

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

The North Florida DX Association

PileUp

The NFDXA Newsletter



W4ZR

Volume 2, Number 1

January 2010

<http://nfdxa.com/>

Earthquake Death Toll May Top 100,000: Relief Workers Ham Radio Emergency Networks Activated



Relief workers arriving in Port au Prince describe the situation there as “chaotic”, that Haiti’s capitol city has been “flattened”. Fully 25% of Haiti’s 8-million population live in the earthquake-affected area. There’s no electricity or running water and authorities say most buildings still standing are either damaged or unsafe for occupancy.

Repeated calls for any Haitian Ham Radio station to check into the SATERN network on 14.265 MHz Thursday morning went unanswered. Only two Haitian stations have been heard so far, one from northern Haiti not affected by the magnitude 7.0 temblor, and the other from HH6JH, Father John Henault located on an island south of Port au Prince who reports he was operating on battery power and had an operating, but sporadic cell phone.

Reports indicate the telephone and Cellphone systems in Haiti are down; however some there reportedly have been able to communicate by accessing the Internet through satellites.

Eight Dominican Republic Hams are gearing up to cross the border into Haiti Friday and set up emergency communications in the Port au Prince area. They will operate with the call sign HI8RCD/HH and are expected to check into the Caribbean Emergency Network on 7.045 MHz when they are operational..

Caribbean stations checking into the SATERN network report no contact with any ham station in Haiti.

The Salvation Army is accepting health and welfare traffic requests on its [Web site](#). And the State Department has set up a toll free hotline at 888-407-4747

The Voice of America (VOA) has extended its Creole services via the RNW Bonaire relay station with expected broadcasts today and Friday on 6.135 MHz between 1230 and 1330Z.

Emergency operations have been reported on the following frequencies: 3720, 3977, 7045, 7265 and 14265 and possibly 14300 as well.

Some jamming by a station tuning up on SATERN’s 14.265 MHz frequency was heard around mid-day Thursday, but otherwise the frequency was clear..

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January NFDXA Meeting

The January meeting of the North Florida DX Association will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, January 16 at the Cross Creek Restaurant and Steakhouse on South Lane Avenue.

Please RSVP via <http://nfdxa.com/meeting/> at your earliest convenience.

Among the agenda items is coming up with a club DX contest for the new year.

ARRL Web Survey results

Question: As we enter a new year, how do you feel about the future of Amateur Radio?

Optimistic—Future looks bright **33.4%**
Concerned -We face challenging problems **40.5%**
Pessimistic—Our best years are behind us **20.3%**
Neutral—**5.8%**

Total number of votes 2785



Wee Willie's Quandary



North Florida has been hammered with record low freezing temperatures for almost two weeks—Thursday, the 14th being the first day above 50. The question is which would you rather have, **Willy, KX4WW's** recent situation pictured above at his Washington QTH or the frosty morns *without* the white stuff that we've endured?
 — Nancy Walker photo



N4NN's Want List

Here is a list of the 9 countries I have left to work.

These could take some time. Any of these places would be a good place for a DXpedition.

I'm waiting...

Dale N4NN

- 7O** - YEMEN
- E3** - ERITREA
- FT5Z** - AMSTERDAM - ST. PAUL
- HK0M** - MALPELO
- KH5K** - KINGSMAN REEF
- KP1** - NAVASSA ISLAND
- VK0H** - HEARD ISLAND
- VP8S** - SOUTH SANDWICH ISLAND
- ZL9** - AUCKLAND - CAMPBELL



Surge of New Amateur Radio Licensees in 2009



This past year was a banner year for new Amateur Radio licensees. According to [ARRL VEC](#) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, the FCC issued more than 30,000 new ham radio licenses. "In 2009, the demand for Amateur Radio exam sessions remained elevated and is still running at a higher rate than before the FCC's restructuring of the license requirements in 2007," Somma said. "This high level of exam session activity has produced an elevated influx of new applications, far outpacing recent years."

