The North Florida DX Association

PileUp

The NFDXA Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 6 June 2009 http://nfdxa.com/

2009 Hurricane Season Ready or Not
It's Here!

Inside this issue:

Famous Hams	1
June NFDXA Mtg	1
DX Devil Logger	1-6
MV Tube Color	2
QEX Ant Articles	2
Mr. Tree	3-4
Lightning vs. Tree	4
Cartoon	5
May Mtg Mnts	5
DxDevil, cont.	6
Lake Mandarin	7
LORAN-C Lives!	7
DX Calendar	8-9
Slow for N1won	9
Slow for N1WON	9
Chef Willy	10
KX4WW Update	10
Totem Pole	11
Quiz Answers	11
NFDXA Rotator?	11
Closing Comment	12

K4EB Makes List of "Famous Hams"

Way to go, Excellent Bass!

Recently a long-time Honor Roll friend of mine passed along a URL containing list of people its authors contend are the most famous Ham Radio operators in the world. The list is called ***The Original Famous Hams and ex-Hams List*** by N2GJ and W2SG

Being a man of the world my friend challenged me to find someone on this list that I might even know personally—'heard of didn't count—I had to 'know' the person on the list. His unspoken challenge was that despite my many years in this hobby that I did not know nor had I met anyone of consequence. So I checked it out…

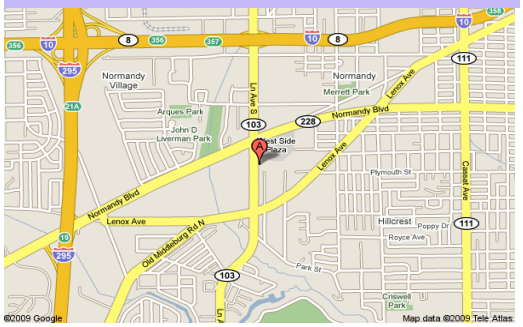
http://users.tellurian.com/gjurrens/famous_hams.html

Well, as it turns out my friend was mistaken because among the many prominent names on this list of the world's famous hams is one of **NFDXA's** very own, **Larry Jungstrum, K4EB**, the star bass player with the venerable southern rock group ***38 Special***.

Larry is right up there with some pretty rarified company ranging from **W1AW**, the late **Hiram Percy Maxim** through **Art Collins, W0CXX**, the founder of Collins Radio, **K7UGA, Barry Goldwater**, **VR6TC, Tom Christian** and **UA1LO, Yuri Gagarin**, among others. Considering the tenure of many within the **NFDXA** my would guess is there are others on the ***"Famous Hams"*** list who are known personally by some of our members.

—NW4C

June NFDXA Meeting Set



Come welcome the start of the 2009 summer DX Season by attending the next meeting of the **NFDXA** which will be held at **5 p.m. Saturday, June 27** at **St. Johns Seafood**, 1161 Lane Avenue South, Jacksonville. ***(Google Maps)***

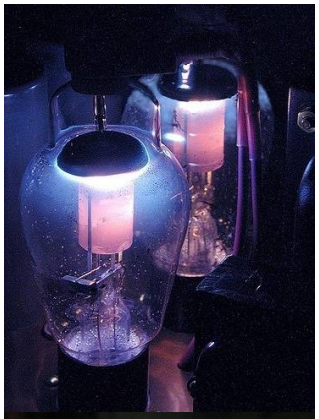
DxDevil Upgraded—Mike, NF4L

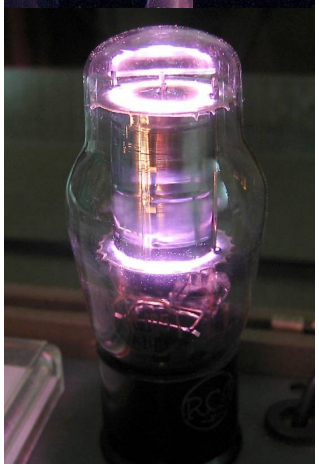
DxDevil has been in development so long, I don't remember when I started it. It's been through a number of different languages. It's been a great way for me to combine two of my favorite things, programming and ham radio.

I've written a few other utility programs (some of which are on my website), but this one is my main time consumer. Since my primary ham interest is DX, I wanted to enhance the ability to work and track DX.

A lot of credit goes to **Dave NO4J** and **Richard K4UTE.** ***(Continued***

Memories in Color Mike Baker, WA4HFR





Sometime around 1970 I built a 1500 watt HF SSB transmitter linear amplifier that used a 3-1000Z tube with 3900 VDC on the plate at just under 1 amp when driven to full output

The linear amp and power supply were in a 6-foot rack. I constructed the power supply with a full complement of 8 mercury vapor rectifier tubes and an assortment of gaseous voltage regulator tubes. The rectifiers and the various gas regulator tubes all glowed so brightly that they lit up the room.

