



MARCH

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

GOOD DX

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The North Florida DX Association

PileUp

The NFDXA Monthly Newsletter



W4ZR

PileUp Volume No. 3 March 2011 <http://nfdxa.com/>

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There's Just No Meters Like 10 Meters; Sun Delivers For ARRL DX SSB With East West Openings

While the 2011 ARRL CW Contest gave contesters a small taste of openings on 10 meters, last weekend's ARRL SSB test delivered for many, registering numbers not seen in a number of years on that band.

"Simply amazing on Sunday," said Mark Luhrman W4SVO, who tallied 526 QSO's and 79 multipliers from his QTH in south Florida. "Saturday was just a teaser into Europe," Luhrman wrote on 3830, saying that "Europe exploded on Sunday."

"I ran Europe from 1247z to 1847z - 6 hours!" as Luhrman said it may have been the best contest conditions on 10 meters since the 2005 ARRL DX.

The propagation wasn't limited to just Florida by any means, as over in Alabama, Cort Judd K4WI reported a long path opening to Asia on Sunday morning. — See 'Contest' page 3

ARRL SSB Arrived In Aftermath Of Cheating Allegations and Fake Spots In ARRL DX CW Contest

Instead of talk about extra 10 meter propagation and better contest conditions, the week after the ARRL DX CW Contest turned into accusations about cheating - focused on one Russian operator - and allegedly intentional bad spots put out by another contestee.

The cheating charges were first leveled by Yuri Onipko VE3DZ, who operated again this year as 8P3A, registering one of the top DX scores.

But his effort wasn't close to that of Valery Komarov RD3A, who used his first contest trip to the Caribbean to smash the Single Operator DX record in an operation at PJ4A.

And that drew the ire of Onipko on the 3830 scores reflector, as he wrote "when I see scores like the one from PJ4A, I have the feeling that it's time to quit serious contesting."

"I might put my contesting activity on hold for a while, because I see absolutely no sense in competing in situation like this," VE3DZ added.

— See 'Cheating' on page 3

Wise men speak because they have something to say. Fools because they have to say something—Plato

NFDXA Meeting
5 pm Sat Mar 12
Athens Café
6271 St. Augustine Rd
Jacksonville

Not So Fast, My Friend



Cory NIWON

A while back a note was posted to a number of DX bulletins about the group from Virginia going to Guantanamo where they said they would operate on 60 Meters and that this would be a first for that band from Gitmo.

For those in NFDXA with long memories, think back eight years ago to 2003 when **Cory, NIWON** and **David, WA4ET** went to the Guantanamo Naval Base to activate the Gitmo lighthouse in the annual worldwide lighthouse event. While activating the lighthouse, Cory switched over and operated on 60 meters



David WA4ET

for a brief time making a number of contacts. No big deal—except there weren't that many 60 meter ops on the air, recalls Cory, because he made only five contacts.

Not to throw cold water on the Virginia group's 2011 60 meter effort you might remind them—if you happen to work them—that **NIWON** and **WA4ET** have 'been there and done that'. Be gentle because announcing that you are 'the first' is a really big deal to some folks . . .





W4ZR

North Florida DX Association, Inc.

The North Florida DX Association, Inc. is a group of Amateur Radio Operators located primarily in northeast Florida whose main Ham Radio interests are DXing and Contests. 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 2011.



President

Warren Croke, NW4C nw4c@cox.net



Vice President

Cory Mc Donald, NIWON n1won@hotmail.com



Secretary

Mike Reublin, 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

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

***PileUp* CREDITS**

Credit for much the DX news, illustrations and information contained in this publication goes to a variety of sources including, but not limited to the following: **The Daily DX** (<http://www.dailydx.com>), **NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page** (<http://www.ng3k.com/>), **OhioPenn DX Bulletin** (<http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>), **DX World of Ham Radio** (<http://www.dx-world.net/>), **The DX Magazine** (<http://www.dxpub.com/>), **DX Italia** (<http://www.dxitalia.it/>), **DARC DXNL** (<http://www.dxhf.darc.de/>), **Pete's DX Newsdesk** (<http://www.dx-newsdesk.co.uk/>), **ARRL** (<http://www.arrl.org>) and (gasp!) word of mouth from friends who turned on their radios, operated and told me what they heard.

**Next NFDXA Meeting — 5 pm Saturday, March 12
Athens Café, 6271 St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville**

NF4L Awarded CW DXCC for 15 and 20 Meters

Long-time NFDXA secretary Mike, NF4L, was recently awarded his DXCC certificate for working 100 DXCC countries in the CW mode.

Now, he's added to the original award by working and receiving confirmations of 100 DXCC contacts in CW for two individual bands, 15 and 20 meters.

Mike said originally he didn't care for CW and achieved his first DXCC for mixed mode contacts, mostly on phone. Now, that he's using CW more, he says, he's getting to like it and it's replacing SSB and becoming his favored mode.

The band endorsement stickers for the 100 CW countries on 15 and 20 meters measure 1 inch by 1.5 inches and can be affixed to the certificate or the glass of the main DXCC certificate frame.



'Contest' from page 1

"I couldn't hold a run frequency for very long so moved up high in the band and sat and ran Euro's for a while," he wrote on 3830. "I had forgotten what fun that is," he added, as he found 462 contacts and 76 mults on 10 meters.

Also grabbing that long path opening to Asia was Charles Dietz W5PR, who knocked out 730 contacts and 92 mults for 201k on 10 meters. "What a difference a year makes!" Dietz wrote on 3830. "Last year I had less than 200 QSOs and only 30 multipliers."

"Nice to see that 10 meters really comes to life," said Ville OH2MM, who was operating at PY2ZEA, as he claimed 2,032 QSO's and 58 mults from the DX side on 10 meters. "Glad to see 10 slowly coming back to life," wrote Colin Jenkins KU5B, who operated 10 meters from the NX5M station in Texas.

