



You were expecting sun-spots? There haven't been any for over a

The North Florida DX Association

PileUp

The NFDXA Newsletter



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<http://nfdxa.com/>

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CQ Contest Committee DQs 5 Teams in 2008 SSB WW Crackdown Announcement Expected Shortly in CW WW Cheaters to be Suspended

Five top European multi-op contest teams have been disqualified by the CQ Contest Committee for alleged cheating in the 2008 CW WW SSB Contest Committee, according to reports posted radio-spot.net. The disqualified teams include D4C, E7DX, 9A1P, 9A7A and UU7J and involve upwards of 30 operators who were members of the DQ'd stations. They will be banned from all CQ contests for a period of one year.

The alleged infraction was the teams altered their logs to make sure certain contacts did not violate the 10-Minutes rule, a practice known in the contest community as "rubber clocking". Reportedly, team leaders for D4C and 9A1P acknowledged their logs had been changed. Supposedly a third team, as yet not identified, has admitted also admitted guilt. No mention was made of any use of excess power.

Sources have told radio-sport.net that other disqualifications are expected in the top ranks of the CQWW CW contest results as well. The anticipated rulings reportedly could determine the winner of the 2008 Single Op All Band High power category in the CW leg of this annual contest. However no official report to this effect had been issued either by the CQ Contest Committee or radio-sport.net at the time this issue of *PileUp* was being posted.

As a follow-on to the announced high profile disqualifications, the CQ Contest Committee has instituted a new rule for the upcoming 2009 WW tests—that certain operators who are "under scrutiny" for possible rules violations would be required to have a third party visit their station during the contest. "Failure of the entrant to respond to our (CQ WW Contest Committee) correspondence or to allow an observer full access to the contest QTH will result in the entrant's call being removed from award eligibility for five years. More details are expected shortly at <http://www.cqww.com>

LOTW: K4UTE has 9BDXCC

If anyone has doubts as to the workability of ARRL's Logbook Of The World check with **Richard Hicks, K4UTE**. He now has a 9-band DXCC confirmed entirely via LOTW. Not one paper QSL in the lot!

On August 16 **Richard** said the last one he needed, a 160-meter contact for the 100th country on that band, came through "That was the one I was waiting for", says Richard, whose confirmed LOTW contacts now total 6662.

W3KT Has Worked Them All

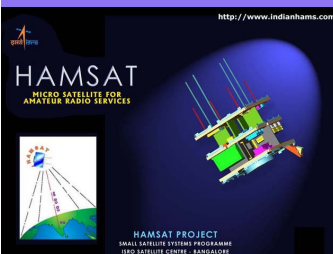
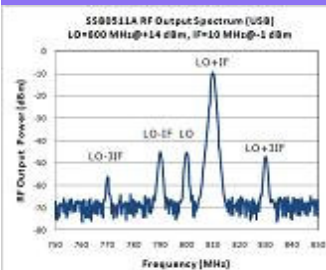
That loud whoopee you may have heard recently from over Gainesville way came from **Frank DeNuzzo, W3KT**, when he was told the QSL card he had from the **7O1YGF DXpedition** he'd worked back in April 2000 was now being accepted for credit by the ARRL DXCC desk.

Frank's excitement is understandable as 7O was the last entity he needed to have worked every DXCC entity. The mid-August ARRL announcement stated acceptance of 7O1YGF was granted after a "review of recently-received information ... and additional dialogue with a leader of the DXpedition".

Holders of a 7O1YGF QSL card who want to claim 7O credit should check here for details: www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/12/11022/

August Meeting

The August meeting of the NFDXA will take place at 5 pm at the Cross Creek Restaurant on Lane Avenue, Jacksonville, Saturday August 22. Be sure and RSVP at <http://nfdxa.com/meeting/>



SSB is dying — Help save ham radio —K9JY

Noting that several e-mail reflectors and other ham news outlets have said that over 10,000 CW logs were sent in for the CQ WW DX Contest, I have to agree with K3NG — it's time to Save Phone!

After all, K3NG waxes: "...we don't test for phone operating skill anymore. Today's amateurs are lazy. They're not going to try phone operation unless you force them to do it. You need to test for it so they get proficient at it and want to use it. Phone operation always works; everyone has mouths and can speak."

