

Next NFDXA meeting will be 5 pm, Sat, Nov 19, St Johns Seafood, S Lane Avenue, Jacksonville. Good food, good company plus election of 2012 club officers. Choose your candidates and entrée, all in one sitting. Don't miss out!!

The North Florida DX Association

PileUp

The NFDXA Newsletter



In This Issue

VP5DX 2011 effort	1-5
Stored SteppIR Pix	1
NFDXA Officers	2
Oct Mtg Minutes	2-3
Oct Mtg Pictures	3
NIWON Nears HR	4
160 HR for N4NN?	4
VP5DX Pix—Story	5

CQ WW CW	6
4W6A Report	6
9N7MD Underway	7
Zone 19 Confusion	7

T32C Stats BIG!	7
Ham Anagram	7
HK0NA Update	8
VK0M Ops	8
Navassa News	8

New TX5Q DXped	8
3D2RI High School	9
TZ6TR QSLs	9
HB9STEVE	9

KH3/W7KFI	9
YJ0VK	10
6O0DX	10
K8A Cancelled	10
V51B in 2012	10
AU2JCB Spec Evnt	10

DX—Where Am I?	11
DX Calendar	12
DX Calendar	13
NFDXA Marathon	14

VP5DX in N Fla	14
UVB-76 Enigma	15
XZ Activation??	15
DX Quiz Answers	15

It's the Law!	15
Pileup Illustration	16
The Last Word	16



Volume 3 Number 11

November 2011

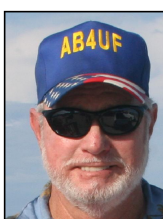
<http://nfdxa.com/>

VP5DX CQ WW SSB total 13,292,438 points Our biggest Score in Years—NU4Y



Ron N4KE

"We have never been so ready before...Our antenna and rig set-up was completed by (the) Wednesday before the start of the (weekend) contest!" That was the observation by VP5DX team "boss" **NU4Y** before VP5DX hit the air in this year's CQ SSB WW contest. The four man 2011 NFDXA Contestpedition team included "Captain Ron," **N4KE/VP5KE**; "Team Boss" **Jimmy, NU4Y**; **Steve, AB4UF** and **Mike, N4EPD**



Steve AB4UF

After the contest smoke had cleared their final score of more than 13-million points proved once more that advance preparation followed by good plan execution most often equals excellent results.

The advance plan included set-up and test of nine different antennas including beverages, plus the switching arrangement that would enable each to be used separately by either the run or multiplier station. The skyhook set-up included a 40-6 meter four element Stepp IR which was temporarily mounted at a 6-foot level because of storm damage in March this year (See April 2011 PileUp for details). The plan called for raising the SteppIR to 60-foot—the height that remained of the team's former 70 foot Aluma tower after repairs (See pictures page 5).



Jimmy NU4Y



Mike N4EPD

The other directional antenna to be used in the contest was a 10-15-20 meter tri-band mounted on a 30-foot tower set next to the shack. The tri-band would be used primarily by the run station and the SteppIR for chasing mults.

Since 10 meter propagation was expected to be the best in years a 10 meter monobander was assembled and installed on a short tower section not far from the shack aimed generally in a stateside direction.

Six other antennas were installed for the VP5DX contest effort including two for 80 meters, an inverted-L and a low dipole set at 20 feet; a 160 meter inverted-L, the 'bottom' part consisting of a 40-foot vertical tube with the wire 'long leg' running from the top and a 40 meter sloping dipole running from the main Aluma tower.

There were also two Beverage antennas, one running generally NE, the other, an un-terminated wire going towards the west.

(continued on page 5)



Pictured on the left is the VP5DX SteppIR mounted at its near-ground level 'safety' position at the N4KE Whale Watch QTH prior to being raised to its operating height at 60 feet. The aluma tower supporting 40-6 meter beam was damaged during a severe storm in March, 2010 and the top section removed. —AB4UF photo



NFDXA OFFICERS 2011

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

Warren Croke, NW4C nw4c@cox.net

Vice President

Cory McDonald, 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

Warren Croke, NW4C nw4c@cox.net

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

Attendance at October 15, 2011 NFDXA Meeting

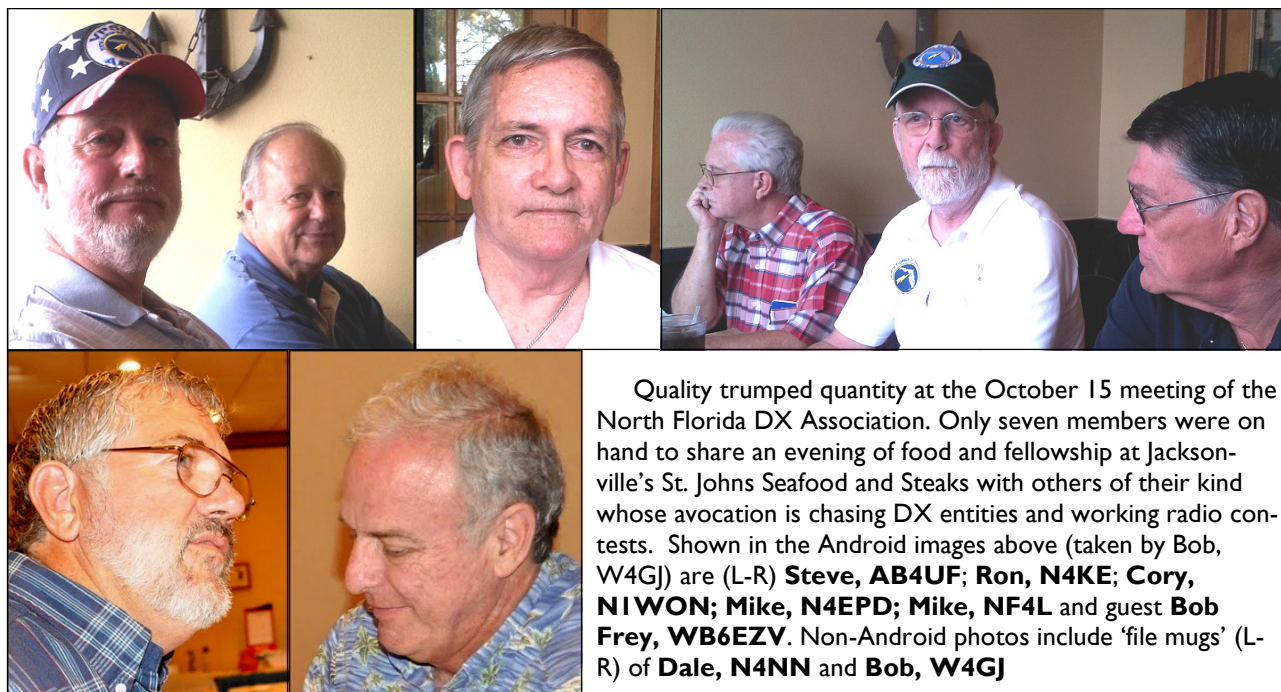
This meeting was at the St Johns Seafood and Steaks

