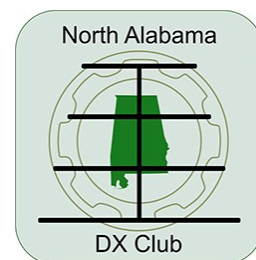


The LongPath

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A North Alabama DX Club Publication



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From the President

by Bruce Smith, AC4G

I trust that everyone has had a wonderful Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As the North Alabama DX Club enters 2026, we welcome back all members and are excited to hear the variety of DX worked over the past month, since we last met for the annual Christmas Dinner.

Congratulations to our new officer, Jim Brown, W1WSF, for being elected to the Secretary-Treasurer position. I know Jim will do a great job. We also welcome back Fred Kepner, Vice-President; and Directors, Mick Bell, N8AU and Chuck Lewis, N4NM. I will return as your President for my final year of service to the club in this capacity.

Congratulations to Mark Clark, W4CK, on the "Best Program of the Year", based on his 2025 mini-DXpedition to Albania (ZA). Also, Rob Suggs, NN4NT, deserves congratulations on his article explaining and discussing how each member can work meteor scatter. I must thank the members for their vote for me and upon my receiving the "DX'er of the Year" award. I look forward to seeing members work for these awards in 2026.

This month, we will be discussing the annual club budget and where our funds will be spent this year. I trust

we will donate funding to help some of the major and not so large DXpeditions like we have done in past years. We will also be making plans for all the events we support throughout this year. Huntsville will be hosting the ARRL National Convention this year. I will need to lean on each of you for your support to help make this year a huge success. I hope that each member can put effort into helping the club make another memorable year.

Let us not forget that Fred Kepner, K3FRK, will be entering our NADXC club in the ARRL Club Newsletter competition. We will be competing in the ranks with some great clubs and their newsletters. I believe the competition will be stiff. By the time the January LongPath newsletter is completed and able to be read, we will have all the issues we need from last year to present to be able to compete.

There are some major DXpeditions on the forefront in early-2026. Some of the rarest and biggest are Bouvet Island (3YOK), Lakshadweep Island (VU7RS), and San Felix & Ambrosio (XQ). Of course, throughout the year there are a host of DXpeditions from all over the world to keep us all busy in 2026. I hope that we all have our equipment and antennas ready to add

From the President (continued)

new countries, bands, and modes to our logbooks.

If anyone needs help with something, please let us know. I want us all to log these rare DXCC entities. With this said, please get ready to help us kickoff an exciting 2026 year.

Not so DXpeditioning by Rob Suggs, NN4NT

Face it, most of us will never go on a DXpedition. As exciting as it would be, the cost and the risk of being far from progressive medical care preclude that kind of adventure for most of us. Of course, holiday-style operations from Caribbean islands or European vacation spots are more accessible, but even those are expensive. I've operated portable from various vacation locations but Gulf Shores, AL and Pigeon Forge, TN aren't anywhere on the ClubLog most wanted lists!

So where can you go to get out of the house, setup a station and still generate a small pileup? How about POTA? The Parks on the Air program is enormously popular and all you have to do is send 'CQ POTA' and you are guaranteed to get some calls. Spot yourself on pota.app and you may get a small pileup.

The antenna setup runs anywhere from a

dipole strung in trees to a hamstick mag-mounted to a car roof. The NASA Marshall Space Flight Center ARC regularly operates from the Von Braun Astronomical Society grounds in Monte Sano State Park for Astronomy Day each fall. We string a ZS6BKW antenna (very similar to a G5RV) from a tree and run 100W on SSB. We typically get several stations calling us at once and have a great time. End fed antennas and those tripod-mounted multi-band verticals are also very popular. The key is to keep it simple, don't violate any park regulations regarding stringing stuff in trees or pounding stakes in the ground, and make sure you don't pose a risk to the public. Checking in with the park rangers to ask permission is a good idea but many are used to seeing hams hunched over their radios at a picnic table. This is also a good opportunity to introduce the public to amateur radio if they are curious.



Kris, K4NH at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge (US-0161) with his FT-891 and plenty of battery power. Kris uses an end fed antenna with a mast leaned in a tree for the high point.

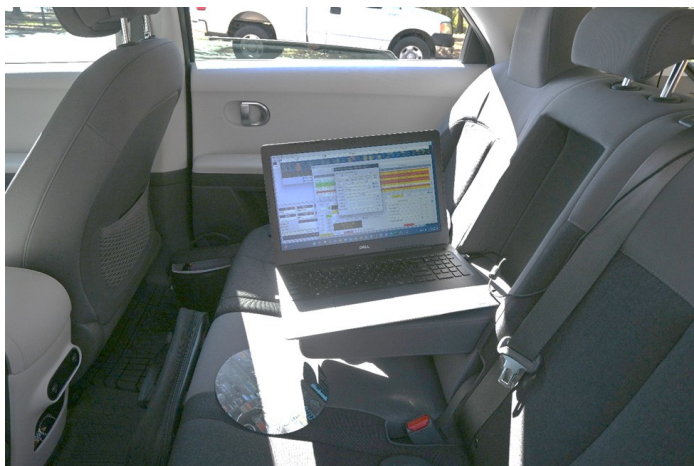
Not so DXpeditioning (continued)

There are a few different modes being used for POTA. The most fun is SSB. It can be a bit more challenging with the lower power levels and compromised antennas but when conditions are good and the pileup isn't too extensive it is fun to chat a little with the other ops. When I'm chasing POTA activations, I like to hear a little about their setup and the park where they are. It is surprising how many "park-to-park" contacts you can make with others doing the same thing and it is fun to compare stations. For the remote parks where a hike might be necessary, CW seems to be the preferred mode since less power means less battery and less weight. LiFePO4 batteries of various sizes are very popular power sources. I personally prefer FT8 from my vehicle using a single-band hamstick on the roof. It is simple, I'm up and running in less than 5 minutes and I have a minimal footprint in the park since I only need the parking space. I power my rig, generally an Elecraft K3 or Yaesu FTDX-10, with a Samlex power supply driven by the Vehicle-to-Load AC output of my Ioniq 5



NN4NT operation at Chickamauga National Military Park (US-0716) using an FTDX-10 and a 15m hamstick

electric vehicle. It has enough power for days of operation. We powered our MSFC ARC Monte Sano operation from my vehicle, including the rig, external monitor, and laptop for over 4 hours and used less than 2 percent of my vehicle battery. I have been very happy with this setup and was surprised that the vehicle's inverter is so RF quiet.



