

**NFDXA
CQ DX
Marathon
Resumes**
Details on
page 5

The North Florida DX Association

PileUp

The NFDXA Newsletter



W4ZR

Volume 2, Number 5

May 2010

<http://nfdxa.com/>

Formation Of New Contest Operators Group Announced At 2010 Visalia DX Convention

By Jamie Dupree NS3T radio-sport.net

The 61st Annual International DX Convention held in Visalia, California got off to a contest oriented start, as a group of heavyweight contest operators announced the formation of a new outside group designed to further amateur radio contesting.

Known as the World Wide Radio Operator's Foundation (WWROF), the group's goal is to not only promote ham radio contesting, but also to bolster the judging of contests by lending support to post contest log checking and more.

"The founders were concerned that the infrastructure current used to support and adjudicate many events was funded by volunteers," said WWROF Chair Doug Grant K1DG. "New enhancements to the contest-administration process will require significant financial support, and until now there has been no independent organization to raise and administer such funds," he added. The new group already has a [web site](#) set up to take donations. A release from the group says it is pursuing a special tax status in the United States that will allow donations from American hams to be tax deductible.

The organizational makeup of this new group reads like a Who's Who of well known testers, many of whom are already involved in log checking and other administrative tasks dealing with contests.

Familiar names and calls include CQ WW Contest Chairman Bob Cox K3EST, CQ WPX Contest Director Randy Thompson K5ZD and log checking gurus like Larry Tyree N6TR and Trey Garlough N5KO. Thompson K5ZD is part of the new group's Advisory Committee, which includes N6TR, N5KO, George Fremin, K5TR and Ken Wolfe K1EA.



New Foundation's Logo



l-r: K3LR, K1DG, K3EST

The Board of Directors has on its roster K1DG and K3EST, John Dorr K1AR, Tim Duffy K3LR, Mark Beckwith N5OT, Ralph Bowen N5RZ and Tom Lee K8AZ.

- . . . -

*The May edition of the NFDXA **PileUp** is being put out earlier than usual because the editor is going away on vacation. Hopefully this won't throw too many of you off schedule. :) Thanks in advance to all who contributed on short notice.*

May NFDXA Meeting

The May meeting of the NFDXA is to be arranged by Jim, NU4Y. Keep an eye on your e-mail and the NFDXA RSVP site for an announcement as to the meeting date, the time and location.

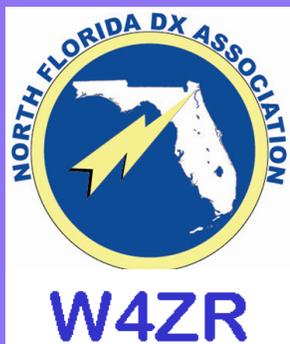
Also, keep an ear on the weekly Wednesday NFDXA net at 8 pm EDT on 3625 kHz.

- . . . -

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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



Vice President

Warren Croke, NW4C nw4c@cox.net



Secretary

Mike Reubin, NF4L nf4l@nf4l.com



Treasurer

Jim Hughes, KC4FWS 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

PileUp story ideas, manuscripts and photographs should be sent to nw4c@cox.net



Secretary's Report— 17 April Meeting — Mike, NF4L

This meeting was at the W4FDA QTH on 04/17/2010 at 4:00

The meeting was called to order by Mike, N4EPD at 6:02

Treasurer's Report: Jim, KC4FWS reported a balance of: 785.93

Old business: None

Guests:

Ben Dickerson K4EL
 Jim Cook, AL7RV
 Phil Witherspoon, K4KP
 Bill Martin, WB4KSP

New business:

A new club contest, a half-marathon was proposed. It will work like the previous marathon (country and zone). In addition there will be a column for IOTAs, which will count as 2 points. The contest period will be June thru December.

Attendance:

Name	Call	# Attending	
Steve Brown	AB4UF	0	
John Hale	AC4ET	0	
Larry Junstrom	K4EB	0	— Continued on page

Better Signals Expected from Mount Athos, SV/A

A short report was printed in the April **PileUp** about a group of Greek Hams visiting **Father Apollo, SV2ASP /A** at the monastery where he resides in Mount Athos (SV/A). Here's more on that story.

