The LongPath

March 2026 — Volume 50 Issue 3 A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Contents:

Contributors:
AC4G
AG4W
N4BCD
N4NM
NG3K
W1WSF

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From the President

by Bruce Smith, AC4G

Bouvet, Bouvet, Bouvet. We have heard this for many months since the last attempt where weather and ship maintenance forced a team to depart Bouvet Island. That's all I am thinking about these days - Bouvet. If you haven't heard, Bouvet Island, 3Y0K is active on the amateur bands. Already, some of our members have logged them on several HF bands and modes.

The NADXC club has been provided with a repeater to use since our 147.30 repeater is not operational due to the tower being bent and 2m antenna almost touching the ground. NARA has allowed our club to use the 147.180 repeater once located on Green Mountain, now relocated to Monte Sano Mountain. I say this to let you know that this repeater has been used quite a bit since Bouvet came on the air. Additionally, the owner of the property and tower, where our original repeater was located, may require some volunteers to help him lower his damaged equipment and install a new tower in its place.

The repeater is used for calling out and spotting frequency and modes for our members to be able to put Bouvet Island in their logbooks. Several members have been very active using the repeater and helping one another make these coveted QSOs. I invite you to use the 147.180 repeater to join in the conversation and spotting to help your fellow club members log an all-time new one (ATNO).

Spring seems to be coming with a furry with all these warm temperatures and fairly good weather. I have taken time to enjoy the outdoors and hope you have too. I have fabricated a new receive antenna in recent days and hope to share it with you in my article written for this month's Longpath newsletter.

I look forward to our meeting this month and I will be all ears to hear your stories about working Bouvet Island. Remember our meeting March 10 at the Signals Museum of Information Explosion, 1806 University Drive, Huntsville, AL 35801. Please make plans to attend as we will have a program following our business meeting.

Signals Museum of Information Explosion

The Multiplier Effect

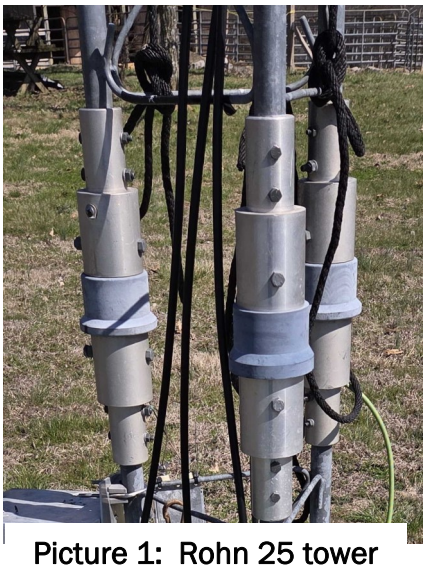
by Mark Brown, N4BCD

Overview

ON4UN's book *Low Band DXing* and other publications strongly suggest a vertical antenna for effective DX on the low bands. Those publications all preach the importance of a good radial field for antenna efficiency.

Several years ago, I toyed with the idea of a balloon launched vertical but the cost of helium and dubious longevity kept it on paper only.

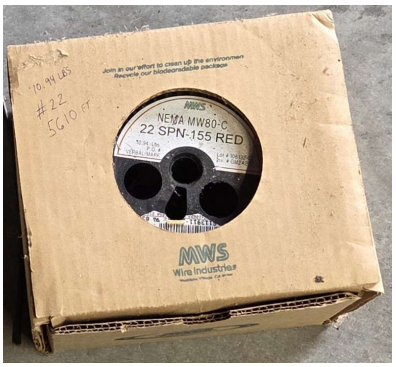
I bought 3 Rohn 25 tower insulators offered by East Texas Towers at Huntsville Hamfest a few years ago. They sat in a box until I decided to bite the bullet and build a real vertical antenna for 80m. Due to power lines, a 160m vertical was out of the question.



Picture 1: Rohn 25 tower insulators made by East Texas Towers

From the beginning, I resolved to use 64 radials. I upgraded from 4 to 12 radials on a 160m Inverted L at a previous home, and found the improvement remarkable, convincing me that more would be better.

I also had over a mile of wire available. At a previous job we sourced enameled copper wire from a company called MWS Wire Industries that sold spools by weight in a dozen different coatings. I purchased a spool of 22 ga enameled and they delivered 10.94 lbs. It was a little over $120 about 10 years ago; I can't imagine what it would cost today.



Picture 2: N4BCD's spool of wire

Design

The 43' guyed tower and beam were installed last fall, along with a robust lightning protection system consisting of six buried ground rods around the tower and 4-gauge solid copper bonding everything together and to the service entrance ground.

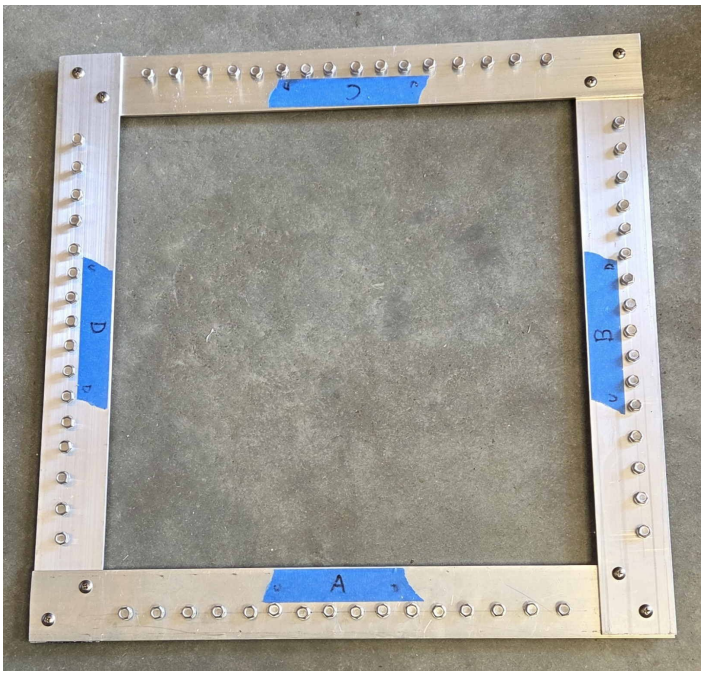
The tower base insulators are 2' above the concrete and the guy wires are broken up with compression insulators to be non-resonant on any band. A length was chosen that would provide capacitive loading.

The tower and lightning ground seem to be resonant (X=0) at 3.6 MHz but I'm unsure of R because the MFJ-259B analyzer might be susceptible to BCB interference. I'm planning to tune it at the base after the radials are installed.

Put off by the high price of commercial radial plates, I rolled my own. Lowes has 2" wide by 3' lengths of 1/8" thick aluminum strips. I bought two, cut them in half and constructed an 18" square. Clamps and a builder's square were used to keep things aligned during fabrication. I used a drill press in my father-in-law's shop to neatly drill the 64 tap holes for the 10-32 hex head stainless machine screws.