Obviously, 10 meters wasn't the only bright spot this weekend, as higher sunspot numbers also brought great conditions on 15 and 20 meters for many as well.

"A few good numbers and the world comes back to life," wrote Paul Newberry N4PN on 3830, after a 1617 QSO effort on 15 meters.

—[Jamie Dupree NS3T](#) [radio-sport.net](#)

'Cheating' from page 1

While Onipko did not make any specific charge, his verbal slap at RD3A was quickly was echoed by contest legend Jim Neiger N6TJ, who has previously pushed for close cheating checks of the Russian's big contest scores. "Welcome to the club, Yuri," Neiger said on the CQ-Contest reflector.

"When the claimed Top A/B single operator score posted defies any reasonable imagination of reality, like beating a 9-man multi-multi from Hawaii, then I guess we all can go back to playing chess - where it's pretty hard to cheat," Neiger wrote.

Once again though, no one would offer any specifics on why Komarov's score was the result of cheating, a familiar refrain to [radio-sport.net](#), which receives numerous emails charging RD3A and others with illegal operations, but nothing concrete to back it up.

Critics of RD3A often charge he uses backup operators to help his CW contest efforts.

Russian contesters contacted by [radio-sport.net](#) were especially reluctant to offer opinions on Komarov, worried about retaliation by their colleague, who has made his money in the oil business.

—[Jamie Dupree NS3T](#) [radio-sport.net](#)



Minutes of Feb 12 NFDXA Meeting

There are no 'official' minutes for a February meeting as the club counted the gathering at the 2011 'Orlando Hamcation' as the February meeting.

Unofficially, those who stopped by the **KC4FWS** motor-home in the nearby fairground RV parking area next door to the Hamcation were treated to a tasty lunch featuring **Jim's** famous world-famous chili and an assortment of brauts—just the thing to ward off the mid-February chill. Again, thanks, Jim. It was a great treat.

Boat Anchor Stations in NFDXA Past and Present



As *USA Today* columnist Craig Wilson once famously opined: "Nostalgia is great. It helps us remember things as being much nicer than they were". True, to be kind the radios of times past were primitive. However, these so-called "Boat Anchors" were pretty darn good for their time. Witness some of the great past set-ups of NFDXA members pictured above. In the upper left, John, KB4CRT's nifty set-up with the classic National NC-303 receiver as its centerpiece and a Maui Eimac AF68A, the so-called 'Poor Man's (Johnson) Ranger on the shelf below (Note the kewl alpha-numeric tube KB4CRT ID). And to the right, a young Bob, W4GJ—then WA4PWF—with his Drake 2B receiver, Q-Multiplier, Hallicrafters TO Keyer and Heath DX-60 transmitter. Below Bob is one of W4FDA's many stations that tracked his Navy career, this one in Puerto Rico. Pres says he built the rack-mounted xmtr using a rebuilt ARC 5 as its vfo (note the circular ARC 5 dial in the middle) and a venerable National receiver on the desk. One of Ron, N4KE's early line-ups is to the left featuring the beautiful matched Drake line station complete with L4B, R4B, T4B, matching WN2000 wattmeter and a combo Drake speaker/power supply. Below Ron's early 70s station are the beautiful Kenwood Twins that were the pride and joy of Richard, WR4K (WB4JYD back then) that were operated from his motor home in the late 1970s. There's more and it gets even better. Check the set-up on the bottom of page 5. Recognize that young fellow?

For those long nights when there's nothing to do . . .

Long Range AM Radio Listening

Every year a hardy group of radio enthusiasts travel to Lemmenjoki in northern Finland to listen for rare and distant AM broadcast radio stations. Two members of this AM radio club have received confirmations of over 1200 radio stations in the US and Canada, an impressive achievement. A number of American stations have run news stories about the long distance reception.

The premier medium wave DX club in Europe is a group known as 'The Medium Wave Circle' which publishes a newsletter 10 times a year.

For more information go to:

<http://www.mwcircle.org>

—Southgate ARC News http://www.southgatearc.org/news/feb2011/long_range_am.html

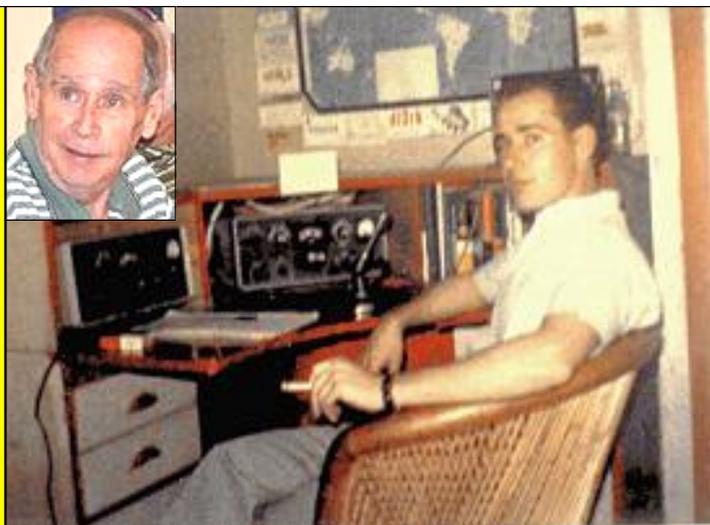
(Editor's note: Many moons ago when I was 2nd engineer at 1240 AM WLCO in Eustis, FL, I used to run checks on our Gates 250C transmitter in the wee small hours of the morning. I was amazed at the SWL/QSL cards we received from around the world—at least one or two every time I ran a test.)

The Latest K1NSS 'Dashtoon'

I HAD TO BUY THIS HALLICRAFTERS RADIO BECAUSE...

