



The North Florida DX Association

PileUp

The NFDXA Newsletter



Volume 2 Number 10

October 2010

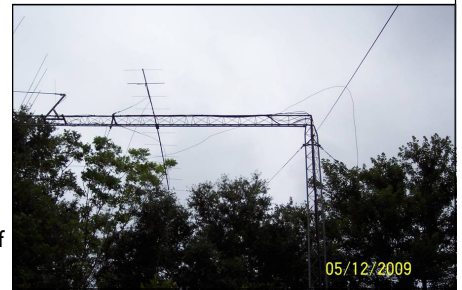
<http://nfdxa.com/>

In This Issue

	1
WA4B Tower Up	1
VP5DX -CQ SSB	2
2010 Officers	2
Sept Mtg Mnts	3
Sept Mtg Pix	4
WILR SK	4
NFDXA SK	5
N4NN 160m	5
W4FDA Top Dog	5
KX4WW Visits	6
NIWON's Busy	6
K4UTE's Woes	6
WA4B Twr Pix	7
Tall Tower Video	8
Rivet Tech Tip	8
Baby Mon QRM	8
Wtr Twr QTH	9
UA Calls	10
BY Calls	10
Kids Compete	10
Army Uses HF	11
Signaling Badge	11
DX Calendar	12
DX News	13
DX Quiz	14
Half Marathon	15
Odds & Ends	16
Quiz Answers	16
A Conversation	17
The Last Word	17

Party Time! What Went Down is Now Back Up

Back in 2009, a mid-May severe thunderstorm in Jacksonville felled a large tree which landed across a guy wire supporting **NFDXA's Steve Barber's** 70-foot tower and multi-element antenna. As the picture shows, the tree's impact with the guy wire bent the tower at its mid-point smashing the antenna array into nearby trees where it was totally destroyed. The tower had been up for 19 years without incident.



But Happy Days are here again at the Southside QTH of **WA4B**. Steve, with the help of a dozen of his now closest friends, braved the late September mid-80 degree heat and finished the job of replacing the downed tower with an eye-popping 106-footer. This beauty and will soon be topped with an array of antennas covering from 20 meters through 1300 MHz.

Read the full story of the 5-hour erection effort and check out Steve's pictures on page 7

NFDXA Team To Operate VP5DX for 2010 CQ WW SSB



VP5DX will be activated for the 2010 CQ WW SSB. On Oct. 21, a team headed by **Jim, NU4Y** is going to "Whale Watch" on Middle Caicos Island, the VP5 QTH of NFDXA's **N4KE**. **Ron** can't make the contest trek this year but has offered his hilltop residence for Jim and his team to use. Those making the trip with Jim include **Cory, NIWON, Steve, AB4UF** and **Steve's daughter, Autumn**.

Jim says they'll probably use the same antennas as last year, except for the GAP. They'll use beams for 20, 15 and 10 meters which are stored on the property. They and will put up dipoles for the low bands, and might even set up the GAP if "they get the bug" to carry the thing. The plan is to operate in the multi-single category.

VP5DX won honors as the top scoring station in the 2009 CQ WW SSB for the Caribbean and Central America with a raw score of 8,893,776 points, and was second place in North America. The 2010 team shown L-R: Jim, NU4Y; Cory, NIWON; Steve, AN4UF and Autumn. They'll come home Nov. 2nd.



As Expected - 4 'New' Ones
But No Credit Until 2011
— Details on pages 5 and 13

October Meeting

5 pm Saturday Oct 23
Athens Café, 6271 St. Aug Rd
Jacksonville



**President**Mike Parnin, N4EPD mparnin@fdn.com**Vice President**Warren Croke, NW4C nw4c@cox.net**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**Minutes of NFDXA Meeting**

This meeting was at Lake House Restaurant, 09/11/10

Name	Call	Attend	Name	Call	Attend
Steve Brown	AB4UF	N	Dale Conner	N4NN	Y
John Hale	AC4ET	N	Billy Williams	N4UF	N
Larry Junstrom	K4EB	N	Mike Reublin	NF4L	Y
Dick Hicks	K4UTE	Y	Dave Mains	NO4j	N
John Silberman	KB4CRT	Y	Jim Iori	NU4Y	Y
Jim Hughes	KC4FWS	Y	Warren Croke	NW4C	Y
Bill Walker	KX4WW	N	Pres Graham	W4FDA	N
Cory McDonald	NIWON	Y	John Moore	W5HUQ	N
Mike Parnin	N4EPD	Y	Steve Barber	WA4B	Y
Ron Tivey	N4GFO	N	David Price	WA4ET	N
Joe Barnes	N4JBK	N	Dick Knox	WR4K	N
Ron Blake	N4KE	Y	Total Members Attending		11

—Secretary's Report continued next page



NFDXA Meeting Lake house Restaurant Sept 11 2010



Top Row (L-R): Jim, K4FWS; Mike, N4EPD; Dale, N4NN; John, KB4CRT; Bob, W4GJ; Cory, NIWON; Ron, N4KE.

Bottom Row (L-R): Jim, NU4Y; Mike, NF4L; Warren, NW4C; Steve, WA4B; Ben, K4EL; Richard, K4UTE; Ken, NF4U, KP2/NF4U (Cory's guest).



Secretary's report—Meeting, continued

The meeting was called to order by **Mike, N4EPD** at 6:05 PM

Treasurer's Report - Jim, KC4FWS reported a balance of: \$723.21.

Old business - The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

By-laws changes were discussed, and the proposed changes were approved.

New business - Jim, NU3Y reported that last years club effort in CQWW SSB resulted in 1st place Caribbean, and 2nd place NA.

Bob Lightner, W4GJ was elected to membership.

Cory, NIWON announced that he and **Ken KF4U** will be on St. Croix 12-19 Oct., 2010. Calls will be KP2/ home call.