A total of 30,144 new licenses were granted in 2009, an increase of almost 7.5 percent from 2008. In 2005, 16,368 new hams joined Amateur Radio's ranks; just five years later, that number had increased by almost 14,000 -- a whopping 84 percent! The ARRL VEC is one of 14 VECs who administer Amateur Radio license exams.

"When looking at the statistics over the last 10 years, these are some the highest numbers we've seen," Somma explained. "Additionally, our total number of licensees across all three classes has grown each year." Currently there are 682,500 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, an almost 3 percent rise over 2008. In 2008, there were 663,500 licensed amateurs; there were 655,800 in 2007. Broken down by license class, at the end of 2009 there were 17,084 Novices, 334,245 Technicians, 150,970 Generals, 60,795 Advanced and 119,403 Amateur Extra licensees.

"The ARRL VEC has been busy meeting the needs of the Amateur Radio community by helping people to become radio amateurs or upgrade their existing licenses," Somma said. "In 2009, ARRL VEs administered 44,595 exam elements at 6369 [ARRL VEC-sponsored exam sessions](#). The number of amateurs who want to be Volunteer Examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also going up -- we've seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by [serving as ARRL examiners](#) and instructors."

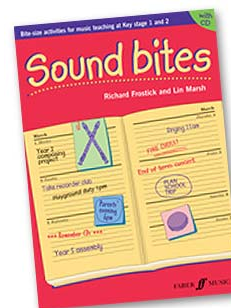
Somma applauded all the volunteers whose "hard work and contribution of countless hours of time helps to ensure the future of Amateur Radio. The ARRL VEC thanks our 32,411 VEs from around the world whose dedication and service helped to contribute to the success of Amateur Radio. I am delighted by these important achievements. 2009 was a very good year for Amateur Radio and I am excited by the promise of 2010."

2009 DX Sound Bites

Tom, K8CX, has done it again. He has provided DXers with 146 memorable DX sound clips from 2009. Visit Tom's famous "HAM GALLERY" Web at:

<http://hamgallery.com/dx2009>

While there also check out some of his other features on his Web page, such as: 12 years of "Rare DX Sound Clips" of the past, QSL Card Museum, Dayton Photo Galleries and Tribute to Silent Key Ham Operators.



Sometimes I'd rather be lucky than good. . .K9WJL





A short tutorial on VSWR. (From Icom Yahoo news group 1Apr09)

A simple idealized model will help explain the operating principles. Assume a perfect transmission line that is 10 seconds long. That is, it takes 10 seconds for an input to reach the far end and it has no losses.

Now set your keyer to 20 wpm and send just one [1] dot into the line and immediately disconnect your transmitter.

Ten seconds later the dot reaches the end of the transmission line and is 100% re-reflected because the line is open circuited [or short circuited]. Ten seconds later, the dot reappears at the end of the line where you disconnected the antenna and it is re-reflected towards the load. Since a "perfect transmission line" is assumed, the pulse will oscillate back and forth forever. VSWR = infinity.

Now, terminate the transmission line into a load the produces a 3:1 VSWR. Repeat the experiment.

Ten seconds later the dot appears at the load where 75% is transferred to the antenna and 25% is reflected [3:1 VSWR condition]. If you originally sent a 100 watt pulse then 25 watts is reflected. After ten seconds that 25 watts appears at the transmitter end. Since the transmitter is disconnected the 25 watts is re-reflected. After an additional 10 seconds that 25 watts gets to the load where 18.75 watts gets radiated [@ 3:1 VSWR 75% of the incident energy is transferred to the antenna] and 6.25 watts gets reflected. Repeat the cycle again and 4.687 watts gets radiated. [at this point, 97.9 watts has been radiated !!] continue the cycle and eventually all 100 watts gets radiated.

Now for any antenna that is connected to a real length transmission line we are not dealing with a 10 second delay but with an approximate 0.1 microsecond delay, additionally line losses have to be considered. But, re-reflection is still applicable!