1. I NEEDED A HEDGE AGAINST THE COMING COLLAPSE OF GOLD.
2. I'M SO OLD I CLUTCH AT STRAWS WITH TUBES.
3. MY GRAB AND GO BAG LACKED SOMETHING BULKY AND BROKEN.
4. IT NICELY MATCHED FOOD IN MY BEARD.
5. THE LIMIT WAS ONLY ONE PER CUSTOMER.
6. MY COLLECTION WAS MISSING AN \$38C WITH THE BLACK MOLD OPTION.
7. IT REMINDED ME OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.
8. IF IT WORKED, I COULD RUN IT ON 80 D-CELLS.
9. IF IT WORKED, I COULD LISTEN TO RADIO MOSCOW FOR HOURS AND HOURS AND HOURS.
10. I'LL NEVER REGRET NOT RESTORING THIS VINTAGE LAPSE IN JUDGEMENT.

'Mr. Casual' depicted here is none other than NFDXA's K4UTE, circa 1963-65 in Kabul, Afghanistan where he operated the pictured Collins S-Line and made 64,000 QSO as YA4A. During his stay in Afghanistan Dick was visited for two weeks by the legendary Gus Browning, W4BPD (SK) who he described as a "really nice guy" and "a great CW op"—but that it was hard to keep him in Cocoa-Colas! Gus and Dick worked together as a team and put every YA prefix on the air from YA1 through YA0. We hope to show more early NFDXA member-stations with their beautiful 'boat anchor' rigs in future editions of **PileUp**.

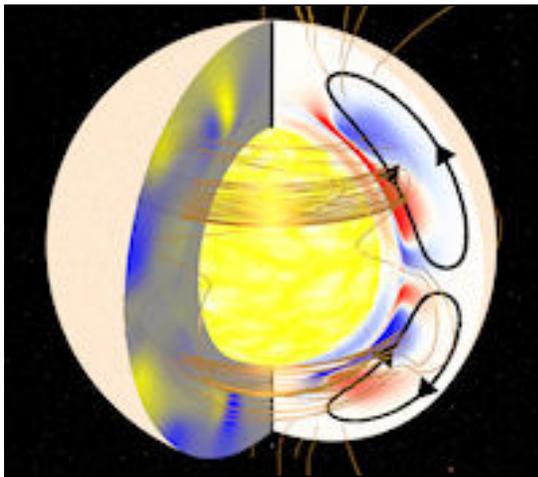


RESEARCHERS CRACK MYSTERY OF THE MISSING SUNSPOTS

In 2008-2009, sunspots almost completely disappeared for two years. Solar activity dropped to hundred-year lows; Earth's upper atmosphere cooled and collapsed; the sun's magnetic field weakened, allowing cosmic rays to penetrate the Solar System in record numbers. It was a big event, and solar physicists openly wondered, *where have all the sunspots gone?*

Now they know. An answer is being published in the March 3rd edition of *Nature*.

"Plasma currents deep inside the sun interfered with the formation of sunspots and prolonged solar minimum," says lead author Dibyendu Nandi of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in Kolkata. "Our conclusions are based on a new computer model of the sun's interior."



For years, solar physicists have recognized the importance of the sun's "Great Conveyor Belt." A vast system of plasma currents called 'meridional flows' (akin to ocean currents on Earth) travel along the sun's surface, plunge inward around the poles, and pop up again near the sun's equator. These looping currents play a key role in the 11-year solar cycle. When sunspots begin to decay, surface currents sweep up their magnetic remains and pull them down inside the star; 300,000 km below the surface, the sun's magnetic dynamo amplifies the decaying magnetic fields. Re-animated sunspots become buoyant and bob up to the surface like a cork in water—voila! A new solar cycle is born.

For the first time, Nandi's team believes they have developed a computer model that gets the physics right for all three aspects of this process--the magnetic dynamo, the conveyor belt, and the buoyant evolution of sunspot magnetic fields.

"According to our model, the trouble with sunspots actually began in back in the late 1990s during the upswing of Solar Cycle 23," says co-author Andrés Muñoz-Jaramillo of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. "At that time, the conveyor belt sped up."

The fast-moving belt rapidly dragged sunspot corpses down to sun's inner dynamo for amplification. At first glance, this might seem to boost sunspot production, but no. When the remains of old sunspots reached the dynamo, they rode the belt through the amplification zone too hastily for full re-animation. Sunspot production was stunted.

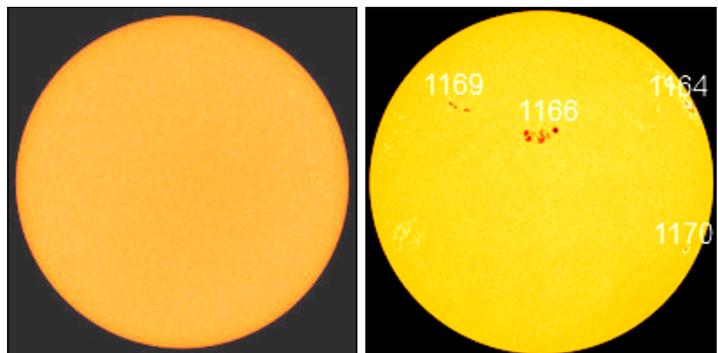
Later, in the 2000s, according to the model, the Conveyor Belt slowed down again, allowing magnetic fields to spend more time in the amplification zone, but the damage was already done. New sunspots were in short supply. Adding insult to injury, the slow moving belt did little to assist re-animated sunspots on their journey back to the surface, delaying the onset of Solar Cycle 24.

"The stage was set for the deepest solar minimum in a century," says co-author Petrus Martens of the Montana State University Department of Physics.

