



Sadly, just another picture of the sun without a single sunspot to mar its complexion.

The North Florida DX Association

PileUp

The NFDXA Newsletter



W4ZR

Volume 1, Number 5

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<http://nfdxa.com/>

May NFDXA Meeting at W4FDA QTH



Mark your calendar for **4 p.m. Saturday, May 23**, the next meeting of the **North Florida DX Association**. Bring your appetites and tales of DX daring-doo-doo to the QTH of **W4FDA, 7585 SR 13 North**. Be there or you'll be the subject of many interesting stories. . .

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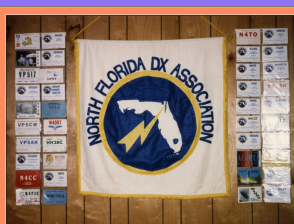
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New IRCs on sale July 1

Most DXers are familiar with the International Reply Coupon (www.g3swh.org.uk/irc.html) or more commonly known as an IRC. The IRC was first introduced on October 1, 1907. Its purpose in Amateur Radio, but even more so for DXers, has been an international postage type of money system.

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) designs, prints and distributes the IRCs to the UPU member nations (www.upu.int/members/en/members.html).

The new IRC, known as the Nairobi model, will go on sale on 1 July 2009. Postal customers, collectors and philatelists will probably be able to exchange it until the end of 2013. It will replace the current coupon, known as Beijing 2, which first went on sale on 1 July 2006 and will remain valid until 31 December 2009.

The international reply coupon is a postal product exchangeable in every UPU member country for one or more postage stamps repre-



Graphic of new model IRC that goes on sale July 1, 2009

senting the minimum postage for an ordinary priority letter-post item or an ordinary airmail letter sent abroad for the reply.

While not all countries sell IRCs, all the postal operators of the UPU's 191 member countries, and their territories, are required to exchange them.



I remember them all...Bill Walker, KX4WW

HH2CQ—CW in several CQ WWs by W4ORT

HH5—1977 First *legal* operation from HH in 13 years

KJ4N-Original NFDXA member, Navy Chief, loved beer and an all around good guy

VP5B-VP5WW The old days in Provo w/rum & lobster

VP5IZ (WA4SGF) Mr. 160m who would have set a new world record had he been a single operator

W4ORT-'Old Rotten Tomatoes' One of the first NFDXA members, retired Senior Chief, great CW op, drank rum and beer by the gallon, teller of tall tales.

HH2MC-NFDXA sponsor, host for numerous HH trips, great mountain location including witch doctors!

N4TO-Great CW op, short-time NFDXA member

W4LZZ-Long distance member, retired Air Force, World Class DXer

AC4WEG aka WA4WEG-Neal, W4ORT's buddy and mostly a DXer.



CW Call Sign Weight Analyzer

Have you ever asked yourself: “Self, how heavy is my call sign?” You haven’t? Well, Bunky, now there’s a way to find out. Amuse and amaze yourself and your friends by going to the web site below and following the instructions:

<http://www.radioqth.net/cwweight.aspx>

So what, you say? What’s this got to do with anything? Well, for one thing this ‘Weight Analyzer’ is a useful tool that will help you figure out how long it will take to *send* your call sign using CW. The greater the ‘weight’ of the call sign the longer it will take to send it. Ah hah, getting interested now?

Once you reach the web site you can enter your call sign—or for that matter, enter as many as you want — separated by spaces or new lines and then click on the “Submit” button.

Voila! The call sign weight analyzer will return the call(s) sorted by the *lightest weight* (or quickest to send) call sign first. And all this time you thought your ‘heavy fist’ was the problem.

Now be honest, are you still happy with that ‘unique’ vanity call sign you worked so hard to get?



Got Something to Say?

What’s important to you that you’d like to share with your fellow NFDXA members ? Have something on your mind? About Ham radio? Sunspots? The price of cheese? Anything? Step up on our Guest Editorial soapbox and let it out. NFDXA members can submit their articles to the Editor , nw4c@cox.net. If what you have to say is not too hot to handle, you could see your comments filling this space instead of a promo like this....

VP5S Oct 92 Erebus Resort, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos



W4FDA Photo Montage

CQWW **VP5S** SSB 1995
 TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
 VP5/ VP5/

<input type="checkbox"/> W3ZNB AL	<input type="checkbox"/> WB4EYX BILL
<input type="checkbox"/> KC4FWS JIM	<input type="checkbox"/> WB4KSP BILL
<input type="checkbox"/> N4KE RON	<input type="checkbox"/> WB4MAI DOUG
<input type="checkbox"/> NU4Y JIM	<input type="checkbox"/> WR4K DICK

PROVIDENCIALES IOTA NA-2

Confirning QSO with: DK5WB

OSL via KAUTE 28-Oct-95 1704 UTC 15 2XSSB 59 73,

CQ WORLD WIDE DX CONTEST - Thanks

CPSE GSL A WIMPY GSL TRX GBL

Google Does CW



If you had an occasion to go to the Google web site on Monday, April 27 you may have noticed something different, namely a colorful rendition of six Morse code characters placed over the 'search box'. Those who took the trouble to translate the characters saw they spelled the word "Google".