Guests: Guests of **Warren, NW4C** were **Bob Lightner, W4GJ**, of **Cory NIWON** **Ken, KF4U** and of **Steve, WA4B, Ben, K4EL**.

The next meeting planner is: **Mike, N4EPD**

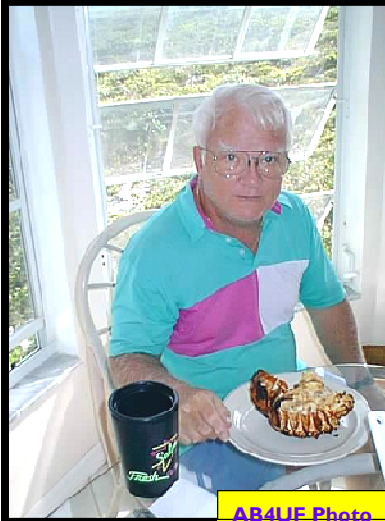
The meeting was adjourned at: 6:16

Respectfully submitted, **Mike NF4L, Secretary**





SK — W1LR



Long-time NFDXA member and avid contest-DXpeditioner **Larry Rich, W1LR**, passed away Monday, September 20, at Kindred Hospital in Green Cove Springs.

After retiring from the Navy/Navy Department with 40 years of service, the self-described 'Displaced Tarheel' settled in Orange Park where he became a mainstay over the years with the Orange Park Amateur Radio Club, OPARC.

In addition to OPARC and NFDXA, Larry was active in a wide spectrum of Ham Radio-related organizations including the Florida DXpeditionary Group (FDXPEDG), ARRL, FCC, Over The Hill Gang, and Geratol 2154.

As outlined in Larry's W1LR QRZ.com posting, his principle Ham radio avocations were contesting and DXpeditions. Among his many trips were contest operations and DXpeditions to the Turks and Caicos, VP5DX; Dominica, J79LR, and 75J; Antigua, V2/W1LR and V25LR; Guantanamo Bay (GITMO) as KG4LR; Montserrat, VP2MHS; San Andres, HK0/W1LR, and J5OX.



SK — NFDXA

The recent loss of Larry Rich, W1LR, brings to mind these friends in NFDXA who have preceded us.

Ed Edwards WA4SGF
Pete Peters KJ4N
Pete Nissen W4PTT
Ray Donovan W0AX
Jacques Bernier W4LZZ
Doc Staples W4SME
Ham Robinson W4ZR
Neil Russell W4WEG
George Werner W4ORT
Joe Cumm W4USN
Bill Douglas WA4ECA
Al Harbach WA4DRU
John Moore W5HUQ
Hubert Story NX4Y



What Used To Be One Is Now Four



The Netherlands Antilles which was comprised of five former Dutch colonies was officially dissolved as a unified political entity October 10, 2010. With the dissolution the five constituent islands of Sint Maarten, Saba, St. Eustatius, Curacao and Bonaire attained new constitutional status.

The islands of Curacao (PJ2) and Sint Maarten (PJ7) are now classified as *independent states* within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Bonaire (PJ4), Saint Eustatius (PJ5) and Saba (PJ6) are now *special municipalities* within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Curacao, Bonaire and Sint Maarten are now each new DXCC entities; St. Eustatius and Saba together form a single new entity.

Although all these new 'countries' became official October 10, contacts will not be accepted for DXCC credit until after January 1, 2011.



N4NN: 160 Meters-Try it, You'll Like it!



Dale, N4NN

With the change of season Dale, N4NN has focused his DX attentions to 160m. He's now within one zone for a 5-Band WAZ! Dale described his contact with next-to-last Zone 28 this way:

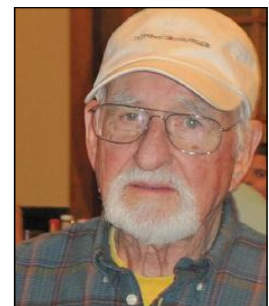
"WOW! ...YES, YES, YES! ...after several years of trying, today I worked Ross 9M2AX. I think this may have been the most exciting QSO I've ever made. I was sitting on the edge of my seat and my hair was standing up on top of my head. That could have been caused by the RF coming from the Alpha at full legal time. Ross was able to work 3 stations from FL. I was last, but that's OK Richard will like this, I worked him a second time 'just to be sure'... I guess you can tell, I'm a happy camper. Now I only need Zone 26 on 160m and today I copied XU7ACY in zone 26. I would not pull off of Ross to try him. Maybe tomorrow. I keep telling you guys, try 160m, You will like it. Be careful. You may get hooked!" —Dale N4NN



The Past As Prolog?

"Long-time NOFARS member "Pres" Graham received his last QSL (in the mail) the other day that that provided the magic card that moved him to the Top of the "Top Ten" in the NFDXA. Pres has worked, and received confirmations from all 323 countries that are recognized by the ARRL as DXCC Countries. This is truly an amazing achievement – most amateurs would be satisfied to "just" be on the "DXCC Honor Roll." This effort is the culmination of many years of hard work of pulling the rare ones out of the QRM and the expense and labor of sending QSL's."

—The NOFARS Balanced Modulator, March 1992



Pres, W4FDA



Familiar Faces at the W9DXCC

Willy, KX4WW, shown on the right in the photo above, and longtime friend **Noll, W9RN**, took in the recent **W9DXCC Convention and Banquet** in Chicago and passed along the following:

Around 250-275 attended the convention which made for a nice group. I won a copy of Writelog for Windows which I do not need and will be happy to sell CHEAP if anyone needs it. :)

There were two great hospitality suites Friday and Saturday nights put on by the Northern Illinois DX Association and the Greater Milwaukee DX Association. Both with open BAR and snacks!

