The LongPath

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From the President

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

The warm temperatures that we have been experiencing lately in late February and early March make it tough to stay inside and more difficult to sit in the operating chair and turn the VFO to make QSOs. My mind keeps wondering about all the work I need to do to keep my station on the air. Perhaps the cold temperatures will completely move out soon to allow us to do the outside antenna work that perhaps we each may have to do to fine tune our antennas for the next major DXpedition or DX contest.

I spent several hours in the operating seat the first few days of March participating in the ARRL DX SSB Contest. During this contest, I experienced some peculiar things happening with my logging software. First, every time I went to log a QSO, my transceiver quickly keyed. Only having made 211 QSOs, the transceiver keyed 211 extra times besides my regular voice transmissions. Another issue I experienced with my logging software is that on the summary page, 14 MHz was listed twice instead of one time. I never could figure out why and what I needed to do to correct these problems.

Getting on the air allows a ham to work the kinks out of their station. Prior to the ARRL DX SSB Contest, I had been experiencing issues with WSJT-X. I cannot operate in Super Fox mode if I log directly to Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD). However, WSJT-X will operate in Super Fox mode in stand-alone mode. HRD is also doing some flakey things. I have run virus scans and not found any issues. I am still analyzing my Intel i7 Personal Computer to see what suddenly changed.

I am looking forward to our club meeting this month. We will have our business meeting and then go into our program. I will remind our membership that Kelley Johns, W4WPZ, is our new Repeater Trustee. I will ask for a show of hands to see who worked our very own North Alabama DX Club (NADXC) member from Albania, ZA/W4CK. I also look forward to hearing Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, speak on the recent CY9C DXpedition to St. Paul Island. I am sure most, if not all our NADXC membership made at least one QSO with CY9C. I hope each member will be able to make it to the meeting this month and share with us any DX worked since the last meeting.

73, Bruce/AC4G

Tales From the Museum: Benjamin Franklin's Experiments with Electricity

By Bob DePierre, K8KI

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) was a widely talented and aggressive man who was able to accomplish many activities, and surprisingly all at the same time: writer, scientist, inventor, statesman, diplomat, printer, publisher, and political philosopher. He was one of the founding fathers of the new republic, drafter and signer of the Declaration of Independence, and many others. His keen interest in electricity began in the early 1740s, and his major contributions lasted until around 1755, although his interest remained until he died.

By 1743, ALL electrical research came out of Europe. But the next step came from the last place anyone would look: Philadelphia. By that time we had the means of generating static electricity, but Ben was quick to improve it (so it took only one person to operate the generator). He began to notice phenomena that went contrary to common beliefs, and took copious notes of what he found. He also picked up the concept of the Leyden Jar (the first capacitor), which could store electricity from his generator. He theorized that electricity was not made of wool or glass, but rather an excess or shortage of "fire" (electrons), and that they always seemed to go in the same direction. They also wanted to go to ground, but Ben recognized they needed a closed circuit! He gave names to the flow of fire: positive and negative, although that was backwards from the way we view it today. He also discovered Kirchhoff's voltage law (loop equation) 100 years early!

All matter contains charges. When you rub matter, you don't create electricity; you only move charges. This was contrary to the prevailing theory that when you rubbed glass, you created glass-like electricity and when you rubbed a wax-like object you created wax-like electricity. In his 1750 book, Franklin claimed lightning was the same as the sparks he got in his lab. He thought lightning clouds were incontestably the same as electricity.

The Leyden Jar was not only the first type of capacitor invented, it was the first electrical component invented (inductors and resistors came later). The Leyden Jar was a key discovery that helped unlock many of our electrical mysteries. While we now know that electricity comes from an excess or shortage of electrons, at that time all sorts of kooky explanations described how a compass worked, what lightning was, or how electricity traversed through a circuit.

Franklin built a large number of Leyden Jars. When looking at them all arranged, he remarked that they looked like a battery of cannons, and a new word was added to the language. Those jars got so popular that Franklin soon started to set them up for "electrocution parties" at his home. With the jars charged, folks could dance around in a circle while connected to them. The first couple to let go would then get a surprise! That started in 1749.

By 1750 he started investigating lightning. His sentry box experiment led to the ground rods we use today to protect from lightning.

In 1752, he made a silk kite with a sharp wire sticking out of it. He connected a line of wire and twine that was tied to a metal key and a Leyden Jar, plus a silk rope between his hand and the key. He stood under a doorway to protect himself from the lightning. The kite experiment was based on the clouds being electrified, not on the kite being struck by lightning. He got a shock when he brought his knuckles close to the key. The kite

Tales From the Museum: Benjamin Franklin's Experiments with Electricity (continued)

was not struck by lightning, even though many people thought he was (he could have been killed if it was). He did need a stormy day when the clouds were electrically charged. Franklin did not discover electricity, but proved that lightning was a form of static electricity.

