The LongPath

February 2026 — Volume 50 Issue 2 A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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Contributors:
AC4G
AG4W
N4NM
NG3K
W1WSF

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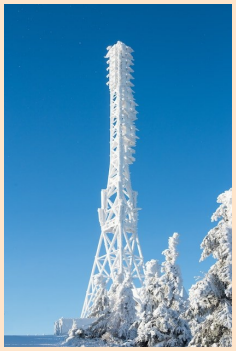


From the President

by Bruce Smith, AC4G

Winter Arrives with a Punch

January closed with a blast of ice and snow across southern Tennessee, northern Alabama, and much of the Southeast. Temperatures dipped to 11°F with highs stuck in the mid-20s, leaving many of us iced in for days. Hopefully everyone's antennas survived the storm without major damage.

CQWW 160m Contest: A Weekend of Extremes

I managed to get on the air Friday night for the CQWW 160-meter Contest and made steady progress despite weak European signals. A few EU and Caribbean stations made it into the log, along with plenty from North America.

Saturday evening was a different story. At 4:00 P.M. CST I attempted to resume operating, only to discover that freezing rain and sleet had coated every HF antenna on the property. My 160-meter vertical showed extremely high SWR across the band, shutting down any hope of additional European contacts. The ice didn't melt until well after the contest ended.

Board Activity & 2026 Budget Planning

Your NADXC Board of Directors has met several times since our last club meeting to prepare the 2026 budget. At our February 10 meeting, members will review and vote on the proposed budget, which includes:

- Increased support for major and minor DXpeditions
- Funding for club-sponsored events throughout the year
- Preparations for Huntsville's role as host of the National ARRL Convention
- Planning another outstanding DX Banquet, aligned with the National Convention

DXpeditions Heating Up Early in 2026

Several major DXpeditions are active or approaching:

- Desecheo Island – On the air now, operating low power from off-island equipment
- Bouvet Island (3Y0K) – Delayed two weeks; team currently in South Africa awaiting transport
- Lakshadweep Island (VU7RS) – Expected soon

And many more will follow throughout the year. Now is a great time to ensure your station is ready for new countries, bands, and modes.

From the President (continued)

February Club Meeting

Date: February 10
Time: 6:30 P.M. CST
Location: Signals Museum of Information Explosion
Address: 1806 University Dr, Huntsville, AL 35801
Zoom: Available for those unable to attend in person

This month's program features Dr. Barry Johnson, W4WB, presenting "Working DX Using a Scissors Jack." It promises to be a unique and informative session, and I'm looking forward to hearing Barry's insights.

I hope to see everyone at the meeting—either in person or on Zoom.

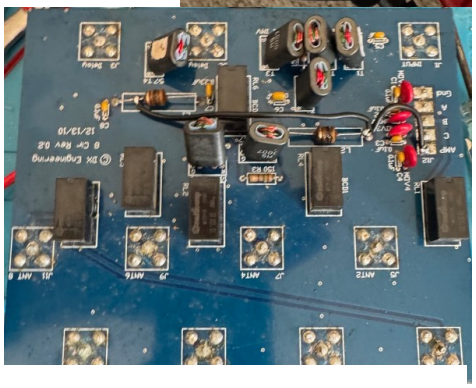
Winter Antenna Repairs

by Steve Werner, AG4W

Usually, I try to improve or repair antennas in the spring or fall. This year seems to be an exception. Both of my low band receive antennas were not working correctly. My 8 vertical receive array stopped working entirely. Last summer fire ants built a large mound under and around the control box that I sprayed multiple times. I thought they had just destroyed the power connector, so I replaced that. It didn't help. On January 4th I removed the control box, since it was a warm day. After opening the box and finding dirt and ants, the first objective was to clean everything. Although DX Engineering products are extremely high-performance and high quality products, they have one disadvantage. They don't provide schematics. I have worked on this antenna many times, so I am very familiar with how to troubleshoot it.

Fire ants were able to enter the control box and cause issues.

This time it was easier since I had my new portable ZOYI Oscilloscope / Multimeter / Function Generator that I reviewed in the September 2025 Longpath. The Control Box provides DC power and must route the RF Signals to the 8 vertical matching units at the verticals. My new tester could inject RF and I could follow it to the outputs and check for DC power. Two of

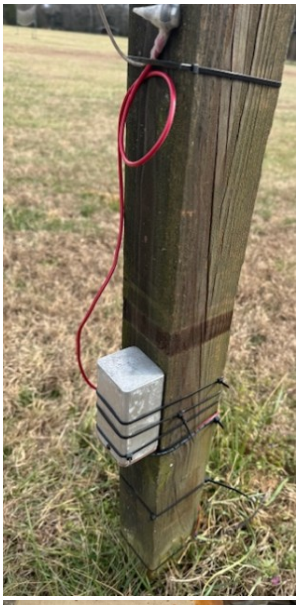


Top: ZOYI O-scope/MM/FG
Above: Control box wire jumpers

Winter Antenna Repairs (continued)

