

TCDXA
TWIN CITY DX ASSOCIATION



Minnesota

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Twin City DX Association

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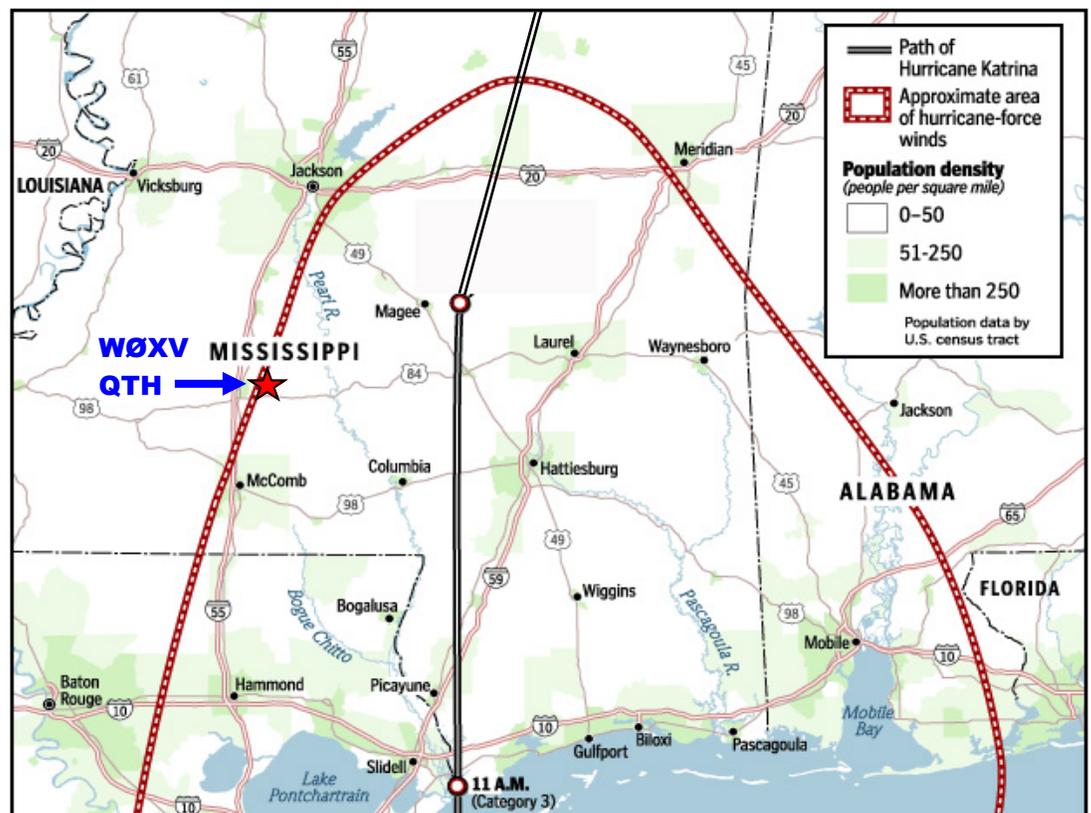


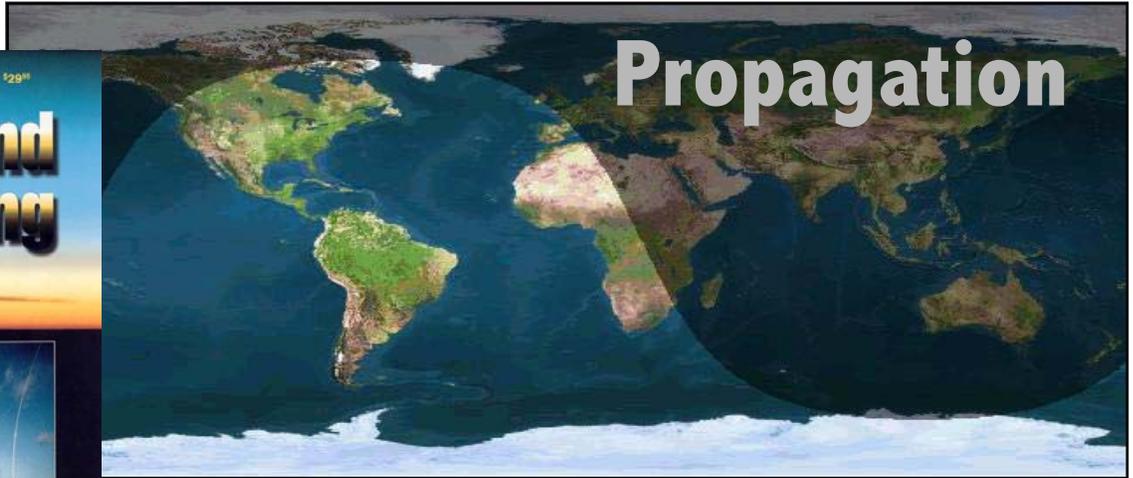
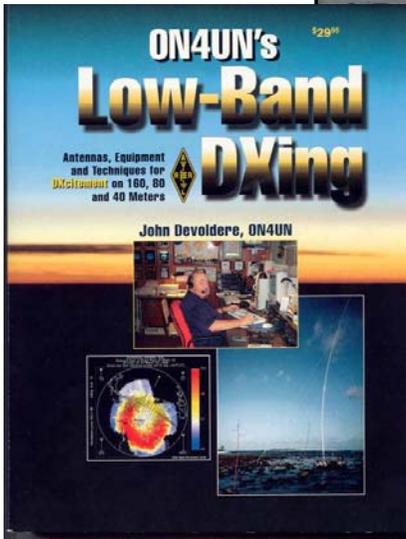
WØXV Survives Glancing Blow from Hurricane Katrina

TCDXA member Jeff May, **WØXV**, of Brookhaven, Mississippi (see his Member Profile in the June, 2005 *Gray Line Report*) narrowly escaped total devastation from Katrina. Jeff lost trees, and he lost his power and telephone service for a week. His house, out buildings, and tower/antennas escaped serious damage. Just to the east, along U.S. Highway 84 in Laurel, MS (see map, below), there were eight deaths and approximately 1,000 destroyed homes.

A local ham sold a 5kw generator to Jeff, which was put to work keeping Jeff's refrigerator and well pump working. At one point, Jeff endured 5 hours in a line for gas, where the local law was needed to ensure order. Jeff stayed radio-active by using a deep-cycle marine battery.

Jeff reports having met many new neighbors during the cleanup, and said that it's been a heart-warming experience to see how everyone is pulling together to help each other. We wish Jeff the best of luck, as he continues to recover from Katrina's wrath.





High Wave Angles at Gray Line

by John Devoldere, ON4UN

*ed. - Several TCDXA lowbanders listened in amazement, last March, while **W0AW**, **W0GJ**, and **N5IN** handily worked the **FT5XO** operation on Topband. How was it possible that they made what appeared to be easy Qs, while the rest of the gang was left struggling to copy the FT5? There were at least two things which these guys had in common: 1) their Qs were at FT5 sunrise, and 2) they were using a dipole (or inverted V). The following discussion by **ON4UN** may help explain why these extremely memorable Qs were possible. The following excerpt is reprinted, with permission from the ARRL, from **ON4UN**'s book "**Low-Band DXing**," available at Radio City or directly from ARRL www.arrl.org/shop.*

Over the years, many have observed that enhanced gray line propagation goes hand-in-hand with high-angle radiation. Hams generally accept the notion that low-radiation angles are required for DX work on the low bands. Those that have the choice between low-angle antennas and a high-angle radiator (e.g. - a dipole) confirm that 95 to 99% of the time, the low-angle antenna is the better one. But there are occasions when the dipole will be the winner. This seems to only happen during the gray line period (dusk or dawn).

In the 1960s, Stew Perry, **W1BB**, speculated that, at sunrise and sunset, the ionosphere acted like a big wall behind the receiving or transmitting location, and it focused weak 160 meter signals, like a giant poorly reflective dish, on one area at a time, just ahead of the densely ionized region in sunlight. This seems like an acceptable explanation, since it appears that losses at low incident (grazing) angles are very high near the LUF (Lowest Useable Frequency) of a path. This may also explain why very often at sunrise and at sunset high-angle antennas seem to perform better than low-angle antennas.

Another possible way of explaining the fact that high-angle antennas often have an edge at sun-

rise/sunset is that the high-angle signal on its way to the F layer can punch right through the E layer. The lower-angle signal spends too much time passing through the D and E layer, and it is absorbed more. In other words, over the same distance, a two-hop, high-angle signal can be considerably stronger than a single-hop, low-angle signal, due to the (absorptive) effects of the D and E layer.

G3PQA notes that his dipole (high-angle antenna) always outperforms his low Beverage (which has very little off-the-side, high-angle radiation) when working ZLs on 80 meters on long path at equinox, when there is a daylight gap, and when conditions peak after sunrise.

K3BU testified that during one of his recent Topband operations from **VE1ZZ**'s QTH: "I had an inverted V at 70 ft and a four square L-vertical array. I was able to crack the 'one-way afternoon' Europeans with the inverted V, almost two hours before the four square was heard. These verticals have an ocean of radials under them, and sit at the ocean shore on a small hill." This means they produce extremely low radiation angles, which evidently is not what's needed under these circumstances.



