



The DX HUNTER

FEBRUARY 08

TVDXA CLUB INFO

MEETINGS: 2nd THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
FEB. MEETING: 2/14/08 - 6:30PM @ WALLY's
MAR. MEETING: 3/13/08 - 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

“More than a Club – We are Friends”

CLUB NEWS

FIELD DAY 08:

We checked out a **FD Site** on Signal Mtn and it looks GREAT! We are also checking out other locations and will provide pictures (hopefully) and a run-down on each location shortly at a future meeting.

I know it's early but now we need to get started on this year's effort. We need to have some **“lively”** give and take on what we want to attempt this year. Let's talk it up at the next meetings.

Additionally, what can **you** bring to the table to help us have another wild and crazy Field Day?

“Dues are Due!!”
Please get them to Dick N4LT

TVDXA PERSONALITY

Howard Thickman - KE4MBP

Howard was raised and went to school in Miami, FL. After High School, he went into the Navy for a 6-year stint during which he commissioned and operated a nuclear powered Frigate. He is a Viet Nam vet with 2 tours of duty.

After leaving the Navy, he built, tested and operated nuclear power plants all over the country for 27 years for a number of engineering and utility companies. He now works at Erlanger in their Construction Dept.

Howard was first licensed in 1994 and is an Extra Class. His DX totals are 300 worked and 235 confirmed. His most unique contact was with JY1, King Hussein, while tuning around the band. He enjoys DXing and Contesting. As we all know he is a dedicated SSB operator that likes to have fun with the CW ops.

He and Carol have been married for over 40 years, have one son and two grandkids.



Contesting @ K4JNY's



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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>
2- 3	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	Vermont QSO Party - All	
2- 3	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	YLISSB QSO Party - CW/RTTY	
2- 3	Sat 0001 - Sun 2359	10-10 Internat. Winter QSO Party - Phone	
2	Sat 1400 - 2400	Minnesota QSO Party - CW/SSB/RTTY	
2- 4	Sat 1400 - Mon 0200	YLRL YL-OM Contest - CW	
2	Sat 1600 - 1900	AGCW Straight Key Party - CW	
2- 3	Sat 1700 - Sun 0500	Delaware QSO Party (1) - All	
2- 3	Sat 1800 - Sun 1759	Mexico International RTTY Contest - RTTY	
3	Sun 0000 - 0400	North American Sprint Contest - CW	
3- 4	Sun 1300 - Mon 0100	Delaware QSO Party (2) - All	
3	Sun 2000 - 2359	QRP ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint - SSB	
5	Tue 0200 - 0400	ARS Spartan Sprint - CW	
7	Thu 1800 - 2200	10 meter NAC - CW/SSB/FM/DIGI	
9-10	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ World-Wide RTTY WPX Contest - RTTY	
9	Sat 1100 - 1300	Asia-Pacific Sprint - Spring - CW	
9-10	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Dutch PACC Contest - CW/SSB	
9-11	Sat 1400 - Mon 0200	YLRL YL-OM Contest - SSB	
9-10	Sat 1500 - Sun 0300	Louisiana QSO Party - All	
9-10	Sat 1600 - Sun 0359	British Columbia QSO Challenge - All	
9	Sat 1700 - 2100	FISTS Winter Sprint - CW	
9-10	Sat 2100 - Sun 0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest - CW	
10	Sun 0000 - 0400	North American Sprint Contest - SSB	
10	Sun 0000 - 2359	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon - CW	
11-15	Mon 1300 - Fri 2400	School Club Roundup - All	
13	Wed 0130 - 0330	NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint - CW	
16-17	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	ARRL International DX Contest - CW	
16	Sat 1500 - 1700	Feld-Hell Club Sprint - Feld-Hell	
17	Sun 1400 - 1500	SSA Månadstest nr 2 - SSB	
17	Sun 1515 - 1615	SSA Månadstest nr 2 - CW	
18	Mon 0200 - 0400	Run For The Bacon QRP Contest - CW	
20	Wed 1900 - 2030	AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening - CW	
20	Wed 1900 - 2100	MOON Contest - CW/Digi/SSB	
22-23	Fri 2100 - Sat 2100	Russian PSK WW Contest - PSK31	
23-24	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW 160-Meter Contest - SSB	