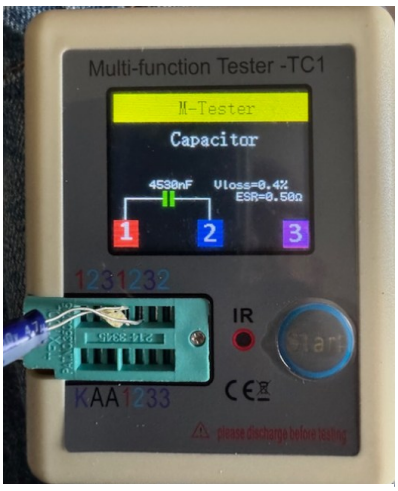
the traces were open from the power connector and were repaired with wire jumpers. On January 5th, I reinstalled the cleaned and tested Control Box. Two perfect antenna farming days over 50 degrees in January.

I also removed the load resistor control boxes from my two Beverage Antennas. I had used wood to cover the aluminum cans. They had been damaged from the weather. One was far worse than the other. Mike, KF4BOG had recently had a box 3D printed at the Huntsville downtown library so I took the opportunity to have him get 2 plastic pieces 3D printed for these switch boxes. They sure look better but I know they also will need replaced because PLA plastic does not hold up well outdoors. Just like the wood, the one in the shade will do better. Perhaps I can give the model to someone that has ASA or PETG which are recommended for UV stability and weather resistance.



The aluminum boxes were replaced, as well as the bad relay coils and capacitor.

The real problem was not the enclosure. The relay coil had failed in both boxes along with a capacitor in one box. My new $8.53 component tester found a bad capacitor. I expect both failed due to high voltage, due to close by lightning. Generally, the load resistors fail in the beverage antennas. The relay switches out the resistor to make the beverage bi-directional.



AG4W's component tester

It is important to keep all your antennas functioning. You never know when the opening of the year will show up or what band it will be on. We recently had one on January 21 at 0200 UTC on 6 meters. Bruce, AC4G called and texted while I was at school that KP5/NP3VI was on 6 meters. Bruce and I seem to swap who is not at home when we have a 6-meter opening. Most of the time, even if we race home, the opening is gone by the time we get home. This one was unusual because of the length of the opening and the unusually strong signals coming out of the Caribbean after dark. Several club members not only got the KP5 but also VP2MAA and PJ7/IZ2DPX. They were also new ones for me on 6 meters. I believe November 11, 2024 was the last time I got that many new ones in one day on 6 meters.

Upcoming NADXC Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
5:45 PM doors open / 6:30 PM meeting start

Program: Working DX Using a Scissors Jack by Barry Johnson, W4WB

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

World Wide Noise: The New Normal

by Jim Brown, W1WSF

You've saved for six months and finally open your new Gizmotron 1000 transceiver, with its bright waterfall screen and claims you'll hear even the faintest transmissions. If people lived on Mars, you might reach them with just a dipole. Everything is set; you power it on and tune to 80 meters...and the S-meter immediately jumps to S7.

At first, you hope it's just the ionosphere or sunspots, but you check, and the band conditions are fine. You turn off the pre-amp. Still S7. You turn off the radio. Still S7! (Just kidding) You first suspect the noise is local, probably coming from somewhere in your own home.

You act methodically: switching off each breaker while your wife checks for changes on the S-meter, then finally flipping the main. The house goes quiet. Sitting in your shack on a 12V battery, you watch the S-meter, but it only drops to S6.5. Maybe the UPS is to blame? You remove it, but the S-meter remains at S6.5.

The noise isn't from inside your house. Today, a higher noise floor is part of being a ham. Static is everywhere, brought by billions of gadgets. You paid for a better radio, but still hear noise from the 5G repeater down the street and your neighbor's Wi-Fi toaster. Glancing at the S-meter, you remember your old crystal radio—quieter, with fewer features but free from worldwide static.

For hams today, the ever-increasing noise floor is often the core obstacle to long-distance communication. This interference now comes mainly from man-made sources, such as electronic devices, as well as natural electromagnetic noise. Over the past 25 years, amateur frequencies have become clouded by this growing electronic din, making the true challenge not power, but the ability to hear weak signals through the noise fog. As the noise floor climbs, the range and performance of even the best receivers drop, directly impacting your ability to make contacts.

DX signals often reach your antenna with very low power, sometimes as little as −120 dBm to −140 dBm, which is just a fraction of a picowatt. To hear these signals, your receiver needs a minimum Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR), so the signal must be strong enough to overcome the background noise. If your noise floor goes up by S2 (12 decibels) because of a neighbor's LED lights, a 100-watt DX station you could hear before would now need 1,600 watts to be just as clear. High noise often makes DXers switch from voice or CW to digital modes like FT8, which can decode signals as weak as −24 dB SNR. Noise can create a one-way path, leading to the frustrating "Alligator" station (all mouth, no ears) even when the ionosphere is open. Imagine you have a 1kW amplifier, but your noise floor is S7. You send your signal loud and clear to a DX station in a quiet rural village in New Zealand. They hear you perfectly and give you a 59 report. But when they reply with 100 watts, their signal only reaches S3 at your antenna. With your noise floor at S7, you can't hear their S3 reply. The contact fails. You keep calling "CQ DX," but you can't hear anyone answer.