Three manufactures put on displays: Icom showed off their latest gear, RF Concepts (AKA Alpha) with new model 8410 and 9500 Amps (SWEET!) and Tellpost, Inc. with a new LP-100A digital vector wattmeter.

Bernie W3UR, editor The Daily DX and QST "How's DX" columnist, was the main banquet speaker. It was mostly a talk about the "Life of Bernie".

Nancy and I will be moving back to Macclenny next July but I will be coming down in May to do some painting and "plate some towers".

— 73, Willy



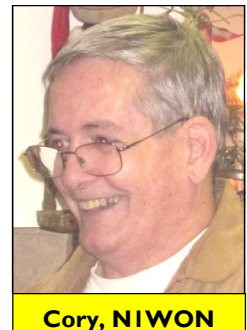
NIWON—A Man on the Move

Cory, NIWON, is not known for letting grass grow under his feet—unless it's for the horses that **XYL Laurene, WN1L**, is raising. He's always looking to add to his entity total of 324 as well as any band-countries he can snare.

During the month of October Cory plans to operate from not one, but two DX entities, one for the pure fun of it and the other for a contest.

The pure fun effort will be from Radio Reef, St. Croix, USVI, Oct 12-19. (<http://www.radioreef.com/>) along with **Ken Freeland, KF4U**, his guest at September's NFDXA meeting, Cory's been to Radio Reef before and says he has lots of NP2 QSL cards left over that he hopes to use up on this trip.

But he can't tarry long at Radio Reef because the day after he returns home he's heading to VP5 to take part in the NFDXA effort as VP5DX in the 2010 CQ WW SSB contest! Cory had to skip the 2009 VP5DX effort because of heat-related problems from his last visit to the Turks and Caicos. However, that's under control now, he says, and he's looking forward to the CQ WW SSB contest challenge.



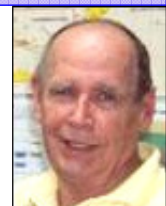
Cory, NIWON



Good News—Bad News

The good news is that Richard, K4UTE's station is mostly back to normal, more or less, after a summer lightning strike. Even his blitzed Pro III came back from the Icom repair center working OK. The bad news is the rig now intermittently resets itself !!

Says Richard, "You go along operating without a problem, then suddenly, it goes into the reset mode. With my luck it will decide to reset in the middle of a contest." Two trips to the repair center and no joy. The third time might be the charm.



Rich, K4UTE

Steve's Replacement Tower Party 26 September 2010



From this on the left...



To this on the right



Here's the story as told by Steve, WA4B:

"We had a total of 13 people including myself. We started at 7:00 AM and finished up around 12:30 PM. We started with 65 feet of Rohn 25. Installed 3 10 foot sections and a top section for just under 40 feet for a grand total of about 103 feet not counting the telescoping mast.

"At the 95 foot section we attached guy wires to the guy bracket. The tower was leveled and the tension was set to about 400 pounds on each wire. No major problems.

"The rotor, mast and rotor cable are run and all we need now is the antenna which I have. A Tennadyne T8 for 20 through 10 and a Tennadyne T28 for 6 meters through 1300 MHz. Wire antennas for the other bands.

"We topped off the day with lunch at Woody's Bar-B-Q. Click on the link to Picasa (Google) and see the photos. If you just run your mouse over the photo, the caption will pop up. Here is the link and feel free to put it out."

<http://picasaweb.google.com/wa4bwa4b/TowerParty9262010#>



Ye Motley Crew (L-R): Steve Barber WA4B; Richard Hicks K4UTE; Mike Reublin NF4L; Sandy Ingle KG4CQK; Jim Hughes KC4FWS; Cary Beuershausen N4CDB (Tower Monkey No. 1); Randy Bahr KI4RHQ; Brian Morris KC4ZGH; Roger Knight KI4PIL; Willie Whilhite AC4WZ; Michael Hendershot KJ4FEQ and Richard Witowski (no call).



K4UTE gives tower his 'DX Touch'



WA4B, KG4CQK, KI4RHQ, Richard Witowski

General Daily KD4VVZ (Tower Monkey No. 2) checks tower B4 climb



Look Up!



"Never had an erection this big"



Don't Bother Me... I'm Busy



Here's a video that will give every tower climber a flash of déjà vu, and a tower-climbing wanna-be a flash of nausea. It's a step-by-step (literally) video of a climb to the top of a 1728-foot guyed tower. It was recorded with a camera mounted to the climber's safety helmet. The narration is matter-of-fact which is a good thing because the calm delivery goes a long way to prevent excessive sphincter contraction on the part of the viewer.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXuzrIN_x2M&feature=player_embedded#!

The same video has been posted on <http://dx-world.net>



Riveting Topic

Here's some good advice about assembling antenna elements with multiple rivets in a single junction. (Like a Force 12, for example. – Editor_)

"When you assemble the elements, put all...pop rivets into the holes before you pop any of them with the tool. If you insert one at a time and pop it, the last one might be difficult to insert." Also, when cleaning an element joint with a scrubbing pad, use separate pads for cleaning and applying anti-oxidation compound. If you use a single pad, dirt from the initial cleaning will be reapplied with the compound."

--<http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/?issue=2010-09-15>

Baby Monitor QRM?



Two way radio communications used by taxi and other motor vehicle drivers in Japan are being affected by disruptions caused by baby monitors on United States operated military bases. Officials in Tokyo said that U-S purchased baby monitors used by parents on bases were emitting signals strong enough to interfere with other nearby domestic Japanese transmissions.

According to the Japanese internal affairs and communications ministry, the devices emit strong signals on the same frequencies as those used for mobile telephones and other two-way radio communications in that nation. The devices have disrupted local taxi communications near bases in Okinawa, Tokyo, Kanagawa and other areas, the ministry added.