Name	Call	Attend	Name	Call	Attend
Steve Brown	AB4UF	Y	Dale Conner	N4NN	Y
John Hale	AC4ET	N	Billy Williams	N4UF	N
Larry Bostwick	K3LB	N	Mike Reublin	NF4L	Y
Larry Junstrom	K4EB	N	Dave Mains	NO4J	N
Dick Hicks	K4UTE	N	Jim Iori	NU4Y	N
John Silberman	KB4CRT	N	Warren Croke	NW4C	N
Jim Hughes	KC4FWS	N	Pres Graham	W4FDA	N
Bill Walker	KX4WW	N	Gary Liljegren	W4GAL	N
Cory McDonald	NIWON	Y	Bob Lightner	W4GJ	Y
Mike Parnin	N4EPD	Y	Steve Barber	WA4B	N
Ron Tivey	N4GFO	N	David Price	WA4ET	N
Joe Barnes	N4JBK	N	Dick Knox	WR4K	N
Ron Blake	N4KE	Y	Total Members Attending 7		

—Continued next page



October meeting 'Who Dat?' file



Quality trumped quantity at the October 15 meeting of the North Florida DX Association. Only seven members were on hand to share an evening of food and fellowship at Jacksonville's St. Johns Seafood and Steaks with others of their kind whose avocation is chasing DX entities and working radio contests. Shown in the Android images above (taken by Bob, W4GJ) are (L-R) **Steve, AB4UF**; **Ron, N4KE**; **Cory, NIWON**; **Mike, N4EPD**; **Mike, NF4L** and guest **Bob Frey, WB6EZV**. Non-Android photos include 'file mugs' (L-R) of **Dale, N4NN** and **Bob, W4GJ**

Add another to the 300 list...



It would appear the North Florida DX Association's '300 Club' is a group within the club that's growing in numbers as members check their records and country confirmations and report in with their latest totals. The latest to update his numbers is NFDXA's resident 'rocker', **Larry, K4EB**, a man who obviously fingers his code paddle and his bass guitar with the **.38 Special**, with equal ease. Larry's latest country total (pending ARRL confirmation) is **336**, mostly on CW – although his initial DXCC application was for SSB. Larry's total brings the number of NFDXA members who have made 300 or more DX entities to an even dozen.

Secretary's Report—October 15, 2011



The meeting was called to order by Vice President **Cory, NIWON** at 5:57 pm EDT
Secretary's Report — No additions-corrections to September minutes published in the **PileUp**.
Treasurer's Report --- Treasurer **Jim, KC4FWS** reported a balance of \$958.73
Unfinished Business - There was no unfinished business to consider.

New Business - **Bob, W4GJ** made a motion that the club seek ARRL affiliation.

Steve, AB4UF seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. **Guests: Bob Frey WA6EZV**, who is a prospective member.

The **November 19** meeting planner is: **Joe Barnes, N4JBK**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, **Mike Reublin, NF4L**, Secretary



NIWON Honor Roll Bound—XV9DX Number 332

Those who've already made the coveted DXCC Honor Roll will tell you; the last two or three countries you need will be the hardest ones to get. In the case on NFDXA's NIWON that wait covered a number of seemingly endless months! Either nothing new came on or the new one that did show up proved impossible to work because of weak signals, bad propagation, etc.

But all of Cory's waiting and listening and spot chasing frustration ended in late October when he got not one, but two solid 15 meter contacts with the same station, XV9DX in Hanoi! The second Q with operator Michal, whose home call is OM2DX, was necessary, not for insurance, but rather, a call sign correction. The first time around XV9DX dropped the 'N' from Cory's call sign, possibly because of the heavy pileup QRM on 21.415. Cory had his final 'needed' country but it was in the XV9DX log as NIWO.



So, back to the microphone and the ever-increasing pileup. It took an unknown number of breathless calls but a 're-confirming' contact was finally made with the correct call sign, NIWON. Cory admits to being worried, just a little. But he said afterward even though he has a Force 12 on a short tower, just 40 feet, if he can hear them, chances are he'll eventually get what he hears.

Now comes the really hard part, waiting for that last card to come in the mail. When the car gets the picture on the left copied from the QRZ.com web-site shows what the front of card number 332 will look like.

Congratulations, Cory.



N4NN Moving Closer — On 160 meters, yet!



Making the Honor Roll on 160 meters! To most DXers it's an impossible dream and they won't even try it. But to a hardy, determined few, it's a challenge to be met, and the difficulties a little more extreme. With enough time and a bit of luck, who knows?

Some time back N4NN decided he was going to take up the 160 Meter Honor Roll challenge—at least part way. Dale's stated goal back in June was to confirm 300 countries; at the time his total was 233 logged and confirmed.

Since then he's made a point of working every DXpedition that had a Top Band station. His latest 'new ones' on 160 were worked during the recent CQ WW SSB Contest: C37N, TL0CW and TU2T.

Logging Andorra, Central African Republic and the Ivory Coast bumped Dale's country total up to 239. After the contest Dale's comment was a classic understatement: "The last few days have been good."

Dale's next Top Band opportunity could be the ongoing ZK2V operation in Nuie where it's been noted on their web site "The local noise level on 160m is much lower than expected now that we have a proper resonant antenna." (<http://www.zk2v.com/>) ZK2V is scheduled to be QRV until December 20 so it would appear he has a pretty good chance for a successful QSO.

N4NN is pretty conversant with the demands of the QRN-plagued, mostly dawn and dusk limited operations of the 160 meter band. He's already a member of that very select fraternity of DXers who've achieved 5 Band WAZ on 160 meters. In doing so N4NN became, one of only 27 Hams in the US and 167 individuals worldwide who've managed work and confirm a 160 meter QSO in all 40 zones since the award was initiated back in January 1975. (See N4NN 160 meter WAZ story in the June 2011 PileUp.)

