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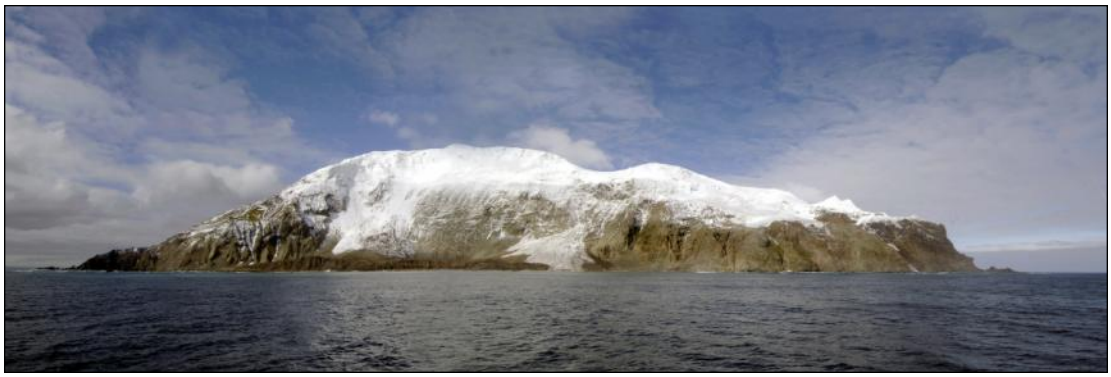


Bouvet – the most remote island on Earth

**Inside this issue:**



**Gray Line Staff**
KØAD
WØJM
WØJMP

# A DXpedition to Bouvet Island

## Dreams, Visions, and Substance

*By Ralph Fedor, **KØIR***

The wind howled, sending whirlwinds of snow pirouetting across the glacier. Bob (**K4UEE**), Erling (**LA6VM**), and I sat in the kitchen tent as it buffeted in the wind. We were nearing the half-way point of the Peter I DXpedition – **3YØX**. We eased into a conversation about another trip. The thought had been in our minds, even before we landed on Peter I. Somewhat subdued, I said, "I wonder if it's this tough on Bouvet?" Erling paused a few seconds and then replied, "Well, we just have to see." Bob said nothing, but he smiled, his eyes twinkled, and his head nodded. The dream was born.

The dream lay there quietly, but very much alive, until we had completed 3YØX and were safely home. Then emails began circulating between the three of us. Each refined the dream, defining its practicality, cost, risks, logistics, and the resources it would require. With each exchange the cloudiness and nebulousness of the dream ebbed a bit and a clearer vision of the challenge of Bouvet coalesced in our minds.

Transportation to the island, access to the island, the on-island infrastructure, a risk assessment, team attributes required, necessary safety measures, and the financial challenges involved all began to declare themselves. With these fundamentals in mind, Erling took the first major step to define and legitimize our vision. In April of 2007 he wrote a comprehensive plan for a DXpedition to Bouvet and submitted it to the Norsk Polar Institute. His plan, less the details of the ship and helicopter to be used, was approved by the NPI in August of that year with no expiration date. Our vision was gaining energy and architecture.
From August of 2007 until this day, our interest in Bouvet never abated. But interest is only that – interest. We wanted to add substance, some meat on the bone, and move away from the vagaries of dreams and visions. And until we had that substance, we shared our thoughts and plans with very few others. Yes, we had the permit and a license was in hand, but these elements are, in reality, nothing. They are nothing without a way to get to Bouvet and a team to do the job.
For another eight years we explored multiple transportation options, but finding the right ship in the right place at the right cost at the right time with the right crew and the right helicopter evaded us. We participated in other DXpeditions and we watched others as they announced their dreams to go to Bouvet and then fall short and silent. But we never gave up and never stopped searching – quietly.

Then in 2015 a sequence of events came together: a shipping contract to supply Pitcairn Island, a major motion picture company desiring a charter vessel, a man wanting to photograph leopard seals, and the persistence of Erling, Bob, and Ralph. Out of this collision there emerged a capable ship and crew able to take the right team at the right time to the right place – Bouvet.

Now we could justify announcing our intentions, for they were no longer dreams, but valid, genuine, palpable, and creditable plans. We had closed the loop. It took us eight years to find a ship and eight days to find a team of 20 capable men.

In early 2018 our team will sail with Nigel Jolly aboard his 160 foot vessel, the Claymore II. We plan a minimum of two weeks of operating and are targeting a no compromise campsite on the northeast slope of Bouvet on the Sakhallet Glacier approximately 600 feet above sea level.

It may be decades before another DXpedition visits Bouvet. This demands that our team perform in an exemplary manner. We need your support to do that. But with the DX community's help; this ship, this site, and this team are equipped to do the best job possible.

*(Editors note-Since this article was written, all steps in the permit process have been completed.)*

*( Editors note; Bouvet Island is a small uninhabited volcanic island in the south Pacific. It is a Norwegian dependency and is thought to be the most remote island in the world. The nearest land is Queen Maud Land, Antarctica, which is over 1,090 miles away. It has an area of 19 square miles, most of which is covered with a glacier.*

*The average daily high temperature is about 34 degrees Fahrenheit and the average low is 28; there is little monthly variation. Little vegetation other than mosses, algae and lichen grow on the island. It is an important rookery for seabirds.*

*The island was first discovered in January 1739 by Jean-Baptiste Charles Bouvet de Lozier. This was the first time that land had been spotted south of the 50th parallel south. He was not able to land and his plotting of its position was inaccurate, leading several expeditions to fail to find the island again until it was sighted my James Lindsay in 1808. They recorded the proper position.*

*The island was explored and annexed by Norway in 1927. The entire island and surrounding ocean were designated a nature reserve in 1971.*

*Bouvet is currently number 2 on the Club Log "most wanted" list. It has not been activated since 2008*

*Additional details on The Bouvet Island DXpedition 2018 can be found at www.bouvetdx.org )*

Southeast coast of Bouvet Island in 1898

Location of Bouvet Island (circled in red) in the Atlantic Ocean credit to Wikipedia TUBS

# TCDXA Members Enjoy ARRL Field Day 2016

**WØRX** 2016 Field Day Site

ARRL Field Day is an operating event that appeals to amateurs in all aspects of the hobby. Even if you spend most of your time chasing DX, it is still fun to take to the field once a year for field day. Sometimes, it even gives you a chance to try out that huge wire antenna idea that you could never fit in your own yard. A number of TCDXA members took part in ARRL Field Day this year. Here are a few of their stories.

**KØMPH – Class 1E**
**Maple Grove, MN**
*(Submitted by Roger, **KØMPH**)*

Last year I had so much fun working FD from my deck that I was hoping to do the same this year but was disappointed when the weather forecast included rain and storms. I prepared for storms by placing the generator under the deck stairs and a tarp. In an attempt to salvage some of the last year's ambiance, the mobile station was set up on a card table in the family room looking out at the lake.

I had two new homemade "portable" wire/ fiberglass pole antennas to test. I deployed a low band and high band vertical. Each antenna can be set to work one band at a time. Switching bands is done manually but can be done in a few minutes. The low band vertical worked about the same as the home station 40 meter vertical. The high band vertical on 20 meters isn't as good as the home station dipole 35 feet high, as expected.

There were some good runs even though the bands were unstable. I tried 20 SSB but the QSB was so fast it was hard to complete a QSO in the up and down QRM. As it turned out, there was no rain and the storm passed just north of us. The only effect was some heavy wind coming off the lake. From my vantage point, I could watch the fiberglass verticals sway in the winds.

Portable Low Band Vertical used by KØMPH on Field Day


Roger used a generator at home to put him in the 1E class.

**WØBM – Class 1A – Kasson, MN**
*(Submitted by Scott, **KØMD**)*

Rochester DX and Contest club decided to operate portable 1-A at **WØBM**'s QTH. We had planned 2-A but 2/3 of our membership had family conflicts.
We used a Force 12 c3ss and a 80 meter dipole. We also used **WØSA**'s portable tower and trailer. It was a true EmComm type set up. We made ~700 contacts with a very part time effort on 10-80 with most QSO's coming on 20 and 15. KØMD found a late morning opening on 10 CW.

ICOM 7600s with Writelog were used at the WØBM field day operation this year.

We had planned to use Pat's Flex and Maestro but the Maestro's arrival was delayed again by Flex so we switched to the tried and true Icom 7600 running 100 watts. We had WØBM, **KØUH**, **K4IU**, **WØSHL** and KØMD as operators. **N6BT** was recruited away to visit **WØAIH**'s superstation and missed the event.

WØBM's QTH was the location for the Rochester DX and Contest Club Field Day this year.

