

The North Florida DX Association

PileUp

Monthly Newsletter



W4ZR

Volume 2, Number 3

March 2010

<http://nfdxa.com/>

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March Mtg Date
TBA-Stay Tuned



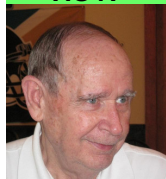
NIWON, NU4Y, K4UTE Sweetheart Sweepstakes Winners



NIWON



NU4Y



K4UTE

The winter freezes of February are (hopefully) long gone and with it the heat generated from the latest NFDXA club competition, the month-long Sweetheart Sweepstakes.

Kudos and congratulations to the winners within their respective modes: **Cory, NIWON**, topping the field with 88 countries on Single Sideband; **Jim, NU4Y** powering up and taking the Digital class with 58 entities, and **Richard, K4UTE** topping the pack in logging 161 countries using CW.

The competition was robust with 11 of NFDXA's 18 members registering for the

month-long contest. However, only 8 of those registering submitted their final tallies.

Each entrant had to select an operating mode and then work as many DXCC entities as they could during February's 28 days *in that mode only!* The mode being used by each contestant was not revealed until after the contest had ended. However it quickly became apparent the most popular mode was CW as each entrant posted the countries he had worked.

Others posting scores in the Sweetheart Sweepstakes included **NF4L**, **K4EB**, **N4KE**, **WR4K** and **NW4C**. For a complete listing go to: <http://nfdxa.com/feb/>

Comments by those who participated in the February event are featured on page 10.

New Feature - Static Crashes! - Page 9

Orlando Hamfest Cookout, a Chilled-Out Affair

The planned NFDXA cookout at the Orlando Hamvention appeared doomed at first. There was a day-long rain that left the main parking lot and RV area looking like twin lakes. As the front moved on the rains were replaced by a drying but bitter cold wind that chilled to the bone despite the bright sunshine.

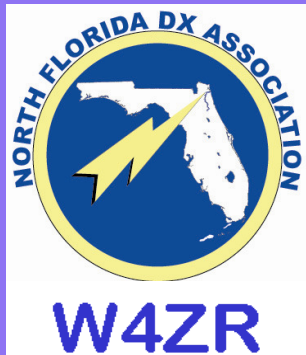
All this didn't deter **Jim, KC4FWS**. Along with friend and fellow RVer **Jim Cook, AL7RV**, they positioned their large motor homes to act as windbreaks so the NFDXA crowd could gather in relative comfort. Jim fired up his grill and the breezy cookout was underway.

No official business was conducted during the 'eat-and-greet' because the 'informal' business of food consumption had priority. Jim's grill turned out mounds of 'burgers and



Jim, KC4FWS (left foreground) doing the cooking at the NFDXA gathering.

bratwursts, plus a variety of hot dogs. A side table sported a number of dip and chip combinations and an assortment of veggies. For more on this soiree check out some Hamvention pictures on page 13.



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



Vice President

Warren Croke, NW4C nw4c@cox.net



Secretary

Mike Reubin, NF4L nf4l@nf4l.com



Treasurer

Jim Hughes, KC4FWS kc4fws@comcast.net



Executive Committee

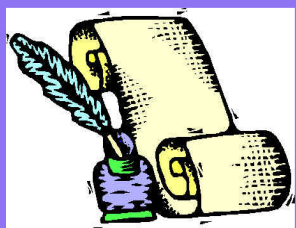
The Executive Committee consists of the elected officers of the Association <http://www.nfdxa.com>



Editor, NFDXA *PileUp* Newsletter

Warren Croke, NW4C nw4c@cox.net

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



Minutes of Feb 13, 2010 Meeting

12 Noon, Motorhome Campgrounds, Orlando Hamcation

There was no official February 2010 meeting and, consequently, there will be no secretary's report. Instead an informal meet and greet cookout was held at the Orlando Hamcation at the motor home of Jim, KC4CWS, as reported elsewhere in this edition.

—Mike, NF4L, Secretary

Disco-TECH

If you think that shortwave is a dead medium for entertainment then you may be surprised to learn about a Miami-based disco music station can now be heard across North America and Europe. The Disco Palace is using Digital Radio Mondiale or D-R-M technology to broadcast high-quality music programs on shortwave.

Programming for The Disco Palace consists of disco music from the 1970s and 1980s or music closely related to disco. North American broadcasts originate on 17.755 MHz from French Guiana. European transmissions are on 6.015 MHz from France. Transmission services are being provided by Digital Radio Mondiale pioneer TDF of France. (DRM Info)

—AR Newsline #1697 18 Feb 2010



EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: 100 GHZ TRANSISTOR ANNOUNCED

Its the fastest high frequency transistor ever developed. Researchers at IBM have demonstrated a grapheme-based radio frequency transistor with a high frequency cut-off of 100 Gigahertz. This new top frequency record was achieved using wafer-scale processing technology comparable to that used in the fabrication of advanced silicon devices

For those who have never heard the term, grapheme is described as a single atom-thick layer of carbon atoms bonded in a hexagonal honeycomb-like arrangement. This two-dimensional form of carbon has unique electrical, optical, mechanical and thermal properties and its technological applications are being explored intensely.

