



See you and the rest of the NFDXA gang at the Orlando HamCation February 14th



QSP
Pass the Word

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The North Florida DX Association

PileUp

The NFDXA Newsletter



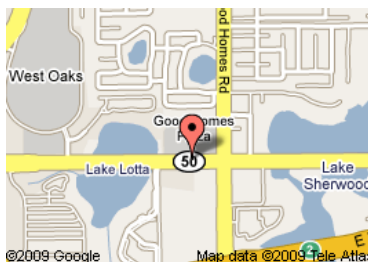
Volume 1, Number 2

February 2009

<http://nfdxa.com/>

Feb NXDFA Meeting During Orlando HamCation

The February meeting of the North Florida DX Association will be held February 14 in conjunction with the 63rd Orlando HamCation on Saturday at 4 p.m. at the Ginza Japanese Steakhouse on 8933 West Colonial Drive (Highway 50) 6 miles west of the Central Florida Fairgrounds.



Daytona 500 Race is also on the 14th (The race used to be called the Valentines Day 500). Its large crowd often overflows into Orlando restaurants and hotels and things get petty crowded.

It's expected that most NFDXA members who come to this meeting will have spent much of the day in fun and frolic at the HamCation, the country's second largest hamfest after Dayton. If so, you indeed should be ready to enjoy some good food, lots of fellowship and a cool 807 (or two) with fellow DX and Contest affectionatos

The only request is that you contact meeting arranger Cory, N1WON, at your earliest convenience (n1won@hotmail.com) and let him know if you are going to attend. He needs to know to include you in the group reservation. The reservation total is important as the February NASCAR

Cory says no door prizes will be offered during the NFDXA meeting at the Ginza. So you don't have to worry about someone

sampling your sushi while you are attending a 'you-must-be-present-in-order-to-win-drawing'. But, if you don't attend you'll stand the chance of losing a to-be-determined number of your accumulated DX country credits in the ongoing 2009 NFDXA Marathon. The number of countries to be deducted from your claimed total will be determined by those attending the Ginza gathering sometime during Happy Hour between the first and second round.

Seriously, plan now to attend and remember to drop Cory a line with your decision. Hope to see you there.

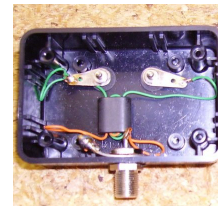
On The Air

Yep I am still operating. Played some in the 160 CWcontest in Jan. Added some wire to my 80 meter inverted L (sort of L). It has 35 feet of vertical and a bunch of other wire going down to my fence. Some people could even hear me. I worked 205 contacts in 44 sections and 7 DX contacts with 100 watts. Longest contact was to VE7. Not the best antenna but had some fun.



Last month I had a beverage switch box. Now you need to add some sort of receive antenna to it. Here are some of the boxes down at VP5. There is no magic here.

Jim Iori, NU4Y



I use the transformers of various ratios and just test them after the wire is installed. The wires in the bag have resistors from 470 to about 560 homes to terminate the beverage wires.

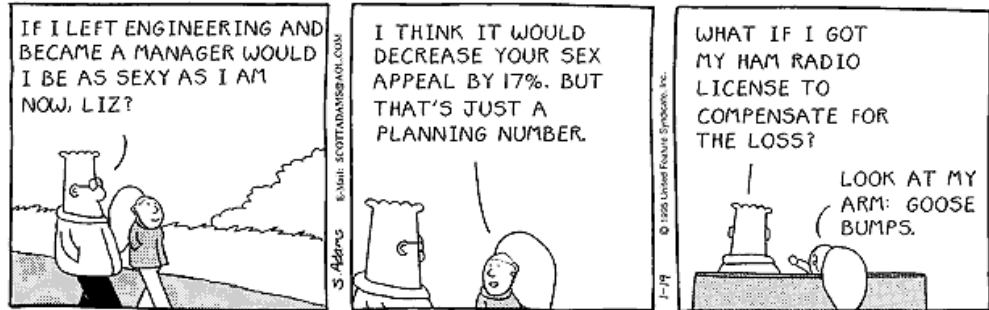
Since there is no ground down at VP5 we just add 100 to 200 feet of wire after the resistor and also from the transformers to act as a counter poise. They work fine. We can hear a lot better than we can transmit.