I measured the yard and had room for 31 full size radials. The garage, a dog fence, shed,

The Multiplier Effect (continued)



Picture 3: N4BCD constructed a radial plate from aluminum strips

and a few trees limit the others to less than 65'. Most of the remaining are over 50' with the shortest at 38'.

I used a spreadsheet to estimate radial wire needs and some geometry to set the spacing. I sourced 500 biodegradable spikes at the suggestion of Jim W1WSF.

Construction

On Monday, March 2nd, I fired up the mower and scalped the yard using a self-propelled push mower, then went over it again with the zero-turn mower to remove the clumps of dead grass.

To aid laying the radials accurately, I built jigs. I used a pre-measured rope for the radial length and a pipe to set the space between the radials at the 38' point, so my jigs would work all the way around the circle.

Picture 4: N4BCD made multiple passes with mowers to prepare the radial field

As of March 3rd, I have 10 radials installed. From the photo you can see that I'm doubling up on some of the 22 ga wire. Now that I'm up on the learning curve, they're going faster. I wanted to finish this article before Bruce's deadline.

The Multiplier Effect

Some of these radials came out of the ground at SK Tom N4KG's when DX Club members disassembled his station. I'm confident that Tom's collection of wire (he used everything from 10 ga THWN to 18 ga tin coated copper) will help move the S meter.

Picture 5 (left): N4BCD's radial plate has been installed and he has begun adding radials

Picture 6 (right): Radial wire collected from N4KG's station

"I Just Need to Run a Quick Test": A Ham Radio Operator's Guide to Ruining Every Family Vacation

by Jim Brown, W1WSF

Family vacations are meant for relaxing, sightseeing, and spending time together, a break from daily stress. For everyone else, it's a chance to unwind. For the ham radio operator, though, it's really a logistical mission in disguise.

Every ham operator knows that "I just need to run a quick test" actually means: "I'm about to turn this vacation into a four-hour antenna build, skip all the fun plans, and possibly start an international incident on 20 meters."

Here's how the quest for portability can ruin family peace.

It all starts with packing, when the ham operator has to explain why most of the luggage space is filled with wires, boxes, and metal poles.

- The Go-Kit Lie: You call the big plastic bin a 'lightweight kit.' Your spouse calls it 'a 100-watt rig, laptop, three batteries, and enough coax to wire the Eiffel Tower.'
- The Stealth Wire: You smuggle 200 feet of wire as an 'extra clothesline'—then string it across the resort pool to the horror of hotel staff.
- The HT Factor: Three HTs for VHF/UHF, odd bands, and insurance. Now you're less 'tourist,' more 'lost secret agent.'

When you arrive at your destination, whether it's a cozy cabin, a busy resort, or a packed RV park, your first priority isn't unpacking swimwear. It's doing the all-important site survey.

- The Balcony Battle: Who cares about sunsets? Balconies are for antennas. That railing looks like a great place for a mag mount antenna. After fifteen minutes, you're defeated by the decorative plastic railing.
- The Window Wire: You set up an end-fed half-wave antenna by taping the feed line to the window frame and running the wire—the 'clothesline'—to the nearest good-looking tree. When housekeeping walks in, they think you're either testing a new way to dry laundry or trying to catch ghosts.
- The QRM Culprit: Set up at last—only to find the only thing louder than the local QRM is the resort's pool pump. You spend an hour sneaking around trying to unplug it.

Vacation plans take a back seat to chasing that rare contact. You didn't come all this way to see the sights, but to be next to the operator you can never contact from home.

- The Beach Bum: Your spouse wants waves and sun. You pack QRP, mast, kite, and wire, muttering, "QRP, five watts, saltwater monopole" while the locals move their towels away.
- The Restaurant Log: date night, mid-toast, your phone beeps. "Did you hear what I said?" "Yes, but did you hear I just got a confirmation for a contact I made with EA8 from a taxi?" That's romance.
- The 'Emergency' Excursion: Every outing is at the mercy of the bands. "Museum? Maybe after 17 closes." The family's packed and ready; they all pray for static.

POTA Anyone? Your spouse is driving, admiring the scenery and hoping to get to the hotel before nightfall, while you have your phone out. "Honey, there's a wildlife management area only

A Ham Radio Operator's Guide to Ruining Every Family Vacation (continued)

25 miles out of the way where we can do a POTA activation.

The Final Break: "It's About the Contacts, Not the Location."

The vacation culminates in a final, tense moment in which the priorities are irrevocably exposed.

Spouse: "Darling, this beautiful mountain view point is incredible! We should take a picture of the scenery."

You: (Already unrolling coax) "One sec! If I get my POTA rig set up, this is a rare park! I might work DX's wanting this park."

You spend 15 minutes calling CQ, missing the view, the fading daylight, and the family glaring at you from 20 feet away. By the end of the trip, you won't have a great tan or charged batteries, but you'll have three new grid squares, the pool pump's secret as a broadband noise source, and a 59 contact 1,500 miles away.

And for you, that makes the vacation a success—until the urge strikes to run just one more quick test at the airport.

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

Satellite Tracking Control of Rotors

by Steve Werner, AG4W

For several years I have been trying to get the German Easy-Rotor-Control ERC-M rotor controller to work with my Yaesu G550 elevation rotor for my satellite and EME antennas. I finally gave up. I replaced it with an EA4TX ARS-USB controller from DX Engineering. They offered a discount coupon at HamCation that I used right after I got home from that great hamfest. It has several advantages over the ERC-M. It has a digital readout, which is nice. It is also a general purpose rotor control box, but it came preconfigured for the Yaesu rotors, like mine, that have an AC motor. Most of the newer rotors now use a DC motor, which is offered in a different controller model. The new controller requires just 12VDC. The ERC-M maintained use of the old analog controller. The EA4TX ARS-USB is a standalone rotor controller.