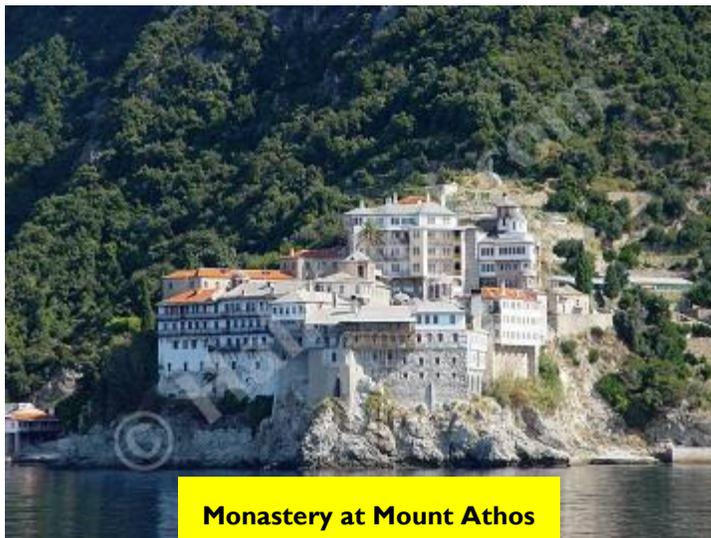
Although they went there primarily as pilgrims, **SVIDPI, SVISN, SVICQG** and **SVICIB** had brought along tools and used the opportunity to repair

the broken boom on Apollo's A3 tribander and got the antenna back up in the air. They also replaced a broken rotator cable. The stated hope (and goal) of the group was that **Father Apollo's** station would now have a better signal thus giving more hams world-wide a better opportunity to work this rare entity which is #13 on the Most Wanted list.

The link is to a video produced by the four Greek hams who were on the trip.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsyRW7CTIAw>

The 'background' music is loud and a little monotonous, but otherwise the video presents some interesting views from the inside of a very rare entity.



Spring Operating Tip

Late spring - early summer contests open a window of 20 meter propagation (and 30 and 17 meters, too, on occasion) in the evenings across northern polar paths. (Similar southern path enhancement occurs in late fall for our Southern Hemisphere friends.) Later in the season, increased absorption reduces signal levels on this path. With the rapidly improving solar flux levels, don't assume the higher bands are dead after dark as they have been over the past couple of years.

— ARRL Contest Update 14Apr2010

Sage Observation

WORD TO THE WISE — "The reason lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place is that the same place isn't there the second time." - Willie Tyler

— ARRL Contest Update 14Apr2010



NFDXA Weekly Net, Wednesdays 2000 Eastern, 3625 KHz

Hail, Hail The gang's all here at the W4FDA QTH Assorted snapshots from the April NFDXA Meeting



PHOTO ALBUM



Club DX Contest Revived as 'Half Marathon'

The NFDXA version of the annual CQ DX Marathon is coming back, albeit as a six month contest. The goal, however, remains the same with one small addition—work as many countries as you can, on any band, in any mode. Work each country only once *unless* it spans CQ

zones in which case you can work each zone separately for an additional point. Each contact counts for one point. Each IOTA "country"

is 2 points. For example, if you

You worked VK7 Tasmania, (OC-006), it counts both as an entity, Australia (1 point) and also as an IOTA which is worth an extra point, i.e., search, calculate and pounce!

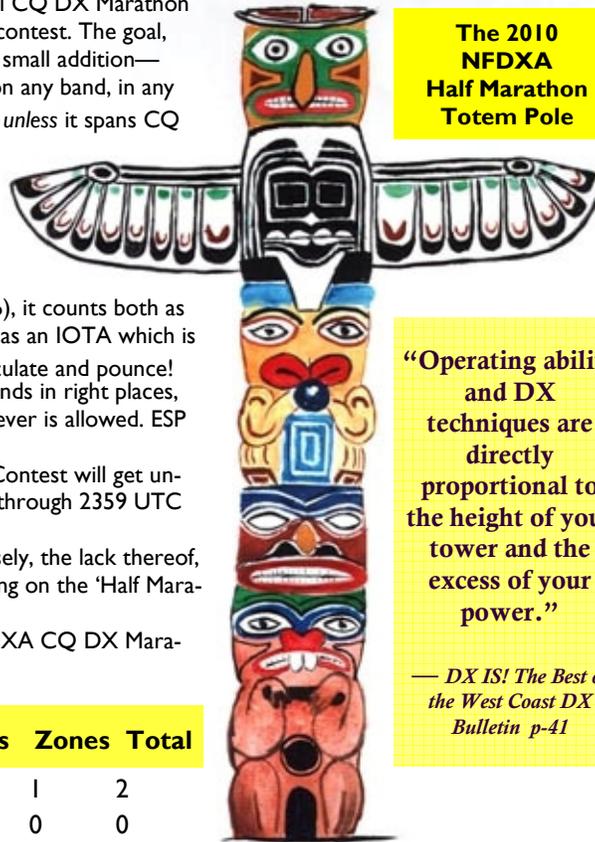
The use of spotting networks, friends in right places, clusters, jungle telegraph, spies, whatever is allowed. ESP contacts do not count.