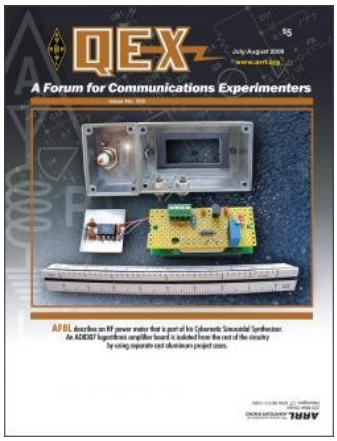
I confess that I was so impressed by the assorted bright glowing colors of the regulator and rectifier tubes that I actually went to extra trouble to build them into places where I could have solid state devices or at least used tubes that did not glow so brightly. I even replaced the aluminum rack front panels with Plexiglas panels so that the tubes could be more easily seen in full view with their regal glow.

Attached are some photos of some mercury vapor rectifier tubes and some gaseous voltage regulator tubes.

Mercury vapor rectifier tubes had their attendant problems but we lost something magical when solid state devices finally replaced them.

Mike Baker, WA4HFR
Grid Square EL89TN

July-Aug QEX Features Antenna-related Articles



The July/August issue of *QEX* is coming soon, and it is full of theoretical and practical technical antenna-related articles that you might find interesting

First, John Magliacane, KD2BD, and Bill Walker, W5GFE, (not *our* Bill Walter) describe ***"SPLAT!: An RF Signal Propagation and Terrain Analysis Tool."*** In addition to VHF/UHF line-of-sight paths, this program includes the Longley-Rice propagation model to predict path loss across irregular terrain. A Web interface provides a convenient way to use the extensive geographic terrain database in the calculations.

Rudy Severns, N6LF, presents more of his research in ***"Experimental Determination of Ground System Performance for HF Verticals."*** Part 5 focuses on the effects of different numbers of radials on received signal strength for 160 meter vertical antennas.

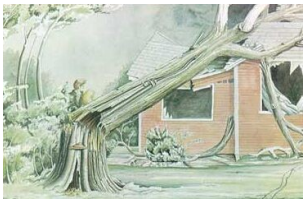
Tom Warnagiris, K3GSY, introduces the Tapered Area Small Helix (TASH) antenna in ***"The Chicken Wire Wonder."*** Chances are, this unique broadband vertical antenna does not look like any antenna you have ever seen! An 80 meter version is 14 feet high and covers an area of about 4 × 5 feet on the ground.

(ARRL Web http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/09/10871/?nc=1 ***)***

Mr. Tree can be your friend—Maybe David Fox, NN4DF

***Editor's Note**: In mid-May a severe thunderstorm in the Arlington area of Jacksonville felled a large tree which landed across a guy wire supporting **AB4UF's** 70-foot tower and multi-element antenna. As the picture shows, the tree's impact with the guy wire bent the tower at its mid-point smashing the antenna array into nearby trees where it was totally destroyed. The tower had been up for 19 years without incident. However, during that 19-year period some of the surrounding trees had grown, endangering the tower and its guy wire support system. The **AB4UF** experience prompted the following article from **David Fox, NN4DF**, a professional forester and certified arborist based in Gainesville.)*

Amateur radio operators take special, sometimes extraordinary, precautions to make sure their antenna systems are as safe and secure as possible. Elaborate guying, lightning protection systems, and RF exposure calculations help us mitigate some risks associated with our hobby. However, dangerous organisms live startlingly close to us. We depend on them for some important environmental services like oxygen generation, pollution abatement, sucking up storm water, cooling our patio, and removal of CO2 from the air we breathe (even carbon sequestration). But, do we inspect and maintain our trees to the same degree as our radio gear?



Despite their longevity, these forest giants can quickly turn into "widow makers" and come crashing down. As a forester, I enjoy trees and being in the forest. I have some fairly large trees around my house (and I use a few for antenna support). I also understand that trees are a renewable resource, that is, they can be replaced - unlike our fossil fuels and metal ores. Unlike people crushed by a falling tree. But, like people, trees need care and guidance during their formative years so that structurally they will remain sound for decades. Proper pruning can reduce the risk of limb and trunk failure. And tree failure is usually followed quite quickly by property damage or loss of life. Some trees pose a real danger and should just be removed, period. If it is taller than 25 feet and dead, remove it.

Please don't mistake this for a wild-eyed call to clear all trees taller than your house! Hurricane season is fast approaching and some less-than-noble wood butcher posing as an arborist might try to put your cash in his pocket by playing the hysteria card. Find a tree service that advertises "ISA Certified Arborist" as part of their staff. This person has passed a rigorous exam (200 questions!) and probably has years of experience. Make sure they are licensed and insured. Ask to see proof, like a liability insurance certificate. Most anyone with half a brain and a chainsaw can take a tree down. Landing it safely is the tricky part!