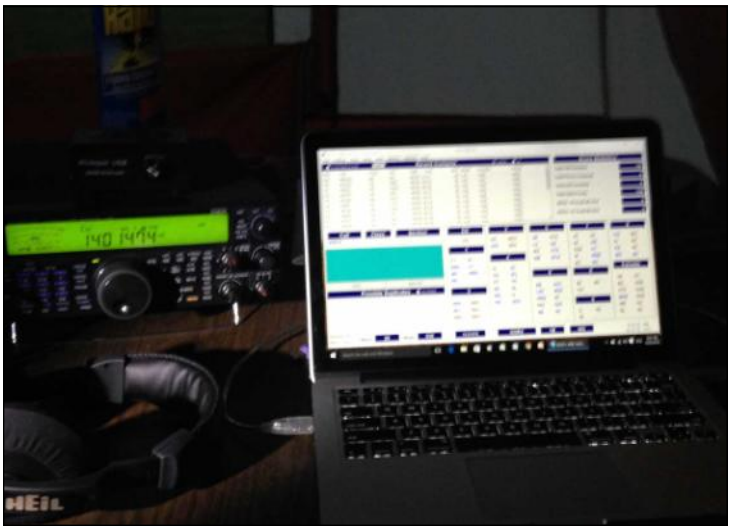
**WØRX – Class 1B – Thief River Falls, MN** *(Submitted by Dave, WØRX)*

I operated 1B and set up in my back field. I also slept overnight (a little anyway) in the operating tent. We have 320 acres here so there is plenty of room away from our yard. I didn't start setting up until Saturday morning so it was after 4pm before things were ready and I got on the air. Field Day is always a challenge for me since I work in agriculture and it's hard to get a whole weekend free. This is the first time I have made an earnest effort solo. I have operated with **NØUY** and **KØQL** in years past. But they have their system down, with Art doing SSB and Ray doing CW. I did digital with them one year but that was like watching paint dry to me. Another year Ray and I networked our computers and both ran CW. But it works better on my own when I can pull it off, and gives us both a MN station to work. I never heard another MN station during FD this year.

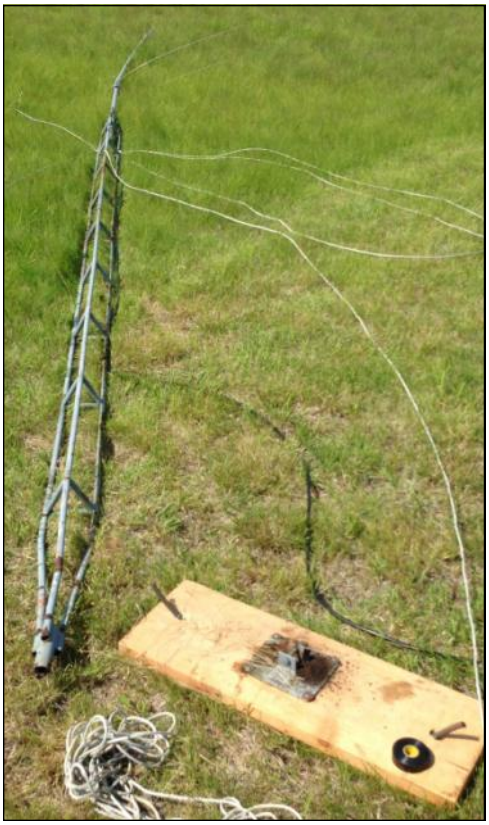
The wind this year was relentless. Finally, going over 35 MPH on Sunday it took my tent down and I was forced to quit early. I tried several times to guy it against the wind but it just could not handle it.

My equipment was pretty simple - Cushcraft R5 vertical for 10-20 meters, a Butternut HF 2V vertical for 40 and 80 meters with 15 35 foot radials , Moxon loop for 6 meters, and a Kenwood TS-590S radio. I used N3FJP logging software and run strictly battery power using deep cycle marine batteries. This year I ran the duration with one battery. I never needed to switch to the 2nd battery. Field day seems to always be a series of plans to a final goal. The picture of my mini tower on the ground was plan A for my R5. It almost resulted in destruction of the antenna but I was able to bend things back. It might have been the last Field Day for that antenna however.

My field day effort resulted in 324 CW QSOs for a total of 648 QSO points.



WØRX neat setup with TS590



WØRX – Figure 3 – High winds took out the R5 vertical

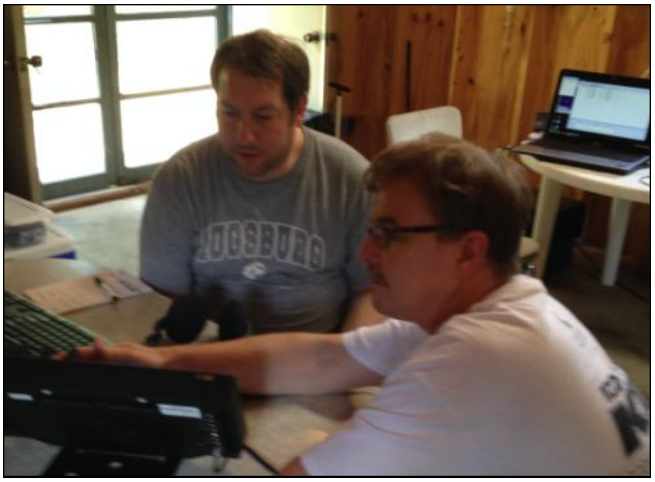
## NØAT – Class 2A – Park Rapids, MN

*(Submitted by Ron, NØAT)*

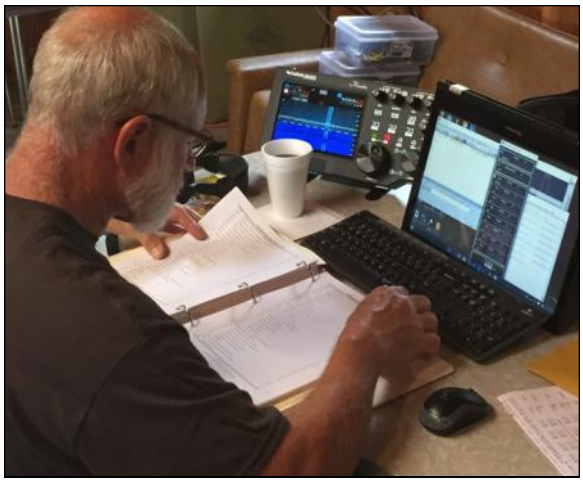
The Blue Lake Bothers; back row (l to r) **KØAD**, **NØKK**, KØIR, **KØAUG**; front row (l to r) **WØGJ**, NØAT.

Ron's slick new 6 meter beam resulted in only one QSO on a closed band

We set up our Field Day operation again this year on the south end of Blue Lake, near Park Rapids. Operators were KØAD, KØIR, NØAT, NØKK, and WØGJ. Chris, KØAUG, joined us this year as our GOTA operator, making 100 QSOs using the WØAA call-sign. Chris received his general license just a few days before Field Day. Vern, KØVG, stopped by Saturday to help set up. Glenn brought three Flex radios with him that we used on HF and GOTA. We did have some networking issues with these radios but it was fun to use the new technology.



Kirk, NØKK working with Chris, KØAUG (new TCDXA member) on GOTA station



Glen, WØGJ studies manual as he sets up Flex Radios Saturday morning

## NØAT Continued

The storms that passed through other parts of the state missed us. We didn't experience any rain during the weekend, although it was a bit hot and humid Saturday afternoon. QRN on 80 meters was not a factor. Radio conditions were not so hot. We were expecting lots of Qs on 6 meters, but we managed only one 6 meter QSO-with K0VG. 10 meters was a no-show, and signals on 15 and 20 meters were weak. 40 meters was our money band, and 80 meters provided QSOs during the early morning hours. We ended up with 1713 CW QSOs and 119 phone QSOs for a total of 3544 QSO points. We were also able to get most of the bonus points available.

Ron, NØAT hands microphone to his two grandchildren. It's never too early to get them started contesting!

Ralph, KØIR pumps air into line launcher with Al, KØAD. All antennas were wires in the trees this year


Ron, NØAT running on 20. Note the T-shirt

# Deliberate Interference or DQRM

## Identifying DQRM

Roger Western, **G3SXW**



*[Editor Note: TCDXAer Ralph Fedor has been on a number of DXpeditions around the world. Ralph has passed along the following article from G3SXW in hopes that the word about deliberate QRM during these DXpeditons will get out. Ralph adds these words of introduction: "There is an angst commonly shared by DXpeditioners and the DX'ers trying to contact them. The DXpedition operator sees his rate drop and stations not responding when he calls them. The DX operator suddenly can't hear the DX station and doesn't know if he completed his contact. The mutual anxiety and anger become palpable.*
*The cause of all this: Individuals deliberately and maliciously placing QRM on the DX operator's frequency. After years of frustration on both ends of the DXpedition QSO, G3SXW and his teammates have taken arms against this foe. Roger's message: "We heard what you did, we know who you are. – Ralph, K0IR"]*

A small number of stations generate **Deliberate QRM**, known as DQRM, by transmitting on the frequency of a rare station in order to disrupt the operation. They do so anonymously, not identifying with their licensed call-sign and thereby contravening the terms of their transmitting licence. They do not explain their motives for this anti-social behaviour, so the rationale for DQRM is poorly understood and perhaps can be viewed as anarchy – just disruption for the sake of it. But it can cause considerable inconvenience, even anger, to legitimate DX Chasers and is deemed a serious nuisance. DQRM is becoming an ever bigger problem these days.

