

**BREAKING NEWS:**  
 3W6C temporarily  
 QRT - Security po-  
 litical reasons on  
 the island have  
 shut down 3W6C.  
 Team leader hopes  
 to have problems  
 solved and be QRV  
 again 14 April by  
 1200Z

## The North Florida DX Association

# PileUp

The NFDXA Newsletter



**W4ZR**

Volume 2, Number 4

April 2010

<http://nfdxa.com/>



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## Bro's Erection

It's going up and getting bigger and better...and there are no pharmaceuticals involved.

The resurrection of the **WA4B** tower and antenna array, downed by a guy wire tangling tree during a thunderstorm in June, 2008 is now underway.

The progress made so far is in **Steve's** online photo album for all to see at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/wa4bwa4b/TowerProjectUpdateNFDXA4810?authkey=GvIsRgCJOB-Mz24e-rsAE#>

Twenty-five feet of sturdy Rohn tower is already 'planted' and free standing while another 70 -feet is positioned nearby and scheduled to go up shortly. Guys will be set at 35, 65 and 95 feet.

When completed the tower and extended mast will total over 112feet. The antennas will be a stacked Tennadyne T8 and T28 combination.

As erections go, not bad. Hopefully **Steve** won't have to seek medical attention if it stays up more than four hours . . .



Then: June 1, 2008



Now: April 10, 2010

## April NFDXA Meeting April 17 at W4FDA QTH

The April meeting of the North Florida DX Association will be held Saturday, the 17th at 4 p.m. at the country estate of W4FDA, Pres Graham.

All club members are urged to RSVP at their earliest convenience at <http://nfdxa.com/meeting/> so that food and other meeting preparations can be completed. Be sure to include any guests when making your rsvp.

In addition to the usual food and fellowship there will be planned showing of the "K4M Midway Atoll 2009" DXpedition video by James Brooks, 9VIYC.

Also on the agenda will be a discussion as to whether NFDXA wants to make a club entry in the 2010 ARRL Field Day which will be held the weekend of June 25-26.

And more comment is expected on whether to start another club contest before the year is out.



Why Dinosaurs Became Extinct

All this and much more at the April 17 meeting of the NFDXA.

Fight extinction. Don't miss the boat. Be there or we'll eat and drink your share while making up interesting stories about you!



## North Florida DX Association, Inc.

The North Florida DX Association, Inc. is made up of a small group of Amateur Radio Operators located in and around Jacksonville and northeast Florida whose interests are primarily contests and DXing. The NFDXA generally meets monthly on a date and location selected by an organizer picked for that meeting. The following officers were elected for the calendar year 2010.



### President

Mike Parnin, N4EPD [mparnin@fdn.com](mailto:mparnin@fdn.com)



### Vice President

Warren Croke, NW4C [nw4c@cox.net](mailto:nw4c@cox.net)



### Secretary

Mike Reubin, NF4L [nf4l@nf4l.com](mailto:nf4l@nf4l.com)



### Treasurer

Jim Hughes, KC4FWS [kc4fws@comcast.net](mailto:kc4fws@comcast.net)



### Executive Committee

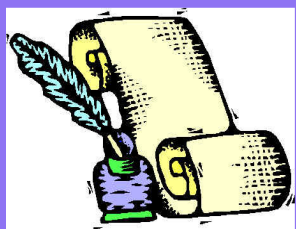
The Executive Committee consists of the elected officers of the Association <http://www.nfdxa.com>



### Editor, NFDXA *PileUp* Newsletter

Warren Croke, NW4C [nw4c@cox.net](mailto:nw4c@cox.net)

**PileUp** story ideas, manuscripts and photographs should be sent to [nw4c@cox.net](mailto:nw4c@cox.net)



## Minutes of March 27, 2010 Meeting Cross Creek Restaurant, Lane Avenue Jacksonville

The March meeting of the **North Florida DX Association (NFDXA)** on Saturday, March 27 at 5 pm was a food and fellowship session at the Cross Creek Restaurant on Lane Avenue. Those attending included: **AL7RV** (guest of KC4FWS), **KC4FWS**, **NF4L**, **NIWON**, **NW4C**, **N4EPD**, **AB4UF** and **W4FDA**.

No official business was conducted. No treasurer's report was given and no official business was conducted aside from the consumption of food and drink.