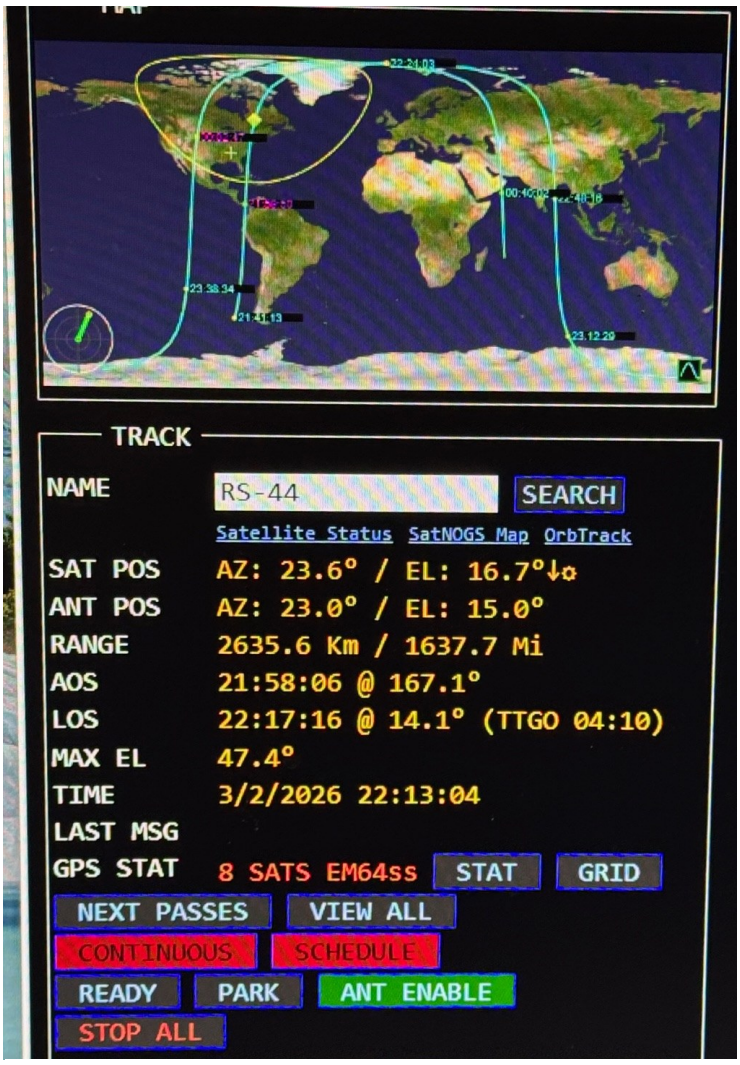
The ARS-USB provides a nice digital readout

Like most new equipment, I had to take the top cover off to make sure all the jumpers were configured right. I really wanted to look at their design approach. I had some problems with getting Windows 11 to work with the calibration program. EA4TX, Pablo provides excellent support. I can now track the moon and satellites using my S.A.T. controller to provide the data to the PST Rotor software for both Azimuth and Elevation, using the Spid rotor for azimuth and the Yaesu rotor for

Views of the inside of the ARS-USB controller

Satellite Tracking Control of Rotors (continued)

elevation. Many rotor control programs, like HRD, do not allow for the use of different rotor types for azimuth and elevation. It was exciting to finally see the rotors match the control program, automatically tracking the RS-44 satellite.



AG4W now has his antennas in sync with his satellite auto-tracking control program

EA4TX.com

Specs and information about EA4TX rotor interfaces can be found at https://ea4tx.com/en/categoria-producto/antenna-rotator-system/

Upcoming NADXC Meeting

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

Program: KH7AL/KH9 Activation of Wake Island by Allen Le Vie, KH7AL

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

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.

AC4G's Bouvet Island Secret Weapon Low Band Antenna

by Bruce Smith, AC4G

My career has led me through several directions in life, but the most notable was when I was able to work with and brief full bird colonels, one-, two-, and three-star Generals of our U.S. Military on specific subjects. However, most have limited time to be briefed; therefore, they always requested me to share the bottom line up front (BLUF) over my topics. The BLUF for this article is that if you have wanted a small receive antenna to help you achieve DXCC (100 countries) and more on the low bands (40m, 80m, and 160m), this article will explain and show you how to build the perfect, small footprint receive antenna.

Many of you know that I am a huge fan of operating on the amateur radio HF low bands. When I started operating 80m and 160m (Top Band), I had a misbelief that one antenna would do it all. Wrong! To operate on the low bands, one requires a transmit antenna and a receive antenna. I found this out when I started to "work" my very first DX station. I foolishly got on one of the two low bands only to hear nothing, but static and noise. Because of this, I researched many different receive antennas for my 80m and 160m operation. Years ago, I settled on using beverage antennas but knew the large footprint might not be suitable with my wife. Beverage antennas are not a fit-it-all solution, but most of the time, these 900 foot long beasts have done the job for me. This article discusses why I recently fabricated another receive antenna, especially since Bouvet Island DXpedition became active on-the-air as of March 1st, 2026.

As a result, I conducted extensive research into various receive antennas for my operations on 80m and 160m. Several years ago, I decided to utilize beverage antennas; however, I was aware that their considerable footprint might pose challenges with respect to suitability for my household.

Current beverage antenna at AC4G QTH (ugly and large footprint)

Some of you know that I have been most recently unhappy with my neighbor who installed an electric fence to keep their livestock in their small, fenced property. The fence charger is broadcasting lots of noise and a signal that is wiping me out to my Southeast. Because Bouvet Island is active and this noise, hash n trash is absolutely killing my reception of radio waves to my Southeast, I had to do something. Bouvet Island happens to be in the Southeast direction of my QTH.

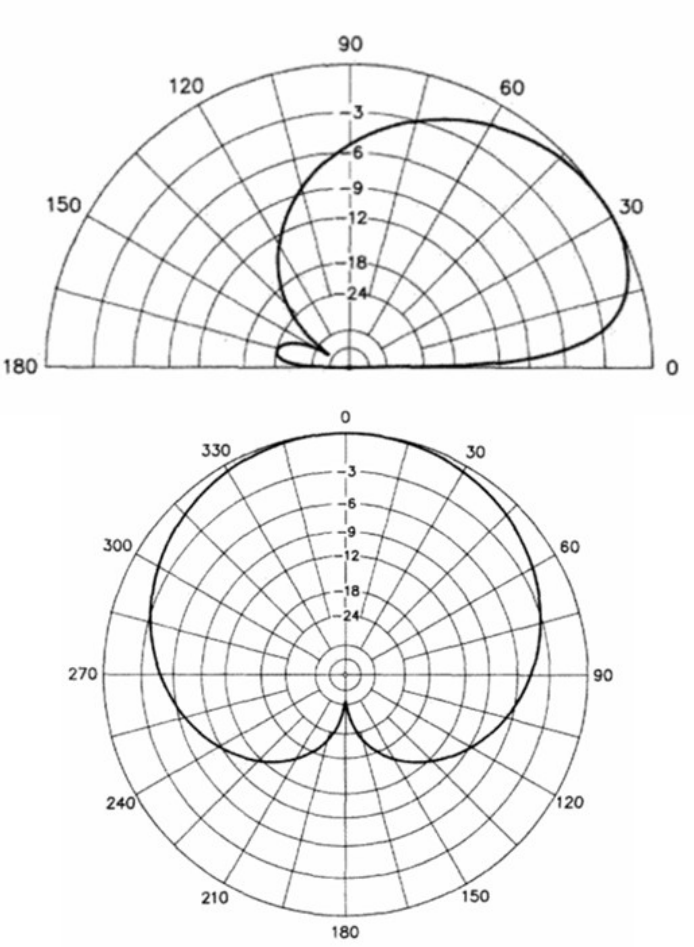
Knowing these facts, I began thinking about what type of receive antenna would counter this trash that is wiping my reception out. I felt I needed an antenna that was isolated and not tied to ground. I needed something simple, easy to build, but effective to knock out the trash and hash. I needed something with very low signal to noise (SNR). I wanted an antenna with a small footprint, but with great performance. After research, I came up with the pennant receiving antenna, for which little information is available in the ARRL's antenna books or the ARRL Handbook. ON4UN's *Low Band DXing* book has a small amount of information on the Triangular Loop Antenna (i.e. pennant). The internet also has limited