Nandi notes that their new computer model explained not only the absence of sunspots but also the sun's weakened magnetic field in 08-09. "It's confirmation that we're on the right track."

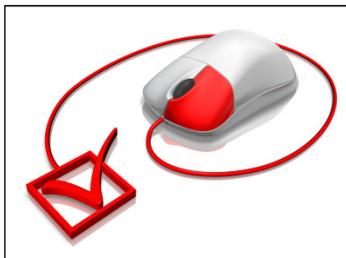
Next step: NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) can measure the motions of the sun's conveyor belt—not just on the surface but deep inside, too. The technique is called helioseismology; it reveals the sun's interior in much the same way that an ultrasound works on a pregnant woman. By plugging SDO's high-quality data into the computer model, the researchers might be able to predict how future solar minima will unfold. SDO is just getting started, however, so forecasts will have to wait.

— NASA Science News



The picture on the left shows a blank, featureless sun on March 2, 2008. The picture on the right taken March 9, 2011 shows behemoth Sunspot 1166 and three other sunspot groups. — Spaceweather.com

RTTY Most-Wanted Survey 2011



All RTTY operators are invited to participate in the **RTTY Most Wanted Survey 2011**.

This survey is being conducted by Larry, K8UT and Don, AA5AU and hosted on the Southeast Michigan DX Association Web site. This survey will be run for 3 weeks midnight EST Monday, March 20, 2011.

Please submit to the survey only once per call sign unless you made a mistake or your "needs" list on RTTY changed within the survey period. If more than one survey is submitted with your call sign, the last one submitted will be used. The results of the survey will be posted when they have been compiled.

To take part in the survey go to: <http://rttysurvey2011.semdxa.org>
You are asked to report any problems with the survey directly to K8UT at: k8ut@k8ut.com

The Ever-Elusive Monk Apollo Spotted on 12-Meter RTTY

Not everyone was involved with the ARRL SSB contest this past weekend-although at times it may have seemed that way with the 'hot' propagation on the upper HF bands.

Some escaped headed over to the relatively quiet WARC bands—including the sole operator on very rare (No. 13 Most Wanted) Mount Athos, SV2ASP/A, Monk Apollo!

RTTY ops on 12 meters, most of them in the eastern half of North America, were heard working Monk Apollo on 24930 after 1515Z Sunday, March 6. If your were among 'the chosen', QSL via his CBA.



Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A

The Origin of DX

DX is an early telephone term for distant exchange.

"This is correct. In the 1960s I worked in many telephone exchanges around the United Kingdom. On the old-fashioned switchboards with plugs and cords, circuits coming in from distant exchanges had a label marked "DX" above the jack socket. The operator would plug into the circuit and announce the name of her exchange, as confirmation to the distant operator that she was through to the correct destination. 73 de G3NYY"

It is also defined in Funk & Wagnall's as Distance.

Origin of Hamspeak – Fact, Legends and Myths <http://www.ac6v.com/73.htm>

COMPLAINTS FROM HAMS MOVE VOICE OF RUSSIA OFF 7.200 MHZ



Shortwave station the Voice of Russia is now back operating in the part of the 40 meter band where it belongs.

The station was first heard on 7.200 MHz on February 1st and was reported to the IARU Monitoring System by Dick van Elpelen, PA0GRU, in the Netherlands.

Ulrich Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, from the IARU Region I Monitoring System then reported the station to the German Telecommunications authorities on February 2nd.

Then, in correspondence with the Russian General Radiofrequency Centre, DJ9KR was able to demonstrate the interference. Subsequently, the Voice of Russia moved up the band to 7.265 MHz.

