

Late News

ARRL is reviewing its DX Contest rules—Major changes being considered including Distance-Based Scoring and Single-Op Time Limits.

Story on Pages 6-10.

The North Florida DX Association

PileUp

The NFDXA Newsletter



Volume 3 Number 6

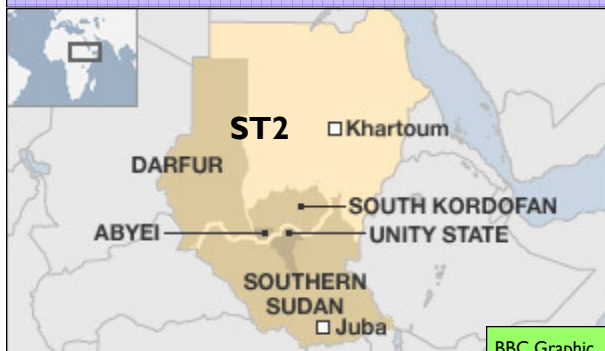
June 2011

<http://nfdxa.com/>

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Groups race to activate hoped-for new entity



Two competing groups of Ham radio operators whose numbers include some of the better known calls/names in big-time DXing and new country activation are running neck and neck in an effort to be the first to operate from a country which at this writing doesn't exist.

The largely Christian and animist region known as South Sudan—or whatever its name/prefix will be when

its new government is formed and officially recognized—is in a major state of flux following the vote last January to secede from the largely Arabic-speaking Muslim north (ST2).

Although the north's government in Khartoum (ST2) says it would recognize South Sudan's 99% vote favoring succession, fighting continues along the disputed border. At this writing there's no real end in sight as many observers believe the north is intent on 'annexing' the oil-rich areas which are immediately south of the border. BBC reports the North (ST2) has entered the disputed province with force, conducted bombing raids on villages in the oil-rich south forcing as many as 40,000 people to flee. Which brings us to the competing DXpedition groups, each racing to be 'first' to operate from a new DXCC entity. (Cont. page 7)

NFDXA Website Changed

NFDXA has a new webhost, "HostGator.com". The switch from the former host will involve a number of changes regarding the club's web page and the NFDXA reflector.

Members are urged to come to the June meeting for more details.

KB4CRT dba VP2MRT QRV

NFDXA's John, KB4CRT is QRV 40-2m from Montserrat (NA-103, WLOTA-1475) as VP2MRT until June 18. QSL direct to home call. or LoTW. (See 'Letter' page 4)

Big words don't scare me. Using them does! - Woody Paige

June NFDXA Meeting



St Johns Seafood and Steakhouse

The June meeting of the North Florida DX Association will be 5 p.m.

Saturday, June 18 at the St. Johns Seafood and Steakhouse at 1161 Lane Avenue South, Jacksonville.

Bring your appetite and hairy tales of DX daring-do that you may/may not have accomplished since the last meeting. Band conditions haven't been that good—but at least we can talk some good DX!

St. Johns
Seafood & Steaks



DX Is!





NFDXA OFFICERS 2011

The North Florida DX Association, Inc., is a group of Amateur Radio Operators located primarily in northeast Florida whose main Ham Radio interests are DXing and Contests. 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 2011.

President

Warren Croke, NW4C nw4c@cox.net

Vice President

Cory McDonald, NIWON n1won@hotmail.com

Secretary

Mike Reublin, NF4L nf4l@nf4l.com

Treasurer

Jim Hughes, KC4FWS kc4fws@comcast.net

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of the elected officers of the Association <http://www.nfdxa.com>

Editor, NFDXA *PileUp* Newsletter

Warren Croke, NW4C nw4c@cox.net

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

Attendance Report May 14, 2011 NFDXA Meeting

This meeting was held at W4FDA manse 05/14/2011 5:00

Name	Call	Attend	Name	Call	Attend
Steve Brown	AB4UF	N	Dale Conner	N4NN	Y
John Hale	AC4ET	N	Billy Williams	N4UF	N
Larry Bostic	K3LB	N	Mike Reublin	NF4L	Y
Larry Junstrom	K4EB	Y	Dave Mains	NO4j	N
Dick Hicks	K4UTE	N	Jim Iori	NU4Y	Y
John Silberman	KB4CRT	Y	Warren Croke	NW4C	Y
Jim Hughes	KC4FWS	Y	Pres Graham	W4FDA	Y
Bill Walker	KX4WW	N	Bob Lightner	W4GJ	N
Cory McDonald	NIWON	Y	John Moore	W5HUQ	N
Mike Parnin	N4EPD	N	Steve Barber	WA4B	N
Ron Tivey	N4GFO	N	David Price	WA4ET	N
Joe Barnes	N4JBK	Y	Dick Knox	WR4K	N
Ron Blake	N4KE	Y			

Total Members Attending 11

— Secretary's Report continues next page



2011 Meeting Pictures, W4FDA QTH



Top Row, L-R: K4EB and N4KE, N4NN and NU4Y; W4GAL; NF4L; N4NN. 2nd Row, far left: KB4CRT; 2nd Row, far right: W4FDA. 3rd Row, Bottom L-R: W4FDA, Cheese; WIFO and NW4C. Center Pic, clockwise from Bottom Left: NIWON, NF4L, NU4Y, WIFO, W4FDA, WB4KSP and KC4FWS.

Secretary's Report



The meeting was called to order by the **President, Warren, NW4C** at 6:15 p.m.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer **Jim KC4FWS** reported a balance of \$942.18

Unfinished business - None

New business - .The tower at VP5DX was repaired by Ron, N4KE; Steve, AB4UF and Jim, NU4Y.

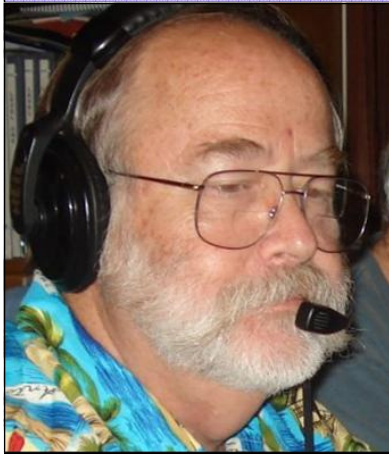
Guests: **Gary Liljegren, W4GAL** (prospective member, guest of **Warren, NW4C**); **Bill Martin, WB4KSP** and **Mike Garcia, WIFO** (guests of **Pres, W4FDA**)

June meeting planner: **Larry Bostic, K3LB**

Meeting adjourned: 6:20 p.m.