Before the mid-1990s, RFI usually came from things like car ignition systems, brush motors, and old fluorescent lights. Since then, energy-efficient, low-voltage devices have made Switch-Mode Power Supplies (SMPSs) common for AC-to-DC conversion. SMPSs work by quickly switching high currents, often at tens to hundreds of kHz. If

World Wide Noise: The New Normal (continued)

they are poorly designed or cheaply made, they don't filter noise well and send out broadband RF interference across the HF and lower VHF bands. With so many of these devices in every home, like LED lights, phone chargers, network switches, and computers, the noise floor in residential areas has gone up a lot, often by 10 to 20 dB (S2 to S4) on the lower bands.

This growing noise issue is at the heart of modern radio communications issues. The global spread of electronic devices now creates a pervasive "electrosmog" that is far more than just a local concern. Addressing the worldwide rise in noise floors is now crucial for every operator. The future of DXing—and amateur radio in general—depends on developing advanced, adaptive solutions to stay ahead of increasing RFI.

A promising new way to reduce noise is by using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) filtering, which works differently from traditional methods. Traditional Digital Signal Processing (DSP) uses fixed algorithms, such as Dynamic Noise Reduction (DNR), that rely on the statistical properties of noise and can sometimes produce unwanted effects. AI and machine learning systems are trained on large amounts of real amateur radio audio, including CW, SSB, various accents, and all kinds of RFI and QRN. They learn to tell the difference between the signals you want and the noise.

A video from the 2025 Hamvention, "RM Noise - Using AI to Remove Noise from CCB and CW Signals," (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I34cA3mTIII) shows a current AI-based system that demonstrates how machine learning could clean up amateur radio signals in real time.

Besides AI, advanced spatial and phasing techniques help reduce noise. Most DX signals come at low angles, while local noise arrives from various directions. Blocking noise before it reaches your receiver is best, often achieved by antenna separation. Antenna Noise Cancelers like the Timewave ANC 5 (expected early 2026) use a separate sense antenna to invert local noise and cancel it before it reaches your receiver's AGC. Directional receive-only arrays—magnetic loops, Beverage, and K9AY antennas—can further lower the noise floor, outperforming standard transmitting antennas.

Despite the overwhelming rise in the noise floor, DXing's future remains bright because the ongoing fight against noise is now driving innovation. DXers must act: embrace new, smarter technologies and focus on their role in a more connected, quieter spectrum. By experimenting and adapting as a community, we can ensure that making global contacts endures—no matter how noisy the world becomes.

North Alabama DX Club

It's time to pay 2026 membership dues.

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

Obscene Comments During DXpedition Operations on Ham Radio Spotting Clusters

by Bruce Smith, AC4G

For the DXer, achieving DXCC Honor Roll or other prestigious awards are some of many high honors an amateur radio operator can achieve. However, it requires hams to be adventurous and travel to exotic locations to activate rare DXCC entities. One of the rarest and expensive DXpeditions in history is coming up from Bouvet Island in late-February. Recently, a team of amateur radio operators from Puerto Rico and from around the world began activation of one of the top DXCC rare countries, Desecheo Island near Puerto Rico. It has been years since the last DXpedition occurred from Desecheo (KP5) and is high on the wanted list. However, there have been many negative comments on the spotting clusters like I have seen with other rare DXpeditions. I will be exploring some of the negative behavior with the amateur radio community, using this DXpedition as an example.

Why do ham operators exhibit negative behavior when a rare DXCC country is activated? This seems to be the case when any rare country is activated. The picture below is an example of the comments that can be seen on any given DX spotting cluster for any given DXpedition, but these are specific to the Desecheo DXpedition.

KP5/NP3VI	21203	KP5/NP3VI	15:30 24 Jan 26	"Europeans" as usual	Desecheo Island
KP5/NP3VI	21203	KP5/NP3VI	15:29 24 Jan 26	the dxpolice is hot garbage	Desecheo Island
EI4KF	14203	KP5/NP3VI	15:29 24 Jan 26	sex EU behave but what chance?	Desecheo Island
F-1964A-@	21203	KP5/NP3VI	15:28 24 Jan 26	Only cheater QSO Web no Signal	Desecheo Island
KP5/NP3VI	21203	KP5/NP3VI	15:28 24 Jan 26	the dx popo is a hot dumpster	Desecheo Island
KP5/NP3VI	21203	KP5/NP3VI	15:27 24 Jan 26	have you ever heard a dxpe on simplex	Desecheo Island
W9-@	2103	KP5/NP3VI	15:26 24 Jan 26	Pls end anonymous posting	Desecheo Island
DXLOSE-@-@	21203	KP5/NP3VI	15:23 24 Jan 26	FT8?	Desecheo Island
DXLOSE-@-@	21203	KP5/NP3VI	15:22 24 Jan 26	and you have the courage to criticize the FT8?	Desecheo Island
KP5-@	21300	KP5/NP3VI	15:14 24 Jan 26	declare how is down!!!	Desecheo Island
TEAMDX-@	21203	KP5/NP3VI	15:12 24 Jan 26	RUSIAN QRM IS FROM UK/ØST eu .	Desecheo Island
LB3RE-@	21203	KP5/NP3VI	15:10 24 Jan 26	Lsn 23 KC down	Desecheo Island
YT9A	21202.9	KP5/NP3VI	15:09 24 Jan 26	QSX 21180.	Desecheo Island
DX4EU-@	21203	KP5/NP3VI	15:09 24 Jan 26	Not a Pip on 4 Elm Mono !!!	Desecheo Island