NN4NT's operating position in the back seat

So, what about DX? FT8 typically yields as many as 1/3 to 1/2 of my contacts as DX. South America and Canada are very easy. Europe and even Japan will answer my CQ POTA depending on the band, time of day, and ionospheric conditions. During one of my activations from Monte Sano State Park a few months ago, I had a steady stream of JA stations calling me on 17m.

How do you find a park? Check <https://pota.app/#/map>. We have parks (the yellow dots) all around us. Monte Sano State Park is one of the most popular, especially during the Huntsville Hamfest weekend when lots of operators descend on the park. Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge permeates the Huntsville/Decatur area. Keep in mind that your entire station, antenna and all, have to be within the park boundaries. I regularly travel to Chattanooga to visit family and have activated several parks along the way, including Russell Cave National Monument, Crow Creek Nature Ref-

Not so DXpeditioning (continued)

uge, and Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. Note that the POTA folks limit the official parks to national and state parks. City and county parks don't count. There would just be too many of them.

A valid park activation, for which you, the “activator”, gets credit, consists of at least 10 contacts. Even if you only get 1 contact, the “chaser” who you worked gets credit for it, as long as you upload the ADIF of your log to the pota.app site, which is a must. Using FT8 at about 80W to a hamstick, I usually get the requisite 10 in about

15 minutes and 35 or so in an hour. SSB and QRP CW might take a little longer, depending on conditions and your setup. Each park has a unique numerical identifier. Check the POTA website to see which parks you have contacted. You may already have a POTA award and don't even know it.

I really admire those who go on the DXpeditions and envy their adventures. I also appreciate their willingness to endure the hardships to activate an all-time new one for us or just allow me to add a new band slot to my totals. But I doubt I'd ever step out like that. Sure, POTA isn't a DXpedition, but at least you get to set up a portable station and work a small pileup within a short drive and be back in your own bed at night.



Blue markers show the entities worked by NN4NT from Monte Sano State Park (US-1048) on 17m FT8 in Nov 2025.

The DXCC Confirmation Catastrophe: A 12-Step (or More) Program for the Anxious Ham

by Jim Brown, W1WSF

Oh, the noble pursuit of the DXCC! That legendary goal where you need to contact and confirm 100 different entities. You've spent long hours in the shack, finally busted the big pileup, and worked an All Time New One. Now the suspense sets in as you log the QSO and watch the mailbox for that precious confirmation to arrive.

If you're pacing your shack at 3 AM, repeating "LoTW... LoTW..." over and over, you're not alone. The real challenge for DXCC hopefuls isn't just making the contacts—it's enduring the agonizing period before confirmations arrive, when patience disappears and the mailbox becomes your enemy.

Here's your essential guide to surviving the anxiety of waiting for confirmations.

Mailbox Mania

Your first symptom is Mailbox Mania. It's that uncontrollable urge to check the mailbox every five minutes, even though the mail carrier hasn't gotten to work yet.

- **Pro Tip:** If there is no card in the box, it is unlikely that the carrier has absconded with your QSL.
- **The SASE Scare:** If your Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) hasn't come back, assume the worst. Maybe the QSL manager was kidnapped, or your stamp didn't have enough glue. Never just assume the card is sitting in a pile on their table.
- **Warning:** You may be tempted to raise the mailbox flag just to see if the card has been delivered without walking out. Don't, it annoys

the carrier. Instead, spend your time writing new QSL cards so that you have a reason to raise the flag. This has the added benefit of giving you more QSLs to worry about.



LoTW Labyrinth Loop

LoTW is supposed to make things easy, right? Just a few clicks, a digital handshake, and you're confirmed. Except when it doesn't work that way.

- **The Log Check:** You'll check your LoTW account at least 47 times a day, scrolling through your unconfirmed QSOs, convinced that DPOGVN will upload their log any minute.
- **The Refresh Ritual:** You'll develop a superstitious routine for hitting the "Refresh" button. Chant frequencies, spin around—whatever works. Remember, the ARRL put a lot of resources into upgrading its servers. Don't feel guilty about checking your status often.
- **The Spouse/Cat Factor:** Announce to anyone nearby, even your pets, every time a new confirmation appears. "Mr. Fluffers! XX9 confirmed! Another step closer!" (Mr. Fluffers doesn't even glance up before walking away.)



The Great QSL Manager CSI Investigation

When a card takes too long—say, more than 72 hours—you'll need to use your amateur detective skills.

- **The Bio Check:** Search QRZ.com for the QSL Manager's bio. If it mentions anything about non-radio-related hobbies or shows pictures of him flying his private aircraft, you've found a reason for your slightly passive-aggressive

The DXCC Confirmation Catastrophe: A 12-Step (or More) Program for the Anxious Ham (continued)

emails. If he's managing QSLs for 400 hams... well, you'll get yours someday, maybe.

- **The Forum Frenzy:** Post vague, dramatic questions on every major ham radio forum. "Has anyone seen KH3 confirmed recently? Just checking to see if the island hasn't sunk."



Math, Mania, and Miscalculation

As you near the magic number—100 or the mythical 340—your brain starts doing confirmation math.

- **The Running Tally:** Keep a mental count of your "pending" confirmations. This number will swing wildly depending on your mood, the weather, and how much coffee you've had. Best to start a complicated Excel spreadsheet that consumes most of your waking hours to manage.
- **The 'What If' Scenario:** You start guessing which confirmations will come next. "If I get KH4, VP6, and ZD9, I'll be at 102. I can submit! I can breathe!" This doesn't help, but it definitely raises blood pressure.
- **Money Matters:** Start worrying about the money you put in the envelope. Everything you've ever learned says this is a bad idea. How many people had the opportunity to open your envelope? Did you give enough cash in the first place? The ham's QRZ page said \$2 wasn't enough to cover the card fee to go to the US. You put in \$3; should it have been \$4?



Final Acceptance?

Ultimately, you must work toward accepting the uncertainty that comes with DXCC confir-

mations and try to find meaning in the experience, even if true acceptance feels out of reach.

- **The Zen Master:** Repeat to yourself, "It's about the contact, not the confirmation." Naturally, you'll still check your LoTW log right away.
- **The Equipment Distraction:** Start a new project. Build an 80M vertical. Spend hours troubleshooting a minor noise-floor issue. Do anything to stop staring at the 'Unconfirmed' column.
- **The Submission Summit:** When you finally reach your goal, submit your application right away. After all that stress, you now get to experience a new kind of anxiety—waiting for the ARRL to approve your application.

As a DXer, you belong to a passionate community that understands the unique excitement and challenges of long-distance radio communication. Few outside this group can fully appreciate the anticipation and perseverance required; your continued engagement exemplifies the distinctive spirit of the amateur radio community. So, embrace the journey and each new contact—and with that, I will personally continue my own quest by checking the mailbox once more.



