulation (AVR):** An essential feature of line-interactive and online UPS types that corrects minor voltage fluctuations without switching to battery power.
- **Outlet types:** Ensure the unit has enough outlets and that the correct number are battery-backed. Some UPSs include outlets that are only surge-protected.

Maintenance and lifespan

Like any product with a battery, a UPS requires attention over time.

- **Battery type:** Lithium-ion batteries have a longer lifespan, are lighter, and recharge faster than traditional lead-acid batteries.
- **Battery replacement:** Be aware that batteries will need replacement every few years. Look for models with easily replaceable batteries to avoid having to replace the entire unit.
- **Warranty and support:** Choose a reputable brand that offers strong customer support and a good warranty.

Why might a UPS not switch to battery during an outage?

The most common reason for a UPS not switching to battery during an outage is a faulty or depleted battery. Other potential causes range from user error, such as plugging devices into the wrong outlets, to internal component failures.

Battery issues

- **Aged or dead battery:** *Most UPS batteries have a lifespan of 3 to 5 years*. Even if a UPS shows a "full charge," the battery may have degraded to the point where it can no longer supply the necessary power during a blackout. This is the leading cause of UPS failures.

Note: The average expected life of UPS batteries is 3-5 years.

- **Low battery charge:** If a recent power outage has occurred, the battery may not have had sufficient time to fully recharge. Many UPS units will not switch to battery power until they have reached a minimum charge level to protect the equipment.
- **Disconnected or faulty battery:** The battery might be disconnected internally or externally, preventing the UPS from sensing it. Less commonly, a blown fuse on the battery itself could be the cause.

User and setup errors

- **Connected to the wrong outlets:** Many UPS models have both "battery-backed" and "surge-only" outlets. If your critical equipment is plugged into a surge-only outlet, it will lose power during an outage.
- **Overload:** Connecting too much equipment to the UPS can cause an overload condition. When the power goes out, the surge of current needed to power all devices can be more than the battery can provide, causing the UPS to shut down immediately.

Uninterruptable Power Supplies (UPS) in Amateur Radio (continued)

- **Incorrect sensitivity setting:** For Line-Interactive UPS units, the sensitivity setting determines how frequently it switches to battery power to correct for voltage fluctuations. If the setting is too low, the UPS may not respond to minor power dips.

Internal component failure

- **Internal fault:** The UPS may have an internal electronic failure, such as a problem with the inverter, that prevents it from switching modes. The device might detect this problem and sound an alarm or display a fault message.
- **Loose internal connections:** Over time, internal connections can come loose due to vibrations or heat buildup. A poor connection can cause a power interruption that the UPS cannot manage.
- **Worn out components:** Like batteries, capacitors and other electronic components can degrade with age and fail. A component failure can prevent the UPS from properly converting power or engaging the battery.

Environmental factors

- **Extreme temperature:** Operating a UPS outside its recommended temperature range can significantly shorten its battery life and degrade its performance.
- **Poor ventilation:** Dust buildup and insufficient airflow can cause the UPS to overheat, triggering a shutdown and preventing it from switching to battery.

How to troubleshoot a UPS that won't switch to battery?

To troubleshoot a UPS that fails to switch to battery power, begin by performing a basic equipment check before focusing on the battery itself. The most common culprit is an aging battery, but an overload, loose connection, or user error are also possible causes.

Perform initial checks

Before replacing the battery or moving to more advanced diagnostics, take these initial steps:

- **Check the connections:** Ensure the UPS is securely plugged into a working wall outlet and that all critical devices are connected to the specific outlets labeled "battery backup." Many UPS units also have "surge-only" outlets that do not provide backup power.
- **Verify the load:** Make sure your equipment is not overloading the UPS. An overload will often cause the unit to shut down immediately upon losing power. Unplug any non-essential devices, such as laser printers or space heaters, and try the test again.
- **Check the circuit breaker:** Some UPS models have a reset button or circuit breaker, which may have tripped due to a previous overload. Check the unit for a button that can be pressed back in.
- **Allow for charging:** A battery that was recently drained may not have had enough time to fully recharge. Leave the UPS plugged into a live outlet for at least 24 hours to ensure the battery is at maximum capacity before testing.

Test the battery

If the initial checks don't solve the problem, the battery is the most likely cause.

- **Perform a self-test:** Many modern UPS units, especially those from brands like APC, Eaton, and CyberPower, have a self-test feature. This can often be initiated from the front panel display or through manufacturer software connected to the UPS. During the test, the unit will briefly run on battery power and report any issues.

Uninterruptable Power Supplies (UPS) in Amateur Radio (continued)

- **Test with a multimeter:** For a more definitive check, use a multimeter to test the battery's voltage. First, power off and unplug the UPS. Disconnect the internal battery by removing the front or side panel. Set the multimeter to the DC voltage setting and touch the probes to the battery's terminals. A significantly lower reading than the battery's rating (e.g., 11V or less for a 12V battery) indicates the battery is dead and needs replacement.
- **Swap batteries (if possible):** If you have a working UPS of the same model, you can try swapping its known-good battery into the non-working unit. If the problem is resolved, you know the original battery was at fault.