For those of you new to ham radio, these were the arguments against getting rid of *testing* for CW for licenses several years ago. And shows that *testing* for modes doesn't necessarily mean the death of a mode. On the contrary, now that phone is in a cyclical decline, it is more than hilarious to see some competition between phone and CW.

Just think, between CW and digital modes, we might need more of that SSB spectrum...

— from K9JY.com/blog

Current IRCs Expire 31 December 2009

Just a reminder, unlike old-style IRCs, the current "Beijing 2" model IRCs will *expire* at the end of the year. The current IRCs have an expiration date which gives them a maximum life of three years. So, even if you bought one today it will still expire on December 231, 2009.

Supposedly no more Beijing 2 coupons will be sold by post offices after August 31st. However, considering that many postal clerks don't know what an IRC is, much less the Beijing 2's expiration date, it would be wise to double check what IRC given you when you buy one after that date.

The new International Reply Coupon is known as the Nairobi Model and it went on sale on July 1, 2009 It will be valid through 31 December 2013.

A number of DX publications and web sites are advising DXers *not* to send any more of the soon-to-expire Beijing 2 model IRC to overseas stations. Even though the expiration date is still months away, mail delays and other problems associated with overseas deliveries may result in the foreign operator getting stuck with IRCs he can't exchange.

4 MICRO HAMSATS IN ORBIT-ONLY 2 WORK

Four new ham radio satellites were deployed from the Space Shuttle Endeavour during the recently concluded STS-127 mission. The new birds are named Castor, Pollux, BEVO I and AggieSat. But only two of them appear to be working.

Castor and Pollux are reported to be O-K. They are transmitting on 145.825 MHz at 1200 baud AFSK and 9600 baud FSK. The transmitter uses the AX.25 protocol. Initial Keplerian elements to track them are posted on the AMSAT website.

BEVO I and AggieSat2 were also ejected together from the Space Shuttle but it appears that they failed to separate. No signals have been heard from BEVO I, although beacon packets have been reported as coming from AggieSat2.

The current theory is that only partial separation occurred. And while the inhibit switches keeping the satellites powered off have been closed, allowing the satellites to boot up, it is likely that the antennas did not deploy correctly.

AggieSat2 transmits with 1 watt of power so it is easier to hear, while BEVO I only has 200 milliwatts out during beacon mode.

More is on the web at <http://www.amsat.org/amsat/archive/amsat-bb/48hour/msg72870.html>
(ANS)



QSL of the Month...

Although a search of the DX Summit records showed no reported activity this year by an XU7ADI its QSL card has been recognized as "QSL of the Month" by the Internet publication **HAM-MAG**. <http://www.ham-mag.com>

So few Sunspots —And Yet Another Explanation

Our nearest star, the Sun, continues to languish in the depths of a prolonged sun spot minimal cycle. Astronomers at the National Solar Observatory, Tucson, AZ may have a clue as why the solar surface has been mostly blank for an unusual long time period.

At the AAS press conference, Boulder, CO, astronomers, using a helioseismic technique to detect the jet stream changes deep inside the Sun's core, found the stream has taken 3 years, instead of 2 years, to cover a 10 degree range in latitude from data sent by GONG and SOHO.

The solar jet stream migrates slowly from the poles to the equator. When the stream reaches 22 degrees latitude, new-cycle sun spots appear. Recent data reveals the stream is approaching 22 degrees latitude. This important discovery shows how the stream action inside the Sun affects creation of sunspots and timing of the solar cycles.

—*Science.nasa.gov 6/18/09*



Blank Sun Aug 20, 2009

The last sunspot was July 11

Send Your Name and Call to Mars



If you ever felt you wanted to 'get away from it all', here's your chance to at least send your name and call sign to a far-away place. Log on to: <http://mars9.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/participate/sendyourname/index.cfm> and enter your name with your call right after your last name.

In 2011 your name and call will be printed on a microchip in the Mars Science Laboratory Rover. You can even print out a Certificate of Participation.

Whenever someone says you are spaced out you now can show them proof.



Lightning Strikes Damage NF4L QTH and Scares NW4C

A lightning strike during an mid-August thunderstorm caused serious damage to the radio station and computer equipment at the QTH of NFDXA secretary Mike Reubin, NF4L.