Since I have a huge amount of line noise at the home QTH with the vertical, I must use the noise blanker. This causes the 50 KWAM station just a couple of miles from this location to overload the receiver. The installation of a ICE 402X AM Broadcast Interference Filter takes the 55 db over S-9 signal to less than S-1.

(Continued Page 8)



Dilbert on Amateur Radio



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Wire Braid for RF Ground Straps

The use of braided strap as an RF grounding conductor has largely been discontinued by commercial and military station builders, particularly outside. How come? Frank W3LPL answers the question.



"Braid works well when it's under pressure and protected from corrosion, for example in coax cable where it's under pressure and protected by the jacket. It's fine for dc, as well,



because there's no RF skin effect. However, braid is a poor performer for indoor RF applications and an extremely bad performer outdoors because the skin effect forces the RF to jump from wire to wire each time at each braided overlap. The joints aren't under pressure, so the quality of the connections is poor.



"Outdoors the joints corrode and the connections are terrible. In both cases the resistance of the braid joints is poor. So, for RF connections use copper wire or strap. You can use stainless steel as a buffer between copper and galvanize to avoid galvanic action (except in a salt spray environment)."

— ARRL Contest Update 21 Jan 09

Pro III Power Supply Suggestion



Most modern transceivers requiring an external power supply do not actually disconnect all voltage from the transceiver, and leave the +13.8 volt supply connected to the PA stage. This is done because the internal switches and relays cannot safely handle the maximum current the Pa's can sometimes draw. The Pa transistors in these rigs also have a very low maximum collector voltage rating. A fault developing in the PA stage can indeed cause current draw even though the power is switched off. It is for this reason that I always switch my power supply off when not using my Pro III. High voltage spikes or other such stuff coming through the power supply could also cause damage to the Pa transistors. Hope this helps to inform.

— Larry K4LXV. Ic756pro3-Yahogroup

January Meeting Minutes Mike Reubin, NF4L

This Meeting: 01/17/2009 5:00 Cross Creek - Lane Ave

Name	Call	# Attending
Steve Brown	AB4UF	1
John Hale	AC4ET	0
Larry Junstrom	K4EB	0
Dick Hicks	K4UTE	1
Jim Hughes	KC4FWS	1
Bill Walker	KX4WW	0
Cory McDonald	N1WON	1
Mike Parnin	N4EPD	0
Ron Tivey	N4GFO ?	
Joe Barnes	N4JBK ?	
Ron Blake	N4KE	1
Dale Conner	N4NN	1 x
Billy Williams	N4UF	0
Mike Reublin	NF4L	1
Dave Mains	NO4J	0
Jim Iori	NU4Y	1
Warren Croke	NW4C	1
Pres Graham	W4FDA ?	
John Moore	W5HUQ	0
Steve Barber	WA4B ?	
David Price	WA4ET	1
Dick Knox	WR4K	0
Total Confirmed		9



The meeting was called to order by **Jim, NU4Y** on Jan 17, 2009 at 6:45 PM at Cross Creek

Treasurer **Jim KC4FWS**, announced a balance of 807.45

Old business -

David WA4ET reported that the cost for embroidered club shirts is \$22.00. There is a one time set-up fee of \$50.00.

New business -

The title for our new newsletter, '**The PileUp**' is to remain the same.

Ron N4KE suggested the Feb. meeting be held at the Orlando hamfest. (14-15)

The next meeting planner is: **Cory, N1WON**.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM
Respectfully submitted,



10 More Reasons That Indicate a Ham Radio Addiction

1. If you've ever tried to figure out the operating frequency of your microwave oven.
2. The local city council doesn't like you.
3. You think towers look pretty.
4. Your family doesn't have a clue what to get you for Christmas, even after you tell them.
5. Your HF amplifier puts out more power than the local AM station.
6. The wife and kids are away and the first thing that goes through your head is that no one will bother you while you are calling "CQ DX".
7. When you pull into a donut shop and the cops there on their coffee break ask if they can see your radio setup
8. You refer to your children as "Harmonics".
9. Your girlfriend or wife asks: " You're going to spend \$XXXX dollars on what?!"
10. When you look around your bedroom of wall-to-wall ham gear and ask: "Why am I still single?"