By 1750, interest in electricity in France was growing, and it was turning into a political contest with gusto. Franklin didn't realize this, but sent his notes to one side, and those notes turned current thought upside down. Those notes became enormously helpful, and he became extremely popular in a hurry. He landed on the winning side in the French Revolution, and gained financial support for the American Revolution in the process. When he arrived in Paris, he became the toast of the town, and later when he went there to raise money for the American Revolution, he was already a hero and found it easy to garner help.

Benjamin Franklin Drawing Electricity from the Sky by Benjamin West (1816)

By the 1760's, his attention had been diverted from electricity to politics, although he continued to work on science for the rest of his life. The Sparks Museum has a Leyden Jar on display in the Franklin Room. Leyden Jars were the only capacitors in common use until after about 1900.

Call for Volunteers: YOTA Camp 2026

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

Neil Rapp, WB9VPG is a long-time podcaster for the Ham Talk LIVE program and co-founder of Youth On The Air (YOTA) in the Americas (Region 2). He has asked me to introduce and rally local support.

Youth On The Air Camps are held in numerous countries around the world for hams ages 15 to 25. Each camp supports up to 50 youths. The camps focus on building strong relationships with peers and mentors, and developing new skills.

The US camp will be closely modeled after the IARU Region 1 camp (EU, AF, & Middle East). The 2025 event will occur the week of June 15-20 in Denver, CO. Huntsville has been chosen to host the 2026 US YOTA Camp! Huntsville has been asked to supply 4 to 6 local volunteers to assist at the event, with the YOTA organization providing the rest. The date is still TBD but will not interfere with Field Day. The location is likely to be the Marriott at the US Space & Rocket Center.

More information about YOTA and vetting of volunteers can be found at these sites:

- https://youthontheair.org/
- https://youthontheair.org/denver2025/
- https://youthontheair.org/volunteers/

One lucky volunteer will be invited to Denver this year to see how it's done. Airfare & Lodging will be provided by YOTA.

This is not a Hamfest function. Neil asked me to promote this locally. If you're interested in helping, please email mark.n4bcd (at) yahoo (dot) com.

Antenna Maintenance

By Steve Werner, AG4W

As spring approaches, I have had a few opportunities to get outside and do some antenna repairs. I have spent a lot of time making high performance antennas for all bands from 160m to 70cm, including several low band receiving antennas. Unfortunately, as I age, so do the antennas. Recently I examined the coax on the beverage antennas. I was disappointed to see the Commscope 75-ohm RG-6 had cracked. This coax is about 10 years old. It was worse on one beverage than the other. It appears sunlight had a bad effect on the orange jacket. Any color other than black seems like a bad idea. That really applies to cable ties. Many of those require replacement after 3 or 4 years. I also replaced a broken screw on the EME antenna. Tightening screws, and inspecting connectors, cable ties and coax can save you from failures that will most likely show up in the middle of a contest or trying to get that all time new DX station.

Above: Steve recommends against coax with colored jackets.

Right: Black coax stands up better to UV but will still crack with age.

I also replaced the Heliax connectors for my 432MHz EME array. I have had issues in the past with these and have finally got the knack how to put them on. The main issue is getting a flare on the Heliax shield before connector assembly. I use a drill chuck to perform that operation. The SWR is favorable again and I can start with improvements to the performance of the antenna. Most antenna problems end up being connector problems.

Steve installed a new Heliax connector

Having high performance feedline is essential to run 900 watts on 2 meters and 450 watts on 70 cm. Good coax is also required on receive unless a switched preamplifier is used at the antenna.

I recently received my 6 Meter DXCC, so 2 Meter DXCC is the next goal. It took 25 years to go from 5 Band DXCC to 10 Band DXCC. For me, 10 band DXCC was much harder to get than Honor Roll or 2700 on DXCC Challenge. I am very happy we had such good F layer propagation on 6 meters in November. I currently have 50 countries confirmed on 2 meters. Fourteen hams have worked over 200 countries on 2 meters but the total number of hams that have 2-meter DXCC covers only 1 and a quarter pages in the DXCC standings. By comparison, on 6 meters there are 8 pages in the DXCC standings.

Steve now has DXCC on 10 bands!