TCXDA Treasurer's Report - YTD January thru September, 2005

reported by Jim, KØJUH

Income

Balance Jan. 1, 2005	\$	444.63
Annual dues collected-2005		2,088.00
Above/beyond the call of duty		175.00
Door prize raffle ticket sales		223.00
WØDXCC profits		102.38
TCDXA shirt order		<u>280.50</u>
Total income	\$	3,313.51

Expenses - YTD

MWA donation	\$	-75.00
3YØX donation		-500.00
NCDXF donation		-250.00
K7C donation		-250.00
Materials - member certificates		-7.00
Postage/envelopes		-18.00
Check written/ deposit fee		-2.00
Monthly checks and service fee		-24.00
Check order		-19.95
Door prize - MFJ watch		- 32.00
TCDXA banner		-75.00
TCDXA Shirt Order		-277.00
TCDXA domain renewal - 1 yr		-19.00
TCDXA website hosting expense		<u>-63.32</u>
Total 2005 expenses	\$	-1,612.27

Current balance - September 15, 2005:

\$ 1,701.24

Projected Expenses for 2005

ARRL Frequency Defense Fund	\$	150.00
3 DXpeditions @ \$250/donation		750.00
Monthly check service fee		12.00
Unexpected expenses		<u>100.00</u>
Total projected expenses	\$	1,012.00

Packet Cluster Escrow Account

Balance Jan. 1, 2004	\$1,070.56
ACØX node repairs	<u>-85.00</u>
Current escrow balance	\$ 985.56

Checking Account Balance - YTD

TCDXA fund balance	\$1,701.24
Packet Cluster escrow balance	<u>985.56</u>
Checking account balance	\$2,686.80

"There is life after DXing...."

Ken, WØSX, proves the truth of this claim, whenever he climbs aboard his vintage T-34 trainer. This is a photo of Ken (in the yellow bird) and his flying mate, Jim Skogan, on their way to a Saturday fly-in breakfast.

When the bands are dead, Ken heads for the wild blue yonder!



Who Owns This Shack?

This is a new *Gray Line* feature, designed to help members connect call-signs with the faces of the ops (and their shacks). This month, we're just showing the format of the game, and aren't playing for serious money. We'd like your feedback on this concept. Please send your comments (and photos, if you like the idea) to k0juh@comcast.net. 73! de Jim

(see page 22 for the mug shots)



#1

Clues:

- Heads for Saskatchewan every fall to hunt ducks and geese with Canadian friends.
- Used to fish for walleyes, when he lived on Lake Mille Lacs.
- Lives up to the old adage: "You can always tell a German, but you can't tell him much."



#2

Clues:

- His mantra is "Golf before DX," at least during the summer months.
- Constantly alert for a 70 operation, to give him his last new-new.
- Takes meticulous minutes at club meetings, and posts them to the reflector.



#3

Clues:

- He once produced a monster signal on 20m, using a 6-element KLM on a 58 ft. boom. Now he "owns" the 30m band, with a home-brew, 3-el yagi, constructed with parts from the old KLM.
- Loves to debate issues, especially politics.
- A golfing purist, who insists on walking the course and carrying his clubs.

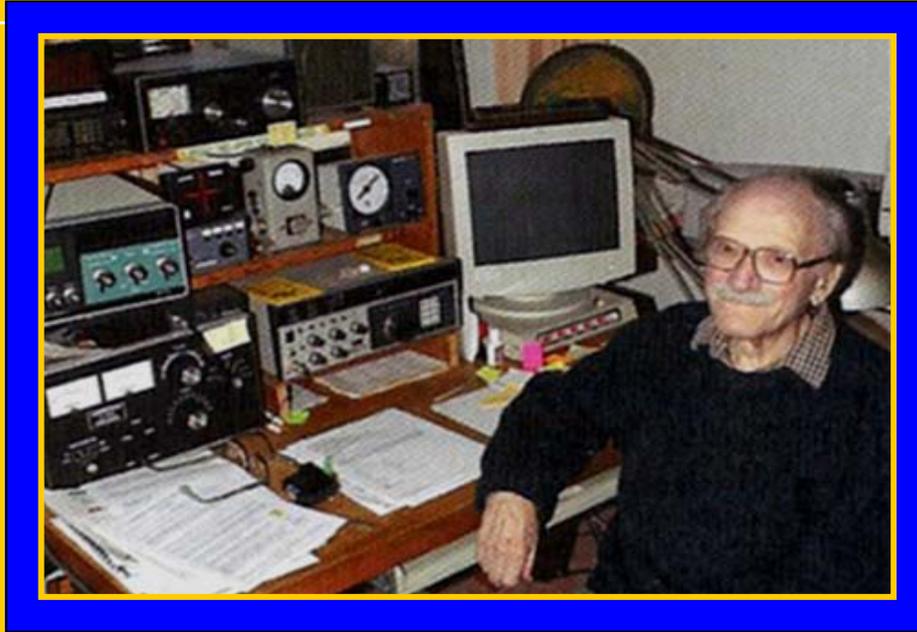


#4

Clues:

- "Hey Culligan man!!!!"
- Won the ARRL Antenna Design Contest, several years ago. His award was for a "triangular-shaped quad," which covers 20 through 10 meters (5 bands), and uses a novel mechanical support for the elements.
- Needs just one more: Scarborough, BS7, in his quest to work them all.

Jules Freundlich, W2JGR



RYRYRY DXCC RTTY Honor Roll Member Going QRT

After 70 years in amateur radio, and at the age of 87, long-time TCDXA member Jules Freundlich, **W2JGR**, has decided it's time to lower the antennas.

In recent years, his failing health has made it increasingly difficult to participate in the hobby he loved so much. After moving to an assisted living apartment earlier this year, he informed his daughter, Laura, that it was time to bring his long career in amateur radio to a close, and asked her to contact our club for assistance in dismantling his station.

In July, Bob, **WØBV**, and Jim, **KØJUH** received an e-mail from Laura explaining the situation, and asking if the club could help. Their answer - absolutely!

After that first e-mail, a plan of action began to evolve. Acting as the coordinator for the project, Bob began scheduling various activities to help Laura and her Dad with their request.

The first order of business was to meet with Laura late in July at Jules' apartment to inventory all of the equipment, and subsequently place a fair market value on all items. Thanks to Mike, **WØWG**, and Bob, **WØEK** for helping research values of the equipment.

Next on the agenda was removal of the log periodic beam and tower. This was accomplished on August 19th, with the help of Dave, **KØIEA**, and Larry, **NØXB**. Incidentally, for those of you who didn't know, Jules' QTH was on the 14th floor of a high-rise apartment building in downtown Minneapolis, and his beam and tower were located on the roof. When you climb this tower, you get a "real view" of the downtown area and surrounding suburbs.



W2JGR's antennas were 190 ft. above the Walker Art Center, in downtown Minneapolis.

And finally, at the end of August, the guys got together with Jules' son, Doug, to sort through logs, awards, QSLs, books, magazines, and miscellaneous documents.

Ultimately, none of the equipment was sold. Jules and Laura decided to donate everything to the Courage Center. As a result, many handicapped hams will benefit from their generosity.

The following story is an autobiography that Jules wrote in 1997 for posting on the website of Don Hill, **AA5AU**. Jules and Don became good friends, as a result of their mutual passion for the digital modes. This wonderful story about a 70-year love affair with Amateur Radio could only have been written by one man – the man himself, Jules, **W2JGR**.



Larry, **NØXB**, begins disassembly of the Tennadyne T-8 and wire antennas on a rainy day in August.

What follows is a collection of snapshots of one person's almost 70 years of ham radio experience, gleaned from 22 paper logbooks, two large loose leaf books, 11 shoe boxes of QSL cards, and a still mostly-intact memory.

How did I become interested in ham radio? I recall it clearly. I had read in the New York Times about a ham in Alaska who was able to have a Calculus problem solved for him, by radio, by a ham in Texas. That struck a chord. I somehow sought out the ARRL and received a booklet entitled "How to Become a Radio Amateur." On October 7, 1935, I took an examination, which included a code test at 10 wpm, at the Radio Inspector's (RI) office at 641 Washington St. in New York.

I received my two sided, wallet size, radio license dated 12-31-35, signed by J.B. Beadle, assigning me **W2JGR** with Class B operating privileges. To this day, I have that original license in my possession. Following World War II, I upgraded to Class A, which included taking a code test at 13 wpm. Class A was ultimately grandfathered to Advanced Class, which I have held, ever since.

FIRST QSOs

My first logbook was a collection of stapled pages, produced by a 'mimeograph' machine, using a layout of my own design. The first entry is dated March 23, 1936, although my first QSO of record was with a local station on 80 meter CW on March 30, 1936. I had to call on my "doublet" antenna, with a rig I do not recall, for a whole week, before I made a contact. Each call was dutifully logged, even though no contact had resulted. With visions of a visit by the RI in my head, I continued this practice for many years. The first DX contact (my 114th QSO) from W2JGR was not logged until 1:40am local time on December 13, 1936, and was with **VK4HR** on 20 meter CW. An hour later **VK3GP** gave me RST 569. I still have his QSL card, but none from **VK4HP**. Soon after, I worked a local down the street. He said he worked me on 40 meters. I was transmitting on 20 meters! We visited, and became good friends.

Unfortunately, I can find no record of what my rig was those first months, but in late December, 1936, I made a marginal note that I was now using a Type 57 tube as an electron-coupled oscillator, a 46 buffer, and a 210 final. I do recall I had built this rig on a true "breadboard," and that I was using a wire dipole. 20 meter CW DX continued being worked sporadically, and all DX contacts were highlighted with red pencil. Logbook #1 went until February 8, 1937. It appears that of all the calls that were made, only about ten percent resulted in QSOs. Many pages have a marginal notation of "PHOOEY." That poor old logbook is now faded and crumbling around the edges. My first QSL card carried the banner across the top: "**W2JGR IS OPERATED FOR WORLD WIDE FRIENDSHIPS.**" Over the years, that statement evoked many pleasant responses on reply cards.