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

Power Problems in Paradise



John, VP2MRT

(Ed. Note — NFDXA's John, KB4CRT will be QRV 40-2m from Montserrat (NA-103, WLOTA -1475) as VP2MRT until June 18. But his stay got off to a rocky start as outlined in this e-mail to your editor.)

Hi Warren,

Arrived yesterday and so far the trip has not been boring.

At some point between my last visit and this visit the owner of this place had an electrician come in and do some work on the house electrical system. The good news is someone wasn't electrocuted because the electrician had connected the 110 ground with the 220 leg!

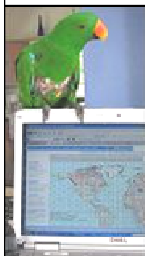
If the plug had only two contacts, the whatever was plugged in would work properly, but there was an un-fused 220 volts between one of the legs and "ground"! I took photos.

Unfortunately for me, I had hooked the station up as I always have in the past. As a result my power strip blew up and the Astron PS made a very large BANG... and quit!

Fortunately, as per my SOP, I had not connected the radio yet--and it's fine. But the rotor controller had been plugged into the power strip, too, but makes no noise now and doesn't work. I suspect it is the internal fuse.



231v measured on a 110v line!



Flash

After the owner called the electrician to come and fixed his blunder, I was able to borrow a 30A supply from a local ham and the radio is on the desk working perfectly. Of course Flash, the free-flying Green Parrot, is here to help with the logging. He uses the hunt and peck method of typing.

The volcano is being very quiet, not even minor quakes, no ash. It has settled down before but this time I hope it goes to sleep. It's way too early for it to go extinct however. I'll send more photos as soon as I download them from my camera.

73, John



The Word from Willy

Nancy and I will be leaving beautiful DC on July 19 for good!! We have been working on our "estate" in MacClenny for the past month getting it ready for our big move home.

I am heading down to VP5 next week to check on our house and put on the hurricane shutters for the season. My new email address will be kx4ww@hotmail.com.

Hope to see you soon.

73 Willy



Willy, KX4WW

Getting WAZ the hard way — on 160 Meters!!

Back on January 1, 1975, the editors of CQ Magazine established what many now believe has become the ultimate DX achievement, working all 40 CQ Zones on the 160 meter band. The CQ 160 Meter WAZ award has two stages—the first stage is when you confirm contacts with 30 zones, and the second stage—the top honor—when you've worked and confirmed all 40 zones. In this respect it's not unlike the DXCC Honor Roll, i.e., you make the Honor Roll with (presently) 331 confirmed contacts and then achieve No. 1 Honor Roll status when you've worked/confirmed all 340 current DXCC entities. Which is the harder to achieve, the 160 meter WAZ or DXCC No. 1?

You'll have to ask the very few hams who have actually reached both plateaus.

At this writing in the 37 years history of this award 362 DXers worldwide have qualified for a 160 Meter WAZ, and of that number only 167 have worked/confirmed all 40 zones. NFDXA's Dale Conner, N4NN, is among that special group this is his story as related in a recent interview with the PileUp.



Dale, N4NN

It all began in 2000 when Dale Conner started helping his new 'down the road neighbor', noted DXer and Contest operator Greg Wilson, N4CC, put in his new station and, later, working with him to install his towers and antennas. In the process, Dale became so interested in Gregg's radios that he wanted to become a Ham. Greg gave him some books to study—which he did, passing the Tech exam in September 2001 and getting the call KG4PHC. Within several years Dale upgraded to Extra with assistance from Greg's instruction, applied for and received his current call sign, N4NN...and discovered the world of DX.

Dale began—in his words—"playing around" with 160 meters with Greg. One of Dale's early contacts was JTICO in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. He credits this QSO with Choigonjav Chadraabal in far-off Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia as the point where he really got "hooked" on the so-called 'Gentleman's Band'. "I decided to go all-out after that", he said, and in doing so he never looked back.

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Even on the best days 160 meters is a challenge. But working a 'tough one' early on set him on a course toward a goal that only 27 other Hams in the entire U.S. have achieved. "I wanted to see if I could do it", Dale said. "I really got active on 160 in 2008 and by 2009 I was spending most of my time there. "The main things, N4NN discovered, were having a good receiving antenna (or two) and then being there on the air when a new one came along.

Some of the other things he found necessary to be able to consistently work DX on 160 meters were having the ability to work CW and the willingness to get up an hour before sunrise — then to say up at night as late as necessary whenever a new was on.



Steve, AB4UF

Using CW was a tough nut for Dale to crack. "In the beginning I was a poor CW op," he says. "I was scared to get on." But he credits fellow NFDXA member Steve, AB4UF with keeping after him and pushing him to get on and operate. "Steve kept telling me not to worry ... that all I really needed was to be able to copy my call and my report."

Dale started his 160 Meter quest using a 1/4-wave sloper for both receiving and transmitting and said he worked some of the hardest ones to get with this arrangement. "I (also) used Beverage antennas a lot ... Most were 585 feet long ... they worked great!"

One Beverage combination in particular was Dale's favorite. "It was two phased 585 footers spaced 285 feet apart. I could hear a mouse walking across sand in South Africa and because of that I worked many (countries) in that part of the world."

AB4UF also assisted in other ways by helping Dale with the installation of his two towers and antennas. Steve, along with neighbor Greg put up Dale's 100-foot tower, a Rohn 45G. "I did the ground work", Dale notes with a smile. — Continued on page 7



Choigonjav, JTICO

"When things don't scare you anymore it's time to find something you're not sure you can do."

—Gore, Verbinski, Movie Director



The generation of 'Instant Gratification' confronts the vacuum tube

Eight year-old Extra Class Ham

A TV news report 8 year-old **Mikaila Williams KK4BFK** who has been issued with the highest US Amateur Radio license - Extra class!

A **YouTube** description notes: "This is one amazing young lady that is only 8 years old. She has set out to make herself available should there be a disaster requiring individuals with specially trained skills in the area of Emergency Radio Communications and Weather spotting for the National Weather Service."

The **Orlando Sentinel** was so impressed with Mikaila's feat that they not did a feature in the paper and posted the report in their video archives. The report thanked her for her service to the community.