The NFDXA Half Marathon DX Contest will get underway at 0000 UTC June 1 and run through 2359 UTC 31 December 2010.

The monthly progress or, conversely, the lack thereof, will be reported each month as a listing on the 'Half Marathon Totem Pole'

For reference, the final 2009 NFDXA CQ DX Marathon tally is listed below.

Call	Countries	Zones	Total
AB4UF	1	1	2
AC4ET	0	0	0
K4EB	246	40	286
K4UTE	269	40	309
KC4FWS	39	15	54
KX4WW	0	0	0
NIWON	151	33	184
N4EPD	0	0	0
N4GFO	0	0	0
N4JBK	0	0	0
N4KE	252	40	292
N4NN	277	40	317
N4UF	0	0	0
NF4L	207	37	244
NO4J	0	0	0
NU4Y	71	19	90
NW4C	132	28	160
VP5YZ	0	0	0
W4FDA	47	20	67
W5HUQ	0	0	0
WA4B	0	0	0
WA4ET	0	0	0
WR4K	114	33	147



The 2010 NFDXA Half Marathon Totem Pole

"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*



Winner Will Get Prize!

The winner of the 2009 NFDXA Half Marathon will get a prize, this in addition to the admiration and adulation that will be showered down upon him by his fellow club testers. The 2010 Champion will have his choice of a year's subscription to one of the following publications:

- 1) **The DX Magazine**, a bi-monthly magazine devoted to coverage of DX, DXpeditions, and the annual 'Most Wanted Survey'.
- 2) **CQ Magazine**, "The Radio Amateur's Journal" published monthly with articles and columns covering everything from construction to contesting and DX
- 3) **QST**, the monthly publication of the ARRL with a focus on ARRL activity, product reviews, strong technical emphasis.



