



The North Florida DX Association

Pileup

The NFDXA Newsletter



Volume I, Number

2009

<http://nfdxa.com/>

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Dare We Believe?

A big sunspot appears to be growing on the far side of the sun. Tuesday, Sept 15, the National Solar Observatory's [GONG](#) network detected helioseismic echoes from the sunspot's gathering magnetic field.

On Wednesday, NASA's STEREO-B spacecraft is beaming back images of an active region peeking over the sun's far-eastern limb--exactly where [GONG data](#) predicted it would be.

Irene Gonzalez-Hernandez, a solar physicist working on the GONG project, says "I believe this is a large active region belonging to new Solar Cycle 24. The sun's rotation should turn it toward Earth for direct viewing on Sept. 20th."

— <http://spaceweather.com/> 09Sept09

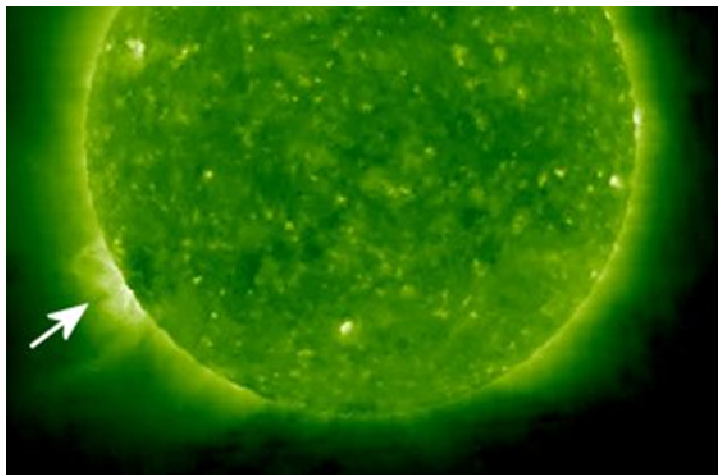


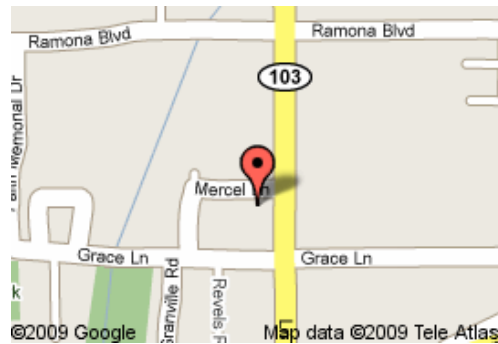
Photo credit: STEREO-B Extreme UV Telescope

Glorioso DXpedition Underway

As this September edition of *PileUp* was being prepared for posting the FT5GA DXpedition to the rare Indian Ocean entity of Glorioso began operation, first on 20 meter SSB 14.200, and now is being spotted mostly by Europeans on 80 through 17 meters with some jamming QRM. HF propagation overall continues to be poor.

Sept Meeting at Cross Creek

The September meeting of the North Florida DX Association will be held at one of the club's more frequent watering holes, the **Cross Creek BBQ and Steakhouse**, 850 South lane Avenue in Jacksonville on Saturday the 19th at 5 p.m.. RSVP at <http://nfdxa.com/meeting/> See you there and Go Gators!



W4ZR



The Photo Album



High above in the morning sky...Two antennas catch our eye. Sheer poetry, right? This fine looking array of a 204BA above a 6-element 15-meter beam is just one of a number of tall tower antenna combinations that have graced the QTH of NFDXA veteran Pres Graham, W4FDA, who's QRV from 160 through 2 meters. Over the years Pres has managed to work every DXCC entity at least once.

Long time NFDXA member William 'Willie' Walker, KX4WW and XYL Nancy are pictured shortly after Nancy's recent promotion to the rank of US Navy Captain.

Willie reports they are settling into their new QTH in Alexandria, VA, the location of Nancy's final assignment before she retires.

Although their new home presents a number of challenges from a Ham Radio point of view, Willie says he hopes to at least be able to get up "a wire of some sort and maybe check into the Wednesday NFDXA net".