PROGRESS and WAR

Logbook #2 shows that in June, 1938, I was using a 6L6G tri-tet oscillator operating off 110 Vdc mains, with about 2 watts output. It was not until February, 1939, that I noted completion of a new rig consisting of a 6L6G E.C.O., with two 6L6G's as a final amplifier and with 500-600 volts, feeding a Zepp antenna cut for 80 meters. I now had a noisy motor-generator located in the 'john' adjacent to my shack, to convert the city mains DC to AC. It started up every time I turned on the transmitter. A note in the log margin says "September 1, 1939. War starts in Europe. VK's, ZL's, G's, F's, D's are off the air." My last pre-war QSO was on January 28, 1940. I was working as a civil servant Naval Architect on the conversion design of merchant ships to army transports, and had no time for ham radio.

GETTING STARTED AGAIN - POST WW II

August 31, 1946 found me back on the air, using a 6V6 crystal oscillator, with 6L6 final and with a power input of 15-20 watts. A log entry dated a few months later noted I was using my first post-war newly-constructed rig, using a 6L6 tri-tet oscillator, 807 doubler, with an 813 final running 1500 volts on the plate. The city mains were now AC. The rig was designed by Noah, **W2HEE**, and built by myself. It had a few problems. On Oct. 26, I received a polite phone call from the New York City Police Department to inform me that I was interfering with

their 33mHz receiver, located on top of the George Washington Bridge tower, which was about 13 blocks away. In a few weeks, the rig was cleaned up, and I started operating again. It was not until November 8, 1956, that I had my first phone contact. From then on, it was mostly phone, and occasional CW, until the RTTY bug hit me in the early 80s.

Several of the most pleasant QSOs I ever had were with "Jim," **W2SMA**, in late 1946 and early 1947. He was located at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, 50 miles from me, up the Hudson River. He was a young Lt-Col teaching electricity at the academy. Our 20 meter QSOs were so solid, that I figure the Hudson River acted as a 20 meter waveguide for us. We were both new parents at the time. 23 years later, in 1969, I read in *Electronic News* that Brig. Gen. Irving R. Obenchain Jr. had been appointed commanding general of the Safeguard Communications Agency, Army Strategic Communications Command. That was Jim.

NEW THRILLS

On a Saturday evening, December 14, 1946, I had one of those thrills that only come a few times in a ham's lifetime. At 8:07pm local time, I called Yuruey Phi, **C8YR**, in Laochunmiao (Petroleum City) in Kansu province, China, on 20 meter phone. I had been in the process of checking the band edge with my BC-221 frequency meter when I heard him call CQ. That QSO lasted one hour and three minutes, with signals at both ends peaking S7-8. I was running 345 watts to a dipole on the roof. He was running 220 watts. I received his photograph and QSL card not too long afterwards via the ARRL QSL bureau. That QSL card was valid for my first DXCC submission thirty years later.

The post-war years provided many contacts with hams in the military, stationed overseas. Although I never did phone patch work, I did relay messages, and on occasion had a family member come into the shack to speak directly to loved ones overseas. The DX counters kept coming. In the late evening of August 25, 1949, I had a 1-1/2 hour phone QSO with Len Collett, **W0DEA**, in Joplin, MO, on 20-meter phone. My next radio activity would not come again until September 25, 1954. With three youngsters growing up, and in the middle of a developing engineering career, ham radio had to wait a bit.

REVITALIZATION and HIATUS

January, 1954 *QST* carried a great construction article of a multiband 300-watt CW/AM transmitter using a tube lineup of 5763-6C4-5763-5763-6146-813. I built that from scratch, including all the metal work, except for the front panel, which was machined and engraved as a "government job." I also built the high-powered phone modulator, with a tube complement of 6J5-6J5-6L6-two 811A's. I still kept logging unanswered calls, although the percentage of "hits" approached 100 percent at times. Phone was the mode of choice. In December 29, 1954, I replaced my wire dipole with a 16-foot vertical, with four radials, on my garage roof. In early 1955, it appears that I tired of domestic ragchewing, and the log started filling up with DX calls. By early 1956, I no longer logged unanswered calls. I alternated between CW and phone. On April 8, 1956, Terrell, **G8BD** visited my shack. On October 5, 1957 at 8:10 PM I logged the Russian satellite, Sputnik, on 20.005 MHz. I then copied it on successive orbits, and sent a QSL card to which I received a response. My activity between early 1957 and late 1974 consisted only of a few QSOs per year. Family obligations and a maturing engineering career took priority.

SSB ARRIVES FOR ME

In December, 1974, having almost lost interest in the hobby, at the suggestion of Greg Stephenson, **W2OBO/W1DGC**, I purchased a Yaesu FT-101B SSB transceiver, and was back on the air with a vengeance. The old military surplus Hammarlund Super-Pro receiver and the 813 transmitter languished in the basement for years, before being sold and scrapped, respectively. I was still using my vertical.

THE BELGIAN RAFT

With my new modern rig sitting on a card table, on the second floor of my home, I made it a habit to monitor 20 meters every day before going to work. I picked up a male voice of heavily accented English early on December 27, 1974, signing **ON4AXA/MM**. He identified himself as The Belgian Raft called "**The Last Generation.**" This was Alfonso Oerlemans, who, with a countryman Raoul de Boel, and a Moroccan fisherman Hassan Cribatou, were crossing the Atlantic Ocean from Safi, Morocco to Trinidad in the

West Indies. Their home base contacts were **ON5KL**, and his QSL manager Pam, **ON4QP**, with whom they checked in frequently. Every morning, as I monitored, I taped their contacts. Finally, on January 8, 1975, I made a contact with them. They were at 9deg 37' N, 55deg W. They had left Morocco on October 26th, and landed on Trinidad on January 16, 1975, after traveling 3500 miles for 82 days. The raft was described as being 5 x 8 meters, and equipped with sails, which were said to be used if the equatorial current was not to their liking. I called a popular columnist at the local Long Island paper, and told him what was happening. To my surprise, he came out with a column entitled "Maritime Mystery." It started like this:

"Who is this brave and mysterious sailor named Franz? (sic) What is he doing out in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean? What is the nature of his medical experiments? What is he observing? And for whom? They are tantalizing questions for Jules Freundlich of Malverne, himself an explorer of distant places. though by radio beam, not raft....."

The article continued, and he pretty accurately reported what I had told him. Toward the end he said:

"Now that is an intriguing tale. But, Franz's mission seems to be a particularly well kept secret. Crossing the Atlantic on a 16-by-25 foot raft is an undertaking of extraordinary high drama. Yet, the Coast Guard, which knows pretty much everything happening at sea, never heard of Franz or his raft. Franz identified himself as a Belgian, yet a series of inquiries at the Belgian Consulate in Manhattan, yesterday afternoon, produced no one who knew anything about Franz....."

Well, the arrival of the raft at Trinidad was duly reported by the Associated Press, and my columnist friend sent me a copy of the AP wire story and a great accompanying 8 x 10 glossy photo of the raft and its occupants, as it arrived at its planned destination. In due time, I received a QSL card from his manager. It contains a picture of the raft and a map showing the route taken.

EPILOGUE TO THE BELGIAN RAFT

About four and a half years later, in July, 1979, I received a handwritten letter from Fons. He was

in Canada with his wife, visiting North America. He mentioned he had made over 700 QSOs during the trip. I quote the next sentence verbatim:

"In October 1979 we'll make a new and more remarkable expedition. It's our intention to cross the Atlantic in a steam boiler. It's an underwater excursion module."

However, the main purpose of the letter was to advise me that he would be visiting New York City, and wanted some help in receiving information about the city. He gave no return address in Ontario, but promised to call me when he arrived. I never heard from him, or of him again.

THE ROARING SEVENTIES

The 70s saw a dramatic change in my ham life. In 1975, after 40 years of using verticals and dipoles, I erected a 40-foot E-Z Way two section, crank-up, tilt-over tower, and attached a Hy-Gain TH3Mk3 beam on top. I could not get over the difference in performance over a dipole! Somewhere along the line, I purchased a real husky amplifier: the Henry K-2000. This was my first taste of real power. The logbooks filled up fast, and are crammed with DX entries. I entered SSB phone contests, and received my first DXCC certificates (Mixed and Phone) in April, 1976.

In mid-1976, the Department of Commerce, under budget pressure from Congress, announced it was terminating the 18-minute after the hour WWV propagation reports. Many amateurs, including myself, wrote letters urging that this order be rescinded, citing the many world-wide users of this valuable information. I do not know how many letters were received, but the order to terminate was cancelled. Grassroots voices do make a difference.

In August, 1979, I received WAZ No. 251 for 20 meter Single Band Phone. This same award for 20 meter Single Band RTTY had to wait another decade.