It's time to pay 2026 membership dues.

Dues can be paid electronically at the [NADXC website](https://www.nadxc.org). Contact Jim, W1WSF (treasurer@nadxc.org) for information about other payment options.

How Much Power Reaches My 160m Antenna Fed with 300 Feet of Coax?

by Bruce Smith, AC4G

If you have visited my QTH and antenna farm, the first thing you notice as you approach my house is the distance from my shack to my 160m amateur radio transmit vertical antenna on my property. This distance is about 300 feet. This is based on the way my feedline is routed to the antenna from my ham shack. I have seen the google-eyes of almost every amateur radio operator visiting my QTH just stare at the distance of my run of coax from my shack to the 160m vertical antenna pondering the loss in their heads. The question we will analyze in this article is, “How much power is getting to my 160m transmit antenna?”

My 160m transmit antenna is near resonance at 1.825 MHz, and this article will focus only on RG-213 Coax and the length of coax which I have used as my choice of feedline for many years. My vertical antenna performance is fantastic. As I have explained to all visitors that question the distance of my transmit antenna to my shack, the distance is because I need my transmit antenna away from my 160m receive antennas and not causing interference with my receive antennas. I need my antennas away from noise generating sources. Low band operators know that spacing the “transmit” and “receive” antennas is a must.



Coax running from AC4G's 160m transmit antenna (L) to AC4G's shack (R)

How Much Power Reaches My 160m Antenna Fed with 300 Feet of Coax? (continued)

In my quest to determine how much power reached my 160m, I selected the frequency of my CW operations at 1.825 MHz for this analysis. My antenna or configuration of antenna is not a factor in this analysis.

Long feedlines are a fact of life for many amateurs - especially those with large rural lots, remote shacks, or antennas tucked deep into the woods. On 160 meters, where every dB counts, understanding coax loss becomes essential. I will take a practical look at **RG-213** over a **300-foot run** at **1.825 MHz**, and compare how much power reaches the antenna at three common transmitter levels: **5 W**, **100 W**, and **1000 W**.

The first step in my analysis is to find out how much loss does RG-213 have at 1.825 MHz? Using the standard attenuation model for RG-213 coax, the following formula is used.

$ATT (1.825 \text{ MHz}) = 0.164 \sqrt{f} + 0.00279 (f) \text{ (dB per 100 ft)} = .226$

At 1.825 MHz, this equates to approximately 0.226 (dB per 100 ft). For a 300-foot run: Total Loss = 0.226 times 3 = 0.678 dB which is less than 1 dB. This surprises many operators. HF coax loss is often much lower than expected, especially at the low end of the band. What does 0.678 dB of loss mean in terms of power? To convert dB loss into a power ratio, use the formula:

$P(\text{Loss}) = 10^{\text{Power (dB)}/10}$ [Note: 10 raised to the power of $-0.678/10$] = 0.853

So, this means that about 85.3% of power reaches the antenna, and 14.7% is lost as heat in my RG-213 coax.

The next question is how much power is

delivered to my transmit antenna? The table below shows how much power arrives at the antenna for three transmitter levels (5 W, 100 W, and 1000 W (kW)).

| Transmitter Power | Loss (0.678 dB) | Power Delivered | Power Lost |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 5 W | 14.7% | 4.27 W | 0.73 W |
| 100 W | 14.7% | 85.3 W | 14.7 W |
| 1000 W | 14.7% | 853 W | 147 W |

What is the key takeaway? Although the percentage loss is the same, the absolute watts lost scale with transmitter power is shown. At 1 kW, I'm heating the coax with nearly 150 watts and still safe for RG-213, but worth being aware of. Why does this matter on 160 Meters? This matters because:

- Low-band antennas are often far from the shack, making long feedlines unavoidable.
- Every fraction of a dB counts when chasing DX on 160.
- RG-213 performs very well at low HF, with losses far lower than at VHF/UHF.
- Even a 300-foot run only costs 0.678 dB, which is barely noticeable on-the-air.

In other words: my coax isn't the weak link. I just need additional power to be sent to the antenna to compensate for these losses. My noise-floor is the weakest link for my 160m station for receiving DX stations.

Yes, I am running a long feedline run on 160 meters. RG-213 has been and remains a solid, predictable, and cost-effective choice. Whether I'm QRP at 5 W or running the full gallon, the numbers show that most of my power is still making it to the antenna and my DXCC total shows some-

How Much Power Reaches My 160m Antenna Fed with 300 Feet of Coax? (continued)

thing is working well.

Since I have been using my RG-213 feedline since 2014, perhaps I need to consider upgrading to another variety of feedline such as LMR-400 or hardline. I'll need to run the numbers and do the electrical and economical analysis, but in

the meantime, I'll continue using RG-213 since I am still having success working DX stations that can receive my signal(s). My beverage receiving antennas helps tremendously to receive and lower the signal to noise ratio of incoming Top Band signals, making reception readable. "Why fix coax, if it isn't broken." You be the judge - just last week, I worked and confirmed a rare QSO with HS0ZNR (Thailand in Southeast Asia) on 160m, removing another country from my "Needs List".

How Narrow is Narrow Enough? An Investigation of WSPR-2 Spectral Width by R. Barry Johnson, W4WB and Gene Marcus, W3PM

Weak Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR) has become an important tool within the amateur radio community for observing HF propagation and long-term signal behavior. While originally intended as a propagation beacon mode, WSPR-2 and related ultra-narrowband digital modes are increasingly used as measurement tools for ionospheric Doppler, frequency stability, and fine-scale propagation studies. When used in this manner, the spectral width of the transmitted signal itself becomes a parameter of primary importance.

This investigation was motivated by a question posed by Gwyn Griffiths, G3ZIL: *What is the minimum obtainable spectral width of a WSPR-2 signal?* Addressing this question required separating propagation effects from transmitter behavior and examining the influence of reference stability and frequency-generation algorithms.

Over-the-Air Measurements

Initial measurements were conducted over the air on the 40-meter band using GPS-disciplined oscillators (GPSDOs) at both transmitter and receiver. Two paths were evaluated from W4WB's station in Huntsville, Alabama which had

a 10.3 km clear line-of-sight (LOS) path to a receiver at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and a longer 27 km path to W3PM's station with partial terrain obstruction.