Is Honor Roll even possible on 160? Who knows? You might check to see where Dale's Top Band total stands in another 2 or 3 years.



Some get added, some deleted. Keep chugging along and work 'em as you can.
The reward is the journey, and there is no finish line. — KY6R

2011 VP5DX — Continued from page 1

“Captain Ron (N4KE/VP5KE) and I started out on 20 meters”, noted Jim. “We were the ‘Day Crew’.” From 8:00 local until midnight I ran 20 while Ron chased mults.”

After the 4 hour stint the ‘day crew’ had accumulated 576 Q’s and 208 mults. But the rate wasn’t enough to satisfy NU4Y. “This was only 144/hour and a little disappointing to me. I expected more,” Jim recalls.

The night crew consisting of **Steve, AB4UF**, and **Mike, N4EPD**, then took over starting on 40 meters. They also ran some on 80 and 160 while chasing multipliers. By the time Ron and Jim came back on at 6 am (local) the total for VP5DX stood at 1166 QSOs with 333 multipliers logged. The night side had hung in there and the teams’ total was building.

For the next 14 hours Jim ran on 20, 15 and 10 meters and Ron was chasing mults. “Rates were better and for the 14-hour stint”, Jim recalls. “We averaged 193 / hour and had 3876 QSOs and 653 mults in the log.”

At 9:00 local time the night crew arrived. Apparently it was none too soon because Jim commented “It was a good thing because Ron and I were shot. We were hot and very tired.”

The night crew of Steve and Mike again hit the ground running on 40 and went searching for mults. “We left them down there for 12 hours and showed up about 8:00 local Sunday morning”, Jim remembers. And it was a good morning because at this point there were 4845 QSOs and 710 multipliers in the VP5DX log.

But Jim felt that still was a long way from being enough. If conditions were good for VP5DX they most likely were good for everyone else in the contest, too. “For the next 11 hours we pushed to get the score up higher”, Jim said. “I thought we were behind and tried hard to keep the pace up. I moved from 20 to 15 and then to 10.”

It was on 10 meters that the VP5DX team got its biggest surprise as well as a big boost in their point score.

“Team meters was amazing!”, Jim recalls “We used the low tri-bandner, mostly. With it pointed North we could work Europe and the US.” The low 10 meter mono-bandner came into play about this time, too. When the European pileups became too big to get a call they would switch to the monobandner which was pointed toward the states. They would then out a few Euros from the now much-weakened pile and get a full call sign!

The day team’s last 11 hour stint ended the contest. During this period the crew averaged 212 contacts per hour and ended the contest with a total of 7179 QSOs and 782 multipliers.

The final score amounted to 13,292,436 points, the best VP5DX score in years. “I think we could of done better, opined team box NU4Y, but we’re getting older and cannot keep up that pace for so many hours. A couple of more operators would have helped.”

The bottom line: it was great fun, and a good trip.

The 2011 VP5DX band summary

Band	Q's	Zones	Countries
160	124	12	23
80	265	21	77
40	933	29	100
20	1077	40	129
15	2094	38	143



Captain Ron, N4KE and Mike N4EPD set up the 4 element 10 meter beam on a short tower section, pointing it in the ‘general direction’ of the US. Despite its low height the antenna played very well because 10m was wide open!



The picture on the left is the sad sight greeting N4KE, NU4Y and AB4UF last April when they arrived to repair damage to the 70-foot VP5DX tower. The SteppIR was removed and stored at near ground level (page 1 and far right) and a ‘new’ top section was fabricated from an assortment of spare tower sections and installed. It isn’t pretty, but it worked! -AB4UF photos



Sun Shows No Signs of Going in Reverse; Good High Bands Expected for For CQ WW CW 2011 — By *Jamie Dupree NS3T* radio-sport.net

After fantastic conditions gave testers wide open conditions for the first time in eight years on 10 meters, it could be a repeat later this month in the CQ WW CW Contest, as high sunspot numbers continue.

"The propagation was excellent here," said Jeff Briggs VY2ZM/K1ZM, who right now has the 7th top claimed score in Single Operator High Power for CQ WW SSB.

"The advantage of "higher bands" being open is that more "little pistols" will be able to work you," said Yuri Onipko VE3DZ, who was just ahead of VY2ZM from a Zone 2 operation at VE2IM; Onipko will be at PZ5TT in CQ WW CW.

"I had some of the best rates I have ever had (in 35 years) from the Midwest on 15 and 10," said Mike Wetzel W9RE.

"I was blown away by the conditions even in a remote place like Mongolia," said Ken Claerbout K4ZW, who operated from the JT5DX multi-op.

The big openings of 10 and 15 meters certainly contributed to higher claimed scores over 2010; Jim Sullivan W7EJ went from 15 million last year to the top single op score so far of 19.3 million from CN2R in Morocco. Still the good bands didn't allow anyone to come near the CQ WW SSB record set by Jeff Steinman N5TJ back in 1999 from EA8BH of 25.6 million points. So what do the different conditions mean for CQ WW CW?

High Bands Open, Strategy Changes

After a number of years where 10 and 15 meters were often nothing more than second radio multiplier producers, this year's CW test could be a repeat of the SSB leg, where those bands are wide open at the same time.

"Strategy is simple," said Onipko VE3DZ. "To try to win one needs to run. The more bands are open - the more opportunity to run."

"The changing propagation on the high bands (versus the importance of the lower bands) made for a very different contest STRATEGY wise," said Briggs K1ZM, who admitted he "did not capitalize on it as well as VE2IM did."

Capitalizing meant how well you did on the second radio, which isn't easy to use when the top stations are running 200/hour on the main radio.

"Because I was running so much on 10 and 15 I really had to use the 2nd radio to look for SA and Caribbean mults," said Wetzel W9RE.

With the high bands being open, the low bands suffered - not only because more people were up on 10 and 15 meters, but because the propagation wasn't very good either.

"If high bands open it's like opening a trap door on low bands," said Scott Redd K0DQ, who will be trying his hand at CQ WW CW from WW1WW in New Hampshire.

"I did find 40 and 80 to be unspectacular, probably in part to a lack of participation on those bands with the high bands in such good shape," wrote NV4B on 3830.

