



The North Florida DX Association

# PileUp

The NFDXA Monthly Newsletter



W4ZR

Volume 2, Number 2

February 2010

<http://nfdxa.com/>

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## NFDXA To Meet at Orlando Hamfest

Hi Ho ... Hi Ho  
 To Orlando we will go.  
 Our next meeting's there,  
 Hope the weather's fair,  
 With luck there won't be snow.

The monthly meeting of the North Florida DX Association will be at 12 noon Saturday, February 13th at the 64th annual Orlando Hamcation.

The location for the DX gathering will be the motor home of KC4FWS. Jim has been going to the Orlando 'fest for 25 years. Since 2003 he's made the trip in his motor home which has become a rest stop of sorts for NFDXA members and friends.

Jim will have his big rig parked in the RV campground adjacent to the Hamcation site. Look for his coach near the restrooms close to the south fence line. No 'talk-in' frequency has been designated—just follow your nose to the KC4FWS grill which Jim says will be "piled high with burgers, sausage, dogs, brats, snacks, drinks and great friendship."

Jim's current plans are to arrive Wednesday, the 10th and stay until Sunday afternoon. "What is great about staying inside the fence, says Jim, is the advance shopping in the tailgate area. There seems to be a frenzy between vendors, tailgaters and those setup in the RV's"

The NFDXA Hamcation meeting has become one of the club's more popular and better attended events as it often serves as a reunion for former members who have moved to other locals.

Plan now to attend . Bring an appetite and your best DX and contest stories.



## The NFDXA Sweetheart Sprint—Let The Games Begin

The NFDXA February 2010 Sweetheart Sprint is underway and all members are urged to enter the competition. Who knows, you may actually win something!

The contest goes like this: between Feb 1 and Mar 1 work as many DX stations as you can **using one mode only**. Work each country once only using one of three modes, CW, SSB or Digital (RTTY, PSK, etc.).

Contestants must **choose the one mode they will use throughout the contest** before they can access their log which is posted at <http://nfdxa.com/Feb/> Once selected the mode chosen by the contestant cannot be changed.

There will be a winner for each of the three modes. Each winner will get a free meal at the next meeting he attends.





# W4ZR

## North Florida DX Association, Inc.

The North Florida DX Association, Inc. is made up of a small group of Amateur Radio Operators located in and around Jacksonville and northeast Florida whose interests are primarily contests and DXing. The NFDXA generally meets monthly on a date and location selected by an organizer picked for that meeting. The following officers were elected for the calendar year 2010.



### President

Mike Parnin, N4EPD [mparnin@fdn.com](mailto:mparnin@fdn.com)



### Vice President

Warren Croke, NW4C [nw4c@cox.net](mailto:nw4c@cox.net)



### Secretary

Mike Reubin, NF4L [nf4l@nf4l.com](mailto:nf4l@nf4l.com)



### Treasurer

Jim Hughes, KC4FWS [kc4fws@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:nw4c@cox.net)

***PileUp*** story ideas, manuscripts and photographs should be sent to [nw4c@cox.net](mailto:nw4c@cox.net)



### Minutes of Jan 16, 2010 Meeting—4pm Cross Creek Restaurant, Jacksonville

Name	Call	# Attending	Name	Call	# Attending	Name	Call	# Attending
Steve Brown	AB4UF	1	Mike Parnin	N4EPD	1	Dave Mains	NO4J	0
John Hale	AC4ET	0	Ron Tivey	N4GFO	?	Jim Iori	NU4Y	1
Larry Junstrom	K4EB	1	Joe Barnes	N4JBK	?	Warren Croke	NW4C	2
Dick Hicks	K4UTE	1	Ron Blake	N4KE	1	Pres Graham	W4FDA	1
Jim Hughes	KC4FWS	0	Dale Conner	N4NN	1	John Moore	W5HUQ	0
Bill Walker	KX4WW	0	Billy Williams	N4UF	0	Steve Barber	WA4B	0
Cory McDonald	NIWON	0	Mike Reubin	NF4L	1	David Price	WA4ET	1
						Dick Knox	WR4K	0

Total Confirmed Attending 12

The meeting was called to order by **Mike, N4EPD** at 5:51

Treasurer **Jim KC4FWS**, was not present, but reported a balance of \$647.83

**Old business** - The new club shirts are on hold temporarily.

**New business** - **Warren, NW4C** proposed **John Silberman, KB4CRT** for membership.

A new club contest was discussed. It was agreed to work one mode for the month of February.

