



Newsletter of the
Twin City DX Association
www.tcdxa.org

Volume 7, Issue 1
April, 2010



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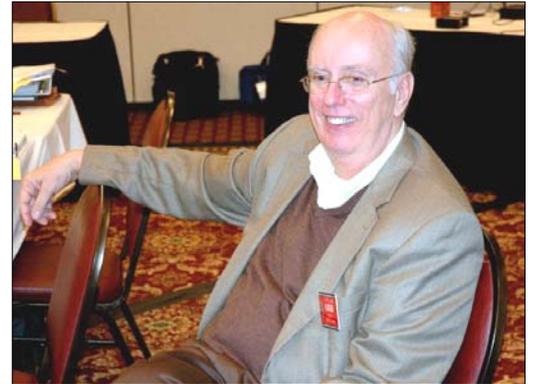
KØIEA
KØJUH
WØBV



TCDXA Members Assume New Roles at ARRL!

Dakota Division Director Jay Bel-
lows, **KØQB**, was elected ARRL Vice
President for International Affairs at the
2010 Annual Meeting on January 15-16,
2010.

In his new position, Jay will be acting
as a liaison with members of the IARU
in region 2: North, Central, and South
America.



At the same time, Greg Widin,
KØGW, moved up to Dakota Divi-
sion Director from Vice Director.

In addition to his duties as Direc-
tor, he will also serve on the Pro-
grams and Services Committee.

Ron Dohmen, **NØAT** was ap-
pointed to the DX Advisory Commit-
tee (DXAC), representing the Dakota
Division.

Ron takes over for TCDXA Presi-
dent Pat Cain, **KØPC** who stepped
down after serving on the committee
since 2006.





NCDXF – An Insider’s Perspective

Glenn Johnson, WØGJ, Vice President, NCDXF



I was most fortunate to become a member of the NCDXF Board of Directors! This organization is on the leading edge of promoting not just DX, but a myriad of other aspects of our wonderful hobby. As the newest director, I was immediately thrown into the fire and elected Vice President; something I was totally unprepared for. But, this last year has indeed been very rewarding.

I am also proud to be a member of the Twin Cities DX Association. TCDXA has contributed as a club for many years to NCDXF. I know many TCDXA members are regular contributors, also. This is what keeps us going!

The board members and other support staff, such as those who maintain the web page and the beacon system, all serve without any remuneration. Every time one of the board members represents NCDXF at a DX convention, it is entirely at his own expense. In fact, it costs the board members almost every time because if we sponsor a reception, the costs are evenly divided each time amongst the board members; never coming out of the funds of NCDXF.

Have you seen the “new” NCDXF web page at <http://ncdxf.org/>? The new homepage is updated almost daily with news pertinent to the DX community. There are links to past and current DXpeditions. Major sponsors, including clubs such as TCDXA, are listed. There are links to many DX bulletins and newsletters, propagation information, QSL information and clubs, including TCDXA!

The NCDXF/IARU Beacon Project is explained in detail, including up to the minute status of the various beacons that make up this valuable propagation asset. This system has been on the air continuously now for many years. The fleet of TS-50s are aging, but we’re keeping them going. (A donation of a TS-50 would be appreciated and is good for a \$500 tax deduction!) Even the military and NASA rely on the NCDXF Beacon Network!

Grant applications for DXpeditions are available on the website. The board of directors usually is able to make a decision about funding within a few days of receiving a request. We funded the **7Ø1YGF** Yemen DXpedition 10 years later with our original pledge. Our funding was contingent upon

obtaining a valid license, which, was finally obtained 10 years later. The only non-DXpedition funding is a regular contribution to the WRTC championships every 4 years.

Club and individual donations go into the general fund for use on DXpeditions. Funds can be specified for NCDXF Scholarships. NCDXF has a corpus for the scholarship program and earnings and specific donations are awarded to deserving young hams pursuing higher education. This year, we are funding two \$1000 scholarships.

Equipment donations are always welcome and can help in two ways. Sometimes the equipment is given to needy DX stations to get them on the air. Sometimes the proceeds from the sale of equipment goes into the general fund. A current list of available equipment is on the website.

Sales of T-shirts, caps, pins and stationery support DXpeditioning, too. We have a video/slide library from over 150 DXpeditions that are available for loaning to clubs for programs.

100% of every dollar donated by individuals or clubs goes to support DXpeditions. Some of the costs for the very rare and remote entities are quite expensive, and your contributions are always welcome, individually or as a club. It has never been easier to join or renew. PayPal is available on the website.

Every DXpedition that we fund submits an in-depth article for our quarterly newsletter. It is always interesting to see pictures, to see what happens behind the scenes and to see the obstacles that make some entities so rare.

The last 2-3 years were financially hard on the corpus of the general and scholarship funds. The gains of this last year have mostly made up for those losses. Thanks to this and your generous support, both as TCDXA and as individual donors, we’ve been able to support several exciting current and upcoming DXpeditions. Stay tuned!

Thanks again to TCDXA and the TCDXA members for supporting NCDXF!!!!

See you in the pileups!

Glenn WØGJ

Antenna Repairs on Diego Garcia

by Larry Arneson, VQ9LA (NØQM)

Cyclone Cleo hung around Diego Garcia for two weeks in early December (2009). Our log periodic was badly damaged in this storm. It's a HyGain model LP-1010, with 14 elements on a 42-foot boom. This antenna was assembled in 1997 by Dale, VQ9QM (W4QM) and Jim, VQ9JC (ND9M).

We had 20+ knot winds during the entire month of December. During the cyclone, we had 40+ knot winds. The metal fatigued, and a boom support bracket failed.



Once we lost a boom support, the boom-to-mast clamp failed, and the antenna began slipping on the mast. With 155 lbs. of antenna turning in 20-knot winds, the feedline was ripped in half.

Eight new boom support channel brackets were fabricated. On February 15th, the U.S. Navy Antenna Crew spent about 5 hours reinstalling the antenna, along with new 1/2" Andrews hardline and an RG-214 pigtail to the balun.



By 0130z, the antenna was ready for testing, and VQ9 was back on the air. Judging from the depth of the pileups, the "new" antenna is working like gangbusters! The Navy Antenna crew, headed by Edgar, (a great guy), did a super job.