I Was Had by a Ham Radio Pirate

By Bruce Smith, AC4G

I often peruse the Ham Radio magazines and journals such as the American Radio Relay League publication, "QST" each month. Many times, I come across articles suggesting that licensed ham operators have ventured outside of their band privileges. I have seen ham operators holding a current, "Technician" license being caught by the self-policing Official Observers (OO) who continually police the ham bands having put in many hours toward this effort to keep the amateur radio bands free from those who might reap havoc. Most of the time, these hams just merely forget the frequencies allocated to them and they get busted and receive an "OO" notification telling them to beware of their band privileges.

On the other hand, in the broadcast world, there are "Pirate Radio Stations" and "Pirate Operators" that exist. A pirate radio station is one that is unlicensed or not having a valid license, and broadcasts signals in the radio frequency spectrum without the necessary approval, mainly not having a license. In the U.S., the Federal Communications Commission regulates who can transmit signals in any portion of the radio spectrum. When they find a pirate station, they shut them down and typically levy a huge fine to prevent them from broadcasting again in the future without an approved license.

"Pirates" in the ham radio world differ to some degree, when specifically talking about DXing. A "pirate" in DX terminology is a station who typically assumes the callsign of a rare DX station or regular special event ham station and uses their callsigns to make contact after contact with DX'ers and/or other ham radio stations. The innocent ham radio operator on the other end of the pileup does not knowing that a "fake" station is operating (instead of the genuine ham station that has approval and the license to use a particular callsign), resulting in many DX'ers working a pirate or fake, logging the QSO believing they have made a genuine QSO with a particular station they sought on the bands. When they request a QSL card, they only find a message back from the DXpedition QSL manager, "Not in the Log". This is a severe blow to the DXer who thought they had worked an all-time new one (ATNO) or a new band country for their DXCC Award.

I was recently duped into making a QSO with a "pirate" station. As a matter of fact, I made three (3) QSOs on 30m, a CW QSO, and two Digital QSOs only to realize that I was not in the real-time log of all three, but a couple QSOs turned out to be okay.

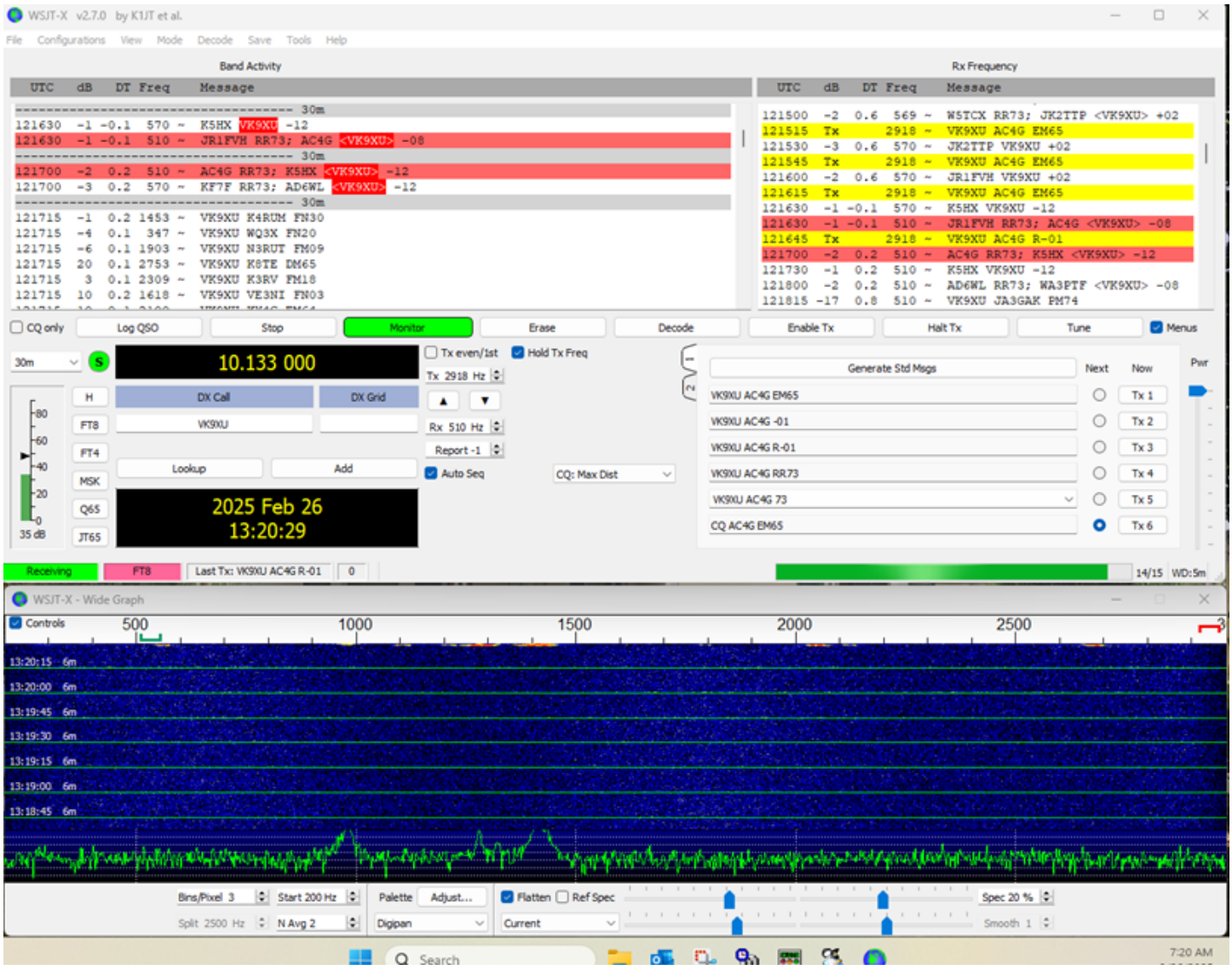
One afternoon, I made a QSO with a station signing VK9XU on 24 MHz CW. A quick glance at the real-time logs never displayed my callsign as making a QSO with the station. After a couple of days, I realized that I was "Not in the Log". Had I made a QSO with a pirate? It is fortunate that we have technology for us to check logs in real-time and/or a day or so later to see if our QSO was legitimate. My CW QSO was not good, or so I thought. A couple days later, I made a QSO with VK9XU again, but as I took a look at the logs, the DXpedition logs revealed I had made two (2) QSOs on 24 MHz CW with VK9XU. The original QSO finally showed up after checking the logs a dozen times prior to the second CW QSO. To this day, I cannot figure out why some QSOs show up instantly, while others do not.