You can do some ground-level inspection on your own. While you are out hugging your trees, look up for dead branches greater than four inches in diameter. If the top of a tree is dead or the foliage looks a little thin, this might be an indication of drought stress, damage to the tree when your house was built, or root disease - root problems show up in the crown of a tree. Branch angle is important relating to the structural integrity of the tree. A strong branch attachment will have a "U" shape rather than a "V" shape. The tighter the "V" crotch between branch and trunk, the weaker the junction. Some species like maple, Bradford pear, and laurel oak have a natural tendency to make weak branch attachments.

(Continued page 4)

The Picture is in my mind — Jim Iori, NU4Y

On Thursday June 5, 2009 about 4:30 pm I was standing in my garage watching the rain come down. This was a typical Florida gully washer with thunder and lightning. As usual (beer in hand) when I saw a lightning bolt, the count would begin to try to figure how far away the strike was. You know the Old -1 thousand, 2 thousand, etc. and multiply by 750 or so to get the number of feet.

I saw one strike And counted to 7. Then another and counted to 3. Man I thought only about a quarter of a mile away.

Then POW!!! 80 feet in front of me a strike in the tree. The flash was not white - it was orange, fire was coming from this, a large ball. The concussion was immense, I could not hear a thing. Bark from the Tree it hit was still flying around, not to mention the plastic flowers from around the bottom of the tree landing 15 to 20 feet away. (Actually blown up and outward from the ground).

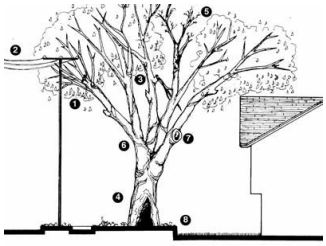
I have always had a fascination with lightning. When in college, my dorm room was on the third floor. In Kansas the third floor was like being on top of a 30 story building anywhere else. I could see for miles. I have hundreds of photographs of trying to catch lightning strikes in the distance. Could see this almost every night, most times not even hearing any of the thunder or even getting any rain. Just seeing the lightning, sometimes 30 or more miles away. It was amazing.

I guess I will have to dig through the attic and pull some of those out. Any way, shaking like a leaf and trying to stop the ringing in my ears I recovered.

But the picture is in my mind, the orange ball.

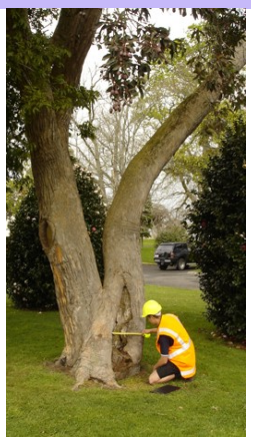
Note: I did not spill the beer.

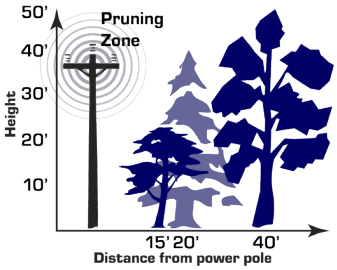
— Jim, NU4Y



Trees…*continued from Page 3*

Just because a tree looks green and healthy from a distance doesn't mean that it is free of hazard. Look for wounds or cavities, first around the base of the tree, then up the trunk, then on large branches. It may be cute to watch the squirrels scamper in and out of the myriad holes but much less entertaining when that limb fails and makes a quick entry into your attic. Again, some species are more susceptible to trunk rot than others (like laurel, water, and shumard oaks). Live oak, on the other hand, is most likely to withstand high winds

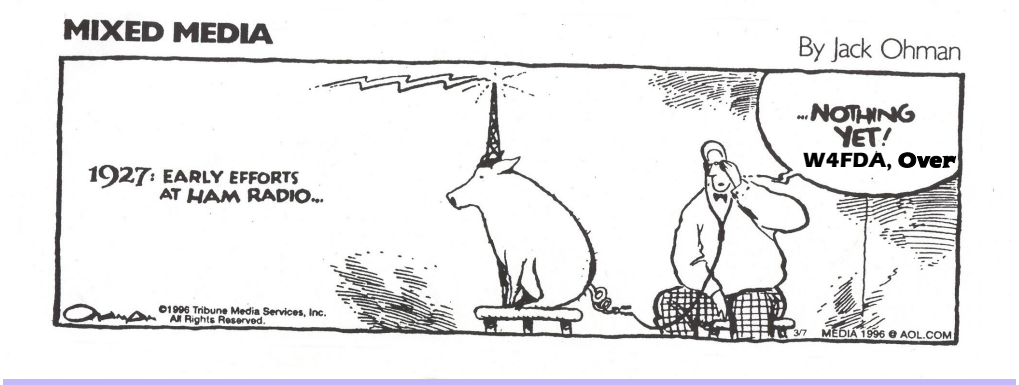




We like to criticize the power company for creating modern art out of trees near power lines. However, in order to keep your electricity flowing on a regular basis, utilities have proximity standards for vegetation and overhead wires. Six to ten feet of clearance is fairly standard. You might want to use that same standard for limbs near your house or antenna structure.