HAM HOSPITALITY

In late 1974, I wrote to the SRAL, the Finnish amateur radio league, that I would be visiting Finland to see my new and first grandson. (In later years, he would become **OH2LKI**.) I said that I was interested in operating /OH2, but preferred to

rent equipment, if possible. I received an answer from a twenty-something ham named Martti Laine, **OH2BH**. Martti told me it was unnecessary to rent equipment, if I wished to operate. Upon my arrival the following summer, Martti gave me the shack keys for unlimited access to the Nokia club station, **OH2AW**. This was my first experience operating as DX, and it was like a dream station. The transceiver consisted of the Drake Twins and a homebrew amplifier, feeding a tribander on a 66 meter (210 ft.) tower. The station was located on a rural peninsula jutting into the Gulf of Finland, with water on three sides - a perfect radio location. On my trip to Finland in 1996, I learned, much to my sadness, that that station was no longer in existence. The 1975 trip, however, taught me the true nature of ham hospitality. I met many wonderful Finnish hams, who remain my friends to this day. I fondly remember spending a day at the home of the legendary Armas Valste, **OH2NB**. My second trip to Finland, in 1977, gave me the opportunity to participate in the SRAL Summer Camp - a nationwide field day type gathering, held every year. That experience was documented in my article in January 1979 *CQ* magazine, entitled "**Report from Finland**." Since that time, I have been to Finland many times, always enjoying the hospitality of the OH guys. My last trip report was published in the *Digital Journal* of May, 1996. Oddly (?) enough it is titled "**Report From Finland!**"

MORE HAM HOSPITALITY

In 1947, soon after the war, I had worked Les, **G8NY**, for the first time. His QSL card hung on my wall for the next 30 years. Sometime in 1975, I again ran across him on 20 meters. I astounded him, when I called him by name. Subsequently, we kept weekly schedules, which continued for several years. In 1977, Les and his XYL visited the States for a three month tour of the U.S.A. All during their trip, they never had a hotel bill, as hams all over the country welcomed them as guests. My XYL and I hosted them on arrival over Memorial Day weekend, and on their Labor Day departure weekend. Upon Les' return home, we continued our weekly schedules. My logbook contains their written notes of appreciation. Pretty hard to have such a personalized notation these days in a computerized log!

During a business trip to Egypt in 1980, I had the opportunity to visit with Bass, **SU1BA** in Cairo, who I had worked on 20 meter phone.

THE EIGHTIES

One afternoon in late 1980, I had a nice chat on 15 meters with Ken, **VS6IC**. When I told him my QTH, he said he was **K2MTC**, and had lived only a few blocks from my home in Malverne! You have read of such coincidences many times, I'm sure.

I call this decade the happy 80s, because that is when I feel I made some really great strides in the hobby. November 27, 1983, was a day to be noted. That was my first RTTY QSO. It was with my good friend, Art, **K2ENT**. I used a TI-99/4A computer with a Kantronics Hamsoft plug-in module, and a AEA CP-1. By April, 1985, I had RTTY DXCC Certificate No. 101 on the wall. By October, 1989, I had WAZ No. 26 for 20 meter Single Band RTTY.

RTTY became an all-consuming passion with me. My logbooks during this decade show about 96 percent RTTY operation, 3 percent SSB, and 1 percent CW. CW was generally reserved for working new-new countries. The SSB contacts were generally for schedules with old friends. In 1986, I replaced the K-2000 with a Kenwood TL-922 amplifier, which I kept until I moved to Minneapolis in 1991.

MONTSERRAT

In July, 1986, along with Charlie, **KD2SX** (now **N1RR**); Ed, **K2MFY**; and Jay, **K2OVS**; I spent a week operating **/VP2M** at Spanish Pointe on Montserrat. Over a weekend, we operated SSB and CW in the first IARU HF contest, acting as the HQ station of the Montserrat Amateur Radio Society, **VP2MU**. Our facilitator on the island was the fabled Errol "Bobby" Martin, **VP2MO**. After the contest, at Bobby's suggestion, we visited, and walked down into the volcano crater at Soufriere Hills, which had been dormant for over 400 years. A few wisps of smoke emanated from the rocks, indicating this was indeed a volcano. Bits of vegetation, including small trees, attested to its tranquility.

Over the past few years, the island has been devastated, and all but destroyed, after the volcano

came to life. Today, much of it lies under a thick coating of volcanic ash, and most of the area is off limits. In the aftermath of the first eruption, our friend, Bobby, was seriously injured in an automobile accident, which killed his wife, Mae. I have heard reports that Bobby is back on the air, but I have been unable to verify this.

CENTRAL/SOUTH AMERICA CONTESTING

Around 1985 or 1986, I met John Troost, **TG9VT** at a dinner meeting of the Long Island DX Association. John was already a RTTYer of some note. His oldest son, Lawrence, was a freshman at Columbia College, and John needed an inexpensive, reliable communications link with him. I agreed to handle messages to/from Guatemala, and did so all through Lawrence's freshman year. As an act of appreciation, John invited me to spend a week at his home in the highlands, outside Guatemala City, and to operate with him in the CQWW RTTY contests in 1987 and 1988. This was my first taste of RTTY contesting, and was great fun. John was a legend in his own time. His message handling exploits during the Persian Gulf War were documented in the *RTTY Journal* of April 1992, and in the award-winning commercial video called "*Last Voice From Kuwait*" by Frank Moore, **WA1URA**. Incidentally, I have saved a ream of recorded RTTY messages from those days, which to this day, still make fascinating reading of conditions inside Kuwait, during the Iraqi occupation. John became a Silent Key in November 1992.

In 1989, Ted, **HC5K** invited me to operate the CQWW RTTY contest as Single Operator, All Band, from his QTH in Cuenca, while he went off to the Galapagos to a winning Multi-Op effort. Before the contest, I operated SSB and RTTY as **HC5/W2JGR**. For the contest, I was assigned the call **HD5Z**. This was the only contest in which I ever won a plaque! I placed No. 1 in South America, with 776,195 points. I believe there was only one other SA entry! However, the score was good enough to be No. 3 in the world. After the contest, the Galapagos group convened back at Ted's QTH. This included Jay, **WS7I**, and Hal, **WA7EGA**, both of whom chided me on my novice-type contest operating style. Their comments were taken to heart, as my later contesting has demonstrated. However, I have not come near to winning a plaque in any RTTY contest, since, but I love the excitement of contest participation.

RTTY FROM THE UNITED NATIONS 4U1UN

In the spring of 1988, five of us: Victor, **KD2HE**; Allen, **N2KW**; Eddie, **NT2X**; Lou, **NN2G**; and myself, had the good fortune to be able to do the popular spring BARTG RTTY contest from the top of the United Nations Secretariat building in New York. It was not a record winning score (475,300 points), but with only a vertical antenna, we were able to give out a new RTTY country to many stations. I described the operation in an article published in *CQ* magazine in September 1988.

THE NINETIES

Ah, what a decade this has been! Lots of RTTY operating, with a roller coaster ride on the sunspot cycle. It seemed that the digital modes really took off in the 90s.

It started out just right on January 6, 1990, when I worked Roman, **UA1OT**, on Franz Josef Land for a new RTTY country. For January 20, my log contains a note "*SOS distress traffic on 28085 - voice indicating a ship is sinking at 48N 10E.*" The Coast Guard was on frequency, and appeared to have things under control. I moved off. On 28 January, I gave Sombat, **HS1BV**, in Bangkok, one of his first RTTY QSOs. I then turned him over to **KB2VO** and **K6WZ**. In the fall, Valery, **UA9YD**, with wife, and Yuri, **UA9YE**, visited Long Island. We were all hosted at a nice lunch by Art, **K2ENT** and his wife Roslyn. In July, I gave Andy, **RW3AH**, the first DX AMTOR QSO outside the Soviet Union. I again worked him in September, when he was using the call **4KØADS**, in memory of famed Russian scientist Andrej Sakharov. The logs for the 90s are full of such special reminders.

In March 1991, the *RTTY Journal* published my article on a *Lightweight RTTY TU for DXpeditions*. It describes a compact, lightweight, inexpensive rig consisting of a Tandy 102 laptop, riding piggyback on a CP-1, using terminal software written by **K8TT**. I had checked it out on the air in 1990, and knew it worked. In 1997, when reading Bill Gates' book *The Road Ahead*, I discovered that he, in conjunction with a Japanese named Kazuhiko Nishi, had actually designed that little laptop for Radio Shack, the first one of its kind, in the early 80s. How close one can come to great-

ness, without knowing it! I still have my 102.

In September, 1992, I became the *DX News* columnist for the *RTTY Journal*, succeeding **TG9VT**, who had to quit because of ill health. Writing the regular monthly column continued until December, 1995, after which it was picked up by Don, **AA5AU**.

RTTY DXCC HONOR ROLL

One achievement, of which I am most satisfied during this period, was my successful petition to the ARRL for establishment of the RTTY Honor Roll. RTTY had been finally recognized as a legitimate DXCC mode some years before. When Gin, **JA1ACB**, one of the world's foremost RTTYers reached Honor Roll level, the ARRL recognized it under "Mixed" category. This disappointment drove Gin off the air for several years. The first vote on the petition by the DX Advisory Committee failed, because it was tied into another unrelated item, which clearly needed to be defeated. Subsequently, the petition was voted on in its own right.

DXAC ballots were returnable to the committee chairman, Charlie, **KYØA**, on November 29, 1993 (my 76th birthday!). RTTY Honor Roll finally came into its own. I tried to convince **JA1ACB** to reapply, but he chose not to. My good friend Luciano, **ISFLN**, became the first to qualify. By September, 1996, only seven had achieved this level. At this writing in the fall of 1997, I believe this number has grown to about 12. I was still short two countries.