A U-S official said the military discouraged the use of US-bought baby monitors by its personnel. The US has some 47,000 military personnel stationed at bases in Japan.

— WIA News

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." - Mae West



The pictures on the right come from the latest issue *PileUP!*, the newsletter of the Contest Club of Finland, Volume 14 (3-4)2010.

The entire issue is devoted to the theme of the “Bygone Days of Radio Contesting”.

Editors asked contest club members for stories that highlighted achievements that may have been omitted by the radio journals of those days.

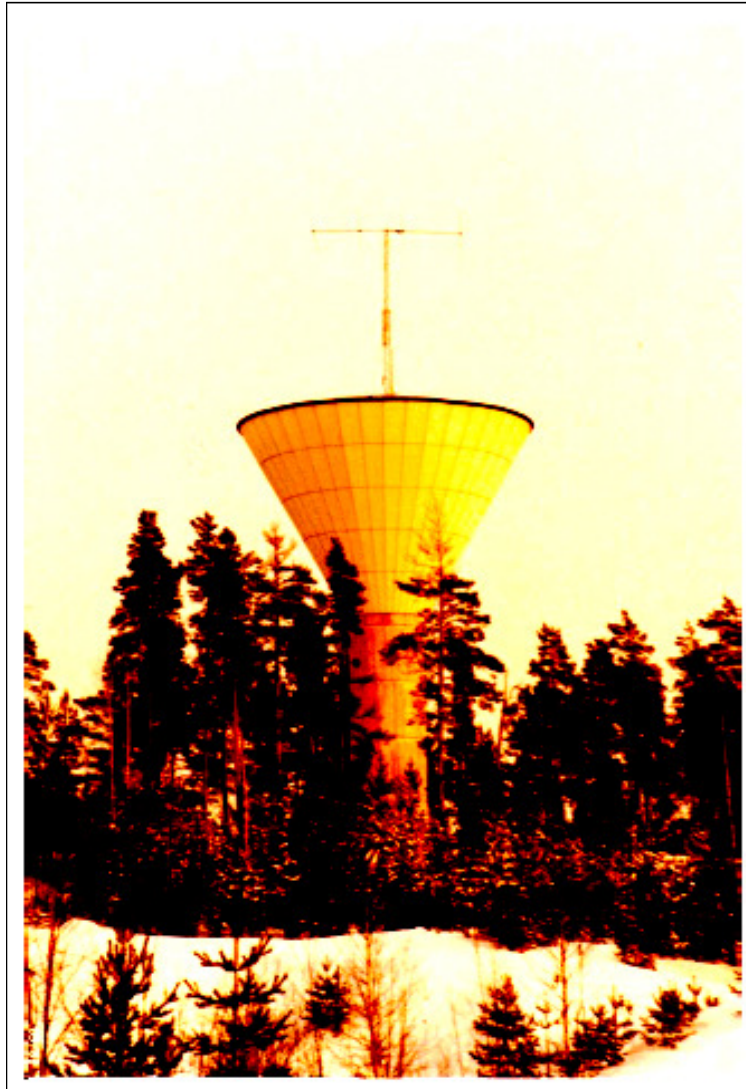
Serious radio contesting started in Finland back in the 1950s and this edition gives voice to many accounts previously unpublicized—such as the water tower photo feature presented on the right.

The complete 68 pages issue of this edition of the Finnish *PileUP!*—as well as many earlier issues—can be downloaded in a .pdf format by going to:

<http://www.helsinki.fi/~korpela/PU/PU.html>



Towering Finnish Contest Station from the 1980s



From 1979 to 1984 there was an interesting and very competitive contest station operating in Finland that won numerous championship titles on 20 meters.

The tower was located on a ‘flat-topped’ water tower and although the height of the antenna wasn’t specified in the article a guess would put it at over 100 feet.

The shack was located half-way up the water tower just below the actual water tank.

One could surmise the station’s operators had to be in pretty good shape just to make it up the stairs!

Numbered among station’s frequent contest operators were familiar names from this era including Pertti, OH5TQ; Kari, OH5LF; Kimmo, OH5KS and Kari, OH5XT.

Here’s a look at the interior of the water tower QTH. Note the curved walls of the tower’s central support column. The op is Pertti, OH5TQ in the 1981 ARRL CW. The caption notes “In those days radios had the name Drake on them and linear amplifiers could be identified by their looks.”



Russian Call Sign Changes Explained

Back in march, the Russian communication authority started a new prefix structure for Ham radio call signs. If you are among those who have been confused by the changes, i.e., who have I worked and where is he?-- here's a clarification of sorts . . . maybe. A tabular guide has been posted his [QRZ.com page](#) by Vladimir, RW2L. Here are some examples.

UA6 and UA7 with the same initial suffix letter indicate the same location. For example, UA7A** is now just the same as UA6A**. The same holds true for UA3/5 and UA8/9.

UA2/3 is the same with the exception being that calls with a "2" in the prefix and F or K beginning the suffix are Kaliningrad.

--ARRL Contest Update 15Sep10 <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/?issue=2010-09-15>



Vladimir, RW2L



Chinese Call Sign Prefix Shows Op's Class, Privileges

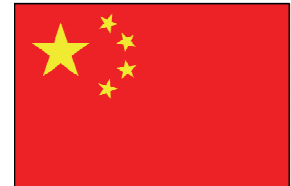
The call sign of a Chinese Ham doesn't give you any clue as to his his/her location but it can tell you the operator's license class and privileges.

There are five classes in the Chinese Amateur Radio license structure. As with American Amateur Radio a Chinese operator's license class grants use privileges on certain specified bands as well as the authorized power. The key to what the operator's class might be is the prefix of his/her call sign.