The well appointed operating position pictured on the left complete with retro Novice station belongs to contester and DXCC Honor Roll member Bob Lightner, W4GJ, in Gainesville. Note the fine collection of CW keys and paddles...and the conspicuous absence of any mike! Also, a new compact Italian-made fully auto SPE Expert 1K- FA linear which Bob says works like a champ.

DX Quiz: Where They At? — H. Ward silver, N0AX

DXing is not always as straightforward as we may think. There is confusion about call signs, about tuning, about transmitting, about listening. (*Editor's note: That's for sure. Did you hear the babbling pileup on 14.200 Wednesday morning with many thinking they were working the FT5 when it actually was an HB9 who happened to have an unusual call?!*) This DX quiz from the January/February issue of *The DX Magazine* focuses on questions we all have had at one time or another. Just were ARE they at anyway?



— . . . —

- 1) Where is a station with E5 prefix located?
 - A. Georgia
 - B. Palestine
 - C. Cook Islands
 - D. Sandwich Islands

- 2) If you work a station with a TO prefix where is it *most likely* to be located?
 - A. Corsica
 - B. France
 - C. Guadeloupe or Martinique
 - D. French Polynesia

- 3) What is the Q-signal used to indicate a *listening* frequency?
 - A. QRX
 - B. QRG
 - C. QSX
 - D. QSY

- 4) A DX station on 14.005 CW is sending "UP". Where is the first place to start listening for stations working the DX?
 - A. 14.005 MHz
 - B. 14.006 MHz
 - C. 14.025 MHz
 - D. 14.195 MHz

- 5) If a new IOTA island group will use 20 meter phone when they come on the air where would you start listening?
 - A. 14.150 MHz
 - B. 14.195 MHz
 - C. 14.230 MHz
 - D. 14.260 MHz

- 6) As sunset falls at your location and propagation fades on 15 meters to the big DXpedition, what band might offer the next opening to your QTH?
 - A. 10 meters
 - B. 20 meters
 - C. 12 meters
 - D. 17 meters

The DX Quiz continues on next page

DX Quiz: Where They At? - Continued from page 3

- 7) To work gray line propagation at sunrise in the Northern Hemisphere during the winter which way should you aim your signal?
- NE or SW
 - NE or SE
 - NW or SE
 - NW or SW
- 8) If I can barely hear a station, but I am sure the first character of the call sign is '2', where should I point the beam?
- Australia
 - Great Britain
 - Canada
 - At the United Nations Building
- 9) A station whose call begins with "RI" is giving a location as "Zone 39". Where is the station located?
- Franz Joseph Land
 - Antarctica
 - Wrangle Island
 - Novaya Zemlya
- 10) The maritime mobile station you just worked said that the location was the "Straits of Bosphorus". Where the heck is that?
- Off the Indonesian Island of Sumatra
 - Between Finland and Estonia
 - Between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean
 - Entering the Gulf of Suez

Bonus Question

What is the possible answer to question number 4 if Ron, ZLIAMO were at the key?

Answers on the next page



Don't Miss
the
NFDXA Net
Wednesdays
0000Z
3625 KHz

CQ WW Contest Committee Remains Mum Re Questions About "Private" 2008 Contest DQ's

With fresh evidence in the CQ WW DX contests of possible "private" disqualifications being handed out by the CQ WW Contest Committee, contesters from around the world are urging a halt to that practice, calling for more public declarations of DQ decisions.

Naming and shaming is the only way to deal with premeditated and calculated cheaters," said Brian Coyne 5B4AIZ.

All DQs should be made public - if for no other reason than to put to rest the accusations of collusion by members of the contest committee," added Tom Gregory N4NW.

Making DQs public has not been the practice of the CQ WW Contest Committee, which for many years has been dealing privately with questionable logs, sometimes making them disappear and other times approaching people individually, and giving them the chance to withdraw or re-classify their entry. Apparently this policy is not going to change.