HAMS HELPING HAMS

In mid-1991, my wife and I left the wonderful propagation I enjoyed on Long Island, and moved to Minneapolis, MN. As far I can determine, this area is a black hole of little or no RF. I knew a few fellows here, but none was more interested in my getting on the air than Bob Stanek, **WØHAH**. Early on, Bob rounded up a crew of local hams, without whose help and knowledge I would never have gotten back on the air. I decided on a big antenna - a Sommer 8-element, 7-band Yagi on a 15 foot boom. Larry, **NØCIB** (now **NØXB**) recommended a guyed, 40-foot Rohn 45 tower on the roof of the 15 story building. Together we designed the structural mounting of the tower, and

ordered the steel and necessary fittings. When the time came for installation, a group of strangers showed up, and the tower and antenna were installed. I can thank John, **NJØM**; Ron, **NØAT**; Doug, **WØBKS**; Bob, **KBØGII**; Larry and **WØHAH** for getting me back on the air before the ice storms came. And come they did. But, my RTTY DXing slowly added up the counters to a respectable level. The Sommer antenna survived the first winter, but successive winters took their toll, and it was replaced in 1996. I think that the effects of Minnesota ice storms are not among the design parameters of amateur antenna manufacturers. Sadly, **WØHAH** became a Silent Key in late 1996.

NICE RTTY DX

1992 was a good year for RTTY DX. It included such new ones as **VK9XM** (February), **VP8SSI** (March), **AP/WA2WYR** and **S2/HA5BUS** (April), **VQ9YA** (May), **4J1FS** and **VP8CKB**, So. Georgia (June), and **9A1BHI** (July). In January, 1993, the Sommer antenna lost a few element ends in a severe ice storm. However, the SWR never exceeded 3:1 on any band, so repair waited until summertime. In spite of this, new RTTY counters such as **5R8DG** and **AH1A** (January), **N9NS/KH5K** (March), new Balkan countries in April, **ET3YU** (June), and **9U5DX** (November) contributed to making this a good year.

1994 started off with a bang, with **3YØPI** in January, but things moved very slowly after that, until October, when I snagged **V63AS**. Things picked up a bit in 1995, with **TN4U** (February), and **3V8BB** (June). Two new ones were captured in 1995, with **XU95HA** and **VP8CQS** South Shetlands (April). **ZL8RI** was logged in May, 1996. **VKØIR** in January of 1997 was an auspicious start for the year, in which I was to reach four score years. September brought **5A28** and **VK9WY** into my log. Only the following entities remain to be logged: 4S, 7O, A5, BS7, BV9P, EP, FT8W, FT8X, FT8Z, P5, and SV/A.

MODES/EQUIPMENT

In March of 1988 I had my first AMTOR QSO, using a PK-232. I marveled at the perfect copy, though I was somewhat dismayed at the slow throughput. I subsequently progressed from the

toy-like TI-99/4A computer through two generations of PC's to a 486/66DX2, and several modems. I obtained a HAL PCI-3000, which today is still my controller of choice, especially for RTTY. I also have the PCI-4000/M, which I have used on all the digital modes with which it is equipped. But, the old reliable PCI-3000, with its 'scope output' for tuning, is the digital equipment of choice. It can also be used for chasing high speed CW "new ones". My antennas have ranged from the lowly dipole and vertical, as recounted earlier in this tale, to a Hy-Gain TH3Mk3, a KLM KT-34A, the 8-element 7-band Sommer yagi previously mentioned, to the currently-used Tennadyne 8 element log periodic on an 18 foot boom. Wires for 40 and 80 meters do just fine, since my antennas are favorably located over some of the highest ground in the Minneapolis-St.Paul area. A Ten-Tec OMNI VI generates my FSK signal, and an Ameritron AL-80A helps me push up to 500 RTTY watts into the antennas. In December of 2000, I discovered PSK31 and MFSK16, but **RTTY FOREVER!**

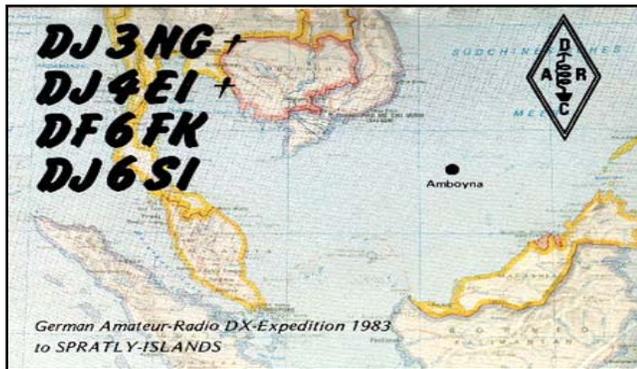
- 73 Jules W2JGR



A few months after Jules wrote this ham radio autobiography, he achieved **DXCC RTTY Honor Roll**. His RTTY country total is **333** - near the top of the group!



Rare QSLs by Jim, KØJUH



Check your log around 04.April.83, and see if you worked this group of Germans operating Maritime Mobile, on their way to the Spratly Islands. If you did, you may have this rare QSL card in your collection.

As they approached Amboyna Cay, **DJ6SI** and his friends came under fire from Vietnamese guns. Their boat was hit, and had to be abandoned. **DJ6SI** fortunately survived, and issued this QSL to mourn **DJ3NG** and **DJ4EI**, who were killed in the incident.

What follows, is the full story of the tragedy. It points out, in grim detail, the risk that this group of German DXers was willing to take to put a rare one on the air. Sadly, this is a Spratly DXpedition that no one worked!

On March 31st, 1983 **DJ3NG** (Gero), **DJ4EI** (Diethelm), **DF6FK** (Norbert), and **DJ6SI** (Baldur) left for Singapore, where they were met by Henner, **9V1WC**, who would help the team with their planning and last minute details. The team found a German captain, Peter Marx, and his catamaran, to provide transportation to Barque Canada - an island in the Spratly Group. The team, including Jenny, the wife of the captain, left on Easter morning, sailing through the Singapore Strait on their way to the Spratlys.

As they neared Amboyna Cay, near Barque Canada, they slowed their speed, since they knew that either Malaysian or Filipino soldiers may be present. Their information told them that Amboyna Cay was in the hands of the Malaysians. As they got closer to the island, a hut-like building appeared, but no sign of soldiers. On

closer observation, the team saw a watch-tower, and immediately changed course to avoid any chance of contact. As they changed course, they noticed a man in the tower, giving hand signals and in a few seconds the shelling began. The first shot fell short, but the next shot struck the captain and he threw himself on the floor, although bleeding badly, as he tried to keep the ship on course. Baldur was also hit in the arm, and was bleeding, as was Norbert.

Gero, **DJ3NG**, was in contact with another station on 20 meters, and advised him that they were under attack. As Gero left his position, they noticed that Diethelm, **DJ4EI** was missing. It was not actually known if he was shot or thrown overboard. Their dingy had fallen into the water, and everyone climbed into it, while the boat burned. The shelling continued, as they drifted farther away from the island. They had hoped that the message **DJ3NG** had sent out on 20 meters had been received okay, and they would be rescued by U.S. Air Force planes in a few days.

They believed that the Vietcong had shelled them, and soon discovered their dingy had also been hit, but they were able to plug the hole with cloth. The bad news was that they had no water, and nothing to eat, and all were only partially clothed with no shoes. They used a small basket to catch tiny fish, which they ate, along with a few mussels from the bottom of the dingy, but still NO water.

After about 8 days, Gero **DJ3NG** tried drinking some sea water during the night, and he was dead by morning. They buried Gero at sea. Since the Spratly Group consists of so many reefs, sandbars and shallow areas, there is very little shipping nearby, so they had to wait until they got close to the shipping lanes for any hope of rescue. Everyone was suffering terribly from thirst - there was little hunger. The captain and **DF6FK** were both in bad condition, and after several ships passed, on the 10th day (April 19) they were finally spotted by a Japanese ship. On arriving in Hong Kong, they were taken to a hospital, where they recovered from their ordeal at sea. They had lost everything: money, equipment, and close friends.



DX From The Other Side Of The Pond

by KØBUD/4X4

Wife Judy, NØOEL, and I boarded our El Al Airline 747 in New York late on Monday evening, May 30th, with promises from everyone that we would have a great time, lots of fun, some great memories and a wonderful experience. They were right, and the reason was that our official host was Moshe, 4Z4GM! We got to know Moshe well, when he came to MN on sabbatical a dozen years ago, doing research at the U of M.

Moshe urged us to come to visit his most historical country. Well, we took advantage of his invitation. He acted as our guide. We traveled all over the country - from one side of Israel to the other. Moshe put lots of miles on his car, and did not allow much to prevent us from seeing every site in his historic, but modern country. I made just three contacts on my 2m HT, (signing KØBUD/4X4), and that included one long contact in Tel Aviv, where we needed lots of directions on their busy freeways.

Moshe's station consists of a Kenwood TS-930, and an Explorer 14 at about 35 feet. I was able to operate Moshe's station on our second night there. Now, remember that 4X is 8 hours ahead of WØ, which translates to 11pm there and 3pm here. So, I knew that chances of finding a MN station on the air at that afternoon hour were slim.

I got a call from a French station, and then a G3, and then an Italian station, and then a Russian. The Europeans were coming out of the woodwork! Now, as you know, Europe is not rare DX in Israel, but at least it's DX! My friend Moshe says that's quite normal.

I got on the next night, and heard a W4, and worked him. Then, a station in Missouri told me my audio was a little rough. I pulled Moshe's Rig Blaster off the TS-930, and that cleared up the audio problem. He told me I was now S8, with clean audio. Then, an Iowa station called me - somewhat exited to work me, and then another station in Tennessee. That was getting fun - nice to feel like DX! But, I never heard anyone from Minnesota.