AC4G's Bouvet Island Secret Weapon Low Band Antenna (continued)

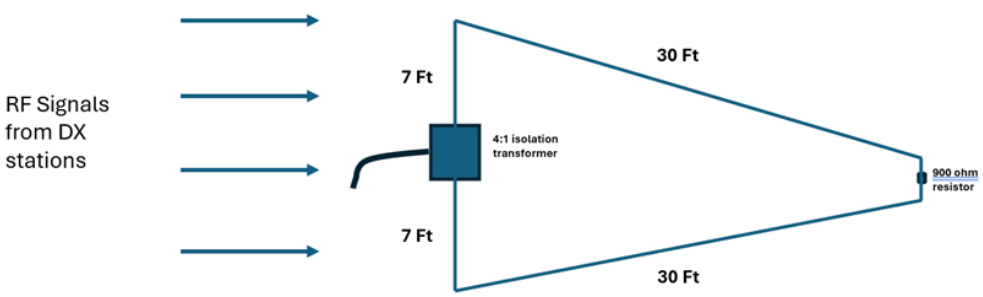
information.

The pennant antenna is isolated electrically from ground and requires a 4:1 isolation transformer. The transformer keeps the feed line electrically isolated from the rest of the antenna. The antenna has about 35 dB of signal loss as compared to our transmit antennas that pick up a lot of noise. The pennant is a small, low noise receiving antenna requiring a small amount of real estate to install. Pennant antennas perform almost as well as a 1000-foot beverage antenna. In 1998, EA3VY modeled the pennant antenna, an antenna elevated above the ground and independent of any ground connection. The triangle shaped antenna resembles the shape of a flag. It exhibits a front to back (F/B) of 23 dB on 160m with a cardioid shape azimuth pattern like an EWE antenna. The null at the rear of the antenna is a cardioid pattern of at least 20dB down from the front.

The antenna I chose to build is a Point-fed Pennant because it is fed at the front vertical leg of the antenna. The dimensions and termination value in this design have a 14-foot vertical section with the point of the pennant 30 feet from the vertical section. The bottom of the pennant is 1 to 3 feet above the ground, while the termination resistor is approximately 900 Ohms. Raising the antenna height from 1 foot to 25 feet has no effect on the pattern or feed point impedance. The rear of the cardioid pattern has a null that is 37.5 dB down from the front. Feed point resistance is ~860 - 950 Ohms with zero reactance. The following diagrams shows the elevation angle and azimuthal angle of this antenna.



Left: Diagram of the Pennant receive antenna (arrows show direction of incoming DX signals)



Top: Point-fed Pennant elevation plot over good ground

Above: Point-fed Pennant azimuthal plot at a 30 deg elevation angle over good ground

AC4G's Bouvet Island Secret Weapon Low Band Antenna (continued)

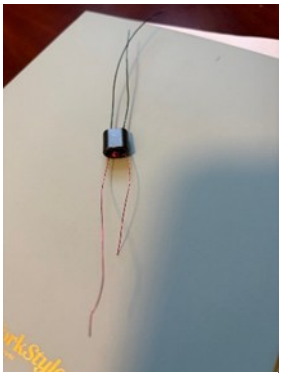
Let's look at the construction of my pennant antenna that I fabricated the week of March 1st. Below is the parts list for this project.

PARTS LIST:

- Two pieces of 37 foot long, 14-gauge stranded, insulated wire
- One BN-73-202 binocular ferrite core
- One 900-ohm, 5-watt resistor (I used two 470-ohm, 5-watt resistors in series [940-ohms])
- Two plastic boxes
- One F-type bulk connector
- Four 14-gauge #8 stud ring terminals
- Four stainless screws and lock nuts
- Enameled transformer-type 30-gauge wire
- Rope and insulators (as required)

Parts to build the Point-fed Pennant antenna

First, I had to wind the 4:1 isolation transformer using one BN-73-202 binocular ferrite core. This takes two separate enameled wires; one pair connected to the coax and the other to the antenna elements. Begin by tightly winding three turns of enameled wire around the middle core. Both ends of the wire must protrude from different holes of the same core. Pull them tight. Next, wind 12 turns of enameled (preferably a different color) wire around the same core, but from the other end so that these wires protrude from different holes on the same end. Refer to the picture for an example.

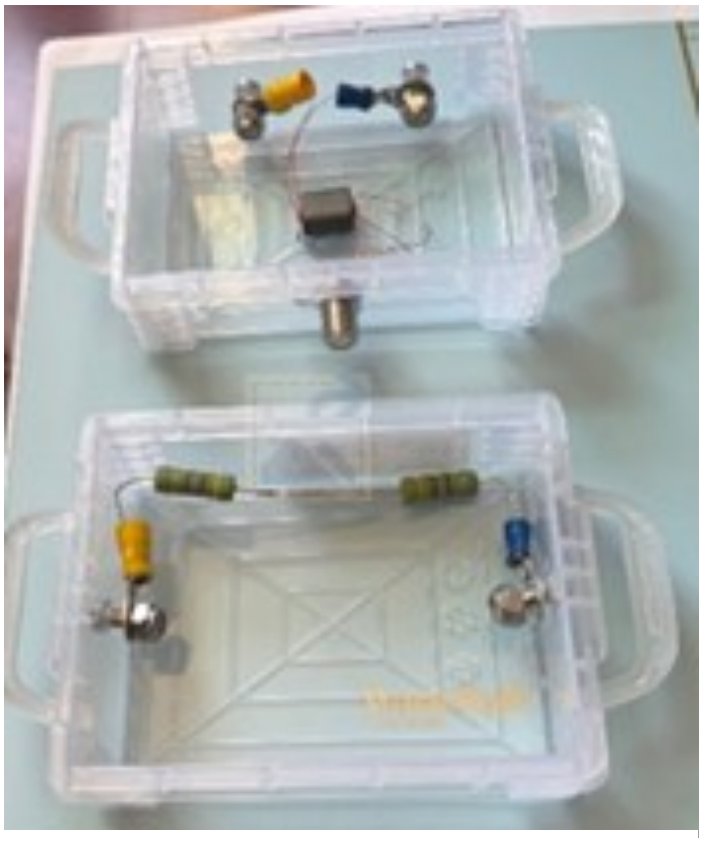


Completed 4:1 transformer

Next, two 470 Ohm resistors need to be soldered end-to-end, equaling a value of 940-ohm (preferred resistance is 900-ohm). Install these resistors in a plastic box with stainless screws to allow the ends of both 37 foot, 14-gauge wires to be connected. Install as shown in the picture at the lower end.

