The LongPath

August 2024 — Volume 48 Issue 8 A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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Huntsville Hamfest
Von Braun Center South Hall
August 17 & 18, 2024

From the President

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

I always get excited during the month of August because I know in a couple of weeks the Huntsville Hamfest and our annual North Alabama DX Club (NADXC) Banquet will be here. This year's hamfest will host the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention, so I am hoping the attendance is greater that in the past and that our club's banquet can benefit from the additional attendees. I always look forward to the crowds and seeing a diverse group of amateur radio operators swarm the flea market, commercial vendors, forums, etc. I believe it to be fun to see, meet, and greet all of the different hams that make up our ham radio community, especially those hams from states surrounding Huntsville, AL.

The NADXC is currently selling banquet tickets for admission to our annual NADXC Banquet held at the Signals Museum of Information Explosion, University Dr, Huntsville, AL. We will host a social beginning at 5:30 p.m. Afterwards, we will have a fantastic meal that will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by a terrific program. Our speaker is Gene Spinelli, K5GS of recent Clipperton Island DXpedition fame. Gene should keep us captivated by his program. Also in attendance will be KE4KY, an expedition mate of Gene's who was also on the DXpedition. The Grand Prize this year, donated by Gigaparts and Yaesu, is a Yaesu FT-710 transceiver. I am sure all attendees will be wanting a chance at this prize. As always, we will have a host of door prizes to give away. Please, if you have not purchased your ticket(s), consider doing so now before we sell out. Tickets can be purchased online at nadxc.org and paid via PayPal. Please support the NADXC club's largest event of the year.

In order to make a successful banquet and hamfest, we need volunteers to help out at the Huntsville Hamfest and at our banquet. We still have open slots for members to help man the hamfest booth, flea market table where we are selling the remaining K4ADK equipment, volunteers for the banquet, etc. We will finalize our plans at our next meeting.

If you haven't heard, the Signals Museum of Information Explosion (MIE) has some new exhibits in the making. I was there on July 30, and it was nice to see the construction and placement of new radio equipment, all that have a story to be told. Unfortunately, I also saw where the recent almost tornadic winds did grave damage to the Hex Beam used by the MIE's Amateur Radio

From the President (continued)

Station on the HF bands. I was there to unload and partially reassemble the Cushcraft X-7, 8 element Yagi, part of the Cushcraft Big Thunder Family that can be used on 10m, 15m, 20m, and 40m. Bob DePierre, K8KI and I worked a couple of hours to reassemble the monster antenna. I am hoping by the time you read this article, that this antenna will already be installed by a team of volunteers to get the MIE station back on the air with an even better antenna than before. This antenna was donated by the NADXC and was part of the K4ADK estate of Mike Maples obtained by the club. Mike volunteered a couple of times at the museum, and I am sure would have been very happy to know where part of his station is now and for the good cause it is being used.

I would be remiss if I did not mention anything about the HF band conditions. I have been receiving message after message regarding the solar activity, which is high. I also have been receiving messages about the CANNIBAL CME Alerts causing radio blackouts over parts of the globe. We are almost at the peak of Cycle 25, so I guess we all should expect massive solar activity. I must admit that I have not been on as much as I should be, but my focus this summer was to be 6m, but I have only seen one opening to my QTH in Southern Tennessee. Six meters has been a bust to EM65 regarding Sporadic E, but I am hoping things will get better as we approach Fall. Perhaps your luck has been better than mine.

Let us have the next NADXC club meeting on Tuesday, August 13 at the Signals Museum of Information Explosion on University Drive, Huntsville, AL. Our meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. This month's program will be presented by Mike Crownover, AD5A discussing the recent CB0ZA/CB0ZW/CB0ZEW Juan Fernandez DXpedition. Let's all attend and support Mike. I look forward to seeing you to hear Mike's interesting program. The ZOOM sign-in will be exactly as last month. I will send the membership an email with ZOOM details the weekend prior to our meeting. If you care to arrive early and eat your supper or just merely socialize with other members, that is fine.

From Standard FT8 to Super Fox FT8 Digital Mode

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

Introduction

Ever since the digital mode FT8 was introduced to the ham radio community a few years ago, I have been intrigued by this new mode, but have always wondered who, why, and how the developer came up with the idea to create another digital mode besides the current modes that were being used at the time. Since the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) opened the digital bandwidth, it was evident that new digital modes would sooner or later come to fruition for the amateur radio HF bands. This article will touch on the evolution of this FT8 concept, but also take a snapshot of the newest mode called "Super Fox."

Most ham radio operators, especially SSB operators who either did not know CW or simply hated CW, utilized Radio Teletype (RTTY) and/or the newer digital modes such PSK 31, Packet, etc. as a secondary mode to make HF QSOs. RTTY was a tertiary mode used by DXpeditions in the past to allow DX'ers to obtain additional QSOs. RTTY, considered a digital mode, allowed DXers chasing the ARRL DXCC Award an opportunity to achieve a Digital DXCC Award. If you were a CW

From Standard FT8 to Super Fox FT8 Digital Mode (continued)

operator and/or Phone (SSB) operator, one could come away from working a DXpedition with two or three different modes logged. Not only did RTTY satisfy DXers, but ham radio contesters enjoyed RTTY contests as well. Many ham radio operators participate in the annual RTTY contests utilizing RTTY to this day. In the current world of DXing, DXpeditions have almost completely dropped the use of RTTY and have added a newer digital mode called "FT8". For a while, I have wondered why it was developed in the first place, but never had heard why.