Other DXpeditions of the past, such as Bouvet Island, Peter 1, Crozet Island, and other rare countries in the top 25 "Most Wanted" DXCC entities also had ham radio DX operators exhibiting the same or similar behavior. DXpeditions of yester-year had similar behavior from ham radio operators worldwide, but operators did not

Left: A typical example of negative cluster comments

Obscene Comments During DXpedition Operations on Ham Radio Spotting Clusters (continued)

voice their terrible behavior as seen these days. DXpeditions years ago did not use world-wide internet clusters because they were unavailable; therefore, behavior was unfortunately acted out on the air.

Ham radio DX spotting clusters play a vital role in connecting amateur radio operators worldwide, allowing DX enthusiasts to make contacts or all time new QSOs (ATNOs) or band modes and slots with a new DXCC country. These clusters serve as virtual meeting points, helping operators chase rare countries and expand their logbooks. Ham operators provide frequency and mode info about where to receive the transmissions from the rare DX team. This allows a chance for low power, non-experienced hams to make a QSO. Having "ears" from all over the world to share this pertinent information for making a QSO makes the experience much easier. However, alongside the excitement of DXpedition operations, a troubling trend has emerged: the prevalence of obscene or hostile comments posted on these platforms.

There are several reasons why DXpeditions seem to attract a disproportionate number of negative remarks. First, the high level of competition for rare contacts can lead to frustration when operators feel they are being repeatedly "missed" or "overlooked." This frustration sometimes boils over into inappropriate language or personal attacks, especially when pileups are poorly managed or when operators perceive favoritism. Many times, it is because of a language barrier.

For example, users might post derogatory remarks such as, "Working their buddies first," "This DXpedition is a joke—nobody but their friends get through," or use vulgarities like "What a &%$# mess, operators don't have a clue" or "NA Greenhorns!"

The real-time, anonymous nature of many spotting clusters also makes it easier for individuals to vent without immediate consequences, amplifying the problem. It's not uncommon to see messages filled with all-caps shouting insults directed at the DXpedition team, or even other hams: "LID ops ruining everything AGAIN!" or "Why don't you all just quit if you can't do your job?" or "Working only &$##ing NA!" From my observations, the current Desecheo team has been working hard to effectively manage their pileups and work the difficult to hear distant DX stations.

Additionally, DXpeditions often operate from remote or challenging locations, where technical difficulties, propagation issues, and limited operator resources can hinder smooth operations. The current team is operating without any HF amplifiers using a low power, 100-watt transceiver, perhaps making reception on the other side of the globe very difficult. When communication is unclear or mismanaged, it can further promote tempers among those waiting for a chance to make contact. Some users, emboldened by the lack of moderation or accountability, may post obscene comments simply to provoke reactions or express dissatisfaction. For instance, when a station goes silent due to a technical glitch, cluster posts quickly hit the clusters and devolve into sarcasm or attacks, such as, "Of course they disappeared, just like their skills!" or even explicit rants questioning the team's competence or intent. While this has not been the case with the current Desecheo activation, several recent DXpeditions, and many in the past, have not communicated well with the ham community.

Addressing this issue requires a combination of better understanding of the DXpedition equipment setup, which includes transceivers be-

Obscene Comments During DXpedition Operations on Ham Radio Spotting Clusters (continued)

ing used, if HF amplifiers are in use, and antenna types and configuration; moderation tools; clear community guidelines; and a renewed focus on the spirit of amateur radio. DXing, a facet of amateur radio, is a hobby rooted in cooperation, respect, and international goodwill. The DX Code of Conduct appears to be set aside when a DXCC entity such as Desecheo is activated and almost every ham operator needs it for their logbook.

By fostering a more positive environment and knowledge of the DX location and conditions, DX spotting clusters and amateur radio operators themselves can ensure that these remarkable global events remain enjoyable for all participants. The current team is undeserving of the remarks seen on the cluster(s). Amateur radio DX operators are better than this. As a community, we should always exhibit good behavior so that the public will want to become a part of ham radio, not be run off from all the negative behavior that many operators exhibit today on DX spotting clusters.

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.

This edition of The LongPath published by Fred Kepner, K3FRK

Signals from the Past

As announced in last month's LongPath, we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the NADXC this year. In celebration, we will feature articles and documents from the club archives in every edition of the LongPath. This month's feature comes from the January 1981 edition of the LongPath.