Only 8 years old and already in a position that she is receiving thanks from a major news publisher for her services, WOW! What a task. What a young lady! It is good know that we have youngsters growing up in our community that are willing to stand up for their neighbors.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYkzO0wpBfE&feature=player_embedded

I Remember Don



W9WNV

And with that header it's hoped you will be enticed to click on the link below that connect to a story from the past by **Hugh Cassidy, WA6HUD**. He writes a remembrance about a character who forever changed our hobby as it relates to DX. He was a person who was a unique combination, one of the finest DXpedition operators ever to be on the air, anywhere...and at the same time a complete charlatan! Does the name **Don Miller** ring a bell? Interested now? Click below...and read about a slice of Ham Radio DX history that resonates even today.



WA6AUD

<http://www.reocities.com/k2cddx/lead.html>

ARRL Considers "Major" Rules Changes to ARRL DX; Distance-Based Scoring, Single Op Time Limits Considered — By **Jamie Dupree NS3T**

The ARRL Contest Advisory Committee is considering a series of major rules changes for the ARRL DX Contest, some of which have sparked strong email battles in recent days over how best to foster changes that will bring increased participation in the future. The major ideas being considered at this point include:

- A distance-based scoring method
- Single Op time limits of less than 48 hours

As one might expect, the idea of changing the rules for ARRL DX has brought with it a storm of opposition, much of it coming down on the Dick Green WC1M, the head of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. "Sounds like the rumor mill is way ahead of the actual facts!" Green told radio-sport.net this past weekend.

"At the moment we happen to be looking at ARRL DX rules, and our members have had discussions with various contesters about them. That's probably the source of the rumors," Green said, as he downplayed the idea of imminent rules changes. "If you were to ask me, "Will there be rule changes in ARRL DX rules sometime in the future?", I would honestly have to answer, "I don't know and I couldn't even predict the odds," Green said. (More on page 10)

July 9th South Sudan 'new entity' status doubtful

South Sudan, for lack of a better identifier, is expected to declare its independence July 9th.

Anticipating it being a new DXCC entity the Intrepid DX Group announced it would immediately activate South Sudan—or whatever its new name will be. The group set up a web site (<http://www.dxfriends.com/SouthernSudan2011/>) and started a fund-raising campaign to cover DXpedition costs. The Intrepid Group is headed by N6PSE and conducted the 2010 Iraq YI9PSE DXpedition. It recently cancelled a planned T6PSE operation to Afghanistan following the Osama Bin Laden take-down by an American Seal team.



The other 'big name' group with hopes of being the 'first' is headed by Finnish DXpeditioner Martti Laine, OH2BH, who first gained notice for opening ZA, Albania back in the Iron Curtain-days in the 70s — then later XZ, Myanmar which at the time was known as Burma. Others in his 'group' include QST DX editor Bernie, W3UR, long-time Sudan resident operator ST2AR, Robert Kasca in Khartoum and Kenya's Alex Van Eijk, 5Z4DZ. In a recent news release OH2BH cautions even if the July 9th independence declaration happens "... it will not yet guarantee the birth of a new DXCC entity, at least at that time. " Martti reminds everyone "The DXCC rules are written in such a way that only a new country's membership in the United Nations and/or its ITU country prefix will result in the anticipated DXCC counter." That hasn't happened yet and certainly doesn't appear likely in the near future.

The bottom line in this instance—as it is in all situations involving new entities in 'precarious' parts of the world—is to stay tuned...and be patient.

N4NN gets 160 meter WAZ — continued from page 5



The Big Stick at N4NN



How many more to go?

Later came an even taller addition the N4NN antenna farm, 135 feet of Rohn 65G. Steve and other NFDXA members came out to oversee the lifting of the 'big stick' into place by a large crane which was topped by a 40 meter beam. Then later, a Force 12 with the 40 m beam on top. A dipole was installed between the two towers.

Utilizing the height of his twin towers N4NN ran a quarter-wave sloper for 160 meters to compliment his 3-element Hi-Z array. "The Hi-Z will fit in a small space—you only need a 200-foot circle. Beverages are good (for hearing), too, if you have room." Fortunately for Dale, space was not an issue as his farm outside of Hilliard covers 120 acres.

Even with this impressive array of antennas backed up with enough legal power to get through, some areas were still pretty hard to work. "The toughest zones were 18 and 22 through 26. It's difficult to work that part of the world on 160. Some ops are only on a few times during the year—and you have to be there. Otherwise you may have to wait another year."

Ross, 9M2AX, and Peter, XU7ACY, were Dale's last two zones. And the reason for those being the last two? "It's just damned hard to work them."

Having succeeded in his 160 meter WAZ quest, what's next for N4NN? Well, there are still some things to do on 160—his next goal is to work 300 countries! "I now have 233 countries on 160," Dale notes, "and there are many more to work."

As for the DXCC Honor Roll. "I have all the cards I need to make Honor Roll now—I just have to have them checked and do the paperwork. I still need to work and confirm nine countries to have them all. And yes, the goal is to eventually be No. 1 Honor Roll." Does anyone doubt he'll make it?

Dale ended the interview with these comments:

"I would like to say this, if not for Greg N4CC, I would have never known what ham radio was. Greg is a great Operator and has a very FB station. He has taught me to respect ham radio and to treat other operators the way I wish to be treated. He pushed and helped me build the station I have. Without his help, it would not have been possible. I'm very thankful for all that he has done. Now back to working DX. I may have missed a new one while doing this. Or maybe I can catch K4UTE calling a station and jump in and work him first... Richard, now that you are retired, you have no excuse. Tighten your ass up. CQ DX CQ DX DE N4NN K"



Dale, N4NN and Greg, N4CC

Intruder Watch: Commander Solo heard on 30 meter Ham Band

Commando Solo, the US airborne radio station operating above Libya on behalf of NATO, was heard on 1 June using a new shortwave frequency, 10125 kHz, USB mode, to transmit messages intended for Gaddafi's forces. This frequency is in the 30 meter amateur band, but is also used by the Libyan army.

Commando Solo has previously used 6877 kHz and 10404 kHz. The frequency change may be due to jamming by the Libyan army. (06Jun11)



Radio and TV signals are broadcast from A specially-equipped C-130J

Hams to share 60 Meters with Radar?