Evolution of FT8

After returning from the 2016 VP8STI South Sandwich DXpedition, Ned,AA7A, who sits on top of the DXCC Honor Roll, contemplated potential improvements to QSO rates. He found that the number of QSOs being made was not as expected and was wondering how to increase the number of QSOs. SSB, CW, and RTTY were not getting the job done. When a typical DXpedition such as South Sandwich Islands, where the temperatures always fall below zero degrees Fahrenheit, was in full swing using CW, the rate would be about 120 QSOs, which typically yielded more QSOs than Phone or RTTY in an hour sitting in a tent with frost-bitten fingers and frozen hands makings QSOs in places like the South Sandwich Islands. It was apparent to Ned that there must be another way or another method to make more QSOs in freezing weather, without having frozen fingers and hands, so he was on a mission to find out what it could be.

Ned, AA7A had met and known Joe Taylor K1JT since the early moon bounce (Earth Moon Earth - EME) days in the 1980's when everyone used CW, but K1JT had formulated an idea to apply his talents to ham radio developing JT44, using a digital waveform with a 44-character set for EME. This was quite an advancement for moon bouncers. Later, K1JT decided to use and improve on JT44 based on the work he was doing in his real profession. He developed JT65 in C++ software language, which was a huge boost for moon bounce operators, increasing signals to 15 dB, eliminating schedules and chat room coordination in order to make an EME QSO. Now one could call "CQ" and be answered bouncing signals off the moon rather than depending on a schedule to try and receive a station. K1JT and his team later developed other weak signal applications, improving each time on the previous version of applications such as JT65, Q65, MSK144, WSPR, JT4, JT9, etc. They bundled their applications in one application called "WSJT-X."

WSJT-X today includes HF applications called "FT8" and "FT4". WSJT-X software Version 2.6.1 is available at the web site, "sourceforge.io." A big thanks to the software application developed by the K1JT team. The team consisted of K1JT, G4WJS (SK), K9AN, IV3NWV, DG2YCB, and N9ADG. Unfortunately, G4WJS who spent countless hours working on these applications, has passed away.

FT8 is a digital mode using a different waveform than JT65 and the other applications that allows one to complete a QSO in about a minute on the HF amateur radio bands, but is less sensitive than JT65. When FT8 was first developed, it allowed for the DX HF station to work another single HF amateur station. In 2017, when AA7A was approached by K1JT for a mode to help to increase the digital QSO rate and eliminate issues such as frost bite on the hand, AA7A suggested development of another mode to solve these types of problems. The K1JT team devel-

From Standard FT8 to Super Fox FT8 Digital Mode (continued)

oped FT8 Fox-Hound. FT8 originally had the DX working one amateur radio station at a time. That is, a DX station transmitted on one time period while the other station or world was transmitting on another time period, thus working one station at a time. This was slow and required rethinking the concept needed to make more QSOs for a DXpedition. This required another approach.

The DXpeditions noticed that much time was spent waiting for the response from the Hound. Then the K1JT team developed FT8 to where the Fox would transmit during the first time period using multiple streams to send 5 or 6 signals (streams) at once, while Hounds transmit up 1 kHz during the second time period. This would keep the Fox busy allowing multiple stations to be worked. In 2018, during the Baker Island and/or Wake Island DXpedition, FT8 Fox-Hound mode was first used. The DXpedition team made more digital QSOs than phone. Since then, the DX world has not been the same, especially since multi-streaming was being used. You know the rest of the story.

Today, Fox-Hound is being used by every DXpedition. Many of us have our own way of utilizing Fox-Hound mode. The Fox transmits on one frequency while Hounds transmit up 1 KHz. The most important things to remember is that in order to work the DX, you as a Hound must get into the queue. How do we DXer "get on the list" or in the queue?

The queue is a list of callsigns that a DX station (Fox) sees and decides who they want to work. Perhaps the DX station (Fox) desires to work a particular region of the world, or they might want to work the area where the signals are strongest, or where the propagation is best able to work the direction where more stations are calling the DX station (Fox). But you must first get in the queue or on the Fox's list. The Hound's goal is to get on the list. To do this, one must call. This may require calling over and over until an operator makes the list. Some operators change frequencies several times while calling to make the queue (list). After every transmission switch frequency. Take the rig's VFO and go up one transmission, go down the next transmission, go up, go down, etc. until they get on the list (make the queue). If an operator is not in the queue, they will never be called or worked by the Fox (DX station).

The Fox (DX station) will work down the list to initiate a QSO to whomever they select (stations called Hounds) based on their ability to hear and copy a callsign. As mentioned, the Fox can filter who they work i.e., geographic areas, weak signals, strong signals, etc. This means that it is important for the Hound to send their Grid Square when in Fox-Hound mode working a DXpedition to let the Fox (DX station) know which part of the world that has the best propagation or to areas where propagation seldom occurs.

If called by the Fox, the Hound's transmit signal will be moved down in frequency to a special area of the bandwidth, a pristine, special frequency where your signal can be heard by the Fox in order to complete the QSO. If your QSO is not completed, the software moves you to another special, select frequency to prevent QRM from covering your Hound signal. After receiving an "RR73", the software will allow you to log your QSO. Afterwards, the exhilaration sets in, and you can celebrate.

The FT8 HF mode has got hams all over the world active and on-the-air. On a daily basis, you may hear a few signals in the SSB and CW

From Standard FT8 to Super Fox FT8 Digital Mode (continued)

segments of any band, but the FT8 portion is full of signals. FT8 also allows new hams that do not know CW or are too bashful to get on phone to get on the air using the HF Amateur Radio bands fairly quickly. Figure 1 shows a typical Fox-Hound QSO.

As mentioned earlier, FT8 was developed by the K1JT team. Another deviation of the WSJT software, called "MHSV", was developed by a Bulgarian ham and packaged in another software application. MHSV was developed to help allow a DX station to work more stations using multiple streams.

The WSJT-X version of FT8 in the past allowed for 6 streams to be transmitted by the Fox (DX station). One disadvantage is that this causes a power reduction to allow each stream to transmit information at a 5 dB drop in the Fox signal strength. The 6 streams power reduction was to reduce intermodulation distortion (IMD) and the team had to throttle down the power in the waveform to eliminate over saturation between streams. This is a real negative point if attempting to work a weak DX station. Eventually, the DX will fade away, leaving the Hounds very unsatisfied.