The April meeting will be on the 17th and arranged by **Pres Graham, W4FDA**.

— Mike, NF4L

### Time to go comb the antenna?

This [story](#) from Science Daily describes the development of water-repellent coatings that consist of tiny hairs, similar to those found on spiders. The coating was crafted by **University of Florida** materials science and engineering professor Wolfgang Sigmund. Reportedly, it works on both hot and cold water. Not only does the ultra-repellent surface shed water, but the water carries away dirt, too - a self-cleaning antenna element at last!

--ARRL Contest Update 17Mar10

## WFWL- Work 'em First Because they'll be Wet Later



NEW DELHI (AP) — For nearly 30 years, India and Bangladesh have argued over control of a tiny rock island in the Bay of Bengal. Now rising sea levels have resolved the dispute for them: the island's gone.

New Moore Island, in the Sunderbans, has been completely submerged, said oceanographer Sugata Hazra, a professor at Jadavpur University in Calcutta. Its disappearance has

been confirmed by satellite imagery and sea patrols, he said.

"What these two countries could not achieve from years of talking, has been resolved by global warming," said Hazra.

Scientists at the School of Oceanographic Studies at the university have noted an alarming increase in the rate at which sea levels have risen over the past decade in the Bay of Bengal. Until 2000, the sea levels rose about 3 millimeters (0.12 inches) a year, but over the last decade they have been rising about 5 millimeters (0.2 inches) annually, he said.

Another nearby island, Lohachara, was submerged in 1996, forcing its inhabitants to move to the mainland, while almost half the land of Ghoramara island was underwater, he said. At least 10 other islands in the area were at risk as well, Hazra said.

"We will have ever larger numbers of people displaced from the Sunderbans as more island areas come under water," he said.

Bangladesh, a low-lying delta nation of 150 million people, is one of the countries worst-affected by global warming. Officials estimate 18 percent of Bangladesh's coastal area will be underwater and 20 million people will be displaced if sea levels rise 1 meter (3.3 feet) by 2050 as projected by some climate models.

India and Bangladesh both claimed the empty New Moore Island, which is about 3.5 kilometers (2 miles) long and 3 kilometers (1.5 miles) wide. Bangladesh referred to the island as South Talpatti.

There were no permanent structures on New Moore, but India sent some paramilitary soldiers to its rocky shores in 1981 to hoist its national flag.

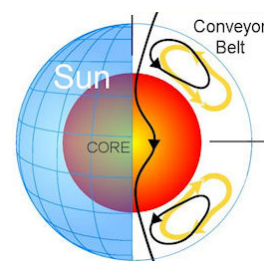
The demarcation of the maritime boundary — and who controls the remaining islands — remains an open issue between the two South Asian neighbors, despite the disappearance of New Moore, said an official in India's foreign ministry, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on international disputes.



## New "Conveyor Belt" Theory from NASA Researcher Explains Apparent Cause of Deep Sunspot Minimum

A NASA physicist believes he knows the reason why we've undergone an unusually deep and prolonged solar minimum. Utilizing something called "The Great Solar Conveyor Belt", the solar researcher discovered the speed of the belt's turning may control the entire sunspot cycle. For the complete report, go to:

[http://www.astromart.com/news/news.asp?news\\_id=1047](http://www.astromart.com/news/news.asp?news_id=1047)



**Don't miss the NFDXA Net Wednesday 0000Z 3625 kHz**



## April 1st Shenanigans

Thank goodness April 1st only comes once a year. I don't think DX chasers could stand the strain if there were two—in particular those who avidly follow every cluster postings.

It started with one of the 'oldies' of April 1 reports, a Pakistan spot, "APIRIL " However, that posting was quickly followed by derisive comments posted by those who either thought about it for more than a nanosecond, or, perhaps, who had been taken in by APIRIL in previous years . . .

Some REALLY wanted DX postings then started showing up on the clusters, several with imaginative call signs that if one paused a moment to think about it would have signaled "something just ain't quite right".

Take the several P5 spots, for example. The thundering herd responding to the P5 I report might have taken a closer look at the posted call sign...P5 I APR... Didn't that ring a bell?

Other P5 variations included P5 IAF which could have been a tribute to all the Ham Radio P5 I Mustang buffs out there.