According to Mike up until the actual strike it was an "ordinary summer afternoon thunderstorm, nothing special, no high winds".

The 'ordinary' became extraordinary in an instant when Mike's QTH in West Jacksonville apparently took a direct hit from lightning bolt. The resulting surge destroyed Mike's radios—which were disconnected from his antenna which was also destroyed. Also fried were several computers and two TVs.

The good news was neither Mike nor his XYL were injured—aside from having the fright of their life—and damage to the home was relatively minor.

A similar situation with lightning several days after Mike's experience affected NW4C — but to a much lesser degree.

As Warren recalls he knew there was a thunderstorm nearby because he could hear the rumblings of thunder getting closer but there wasn't any rain.

Suddenly there was a simultaneous brilliant flash and clap of thunder followed by the TV going black. Car and burglar alarms were going off everywhere. A check around the house revealed the lights were still on and there was no visible damage. But the Internet and telephone service was out.

It turns out the lightning apparently struck a nearby Cox cable terminal. The surge appeared to have blitzed every cable splitter device in 14 condominium units. Since many of the condominium's residents had bundled service, i.e., TV, phone and Internet all on cable, it was several days before service returned to normal.





Glorioso Start Delayed...Again

It would appear there will be a another change in the published August 31st start date for the oft-postponed French DXpedition to the rare Indian Ocean entity Glorioso. Thursday, in a message from expedition team leader F5OGL to various DX publications he says the *departure date from Paris* for the FT5GA team is now September 11 and the return on October 9. These dates suggest the group still plans to be on the island for three weeks, as originally announced...



Later, in the same message, Didier wrote "All the gear has been picked up and packed on pallets ready to be sent to the Reunion Island in the next few days." In other words, the equipment to be used by the FT5GA team has yet to be shipped. Presumably the gear will go by air, because there's no port facility.

So, the bottom line at this writing is the DXpedition to top 5 most wanted entity Glorioso is still on with a start date sometime after September 11 with 4 stations on 160 through 6 meters operating 24/7, each capable of running 800 watts. The antennas include two Spider beams for 10-15 and 20, another Spider beam for 12-17 and 10 and an assortment of wire antennas for 40-80 and 160.



Troubleshooting RFI

Troubleshooting RFI to a piece of home equipment? Here's a handy step-by-step list by Jim K9YC that may help you find the point-of-entry for RF in short order:

1) Remove ALL the cables (except the power cable) and see if you still have the problem. If you do, proceed to step 2.

2) Put a [toroidal choke](#) on the power cord (hopefully resonant on the band for which RFI is observed). If that doesn't help, take the device back for a refund. It's a shielding problem, and you'll never fix it.

3) If the choke on the power cable fixes the problem with no other cables attached (or if there's no interference with only the power cord), start adding other cables one at a time. If the problem returns, that cable is acting as a receive antenna, so add a choke to it.

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/?issue=2009-08-05>

When it comes to antenna mounts there's absolutely no limit to how high K3ZT is willing to climb.

The photo on the right could depict what some might be construe as one Ham's version of the infamous 'Moonraker', the fabled antenna of CB lore.

But in reality it's an ingenious application of the "Whatever Works" principle as applied by K3ZT during the 2009 ARRL Field Day.

As for how well the contraption played, the station operators were reported to have said the unique array was good at raking in the weak ones . . .

- . . . -



Ham-Mag Foto



Ice Cool DX Quiz for August — Ward Silver, N0AX

Here we are at the peak of summer in the Northern Hemisphere with stifling heat and humidity in the 80s and 90s. You have an afternoon shower and after it stops raining it's like a steam bath outside. It's just too darn hot to mow the yard or do antenna work. Why not relax with a chilled one and concentrate on the lands of perpetual ice and snow? Now there's a cool thought. Here's a DX Quiz prepared by Ward Silver and published originally in the July/August 2005 issue of *The DX Magazine*. http://www.dxpub.com/dx_mag.html The quiz answers are on page ___

1. In what CQ Zone does the Magnetic North Pole lie?
 - A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 5
 - D. 16

