



The DX HUNTER

FEBRUARY 07

TVDXA CLUB INFO

MEETINGS: 2nd THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
NEXT MEETING: 3/8/07 - 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

CLUB NEWS

More discussion was held on the Bylaws and incorporation of the club. It is progressing, slowly, but surely. Our next step, if there are no major comments on the By-laws will be a review by SCORE and maybe a lawyer before we have the final draft ready to go to the State.

Field Day – We started discussion on this years FD. It was decided on the “If it ain’t broke – Don’t fix it” attitude. Therefore, what we have been doing is what we will continue to do. We will try to make minor adjustments to reduce the workload on Saturday. Again, we will try the SSB/CW station setup team effort. As with anything we do – **PLEASE** provide suggestions on things you feel we can or need to do better.

QSL Party - The Emerald Isle Dx-peditioners met at the home of Tommie & Kay on Saturday the 20th. They filled out and verified about 300 QSL Cards ready for shipment. Another job well-done by TVDXA and thanks to the Wright's for the good eats.

TCG 2006 Radio Active Ratings

Kenny (AB4GG), also a member of **TCG**, is rated **#1 New Contester** for 2006 and 14th overall.

AB4GG 5,540 QSOs in 17 contests
It's all about seat time

TVDXA PERSONALITY

KATHY YOUNG - W4KRY

This being February and Valentines month, it might



be nice to hear from another of the TVDXA ladies. Kathy was born and raised in Chattanooga. She is the Office Manager at a local doctor's office.

She has been licensed since 2000, enjoys working the Magic Band, and is looking forward to working 10 meters with the new band allocations. Now that the code requirement has been dropped, she may up-grade, but you can never tell.

She has been on all the Island Dx-peditions and while not a frequency hog, like the guys, she has added some “sparkle” to the festivities. She's always ready to have fun playing cards, playing tourist, shopping or hanging out with the other women.

Kathy is a “me-me, it's all about me” person. To prove it, she is the only person I know that doesn't have a birthday - She has a birth-month(!), just ask her. She has been married to Kenny (AB4GG) for 11 years, has 2 kids and is looking forward to having grandkids.





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CONTESTING NEWS

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>WEEKDAY - TIME UTC</u>	<u>CONTEST NAME</u>	<u>MODE</u>
1	Thu 1800 – 2200	10 meter NAC - CW/SSB/FM/DIGI	
3-4	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	Vermont QSO Party - All	
3-4	Sat 0001 - Sun 2359	10-10 International. Winter QSO Party - Phone	
3	Sat 1400 - 2400	Minnesota QSO Party - CW/SSB/RTTY	
3-5	Sat 1400 - Mon 0200	YLRL YL-OM Contest - CW	
3	Sat 1600 – 1900	AGCW Straight Key Party - CW	
3-4	Sat 1700 - Sun 0500	Delaware QSO Party (1) - All	
3-4	Sat 1800 - Sun 1759	Mexico International RTTY Contest - RTTY	
4	Sun 0000 – 0400	North American Sprint Contest - SSB	
4-5	Sun 1300 - Mon 0100	Delaware QSO Party (2) - All	
4	Sun 2000 – 2359	QRP ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint - SSB	
6	Tue 0200 – 0400	ARS Spartan Sprint - CW	
10-11	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ World-Wide RTTY WPX Contest - RTTY	
10	Sat 1100 – 1300	Asia-Pacific Sprint - Spring - CW	
10-11	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Dutch PACC Contest - CW/SSB	
10-11	Sat 1400 - Sun 0800	Classic Exchange (CX) - AM/SSB	
10-12	Sat 1400 - Mon 0200	YLRL YL-OM Contest - SSB	
10-11	Sat 1500 - Sun 0300	Louisiana QSO Party - CW/SSB	
10	Sat 1700 – 2100	FISTS Winter Sprint - CW	
10-11	Sat 1800 - Sun 1800	British Columbia QSO Challenge - All	
10-11	Sat 2100 - Sun 0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest - CW	
11	Sun 0000 – 0400	North American Sprint Contest - CW	
11-12	Sun 1400 - Mon 0800	Classic Exchange (CX) - AM/CW/SSB	
12-17	Mon 1300 - Sat 0100	School Club Roundup – All	
14	Wed 0000 – 0200	SKCC Sprint - CW	
17-18	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	ARRL International DX Contest - CW	
17-18	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	YLISSB QSO Party - CW/SSB	
18	Sun 1400 – 1500	SSA Månadstest nr 2 - SSB	
18	Sun 1515 – 1615	SSA Månadstest nr 2 - CW	
19	Mon 0200 – 0400	Run For The Bacon QRP Contest - CW	
21	Wed 1900 – 2030	AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening - CW	
23-24	Fri 2100 - Sat 2100	Russian PSK WW Contest - PSK31	