There was even a back-hand salute of sorts to the much-traveled DXer Martti Lane with the posting of P5/OH2OH. Alas, P5 remains one of the few Mr. Lane hasn't opened... But as they say in the broadcast trade, "Stay Tuned..." — **Warren, NW4C**



## Mobile Logging Tip?

On a note... one field day I saw K5WTA and his pickup truck... The drivers window had white - smeared stuff all over it...

I asked about it and the answer was simple...

While operating CW on the road, Jake (K5WTA) used a white grease pencil to write down the call sign of the station he was working so he could remember it while driving...

Then after the QSO Jake would wipe the window with his sleeve.

Who would of thought.....?

— **Jim, NU4Y**



## Worked FROM all Zones?

Occasionally, the question arises of whether anyone has ever operated from all 40 CQ zones. The answer is, yes, N6AA and N6ZZ have accomplished that feat and others are hot on their trail. Here's a great PDF [slide show](http://www.kkn.net/dayton2007/N6ZZ_40_zones-dayton-2007.pdf) about Phil's excellent adventures. You'll be surprised at what his last zone turned out to be!

—ARRL Contest Update 17Mar2010

[https://webmaileast.cox.net/do/redirect?url=http://www.kkn.net/dayton2007/N6ZZ\\_40\\_zones-dayton-2007.pdf](https://webmaileast.cox.net/do/redirect?url=http://www.kkn.net/dayton2007/N6ZZ_40_zones-dayton-2007.pdf)



## Where in the DX World Am I??

Recently, the web site **DX World of Ham Radio** (<http://dx-world.net/top-dxcc/>) featured a series of 25 pictures, each taken *on location* of a top 25 most-wanted DX entity as according to the 2009 Most Wanted survey taken by **The DX Magazine**.

Some of the photo locations would appear to be obvious — like the ‘scaffold entity’ of **BS7H Scarborough Reef** shown on the right. But then it could have been the infamous underwater lighthouse platform **7J1RL DXpedition to Okino Torishima** — except the one and only trip to that completely submerged “country” was back in 1976.

Fortunately, someone came to their senses and **7J1** has long since been deleted!

Other pictures from the ‘most wanted’ collection may not be as obvious as the **BS7H** photo.

Shown below are a half-dozen snapshots selected at random that may take you a moment or two to figure out — maybe a little more ;-) — in which of the 25 most needed entities the image was taken.

Have at it...GL... There’s not time limit. And the answers (should you need them) are on page 11.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



### *The Daily DX DX Calendar for April 2010*

| Date   | End    | Prefix | Call                            | Manager | Ref Vol-No    |
|--------|--------|--------|---------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| -----  | -----  | -----  | -----                           | -----   | -----         |
| 12-Apr | 23-Apr | 3B8    | 3B8/SP2FUD (AF-049)             | SP2FUD  | 14-052 051    |
| 12-Apr | 24-Apr | 3B8    | 3B8MM (AF-049)                  | DL6UAA  | 14-053        |
| 12-Apr | 23-Apr | 3B8    | 3B8/SP2JMB (AF-049)             | SP2JMB  | 14-052 051    |
| 12-Apr | 25-May | 5X     | 5X7JD                           |         | 14-018        |
| 12-Apr | 11-May | 5Z     | 5Z4/LA9PF                       | LA9PF   | 14-027        |
| 12-Apr | 12-Apr | F      | F8UFT (EU-074)                  | F5UBH   | 14-055        |
| 12-Apr | 14-Apr | F      | TM5EL (EU-068)                  | F6KHI   | 14-051 029    |
| 12-Apr | 19-Apr | FR     | FR/F4EGZ (AF-016)               | F4EGZ   | 14-055        |
| 12-Apr | 17-Apr | FR     | FR/F5UOW                        | F5UOW   | 14-041        |
| 12-Apr | 12-Apr | FW     | FW5X (OC-054)                   | K6HFA   | 14-063 031    |
| 12-Apr | 16-Apr | HS     | E20AS (AS-125)                  | HS1CKC  | 14-063 045    |
| 12-Apr | 30-Apr | I      | I10SPQR                         | IK0QNZ  | 14-057        |
| 12-Apr | 12-Apr | JD1/O  | JD1BNJ (AS-031)                 | K8AQM   | 14-059 030    |
| 12-Apr | 12-Apr | JD1/O  | JD1BNK (AS-031)                 | K8AQM   | 14-059 030    |
| 12-Apr | 12-Apr | JD1/O  | JD1BNM (AS-031)                 | K8AQM   | 14-059 030    |
| 12-Apr | 12-Apr | JD1/O  | JD1BNQ (AS-031)                 | K8AQM   | 14-059 030    |
| 12-Apr | 15-May | OA     | OA4/DL5YWM                      |         | 14-047        |
| 12-Apr | 24-Apr | OX     | OX3RC or OX3/N0RC (NA-018) N0RC |         | 14-044 018    |
| 12-Apr | 30-Apr | PA     | PB88XYL                         |         | 14-043        |
| 12-Apr |        | T32    | T32SI (OC-280)                  | SM6CAS  | 14-065        |
| 12-Apr | 17-Apr | T8     | T88AT (OC-009)                  | KQ2I    | 14-057        |
| 12-Apr | 17-Apr | TF     | TF/PD9DX                        | PD9DX   | 14-024        |
| 12-Apr | 10-Jun | TT     | TT8PK                           | F4EGS   | 14-059        |
| 12-Apr | 17-Apr | V6     | V63DQ (OC-010)                  | JA1ADT  | 14-041        |
| 12-Apr | 17-Apr | V6     | V63DX (OC-010)                  | JA7HMZ  | 14-041        |
| 12-Apr | 17-Apr | V6     | V63T (OC-010)                   | JA7GYP  | 14-041        |
| 12-Apr | 19-Apr | VE     | VX3S                            | VE3NNG  | 14-042        |
| 12-Apr | 30-Nov | VP8/H  | DT8A (AN-010)                   | HL2FDW  | 14-016        |
| 12-Apr | 9-Aug  | VQ9    | VQ9JC                           | ND9M    | 14-054        |
| 12-Apr | 18-Apr | XV     | 3W6C (AS-185)                   | HB9DWL  | 14-039 13-226 |
| 12-Apr | 14-Apr | YA     | T6AG                            | EA3GHZ  | 14-065 018    |