73 de Larry, VQ9LA

Note: I will be off the island for 3 months, beginning April 26th. All QSL card requests should go to my stateside call NØQM (QRZ.com), starting April 15th. I leave Diago Garcia next December for a new assignment.

I will be at Dayton next month, and I hope to meet many TCDXA members there!



The antenna crew repairs the boom support.



The crew runs new hardline up the 90' tower.



Installing a new RG-214 pigtail between the hardline and the balun.

The 2009/2010 Low Band Season Was One to Remember

As we look into the rearview mirror, we realize that this past low band season was truly spectacular. Even the OT's who have been actively DXing on 160 meters since the 1950s are saying that this season produced amazing propagation.

Quiet solar conditions allowed polar paths to open for us here in the Upper Midwest. We enjoyed several of those rare DXing opportunities that low band DXers in other parts of North America take for granted. There were many nights when strong signals from Zones 17 and 18 were heard on Topband in our region.

Success stories include Dave, **KØIEA**, who succumbed to peer pressure and built an antenna for 160m. He worked 124 DXCC entities during his first season on Topband. Then there was Tom, **WØZR**, who added 29 entities to his 160m total, which now stands at 179 (see page 8).

There were many great DX catches on Topband by TCDXA members. The following prized QSL images are a sampling of their low band DX success stories from this past season.

Date	UTC	MHz	Mode	RST	Operator
23-Jan-10	1722	18.0	CW	599	
24-Jan-10	1451	21.0	CW	599	
24-Jan-10	1911	14.0	CW	599	
26-Jan-10	2259	10.1	CW	599	
28-Jan-10	0553	1.8	CW	599	

Thanks for the QSOs and 73 from Michael and Martin - VP8DMN. See you next time!

Date	UTC	Band	RST	2X
20-Nov-2009	15:45	30m	599	CW
10-Dec-2009	02:16	160m	559	CW

I Confirm the following Qsos With : **NOAT**

Date	GMT	Band	Mode	RST
30 Jan 2010	01:56	160m	CW	599
25 Sep 2009	20:13	20m	RTTY	599

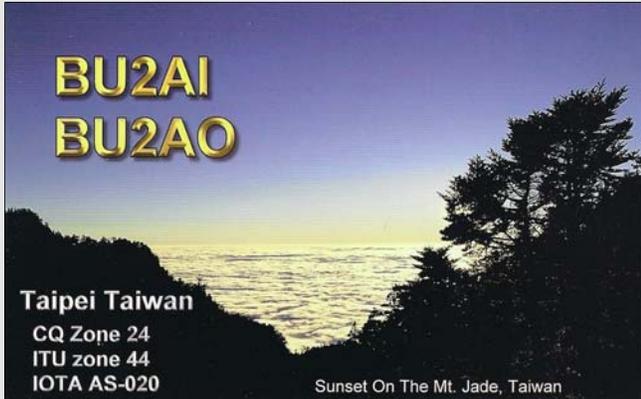
Txn for QSL Kenwood TS 940S + TL922 - Icom IC 746
7 element log periodic KLM 7PLA - 5 element Beam by Tonna for 6m
Oso verified by I4ZQS <2010-gen> E-mail = i4zqs@arrsm.org
This qso is valid for AWARD of the castles of S.Marino - JOKER -
Pse visit Web site -arrsm.org-for more info

73' de T70A

Add: **RADIO CLUB**
P.O.Box 77 - 47890 REP. SAN MARINO
CQ Zone 15 - ITU 28 - Locator: JN 63 FW

The 2009/2010 Low Band Season Was One to Remember

BU2AI
BU2AO



Taipei Taiwan
CQ Zone 24
ITU zone 44
IOTA AS-020

Sunset On The Mt. Jade, Taiwan

BU2AI Jenchieh Hsing
 BU2AO Katie Chang (XYL)

CQ Zone: 24 ITU Zone: 44
IOTA: AS-020 Grid: PL05sa
P. O. Box 51-41 Taipei, Taipei City 11099,

via: _____

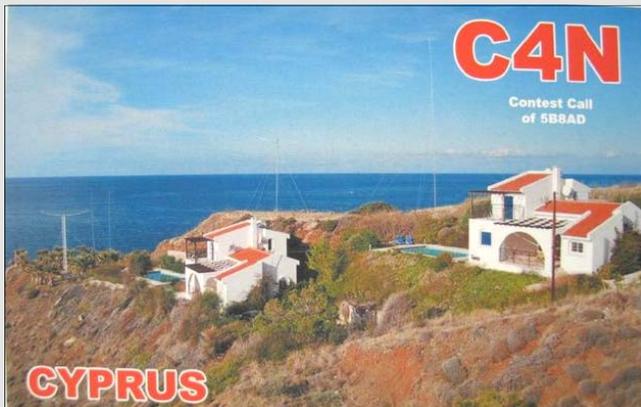
To Radio: **NØTB** Confirming Our QSO / Year SWL

Year	Month	Day	UTC	MHz	2-Way	RS(T)	QSL
2009	12	26	1345	1.8	CW	559	PSE TNX (bufo / direct) & best 73.

Remarks: _____

CONFIRMED BY BU2AI

C4N
Contest Call of 5B8AD



CYPRUS

CQ Zone 20 **LARNACA - CYPRUS** ITU zone 39
IOTA AS-004



5B8AD JA9CDV RW4WR 160/80 m

Confirming QSO with: **KØIEA**
30 JAN 10 0111Z 1.8MHz 2xCW 599
TNX DAVE!

W3HNK QSL MGR
Alexander Savelyev also 5B8AD

DOHA Zone CQ 21 ITU 39 **QATAR**

A7/MØFGA



To Radio: **WØBV** **A7/MØFGA**
A7MØFGA confirms the following QSO(s):
Date Time Band Mode RST
2010-02-01 00:17 160m CW 599

Dave McCarty, K5GN, operator.
CQ Zone 21 / ITU Zone 39

Thanks for the QSO(s)! Verified by NN1N - CU in the next contact!