—Amateur Radio News via Southgate ARC

NG3K 05-15 March 2011 DX Calendar (Edited) <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Start/End	Entity	Call	QSL Via	Details
Mar05 Mar15	Cambodia	XU7AFU	ON4AFU	By ON4AFU fm Kampong Som; possibly also fm Koh Russei (AS-133) using XU7KOH; QSL OK via ON Buro or direct
Mar05 Mar15	Sable I	CY0	See Info	By N0TG as N0TG/CY0; AA4VK K8LEE likewise; OQRS to be available and preferred, otherwise direct to N0TG
Mar06 Mar16	Namibia	V5	ZS6AYU Direct	By ZS6AYU as V5/ZS6AYU; 30-15m; CW; fm various locations; holiday style operation
Mar07 Mar12	Bermuda	VP9 [AA1AC	By AA1AC as VP9/AA1AC fm Hamilton Pairsh (NA-005); QSL OK via Buro or direct
Mar08 Mar13	Aruba	P40D	WD9DZV	By WD9DZV; most bands; most modes; holiday style operation
Mar08 Mar15	Cambodia	XU7SSB	XU7SSB	By JA2EZD, also with XU7FMZ and XU7NPC; HF
Mar08 Mar15	St Lucia	J6	G3PJT	By G3PJT as J6/G3PJT fm NA-108 (WLOTA 1336); focus on low bands; verticals; QSL OK via Buro or direct; holiday style operation; QRV for BERU Commonwealth Contest
Mar08 Mar18	Antigua	V25WY	LotW	By W4OWY; W9OP will be V25OP; QSL both via home_call, LotW, and eQSL
Mar09 Mar13	Albania	ZA	I2GPT	By I2GPT IK2PGM IW2HKW IW2JOP IZ2BKP IZ2QCP as ZA/I2GPT; 40-17m; CW SSB; QSL OK via I Buro or direct
Mar09 Mar16	Guadeloupe	FG	F6ITD	By F6ITD as FG/F6ITD fm Basse Terre and La Desirade I; SSB + digital; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct
Mar09 Mar18	Turks & Caicos	VP5	LotW	By VE3OP as VP5/VE3OP; CW RTTY PSK31 SSB; QSL also OK via VE3OP, Buro or direct
Mar09 Mar23	Lesotho	7P8PB	LotW	By EI7CC; QSL OK via EI Buro or direct; holiday style operation
Mar10 Mar17	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	LotW	By K5MV as V4/K5MV; 160-6m; SSB CW; QSL also OK via K5MV direct (w/ SASE); holiday style operation
Mar10 Mar17	Curacao	PJ2	Home Call	By W5FKX as PJ2/W5FKX fm Signal Point contest station (SA-099, WLOTA 0942), N5HZ W5XU W5ZPA likewise; HF; all modes
Mar10 Apr06	Madeira	CT9	Home Call	By DL3KWF as CT9/DL3KWF and DL3KWR as CT9/DL3KWR fm AF-014; 30 17 12m; mainly CW, some RTTY PSK31
Mar11 Mar18	Br Virgin Is	VP2V	G3PHO	By G3PHO as VP2V/G3PHO fm Tortola I (NA-023); 80-10m, perhaps 160m; 100w; wires; QSL OK via RSGB Buro or direct; holiday style operation
Mar11 Mar20	Lesotho	7P8	LotW	By K5LBU as 7P8CF and W5KDJ as 7P8KDJ; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY PSK; 2 full time stns; QSL 7P8CF also via K5LBU direct; QSL 7P8KDJ also via W5KDJ direct
Mar12 Mar13	Ghana	9G5XA		By G3XAQ fm Accra; BERU Commonwealth Contest
Mar12 Mar13	St Vincent	J88DR	G3TBK	By G3TBK fm Kingstown (NA-109, WLOTA 0492); BERU Commonwealth Contest; QSL OK via Buro or direct
Mar14 Mar21	Morocco	CN2MR	LotW	By MJ0ASP; QSL also OK via MJ0ASP
Mar14 Mar22	St Pierre & Miquelon	FP	LotW	By W6HGF as FP/W6HGF fm Miquelon I (NA-032, DIFO FP-002, WLOTA 1417, GN17tc); 160-10m; focus on digital modes
Mar14 Mar28	Dominica	J79M	LotW	By SM3PHM; QSL also OK via SM3PHM, Buro or direct
Mar15 Mar31	Andaman & Nicobar Is	VU4PB	W3HMK	By Amateur Radio Society of India team fm Port Blair, Andaman Is; 4 stations; details to follow

NG3K 15 March-30 April 2011 DX Calendar (Edited) <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Start/End	Entity	Call	QSL Via	Details
Mar15 Apr02	Fiji	3D2	See Info	VK4AN as 3D2A, also OZ1IKY fm Nadi; 160-6m, focus on low bands; QRV BARTG RTTY and RDXC + CQ WW WPX SSB; QSL 3D2A via VK4AN
Mar18 Mar21	Jersey	MJ0CFW	LotW	By JK3GAD fm EU-013; 160-10m; QSL also OK via M0CFW; QRV for Russian DX Contest
Mar19 Mar29	Cocos Keeling	VK9CF	K8NA	By NL8F fm OC-003; 160-10m; SSB; QRV in CQWW WPX, SSB
Mar29 Apr18	Sierra Leone	9L5MS	OQRS	By PA3A PD0CAV PA8AD PA3AN EL2DT; HF + 6m; RTTY SSB CW
Mar30 Apr02	Mariana Is	KH0	Home Call Direct	By WE8A as WE8A/KH0, K8RLY likewise; 80-6m; SSB CW on WARC, CW on non-WARC bands; K8RLY will use SSB + AM (on request) only
Mar31 Apr13	Liberia	EL	I2YSB	By I2YSB IK2CIO IK2CKR IK2DIA IK2HKT as TBA; HF + 6m; 4 stations
Apr01 Apr08	Svalbard	JW	F8DVD	By F8DVD as JW/F8DVD fm Longyearbyen (EU-026); QSL OK via REF Buro or direct
Apr02 Apr07	Papua New Guinea	P29VCX	SM6CVX	By SM6CVX G3KHZ CTIAGF G3JKX G3UKV fm Feni I (OC-101)
Apr02 Apr16	Albania	ZA	F4DTO	By F4DTO as ZA/F4DTO; wires; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct
Apr08 Apr14	Papua New Guinea	P29NI	G3KHZ	By SM6CVX G3KHZ CTIAGF G3JKX G3UKV fm Nuguria I (OC-257)
Apr08 Apr18	American Samoa	KH8	A15P	By A15P as A15P/KH8; holiday style operation
Apr09 Apr22	Reunion	TO2Z	F4FLF	By F4FLF fm AF-016; SSB PSK RTTY; holiday style operation
Apr13 May01	Nepal	9N7DX	4Z4DX	By 4Z4DX; 20 15 10 6m; CW RTTY PSK31
Apr15 Apr18	Papua New Guinea	P29VLR	SM6CVX	By SM6CVX G3KHZ CTIAGF G3JKX G3UKV fm Green I (OC-231)
Apr15 Apr27	St Barthelemy	FJ	LotW	By OH2YL; QSL also OK via OH2YL
Apr17 Apr28	Central Kiribati	T31A	W2Ij	By W2Ij + team fm Canton I; 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY; QSL OK via buro or direct
Apr18 Apr25	Mayotte	TO2FH	TBA	By PT9ZE PY2PT PY2TNT PY2WAS PY4BZ; 160-10m; CW SSB; 3 stns
Apr19 Apr26	Bhutan	A52	Home Call	By JA1JQY as A52JY, also JA1KJW as A52KJ and JA8VE as A52VE; 160-6m; RTTY SSB CW
Apr22 Apr25	Papua New Guinea	P29VLR	SM6CVX	By SM6CVX fm Misima I (OC-117)
Apr25 Apr27	Papua New Guinea	P29VLR	SM6CVX	By SM6CVX fm Loloata I (OC-240)
Apr28 May06	Ghana	9G5LK	PA2LS	By PE1KL PA2LS; 80-10m; SSB PSK31 RTTY
Apr30 May05	Ogasawara	JD1BMT		By JD1BMT fm Chichijima I (AS-031); 40-10m, possibly 80m + 6m; CW SSB RTTY
Apr30 May07	Ogasawara	JD1BLY		By JD1BLY fm Chichijima I (AS-031); 40-10m, possibly 80m + 6m; CW SSB RTTY

“And then suddenly ... nothing happened.”