The energy, once put into a real feed line has only two places to go: Radiate or Losses [AKA Heat] !! Keep the losses low and VSWR is a non-issue. Losses in coax increase dramatically as VSWR increases. That's true! But we are not restricted to using coax. Losses in open wire tuned feeders are quite low, even in high VSWR conditions!

Moral of the tutorial, keep your transmission line options open; know and control the source of your antenna SYSTEM losses. — WIMCE

"I know thousands of ways semiconductors can fail. I've tried most of them..." KB1GMX



Antarctica Expedition

After his [2009 Antarctica expedition](#), Mehdi, F5PFP informs that a new expedition to Antarctica by yacht is being planned. The entire trip will last six weeks.

There is an opportunity for another ham radio operator or tourist to join the expedition. Should you be interested, contact Mehdi for details at f5pfp@orange.fr

— The DX World of Ham radio

ONGOING DX CONTESTS

2010 CDXC CHALLENGE.

The aim of the "2010 Clipperton DX Club Challenge" is to contact as many DXCC entities as possible on the different bands and on the different modes over the duration of the challenge. The challenge is opened to all radio amateurs, member of the CDXC or not. The challenge started on January 1st, 2010, at 0000z, and will last until Sunday, August 29th, at 2359z. Three categories are available:

Bands HF : - Mixed Mode All HF bands (CW, SSB, Digi)

Band 6m : - Mixed 6m (CW, SSB, Digi)

Band 2m : - Mixed 2m 2m (CW, SSB, Digi)

Complete details are available on the CDXC Web page at: <http://www.cdxc.org>



2010 CQ DX MARATHON.

Now that the 2009 CQ DX Marathon has ended, the 2010 CQ DX Marathon has begun as of 0000z, on January 1st, and will run through/until 2359z, December 31st, 2010. The goal is to work as many countries and CQ zones as possible at least once during the 2010 calendar year. Complete details, rules and score sheets are available at:

<http://www.dxmarathon.com>



2010 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

(Special Canadian Prefixes). The following prefixes will be available for use in Canada from February 1st to March 31st, to commemorate the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in British Columbia. Canadian stations with a VA prefix can use VG, VY can use XK, VO can use XJ, and VE can use VX. Known announced activities are:

VX9NC - VE9NC will operate during that time using primarily digital modes on all HF bands. QSL via his home callsign.

VG7G - VE7XS will be operating during this time. (No other details known.)

VG7W - VE7OM will be operating as VG7W between now and January 31st. (No other details known.)



Short Takes

More Solar Surveillance We're about to get another pair of eyes on the Sun as NASA launches the [Extreme Ultraviolet \(EUV\)](#) mission in the coming months. The additional data may shed some light of the visible kind on the workings of the solar dynamo on which HF propagation depends. —ARRL Contest Update 11 Nov09

Seeing Spots If you happen to notice that on packet someone has posted a notice of a new sunspot, would that be a spot spot spot? —ARRL Contest Update 24 June 09 <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/?issue=2009-06-24>

Regarding DX in general Turn the knob, put in the time, and they get into the log book, even if you're a tin whistle instead of a big gun. —Karl, KIKO via eHam.com



CQ DX



CE0ZA—Juan Fernandez Island — Jan 19-Feb2

1.8 to 28 MHz, CW, SSB and Digital with emphasis on the low bands. QSL via JA8BMK



T32BJ — Christmas Island, East Kiribati — Jan 14-Jan 19

Operating most CW on the low bands with emphasis on European contacts. QSL G3BJ.



3B8SC— Mauritius Island — Apr 7-Apr 21

Mostly CW operation by Slavo, SP2JMB on all bands. Some SSB and RTTY. QSL SP2JMB



FO — Austral Islands — Jan 18-Feb 5

Three man German operation by FO/DL1AWI, FO/DL3APO and FO/DL5AXU to Rhivavae (OCI 14) in the Austral Islands with focus on the local bands, 1.8 to 10 MHz using verticals. Some effort on high bands as well using loop antennas. Online log search at <http://df3cb.com/logsearch/cgcl/logsearch.php> or QSL direct via operator's CBA or the bureau.