The Daily DX Calendar <http://www.dailydx.com/Calendar.htm>

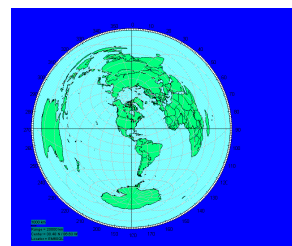
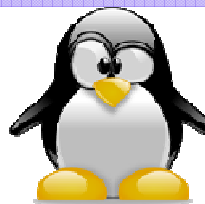
Upcoming contest rules & dates

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php>

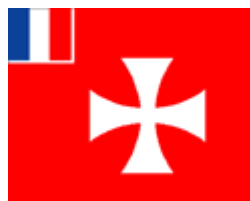
## DX at Deadline



**A biggie for your futures file...** The Microlite Penguins DXpedition Team has announced their intention to start the 2011 DX Year with an operation from the rare **South Orkney Islands, VP8O**, January 27th through & February. Check <http://www.vp8o.com> Complete details will be released at the Visalia DX Convention, April 16-18...



**If you missed FW5X, not to worry...** The **FW5X** operation to the **Wallis and Futuna Islands** has closed down but another will take its place shortly. Three Japanese operators are planning a short expedition to **FW**-land, July 15 through the 21st. Three complete stations will cover 160 through 10 meters. Requests have been made for special FW call signs which have not been released as yet. QSL via the individual operator's home call.



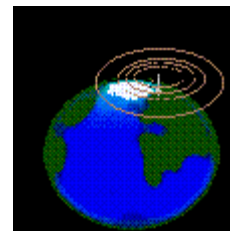
**He was there just a moment ago...** The ever elusive **Monk Apollo, SV2ACP/A** keeps popping up unannounced. Most recently he was reported on the air over the Orthodox Easter weekend April 4th. One of his Italian contacts, IK3ZAW says Apollo's disappointed that propagation from **Mt. Athos** has been so poor to the US and that he hasn't been able "to make Americans happy . . ."

**Gone but not forgotten...** The **YI9PSE DXpedition** to the **Kurdistan** section of **Iraq** shut down around 5Z Sunday after making 50,487 contacts in spite of squirrely propagation that became very spotty at times. Of that total, 19,408 of the call signs were unique which would indicate the group achieved its goal of giving many among the deserving a 'new one.' One disturbing observation was made by a DXpedition member who claimed he has been jammed on 20 meters by European stations every time he stood by for the US west coast or NA only . . .