In summary, a little early detection and preventative maintenance can keep your trees healthy and reaching for the sky, rather than succumbing to gravity. If you feel guilty about having to remove trees to increase safety or make way for an antenna, go to a local park and ask if you can plant some trees there or donate to a tree trust for tree replacement. Seek the trained eye of an experienced and certified arborist if you don't feel comfortable judging the soundness of your trees. Err on the side of safety; be a tree hugger but don't leave a killer standing next to your house — ***NN4DF***

A (slightly) tilteded view of things . . .



Minutes of May 2009 Meeting - Mike Reublin, NF4L

05/23/2009 4:00
This meeting was at W4FDA's Woodland Wonderland

Name	Call	# Attending
Steve Brown	AB4UF	0
John Hale	AC4ET	0
Larry Junstrom	K4EB	?
Dick Hicks	K4UTE	0
Jim Hughes	KC4FWS	0
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	0
Billy Williams	N4UF	0
Mike Reublin	NF4L	1
Dave Mains	NO4J	0
Jim Iori	NU4Y	0
Warren Croke	NW4C	1
Pres Graham	W4FDA	1
John Moore	W5HUQ	0
Steve Barber	WA4B	1
David Price	WA4ET	1
Dick Knox	WR4K	0
	Total Confirmed	7

The meeting was called to order by Mike, NF4L at 6:20

Treasurer Jim KC4FWS, announced a balance of: There was no treasurer's report.

Old business - David, AC4ET, brought some printed graphics of the club logo for the new shirts.

New business -

The next meeting planner is: Mike, N4EPD

Don't miss the NFDXA Net Wednesdays, 3625kHZ, 0000Z

DxDevil Upgraded … from page 1

Dave and I collaborated for a while, and he was always eager to add a feature. Richard did a TON of testing. **Dick WR4K** did some testing, and **Cory N1WON** and **Warren NW4C** are currently using it.

Some things remain untested even after all these years, namely most of the radio and rotor interfaces. Oddly, I just can't seem to find them in my shack. I'd welcome the opportunity to have you take a look at my baby, If you're interested, drop me an e-mail.

My philosophy was to make the program really easy to use, combined with a lot of features. These goals are usually mutually exclusive; I wanted to bust that barrier.

Here are some of the features:

DxDevil is multi user. You don't have to have a separate program for other family members, dxpeditions, or casual contesting. **DxDevil** uses a callsign to link a users log and awards table. You can enter any call you like for a user, but each call must be unique.

Filtering: A wide selection of filters for viewing subsets of your QSOs.

LoTW interaction. **DxDevil** calls TQSL to create the signed file and uploads it to LoTW. DxDevil downloads LoTW reports (QSO and QSL), and updates QSL received counts. Marks those QSO's confirmed by LoTW. It also can update your log with which QSOs have been credited by ARRL for DXCC.

Instant "needs" info. The Worked/Needs screen shows if you've worked a country before, and the band and mode. Also tells if you've worked that call before with date, band, mode, and if the QSO is confirmed. This can also be displayed by zone.

Worked/Confirmed report. DxDevil can show your worked/confirmed totals by band and mode either on line or by printing a paper report.

ADIF compatible. Amateur Data Interchange Format is a system of standardizing log data. It's biggest contribution is in identifying a country by a unique number, eliminating the ambiguity of identifying by prefix. **DxDevil** imports and exports log data meeting the ADIF standards.

Easy user maintenance of country data. No waiting for someone else to update a list, download, or install it. Over 8000 aliases are mapped. Import AD1C's .cty updates also.

Easy to maintain QSL manager database.

QSL Manager and QSO detail searches of CD and Web callbooks.

Integrated Cluster spotting. **DxDevil** will connect to clusters using either the internet or by RF through a TNC. The spots are color coded to indicate your needs. Available user defined colors and messages.

Separate screens for Cluster, CW, RTTY and PSK.

Radio support. DxDevil supports a number of radio interfaces, allowing manual and automatic frequency and mode changes. The automatic feature works in conjunction with a cluster connection.

Rotor support. Rotor interfaces using the DCU command set, AlfaSpid, PRO.SIS.TEL., M2, Sartek, and Yaesu.

CW keyboard. Send only, using a serial or parallel port. 10 buffers, macros plus tune, kill and prosigns.

RTTY using the MMTTY engine by JE3HHT. 10 buffers, macros plus tune and kill.

PSK using the control by AE4JY and WA0TTN. 10 buffers, macros plus tune and kill.

Zones. View a full report, or QSO's for the currently shown log zone.

Search. Search both log and entity data several ways.