### EASSYL – FBDA

One such DQRMer has been identified by the content of his CW transmissions. Over a period of several years this station has caused prolific CW DQRM to DXpeditions on countless occasions, and for long periods. His CW sending is poor so the call-sign used is frequently sent as EAHSYL or FDDA (a varying number of CW dots). It might be that this individual is mentally deranged, yet he is evidently an experienced DXer. His transmit frequency is fairly accurate and he often appears quickly on the frequency when a rare station starts to operate.

His CW sending is distinctive both in terms of his poorly constructed Morse code and the content of his messages so he is easily identifiable, no matter which 'call-sign' he chooses to use on that day. His CW is hand-sent, not computer-derived and is immediately identifiable. Although he uses different 'call-signs' we will refer to him here simply as EASSYL.

## Direction Finding

A small group of determined DXers therefore set out to identify EASSYL, as the first step in identifying a number of persistent DQRMers. The first objective was to locate and identify this individual, then to arrange that he cease his disruptive activities. To achieve the first objective required DF. It was quickly established, some years ago, that the EASSYL signal emanates on a beam heading of about 120 degrees azimuth from UK. It was thought that this station was located in Southern Europe, possibly Italy, Greece or a Balkan country. Refining the beam headings we concluded that he was located somewhere in Italy.


3 DF sources - Date: 2nd October 2014; EASSYL on 18.086 MHz

A well-positioned radio amateur DXer is employed in UK with access to professional DF facilities. He joined our small, ad hoc investigative group and was permitted by his employer to track EASSYL when not otherwise engaged in his professional duties. This facility is extremely accurate, determining a heading to within two degrees azimuth and may simultaneously take automated bearings from several different sources (countries). The headings are automatically drawn on a map and the lines converge on one point, indicating the location of the signal within the range of a very few miles. This facility was used, during 2014, to help locate EASSYL.

The first map shows three sources of DF which converge on a point just West of Rome, Italy. The second map homes in on that area with five DF sources. The ellipse resulting has a small 'pin' at the statistically significant point where the source of the signal is thought to be located. This is a little to the East of Lido di Ostia.

At this stage of the project two local radio amateurs living in Rome, who are DXers and who were well aware of the EASSYL problem, were approached for help. Being keen to assist they collated a list of some sixty licensed radio amateurs in the local area. Within that list they identified a few possible sources of the DQRM by homing in on those who were heard regularly on the HF bands, using CW.

To define the target area to within say ten miles with the professional DF facility was the quicker part of the project. To home in on one address was more difficult and time-consuming. Our local helpers in Rome could hear the extremely strong EASSYL signal. From their location they determined with directional antennas that it was emanating from West of Rome, which confirmed the earlier findings of the DF maps. In order to define the precise location of the offending station one member of the team then drove to the address of each possible suspect, one by one, while EASSYL was transmitting. In the car was a receiver but with only three feet of wire as the receiving antenna located inside the car. Our second helper in Rome stayed at his home station, monitoring the EASSYL signal and communicating with the in-car operator by mobile telephone to report the precise moments when EASSYL was transmitting.

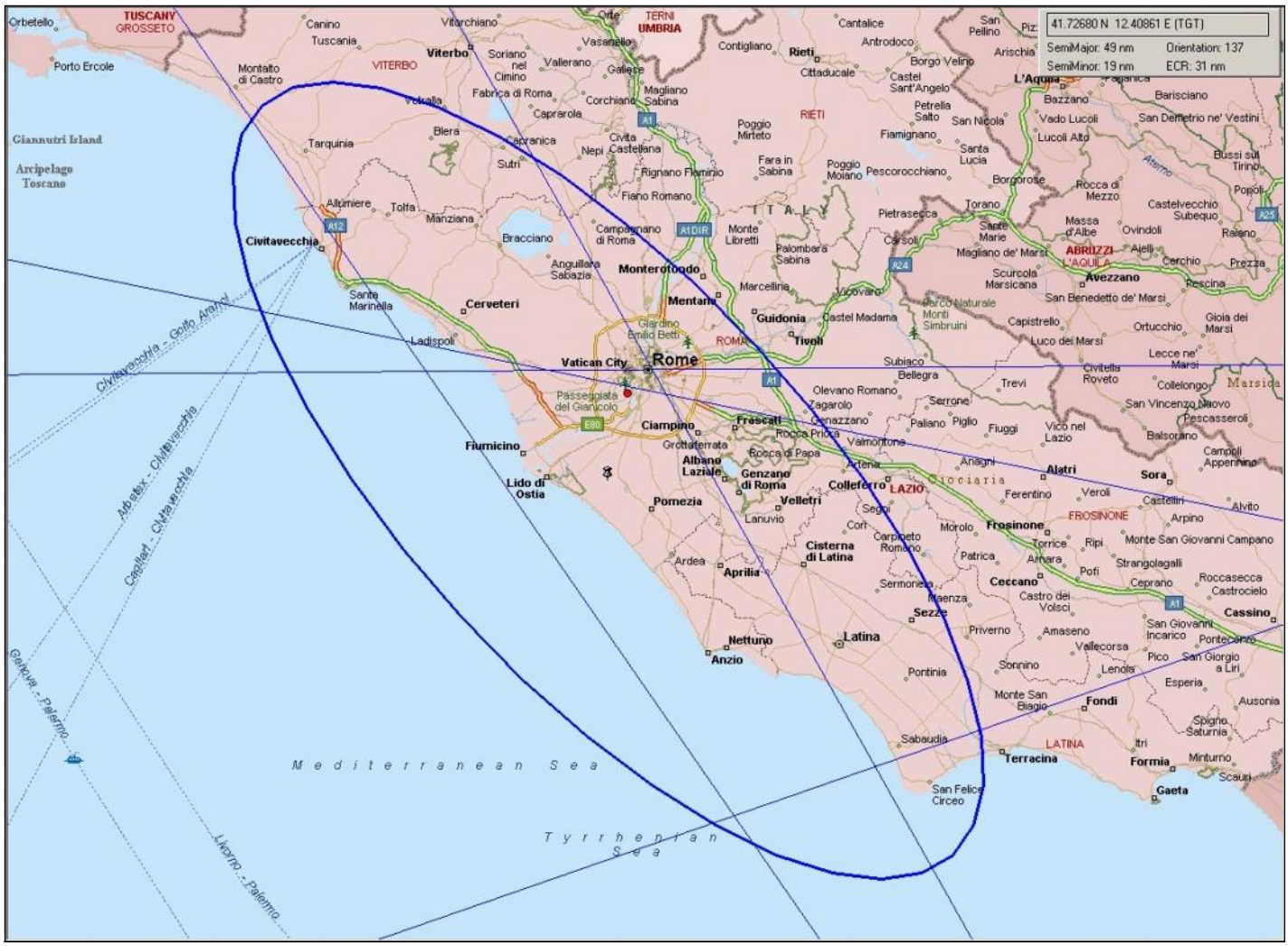
They quickly determined, one by one, that the first two suspects were not transmitting at the times when the base station in Rome was hearing the EASSYL signal because while parked outside the target house no signal could be heard with the tiny antenna. But the third target provided an extremely loud signal when the car was at the address. The signal was clearly identified as sending the usual EASSYL content and the building at that address was seen to accommodate several large HF transmitting antennas. Our culprit had been identified, beyond any reasonable doubt. Great care was taken at this vital stage of the research, encompassing numerous car journeys over a period of many months.

Additionally, this EASSYL station has been monitored over such a long period of time that on two occasions he was heard to send his own, real call-sign by mistake on CW and RTTY. He has also on several occasions been heard operating with his real call-sign and working a DXpedition in the normal pile-up manner of DX-chasing (transmitting on a different frequency to the DXpedition), but then proceeding immediately to commence his DQRM on the DXpedition transmit frequency. We conjectured that having made the contact himself, he then wished to prevent others from so doing.

Having identified the culprit with complete certainty the next step was to build the evidence to prove the case incontrovertibly so that our findings might be deemed legally valid.

## Identifying Evidence

**Log:** a log had been kept of the EASSYL (and his various other ‘call-signs’) transmissions whenever he was heard on the air. This clearly is not a complete log of all his activities, only when we heard him. This demonstrates his persistence over a long period of time: a period of one year is described, starting from when it was decided that we would require a log. His DQRM is known to have started several years earlier.




5 DF sources - Date: 8th November 2014, Time: 2045 UTC; EASSYL on

**Maps:** as shown above

**Recordings:** audio and video recordings were made immediately outside the house which show the date, time, street name, house number, transmitting frequency and signal strength. With only a tiny antenna wire and by introducing 18 db of receiver attenuation the signal is loud enough to be sure that the origin is very close indeed.

**DX Cluster:** archives show that some DXers already believed that this was the identity of the station generating the DQRM, during a period of some 13 years! It is not known how they traced EASSYL's real identity.