The breakdown is as follows:

Class	Prefix	Power	Band
1 st class	BA	1 KW	All bands
2 nd class	BD	100W PEP	All bands
3 rd class	BH, BI	25W PEP	HF but not 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters
4 th class	BG, BH, BI	15W PEP	Above 29.2 MHz
5 th class	SWL	Only	

— ARRL Contest Update 15Sep10 <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/?issue=2010-09-15>



7 and 10 Year Olds Operated in 2009 All Asian SSB Contest



JG1FYW age 7

Talk about a youth movement in contesting! Here's an example from the 2010 AADX 'test where 7-year old JG1FYW called AH0BT where 10year old KH0UA was working the pile. The 59-07/59-10 contact was the youngest made in the contest. To see a video of the AH0BT operation

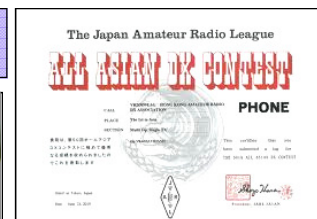


AH0BT age 10

tion go to the YouTube address below:

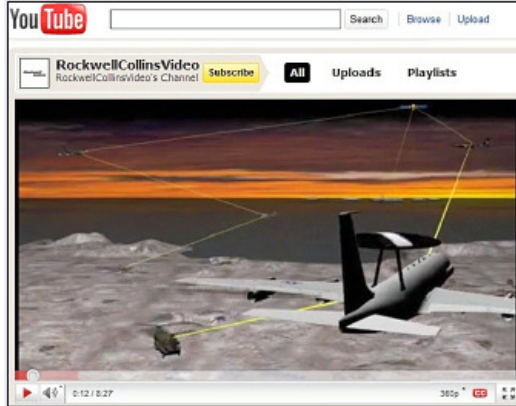
http://youtube.com/watch?v=BPhz8clqg4g&feature=player_embedded

Or, go to <http://dx-world.net/> and scroll down until you find the posting.





HF Radio: 'Back to the Future'



Screen shot of the Rockwell Collins video showing how HF's (military) future is unfolding. (YouTubevideo)

In 2001, a retired officer wrote in the US Army Signal Corp's official journal, *Army Communicator*: "After almost 30 years of being the only army in the world and the only service in the Defense Department failing to see the continued military use of HF (high frequency) radio development, the Army has recently done as 'about face' on a large scale."

It has taken quite a while but as Lt. Col. (Ret.) David Fiedler put it, the US Army has definitely gone "back to the future."

Just how dramatically the future of HF is unfolding can be seen in a video recently posted on YouTube by Rockwell-Collins .

<<http://www.youtube.com/user/RockwellCollinsVideo#p/a/u/0/mhbFYDsuZ18> >

Although the purpose of the video is to tout one vendor's products, it's a useful primer on new applications — you might call it science fiction in front of your eyes.

Hams will understand the terminology in the video with one possible exception: "SIPRNet" is the acronym for Secret Internet Protocol Router Network, the DOD's secure Internet paralleling the public one.

— Bill Sexton, NIIN/AARIFP via World Radio Online, Oct 2010



Boy Scouts : 'Back to the Future, Part Deux'



The Boy Scouts of America are celebrating their 100th year, and as part of that celebration they've reinstated part of their past, the Signaling Merit Badge. The badge was first adopted back in 1911 and for years was one of the required badges for attaining the higher ranks in scouting until the 1990s when it was discontinued.

Among the things a scout had to know to qualify for this badge was a working knowledge of the International Morse Code. The candidate scout had to demonstrate this knowledge by sending a brief message in Morse Code using one of several methods, Wig-Wag-flags, blinker light or with a sound device such as a battery powered buzzer. Crossed Wig-Wag flags form the image shown on both the old and new merit badges

In addition to the Morse Code the scout learned to send messages using Semaphore flags which were widely used by Navy signalmen (nicknamed 'Skivvy Waggers') to communicate between ships within visual distance.

The NFDXA's **Bob Lightner, W4GJ**, is teaching a Signaling Merit Badge class to Troop 125 at the Northwest Baptist Church in Gainesville. The requirements for the reinstated 2010 Signaling Merit badge closely parallel those of the 1911 version—including having a working knowledge of International Morse Code!

As part of the class **Bob** created a Power Point Program illustrating the history of the Signaling Merit Badge and its current requirements. He has a code-practice buzzer kit that each scout will assemble, use, then take apart so the next scout can build and use. This satisfies the requirement that each scout build a code-practice set. Additionally, he has both signal (wig-wag) and semaphore flags on hand. The only thing that's missing, says '**Instructor** Bob', is a blinker-lamp of some sort. "I thought about using a simple push-button flashlight," he says, "but maybe I can be more creative..."



Bob, W4GJ



L-R Old, New Badges

DX Calendar Oct 13-Nov 10—Edited from NG3K Announced DX Operations <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