Superfox Mode

Recently, the K1JT team, aware of the issues mentioned above, initiated an improvement

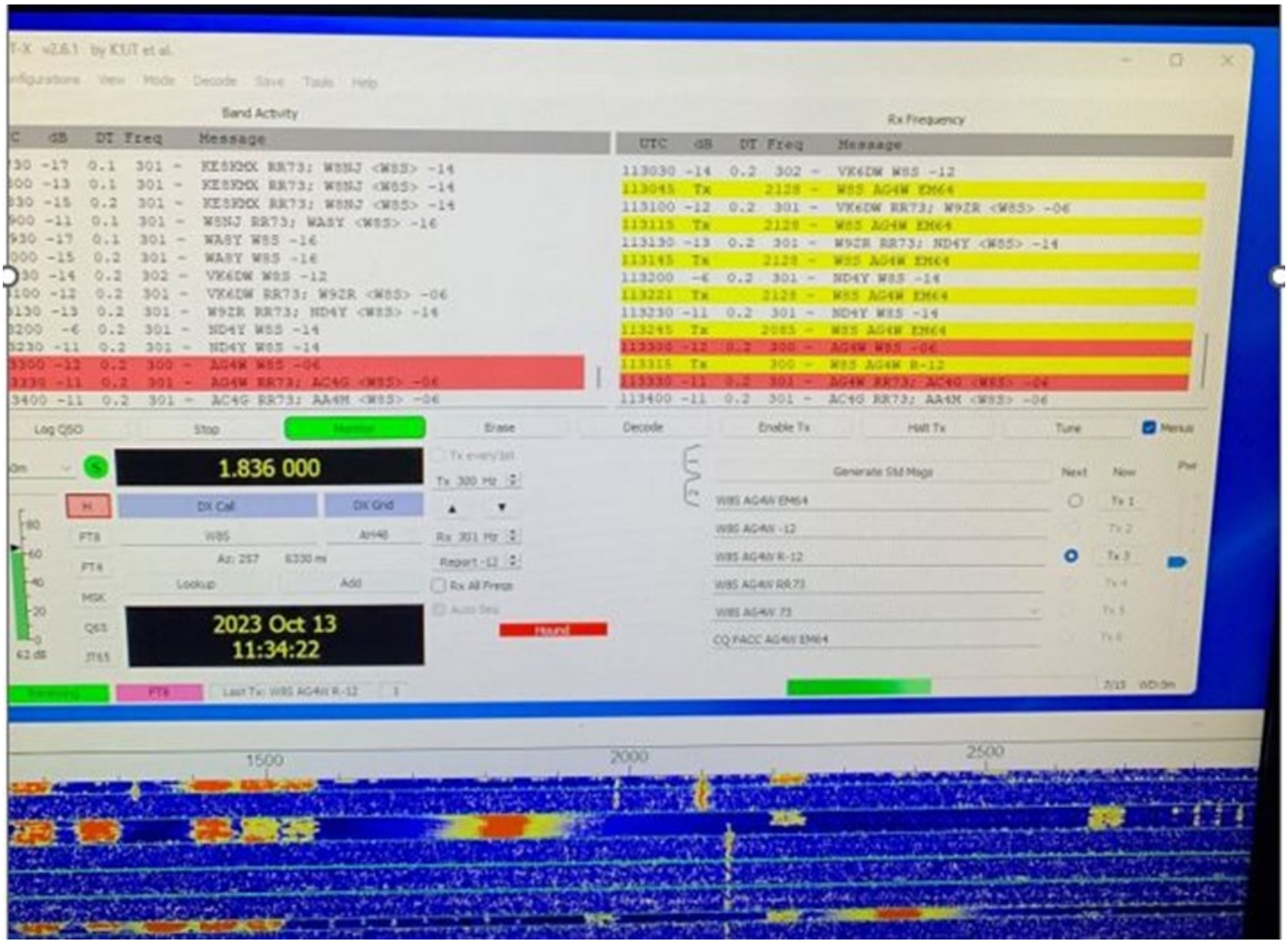

Figure 1: Typical Fox-Hound QSO by AC4G on 160m to Swains Island (Oct 2023)

From Standard FT8 to Super Fox FT8 Digital Mode (continued)

task to improve the WSJT FT8 2.6.1 Fox-Hound mode by creating a new waveform that is better than the previous waveform in the previous version of WSJT 2.6.1. This new version is called "Super Fox" mode. Much work was completed and version WSJT 2.70 – RC5 was released to the ham community in June 2024. Version RC5 was being used by the K8R teams and hams desiring to work K8R (American Samoa) as a trial run to work the "kinks" out of this latest version of software in preparation for the N5J Jarvis Island DXpedition in August 2024. The Jarvis Island DXpedition will be the first to use the latest waveform. Many benefits and improvements have been made to Version 2.7.0 - RC5 and will be explained and described.