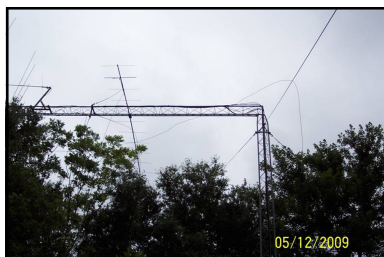
The development of this new 100 Gigahertz transistor is considered a key milestone for the use of Carbon Electronics for RF Applications. The development of this new transistor was recently made public in a paper published in the magazine Science.

Funding for this project was funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency in an effort to develop next-generation communication devices. (Science OnLine)

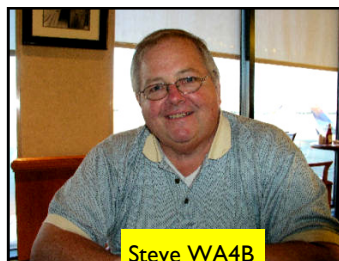
—Amateur Radio Newsline #1697 Feb 19, 2010



What came down is now on its way back up



WA4B is in the process of replacing his tower and antennas that were destroyed last year when a neighbor's tree came down on the guy wires during a late spring thunderstorm. 25-foot



of what eventually will be a 105 foot tower is currently standing. **Steve** says he's working on a home-brew telescoping mast using 1.5 inch pipe (1.9" OD) with 1" pipe on the inside with a sleeve made out of PVC that was turned for a custom fit, but is still dealing with issues of clamping and pinning the inside mast. Another related project is digging up the old feed-lines and replace the small PVC pipe with 4" drain pipe from the tower to the shack.



With breathless anticipation the crowd awaits installation of the replacement **WA4B** antenna.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it will still be stationary.

Join the NFDXA Net Wednesdays 0100z 3625 MHz



NU4Y Reviews the Cushcraft MA8040V Vertical Antenna

I had decided to install a short vertical for 80 and 40 meters and the Cushcraft MA8040V looked interesting. So, I purchased one in late December hoping to have it up for the contest the 1st weekend of Jan.

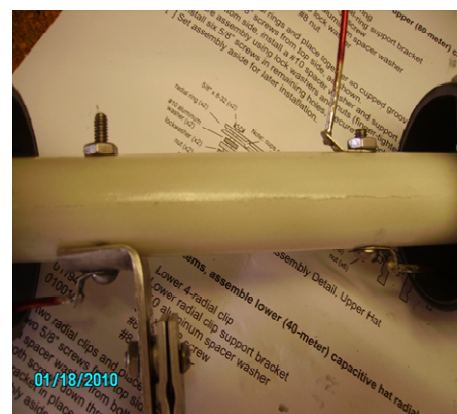
Well it didn't get here in time for that contest, but it came the Monday after. Due to the cold weather, etc., I did not get it up until the middle of Jan. Here is the scoop.

The antenna comes in a rather small box. The end probably should not have been open but it was.

I was doing this about 8 o'clock on a Saturday morning and wanted to get it up and going during the warmth of the day. Not that it was going to be all that warm...

Pulling out the contents, I realized the wire for the 8 radials was missing. I then made my usual trip (in the middle of any project) to Home Depot. I purchased some liquid tape, Naalox for the pipe joints, a piece of 1-1/2 inch EMT to mount the antenna (per instructions) and, of course, a 500-foot roll of wire for the radials. This added \$66.00 to the cost of the antenna install.

Finally, we were ready to get started. Following the instructions the antenna only took about 2 hours to assemble in my garage. There was some de-burring that had to be done. Also, I am not that strong, but the insulator was cracking under the pressure of



the screw. This was tightened using just an ordinary spinet driver.

The antenna really has no adjustment for the 40 meter section. However, the 80 meter has adjustments with the top hat and the length of the upper section. I set them up for the low end of 80 meters. With only about 80 kHz of bandwidth, this seemed like the best place. *(Continued next page)*

NU4Y 's Cushcraft Vertical Review...continued

After the install and putting out the correct number of cut radials per the instructions, the SWR on 40 meters was terrible. It was supposed to be under 2 to 1 across the entire band by the manual. This was not the case.

On 80 meters, it was about right but needed some minor adjustment as it was right at the bottom at 3.5 MHz.