— Robert Lee, *Narrator, Mythbusters*

DX News and Notes at Post Time

RIMV TO BE DELETED?

Finnish President Tarja Halonen has ratified the new Lease Treaty of Saimaa Canal. The original 50 year lease enabled creation of the DXCC Entity of RIMV, Malyj Vysotskij Island (M.V. Island) in the late 1980's.

The new agreement no longer includes the lease of Maly Vystosky Island, thereby changing the original condition in which MV Island was added to the DXCC list.

The DXCC Deletion Criteria rule a) states "An Entity may be deleted from the List if it no longer satisfies the criteria under which it was added. However, if the Entity continues to meet one or more currently existing rules, it will remain on the List." So far no word on that from the ARRL DXCC. The last operation from MVI was by RIMVW and RIMVC back in Nov, 2005



RIMVW Nov 2005

VIETNAM BED & BREAKFAST PLUS HAM RADIO

Yannick, XV4Y (ex-XV4TUJ), is using a new call sign since the beginning of March. His QTH is situated in the Mekong Delta in the south of Vietnam. Yannik and his XYL are running a "Bed & Breakfast" pension nearby the city of Can Tho near to the Cai Rang "floating market". He is working preferably on 14276, 18126, 21312 and 7080 kHz mostly from 0700-0900 UTC and from 1330-1500 UTC. He is using a ground plane for 20m/17m/15m, a delta loop for 40m/20m/15m and a sloper for 30m. The QSL manager is OK1DOT, cards are confirmed ONLY direct but have to be printed first. An online logbook is available at: <http://www.clublog.org>

THIRD TIME THE CHARM?

It took three tries before the DXpedition to the northern Canadian territory of Sable Island, but they finally made it and are on the air, handing out Qs to a madding crowd that is fighting high latitude signal absorption as well as each other in the pileup. Although not all that high on the DXCC Most Wanted list—CY0 currently ranks No. 50—there appears to be a high demand for band-fills. Bad weather forced two earlier postponements of this operation.



CY0 Sable Island

T6 - AFGHANISTAN

Jim, WA2EWE, is momentarily active as T6AF from Kabul but nothing is known about the length of his stay. Jim tries to become active every day around 1230-1430 UTC and on Fridays also from 0130-0230 UTC. He works with a dipole on 15m, 20m, 30m and 40m. QSL via LoTW or eQSL. Paper QSLs should be sent **direct only** to his manager EB7DX.

MULTIPLE 9N NEPAL ACTIVATIONS SHORTLY

A quartet of German ops hopes to begin operations from Nepal as 9N7AA by March 26th with activity planned on CW, SSB, RTTY, and PSK31 on 1.8 through 28 MHz as well as 2 meters EME (144.123 MHz). The first operator arrives March 16th and could be QRV as 9N7AN on 40, 30, 20 or 17 meters. However it's expected his air time will be limited—if any at all—because of pre-DXpedition chores. Their main focus of the DXpedition will be on 160, 80 and 40 meters as well as RTTY. Plans are to be QRV through April 8th. More news, including QSL instructions are expected shortly.

On April 13th Dov, 9N7DX and XYL Anat, 9N7YL expect to be active on 20/15/10 and 6 meter CW, RTTY and PSK 31. Dov is also planning a "big DXpedition" to Nepal in November this year in celebration of his 60th birthday as well as his 45th year on the air. QSL via his 4Z4DX CBA.



Nepal, the roof of the world

VU4PB—ANDAMAN ISLANDS

The all HF band CW/SSB/RTTY operation from the Andaman Islands, No. 29 on the DXCC Most Wanted list is scheduled to run March 15 through the 31st. Four stations are planned to be on with multiple beam, wire and vertical antennas. Check out their web page at <http://arsi.info/dxpeditions/vu4pb-mar-2011>.

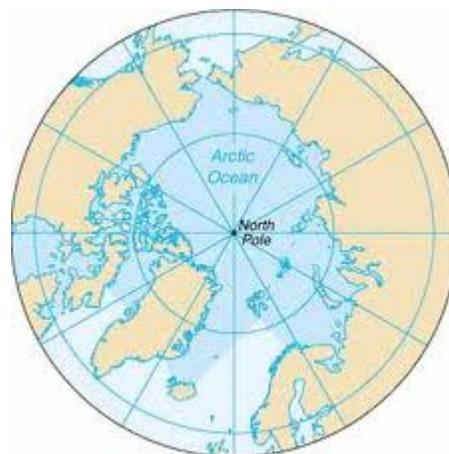
DX Quiz— “Top of the World”

It may be warming up here in the southeastern part of the lower 48, but the North Polar regions are still interesting and exotic locations radio-wise, albeit somewhat chilly. However, you'll quickly warm to the challenge of this DX Quiz which first appeared in the September/October 2009 edition of *The DX Magazine* (<http://www.dxpub.com/>) authored by H. Ward Silver, N0AX. Good Luck and the answers, should you really need them, will be on page