The entrant must pick from Phone, CW, or Digital.

These members have paid dues: **K4UTE, WA4E, K4EB, NIWON, NW4C, N4GFO, KC4FWS, AB4UF, N4EPD, N4KE, N4NN, NF4L, NU4Y, W4FDA** and **WA4ET**.

The next meeting planner is: **Jim, KC4FWS**

The meeting was adjourned at: 6:04

Respectfully submitted, **Mike NF4L**, Secretary

## Ham Aid—How You Can Help in Haiti

The ARRL Ham Aid Fund welcomes your contribution! In 2005, the ARRL established the Ham Aid Fund to accept contributions in support of Amateur Radio's response to Hurricane Katrina and hams responded generously to help ARRL send equipment to the affected area.

"Now we are facing another devastating event in Haiti and Amateur Radio is ready to respond," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. "With equipment contributed by our generous industry partners, the ARRL invites contributions to the Ham Aid Fund from hams who wish to help ARRL deploy equipment where it is needed most. Contributions from Amateur Radio clubs and individuals in any amount will go directly to supporting Amateur Radio's response efforts in Haiti."

Hobart explained that the easiest way to get your donation to work is to give via credit card on the [ARRL's secure Web site](#). Checks may be made payable to ARRL Ham Aid and sent to 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111. For more information, contact ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, via [e-mail](#) or by telephone at (860)594-0307.

—ARRL Web 22Jan10



Mary Hobart, K1MMH

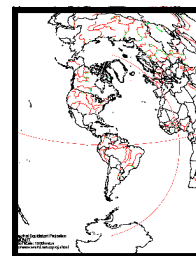


## OK To Use 3720 and 7045 kHz Again

The frequencies of 3720 and 7045 kHz are once again available for regular amateur use. Amateur radio stations on the air from Haiti are now operating in more regular patterns. Dr. Cesar Pio Santos, HR2P, IARU Region 2 EMCOR has released the use of 7.045 MHz and 3.720 MHz.

In his release statement Dr. Santos thanked the world radio amateur community for their support in keeping these frequencies clear during the emergency period.

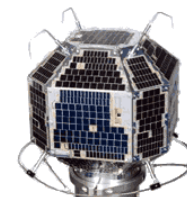
—XE1KK via ARRL and World Radio Online



## HAM RADIO IN SPACE: FO-29 TO RETURN TO THE AIR

Fuji Oscar 29 ground controllers at the Japan Amateur Radio League plan to open the satellite for amateur radio use but it may not remain operational after eclipses due to power limitation issues. Depending on the power budget the JARL may need to selectively cancel satellite on time. All hams are reminded to please use as low power as necessary on the uplink to complete their communications. (JE9PEL)

—AR Newsline 22Jan10



## New CW Club Starts — Seeks 'Qualified' Members

A new club has been formed among Amateur Radio operators who are Morse Code (CW) enthusiasts. It is called The CW Operators' Club (CWops). CWops encourages the use of CW in Amateur communications, and it promotes goodwill among Amateurs around the world by planned CW activities. CWops is international in scope, membership and management. Its focus is the use of CW, whether for contesting, DXing or ragchewing. Moreover, it promotes every form of sending -- if it's CW, CWops supports it! For further information, go to [www.cwops.org](http://www.cwops.org). There you will find everything that you might want to know about CWops, including our bylaws and articles of incorporation, our planned activities, an explanation of how to become a member, and a list of current members....."