I tried moving radials around in different directions to find a proper match on 40 meters. Finally I elevated the 40 meter radials and the match dropped to flat. I then adjusted the top element to get the 80 dead flat at 3.596, and the 2 to 1 bandwidth is 3.559 to 3.636 just about the 80 kc. suggested.



So how does it work? Compared to no antenna, it is on the air and does work. Compared to my 40 meter Inverted-V which is about 35 feet up, not so good. The dipole is *always* better, and I mean always.

There are times when they are equal on receive. When I call someone that is having a hard time hearing me using 100 watts, switching to the dipole makes clear copy. Even on long haul stuff the dipole is still better. Could a more extensive ground system help? Most likely, but if I had the room for 80 meter radials, I would also have the room for a full size 80 meter dipole. On 80 meters during the WPX RTTY contest I made 83 contacts on 3.5 MHz just playing around. Power was 1 kw into the MA8040V. The totals: 53 North America, 2 South America, 26 Europe, 2 Africa and 0 Asia. This was my only antenna on this band.

Also, after trying to CQ on 80 for a bit I noticed the SWR would rise after the antenna heated for a while. Letting it cool down the SWR would return to normal. Guess 1500 watts full duty cycle is ok for an Alpha but maybe not for the coils on the Cushcraft!

Yes it does get me on the air, but only when I want the yard trashed with radials. In a week or two I will need to start winding them up every week to cut the grass. Remember this is just my opinion, and what do I know anyway?

— 73, Jim, NU4Y

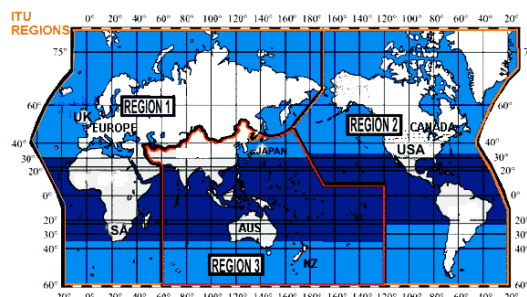




**AMATEUR
RADIO**
The
**INTERNATIONAL
AMATEUR RADIO
UNION**

IARU EMERGENCY FREQUENCIES

The IARU Administrative Council reports that all three regions have reached consensus on three global Center of Activity (CoA) frequencies for use in the event of emergencies: **14.300, 18.160 and 21.360 MHz**. When no emergency operations are being conducted, these frequencies are open for normal amateur usage. However, GAREC-09 calls upon IARU member-societies, among others, "whenever emergency communications are being conducted on frequencies that propagate internationally, to use any available real-time communications channels, including but not limited to e-mail bulletins, Web sites, social networking and DX-clusters to draw the attention of the largest possible number of Amateur Radio operators to on-going emergency communications, in order to avoid interference with emergency traffic." -- *ARRL E-Letter Jan 20, 2010*



*Learn something
new in Amateur*

Radio!

*"I never let my
education get in
the way of my
learning."*

Mark Twain

Foreign Languages and Ham Radio

Back during to 1960s and 70s (Egad, has it been that long ago?) *CQ Magazine* published a little booklet of commonly used Ham radio phrases in a variety of languages—including some not-so-common like Serbo-Croatian. To aid pronunciation each phrase was printed phonetically. That little booklet is hard to come by these days.

However, In line with learning foreign ways to conduct our ham radio contacts, *The New York Times* discusses PC-based and online [methods of learning languages](#). There are lots of options for learning how to have a short conversation! And even in a big pileup, a native "thank you" goes a long way!

How about learning some [Russian numbers](#) to get the ball rolling?

zero -- nul
one -- od◆en
two -- dva
three -- tree
four -- chet◆reh
five -- pyat
six -- shest
seven -- sem
eight -- v◆sem
nine -- d◆vyat
ten -- d◆syat
You are pyat-d◆vyat, spacibo!



Top Pun



And this final note in the multi-cultural vein...

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and, with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath.

This made him (Oh, man, this is SO BAD, its good!) a super –callused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis . . .

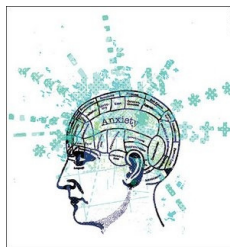
HAM HOSPITALIZED WITH 'NEW RADIO' ANXIETY --Southland County Morning News via KB4HF

A ham radio enthusiast was admitted to County Hospital today suffering from anxiety over what he perceived as serious problems with his new radio, authorities reported Tuesday.



Irv Stumpo, 55, of East Pharsalia, checked into the emergency room "in distress," according to the nurse on watch just before midnight Tuesday. "He was perspiring profusely and moaning over and over, 'My K-3 is no good, no good'," said a harried nurse at County. "He had enormous headphones clamped tightly on his head which we had a ton of difficulty removing, and he was also wearing ear buds," she said. "Isn't that strange? He was half incoherent but kept mumbling something about dynamic range and audio artifacts. I have no idea what that means."