FROM THE PREZ.....

Well, here it is.....1981 already. Sure hope this year brings as much good DX as 1980 has provided for us. It is looking good, with VKØ coming up soon and would you believe a BY ? ? ? I wish all of you a super year of DX and look forward to lots of fun "chasing that elusive DX."

Johnny and I have been busy trying to get committees staffed and ready to efficently serve the club members. I have really been impressed with the willingness of members to take on responsibility. So far, 17 members have agreed to various tasks with a few positions still open.

You will notice we have a meeting schedule and agenda printed in the Longpath this month. This time schedule will be followed so that those who prefer not to eat will know when the meeting starts and everyone will know how long the meetings will last.

You will, also, find a proposed club budget for 1981. It has been put together by some of the committees and the club officers. Please, look it over carefully and come prepared to discuss it. It is a strawman budget and the ideas of all members are needed to develop the final budget. Remember, this is your club so make sure your view is represented in the meeting.

See "you all" on January 13th.

73's

Ed, K4KFH

FROM THE SECRETARY.....MEETING MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 1980

The North Alabama Dx Club meeting was held on November 11, 1980, at the Western Sizzlin on South Parkway. There were 39 members and 1 guest present.

Following the meal, the meeting was called to order at 7:28 p. m. by the President, Bill Lawson, W4DJJ. The President welcomed everyone and recognized a guest, Myra Cook, who attended with her husband, Rodger, KO4O.

The President memtioned that Lloyd Barnet, WB4RFZ, had designed a 5 Band DXCC log for keeping track of 5 Band DXCC. Lloyd had provided a number of copies of the log from for anyone who could use it. These were very popular and more were requested.

Due to problems with typing, the "Longpath" was passed out at the meeting instead of being mailed.

The Secretary's report was read and approved as read as was a Treasurer's report which is attached to the minutes.

Don, WA4VLB, urged everyone who is planning to attend the Christmas party to let him know as soon as possible and get your check in also.

Tom, N4KG, gave a brief talk on the effect on height on radiation resistance and gain of an 80 meter dipole.

Next was the election of club officers for 1981. Lee, K4MG, tje Chairman of the nominating committee, and Bill, WB4PAB, passed out the ballots. Sherrie, N4CWL, requested that her name be withdrawn for the nomination for Secretary/ Treasurer. The nominees were: President - Josh Kelly, N4AVB, and Ed Clark, K4KFH; and Johnny Winter, KR4F, for Secretary/Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor. The votes were counted by Lee, K4MG, and Bill, WB4PAB. The result of the vote was for President, Josh Kelly - 17, Ed Clark, 22. For Secretary/Treasurer, Johnny Winter - 39.

The President asked if there was any other business before closing the meeting. Bill, N4UV, made a motion that after due notice, all members who have not paid their assessment be removed from the club rolls. Motion was seconded by Tinker, KX4U. There was considerable, lively discussion not all confined to the motion. A call for the question was made, and a written vote was taken. The motion failed to get the 3/4 vote required.

Dave, K4TO, made a motion to eliminate the club monthly "Longpath" to clininate the need for regular assessments. Bob, W4USM, seconded the motion. The vote was 2 for the motion, 37 against.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully,

Ed Clark, K4KFH
Secretary/Treasurer

HUMDINGER.....A Biographical Sketch of North Alabama DX Club Member, WB4PAB, Bill Henry, by Don Neville, K 4 Rompin Stumpin Bugger.

Willian R. (Bill) Henry, WB4PAB, one of our very active DXERS, has 299 countries confirmed by ARRL. Bill is anxiously awaiting card number 300.

Bill obtained his first amateur license in 1969. His present station consist of a new Drake TR7 station, SB-220, and a Wilson System I tri-bander. Bill has a 60 foot foldover tower. On two meter FM, Bill uses a FT-227R and a Kenwood TR-2400.

In addition to DXCC, Bill has also worked 5BWAS.

Bill was born in Maryville, Tennessee. He grew up in Florence, Alabama. After high school, he enrolled at Auburn University. But, along came World War II and his studies were interrupted. He joined the Army Air Corp and served with the 8th Air Force as a navigator on a B-24 Liberator. He was attached to the 445th Bomb Group at Tivetshall, near Norwich, England. He completed 35 combat missions over Europe before returning home. Bill went back to school at Aurburn and completed his ME degree. He accepted a job with Redstone Arsenal and moved to Huntsville in 1950.

Bill and his wife, Ruth, have two sons. They are Bill, Jr., an Industrial Engineer living in Utah and Sam, AC4U, an Electrial Engineer currently taking his masters at the University of Tennessee.

Bills last assignment at Redstone was Chief, Post Engineer. This was a position he held for eight years until he retired in 1971.

Amateur Radio is only one of Bills interests and hobbies. He is a member of the Board of Directors and a Past President of the Von Braun Astronomical Society. He is, also, an artist who enjoys painting in oils. He is also interested in tracing family history and has traced his "roots" back to Patrick Henry. Bill and Ruth also enjoy traveling. They have traveled extensively both abroad and stateside.