052011	Afghanistan	T6JC	KD5NOI	By KD5NOI fm Kandahar; operation to continue until May 2011
052011	Afghanistan	T6TL	LotW	By K5TLL fm Kandahar; 40-10m; SSB ,digital; dipole; QSL via N4FF
Oct30	Brunei	V85TX	W3HMK	By V85TX fm Kampong Bukit Panggal Tutong (OC-088, WLOTA 1628)
Oct30	Tanzania	5H9PD	W8FV	By W8FV fm Mwanza; 40-10m, possibly 80m; mainly CW, some PSK31
Oct29	Madagascar	5R8RJ	DJ7RJ	By DJ7RJ; 160-10m, perhaps 6m; CW SSB
Oct15	St Eustatius	PJ5	AH6HY	By AH6HY as PJ5/AH6HY fm NA-145;new DXCC entity?; QSL Buro/direct
Oct17	St Eustatius	PJ5	KQIF	By K1XM as PJ5/K1XM fm NA-145; 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY, new entity??
Oct20	Canary Is	EA8	Home Call	DL3FCG et al as EA8/HmCall fm; 80-10m; SSB CW digital; QSL Buro or direct
Oct20	St Barthelemy	TO7ZG	DL7AFS	By DJ7ZG DL7AFS fm NA-146; HF; QSL DARC Buro or direct
Oct22	Marshall Is	V73QQ		By N3QQ fm Majuro (OC-087); call sign tentative; possibly fm Ujelang Atoll
Oct18	Curacao	PJ2T	LotW	By K8ND W9VA; QSL also OK via N9AG; New DXCC entity??
Oct28	Benin	TY1JB	DL2UX	By DL2UX fm Cotonou; 40-10m; HF9V-X + ZS6BKW
Oct15	St Eustatius	PJ5	TBA	By AA4NC as PJ5/AA4NC fm NA-145; possible new DXCC entity
Oct16	Guernsey	MU		By DL2SBY as MU/DL2SBY; 80-10m, 6 2m; SSB CW RTTY; amp; HF9V + yagi
Oct14	Svalbard	JW	JQ2GYU	By JA1LZR et al as JW/HmCall; 80,40,30,17,12m; CW SSB; QSL Buro or direct
Oct20	Sint Maarten	PJ7E		By DJ9ZBet al; 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY; 4 stations QRV 24 hrs/day
Oct22	Bonaire	PJ4B	PA8A	By PA8A PA8F PA3GVI; all bands; include SAE + 2USD for QSL
Oct22	Bonaire	PJ4D		By K6AM N0VD PE2KY PE2MC PG4M PJ4NX W0LSD W4PA
Oct22	Bonaire	PJ4I	DL9USA	By DL9USA
Oct22	Bonaire	PJ4N	DJ8NK	By DJ8NK
Oct23	Saba	PJ6A	LotW	By K4UEE + team; QSL OK via OQRS+ direct; possible new DXCC entity ??
Oct23	Togo	5V7TT	I2YSB	By I1HJT I2YSB IK1AOD IK2CIO IK2CKR IK2DIA IK2HKT
Dec06	Tristan da Cunha	ZD9AH	DL2AH	By DL2AH; mainly SSB, some RTTY, low power; Windom; holiday style; QRV,WAG, CQ WW DX, and JADX contests; QSL DARC Buro or direct
Oct26	Ascension I	ZD8ZZ	LotW	K7ZZ on Green Mountain; 160-10m; CW SSB; phased verts; QSL K7ZZ, direct
Nov12	Tristan da Cunha	ZD9GI	ZS1A	By ZS1LF; 160-10m; mainly SSB, some digital;; operation until Aug 1, 2011
Oct18	Sint Maarten	PJ7	TBA	By AA4NC as PJ7/AA4NC; likely new DXCC entity
Oct22	Sint Maarten	PJ7	AH6HY	By AH6HY as PJ7/AH6HY; new DXCC entity ?; QSL OK via Buro or direct
Oct31	Mozambique	C9I	TBA	By GI4FUM et al as C9IDJ, SSB, some CW, digital; QRV CQWW DX SSB
Oct17	Isle of Man	GT11OM	GD1MIP	By Isle of Man Amateur Radio Society fm Douglas (EU-116)
Oct27	Balearic Is	EA6	AA5UK	By AA5UK fm Ibiza I HF; SSB+digital, maybe satellite; QSL Buro or direct
Oct29	Bonaire	PJ4	LotW	By W9NJY as PJ4/W9NJY; 40-10m; QSL WD9DZV; LotW uploaded Jan 1
Nov13	South Cook Is	E51NOU		By N7OU fm Rarotonga I; 40-10m; 100w; vertical; spare time operation
Oct30	Greenland	OX	TBA	By DF9TM et al as OX/HmCall, fm Tasiilaq Ammasalik, HF; CW SSB RTTY
Nov10	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	W5JON	By W5JON fm St Kitts (NA-104); 160-10m; 350w; dipole; QRV CQ WW SSB
10/21-29	Sable I	CY0	See Info	By N0TG et al as CY0/HmCall; OQRS available,-preferred, or direct N0TG

DX News and Commentary

PJs 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Of course, the *big news* is the ongoing Caribbean Commotion caused by the extraordinary appearance of four all-time new DXCC entities all at the same time and all in our back yard, so to speak. At the same time, the geopolitical arrangement to which these entities previously belonged, the Netherlands Antilles, has been disbanded and deleted as a DXCC entity.

A huge buildup preceded the break-up and the recent howling pileups were to be expected. On the other hand, what fun it has been to not have to contend with the so-called Japanese and European 'walls'!

If, per chance, you didn't get a chance to work the 'new' entities (PJ6, Saba-PJ5, St. Eustatius; PJ4, Bonaire; PJ2, Curacao or PJ7, Sint Maarten) don't despair. Contestpedition groups have planned operations in the CQ WW SSB contest later this month. Check the

NG3K contest website for details: <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/cqs2010.html>.

ZS8 –Pierre, **ZS8M**, the sole operator on the No. 3 most wanted entity in the DXCC universe, ZS8, Prince Edward and Marion Islands, stirred up a hornet's nest recently when he roundly criticized the on-air operating conduct of a number of European operators singling out the Italians in particular. Pierre's remarks are posted on *The DX World* website (<http://dx-world.net/2010/a-message-from-pierre-zs8m/#more-19382>). The reaction to his remarks is almost as loud as the pileup noise he creates when **ZS8M** comes on the air! Pierre has threatened to "blacklist" from his logbook *any* op who doesn't follow "good DX practice".