During periods of low band occupancy, both paths produced nearly identical spectral widths of approximately 11.2 mHz, indicating that neither moderate terrain obstruction nor path length had a significant influence on the measured width under quiet conditions. As overall band activity increased, however, the measured spectral widths became more variable and, in some cases, significantly larger than expected. To better understand this behavior, time-correlated decoding results were examined using the WsprDaemon co-channel analysis tools¹, which provide insight into nearby and overlapping signals within the WSPR passband. This analysis revealed the presence of intermittent, closely spaced co-channel transmissions that were not always obvious from routine waterfall inspection but nonetheless contributed energy within the decoding bandwidth. These signals introduced apparent spectral broadening that did not originate in the transmitter or

How Narrow is Narrow Enough? (continued)

the propagation path itself. The observations illustrate that even weak or sporadic co-channel interference can materially distort milliHertz-level spectral width measurements, thereby limiting the reliability of over-the-air methods for establishing a minimum WSPR-2 spectral width.

From these observations it was concluded that, while over-the-air measurements can provide useful qualitative information, they are not well suited for establishing a reliable lower bound on spectral width, particularly on crowded HF bands.

Direct-Connect Measurement Model

To isolate the intrinsic behavior of the transmitter and receiver, testing was moved to a controlled direct-connect configuration. A ZachTek WSPR-TX XP Plus transmitter was connected directly to an RX888 MKII software defined receiver through a shielded precision attenuator system. This arrangement eliminated antennas, propagation effects, multipath, and external interference.

With both transmitter and receiver referenced to GPSDOs, the measured spectral width on 40 meters was consistently 11 mHz, with little variation over time. This value represents a practical baseline for the hardware and frequency-generation algorithms used in this study.

When the transmitter reference was changed to its internal 25 MHz temperature-compensated crystal oscillator (TCXO), the measured spectral width increased substantially, typically exceeding 80 mHz. These results indicate that transmitter reference stability is the dominant contributor to spectral width in this configuration.

Transmitter and Receiver Reference Stability

Additional measurements were performed to assess the relative influence of transmitter and

receiver reference sources. A pronounced asymmetry was observed:

- GPSDO transmitter and GPSDO receiver: approximately 11 mHz
- GPSDO transmitter and TCXO receiver: approximately 16 mHz
- TCXO transmitter and GPSDO receiver: approximately 82 mHz

While receiver reference stability does affect the observed spectral width, its influence is modest compared to that of the transmitter. For applications in which spectral width is a critical parameter, the results indicate that a GPS-disciplined Si5351 CMOS clock-based transmitter is considerably more important than a GPS-disciplined receiver.

Reference Frequency Selection

Most modern standalone WSPR transmitters employ the Si5351 clock generator. Although the device datasheet recommends reference frequencies in the 25–27 MHz range, GPSDO reference frequencies from 4 MHz to 27 MHz were evaluated in this study.

A 10 MHz reference consistently produced narrower spectral widths than references in the 25–27 MHz range. More unexpectedly, a 4 MHz reference produced the smallest spectral widths across all bands tested, in some cases by more than a factor of five relative to a 26 MHz reference.

While the underlying mechanism has not been fully characterized, the results suggest that interactions between fractional-N PLL synthesis, numerical rounding, and frequency-setting algorithms play a significant role. These findings indicate that reference frequency selection is a meaningful design parameter, rather than a purely implementation-driven choice.

How Narrow is Narrow Enough? (continued)

Fixed Frequency Versus Frequency Hopping

Standalone WSPR operation utilizes in-band frequency hopping as an option to mitigate persistent collisions. For spectral characterization, however, hopping introduces additional artifacts associated with PLL re-locking and settling behavior.

With a 4 MHz reference source, fixed-frequency operation produced an average spectral width of approximately 13.3 mHz, while in-band frequency hopping increased the average to approximately 17.8 mHz, an increase of roughly 30%. For measurements intended to characterize minimum spectral width, fixed-frequency operation is therefore preferred.

Algorithmic Precision and LUT-Based Frequency Synthesis

Discussions with Paul Elliott, WB6CXC, and Gwyn Griffiths, G3ZIL, clarified that the spectral widths observed in this study should not be interpreted as fundamental limits of WSPR-2, but rather as outcomes of specific firmware and algorithmic design choices.

Paul Elliott has developed a frequency-generation approach based on carefully constructed lookup tables (LUTs) that minimize frequency-setting error to the microhertz level. This approach is implemented in his WSPRSONDE transmitters, which support eight simultaneous WSPR or FST4W transmit channels, each producing approximately 1 W of output power when referenced to an external 10 MHz clock.

The WSPRSONDE employs square-wave outputs capable of operation from 1 to 60 MHz. For compliant operation, harmonic filtering is required and is typically provided by multiband filter-

combiner systems such as those manufactured by Turn Island Systems. This arrangement allows multiple simultaneous transmissions into a single multiband antenna while maintaining very high frequency stability.

This work demonstrates that FSK errors well below 1 μ Hz are achievable when sufficient numerical precision is employed. Whether integer arithmetic, floating-point arithmetic, or extended-precision methods are used is of secondary importance, provided the algorithm is allowed to converge to an adequately precise solution. Continuous-fraction and Farey-sequence methods, among others, can produce equivalent results when properly implemented.

By contrast, many existing standalone WSPR transmitters intentionally limit frequency-setting resolution to approximately 10 mHz. This level of resolution is entirely adequate for routine WSPR operation but becomes apparent when spectral width itself is under examination.

Signal-to-Noise Ratio and Microcontroller Effects

Additional measurements indicated that signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) is essentially uncorrelated with spectral width. Variations of up to 20 dB in SNR produced no measurable change in the observed width. Comparisons between 16-bit and 32-bit microcontrollers also showed no difference in computed synthesizer parameters when sufficient numerical precision was used.

Future Directions

The results of this investigation suggest that algorithmic precision, rather than fundamental hardware limitations, may define the next stage of improvement in WSPR-based measurements. Systematic exploration of LUT-based synthesis optimized specifically for spectral purity, alternative synthesizer architectures, and long-term GPSDO aging effects would be valuable areas for further study.

How Narrow is Narrow Enough? (continued)

Ultimately, the most relevant question may not be how narrow WSPR-2 signals can be made, but how narrow they must be to support specific scientific objectives. As WSPR continues to be applied as a precision measurement tool, defining those requirements will guide future transmitter and system design. In addition, our findings are also relevant to measurements using FST4W.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank Gwyn Griffiths, G3ZIL; Paul Elliott, WB6CXC; and Harry Zachrisson, SM7PNV, for valuable discussions and technical support.

References

- ¹ G. Griffiths, G3ZIL, *WsprDaemon: Automated WSPR Receiving, Decoding, and Analysis System*, including co-channel SNR and interference assessment panels, widely used for detailed WSPR signal evaluation.