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23-24	Sat 0600 - Sun 1800	REF Contest - SSB
23-24	Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	UBA DX Contest - CW
23-24	Sat 1500 - Sun 0300	Mississippi QSO Party - CW/SSB
23-24	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	OMISS QSO Party - SSB
23-24	Sat 1800 - Sun 0600	North American QSO Party – RTTY
24	Sun 0900 - 1100	High Speed Club CW Contest (1) - CW
24	Sun 1500 - 1700	High Speed Club CW Contest (2) - CW
24-25	Sun 1700 - Mon 0300	North Carolina QSO Party - CW/SSB
24-25	Sun 2200 - Mon 0359	CQC Winter QSO Party - CW/SSB
27	Wed 0100 - 0300	SKCC Sprint - CW

30 Ham Radio Contesting Tips:

1. Schedule your Contests. The really great thing about contesting is they are regularly scheduled — regardless of great propagation, DXpeditions or the mood of the sun.
2. Create a contest goal. Goals are good and help motivate you while participating.
3. Contest on your terms. Contest for and be motivated by your reasons. Not everyone is out to win the contest; it could be you want to learn a new mode.
4. Have an operating plan. Having a plan provides you guidance for the contest and a baseline to compare against reality in the midst of battle.
5. Test equipment before the contest. You do want your stuff to work, right?
6. Update Multiplier Files. Downloading the latest ensures you won't miss a juicy multiplier during the contest.
7. Read the contest rules. You'd be surprised how often this bites you — even experienced contesters.
8. Work a contest one month before the real contest. The sun rotates once a month (27 days)...so work a contest the month before to experience the propagation you will have before the one you really want to concentrate on later.
9. Test ergonomics. Sitting in a chair contesting a long while will test how well your station is laid out for operating.
10. Have a guest op checklist. What should you bring as a guest op?
11. Compete with a partner. Work a contest with someone in your club (together or at your individual stations). Discuss what worked and what didn't about the contest.
12. Review Newsletter for Contest DXpeditions. Lots of people travel for contests. Make sure you take a look at the list from your favorite ham radio newsletter.
13. Have propagation plan. Propagation programs can suggest what will be open where. Having a propagation plan can give you a guide while contesting.



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14. Filter your packet connection. If the contest allows packet, filter the connection to match up with your station.
15. Accurate logging. A contest is about working stations — and logging them accurately. If you don't you get penalized.
16. Send in your log. Even if you didn't work many stations, you can help the contest by sending in your log to help enable log checking.
17. Logbook of The World. Want to reduce your QSL'ing chores for contests? Submit your log to Logbook of The World for instant confirmations for you and the people you contact.
18. Review UBN's. Uniques, Busted, and Not in the Log. It's how your log is viewed for accuracy.
19. Have a QSL System. Even if you use Log of the World, testers get a lot of QSL card requests. Have a system for processing them.
20. Use a grey line map. Grey line propagation is the cat's meow. Having a visual representation of where the grey line is right now can help you point your antennas the right way.
21. Learn a single band. Want to learn propagation on a band fast? Do a contest on a single band. You'll learn.
22. Challenge your operating skill with QRP. Get frustrated fast. Operate a contest QRP from your station. Then learn how to get through the mess for points. It will make you a better operator.
23. Do an After Action Review. Did we achieve our goal, what went right, what could be improved. Record the results for the next contest.
24. Join a contesting club. Amp up your contesting knowledge and motivation.
25. Learn from contesting pros. They are out there. They can teach you a lot.
26. Leverage your strengths. Great CW operator? Great antennas? Whatever your strength, leverage it for the contest.
27. Go on a contesting DXpedition. Even if it is to a different state. It's a very different experience and will teach you a lot.
28. Practice CW before contests. Notice how much better you are at CW at the end of the contest compared to the start? You need to practice before the contest.
29. Participate on a contesting team. Many contests offer team (versus club) entries. Join a team to up your motivation for the contest.
30. Find joy in contesting. It's there. You know it. Go find it.

There are many more contesting tips, of course. But thirty to start out the fall contesting season seemed like the right number for me.