Replace the battery

If your tests confirm the battery is faulty, it's time to replace it.

- **Safety first:** Always power off and unplug the UPS before handling the battery. Follow any specific safety instructions in your owner's manual. Remember that batteries can be heavy and may leak.
- **Purchase a replacement:** You can often find replacement batteries directly from the manufacturer or a third-party supplier. Using a reliable third-party can often save money.
- **Install the new battery:**
  1. Access the battery compartment, which may require removing screws or a front panel.
  2. Disconnect the old battery, making note of the cable orientation. Some models make this easy with color-coded or unique connectors.
  3. Insert the new battery and securely connect the cables.
  4. Close the compartment, plug the UPS back into the wall, and allow it to charge completely before testing again.

Consider a replacement

If the UPS continues to fail even with a new battery, an internal component may have failed. In this case, especially for older or lower-cost models, it may be more practical and cost-effective to replace the entire unit rather than pay for service and repairs.

NADXC Christmas Dinner

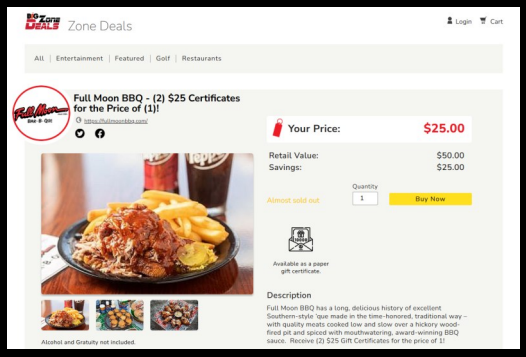
Wednesday, December 10th

6:00PM

Full Moon BBQ

1009 Memorial Pkwy NW, HSV

Discount gift certificates for Full Moon BBQ are currently available at ESPN Radio's Zone Deals. You can purchase 2 x $25 gift certificates for $25 plus a $5 fee.



Upgrading the DX Commander Signature 9 to the Signature 18

by Jim Brown, W1WSF

I recently upgraded my 80M antenna. I had been using a Signature 9 with an inverted L for 30M and 80M. This was a compromise antenna for both bands and had no 80M radials. I upgraded to a DX Commander Signature 18 which centralized all elements onto the primary antenna mast and added a 60-meter vertical. The goal of this project was to upgrade the existing Signature 9 to the Signature 18 configuration to maximize band coverage while simultaneously addressing the operational compromises associated with the low-band Inverted L system.

W1WSF's Inverted L antenna on his DX Commander Signature 9 mast

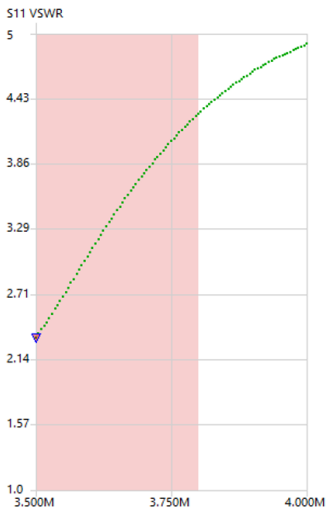
The DX Commander series of multi-band vertical antennas, engineered by Callum McCormick (M0MCX), employs a modular design. Multiple radiating elements, each cut for a specific band, are physically separated and fed from a common feed point. This design achieves efficient, low-angle radiation suitable for DXing.

The original Signature 9 configuration utilized the standard mast and spreader kit, supporting dedicated wire elements for the following bands: 40M, 30M, 20M, 17M, 15M, 12M, 10M. The ground system consisted of eighteen counterpoise radials, each approximately thirty-two feet long, buried just below the ground surface.

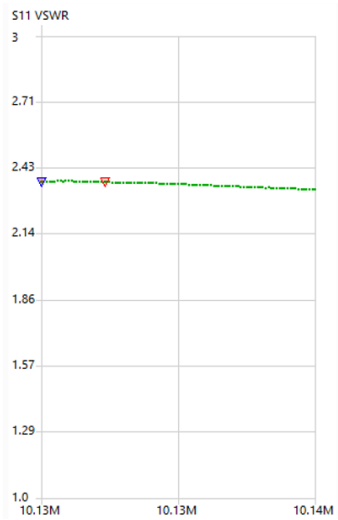
I previously modified the 30M element into an inverted L so that I could add the 80M band to the antenna. This element was connected to the common feed point and rose vertically alongside the mast to an apex height of approximately sixteen feet, before running horizontally. This setup required a separate tuner and presented operational challenges, notably narrow bandwidth on the 80M band, necessitating re-tuning when moving across the band.

Pre-upgrade Performance Metrics

The following graph was recorded using a Vector Network Analyzer (VNA) prior to the disassembly of the Signature 9 antenna:



80M SWR



30M SWR

SWR graphs of the old Signature 9 on 80m & 30m

While the entire band could be used with a tuner, the performance was suboptimal.