The purpose of the dot-dash display was to call attention to the fact that April 27th was the birthday of Samuel Morse, inventor of the Morse code and the single-wire telegraph, who was born in Charlestown, MA in 1791.

Those curious enough to click on any of the six Morse characters were taken directly to a page of linked references about this interesting man whose inventions had such a profound and lasting effect on communications worldwide and Amateur Radio.

Although Morse's Wikipedia biography lists him as an 'inventor and painter', his education at Yale focused on religious philosophy, mathematics and science of horses.

Afterthoughts... I've been Googling for a slow-speed page, but so far no luck. 73, Mike NF4L

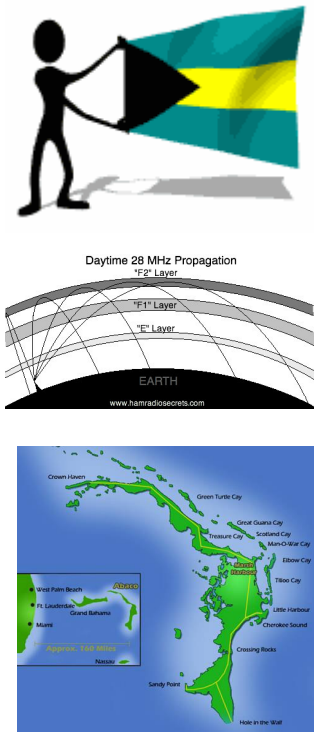
Actually I had no trouble copying it at the speed Google presented it at.... Bob KBIJZU

Technically speaking, Vail invented the code, but Morse was the first one to file the patent!

Art - N4PJ



Short Takes



We had great fun, ah, didn't we? ... It must have been a *really* good time because no one seems to remember details of this mid-80s **C6AFP** expedition to Treasure Cay to compete in the ARRL 10 meter contest. Contest log? We don't need no stinking' log . . . It was probably used as a coaster for a sweaty beer bottle...



Problems, Problems...Willie and Wife Nancy have moved into new digs in Alexandria, VA. Let's see now...with houses already in MacClenny and Provo and at least two other locations one wonders how **KX4WW** keeps up with his front door keys. . .



What goes up eventually comes down...A mid-May microburst during a severe thunderstorm in Jacksonville spelled doom for **WA4B's** tower and antenna. Apparently the high winds slammed a tree into the tower's guying system. The impact folded the 70-foot tower roughly at its mid-point and the array fell into nearby trees. The impact with the foliage damaged the big multi-element Somner antenna beyond repair. Fortunately none of this fell onto **Steve's** house.

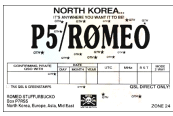


/p or /m?...KC4FWS showed up on the **Wednesday NFDXA 3.625 Net** recently, operating from a vehicle in front of his Jacksonville QTH. This led to discussion among the net's check-ins as to whether **Jim** was actually operating **mobile** or **portable**. The conclusion, apparently, was **mobile** because **Jim's** signal seemed to improve when he said he had *moved* closer to the house . . .



Mark your calendar... The next meeting of the **NFDXA** will be 4 p.m. Saturday, May 23 at the State Road 13 Compound of **W4FDA**. Rumor has it there may be a surprise guest appearance by the legendary **Palos Verde Sundancers**. Just in case **Pres** says he'll wear his new bathrobe . . .

Remember this one??



Ahhh Yes!those were the days!

A Matter of Perspective . . .

Which is the more 'screwed up', the FCC or Industry Canada, the Canadian version of the FCC? That's the question being discussed in this e-mail exchange between two DXers in the DX-IS yahoo group, VE1AL and AA5AG .

It starts with this post from AA5AG...

- . . . -

Hi Al,

Here are some recent examples of FCC logic. Can Industry Canada top these?