Another morning in February, I was chasing VK9XU (Christmas Island) on 30m FT8, I worked them on FT8 MSHV mode and logged it, never

I Was Had by a Ham Radio Pirate (continued)

thinking of working a pirate. Steve, AG4W saw my QSO and my "RR73" and we both believed I had made a QSO, until Steve made the QSO and his QSO showed up in the logs immediately, but my QSO did not. Steve advised me to work them again. I did via Fox-Hound mode, but my QSO did not show up in the real-time logs a second time. We both checked. I assumed that I had worked another pirate. A day or so later, my QSO showed up, but only one of the two QSOs on 30m. I had worked a pirate. I began to wonder why the lag, but in the end, it really did not matter. My one QSO was finally a good QSO with a legitimate station. However, the first QSO was with a true pirate.

When one works a pirate, this can lead to much frustration and when I worked this pirate (Picture 1), I felt like a sucker. I just wonder what makes a ham such as this be so mean. What kind of thrill do they get? When we as ham operators make a QSO with a station located anywhere in



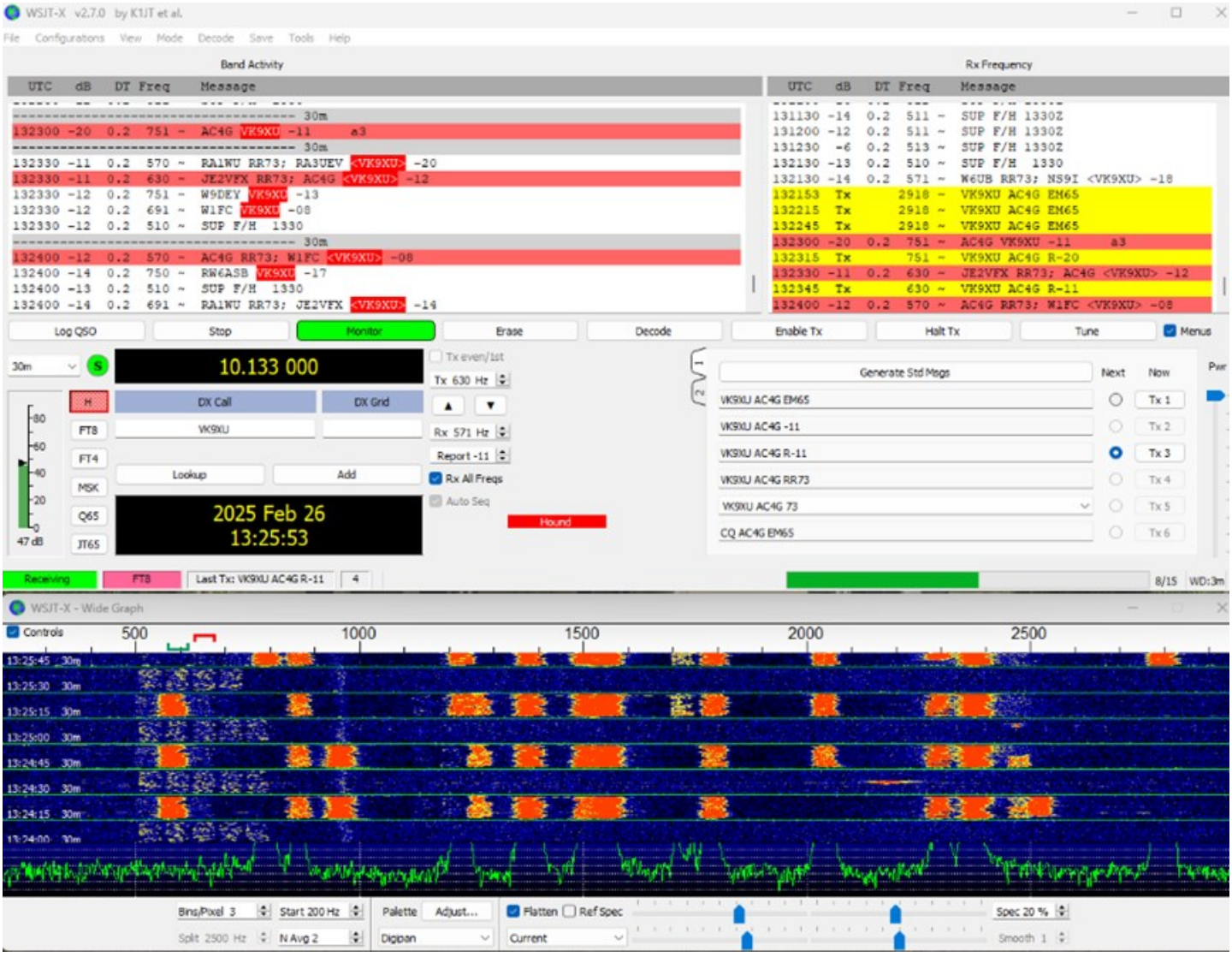
Picture 1: First Attempt at 30m FT8 QSO w/ VK9XU (MSHV Mode). This QSO never appeared in the log.

I Was Had by a Ham Radio Pirate (continued)

the world, there is always a chance that a callsign could be bootlegged.

One day many months ago, I recall making QSOs with Europe on a band, but as I changed bands, I began to see my callsign being used to work someone else, a pirate on this other band, when I was not transmitting. Wow, what a surprise. I called the station using my callsign and the transmissions from the pirate ceased immediately. Again, I felt like a sucker on this occasion.

To this day, I continue to wonder what makes a ham such as this pirate function and continue to do these vicious acts. Perhaps we'll never know, but always make sure to check the resources available to determine if you are making QSOs with the genuine station. Super Fox has a function for hams to know when the true DXpedition transmitted. Don't be had by a ham radio pirate like I did.



Picture 2: Second Attempt at 30m FT8 QSO w/ VK9XU (Fox-Hound Mode). This QSO showed up in the Clublog online log, letting Bruce know that he worked the real station this time.

Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty

By Neil Schwanitz, WD8CRT/V73NS

In the world of CW there is one way to display poor operating skills and add QRM at the same time. As DX, I can tell you I hear it all too often, the Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty... commonly known as a question mark.