Be 'In The Know'
Tune in the NFDXA net
Wednesdays 0100Z 3.625 MHz



VS6DO in 1986 CQ WW SSB—W4FDA Photos

Row 1—L to R



Row 2—L to R



Row 3—L to R



Row 4—L to R



Row 5—L to R



Row 1—Pix 1 Tokyo stopover; l-r **Masa, JA3ODC**, a friend of **Big Al**; **Ron, N4KE**, Pres, W4FDA; **Yugh, JR3KEG**, another friend of Al's, **'Big Al'**, **WA4DRU**; **Willie, KX4WW** (then WB4EYX); Pix 2 **Willie** 'n Pres use chopsticks; Pix 3 **Willie** and **Al** in Hong Kong FCC office with **Ron, N4KE**.

Row 2—Pix 1 **WB4DRU, N4KE** and **Paul, VS6DO** on roof of **Paul's** 8-floor apartment building; Pix 2, The antennas need lots of work; Pix 3, **KX4WW** and **WB4DRU** make repairs

Row 3—Pix 1 **KX4WW** calling CQ; Pix 2 **Paul, VS6DO** and **N4KE** catch their breath; Pix 3 **W4FDA** logging them in.

Row 4—Pix 1 **WA4DRU** making sure they count; The CQ logo; Pix 2 Our host **Paul, VS6DO** works the pile-up.

Row 5—Pix 1 **Paul's** oldest little girl 23 years ago; Pix 2 Our host **Paul Bailey, VS6DO**. Paul moved to California when VS6 became part of BY. Sadly, he recently became a SK in an auto accident. Paul was a true gentlemen and friend. Pix 3 **Willie** with **Paul's** youngest little girl 23 years ago.

The Way Things Were

NFDXA competes as VS6DO in 1986 CQ WW SSB

The year was 1986 and **Ron Blake, N4KE** realized he had accumulated a sizable number of Prudential Frequent Flier Miles. The question arose how to use them—perhaps on a ham related venture? Good idea, but where?

In discussions with **Paul Bailey, VS6DO** in far-away Hong Kong **Ron** began wondering “Why not put together a trip to Hong Kong and operate in the upcoming CQ World Wide Single Sideband contest?” Subsequent discussions with **Al Harback, WA4DRU**, a veteran CW contester, who had contacts in Asia, lead **Ron** to get in touch with **VS6CT** who at the time seemed eager to have the visitors from NFDXA come use his station.

On the strength of that encouragement, **Ron** began making plans and assembling a contest team. First aboard was ‘**Big Al**’ **Harback, WA4DRU**, who’d been in the HH2 operations in the late 70s as well as the 79 CQ WW SSB. ‘**Big Al**’ came by his nickname honestly—He’s 6 feet 7 inches tall! Imagine folding that big a frame into an airliner seat for a 14,000 +/- mile flight from north Florida to Hong Kong!

Next, **Ron** approached **Pres Graham, W4FDA**, who brought in **Billy ‘Willie’ Walker**, whose call sign then was **WB4EYX**. Now he’s **KX4WW**. **Billy** was a CQ WW and WPX contest veteran dating back to the NFDXA **VP5** operations in 1975.

With the team set, **Ron** finalized the travel arrangements and the NFDXA foursome was airborne on the first leg from Jacksonville to Atlanta, then the long haul cross-country to San Francisco where they soon boarded a flight for their next leg, the long over water from San Francisco to Tokyo. Although the flight was uneventful it was long, very long, and no one was happier than the 6 foot-7-inch **Big Al** when they landed in Tokyo for a two day layover.

While in Tokyo, **Al** introduced two JA friends, **Masa, JA3ODC** and **Yugh, JR3KEG**. They took the NFDXA team under their wing, going to restaurants and other fun spots. For two days the team was immersed in the sights and sounds of one of the world’s most populous cities. Afterward, fully refreshed the contest team boarded their flight for the final leg to Hong Kong.


Once in Hong Kong they made a quick trip to the VS6 version of the FCC and soon after each member of the team could officially append their call sign with a /VS6. However, elation quickly turned to apprehension when they learned **VS6CT** had changed his mind—he didn’t want the team using his station after all!

For a short while it appeared the expedition was doomed, their long trip would be for nothing. But, **Ron’s** friend **Paul, VS6DO**, being the true host and gentleman that he was, came to the rescue by offering the Florida crew his station for the contest.

