



# The DX HUNTER

JANUARY 07

## TVDXA CLUB INFO

**MEETINGS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH  
**NEXT MEETING:** 1/11/07 - 6:30PM @ WALLY's  
**TVDXA WEBSITE:** TVDXA.com  
**DX Packet Cluster:** 144.990 @ 1200 Baud  
**DX Tele-net:** k4jw.no-ip (41414)  
**Chat Frequencies:** 145.500/446.600  
**Editor E-mail:** [howard.thickman@erlanger.org](mailto:howard.thickman@erlanger.org)

## CLUB NEWS

The Newsletter is now one year old and seems to be accepted. I hope everyone enjoys it and that it provides some information and entertainment for the members. I am always open to suggestions, ideas or articles that you want to share.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Paul and Nancy Pagano again hosted a Christmas Party for the club at their home. They go 'all out' to make everyone feel "at home" and enjoy the holiday spirit. A great start to the holidays and everyone enjoyed the good food and fellowship. Paul debuted his professional video of the AB4GG antenna party.

**Christmas came early** at the Martin's Nest (12/10) as Tony (aka "2-KW") worked this final entity, the VU7 Lakshadweep Island.

**Morse Code:** The FCC on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> has noted that it will drop the 5-word per minute "code testing requirement" completely for all amateur radio testing and classes starting around February '07.

**The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service:** Effective January 1, 2007. The new basic rate will be \$5 per half-pound (8 ounces or approximately 75 cards) or any portion of a half-pound. That's a change from the current rate of \$4 per half-pound or any portion. One pound will cost \$10, and packages will be assessed \$5 for each additional half-pound (or portion thereof). For smaller packages, the fee is only \$1.50 for 10 or fewer cards, \$2.50 for 11 to 20 cards and \$3.75 for 21 to 30 cards.

## TVDXA PERSONALITY

### TED BRYANT – W4NZ

Ted, another really big gun, is an Extra Class operator. He is a member of both TVDXA & TCG (TN. Contest Group) of which he is Past President. He has been licensed since 1960 and outside of Scarbough Reef has worked all DXCC Entities.

Ted was born and raised Gallatin, TN and went to college at Tennessee Tech. University.

Among his most memorable contacts were with Barry Goldwater (K7UGA) and King Hussein (JY1).

Ted is an avid contester at heart and is very successful at it. He has helped assisted many 'young' contesters like Kenny get their start. He is involved with the development of N1MM logging software and was the Contest Leader at both of the SEDCO Conventions in Pigeon Forge.

Ted has been married for 29 years and has two children and two grandkids.



Ted at K4JNY's during the 2006 IARU contest



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## CONTESTING NEWS

### JANUARY 2007

<u>DATE</u>	<u>WEEKDAY - TIME UTC</u>	<u>CONTEST NAME</u>	<u>MODE</u>
1	Mon 0000 – 2400	ARRL Straight Key Night - CW	
1	Mon 0800 – 1100	SARTG New Year Contest - RTTY	
1	Mon 0800 – 2200	SCAG Straight Key Day - SKD - CW	
1	Mon 0900 – 1200	AGCW Happy New Year Contest - CW	
2	Tue 0200 – 0400	ARS Spartan Sprint - CW	
4	Thu 1800 – 2200	10 meter NAC - CW/SSB/FM/DIGI	
6- 7	Sat 1800 - Sun 2400	ARRL RTTY Roundup - Digital	
6	Sat 2000 – 2300	EUCW 160 m Contest (1) - CW	
7	Sun 0400 – 0700	EUCW 160 m Contest (2) - CW	
<b>7</b>	<b>Sun 1800 – 2400</b>	<b>Kid's Day Contest – SSB</b> <b>(Show a neighbor/church kid ham radio)</b>	
10	Wed 0000 – 0200	SKCC Sprint - CW	
13	Sat 0000 – 2400	070 Club PSKFest - PSK-31	
13-14	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	Hunting LIONS in the Air - CW/SSB	
13-14	Sat 1200 - Sun 2359	MI-QRP Club January CW Contest - CW	
13	Sat 1400 – 2000	Midwinter Contest - CW	
13-14	Sat 1800 - Sun 0600	North American QSO Party - CW	
14	Sun 0530 – 0730	NRAU-Baltic Contest - CW	
14	Sun 0800 – 1400	Midwinter Contest - SSB	
14	Sun 0800 – 1000	NRAU-Baltic Contest - SSB	
14	Sun 0900 – 1059	DARC 10m-Contest - CW/SSB	
14	Sun 1400 – 1500	SSA Månadstest nr 1 - CW	
14	Sun 1515 – 1615	SSA Månadstest nr 1 - SSB	
20	Sat 0600 – 1400	UT Contest - CW/SSB	
20-21	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Hungarian DX Contest - CW/SSB	
20-21	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	UK DX RTTY Contest - RTTY	
20-21	Sat 1800 - Sun 0600	North American QSO Party - SSB	
27-28	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ 160-Meter Contest - CW	
27-28	Sat 0600 - Sun 1800	REF Contest - CW	
27-28	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	BARTG RTTY Sprint Contest - RTTY	
27-28	Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	UBA DX Contest - SSB	