**As we prepare to post this issue...** Reports indicate the current **3W6C** operation from **Con Co Island, Vietnam**, isn't being heard all that well in our part of the US. Most reports have been on 30 and 40 meters with QSB. However, **The Daily DX** says stations in South American have had some luck on 15 meters and Europeans have made contacts on both 17 and 20 meters. The Con Co islands (AS185) are the second most wanted **IOTA** island group.

**Another 'biggie' coming up soon** will be the **E4X Palestine** operation under the leadership of EA5RM, Antonio from May 28th to June 6th. Nine operators from Spain, France, Italy and the Ukraine will operate on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY with at least three stations on the air at all times on different bands and modes. If you are among the deserving and make a contact, your QSL request should go to EA5RM at his call book address.



## Static Crashes—News and Notes from the Membership



**K4UTE** reports there hasn't been much going on around his QTH of late because the protection circuit in his Acom amp has shut his linear down! **Richard** says the indication is an output relay has gone bad so he's sent it off to the Acom service center. He didn't work the YI9 DXpedition because he only needed him on 160 and he didn't stand a chance trying that barefooted. **BTW**...Richard says he has 100 or so **TUBES** that need a "new home"... and he wonders if anyone in the club still remembers what tubes are . . . ?

Back to 160 meters for a moment...It's haying season and **N4NN** said he's had to take down all of his 160 meter receiving antennas which is "kinda sad." Says **Dale**: "I look forward to fall. Top Band is my favorite band. I ended up this season on 160 meters with 211 worked and 203 confirmed. I have emails from 6 of the 8 stations that I need confirmation from saying I'm ok in the log and cards are on the way. On all bands, I have 329 worked and 329 confirmed. Just waiting for some new ones to come on."

Meanwhile, **Cory, NIWON**, managed to work the YI9 on 20, 40 and 80. "I had to work them twice on 40", **Cory** says, "because the op didn't acknowledge my report. I ended up in the log twice on 40. All I need now is 12 and 15 M." Elsewhere in the world of **Cory** a second tower is in the works. "I have two sections up now and am going to put one more section and the small top section and the hazer on next." If all goes as planned the Hazer will serve as a mount for a Force 2/2/1, a combined 12, 17 and 30 meter antenna.

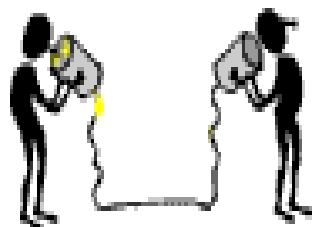
By the time the **YI9** team had accumulated just over 15,000 Qs **N4KE** had made 7 Qs on 4 bands. What made this really interesting considering the less than ideal conditions and all the QRM is all of Ron's contacts—except 160 meters—were made with **10 watts!!** SteppIR and K3 rule . . . not that operator skill had anything to do with it!

New antennas are in vogue this spring and **Larry, K4EB** has installed a couple at both his Jacksonville and Interlachen houses. According to **Larry**, "Both are (wire) doublets fed with 450 ohm ladder line ...(and) work real good on 80 and 40." The downside, according to **K4EB**, is there's no room at either QTH for a 160 meter antenna.

On another topic...**Larry** continues his one-man effort to sustain the ham radio transceiver industry. He's added another radio to his menagerie. The latest acquisition is a Yaesu FTDX5000D. Although he's only had it for a few days **Larry** says he's very impressed. "Yaesu has stepped up to the plate. Tremendous receiver."

**N4EPH** has found his ham radio life to be a bit on the quiet side recently. With his XYL not being able to drive **Mike** says he is spending a lot of his spare time just taking her to and fro, sort of a Driving Miss Daisy Jacksonville style . . .

**Bill, KX4WW** sends greetings from what is now a warm and sunny Washington, DC where (The cherry) "blossoms are in their full glory as well as the yellow stuff from the oak trees making (us) all have watery eyes etc. Pres gave me some great info on a company called **Buxcomm**. I just received a 40-6 meter Windom from them which is going up as soon as I can get a line over a tree limb. Nancy and I are making a trip south to Jax around May 8 to see family and friends. Da Captain and I are planning to take in the sites and sounds of the DC area and will take along our camera for an photo opts. I wonder if NFDXA should make a showing in FIELD DAY.....one or two rigs, cold beer and a BBQ grill would be fun???