Tnx for QSO / QSL via NN1N **73**



10-X #23427 GRID SQ KN11CR **REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA** ITU 28 WAZ 15

Z36W

EX: YU5JA, 4N5JA, Z32JA & Z31JA
MEMBER OF MACEDONIA DX & Z30M CONTEST TEAM

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHz	RST	MODE 2-WAY
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				
NØAT	01	FEB	2010	04.16	1.8	599	CW

Via: _____

E-MAIL: z36w@mt.net.mk
www.qsl.net/z31ja

PSE QSL TNX QSL **VENCO** 73, **VENCO**

VENCO STOICEV
IVO L. RIBAR 92
2000 STIP

KOREA REPUBLIC
NAMYANGJU CITY

DS1REE

QSL# : _____ VIA: **Direct**

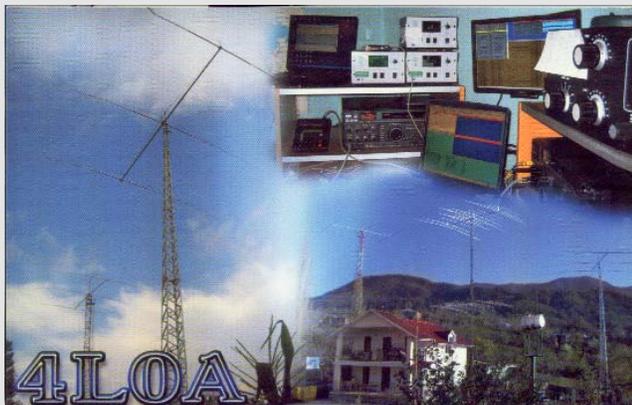
CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE			KST/UTC	BAND(m)	MODE 2-WAY	RST	QSL
	YEAR	MONTH	DAY					
KØJUH	2009	DEC	22	13.55	160	CW	599	PSE QSL PSE TNX

Many thanks for nice QSO & I hope to meet you again 73!

CHUN SUNG, PARK (박천성)
ANAPA Dental Clinic., 3F, #647-1, Songhyeon-1ri, Jinjeop-eup, Namyangju-si, Gyeonggi-do, 472-865 KOREA
☎472-865 경기도 남양주시 진접읍 송현리 647-1번지 3층 아나파치과의원
E-mail: hell9090@naver.com

QSL NET: HELL7H
001-972-5189 / 011-668-8972

The 2009/2010 Low Band Season Was One to Remember



GEORGIA QTH: village Obcha WAZ:21 ITU:29

4L0A

Georgia Contest Station

To Radio: **KØMN**

DATE	UTC	MHz	2Way	RST
29/Nov/2009	03:22	1.8	CW	599
29/Nov/2009	13:23	14	CW	599

EA7FTR VERIFIED

73!

MONGOL

- ☑ JT1CO
- ☐ JT2CO
- ☐ JT3CO
- ☐ JT4CO
- ☐ JT5CO
- ☐ JT6CO
- ☐ JT7CO
- ☐ JT8CO
- ☐ JT9CO
- ☐ JT0CO

5BWAZ • 5BDXCC • 160WAZ • DXCC Honor Roll • 5BWAS

also: JT1CO, JT1AO, 5WUJT, A4VU, KH8/A4VU, JT1C, JT1J
JT2CO, JT3CO, JT4CO, JT5CO, JT6CO, JT7CO, JT8CO, JT9CO, JT0CO

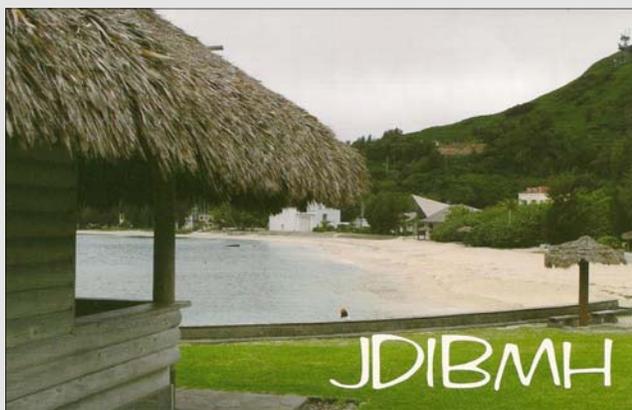
To Radio: **KØKT**

Day	Mon	Year	UTC	MHz	2Way	RST/V
10	12	09	12:01	1.8	CW, SSB RTTY, PSK-31	559
					CW, SSB RTTY, PSK-31	
					CW, SSB RTTY, PSK-31	
					CW, SSB RTTY, PSK-31	
					CW, SSB RTTY, PSK-31	

Choigonjav Chadraabal
P.O. BOX 905
Ulaanbaatar 23, MONGOLIA
e-mail: jt1c@mongol.net
web: www.jt1c.mn

73, Chak

Photo: by Ch.Chadraabal



JD1BMH

Chichijima Ogasawara Is.

CQ 27
ITU 45
IOTA AS-031
JCG 10007
LOC QL17cc

To Radio: **NØAT**
Confirming Our QSO.

DATE	UTC	MHz	2Way	RST
27 Dec. 2009	1339	1.8	CW	599
---	---	---	---	---
---	---	---	---	---
---	---	---	---	---
---	---	---	---	---

"Harry" Hiroyuki Kawanobe
jg7psj@hotmail.com
http://sapphire.as.tohoku.ac.jp/jd1bhm/

de JD1BMH **Verified by JG7PSJ** TNX FB QSO.