"Unfortunately the low bands really did take a hit. With the high bands open for so long many operators just never made it to 40M-160M, plus propagation just seemed to missing," was the report from Joe Rudi's NK7U super-station in Oregon on CQ WW SSB.

Will the sunspots stick around? If they do, you can see this will be a much different contest than in recent years when we compare sunspots in mid-November of this year to years past:

Nov 16, 2011 sunspots - 176	<input type="checkbox"/> 2006 - 50
<input type="checkbox"/> 2010 - 62	<input type="checkbox"/> 2005 - 32
<input type="checkbox"/> 2009 - 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 2004 - 57
<input type="checkbox"/> 2008 - 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 2003 - 52
<input type="checkbox"/> 2007 - 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 2002 - 185

So you can see that CQ WW CW has not enjoyed these kind of solar conditions since the 2002 test - the year of the Aruba shootout, when CT1BOH defeated K0DQ and W2GD. What will we have this year?

4W6A — A report on the September DXpedition to Timor-Leste with a few photos and videos can be found at www.m0urx.com. Also 150 more photographs have been uploaded to www.4w6a.com/about-timor-leste/gallery.html. The 10-day operation made 41,361 QSOs on all bands 160-10m including the first 160-meter contacts to the US east

In the News...



The **9N7MD** 'Namaste' operation is in full throat — if you've been listening this won't be news to you. Propagation between southeastern US and Nepal has been spotty so far, off an on. Moments of strong S9 and 5NN+ signals followed shortly by spaces of receiver floor hiss . . .

Despite the ionospheric ups and downs several NFDXA members have managed solid contacts and filled a band slot or two. Among these deserving are **K3LB, K4LB, NIWON, N4NN**—who wrote on the VE7CC cluster that he worked 9N7MD with just 10 watts! (No sense smoking their receivers, right Dale?)

The plans call for a total of four stations operating CW, SSB and one dedicated to RTTY. A quick check of 100 reported spots showed them at various times on or about the following frequencies: 7005, 7155, 10.105, 14.025, 14.082, 14.170, 21.080, 21.295, 24.950, and 28.025. All are reasonably close to where the 9N7 team said they'd be operating in their early posts.

One interesting aspect is SSB contacts on several bands have been done 'by the numbers'. But in at least one instance the DX op's rate was pretty slow as he appeared to be working only those who were around 5KHz above his frequency. We probably should be cutting the DX op a lot of slack because the noise at his end must be enormous, even moreso with the improved conditions.

It's a European operation and as can be expected considering the relatively short distance between the continent and Nepal the Euros are having a field day. However, it's apparent the DXpedition is making a conscious effort on stateside contacts.

The pilots for this projected 9-day operation are IZ8BGY for Europe and Asia and N1DG for USA. QSL via IK2VUC direct or bureau, or OQRS for direct/bureau cards. The OQRS will be activated when the operation is completed. All QSOs will be put on LoTW four months later. Logsearch and info on the "Nine-November Trophy" for working them will be on www.mdxc.org/nepal2011/.



Zone Confusion - RA/ = 19

RA/KE5JA, Max, has been active from Sakhalin Island, Asiatic Russia, Zone 19, since October, 2010 and is there on a four-year assignment. His Russian license is only good for one year, so he has to renew each year. Max was initially very active with the callsign R0/KE5JA. When it came up for renewal he was assigned RA/KE5JA. He asked to keep the same call but was told it had to be changed to this. He says it's confusing since RA does not have a call area number and logging software tends to tag him as zone 16 European Russia. He says it was troublesome in the CQWW SSB. He wants to make it very clear, he is, indeed, Zone 19 Asiatic Russia. —The Daily DX

T32C Christmas Island

The Five Star DXers Association's T32C DXpedition to East Kiribati closed down after making over 213,000 QSOs. The four week long DXpedition team is the first to surpass the 200K barrier! T32C also set several other records, including 48,914 unique QSOs. RSGB News reported a total of 59,692 European QSOs were made. Once the T32C team gets back home and settled they will have a chance to update their records. The adjusted DXpedition Records will be posted at http://www.dailydx.com/dxpedition_records.htm.

— The Daily DX



Ham Radio-related Anagram

THE MORSE CODE - When you rearrange the letters: **HERE COME DOTS**

More DX News and Notes



Looking ahead to February 2012 the really big operation on the Horizon is the HK0NA Malpelo Island DXpedition. The projected dates are to be QRV Feb 14 for 12 to 14 days with 18 operators working all bands, all modes, including digital 160 through 6 meters. An advance team from the DXARC DX Columbia Amateur Radio Club did a survey for possible operating sites on the 300 meter high rock whose only residents are a small contingent of Columbian marines and countless roosting sea birds nesting wherever they can find space. Malpelo was last activated by a multi-national DXpedition in the 1960s and is currently listed at No. 12 on the most-wanted DXCC entity list.



Kevin VK0KEV

If you were hoping for a last minute contact with **VK0KEV** before he went QRT you are out of luck. Kevin left sub Antarctic Mac-Quarie Island for sunnier climes back in Australia. The smile on his face in the picture on the left says it all...it was time to go! However, all may not be lost for those who still need this rare entity. **Trevor, VK8TH aka VK0TH** is taking Kevin's place on the windswept island's resident science team and will be there until April 2012.

Trevor says his favorite mode is BPSK but he also uses CW and SSB with 100 watts to a 5-band vertical and VK0TH. Trevor was spotted by stations in the western US calling for North America on 21.295 SSB earlier this month. QSL via JE1LET, also.



Trevor VK0TH and Friend



For those of us awaiting definitive news on the *really* big one, **KPI Navassa Island**, it appears we'll have to wait a little bit longer. Earlier this month a tidbit appeared on the DX-World.net web page—and we quote: "Rumors coming out of Georgia, USA—with separate confirmation from a trusted source—suggest a major DXpedition to Navassa Island (#2 Most Wanted DXCC) is now in full planning stage for march 2012." That's it, nothing more. Hopefully, more details are forthcoming. Our advice is don't hold your breath—it's going to happen. Just when, no one who knows is saying until all required documentation and endless government department approvals, etc, etc, are taken care of. Think KP5 Desecheo as a model. It's happening. Slowly.