Randy LaHood, a fifteen year emergency room veteran, said that during an examination Mr. Stumpo went into considerable technical detail about a radio he had recently purchased from Elecraft, a company that makes high-end ham radios. "He began by explaining that his radio had 'noisy receiver' and 'mushy signals,'" explained Dr. LaHood. "From what I could gather, he had just spent a lot of money on a radio and hadn't actually noticed any of these problems himself, but others in a internet group kept putting the ideas into his head," he said. Over a course of weeks, Stumpo became distraught over various



imperfections in what Dr. LaHood said was a classic case of the power of suggestion.

The hospital records also said that Stumpo drew mathematical figures he labeled "AGC slope", and filled four pages by writing "AGC off", "Ear Isolation" and "K3" repeatedly. Hospital officials could not explain the cryptic scribbles.

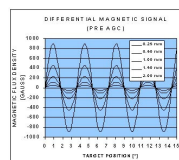
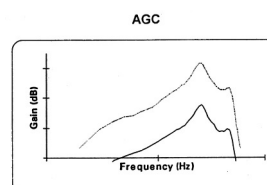
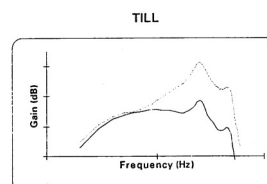
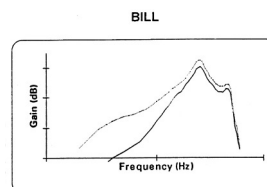
Dr. LaHood said that Stumpo repeated the phrase "mushy AGC" for at least four hours while he waited for treatment.

Other patients who were in the waiting room at the time moved to the other side of the room for fear he might endanger them. J. B. Archer was one of those in the waiting room at the time who had brought in his twelve-year-old son with a basketball injury. "Good ol' boy was pretty upset, I just told him it would be alright, but he wouldn't let up with 'I can't pick out the pile-ups'. I thought he had been involved in a big accident on the highway. Then he said other things like 'the impedance of my headphones' and 'ride the R. F. gain'. Then he started with 'diversity problem' and I thought maybe he was having trouble with racial relations. He was in terrible shape, I'll tell you that."

Dudley Dogood, president of a local ham radio club, told the Morning News in a telephone interview, "A lot of these guys spend five or ten thousand dollars on a radio they think is going to be absolutely perfect in every conceivable way. When it's not, they go into a panic buying lots of other accessories which promise to fix the issue they think they're having. This is followed by a deep buyer's remorse." He recounted a case which illustrated this effect. "We had one guy who had a radio that put out 95 watts instead of 100. He went berserk and ended up smashing his radio with a baseball bat. Not everyone gets that violent, but he never would have worried about it if it hadn't been for an internet forum that drummed it into his head twenty four seven that his radio was broken."

Hospital officials said that Stumpo was treated with sedatives and is being kept for observation.

-- Adapted from the original of Roger Nesselrodt, K14SZA



**ANXIETY
REDUCTION**





A Proposed Permutation from Pres, W4FDA...

After watching the (below-linked) video, I propose the NFDXA treasury pick up the tab for a new Chickenman suit for our own CHICKENMAN crime fighter. He will be used to fight crime on the airways, such as Hams who use EXTREME POWER in the pileups. Of course, no one we know would do such a dastardly deed, but believe me, there are "others" out there who are not "pure" as we are. And they will feel terror at the sight of CHICKENMAN in his new suit (with all price tags removed, of course). Shall we put that on the agenda for the next meeting of the deserving?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcQfyISvdQ>



Pres, W4FDA

(Ed. Note 1: What's an 'agenda?') (Ed. Note 2: Who in our group is 'deserving?')



Operating Surface for Mobile CW

(For those with sufficient CW skills to be operating while mobile (in motion) the following item may be of interest. It was submitted by Bob Lightner, a CW only operator in Gainesville who made the Honor Roll as WA4PWF (Pigeon Without Feathers!) some years back and is now doing it all over again with his new call sign, W4GJ.—Ed.)



A friend of mine gave me two scrap pieces of 3-1/2 inch OD sign posts which fit perfectly into my cup holders in the center console of my pick-em-up truck. I mounted a piece of Plexiglas on top of the two posts and attached my Vibroplex keyer paddle to it. Now I have a very stable platform to send code from. I no longer need the small "mini-keyer paddle" that I used to use, that was attached to my leg using a Velcro strap. **-73, Bob**



You may be running too much power when...

The Electric Utility Company phones you and asks you run barefoot during peak hours today so they don't have to have service brown outs in town!

Your electric meter sounds like a 737 spooling up for take off when you key down!