—Jim Talens, N3JT, Secretary, CWops





### Eau de' 3CX1500A7, perhaps?



**"I want my husband to pay more attention to me.  
Got any perfume that smells like a Ham Radio?"**



### Some DX-related comments from those in the chase

#### Regarding pilups . . .

"Although there is always an element of chance in DX'ing, informed judgements (by both parties in a QSO) play a much bigger role in successes..." NI0C

The moral is, never think you are out of it. Just keep listening and trying." K8CXM

"Turn the knob, put in the time, and they get into the log book, even if you're a tin whistle instead of a big gun." K1KO

"...If you can't run with the big dogs....stay on the porch" WK3N

160 meters is not for the faint of heart! KB6QXM

160 meters will separate the men from the boys K4UTE

#### Finally, this observation regarding DX hunting in general . . .

Sometimes I'd rather be lucky than good. K9WJL

## DX MAGAZINE'S 2009 MOST WANTED RESULTS.

The "2009 Most Wanted Survey" conducted by *The DX Magazine* has been posted on the publication's Web site and printed in the January/February 2010 issue. The top five most sought after entities worldwide appear to North Korea, Navassa, Marion Island, Bouvet and Yemen in that order.

Below are listed the top 25 Most wanted countries for 2009 according to the survey .

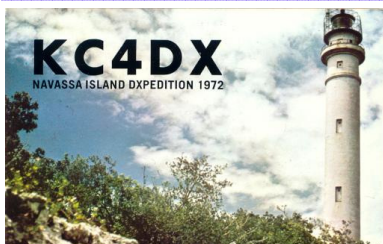


2009			2009		
Rank	Prefix	Country	Rank	Prefix	Country
1	P5	North Korea	14	HK0/M	Malpelo Island
2	KPI	Navassa Island	15	VK0/M	Macquarie Island
3	ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion	16	FR/T	Tromelin Island
4	3Y/B	Bouvet Island	17	ZL9	Auckland & Campbell Is.
5	7O	Yemen	18	KH5K	Kingman Reef
6	VK0/H	Heard Island	19	PY0/S	St. Peter & Paul Rocks
7	FT5W	Crozet Island	20	KH5	Palmyra & Jarvis
8	FT5G	Glorioso Island	21	FT5E/J	Europa & Juan de Nova
9	FT5Z	Amsterdam & St. Paul	22	KH4	Midway Island
10	VP8/S	South Sandwich Islands	23	KH9	Wake Island
11	BS7H	Scarborough Reef	24	3D2/C	Conway Reef
12	VP8/O	South Orkney Islands	25	BQ9P	Pratas Island
13	SV/A	Mount Athos			

DXpeditions to three of the above listed Top 25 took place during the survey period: FT5GA, Glorioso Island; 3D20CR, Conway Reef and K4M on Midway Island. Expect the "most wanted" positions of these three to be different in next year's survey.

*The DX Magazine* survey was conducted between September and October of 2009. The listing shows the top 100 World-Wide most wanted and also includes their 1998 comparison ranking for 2008. Its on line at [dxpub.com/dx\\_news.html/](http://dxpub.com/dx_news.html/)

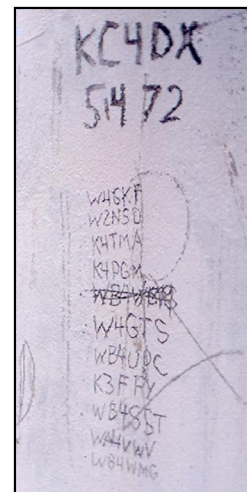
## KP1 Navassa Island Now #2 Most Wanted



Once again a 'most wanted' DX entity turns out to be in our own back yard. The 2009 *The DX Magazine* survey lists KP1 Navassa Island as the second-most wanted DX entity world-wide.

Like Desecheo, which stood at number 5 world-wide before last year's K5D expedition dropped it out of the top 100, Navassa is an uninhabited island administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department. The last DXpedition to operate from it's 2 square mile rocky cliffs was KC4DX back in 1972.