With a new enthusiasm **N4KE/VS6, W4FDA/VS6, WB4EYX/VS6** and **WA4DRU/VS6** quickly got Paul’s 8th story apartment building antenna farm in shape. By the start of the contest everything was ready; the tri-bander, a KLM 40 M mono and wire antennas for 160 and 80.

The result of the 48 hour effort spoke for itself: **3444 QSOs on 6 bands for a total of 2,448,932 points**. Not too shabby for a bunch of visitors in a fun-filled last-minute scramble.

N4KE/VS6
 W4FDA/VS6
 WA4DRU/VS6
 WB4EYX/VS6



Hong Kong

STATION	MO	DAY	YR	GMT	BAND	REPORT	MODE
							TWO WAY

PSE QSL TNX 73

RECORDED DELIVERY

Hong Kong Post Office 香港郵政署



Post Office Headquarters
Connaught Place
Hong Kong

郵政總局
總局
總局

Telegrams: POSTGEN
電報掛號
Telex: 65958 GPO HK HX
香港電報掛號
Telephone: 5-2671247

Our Ref: 香港掛號 (2) in TLO 1/3/528 Your Ref: 香港掛號

Mr. JAMES PERROW SMITH,
99 Broadnest Drive, Flat 5B,
Kowloon. 21st October 1986

Dear Sir,


Amateur Station Call Sign: **W4FDA/VS6**

Enclosed please find Amateur (Sound) Station Licence No. 786 and the Frequency Schedule for your retention.


When your station is established, please contact Duty Inspector (Tel. No.: 5-2671246) to arrange for inspection.

Yours faithfully,
Langley
(K.L. WKS)
for Telecommunications Authority

Year 1986



World Wide DX Contest



Last Full Weekend of October (Phone) & November (CW)

Call Sign: **VS6DO** HONG KONG Country

Single Operator: Phone Single Band Single Transmitter
 CW All Band Multi-Transmitter

QSO's (minus duplicates)	QSO Points	Zone Multiplier	Country Multiplier	Score	
1.8 mc 4	5	3	4		1.8 mc
3.5 mc 159	314	20	28		3.5 mc
7.0 mc 562	757	26	40		7.0 mc
14 mc 661	1,414	31	70		14 mc
21 mc 1,514	2,803	31	80		21 mc
28 mc 544	839	25	43		28 mc
All Bands 3,444	6,132	136	265	2,458,932	All Bands

How to score: QSO Points X (Zones + Countries) = FINAL SCORE
 EXAMPLE: 1000 QSO Points X (30 Zones + 70 Countries) = 100,000 points

Station Description: Icom 751 plus Linear

Antennas: 10,15,20 - Triband beam - 40 - 2 EL. KLM - 80,160 - Dipoles

Operators: VS6DO - Paul; N4KE/VS6 - Ron; W4FDA/VS6 - Pres; KB7G/VS6 - Brett; WA4DRU/VS6 - Al; WB4EYX/VS6 - Bill

Remarks (Biggest thrill in Contest, funniest story, comments, etc): Having to tell BY1PK to stop bothering us as he had worked us 3 times already on that band!

Club Competition (Minimum 3 logs): North Florida DX Association

This is to certify that in this contest I have operated my transmitter within the limitations of my license and have observed fully the rules and regulations of the contest.

Type or Print: _____ Signature: *Allen B. Harbach*

Name: Allen B. Harbach (for the group) Call: W4DRU/VS6

Address: 2318 South Country Club Road

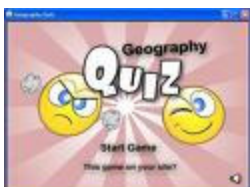
City: Melbourne

State or Country: Florida (Zip) 32901

Mail to: CO Contest Committee

Note: Duplicate QSO's can mean disqualification. CO Form 1037A, 1989





DX Quiz "To The Pole!" by Ward Silver, N0AX

With the 6th annual Antarctic Activity Week just around the corner it seemed a good to reprise an old south-pole-oriented DX-Quiz from years past. The original appeared in the March-April 2005 edition of *The DX Magazine* and was created by **Ward Silver, N0AX**. Here are 10 of the original 12 questions. Good luck. And if your luck isn't that good the answers are on Page 11