Auto serial number incrementing. An optional feature, serial number incrementing is handy for the casual contester.

Labels: DxDevil can print several sizes of QSL labels, up to 4 QSO's per label. You can tell **DxDevil** where on the label sheet to start, so labels aren't wasted. Optionally, print labels for managers using **K4UTE's QSL manager database**. Also print user return address labels.

Sticky screens DxDevil remembers which screens were open, their location and size, and restores them next time you start the program.

Automatic or manual internet updates.

As I mentioned earlier in this article, I'd welcome the opportunity to have you take a look at my baby, If you're interested, drop me an e-mail.

Rain, rain, please go away . . .

It's there even if it doesn't show up on Google earth…

The recent rains in North Florida and particularly in Jacksonville have been filling up shallow lakes and low places which have been dry for some time as well as creating others where none existed before. Among those facing this dilemma is **Jim, KC4FWS**

— KC4FWS Photo

Jim notes the rainfall total in his area amounted to 13 inches! The result of this multi-day drought-busting deluge was a four-inch-deep 'lake' in the back yard of his Mandarin home which he now euphemistically indentifies as 'Lake Mandarin'.

Jim says it will take three to four days before the ground will dry out enough before he'll be able to walk on it without sinking into the saturated soil. Fortunately, none of this 'lake' made it into his home, although—as the pictures clearly show —it has come pretty close.

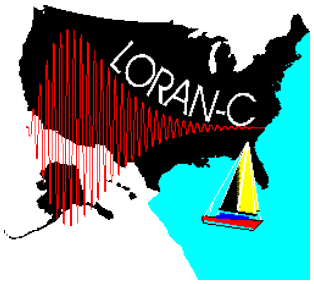
Meantime, 'helpful' solutions to his dilemma are coming in from fellow **NFDXA** members, some of which might even be considered.

— KC4FWS Photo

Jim, NU4Y, contends "All of this water improves the ground and should add to HF performance . " **NU4Y** was among the first with a suggestion that **KC4FWS** lay out "about 10,000 feet of wire", presumably for a counterpoise, and then build up the yard with top soil and new sod.

Apparently this possibility had already occurred to Jim. He's been having fun lately working the world on QPSK31 with his power cranked down to 10 to 25 watts. As for the suggested 'improvements' to his antenna ground, Jim says he'd "bet a bunch of old chain link fence would do well. Just tie it all together with the 15 16-foot ground rods I already have networked together in the back yard."

LORAN-C STILL WITH US — This past March the US Coast Guard announced it was going to all existing 24 LORAN-C navigation system stations so they could be replaced by new eLORAN technology. Now a proposed US Senate bill would require the Coast Guard to continue maintaining the LORAN-C system until a newer eLORAN system can replace it. The new eLORAN system, as well as the old technology LORAN-C chains are proposed as back-ups to GPS and other existing global navigation satellite systems because both old and new versions of LORAN are much more resistant to jamming and dithering by potential enemies. LORAN-C chains currently serve the 48 US continental states, their coastal areas and parts of Alaska. LORAN-C is also used as an en route supplemental air navigation system for both IFR (Instrument Flight Rule) and VFR (Visual Flight Rule) operations.



The DX Calendar is a listing of planned DX and Contest operations compiled from calendars published on the web by *The Daily DX* (http://www.dailydx.com) and *NG3K* (http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html)

Match the Flag

How well do you know your DX entity flags? See if you can match the flags with the DXpeditions on the June-July DX Calendar

(Answers page 6)