Good Luck to WB4PAB on receiving that card number 300 and his climb to the DX Honor Roll.

73

Don Neville, K4RSB

...........Creels constant (This mathematical truth was developed by Bill Creel, N4UV. If mastored, passing of the Extra Class exam is a snap.)

---The Quantity which, when multiplied by, divided by, added to, or subtracted from the answer you get, gives you the answer you should have gotten.--------

* *

DX NETS

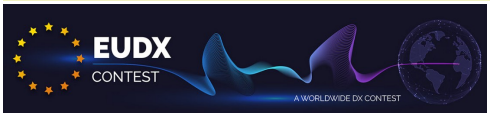
NET	FREQUENCY	TIME
W7PHO Family Hour	14,250-55	1500Z
W7PHO Family Hour	21,345	2330Z
W7PHO Family Hour	14,225	2300Z
W7PHO and WA2FIG	21,320	2330Z
Afrikaner Group	21,355	1700Z
DX to DX Group	21,280 MWF	1730Z
10 Meter DX Net	28,750	1200Z
P29JS--VK9NS Jim Smith	14,220	0630Z
Pacific DX Net	14,265 TuSa	0600Z
Arabian Nights	14,250 F	0500Z
WA2NHE	14,280	2200Z
WA2NHE	21,275	1800Z

* *

The following is a conversation overheard on 30 during the past few weeks. One of the Old Pros was expounding on his philosophy why such poor manners existed on the DX bands. The Old Pro says, "It is all frustration, frustration. Any DXER worth his salt knows that the cliche, Opportunity Only Knocks Once, is not true when it comes to chasing DX. It is the 15 to 20 years between knocks that are frustrating."

Upcoming DX Contests

by Chuck Lewis, N4NM



European Union DX Contest, (CW, SSB), 160 – 10 meters

Feb 7, 1200Z to Feb 8, 1200Z
Exchange: RS(T),ITU zone; EU Union sends union region
See page 73, Feb. QST and www.eudx-contest.com

Mexico RTTY International Contest, (DIG), 80-10 meters

Feb 7, 1200Z to Feb 8, 2359Z
Exchange: RST, Serial #; XE sends XE state
See page 73, Feb QST and rtty.fmre.mx

YLRL YL-OM Contest, (CW, SSB, DIG), all bands except WARC

Feb 13, 0000Z to Feb 14, 2329Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial, State, Province, Country
See page 73, Feb QST and www.ylrl.org

DARC FT4 contest, (DIG),80 & 40 meters

Feb 10, 11900Z to Feb 10, 2029Z
Exchange; RST, 4 char, grid square
See page 73, Feb QSt and www.darc.de

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

Feb 14, 0000Z to Feb 15, 2359Z
Exchange: RST & Serial No.
See page 73, Feb. QST and www.cqwpxrtty.com/rules.htm

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

Feb 14, 1100Z to Feb 14, 1300Z
Exchange: RST & serial #
See page 73, Feb. QST and www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt

KCJ Topband Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Feb 14, 1200Z to Feb 16, 1200Z
Exchange: RST + CQ zone; JA sends prefecture
See page 73, Feb QST and www.kcj-cw.com

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

Feb 14, 1200Z to Feb 15, 1200Z
Exchange: RS(T), + serial # or PA province
See page 73, Feb. QST and pacc.veron.nl

RSGB 1.8 MHz. Contest, 160 meters

Feb 14, 2000Z to Feb 14, 2300Z
Exchange: RST, Serial #. UK sends district code.
See page 73, Feb QST and www.rsgbcc.org

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

Feb 15, 1300Z to Feb 15, 1700Z
Exchange: RS(T) + Serial #
See page 73, Feb QST and www.bfra.bg

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

Feb 21, 0000Z to Feb 22, 2359Z
Exchange: RST plus State/Province; DX send RST plus pwr.
See page 73, Feb. QST and www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

Upcoming DX Contests (continued)

World Wide Argentina DX Contest,(CW, SSB), 80 – 10 meters

Feb 22, 0000Z to Feb 22, 2359Z
Exchange: RS(T), 4-char. grid square
See page 73, Feb. QST and world-wideargentina.com.ar (website down at time of LongPath publication)

CQ160 Meter Contest, (SSB), 160 meters

Feb 27, 2200Z to Mar 1, 2200Z
Exchange: RS & SP or CQ zone
See page 73, Feb QST, and www.cq160.com/rules.htm

REF French Contest (PH), 80-10 meters

Feb 21 0600Z to Feb 22, 1800Z
Exchange: RS plus Serial No.; F stns. send Dept.
See page 73, Feb. QST and https://concours.r-e-f.org/contest/

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

Feb 28, 1300Z to Mar 1, 1300Z
Exchange: RST plus Serial No.; ON stns. send province
See page 73 Feb. QST and www.uba.be/en

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

Mar 7, 0000Z to Mar 8, 2359Z
Exchange: RS plus State/Province; DX send RS plus pwr.
See www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW), 160 meters