Your home has a 200amp 230 service but your "shack" has a 200amp 3 phase 480 service: and you are thinking it might need a second line!

You have tubes with handles? Yeah, as the drivers maybe!

Static Crashes!... Happenings within the NFXDA

He's Baaak!...

W4FDA says everything went OK on his recent visit to the 'Mayo Country Club' and he's back home with a plan to re-educate his internal plumbing so he can pretend he's 18 again. **Pres** added he's not supposed to lift anything heavier than a gallon of milk for a couple of weeks (He didn't mention rum) plus a few other restrictions. but it looks like he's OK, as he put it, "until the next shoe drops". Just don't wear shoes, Pres.

Moving Right Along...

NIWON reports he got his rotor fixed and put back up on the tower Feb 14th so he was a little late starting in the NFDXA Sweetheart Sprint contest. To make up for lost time **Cory** got up early to work the grey line and it paid off. He won the SSB section of the club contest picking up 8 new band countries in the process! When the cards come in **NIWON** says he'll have enough entities for 7- band DXCC.

Winter Wonderland ...NOT!!

"Chilly Willy" reports from snowbound Washington that he and **Captain Nancy** have returned from a 10-day vacation in **VP5** where they enjoyed "fine weather along with some damn nice rum." Back in DC reality set in and **KX4WW** wrote "The double blizzards we had played hard on the trees..." and that he won't be able to get an antenna up until the spring thaw. **Willy** says Ham Radio may have to wait until he gets back to Mac-Clenny in 18 months where he'll have 5 acres to set up his antenna farm.

Working them All ... At least Once!!

When ARRL finally approved the 70 Yemen card he had been holding for years **W3KT** had the satisfaction of having worked them all—every single last one of the entities, deleted and otherwise! Now, **Frank** is starting over and he's finding it a lot harder because his present antenna, a short trap vertical, doesn't reach out with the same authority as his old 204BA mono plus an interlaced 6 el 10-15m beam atop a 70 foot motorized crank-up...

Now, for a really BIG signal...

That really LOUD signal you're hearing from up Hilliard way comes from **N4NN's** newest toy, an Alpha linear he picked up at the recent Orlando Hamvention. According to **Dale**: "The Alpha 8410 is great. Plenty of power, easy to tune. I tuned it up to 2500w and it still had room to go. ..." The only problem he's had with his new 'baby' was getting the 78 -pound amplifier from the Alpha booth out to his car!

On the road again...

K4EB says he's been fooling around with D-Star which he thinks is pretty cool because, among other things, it combats the cabin fever that is his worst enemy (while) on the road with the 38 SPECIAL. Noted for being an HF contest CW affectionato as well as a bass player, Larry says he now enjoys rag-chewing with some of the interesting people he's met on D-Star, and he's excited that Jacksonville is in the process of installing a D-Star repeater.

Project officially started ...

There's no turning back now. **WA4B** has begun the process of installing a replacement tower and antenna array that eventually will top out at 105 feet. See story on Page 3.

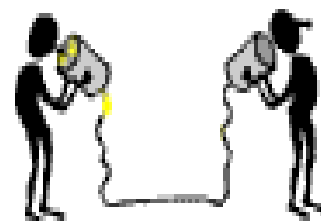
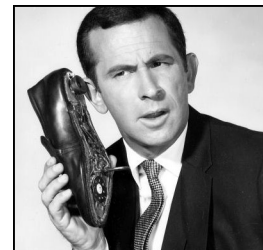
Project officially ended...

It appears that **Mikey** is going to keep that new 4-element SteppIR he put up recently. **NF4L** says he can usually find a "lead lining in every cloud". But in this case he especially likes the 30-40M add-on because it works "really well." Still a problem, says **Mikey**, are the high noise levels at his west Jacksonville QTH.

Finally...the Wisdom of Will Rogers.

There are three kinds of Ham Radio operators: The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence for themselves.

— All the news that will fit we'll print —



Some Sweetheart Sweepstakes Commentary . . .from page 1

NIWON ... SSB Winner

I was only able to work 13 days of the contest. I didn't get my rotor back on the tower until the 14th and then I missed another day. It was fun and I got 21 new bands!

— Cory

K4UTE ... CW Winner

Thanks **Larry (K4EB)** for making me work so hard! Congrats to **Jim (NU4Y)** and **Cory (NIWON)**. Next time I will try Digital if we can get more participation it will be great.

— Dick

K4EB ...

I tried real hard to win the contest using CW but only used my verticals...SteppIR beam is "Geshstunken" right now. Hard to beat **K4UTE** unless you are fully equipped.

— Larry

NU4Y... Digital Winner

Well, it got me to add a 20 meter dipole to my 40 meter one. It also got me to finally hook up my Alpha after it was sitting on the back table for 3 years. (100 watts doesn't make up for poor antennas).