The 60 meter ham radio allocation could come under threat from low frequency RADAR. The ARRL and Southgate news both report the United States has submitted a National Telecommunications and Informational Agency developed plan that could designate 5.250 to 5.450 MHz for High Frequency Radar systems.

Under the NTIA proposals 60 meter Radiolocation would be a *primary* allocation from 5.250 to 5.450 MHz. In addition the proposal includes 14.350 to 14.990 MHz just above the Amateur 20 meter band along with a number of other frequency blocs in the High Frequency spectrum. If approved, Hams would not only be sharing or giving up the 5 MHz band, but it would place wideband noise generating signals directly adjacent to the 20 meter band.

There is no international allocation to the Amateur Service in the 5.250 to 5.450 MHz band, the United States and a growing number of other nations world-wide have authorized at least limited amateur operations on a non-interference basis to this spectrum. Inclusion of 5.250-5.450 MHz in the US proposals for radiolocation allocations is "unfortunate", says ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. However, he noted the proposed allocation has a long way to go before possible adoption in Geneva next at the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference ([WRC-12](#))

The full story is available on-line at the ARRL website (<http://www.arrl.org/news/us-proposes-wrc-12-allocations-for-hf-radars>). — AR Newsline 11 June 11 via Southgate and ARRL



OOPS!! 34,000 South African Ham licenses canceled for "Non Payment"

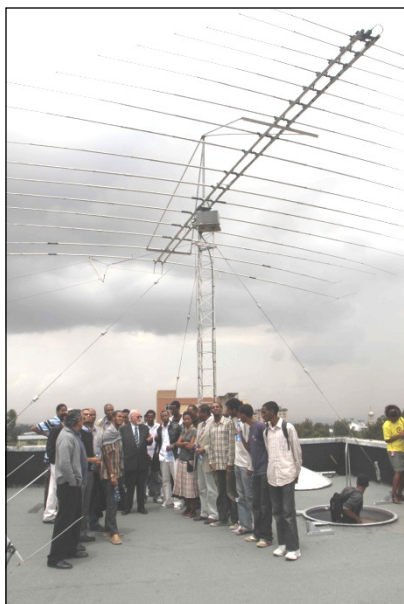
South African hams who failed to pay their annual license fee, may now find that they are license free. South Africa's telecommunications regulator, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, (ICASA), cancelled over 34,000 radio licenses that have been unpaid for the past 365 days. This includes all amateur radio licenses that are in arrears for the past year.

South African hams who had their license cancelled are being advised by the South African Radio League to call the Independent Communications Authority to have their ticket reinstated. Those who've already paid only need to provide proof of payment. Those who have not paid up can do so by following the information and account number on their last valid license document.

Japan scraps Morse code test

The Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs has decided to scrap Morse telegraph testing for the Amateur Radio Class 1 and 2 licenses with effect from October 1, 2011. Japan pioneered the HF No-Code Amateur Radio license (Class 4) in the 1950's although they still required Morse for the higher license classes. The written exam for the Class 4 is roughly equivalent to the Foundation exam in the United Kingdom and Australia and the discontinued USA Novice.

DX News and Notes



ET3AA, the official club station of the **Ethiopian Amateur Radio Society (EARS)**, reopened May 30 after being silent almost 16 years. The organization’s newly completed clubhouse and monster 17-element 6-30 MHz log periodic antenna are located on the roof of the Technical Facility building at the University of Addis Ababa .



The monster log periodic—which club members are describing as their “dream beam”—once belonged to one of the embassies located in Ababa . It was saved by the club from being sent to the scrap yard.

EARS, working under the leadership of **Sid May, ET3SID**, has been sponsoring a Ham Radio license preparation program . The cost to take a personal license exam in Ethiopia is 25 pounds, a staggering amount considering that’s about a month’s salary in Ethiopia. Despite this obstacle, it is hoped that by the end of July more than 25 club members will have taken their individual Radio Amateur Exam, the cost of which was funded in part by donations from Hams around the world.

In addition, according to ET3SID, green stamps that come with QSL cards to the club station ET3AA will be used to pay for club member’s individual license exams. Mail to the club’s new POB address listed on QRZ.com is safe.



5T, Mauritania, isn’t even listed among the top 100 most wanted DCC entities. But it can’t be all that active because there’s only one licensed Amateur Radio operator in that entire coastal west African nation since 2008! That’s **Jean Lewuillon, 5T0JL**, whose home call sign back in Belgium is **ON8RA**.



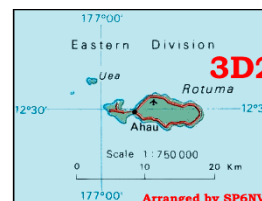
Recently Jean posted a notice on the *DX World of Ham radio* website (<http://dx-world.net/>) that if anyone was interested in running a “DxPed” in 5T they should get in touch with him. “I sure can help in licensing, lodging, discovering the Sahara rocks and sand beauties.”, posted Jean. “Just drop me an email. on8ra.5t0jl@gmail.com”

Mauritania is an Islamic Republic with a population just under 3 million, 20% of whom live on less than a \$1.25 US a day The country has been relatively stable since the civilian government was overthrown by a military coup in 2008. The country’s president since 2009 is the coup’s leader, General Mohamed Aziz, who resigned from the military, ran for president as a civilian and won.

This heads-up from the June 09 edition of *The Daily DX*. In January of last year Russia went through some call sign prefix changes. The changes affected both European Russia and Asiatic Russia. Details can be found at www.qrz.com/db/rw2l. A more simplified explanation by R5AA (ex RZ3AA), Roman Thomas, President of the SRR, has recently been posted at <http://www.arrrl.org/news/new-russian-prefix-system-in-use>.



The remote South Pacific island of **Rotuma, 3D2R**, Number 32 on the most-wanted DXCC list, will be the focus of an all-band, 19-operator multi-national team from Sept 27 through Oct 17. In a news release posted on *The DX World of Ham Radio* (<http://dx-world.net/>), the DXpedition has been issued the call sign **3D2R** and have been issued the necessary permits.



Because of the time of the year the operation will focus on the low bands.

ARRL DX Contest Rules Reviewed—*continued from page 6*



But while that is the public explanation, the lay of the land is a bit different on the inside, as Green acknowledged last Friday that the changes being considered by the CAC to ARRL DX are "major" - as contesters start to get wind of this rules debate.