I can be sorting my way through a pile up and they appear... Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty's. It seems one breeds another and another. No DX station in their right mind will stop everything to work a Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty. Who is this station that is so impatient that they refuse to LISTEN and think this is a way to get the DX station to answer them so they can rapidly send their exchange and run off to Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty the next DX spot? Everyone else is listening and sending only at the proper time. If they are in a hurry to work me because they were being called to save the world... they should have told me!

Other times I can be CQ'ing in the clear and magically from the speaker comes... Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty. Again, someone not listening! But I was listening and heard a station transmit (without ID'ing) so I logically send QRZ? which means, "who is calling me?" This must have gone in one of their ears and out the other so they send Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty, telling me they are confused by my last transmission, so I again will ask, QRZ? You'd think they would be able to copy three letters and one punctuation... maybe not because I again hear a Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty sent. Maybe they need to brush up on their Q-signals?

Partial calls are a no no on CW, but maybe their call is something, something, IMI? Either way it's a bad operating practice.

There have been other times when the Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty's couldn't understand the QRZ? that I sent, someone else did and chimed in with their call sign, which gets them into the log and an exchange is sent.

Sending a Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty is rude, annoying, and the sure sign of a lid. Don't do it! If the DX is calling CQ, they plan on being on the air for a while so spend some time listening. If the station asks, QRZ?... tell them your call. Same goes in a pile up. There are 40 stations that know the DX's call and are trying to get in. Wait a few minutes, listen, and send your call once you know who you're trying to work. The Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty's don't control things... they only wish they did. DX stations do ID often, a few minutes isn't going to ruin your day.