In contrast to today's mega-operations with six figure budgets, donated equipment and teams of operators from around the world, the KC4DX effort was modest. Most of the operators came from SEDXC, the Atlanta-based Southeastern DX Club. Only one radio was donated, a Swan 500— and two ops brought their own gear, two Heathkit SB303 and SB401 stations. Click on the link to read the KC4DX story. <http://74.125.113.132/search?q=cache:http://www.w4gkf.com/kc4dx/>





## DX QUIZ — “A DXCC Review”

The Following DX Quiz was created by H. Ward Silver, N0AX and was published on page 27 of the May-June 2007 issue of **The DX Magazine**. <http://www.dxpub.com/>

Lots of DXpeditions and many new hams on HF make for some busy, busy bands—particularly since propagation has crammed all the action into just a couple of bands at a time. Oh, the pileups are fierce, but why is it that we care? Why, we’re all in the DXCC hunt, that’s why! Let’s crack our knuckles on some DXCC know-how this month.

- - - - -

- 1) Which entity *listed below* is the most recent addition to the DXCC list?
  - A. Swain’s Island, KH8/S
  - B. Montenegro, YO/4O
  - C. Chesterfield Reef, FK8/S
  - D. Maria Theresa Reef, FO8/M
  
- 2) Why does Navassa KPI count for DXCC?
  - A. Separation by land
  - B. Separation by water
  - C. Sovereignty
  - D. Grandfathered in from early rules
  
- 3) How many entities are *currently* on the DXCC list?
  - A. 330
  - B. 333
  - C. 338
  - D. 340
  
- 4) You must be how close to have worked them all to qualify for the Honor Roll?
  - A. 1
  - B. 2
  - C. 5
  - D. 9
  
- 5) Who is the father of DXCC?
  - A. Clinton DeSoto, W1CBD
  - B. John Huntoon
  - C. Bob White
  - D. Rod Newkirk
  
- 6) Kure KH7/C counts because it is separated from KH6 by what?
  - A. Water
  - B. Midway, KH4
  - C. Wake, KH9
  - D. Kingman Reef, KH5K
  
- 7) Which of the following Dons was kicked out of DXCC for falsifying his QTH?
  - A. Wallace
  - B. Corleone
  - C. Miller
  - D. Ameche



(DX Quiz continues on next page)

## DX Quiz — “A DXCC Review” (continued)

- 8) How many entities are on the *all-time* DXCC list today?
- 358
  - 372
  - 387
  - 397
- 9) Who is the current DXCC Manager?
- NNIN
  - N4NN
  - NIRL
  - NCIL
- 10) Field card checkers may *not* check cards for what band?
- 160 meters
  - 60 meters
  - 10 meters
  - 6 meters

### Bonus Question

According to *The DX Magazine* “Most Wanted Survey” for 2009, what is the *second* most needed DXCC entity?

The answers (if you think you need them) are on page 11



## Online SDR in Netherlands — Hear What They’re Hearing

Here’s a cool online SDR. A/D samples 80-20 meters. Each online user can select his own frequency and define the receive bandwidth. I’ve been listening to Russians on 75m LSB and Israel on 40m CW. Listenership, i.e., people logged on, varies. Earlier (when I was listening), there were 120 users. (Within an hour or so) there were only 17 users.

<http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/>

73, Frank, W3KT

  
University of Twente  
Enschede - The Netherlands



## Operating Tip – Making Yourself Better

Listen to complex music, all types from Jazz to Classical to Rock, etc., and try to pick out all the instrumental and vocal parts, one by one. When you get good at that, “dial it up a notch” and then try to “see” the artist actually playing their part of the piece with the actual fingering while you are focusing on them. Then focus on the next artist and the next and so on.

The more complexity and detail that you can “see”, the more successfully you are training your brain to develop concentration and focus and to multi-task.