Upgrade Procedure (Signature 9 to Signature 18)

I ordered the DX Commander 18 from DXEngineering. After it arrived, I used 12"x12" ¼" steel plates, a 6" steel hinge and a 2" steel pipe to fabricate a hinged baseplate to facilitate stand-

Upgrading the DX Commander Signature 9 to the Signature 18 (continued)

ing up the almost sixty-foot mast. Holes were drilled in the bottom plate to attach radials. A couple pieces of PVC were used to transition from the hinged plate so that no metal would be inside the fiberglass mast.

W1WSF fabricated a custom steel tilting base that included radial attachments points.

Post-upgrade Configuration and Analysis (Signature 18)

The final 80M element configuration used 72’ 11” of 16-gauge wire with a 14’ foldback at the top. The 30M element was implemented as a full-length quarter-wave wire element, taking advantage of the increased mast height.

Tuning was performed iteratively, starting with the longest element (80M) and shortening the wires until the desired SWR minimum was achieved. All elements were tuned to near the middle of the band to maximize usable bandwidth. The final tuning methodology involved precise trimming and securing the element wires at the feed plate terminals.

The original Signature 9 antenna had eighteen 40M quarter wave radials. An additional twenty 80M radials, ten 30M radials and ten 20M radials were added to the Signature 18. The Signature 18 also required the use of guy lines.

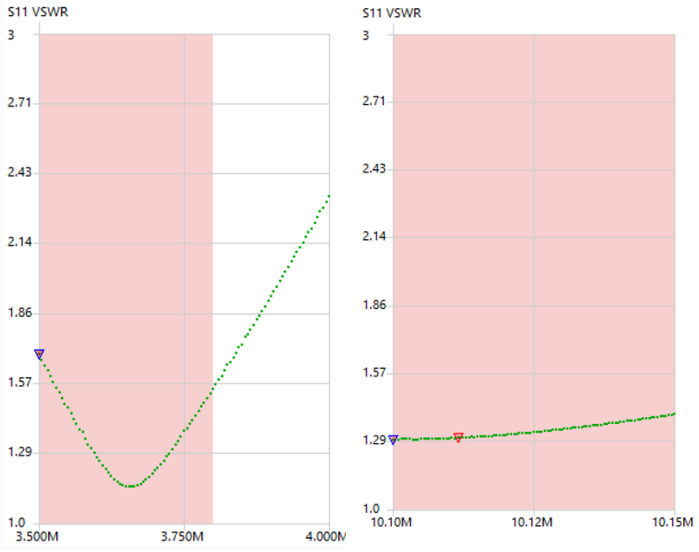
W1WSF’s Signature 18 after installation

Significant noise (S9) was found on the 80M band. Three toroids with 10 wraps of RG-8X were added at the base of the antenna and six toroids with 10 wraps of RG-8X were added to the RF input of the transceiver. This reduced the 80M noise to S5. The transceiver toroids also reduced QRM on other antennas. A recent power outage confirmed that the remaining 80M noise is QRN. Much was learned during the upgrade of this antenna in regard to noise reduction and how the tuner affects common mode currents.

Upgrading the DX Commander Signature 9 to the Signature 18 (continued)

Post-upgrade Performance Comparison

The post-upgrade performance on the low bands showed a significant change in usable bandwidth:



80M SWR

30M SWR

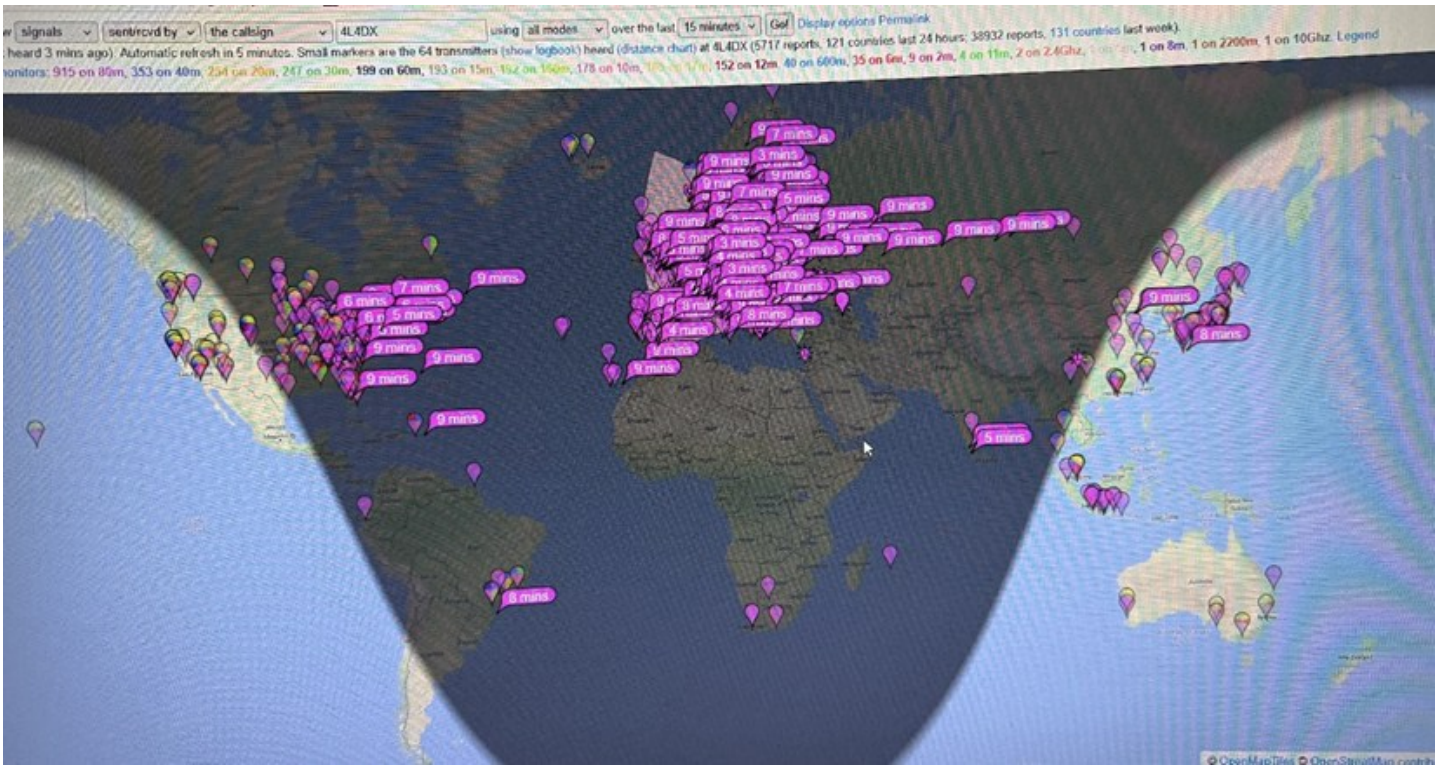
The qualitative assessment of on-air performance indicated that the new integrated 80M vertical element provided a better SNR compared to the previous Inverted L, and significantly more PSKReporter DX spots from W1WSF.

The conversion from the Signature 9 with external Inverted L to the fully integrated Signature 18 was successful. The upgrade achieved the primary goals of centralization and improved operational efficiency. Notably, the integrated 80M element demonstrated an increase in usable bandwidth compared to the previous Inverted L setup.

Future refinements will focus on optimizing the ground plane for the integrated 80M element and conducting further on-air testing to measure real-world gain comparisons between the old and new 80M configurations.

Left: SWR graphs of the new Signature 18 on 80m & 30m

Below: PSKReporter enabled W1WSF to see his improved reach in real time.



Why Didn't I Announce XU7RRC on the Club Repeater?

by Bruce Smith, AC4G

For years our club members have announced active DX on the club repeater. They would work (make a QSO) the DX first. Afterwards, they immediately announced the DX callsign, frequency and mode on the club repeater. Suddenly, members monitoring our club's 2m repeater would immediately move to the frequency and many members of the NADXC would make a QSO with a rare DX entity and put either an ATNO (All-Time New One) or log a new band/mode DXCC entity in their logbook.

On November 28, I was in the shack doing something while monitoring 3.573 MHz, FT8 (digital mode). I began copying XU7RRC from IOTA AS-113 in Cambodia, Southeast Asia on 80m at 2230Z. Any member who contacts DX from our area to Southeast Asia knows that it is very difficult to make a QSO on any band. I knew I would have to warm my amplifier up to make this QSO.

I wanted to get on the repeater to make this announcement to share this "spot" with our membership. I quickly realized that our repeater has not worked since November 2024. I knew that Steve, AG4W works a lot of low band DX, so I sent him a text message via my IPHONE to send him this spot. I know of other members who work low band DX, but it was impossible for me to text or call them, since time was of the essence.

Steve, AG4W got to his ham shack and called me back on my IPHONE. About that time, my amp finals had warmed up, and I was calling XU7RRC. Steve was receiving this station as well and calling. The XU7RRC signals were +1 to 0 many times. We were surprised that few stations were making a QSO. The Cambodian station called until about 2315Z when he faded out. That was 45 minutes with about three or four QSOs being made. In Kentucky, N4QS made the logbook, and only two others along the East Coast U.S.A.

You may be wondering why the Cambodian station was coming into our area with good signals. I refer to my program that I presented at our club meeting in July 2025, discussing Low Band propagation via morning skewed path and afternoon long path. Neither AG4W nor I made the QSO on this day.

This XU7RRC saga is not over. On December 1 at 2335Z, again, I was home and began wondering if the XU7RRC would be on the air making low band QSOs. I went to my ham shack, turned on my transceiver, and began to tune. I check the same path to the Southeast on 160m, 80m, and 40m. I did not copy the XU7RRC signals or any other DX signals.