A Combined June-July DX Calendar - Richard, K4UTE

6/15/2009	9/1/2009	YJ	YJ0AZQ (OC-035)	VK2EZQ
6/15/2009	6/15/2009	YJ	YJ0SS	JA7SGV
6/15/2009	6/20/2009	ZK2	ZK2V (OC-040)	N3SL
6/16/2009	7/6/2009	7X	7U2ISM	
6/16/2009	6/26/2009	8R	8R1DB	N3DB
Postponed	TBA	C2	C21TI (OC-031)	EA4ATI
6/18/2009	6/29/2009	HK0	5J0BV (NA-033)	K7BV
6/18/2009	6/23/2009	KH0	KH0N (OC-086)	JA6CNL
6/18/2009	7/12/2009	PA	PH100EL	PD0PVQ
6/20/2009	7/2/2009	HB0	HB0/DL5YL	DL5YL
6/20/2009	7/2/2009	HB0	HB0/DL5YM	DL5YM
6/20/2009	6/21/2009	SV	SX2MT	SV2KBB
6/20/2009	6/21/2009	T7	T70A	
6/23/2009	6/30/2009	9H	9H3EP	IV3EPO
6/23/2009	6/30/2009	9H	9H3EP (EU-023)	IV3EPO
6/23/2009	7/3/2009	V2	V29JKV	W6JKV
6/26/2009	7/5/2009	TZ	TZ6EI	W7XU
6/27/2009	7/6/2009	8R	8R1TO	AC4TO
6/27/2009	6/28/2009	SV	SX2MT	SV2KBB
6/27/2009	6/29/2009	SV	SY2O	SV2FLQ
6/29/2009	7/3/2009	3D2	3D2YA (OC-121)	JA1NLX
6/29/2009	7/10/2009	8Q	8Q7QQ	HB9QQ
7/1/2009	7/5/2009	UR	EN50KSR	UT1KY
7/4/2009	7/17/2009	5R	5R8KD	W5KDJ
7/4/2009	7/4/2009	GD	GB5LB (EU-116)	
7/4/2009	7/5/2009	YV	YV75AJ	YV5AJ
7/5/2009	7/7/2009	SV	SX2CM	SV2GWY
7/6/2009	8/1/2009	DU	DU9/PA3GZU (OC-130)	PA3GZU
7/9/2009	7/28/2009	FR/G	FT5GA (AF-011)	F5OGL
7/10/2009	7/18/2009	FP	FP/K9OT (NA-032)	K9OT
7/10/2009	7/18/2009	FP	FP/KB9LIE (NA-032)	KB9LIE
7/12/2009	7/12/2009	GD	GB5LB (EU-116)	
7/12/2009	7/22/2009	SV	SV8/SV1EJD (EU-049)	
7/12/2009	7/19/2009	ZP	ZP15MWC	PA0HEL
7/14/2009	7/21/2009	VP2M	VP2M by W5SJ (NA-103)	W5SJ
7/17/2009	7/22/2009	JW	JW9QNA (EU-026)	LA9QNA
7/21/2009	7/28/2009	C3	C37DXU (EME)	
7/21/2009	7/31/2009	CU	CU7/CT3FN or CU8/CT3FN	
7/21/2009	7/31/2009	JT	JT1N	KC0KHA
7/21/2009	8/16/2009	OH	OH/G4FSU (EU-097)	G4FSU
7/22/2009	7/27/2009	C3	C37DXU	