- 1) The land area of what DXCC entities border on or touch the geographic North pole?
- 2) What CQ zones border on or touch the geographic North Pole. (Hint: there are seven.)
- 3) In what DXCC entity is the magnetic North Pole located?
- 4) Which of the following countries have 24-hour sunlight on mid-summer's day?
 - A. Jan Mayen (JX)
 - B. Franz Joseph Land (4K2, RI, UA1O)
 - C. Iceland (TF)
 - D. Svalbard (JW)
- 5) Which of the following “short paths” is NOT a polar path?
 - A. JA-OH
 - B. W6-UA9
 - C. VK-OX
 - D. PY-JA
- 6) Which country extends the farthest north?
 - A. JX
 - B. JW
 - C. TF
 - D. KL7
- 7) A famous Soviet explorer held the call sign RAEM. His name was:
 - A. Kris Krenkle
 - B. Ernest Krenkel
 - C. Boris Zemya
 - D. Vladimir Spitzenberg
- 8) Which Arctic zone extends farthest to the east?
 - A. 16
 - B. 40
 - C. 15
 - D. 14
- 9) True or False

T/F	A. The Canadian Yukon lies west of the Northwest Territories
T/F	B. Svalbard is the same country as Spitzbergen
T/F	C. The geographic North Pole is covered by ice year-around (at the moment)
T/F	D. Norway administers both Jan Mayen (JX) and Svalbard (JW)
T/F	E. The easternmost Russian territory is Diomedede Island
- 10) Which Scandinavian country is furthest north?
 - A. Denmark
 - B. Finland
 - C. Norway
 - D. Sweden

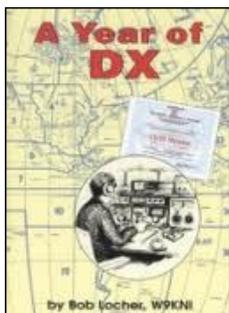


BONUS: Name the Siberian icebreaker port which is home to the Russian amateurs with UA0K call signs.

2011 Full

CQ DX Marathon!

Jan 1 --Dec 31



NFDXA Mid-March 2011 Marathon Standings

The competition is heating up as the 2011 NFDXA Club Full DX Marathon heads into spring. **K4UTE**, **K4EB** and **WR4K** have a firm grip as the top three positions on the 'leader board'. But new entries are being posted by members almost daily with over half the club working at least one DX entity and posting their contact since the competition began.

Country totals for most contestants took a jump during the recent ARRL CW and SSB contest weekends. Yet another chance to add to the totals is coming Up Mar 26-27 with the always active CQ WPX CW Contest—a competition which has been getting bigger with more countries on the air each year.

So, no excuses. Dust off the mike and oil up the bearings on your code key and jump into the fray. There are no excuses because the sunspot numbers are now the highest in years and the propagation seems to be better with each passing day. Hope to hear you in the pileup.

Call	Countries	Zones	IOTA	Total
AB4UF	0	0	0	0
K4EB	172	36	82	290
K4UTE	199	40	87	326
KB4CRT	7	7	4	18
KC4FWS	1	1	0	2
NIWON	54	21	35	110
N4EPD	0	0	0	0
N4GFO	0	0	0	0
N4JBK	0	0	0	0
N4KE	0	0	0	0
N4NN	0	0	0	0
NF4L	93	27	41	161
NU4Y	0	0	0	0
NW4C	37	18	17	72
W4FDA	16	12	0	28
W4GJ	28	14	1	43
WA4B	0	0	0	0
WA4ET	0	0	0	0
WR4K	116	29	53	198

Advice to 'Pileup Cops'

Here's a desperate plea to all you pileup cops and spleet poleece Out There. You are not the only one listening to someone making a fool of himself on the DX station's TX frequency. Most of us in the pileup can probably hear him too. Almost all of us choose to ignore the fool, remember that we got it wrong once ourselves, and hope he will soon spot the error of his VFOs. We turn our antennas and use our filters and notches to good effect, and mostly carry on calling the DX when he invites further calls (and not before!). If the fool persists, some may decide to Do Something Positive About It, such as sending him a *private TALK message* (NOT an ANNOUNCE/ALL or a pseudo spot!) on the DXcluster network to point out the error of his ways, politely of course. Those of you who foolishly decide to become pileup cops and start transmitting "UP UP UP! QSY!" on the DX station's TX frequency have just become **part of the problem, not the solution**. Sending "HE'S LISTENING UP YOU IDIOT" or "SPLEEEEEET" and further QRM breaks the terms of your amateur license, for a start, indicates that *YOU* are the idiot and no doubt proves the diminutive proportions of your delicate reproductive anatomy. Clarifying your desperate message with something like "Charlie Charlie He's split!" creates yet more QRM and encourages other pileup cops and lids to start railing at *you* for transmitting on top of the DX. **DON'T DO IT!** Bite your knuckle. Shout at the Morse key. Send the fool an email if you like, telling him he's busted. But whatever else you do, **DO NOT TRANSMIT ON THE DX STATION'S TX FREQUENCY. EVER.** Not even if you turn your amplifier off and whisper quietly to him. You wouldn't want to see your own call listed on the spleet police hall of shame, now, would you?

—Excerpt from G4IFB DX Website, www.g4ifb.com/html/dxing.html#SpleetPoleece

Device Treatment May Silence Ringing in the Ears

Many Ham operators, in particular those of advanced age, suffer from a condition known as Tinnitus or Ringing in the Ears. A Texas research group has come up with a new treatment method that has had success in the laboratory.

A new treatment that retrains part of the brain that processes sound may help silence tinnitus — a ringing in the ears that afflicts 10 percent of senior citizens and more than 40 percent of military veterans, U.S. researchers say. Tinnitus is sometimes brought on by hearing loss. It occurs as cells in the inner ear are damaged, often from a loud noise. Current drugs help mask tinnitus, but the condition is incurable.

A research group in Texas has come up with a device that stimulates the vagus nerve in the neck while simultaneously playing different sounds for several weeks helped eliminate the 'tinnitus' condition in a group of rats.