I left the rig on 3.573 MHz in the FT8 mode. I was working on something and continually looked up at the monitor to see if I spotted the XU7RRC callsign or trace of their signal. At about 2245Z, I saw an FT8 decode, "CQ XU7RRC". I plugged in my amp to warm up all the while running to get my IPHONE. I got back to the shack and noticed lots of QSB via this afternoon Southeast long path signal from XU7RRC. I noticed XU7RRC attempting to work a few U.S.A. stations, but many were not completed; that is, the stations never received an "RR73". Not knowing if I would encounter the same scenario that I experienced on November 28, I noticed that QSB was in and out. I did not want to bother other hams in our area if the signals were fading.

On a fade, I began calling XU7RRC. I called three times, not copying anything on the return offset because of QSB. After my next call, I copied

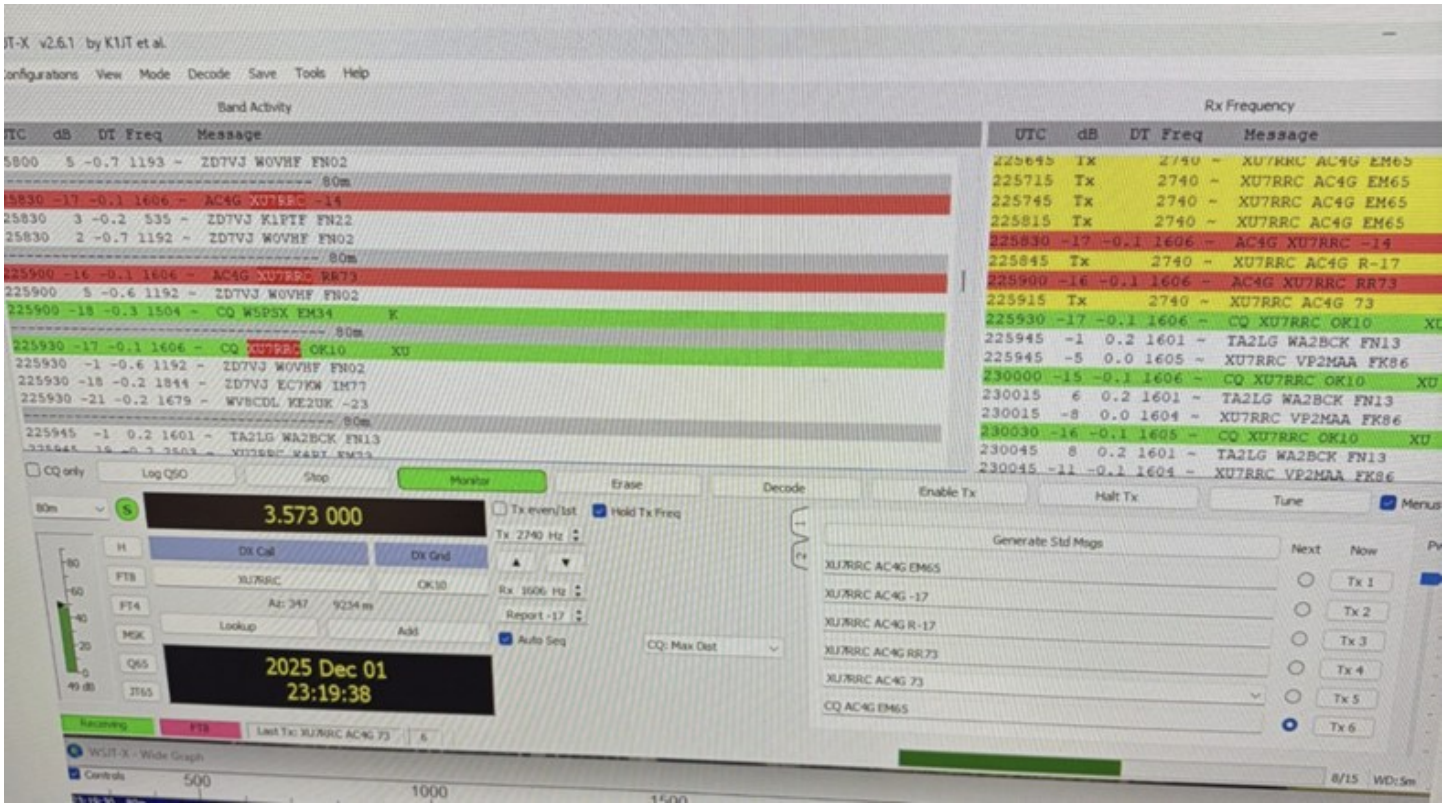
Why Didn't I Announce XU7RRC on the Club Repeater? (continued)

XU7RRC calling me with a signal report of -17. I gave him a -14. This occurred at 2300Z. XU7RRC returned with "RR73". I sent "73". I then saw XU7RRC calling "CQ" when he faded once again. Wow, I was elated had finally made this difficult QSO. This was the very first time I had received Cambodia on the low bands. Making the QSO on 80m was exhilarating. I realize I got lucky and acquired a new band country. See picture below.