This past Thursday, Green emailed members of the CAC to say there would be four choices up for a vote on Single Operator time limits in ARRL DX:

- No change - 48 hours
- 40 hour limit
- 38 hour limit
- 36 hour limit

"We'll put this matter to a vote soon," Green wrote his fellow CAC members. "In the meantime, let's continue discussing the merits of these choices."

As one might expect, the idea of making ARRL DX less than a 48 hour contest for single operators has drawn some sharp opposition from some of those who see the competition as part radio-contest, part Iron-Man event. As for the idea of a distance-based scoring system - much like that used for the Stew Perry 160 Meters contest - that has also roiled the waters and drawn some strong opposition as well.

The idea of using a distance-based scoring system could certainly change what is an East Coast bias in the top finishing slots of the ARRL DX Contest.

The idea is nothing new, as the ARRL CAC has looked at the possibility through the years, deciding against any such changes in ARRL DX.

Opposition To ARRL DX Changes

In recent days, a group of more established contesters has signaled their opposition to any rules changes in the ARRL DX Contest, with maybe the most prominent voice that of Jeff Briggs K1ZM/VY2ZM. Here is part of an email written by Briggs to leaders of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee:

"As regards the ARRL DX Contest, here we have a contest that really is not broken...it is steeped in tradition which stems from about 1937 I think and, in my lifetime, the only MAJOR change which did occur was to reduce it from a two weekend contest on each mode to a one weekend contest on each mode which I think took place around 1979. I recall winning it in 1978 as a single op and it was a two weekend format that year and that probably was the last year before it went to its present one weekend format."

"While I understand the arguments IN FAVOR of distance based scoring (or at least the claimed rationale), you can never fully satisfy the basic inequities which naturally take place in contesting with respect to specific location, distance from population centers and where one happens to live exactly on this planet."

As for the idea of distance-based scoring, Briggs wrote:

"My first reaction to this one is WHY????? We already have the Stew Perry Contest which is now held twice annually and it has proven a useful addition to the contest calendar IMHO. And multipliers based on grid squares were introduced long ago in the VHF contest to address the very real inequities of an ARRL SECTION-BASED multiplier system that had been used for many years before that...It was needed and it was a logical rules change - what you guys are considering is NOT a good rules change - it is a game changer and I am against it..."



Commentary—Use of Linears on 30 Meters - Dave W7AQK w7aqk@cox.net

(Editor's Note — As American Hams know (or should) there's a 200-watt power limit on the 30-meter band . Some countries don't have this restriction; the point here is the US does! However, it's apparent even to a casual listener there are some really LOUD '200 watt' signals out there despite many US amplifiers supposedly having limited output on this band. But a quick check of several Internet sites that give advice on equipment modification revealed numerous questions from US Hams on how to modify their amps to exceed the 200 watts limit! On one site the modification 'discussion' had become so heated that it prompted the following response from W7AQK which is reprinted here in full with author's permission.)

I am curious as to why there is so much "gnashing of teeth" here about how to get your amps on 30 meters--at least as far as the U.S. hams are concerned. There is a 200 watt limit for us you know! So, are those of you who have figured out how to get your amps on 30 meters really limiting your output accordingly? I doubt you are driving your amps with a QRP rig, so you already have at least 100 watts available--maybe more.

Well, there's really no need to respond to my rhetorical question. I'm sure everyone would say "yes, I'm complying with the limit". Nobody is probably going to own up to exceeding it.

Amps are nice, but they are very corrupting. Sometimes you really need them, but more often I think, you could do just fine leaving them turned off. There seems to be a natural tendency to use amps just because they are there and available. I always admire those who say "I'm running barefoot, but if you need some help with the QSB (or whatever), I can turn on my amp." When I hear someone receive a signal report of, say, "30 over 9", I say "why?". Isn't 15 or 20 over S9 sufficient? More than sufficient? Heck, if you are S9, or maybe 10 over, the other station probably isn't missing a syllable, and has the AF gain turned way down.

Most amps have a gain factor of around 10 to 15 DB. So, if you are 30 or 40 over S9, you can't possibly need to use the amp--at least in 90% of the situations you will be confronted with. I suppose the big exception is DX pile-ups, where folks go crazy trying to out-shout each other. In those cases operating technique and courtesy seem to go out the window.

There is an old adage which, although really related to political situations, does have some correlative application here. That is "absolute power corrupts absolutely!" In this context here it would suggest that those who have big amps will use them, whether they need to or not.

Personally, I think it's a shame we are allowed to run as much power as we are. The limit used to be 1 KW "input"--now it's 1.5 KW "output"! Some, who shall go nameless, think that's not even enough, and ignore that limit. Actually, I think the Brits, and maybe the VK's too, have it closer to "right". I think their limit is 400 watts. That's a bunch! A heck of a lot easier to deal with too! You probably don't have to re-wire your house to run at that level. And you can generally be heard just fine at that level, unless someone running a KW jumps on top of you.

I'm really not trying to be smug, or condescending about this. I know amps are useful tools. I just wish folks would think more often about when they really need to use them. I have amps here too, but don't use them that often. Most folks will probably vociferously refute just about everything I've said here, but I strongly suspect I'm not far wrong, at least from a technical standpoint. For example, some say that even 1 db is significant, which it certainly can be, but only in very limited circumstances.

Anyway, this is falling on a lot of deaf ears I'm sure. So, I doubt it has much, if any, positive impact. In the meantime, I'll be curious to see when someone asks how to get their amp on 60 meters--where the limit is 50 watts!