UK Eastern Sovereign Base Area Cyprus
CQ Zone 20 • ITU Zone 39 • Loc. KM65WC • IOTA: AS-004

ZC4VJ

Andy Chadwick
Ayios Nikolaos

ZC4VJ

UK Eastern Sovereign Base Area Cyprus

Andy Chadwick

1564

www.m0urx.com

QSL Direct or Via Bureau to:
Mr Tim Beaumont M0URX
P.O. Box 17 Kenilworth
Warwickshire CV8 1SF
ENGLAND

Date	UTC	MHz	Mode	Report
28/12/2009	0449	1.8	CW	599
12/12/2009	0446	1.8	CW	559
13/12/2008	0441	3.5	CW	599
08/12/2009	0402	3.5	CW	599

Thanks QSL 73 de ZC4VJ ANDY

• TS-870 • ICF706 • Acom 1000
• Hexbeam: 19m-20m (DL7IC)
• Verticals: 3S40/80m
• Inv. L: 150m
• 4el Yagi 6m

www.on5ur.be

Thank you for the QSO. 73. Andy Chadwick
E-mail: andy@g3ab.net

The 2009/2010 Low Band Season Was One to Remember

CONWAY REEF
21°44'15" S 174°138'01" E

3D2ØCR

3D20CR - CONWAY REEF
Sept. 29, to Oct. 9, 2009

Twenty years after the first activation ever we went back for another operation from this remote island. Back in 1989 only a few bushes were on the island but today 75 percent are covered with bushes and in another 20 years there will be no more space to set up a radio station. We are now aware what global warming has done the last decades. One beach dried in low tide back in 1989 and today the water is as high as 10" in low tide.

3D20CR
to radio: **WØFS**

Date	Time	Mc	2-Way	RST
04.10.2009	12.07	100m	CW	599

L. T. R. DJ8ON-DJ7IC-DJ8HK-DJ8NK-DL6JCN

TØ7RJ
Mayotte

TØ7RJ
Mayotte

FH-DJ7RJ
LOC. LH27 IOTA AF-27

TO **WØBV**

CONFIRMING: OUR QSO YOUR SWL REPORT

DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	BAND	2-WAY	RST
05	OCT	09	02.58	80m	CW	559
10	"	09	02.34	160m	CW	559

RIG: K2/100 PA 400 W ANT: INVL I DONT HAVE GOOD EARS BUT MY K2!

OP: DJ7RJ 73! Will

R1FJM

R1FJM

CQ ZONE 40
ITU ZONE 75
IOTA EU-019
RDA AR-32

Franz Josef Land, Kheysa is. 80°37'N 58°03' E
Op. Victor Ivanov (Home Call: UA3ME)

Confirms following QSO(s) with: **N5IN**

Day	Month	Year	UTC	Mhz	Mode	RST
12	12	2009	1119	1.8	2XCW	599

QSL MGR RX3MM e-mail: rx3mm@newmail.ru

Qsl Tnx 73!

MAURITIUS ISLAND

3B8CF

KØMN

DATE	GMT	MHZ	RS/T	2-WAY
7-12	027	160M	SS9	CW
09				

Op: **SEEWOSANKAR MANDARY** Jarky VY73
Add: Shastri Road, Candos, Centre Bornes - MAURITIUS
Tel./Fax: (230) 424-5866
Email: 3B8CF@INTNET.MU

Freetown, Sierra Leone
West Africa

9L7NS

CQ Zone 35 ITU Zone 46

VooDoo Contest Group operation from Freetown, Sierra Leone outside of the 2009 CONW DX CW Contest. Operators were (l to r) ZL2IFB, AA7A, N7CW, G3RWF and G4BWF. Tremendous support provided by Zbig, N18TB, who is a member of the UN Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone.

Confirming QSO(s) as follows:

To Radio
KØIEA

Date	UTC	Band	RST	2X
25-Nov-2009	15:36	15m	599	RTTY
02-Dec-2009	02:48	160m	599	CW

Tnx QSL 73 de VooDoo Contest Group AA7A

QSL via AA7A, Ned Stearns 73!

Tips for 160m Success From a Suburban Lot

by Jim Junkert, KØJUH

ed. - This story looks at the challenge of DXing on 160 meters from a 1.0 acre lot in Minnetonka, and explains how this DXer found a way to deal with his noisy conditions on receive, and to generate a signal that would be heard by the DX.

Tom Lutz, **WØZR**, has proven that amazing results can be accomplished on 160 meters from a suburban city QTH. During this past low band season, (one of the best on record), Tom worked 29 new entities, moving his total up to 179 worked on Topband.

Like many DXers living in a tight suburban subdivision, Tom fights noise. Several friends recommended he try the K9AY receive loop. About that time, **WØBV** was selling his, so Tom became the new owner. The K9AY receive loop has made a huge difference, allowing Tom to hear many weak signals that would otherwise have been lost in the noise. And, there's more good news about the K9AY antenna. It has a relatively small footprint, and will fit on a small lot. It consumes an area of only 25 by 25 feet, and requires only one 24-foot fiberglass pole.



Like many DXers on 160, Tom was looking for something that would make him more competitive on transmit. He had tried an inverted L, both with and without elevated radials, a sloper, an inverted V, and a dipole, but the results were disappointing. Enter Steve Fraasch, **KØSF**. Steve told Tom about a folded unipole antenna design that he could construct by adding 3 drop wires to his existing 72-ft. crank-up tower. He would tune the antenna with an L/C network at the base of the tower.

The design required that a minimum of three drop wires be attached, one to each tower leg, at the top of the 3rd tower section at about the 60 foot level. The wires fan out from the tower legs to form a triangle around the tower, and are then terminated at ground level about 3 feet from the base. The 3 drop wires are then connected together and fed through an L-network tuner constructed in a plastic storage box. Note: Insulated Flexweave wire is used (versus solid copy wire) to facilitate smooth coiling when lowering the crank up tower.



Tom's L/C Network is homebrew and simple to construct. It uses a 1000pf vacuum variable and a coil made from 1/4" copper tubing wound on a 2 inch pvc pipe. The network is encased in a plastic storage box to seal it from the weather.

In addition to the tower being grounded, 6 ground radials, each 80 feet in length, were added to the system. More would probably be better, and some at the 1/4 wave resonate length of 135 feet. But, there is some evidence suggesting that a ground radial system is not as critical with this type of antenna as it is with a normal vertical antenna system.

The resonate bandwidth runs about 80 kHz with 1.7:1 SWR at 1800 kHz and about 1.7:1 at 1880 kHz. It didn't take long for Tom to realize this new 160 transmit antenna was a major improvement over his previous antennas. I hope Tom's story will dispel any myths about needing acreage in the boondocks to be successful on 160 meters. You can do it from the heart of a densely-populated suburb. Tom has proven it!