Also I operated at night some (mainly do to noise from TV) which is on during the day and evening.

And I even had some fun. I operated all in RTTY. (I'm) now looking for better decoder. Probably cost me some money and spur the economy.

— Jim

NF4L ...

Another one in the books. Go look at the scores. I'm really saddened by the lack of interest.

I find (PSK) painfully slow. However about 40% of my contacts were PSK. I usually run 20 watts.

Maybe the next challenge will be QRP and paper logging....

— Mike

NW4C ...

Wonder what the final tally would have been if **Pres (W4FDA)** had dumped his 350 CW Qs from the ARRL 'test into the mix?

It was fun. Thanks to **Mike (N4EPD)** and **Mike (NF4L)** and the others who organized the activity AND took part. And, hats off to **Cory (SSB)**, **Jim (Digital)** and **Richard (CW)** on their winning scores.



From 'Call Center Classics' — An actual call made for assistance

Customer: 'I've been ringing 08002100 for two days and can't get through to inquiries, can you help?'

Operator: 'Where did you get that number from, sir?'

Customer: 'It was on the door to the Travel Centre.'

Operator: 'Sir, they are our operating hours'.

— Thanks to W3KT



Abridged NG3K March-April DX Calendar

2010 Mar08	2010 Mar22	Lesotho	7P8AO	HA5AO	HA0HW 20100215	By HA5AO; 80-10m; CW SSB RTTY; 300w; vertical
2010 Mar09	2010 Mar22	Marshall Is	V7	N4XP	OPDX 20100208	By N4XP as V7/N4XP; 160-10m, incl 60m; CW SSB
2010 Mar12	2010 Apr02	Tonga	A3	K6HFA	K6HFA 20100217	By K6HFA -80 40 30 20 17 15m; CW SSB
2010 Mar16	2010 Mar26	Juan Fernandez	CE0z	TBA	LA9SN 20100123	By LA9SN as CE0Z/LA9SN fm Robinson Crusoe I; 80- 10m; mainly CW
2010 Mar20	2010 Mar30	South Cook Is	E51COF	K8NA	NL8F 20100115	By NL8F; 80-10m vertical
2010 Mar20	2010 Apr18	East Kiribati	T32 NEW	SM6CAS	OPDX 20100301	By various ops as T32MI fm Malden I also T32SI fm Starbuck I, T32CI fm Caroline I, T32VI fm Vostok I; exact dates not certain
2010 Mar21	2010 Mar28	Mariana Is	KH0 NEW	JE2EHP Buro	OPDX 20100301	By JE2EHP as K1HP/KH0 fm Saipan; HF + 6m; CW SSB RTTY
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB (Mar 27-28, 2010) Check here for pericontest activity too.						
2010 Mar28	2010 Mar31	Ogasawara	JD1BNN	See Info	JD1BNN 20091031	By JD1BNN; focus on WARC; QSL via JARL Buro or CBA
2010 Mar28	2010 Apr12	Ogasawara	JD/o	LotW	K8AQM 20090427	By various ops as JD1BNM, JD1BNJ, JD1BNK, JD1BNQ fm Chichijima; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY; QSL OK via K8AQM, Buro or direct or eQSL
April						
2010 Apr01	2010 Apr30	Annobon I	3C0	EA7FTR	EA5YN 20100115	By EA5BYP EA5KM; 160-10m, low bands; mainly CW, some SSB RTTY; during April
2010 Apr03	2010 Apr11	Iraq	YI9PSE	N6NKT	N6PSE 20091222	By N6PSE N6OX JH4RHF AH6HY N2WB YI1UNH K3VN K3LP W0UCE W5KDJ FM5CD fm Kurdistan; all bands; all modes; high power w/ gain antennas

The DX Corner



Following the 8.8 earthquake that struck southern Chile early Saturday, Feb. 27, IARU, Region 2 and the Red Chilena Nor Austral de Servicio (RECNA) suggests radio amateurs monitor EmComm frequencies for earthquake and tsunami information:

SSB frequencies:

10 meters - 28.300, 28.500 MHz
 15 meters - 21.200, 21.350 MHz
 20 meters - 14.200, 14.350 MHz
 40 meters - 7.050, 7.095 MHz
 80 meters - 3.738, 3.750 MHz

Note: Both the ARRL International SSB and CW WPX SSB contests are scheduled this month. Be sure that you monitor the requested EM COMM frequency ranges *before* you call CQ or respond to a CQ. Also, be listen to be certain you are not interfering with any emergency traffic that may be in progress.

VK9C, 3B9, FR and 8Q7 activity...and lack of same re FT5W and FT5X

Things are starting to get interesting out in the Indian Ocean. The sunspots must be kicking in.