3Z0FCH — Poland — Now through June 30

Special call sign to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of composer/pianist Fryderyc Chopin. QSL via SP7PAD or the bureau.



J79XBI — Dominica— Now through March 31

Seth is QRV all bands on SSB. QSL via SM0XBI, direct or by the bureau.



XX7TLY — Macao — Now to ??

Georg, DK7LX, is on Coloane Island (AS-075) where he had hopes of being QRV with 100 watts on all bands. He now says surrounding high mountains make it almost impossible to work HF but he'll keep trying. Georg warns his call sign has been pirated on 30 meters but if you happen to work the real XX7TLY QSL DK7LX direct or via the bureau.



8Q7CE — Maldives — Now through Jan 25

Cezar, YO8TLC, is presently active 'holiday style' from Feydhoo Island (AS-013) using mainly CW and some SSB on 20, 30 and 40 meters with 100 watts and a multi-band vertical antenna. QSL via YO8TLC, either by the bureau or direct.



ST2AR — Sudan — Expected back on anytime

Robert hasn't been spotted in January after being very active on 40 and 30 CW in late December, but has expressed hopes of getting back shortly mostly on weekends. Reportedly he'll be operational on 20 through 10 meters as well. QSL *direct only* via S53R.



ST26ASC — Sudan special call sign — Jan 22-Jan 28

The special call sign will be used in connection with the 26th Arab Scouts Conference which will be taking place in Khartoum, Sudan from the 22nd through the 28th. QSL ST2M.



KH9 — Wake Island — Now through 2010

KH9/WA2YUN, Colin is on remote Wake Island but hasn't been spotted since November. He says he's not able to manage a "heavy ham schedule" due to his work load. He's able to operate 1.8 to 10 meters in his spare time using mainly SSB with a 160-meter Carolina Windom. QSL via K2PF.

The preceding information came from a number of sources including the **OPDX Bulletin**, **The Daily DX** and the **NG3K Contest/DX Page** at <http://www.ng3k.com>

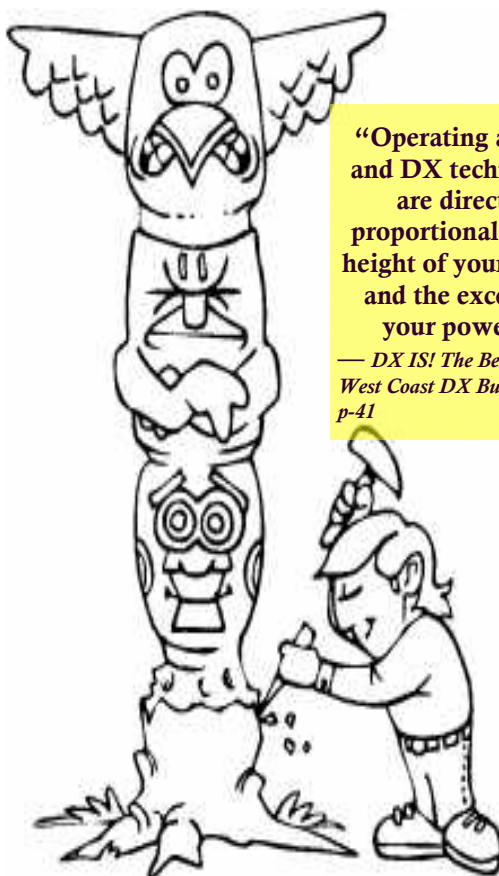
The FINAL 2009 NFDXA Marathon Totem Pole Where did YOU end up? <http://nfdxa.com/cq>



The object of the contest was for NFDXA members to work as many stations as they could between January 1 and December 31, 2009 on any band and in any mode. Each country worked would count as one point, unless it's borders spanned more than one CQ zone. In that case one point was awarded for the country and a point for each CQ zone it occupied. The final score was determined by adding the total number of countries worked and the number of zones. Everyone who took part is a winner and here they are.