Resistors soldered end to end

AC4G's Bouvet Island Secret Weapon Low Band Antenna (continued)



Assembly of the resistor and transformer boxes for Point-fed Pennant antenna

The next step is to install the 4:1 Transformer and install it in the plastic box that will be placed on the opposite end of the antenna. Two wires wound around the ferrite core connect to the F-Type connector center that connects to the receiver. The other wire, with 12 turns wound around the ferrite core, connects to the 940-ohm resistor. Connect one lead from the ferrite core to the plastic box, which will connect to one of the 37 foot wires that connect to the transformer. Connect the other end of the resistor to the other 37 foot wire that connects to the other side of the transformer.

The antenna can now be erected as shown in the picture. I used PVC pipe as a frame to hold the antenna wire into the "pennant" shape. After erecting the antenna in the "pennant" triangular shape, connect the RG-6 cable TV feedline from the pennant antenna to the HF transceiver.

Assembled Pennant antenna (note the triangle shape – wires difficult to see)

Due to the lack of time, I was unable to connect my Rig Expert to the feedline to measure and plot the SWR. However, I connected the antenna to my HF rig tuned to 160m and later 80m before I made some on-air signal strength measurements and comparisons with my 900 foot beverage antenna. I first used my 900 foot beverage antenna and measured a signal coming in from VK6ABC in Western Australia. The beverage antenna received VK6ABC at minus 15 (-15) using FT8 digital mode on 80m, since the 160m band only had U.S. stations on the west coast U.S.A. Afterwards, I switched from the beverage antenna to my new pennant antenna with a flip of an antenna switch. The signal strength was surprising minus 5 (-5). I couldn't believe it received better than my beverage. The new pennant outperformed my 900 foot beverage antenna. I selected another DX station and similar results were observed.

The final exam was taken when I heard 3Y0K located on Bouvet Island tuned to 40m, specifically 7.010 MHz (CW) and 7.090 MHz

AC4G's Bouvet Island Secret Weapon Low Band Antenna (continued)

(FT8). On both CW and FT8, similar signal strengths were observed on my new home-made pennant antenna with performance as good as my 900 foot beverage antenna. Again, I was astonished by the performance of this antenna. I also received Bouvet Island DXpedition (3Y0K) on 80m, first on my 900 foot beverage at minus 16 (-16), then almost as well with this pennant antenna at minus 18 (-18). I know – I made an 80m QSO with them. One noteworthy observation was that I had almost zero noise on the pennant pointed at Bouvet Island through my neighbor, whose electric fence was causing me massive interference and noise to the South-east. For completeness, I must tell you that my beverage antenna had lots more noise caused by my neighbor's electric fence.

Was this a successful project? Indeed, it was! Not only was the noise immensely reduced on my new pennant antenna, but the signal strength was not jeopardized. The only preamp used was the built-in preamp in my HF transceiver and is recommended. The small footprint was very notable, especially to my wife. I hope the pennant antenna will perform when I need it to make a contact with 3Y0K.

For the DXer who does not have the real estate for a good receive low band antenna, I must recommend this antenna. Its footprint is only 37 feet long, 2 feet wide and 22 feet high and performs very well. Building two pennants and phasing them together will only improve performance. I hope the hams who thought operating on the low bands using a receive antenna was a pipe dream realize their dream can become a reality with the pennant. The construction is easy and uses simple items. It only took me four hours to cut wire, wind the transformer, build, and assemble this antenna. The most tedious part was winding the transformer. The footprint is surely small enough not to create an eye sore for the neighbors and spouse. I hope DXers can realize that DXCC on 80m and 160m can be achievable using a pennant antenna as described.

References:

ARRL Antenna Handbook
ON4UN Low Band DXing
DXEngineering Official Website

Signals from the Past

This month's feature comes from the June/July 1980 edition of the LongPath. Some of our members may have worked and remember the DXpeditions listed from Summer 1980. The issue also listed the top 20 most wanted entities by club members at that time. It would be interesting to see how that list compares to what our members need in 2026.

NORTH ALABAMA DX CLUB

LONGPATH

VOL 1 JUNE-JULY 1980 NUMBER 4

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the North Alabama DX club will be on Tuesday, September 09 1980. The club plans to have a picnic during the Summer break, so listen for further details on the 2 meter net.

LAST MEETING

Here is a summary of happenings of the May meeting:

* 29 members and three guests present.

* Lania Rivamonte was dinner guest of club in recognition for producing the "needs list".

* Roger Cook, KR40; who was voted into the club in April but not present, was welcomed by the President.

* K6GN2 and K4GJD were commended for their work on "Longpath" and membership/ mailing list respectively.

* K4XH reported on results of by laws/ constitution changes response John is expected to submit final changes at the September meeting.

* WB4HOK requested assistance from the club for the Hamfest. WA4VLB and KX4U volunteered to serve as a committee as club reps.

* N4KG gave another fine talk on propagation. Toms high country count on all bands is indicative of his knowledge on this subject.

Ed., K4KFH

* *

EDITORS NOTE

Ye ol Ed will be on vacation this time next month so this edition of Longpath will be for a 2 month pd. The next regular issue will be the August issue. A happy Summer time to all!!

Bill, K6GNZ

* *

DX NEWS

A9X Bahrain

Bob, A9XCX, is a new operator from Bahrain. Look for him Sundays on 21,335 MC from 1900 UTC on a list operation taken by WA3INA and N5IH. QSL to Bob McCreedie Box 702, Nanama, State of Bahrain, Arabian Gulf.

African Operations by W4MGN

Ed, W4MGN, is being sponsored by 1DXF. All bands and usual Dxpedition "splits"

Starting Dates	Prefix	QSL
20 Jun, 27 Jul	6W8	WA4VDE
23 Jun, 21 Jul	C5ACC	KB4GQ
3 Jul	TU	W2SQT
10 Jul	TY9ER	N200
14 Jul	5V7	WB2KXA
16 Jul	XT2AW	W2HAZ
19 Jul	TZ	K2UQ

- Continued Page 2 -

LONGPATH
is the official publication of the North Alabama DX Club:

President: Bill Lawson, W4DJJ
Sec-Tres : Ed Clark, K4KFH
Editor : Bill Paige, K6GNZ

DX NEWS

(Contd from page 1)

FH8 Mayotte

FH8CY is often near 14,220 KHZ from 0300 UTC, frequently in the company of IlKFB. QSL via Ref, Attn F5CY.

VK9Z Willis Isl

Be alert for VK9ZG who should be on the air about now. Graham, VK4AGM, expects to be there about 5 months. Steve, VK30T will also sign VK9ZG. QSL to VK30T with IRC or mint Australian stamps only.

St Sudan

6T1YP has been active recently on 10,15 and 20 meters. QSL to Box 80, Omdurman, Sudan.

5V7 ToGo

5V7HL and 5V7GE have been active on 15 and 20 meters recently. QSL to CBA.

JW Svalbard

JW9QH and JW2CF are expected to be on Svalbard for some time.

LU So Sandwich

LU3ZY is likely to be found on 14.264 or 14.290 MHZ from 2100 - 2200 UTC.