VK9CF is now on from the seldom-heard **Cocos Keeling Islands** until Wednesday, March 10th. However, according to the *Daily DX*, operator **Tim, NL8F**, has had amplifier and power supply problems and is now operating on battery power only! So far he's been spotted/worked mostly by European operators on 20 and 40 meters CW and hasn't even been heard by most American stations. If you are among those deserving who actually made contact, QSL via K8NA.



With any luck, by the time you read this item, **John, G3LAS**, operating as **3B9WR** should be on the air from **Rodriguez Island** where he's expected to be active until April 2nd. As this edition of *PileUp* was being readied for posting word was passed that antennas for this DXpedition had been shipped from neighboring **Mauritius Island (3B8)** and would arrive Friday, March 5th. QSL via G3LZQ



And for your futures file, **F5UOW** will be vacationing on **Reunion Island** from April 9 to May 2nd. Expectations are that **Stef** will be QRV on 17 to 20 meters CW as **FR/F5UOW** until April 17th... and then move to another spot on the island where he'll set up on 3.5 through 28 MHz using the call sign **TO2R**. Both calls can be QSL'd via F5UOW.



8Q7IA from the **Maldives** has been spotted on 17 and 20 meter BPSK recently. Although operator **Alex, UX4UL** also has an antenna for 40 meters he hasn't been heard there yet. **8Q7IA** is expected to be active through May operating CW as well as. QSOs should be QSL'd via UY5ZZ.



No updates yet on the rumored possibility that the very rare French entities of **FT5W Crozet** and **FT5X Kerguelen** are to be activated in the near future. A short while back **Les Nouvelles DX** reported **Gildas, TU5KG**, who is presently operating from **Reunion Island** as **FR/TU5KG**, is waiting for licenses to operate from both Kerguelen and Crozet Islands. But nothing new has been reported since, and Gildas hasn't said anything in his recent QSOs from Reunion.

Shifting now to the western Pacific...



JD, Ogasawara is scheduled to have a DXpedition operation of sorts with four American and one Japanese operators taking part in the "**JD1 Project 2010**". They will be operating from Chichijima Island March 28 to April 12 on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY with the call signs **JD1BNJ (Brian, KG8CO)**, **JD1BNK (Stan, AC8W)**, **JD1BNM (Ted, K8AQM)** and **JD1BNQ (Steve, K8QKY)**. QSL via K8AQM.

Kirk, JF3MYU will be there as part of the same JD1 project as **JD1BNN**, but only between March 28-31. QSL JD1BNN via Kirk's home call JF3MYU.



And the **Marianna Islands** are scheduled to be activated March 21 to the 25th by **Yoshi, JE2EHP**, using the call sign **K1HP/KH0**. He'll operate from **Saipan** on all HF bands plus 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via JE2EHP.

—DX Information taken from *The Daily DX*, *OPDX Bulletin*, *DX Summit*, *DX World of Ham Radio* and off air

NFDXA at the 2010 Orlando Hamcation

Photos by Autumn Brown and NW4C



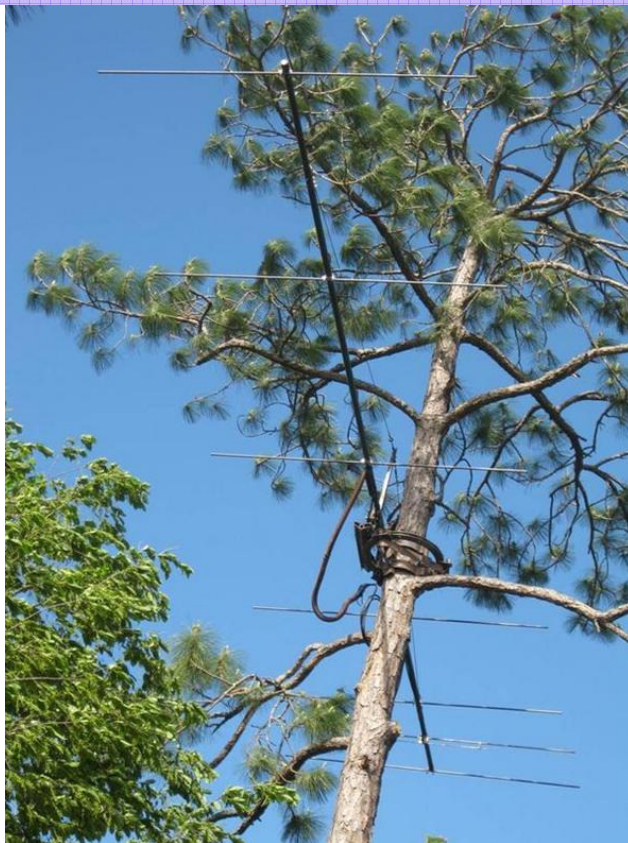
Odds 'n Ends

Longleaf Long Boom

Remember this picture from last month's **PileUp?** According to alert NFDXA reader **Richard, K4UTE**, the owner of this tree-top cloud cooker is none other than **Lee, KZ4RR**, and his QTH is on the Blakeford Mill Road in Jacksonville.