*** The Daily DX (c) *** DX Calendar for May 2010

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Date	End	Prefix	Call	QSL Mgr	Daily DX Vol #
1-May	14-May	GM	GS3PYE/P (EU-010)	M0VFC	14-038
1-May	22-May	HI	HI7/OT4R		13-215
1-May	31-May	I	IU3AC	IK3GES	14-043
1-May	13-Jun	JA	8J2SEA		14-071
1-May	4-May	JA	JAIYUC/I (AS-008)		14-071
1-May	9-May	TA	TCI50SLH		14-067
1-May	31-Oct	VK	VK100WIA		14-065
1-May	8-May	ZF	ZF2CU	W5CU	14-071
1-May	1-Aug		Seventh Six Meters Marathon		14-024
2-May	7-May	JDI/O	JDIBLY (AS-031)	J15RPT	14-057
2-May	14-May	JDI/O	JDIBMH	JG7PSJ	14-048
5-May	10-May	LA	LA/DL5DSM (EU-141)	DL5DSM	14-071
5-May	10-May	LA	LA/DL9UBF (EU-041)	DL9UBF	14-071
6-May	16-May	JA	8J4BARA		14-071
7-May	15-May	IS	IS0R	F5CWU	14-041 025
9-May	10-May	W	WW5AA/4 (NA-213)	WW5AA	14-066
12-May	18-May	9H	9H3TK (EU-023)		14-054
12-May	18-May	OZ	OZ5K (EU-172)	ON4AMM	14-068
12-May	16-May	TK	TK/I5KOV	I5KOV	14-064
12-May	16-May	TK	TK/IW5ELA	IW5ELA	14-064
13-May	16-May	FK	FK/VK2DON (OC-033)	VK2DON	14-025
13-May	16-May	FK	FK/W3HQ (OC-033)	W3HQ	14-025
13-May	13-May		Dayton ConTest University		13-240
14-May	14-May		Dayton DX Dinner		14-049
14-May	14-May		Dayton Topband Dinner		14-019 014
15-May	25-May	3B8	3B8EME		14-009
15-May	28-May	OH0	OH0/PA0VHA	PA0VHA	14-042
15-May	28-May	OH0	OH0/PA2A	PA2A	14-042
15-May	28-May	OH0	OH0/PA2AM	PA2AM	14-042
15-May	28-May	OH0	OH0/PA2VMA	PA2VMA	14-042
15-May	28-May	OH0	OH0/PA3ALK	PA3ALK	14-042
15-May	28-May	OH0	OH0/PA3BAG	PA3BAG	14-042
15-May	28-May	OH0	OH0/PB5A	PB5A	14-042
15-May	24-May	OZ	OZ/PA1H (EU-172)	PA1H	14-065
15-May	24-May	OZ	OZ/PA7PA (EU-172)	PA7PA	14-065
15-May	15-May		18th Annual Dayton Contest Dinner		14-050
18-May	19-May	5W	5W0OX	UR3HR	14-068 043
19-May	23-May	FP	TO2FP		13-134
20-May	23-May	VP5	VP5/PY2WAS	PY2WAS	14-018
21-May	28-May	F	TM0B (EU-074)	F6ANA	14-062
22-May	1-Jun	T31	T31X	UR3HR	14-068 043
23-May	4-Jun	8Q	8Q7AT (AS-013)	OE2ATN	13-230
23-May	4-Jun	JT	JT9YW	RW9YW	14-067
23-May	10-Jun	PA	PA/DLIEAL (EU-038)	DLIEAL	14-067
24-May	31-May	VK9L	VK9CLH	VK2CCC	14-012
25-May	2-Jun	JT	JT9YAB	UA9YAB	14-064
25-May	31-May	PJ2	PJ4/K4BAI	K4BAI	14-063
27-May	31-May	YN	YN2GY K9GY		14-057
28-May	2-Jun	9A	9A/I2OGV (EU-110)	I2OGV	14-070
28-May	2-Jun	9A	9A/I2RFJ (EU-110)	I2RFJ	14-070
28-May	2-Jun	9A	9A/I2ZBX (EU-110)	I2ZBX	14-070
28-May	2-Jun	9A	9A/I22AMV (EU-110)	I22AMV	14-070
28-May	2-Jun	9A	9A/I22LSC (EU-110)	I22LSC	14-070
28-May	6-Jun	E4	E4X	EA5RM	14-057 027
28-May	29-May	EA8	EF8E	EA8AY	14-059

DX Quiz

One of the top DX entities worldwide is expected to be activated soon by a single operator who will be stationed on the island for one year.

Question

What is the entity and who is the operator?

Answer

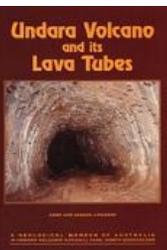
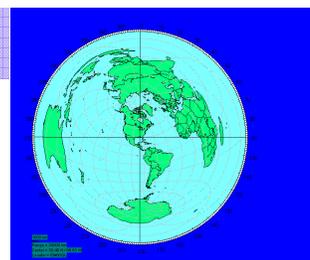
The answers, should you really need them, can be found on page 11.



DX at Deadline



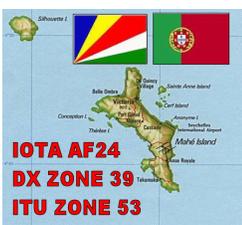
It's mentioned elsewhere in this issue of **PileUp** but it bears repeating. The number 3 most wanted entity **ZS8, Marion Island**, is being 'partially activated' presently by **Pierre, ZS1HF**, operating **/ZS8** when he can find a moment from his many pressing duties which include helping unload the supply ship that brought him to the island. Pierre will drop the **/ZS8** and use **ZS8M** as his call sign once the ship leaves on its return to South Africa. In early May.