I'm not a phone operator but I seriously doubt you hear anyone say Ditty Dumb Dumb Ditty there.

Be a top shelf CW op and don't subject yourself to the wrath of the Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch.

Upcoming NADXC Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 2025
5:45 PM Doors open / 6:30 PM meeting

Program: "CY9C DXpedition to St. Paul Island" by Glenn Johnson, W0GL

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

Upcoming DX Contests

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

South America 10 Meter Contest, (CW/SSB), 10m

Mar. 8, 1200Z to Mar. 9, 1200Z
Exchange: RS(T), CQ Zone
See page 72, Mar. QST and https://sa10m.com.ar/wp/rules

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW), 160 Meters

Mar 8, 1500Z to Mar 9, 1500Z
Exchange: 4-Character grid square
See page 72, Mar. QST or http://www.kkn.net/stew/

Tesla Memorial HF CW Contest, (CW), 80 & 40 Meters

Mar 8, 1800Z to Mar, 9, 0559Z
Exchange: RST plus Serial #
See page 72, Mar. QST and https://www.radiosport.yu1srs.org.rs/HFTeslaMemorial/

FIRAC HF Contest, (CW), 80 – 10 Meters

Mar. 9,0700Z to Mar. 9, 1700Z
Exchange: RST, Serial #, Power, & member # or "NM"
See page 72, Mar. QST and www.firac.de

BARTG HF RTTY Contest, (DIG), 80 – 10 Meters

Mar 15, 0200Z to Mar 17, 0159Z
Exchange: RST plus 3-digit S.N. plus 4-digit UTC time.
See page 72, Mar. QST or www.bartg.org.uk

Russian DX Contest (PH/CW), 160 - 10 Meters

Mar 15, 1200Z to Mar 16, 1200Z
Exchange: RS(T) + serial #; or RS(T) + Oblast #
See page 72, Mar. QST or www.rdxc.org

F9AA Cup SSB, (SSB), 80 – 10 plus 2 meters

Mar, 15, 1200Z to Mar. 16, 1200Z
Exchange: RS, Serial #
See page 72, Mar. QST and www.site.urc.asso.fr

UBA Spring Contest, SSB (SSB), 80 Meters

Mar, 16, 0700Z to Mar 16, 1100Z
Exchange: RS, Serial, UBA section (if any)
See page 72, Mar. QST or www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules

Africa All-Mode International DX Contest, (CW/SSB/DIG), 80 – 10 Meters

Mar. 22, 1200Z to Mar. 23, 1200Z
Exchange: RS(T), Serial #
See page 72, Mar. QST and mysarl.org.za

CQWW WPX Contest, SSB, (PH), 160 – 10 meters

Mar 29, 0000Z to Mar 30, 2359Z
Exchange: RS plus Serial #.
See page 72, Mar. QST or www.cqwpx.com/rules.htm