Another **Clipperton Island** DXpedition is in the works for March 2012. The [expedition team](http://dx-world.net) is an international group of highly experienced radio amateurs, writers, artists, and field scientists. Clipperton will be activated for radio amateurs worldwide, using the call sign **TX5Q**. — [DX World.net](http://dx-world.net)

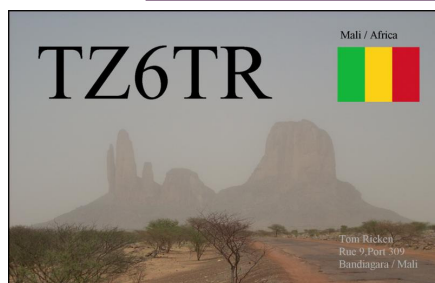


The HA5AO/HA5UK DXpedition to T33 Banaba (last activated in April, 2004) has been postponed to January/February 2012

Still More DX News and Notes



OPDX, the Ohio-Penn DX Bulletin, had a nice report on **3D2RI, the Rotuma High School Amateur Radio Station**, that has been heard on 20/15 SSB recently. QSL manager KH6CG, Stan, reports operator Dennis, 16 years old, says they plan to be active on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Another operator on Dennis' team is named Maggie, learning about ham radio. Another op, Joshua, 15, wants to get on with another group of students on Wednesdays and Fridays, the group including a YL named Lesina. There may be weekend operations too. Look for them near 21255 around 04Z, then a QSY to 14253 until about 06Z. There are some photos on QRZ.com under 3D2RI. — *The Daily DX*



Good news for those of you who are waiting for a QSL from **Tom, TZ6TR** in **Mali**. According to his recent posting on his QRZ.com page: "UPDATE 26.Oktober 2011 Thank you Guys for a lot of QSL-Cards (nearly 2500 now). I wrote them now and signed. The launch of the Cards is planning for the end of the week. At the moment I'm in Sierra Leone and after that I have to visit Gabon for a new Project. For all the guys who will send me a QSL-Card after September, no problem at all. My brother (without a Call-Sign) is my QSL-Manager. Same Address (TZ6TR) ... Hope to meet you all on the Bands. vy 73 Tom"



The call sign **HB9STEVE** some of you may have heard this month is, indeed, a special call sign in memory and celebration of the life of the recently passed **Steve Jobs**, co-founder of Apple Computer. The force behind this commemorative event is the Swiss **HB9ON Radio Group** based in Origlio. HB9ON, primarily a cw-oriented club, has sponsored a number of special event stations in recent years including



HB2008ON in honor of the UEFA Austrian-Swiss soccer championship. Shown above are HB9STEVE CW operators HB9DHG, FBS, CIP and SSB ops HB9EDG and EDS. QSL via HB9ON

The USAF reportedly has granted single-handed sailor **Susan Meckley, W7KFI**, permission to land on **KH3 Johnson Island**. The 74-year-old great-grandmother is expected to set sail mid-January from Hawaii on her sloop on a voyage that typically takes 5 to 7 days. Plans are to operate for a week from a station on the dock next to her boat using the call **KH3/W7KFI**. Her antenna will be a 43-foot vertical set on the sand. QSL via KH6CG. Susan is a long-time member of the Seven Seas Cruising Association and Johnston Atoll is planned to be one of many stops enroute to her final destination of Borneo (V8). The full trip may take two years with potentially new IOTA's also being activated on the way.



Some 'Leftovers' . . .



In case you missed the recent late September-early October **YJ0VK DXpedition** to Vanuatu here's a link to a YouTube video one of the eight team members produced. It isn't fancy but it's a good summary of a straight-forward, basic operation that managed to make 14,245 Qs without carrying hundreds of pounds of equipment. Eighteen of those contacts were to US hams on 60 meters. The operation created some pretty good sized pileups—especially by stations in Europe where YJ can be a tough contact to make. At the same time team members took time to do a little sightseeing of the 83-island archipelago which was formerly known as the New Hebrides until it achieved independence from a joint British-French governing 'condominium' in 1980. One of the attractions included a visit to an active volcano. The video lasts 27 minutes. Click on the link and enjoy.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IRxBOaGq37M



Here's one to keep an ear open for. **Darko Rusman, J28AA / E70A** plans to from Somalia November 21 – He will be using sign **600DX** manage to contact you can

Cancelled due to Security Concerns

be active between 30, 2011. the call-and if you make a QSL via



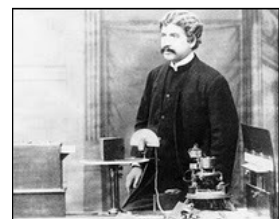
Some disappointing news regarding an upcoming western Pacific operation . . . If you were counting on a contact with the November 17-28 **K8A DXpedition to American Samoa** for your next 'new one', you'll have to make other plans. The expedition has been postponed . According to a short report in The Daily DX, planned operation has been "postponed indefinitely due to logistical problems."



Want to go along? -- G14FUM, David, plans to run a DXpedition to **Namibia in March, 2012**, hosted by **V51B**, Andre, in Oranjemund. The plan is to start in Cape Town at the beginning of March, spending a few days sightseeing there, Table Mountain, Robin Island, and wine tasting near Stellenbosch, then a drive up the west coast to Namibia for 10 days of operating, including the CQ WPX SSB Contest March 24-25, with the opportunity of sightseeing in Namibia too. David runs CQ DX African Safaris, <http://www.3da0ss.net/>. Email him for information.

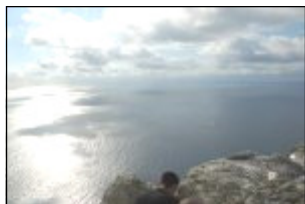


Special event station AU2JCB will be on from Nov 19 to Dec 4th in remembrance of Indian scientist **Shri Jagadish Chandra Bose**, who in 1895 gave the country's first public demonstration of electromagnetic waves. **Datta, VU2DSI** will be QRV on SSB, SSTV and PSK. Listen for him around 7050, 14220, 14310, 21280, 21350, 24950, 28470 and 28550. QSL via VU2DSI with two IRCs. With the ongoing good propagation—plus Indian amateurs now being authorized to use 400 watts on all bands—you will have a good chance to work him.