The new waveform in version 2.7.1 – RC5 has a constant amplitude meaning that all power is applied all the time for up to 10 streams without any reduction in signal strength. One stream will be devoted for text messages such as "CQ" or to designate whether the DX station is legitimate or if the station is a "Pirate". The real K8R will send "K8R verified" to show the Hounds that they are legitimate. Hounds (non-DX) use the other nine (9) streams to call the Fox (DX station). The Fox (DX station) no longer has to manage the stream rate as it is maxed-out all the time for full strength. Below in Figure 2 is an example of a QSO using the new "Super Fox" FT8 mode. In the

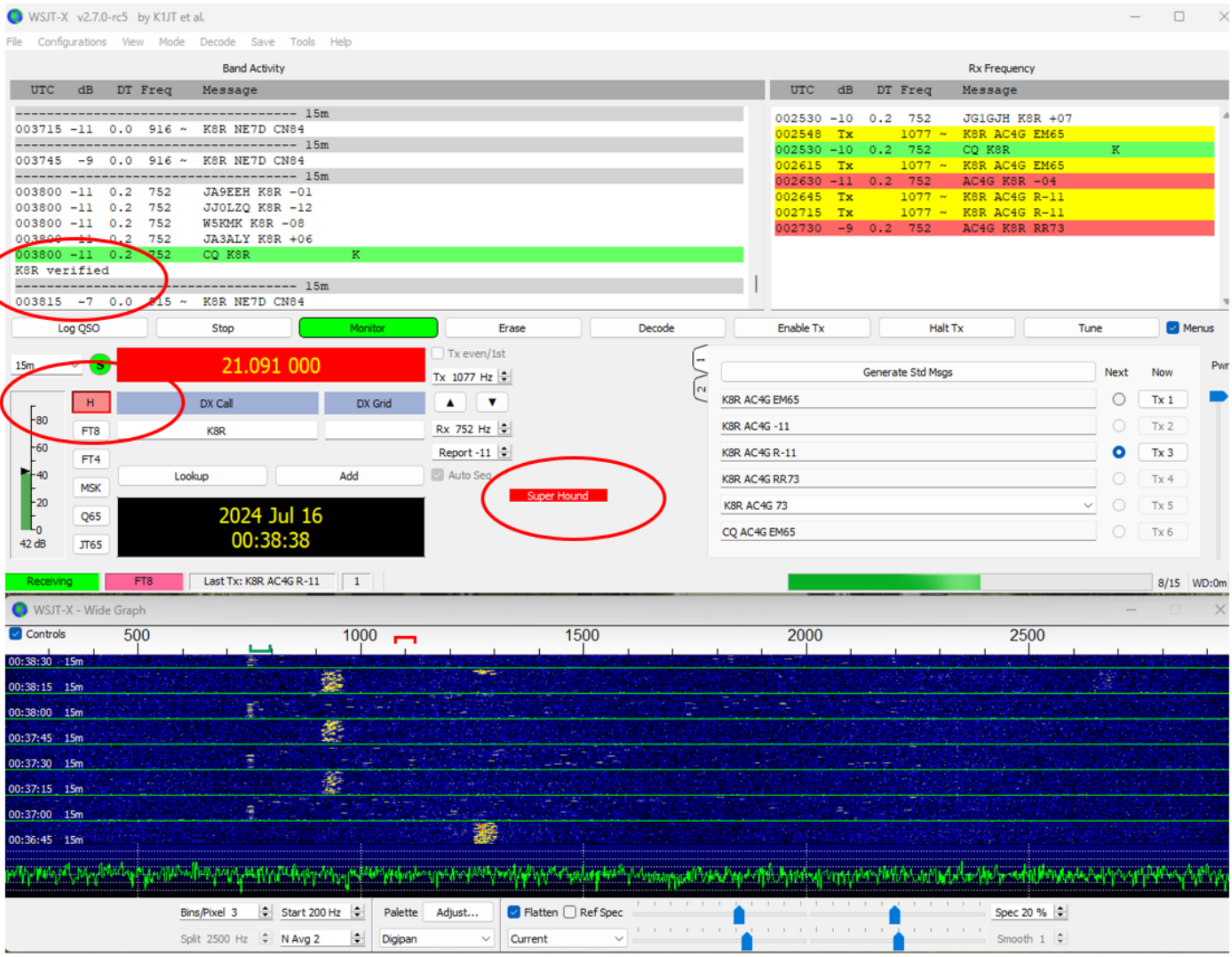

Figure 2: Example of Super Fox Mode QSO with K8R by AC4G

From Standard FT8 to Super Fox FT8 Digital Mode (continued)

trial runs, it was found that the signals for WSJT-X Version 2.70 – RC5 were weaker than should be. Therefore, the K1JT team made adjustment to the waveform and released Super Fox Mode, Version WSJT-X 2.70 – RC6. RC6 has been developed to enhance reception. RC6 is the current version being utilized.

No longer do the Hound stations calling the Fox have to transmit above 1 KHz. I proved this with my two QSOs with K8R (American Samoa) on 10m and 15m. For one QSO, I transmitted around 900 kHz, above the Fox but below the previous 1 Hz minimum Hound transmission location. [In version WSJT-X 2.6.1, the Hound had to transmit above 1 kHz. This is eliminated in Versions RC5 and RC6.] On the other QSO, I transmitted around 292 kHz, below the Fox. Both QSOs were successful. As mentioned above, the Hound can now transmit above or below the Fox in the latest version(s) of WSJT-X, similarly to MHSV mode.

Figure 2 is an example of the latest WSJT-X software improvement. There happens to be only a few stations calling in this example. One can see the single text stream being sent by the Fox (DX station). The text message is "K8R verified", meaning this is the real station and not a "Pirate" station. One can also see that the Fox (DX station) is also sending "CQ" with one stream (see Green in Band Activity). The other thing to notice is that "Super Hound" is shown in red lettering indicating that I was using "Super Fox" mode as a "Hound. If I had wanted to go to the "old" Fox-Hound mode, I would simply right click on the "H" and select standard "Fox-Hound" mode. Don't forget in Super Fox mode, the QSO rate can be up to 1800 QSO per hour. Wow! Wow! Also, Power is never reduced with multiple streams being transmitted by the Fox and Hounds can transmit either above or below the Fox, but within the Fox bandwidth.

Figure 3 shows the seven (7) Super Fox mode multiple streams. Note the stream consists of many dots versus the previous more solid streams.