Volcanoes are the rage these days, it seems. Ever since Iceland's Katla volcanoes blew its top April 15th it seems the world can't enough stories about volcanoes. Ham Radio DXpeditions are no exception. Two Australian ops, **VK4FD** and **VK4DMC**, have announced plans to set up and operate from in the **Undara Volcanic National Park** from May 21 to 23. (We assume it's dormant...) QSL via **VK4FW**

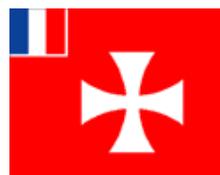


Members of the Radio Club of Ushuaia – **LU8XW** will conduct an expedition to the City of Tolhuin, Tierra Del Fuego, SA-008. They will be active on SSB, CW, PSK, RTTY and satellites, starting from **01:00 UTC on May 22 to 03:00 UTC on May 24**. QSL via **WD9EWK**. (DX World of Ham Radio)



Here's a neat one for your futures file, **S79BWW** in the **Seychelles** will be on from July 17 to July 19. You can kill many birds with one stone in the NFDXA CQ DX Half-Marathon on this one. S79 Seychelles is an entity that's also an IOTA *plus* Zone 39! Add another plus, a skilled DXpedition op, **CT1BWW**, will be at the 'controls'. If you do nothing else, check out Manuel's great web site which has lots of information about this Indian Ocean entity and much more. <http://www.ct1bww.com/s79bww/>

Yet another one for the futures box. Three Japanese ops are preparing to land on the **Wallis and Futuna Islands** for a week-long DXpedition July 14-24. JA2NOG, J12UAY and JH2BNL have applied for the call signs **FW5M**, **FW5FM** and **TO2BNL**, respectively. Initial plans also call for a two day operation from Fiji July 13-14 while en route to Wallis. QSLs should go to the individual operator's home call sign.

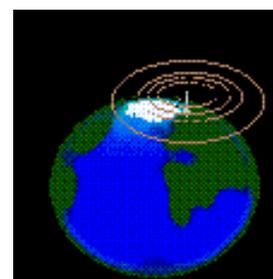


Continued from previous page...

29-May	30-May	9V	S65Q	9VIQQ	14-030
29-May	30-May	OH0	OG0Z (EU-002)	W0MM	14-063
29-May	30-May	OH0	OH0J	OH1RX	14-067
29-May	12-Jun	OZ	OZ/DL4VM (EU-125)	DL4VM	14-067
29-May	30-May	TA	TA2LM	TA2LM	14-062
29-May	30-May	VQ9	VQ90JC	ND9M	14-054
29-May	30-May	ZS	ZS9X		14-068

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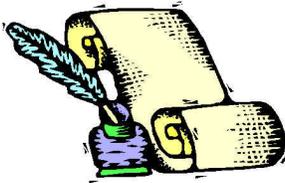
OWING TO HIS EXCELLENT BUT SOMEWHAT SELF-EFFACING SIGNMAKING SKILLS, LEONARD QUICKLY LOCATES HIS VEHICLE AT THE DAYTON HAMFEST.



No Takers for Dayton Hamfest this year

An informal poll taken during the April meeting of the North Florida DX Association indicated that unlike previous years none of the club's members were planning on attending the 2010 Dayton Hamfest.

Various reasons were cited. They ranged from having made "other plans" to "I'm 'hamfested' out", the ongoing tight economy and the perception that Dayton had gone downhill in recent years, there was nothing new to be seen and because of that it was no longer worth the trip.



April 17, 2010 Meeting Minutes — continued from page 2

Dick Hicks	K4UTE	1
Jim Hughes	KC4FWS	2
Bill Walker	KX4WW	0
Cory McDonald	NIWON	1
Mike Parnin	N4EPD	1
Ron Tivey	N4GFO	1
Joe Barnes	N4JBK	?
Ron Blake	N4KE	1
Dale Conner	N4NN	0
Billy Williams	N4UF	0
Mike Reublin	NF4L	1
Dave Mains	NO4J	0
Jim Iori	NU4Y	1
Warren Croke	NW4C	1
Pres Graham	W4FDA	1
John Moore	W5HUQ	0
Steve Barber	WA4B	2
David Price	WA4ET	?
Dick Knox	WR4K	0

Total Confirmed Attending 13
 .The next meeting planner is: Jim Iori, NU4Y
The meeting was adjourned at: 6:20