I immediately wanted to get on the club's repeater to announce, but realized the repeater was down even though I attempted to announce the DX. Afterwards, I texted Steve AG4W. Hearing nothing, I called him. He had received the text message. He was warming his amp. Unfortunately, it was again at 2315 when the XU7RRC station faded, never to be copied by stations in our area. We both copied the Caribbean and South America stations sending signal reports, so we both realized it was over for us. Steve said, "Today was your lucky day. You were present to win."

Yes, I was lucky, but this is why I wanted to share my knowledge and experience with DXers in our club. I want them to know how to look for stations using the paths I have experienced and read about throughout my ham career. I want them to not have to rely on cluster spots and announcements, but I realize we all cannot be on the air all the time. Like I was in the house, realized a potential path could open, so I looked. I was lucky. It did open, but briefly. I wish I could have shared this spot with the NADXC membership.

I miss the old way of spotting DX to assist DXers in our area via the club's repeater. I just hope we can repair our repeater so that our 2m repeater is active once again with DX spots. Even



AC4G scored a rare new one on 80m, Cambodia (XU7RRC)

Why Didn't I Announce XU7RRC on the Club Repeater? (continued)

though I found a way to get the message out, I feel bad that I could not have alerted more DXers in our area. Be aware that these long paths are open many times from now until late March. I am glad the conditions are allowing long haul DX.

About the NADXC

2025 NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Bruce Smith, AC4G
Vice President	Fred Kepner, K3FRK
Sec./Treasurer	Bob De Pierre, K8KI
Directors	Chuck Lewis, N4NM
	Mick Bell, N8AU

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

Volunteers Needed for 2026 Meeting Presentations

Do you have a ham or DX topic that you enjoy and could share at one of our monthly meetings?

We are currently planning our 2026 schedule. If you are willing to share your passion with the club, either in person or over Zoom, please contact Fred, K3FRK at dxK3FRK@gmail.com.

Upcoming DX Contests

by Chuck Lewis, N4NM

ARRL 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Dec. 5, 2200Z to Dec. 7, 2359Z
Exchange: RST plus Section. DX sends RST
See page 80, Dec. QST and
www.arrl.org/160-meter

Kalber Contest, (SSB), 80 – 10 meters

Dec. 6, 0000Z to Dec. 7, 2359
Exchange: RS plus Serial
See page 80, Dec. QST and kalbar-contest.com

PRO RADIO CONTEST CLUB (PRCC)

Pro CW Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Dec. 6, 1200Z to Dec. 7, 1159Z
Exchange: RST plus Serial, plus "/M" if member of any CW club
See page 80, Dec. QST and
proradiocontestclub.com

rttycontesting.com

FT Challenge, (FT), 80-10 meters

Dec. 6, 1800Z to Dec. 7, 2359Z
Exchange: Signal Report, 4-char. grid square
See page 80, Dec. QST and
www.rttycontesting.com

ARRL Ten Meter Contest, (SSB & CW), 10 meters only

Dec. 13, 0000Z to Dec. 14, 2359Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus State/Province; DX: RS(T) + Ser. #
See page 80, Dec. QST and
www.arrl.org/10-meter

OK DX RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80 – 10 meters

Dec 20, 0000Z to Dec. 20, 2359Z
Exchange: RST plus CQ Zone
See page 80, Dec. QST and http://okrtty.crk.cz/

RAC Winter Contest (CW & PHONE), 160-2 meters

Dec 20, 0000Z to 2359Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial No.; VEs send RS(T) plus Province
See page 80, Dec. QST and www.rac.ca/contesting

Croatian CW Contest, (CW), 160 – 10 meters

Dec. 20, 1400Z to Dec. 21, 1359Z
Exchange: RST + ITU zone; Croatian Stns. send county
See page 80, Dec. QST and
www.hamradio.hr

DARC Christmas Contest, (CW & SSB), 75/80 & 40 meters

Dec. 26, 0830Z to 1059Z
Exchange: RS(T), [+DOK or special code for DL or "NM" if not DOK member], plus Serial#
See page 80, Dec. QST or www.darc.de

Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge, (CW), 160 meters

Dec. 27, 1500Z to Dec. 28, 1500Z
Exchange: 4 Char. Grid square
See page 80, Dec. QST and
www.kkn.net/stew

RAEM Contest (CW), 80-10 meters

Dec. 28, 0000Z to 1159Z
Exchange: Serial # plus Lat/Long, (e.g., 57N 85E)
See page 80, Dec. QST and www.raem.srr.ru/rules

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.
Contest information acquired from: http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html