Thanks to Scot, K9JY



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ANNOUNCED DX OPERATIONS

FEBRUARY 2008

DATES		LOCATION/CALL	QSL VIA	INFO	
2008 Feb01	2008 Feb03	Palau	T88	Home Call Direct	By JA6EGL JE6DND JA6KYU as T88SM T88HK and T88HS fm Koror (OC-009); 80- 10m; CW SSB
2008 Feb01	2008 Feb06	Turks & Caicos	VP5	W9VNE Direct	By W9VNE as VP5/W9VNE fm Providenciales (NA-002); mainly for FOC Marathon (member only event)
2008 Feb01	2008 Feb21	Bangladesh	S21XJ	SM4XIH	By SM4XDJ fm Dhaka; SSB + digital; local evenings and weekends; exactly end date not known
2008 Feb02	2008 Apr15	Guinea Bissau	J5UAP	HA3AUI	By HA3AUI; 30-10m; mainly digital, some SSB; spare time operation; QSL OK via Buro, LotW, eQSL, direct; sked requests OK
2008 Feb02	2008 Apr15	Senegal	6W2SC	HA3AUI	By HA3AUI; 160-6m; mainly digital, some SSB; spare time operation; QSL OK via Buro, LotW, eQSL, direct; sked requests OK
2008 Feb02	2008 Feb16	Cocos Island	TI9K	EA2CRX	By TI2HMG EA1DR EA1IR DH8WR DJ6SI DJ7JC DL2AWG K5YY W4OI; 160-10m + 60 and 6m; CW SSB RTTY, perhaps PSK31; QSL OK via Buro or direct
2008 Feb05	2008 Mar14	Mauritius	3B8	G4FKH	By G4FKH as 3B8/G4FKH fm AF-049; 40- 10m; CW only; 100w; dipole; holiday style operation
2008 Feb11	2008 Feb19	Dominica	J7	Home Call	By WI9WI W9IU WN9O N4PN NF4A as J79WI J79IU J79KM J79PN and J79PC fm NA-101; HF w/ focus on 160 80m + WARC; QRV as J7DX in ARRL DX CW (QSL via W9IU)
2008 Feb11	2008 Feb22	Ducie Island	VP6DX	TBA	By DL6LAU K3NA DL3DXX DL8LAS OH2BH WA6CDR K1LZ + others fm OC- 182); 160-6m; 7 stations
2008 Feb11	2008 Mar06	Gambia	C56YK	ON7YK	By ON7YK; 160-6m: folded dipole + spider beam
2008 Feb12	2008 Feb26	East Kiribati	T32	TBA	By N7OU W7YAQ fm Christmas Is (OC- 024); 160-10m; mainly CW, some SSB RTTY; 100w; QRV for ARRL DX CW



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2008 Feb12	2008 Mar05	Gambia	C56JC		By ON4LAC; PSK RTTY, some SSB
2008 Feb13	2008 Feb18	Surinam	PZ	TBA	By AC8W (PZ5WW), K8DD (PZ5DD), KB8TXZ (PZ5TX), W5JAY (PZ5AY); 160-10m; QSL PZ5WW via K8DD, all others via home call; fm PZ5RA QTH; QRV for ARRL DX CW
2008 Feb13	2008 Feb23	Morocco	CN2XW	G5XW Direct	By G5XW; various locations; perhaps fm AF-065 part of the time; backpacking holiday
2008 Feb13	2008 Feb28	Ogasawara	JD1	Home Call	By JI5RPT as JD1BLY, JE1EKS as JD1BMO, JM1WBB as JD1BMP fm Chichijima Is (AS-031); 160-6m, focus on 160 80m + 2m WSJT EME; CW SSB digital
2008 Feb14	2008 Feb26	Micronesia	V63	LotW	By K8AQM KG8CO K5ZM fm Pohnpei; 160-10m; CW SSB digital; QRV for ARRL DX CW; QSL also OK via K5ZM CBA
2008 Feb15	2008 Feb17	Guam	KH2	JF1TEU	By AB2ST KB3LTB KG6WTW as homecall/KH2; all HF bands; QSL OK via JARL Buro or direct; Tokyo International Amateur Radio Association
2008 Feb15	2008 Feb22	St Martin	FS	F5IYJ	By F5IYJ as FS/F5IYJ fm NA-105; mainly CW; holiday style operation; perhaps also as PJ7/F5IYJ fm Sint Maarten
2008 Feb20	2008 Feb26	Cambodia	XU7XRO	M5AAV	By 9M6XRO fm Sihanoukville; CW SSB + digital; direct QSLs preferred, but Buro cards will be answered
2008 Feb22	2008 Feb26	Belize	V31JZ/p	NN7A	By NN7A fm South Water Caye (NA-180); 160-10m; QSL OK via Buro or direct
2008 Feb22	2008 Feb29	Guyana	8R1PW	G3SWH	By G3SWH G3RTE fm Georgetown; 160-10m, focus on low bands + WARC; CW only; 2 stations; QSL OK via Buro or direct (LotW after 1 year)
2008 Feb23	2008 Mar22	Uganda	5X1NH	G3RWF	By G3RWF; holiday style operation
2008 Feb26	2008 Mar13	Falkland Islands	VP8	DL2AH	By DL2AH fm Pebble Is; 40-10m; mainly SSB, some RTTY; QSL OK via Buro or direct
2008 Feb28	2008 Mar07	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	Home Call Direct	By W1USN AA1M W1SSR; 160-10m; CW SSB PSK