2. In what CQ Zone does the Magnetic south Pole Lie?
 - A. 29
 - B. 30
 - C. 32
 - D. 12

3. Which is the northernmost national capital?
 - A. Helsinki, Finland
 - B. Oslo, Norway
 - C. Stockholm, Sweden
 - D. Reykjavik, Iceland

4. What is the southernmost national capital?
 - A. Canberra, Australia
 - B. Johannesburg, South Africa
 - C. Wellington, New Zealand
 - D. Buenos Aires, Argentina

5. The arctic Russian port of Murmansk is located on what body of water?
 - A. Barents Sea
 - B. Bering Sea
 - C. Beaufort Sea
 - D. Baffin Bay

6. Marion Island, ZS6, is also known by what other name?
 - A. Maria Theresa Reef
 - B. Dougherty Island
 - C. Cray Island
 - D. Prince Edward Island

7. Which CQ Zone does NOT converge at the North Pole?
 - A. 14
 - B. 15
 - C. 16
 - D. 19



— Continued next page

DX Quiz, continued . . .

8. Tierra del Fuego belongs to which two countries?
- Chile
 - England
 - Argentina
 - Uruguay
9. Which North American DXCC entity extends farthest north?
- Alaska
 - Canada
 - Greenland
 - St. Pierre and Miquelon
10. In 1959, all nations with territorial claims agreed to designate Antarctica as what?
- Nuclear free zone
 - Scientific research preserve
 - Wildlife refuge
 - Duty free zone
11. Which of the British possessions did Captain Cook call, "The worst place in the world"?
- South Orkneys
 - South Sandwich
 - South Georgia
 - Southampton
12. What explorer crossed 800 miles of open ocean in an open boat to bring rescue to his stranded crew?
- Amundsen
 - Bligh
 - Vook
 - Shackelton

Bonus Question: What American admiral took amateur Radio along on his trip to the pole?

Answers on page 11

\$\$ Cash for Clunker Radios? \$\$

Now is the time to upgrade your old radio. In an effort to further revive the weak economy, the government announced that it has started a new Cash for Clunkers Radios program on August 3rd.

The program is aimed at members of the Amateur Radio Service, also known as HAMs. Operators with transceivers with less than 80 db Blocking Dynamic Range (2 kHz spacing) will be eligible to trade in their old units (which must be crushed) for new transceivers and will receive a credit based upon the improved BDR. Improvements of 20 dB are eligible for \$100 credit and 40dB or better are eligible for \$200.

Operators must be currently licensed and must show proof of purchase of the old transceiver which must be in working order. Tube transceivers are deemed to be museum pieces and not eligible for this program.