1. If you can copy CW at 13wpm (Advanced class) you get LESS CW privileges than if you can't copy CW at all (Extra class).
2. If you can copy CW at 5wpm (Novice class) you get less CW privileges than if you can't copy CW at all (Extra class).
3. From 1991 to 2000 there were 2 point of entry licenses, the novice and the technician. If you got the novice, which required a 5wpm code test and a 25 question written test, you were limited to 25 watts on 222mhz and 5 watts on 23cm because the FCC stated that you didn't have the experience to run higher power at frequencies where RF could be dangerous. If you got the technician class license, which required no code test but a 35 question written test (which many thought was easier than the novice written), which didn't test at all about microwave radiation, you were allowed to run 1500 watts on 10ghz.
4. If you get a sequentially issued call, it will be from your call district, which were established by the FCC. If you apply for a vanity call, you can apply for one from any call district, so the FCC can't figure out if their call districts matter or not.
5. The FCC sets aside special prefix blocks like KPI, KP5, KH1, KH5 for certain US territories. However, the FCC refuses to issue calls for these territories. DXpeditions that go there end up getting 1 x 1 special event calls instead, which makes these prefix blocks worthless.
6. If you upgrade from general to extra, you get extra CW privileges just by taking a written test that asks nothing about CW. Somehow extra electronics knowledge makes you a better CW operator.

73s John AA5JG

- . . . -

Wanna bet?

73, Al, VE1AL

- . . . -

They can't be as screwed up as the FCC, so look on the bright side!

73s John AA5JG

- . . . -

Industry Canada (God bless 'em) makes rules and then breaks them. It is a habit of all Canadian government departments and is endorsed by the Canadian Progressive Conservative party.

And just how does XO0ICE signify the anniversary of the St. Lawrence Seaway? The mind boggles.

73

Al, VE1AL

(Ed. Looks pretty much like a draw to me.)



VS



Canada



DX Quiz—Get On That Solar Cycle by H. Ward Silver, N0AX

The following DX Quiz was created by **H. Ward Silver, N0AX**, and appeared in the September/October 2007 issue of *The DX Magazine*.

With bated breath, we wait in impatient frustration for those beautiful blemishes to bloom on the face of Sol, gracing the ionosphere with an extra helping of UV and raising our MUF. As long as we're thinking about it, why not a quiz?



- 1) The current predictions say what about the next cycle?
 - A. Best ever
 - B. Worst ever
 - C. Both
 - D. Don't know
- 2) What is the number of the current cycle?
 - A. 23
 - B. 24
 - C. 25
 - D. Cycles are named, not numbered.
- 3) Where do sunspots occur on the sun?
 - A. The core
 - B. The photosphere
 - C. The corona
 - D. The solar wind
- 4) Why are sunspots dark?
 - A. They are rich in iron
 - B. Light from sunspots is largely UV and we can't see it
 - C. They are eruptions of differently colored core material
 - D. They are cooler than the surrounding areas
- 5) Where do the first sunspots of a new cycle appear?
 - A. At high solar latitudes
 - B. At low solar latitudes
 - C. Next to sunspots from the previous cycle
 - D. On the opposite side of the sun from the earth
- 6) The first written description of sunspots was made by whom?
 - A. Galileo
 - B. Newton
 - C. Chinese astronomers
 - D. Inca priests
- 7) Which part of a sunspot is the darkest?
 - A. Granules
 - B. Halo
 - C. Penumbra
 - D. Umbra
- 8) 27 days is the period of what solar phenomenon?
 - A. Seismic echoes
 - B. Solar rotation
 - C. Sun-to-Earth trip of charged particles
 - D. Sunspot lifetime
- 9) Most sunspots are...
 - A. Smaller than Earth
 - B. The same size as Earth
 - C. Larger than Earth
 - D. The size of earth's orbit
- 10) Anomalies occur in what field around sunspots?
 - A. Magnetic
 - B. Electric
 - C. Gravitational
 - D. Elysian

BONUS...Maunder is the name of what solar phenomenon?

(Answers on Page)

04/25/2009 3:00 pm NFDXA Gathering-Sonny's BBQ 2700 N. Waldo Rd. Gainesville

Name	Call	# Attending
Steve Brown	AB4UF	?
John Hale	AC4ET	0
Larry Junstrom	K4EB	0
Dick Hicks	K4UTE	1
Jim Hughes	KC4FWS	1
Bill Walker	KX4WW	0
Cory McDonald	NIWON	1
Mike Parnin	N4EPD	1
Ron Tivey	N4GFO	?
Joe Barnes	N4JBK	?
Ron Blake	N4KE	1
Dale Conner	N4NN	1
Billy Williams	N4UF	0
Mike Reublin	NF4L	1
Dave Mains	NO4J	0
Jim Iori	NU4Y	?
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	11



Meeting was called to order by **Dick, K4UTE** at 4:07
Treasurer Jim KC4FWS, No treasurer's report.
Old business - None
New business - **Guest, K3LB, Larry**, was introduced.
The next meeting planner is: Warren NW4C
 The meeting was **adjourned at 4:12 PM**
 Respectfully submitted, **Mike NF4L, Secretary**

- . . . -
(Photo) Prior to Gathering at Sonny's **Ron, N4KE** checked nearly 700 DX cards at the Gainesville Hamfest.