OTHERS

SP DX Contest, 1500Z April 5 to 1500Z April 6

OK1WC Memorial, 1630Z to 1729Z, Apr. 7

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

DXpeditions in March 2025

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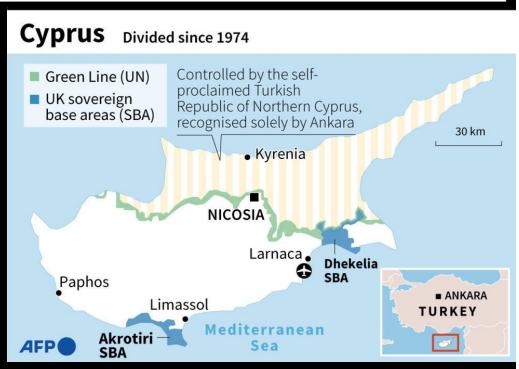
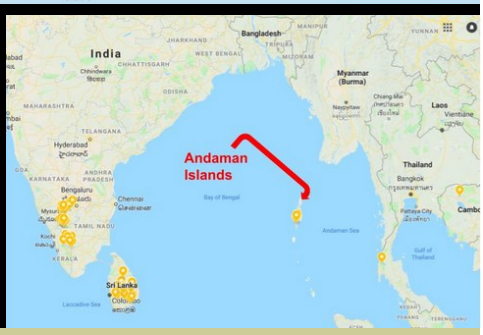
Start	End	DX Entity	Callsign	QSL info	Notes
2025 Mar01	2025 Mar09	Montserrat	VP2MMN	DF8AN	By DF8AN; 80-6m, incl 60m; CW + digital, perhaps SSB
2025 Mar01	2025 Mar30	Jamaica	6Y	LoTW	By G4SGX as G4SGX/6Y fm Strawberry Fields, St Marys; 80-10m; CW FT8; QSL via M0OXO
2025 Mar03	2025 Mar04	St Lucia	J68SS	NY3B	By NY3B fm IOTA NA-108; 80-10m; CW SSB
2025 Mar03	2025 Mar18	Comoros Is	D68Z	LoTW	By IV3FSG; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY FT8 FT4; QSL via Club Log OQRS or IK2WAD
2025 Mar03	2025 Apr01	Turks & Caicos	VP5	LoTW	By W1DED as VP5/W1DED; HF; possibly QRV using VP5E in WPX SSB
2025 Mar02	2025 Mar08	Albania	ZA	LoTW	By W4CK as ZA/W4CK fm Tirana; 80-10m; CW; 100w; wires
2025 Mar04	2025 Mar11	Cocos Keeling	VK9CU	LoTW	By DL2AWG DF4GV DL2AMD DJ9RR VK6SJ VK6CQ:; HF; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; 500w; 3 stations, 24/7; QSL via DL2AWG (LoTW after 6 months)
2025 Mar05	2025 Mar16	Barbados	8P9CB	LoTW	By WA7RAR; 20-10m; SSB CW; 100w; QSL via WA7RAR direct
2025 Mar08	2025 Mar15	Turks & Caicos	VP5	LoTW	By WW1X as VP5/WW1X fmProvidenciales I (IOTA NA-002); HF; mainly SSB, perhaps FT8; QRP
2025 Mar08	2025 Mar29	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	LoTW	By G4XWM as V4/G4XWM fm Calypso Bay (IOTA NA-104); HF; SSB CW; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2025 Mar09	2025 Mar10	Antigua & Barbuda	V26MN	DF8AN	By DF8AN; 80-6m, incl 60m; CW + digital, perhaps SSB
2025 Mar09	2025 Mar19	San Andres &	HK0A	LoTW	By K3ARC fm San Andres I; 20-10m; SSB, QRS CW; QSL via K3ARC direct
2025 Mar09	2025 Apr05	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	LoTW	By AA9A; 40-6m; CW FT8 FT4; QSL via AA9A
2025 Mar10	2025 Mar11	St Martin	FS	DF8AN	By DF8AN; 80-6m, incl 60m; CW + digital, perhaps SSB
2025 Mar10	2025 Mar25	Andaman Is	VU4AX	M0URX	By ON4AMX ON4HIL ON5UR ON5RA ON5TN ON6CC ON7FT ON7USB ON7RU ON8AZ PA9M PA3EWP; HF; CW SSB + digital; 6 stations
2025 Mar11	2025 Apr26	Guyana	8R1TM	LoTW	By PY1SAD fm Georgetown (GJ06vs); HF; CW SSB + digital; QSL via PY1SAD direct
2025 Mar12	2025 Mar24	Jamaica	6Y7EI	M0OXO	By DJ9RR EI2II EI2JD EI4GZB EI4HH EI4L EI5GM EI6FM EI8JB EI3IXB EI9HQ OZ1IKY; 160-6m
2025 Mar14	2025 Mar24	Turks & Caicos	VP5	KI5GTR Direct	By KI5GTR as VP5/KI5GTR; 80-6m; CW SSB FT8; QRP
2025 Mar16	2025 Mar30	St Vincent	J87PE	8P6PE	By 8P6PE; 20-10m; holiday style operation; POTA activation

DXpeditions in March 2025
(continued)