CR9 Macao

John, KP2A is expected to be on MACAO through 30 June. QSL to N2CW.

OX Greenland

Erik, OX3EA, is active and will QSY to 40 on request. QSL to DAC Box 1115 Dandas, Greenland.

Slim At Work

Slim is signing KB2DF/VP9 and K2GH/KV4. It is also suspected that the recent OPN from 3A8Z is Slim.

Heard Isl Update

Jim Smith, P29JS, reports that a 14 day Heard Isl operation this Winter is shaping up well. If everything falls into place, Heard should be dropped from the majority of "Wants" lists this winter.

A6X United Arab Emirates

John, A6XJA, is reported to be legal & has forwarded documentation to arrl. QSL to PAØLP.

Fr Juan De Nova

Gus Browning departed for Madagascar on June 4 with plans for Juan De Nova and Geyser Reef operations. Be alert.

DX CONTEST

June 21 - 22	All Asian Phone Contest
June 22	KSGB WAB LF Phone Contest
July 1	Canada Day Contest
July 5-6	Venezuelan Phone Contest
July 12-13	Iaru Radiosport
July 19-20	Seanet CW Contest
July 20	RSGB WAB CW Contest
July 26-27	Venezuelan CW Contest

TOP 20 MOST WANTED COUNTRIES

Following is the 20 most wanted list of our club:

1.	BY	China	(45)
2.	FB8W	Crozet	(43)
3.	VS9K	Kamaran	(43)
4.	XZ	Burma	(43)
5.	70	So Yemen	(42)
6.	3X	Guinea	(42)
7.	VKØ	Heard	(41)
8.	ZA	Albania	(41)
9.	XU	Khmar Rep	(41)
10	VU7	Andaman/Nicobar	(40)
11	CEØ	San Felix	(39)
12	FR7	Glorioso	(39)
13	VU7	Laccadives	(39)
14	S9	SAO Thome	(37)
15	UAI	Franz Josef	(37)
16	XV	Vietnam	(37)
17	4W	No Yemen	(37)
18	FR7	Juan De Nova, Europa	(36)
19	YA	Afghanistan	(35)
20	5X	Uganda	(34)

The numbers in () indicate the quantity of members as of the 9 May 80 wants list as amended by updates. Two countries, 5Z4 and 3CØ have been deleted.

PREZ SEZ

Summertime is here! School's out and Wednesday nite net attendance is down - Yep - it's summer! I guess the YLs of the club get the highlight this month - Tinker got her new extra class call - KX4U.... Jo McDonald got her "extra" on the first try in Miami...and Shari Cross upgraded to "Advance" during the Birmingham-hamfest!!! Ladies, our hats are off !!!!

Even tho DX propagation is a little puny right now, we have enough members in our club searcing the bands that produce a few good ones now and then. Much of the DX being called out on the repeater is coming from some of our newer members ...keep up the good work!

Increasing interest in CW DX is providing a lot of fun right now...and new countries. If you haven't tried it yet, give it some thought. You might like it! If you'd like to try it, but don't talk the language, let me know because there's plenty of CW experts in the club that will be glad to teach you the tricks - without publicity - Hi!

UPDATES
(Thru 6-11-80)

K4AEB	062, 126, 187, 190, 195, 271
N4AJZ	089, 114, 118, 136, 150, 155 160, 174, 184, 192, 205, 223 230, 253, 282, 295, 314
AA4AR	275
N4AVB	114, 182, 228, 274, 275, 281 317, 324
WD4CZF	049, 114, 175, 187, 192, 201 224, 228, 270, 275, 309
W4DJJ	275
WA4DPU	114, 275
KT4E	088, 114, 149, 163, 195, 201 226, 227, 251
WD4EFD	039, 181
KR4F	006, 057, 088, 195, 200, 208 251, 252, 258, 261, 297, 319
K6GN2	035, 114, 133, 200, 201
WB4HOK	045, 166
K4KFH	275
WA4LTG	003, 004, 114, 157, 315
WA4PAB	167, 273
WB4QXM	087, 240
K4RSB	167, 275
K4TO	006
KX4U	045, 114, 127, 132, 159, 167 183, 200, 219, 245, 274, 297
WB4VLB	002, 063, 114, 167, 200, 208 240, 253
WB4WOY	031, 041, 058, 071, 079, 088 107, 114, 117, 124, 200, 207 232, 247
K4XQ	114, 281
K4XR	149, 174, 175
AD4Y	172, 173, 174, 175
AK4Z	012, 025, 127
K4ZGB	087, 114, 167, 183, 201, 274 275, 315
K4ZWE	009, 103, 108, 140, 158, 252 258, 308

Upcoming DX Contests

by Chuck Lewis, N4NM

ARRL International DX Contest, (SSB), 160-10 Meters

Mar. 8, 0000Z to Mar. 9, 2359Z
Exchange: RS(T), State/Province; DX sends pwr
See page 79, Mar. QST and www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

FIRAC HF Contest, (CW), 80 – 10 Meters

Mar. 8,0700Z to Mar. 8, 1700Z
Exchange: RST, Serial #; FIRAC members add "F"
See page 79, Mar. QST and www.firac.de

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW), 160 Meters

Mar 14, 1500Z to Mar 15, 1500Z
Exchange: 4-Character grid square
See page 79, Mar. QST or http://www.kkn.net/stew/

Tesla Memorial HF CW Contest, (CW), 80 & 40 Meters

Mar 14, 1800Z to Mar, 15, 0559Z
Exchange: RST, Serial #, and 4-char. grid
See page 79, Mar. QST and http://www.radiosport.yu1srs.org.rs/HFTeslaMemorial/

YB DX RTTY Contest, (DIG), 80-20 Meters

Mar 14, 0000Z to Mar 14, 2359Z
Exchange: RST, Serial #
See page 79, Mar. QST and www.rtty.ybdxcontest.com

RSGB FT4 Contest, (DIG), 80-10 Meters

Mar 16, 2000Z to Mar 16, 2200Z
Exchange: RST
See page 79, Mar. QST and www.rsgbcc.org

BARTG HF RTTY Contest, (DIG), 80 – 10 Meters

Mar 21, 0200Z to Mar 23, 0159Z
Exchange: RST plus 3-digit S.N. plus 4-digit UTC time.
See page 79, Mar. QST or www.bartg.org.uk

Russian DX Contest (PH/CW), 160 - 10 Meters

Mar 21, 1200Z to Mar 22, 1200Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus serial #; or RS(T) + Oblast #
See page 79, Mar. QST or www.rdxc.org

UBA Spring Contest, SSB (PH), 80 Meters

Mar, 22, 0700Z to Mar 22, 1100Z
Exchange: RS, Serial, UBA section (if any)
See www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules

CQWW WPX Contest, SSB, (PH), 160 – 10 meters

Mar 28, 0000Z to Mar 29, 2359Z
Exchange: RS plus Serial #.
See page 79, Mar. QST or www.cqwpx.com/rules.htm