The **HA5AO/HA5UK DXpedition to T33 Banaba** (last activated in April, 2004) has been postponed to January/February 2012

Where in the DX World Am I? *(Answers on page 15)*



This fantastic view of the horizon on the left is from one of the 'hills' at this particular 'most wanted' entity. It is what antennas will 'see'—provided they can even be set up at this remote location by a DXpedition planned next year. If you are on the receiving end of its signal it will be worth it. A site survey team recently checked out this prominence and says an unobstructed horizon is available



in *all* directions. This place is an example of 'the journey being the experience' — in more ways than one, we'll bet. The entity is in the southern hemisphere and hasn't been activated since the 60s which is understandable. The dxpedition team will have to carry everything; radio gear, antennas, linears, et cetera, up a 60-degree slope—provided they can even get it onto what passes for a shoreline at this sheer-walled island. Once the top is reached, the must find a few square feet that will pass for level so they can set everything up. To say the least, a daunting task, even for someone in top physical condition.



The name of this entity should still be in the minds of many DXers as it was confused by some with a recent DXpedition effort to another entity in different ocean with the same name. It's the top 100 and although activated briefly a short while ago the operation was short and not that many Qs were made—particularly in the southeast US because of the short 'window' between here and there. It's actually an isolated territory of a 'mother' country that's about 1600 miles away. Only a



little over 1400 people live here and they share its 52 square mile land area with untold millions of land crabs. Because of its isolation this place is of particular interests to scientists and naturalists because so much of the flora and fauna here are unique to this particular location.



The geological history of this Pacific island entity is unique in one respect—it's close to what's called the Darwin Point, the latitude at which reef growth is at the same level as reef destruction from various physical forces. It's the northernmost Coral Atoll in the world. Sometimes it's referred to as an island instead of an atoll and, vice versa. It's less than 50 miles from similar island/atoll (take your pick) in the Darwin Point that's also a DXCC entity. It's located within a Pacific current that forms the so-called 'Great Pacific Garbage Patch' and it's shoreline often gets covered with every-



thing from fishing nets and other debris that's been washed overboard in storms or discarded from ocean vessels. Although not particularly rare in the DX sense, this entity hasn't been activated since 2005 by a 12-man team from the US, Canada and Germany. As with many remote Pacific islands this entity is also a controlled access wildlife sanctuary and is a habitat for hundreds of thousands of seabirds.



Mysterious, isolated and dangerous. All theses descriptions have been used to describe this semi-rare entity, one that's currently listed in the top 50s on the DXCC most wanted list. It's a country that's known by many by a different name than the one used by its current regime which is recognized as one of the more repressive in the world. No recent Ham Radio activity has been reported here. A DXpedition group from Central Arizona operated for 9 days from its capital city back in 1996 making some 23K QSOs. As far as we know that was the last one.



November 2011 DX Calendar *(Edited from: <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>)*

2011 Nov03	2011 Nov23	Benin	TY2BP [spots]	IK2IQD	N4AA 20111109	By TY2BP
2011 Nov06	2011 Nov25	Guadeloupe	FG [spots]	DK9PY	DK9PY 20110922	By DK9PY as FG/DK9PY; 80-10m; CW; 15kHz up fm low band edge; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct
2011 Nov07	2011 Nov21	Cambodia	XU7AEO [spots]	VK6LC Direct	425DXN 20111112	By VK6LC; mainly CW, some SSB
2011 Nov08	2011 Nov22	Ascension I	ZD8 [spots]	LotW	W6HGF 20111012	By K7ZZ as ZD8ZZ and W6HGF as ZD8F fm Green Mountain; CW RTTY, some SSB
2011 Nov10	2011 Dec06	Tuvalu	T2T [spots]	OQRS	DXW.Net 20110505	By 6 ops fm OC-015 (RI91ol); 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY PSK31; QRV for CQ WW DX CW
2011 Nov11	2011 Dec05	Vietnam	XV2CO [spots]	DL5CO	VA3RJ 20111111	By DL5CO; HF; mainly CW, some SSB
2011 Nov13	2011 Nov20	Dominica	J79KT [spots]	JN1NDY Di- rect	VA3RJ 20111111	By JN1THL, also JK1KHT using J79YK; HF
2011 Nov13	2011 Nov21	Zimbabwe	Z24EA [spots]	LotW	DL4EA 20111108	By DL4EA fm Harare; 160-6m; SSB CW + digital; QSL also OK via DL4EA
2011 Nov13	2011 Nov25	Nepal	9N0MD [spots]	OQRS	IZ8CCW 20110502	By I2VGW 4Z4OQ F9IE XE1L IZ2ESV I8YGZ IZ2KXC 4Z4DX CE6TBN F1HRE F5EOT IV3BSY IZ2GNQ IZ3NXC ON7RN XQ3SA YB3MM
2011 Nov14	2011 Nov21	Ghana	9G5MP [spots]	W8MP	OPDX 20111114	By W8MP; Buddipole + wires
2011 Nov15	2011 Dec06	North Cook Is	E51MAN [spots]	N7OU	N7OU 20110710	By N7OU fm Manihiki I; 160m-10m; CW; focus on Europe
2011 Nov15	2011 Dec17	Madagascar	5R8IC [spots]	F6ICX	VA3RJ 20110624	By F6ICX fm Nosy Boraha (AF-090, WLOTA 0491, LH43wc); CW RTTY PSK63; 100w; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct
2011 Nov15	2011 Nov29	Maldives	8Q7ZB [spots]	JH1NBN	425DXN 20111112	By JH1NBN fm Male (AS-013)
2011 Nov17	2011 Nov21	Brunei	V84SEA		425DXN 20111112	By ops; SES for 39th SEANET Convention
2011 Nov17	2011 Nov25	Saudi Arabia	7Z7AA	7Z1CQ	425DXN 20111029	By 7Z1CQ + others fm Jabal Lith (AS-191); 160 40 and 20-10m; 200 watts; 6 stations
2011 Nov20	2011 Nov29	Egypt	SU 	HA3JB	WA3FRP 20111114	By HA3JB as SU/HA3JB; CW SSB RTTY PSK SSTV
2011 Nov21	2011 Nov30	Somalia	6O0DX	K2PF	OPDX 20111024	By E70A; 80-10m; CW SSB RTTY; QSL also OK via E77E
2011 Nov22	2011 Dec04	Sierra Leone	9L0W	DK2VW	DXW.Net 20111004	By DJ8NK DL5CW DL9USA DL2VW DJ9RR fm Banana I (AF-037); 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY PSK; 700w; Hex and Spiderbeam; verts; QRV CQWW DX CW
2011 Nov23	2011 Dec06	Kenya	5Z4HW	DL7DF	DL7DF 20111027	By DL7DF fm Diani Beach (nr Mombasa); 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY PSK31 SSTV
2011 Nov23	2011 Dec14	Uganda	5X	G3RWF	VA3RJ 20110930	By G3RWF as TBD fm Fort Portal; focus on low bands; QSL OK via Buro or direct
2011 Nov24	2011 Nov28	Sint Maarten	PJ7I	JG2BRI	K1GI 20110903	By K1GI; 80-6m; SSB CW + digital; 500w; vertical + hex beam