**Reverse Beacon Network (RBN):** we correlated our log of EASSYL with instances when the DQRMer was reported by RBN using his real call-sign. On 12 of the 25 occasions he was also reported by RBN on that date. On three occasions his call-sign was recorded by RBN in a closely correlated time-frame. On the other 13 occasions it may have been that he chose at that time NOT to send

any CW with his own call-sign so he was not identified by RBN.

**Action Taken**

This is a serious case of DQRM which has persisted over such a long period and caused so much unprecedented levels of interference and inconvenience to many DX-Chasers. IARU Region 1 wrote to 'EASSYL' explaining that the offending station had been located very close to his address and asking for his help to identify the culprit. The reply denied blame but we noted that this source of DQRM then completely ceased.

The final objective of dissuading others from causing DQRM may be partly achieved by publication of this story. We have shown that even anonymous signals can be identified.

**Future**

This case study shows that effective action can be taken to identify and locate DQRM. The work is made much more effective by the availability of local volunteers who can help with "the last mile". Based on this experience, the core team and IARU Region 1 intend to repeat the process on other "characteristic" DQRM. The long range DF takes only a second or two, and so a short carrier from a DQRMer can result in a trace to his location. Thereafter, the local volunteers will need to be willing to invest some serious time in local work to narrow the source down to a street and a house. But the EASSYL experience shows it can be done, and this should serve as a warning to others who may feel that DQRMing is a smart thing to do. IARU Member Societies will be encouraged to invoke the help of their national regulators once a DQRMer has been localised to a small area. In this way, we hope we open the way to prosecution of offenders and we hope that slowly, the scourge of DQRM will be eliminated

Author Roger Western, G3SXW
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TCDXA Member Profile

# Member Profile
# Bill Mitchell, **AEØEE**

**Getting My License**

I grew up in Minneapolis. Much of my time outside of school was spent playing violin, studying a lot (particularly science), playing the odd video game, and cross-country skiing. I kept busy. My elementary school aspirations to become a storm chaser faded in middle school, and were replaced by dreams of becoming a physicist. During high school, I realized that chemistry was much more interesting to me than physics, so I pursued a chemistry degree at Carleton College. Even when I finished my degree in 2008, I wasn't aware of ham radio.

I went to the University of California, Berkeley, to pursue a doctorate in chemistry. Berkeley and I did not get along from the beginning. The culture shock between a small liberal-arts college and a huge research university was tough on me, but I was determined to finish. Still no ham radio.

During the 2012 Thanksgiving holiday, I was really homesick, and needed a new hobby to help maintain some balance with my research. Facing a long weekend of procrastination before a major conference in early December, I looked into what it would take for me to become a trained Skywarn spotter. The group in the metro wanted people with a ham radio license. In the Bay Area, though, Skywarn wasn't particularly well established, likely because there was very little severe weather there. So, I was motivated to find out more about getting licensed.

Getting licensed seemed pretty easy: pay $15 and pass one or more tests. My testing session would be in two weeks. I was familiar with the science questions, so by the end of the weekend, I was passing the technician and general practice exams. There was still a week and a half to go, so I figured I might as well learn RLC circuits and get my extra class license.

At the testing session, the volunteer examiners were excited when I passed all three exams in one sitting!

My first ham radio, a GPS-enabled, dual-band handheld, my call sign (**AG6RB**), and I all arrived in Minneapolis on the same day. By the end of my vacation, I had made my first contact on a repeater.

**Amateur Radio and Contesting at Berkley**

When I returned to Berkeley, I joined the UC Berkeley Amateur Radio Club (**W6BB**). It was primarily led by a handful of staff and faculty, as well as a few students. They had just moved into a shack all their own at the university's field campus in an industrial area alongside the bay a few miles away. Soon we were putting up antennas and hooking up an Icom radio of roughly my age. The radio plugged in to a big Heathkit tuner and an external SWR meter. A desk microphone and flameproof key were both on hand, and Fritz (**K6EE**) called CQ using the newly-hung, long wire antenna. Moments later, a Japanese station responded. That was the first station I heard over HF ham radio, and I was floored.

Through the next year and a half, I helped make upgrades to the station. I started learning Morse code soon after joining the Berkeley club for two reasons; it had been on my bucket list and because I knew it would preempt grouching by some of the old-timers. As October drew near, Jack (**K6JEB**) had me block off the first weekend of the month for the California QSO Party. It was my first real introduction to contesting. Jack brought his own, more modern rig and a small amplifier and we operated mixed mode, though I was still SSB-only.

We returned for November Sweepstakes CW. Although I was making a few contacts with the straight key, 25-30 wpm was too fast for me, so I listened as he worked the contest at 28 wpm. It was a blast, and there were even a few times when I could catch a logging error or help pull out a weak one! Two weeks later, Jack helped me get things set up, then left me to be the Elmer for SSB weekend with one of the other students. I was hooked, though I managed to pull myself away on Sunday to continue working on my doctoral dissertation.

While in Berkeley, Jack had invited me to the local social club, where he organized the speaker series. The first one I attended was about a 6 meter and satellite activation of an extremely rare grid corner along the coast in Northern California. A month or two later, Bob Schmieder (**KK6EK**) talked about the TX5K Clipperton DXpedition. He also talked about his plans for going to Heard Island, a remote, uninhabited island on the Kerguelen Plateau with penguins, glaciers, and a 2.7-km tall volcano. It sounded AWESOME! If only it wasn't going to be a year or year-and-a-half after I graduated and began a “real life.”

When I went home for Christmas, I borrowed a G5RV antenna, some feedline, and a tuner from Jack. Santa brought a straight key, and I had fun making a few contacts with Straight Key Century Club members and on Straight Key Night. Dealing with an unruly dipole in the cold and snow was less than pleasant, so I searched for plans for a better portable antenna. After reading what I could find on the Internet and talking with a few people, I ended up building a 40 meter feedline dipole, where the shield is used as an intentional radiator, then stopped with an RF choke. By late April, that was assembled.

**Returning Home to Minnesota**

After finishing my degree at Berkeley in May 2014, I moved back to Minnesota just in time to catch **W1AW/Ø** MN, where Mark (**WAØMHJ**) helped me get on the air under a big pileup. I found two Elmers, Rich (**NØHJZ**) and Patrick (**WØERP**) who worked with me to build a portable 6 meter Moxon. They also helped me acquire a solar panel and battery like the ones that had been used on the grid DXpedition. Not wanting to explain why a Californian moved to Minnesota, I applied for and was granted a new callsign: AEØEE.

In the late summer, Matt (**KØBBC**), Dave (**WØZF**), and I went to North Dakota to activate W1AW/Ø ND, where I engaged in my first major portable operation using my new antenna. It worked well and it was a thrill to be on the DX side of a pileup, especially with the added excitement from portable operating in or near inclement weather.

Living in an urban setting and anticipating moving several times in the next few years, I continue to maintain a highly portable station. Primarily I use a Yaesu 857d, but I also have a tuna can transceiver and a dual-band handheld that I occasionally use. The feedline dipole worked so well that I've built one for 30, 20, and 10 meters. I have also built an 80/160 meter fan dipole, which is more work to put up, but works well on the low bands, at least domestically. Most of my winter operating is done during contests from St. Peter, MN, where my folks have a cottage overlooking the Minnesota River valley. In more temperate weather, or on certain cold-weather occasions such as winter field day or for National Parks On The Air (NPOTA), I operate all three modes from various parks around the region, often with Matt and Dave.

Through spending lots of time doing portable operations with Matt (KØBBC), I got involved with, and am now the vice-president of the Bloomington Amateur Radio Association. I am also involved in Skywarn and other RACES functions with the Bloomington Communications Group and am their co-chair of training.

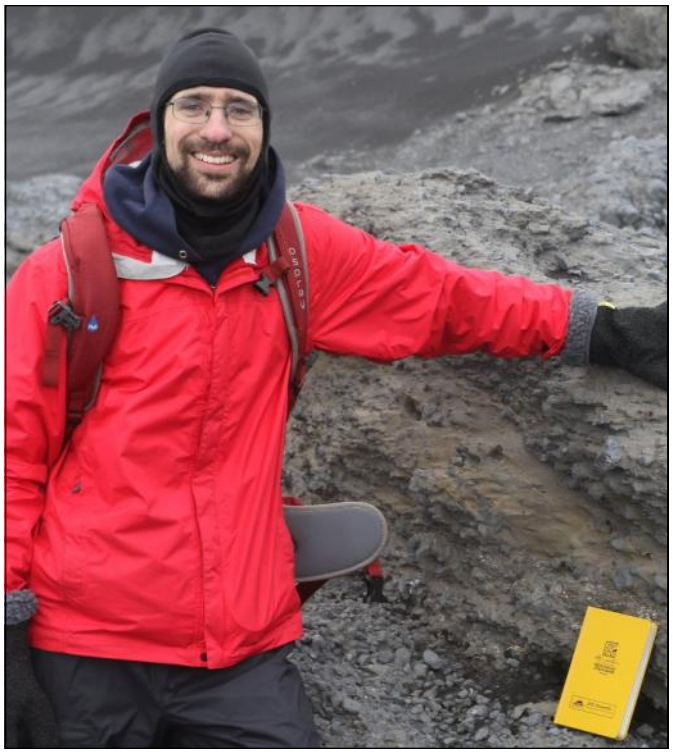
Recently, I went on the DXpedition with the glaciers, penguins, and volcano that I had learned about while I was at Berkeley. It is described in June 2016 edition of this newsletter, but I will add

that I enjoyed making a few maritime mobile contacts as **ZL/AEØEE/MM.** They were mostly straight key contacts, but I did get in a few JT65 QSOs. Although operating JT65 was useful for a mostly-dead band and a modest antenna, it really wasn't designed for an 11-character callsign. Overall I had a great time, and the experience only deepened my enjoyment of portable operation.