New 160m Entities Worked by WØZR During the 2009/2010 Low Band Season

K4M	JD1BMM
YJØCCC	4Z1UF
W2FJP/KH2	ZC4VJ
R1FJM	FK8CP
A25NW	5N7M
YO2LDC	HBØ/DL2OBO
MDØCCE	TX4D
9H1XT	LX7I
CP4BT	T7ØA
LZ1ANA	ER4KAA
EU7SD	EA9EU
EY8MM	YT3A
HC2SL	Z36W
DS1REE	TX4T
JD1BMH	

FT 1000MP MARK V MODS - BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!

At the TCDXA meeting on March 15th, Dave, **KØIEA** and Dennis, **KFØQR** bumped into an old friend Steve, **KØSF**, who they hadn't seen in a while. Their conversation soon centered on the mods that are recommend by W8JI for the FT-1000MP Mark V radio that would eliminate reported key clicks and a receive distortion problem caused by strong nearby signals.

Steve had offered to install the mods in their radios back in 2005, but Dave passed on his offer. This time would be different. Steve invited Dave and Dennis to come out the following Saturday, and he would install the mods for them. They were more than happy to take Steve up on his generous offer. As they say, better late than never.



Steve, **KØSF** installs W8JI mods in two FT-1000MP Mark V radios owned by **KØIEA** and **KFØQR**.

The mods require knowledge of surface mount component soldering, a good soldering pencil, steady hands, and a well lit work bench.

On the W8JI website, you'll find an extensive writeup on the mods, along with a parts list and photos of the boards showing the exact location of the circuit that will be modified.

See: http://www.w8ji.com/ft1000mk_v.htm .

Note: Prior to doing the mods, Dave and Dennis were aware of the receiver distortion problem in their radios, but had not received any complaints on key clicks.

Celebrity DXers Seen at the 2010 St. Cloud Hamfest



The Thief River gang - l to r: Ray, **NØUY**, Dave, **WØRX**, Art, **KØQL** and Ron, **N5IN**.



l to r: Jay, **KØQB**, Kent, **KAØLDG** (new Dakota Division Vice Director) and Dennis, **KFØQR**.

Dayton 2010 - May 14 to 16

Visit us at flea market spaces 4013 to 4016.
Look for the bright yellow TCDXA banner.



Discovery STS-131 Mission

In the December, 2009 edition of the *GrayLine* (page 17), we learned that Tim, **N0TB** has added aviation photography to his list of serious hobbies.

Admission to Kennedy Space Center to view a Shuttle launch is gained through a lottery. Tim's number came up for the STS-131 launch on Monday, April 5th. Tim and his wife Ramona headed out on April 1st on the road trip to Florida. They stopped to pick up Tim's brother Dean, **N9DL** in Beloit.

Tim rented the monster Canon 800mm lens shown at the left for this mission. His camera is a Canon 7D. This camera boasts an image capture speed of 8 frames per second, and high-performance auto focus. Tim captured 700 images during the launch.

Photographing a night launch (6:21am) provides a big challenge. Tim said, "It's kind of like trying to take a picture an airplane flying in front of the sun! I can't believe how bright it was!" After the launch started, Tim switched the camera to manual mode to take control of the exposure. Tim has uploaded a selection of his Shuttle photos to his photography website at <http://n0tb.smugmug.com/>.

Note: The images were captured at a distance of 6 miles from the launch pad.



T
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**Craig
Anderson**

W9CLA

Like most of my contemporaries, (I hate to admit that I'm going to be 65), my interest in radio began at the tender age of 6 or 7 sitting in front of my grandparent's 1938 shutter dial Zenith console in Robbinsdale. It had the big, green tuning eye. I would listen to the likes of Captain Midnight, the Lone Ranger and Sergeant Preston. That was in the early 1950s. We were living in Glen Lake at the time.

It wasn't until about 1956 that my interest in radio was rekindled, when my parents gave me a crystal radio kit for my birthday. We were now living in Deephaven, and with my dad's help I wound the coil on a Morton salt container and strung a wire in the basement and a good ground to the water pipe. As I slid the homemade tin lever across the coil and played with the cat's whisker, I picked up WCCO and WDGY. I was thrilled that something with no power connected to it other than an antenna could bring in a signal.

With my interest in radio growing, my dad acquired an old multiband RCA radio from my aunt, who had stored it away many years earlier. I was told that it was from the late 30s. After a trip to the local radio and TV repair shop, (Krueger Radio & TV), for a couple of new tubes and a filter cap or two, I began to listen to real shortwave broadcasts.

One summer afternoon in 1957, I accidentally tuned across what I didn't realize was the 75 meter phone band, and heard a station calling someone in North Dakota. The guy used the call letters **KØDEK**. I would soon learn that KØDEK was in my neighborhood. After a few trips on my bike looking for suspicious wire antennas, I discovered his home near Gray's Bay - only a few blocks from my house in Deephaven. I finally got the courage to go to his door one weekend, and I told him that I heard him on my radio. Bob was very happy to show me his station, and demonstrated Ham Radio to me for the first time.

I was hooked. I begged my dad to get me a real radio. After agreeing to put in the sweat equity required by cleaning up construction debris, (my dad was a building contractor), it wasn't very long afterward that he let me buy an old (even then) Hallicrafter S-20R. For the next year, I spent a lot of time listening to the ham bands and reading Popular Electronics.

By 1959, we were living in Excelsior. I was in ninth grade, trying to learn Morse code on my own. I had a copy of the ARRL Novice License Manual. That Christmas, there was a big box under the tree with my name on it. My dad said "open that one first." It was like something out of the movie *A Christmas Story*, except it wasn't a Red Ryder BB gun. It was a large box from a company in Benton Harbor, Michigan with a DX-20 kit inside. My parents didn't see me for two days. I unpacked all of the parts and carefully arranged them

for the big assembly project. Thank God it wasn't a DX-100, or I would have been in big trouble. No one told me I was not supposed to use my trusty wood burning iron. Needless to say, the old adage "give it the smoke test" took on a whole new meaning for me when I plugged it in. After all my hard work, sparks and smoke started coming out from all directions. The smell of an exploded electrolytic capacitor wafted into the living room as my mother ran into my room. She was not pleased. "You could have burnt the house down," she replied. Dejected and embarrassed, I put the DX-20 back in the box.