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24-25	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW 160-Meter Contest - SSB
24-25	Sat 0600 - Sun 1800	REF Contest - SSB
24-25	Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	UBA DX Contest - CW
24-25	Sat 1500 - Sun 0300	Mississippi QSO Party - CW/SSB
24-25	Sat 1500 - Sun 1459	OMISS QSO Party - SSB
24-25	Sat 1800 - Sun 0600	North American QSO Party - RTTY
25	Sun 0900 - 1100	High Speed Club CW Contest (1) - CW
25	Sun 1500 - 1700	High Speed Club CW Contest (2) - CW
25-26	Sun 1700 - Mon 0300	North Carolina QSO Party - CW/SSB
25-26	Sun 2200 - Mon 0359	CQC Winter QSO Party - CW/SSB

K1AR CONTESTING HINT

Are you continuously frustrated by your paddle moving about your operating desk? Now, I don't mean the kind of "virtual" movement that occurs after 48 hours of non-stop contesting, but the type that happens while you're trying to send "Mississippi." One friend recently suggested that you take a quality mouse pad and drill holes that align with the feet on your paddle. Not only will it provide a more comfortable operating position, it will hold that paddle exactly where it belongs!



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ANNOUNCED DX OPERATIONS

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<u>DATES</u>	<u>LOCATION/CALL</u>	<u>QSL VIA</u>	<u>INFO</u>
2007 2007 Feb01 Feb05	American Samoa	KH8	By YT1AD as KH8/YT1AD By 9M6XRO fm Sihanoukville; CW SSB, possibly digital; QSL direct w/ RP preferred; Graham Ridgeway, 6 Pilgrim Street, Nelson, Lancs, BB9 0JQ, England; but Buro cards OK
2007 2007 Feb01 Feb10	Cambodia	XU7XRO	M5AAV By I1HJT IK2CIO IK2CKR IK1AOD IK2DIA I2YSB as J20M and J20R fm ,Oucha Is (AF-053); 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY; QSL OK via Buro or direct
2007 2007 Feb01 Feb15	Djibouti	J20	I2YSB By DB1JAW DK5MH as 7W0JAW and 7W0MH fm the northern Sahara; 80-10m; mainly SSB, perhaps some PSK31 RTTY; QRV 24hrs/day; QSL: Mike Weiler, Stormstr.126, 47445 Moers, Germany
2007 2007 Feb02 Feb10	Algeria	7W0	DB1JAW Direct By HA9SDA HA9RE fm OC-048; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY
2007 2007 Feb03 Feb22	Tokelau	ZK3RE	HA8IB By YV5SSB YV5TX YV1RDX YV5RED OH2BH YV1CTE YV5MSG YV5ANT OH0XX YV5OHW DL2GG YV5KAJ YV1FM YV5GRV AD6TF IT9DAA; begin and end dates are tentative
2007 2007 Feb05 Feb15	Aves Island	YW0DX	IT9DAA By F8PDR fm Nouakchott; 80-10m; mainly CW; 100w; vertical + G5RV; evening/night focus on 160 + 80m; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct: Benoit Lebourgeois, route de Chevy, F-50420 Tessy sur Vire / France
2007 2007 Feb05 Feb18	Mauritania	5T5DY	F8PDR By K5KG KK9K WI9WI K1XX W9IU as J75KG J79RV J79WI J79XX J79IU; HF w/ focus on 160 80m; CW SSB; QRV for ARRL DX CW; QSL J75KG + J70J via KU9C, others via home call
2007 2007 Feb10 Feb20	Dominica	J7	See Info
2007 2007 Feb12 Feb19	British Virgin Islands	VP2V	AK0M By AK0M fm Anegada (NA-023); callsign TBD
2007 2007 Feb13 Feb27	Netherlands Antilles	PJ4	K4BAI By KU8E K4BAI as PJ4/homecall; 160-10; mainly CW, possibly CW + SSB on 6m; K4BAI QRV for ARRL DX CW as PJ4A (QSL via K4BAI)