DXpeditions in December 2025

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Start	End	Entity	Callsign	QSL via	Notes
2025 Nov04	2025 Dec06	Aruba	P40MC	LoTW	By KE4TT fm Noord-Palm Beach; 40-6m; FT8 RTTY CW SSB; 100w
2025 Nov14	2025 Dec08	Uganda	5X7W	LoTW	By SM0HPL fm Naalya, Kampala; 80-10m; CW FT8 FT4; QSL via M0OXO or Club Log OQRS; QRV for CQWW DX CW
2025 Nov20	2025 Dec31	Namibia	V51WH	DK2WH	By DK2WH fm nr Omaruru; 160-6m, incl 60m; QRV for CQWW DX RTTY using V55Y; to continue until Mar 24, 2026
2025 Nov26	2025 Dec10	Panama	HP3	See Info	By OK2WX as HP3/OK2WX and OK2YL as HP3/OK2YL; HF w/ focus on 160 80 40m; CW SSB; holiday type operation; QSL via home_call (B/d); QRV in CQWW DX CW and ARRL 10m contests
2025 Nov30	2025 Dec12	St Martin	TO9W	LoTW	By W9MR W9AP K9EL N9LQ K9KE; 160-10m; CW SSB FT8 FT4 FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2025 Dec01	2025 Dec10	Maldives	8Q7HT	LoTW	By DL7MDX; 40-6m; mainly FT8; holiday style operation
2025 Dec01	2025 Dec22	Chad	TT1GD	LoTW	By TJ1GD; HF; FT8 FT4 SSB CW; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2025 Dec04	2025 Dec06	Jamaica	6Y	LoTW	By W2ELS as 6Y/W2ELS; 20-10m; CW SSB; 100w; SSB CW; vertical; QSL via W2ELS direct
2025 Dec07	2026 Jan05	Guatemala	TG	LoTW	By AF4CZ as TG9/AF4CZ; 40-10m;; FT8 FT4, perhaps SSB; spare time operation
2025 Dec10	2025 Dec17	Palau	T88AC	LoTW	By JA1ADT fm Koror I (IOTA OC-009, PJ77fi); HF; QRV for ARRL 10m Contest
2025 Dec17	2025 Dec29	Trinidad & Tobago	9Y9DX	LoTW	By WA3DX fm Arouca; 40-10m; FT4 FT8; QSL via WA3DX direct w/ SASE
2025 Dec21	2025 Dec27	Bangladesh	S21DX	LoTW	By S21YLJ S21AM S21RC S21FIA S21RED fm Kutubdia I (IOTA AS-127); 160-10m; SSB FT8; QSL via EB7DX
2025 Dec21	2026 Jan02	Surinam	PZ5OZ	LoTW	By OZ0J; @PZ5RA; 160-6m; SSB CW FT8, perhaps RTTY; QSL via Club Log OQRS or OZ Buro
2025 Dec22	2026 Jan15	French Guiana	TO2FY	LoTW	By F4GPK; HF; SSB; holiday style operation; QSL via F4GPK
2025 Dec26	2026 Jan03	Azerbaijan	4K	LoTW	By DL4XT as 4K/DL4XT; HF; CW SSB FT8; vertical, dipole; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2025 Dec30	2026 Jan03	Mariana Is	KH0	LoTW	By JO1VRK as KH0/AJ6VJ fm Saipan I; 40 20 17 15 12 10m; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2025 Dec30	2026 Jan03	Monaco	3A	LoTW	By MM0NDX as 3A/MM0NDX and MM0SAJ as 3A/MM0SAJ; HF w/ focus on 160-30m, incl 60m; SSB FT8 FT4 RTTY; QSL via EB7DX
2026 Jan01	2026 Feb16	Grenada	J3WG	LoTW	By WE9G fm IOTA NA-024 (FK92ef); 160-6m; mainly FT8, some CW SSB; QSL via Club Log OQRS or WE9G (B/d)

DXpeditions in December 2025
(continued)

2026 Jan06	2026 Feb06	Benin	TY5GG	LoTW	By F5NVF fm Godomey, Abomey-Calavil HF; Spiderbeam, multiband dipole; QSL via F5RAV direct; operation to continue until 6 Apr 2026
2026 Jan10	2026 Jan22	Lakshadweep Is	VU7	M0OXO	By VU2RS (Leader) VU2ADX VU3DXA VU3GDS VU2AR EY8MM DL6KVA YT1AD R7KW DJ5IW VU2DWA fm Agatti I; 160-6m, focus on low bands; CW SSB + digital

Club Business and Announcements

November Meeting Minutes
by Bob DePierre, K8KI

Bruce/AC4G started the meeting at 6:30. There were 15 members present plus 5 online.

Bruce announced voting on three awards this year: DXer of the Year, Best Long Path Article, and Best Presentation.

Mark Clark/W4CK presented a discussion on his DXpedition to Albania in March 2025 for a week. This trip was prompted by his daughter, who recently graduated from college, and was going to Albania to gather credits for her teaching certificate. Albania had long been silent on ham radio during its years associated with the Soviet Union. It has been back on the air for a number of years now. Mark had contacted a number of Albanian hams in preparation for his trip, and had gotten his reciprocal license approved in advance. Happily, several of those hams met him and made his trip quite enjoyable, with lots of Q's.

The October minutes and budget (both in the LongPath) were unanimously approved.