My dad had heard from one of his friends that there was a ham radio club that met once a month in Excelsior at the old Fire Station. He surprised me one night by taking me there, so I could meet "the guys." One of them, Skip Boynton, **WØMVH**, volunteered to fix my DX-20 if I promised to never use a wood burning iron again, and to pay close attention to the instruction manual.

The other guys in the club were Herm Renner, **WØSCU**, who many of you probably know; Ross Waterbury, **WØQZ**; Chuck Lawton, **WØOHW**; Jack, **WØWQF**; Louie, **KØOGI** (Old Government Issue) and many others whose names have now been long forgotten.

With the help of the club, I leaned the code and took my Novice exam in April of 1960. I didn't receive my license until about 8 weeks later with the call **KNØAZB**. I had the antenna up and ready to go for my first CW contact.

In the fall of 1960, my dad purchased for me a National NC-183 for \$100 from the estate sale of a ham who was SK. I spent a lot of time during the next 12 months with my two crystals. Remember those days when, if you chose the right frequency crystal, you could use it on 40 and 15 meters?

I made lots of contacts, and then one day I heard a guy calling CQ in the lower section of the phone band. It was **OH5SL**, and I will never forget that call. I called him on CW, hoping he would hear my 50 watts. And to my great surprise, he came back to me. He had the patience of a saint copying my sloppy code. I was really

excited to have my first DX contact.

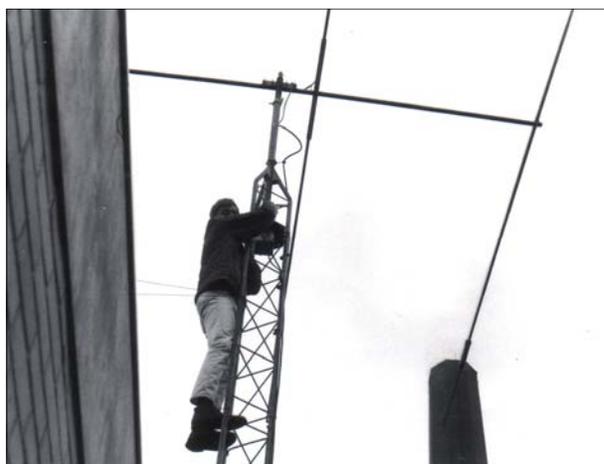
I made my mandatory trip to the FCC field office and passed my General ticket in the fall of 1961. I was anxious to upgrade my 50 watt 6DQ6 DX-20 to a real AM transmitter with a VFO.

My part time job at the Minnetonka Record newspaper in Excelsior paid for a Viking I with external VFO. Everyone for blocks around admired my new acquisition, as my mom could attest to the frequent phone calls asking "is Craig on the air again, we can't see Channel 4." Ah yes, the venerable Viking I, otherwise known as the Waseca TVI generator. It was a good thing I was soon off to college, or there might have been a lynching party knocking at our door.

In the fall of 1963 I was off to Wisconsin to attend college (University of Wisconsin-Stout). Four of my professors in the program were also hams. We had an active ham radio club and station consisting of a TMC GPR-90, Viking Invader 2000 and a tower mounted on top of Fryklund Hall with a three element tri-bander.



KØAZB/9 QRV at UW - Stout in 1966.



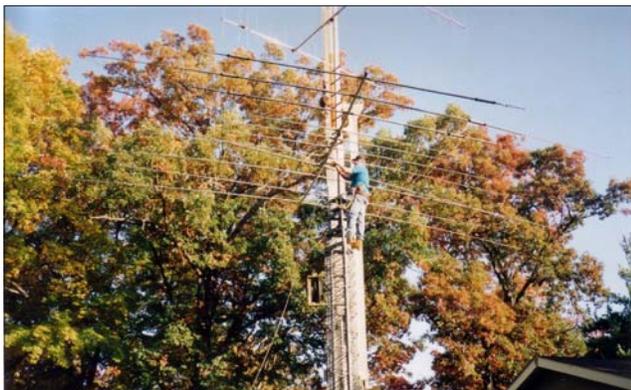
After graduation, I began my professional career working for Motorola Semiconductor in Phoenix as a Product Support Engineer in the Linear IC group.

I finally got back into Ham Radio in 1976 with a move back to the Twin Cities. I bought a brand new set of Drake equipment, consisting of an R4C, T4XC, MN2000 and L4B. I put up my first tower with a CL-33 tribander. I built a new house in Minnetonka in 1980, and got serious about DXing; especially during those great years 1980 and 1981, when the bands were open 24/7.

I upgraded the station to a new Collins KWM-380 and Henry 4K Ultra. We bought a new, larger home in Burnsville, and I installed a Hygain 70-ft. crank-up and Wilson System 36. I had multiple stations consisting of the KWM-380, TS-940 and Icom 761 with the Henry 4K and Alpha 77SX. My career in the semiconductor industry kept me traveling quite a bit, so my radio activity took a back seat to my job. I worked as a sales manager for NEC, AMD and Intel. I finally landed at Honeywell as Director of Sales for the Digital Products Center, working out of Colorado Springs, but living in Burnsville.

I took a two-year break in 1991, and went back to the university to complete two graduate degrees and then worked as an instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in the School of Engineering, until 1994.

I had now upgraded to an Icom 781. While living in Menomonie, I began reviewing assembly manuals and building and testing new antennas for Al Caplan at Telex. I had the first DX88 vertical, TH-11DX and LP-1030 Log Periodic. The TH-11DX pictured in the MFJ ad is actually my



Testing HyGain antennas at UW - Stout in 1992.

prototype antenna taken in 1992 from my QTH in Menomonie.

In 1995, I took my current position as Vice President of Administrative Affairs at Saint Paul College. I have stayed active, and have enjoyed restoring old tube receivers over the years, specializing in R-390 and R-390As, as well as SP-600s. I have my grandparent's original 1937 Zenith 9S367 that perked my original interest in radio almost 60 years ago.