I didn't work a lot more DX. But, one thing I did do that was a lot of fun was to work Skype (a Voice Over Internet Protocol), and connect to my friend Harry, KØVZT's computer, and was linked to the TCFMC 444.1 repeater, here in Mpls. I talked to a ton of local guys on the repeater, during my stay in 4X4. I even checked into the .76 Saturday Swap Shop, and listed a piece of equipment for Moshe, when Harry linked his computer to the 146.76 repeater. I didn't get any response, but it was a kick. The audio quality was so good, using Skype (it's a duplex mode), that I put on one friend on 444.1 - telling him that I was home in Golden Valley, and he should stop for a bite of lunch! He had no idea that I was talking to him from Haifa, Israel. Luckily, he turned me down! Skype is a great medium to try, especially when the DX bands are just not there.

I was invited to visit the Israel Amateur Radio Relay League. It's located in Tel Aviv. By the way, Tel Aviv is one super-modern city, with skyscrapers and freeways and traffic jams - just like Minneapolis - and, you would have little idea you weren't in Minneapolis or Los Angeles, if you didn't notice that the commercial signs were in Hebrew! The IARRL is out to gain new members, has a small staff, and works similarly to the ARRL. They sponsor no conventions, but they are a most outgoing organization, eager to have you join.

I wish I'd had more time to work DX from Israel. I could have, if I wanted to trade for less sleep, but we were running our legs off! It was exhausting to cover that country in less than 14 days. But, it was worth every minute of it. Next time, (and there will be a next time, one day soon), I will attempt to make better use of my ham radio time. I remember getting off Skype one night at 1am, with everyone asleep in Moshe's house, but me. I went to the HF bands, and there was little open. I tuned up and down 20 and 40, with little success. I hit the hay, thinking I would do that again one night soon. I didn't. It was either leave for Masada later the next morning, or not stay on the air later that night. Masada won. It's been there for over 2,000 years and I only had 14 days!



KØBUD/4X4 and 4Z4GM "team up" with Israeli forces, during Mike's recent trip to Israel.

73, de Mike, KØBUD

DX Quiz

WORLD POLITICAL LEADERS

Here's a chance to test your knowledge of World Affairs.

Some of the countries (entities) on the DXCC list make daily world news headlines, and not because of DX activity. Their political leaders are usually involved in some news-making event, which cable and network news programs pounce on, and feature during their broadcasts. Unless you watch TV coming from a different planet, it's pretty hard to avoid world politics, during the evening news.

In recent months, the leaders listed below have been prominent in many of these broadcasts. See how many of these well-known Chiefs of State you can match up correctly with their respective country. It's not a tough quiz. If you score less than 100% correct, you're spending too much time on HF, and not enough time watching the news.

World Leaders

1. **Hamid Karzai**, President
2. **Nelson Oduber**, Prime Minister
3. **Paul Martin**, Prime Minister
4. **Hu Jintao**, President
5. **Abdul Kalam**, President
6. **Jalal Talabani**, President
7. **Ali Hoseini Khamenei**, Supreme Leader
8. **Ariel Sharon**, Prime Minister
9. **Akihito**, Emperor
10. **Vicentde Fox Quesada**, President
11. **Kim Jong II**, General Secretary
12. **Pervez Musharraf**, President
13. **Vladimir Putin**, President
14. **Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz**, Prime Minister
15. **Tony Blair**, Prime Minister

Choose from these entities:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 4X - Israel | P5 - North Korea |
| AP - Pakistan | RA, UA - Russia |
| BY - China | VE - Canada |
| EP - Iran | VU - India |
| G - England | XE - Mexico |
| HZ - Saudi Arabia | YA - Afghanistan |
| JA - Japan | YI - Iraq |
| P4 - Aruba | |

(See page 22 for answers)

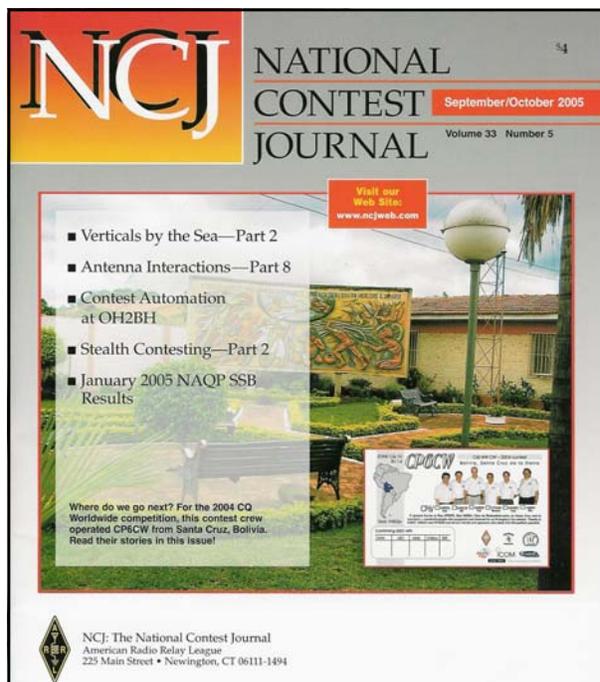
Recently Witnessed...



A Mexican stucco worker: Evidently, his company is exempt from OSHA guidelines. - photo courtesy of **WOLSD**

CP6CW Operation Featured in NCJ!

The cover of the *National Contest Journal* features the **CP6CW** contest gang. Inside, are reprints of the two articles from the December, 2004 *Gray Line* by Bill, **WØOR**, and Ron, **NØAT**!



2005 TCDXA Golf Outing

by Dave, KØIEA



The day for the TCDXA golf outing finally arrived, 15 July 2005. Oak Glen C. C. was in beautiful condition. But, wouldn't you know it, the WX trumped everything, even the golf. It was HOT! How hot was it? Just ask some of the members, who were there. Gary, **KCØSB**, called it a "death march." When it was over, most of us (especially those few crazies who walked) looked like we had just stepped out of a shower. Our clothes were soaked with per-

spiration. But, as they say, "you can't keep a determined golfer from braving the elements." Because we had so many cancellations, we had to bring in players from outside the club, in order to make four foursomes.

I thought I had assembled a dream team with Lutz, **WØZR**; Menzel, **NØXB**; Dean, **WØOR**; and Warren, **WØWG**. Why, with Lutz's hip turn, Larry's strength, Dean's skill and Mike's advice, I figured they were the team to beat. But, it was not to be. Larry said they had an "off day." That can happen in golf. Then, the team of Gary, **KCØSB**; his xyl Debbie, **NØVFZ**, and Gary's two guests showed great promise. With their experience in scramble golf, they could easily take first place. But, Gary said although they made every green in regulation, they couldn't putt. With two under par, Gary's team placed second. Gary just missed the longest drive trophy by a few feet. His guest playing partner beat him by a few feet.

The team of Donn Taylor, **KØQC**; Ron Dohmen, **NØAT**; and guest player Darin (**KØJUH**'s neighbor) finished third. They had some long drives and putts, but I think a few bogeys found their way onto their scorecard.

First place went to team #4: Dave, **KØIEA**; Dennis, **KFØQR**, and guest, Jeff Helgemoe who was my former co-worker. We scored a 7 under par, 65. It was mainly due to our putting. Somehow, we were able to figure out the fast greens, and only carded one bogey for the 18 holes. The winning team is pictured, above: (l-r) **KØIEA**, Jeff and **KFØQR**. Ron, **NØAT**, joined our team on the 12th hole. The wx finally got to Dennis, and he dropped back to ride the cart with Donn, **KØQC**. So, when the trophies were passed out, Ron also collected a first place trophy for being part of team #4. Ron left early, and was not in the picture. Many thanks go to Gary, **KCØSB**, for getting the trophies, golf balls, and for helping arrange the outing.

Whether we do it again next year, depends on several factors. One thing's for sure: I won't schedule it in July! We'll try for the fall, when the temperature is cooler. Jim, **KØJUH**, suggested to me that we could call it the TCDXA OPEN, and invite more outside participants. Maybe some MWA members would be interested. Larry, **NØXB**, suggested we collect the money up front to minimize the number of cancellations. So, between now and then, keep the suggestions coming. Maybe we can do it again next year.

73 de Dave, KØIEA

70 - YEMEN OPERATIONS SINCE 1990

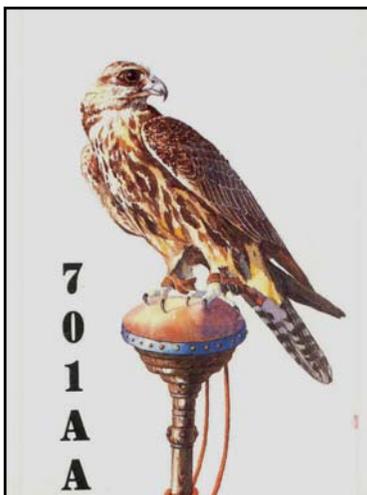


SHOULD THEY COUNT? NOT ACCORDING TO UA4WHX!

by Jim Junkert, KØJUH

Does your contact with 70 really count? Is it possible you may not have as many worked as you think? Worse yet, for some of you, could losing your prestigious #1 DXCC status become a reality? After years of blood, sweat, and tears, you finally made it to the top. And now, that may change. Take your blood pressure medicine, and read on.