2025 Mar17	2025 Mar31	Grenada	J38XB	VE2XB Direct	By VE2XB fm IOTA NA-024; 160-10m; SSB, some CW
2025 Mar18	2025 Apr01	Micronesia	V6WG	LoTW	By WE9G fm Kosrae I (IOTA OC-059); 80-6m, perhaps 160m; mainly FT8 FT4, some SSB CW; QSL via WE9G (B/d)
2025 Mar18	2025 Apr08	Tanzania	5H3MB	LoTW	By IK2GZU; 80-10m; SSB CW + digital; QSL via 5H3MB (B/d)
2025 Mar24	2025 Apr05	Rodrigues I	3B9DJ	LoTW	By OK6DJ OK1CRM OK2ZA; 160-10m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS (preferred) or OK6DJ
2025 Mar24	2025 Mar31	Cyprus SBA	ZC4MK	G0KOM	By G0KOM; QRV for CQ WPX SSB
2025 Mar24	2025 Apr04	St Barthelemy	TO1P	Club Log OQRS	By SP9FIH; 40 17 10m; SSB FT8 RTTY
2025 Mar26	2025 Mar31	St Lucia	J62K	LoTW	By J68HZ J69DS KN2P DL3ON WA4PGM W0CN; QRV for CQ WPX SSB (M/2); QSL via K9HZ
2025 Mar26	2025 Apr05	Sint Maarten	PJ7EE	LoTW	By KC9EE; focus on 12 10 6m for Asia; QSL via Club Log OQRS or KC9EE direct
2025 Mar30	2025 Apr06	Honduras	HR9	LoTW	By K6VHF as K6VHF/HR9 fm Roatan I; 80-6m; SSB CW RTTY FT8; 100w; QSL via Club Log OQRS or K6VHF (B/d)
2025 Apr01	2025 Apr07	Surinam	PZ5IP	PY8WW OQRS	By PY8WW PZ5JW DL8TG fm Papegaaien I (IOTA SA=092); 40-10m; CW SSB + digital
2025 Apr02	2025 Apr10	Ogasawara	JD1	Auto Buro	By Toshiba Fuchu Amateur Radio Club ops as JA1YVT/JD1 fm Chichijima I (Apr 2-7) and Hahajima I (Apr 7-10); 80-2m; CW SSB FT8
2025 Apr03	2025 Apr10	Maldives	8Q7EF	LoTW	By IW2NEF fm Filitheyo I; 40-6m; SSB FT8; QSL via IK2DUW direct or HE9ERA Buro





Club Business and Announcements

February 2025 Financial Report

by Bob DePierre,K8KI

Budget Category	2025 Budget		Year to Date	February
Year Start	**5803**		5803.41	6239.84
Dues In	**1100**		473.31	20
Recurring Exp	**-1106**			
repeater elect		-63		
web hosting/domain service		-77	-16.88	
repeater maintenance		0		
to HARC for Zoom		-50		
use of museum		-400	-400	-400
DX Plaques		-216		
Miscellaneous		-300		
Other Transactions	**-1200**			
Donations/equipment to sell		0		
Dxpeditions		-1000		
Picnic		-200		
ARRL Bricks		0		
DX Banquet	**730**			
Huntsville Hamfest Donation		500		
venue		-700	-700	-700
food		*-2400*		
speaker+room+travel		*-450*		
ticket sales		*4100*		
raffle		*400*		
grand prize		*-400*		
beer/wine/soft drinks/glasses		*-200*		
insurance		*-120*		
Year End Bank Balance	**5,327**		5159.84	5159.84
Other Asset 3-month CD		5225	5055.07	5055.07
Total Assets	**10,552**		10214.91	10214.91
Asset delta		-251		

Budget notes:

- Paid for use of museum, and DX Banquet venue. Our first 3-month CD matured and renewed, paying $55.07. The renewed CD will pay 1% over 3 months, which is a little over 4% APR.
- Dues paid via PayPal in February were transferred to the bank account in March and will be reflected on the March 2025 budget.

Huntsville Hamfest

Mark your calendars!

Huntsville Hamfest will be August 16th and 17th.

The NADXC banquet will be Saturday Evening, August 16th.

Do you have any old NADXC documents or LongPaths? We need your help!

The NADXC is quickly approaching our 50th anniversary. We would like to create an archive of NADXC documents. If you are a longtime member with paper or digital copies of anything of interest, we'd love your help. Old documents and LongPaths can be given to Fred, K3FRK at a meeting or via email.

We are missing LongPaths from January 2019, March 2019, and all months from 2012 and earlier.

February 2025 Meeting Minutes

By Bob DePierre, K8KI

- 12 members were present plus 4 via Zoom, including visitor Neil Schwanitz, WD8CRT/V73NS.
- Mark Brown/N4BCD gave an Orlando update, including new HR vendors and new equipment and radios we'll see soon.
- The Jan budget and minutes were approved. N4BCD again rose to introduce various Young Ham of the Year awards, Pasternak and ARRL, plus HOTY awards. We have a lot to consider in regards to supported entries. The Huntsville Hamfest is right around the corner now, as well as the Dayton Hamvention. The DX Banquet will be held at the museum, but we need to consider how to help Steve Molo with the W4DXCC event.
- The presentation was from Don Jones, 7Q6M regarding his time spent at 7Q6M/Malawi in southern Africa.

North Alabama DX Club

It's time to pay 2025 membership dues.

Dues can be paid electronically at the NADXC website. Contact Bob, K8KI (K8KI@comcast.net) for information about other payment options.

About the NADXC

2025 NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Bruce Smith, AC4G
Vice President	Fred Kepner, K3FRK
Sec./Treasurer	Bob De Pierre, K8KI
Directors	Chuck Lewis, N4NM
	Mick Bell, N8AU

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

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.