DX Calendar 6-15 to 7-31 —Continued

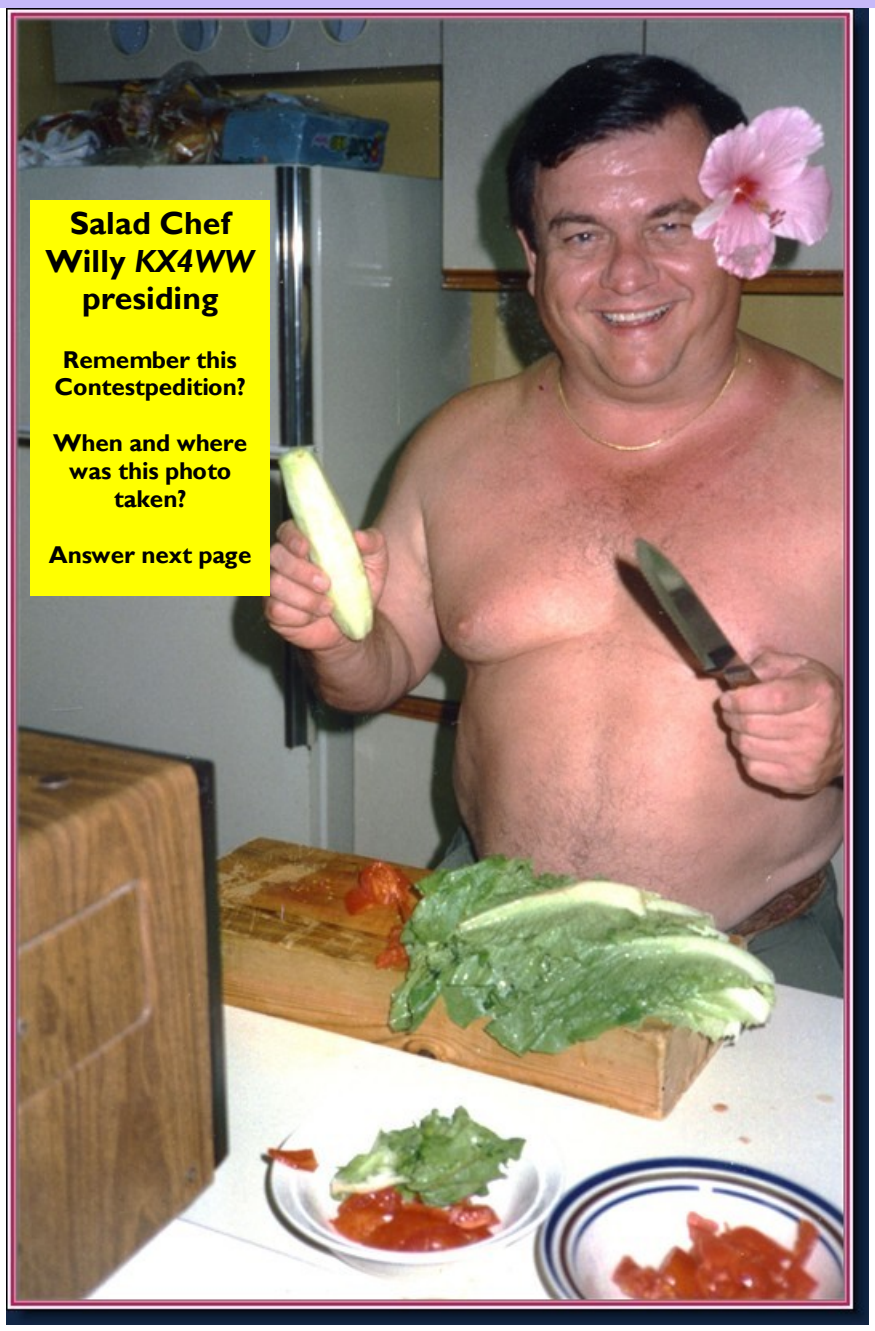
7/22/2009	7/29/2009	VK9/N	VK9NI (OC-005)	W3HNK
7/23/2009	7/27/2009	C6A	C6APR (NA-113)	K3IXD
7/23/2009	7/27/2009	C6A	C6AQO (NA-113)	K3IXD
7/23/2009	7/27/2009	C6A	C6AXD (NA-113)	K3IXD
7/23/2009	7/27/2009	GM	GS3RCM/p (EU-123)	
7/23/2009	7/26/2009	OZ	OZ0FR (EU-125)	DL2VFR
7/25/2009	7/26/2009	E5/S	E51SC (OC-013)	
7/25/2009	7/26/2009	GD	GB5LB (EU-116)	
7/25/2009	7/26/2009	GD	GD0F	M0CMK
7/25/2009	7/26/2009	GD	MD4K (EU-116)	G3NKC
7/25/2009	7/26/2009	GI	GI0ADX (EU-122)	MM0DHQ
7/25/2009	7/26/2009	GI	GI3YS (EU-122)	MM0DHQ
7/25/2009	7/26/2009	GM	GM0B (EU-123)	MM0BHX
7/25/2009	7/26/2009	GM	GM5A (EU-059)	
7/25/2009	7/26/2009	GM	GM7A (EU-008)	GM7AAJ
7/25/2009	7/26/2009	GM	MM/DL6MHW (EU-008)	DL6MHW
7/25/2009	7/26/2009	GM	MM3M (EU-123)	G3VCQ
7/25/2009	7/26/2009	GM	MM3T (EU-008)	
7/25/2009	7/26/2009	OH0	OH0V (EU-002)	OH6LI
7/26/2009	8/6/2009	OH0	OH0/CT1BWW	CT1BWW
7/26/2009	8/12/2009	V3	V31NP (NA-073)	LA5OPA
7/27/2009	7/29/2009	OY	OY/IW4BLZ	IW4BLZ
7/30/2009	8/11/2009	3DA	3DA0SS	
7/30/2009	8/11/2009	3DA0	3DA0DJ	
7/30/2009	8/11/2009	3DA0	3DA0EL	
7/30/2009	8/11/2009	3DA0	3DA0MH	
7/30/2009	8/11/2009	3DA0	3DA0MM	NC4MM
7/30/2009	8/11/2009	3DA0	3DA0VA	
7/31/2009	8/3/2009	SV5	SX5SYMI (EU-001)	SV5FRI
7/31/2009	8/11/2009	TF	TF/IW4BLZ	IW4BLZ

Slow Going for N1WON

"Not too much going here. It's been too hot or rainy to put the Rohn 25 tower up yet. I still have to see if the base holes match the ones that I have. I have the feeling that they won't but we'll see. I just replanted the pasture where the tower is located and I don't want to disturb the grass yet because it's doing pretty well.. I guess that maybe this fall or winter we'll get things up and running. Some friends of mine that used to live in St. Croix are moving back ... They just signed a lease and hope to be back in July or August. Their calls are KP2HC and KP2YL. I worked KP2YL on 40 meters a couple of nights ago but the band got really noisy after a short time. I haven't been on much lately but probably will when some of the DXpeditions get going."

— Cory, N1WON

NFDXA Picture from the Past — W4FDA photo



Salad Chef Willy *KX4WW* presiding

Remember this Contestpedition?

When and where was this photo taken?

Answer next page

And this mid-June update from Chef Willy…

Hi Warren.....Not much new here in VA.....We are moving to the Washington DC area July 1 for Nancy's last tour with the Navy and then back to North Florida and our 5 acres with TOWERS , beams and BBQ's.