A trial of the treatment in humans is set to start in Europe this year, said Dr. Navzer Engineer of MicroTransponder, a medical device company affiliated with The University of Texas at Dallas, whose study appears in the journal Nature.

Dr. Nayzer's team thinks tinnitus may be caused when too many brain cells become tuned to a specific tone in the brain. So his team set out to train the brain to ignore the nerve signals that cause the ringing sound.

To do this, they paired a device that sends electrical impulses to the vagus nerve in the neck with different sounds.

When the team checked the nerve responses to different tones, the tinnitus had disappeared in rats exposed to the tones and nerve stimulation, but it persisted in a group of control animals.

"Unlike previous treatments, we're not masking the tinnitus. We are eliminating the source of the tinnitus," Michael Kilgard of the University of Texas-Dallas, who worked on the study, said in a statement.

MicroTransponder is developing a wireless medical device to stimulate the vagus nerve and hopes to test it in people later this year.



Better Conditions For WRTC Tests

The improving HF conditions for contesting couldn't come at a better time with March having three different tests that are qualifiers for the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship, which will be held in New England.

With ARRL DX SSB and DX CW out of the way, the focus shifts over to the Russian DX Contest, which is a 24 hour contest held on the third weekend of the month (1200z 19 March - 1200z 20 March).

The weekend after that, it's time for the CQ WPX SSB Contest, which runs from 0000z 26 March - 2400z 27 March.

The Russian DX test is worth a maximum of 900 WRTC qualifying points, while CQ WPX is a bit more, at 950 points.

Whether the sunspot numbers experienced during the ARRL DX SSB competition will be around for these next two contests is anyone's guess, but the high bands have sure been a lot more fun in recent days.

DX Quiz Answers *(from page 11)*

- 1) None-the geographic pole is under water; 2) 1, 2, 40, 16, 17, 18 and 19 3) Canada
 4) A, B, D 5) A 6) B 7) B 8) A 9) All are True 10) C **Bonus Question:** Prevek

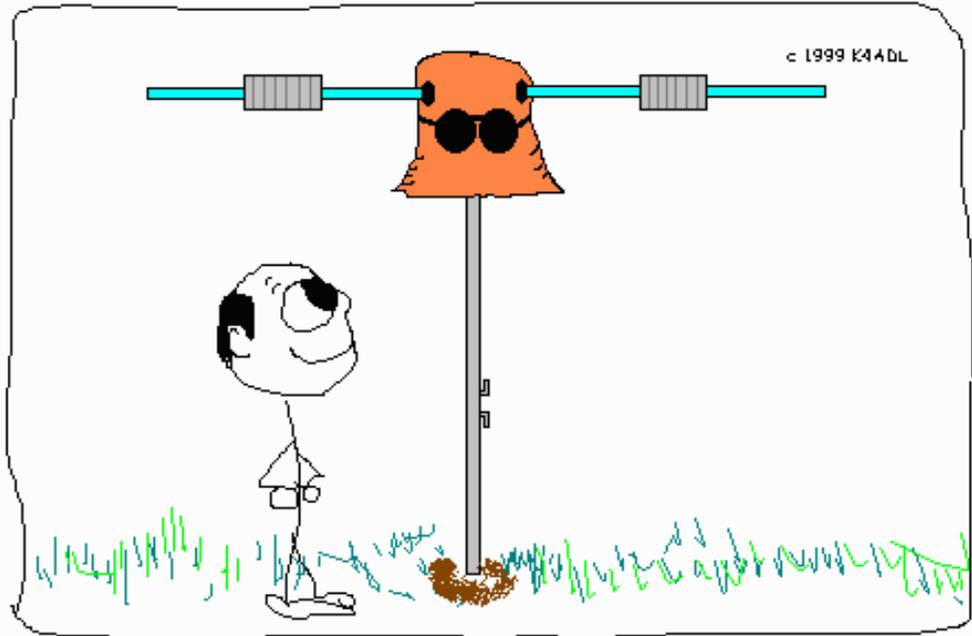


PileUp

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There are those among us who clearly do not understand the concept of a “disguised flagpole antenna”

The Last Word

By NW4C



Well, there's no doubt about it. Spring is here, it's in the air, and as the Broadway song of yesteryear intones, "It's everywhere".

The Dogwoods are in bloom, the azaleas are starting to pop out in their pink and purple finery and winter's chill is a fading memory. The sooner that memory's gone for good the happier most of us will be.

Along with the busting out of spring is the welcome appearance of multiple sunspots (finally) ...and not a moment too soon. With all the gloomy solar predictions over the winter many of us wondered if we were in for a *really* long quiet spell. But hope springs eternal in the breast of every true DXer...and the sunspot's 'light' appeared at the end of winter's tunnel. Ten meters during the recent ARRL'tests reminded many of us of those halcyon days of the 70s. Even the lower bands showed a little pep.

And look at the DXpeditions! VU4PB on Andaman Island is due March 15th and 9N7AA Nepal comes on the 26th. Two biggies in a month! The expedition activity continues into April with a two-week operation scheduled from T31A Central Kiribati.

Even the typically moribund NFDXA 'Full Marathon' club contest has shown signs of renewed vigor. K4UTE asked for some competition after running mostly free throughout last year's test. But so far this year Dick's getting a stiff challenge from K4EB—only a few points/entities separating Larry from the leader.. But hold on there. This isn't a two-horse race, Keep an eye on WR4K who's using a flagpole antenna in the yard of his condo. Richard has put on a burst of operating activity which has moved him well into 3rd place and closing.

No doubt about it, fellow NFDXA members. It's time to shake our collective DX/Contest booty. Get up, get on the radio and 'git 'er done'.

—de NW4C (Not Worth Four Cents)



W4ZR