Dave, W7AQK
w7aqk@cox.net

Consider the crust of McSquatz...Who knocks off the rarest of spots

Skilful? No, cunning—The reptile is running... Entirely too many watts! (Rod Newkirk, QST May 1959)

NG3K 2011 DX Calendar (Edited) <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Start/End	Entity	Call	QSL Via	Details
Jun 17-19	Jersey	GJ	G3SWH	G3TKF, et al as GJ6YB/p fm EU-013; Bristol Contest Group; QRV for IARU 50 MHz Contest
Jun 17-21	Guernsey	MU	Home Call	EAISA as MU/EAISA and EA1AP as MU/EA1AP fm EU-114; QRV for IARU 50MHz Contest
Jun 17-21	Mariana Is	KH0N	JA6CNL	JA6CNL fm Saipan (OC-086); focus on 80 30 17 12m; QRV for All Asian DX CW Contest
Jun 18-20	Palau	T88NA	JK1FNL	JK1FNL
Jun 18 Jun 21	Liechtenstein	HB0	Home Call	DL4ML as HB0/DL4ML, DG1SFJ DJ8KI DL4MP likewise; HF + 6 2m; fm nr Steg (1400m ASL, JN47tca); QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct
Jun 18-22	Marquesas	FO/m	F6CTL	F6CTL as TBD fm Ua Pou I (OC-027, DIFO FO-027); SSB + digital; spare time operation; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct
Jun 20-Jul 03	St Martin	FS	LotW	K9EL as FS/K9EL; 80-10m; CW SSB, some RTTY; 3 ele yagi on 6m; possibly 6m fm PJ7; QSL OK via K9EL; limited activity during first week
Jun 21-Jul 02	Maldives	8Q7LR	UA9LP	RA9LR fm AS-013; 40-10m; SSB; QSL OK via Buro or direct
Jun 22-Jun 26	Marquesas	FO/m	F6CTL	F6CTL as TBD fm Ua Huka I (OC-027, DIFO FO-026); SSB + digital; spare time operation; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct
Jun 22-Jun 30	St Helena	ZD7XF	G3TXF	G3TXF; HF; CW; logs will be uploaded to LotW as soon as possible
Jun 22-Jul 04	Sint Maarten	PJ7	Home Call	W6JKV as PJ7/W6JKV and K6MYC as PJ7/K6MYC fm NA-105 (FK88); mainly 6 2m, but also HF
Jun 22-Jul 06	Saba	PJ6		K5AND W5OZI K5TR; 6m; CW (50.106 MHz) and SSB (50.118 MHz)
Jun 24-Jun 27	Palau	T88ZA	Home Call	By JA0BJR (also JP11OF (T80T) and JE1SYN (T8YN) fm Koror I (OC-099, PJ77fi); 80-6m; SSB CW FM RTTY PSK31; 2 stations; 5 ele yagi on 6m
Jun 26-Jul 07	Curacao	PJ2	Home Call	DJ8NK as PJ2/DJ8NK, DJ9ON DK9KX likewise; mainly 6m (50.144 MHz), some HF
Jun 27-Jun 29	French Polynesia	FO	F6CTL	F6CTL as TBD fm Raiatea I (OC-067, DIFO FO-026, WLOTA 1977); SSB + digital; spare time operation; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct
Jun 30-Jul 03	French Polynesia	FO	F6CTL	F6CTL as TBD fm Bora Bora I (OC-067, DIFO FO-003, WLOTA 0430); SSB + digital; spare time operation; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct

Last minute notes on announced stations in the IARU Championships July 9-10

4LCC, Levan; 4L5DJ, Shota; 4L7CA, Gogita and 4L7IKA, Irakli will be helping 4L2M, Mamuka set up and run the **4L0HQ** station for the IARU HF World Championship giving out the NARG (National Association Radioamateurs of Georgia) multiplier. QSL via EA7FTR.

Members of the Islenzkir Radioamateur (IRA) will activate the Icelandic Amateur Radio station **TF3HQ**. The chief operator will be TF3CW.

And, representing Spain will be Canary Islands station **EF8HQ** from Las Palmas. Plans are to be on both CW and SSB with 12 complete stations, one for each band mode for the URE (Union de Radioaficionados Espanoles) multiplier. QSLs should go to EA7KW. — *The Daily DX June 14, 2011*

More NG3K 2011 DX Calendar (Edited) <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Start/End	Entity	Call	QSL Via	Details
Jul01 Jul31	Malawi	7Q7MH		GM3TAL fm nr Zomba; HF + 6m; CW SSB
Jul01 Jul31	Midway I	KH4	TBA	W5FJG as KH4/W5FJG; 40-6m; CW SSB RTTY + other digital; 150w; operation to continue until Jun 15, 2012
Jul01 Jul15	Rotuma	3D2R	TBA	VK2IR 3D2AA VK2NN VK2RF VK2KLM VK3FY VK3YP VK3FT; 160-6m; dates tentative
Jul02 Jul09	Fernando de Noronha	PY0FO	PY2FN	By PY2FN; 80-6m, focus on 6m; CW
Jul03 Jul07	French Polynesia	FO	F6CTL	F6CTL as TBD fm Rangiroa Atoll (OC-066, DIFO FO-073, WLOTA 2404); SSB + digital; spare time operation; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct
Jul06 Jul16	Jan Mayen	JX5O	OQRS	SQ8X et al, fm EU-022 (WLOTA 1454, WFF LAFF-047); focus on 20 15m, higher bands if possible; 2-3 stns; verts, perhaps yagi; QSL OK via SQ8X direct
Jul06 Jul17	Fiji	3D2ML	RW6AML	RW6AML fm Waya I (OC-156); HF; CW SSB
Jul07 Jul10	French Polynesia	FO	F6CTL	F6CTL as TBD fm Tahiti (OC-046, DIFO FO-002, WLOTA 0885); SSB + digital; spare time operation; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct
Jul07 Jul15	Isle of Man	MD	Home Call	DL1SPH as MD/DL1SPH, DK1SG DH1SBB DC5SAN DG1SBU DG7SF DL6SBN likewise; 80-6m; PSK RTTY SSB; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct
Jul09 Jul10	Isle of Man	MD9Y	GD3YUM Direct	DL1SPH and others for IARU HF Championship; QSL: Martyn Parnell, 1 Derwent Drive, Onchan, Isle of Man IM3 2DF
Jul09 Jul19	Southern Sudan	ST	EA5RM	K3LP EA5RM N6PSE + international team; exact dates TBD; DXCC status anticipated
Jul11 Jul27	Crete	SV9	HB9CRX	HB9CRX as SV9/HB9CRX; 30-10m; CW; QRP
Jul11 Jul14	Austal Is	FO/a	F6CTL	F6CTL as TBD fm Rimatara I (OC-050, DIFO FO-124); SSB + digital; spare time operation; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct
Jul11 Jul18	Cayman Is	ZF	W5JAY	W5UQ as ZF2UQ and W5SJ as ZF2EZ; mainly 6m, but some HF; mainly CW, some SSB; QRV for CQWW VHF Contest
Jul12 Aug02	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	W5JON	W5JON fm St Kitts (NA-104, FK87pg); also W5HAM using V47HAM; 80-6m; SSB; QRV for RSGB IOTA, CQWW VHF contests
Jul20 Jul24	Palau	T88MB	LotW	JA3AVO fm OC-009, also JH3PBL (T88MP, QSL via LotW or JA3AVO direct) and W7AED (T88SR, QSL via JH3PBL); T88MB QSL also OK via JA3AVO direct
Jul21 Aug04	St Pierre & Miquelon	FP	LotW	K9OT and KB9LIE as FP/K9OT fm Miquelon I (NA-032, DIFO FP-002, GN17); 80-10m; CW SSB; QSL also OK via K9OT, Buro or direct (w/ RP)
Jul23 Aug02	Lord Howe I	VK9HR	EB7DX	VK2IR VK3YP + team fm OC-004 (QF98mo)
Jul23 Aug15	Barbados	8P9XC	DF1XC	DF1XC fm St Philip; HF; holiday style operation; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct
Jul24 Aug09	Ascension I	ZD8D	TBD	DJ4KW DJ9KH DK1IP DL1CW DL7OR
Jul29 Aug04	Micronesia	V63FAA	LotW	W6ANM fm Pohnpei I (OC-010); mainly 40 20m; CW SSB; QSL OK via W6ANM, direct
Jul30 Aug08	Easter Island	CE0Y	I2DMI	By I2DMI as CE0Y/I2DMI; RTTY
Jul30 Aug14	American Samoa	KH8	WA8LOW Direct	WA8LOW as WA8LOW/KH8 + others; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY PSK; yagis on 40-6m, verticals on 160 and 80m; high power