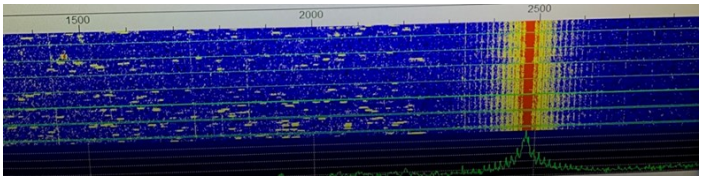

Figure 3: Seven Super Fox Streams

One important fact for the FOX station is that the Fox (DX station) needs a valid key for the operation, and it is only good for the one DX station. The key unlocks the DX transmitter to allow transmitting. Without a key, the Fox (DX station) will not transmit, and no audio can be received by the Hound. Keys will be generated by special software and issued by designated organizations such as the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) and they will send keys only to specific members of the DXpedition. This requires the DXpedition team to know the callsign and date and time the DXpedition will be operational while making their request. The key will only be valid for the time period of the DXpedition. Only the owner of the key can unlock the transmitter during this period when transmitting. The DX can send a verification text message to show the Hounds that the real DXpedition station is truly who they are. A text message can also send the frequencies where the DXpedition is operating at the current time received (2 each TX2 message and 4 each TX4 messages). This prevents "Pirate" operations.

Summary

I hope this article has been useful to shed some light on the evolution of FT8, why Super Fox mode was developed, and some details about Super Fox mode. Table 1, located at the end of this article, summarizes the latest improvements to WSJT-X FT8. In August 2024, I will be eager to see how the QSO rate will increase for the Jarvis Island (N5J) DXpedition using FT8 Super Fox mode and how well the DX community has adapted to the new version of WSJT-X software. Jarvis Island will be the first live test venue to prove the Super Fox mode. I am curious if the team can achieve 1800 QSOs per hour.

Please download the latest version of Su-

From Standard FT8 to Super Fox FT8 Digital Mode (continued)

per Fox prior to the Jarvis DXpedition (N5J) to familiarize yourself with the software and functions. I would not want anyone to miss out on a QSO because of lack of understanding the software. If you hear funny tones like a computer speaking (unlike the initial version of FT8 Fox-Hound) while using Super Fox in "Super Fox" mode, then you know you have the correct software and you are correctly receiving signals.

Thanks to K1JT and his team for their hard work to improve this mode. I must give the team kudos for adding an efficient mode for amateur radio operators to enjoy. The invention of FT8 has allowed even the smallest of stations with wire antennas and low power to work new DXCC countries that would have never been thought to be achieved. Good luck to all DX'ers and may the radio waves be in your favor as we continue DXing near the peak of Solar Cycle 25.

Standard Fox Hound Mode	Super Fox Mode
Version 2.6.1 Waveform (Has worked for several years)	Version RC6 Waveform - Modified for better reception & other benefits below
Varying Waveform – Power reduced if multiple streams utilized, loss of signal if DX uses multiple streams	Constant Waveform – No Power reduction for multiple streams (constant power)
Hounds Transmit above 1000 Hz, but within remaining bandwidth	No longer a requirement – Hounds transmit anywhere within the bandwidth
QSO Rate – 200 per hour	QSO Rate – 1800 per hour
Text Messages transmitted – CQ (one stream)	Text Message transmitted – Up to 4 (CQ, verified by DX Station, Operating on frequencies at this time, etc.)
Counterfeit Stations run rampant	Digital Keys – Generated & passed to DXpedition to verify correct DX Station

Table 1: Standard FT8 and Super Fox FT8 Improvements

K4A
"9/11 Remembering Our Heroes"
Special Event Station

The Alabama Contest Group (ACG) will be conducting a special event under the callsign K4A to honor the victims of the 9/11 terror attacks in New York City; Shanksville, PA; and Washington, D. C.

The special event will run from 00:01 GMT on Sept. 8, 2024 until 23:59 GMT on Sept. 12, 2024.
Operations are planned for 10m through 160m using SSB, FT8, CW, and RTTY.
A special QSL card will be available. Those who contact K4A on 3 bands can request a certificate.

More information can be found on the ACG webpage.
Special Event POC: Robert Beaudoin, WA1FCN
970 Mountainview Rd.
Cordova, AL 35550

Upcoming DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

WAE CW DX Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Aug 10, 0000Z to Aug. 11, 2359Z
Exchange: RST plus serial No. See web for QTC rules.
See page 72, August QST and www.darc.de

SARL HF Digital Contest (DIG), 80-20 meters

Aug. 11, 1300Z to 1600Z
Exchange: RST, serial no.
See page 72, Aug. QST and www.sarl.org.za

DARC FT4 Contest, (FT4), 80 meters

Aug. 13, 1900Z to Aug. 13, 2000Z
Exchange: RST, 4-char. grid square
See page 72, Aug. QST and www.darc.de

Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest, (CW), 20 meters

Aug. 15, 0000Z to Aug. 16, 0300Z
Exchange: RST, SPC, Name (<13WPM please)
See page 72, Aug. QST and qrpcontest.com/plgwalk20

Keymen's Club of Japan Contest (CW), 160-6 meters

Aug. 17, 1200Z to Aug. 18, 1200Z
Exchange: RST and CQ zone or JA prefecture
See page 72, Aug. QST and www.kcj-cw.com

SARTG WW RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Aug. 17, 0000Z to Aug. 18, 1600Z
Exchange: RST plus Serial No.
See page 72, August QST and www.sartg.com

Russian District Award Contest, (CW/PH), 160 – 10 meters

Aug. 17, 0800Z to Aug. 180800Z
Exchange: RS(T) + Serial or Russian district code
See page 72, Aug. QST and rda-ward.org/rdac1.htm

CVA (Brazil) DX Contest, (CW), 160 -10 meters

Aug. 17, 2100Z to Aug. 18, 2100Z
Exchange: RST + continent or Brazilian state
See page 72, Aug. QST and cvadx.org

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, (CW), 160 - 10 meters

Aug. 15, 0000Z to Aug. 16, 0300Z
Exchange: RST, SPC, member # or power
See page 72, Aug. QST and qrpcontest.com/pigrun