1. **Which CQ zone is NOT included in Antarctica?**

- A. 39
- B. 29
- C. 22
- D. 13

2. **Which country does NOT possess an Antarctic territory (not including research stations)**

- A. ZS
- B. B. LU
- C. VK
- D. CE

3. **The Antarctic seas are referred to as the "Roaring" what?**

- A. 20's
- B. 30's
- C. 40's
- D. 50's

4. **The America McMurdo station is located on what kind of body of water?**

- A. Fjord
- B. Strait
- C. Sound
- D. Passage

5. **The passage between South America and Tierra del Fuego was first traversed by who?**

- A. Drake
- B. Magellan
- C. Vasco da Gama
- D. Schouten

6. **Which cape is the southernmost continental land north of the Antarctic?**

- A. Good Hope
- B. Horn
- C. Breton
- D. Flattery

7. **Which is the most southern French possession? (not including research stations)**

- A. Maria Theresa Reef
- B. Kerguelen Island
- C. Amsterdam Island
- D. Reunion Island

8. **Bouvet Island is reached by sailing in what direction from South Africa?**

- A. SE
- B. S
- C. SW
- D. W

9. **What is the name of the Antarctic peninsula going north towards South America?**

- A. Ross
- B. Larsen
- C. Bellingshausen
- D. Palmer

10. **Which of the following island groups does NOT belong to New Zealand?**

- A. Auckland
- B. Campfell
- C. Chatham
- D. Macquarie

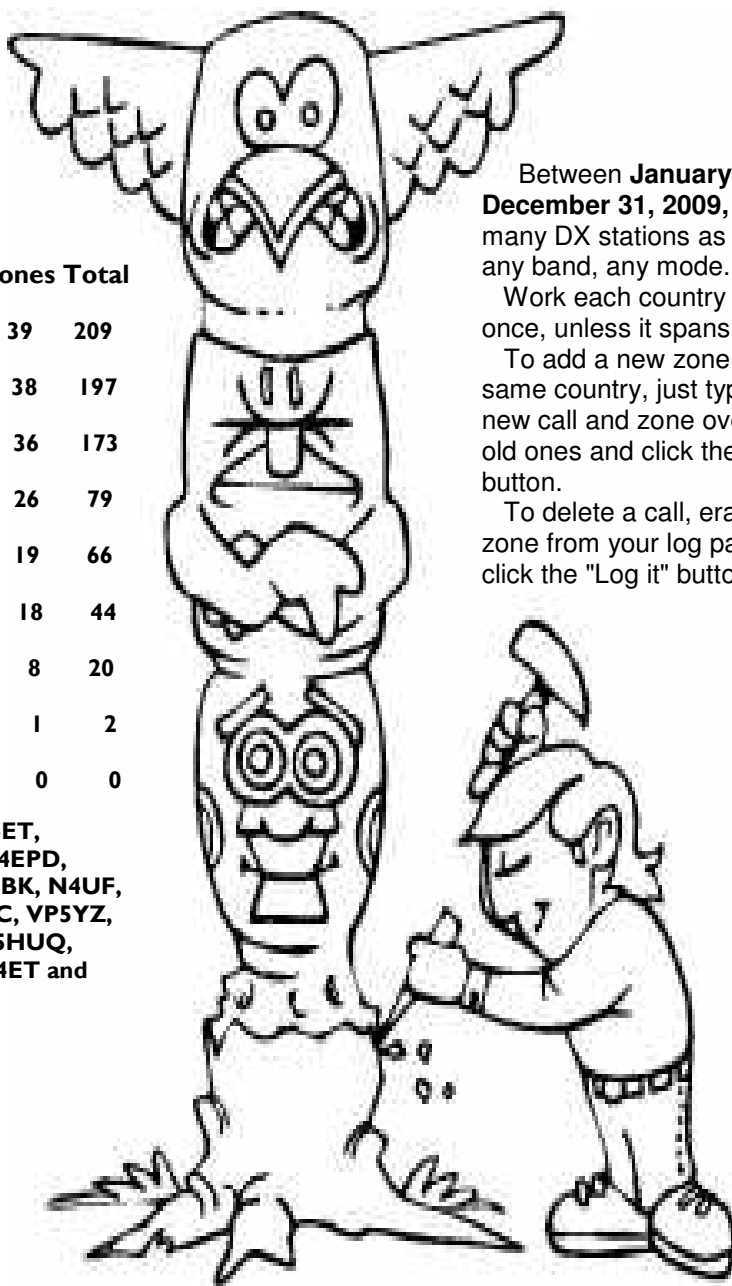
Answers on Page 11

The NFDXA 2009 CQ DX Marathon Totem Pole
 Where do YOU stand? Check <http://nfdxa.com/cq/>