If you still need Marion Island, **ZS8M** can generally be found on 40 meter SSB between 03 and 05Z; 15m, 10-11z; or from 14 to 16Z on 15, 17 or 20m SSB (Sadly, SSB only, no CW). All the aforementioned is dependent on propagation and ZS8's sub-Antarctic weather... QSL Pierre's CBA as posted on <http://www.qrz.com/>

ZD9 – From the It-Never-Rains-But-It-Pours department comes word that the rocky mid-south Atlantic island group of Tristan Da Cunha and Gough will have not one, but three (count 'em) operations are now underway, scheduled or planned from this 36th most wanted DXCC entity.

ZD9AH (Ulli, DL9AH) is currently running a holiday-style, mostly SSB-event until Dec 6. The last two weeks in November reportedly will be devoted to RTTY. Ulli's operating barefoot into a Windom antenna and hopes to be active in the WAG, CQWVWX and JADX contests. QSL CBA direct or via DL Bureau—No e-QSLs.

ZD9GI (John, ZS1LF), a brand new operator with no HF experience, will be operating shortly from Gough Island--if he isn't on already. Considering ZD9's place on the most wanted list John should have plenty of experience by the time he leaves in Sept 2011

ZD in 2012 Permission reportedly has been granted by the Tristan Da Cunha Island Council for a 2-3 week DXpedition visit by Rob, M0VFC and Martin, G3ZAY in Sept 2012. Exact dates/bands of operation, etc., TBA as the date draws near.

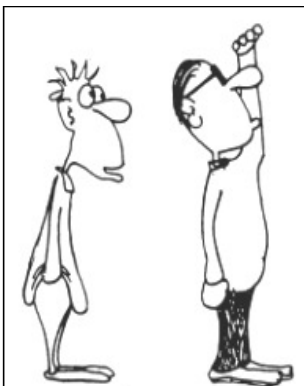
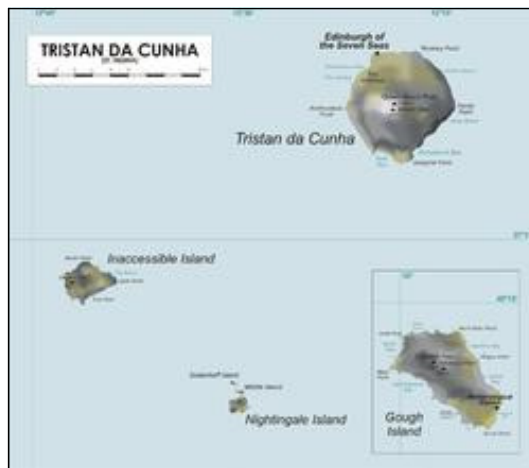
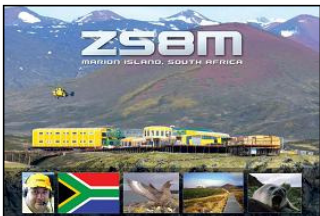
KH0 – A five person Japanese group will operate 160-10M CW and SSB from Saipan in the Mariannas for five days beginning Oct 21. Ops include: KK6WW/KH0, KH0R, AC2BO/KH0, WH0AA and KR1V/KH0. QSL ops direct *via their Japanese home calls* which are listed along with their American CBA on <http://www.qrz.com/>

CY0 – The week-long Sable Island operation begins the afternoon of Oct 21. The DXpedition's pre-published frequencies (<http://www.cy0dxpedition.com/>) may be covered up by the ongoing flurry of 'new entity' PJ activity. DX Cluster spots might come in handy if you are looking for CY0/N0TG, CY0/A15P or CY0/VE3RGB.

East Africa – Nick, G3RWF plans to operate from Kenya as 5Z4LS Nov 24-28, then move on to Uganda Nov 30-Dec 13 as 5X1NH. A future trip to 9X, Rwanda, is in the works and Nick hopes to get a license while on this trip. QSL all calls via G3RWF.

ZD8—Tom, K7ZZ is 'microlighting' as ZD7ZZ on 160-10M CW/SSB from Ascension Island until Oct 2. QSL LOTW or direct to K7ZZ.

CE0Y — **Attention VHFers!** Rolf, CE0Y/DK2ZF and Martin, CE0Y/DK7ZB are active on 50, 144 and 432 MHz EME from Easter Island until Nov. 6. They've also been spotted 'down' on HF in the 30, 20 and 15 meter bands. QSL via their home calls.



There aren't any sunspots. Your glasses are dirty.



DX Quiz

The Autumnal Equinox occurred on Wednesday, September 22nd at 11:09 PM EDT, (0309 UTC on September 23). With the northern and southern hemispheres bathed in equal amounts of light, you can expect better worldwide HF propagation, although solar activity continues at a low level which does not support an MUF into the higher frequencies over most paths.

Much like the hunter knows when the game is fat, the DXer should know when paths to difficult and distant areas are open or closed.; what effect the astronomical and seasonal event will have on our favorite sport of DXing. So, here's a little test, lifted from the pages of the September 2008 The DX Magazine and written by H. Ward Silver, N0AX. Answers to the quiz (should you need them) are on page 13. Have fun.

- 1) In the northern hemisphere, what marks the beginning of fall?
 - A. Syzygy
 - B. Conjunctions
 - C. Autumnal Equinox
 - D. Austral Borealis

- 2) In the northern hemisphere, in which direction does the terminator run at sunset during the winter?
 - A. North-south
 - B. Northwest-southeast
 - C. Northeast-southwest
 - D. East-west

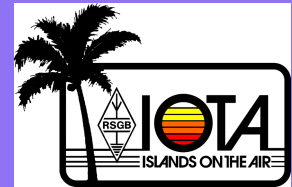
- 3) How many solstices occur each year?
 - A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 4
 - D. 12

- 4) What happens at the solstice?
 - A. Maximum or minimum sunlight
 - B. Maximum or minimum temperature
 - C. Right angle between sun, moon and earth
 - D. Sun, moon and earth line up in a straight line