—KQ2M

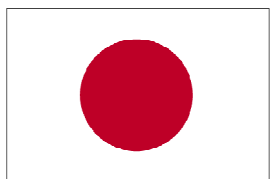
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Food for thought when nothing else will do: He who laughs last, thinks slowest.



**FLAG QUIZ**

Match the flags shown below with the DXCC entity listed in the calendar. on the right



The answers to the DXCC entity Flag Quiz can be found on page 11

**NG3K February DX Calendar via Richard, K4UTE**

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via
2010 Feb 02	2010 Feb 10	St Lucia	J6	LotW
2010 Feb 02	2010 Feb 14	Canary Is	<sup>NEW</sup> EA8	DK1AX Direct
2010 Feb 03	2010 Feb 09	Cambodia	<sup>NEW</sup> XU7XRO	M0URX
2010 Feb 02	2010 Feb 27	South Shetland Is	XR9JA	CE5JA
2010 Feb 03	2010 Feb 08	Guam	<sup>NEW</sup> KH0	
2010 Feb 03	2010 Feb 15	North Cook Is	E51VMB	AD7AF Direct
2010 Feb 04	2010 Feb 09	Norfolk I	VK9N	VK2ACC
2010 Feb 04	2010 Feb 10	Hawaii	N7I	KL7JR
2010 Feb 04	2010 Feb 23	Belize	<sup>NEW</sup> V31SU	N7MSU
2010 Feb 05	2010 Feb 10	Bahamas	C6AWS	W6SJ
2010 Feb 05	2010 Feb 13	Zimbabwe	<sup>NEW</sup> Z21DXI	SP5UAF
2010 Feb 06	2010 Feb 14	Ogasawara	<sup>NEW</sup> JD1BMV	JK1EBA
2010 Feb 06	2010 Feb 14	Virgin Is	KP2	VA3QSL
2010 Feb 06	2010 Feb 19	Temotu	H40	Auto Buro
2010 Feb 07	2010 Feb 13	Guinea Bissau	J5NAR	HA0NAR
2010 Feb 08	2010 Feb 24	Ecuador	<sup>NEW</sup> HC1MD	K8LJG

## DX at Deadline

What follows is a summation of DX activity—spotted, reported or anticipated—as the February *PileUp* was being readied for post.

### ANNOBON ISLAND - 3CO

Make this note in your 'futures' file; two Spanish operators, EA5BYP and EA5KM, are planning a two-station, 15-day activation of seldom-heard Annobon Island sometime in April using the call sign **3C0C**. Activity is planned on on 160-10M CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via EA7FTR.

### BURUNDI - 9U

Four German operators will be active in Burundi Feb 22 to Mar 6 on CW, SSB and Digital modes with 100 watts and vertical antennas. QSL **9UXEV** (DL3KBQ), **9UIRSI** (DL2RSI), **9UIKI** (DH2KI) and **9UIVO** (DJ2VO) via the operator's home call.

### MALDIVES - 8Q

Two action items from this Indian Ocean island. How about a Moonbounce (EME) expedition to the Maldives? HB9CRQ is planning such an operation. Stay tuned. It's still in the planning stages and there are no dates as yet. On the other hand, Joerg, **8Q7JK** says he'll be active in the Maldives on 40-10M SSB from Feb 23 through Mar 5. QSL via his home call, OE6VHF

### MONGOLIA - JT

There's a lady op on the air in Mongolia. YL Munkhmend, **JT1JC**, has been spotted on 20 meter RTTY and PSK in recent days. She's the XYL of **JT1CJ**. QSL via POB 73, Ulaanbaatar-35, Mongolia.

### NAURU - C2I

The husband-wife team of Dick, **C2IDL** and XYL Ann, **C2IYL** have been spotted on 80, 30, 20 and 17 meters using CW and some RTTY. They expect to be QRV until Valentines Day using a K3 driving an 800 watt amp into an assortment of wire and vertical antennas. QSL both via DL2EH.