What has **KC4FWS** been up to lately, you might ask? According to **Jim** he's been "trying to complete my income tax return and at the same time build up a computer and getting the Flex Radio up and running." **Jim** has taken an old stripped down Dell box with a Pentium D that he picked up in Orlando and is building it up as a dedicated ham computer. So far he's increased the memory to 4Gig, added a new video card to drive a pair new LCD monitors, a firewire card and has it all running under XP Pro 32 bit. "That, along with making up some interface cables to some existing accessories such as mic's, foot switches, etc, has given me a basic shell of a computer that should work just fine,"



## SO YOU WANT TO BE A LID! — A.J. Massa, W5VSR

**Lid** ... a term used in amateur radio operator to denote a poor, one who is inept at the practice of the art.

A monumental problem facing amateur radio today is the alarming amount of poor operators filling the air waves. It is the opinion of many that one of the reasons for this is the fact that many of the new operators really have not been advised about proper operating procedures. Too many of the "amateur radio classes" produced today spend very little, if any, time correcting operating procedures. Their major thrust is to teach the code, cram the theory, and fill out a 610 form! Their major thrust is to teach the code, cram the theory, and fill out a 610 form!

It is easy to be a lid, it must be, there are so many of them. If you are already a lid, read on. If you are already a lid, read on. you may find some new "lid-isms." If you are not yet a full-fledged lid, you may learn some new material for your next transmissions. .

Probably the most popular is "QRZ the frequency." Nobody can be quite sure what the exact meaning of this is. The ARRL Handbook lists QRZ as a CW "shorthand" signal meaning "Who is calling me?" On phone it may mean something else, although I can not imagine calling someone a frequency!

I even heard a W5 utter "QRZ the channel!" Now this guy is a chief lid. The frequency was silent for a while (Probably as most good operators were in a state of shock) and then a signal from afar responded, "This is the channel and I wasn't calling you!"

I think "QRZ the channel" and "QRZ the frequency" are real winners. Use them a lot. You'll chase the good, experienced hams out of their gourd.

Actually, the use of "Q" signals on phone is in itself a true "lid-ism." Actually, the use of "Q" signals on phone is in itself a true "lid-ism." The "Q" signals were devised by high speed CW operators as a form of "shorthand" in order to speed up their transmissions. The "Q" signals were devised by high speed CW operators as a form of "shorthand" in order to speed up their transmissions. What they have on phone use is questionable, as in many cases you can say the actual meaning just as fast. In many cases they cause more confusion than if you would have said the actual meaning. Then you get the real lid who comes off with "Mary-QRM or QRN-Nancy?" Good heavens, why didn't he just say he had interference?

Now, you must be ready with this one at a moment's notice: "HI." Never, ever, laugh if you find something funny. Say "HI" or even better "HI-HI." Say "HI" or even better "HI-HI." It doesn't really take the place of laughter, but it tells the other operators that you know how to laugh on CW.

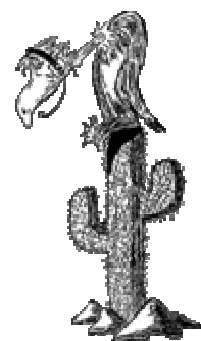
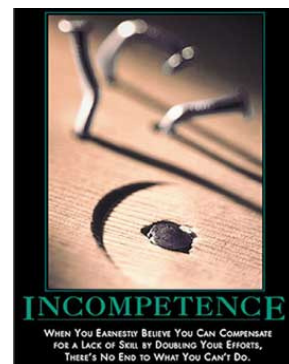
Another one. Always give your call sign phonetically when operating on phone, especially when conditions are good and signals are clear. It's another small way to take up valuable air time without really adding any intelligence to a conversation.

To cut a fine line, it is not legal to identify your station by saying "Five Whiskey Romeo Victor Sierra." If your call is issued W5VSR, the identification is "This is W5VSR." If your call is issued W5VSR, the identification is "This is W5VSR." If copy is difficult and for clarification, then, "This is W5VSR. Whiskey Five Victor Sierra Romeo." If copy is difficult, and for clarification, then, "This is W5VSR. Five Whiskey Romeo Victor Sierra."

To continue your lid-ism and show how clever you can be with ridiculous phonetics. A good friend of mine is W5BS; he has a lot of self-restraint!!