OTHERS

SP DX Contest 1500Z, April 4 to 1500Z April 5
OK1WC Memorial, 1630Z to 1729Z, Apr. 6

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

Contest information acquired from: http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html

DXpeditions in March 2026

Reprinted with permission of Bill Feidt, NG3K

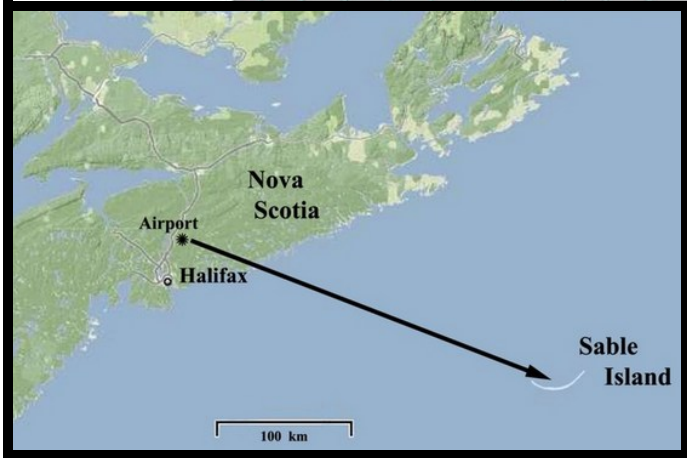
2026 Jan12	2026 Mar23	Martinique	FM	LoTW	By F6BWJ as FM/F6BWJ; 12 10m; CW; 100w; groundplane
2026 Jan22	2026 Mar31	Curacao	PJ2	LoTW	By W2APF as PJ2/W2APF; 80-10m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via W2APF direct
2026 Feb17	2026 Mar30	Mauritius	3B8G	VU3OPT	By VU3OPT fm LG89tx; 20 15 10m; CW
2026 Feb22	2026 Mar15	Guinea Bissau	J51A	LoTW	By DA1DX DK9IP DL8LAS DM5EE DM6EE fm Bijagos Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau (IOTA AF-020); HF, incl 60m; SSB CW FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2026 Feb26	2026 Apr15	Minami Torishima	JD1	JA8CJY	By JG8NQJ as JG8NQJ/JD1 fm IOTA OC-073 (QL64xg); 17 15 12m; mainly CW, some FT8; 50w; spare time operation; exact end date uncertain
2026 Feb28	2026 Mar12	Maldives	8Q7ZW	LoTW	By OM5ZW OM4WM fm Thulusdhoo I (IOTA AS-013); 160-10m, focus on low bands; CW SSB FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2026 Mar01	2026 Mar10	Maldives	8Q7AH	OE5AUH Direct	By OE5AUH fm Rasdhoo Atoll; HF; 100w QSL via eQSL
2026 Mar01	2026 Mar14	Bouvet I	3Y0K	M0OXO	By LA7GIA and team; begin and end dates subject to change; see Web for full QSL details
2026 Mar03	2026 Mar20	Anguilla	VP2E	Home Call (B/d)	By SQ2RAD as VP2EAD, M0PLX as VP2ELX, SP9FIH as VP2EWE fm IOTA NA-022 (FK88lf); 160-6m; CW SSB FT8
2026 Mar04	2026 Mar11	Cyprus SBA	ZC4C	LoTW	By GM6DX GM2TT GM2WW GM5YTT GM3JIM; 80-10m; CW SSB RTTY FT8 FT4; also ZC4Z; 2-3 stns
2026 Mar04	2026 Mar12	Philippines	DU6	See Info	By YT1AD as DU6/N9YU and YU3AA as DU6/NS3A; HF; CW SSB FT8 FT4; QSL DU6/N9YU via YT1AD, DU6/NS3A via YU3AA
2026 Mar04	2026 Mar19	Palau	T8OK	LoTW	By OK1BOA OK2ZA OK3RM OK6DJ; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; QSL via OK6DJ (B/d), Club Log OQRS
2026 Mar04	2026 Apr05	Benin	TY5FR	LoTW	By DL1BUG fm Cotonou; 80-10m; CW SSB; 100w; wire; QRV for ARRL DX CW; QSL via DL1BUG (B/d) or Club Log OQRS
2026 Mar07	2026 Mar12	Guadeloupe	FG	LoTW	By HB9JAB as FG/HB9JAB fm Grande-Terre; 20-10m; SSB FT8; 100w; wire antenna; QSL via eQSL
2026 Mar08	2026 Apr04	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	Club Log OQRS	By 40-6m; CW, some SSB; QSL via AA9A
2026 Mar10	2026 Mar18	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	LoTW	By W5JON fm Calypso Bay; 160-6m; SSB FT8; yagi, verticals; QSL also OK via W5JON direct
2026 Mar10	2026 Mar26	Dominica	J79H	LoTW	By TA2LE fm IOTA NA-101; 40-10m; CW SSB FT8 (f/h); 100w; QSL via M0OXO OQRS
2026 Mar11	2026 Mar16	Grenada	J38YI	G3VYI Direct	By G3VYI; HF; CW 90w; QRV for 89th RSGB BERU Contest; include return postage funds w/ QSL request
2026 Mar12	2026 Mar14	Cayman Is	ZF2VA	G4CWH	By G4CWH fm Savannah, Grand Cayman I; 80-10m; CW; QRV for RSGB BERU Contest

DXpeditions in March 2026 (continued)