Call	DX	Zones	Total
K4UTE	170	39	209
N4NN	159	38	197
K4EB	137	36	173
NF4L	53	26	79
NIWON	47	19	66
N4KE	26	18	44
NU4Y	12	8	20
KC4FWS	1	1	2
All Others	0	0	0

AB4YF, AC4ET,
 KX4WW, N4EPD,
 N4GFO, N4JBK, N4UF,
 NO4J, NW4C, VP5YZ,
 W4FDA, W5HUQ,
 WA4B, WA4ET and
 WR4K



Between **January 1** and **December 31, 2009**, work as many DX 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 the new call and zone over the old ones and click the "Log it" button.

To delete a call, erase the zone from your log page and click the "Log it" button.



"Whatever you do never look back. Someone might be gaining on you."
 — Satchel Page



(Continued from Page 1)

On The Air

Here are some pictures of the signal without the filter and with the filter.

The Wed evening meeting on 3.625 has been a success lately. Even **N4NN** checked in last week. I look forward to it. Years ago (30+) met with some local hams almost every night. I remember those days well.

Orlando ham fest is the next meeting. I am looking forward to browse around and find another magic box like I did last year.



AM 690 Signal without the filter



I still do not know what it was for , but it looks so good. Hope to see you all there.

73 cu in Orlando Jim NU4Y



AM 690 Signal using the filter

The spikes across the scope is my line noise. This really did the trick and I was able to use the noise blanker most of the time.

The Orlando Ham, Computer & Computer Show



NFDXA Meeting at 2008 Orlando Hamfest



Learning Something New in Ham Radio

Finding True North

Something we all need to know is an exact method for finding True North. Having observed several in-depth discussions on this topic, I believe that I have distilled the assembled wisdom of many emails into the following guaranteed 13-step process:

1 -- Stack all patio furniture in the garage. No particular reason, just do it.

2 -- Don your tower climbing belt, which must include two gorilla hooks and a positioning lanyard, lots of caribeeners, a Danforth anchor and a planetary gearhead.

3 -- Prepare some epoxy and obtain 200 meters of Thelma wire.

4 -- Use a slingshot, fishing rod, or potato gun to fling the Thelma wire through the top of the tower. Secure it to a convenient guy anchor with a caribeenner and a Singapore Sling tied in a Four-In-Hand Knot.

5 -- Climb the tower.

6 -- Return down the tower to pick up the Plastic Owl.

7 -- Climb the tower.

8 -- Return down the tower to brief the ground crew and agree on hand signals. Name the Plastic Owl.

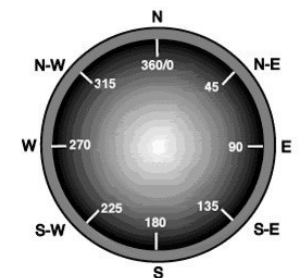
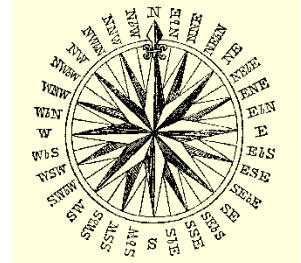
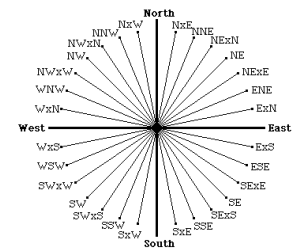
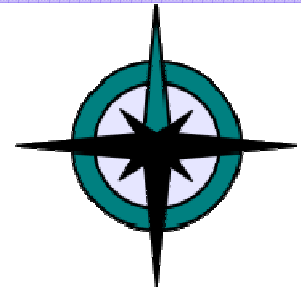
9 -- Go to the bathroom and climb the tower again in that order.