Respectfully submitted, Mike NF4L, Secretary

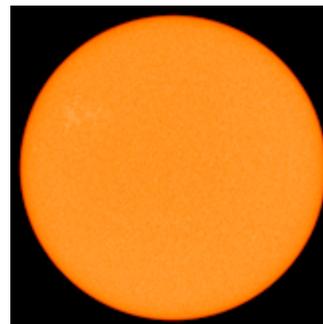
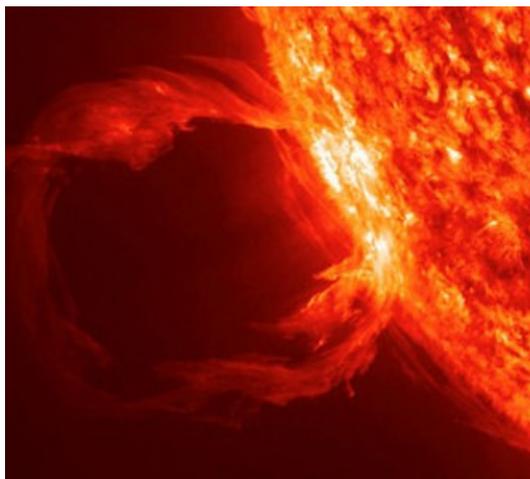
Shining Images of the Sun

At a press conference in Washington researchers have unveiled "First Light" images from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, a space telescope designed to study the sun.

"SDO is working beautifully," reports project scientist Dean Pesnell of the Goddard Space Flight Center. "This is even better than we could have dreamed."

Launched on February 11th from Cape Canaveral, the observatory has spent the past two months moving into a geosynchronous orbit and activating its instruments. As soon as SDO's telescope doors opened, the spacecraft began beaming back scenes so beautiful and puzzlingly complex that even seasoned observers were stunned.

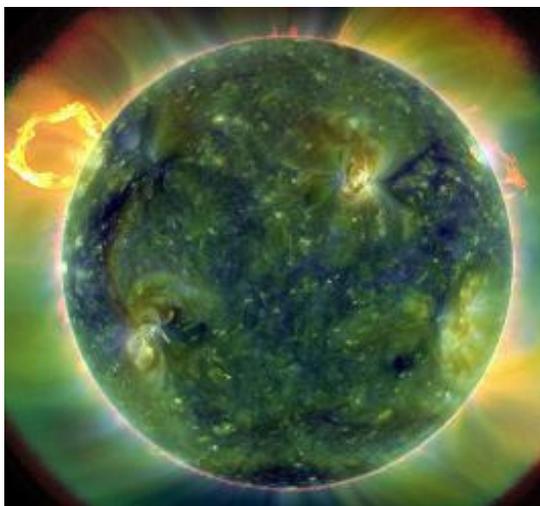
For instance, on the image on the right is one of the first things SDO saw:



**All this activity but no sunspots. The sun is blank for the 8th straight day—
Space Weather.com Apr 33**

"We've seen solar prominences before—but never quite like this," says Alan Title of Lockheed Martin, principal investigator of the Atmospheric Imaging Assembly (AIA), the observatory's main telescope array.

SDO is the first mission of NASA's Living with a Star (LWS) program. The goal of LWS is to understand the sun as a magnetic variable star and to measure its impact on life and society on Earth. Program scientist Lika Guhathakurta of NASA headquarters envisions big things for the new observatory:



"SDO is our 'Hubble for the sun'," she says. "It promises to transform solar physics in the same way the Hubble Space Telescope has transformed astronomy and cosmology."

"No solar telescope has ever come close to the combined spatial, temporal and spectral resolution of SDO," adds Title. "This is possible because of the combination of 4096 x 4096-pixel CCDs with huge dynamic range and a geosynchronous orbit which allows SDO to observe the sun and communicate with the ground around the clock."

One of the most amazing things about the observatory is its "big picture" view. SDO is able to monitor not just one small patch of sun, but rather the whole thing—full disk, atmosphere, surface, and even interior. "We're going to make connections that were impossible in the past," says Title.