### NORTH COOK ISLANDS - E5I

AD7AF had his arrival in the North Cooks delayed by Tropical Storm Oli but he's expected on the air shortly—if not already—until Feb 16 using the call sign **E5IWWB**. If the call has a somewhat familiar ring, it's because Dick has been using **E5IWWA** for the past three weeks in the South Cooks. Both calls can be QSLd via AD7AF

### SENEGAL- 6V7

Another one to keep an ear open for is **6V7T**, Luc, who's expected on from La Somone between Feb 18 and Mar 1. QSL 6V7T via F5RAV, Luc's home call.

### SOUTH GEORGIA - VP8/G

W2APF hopes to be on or near South Georgia Island Feb 23-26. Thaire is making an 'adventure trip' to the islands off the Antarctic Peninsula aboard the National Geographic Explorer and hopes to do some 'casual DXing' with his K3 and a vertical during shore stops and at sea. Earlier plans had included a stop at the rare South Orkney Island (VP8/O, #12 most wanted) but apparently that visit has been cancelled. No QSL information as yet but it's expected to be via W2APH CBA.

### ST. LUCIA - J6

Look for the 'Buddipole Bunch' anytime now until Feb 11 on 160-6M. **J6/K8EAB** and friends will be operating three stations, all 100 watts or less, using portable "Buddipole" antennas. QSL to the operator's home call, direct, eQSL or LOTW.

### TEMOTU - H40

**H40FN**, **MS** and **FK** will operate CW, SSB and Digital, respectively, Feb 6-19. QSL H40FN via HA8FW, H40MS via DL2GAC and H40FK via DG1FK. No IRCs, please.

### ZIMBABWE - Z2

**VK6DXI** - QRV in his spare time until Feb 13 from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. QSL via SP5UAF.

— The above was gleaned from *The Daily DX*, *OPDX Bulletin*, *DX Summit* and *listening on-air*.





## Reviving or Replacing Old Tubes—The Doctor is In

**The Doctor Says ...** The nice thing is that most tubes are still available, often unused in original boxes and generally at similar prices to what they cost 50 years ago. An Internet search will turn up a number of places that sell tubes. I've always had good luck with [Antique Electronic Supply](#). If used within their ratings, tubes can last many years. I have WW2 vintage equipment that still works with some original tubes. I also have Drake tube based equipment from the period still going strong.



ARRL Lab Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM -- an amateur with years of dedicated experience with vintage gear -- notes that if the equipment has sat around for many years, the chances are the tubes are gassy. The glass part of a tube is not a perfect envelope. One molecule of air at a time leaks into the tube and after a few years, the performance degrades. If a tube hasn't been used in 20 or 30 years, it can appear to be totally dead. *The trick to solve this is to let the radio run for a day or two.* The filaments in the tubes will eventually burn away whatever air is inside and the tubes will often be back in good shape.



The only exception that I often make is to replace power rectifiers with plug-in solid state equivalents. I usually make my own, but they are also commercially available. My rationale is that rectifier tubes generate a lot of heat the old gear doesn't need. In addition, the filaments can draw 15 to 20 W and by removing that load from the power transformer it should stay cool and last longer. Unlike tubes, power transformers are not so easy to find. If needed, the original condition can be restored by unplugging the solid state unit and putting the tube back.

—The Doctor is In ARRL Letter 29Jan10



## MORSE CODE AND BASEBALL—A BIT OF RADIO HISTORY

There's a strong historic connection between professional baseball and Morse Code. Back in the early days of baseball broadcasting when the sport was truly "America's Pastime", Western Union telegraph operators traveling with the team would send abbreviated descriptions live of the on-field action in Morse Code back to broadcasters in the team's home town.

The broadcast announcers, reading from the coded description, would 'recreate' the on-field play over the air in the team's home town.