My Callsign Car Badge Finally Arrived in the Mail ... AFTER 54 YEARS! by Gene Marcus, W3PM GM4YRE

It is said all good things come to those who wait. Never did I think that the wait would take 54 years. The story you are about to read involves the Scottish Highlands, mobile operation in a 1951 Bentley, some good luck, some bad luck, a long wait, and an unexpected happy ending.

Back in November 1969, I arrived at my new duty station, RAF Edzell, located in a rural area near the foothills of the Scottish Highlands. I was in the U.S. Navy at that time, and RAF Edzell was a former WW2 airbase that operated as a U.S. Navy intelligence and communications hub during the Cold War.

One of the first things I did after arriving was to locate the base's radio club. This was quite easy to do because the base was small and the club sported a two-element tri-band quad mounted on a 30-foot tower. It was there I learned the process to obtain a UK reciprocal amateur radio license to operate the Heathkit SB-101 transceiver that I brought with me or the club's Swan 250. After navigating through the necessary paperwork, I finally received the license and the call sign GM5AQM in January 1970.

GM5AQM Mobile

Using buses or hitching rides to get around the area was getting tiring, and it was time to look for a set of wheels. At this time, Kevin, GM5ARF, just received his license and was very eager to set up a station in the married quarters of the base where he was living. He had a 1951 Bentley and I had a SB-101 and a high end 35mm SLR camera with a set of lens changes. A trade was made. It was my lucky day!

Now that I had a car, thoughts of mobile operation entered my mind. The problem was I no longer had a rig. A Heathkit HW-32 mono-band 20-meter transceiver was soon ordered, built, and installed in the Bentley. A Hustler 20-meter mobile antenna was mounted on the rear bumper. Those were wonderful days, driving an old Bentley through the picturesque Scottish countryside while chasing DX on 20 meters. I wish I had photos of my mobile operation, but after the trade I no longer owned a camera.

Vintage car badges on 1950's and 60's British cars

At first, I never paid much attention to the

My Callsign Car Badge Finally Arrived in the Mail ... AFTER 54 YEARS! (continued)

set of car badges attached to the front of the car. Later, I became curious and made some inquiries. I discovered that the badges were very popular in the 50's and 60's and reflected the owner's membership in various clubs and associations. I suppose in today's vernacular you could refer to this as "car bling."

While reading the Radio Society of Great Britain's (RSGB's) monthly journal, *RadCom*, I noticed that they offered official personalized call sign car badges for their members. I am not a "bling" type person, but I was a RSGB member; I had a call sign and a car with room on a badge bar, so why not order one. A postal money order was secured, and I placed an order to have GM5AQM engraved on the badge. I knew it would take some time to make a personalized badge, so I patiently waited for the badge to arrive. Weeks soon turned into months, but the package never appeared. I became concerned and wrote to the RSGB twice inquiring about the status of my order. Perhaps the RSGB forwarded my correspondence to the company that was responsible for manufacturing the badge. Unfortunately, I never received any replies and eventually gave up hope of ever mounting the badge on my car. Life also got busy. I married a bonnie Scottish lassie, and we had two children. After my tour of duty ended, we moved back to the States and thoughts of the badge faded away.

Fast forward 53 years and a continent away...

Recently, while in an office waiting for my appointment to be called, I decided to pass the time on the internet. I recently learned that the UK amateur radio licensing authority was re-issuing the old G5 prefix block, so I did a search to see if

my old call sign was re-issued. Wow, did I get a surprise! To my astonishment, I popped an image of my long lost GM5AQM call sign car badge that was recently listed for sale in England on a popular auction site. It did not take me very long to make an offer to the seller and purchase the badge. Although the second purchase price of the badge was far higher than the first purchase price, the wait was definitely shorter. In a little more than a week the badge finally arrived! I felt like a kid at Christmas. I opened the package and there it was, the long-lost badge. It came as no surprise that it was in as new condition. After all, who would want to attach a car badge to their car with a personalized call sign belonging to some else? By the way, my old call sign was never re-issued.

I did try to determine where the badge was for all these past decades, but the seller bought the badge in a lot and did not know its history. There are many vintage car badge collectors in the UK, and my badge probably passed through many hands before it found its way home.

The Bentley is still in the family and is currently owned by my son Mark, KA3MZH. The badge is now firmly affixed in a place of honor on the car's badge bar where it was meant to go all those years ago. Mark still drives the car through the neighborhood but does not operate mobile. The Heathkit HW-32 and the Hustler 20-meter antenna are gone. A small mark on the car's back bumper where the antenna was mounted does



The official Radio
Society of Great Britain
GM5AQM car badge.

My Callsign Car Badge Finally Arrived in the Mail ... AFTER 54 YEARS! (continued)

remain, as do those wonderful memories of driving in the Highlands chasing DX on 20 meters.



The 1951 Bentley with the long-lost badge attached with Gene, W3PM and his son Mark, KA3MZH. Note the British registration number on the front of the car. The registration number was issued in 1951 and remains with the car forever. It is purely coincidental that it contains “73”, twice!

About the NADXC

2026 NADXC Officers and Directors

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| President | Bruce Smith, AC4G |
| Vice President | Fred Kepner, K3FRK |
| Sec./Treasurer | Jim Brown, W1WSF |
| Directors | Chuck Lewis, N4NM |
| | Mick Bell, N8AU |
| | Bob DePierre, K8KI (Ex-officio) |

How to Join

Come to a club meeting or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)

Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held at the Museum of Information Explosion at 6:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Participants can also join the meeting virtually via [Zoom](https://zoom.us).

This edition of The LongPath published by
Fred Kepner, K3FRK

Upcoming NADXC Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2026
5:45 PM doors open / 6:30 PM meeting start

Program: 9L8MD/9L9L DXpeditions to Sierra Leone by Steve Werner, AG4W

Location: Signals Museum of Information Explosion, 1806 University Drive NW, Huntsville, AL 35801 and via [Zoom](https://zoom.us)



Upcoming DX Contests

by Chuck Lewis, N4NM

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



Jan. 10, 0000Z to 2359Z
Exchange: RS plus serial number
See page 90, Jan. QST and www.ybdxcontest.com

BARTG RTTY Sprint, (DIG), 80 -10 meters



Jan. 24, 1200Z to Jan 25, 1200Z
Exchange: Serial no. only
See: page 90 Jan. QST & www.bartg.org.uk

NRAU-Baltic Contest (SSB), 80 & 40 meters



Jan. 11, 0630Z to 0830Z
Exchange: RS, Serial #, region/province/
Fylke/lan
See page 90, Jan. QST and www.nraubaltic.eu

REF French Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters



Jan 24, 0600Z to Jan 25, 1800Z
Exchange: RST plus serial no. (F stations
give Dept. ID)
See page 90, Jan. QST and [http://
concours.r-e-f.org](http://concours.r-e-f.org)