NFDXA-CQ DX Full Marathon Standings 15, June 2011

Call	Entities	Zones	IOTA	Total
AB4UF	0	0	0	0
K3LB	165	40	70	275
K4EB	223	40	138	401
K4UTE	242	40	140	422
KB4CRT	7	7	4	18
KC4FWS	1	1	0	2
NIWON	182	34	87	303
N4EPD	0	0	0	0
N4GFO	0	0	0	0
N4JBK	0	0	0	0
N4KE	0	0	0	0
N4NN	0	0	0	0
NF4L	97	27	44	168
NU4Y	0	0	0	0
NW4C	64	30	29	123
W4FDA	16	12	0	28
W4GJ	167	36	0	203
WA4B	0	0	0	0
WA4ET	0	0	0	0
WR4K	134	34	65	233

Full-MARATHON RULES

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

WHY PARTICIPATE?

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

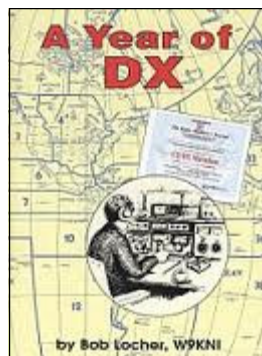
Here's a good chance to fatten your NFDXA Club Marathon country totals. The annual IARU HF World Championship is July 9 and 10.

And if you wish to enter the complete rules are posted on <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>.

IARU member society info is on <http://www.iaru.org/iaru-soc.html>.

-...-

DX
The Ultimate Contact Sport



W9KNI Overall Winner of 2010 CQ DX Marathon

For the second year in a row the overall winner of the annual CQ DX Marathon is **Bob Locher, W9KNI**, the man whose idea it was to create the contest—the man whose idea it was to create the contest! As reported in the June issue of *CQ Magazine*, W9KNI was tops in 2010's field of entries, compiling a score of 325 points from 285 countries worked in all 40 zones.

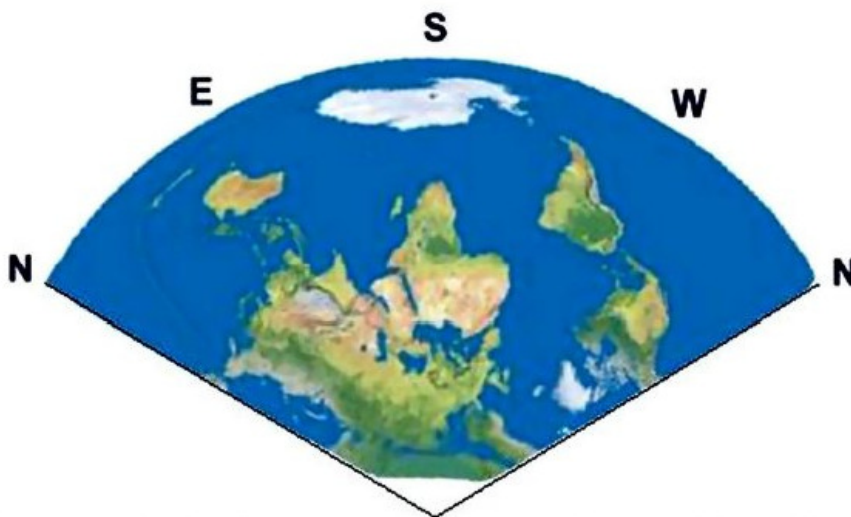
Just two points behind in second place was **PP5EG, Oms Atilano**. (W9KNI can relate to PP5EG's disappointment as he came in second by one point in the first Marathon back in 2009. Bob's book, *A Year of DX* describes his year-long effort in detail.)

Of particular note is the score of **Joe Reisert, Jr., WIJR** who compiled his 305 points using CW only. The Formula Class was taken by **DL4CW** with 294 points.



Bob Locher, W9KNI

Seeing Ourselves as Others See Us?



The world as you and I know it is upside down on this antenna rotator control display from an OH8 station in Finland. The white area at the bottom of the display represent's the station's location in OH6.
— Contest Club of Finland PileUP! (Vol 15(3)2011)

Elecraft KX3 - Demo video online



Elecraft KX3 header unit with CW paddle attachment

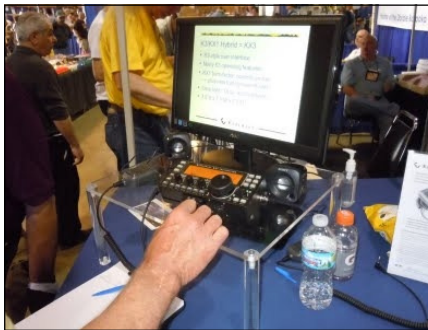
Elecraft has released details of its latest transceiver, the **KX3**. It is a self-contained, portable, SDR - but with a full hardware control panel.