These days I can be found building antennas or operating on most bands from 160 meter through 70 centimeters. Most of the time I use CW, but sometimes I will pick up a microphone; on rare occasions I will operate RTTY, JT65, or other digital modes. Since receiving my new callsign in July 2014, I have confirmed 132 DXCC (116 CW) countries and am closing in on Worked-All-States Triple Play.

Remember: operating is fun, but operating portable with other hams is always an experience! I hope to hear you on the air soon!

73, Bill, AEØEE



Bill (**VKØ/AEØEE**) poses next to an outcrop on Heard Island sculpted by the wind. Image credit: Carlos Nascimento.

On the banks of the St. Croix Wild and Scenic River, Bill (AEØEE) makes contacts for National Parks On The Air. Image credit: Matt Holden, KØBBC

# Using a Flex 6700 with Maestro in a Contest Environment

*By Pat, WØBM*


A lap top and a Maestro unit are all that was needed for WØBM to operate the FLEX 6700 remotely

(*The Flex 6700 Software Defined Radio, along with the Maestro control panel, provides some interesting possibilities for contesters. The ability to have a complete self-contained SO2R station in a black box and operated remotely via a friendly user interface is now possible. TCDXAer Glen Johnson, WØGJ took one of these radios on the Palmyra DXpedition and reports that it was very much in demand by the DXpedition operators. Three of them were used by the NØAT team on Field Day this year and, although there were a few glitches with networking issues, the potential for the future was clear. In this article Pat, WØBM tells us his experience using this radio in this year's IARU contest…….Editor*)

**My Maestro Dream**

On February 29th of this year, I traded in my Flex 5000 for a Maestro/6700/GPSDO upgrade. One of the visions I had in the depths of a Minnesota winter was sitting outside, under a spreading maple tree, with the Maestro control panel on a table talking to the world any time the weather and spirit moved me. The Flex 6700/GPSDO came shortly after I ordered them, and I integrated it into the station in the basement. Although I was still on the learning curve, the radio install was straight forward and went together fairly easily. Using the Flex, I ran the 2016 CQWW WPX CW, making 400+ contacts in a very part time effort. Writelog, the SteppIR, and PSTRotator ran on the shack desktop computer flawlessly. To fulfill my dream with the Maestro, I just needed to wait for the Maestro to arrive and the weather to get better. Field Day was coming so I hoped my dream would be realized then. Well, Field Day came, and the Maestro hadn't come. So, for Field Day, plan B was executed. An IC-7600/Writelog/laptop setup was deployed at my QTH for a 1A Field Day effort.

**The Maestro Arrives!**

The Maestro arrived June 30th, and I started using it immediately in the living room (note that headphones are required to prevent marital discord) running on batteries and wireless. Over the 4th of July weekend, the weather was beautiful, and I tried out the Maestro while in the front yard. Things were working. My vision was close to being fulfilled. The weekend of July 9th came along so I decided to try the great outdoors again with the Maestro. I found a large number of stations on 20 meters, many of them DX. I realized the IARU HF World Championship was in full swing! So I spent 20 minutes, did a bit of setup, and had a contest station, complete with logging, SteppIR control, and rotator control in the front yard. My vision of operating in the great outdoors with the Maestro Control Panel was realized!

**How I Got It All Working**

Much of the effort of getting the Flex Radio and Maestro Control panel all integrated with my station was by just working with the radio and discovering how it went together myself. I realize now that much of the "discovery" described here is well covered in the Flex community. However, I was unaware of this fantastic resource until I did some research before composing this story. I'll start researching questions in the community first next time.

As I mentioned earlier, I initially ventured outdoors with the Maestro alone. When I heard the IARU contest going in full swing, I was excited about jumping into the fray. However, there were some things I need to get working first. I needed to set up my laptop for logging. The SteppIR needed to be tuned and I needed be able to rotate the antenna. But, the laptop wasn't next to the

6700, the SteppIR controller, or the rotator controller. What's next?

Writelog was still on my laptop from Field day. Since I didn't have the Maestro then, Writelog was set up for an Icom 7600. The laptop did have SmartSDR CAT loaded, which allowed Writelog to control the 6700 using the Kenwood emulation. For SteppIR control, I had noticed that if I used my laptop (before the Maestro arrived) and DDUTIL was running on the shack computer, the SteppIR followed the frequency. I ran downstairs, booted the shack computer, starting DDUTIL. Now, when the Maestro changed frequency, the SteppIR controller followed the frequency. Interconnecting all these pieces cause light bulbs to go off in my head. I gained an understanding of what a change for the better this client server RADIO environment truly means.

The next item was the rotor control. This was a more mundane solution. I remoted my laptop to the shack computer and manipulated PstRotatorAz via TeamViewer to rotate the SteppIR. I noticed a couple of drop outs on the Maestro even though I wasn't too far from the wireless access point. I looked over at where the AP should be and realized there were several walls between the Maestro and the AP. Solution: Move the operating position 40 feet west to be in front of a large window in almost line of sight to the AP. The drop out problem was fixed! (using an D-Link DIR-868L AC 1750 wireless router)

Setup was complete. In less than 20 minutes, I was making contacts around the world using the Maestro/6700 combination and the standard FHM-1 microphone. As I tuned the Maestro, I could hear the SteppIR adjusting its frequency. Sweet! Writelog was working well and getting packet spots over the network so I could run assisted. The remote control was working so I could now turn the rotor. After three hours and 100 contacts in the log, I realized the magic of Ham Radio is still alive and well and made even better with the Maestro/6700 combo. I could enjoy the setting, hear the birds, and in general experience a wonderful new ham radio experience.

Pat, WØBM operates his Flex 6700 remotely in the great outdoors!

# Member News and Awards

## Greg, **KØGW** Makes DXCC Honor Roll

In April 2016, I finally made DXCC Honor Roll. My interest in DXing began in 2000, and all my DXCC QSOs are from that year forward. It really started because I finally had an antenna that worked well enough for DX--a 300-foot double-extended Zepp, fed with open-wire line. I didn't realize until then how pitiful were all the other antennas I'd had previously. I have WØOXB to thank for that "OXB Special", like a few other TCDXA members.

To the extent that I had one, my mentor for DX was Marv, **WØMGI** (SK). He gave me the windmill tower that I use today, and helped me understand how to approach DXing. I would never have made Honor Roll without the spots on DX Summit, but Marv did it all the old-fashioned way--reading the DX bulletins and tuning up and down the band, along with the occasional two-ring phone call alerting him to listen. I'm not unhappy to have used Internet spots to achieve Honor Roll, for I never would have made it without them; but I still stand in awe of those who did it "the hard way."

Numerous other hams have helped me become a more effective DXer--many of them in TCDXA--but especially **WØAW, WØBV** and **NØODK**. Getting the last few entities was difficult, as the last few are for any award, but I would never have made it without the help of Denny, **KØTT,** who helped me swap out a failing ATB-34 tribander for its younger brother, the A4S, in December of all months. Without that antenna in place, I wouldn't have been able to nail the last few countries this past season that pushed me over the edge for Honor Roll.

Chasing Honor Roll has been fun, though nowadays the challenge seems less, and the opportunities for new ones are understandably fewer. However, though my Mixed total is 332, my Digital total is exactly zero. So, while I try to finish out 5BDXCC on 80 and 40, I get to start all over on digital. Sounds like a good challenge.

Al asked for a picture of me with my plaque. I have a basement shack with nowhere to hang a plaque. So I have included a picture of me receiving my ARRL 50 Year Member Certificate at the July ARRL Board Meeting.


Greg, KØGW receives 50 year ARRL Membership Certificate from ARRL President Rick Roderick, **K5UR** at July board meeting.

( Photo by Matt, KØBBC )

# **WØDJC**'s Road to DXCC Honor Roll

My 25 year quest to obtain Honor Roll in Mixed, Phone, CW and Digital ended this year with RTTY contacts from the South Georgia and South Sandwich DX-peditions. I started chasing DX in 1990, and reached Mixed Honor Roll in 2000, and #1 Mixed Honor Roll in 2004. My last need was Andaman Island. I listened for the VU4NRO expedition for days without hearing them, and had almost given up hope on working them.