- 5) What imaginary line describes the sun's most northerly excursion at noon?
 - A. Prime meridian
 - B. Great circle
 - C. Tropic of Capricorn
 - D. Tropic of Cancer

- 6) Why does the word "equinox" begin with "equi"?
 - A. Sunlight is equal everywhere on Earth at the equinoxes
 - B. The sun spends an equal time in all astrological signs
 - C. The moon is exactly half-way between full and new
 - D. Equinoxes fall on the 15th of each month

- 7) If something is getting bigger or larger, which is it doing?
 - A. Vexing
 - B. Waxing
 - C. Waning
 - D. Looming





NFDXA-CQ DX Half Marathon Standings-October 00,2010

Call	DX	Zones	IOTA	Total
AB4UF	0	0	0	0
K4EB	142	34	60	135
K4UTE	43	13	25	81
KB4CRT	28	8	0	36
KC4FWS	68	24	18	110
NIWON	94	27	54	175
N4EPD	0	0	0	0
N4GFO	0	0	0	0
N4JBK	0	0	0	0
N4KE	122	35	3	160
N4NN	0	0	0	0
NF4L	112	25	45	182
NU4Y	1	1	0	2
NW4C	74	29	43	146
W4FDA	2	2	0	4
WA4B	0	0	0	0
WA4ET	0	0	0	0
WR4K	0	0	0	0

HALF-MARATHON RULES

Between 1 June 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 his choice of a one year's subscription to *The DX Magazine*, *CQ Magazine* or *QST*. Who knows, other prizes may be forthcoming. Stay tuned.

There are just a few months left to build your country count for the 'Full' 2010 CQ DX Marathon sponsored by *CQ Magazine*. There will be a plaque for the winner in each category and certificates for top scores in each country. Score sheets, a Google Documents template and other helpful items are available at www.dxmarathon.com.

DX Quiz - Continued from page 11

- 8) What is the term that describes the regular circular motion of a body's rotational axis?
- Wobble
 - Tilt
 - Precession
 - Dilation
- 9) During a solar eclipse, what happens to the MUF on HF bands through the moon's shadow?
- It disappears
 - It rises
 - It falls
 - Eclipses have no effect on MUF
10. What is the word that refers to the small variations in an orbit?
- Libation
 - Libration
 - Liberation
 - Liberache

BONUS) What is the largest variation from UTC in any time zone?

(Answers are on page 13)

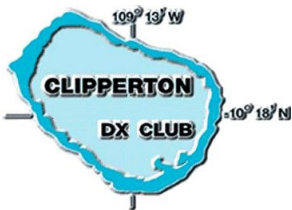
Who? What? When? Where? Why?



Who? (l-r) W1LR, N4KE, NU4Y, AB4UF, W3KT; What? VP5DX; When? 1997; Where? Ron's Place, Middle Caicos, Turks & Caicos; Why? 1997 CQ WW SSB
—AB4UF Photo

ODDS ENDS

CDXC Award



The Clipperton DX Club has awarded their DXpedition of the year award to the October 2009 DXpedition team of **K4M** from **Midway Island**. The survey was open to the public for DXpeditions that included operators from the CDXC.

—The Daily DX 24 Sept

Famous Quotes That Could Well Relate to DXing . . .

“Accept challenges so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory.” —Gen. George Patton

“Courage is going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm.” —Winston Churchill

Major DX Contests—One Man's Opinion

The major DX Contests as they are basically set up today are unfair, at least in the United States (And for other large countries such as Asiatic Russia). The reality is if you are not living on the upper east coast you operate with a handicap that increases in severity the farther away you are from the upper east coast. Extraordinary efforts from other parts of the United States are overwhelmed by ordinary efforts from east coast stations.

—The Complete DXer, P-107, Robert Locher, W9KNI (3rd edition)

DX QUIZ Answers —

1) C; 2) B; 3) B—summer and winter; 4) A; 5) D; 6) A; 7) B; 8) C—and then returns to normal after illumination is restored; 10) B—not libation, although libation fading can drive EME'ers to drink!

BONUS) 13 hours since the nation of Tonga (A3) decided to be the first to greet the year 2000!

PileUp

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

<http://nfdxa.com>

The Monthly Journal of The North Florida DX Association



The wife and I were sitting around the breakfast table one lazy Sunday morning.

I said to her, "If I were to die suddenly, I want you to immediately sell all my Ham equipment."

"Now why would you want me to do something like that?" she asked.

"I figure that you would eventually remarry and I don't want some other jerk using my Ham gear," I said.

She looked at me and said: "What makes you think I'd marry another jerk?"

- BK-

The Last Word

Every now and then that thing called mortality injects itself into our lives. For the most part our mortality, and thoughts of same, lurks deep in the background, sorta like very distant QRN. It's 'there' but there are other things in the foreground that usually get our immediate attention.

In late September we got the word that a former member of our little DX group had passed away. And even though he was in NFDXA for only a couple of years Larry Rich, W1LR, made a mark. He was known to most as a pretty neat and sharp guy, a loving father and grandfather and a self-professed computer geek who ran a computer repair business on the side while working full-time with the Navy at Jax NAS.

Larry was an ardent DXer and contester and operated in a number of Caribbean DXpeditions. Then, suddenly, we learn that he's no longer with us.

The news prompted Pres, W4FDA, to post a roster of other NFDXA members who'd passed with a sobering observation that "We're rapidly reaching the breakeven point, more (members) dead than alive!!"

Perhaps. We all know that mortal life is finite. We've each been dealt a hand and we're playing it out as best as we can. We remember and honor those who've been before us, but at the same time, we carry on, keeping our mortality deep in the background.

As the popular saying goes, we 'Keep on Keepin' on.'

Or, to make that phrase more DXcentric, we Work'em First, Worry Later.

— NW4C



W4ZR