According to a recent statement by Vladimir, UA4WHX, not a single amateur radio license has ever been issued in the last 20 years in Yemen. He claims to get his information from a reliable



“70, YEMEN. Early last week, Vladimir, UA4WHX, informed OPDX that he is currently in Sana'a, Yemen. He stated that he has "met a number of people responsible for issuing licenses and the Spectrum Management of the Yemen Telecom, as well as two deputy ministers of the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology. Vladimir also states the following:

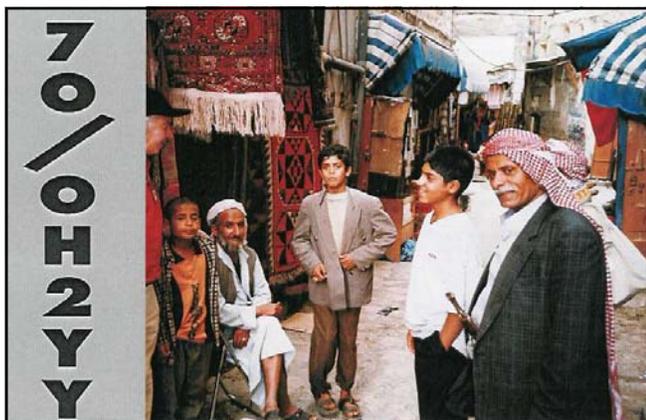
1) Not a single amateur radio license has ever been issued in Yemen in the past 20 years. He mentions, 'For those interested in the

authenticity of the fact I can probably provide a written statement of the ministry confirming the fact.'

2) Amateur radio has never been legalized in Yemen - 'PERIOD.'" No legal base, no exceptions so far, but the ministry is sincerely interested in promoting the hobby. They know about it and do plan to pass laws for it as soon as possible.

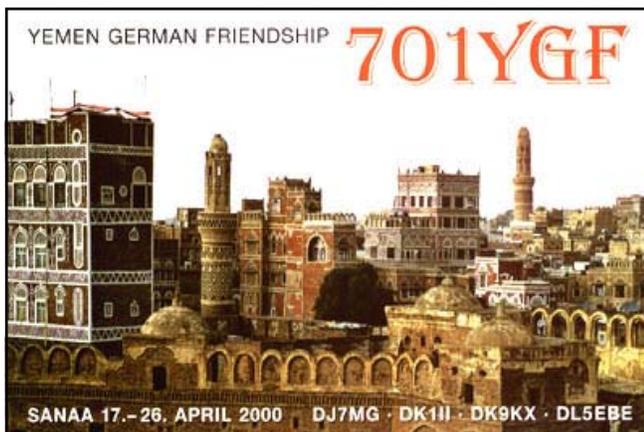
3) When King Hussein of Jordan was in Yemen, he requested a license which he did not get....

4) The ministry has tried to authorize amateur radio activity in Yemen a few times, but the attempts have always got stuck at the Ministry of Interior offices being higher or lower.



They also told me a story of how they caught a crew of Germans a few years ago, who operated from Aden in a hotel on amateur radio bands, but the Ministry people were nice to them and gave their rigs back to them, and just told them to shut down. They could have easily ended up in prison. In fact, they do understand a lot about ham radio, here at the Ministry. They think they need it - as (do) the community and the people of the country. They wanted to establish a club at the Ministry to teach locals, and let visitors operate, but the Ministry of Interior has never been too happy with that. They (telecom people) are saying, things might ... change soon.

73, VB, UA4WHX
Sana'a, Yemen”



According to the ARRL DXCC List, only contacts made May 22, 1990, and after, count for 7O. To the best of our knowledge, we've listed all the operations that have taken place, since this date:

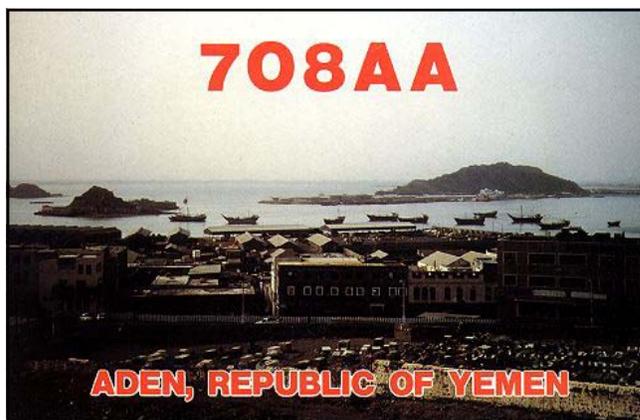
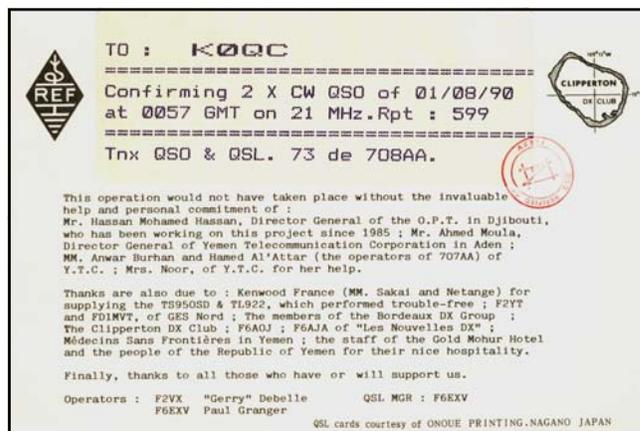
7O1AA	June 1990	SSB	DXCC OK
7O8AA	Aug. 1990	SSB/CW	DXCC OK
7O1AA	April 1994	SSB	DXCC OK
7O/F6EAY	Sept. 1996	SSB	Not Aprvd
7O1A	Dec. 1996	SSB	Not Aprvd
7O1YGF	April 2000	SSB/CW	Not Aprvd
7O/OH2YY	May 2002	SSB	DXCC OK

Bill Moore at the DXCC desk informed me they have no plans to discredit any previous Yemen operations that were approved. I wonder if they may have said the same thing about 9U - Burundi at one time. I think there's a cliché that fits this issue: "Never say never!"

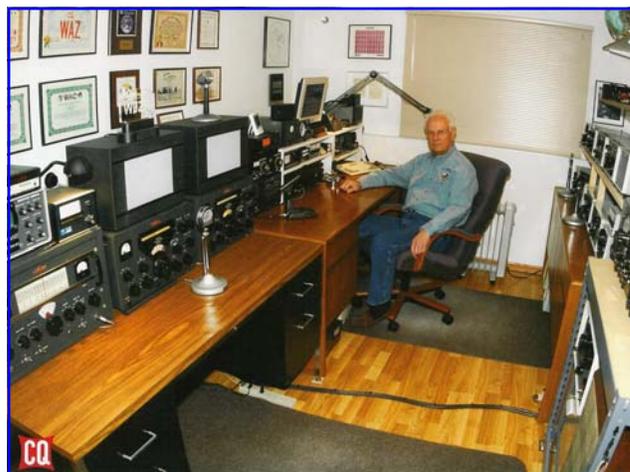
Good DX! de Jim, KØJUH

The Elusive CW QSO with 7O

Do you have 7O confirmed on CW? From the list below, left, you'll notice that there has been *only one CW operation* approved for DXCC credit: **7O8AA**, in August of 1990. Our always diligent DXer, Donn, **KØQC**, did not let this rare opportunity get by him (see, below):



Tom, WØZR, is September ham-of-the-month on the CQ Calendar (tnx CQ Communications, Inc.)



A LOOK BACK

An interview with Charlie Hansen, WØHW

by Dave Wester, KØIEA



Charlie was born in 1922 in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1931, at the age of nine, he started building crystal sets. One day, Charlie inadvertently left some turns off the tuning coil and found that he could copy hams on the 160 meter band. He was hooked, and he wanted to join them. So, he fashioned a transmitter from an old Ford spark coil. It didn't take long, and the local police were calling to say that he was interfering with their radios.



An antique crystal set from Charlie's collection.

About that time, Charlie heard about ordinary citizens getting on 5 meters with home brew transceivers. According to Charlie, about 150 people in Omaha and nearby communities were building these bootleg transceivers. The 5 meter

transceivers used a 19 dual-triode tube, which was unity-coupled using copper tubing. The FCC soon moved in and raided many homes, smashing the equipment. The 5 meter band became silent. But it didn't take long before everyone was back on, bootlegging, again. The FCC did another raid. Clearly, it was time to get a ham license.



Charlie holds a mercury vapor rectifier tube, that requires rocking back and forth to disperse the mercury.

Some local "Elmers" were teaching code at a park pavilion, and Charlie took advantage of this opportunity. But, before he got his ham ticket, he built a transmitter, using a 45 tube in a TNT (tuned-not-tuned) configuration. So, now Charlie was bootlegging on the 40 meter ham band. Finally, in 1937, he went to Des Moines and took the exam and got his first legitimate call sign, W9ASO. His next rig was a T-40 triode, running 40w into a vertical dipole. The receiver was an SW-2, which used two tubes, a detector and audio amplifier.

In 1940, Charlie went to work for AT&T, and was hired as a "craftsman" in their test board and carrier section. WWII started, and he entered the Army Signal Corps in 1943. With his experience in radio and electronics, he was made an instructor. He liked instructing, but his T5 rating was frozen, so he applied for OCS in 1944. After receiving his commission in 1945, he was sent to Chanyi, China. He operated a signal center, and routinely copied news broadcasts on CW, using

the BC348 receiver. After the atomic bomb was dropped, Charlie noticed a flurry of activity on the 20 and 40 meter ham bands, with many people calling CQ. (Remember now, the U. S. hams were not yet allowed to operate.) Not wanting to be left out of the fun, Charlie modified a BC375 “MOPA” (master oscillator, power amplifier) transmitter to work the 20 and 40 meter ham bands. Charlie bootlegged from China, using a fake XU call, plus his own W9ASO call. Many of the hams were using their stateside calls from China. Charlie dubbed it the “black network.”