Then on December 21st, John, NØIJ, gave me a call to tell me that he had just worked them on 20 SSB, and if I hadn't snagged them yet, now might be my chance. I worked them about 15 minutes later thanks to that phone call.

Phone Honor Roll was earned in 2003, and the 2015 Navassa DX-pedition put me over the top for #1 Phone Honor Roll. CW Honor Roll was awarded in 2007, and 9 years later, I still need 3 more for # 1 Honor Roll in that mode.

After 25 years of chasing DX on RTTY, **VP8STI** and **VP8SGI** became number 330 and 331 worked/confirmed for me, dropping to # 329 and 330, when Kingman was deleted from the DXCC list. I still have 9 more to go for top of the Digital Honor Roll.

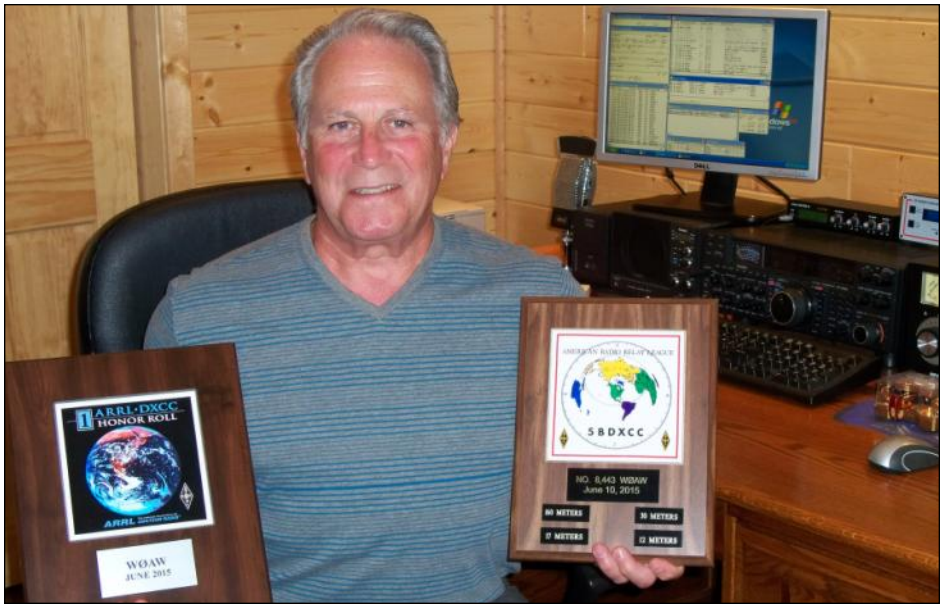
I hope to be able to swap out my CW and Digital plaques someday so they match the Mixed and Phone plaques, but when I look back at the slow pace in working the last few needs in both Mixed and Phone, that will probably be quite a few years from now!


Don, WØDJC proudly displays his new honor roll plaques above his extremely neat operating position!

# 2000 Checked Cards Yield DXCC Honor Roll and 9BDXCC for Gary, **WØAW**

In 2015 I finally achieved Top of the Honor Roll. This was a quest that began 36 years prior, and one that I was beginning to question if I would achieve in my lifetime. I had been licensed for many years prior to the start of the chase, but really wasn't into the lure of DX. Once the bug bit, I was hooked for the long term. I had even worked some pretty good DX that I didn't realize how rare it was at the time, and thus never sent for a QSL. After the DX bug took hold and I had achieved DXCC (with a count of 105 confirmed), I began mining the logs for DX that I hadn't confirmed. I found that I had a QSO with South Sandwich Island (LU3ZY in 1981) that I needed to confirm. This quest took nearly four years. I sent a QSL to the listed manager and never received a response. I sent several more times, still with no response. I started digging around and found three more QSL routes. I sent to all three, and finally after another 18 months went by, my QSL card showed up in the mail. The problem was that it was marked as South Orkney Island. I had to resend the QSL request to all three routes with a letter explaining the situation, as I had no idea which route produced the QSL card. About six months later, a QSL card showed up with a letter in Spanish explaining the details of the DXpedition, and thanking me for the QSO. Fortunately most QSL's were much easier to obtain.

The last country/entity needed was Navassa Island which was scheduled on the air in February of 2015. My wife and I had planned to winter in TX for three months, during the time that Navassa was to be activated. I took along a rig, an MFJ remote antenna tuner, and some light gauge wire and some fishing line. This antenna needed to be stealth, as I had approached the homeowners association the previous year about erecting a vertical, which was quickly denied. The wire was strung from the third floor level to the fence in the front yard and held in place




Gary, WØAW proudly displays his Honor Roll and 9BDXCC Awards

with 20 pound mono fishing line. I managed to string out four radials along the fence, and had to try different configurations of the wire antenna in order to find some combination that would load and radiate. After a few days of experimenting, I found a combination that seemed to work pretty well. Now all I needed was to get in the **K1N** log. I was fortunate enough to work K1N on 160 through 10 meters, and even picked up a RTTY QSO before the homeowners association discovered my antenna and gave me till the end of the day to remove it. At that point I knew that I had achieved the goal, so took down the antenna and packed up my gear.

Normally most Hams would simply send in or have the QSL field checked, and apply for their plaque. In my case, I had never submitted a QSL since the original DXCC submission. I began with LoTW and requested confirmations. I then began to pull QSL cards for multi-band and multi-mode credits, well over 2,000 cards. Trying to find someone that is looking forward to field checking over 2,000 cards can be a challenge, but Larry (**WØPR**) stepped up to the plate and took on the job. I'm sure that there were moments when he wished he had never signed on to be a QSL Card Field Checker. The paperwork was finally completed and submitted, and I went from 105 confirmed Mixed, to 340 confirmed. The cards also qualified me for 5BDXCC and the endorsements for 9BDXCC. It was a long chase that I managed to make more difficult by not making regular submissions of QSL cards. I want to personally thank Larry (WØPR) for hanging in there with me and checking so many cards.

# Dayton isn't going to be in Dayton?

*By Dan Dantzler, **WØJMP***

After 56 years, the Dayton Hamvention® will no longer be held at Hara Arena in Dayton Ohio. Many hams are heaving a sigh of relief; Hara was in bad shape and only getting worse. Financial problems by the owners precluded any meaningful upgrades or even basic maintenance. Finally, Hara Arena announced that they would be closing and the Hamvention® would need to find a new home.

The Dayton Hamvention® is the world's largest gathering of amateur radio operators. It is the de facto US national hamfest. It attracts hams from all over the world. It is sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association or DARA.

So where will Dayton be? In 2017, it will be held at Greene County Fairgrounds & Exposition Center in Xenia, Ohio. The new home is about 16 miles east of the center of Dayton.

The new quarters look pretty good. The buildings are newer and in much better condition that Hara. There are acres of parking and room for a bigger flea market. There are even spots for campers with up to 30 amp service.

Personally, I think it will be a great new venue. I have attended about 20 or so Hamventions® all at Hara Arena of course. But I am excited for the future of this convention. I have my room booked and will be there. Will you?

# New Members

The Twin Cities DX Association welcomes the following new members:

-KØAUG Christopher Williams, Plymouth, MN

-**K9WAG** Keith Freeouf, Lincoln, NE
*(Note: Keith is an old friend and neighbor. I introduced him to amateur radio and worked with him to get his license. He is building a home in Northern Minnesota where he plans to retire. Dan, W0JMP)*

**TREASURER'S REPORT, TOP LINE SUMMARY**

**TCDXA OPERATING BUDGET FY 2016**
**August 31, 2016 (Sep 2015 - Aug 2016)**

**Submitted by Pat Cain, KØPC, Treasurer**

| INCOME | | ACTUAL | BUDGET | Actual 2015 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Surplus from FY 2015 (balance 8/31/2015) | | 4165.60 | | 6162.67 |
| Member Dues 2016 by Cash/Checks/PayPal | | 4751.59 | 4800.00 | 4834.80 |
| Door Prize Ticket Sales club share | | 756.00 | 500.00 | 814.00 |
| Donations (estates, wills, etc.) | | 0.00 | | |
| Refunds and Reversals | | 13.00 | | |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 9686.19 | 5300.00 | 11811.47 |
| | | | | |
| EXPENSES | | | BUDGET | Actual 2015 |
| Member Recruitment/Retention | | 0.00 | (300.00) | (158.25) |
| Website ISP & Domain Name | | (44.26) | (70.00) | (137.37) |
| Office Supplies, Miscellaneous expenses | | (30.43) | (150.00) | (446.68) |
| Flowers <SK> and Hospital gifts | | 0.00 | (200.00) | 0.00 |
| Holiday Party 2015 | | (257.52) | (400.00) | (278.57) |
| ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund | | 0.00 | (100.00) | (100.00) |
| NCDXF Donation | | 0.00 | (250.00) | (250.00) |
| MWA Plaque | | (75.00) | (75.00) | (75.00) |
| DXpedition Contributions Total | | (3801.23) | (6000.00) | (6200.00) |
| #1 DXpedition Palmyra K5P | (1,500.00) | | | |
| #2 DXpedition Juan de Nova FT4JA | (1,000.00) | | | |
| #3 DXpedition Suriname PZ5W QSL Cards | (200.00) | | | |
| #4 DXpedition Antipodes Isl ZL9A | (500.00) | | | |
| #5 Dxpedition Iran EP2A | (513.23) | | | |
| #6 Dxpedition QSL Cards for AEØEE/MM | (88.00) | | | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | | (4208.44) | (7545.00) | (7645.87) |
| | | | | |
| NET | | 5477.75 | -2245.00 | |
| | | | | |
| Checking balance | | 5477.75 | | |
| PayPal balance | | 0.00 | | |
| Cash / Checks on Hand | | 0.00 | | |
| NET BALANCE | | 5477.75 | | |

When required, Wells Fargo & PayPal online statements can provide detail not shown in this report.