Operation is on 160m - 6m with 10W PEP output (a 100W amplifier is an option). The new rig features the same display as the contest proven Elecraft K3 and can operate in PSK31 and RTTY modes without the

need for a separate PC.

Wayne Burdick N6KR (co-owner of Elecraft) demonstrated the transceiver at the QRP Amateur Radio Club International convention - 'Four Days In May' held in Dayton, OH.

A video of the demonstration is available on the QRP ARCI website -- <http://www.qrparci.org/>



Food for Thought

Build your antennas higher and bigger, get your power higher, make your skills better, your skin thicker...and you may enjoy this hobby even more.

— **A13CX** from an e-Ham post

ODDS ENDS

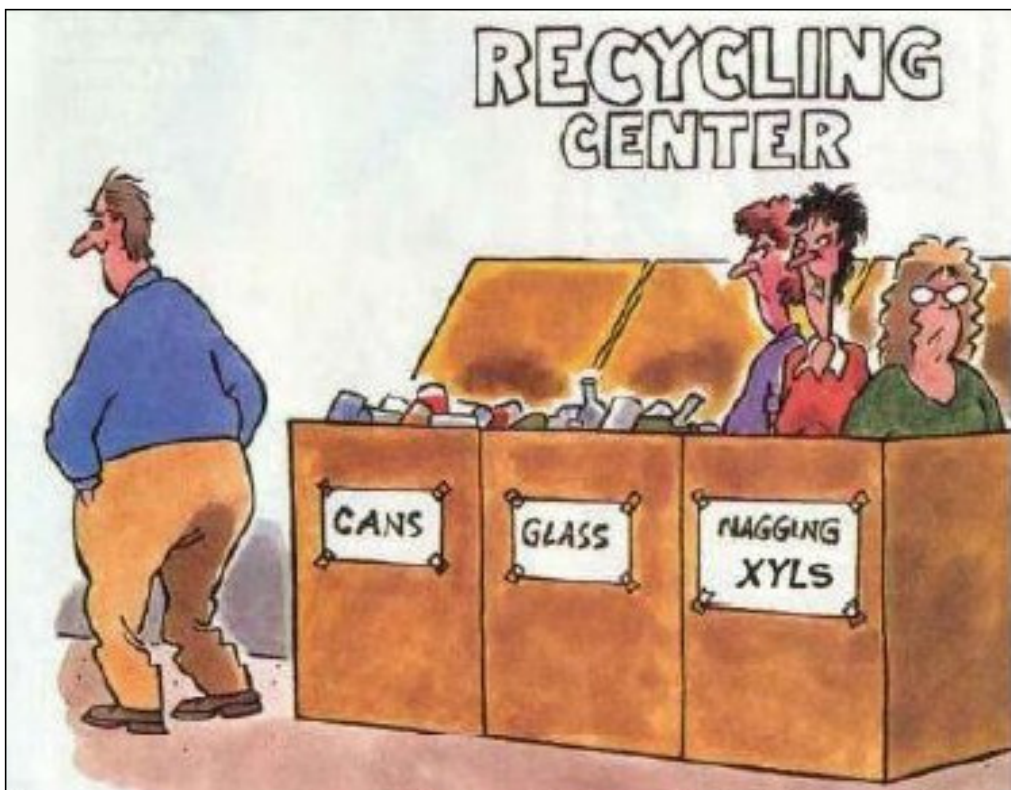
Credit for much the DX news, illustrations and information contained in this publication goes to a variety of sources including, but not limited to the following: **The Daily DX** (<http://www.dailydx.com>), **NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page** (<http://www.ng3k.com/>), **OhioPenn DX Bulletin** (<http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>), **DX World of Ham Radio** (<http://www.dx-world.net/>), **The DX Magazine** (<http://www.dxpub.com/>), **DX Italia** (<http://www.dxitalia.it/>), **DARC DXNL** (<http://www.dxhf.darc.de/>), **Pete's DX Newsdesk** (<http://www.dx-newsdesk.co.uk/>), **ARRL** (<http://www.arrl.org>), off air and (gasp!) word of mouth from friends who turned on their radios, operated and told me what they heard.



PileUp

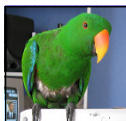
Editor
Warren Croke, NW4C
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USA

The Monthly Newsletter of The North Florida DX Association



OK, Guys, Problem solved...Let's get started on raising the tower!
—PileUP! Vol 15(3)2011 Contest Club of Finland

<http://nfdxa.com>



The Last Word



Cycle 24, we hardly knew you . . .

Our collective dream of bettering conditions may end up being just that, a dream. According to a website posting (<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/news/123844859.html>) sent to me by Gary, W4GAL) four scientists in three separate papers are saying, in effect, that Cycle 24, only in its 3rd year, is about to "flatten out". In other words, in their collective but separately arrived-at conclusion, we've *already* seen Cycle 24's peak which wasn't even expected until next year! Furthermore, a national solar observatory official has offered the gloomy observation that the next solar cycle, number 25 may not occur at all...

Oh Joy. These projections are not the kind of news Hams in general want to hear—and in particular, Contesters and DXers. But all should not be considered lost. If ever there was a call to get active while we still can, this is it. The faint-hearted will fall by the wayside...and maybe even put their gear up for sale on e-Bay. But as hard-nosed and tin-eared (?) DXers we know that not-so-good conditions thin out the pileups, weakens the jamming signals and discourages all but the most 'diligent' frequency cops!

It's time to get rolling in a good place to start would be the NFDXA club marathon. Loosely based on the same concept as the annual CQ Marathon (see page 14) the object is to work as many different entities in as many CQ Zones as you can. If the entity is an island, so much the better—it's an extra point! Don't let lack of a linear get you down (see W7AQK's comments on page 11) or having just a modest antenna. No real CW skills? (See N4NN, page 5). One marathon entrant is using a vertical hidden inside a flagpole (See WR4K) and another, a wire antenna (K3LB) Both are doing just fine, thank you. (See Marathon standings, page 14)

So, no excuses. In addition to our ongoing club marathon, here's an IARU and an IOTA contest next month. Get up off your duff. Get to your radio. Get on the air and—I can't resist—Get 'er done!

—GL es 73, NW4C



W4ZR