2026 Mar13	2026 Mar15	Svalbard	JW8EKA	LA8EKA	By LA8EKA; @JW5E; 20-10m; SSB RTTY PSK31 FT8
2026 Mar13	2026 Mar16	Ogasawara	JD1	LoTW	By JA0RQV as JA0RQV/JD1; 80-6m; FT8 FT4 CW SSB; 100w; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2026 Mar13	2026 Mar17	Guam	KH2	See Info	By YT1AD as KH2/N9YU and YU3AA as KH2/NS3A; HF; CW SSB FT8 FT4; QSL KH2/N9YU via YT1AD, KH2/NS3A via YU3AA
2026 Mar13	2026 Mar20	Dominica	J79C	LoTW	By HB9JAB fm Roseau, La Plaine, and Calibishie; 20-10m; SSB FT8; 100w; wiere antenna; QSL via eQSL
2026 Mar13	2026 Mar25	Austral Is	TX5EU	LoTW	By PG5M PA3EWP DL2AMD PA2KW DK2AMM DL2AWG; 80-10m, incl 60m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; 3 stns, 24/7; QSL manager: DL2AWG (see Web)
2026 Mar14	2026 Mar22	Anguilla	VP2EYO	LoTW	By K5AYO; 40-10m; SSB FT8 CW; 15w; QSL via K5AYO direct or Club Log OQRS
2026 Mar15	2026 Apr03	Vanuatu	YJ1JXZ	LoTW	By JK1JXZ fm Port Vila; 80-6m
2026 Mar17	2026 Mar23	Mariana Is	KH0	See Info	By YT1AD as KH0/N9YU and YU3AA as KH0/NS3A; HF; CW SSB FT8 FT4; QSL KH0/N9YU via YT1AD, KH0/NS3A via YU3AA
2026 Mar18	2026 Mar24	Jamaica	6Y	LoTW	By JH6GFY as JH6GFY/6Y; 20-10m, perhaps 40m; CW SSB FT8 FT4; QSL via eQSL
2026 Mar18	2026 Mar25	Cape Verde Is	D44OA	LoTW	By HB9OAU; 40-6m; SSB CW FT8 RTTY; holiday style operation
2026 Mar18	2026 Mar31	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 Mar19	2026 Mar22	Ogasawara	JD1BON	LoTW	By JA1UII fm Chichijima I (IOTA AS-031); HF; QSL via JA1UII direct w/ SASE
2026 Mar19	2026 Mar31	Sable I	CY0S	LoTW	By WA4DAN W0GJ + ops; HF; QSL via Club Log OQRS or WA4DAN direct
2026 Mar20	2026 Mar27	Guadeloupe	FG	LoTW	By HB9JAB as FG/HB9JAB fm Base-Terre; 20-10m; SSB FT8; 100w; wire antenna; QSL via eQSL
2026 Mar20	2026 Apr01	Bangladesh	S21WD	LoTW	By DJ4MX DK6SP DL3ON M0SDV S21ABO S21TV fm IOTA AS-140; 160-10m, including 60m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; QRV for CQ WPX SSB
2026 Mar22	2026 Apr11	Samoa	5W0AF	LoTW	By SP5EAQ fm Apia; 40-10m, 80m in last week; SSB; QRV for CQ WPX SSB Contest; QSL via Buro
2026 Mar24	2026 Mar31	Bahamas	C6AFD	LoTW	By AD8FD fm Rock Sound, Eleuthera I (IOTA NA-001, FL14wu); 40-10m; SSB FT8; QRV for CQ WPX SSB
2026 Mar25	2026 Apr02	Martinique	FM	LoTW	By EA1BP as FM/EA1BP; HF; mainly SSB; QRV for WPX SSB using TO7O; QSL via EA1BP Buro and Club Log OQRS
2026 Mar26	2026 Mar30	Palau	T88KH	Club Log OQRS	By JP1RIW fm Koror I (IOTA OC-009, PJ77fi); 80-6m; SSB FT8; QRV for CQ WPX SSB

DXpeditions in March 2026 (continued)

2026 Mar28	2026 Apr11	Easter I	3G0EL	LoTW	By DJ4EL fm Rapa Nui (IOTA SA-001); 20-6m; mainly SSB; 800w; QSL via DJ4EL (B/d) or Club Log OQRS
2026 Mar30	2026 Apr06	Canary Is	EA8	LoTW	By DA2DX as EA8/DA2DX fm Fuerteventura I (IOTA AF-004); HF; CW SSB RTTY FT4 FT8; holiday style operation; QSL via Club Log OQRS or DA2DX direct (no EQSL, no Email QSL)
2026 Apr03	2026 May20	Rodrigues I	3B9N	VU3OPT	By VU3OPT; 20 15 10m; CW



Club Business and Announcements

February Meeting Minutes and Financial Report

by Jim Brown, W1WSF

Minutes

Bruce, AC4G, called the February 10 meeting to order at 6:30 pm at the Signals Museum. Eighteen members attended in person, with four joining online via Zoom. Bruce announced that Marcus Campbell had submitted a membership application and paid his 2026 dues. Marcus provided an overview of his DX activities and goals. The club voted unanimously to approve his membership.

Bruce reviewed the members' DX worked list. Most members reported working KP5, and several ATNOs were noted. KP5 has extended its DXpedition to March 3. Bouvet has been delayed until late February or early March.

Bruce reported that DK6SP requested a donation from NADXC for the S21WD DXpedition. This will be discussed at the next Board of Directors (BOD) meeting. Don, N4SEI, moved to approve last month's meeting minutes, and Kris, K4NH, seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Jim, W1WSF, reviewed the proposed 2026 budget published in the LongPath. The budget was approved as presented. The group discussed potential banquet caterers. Both Bubbas and Hartleys offer options within budget. Before a vote, Don, N4SEI, suggested considering Corralejos. Jill, K4TXT, agreed to contact Corralejos for a quote. Bruce stated that the BOD will select a vendor at the next meeting.

Bruce informed the group that NADXC has reserved a table at the 2026 Hamfest. As no SK equipment is available, members may use the table to sell their own equipment.

The meeting adjourned at 7 pm, followed by a presentation from Barry Johnson, W4WB, on the Cirro Mazzoni Stealth Antenna.

Financial Report

Dues for 25 members have been received so far this year. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so. Two major transactions were made in February. First, the down payment was made to Bubba's for the banquet food. Second, a donation was made to S21WD. This is a DXpedition to Bangladesh, scheduled for March 21 – April 1.

NADXCC Balances

	Jan-26	Expected 12-26	Feb-26	YTD Diff
Checking	$ 7,352.26	$ 5,426.26	$ 6,764.85	
Savings	$ 5.00	$ 5.00	$ 5.00	
CD	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,400.00	$ 10,000	
Paypal	$ 66.41	$ -	$ -	
Total	$ 17,423.67	$ 15,831.26	$ 16,769.85	($654)

2026 NADXC February Budget Report

Category	Budget	Feb	YTD
Income			
Banquet Raffle	$ 300	$ -	$ -
Banquet Ticket Sales	$ 4,950	$ -	$ -
Club Dues	$ 920	$ 120	$ 486
Donations - Equipment Sales	$ -	$ -	$ 40
Huntsville Hamfest Donation	$ 450	$ -	$ -
From Avadian CD	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Income	$ 6,620	$ 120	$ 526
Expenses			
Awards			
ARRL Bricks	$ -	$ -	$ -
Plaques	$ 315	$ 22	$ 33
Awards Subtotal	$ 315	$ 22	$ 33
Banquet			
Drinks	$ 200	$ -	$ -
Food	$ 2,980	$ 200	$ 200
Grand Prize	$ 550	$ -	$ -
Insurance	$ 120	$ -	$ -
Speaker room Travel	$ 450	$ -	$ -
PayPal Fee	$ 304	$ -	$ -
Venue	$ 600	$ -	$ -
Banquet Subtotal	$ 5,204	$ 200	$ 200
Dxpeditions	$ 2,000	$ 246	$ 246
Operating Expenses			
Harc Zoom	$ 50	$ -	$ -
Miscellaneous	$ -	$ 2	$ 2
Museum Meetings	$ 700	$ -	$ 700
Web Hosting	$ 77	$ -	$ -
Operating Expenses Total	$ 827	$ 2	$ 702
Picnic	$ 200	$ -	$ -
Total Expenses	$ 8,546	$ 589	$ 1,180
Difference	($1,926)		($654)

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.