10 -- At the top of the tower, scare away the birds by securing the Plastic Owl to the wasp's nest using the Danforth anchor. Attach the planetary gearhead to the Thelma wire using the epoxy.

11 -- Clip your positioning lanyard to the gearhead and spin around the tower twice saying, "There's no place like home, there's no place like home."

12 -- Yell down to the ground crew and have them point to True North. Take the average of the directions in which they point and compute the vector cross-product. You may ignore your estimated direction because you're a scalar. (Sorry, obscure math joke.)

13 - Mark a large "X" on the side of your tool bucket. This is True North and so shall it always be.



Odds 'n Ends

Food For Thought — As we are challenged (by President Obama) to put a shoulder to our country's wheel at large, we should not neglect the comparative diminutive wheel of Amateur Radio also in need of its many shoulders. To be sure, Amateur Radio is an activity in which we choose to participate, or not, depending on our circumstances and inclinations. By and large it does not put bread on our tables or raise our children, but it is an activity with many benefits to its practitioners and the public at large. Thus it is surely a worthy goal to ensure Amateur Radio's continued vitality in the years ahead.

— *ARRL Contest Update 21 Jan 09*

For Sale — I have the Force 12 5 BA antenna for sale in Levy County. It has a 33' boom, 15 elements and covers all 5 bands from 10-20. If your members know of anyone interested, let me know. I am asking \$1,000.00. 73, **Dave, WIWN** (727) 487-4732

Hollingsworth Replacement Appointed — Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008. Hollingsworth was Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Ms. Smith is not currently a ham, but one can always hope she'll join us on the air eventually.

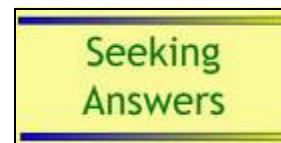
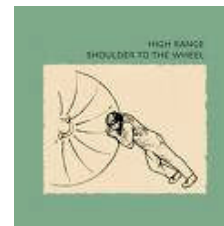
— *ARRL Contest Update 04 Feb 09*

WorldRadio CQ Communications, Inc., publisher of *CQ Amateur Radio*, *Popular Communications*, and *CQ VHF* magazine, has acquired **WorldRadio** magazine. As part of CQ's responsibility of that acquisition, they will be fulfilling **WorldRadio** subscriptions with publications from the CQ Group. **WorldRadio** will continue to be published as an online-only magazine. The current plan is to make it open-access, without charging for subscriptions. More information at <http://www.wr6wr.com/>

The Way Things Are... "I can hear VK6AU, F5RRS, TA1AX, PT2ZHA. Back in 1990 this was all on 20 at night, around midnight local time! Now it's gray line on 40. Well, I will take whatever I can get on any band at this point." — *WD4ELG DX Is Newsgroup*

DX Quiz Answers from Page 6 — "To The Pole!"

- 1) C
- 2) D—Tierra del Fuego is not Antarctic
- 3) C—which refers to Latitude
- 4) C
- 5) D—William Schouten was the captain who made the first passage in 1616
- 6) B
- 7) B
- 8) C
- 9) D
- 10) D—It's Australian, mate!





— Ham-Mag #2 February 2009

Editor's Note

Ah yes, Desecheo. The name has a certain sound to it like a rare DX location should.

Having a semi-rare operation like K5D under way in our back yard gives us an unusual chance to ponder certain on-air behaviors from the DX op's prospective.

Like the incessant monkey-chatter of frequency cops that rivals deliberate jammers in terms of QRM? For that matter what 'need' is in a person to be a frequency cop?

Consider the foul language uttered or keyed on CW ... which is more a demonstration of the sender's anemic vocabulary than any meaningful expression.

Add to that the *inadvertent* on-frequency tune-ups as well as the *deliberate* carrier?

What if any effect does all this peripheral noise have on the DX op?

Does operating with a fairly wide split and tight filtering eliminate most of it, making it just part of the general pileup racket and no real obstruction for the DX op?

I'm sure any experienced pileup op knows this 'stuff' is there, but how much does it *really* affect his operating?

Stuff to ponder...deeply ... but only *after* the DX is in the log and the confirming QSL card on its way...

Good luck if you need K5D for anything. If not, just relax, sit back and — as the 'Old Timer' would say — exalt in the realization that you indeed are 'one of the deserving'.

— Warren, NW4C