— Bob Lightner, W4GJ





August-September DX Calendar Richard, K4UTE

| Start | End | DX Entity | Call | QSL | Info |
|------------------|------------|------------------|--------|--------------|--|
| 2009 Aug16 | 2009 Aug19 | Samoa | 5W | Home Call | By JM1LJS as 5W0HH and JA3RAF as 5W0MU; 40-6m; SSB CW, perhaps digital; QSL direct only |
| 2009 Aug16 | 2009 Aug19 | Botswana | A25 | W2LPL | By W2LPL W2DBL as A25/W2LPL fm the Tuli Block in Mashatu; 20m; SSB PSK31; 100w |
| 2009 Aug17 | 2009 Aug23 | Nauru | C21TI | EA4ATI | By EA4ATI + team; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY |
| 2009 Aug18 | 2009 Aug25 | St Barthelemy | NEW-FJ | | By W2VQ as FJ/W2VQ and WQ2N as FJ/WQ2N; 80-6m; CW SSB RTTY, perhaps PSK31; 100w; dipoles + yagis |
| 2009 Aug21 | 2009 Aug31 | Azores | CT8 | Home Call | By DL7JAN as CT8/DL7JAN and DL2IX as CT8/DL2IX fm Faial I (EU-175); 80-6m; CW SSB RTTY; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct |
| 2009 Aug21 | 2009 Oct05 | Crete | SV9 | WB2GAI Buro | By WB2GAI as SV9/WB2GAI/p; 80-17m |
| 2009 Aug24 | 2009 Aug29 | Marshall Is | V7 | Home Call | By JA2DSQ as V73NF (mainly low band CW) and JH2BNL as V73J or V7XX (SSB RTTY) fm Majuro; 80-10m |
| 2009 Aug31 | 2009 Sep21 | Glorioso Is | FT5GA | F5OGL | By F5PRU F5IRO F5TLN F5RQQ F4EGS F8CRS F5LPY; 160-6m; multi-mode; 3 stns; hope to be QRV for IARU Contest and RSGB IOTA Contest; call sign requested |
| September | | | | | |
| 2009 Sep04 | 2009 Sep14 | Austral Is | FO | | By G3BJ G4JKS as FO/G3BJ fm Rurutu I (OC-050) and Tubuai I (OC-152); 80-10m (no 17 or 12m); CW; K3 w/ HF6 |
| 2009 Sep06 | 2009 Sep07 | Fiji | 3D2G | PG5M | By PG5M fm OC-016; CW only; ultralight DXpedition; QSL OK via PA Buro or direct; call sign requested |
| 2009 Sep07 | 2009 Sep11 | Svalbard | JW1SYL | LA8FOA | By LA8FOA LA6RHA + others fm Longyearbyen (EU-026); QSL OK via LA Buro or direct |
| 2009 Sep08 | 2009 Sep14 | Tuvalu | T2G | PG5M | By PG5M fm Tarawa I (OC-015); CW only; ultralight DXpedition; QSL OK via PA Buro or direct |
| 2009 Sep08 | 2009 Sep17 | Aruba | P41USA | W3TEF | By W3BTX W3TEF; QRV for VHF Contest |
| 2009 Sep08 | 2009 Sep22 | Cyprus | 5B | G3RWF | By G3RWF as 5B/G3RWF; QSL OK via RSGB Buro or direct |
| 2009 Sep10 | 2009 Sep22 | Azores | CT8 | DK5FT | By DK5FT as CT8/DK5FT fm Sao Miguel I (EU-003, DIP AZ-002, WLOTA 2016); all bands; all modes; QSL via DARC Buro preferred |
| 2009 Sep15 | 2009 Sep16 | Fiji | 3D2G | PG5M | By PG5M fm OC-016; CW only; ultralight DXpedition; QSL OK via PA Buro or direct; call sign requested |
| 2009 Sep16 | 2009 Oct03 | Corsica | TK | DF6ZY | By DF6ZY as TK/DF6ZY fm EU-014; 80-10m; mainly RTTY, some SSB SSTV; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct |
| 2009 Sep17 | 2009 Sep23 | Western Kiribati | T30G | PG5M | By PG5M fm OC-017; CW only; ultralight DXpedition; QSL OK via PA Buro or direct; call sign requested |
| 2009 Sep18 | 2009 Sep25 | Niue | ZK2BJ | | By G3BJ G4JKS fm OC-040; 80-10m (no 17 or 12m); CW; K3 w/ HF6 |
| 2009 Sep18 | 2009 Sep30 | Chatham I | ZL7 | N7OU | By N7OU as ZL7/N7OU; 80-10m; CW; 100w; vertical |
| 2009 Sep18 | 2009 Sep22 | Palau | T88ZS | JA2ZS | |
| 2009 Sep22 | 2009 Oct21 | Mayotte | T07RJ | DJ7RJ Direct | By DJ7RJ; 160-10m, perhaps 6m; CW SSB |
| 2009 Sep23 | 2009 Sep30 | Monaco | 3A | HA3JB | By HA3JB as 3A/HG3IPA; QRV for CQ WW DX RTTY; QSL: Gabor Kutasi, H-8601 Siofok, P.O.Box 243, Hungary |
| 2009 Sep24 | 2009 Sep27 | Fiji | 3D2G | PG5M | By PG5M fm OC-016; CW only; ultralight DXpedition; QSL OK via PA Buro or direct; call sign requested |