Early broadcasters from this period included the legendary Red Barber from the University of Florida and the late former president Ronald Reagan. For more on this bit of Baseball-Morse Code connection go to:

<http://www.morsetelegraphclub.org/files/WU-PghI-BB.mp3>

(Ed. Note — I still remember some of these broadcasts with the clicking telegraph in the background from when I was a boy back during the WWII)

AC6V's

Amateur Radio and DX Reference Guide

## AC6V Remains 'in the family'

Many of us have the voluminous [AC6V.com](#) Web site bookmarked for its encyclopedic lists of links to everything ham radio. Since Rod's passing two years ago, the call sign reassignment clock has been ticking, but fear not! Recently, Rod's son Jeff - previously licensed as a Technician - realized the gravity of the situation and hit the books for a licensing blitz. Jeff is now the Amateur Extra class licensee AC6V! Nice to see the call stay "in the family" and good work, Jeff!

—N6KI via ARRL Contest Update 20Jan10

## ODDS and Ends

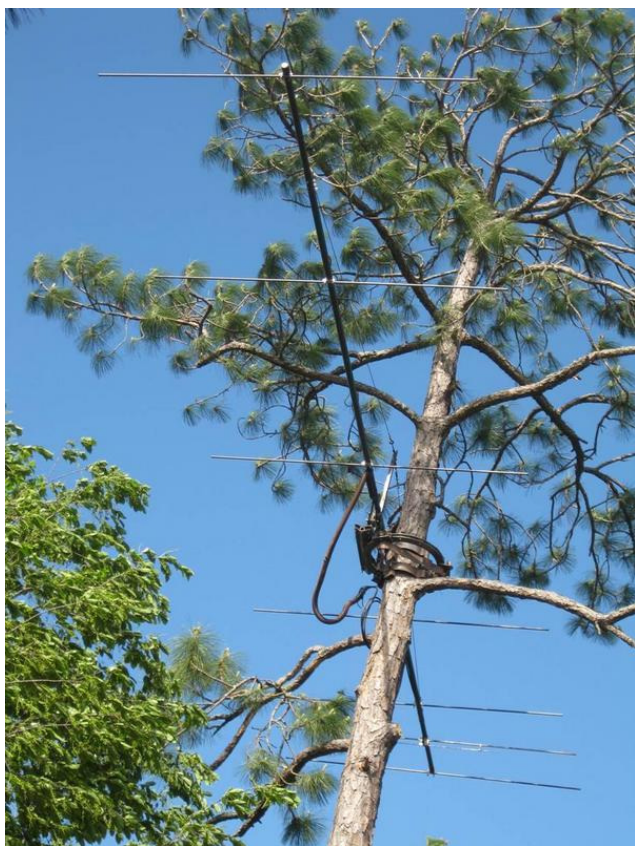
### DX Quiz Answers (from page 7)

1. A Swain's Island, KH8/S
2. D Grandfathered in from early rules. Earlier qualified under Separate Administration rule.
3. C 338 To make Honor Roll today you must have confirmed 329 entities.
4. D 9
5. A Clinton DeSoto, W1CDB first worked on DXCC list in 1932.
6. B Midway, KH4
7. C Don Miller, W9WNV
8. C 387
9. D Bill Moore, NC1L
10. KPI, Navassa Island (See World Top 25 list on page 5)

### DX Entity Flags (from Page 8)



- Guinea Bissau
- North Cook
- Belize
- Ogasawara
- Temotu Province



### Which is it, an Ingenious Idea or just another 'Redneck Fix' ?

An unidentified ham who presumably does not have a tower apparently has made do with what he had available and installed his 6-meter yagi high up in a very tall pine tree.

What makes the installation especially interesting is the use a Tic Ring rotator clamped to the pine tree's trunk to spin the 7-element beam.

It can only be assumed that the owner of this intriguing setup is aware of the propensity of tall pine trees to attract lightning . . .

No information accompanied the photograph.