My current station consists of a totally remote controlled (TRX Manager) station, consisting of an Icom 756PROIII, Icom 746PRO, Alpha 9500, SPE 1K-FA, Palstar AT-Auto, Green Heron rotator controller, US Tower 72-ft. remote controlled crank-up with Tenedyne T-12 and 7-element M2 for 6m.



I operate the station from my laptop at our cabin on Nelson Lake in Hayward, and also from our new 32-ft. motor home. I am located in Hudson, WI, 4 miles from the border, and sit on a 3-acre hill at 1,134 ft. MSL. And after all these years, my wife announced to me last week that she is getting her ham license. What a surprise! She wants to know what's in all those large boxes that UPS keeps delivering!

I joined TCDXA back in about 1982, and wish I could attend the meetings more often. But, my work schedule, location and outside meeting schedule has prevented me from attending.





The MWA Contest Corner

2010 ARRL SSB at VP5H

Glenn, **WØGJ** and Scott, **KØMD** traveled back to Turks and Caicos again this year for another go in the ARRL DX SSB Contest. And, their effort was stellar!

Here are Glenn's comments: "600 more Qs and 24 more mults make 1,000,000 more points than last year! That was only 12 more Qs per hour. We had just under 200 dupes (not shown in the box score). Counting dupes, the overall average rate was 140 Qs per hour...basically twice that rate during the day and half that rate during the night.

Last year, we were #2 World Multi-single. We will probably be the same this year, too, as we have reports of at least one other station with about the same number of contacts, but with 40 multipliers on 10m.

Very disappointing 10m propagation...but better than last year! There were two short openings early Saturday afternoon to the eastern seaboard. Only one Q with Florida on Sunday (groundwave?). (States worked: CT, MA, NH, NJ, NY, DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, FL.) We didn't even work west enough to get **K3LR** into the log!

We might have been 'too close' to North America for 10m openings, but we were closer for good 160m and 80m contacts! Wow! 56 states/provinces on 160m!

We didn't know there were so many MN stations! We worked 26 MWA stations on 5 bands. Next year, hopefully, we'll work many more than that on all 6 bands!!!!

Thanks to ICOM for their generous support!!!!

Thanks to Jody, **VP5JM**, for being such an incredible hostess!" <http://www.vp5jm.com/>

(continued on next page)



The VP5JM "Hamlet."



Glenn at the run station.
The blue box selects the K9AY loop direction.



Our K9AY loops - mounted on the upper deck of the Hamlet.



Tribander and 2-element 40m Yagi.



The multiplier station, where we kept an eye on 10 meters.



Scott, KØMD enjoys a shift on the run station.

BOX SCORE VP5H 2010 ARRL DX SSB

Club/Team : Minnesota Wireless Assn
Software : N1MM Logger V10.2.6

(2009 numbers in parentheses)

Band	QSOs ('09)	Pts	Sec ('09)
1.8	452 (333)	1356	56 (45)
3.5	981 (978)	2943	59 (58)
7	1100 (986)	3300	13 (58)
14	1949 (2777)	5847	61 (60)
21	2033 (907)	6099	59 (58)
28	62 (10)	186	11 (3)

Total 6577 (5991) 19731 30 (282)

Score : **6,037,686** (5,027,778)

Rig : ICOM 7600 + ACOM 2000A

Antennas : Dipoles: 160 & 80

2-el 40 Yagi

Tribander: 20-15-10

Recap of 2009-2010 Contest Season MWA Doubles Last Season's Total Club Score!!!

MWA members ignored low sunspot activity and forged ahead to double the combined score from last season!

	Last Season	This Season	
CQWW RTTY	2,756,925	8,055,836	+100%
CQWW SSB	13,608,970	17,613,169	+29%
SS CW	3,071,418	4,624,630	+51%
SS SSB	3,016,307	4,012,832	+33%
CQWW CW	14,472,949	34,022,780	+135%
ARRL 160m	3,172,424	4,429,347	+40%
ARRL 10m	1,136,650	1,591,163	+40%
ARRL RTTY	1,058,281	1,881,005	+78%
MNQP	2,157,788	2,591,740	+20%
ARRL DX CW	8,372,720	28,800,529	+244%
ARRL DX SSB	<u>10,827,738</u>	<u>19,801,947</u>	+83%
TOTAL	63,652,170	127,424,978	+100%

Team Hennepin Takes Pizza Away from Team North

Team Hennepin threw their efforts into high gear and won most improved total team score:

	Last Season	This Season	
Team North	27,911,776	50,876,135	+82%
Team South	15,220,391	30,244,861	+99%
Team Hennepin	20,520,003	46,303,982	+126%

MWA Helps Pack Over 66,000 Meals!

by Al Dewey, KØAD



MWA members, along with their family members, stepped forward to help pack over 66,000 meals as part of the **Feed My Starving Children** program held in Golden Valley, MN. The Saturday, January 10th morning crew worked with other volunteers to pack 33,000 meals. But, they were narrowly edged out by the Tuesday, January 19th night crew that worked with other volunteers to back 33,900 meals. (<http://www.fmsc.org/>)

When **NØKK** first suggested this idea to me, we both wondered how interested a contesting group would be in something like this. As usual, MWA did not disappoint. One by one, MWAers and their family members stepped forward to volunteer their time on this very worthwhile project. Then, the earthquake in Haiti happened. As it turns out, the FMSC meals packed at Calvary Lutheran Church were already destined for Haiti. So, this project became even more meaningful.