YO DX Contest, (CW,SSB), 80-10 meters

Aug. 24, 1200Z to Aug. 25, 1200Z
Exchange: RS(T), Serial or YO district
See page 72, August QST and www.yodx.ro

Worldwide Digi DX Contest (DIG – FT4, FT8) 160-10 Meters

Aug. 24, 1200Z to Aug. 25, 1200Z
Exchange: 4-character grid square
See: Page 72, Aug. QST and https://ww-digi.com/

CVA (Brazil) DX Contest, (SSB), 160 -10 meters

Aug. 17, 2100Z to Aug. 18, 2100Z
Exchange: RS + continent or Brazilian state
See page 72, Aug. QST and cvadx.org

Upcoming DX Contests (continued)

SARL HF CW Contest (CW), 80-20 meters
Aug. 25, 1400Z to 1700Z
Exchange: RST, serial no.
See page 72, Aug. QST and
www.sarl.org.za

UK/EI DX Contest (SSB), 80-10 meters
Aug. 31, 1200Z to Sept. 1, 1200Z
Exchange: RS, serial, UK/EI send district code
See page 72, Aug. QST and www.ukeicc.com

All Asian DX contest, (SSB), 80-10 meters
Sept. 7, 0000Z to Sept. 8, 2400Z
Exchange: RS plus 2-digit age
See https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2024AA_rule.htm

WAE DX Contest, (SSB), 80-10 meters
Sept. 9, 0000Z to Sept. 10, 2359Z
Exchange: RS, serial no.
See: www.darc.de

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware. See also: http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html

Upcoming NADXC Meeting

Tuesday, August 13th, 2024
5:45 PM Doors Open / 6:30 PM Meeting

Presentation: Mike Crownover, AD5A on the CB0ZA Juan Fernandez Island DXpedition

Location: Signals Museum of Information Explosion, 1806 University Drive NW, Huntsville, AL 35801 and via Zoom

About the NADXC

2024 NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Bruce Smith, AC4G
Vice President	Fred Kepner, K3FRK
Sec./Treasurer	Bob De Pierre, K8KI
Directors:	Mick Bell, N8AU
	Director #2 - Vacant

How to Join

Come to a club meeting or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)

Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held at the Museum of Information Explosion at 6:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Participants can also join the meeting virtually via Zoom.

This edition of The LongPath published by: Fred Kepner, K3FRK

DXpeditions in August 2024

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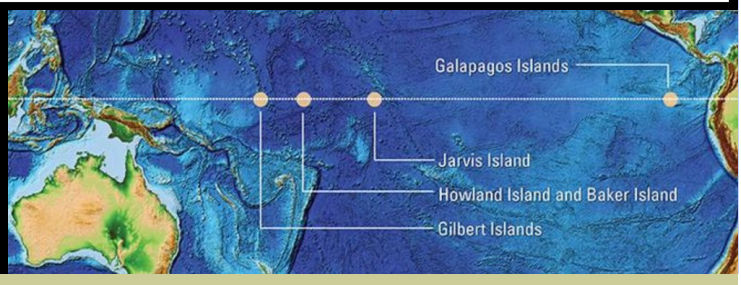
2024 Aug03	2024 Aug13	Maldives	8Q7GG	TBA	By S53RA; HF; CW SSB FT8; QRP
2024 Aug03	2024 Aug20	Albania	ZA	LoTW	By IU3MDI fm Shkoder as ZA/IU3MDI; 40-10m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via IU3MDI Buro or eQSL
2024 Aug04	2024 Aug12	Barbados	8P9MC	OE6MCX Direct	By OE6MCX; 40-6m; SSB FT8 FT4
2024 Aug07	2024 Aug19	Palmyra Jarvis Is	N5J	TBA	By AA7JV N1DG HA7RY KN4EEI KO8SCA fm Jarvis I (IOTA OC-081); 160-6m; CW SSB FT8; exact dates tentative
2024 Aug10	2024 Aug17	St Lucia	J6	LoTW	By N4XTT as J6/N4XTT fm POTA J6-0001; 40-10m; CW SSB FT8 FT4; holiday style operation; QSL via N4XXT direct
2024 Aug10	2024 Aug22	St Pierre & Miquelon	TO8FP	Club Log OQRS	By VE2GCE VA2MM VE2DDZ VA2XZA VE2YNI VA2AN; 80-6m; CW SSB + digital
2024 Aug11	2024 Aug18	Aland Is	OG0C	LoTW	By OH2MZB OH5BM OH2JIU OH5CZ OH5CY OH5CW; 160m-70cm; CW SSB + digital; QSL via OH5CW direct
2024 Aug13	2024 Aug20	Kyrgyzstan	EX	Home Call	By SP9DLM as EX/SP9DLM and SN9GM as EX/SN9GM; HF
2024 Aug14	2024 Aug24	Turks & Caicos	VP5	K5SL	By K5SL as VP5/K5SL fm Providenciales; 40-10m; CW SSB; holiday style operation
2024 Aug15	2024 Aug29	American Samoa	KH8	LoTW	By WE9G as WE9G/KH8; HF; mainly FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2024 Aug15	2024 Sep15	French Polynesia	FO	LoTW	By F1SMB as FO/F1SMB fm Tahiti (OC-046, BH52ek); 20 17 15 10m; SSB FT-8
2024 Aug17	2024 Aug30	Timor Leste	4W	LoTW	By VK2MET as 4W/VK2MET fm Dili; 40-12m; CW FT8; QRP; dipoles; POTA activations; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2024 Aug20	2024 Aug27	Vanuatu	YJ0VK	LoTW	By VK3HJ VK3QB VK2PN VK5XDX; 40-6m; CW, some FT8; QSL via M0OXO
2024 Aug23	2024 Sep30	Tristan da Cunha	ZD9GJ	LoTW	By W7GJ fm IOTA AF-029 (IF32uw); 6m; mainly EME, some SSB FT8; dates tentative
2024 Aug26	2024 Sep04	Ghana	9G5AS	eQSL	By M6NXW; 20 17 15 12 10; SSB FT8 FT4;
2024 Aug26	2024 Sep05	St Paul I	CY9C	LoTW	By WA4DAN W0GJ K9CT N2TU K4ZLE K9NW W4DKS WW2DX N2IEN W0PR as CY9C and CY9R; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8 RTTY + EME SAT; QSL via WA4DAN direct
2024 Aug29	2024 Sep30	Georgia	4L	LoTW	By F4JZW as 4L/F4JZW fm Rustavi; 80-6m; FT8 SSB
2024 Aug31	2024 Sep03	St Pierre & Miquelon	FP	LoTW	By DC8TM as FP/DC8TM and DF3TS as FP/DF3TS fm St Pierre; HF; SSB FT8; SOTA POTA WWFF sites