Are you interested in DX? Put these on your DX lid list, "CQ Dog X-Ray." jazz it up a little by saying, impressively "CQ Dog X-Ray, beaming Asia." Not only does that improve your signal's directionality, but it lets everyone hearing you think you have a beam, whether you do or not.

— Continued on next page...





## So You Want To Be a Lid? (continued)

The number one, all time lid of the century award goes to those great DX operators who listen down on one frequency in the foreign part of the band and transmit up to the American phone band without ever listening on the transmitting frequency to see if it was clear. Of course, you must use two processors, in tandem, mike gain wide open, and drive your three 8877 final tubes with an SB-220 while bellowing forth, "CQ Dog X-Ray" for five continuous minutes, before listening. This is the way to attract lots of attention. Lots of it! Lots of it!

Next on the list is the subject of "Break." I do believe that we inherited that one from the CBers. Just find a comfortable round table in progress, and say "break" or better "Break-Break" or best "Breaker-Breaker." Do not give any calls, neither the station that you hear nor your own. Don't listen for a few minutes first to find out if you can hear all of the stations in the roundtable. Just break in and disrupt everything. If that doesn't work, start tuning up your rig on that frequency. After all, aren't the frequencies there for all to enjoy?

Here are some quickies: Say "Go" or "Come back" or "C'mon, good buddy" instead of "Over" if you think you must say anything at all to let the other operator know you are ready to listen to him. Don't forget the all time Broderick Crawford "10-4" or better "That's a big 10-4."

It is a shame the FCC no longer requires us to indicate portable operation. They have taken away another opportunity for the lid-ism---"This is Whiskey Five Very Strong Radio, Port Five." I just typed this on my port typewriter!

— *To be concluded in the May PileUp.*



## SV2ASP/A Gets Needed Repairs

The station of one of the really rare DX entities has been given an upgrade, courtesy of a group of four visiting hams from Greece.

For some time now the sole ham radio station on **Mount Athos** has been limited to a short vertical antenna. As a result the signal from the DX world's 13<sup>th</sup> most wanted entity has been weak, and especially so for hams in the US, who have overwhelmed by the multitude of stations throughout nearby Europe.

According to an article in *The Daily DX*, the team of **SV1DPI**, **SV1SN**, **SV1CQG** and **SV1CIB** recently visited the monastery at Mount Athos as pilgrims. There they met with **SV2ASP/A**, **Father Apollo** and were able to repair his damaged A3S beam and rotator cable. The happy result is Apollo can now use his directional beam again on 10, 15, 20 and 30 meters.

Reportedly Apollo wasted no time in trying out the restored antenna over the weekend of April 3 and 4. The results appear to be good. Some 200 contacts were made and entered in Father Apollo's log. Reports indicate his signal overall was now stronger than when he was on the vertical.

Still more work is expected. The SV2ASP/A station may have to be moved due to a scheduled renovation of the building where the ham shack is located. However, the date for this renovation has not been set.

In addition to the antenna and rotator cable repair, the visiting hams briefed Apollo on LOTW. He was asked about the possibility of his converting his past contacts to LOTW. Apollo confirmed all his SV2ASP logs are hand written on paper and that it wouldn't be feasible at this time to convert because he simply does not have the time. He does not have a computer logging program but will consider using one in the future.

## Odds 'n Ends



Here are the answers to the "Where In The DX World Am I?" quiz on page 5.

- Photo 1: **Mt Athos, SV2/A, #13** most wanted entity.
- Photo 2: **Tromelin Island, FR/T, #16** most wanted entity.
- Photo 3: **Navassa Island, KPI, #2** most wanted entity
- Photo 4: **North Korea, P5, #1** most wanted entity
- Photo 5: **Kingman Reef, KH5K, #18** most wanted entity
- Photo 6: **Macquarie Island, VK0/M, #16** most wanted entity

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## Gotta a Dead Beverage?

Guy K2AV provides this troubleshooting tip, "It is not the best way to feed them normally, but try feeding the beverages directly to the coax to see if you hear signals. Many Beverage impedance transformers have been destroyed by a lightning-induced surge on the antenna. Lightning can induce many kilovolts on a 500 foot Beverage. This kind of a surge can vaporize or short coax shield and center conductor on smaller coax, particularly RG-6 variants."