NRAU-Baltic Contest (CW), 80 & 40 meters



Jan. 11, 0900Z to 1100Z
Exchange: RS, Serial #, region/province/
Fylke/lan
See page 90, Jan. QST and www.nraubaltic.eu

UBA (Belgium) DX Contest (SSB), 80-10 meters



Jan 31, 1300Z to Feb 1, 1300Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus serial no.; ON sends
province
See page 90, Jan. QST and [www.uba.be/
en](http://www.uba.be/en)

DARC 10 Meter Contest, (CW/SSB), 10 meters



Jan. 11, 0900Z to 1059Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus serial No., DOK code
See page 90, Jan QST and www.darc.de



UKEICC 80M Contest, (CW), 80 meters

Jan 28, 2000Z to 2100Z
Exchange: 6-Char grid square
See www.ukeicc.com

HA DX Contest, (CW/SSB), 160-10 meters



Jan. 17, 1200Z to Jan 18, 1159Z
Exchange: RS(T) + S.N.; HA sends
County (two letter)
See page 90, Jan QST and [www.ha-
dx.com/en](http://www.ha-dx.com/en)



UKEICC 80M Contest, (SSB), 80 meters

Feb 4, 2000Z to 2100Z
Exchange: 6-Char grid square
See www.ukeicc.com

CQWW 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters



Jan 23, 2200Z to Jan 25, 2200Z
Exchange: RST + State/province; DX
send RST + CQ zone
See page 90, Jan. QST and www.cq160.com

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

Contest information acquired from: [http://
www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html](http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html)





DXpeditions in January 2026

Reprinted with permission of Bill Feidt, NG3K



| | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------------|--------|----------------|---|
| 2025 Dec22 | 2026 Jan15 | French Guiana | TO2FY | LoTW | By F4GPK fm Kourou (GJ35pe); 40 20 15 10m; SSB |
| 2025 Dec22 | 2026 Jan18 | Cambodia | XU7O | LoTW | By DL7BO; 160-6m, focus on low bands; CW SSB FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS or DL4WK |
| 2026 Jan01 | 2026 Feb16 | Grenada | J38WG | LoTW | By WE9G fm IOTA NA-024 (FK92ef); 160-6m; mainly FT8, some CW SSB; QSL via Club Log OQRS or WE9G (B/d) |
| 2026 Jan04 | 2026 Jan11 | Burkina Faso | XT2MAX | LoTW | By DK1MAX fm Ouagadougou; mainly 20-6m; CW SSB FT4 FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS or EA5GL |
| 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 Jan07 | 2026 Jan15 | Palau | T8 | Home Call | By JA6KYU as T88HS, JA6EGL as T88SM, JH6OPP as T88XE fm Koror; 160-6m; CW SSB AM FM |
| 2026 Jan10 | 2026 Jan15 | French Polynesia | FO | F6HCM (B/d) | By F6HCM as FO/F6HCM fm Bora Bora I (IOTA OC-067); HF |
| 2026 Jan10 | 2026 Jan22 | Lakshadweep Is | VU7RS | 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 |
| 2026 Jan11 | 2026 Jan29 | Aruba | P40AA | LoTW | By DL4MM; HF; CW FT8 SSB; QRV for CQ 160m Contest; QSL via DL4MM or Club Log OQRS |
| Postponed, now possibly in Sept 2026- March 2027 window | | San Felix & Ambrosio | 3G0XQ | M0URX | By remote team fm San Ambrosio I (IOTA SA-013); 160-10m; CW SSB FT8 w/ focus on CW and FT8; see Web for full QSL details |
| 2026 Jan13 | 2026 Jan21 | Sint Maarten | PJ7 | LoTW | By IZ2DPX as PJ7/IZ2DPX; also fm St Martin using FS/IZ2DPX /m; 60-6m; SSB FT4 FT8; 100w; vertical, dipoles; QSL via Club Log OQRS or IZ2DPX (B/d) |
| 2026 Jan13 | 2026 Feb10 | Desecheo I | KP5 | LoTW | By NP4G and team as KP5/NP3VI fm FK68gj; 160-6m, incl 60m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via M0OXO; dates unclear/approximate |
| 2026 Jan15 | 2026 Jan20 | French Polynesia | FO | F6HCM (B/d) | By F6HCM as FO/F6HCM fm Huahine I (IOTA OC-067); HF |
| 2026 Jan15 | 2026 Feb28 | Kenya | 5Z4 | LoTW | By OZ6ABL as 5Z4/OZ6ABL fm Watamu (LI06ap); 80-6m; CW SSB FT8 FT4; holiday style operation; QSL via OZ6ABL or Club Log OQRS |
| 2026 Jan18 | 2026 Jan24 | Maldives | 8Q7JI | LoTW | By DS1TUW fm Dhaalu Atoll; 80-10m; CW FT8; QSL via DS1TUW direct |
| 2026 Jan18 | 2026 Jan30 | Barbados | 8P9CB | LoTW | By WA7RAR fm Sea Cliff Cottage; 20-10m; SSB CW; QSL: Chris Billings, PO Box 1383, Shady Cove, Oregon, 97539, USA; SASE/green stamps NOT required |
| 2026 Jan18 | 2026 Feb08 | Rwanda | 9X2AW | M0OXO OQRS | By DF2WO fm Kigali; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8 FT4 |
| 2026 Jan19 | 2026 Jan26 | Maldives | 8Q7EL | IW5ELA | By IW5ELA fm Vaavu Atoll; HF; mainly CW; holiday style operation |
| 2026 Jan20 | 2026 Jan27 | French Polynesia | FO | F6HCM (B/d) | By F6HCM as FO/F6HCM fm Raiatea I (IOTA OC-067); HF |
| 2026 Jan20 | 2026 Feb10 | Guadeloupe | FG4KH | LoTW | By F1DUZ; 80-10m; SSB; QSL via F1DUZ (B/d) |