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2007 Feb15	2007 Mar03	Norfolk Island	VK9N	DJ2MX	By DJ7EO DJ9RR DL1MGB DL3DXX DL5LYM DL8OH fm OC-005; 160-10m, focus on low bands; CW SSB RTTY
2007 Feb21	2007 Feb28	Montserrat	VP2M	G3SWH	By G3SWH G3RTE fm (NA-103); 160-10m; mainly CW, some RTTY PSK31; 2 stns; QSL OK via Buro or direct
2007 Feb24	2007 Mar02	Bahamas	C6A	LotW	By W2IRT N2YTF as homecall/C6A; mainly 40 20 17m + higher bands if propagation permits; SSB CW RTTY; holiday style operation; QSL also OK via W2IRT
2007 Feb25	2007 Mar25	St Maarten	PJ7	W8EB	By W8EB W8DVC as PJ7/homecall; 160- 10m; SSB CW PSK31 RTTY; QRV as PJ7B in ARRL DX Phone
2007 Feb26	2007 Feb27	Samoa	5W0RE	HA8IB	By HA9SDA HA9RE fm OC-097; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY

Scarborough Reef still heads Top 10 most-wanted DXCC entities list (Jan 15, 2007) -- *The DX Magazine*, published by Carl Smith, N4AA, has released the results of its 2006 most-wanted DXCC entities survey, [The Daily DX](#) reports. The newsletter notes that the survey list omitted Swains Island (KH8/S), which joined the DXCC List last July 22 and may otherwise have been number one. For 2006, Scarborough Reef (BS7) remains on top. The second most-wanted entity is Lakshadweep Islands (VU7), where a second DXpedition in as many months is now on the air with the call signs VU7RG and VU7MY. North Korea (P5) still holds the number-three slot, followed in order by Yemen (7O), Navassa (KP1), Glorioso (FR/G), Bouvet (3Y/B), Desecheo (KP5), Marion Island (ZS8) and Heard Island (VK0/H). Displaced from the Top 10 in 2006 were Peter I (3Y/P) and Andaman Islands (VU4). The complete listing of the Top 100 most-wanted DXCC entities eventually will appear on the [DX Publishing](#) Web site

Georgia News Report:

STAFF REPORTS

Connor Armstrong, 11, a fifth-grade honor student at Clear Creek Elementary School, recently passed his ham radio test and is now in the elite group of young FCC-licensed amateur radio operators. He is the youngest of five children of Matt and Dorrie Armstrong and the grandson of Paul and Lydia Quillen.

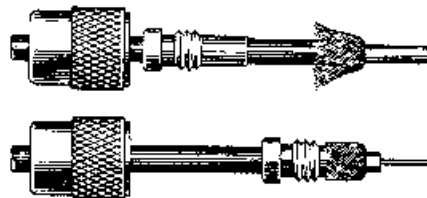
AN UNAUTHORIZED PROCEDURE

A better way to install PL-259 connectors on RG-8X type coax?

Dan Richardson, K6MHE K6mhe@arrl.net

When installing small coax such as RG-8X in a PL-259 using a reducer have you ever wondered if you were really going to get a good solid connection to the outer braid when you looked the holes in the PL-259 and saw only one or two flimsy little strands of the shield? Well, here is an unauthorized solution to that problem.

Figure 1 - A typical example illustrating how a reducer is to be installed. Looks easy enough doesn't it?

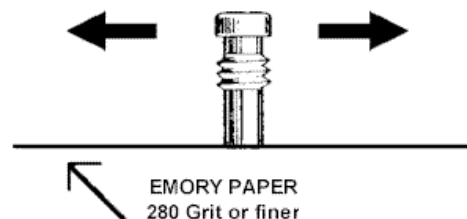


Installing RG-58, 8X and their kin to PL-259 connectors can be a bit of a challenge. No matter how nice a book's assembly diagram (Figure 1) looks and how easy the installation instructions sound my results using those methods never seem to come out the same.