Ginza Steakhouse NFDXA Orlando Hamfest...Were You Among the Cognoscenti?



Be 'In The Know'
 Join the weekly NFDXA Net
 Wednesdays 0000Z 3.625 MHz



The NF4DXA Marathon Totem Pole Where Do YOU Stand? <http://nfdxa.com/cq>

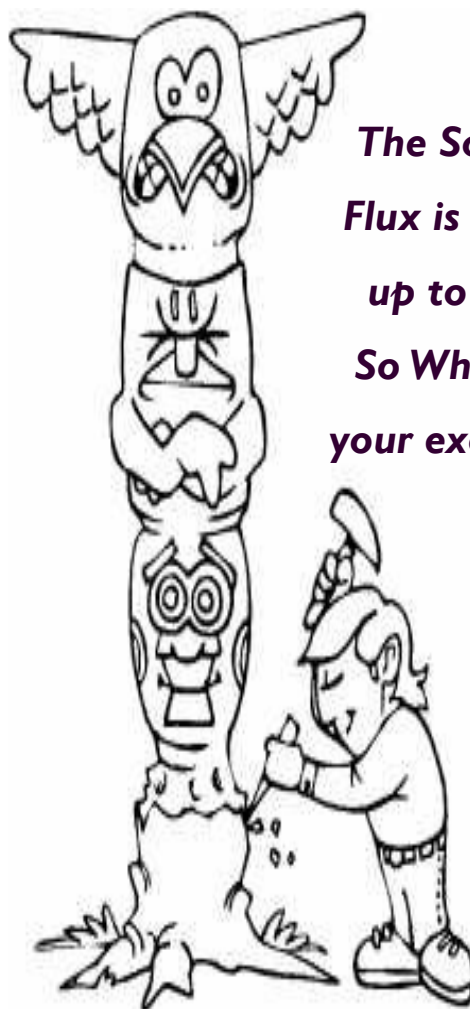
Between January 1 and December 31, 2009 work as many stations as you can, any band, any mode. Work each country only once, unless it spans zones. To add a new zone for the same country just type in the new call and zone over the old one and click the "Log It" button. To delete a call, erase the zone from your log page and click the "Log It" button.



DX Marathon

The Top 12

N4NN	242	40	282
K4UTE	239	40	279
N4KE	215	40	255
K4EB	208	40	248
NF4L	146	35	181
NIWON	122	32	154
NW4C	89	28	117
WR4K	73	23	96
NU4Y	71	19	90
KC4FWS	39	15	54
AB4UF	1	1	2
W4FDA	1	1	2
All Others	0	0	0



*The Solar
Flux is now
up to 75
So What's
your excuse?*



Answers to the "Get On That Solar Cycle" DX Quiz on Page 6

1. C 2. B 3. B 4. D 5. A 6. C 7. D 8. B 9. C 10. A

Bonus Question — A prolonged absence of sunspots called the Maunder Minimum that occurred between 1645 and 1715.





PileUp

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USA

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The Official Journal of The North
Florida DX Association



No, these aren't sunspots, but they're equally as rare. It's a shot from the SpaceWeather.com web site of the Space Shuttle Atlantis at an altitude of 600 KM silhouetted against the sun as it closed in on the other black dot, the Hubble Space Telescope. The shuttle's transit time across the sun's face was only 0.8 seconds! Photographer Theiry Legault really had to have his solar-filtered 500mm reflecting telescope and Canon 5D MkII digital camera spot on target! Hopefully any sunspots that eventually show up will last longer than that.

Some Parting Shots from Hither 'n Yon

From the DX-IS Yahoo Newsgroup 050609

"The nice thing about the poor condition is that no one is on looking for DX. I grabbed Victor, UK7AZ right through a weak EU pileup (he turned his antenna to improve the signal) Not one call from NA even with my spot. Soooooo if everyone will keep moaning about these statistics and stay off the air I might actual get to increase my numbers. " — **KBIJZU**

"You raise a good point that these dire predictions (and dismal conditions) tend to keep the competition away! Maybe, in some weird way, the lack of sunspots is making it easier to work the DX that is on," — **VEIDX**

The Golden days of DXing

There was a saying in the Navy that the two best duty stations were the one you just left and the one you are going to next. DXing seems to be much the same. We either glory in our successes of yesteryear or we delight ourselves with the thoughts of future prospects. The unspoken corollary here is that the *present* is the worst of all times, even though it may be yesterday's future's past. Understand? — **DX IS! The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin, page 145**