Club Business and Announcements

July 2024 Meeting Minutes

by Fred Kepner, K3FRK

July 9th, 2024 — The meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M. by President Bruce Smith, AC4G.

Attendance: AC4G, AG4W, AK4PR, K3FRK, K8KI, KF4BOG, KM4BGF, KQ4VT, N4BCD, N4CNZ, N4JR, N4NM, N5DF, NK3V, NN4NT, W5WQQ, and WA4HR.

- A reminder was shared to purchase tickets for the club's August 17th banquet.
- Details about Sandy Bell's memorial service were shared.
- Bob, K8KI moved to purchase a brick for Sandy, it was seconded by John, N5DF. A vote was held and the motion passed. Bob will place the order.
- Mark, N4BCD reported that planning for Hamfest is going smoothly and ticket sales are brisk. The price is $12 in advance and $15 at the door.
- Bruce mentioned that there is still some donated equipment for sale, including 3 new antennas that were recently added to the list (see the note in the July LongPath). Whatever is left will be sold at the club's Hamfest table.
- Bruce read through the DX worked by those in attendance.
- June's meeting minutes were approved by vote.
- Bob reported that 47 tickets had been sold so far, many of which are from out-of-town guests.
- Bob discussed potentially putting some of our club's funds into an interest earning account. He plans to present more information about it next month.
- The June Financial Report from the LongPath was approved by vote.
- Various banquet duties were identified and discussed:
    - Webpage updates will be done by Fred, K3FRK.
    - Barry, WA4HR is soliciting prizes from vendors.
    - Several folks are needed to welcome people and take tickets at the door.
    - Barry will sell additional raffle tickets during the banquet (up to 2 per person).
    - Bob will purchase the beer, wine, and soft drinks.
    - Steve will solicit prizes at Hamfest. He will need helpers.
    - We need people to man the flea market table on Saturday and Sunday.
    - We need people to man the DX Club booth on Saturday and Sunday.
    - Handouts are needed for Hamfest. Fred will print a pile of the Club Info sheets.
    - Rob, NN4NT will help Fred distribute the prizes at the banquet.
    - Bob will coordinate all business with the caterer.
    - Bob will need some setup help prior to

July 2024 Meeting Minutes (continued)

the banquet.

- Steve, KI4KWR will work the A/V.

New Business

- A funding request was received for 3D2Z, Rotuma Island. They are making an effort to have some younger operators on the DXpedition to be trained and gain experience. The team is expected to consist of 3 experienced and 3 younger operators. Steve, AG4W is a backup for the DXpedition and spoke highly of the group and their efforts to recruit youngsters. Bruce and Steve both suggested funding the DXpedition. A motion was made by multiple members to fund at $300, which was approved by vote.
- Fred reported on K8R's use of the new Super Fox mode to test in preparation for Jarvis Island, N5J.
- Bruce reported that LOTW is back in service and processing uploads in near real-time.
- Walt, AJ6T was recognized for placing in the VHF contest. Chris NV4B also placed in the Rover category.
- A discussion was held asking Bruce to send a note to ARRL to ask, as an affiliated club, what happened with the ARRL website and how it was recovered.

The meeting was closed at 7:15pm.

Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA provide a presentation on the W8S DXpedition to Swains Island, which was named the 2023 DXpedition of the Year.

Member Equipment for Sale

1. New Elecraft KPA1500 amplifier and tuner
2. Variety of LDG antenna tuners from QRP to 1 KW.
3. Variety of motorized HF antennas (Hi-Q, Tarheel, Yaesu, etc.) for mobile or base use
4. Variety of bhi Noise Cancellation units
5. BlueSky Lite 10-meter portable mast with case

Contact Barry, W4WB at barryw4wb@gmail.com if interested.

Financial Update

by Bob De Pierre, K8KI

This month we'll all enjoy another great Huntsville Hamfest and our annual DX Banquet. The banquet will be at the museum for the third straight year. Fred/K3FRK has updated our web page to reflect all the details. Again, the social hour starts at 5:30 and dinner at 6:30 on that Saturday. We can't sell any liquor, but we can give away wine and beer...at no extra charge. If you haven't bought a ticket yet, you can find them at: North Alabama DX Club Banquet Tickets – North Alabama DX Club (nadxc.org).

Here is our integrated financial status for the end of July. The first column is the targets we set for the year, and it's our road map for where we're going. That's the course I try to stay on. We can deviate from it, of course, but we need to consider that when we do. The second column is where we're at now over the year, and the third column shows how we progressed this last month. Looking at it you can see that there will be substantial financial activity in August.

We have now funded four DXpeditions: Clipperton, E Kiribati, Bouvet, and most recently Jarvis ... which just came on the air. I'll be looking for them, especially on the low bands. Unfortunately for me, my 8-year-old Flex died two weeks ago. It's in the radio hospital and won't be back until after the hamfest. But luckily, KG5VK has offered his Flex to me over the internet, and he has a better antenna farm than I do.