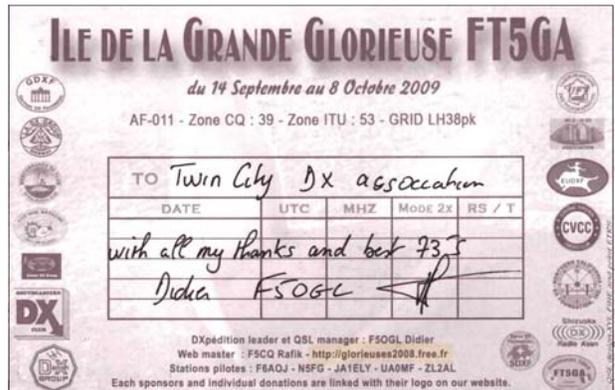
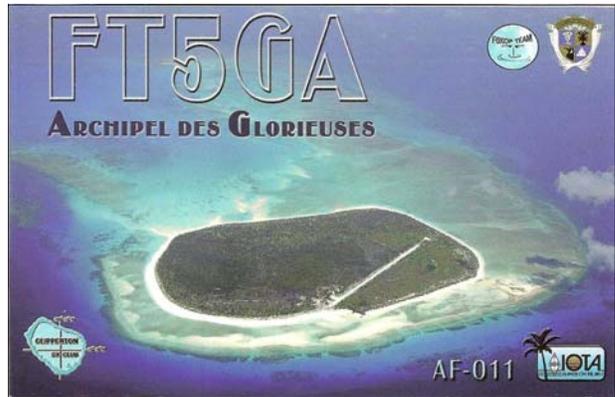
This was a lot of fun, and a great way to meet MWAers and their families. We had time to chat and laugh and cheer together. I realize that for a number of reasons, including geography of course, it was not possible for everyone to participate. Even those who could not participate had great works of encouragement.

Rich, **NØHJZ** was there Tuesday night carefully counting boxes coming off the MWA assembly line and trying to figure out how to calculate the correct number of points for teams Hennepin, South, and North! As it always does, MWA made me proud to be a member.

Join TCDXA

Our mission is to raise *Dollars for DX* used to help fund qualified DXpeditions. Our funds come from annual member contributions (dues) and other donations. TCDXA is a non-profit organization as described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions from U.S. residents are tax-deductible.

Becoming a member is easy. Go to <http://tcdxa.org/>, and follow the instructions on the homepage. All contributions (including annual dues) may now be paid on our secure site, using PayPal or credit card.



ELECTRONIX SERVICING
 6028 Candlewood Drive
 Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

Gary Grivna KØGX
 763-561-2836
 grivn001@umn.edu
 Computer Sales-Repairs-Upgrades
 Amateur Radio Repair All Brands
 Audio Video Electronic Repair

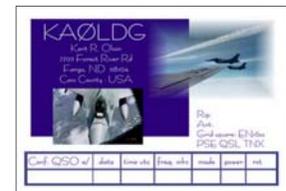
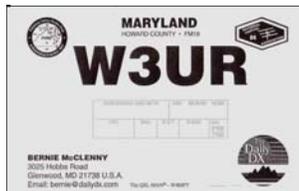
A BIG Welcome to Our Newest Members!

**Bernie Mc Clenny,
W3UR
Glenwood, MD**

**Bill Meeker,
KØKT
Ames, IA**

**Cisco Call,
YS1CF
La Libertad, El Salvador**

**Kent Olson,
KAØLDG
Fargo, ND**



TCDXA Treasury Report March 31, 2010

Submitted by TCDXA Secretary-Treasurer Jim Junkert, KØJUH

Income:

Carryover from 2009	\$ 1,843.68
2010 dues collected	2,620.45
Donations & misc.	509.15
Door prize ticket sales	158.00
WØLUP Estate	100.00
Total YTD income	\$5,231.28

Expenses:

Bank service fees	\$ (16.00)
Office supplies, guest dinners, and misc.	(28.00)
MWA plaque	(75.00)
YI9PSE funding	(500.00)
CYØ funding	(200.00)
E4X funding	(300.00)
ZL8X funding (proposed)	(499.89)
Member get well cards and gifts	(101.17)
Total YTD expenses	\$(1,720.06)

Current Checking Balance (3/31/2010):	3,511.22
Cash on hand	75.00
Total current funds	\$3,586.22

VKØIR
ZL9CI
A52A
T33C
3B9C
TX9
CP6CW
3YØX
K7C
5A7A
VU4AN

K5D
VK9DWX
FT5GA
3D2ØCR
E4X
NØTG/CYØ



K4M
TX3A
9M6LSC
YS4U
YI9PSE
ZL8X

XU7MWA
S21EA
J2ØRR
J2ØMM
BS7H
N8S
3B7SP
3B7C
5JØA
VP6DX
TX5C
9XØR

TCDXA DX DONATION POLICY

The mission of TCDXA is to support approved DXpeditions by providing funding. Annual contributions from TCDXA members are the major source of funding for this mission.

A funding request from the organizers of a planned DXpedition is directed to the TCDXA Treasurer, who makes an initial evaluation of the request, and discusses the attributes with the TCDXA Board of Directors. The request will be judged by how well DXpedition plans meet several key considerations (see below).

If the Board of Directors deems the DXpedition to be worthy of support, a recommended funding amount is presented to the membership for approval. The TCDXA Treasurer will communicate the outcome of this process to the requestor.

Key Considerations for a DXpedition Funding Request

DXpedition destination	Website with logos of contributing clubs
Ranking on <i>Most Wanted Survey</i>	QSLs with logos of contributing clubs
Most wanted ranking by TCDXA Members	Online logs/pilot stations
Logistics and transportation costs	Up front cost to each operator
Number of operators and their credentials	Support by NCDXF & other clubs
Number of stations on the air	LoTW log submissions
Bands, modes and duration of operation	Success of previous operations by same group
Equipment: antennas, radios, amps, etc.	Valid license and DXCC approval
Stateside and/or foreign QSL manager	Funding mode: USA and/or foreign financial address

Guidelines for Level of Funding

\$\$\$\$ First level	A major DXpedition in terms of operators, equipment, duration of stay, and transportation costs. Requires elaborate planning and a huge budget. Always ranks high on Most Wanted Survey. Examples: VKØIR, 3YØX, K5D.
\$\$\$ Second level	Major to modest DXpedition in terms of operators and equipment. Ranking on Most Wanted Survey can vary from high to low. Examples: D68C, 3B9C
\$\$ Third level	Modest operation in terms of operators and equipment. Usually ranks low on Most Wanted Survey. Examples: T33C, K7C
\$ Fourth level	Special requests, and DXpeditions to entities <i>NOT</i> on the Top 100 Most Wanted Survey. Examples: CP6CW, YS4U



To join TCDXA, go to <http://tcdxa.org/> .

- end -