## DXers Have a Choice!

***The Daily DX*** **-** is a text DX bulletin that can be sent via email to your home or office Monday through Friday, and includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and much, much more. With a subscription to The Daily DX, you will also receive DX news flashes and other interesting DX tidbits. *Subscriptions are $49.00 for one year or $28.00 for 6 mos*.

***The Weekly DX*** **-** is a product of The Daily DX that can be sent weekly to your home or office via email in the form of a PDF (portable document format). It includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and graphics. *Subscriptions are $27.00 for one year*.

Get two weeks of The Daily DX or a sample of The Weekly DX free by sending a request to bernie@dailydx.com, or at http://www.dailydx.com/trial.htm.

# Join TCDXA

**Our mission is to raise *Dollars for DX*, used to help fund qualified DXpedition.**

**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 home page.**

**All contributions (including annual dues) may now be paid on our secure site, using PayPal or credit card.**

# The MWA Contest Corner

*by Al Dewey, KØAD*

**Tod Olson, KØTO Inducted Into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame**

As many of you may already know, Tod Olson, KØTO, was inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame this year at the Dayton Hamvention. It happened kind of fast just as we were wrapping up the June issue of the Gray Line Report so I decided to wait until the fall issue so I could give this story better coverage. Although Tod is not officially a current TCDXA member, he has been active in the Dakota Division and MWA for many decades. I think it is safe to say that most TCDXA members know Tod or know of him. Although Tod has been dealing with some medical issues lately, he was able to travel to Dayton to receive this honor. Although I was not able to personally attend Dayton this year, I was really heartened to see that Tod was recognized in a very public way for all he has given back to the contest community over the years.

I gave Tod a phone call recently and told him I would like to write an article about his induction in the upcoming TCDXA newsletter. Because his energy level was a little low at the time due to his medical issues, we decided the best way to do this was for me to simply interview him over the telephone. So that is what we did. The following short interview with Tod took place on a recent Sunday afternoon.

**Al, KØAD: "Tod, what early experiences sparked your interest in contesting?"**

**Tod, KØTO:** "Back in 1952, my girlfriend Jackie (*who eventually became Tod's XYL*) lived in Mountain Lake, MN. A few of my ham friends were looking for a field day site so I asked Jackie if there might be some "field" on her property that they could use. She said there was so we went down to Mountain Lake. The site turned out to be in the middle of a corn field way out in the country. We set up a low power station using a Meisner Signal Shifter (5W) in a corn crib with the antenna just barely off the ground. We tuned around the bands and heard one of the ARRL CD Parties going on. Guys were calling CQ CD and making quick exchanges and then going onto another contact. Many of them were just saying "ORS" and giving their location. We had no idea what ORS meant at the time (*it meant Official Relay Station*) but decided we would be one. We jumped in and started making contacts and had a lot of fun. This was my first exposure to contesting and I was hooked. A friend of mine , **WØWET** (now **W6HT**) told me about ARRL Sweepstakes and I tried that later in the year. By the way, the only two radio clubs in town back then were the Minneapolis Radio Club and the St. Paul Radio Club."

**Al, KØAD: "When did you first become associated with the Minnesota Wireless Association? What was MWA like in those days?"**

**Tod, KØTO:** "The Minnesota Wireless Association (MWA) was founded way back in 1912 but was down to just a few members in the early 50s. Art Anderson, had some connections with the FCC at the time and was able to get the **WØAA** call sign for himself. When MWA was reactivated About 1963, Art was in very poor health. Bob Schoening, **WØTKX**, later **WØBE**, worked with Art's daughter to get the call to be a club call. Bob was the first WØAA Trustee. In 1966 Bob and I wrote a charter for the Minnesota Wireless Association and then began to recruit members. In these early days, there were very strict requirements related to operating skill, ARRL membership and participation in traffic nets and contests if you wanted to become a member of MWA. At that time it was not as focused on contest operation and contest participation as it has become in the years since.

Tod with the Spurious Emissions band at the Dayton Hamvention. Picture (l to r) – Tim (**K3LR**), Ward (**NØAX**), Tod (KØTO), Scott (**W4PA**), Sean (**KX9X**), and Kirk (**K4RO**) – Photo by KØMD

In 1967 the first of several FD expeditions by the MWA was made. This was to Isle Royale, MI, 20 miles into Lake Superior. The participants included John Baumgarten, **NØIJ**, Bob Schoening, WØBE, Dick Halverson, **WØZSW,** Ron Stordahl, **AE5E**, Frank Leppa, **KØII,** Dick Ewe, (lost call) and me, Tod Olson, KØTO. From that nucleus the current MWA grew.

Bob Schoening, WØBE, was the first trustee of the WØAA call sign; I was the second and Mark Mendorf, WAØMHJ, is the third."

**Al, KØAD**: **"You founded and were the first editor of the National Contest Journal (NCJ). What were some of the challenges of getting NCJ off the ground?"**

**Tod, KØTO:** When working at General Mills, I often tried to use the front and back end of business trips to visit various amateur radio destinations. In 1971, I took a business trip to Boston and convinced my company that I should visit Bell Labs in NJ. I told them I wanted to drive down to NJ rather than fly and spend the weekend in a motel. They did not object, so I headed for NJ by way of Newington, CT and a visit to ARRL Headquarters.

This was the year that Dave Sumner, **K1ZZ**, was hired at the league. I met with Dick Baldwin and we discussed the ARRL Handbook which was a good money maker for the league. I suggested that the Handbook should be sold in a loose leaf notebook so that new sections could be added or updated as time when on. Unfortunately, this idea

was rejected because selling a new handbook every year was a major source of revenue for the League.
I also suggested the need for a magazine related to contesting. Dick was not interested in that either. He was very polite, assigned Dave to show me around the HQ building and said goodbye.
When I got home, I still felt strongly about the need for a publication related to contesting so I decided to start one myself. The first format was 8 ½ x 11 inch paper sheets folded in half and stapled in the middle. I solicited Russ Drake, **W7RM** as well as some of the 'Big Guns in PVRC and in California to write articles. I managed to get the pages printed at work [thanks General Mills] and then coerced my kids to help me put it together. Before every issue came out there was a 'circle the dining room table party' to assemble sheets and staple them into an NCJ.

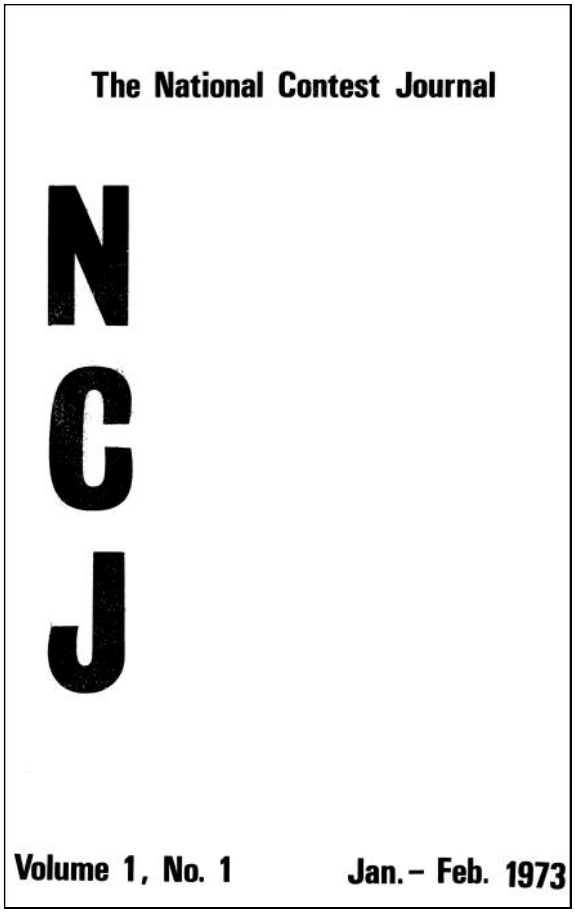
Tod receiving standing ovation as he is inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame at the Dayton Hamvention Contest Banquet – Photo by KØMD

In 1972 I took about 100 copies to the Visalia DX Convention and handed them out and asked for subscriptions. I got enough subscribers so that I could print and mail issue number 2. The price was very low (about 1 to 2 dollars) just to cover the postage.
But in 1976, when I became an ARRL Division Vice-Director, the Board decided that the NCJ was a commercial venture so I had to step down as editor. It didn't seem important to them that we lost money every year.