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## ANNOUNCED DX OPERATIONS

### JANUARY 2007

<u>DATES</u>	<u>LOCATION/CALL</u>	<u>QSL VIA</u>	<u>INFO</u>
2007 2007 Jan01 Jan09	<b>Leichtenstein</b> <b>HB0</b>	DL2OBO	By DL2OBO; focus on 160-30m, CW; some SSB + perhaps RTTY PSK
2007 2007 Jan03 Jan09	<b>Bahamas</b> <b>C6ARI</b>	DL3OCH	By DL3OCH DL2JRM DL5SE DL5YWM fm Elbow Cay (NA-219, BAH-018); 160-10m; CW SSB; also EME on 70 & 23cm
2007 2007 Jan06 Jan20	<b>Burkina Faso</b> <b>XT2C</b>	F9IE	By N6OX N2WB F2JD F2VX F5LMJ F5TVG OE8KDK F9IE F4AJQ F8BJI; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY PSK31/63 SSTV, perhaps WSJT on 6m; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct
2007 2007 Jan07 Jan30	<b>Cambodia</b> <b>XU7ACY</b>	K2NJ	By NO2R fm Sihanoukville; focus on lowbands, CW SSB; W2EN pilot stn
2007 2007 Jan09 Jan11	<b>Fiji</b> <b>3D2</b>	JA7GAX	By JA7GAX fm OC-016
2007 2007 Jan10 Jan16	<b>Bangladesh</b> <b>S21EA</b>	EA3BT	By EA3BT EA3WL EA2PA EA5FX EA8CAC; 160-6m; SSB CW RTTY; 3 stations; QSL OK via Buro or direct
2007 2007 Jan15 Jan25	<b>Lakshadweep Islands</b> <b>VU7RG</b>	See Info	By a 50 member NIAR multinational team; all bands and modes; QSL: Region 1 via GDXF, Region 2 via N2OO, Region 3 via JA3UB
2007 2007 Jan18 Jan29	<b>Tanzania</b> <b>5H1Z</b>	F6AML	By F6AML (F6KOP Team member) fm Zanzibar Is (AF-032); 80-10m; SSB CW; 400w; verticals; focus on NA + Asia; QSL OK via Buro or direct (SAE + 1 IRC or US\$1 for EU, US\$2 for others)
2007 2007 Jan29 Feb06	<b>Montserrat</b> <b>VP2M</b>	TBA	By W3FF W6HFP WZ1P KB9AVO KC4VG NE1RD



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## 80 Meter DXing - With a Very Basic Station By AE5X

DXing has always been my favorite aspect of ham radio. I've dabbled in several of the other sub-hobbies over the years but none of them seem to hold the fascination of making contact with someone on the other side of the world. Eventually, a lot of DXers will do one of two things to add to the challenge of having their signal heard in faraway places: go QRP or QSY to the low bands. Both offer similar challenges in that they require more attention to operating technique. My other pages deal with the fun I've had with QRP; here I'd like to share some of the things I've learned in two years of DXing on 80 meters and perhaps convince others to give it a try. It took me 22 years to overcome my misconceptions about the band, partly due to a lot of "conventional wisdom" that convinced me that it would be an exercise in futility to attempt to work DX with any antenna/station that I had the room for or could afford to put together. I hope the information and anecdotes on this page can provide an example to act as a counterpoint to some of the popularly held misconceptions about DXing on 80 meters.

### DXing 80 Meters With a Modest Station

I use Yaesu's bottom-of-the-line transceiver, the FT840 with no external amplifier and no provision for a separate receive antenna. My antenna is what I call a lazy dipole; one leg is horizontal at 55 or 60 feet, the other leg slopes down to the 6-foot level. It is fed with 75 feet of RG-58. I didn't plan the antenna this way - it is simply what I have room for. In the 2 years since putting it up, I've worked exactly 100 countries on all continents. The one option I do have is the 500 Hz CW filter for my Yaesu. I think that on 80 meters, my set-up is probably "below average" in terms of what other folks have who are active on this band. The key then to working DX on 80 meters is to know where, when and how to work it and to not let the nay sayers tell you won't be able to do it with a similarly equipped station.