Note that the December meeting will be held at Full Moon BBQ (adjacent to the Home Depot on N. Pkwy), this time on Wednesday, December 10, starting at 6PM.

November 2025 Financial Report
by Bob DePierre, K8KI

Budget Category	2025 Budget	Year to Date	End Nov	
Year Start	**5802**	5801.97	8,454.74	
Dues In	**1100**	1012.54		
Recurring Exp	**-1106**			
repeater elect	-63	-116		
web hosting/domain service	-77	-76.28	-59.40	
repeater maintenance	0			
to HARC for Zoom	-50	-50		
use of museum	-400	-400		
DX Plaques	-216			
Miscellaneous	-300	-112		
Other Transactions	**-2000**			
Donations/equipment to sell	0	7775		
Dxpeditions	-1800	-1804.99	-804.99	Sierra Leone, Bouvet
Picnic	-200	-228.25		
ARRL Bricks	0			
DX Banquet	**730**			
Huntsville Hamfest Donation	500	750		
venue	-700	-700		
food	*-2400*	-2949.91		
speaker+room+travel	*-450*	-400		
ticket sales	*4100*	4587.65		
raffle	*400*	282.89		
grand prize	*-400*	-523.15		
beer/wine/soft drinks/glasses	*-200*	-193.19		
insurance	*-120*	-106		
Year End Bank Balance	**$4,526.00**	$12,550.28	7,590.35	
Other Asset 3-month CD	$5,225.00	$5,055.07	$10,015.00	
Total Assets	**$9,751.00**	$17,605.35	$17,605.35	
Asset delta	-$1,051.00	$6,803.35		

Our only expenses this month were for our web hosting and for support of DXpeditions to Sierra Leone (Oct) and Bouvet Island (next year). We did move our bank to Avadian in early October, and transferred our CD from about $5,000 to about $10,000. That CD will end in 5 months, so we'll need to convert it again at that time.

Do note that our Year End Bank Balance differs from Year-to-Date and End Nov, but our Total Assets match in these columns. That is due to the change in CD values. I represented it this way so you could see what happened, and will reflect that more clearly at year end.

North Alabama DX Club (NADXC)

"Club Fact Sheet"

Who We Are: NADXC is a group of active radio amateurs with a deep compassion for working DX, contesting, and other aspects of Amateur Radio. We welcome everyone who is interested in joining our club. NADXC members are active in all facets of DX and contesting. The NADXC also donates funding for various DXpeditions all over the world. The NADXC sponsors a DX Banquet in mid-August of every year in conjunction with the Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville, Alabama. NADXC members moderate various programs at club meetings and during the Huntsville Hamfest, covering amateur radio technical and operating topics for all to learn and enjoy. The NADXC sponsors a prestigious award at the end of year for the most deserving DXer of the Year from the NADXC club.

DX Funding Policy: The policy supports major DXpeditions that meet our requirements for financial sponsorship. Details are available on the NADXC website and in the "LongPath" newsletter.

Club History: The NADXC was organized in December 1966 by a group of 12 charter members. The original constitution was adopted and signed on December 19, 1966. The first chairman was Dan Whitsett, W4BRE (SK). In the early-1970's, the NADXC was custodian of the W4, K4 QSL Bureau which became such a huge undertaking that it eventually was passed to other larger clubs. In January of 1977, the club bought a VHF repeater for sharing DX spots and hosting a weekly net on Wednesday nights. The repeater was located on Redstone Arsenal, Weeden Mountain using the frequencies of 147.91/147.31 MHz on two meters. Today, the repeater has been relocated and utilizes the frequencies of 147.90/147.30 MHz, with a callsign of W4QB. The weekly net has been discontinued. In 1980, the club started the monthly newsletter known as the "LongPath" which currently continues to be produced every month.

While organized as a DX club, NADXC members are active in all aspects of the hobby. We trust that this information will be of interest to all and hope all hams have a long and pleasant association with the NADXC.

Requirements for Membership: The NADXC welcomes all hams radio operators who have an interest in DXing. It does not matter whether you are a new ham, a seasoned ham operator, an old-timer to DXing, or a ham who has just been hit with the DX bug; everyone is welcome! See the club website: www.nadxc.org. Dues are paid in January of every year.

Meetings: The NADX club meets the second Tuesday night of every month, with the current location at the Signals Museum of Information Explosion (MIE) located at 1806 University Drive, Huntsville, Alabama and virtually via Zoom. Some members gather early to eat their dinner, socialize, discuss DX worked, and then we have a short business meeting starting at 6:30 P.M. CT. followed by an exciting, interesting program to help, entertain, and teach members about DX and amateur radio in general.

Club Officers: There are four elected officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and three elected directors on the NADXC Board of Directors. The current roster of club officers and directors can be seen of the NADXC web site or in the "Longpath" newsletter, which is uploaded each month to the club website.

Website: The NADXC club maintains a website at www.nadxc.org. This site provides club information and activities throughout the year about a variety of subjects related to the club, DX, and amateur radio.