Mar 14, 1500Z to Mar 15, 1500Z
Exchange: 4 Character Grid Square
See www.kkn.net/stew

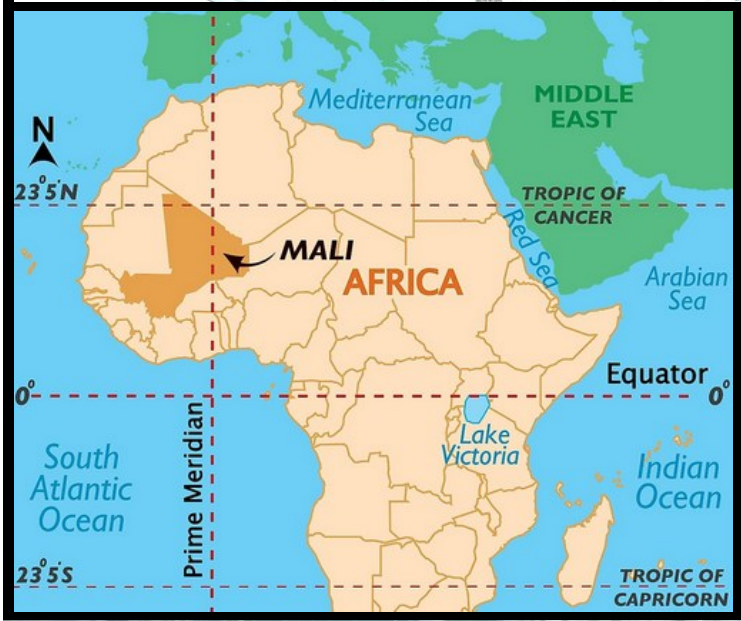
Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.
Contest information acquired from: http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

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 Jan12	2026 Feb10	Desecheo Island	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 Jan12	2026 Mar23	Martinique	FM	LoTW	By F6BWJ as FM/F6BWJ; 12 10m; CW; 100w; groundplane
2026 Jan15	2026 Feb23	Guyana	8R1TM	LoTW	By PY1SAD fm GJ06vs; 160-6m; CW SSB + digital; QSL via PY1SAD direct
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 Jan17	2026 Feb17	Tanzania	5H3DX	LoTW	By NK8O fm Dodoma; 30-10m; CW SSB PSK31 FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS or NK8O direct
2026 Jan20	2026 Feb10	Guadeloupe	FG4KH	LoTW	By F1DUZ; 80-10m; SSB; QSL via F1DUZ (B/d)
2026 Jan22	2026 Feb08	Rwanda	9X2AW	M0OXO OQRS	By DF2WO fm Kigali; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8 FT4
2026 Jan22	2026 Mar31	Curacao	PJ2	LoTW	By W2APF as PJ2/W2APF; 80-10m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via W2APF direct
2026 Jan26	2026 Mar04	Curacao	PJ2	eQSL	By PD1DRE as PJ2/PD1DRE fm Willemstad (IOTA SA-009, FK52nc); 40 20 10m; SSB FT8 FT4
2026 Feb01	2026 Feb27	Belize	V31DJ	LoTW	By W0CP; also K0ZV using V31DK; fm Placencia; 160-10m; CW SSB FT8 FT4; 800w; wires; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2026 Feb02	2026 Feb23	Mauritius	3B8	LoTW	By OE6MBG as 3B8/OE6MBG; focus on 80 40m; SSB CW; perhaps FT4 FT8
2026 Feb04	2026 Mar09	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	LoTW	By K0YA as V4/K0YA and W5RCX as V4/W5RCX 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 Island	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	LoTW	By NE8Z fm Port Stanley; 40-6m; CW SSB FT8 FT4; windom antenna; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2026 Feb07	2026 Feb21	Cambodia	XU7O	LoTW	By DL7BO; HF, w/ focus on low bands; QSL via Club Log OQRS or DL4WWK
2026 Feb08	2026 Feb14	Lakshadweep Islands	AU7RS	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 Feb10	2026 Feb17	Greenland	OX7AKT	LoTW	By OZ7AKT as fm Kangerlussuaq; 160-10m; SSB CW FT8
2026 Feb10	2026 Mar01	Mali	TZ1CE	LoTW	By DK1CE fm Bamako; 160-6m; SSB FT8; QSL via DK1CE
2026 Feb14	2026 Feb28	Falkland Islands	VP8TM	LoTW	By DC8TM fm IOTA SA-002; HF; SSB FT8; QSL via DC8TM (B/d)

DXpeditions in February 2026 (continued)