December 2011 DX Calendar...continued (Edited from <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>)

2011 Dec02	2011 Dec07	Jersey	GJ6UW	LotW	425DXN 20110917	By G3ZAY G7VJR JA1LZR JF1PJK JQ2GYU fm EU-013; HF, focus on 160 80m for Asia and Japan; CW SSB RTTY; JA facing 80m vert array, 4-square on 40m; QSL OK via M0BLF
2011 Dec02	2011 Dec08	Vietnam	XV2LC	VK6LC	DXW.Net 20111010	By VK6LC; 20 17 12m; CW SSB
2011 Dec02	2012 Jan16	Namibia	V5	DJ2BQ	DJ2BQ 20110812	By DJ2BQ as V5/DJ2BQ
2011 Dec04	2011 Dec11	Senegal	6W	AA1AC	425DXN 20111029	By AA1AC as 6W/AA1AC fm Le Calao; QSL OK via Buro or direct
2011 Dec04	2011 Dec12	St Lucia	J6	LotW	N7UN 20111027	By W3FF et al as TBD; 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY PSK; QRV for ARRL 10m Contest as 68UN; Buddipoles; QSL Hm calls di
2011 Dec07	2011 Dec16	Palau	T8CC	LotW	UA4CC 20111112	By UA4CC; also using T88UU; 160-10m, perhaps 6m; CW SSB RTTY; holiday style; QSL OK via UA4CC, Buro or direct
2011 Dec08	2011 Dec13	Ethiopia	ET3AA	TBA	DXW.Net 20111104	By K1LZ K3LP K3VN N6PSE N2WB
2011 Dec09	2011 Dec11	Antigua	V25R	K6IF	K6IF 20111104	By K6IF; QRV for ARRL 10m Contest
2011 Dec12	2011 Dec14	Guam	KH2	LotW	OPDX 20111114	By JA1XGI as W8XGI/KH2 fm OC-026 (USI GU003S, WFF KFF-110, WLOTA 0064); 20-10m; mainly CW; QSL also OK via JA1XGI, Buro or direct
2011 Dec14	2011 Dec31	Palestine	E44PM	LotW	OPDX 20110606	By HB9IQB; probable focus on WARC CW; QSL also OK via HB9IQB, Buro or direct; exact begin and end dates unclear
2011 Dec16	2011 Dec27	Belize	V31NB	EB7DX	DXW.Net 20110817	By 5B4AIF; SSB; fm V31MD's QTH in Placenia
2011 Dec19	2012 Jan04	Togo	5V7MA	F4FOO	VA3RJ 20110930	By F4FOO fm Sokode; 20-10m; SSB; QSL OK via Buro or direct; spare time operation
2011 Dec26	2012 Jan05	Namibia	V5	DH3WO	DH3WO 20110812	By DH3WO as V5/DH3WO
2011 Dec26	2012 Jan05	Namibia	V5	DH3WO	DK1CE 20110812	By DK1CE as V5/DK1CE
2011 Dec26	2012 Jan16	Namibia	V5	DJ2HD	DJ2HD 20110812	By DJ2HD as V5/DJ2HD
2011 Dec28	2012 Jan04	Burundi	9U3TMM	IV3TMM Buro	DXW.Net 20111017	By IV3TMM fm Bujumbura (KI46qp); HF; SSB RTTY
2011 Dec29	2012 Jan06	Sable I	CY0		DXW.Net 20111025	By N0TG as N0TG/CY0, WA4DAN AA4VK N1SNB likewise
2011 Dec30	2012 Jan08	Palau	T88OW	RA0FF	DXW.Net 20110912	By RA0FF
2011 Dec31	2012 Jan13	Namibia	V5	DL1ZU Buro	OPDX 20111024	By DL1ZU as V5/DL1ZU



NFDXA-CQ DX Full Marathon Standings-Nov, 2011

Call	Countries	Zones	IOTA	Total
AB4UF	0	0	0	0
AC4ET	0	0	0	0
K3LB	204	40	92	336
K4EB	241	40	179	460
K4UTE	261	40	212	513
KB4CRT	7	7	4	18
KC4FWS	1	1	0	2
KX4WW	0	0	0	0
NIWON	206	38	126	370
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
N4UF	0	0	0	0
NF4L	159	38	75	272
NO4J	0	0	0	0
NU4Y	0	0	0	0
NW4C	104	34	48	186
W4FDA	16	12	0	28
W4GAL	0	0	0	0
W4GJ	174	37	46	257
WA4B	0	0	0	0
WA4ET	0	0	0	0
WR4K	146	35	78	259

Full-MARATHON RULES

Between 1 Jan and 31 Dec 2011 work as many DX stations as you can on any band using any mode. Work each country only once—unless it spans CQ zones. Also, work the country as an IOTA, if possible. IOTA contacts count an extra point.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

In addition to numerous spoken and written accolades, back-pats, atta-boys and possibly expressions of envy and regret from those who either didn't do as well or take part, the winner will receive a **free** dinner—including dessert! Who knows? Other prizes may be forthcoming? Stay tuned.

CQ Magazine has announced it plans to award additional plaques in the 2011 Marathon for the following: Top CW score; Top SSB score; Top Continental score and Top Single Band scores (10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40 and 80 meters).



VP5DX in CQ SSB WW hard to hear for some in NE Florida

The great propagation during the CQ WW SSB 'test, especially in the 10 and 15 meter bands, worked well for **VP5DX** in one respect-- they were knee deep in DX contacts and, hopefully, had many multipliers. **Jim, KC4FWS**, operating from Mandarin, worked VP5DX on 15 Sunday afternoon with a 59 signal. Throughout, Jim enjoyed numerous long-haul contacts to the South Pacific, China and Thailand during the weekend, saying there were some great band openings that I have not seen in a long time." Several more QSO points came from **K4UTE** in Jacksonville who had two successful contacts with the NFDXA crew. **Dick** was active for 20 hours in the SOSB class, high power. "It was the best conditions I've seen on 10 meters since 1960", he said afterwards.