According to Lee's entry on QRZ.com, the antenna is a 7 element W8IF design with a 30-foot boom (30 dB F/B !!) mounted on a TicRing rotor at the 65-foot level of a Longleaf Pine in his yard. The array is fed with 7/8-inch Heliax. Despite its size it's pretty much of a 'stealth array' because it's high up in a tree and not on a tower.

Look for **K-Zed 4 Rolls Royce** on 50.125 or send an e-mail to kz4rr@bellsouth.net for a specific schedule



Be the first in your neighborhood ... At some point in his ham career every DXer must have wondered what it would be like to have a real, honest-to-goodness fire tower for a ham shack—complete with a big antenna array on top of it.

Well, stop your wondering because now the state Forestry department has set up procedures that will enable you to own a fire tower of your very own.

WOW!

Aside from the DX potential, just think how this would tie the neighborhood association's knickers into a really *big* knot...not to mention the XYL's!

For details, if you dare, click on the following link...

http://www.fl-dof.com/forest_management/surplus_firetowers.html



Finally... For your edification, education, enlightenment and enjoyment, here is a representative sample of one of the Top-10 winning entries from this year's Bulwer-Lytton contest (aka "It Was A Dark and Stormy Night" Contest) run by the English Department of San Jose State University, wherein one writes *only the first line of a bad novel*.

"As a scientist, Throckmorton knew that if he were ever to break wind in the echo chamber, he would never hear the end of it."



PileUp

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W4ZR

The Monthly Newsletter of The North Florida DX Association

WHY I DIDN'T WIN THE FEBRUARY ♥ NFDXA SWEETHEART SWEEPSTAKES:



1. NIWON TOLD ALL HIS CONTACTS NOT TO WORK ANYONE ELSE FROM NFDXA.
2. THE BIG SIGNAL FROM NINN'S NEW AMP FRIED MY TRANSCEIVER'S FRONT END.
3. MY NF4L DX DEVIL LOGGER CREDITED ALL MY DIGITAL CONTACTS TO NF4L.
4. QRM FROM NU4Y'S PLASMA TV WIPED OUT MY RADIO.
5. K4EB GAVE EVERYONE FREE CONCERT TICKETS IF THEY WORKED HIM.
6. WR4K SAID ONLY CONTACTS MADE WITH FLAGPOLE VERTICALS WERE VALID.
7. I OPERATED IN THE NOVICE BAND ONLY 'CUZ K4UTE SAID EACH Q COUNTED 10 PTS
8. MY SWEETHEART THOUGHT I WAS TALKING DIRTY AND MADE ME STOP BECAUSE SHE HEARD THAT "59" WAS A SEXUAL POSITION
9. MY SWEETHEART HAD OTHER THINGS SHE THOUGHT I SHOULD BE DOING.
10. MY CALL SIGN MEANS SOMETHING BAD IN JAPANESE.

www.dashtoons.com/nowinBcuz.html

The Last World

Like a lot of others in the NFDXA I look forward to the annual hamfest in Orlando. Attending the 'fest was something I did with regularity right up to when I took a hiatus from Ham Radio in the mid 70s.

Back in the 60s and 70s the Orlando 'hamfest' was an intimate affair, sort of a cross between a county fair and a radio-related flea market. There was just enough Ham-related eye candy to keep you interested and it seemed most of the Hams we met were friends we knew on the air.

I especially enjoyed the variety of forums at the hamfest, good speakers with interesting things to say complete with 35 mm slide shows for illustration. There were technical forums, DX and Contest forums, everything from Ham Radio travelogues to new and latest equipment demonstrations.

I 'rejoined' the hobby in the mid-90s, upgraded to Extra Class and changed call

signs. I resumed going to the Hamcation, as it's presently known, complete with its own 'trademark' name.'

One of the first changes I noticed were how few forums of *any* kind there were in comparison to the 60s and 70s, especially DX and Contest-related meetings. None was listed in the 2010 'fest brochure. Hamcation was a shopping mall.

So, here's what I propose: that the NFDXA either sponsors or designs a DX or Contest related program on its own with the idea making the presentation(s) at the 2011 Orlando Hamvention. There's a wealth of DX and Contesting knowledge and experience in our little group and with some effort on our part it could be done.

A place to start could be a program on how to put together a winning Contestpedition; what it takes in organization, equipment and personnel...like what Ron and Jim have done for many years with VP5DX.

Think about it. —NW4C