2026 Feb15	2026 Mar14	Bouvet Island	3Y0K	M0OXO	By LA7GIA and team; begin and end dates subject to change; see Web for full QSL details
2026 Feb19	2026 Feb21	Macao	XX9W	M0OXO	By EA1CJ EA1SA EA5BCQ EA5KA EA5KM EA7KE EA7R EA7X F2JD F8ATS F8GGV IK5RUN IN3ZNR JH4RHF fm OL62sd; 160-6m; CW SSB + digital
2026 Feb19	2026 Feb27	Guyana	8R1WA	LoTW	By IZ0EGA IZ0EVI IZ0EWJ IZ6DSQ; 160-6m; SSB FT8; QSL via IZ0EGA (B/d)
2026 Feb21	2026 Feb28	Barbados	8P9XB	VE2XB	By VE2XB; 160-6m; holiday style operation
2026 Feb21	2026 Mar07	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	LoTW	By WA7RAR as V4/WA7RAR fm St Kitts; 20-10m; SSB CW; QSL via WA7RAR direct
2026 Mar03	2026 Mar20	Anguilla	VP2E	LoTW	By SQ2RAD as VP2EAD, M0PLX fm IOTA NA-022 (FK88lf); 160-6m; CW SSB FT8



January Meeting Minutes and Financial Report

by Jim Brown, W1WSF

Bruce, AC4G, called the first meeting of 2026 to order at 6:30pm at the Signals Museum. There were 15 members and 3 guests present, along with 5 members online via Zoom. Bruce noted that the evening's speaker was our own Steve Werner, AG4W, who would speak about the Sierra Leone DXpedition he participated in. Bruce also introduced the club officers and announced the DXs worked by members over the last month.

Fred Kepner, K3FRK, showed the group the NADXC Honor Roll Plaques, which will be displayed in the museum. Fred also thanked Barry Johnson, W4WB, for writing the submission statement for the 12 issues of the LongPath submitted to the ARRL for consideration in the club newsletter contest.

It was reported that the old and new Secretary/Treasurer had presented the 2025 financial status to the Board of Directors (BOD). A vote on the 2025 budget report was taken and approved. A vote was also taken on the December 2025 minutes, and they were also approved. Bruce noted that dues are due and that members should contact Jim Brown, W1WSF, to ensure they are paid. It was reported that the BOD met in early January to discuss the 2026 budget and would meet again in January to complete a review. The budget will be reported to the membership in February, and a vote will be held on approving it. It was also reported that the NADXC is under significant pressure to increase the size of the 2026 banquet to accommodate the ARRL National Convention being held at the Huntsville Hamfest.

A discussion on the status of the NADXC 2M repeater was held. Chuck Lewis, N4NM, agreed to contact the property owners regarding the removal or repair of the tower damaged in May 2025. He will provide a report to the club.

Bruce reported that we are not going to sell tickets to the banquet at the February Hamcation, as we do not yet know the size of the venue that we will be using. The possibility of using the Elks Club was discussed. Jill Brown, K4TXT, is compiling a spreadsheet to present to the BOD on possible venue locations and costs. Bruce brought up the possibility of using the Rotor Rooter facility.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm, and Steve Werner gave a very interesting and informative presentation on the excitement and lessons learned from the Sierra Leone 9L8MD DXpedition, which took place on October 30 - November 10, 2025.

January 2026 Financial Report

Category	1/1/2026 - 1/31/2026
INCOME	
Club Dues	$346.41
Donations - Equipment to Sell	$40.00
TOTAL INCOME	$386.41
EXPENSES	
Museum Cost	$700.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	$700.00
OVERALL TOTAL	-$313.59

Proposed 2026 Club Budget

The club's Board of Directors has prepared the included 2026 proposed budget. This budget will be presented to the membership at the February 10th, 2026 meeting. Please review the budget and attend the meeting (in person or on Zoom) prepared with any questions or concerns. At the conclusion of the discussion, the club membership will hold a vote on whether or not to accept the proposed budget. As a reminder, voting rights are reserved for paid members. Please be sure to pay your 2026 dues prior to the meeting. Dues can be paid electronically on the NADXC website or to Jim, W1WSF at the meeting. Please contact Jim with any dues-related questions (treasurer@nadxc.org).

NADXC Balances (Current & Projected)

	Jan-26	Dec-26
Checking	$ 7,352.26	$ 5,425.94
Savings	$ 5.00	$ 5.00
CD	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,400.00
Paypal	$ 20.00	$ -
Total	$ 17,377.26	$ 15,830.94

2026 NADXC Proposed Budget

Category	Budget Amount	
Income		
Banquet Raffle	$ 300	
Banquet Ticket Sales	$ 4,950	
Club Dues	$ 920	
Donations - Equipment Sales	$ -	
Huntsville Hamfest Donation	$ 450	
From Avadian CD	$ -	
Total Income		$ 6,620
Expenses		
Awards		
ARRL Bricks	$ -	
Plaques	$ 315	
Awards Subtotal		$ 315
Banquet		
Drinks	$ 200	
Food	$ 2,980	
Grand Prize	$ 550	
Insurance	$ 120	
Speaker room Travel	$ 450	
PayPal Fee	$ 304	
Venue	$ 600	
Banquet Subtotal		$ 5,204
Dxpeditions		$ 2,000
Operating Expenses		
Harc Zoom	$ 50	
Museum Meetings	$ 700	
Web Hosting	$ 77	
Operating Expenses Total		$ 827
Picnic		$ 200
Total Expenses		$ 8,546
Difference		($1,926)

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.