## Γ Why is it called a "Gamma Match"? Γ

Because the physical configuration of the gamma match -- a long rod with a perpendicular shorting bar to the element at one end -- resembles a capital gamma in the Greek and Cyrillic alphabets. (Thanks, Jerry K4SAV and Norm W1MO)

—ARRL Contest Update 13May09

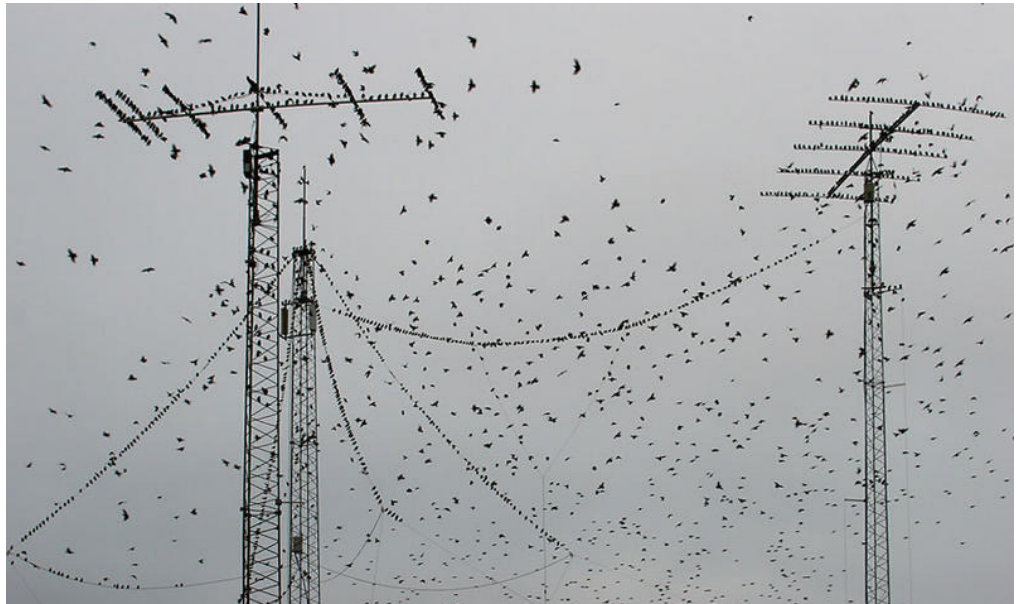


# PileUp

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

<http://nfdxa.com>

The Monthly Newsletter of The North Florida DX Association



**As the old saying goes, 'You make do with what you have'. In the case of Big Gun DXer Fewleff Toowerk, bird doo-doo is what he now has in abundance. With no new countries expected to be on the air anytime soon PU2BAD says he may convert his antenna farm into a Guano farm . . . and then the term 'pile up' will have an entirely different meaning.**

## The Last Word

"The Bucket List". The expression is now part of our American lexicon. It comes from the 2007 blockbuster movie starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman as two terminally ill men who escape from a cancer ward and head off on a road trip with a list of things to do in the short time left before they "kick the bucket."

Now it seems almost everyone has some sort of personal "bucket list", hopefully not with the required expediency portrayed in the movie. But still goals hoped for and to be worked toward, nonetheless. Like visiting a foreign country or doing a bungee jump.

As DX chasers we've all been confronted with a seemingly never-ending list of things to accomplish before we attained any goal in this hobby.

We had to pass a test to get an Amateur Radio license before we could even get on the air. Then we start working to upgrade to a higher class if we hadn't already done so.

Some of us remember when the so-called "Incentive License" rule was implemented. Most of us were Generals enjoying full privileges like the Extras do today. But when the Incentive rule was implemented we all lost the low end of the bands where the DX hung out. We had to add upgrading to our Ham radio bucket list, and 'incentivize' ourselves to upgrade to a higher class in order to get back what had been taken away.

As beginning DXers we worked toward achieving the DXCC award. Once we filled that bucket list we turned our attention toward the second 100 counties. After checking that off our list we start working toward 300 entities. And then, finally, the coveted Honor Roll which now requires 329 countries confirmed. But wait, there's more, as the TV pitchman would say, there's the Number 1 Honor Roll at 338 entities!!

So, what's on your DX or Contest bucket list? Hopefully, you still have plenty of time left.

—NW4C