### Where to Find the DX

Eighty meters is unique among the low bands in that there is as much DX on phone as on CW. The reverse is true on 40 and 160 meters. Most of the phone DX is from 3790-3800 kHz - exceptions to this are usually due to another country's frequency allocations on 80 meters. The CW DX is concentrated in the lower 10 kHz of the band. Of the 100 countries I've worked on 80 meters, 94 of them were CW. This is due to both my preference for that mode and the fact that CW enjoys a significant dB advantage over SSB. Oftentimes, DX stations operate split due to the size of the pile-up they can generate and/or to operate within their allocation. Before calling make sure you know where they are listening and their pattern for tuning and answering callers.

### Helpful Resources

Read ON4UN's "Low-Band DXing" – a wealth of information and inspiration. Real-time frequency locations of DX stations can be found here. See VE6LB's results on 80 meter DXing. He's accomplished a lot with a little and has learned a lot along the way.

### Get Inspired & Set a Goal

If the perceived difficulty of working a substantial amount of DX on 80 meters puts you off the idea, consider the following lowband achievements:

**AA2U** has worked 5BDXCC with 5 watts. He's worked DXCC with 100 milliwatts.

**K2UO** has 200 countries confirmed on 160 meters with a dipole, no part of which is higher than 35 feet.

**5B4ADA**'s inverted V for 160 meters has the apex at 55 feet and the ends at 5 feet. He works into JA, USA & VK.



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## Some Things I've Learned

Know where you are transmitting. A lot of DXers give the advice to "listen, listen, listen". This is good advice but you must also know precisely where you are transmitting. Are you in the passband of the DX station's 500 Hz receiver? It will do you no good to spend the effort listening to who gets worked by the DX and thereby learning his pattern if you are not transmitting within 300-400 Hz of where you think you are transmitting. Remember that a rare station can have hundreds calling him simultaneously. To discern a call sign from the horde he must have as narrow a passband as his rig will allow and you have to target your signal to hit within that narrow range. Getting "close" may not get you in the log.

A very good indication of the upcoming evening's band condition on 80 meters is to look at the spots during the late-morning and afternoon, before the band is even open at your location. If Europeans are working Asia and the Pacific, chances are good that the same good conditions will exist in a few hours as your local sunset approaches.

Not all of the DX on 80 meters arrives at a low angle. My low-to-the-ground antenna has a high angle of radiation – this is why they are not considered the preferred antenna for DX. But some DX on 80 (and 160) arrives at a high angle, particularly (but not only) those DX signals propagated via gray-line. There have been times when very distant DX stations are heard with signal levels one would expect on 20 meters. VQ9QM was 10dB over S9 from almost 10,000 miles away at 7:15pm one evening – I had to double-check to make sure I was on 80 meters! Incidentally, I knew exactly where VQ9QM was sitting as I worked him; I spent a few weeks licensed as VQ9BL during a port visit to Diego Garcia in my Navy days antennas/towers are furnished but it's BYOR – Bring Your Own Rig.

You can be competitive on 80 with a dipole. Not true on 10-20m where most folks have tribanders, but the fact is that most DXers on 80 do not have 4-squares or efficient verticals with miles of radials. The Big Guns on 80 do have awesome antennas but most 80-meter DXers have an antenna that is "compromise" in some way: a vertical over poor earth ground, a vertical with too few radials, a low dipole, a crooked or lazy dipole bent to fit the owner's lot, a 40 meter antenna inductively loaded to work 80, etc. There are a lot of Big Guns in a lot of countries that can hear your signal even though you have a compromise antenna and 1/10th of a kilowatt. Realize that their well-equipped station works to your advantage as well as theirs. And a lot of the mega-DXpeditions now go full-bore on 80 and 160, installing excellent antennas for both receive and transmit. That said, most of the DX stations I work on 80 meters are similar in antenna/power to mine.

The best time to work rare DX on any band is the week prior to the big DX contests. They have arrived, set up shop and are now getting psyched for the contest. They do this by calling CQ and responding to the resulting pile-up, and, as big as that pile-up can be, it won't compare to how big it will be during the contest. Get the rare ones in the log before the contest starts!

***If you have articles or information of interest and would like it published in the NEWSLETTER, send or e-mail them to me. Pictures are also needed.  
This is YOUR Newsletter.***



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**DX Stories by Paul M. Dunphy, VE1DX**

## **Just why DXers are the Best!**

**By Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD - May 1996**

The Old Timer was by last week. The late Spring days are warm, the sky is blue and we were at ease. We deserved everything we got and enjoyed. DXers always think that way. And we expect it to continue.

So we sat and talked about things DXing. Over the years one learns that the Old Timer does not push ideas on you, he just hangs them out for you to see, to recognize and hopefully, to remember. Later on, we had to realize that perhaps we had started all the discussion that ensued. We were pitching, the Old Timer batting.

Long ago we learned that DXers are the smartest, the tallest, the best looking and always noted for their grasp of philosophy and psychology. DXers understand things. We learned that years back when we read it in a DX bulletin. We never forgot it. We were told it and we did not even have to think about it. The knowledge came easily.