We need your inputs on our DX Club picnic and the Christmas dinner at the next meeting.

As you probably know by now, high winds took out all of the museum's antennas recently. We hope to have the VHF antennas up by the time of our meeting, but the hf antenna was destroyed and is going to be very expensive. How much do you want to get an antenna back up? Let's talk.

2024 NADXC Financial Status		07/31/24	End July	
Budget Category	Targets	Year Totals	**Subtotal**	Notes
Year Start	**9224**	9,223.89	8935.05	
Dues In	**1150**	534.21	20.00	
Huntsville Hamfest Donation				
Recurring Exp	**-1175**			
recurring expenses		-57.00		
repeater elect	-160			
web hosting/domain service	-20			
repeater maintenance				
to HARC for Zoom	-50	-100		
use of museum	-400	-400		
Miscellaneous	-475			
DX Plaque	-70			
Bank checks				
Other Transactions	**-320**			
Donations/equipment to sell	500			
Dxpeditions	-700	-850.00	-300.00	Clipperton, E Kiribati
Picnic	-120			Bouvet, Jarvis
Brick for M Winter				
DX plaque				
DX Banquet	**-170**			
venue	-700	*-700.00*		
food	*-2350*			
speaker+room+travel	*-450*			
ticket sales	*3650*	*2,711.97*	*1,708.02*	
raffle	*400*			
grand prize	*-400*			
beer/wine/soft drinks/glasses	*-200*			
insurance	*-120*			
EOY Bank Delta	**-515**			
Year End Bank Balance	**8,709**	10,363.07	10,363.07	

Huntsville Hamfest 2024

The World's Friendliest Hamfest ®

In our 71st year!

Saturday August 17 9 AM to 4:30 PM
Sunday August 18 9 AM to 3 PM

Von Braun Center South Hall
700 Monroe St. SW, Huntsville, AL 35801

- Expanded to use ALL of South Hall
- World Class Educational Forums
- License Exams both days
- Outstanding Youth Lounge
- Over 50 Commercial Vendors
- Huge Expanded Flea Market
- DX Banquet
- All indoors & air-conditioned
- DX Card Checking
- Hospitality Suite at on-site Hotel
- YL Breakfast
- Saturday Grand Prize – Yaesu FT-991A
- Sunday Main Prize – Icom IC-705
- Hourly Door Prizes both days

Hosting the ARRL Southeastern Convention

www.hamfest.org

Helpful Hamfest Links

- Forum list with summaries - 36 different forums for everyone, from beginners to elmers.
  - Saturday forum schedule
  - Sunday forum schedule
- Vendors - 94+ vendor booths.
- Floor plan - 100,000 sq. ft. of dealer exhibits, booths, and flea market tables.
- List of door prizes
- License testing registration
- Youth lounge
- Maps and parking info
- Hotel info
- HH history and general info
- Tickets can be purchased at the door for $15 or for the discounted rate of $12 if purchased online.

North Alabama DX Club (NADXC)

"Club Fact Sheet"

Who We Are: NADXC is a group of active radio amateurs with a deep compassion for working DX, contesting, and other aspects of Amateur Radio. We welcome everyone who is interested in joining our club. NADXC members are active in all facets of DX and contesting. The NADXC also donates funding for various DXpeditions all over the world. The NADXC sponsors a DX Banquet in mid-August of every year in conjunction with the Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville, Alabama. NADXC members moderate various programs at club meetings and during the Huntsville Hamfest, covering amateur radio technical and operating topics for all to learn and enjoy. The NADXC sponsors a prestigious award at the end of year for the most deserving DXer of the Year from the NADXC club.

DX Funding Policy: The policy supports major DXpeditions that meet our requirements for financial sponsorship. Details are available on the NADXC website and in the "Longpath" newsletter.

Club History: The NADXC was organized in December 1966 by a group of 12 charter members. The original constitution was adopted and signed on December 19, 1966. The first chairman was Dan Whitsett, W4BRE (SK). In the early-1970's, the NADXC was custodian of the W4, K4 QSL Bureau which became such a huge undertaking that it eventually was passed to other larger clubs. In January of 1977, the club bought a VHF repeater for sharing DX spots and hosting a weekly net on Wednesday nights. The repeater was located on Redstone Arsenal, Weeden Mountain using the frequencies of 147.91/147.31 MHz on two meters. Today, the repeater has been relocated and utilizes the frequencies of 147.90/147.30 MHz, with a callsign of W4QB. The weekly net has been discontinued. In 1980, the club started the monthly newsletter known as the "Longpath" which currently continues to be produced every month.

While organized as a DX club, NADXC members are active in all aspects of the hobby. We trust that this information will be of interest to all and hope all hams have a long and pleasant association with the NADXC.

Requirements for Membership: The NADXC welcomes all hams radio operators who have an interest in DXing. It does not matter whether you are a new ham, a seasoned ham operator, an old-timer to DXing, or a ham who has just been hit with the DX bug; everyone is welcome! See the club website: www.nadxc.org. Dues are paid in January of every year.

Meetings: The NADX club meets the second Tuesday night of every month, with the current location at the Signals Museum of Information Explosion (MIE) located at 1806 University Drive, Huntsville, Alabama and virtually via Zoom. Some members gather early to eat their dinner, socialize, discuss DX worked, and then we have a short business meeting starting at 6:30 P.M. CT. followed by an exciting, interesting program to help, entertain, and teach members about DX and amateur radio in general.

Club Officers: There are four elected officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and three elected directors on the NADXC Board of Directors. The current roster of club officers and directors can be seen of the NADXC web site or in the "Longpath" newsletter, which is uploaded each month to the club website.

Website: The NADXC club maintains a website at www.nadxc.org. This site provides club information and activities throughout the year about a variety of subjects related to the club, DX, and amateur radio.