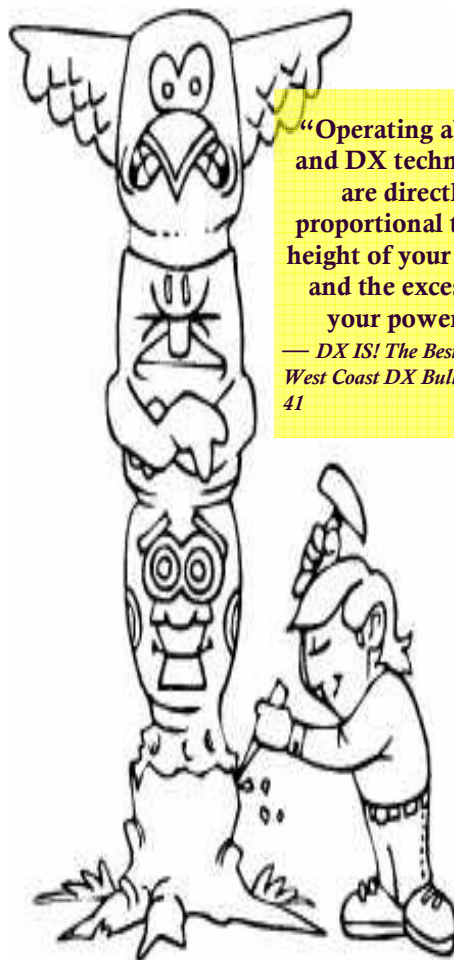
The NFDXA Marathon Totem Pole Where Do YOU Stand/ <http://nfdxa.com/cq>

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.

The Top 12 - 9/16

Entities Zones Total

N4NN	256	40	296
K4UTE	253	40	293
N4KE	229	40	269
K4EB	225	40	265
NF4L	174	36	210
NIWON	125	32	157
NW4C	100	28	128
WR4K	87	29	116
NU4Y	71	19	90
KC4FWS	39	15	54
AB4UF	1	1	2
W4FDA	1	1	2
All Others	0	0	0



"Operating ability and DX techniques are directly proportional to the height of your tower and the excess of your power."

— *DX IS! The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin* p-41

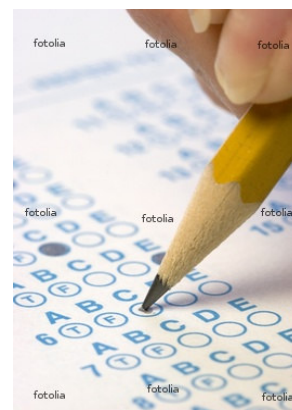


DX Quiz Answers

1. **C** 2. **C** 3. **C** 4. **B** (You *do* listen first, don't you?) 5. **D**, the **IOTA** calling frequency 6. **D**, follow the MUF *down* 7. **A** 8. **B**, Great Britain is the *only* location for prefixes starting with "2". 9. **B** 10. **C**

BONUS QUESTION ANSWER

Go *down* a kilohertz or two—Ron was famous for that trick!



PileUp

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The monthly newsletter of The North Florida DX Association



This is India. Think about it for a moment.

This is the place you call when you have a technical problem with your computer.

— Frank, W3KT

For What It's Worth

As far as the sunspot situation goes, I would quote the noted prairie bard Garrison Keilor, "It's been a quiet week in Lake Wobegone."

In fact it has been many, many quiet weeks.

But is all this quiet about to change?

Some solar poobahs are being quoted Wednesday on the spaceweather.com website as believing "A big sunspot is growing on the far side of the sun." (See page 1 story).

A grain of salt may be in order here.

First, factiously, who's going to put their faith in an organization whose initials spell the word "GONG" as in the long forgotten (thankfully) TV show of the same name.

Second, and more to the point, HF ops in general and DX chasers in particular have had their solar expert believability chains pulled—yea verily yanked—on a number of occasions since the so-called sunspot mini-

mum was declared a year ago. So far their batting average is worse than bad, it's zero!

In every instance the experts who predicted a sunspot fusillade was imminent have been wrong. At best those few blemishes that did appear on the solar countenance were gone, poof, nada in a matter of days! Not even a raggedly remnant remained.

So, what's an intrepid DXer to do in the face of this latest enthusiastic outburst of sunspot optimism?

You do what most members of NFDXA have been doing all along. You just keep listening and plugging away, working what you can hear and hoping for the best. One has only to look at the latest NFDXA CQ Marathon Totem Pole to see that this system works. Apparently things aren't always *that* quiet for those who get on and operate . . .

— NW4C