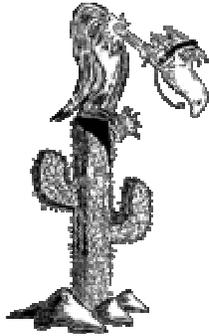
—NASA Science News via DX World of Ham Radio <http://dx-world.net/>

So You Want To Be a Lid! — A.J. Massa, W5VSR

(Part I of this article appeared in the April edition of *The PileUp*. This is the conclusion)

RESULTS GUARANTEED

Did you ever hear a phone operator who sounds like he's operating from a dungeon? Maybe he is, but even without a dungeon you can get the same effect by turning up your mike gain and holding your Golden Eagle D-104 at least one foot, better at two, from your face. Never talk close to a mike. Disc Jockeys never do and they are "cool." When you are on the air, you are "cool" too, so you do the same. Communications microphones are designed to be close talked. Keep that mike gain at a minimum level. That way you will not be transmitting the voices of your wife and kids screaming five rooms away. Of course, to be a super lid in the audio department, do use a "power mike" driving a processor. Everybody knows that the engineers who designed your transmitter purposely made it short on mike gain.



Lastly, when giving your name, refer to it as your "handle." It's folksy. And be sure to say, "The handle here is Beaver." That's much liddier than just plain, "My name is Beaver." It also helps to punctuate your remarks with "By golly" whenever possible. And remember, whenever in a large roundtable, especially ID-ing. Also, don't forget to add "For ID" after your call sign.

There are many other ways to be a lid, but I feel confident that if more operators were to take a look at this disaster from the lighter side, perhaps we'll all see just how ridiculous most of the phone operating on the ham bands is today. Phone conversation should really not take on a much different atmosphere from talking to your friends on the telephone. Do you say "Over" or "Break" or the worst "Come back" when you are on the telephone? Well then, why do so many do it on the amateur bands? All of that is ever so redundant on a repeater system where most have "End-of-transmission" beep tones; and of course, there is usually a squelch burst ahead of that, so you actually ended up with a fellow ending his sentence with "Come back".... followed by a squelch burst followed by the repeater's beep and in many cases the repeater carrier dropping. You have just four indications that it's your turn! QSL?

Let's all pay more attention to this problem and see if we can help "clean up" our operations and put amateur radio operations back up to the more professional nature that it enjoyed before many poor habits of the CB band crept up on us.

— . . . —

Editor's Note—This article first appeared in the September, 1978, Ham Radio Horizons, entitled "So You Want To Be a Lid!," by AJ "Buddy" Massa, W5VSR.

Vanity Fee Could Be Lowered—Again

The FCC has released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) that seeks to lower the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$13.40 and is good for 10 years. The proposed new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go down to \$13.30 for 10 years, a decrease of ten cents.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 13 years from low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70 back in 1994 when the program was first proposed by the FCC.

The Commission expects some 14,800 Hams will apply for a vanity call during the next fiscal year resulting in fees totaling \$196,840.



New ARRL Website Operational

The newly redesigned ARRL website is up and running. The site is still located in cyberspace at www.arrl.org.

Among the changes are click-to buttons at the top of the page. A single mouse click navigates the user to such topics as Licensing, Technology, a Membership area and much more. In all there are eleven instant access buttons including one to bring you back to the suites home page.

A carry over from the old ARRL web design was the decision to keep the latest news right on the home page as headlines. To read more you click on the story and the full text appears almost instantly.

The new website was over two years in construction. Check it out. Point your web browser to www.arrl.org.

—ARRL via *Amateur Radio Newsline*



Customized Beam Headings

The North Jersey DX Association provides personalized beam headings centered on your location to every entity on the DXCC list.

The Beam Headings page can be found on the redesigned NJDXA website at <http://www.njdx.org/dx-tools/beam-headings.php> — W2DEC



Answer to DX Quiz on page 6



The entity to be activated is **Marion Island, ZS8**, which is Number 3 on *The DX Magazine's* 2009 Most Wanted List. Marion is one of two South African sub-Antarctic islands and is located in the extreme South Atlantic Ocean at Latitude 46.8 degrees South and Longitude 37.8 degrees East. (*Wikipedia*).

The operator stationed on the island until this time next year is **ZS1HF, Pierre Tromp**, who says: "I hope to be active and operational by the 5th of May." He is scheduled to use the call sign **ZS8M**.