The problem for me is getting the shield portion folded back over the reducer. The shield loses its form very quickly when folded back over the larger diameter of the reducer. I tried several approaches to solve this problem such as combing, trimming and arranging the braid very carefully, but when screwed into the PL-259 body the results many times are that only a few strands of shield is visible through the holes of the connector body to solder.

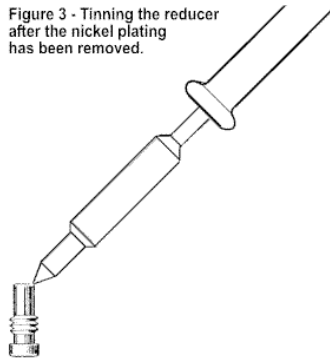
A GOOD THING TO KNOW: Several years ago I observed an amateur installing PL-259 connectors on RG-8X coax using a unique method that made me wonder why I hadn't thought of it myself. I have been using this procedure ever since obtaining good sound mechanical and electrical connections without ever experiencing a failure of any kind. A good thing should be passed along so here's how it's done.

Figure 2 - Removing the nickel plating from the end of a reducer. This step should not be used for silver plated reducers.



To begin, let me state that I normally always use silver plated connectors and reducers. They are so much easier to solder to than the slightly less expensive nickel-plated connectors. However, if you are using a reducer that is not silver-plated you will need to tin the end of the reducer prior to installing the cable. To do this use a fine cut file or on a piece of fine emery paper to remove the plating on the end of the reducer (Figure 2) until you can see the bright brass exposed. Next using a large soldering iron tin the end of the reducer where the plating had been removed (Figure 3). Apply just a light flash of solder on this surface. Don't pile it on as it may run down the inside of the reducer and make a mess of things.

Figure 3 - Tinning the reducer after the nickel plating has been removed.



Prepare the cable by removing the outer jacket and shield as shown in (Figure 4). (Note: The 1/4" dimension shown for the shield's length is approximate. It can be longer as it will be trimmed later during the installation.)

Figure 4 - Coax cable preparation.

The 1/4" braid length is approximate and can be longer - it will be trimmed later.



Slip the prepared cable into the reducer so that the end of the outer jacket is even with the reducer's end. Next, fold the braid over the end of the reducer so that the strands are at a right angle (90°) or more (Figure 5).

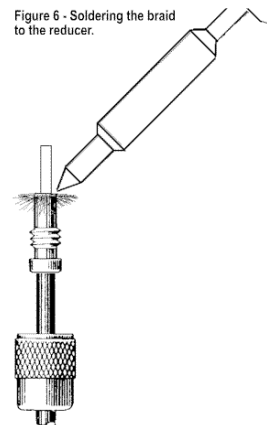
Figure 5 - Folding the shield braid strands over the end of the reducer.



AN ASIDE: Note it is very important when soldering connectors onto coaxial cables to use a LARGE SOLDERING IRON - at least 100 -150 watts or better. If you use a small pencil type soldering iron or a soldering gun - even a high wattage type - there simply is not enough mass in the soldering tip to do the job correctly. The idea is to make the solder joint as fast as possible and get away from the connector quickly

before the whole thing gets too hot and ruins the cable. You should not allow the soldering iron contact with the connector for more than 2-4 seconds. If your soldering iron is of sufficient size the short time will not be a problem. If you cannot get the solder to flow in that length of time then that's an indication that the iron is not big enough for the job.

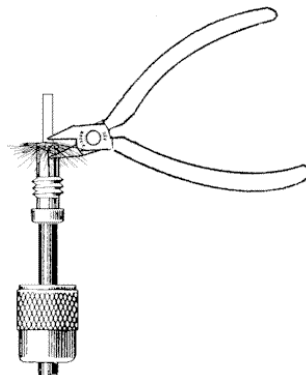
NOW BACK TO THE INSTALLATION: At this point, I place the coax/reducer assembly into a small tabletop vise so that they are held firmly in a vertical position. Carefully place the tip of soldering iron on the braid (Figure 6). Be careful that you do not allow the tip of the soldering iron to touch and damage the cable's plastic dielectric. The trick is to keep the tip of the soldering iron about 1/8" away from the dielectric and let the solder wick up the braid and fuse to the reducer. Don't pile the solder on. It takes very little solder to make a sound connection. Also, don't try to solder the entire surface at once. I solder about 20-30% of the area, let things cool a bit and then solder another section repeating this until I have the completely bonded the braid to the reducer all the way around.