Charlie left the military in 1946, and went back to work for AT&T. He needed to learn the telegrapher’s Morse code to communicate between all of AT&T’s offices. These messages were switching orders for network radio (CBS, NBC and ABC). Using bugs and telegraph sounders, Morse code was used, until 1948. Charlie still maintains a membership in a Telegrapher’s society.



A telegrapher’s sounder and key.

During the late 40s and early 50s, Charlie owned and operated a recording studio, where several artists would “cut” a record. Charlie wrote an article in the 1951 issue of *Radio-Electronics* describing a “Portable Mixing Pre-Amp.”



From 1962 to 1969, Charlie worked at Offutt AFB in Omaha, Nebraska. Working as a civilian with AT&T, he was responsible for maintaining communications for SAC’s



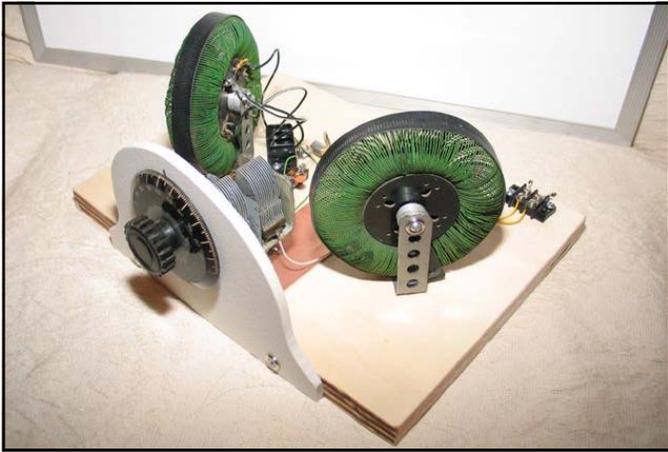
1951: Here’s the recording studio which Charlie owned and operated from the late 40s through the early 50s.

“looking glass mission.” This name was given to SAC’s flying command post aboard a C-135.

In late 1969, Charlie moved to the Twin Cities, and in 1971, he became the OBS (official bulletin station) for W1AW. He copied the CW bulletins from W1AW, and rebroadcast them at different CW speeds to the local hams. After 42 years of service, Charlie retired as a district manager from AT&T in 1982.

These days, Charlie’s hamming consists mainly of contests, 160 meters, and RTTY. I’m always in awe of these old timers, like Charlie, who can draw circuit diagrams from their head. (Bill Davies, **WØYCR-sk**, could do the same thing.) I know that modern electronics are here to stay, but it’s still nice to build things using the old tubes. And, prior to tubes, people built crystal sets. Where did all the old crystal sets go? At one time, there were hundreds of different makes and models for sale. Are they in private collections? Maybe they’re in museums like the Pavek.

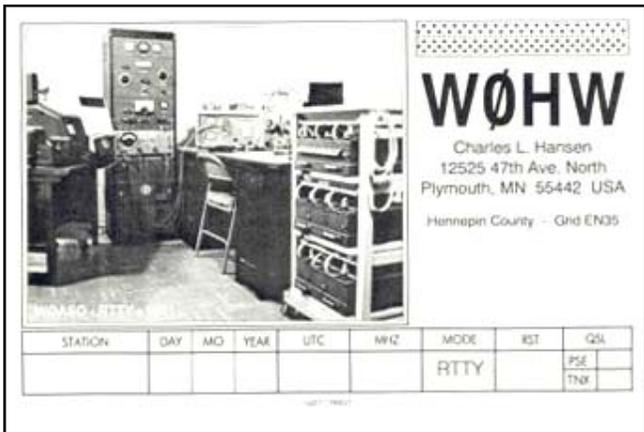
Charlie answered the question for me, by handing me two books to read entitled, *Crystal Clear*, Volumes 1 and 2, by Maurice L. Sievers. Each book contains about 250 pages of “vintage American crystal sets, crystal detectors, and crystals.” These books show that many of the sets now reside in private collections. We both observed that you don’t see them for sale at Dayton. Charlie has built several crystal sets that work quite well. Try-



Here's one of Charlie's homebrew crystal sets.

ing to keep a balance between selectivity and sensitivity in a crystal set can be tricky, but Charlie seems to have managed. For more information on building crystal sets, go to the Xtal Set Society's website: www.midnightscience.com

73 de Dave, KØIEA



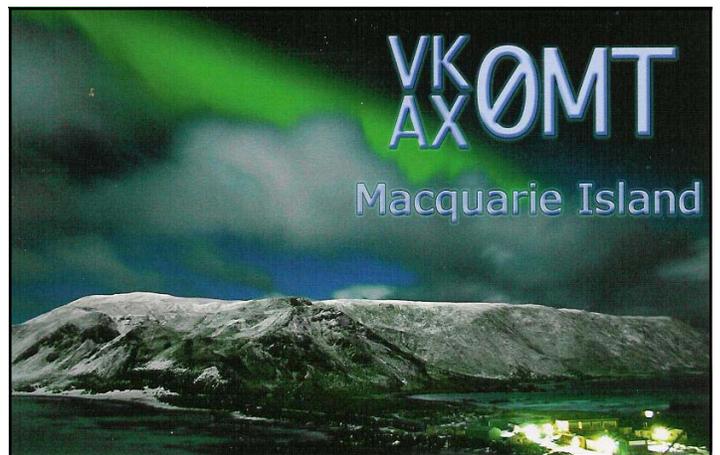
Health and Welfare Report

John Baumgarten, NØIJ, is recovering from major surgery, which took place in mid-August. In his own words, John recently said "I'm doing darn good, thank you!" While recovering at home, John is planning improvements to the low band antennas at his contest station, which is located at his cabin on Lake Minnesuing, in north-western Wisconsin.



John, NØIJ, at his home station in Duluth.

QSL Gallery



David Taylor, VK3KR, who was the op at VKØMT, took this night photo of the snow-covered plateau, lit by the full moon and aurora.

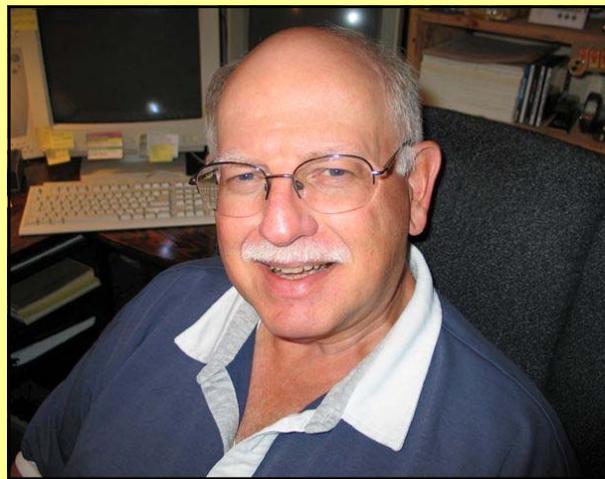
Who Owns This Shack?

Here are the ops who belong to the shack photos on page 4. How many did you get right? Once again, we'd like your feedback on this concept. Please send your comments (and photos, if you like the idea) to k0juh@comcast.net.

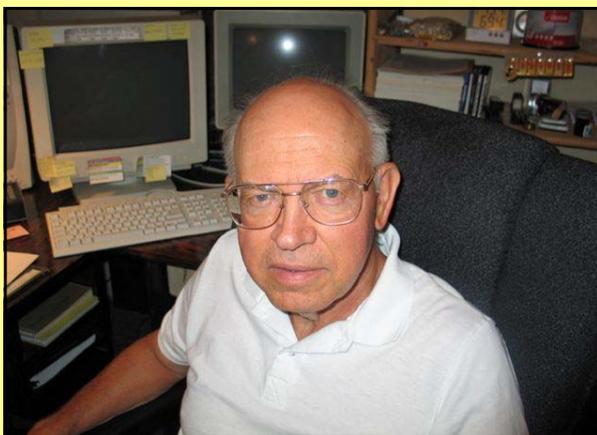
73! de Jim



#1 It's me (of course)! - Jim, **KØJUH**



#2 Dennis, **KFØQR** says "Golf rules!"



#3 Our own 30m "mega-gun" Dave, **KØIEA**



#4 Bob, **WØZT** (see Dec., 2004 *Gray Line*)

Answers to the **DX Quiz** - World Leaders

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Hamid Karzai , President | YA - Afghanistan |
| 2. Nelson Oduber , Prime Minister | P4 - Aruba |
| 3. Paul Martin , Prime Minister | VE - Canada |
| 4. Hu Jintao , President | BY - China |
| 5. Abdul Kalam , President | VU - India |
| 6. Jalal Talabani , President | YI - Iraq |
| 7. Ali Hoseini Khamenei , Supreme Leader | EP - Iran |
| 8. Ariel Sharon , Prime Minister | 4X - Israel |
| 9. Akihito , Emperor | JA - Japan |
| 10. Vicente Fox Quesada , President | XE - Mexico |
| 11. Kim Jong II , General Secretary | P5 - North Korea |
| 12. Pervez Musharraf , President | AP - Pakistan |
| 13. Vladimir Putin , President | RA, UA - Russia |
| 14. Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz , Prime Minister | HZ - Saudi Arabia |



Minnesota

- end