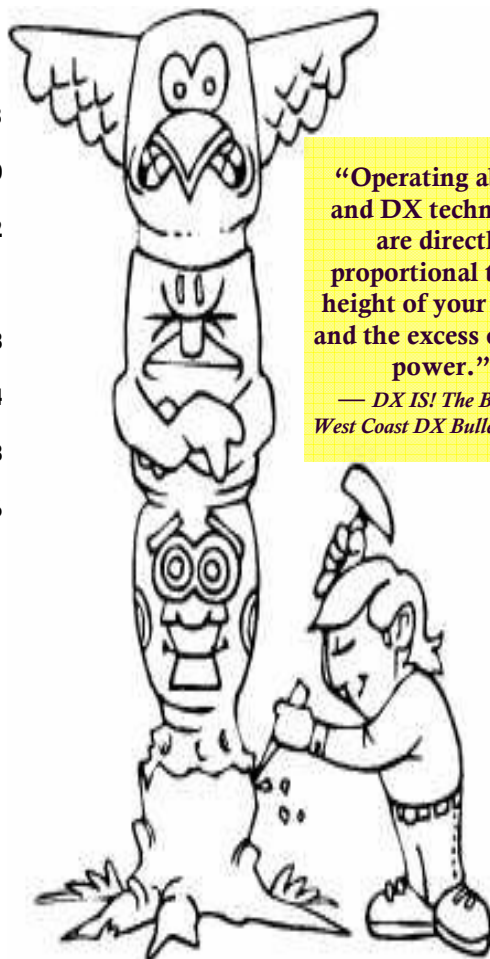
Check the Wednesday 3625 NFDXA Net at 0000Z for the latest on Who is operating When and Where

Totem Pole—Aug 2009

Between January 1 and December 31, 2009 work as many stations as you can, any band, any mode. Work each country only once, unless it spans zones. To add a new zone for the same country just type in the new call and zone over the old one and click the “Log It” button. To delete a call, erase the zone from your log page and click the “Log It” button.

The Top 12

| | | | |
|------------|-----|----|-----|
| N4NN | 253 | 40 | 293 |
| K4UTE | 250 | 40 | 290 |
| N4KE | 222 | 40 | 262 |
| K4EB | 221 | 40 | 261 |
| NF4L | 172 | 36 | 208 |
| NIWON | 122 | 32 | 154 |
| NW4C | 100 | 28 | 128 |
| WR4K | 87 | 29 | 116 |
| NU4Y | 71 | 19 | 90 |
| KC4FWS | 39 | 15 | 54 |
| AB4UF | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| W4FDA | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| All Others | 0 | 0 | 0 |



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

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



DX Marathon



DX QUIZ ANSWERS ... from pages 8 and 9

1. B 2. B 3. D 4. C 5. A 6. D 7. B 8. A and C 9. C 10. B 11. B 12. C

BONUS QUESTION ANSWER ...

Admiral Byrd took amateur radio with him on a polar expedition

FCC: Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 10 — The FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase \$1.10, from \$12.30 to \$13.40. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the [Federal Register](#), the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 10, 2009. The FCC is authorized by the *Communications Act of 1934, As Amended*, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term. — *ARRL Web*



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Wow! Look at that antenna..

As I See It...

In the beginning ham radio contests were pretty benign. They were largely individual affairs or small groups operating from someone's home station. There didn't seem to be a "take no prisoners" sense on the air. Some even added an occasional "good luck" to their contest exchange...and they might even have meant it!

And then, as often happens, when events become more popular everything connected with them began to grow. "Contest stations" were built "to win" regardless of cost—some of them rivaling commercial entities in their size, complexity and cost. Scores were amassed with totals that resembled the national debt. Operators trained with athlete-like zeal. Contest rules took on the complexity of the income tax code, complete with ambiguous loopholes and be taken advantage of. Computers were integrated into everything from log keeping to spotting, to band switching...even to giving the contest exchange! And not very many 'good lucks' were being exchanged.

Legal power? We aren't even going to go there.

The prestige of winning increased right along with the mounting scores. Wining totals now are in the multi-millions. They are so big it's only natural for people to wonder...

Now, WHAMMO! Someone actually gets caught gaming the system—which is a fancy ways of saying "cheating"—while who knows how many others are heaving sighs of relief and saying to themselves that there for the grace of whatever go!

Meanwhile, the radio contest world awaits the final outcome of the "rubber clocking" scandal (see page 1) in the 2008 CQ WW SSB contest...and the rumored possibility that the winner of the CW side might be determined as someone who *hasn't* cheated...

Yes, my fellow Hams, we've come a looong way . . .

Perhaps it's time to turn around and go back a few steps . . .

— NW4C