DXpeditions in January 2026

(continued)



| | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------------------|--------|------------------|---|
| 2026 Jan22 | 2026 Jan28 | Micronesia | V6 | Club Log OQRS | By JA1XGI as V6HUCHIDA fm Chuuk I (IOTA OC-011,QJ57wj); 160-10m; CW SSB + digital; QRV for CQ 160m CW |
| 2026 Jan22 | 2026 Mar31 | Curacao | PJ2 | LoTW | By W2APF as PJ2/W2APF; 80-10m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via W2APF direct |
| 2026 Jan20 | 2026 Jan27 | French Polynesia | FO | F6HCM (B/d) | By F6HCM as FO/F6HCM fm Maupiti I (IOTA OC-067); HF |
| 2026 Jan30 | 2026 Feb03 | St Kitts & Nevis | V47JA | LoTW | By W5JON fm Calypso Bay; 160-6m; SSB FT8; yagi, verticals; QSL also OK via W5JON direct |
| 2026 Feb04 | 2026 Mar09 | St Kitts & Nevis | V4 | LoTW | By K0YA as V4/K0YA and W5FCP as V4/W5RCP fm St Kitts; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8 FT4 |
| 2026 Feb05 | 2026 Feb20 | Sao Tome & Principe | S9BV | Club Log OQRS | By S53BV; 60 40 30 15m; CW SSB; holiday style operation |
| 2026 Feb06 | 2026 Feb19 | Cape Verde Is | D4VR | DDD0VR | By DD0VR; HF; QRP; Feb 6-11 fm Boa Vista I (IOTA AF-005); Feb 11-19 fm Sao Tiago I (IOTA AF-086) |
| 2026 Feb07 | 2026 Feb14 | Falkland Is | VP8TDX | Club Log OQRS | By NE8Z fm Port Stanley; 40-6m; CW FT8 FT4; windom antenna; QSL via NE8Z |



Club Business and Announcements



60th Anniversary Celebration

by Fred Kepner, K3FRK

The North Alabama DX Club will turn 60 years old in December 2026. To celebrate this milestone, a new series, *Signals from the Past*, will be included in every LongPath issue this year. The series will highlight historic club documents and past LongPath articles.

The NADXC Club would like to thank Johnny Winter, KR4F, long-time member and accomplished DXer, for the treasure trove of historic club documents he recently donated. The *Signals from*

the Past series would not be possible without his carefully saved and stored collection. Digital copies of each item have been created and are being sorted, organized, and archived for future reference and use by the club. Thank you Johnny!

This month's highlight, on pages 21 and 22, is a detailed history of the NADXC, written in 1982. We hope you enjoy this series throughout 2026. Let's find additional ways to celebrate our club, our past members, and our history this year.

December Meeting Minutes

by Jim Brown, W1WSF

The NADXC annual Christmas Dinner was held on December 10th at the Full Moon BBQ restaurant on University Drive, Huntsville. The dinner began with a full house at 6:00 P.M. President Bruce Smith, AC4G, called the meeting to order at about 6:50 P.M., after everyone had an opportunity to eat.

Bruce started by noting that the NADXC had a good year in 2025. He then thanked Steve Werner, AG4W, for his work on the Sierra Leone DXpedition. Steve will be discussing this activity during his presentation in January 2026.

Bruce highlighted club activities, including the sale of silent key equipment this year. He thanked the silent keys and their families for their generosity. He also thanked club members for providing technical help throughout the year, emphasizing our high caliber membership, which benefits everyone.

Bruce recognized Bob DePierre, K8KI, for

his work as Secretary/Treasurer in 2025. He then announced the leadership lineup for the next year: Bruce will continue as President, Fred Kepner, K3FRK, as Vice President, Chuck Lewis, N4NM, and Mick Bell, N8AU, as Directors. Jim Brown, W1WSF, was inducted as the new Secretary/Treasurer.

Following the announcement of new officers, the door prize drawing took place, with prizes awarded to seventeen members and their families.

After the prize drawings, contribution certificates were awarded to Steve Werner (AG4W), Wil Robertson (AI4QT), Rodney Durett (AK4PR), Kris Gibbs (K4NH), Zachary Rozar (K4ZSR), Bob DePierre (K8KI), Billy Gold (KM4BGF), Chuck Lewis (N4NM), Mike Rozar (N4CNZ), Don Bertram (N4SEI), Rob Suggs (NN4NT), Barry Johnson (W4WB), and Barry Barton (WA4HR).

Plaques were presented to the award win-

December Meeting Minutes (continued)

ners, as voted on earlier this year. The LongPath Article of the Year was awarded to Rob Suggs, NN4NT, for his August 2025 article, "How to Participate in the Meteor Scatter QSO Parties Starting August 11th."

Mark Clark was awarded Program of the Year for his November 2025 presentation on his DXpedition to Albania. Bruce Smith, AC4G, received the Dyer of the Year award. Fred Kepler, K3FRK, was awarded the 2025 President's Award for his work on behalf of the NADXC over

the past year. Bob DePeirre, K8KI, was recognized with an Honorary Lifetime Membership for his extensive service to the club and amateur radio.

Bruce noted that the W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention will be held in Pigeon Forge in September 2026. W4DXCC is seeking a volunteer to attend the Orlando Hamcation in February 2026 to sell tickets; members are encouraged to volunteer. Details will follow. Bruce also emphasized that, with the ARRL National Convention at the Huntsville Hamfest in 2026, the club should think about seeking a larger banquet venue to accommodate higher attendance.

The meeting was closed at 7:30 PM.

GigaParts
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Classes in January 2026

Register at [https://
events.gigaparts.com/](https://events.gigaparts.com/)



Amateur Radio Tech Topics: Choosing the Right Base Radio

Tue Jan 13, 2026 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

GigaParts Classroom, 6123 University Dr, Huntsville, 35806



Amateur Radio Tech Topics: Solar Activity by the Numbers

Tue Jan 20, 2026 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

GigaParts Store, 35806



Amateur Radio Tech Topics: Choosing the Right HT

Tue Jan 27, 2026 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

GigaParts Classroom, 6123 University Dr, Huntsville, 35806



Amateur Radio Tech Topics: Meteor Scatter Communications

Tue Feb 3, 2026 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

GigaParts Store, 35806

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2025 Final Financial Report

by Jim Brown, W1WSF

The NADXC finished the year in a strong financial position. Our spending was very close to the 2025 budget. Sales of silent key equipment donations brought in \$7,775, which was the biggest difference from what we expected. The only major change in expenses was for banquet food and the grand prize. Our club assets increased from \$10,888 to \$17,423. This puts us in a good place to improve our banquet and DXpedition donations in 2026. The next step will be for the Board of Directors to meet in January to review priorities and draft the new budget for approval at the February club meeting.