We don't think we should have to point this thing about DXers being the smartest, how handsome DXers are and how astute their thinking. Every DXer knows of this intuitively. It comes with the DXCC certificate. It is there even if at times we have to stop to ponder why. It is one of the eternal truths but we had often wondered why it is an eternal truth. Why are DXers so blessed? We have been thinking about this. Real hard.

We mentioned this to the Old Timer. This we did deliberately thinking that he might have some ready answers. If he did he was not letting them loose. So we continued on our own.

"Years back", we said, "we would think that DXers are the top just because of their behaviour, always so ethical. Except for a few backsliders, that is. But generally a DXer will try to do right and this is often evidenced by his own standards and behaviour. Their judgment is good, their behaviour exemplary and they are always looking for the right action, the right decision and the right and correct approach to any problem. Right?"

The Old Timer grunted, then said: "You mean DXers are noted for their sanctimonious righteousness?" Those were his words but it was not what his eyes were saying.

That was not what we meant at all. We knew there was something there in our thinking that was right but it was eluding our efforts to define it in words. We had to try harder.

"We know that it is there", we continued, "and we believe that other DXers feel it and recognize it as we do. But what is it? And why is it? Do you know?"

The Old Timer did not speak for a bit and we waited. We sure he would but he possibly, as in other times, wanted to be sure that we were ready. Possibly we were. The Old Timer finally spoke.

"DXers generally early on will recognize something special about DX and DXers and often will spend their early years enjoying it but really not able to tell what it is. You have been trying, other have also tried to define the DX Mystique. It is not easily done". Then the Old Timer relapsed into his silence. We were left



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waiting at the Door of DX Knowledge and we were not being invited inside. It was a hard thing to bear. Finally the Old Timer spoke again.

"Have you every considered that DXers might consider DXing as a somewhat superior activity? Something that one does not just to kill time but rather to reach out around the world and communicate with others who think as a DXer does? Have you never noted that this international fraternalism is implied even in the preamble to the FCC regulations. That part about the fundamental purposes of amateur radio. And especially the item about '...the continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international good will'. Don't you recall that?"

Of course we did. For almost forty years we have remembered that statement. And we long have known that it is absolutely true. Eventually one learns that no DXer ever comes as a stranger. Never!

And if you are a DXer you have friends all around the world. One just has to go to a DX convention, even just a plain amateur radio convention, and you will find that every DXer there is your friend. And you will meet them as friends, long time friends.

"And that feeling might be an unspoken realization that DXers are different", the Old Timer continued, "This need not be said, just recognized. DXers occupy the high ground without needing all the embellishments of phrases, adjectives, slogans, signs, T-shirts and horn blowing. DXers are good and that alone says everything that needs to be said. Right?"

Of course the Old Timer was right. That was just what we had been trying to say. "We knew that", we hastily interjected, "and that was what we were trying to say. We just could not find the words. But we knew they were there". We finished up a big lamely as the Old Timer was listening, a small quizzical smile on his face.

"You say you knew these things but could not put them into words. But would it be better just to know that you are in a group which because of their actions and activities are obviously superior. Or is it necessary to find suitable words to explain what DXers already know and act. In short, do you value the words or the actions?"

We again were in the role of a learner. Of course we understood it better. We had understood it all the time. It was just that we could not find the right words to express it.

The Old Timer was soon gone, leaving us in the quiet of a warm early summer afternoon. But we were still thinking. Thinking that a little afternoon nap might be merited after all our heavy thinking. Our brain muscles were aching just a bit. They often do after the Old Timer has been around.

## **K1AR CONTESTING HINT**

Practice curing yourself of the bad habit of writing down callsigns/exchange information on scrap paper while operating. This adds unnecessary overhead to your operating style and has become especially pointless with the advent of computer logging. The best way to reduce your "paper-dependence" is to simply eliminate any access to note paper altogether. Remember: if you want to walk, you have to get rid of your crutch!



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## TVDXA CLUB BBQ RECIPE THE BALD BBQ'er



### CAJUN RUB

**Yield: Makes about 1 cup**

- 1/4 cup coarse salt (kosher or sea)
- 3 tablespoons sweet paprika
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons onion powder
- 2 tablespoons dried thyme (preferably ground)
- 2 tablespoons dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon freshly ground white pepper
- 2 teaspoons ground dried sage leaves
- 2 teaspoons cayenne pepper (to taste)

Combine the salt, paprika, garlic and onion powders, thyme, oregano, black pepper, white pepper, sage, and cayenne in a small bowl and whisk to mix or place in a jar, cover it, and shake to mix. Store the rub in an airtight jar away from heat and light; it will keep for at least 1 year.

**I need your favorite BBQ Recipe(s) or side dish to have them published in the Newsletter.  
Let everyone enjoy an afternoon family BBQ of good eats.**