Allow the assembly to cool and then inspect the dielectric to be sure there isn't any visible damage. If you see that you have accidentally melted or damaged the dielectric just stop at that point; remove the reducer and start over.

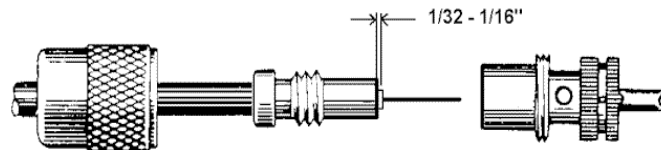
Using a sharp flush-cutting diagonal cutter (or heavy-duty cuticle scissors) cut off the remaining excess braid around the reducer (Figure 7). After removing the excess braid, I use a small fine cut file to do a final touch-up removing any jagged rough spots.

Figure 7 - Trimming off excess braid after soldering.



Next cut and remove the dielectric insulation leaving a portion that extends about 1/32" to 1/16" beyond the end of the reducer as shown in Figure 8. If the coax has a stranded center conductor it should be tinned at this time. Screw the reducer and cable assembly into the PL-259 and tighten well.

Figure 8 - Coax and reducer ready for final assembly.



Continue by soldering the center conductor to the PL-259's pin in the conventional manner, trimming off the excess conductor and cleaning any flux residue from the pin.

Finally, solder one of the holes in the connector body to assure that the reducer will stay put. I have found that without this important last step, in time, the reducer will loosen.

Conclusion: Using this technique I have no doubt that I have a good electrical and mechanical connection as 100% of the braid is now soldered and bonded rather than just a few strands.

There is concern by some that soldering the braid to the reducer in this manner may damage the cable. While that possibility exists, this method allows you to visually inspect the dielectric for any possible damage prior to installing the reducer/coax assembly into the connector body - something you can't do using the conventional method. I have been using this method for a number of years and I have never had a problem or failure.

Professional installers who have access to specialized tools such as industrial resistance-soldering stations may have better methods utilizing those tools, but for the average Joe Ham (me) who is using a knife, diagonal cutters and soldering iron (of the proper size) this procedure works very well. Try it yourself and see what you think.

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.

PS – I'm running out of material for the Newsletter



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TVDXA CLUB BBQ RECIPE THE BALD BBQ'er



KEY WEST CITRUS BARBECUE SAUCE

3 cups ketchup
2 cups tightly packed dark brown sugar
1/2 cup cane syrup
1/4 cup onion juice
1/2 cup lime juice
1/2 cup lemon juice
1/2 cup grapefruit juice
3/4 cup mango juice
3/4 cup passion fruit juice
3/4 cup orange juice
3/4 cup pineapple juice
1-1/2 tbsp. dry mustard
1/2 tbsp. white pepper
1/2 tsp. red pepper
1/2 tsp. coarse salt
1/2 tsp. cumin

4-5 tbsp. cornstarch

Combine all of the ingredients, except the cornstarch, in a large glass or ceramic bowl, mixing well with a spoon until fully blended. Pour the sauce into a large glass or ceramic pot, add 2 tablespoons of cornstarch and cook over low heat until the mixture thickens, about 5 minutes. It should cover a spoon dipped into it like a very thick syrup. If the sauce is still too thin slowly add more cornstarch, 1/2 tablespoon at a time, stirring, until you reach the desired thickness.

Take the sauce off the heat and cool it, uncovered. When the sauce is cool, pour it into sealable jars or plastic containers. This brightly colored and tangy sauce can be used as a marinade, basting sauce, or warm it to room temperature and serve on the table with the entrée.

If using on pork or poultry while cooking add only during the last 5-10 minutes of the cooking time, otherwise the sugars will burn and you'll get a bitter, black coating that is not attractive and will spoil your barbecue efforts.

**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.**