Balances

| | Jan-25 | Dec-25 |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Checking | \$ 5,833.38 | \$ 7,352.26 |
| Savings | \$ - | \$ 5.00 |
| CD | \$ 5,055.07 | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Paypal | \$ - | \$ 66.41 |
| Total | \$ 10,888.45 | \$ 17,423.67 |

NADXC 2025 End of Year Budget Report

| Category | Budget | Actual YTD | Delta |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Income | | | |
| Banquet Raffle | \$ 400 | \$ 282.89 | |
| Banquet Ticket Sales | \$ 4,100 | \$ 4,587.65 | |
| 2025 Club Dues | \$ 1,100 | \$ 1,012.54 | |
| 2026 Club Dues | | \$ 65.00 | |
| Donations - Equipment Sales | \$ - | \$ 7,775.00 | |
| Huntsville Hamfest Donation | \$ 500 | \$ 750.00 | |
| Total Income | \$ 6,100 | \$ 14,473.08 | \$8,373.08 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Awards | | | |
| ARRL Bricks | \$ - | \$ - | |
| Plaques | \$ 216 | \$ 261.60 | |
| Awards Subtotal | \$ 216 | \$ 261.60 | \$45.60 |
| Banquet | | | |
| Drinks | \$ 200 | \$ 193.19 | |
| Food | \$ 2,400 | \$ 2,949.91 | |
| Grand Prize | \$ 400 | \$ 523.15 | |
| Insurance | \$ 120 | \$ 106.00 | |
| Speaker room Travel | \$ 450 | \$ 400.00 | |
| Venue | \$ 700 | \$ 700.00 | |
| Banquet Subtotal | \$ 4,270 | \$ 4,872.25 | \$602.25 |
| Dxpeditons | \$ 1,800 | \$ 1,804.99 | \$4.99 |
| Operating Expenses | | | |
| Harc Zoom | \$ 50 | \$ 50.00 | |
| Museum Meetings | \$ 400 | \$ 400.00 | |
| Repeater Electricity | \$ 63 | \$ 116.00 | |
| Repeater Maintenance | \$ - | \$ - | |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 300 | \$ 112.00 | |
| Web Hosting | \$ 77 | \$ 76.28 | |
| 2026 Web Hosting | \$ - | \$ 16.49 | |
| Operating Expenses Subtotal | \$ 890 | \$ 770.77 | \$119.23 |
| Picnic | \$ 200 | \$ 228.25 | \$28.25 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 7,376 | \$ 7,937.86 | \$561.86 |
| Income - Expenses | \$1,276 | \$ 6,535.22 | \$7,811.22 |

Signals from the Past

HISTORY OF THE NORTH ALA DX CLUB

The North Alabama DX Club was organized in December of 1966 by a group of hams with a common interest, chasing DX. There were 12 charter members of this organization. The original Constitution was adopted and signed on December 19, 1966. The first chairman was Dan Whitsett, W4BRE and the first vice-chairman was Stu Brumett, WA4WA0.

The preamble to the Constitution reads as follows: "We, the undersigned, wishing to secure for ourselves the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons commonly interested in Amateur radio activities related to "DX" do constitute ourselves as the North Alabama DX Club and enact this constitution as our governing law. It shall be our purpose to further exchange of information and co-operation between members to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating proficiency."

The original charter reads as follows: We the undersigned, do hereby adopt the above stated constitution and by laws and testify ourselves to be the founding members of the North Alabama DX Club on this 19 th day of December, 1966.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dan Whitsett, W4BRE | Foy Guin, Jr, W4RLS |
| Stu Brumett, WA4WAO | William F. Christian, K4IKR |
| Oliver Carpethy, W4GRG | George Wagner, K9KBW/4 |
| Brenda Garlough, WA4HOM | R.H. Garlough, WA4GCS |
| William Gann, W4NML | William Crafts, K4KJD |
| Bobby Bynum, W4USM | Thomas Carney, WA4QVQ |

In 1982 there are only 3 of the original members still active in the NADXC. One of the original 12 is a silent key, Billy Craft, K4KJD. Over the years many members have come and gone. The present membership is over 50. It is interesting to note that some of the traditions started at the very beginning still exist, those being a summer picnic, and a Christmas Dinner.

In the early 70's the NADXC was custodian of the W4, K4 QSL Bureau. This was a tremendous undertaking and was a big job to be done monthly. All active members took a part in this but the club had a drop in membership and the job grew bigger so after about 3 years the club gave this up.

When the club was organized they met in member's homes on a rotation basis and this remained the same until about 3 years ago when the membership and attendance got to be too large for most homes. It was at this time the meetings changed to dinner meetings.

Signals from the Past (continued)

In January of 1977 the club bought the repeater WR4AOS from John Radcliff, WB4YKH. It is located on Redstone Arsenal on Weeden mountain and is licensed to the NADXC and Huntsville Madison County Civil Defense as a back up repeater. As the DX Club had operated for years on 147:31 simplex, the new repeater frequency 147.91/147:31 was chosen to cut down the number of crystals the members had to buy.

Sometime later, when the club received their new repeater call WR4AVG, we went to a standard split and our present frequency of 147.90/30. Bill Christian, K4IKR, was the first trustee of the NADXC repeater. The repeater now uses the call N4UV/R. The repeater has been a great source of help and has encouraged some folks from outlying areas to join the NADXC.

The NADXC operates a net each Wednesday night at 9 pm local time. Don Tunstill, WB4HOK, was the first net manager. Bill Christian, K4IKR, was manager for awhile and the present net manager is AA4AR, Bob Hill.

At the same time the weekly net was organized, Don Tunstill, WB4HOK, designed our first country and needs list. It was patterned after the Arkansas DX Club country and needs list. It was hand drawn and hand posted. Yes, hand posted. Copies were run off and handed out at each monthly meeting. In 1979, Donnie Christian, WD4IRY, wrote a computer program and put our country and needs list as we know it on a computer. As his job situation changed, Joe, W4UP, picked the program up with some minor revisions and has handled our print-outs and up-dates since.

In 1980, W6GNZ, started the monthly newsletter known as the Longpath. After, Bill Paige was transferred, Don Tunstill, WB4HOK, became the next and present editor.

The NADXC can boast of many things, one being the number of members with Extra Class licenses. Another being the the number of people being on the Honor Roll with one member having worked them all, and that being K4IKR, Bill Christian. Another thing to be proud of is the number of people with great technical knowledge always willing to share with anyone in need. Also, the number of people with knowledge and willingness to help with antenna jobs, etc. The greatest asset the NADXC has is its togetherness, the group has always been a very congenial group and so ready to help each other anytime.

We hope this information will be of interest to you and helpful. We hope you will have a long and pleasant association with the North Alabama DX Club.

2025 Christmas Dinner Photos by Christina Smith





**DX & Contest
Convention**

SEPTEMBER 19th, 2026



LeConte Hotel and Convention Center

(formerly The Mainstay—where it all began...)

410 Pine Mountain Road

Pigeon Forge, TN, 37863

Hotel Reservation 865-428-8350

www.W4DXCC.org

... to bring DXers and Contesters together in fellowship

Flea Market 8am-12pm behind the Hotel

Convention Starts 8am till 4pm

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 NADXC 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 on 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.