SDR Explained...mostly

For a straightforward, well-illustrated introduction to **Software-Defined Radio** by Tobias Welinitz, DH1TW, go to: <http://www.dh1tw.de/understanding-the-sdr-concept>.

It makes for a good introduction to the topic and more advanced treatments of the subject, including some of the other SDR articles on the site. (*AMSAT bulletin ANS-094*)

Here's
Something
New

Brain Flatulence

Somehow your editor managed to commit Ham Radio's ultimate gaffe in the April issue. I made an error in a fellow Ham's call sign...and a big one at that! It was the call of our NFDXA president call that I blew, a double dog goof!

My apologies go out to **Mike Parnin, N4EPD**, who is *not* N4EPH, as my poor proof-reading skills would have had you believe.

Again, just for emphasis...that's **N4EPD**

— NW4C



PileUp

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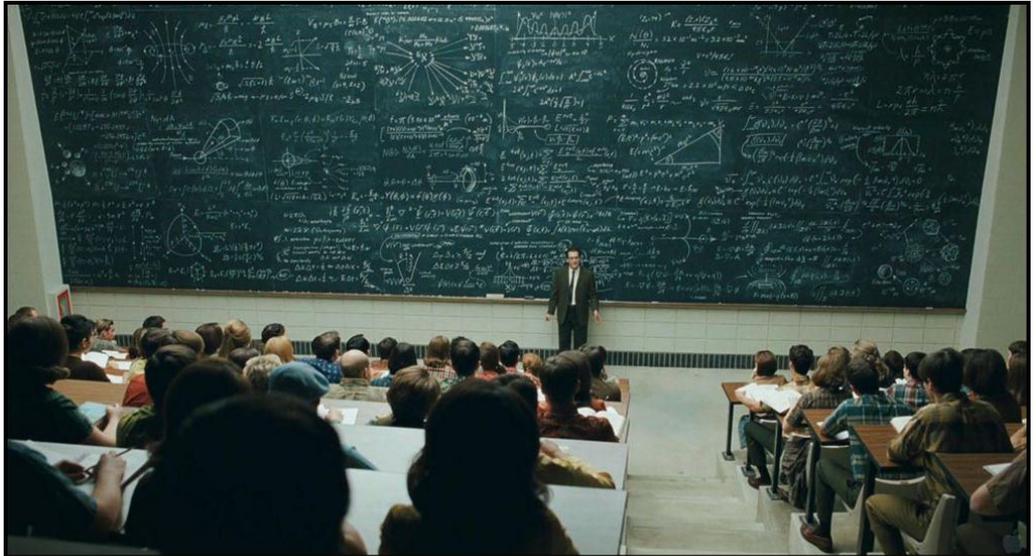
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W4ZR

The Monthly Newsletter of The North Florida DX Association



And thus, gentlemen, we have arrived at the formula for understanding women...

China Earthquake Emergency Frequencies



Building Ruins in Beichan Sichuan Province, China

Hams worldwide have been asked to keep **7.050** and **7.060 MHz** clear for emergency communications in the wake of China's second major earthquake in a year, on April 13. According to the ARRL, the request came from the Chinese Radio Sports Association, which is coordinating ham radio activity in the relief efforts. Nearly 1200 people were killed by the 7.1-magnitude quake in Qinghai Province, another 10,000 were hurt and thousands of families were left homeless.

The Last Word

And it will, indeed, be my last word for at least a month as Jo and I make preparations to take time off to tour a number of National Parks out west. That's why this edition of the **PileUp** is being posted about three weeks earlier than usual.

One of the problems with hitting the road for an extended period are the entities one might need that always seem to use that time to come on the air! Like Peter Island, for instance. All the time the 3Y0 team was active my wife and I were hiking the wilds of New Zealand which, figuratively, was just across the pond—but there were no NZ ham operators nearby whose doors I could knock on. This was frustrating because distance wise, 3Y0 to NZ is like Florida to California. This trip it's the 8-day Spanish led E4X DXpedition to Palestine which starts May 28th and runs until June 6th, barring some new Middle eastern flap. If all goes well, the good Lord's willin' and the creeks don't rise we should be back. But I've managed to miss E4 the last two times it was activated and I am hoping it won't be 3 strikes and I'm out!

— **NW4C**