At the same time, the 'long skip' produced by these 'great conditions' proved a tough nut to crack for closer-in stations trying work the NFDXA crew down in the Turks.

Among that number was **N4NN**, who worked VP5DX on 160 meters but had trouble hearing them on the higher bands from his Hilliard QTH. **Dale** thought this was due to the long skip. **W4GJ, Bob** over in Gainesville reported the same problem saying "I listened for them but could not hear them even when they were spotted." In contrast, up in Hiram, Georgia, **WR4K** worked VP5DX Sunday on 40 and 15 with 59+ signals. "350 miles more makes a big difference", **Dick** said. No problem for **N4JBK** who also got them on 15. As Joe remembered "They were S9+30, big signal as usual".

Down at the Melrose QTH of **NIWON**, a different story. "I could hear VP5 but they couldn't hear me", **Cory** said, "The propagation was just too long." However, it wasn't all gloom for Cory as he managed to pick up some new band slots in the 48 hour contest.

PileUp Editor **NW4C**, operating from Gainesville, had a similar experience. "I could hear them, but never really well and they weren't hearing my calls." **Warren** eventually got them on 15 meters by waiting until VP5DX had thinned out the herd riding the long skip to where the relatively weak close-in stations could make a contact.

UVB-76 - The Russian Short Wave Radio Enigma



Not since the bad old days of the Cold War has there been so much curiosity over a radio signal coming out of the Soviet Union. Are the mysterious signals instructions to secret agents hidden deep within some



another country? Could they be attempts to communicate with something in outer space? Who knows? But one thing is certain, a lot of people around the world are curious—so much so that the September issue of **Wired Magazine** had a feature article on the mysterious station UVB-76...and raised even more questions. Even Wikipedia has a UVB-76 link! Getting curious? Good. Click on the following links...and read on . . .

http://www.wired.com/magazine/2011/09/ff_uv76/

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UVB-76>

ODDS ENDS

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://](http://www.dailydx.com/)

www.dailydx.com/),

NG3K Amateur Radio

Contest/DX Page ([http://](http://www.ng3k.com/)

www.ng3k.com/),

OhioPenn DX Bulletin

([http://www.papays.com/](http://www.papays.com/opdx.html)

[opdx.html](http://www.papays.com/opdx.html)),

DX World of Ham Radio

(<http://www.dx-world.net/>),

The DX Magazine ([http://](http://www.dxpub.com/)

www.dxpub.com/),

DX Italia ([http://](http://www.dxitalia.it/)

www.dxitalia.it/),

DARC DXNL ([http://](http://www.dxhf.darc.de/)

www.dxhf.darc.de/),

Pete's DX Newsdesk ([http://](http://www.dx-newsdesk.co.uk/)

www.dx-newsdesk.co.uk/),

ARRL (<http://www.arrl.org>),

Finally, off air and word of mouth from those who turned on their radios, operated and then told **The PileUp** what they heard.

— NW4C

It's the Law!

The probability of you being heard 59+ is directly proportional to the stupidity of what you have said..

Breaking News!! - Possible XZ Myanmar Activation

As this edition of The NFDXA PileUp was about to be posted it was learned there may be a small, single operator activation of Myanmar-Burma in the near future. A date has not been set but is expected soon. What details are available are posted below.

After one year of discrete discussions with senior officials within the Myanmar Ministry of Post & Telecommunications, and the Ministry of Tourism, **Simon, HS0ZIB**, has received an invitation to visit Myanmar from his nearby QTH in Thailand, and to operate a PSK31 'micro' DXpedition for about 4 days from the historic city of Bagan. This operation is intended to be an initial demonstration station, and Simon has plans for regular, 'low-profile' PSK DXpeditions from different tourist locations within Myanmar. The initial operation would be on **20 meters only**, using about **50 watts** output power into a **PAR wire antenna**. While some may scoff at such a micro station, others will be fully aware that a small station of this type can easily achieve global contacts. In any case, **HS0ZIB** hopes this will be the first of many micro DXpeditions to Myanmar as he lives about 3 hours car drive from the border. — <http://dx-world.net/2011/intended-activation-of-myanmar/#more-30849>

Answers to Where in the DX World Am I? (from page 11)

(1) **HK0MA, Malpelo Island** — If you've been following the DX-related publications at all recently this should have been an easy one for you. If all goes as planned, This No. 12 Most Wanted entity will be activated by a multi-national group next February for 12 to 14 days.

(2) **VK9X, Christmas Island** — Nothing is easy when it comes to working remote Christmas Island from our part of the world—it's near our antipode which is as far as you can get from Florida.

(3) **KH7, Kure Island** — Hearing a KH7 call used to get a DXer's heart racing because Kure Island was a 'rare one'. But in recent years KH7 call signs have been issued in Hawaii. Oh well, better luck next time . . .

(4) **XZ, Myanmar-Burma** — The XZ call sign sounds almost as mysterious as this southeastern Asian country has become under the rule of its military government.

Editor
Warren Croke, NW4C
4092 NW 23 Circle
Gainesville, FL 32605
USA

<http://nfdxa.com>

No quarter asked, none given



If one were asked to come up with a picture of what a DX pileup would look like there could be no better illustration than the artwork above that's posted in the 'news' section of the DX Summit web site.

(<http://www.dxsummit.fi/Default.aspx>)

The visual metaphor would even appear to include the DX Code of Conduct as exemplified by the 'dead horse' in the lower right of the frame.

The Last Word

It's been an eventful month for your editor since the last NFDX meeting. There have been two cataract surgeries, a doubling of the work load in the college TV studio and a 39th anniversary of my 39th birthday. Ech! That translates to me being a *real* OF for sure!

At this writing I can happily report that the cataract procedures have been successful. It's great to have a restoration of one's vision, albeit tempered by the realization that even though I can now clearly see the print in the book I'm reading I'm still liable to fall asleep in the middle of the chapter . . .

As for the doubling of the work load at the college, that's all to the good. It means more classes being offered in a greater variety of meaningful subjects for more students to choose from, experience and hopefully, master.

Regarding the recent birthday anniversary. What can be said that countless others who reached the OF milestone before me haven't already said? Yes, our pace has dropped a step or two, and advancing years have sapped our endurance a tad. But the bottom line is clear. We should stop griping about birthdays because the more of them we have the longer we are among the living . . . and that sure beats the alternative. — NW4C



W4ZR