—ARRL Contest Update 17Mar10

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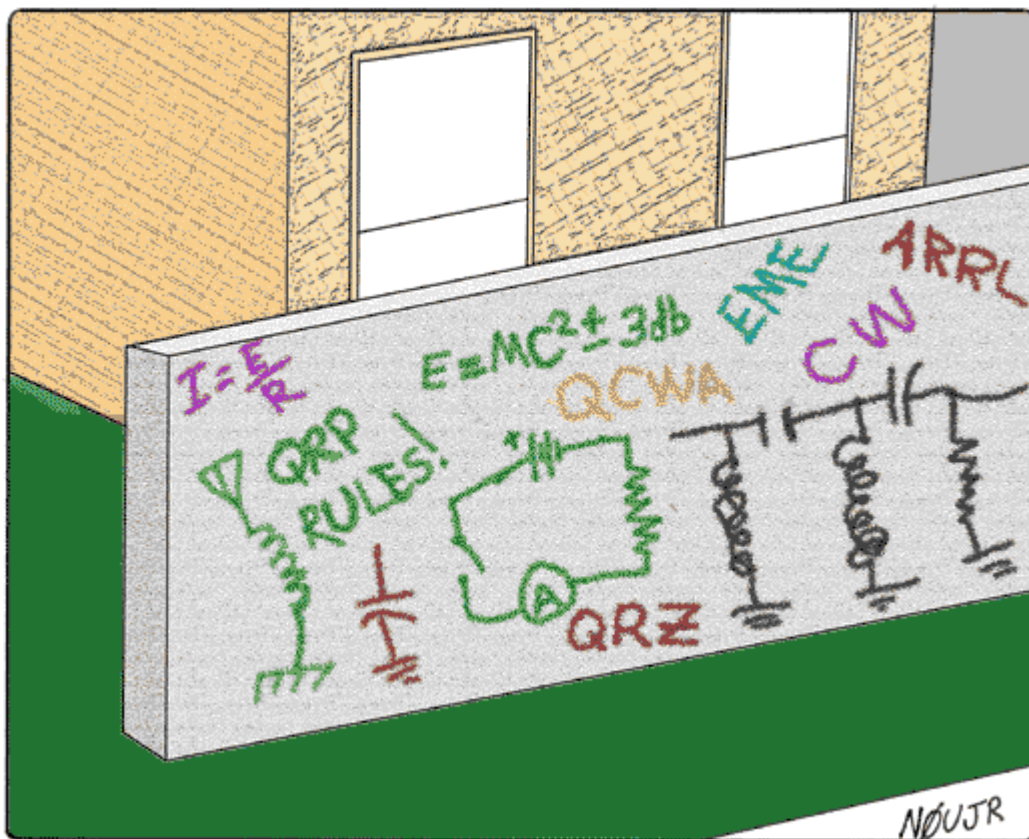
# PileUp

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## The Monthly Journal of The North Florida DX Association



### Ham Radio Graffiti

#### The Last Word

Here we are closing out another monthly issue of **The PileUp** and still we find ourselves no closer to deciding on some sort of club contest than we were at the first of the year.

The year-long competition in 2009 based on **CQ Magazine's DX Marathon** was a winner. There was widespread activity and interest and a bit of excitement throughout. Radios got turned on, people began listening and calling. Beams were swung, sniffing around for a DX signal. NFDXA members were actually comparing totals and exchanging some good natured trash talk.

By year's end it was apparent a majority of the club had taken an active role in the 'contest'—this despite early indications that it might turn into a run-away between two of the our more dedicated DX chasers, N4NN and K4UTE.

Then, N4KE started coming home and working them over lunch time, K4EB got on from both Jax and his place in Interlachen in between road trips with the 38 Special. WR4K put up his 'flagpole', NU4Y used a tuner to load up his fence, NF4L and NIWON re-worked their antennas and their country totals...and the club 'DX marathon' evolved into a pretty interesting and fun horse race right up to the end of 2009. It seemed **The PileUp's** totem pole showing the standings were being updated on a daily basis.

But members apparently tired of this activity and decided the marathon was passe'. The contest was not renewed in January. To their credit, N4EPD and NF4L started and maintained the 'Sweetheart Sweepstakes' throughout February. But the winds of March apparently blew away any desire to continue the challenge. So, here we are, in April, a 'Contest' and DX club, apparently in name only. Tsk, tsk.

Anyone up for an Em Comm class?