The Dandy Dozen for 2009

	Entities	Zones	Total
N4NN	277	40	317
K4UTE	269	40	309
N4KE	252	40	292
K4EB	246	40	286
NF4L	207	37	244
NIWON	151	33	184
NW4C	132	28	160
WR4K	114	33	147
NU4Y	71	19	90
W4FDA	47	20	67
KC4FWS	39	15	54
AB4UF	1	1	2
All Others	0	0	0



“Operating ability and DX techniques are directly proportional to the height of your tower and the excess of your power.”

— *DX IS! The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin*
p-41

And these comments from 2009's Top Dog, N4NN . . .

Happy 2010 , Twenty Ten ... Sounds strange. Was just thinking about the contest. A few things came to mind.

K4UTE - 309 ... Glad Richard has to go to work. HI ... **N4KE - 292** ... With Low Power (10 watts). If Ron starts using an amp, I will pin his coax. ... **K4EB - 286** ... Larry , what can I say. Someone has to ROCK. ... **NF4L - 244** ... Mike , even lightning can't stop him. ... **NIWON - 184** ...! I think Cory worked these from the airplane on his qsl card. ... **NW4C - 160** ... Warren , I have in hand a Certificate of Completion, Technician Exam. Sept 1, 2001, It has your Signature on it. See what that got you. The next time a crazy guy rides up on a HD motorcycle to take test , you need to send his ass down the road! BTW , You are a great addition to this club. Thanks ... **WR4K - 147** , Dick worked these with a flag pole , Well Done. ... **NU4Y - 90** , Jim worked these by tuning his fence using a Radio Shack tuner and 100 watts. ... **W4FDA - 67** , Pres doesn't have much time to radio. He is tied up with wild women. ... **KC4FWS - 54** , LOOK OUT , Jim has his eyes on a new Radio. ... **AB4UF - 2** ... We may need to check into this one. I think Steve worked himself twice. ... For the rest of the guys, I think they took the day off.

Next year we should make the contest longer. HI HI

Many Thanks to All — Dale **N4NN**



PileUp

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The Monthly Journal of The North Florida DX Association



“160 meters separates the men from the boys.”
— Richard, K4UTE

To have a club contest or not—That is the question

Is anyone having a DX Marathon withdrawal symptom yet? I am! Back during 2009 it seemed whenever I had free time on my hands and access to the rig I was listening for a ‘new one’ to work and post on the NFDXA CQ Marathon web site. It had become almost second nature to turn on the rig and tune around to hear what was coming in from where—just like back in the days when we were working for our first DXCC.

Now that we have finished the 2009 competition (congratulations to **Dale, N4NN**, the contest’s Top Dog on his logging 277 entities in all 40 CQ Zones for a total of 317 points) it’s time to ... do what?

That’s the question before us. What should the club do?

No more can we watch the nightly (it seemed) postings by **Richard, K4UTE**, then **Dale**, or vice versa. These were usually closely followed—sometimes preceded—by **Ron, N4KE** with his SteppIR beam and 10 watts and/or **Larry, K4EB** on a vertical or dipole depending on his QTH. Or **Mikey, NF4L** nailing 207 entities before getting smoked by lightning. After the contest was over we learned that past president **Jim, NU4Y** was working his totals with a Radio Shack tuner loading a wire fence...or **Jim, KC4FWS** using the rig in his motor home, moving it back and forth in his driveway for the best signal, and that **Dick, WR4K** was making his contacts by pumping watts into his flagpole. What we had was club wide DX activity and a friendly, fun competition.

It was suggested during the December meeting at Ron’s that perhaps we should start the CQ DX Marathon over again and run it throughout the year 2010. The response to the proposal was, in a word, underwhelming. OK, if not a CQ style DX Marathon, what then?

That’s the question’s before us. Let’s come up with an answer at Saturday’s meeting so we can get started...and I can come out of withdrawal. — **Warren, NW4C**



W4ZR