Planning on a few wire antennas from northern Virginia as we will be renting a house. My brother and I will be heading down to VP5 in early August to continue repairs to our house after last year's hurricane season kicked us in the face!!

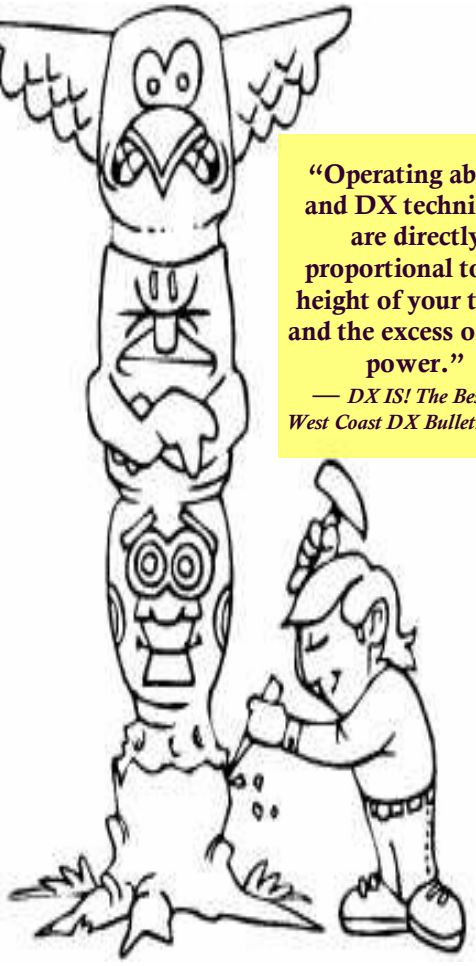
Ha-ha 73 **Bill KX4WW**

The Midway Mark Totem Pole—June 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	247	40	287
K4UTE	244	40	284
N4KE	217	40	257
K4EB	216	40	256
NF4L	157	35	192
N1WON	122	32	154
NW4C	100	28	128
WR4K	87	28	115
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

Learn something new in Amateur Radio!

Photo Quiz

The photo was taken during a Provo trip to Treasure Beach Villas back in 1993. No one remembers the meal but the ingredients sure look good!

DX Flags

Page 8—Top to bottom: ZP-Paraguay, JT-Mongolia, KHO-Marianas Is., SV– Svalbard

Page 9 — Top to bottom: TF-Iceland, OY-Faroe Is., 3DA0-Swaziland, VK9N-Norfolk Is., C6-Bahamas

The next NFDXA meeting will be 5:00 pm Saturday, June 27 at St. Johns Seafood, 1161 Lane Ave. S., Jacksonville

PileUp

The Monthly Journal of The North Florida DX Association

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

http://nfdxa.com/

QUESTION: How many NFDXA members does it take to rotate an antenna?

As I See It…

If you have been playing around on 6 meters lately chances are you're a 'happy DX camper' because that band—in contrast to HF—has been hotter than a firecracker. Interesting. Six meters often is 'hot' at this time of the year and that's not intended to be a 'beginning of summer' pun.

If you are a 'Magic Band' regular this seasonal hike in activity even during this drawn-out sunspot minimum is no great surprise. But if you are a 'newbie' to this low end of the VHF spectrum you are probably asking 'what gives?'

'What gives' may partially be something known as the **"Short-path Summer Solstice Propagation"** or SSSP for short and sometimes S^3P.

This phenomenon occurs around the summer solstice June 21st and has been generally described as 'Multi-hop Sporadic-E'. It's been noticed and reported since the 1970s.

For a detailed description of the Short-path Summer Solstice Propagation phenomenon please check this website provided by alert **NFDXA** reader **Richard, K4UTE:** http://www.uksmg.org/content/g5kw/Short%20Path%20Summer%20Solstice%20Propagation%20bt%20JE1BMJ.pdf

The 'multi-hop' concept came from the initial belief that the 50 MHz signal refracted and bounced back and forth between the E-layer and earth as many as 5 to 7 times to complete a path between Japan and Europe. But the article's author, **Han Higasa, JE1BMJ**, reasoned the 50 MHz signal would have been scattered and absorbed by the earth's irregular surface with this many rebounds. Instead – and here I'm grossly oversimplifying --Higasa posits the 50 MHz signal going over the North Pole *never leaves the E-layer*, exiting only when it's past the polar region, all this after traveling up to 10,000 km without once returning to the earth.

OK, that explains what happens to a 6 meter signal in the E-layer on a polar path. But how does one explain the seemingly enhanced 6-meter propagation now occurring on paths that *don't cross the north pole* or even *enter the auroral zone?* Ah yes, as they say in the halls of academe, more research is needed.

So, the next time you are on 6 meters, don't think of it as 'playing around'. You are conducting **research!** And while you are at it you are going to try to work a few new ones… All in the name of research, of course.

— NW4C

NORTH FLORIDA DX ASSOCIATION
W4ZR