**Al, KØAD: "What type of typical content did NCJ have when it first got started?"**

**Tod, KØTO** "There were articles about what contesters were doing with their stations. We also printed a cross reference of


Tod with his son John (**WBØSID**) at the Dayton Hamvention" – Photo by KØMD


The National Contest Journal

NCJ

Volume 1, No. 1 Jan.– Feb. 1973

Cover Page for the First Issue of the National Contest Journal

vanity calls so contesters could keep up with who was who. There were a lot of letters from subscribers – many with suggestions" for improvement in ARRL and CQ contests. At the time, it often took 6 to 8 months to hear about the results of major ARRL and CQ Magazine contests. Remember, there was no internet in those days. A popular feature in NCJ was the printing of "Claimed Scores" well in advance of when the official results came out. The very first contest using a computer was reported on about 1974. I think it was a letter from a ham in SC.

**Al, KØAD: "What was your role in conceptualizing and developing the popular NCJ Sprint Contests."**

**Tod, KØTO:** "Back in the 70s, I had spoken with a contester from Germany who told of a contest there where the duration of the event was short which made it easier for people to participate. On a business trip to California, I had the opportunity to have dinner with Rusty Epps, **W6OAT** and one other contester (can't recall his call right now) at the Sea Cliff Bar in San Francisco. With the aide of a few Mai Tai's we came up with the concept of having a short "Sprint" type contest. We invented rules that made it virtually impossible for a big station to hog a frequency. [ Must QSY after every CQ that results in a QSO ].We made the exchange very simple so the rate would be high [ send name] The contest would be sponsored by the National Contest Journal. We wanted to emphasize search and pounce skills rather than have a contest where one guy could just stay on the same frequency and run most of the time. The first NCJ Sponsored CW Sprint was held in September of 1977 and it is still very popular today

**Al, KØAD: "Tell us a little about your station in Idaho. Do I understand correctly that it can be operated remotely?"**

**Tod, KØTO:** I have a telescoping tower with a CX31-XR at 70 feet and a two elements for 40m 10 feet above it. I have one feedline per band. All coax cables come to the bottom of the tower and then change over to hardline

going into the shack. In the shack are two FT1000MPs. Everything is setup for automatic band switching. So when I change the band on one of the radios, the correct antenna, antenna matching and bandpass filters are switched in line for the radio. I recently replaced one of the FT1000MPs with an ICOM 7300 which allows me to operate the station remotely. I use RemoteRigs.com software (free) as a server and also as a client. I am able to listen and transmit from Wayzata. Although I have closed access to the station to only stations I have approved, I expect if someone want to hear their how their signal sounds out there or check propagation something could be arranged.

**Al, KØAD: "Do you have any final thoughts on your induction into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame"**

**Tod, KØTO:** When I first heard about my nomination I thought someone was pulling my leg. I was delighted to find it was true. I was pleased to be able to make a few remarks to the 500 people at the Award dinner. Many, many were friends I had known and worked over the past 60 years. A very fun night was the night before when I got to hear the Spurious Emissions Band. I was a little nervous about my speech at the banquet but it went fine. I was very pleased and honored to get the award but a part of me wondered whether I was really deserving.

**Al, KØAD: " Thanks for your time, Tod. And, trust me, your induction onto the Hall of Fame was long overdue based on all you have given back to the contesting community and amateur radio in general."**

# Message from the President

*By Mike Sigelman,* **KØBUD**

I have decided to not run again for the Office of President after my third year which ends this December. Tom Weigel **ABØJ** and I have been hot on the phones trying to find the best candidates for the new President of TCDXA. If you are interested and think you are a leader, innovator, or an enthusiastic amateur let us hear from you now. Thanks to Tom, ABØJ; Gary **WØARW**; David **ADØSV**; and Pat Cain KØPC for their help in our Presidential search. Here's to the new President who will lead us on to even greater heights!

I want to thank those that did respond to my request for input on our meetings. Some of you expressed your support for our programs and passed along some good ideas. We had lots of good comments on the programs and about some of the great speakers we have enjoyed. Bob Heil got so many positive comments that we have invited him back! Bob will be our kick off meeting speaker this September!

Several members asked why we have the number of programs we do from speakers via Skype. Tom Weigel and I would love to have more live local folks. If you wish to submit speaking idea just let us know!!!

Next time you talk to non-member friends tell them about TCDXA! You are truly doing them a favor! I have personally invited several folks to our meetings who became members. We are one classy club with something for most all amateurs.

# TWIN CITY DX (TCDXA)

# ASSOCIATION

## CLUB FACT SHEET

**Who We Are:**

The Twin City DX Association (TCDXA) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit amateur radio organization, whose members have an interest in DXing and in supporting the club mission: ***Dollars for DX***. Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation govern the club's operation.

**Club Mission:**

The club mission supports major DXpeditions with financial donations. The source of operating income for this activity is an annual contribution (dues) of $25 from each member.

**DX Donation Policy:**

The policy supports major DXpeditions that meet our requirements for financial sponsorship. All requests must be approved by the Board of Directors. Final approval is by vote of the full membership. Over 70 DXpeditions have been sponsored since 1997. Details are available on the website at: http://www.tcdxa.org/sponsoreddxpedtions.html#MenuBar1.

**Club History:**

The club was formed in the early 1970s by a small group of DXers from the Twin City area. Over the years, the club has changed; most notably by opening its doors to anyone interested in DXing - from the casual to the very serious operator. Our membership now resides in numerous states and several countries.

**Requirements for Membership**

We welcome all hams who have an interest in DXing and hold a valid FCC Amateur Radio License. It doesn't matter whether you're a newcomer, or an oldtimer to DXing; everyone is welcome!

**Meetings:**

The club meets on the third Monday of each month (except July & August) at PUB 42 Restaurant in New Hope, MN. Members gather early in the bar for Happy Hour, and move into a private room at 5:00pm for dinner and a short business agenda, followed by a program. If you enjoy a night out on the town with friends, you'll enjoy this get together. Meeting attendance is NOT a requirement for membership.

**Club Officers:**

Four officers, plus one additional member make up the Board of Directors; currently: President Michael Sigelman, KØBUD; Vice President Craig Anderson, **W9CLA**; Secretary-Treasurer Pat Cain, KØPC; DXpedition Funding Manager Matt Holden, KØBBC and Director Rich Goodin, **WØDD**.

**Website:**

We maintain a website at www.TCDXA.org that provides information about a variety of subjects related to the club and DXing, The site is maintained by our webmaster Pat Cain, KØPC.

**Newsletter:**

The ***GrayLine Report*** is the club newsletter, which is published on a quarterly basis. We're proud of the fact that 99% of the content is "homegrown" – written by our members. Past issues are on the website at: http://www.tcdxa.org/newsletter.html.

**How to Become a Member:**

An application for membership can be completed and submitted online, or printed and mailed in. (See http://www.tcdxa.org/Application.html ) Contributions may be made by check or via the PayPal link on the homepage at www.TCDXA.org.

**Visit us at a Meeting**:

You are most welcome to attend a meeting, and look us over, before joining. Meetings are held at the PUB 42 Restaurant at 7600 Avenue North in New Hope (http://pub42.com/ ). Join us for happy hour at 4:00pm with dinner at 5:30pm, followed by the meeting at 6:30pm.

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| VKØIR | K5D | AHØ/NØAT | 3W2DK | K4M | XU7MWA |
| ZL9CI | VK9DWX | 5X8C | FT4TA | TX3A | S21EA |
| A52A | FT5GA | K9W | VK9MT | KMØO/9M6 | J2ØRR |
| T33C | 3D2ØCR | XRØZR | VK9DLX | YS4U | J2ØMM |
| 3B9C | E4X | T3ØD | VU4KV | YI9PSE | BS7H |
| TX9 | CYØ/NØTG | 3W3O | EP6T | ZL8X | N8S |
| CP6CW | VP8ORK | 3W2DK | VP8STI | 4W6A | 3B7SP |
| 3YØX | VU4PB | FT4TA | VP8SGI | T32C | 3B7C |
| K7C | STØR | VK9MT | TX3X | HKØNA | 5JØA |
| 5A7A | 3D2C | VK9DLX | VP6DX | 7O6T | K5P |
| VU4AN | 3CØE | VU4KV | TX5C | NH8S | FT4JA |
| VU7RG | TT8TT | EP6T | 9XØR | PTØS | PZ5W |
| VK9DWX | 9M4SLL | 3GØZC | 9U4U | FT5ZM | ZL9A |

## TCDXA DX DONATION POLICY

The mission of TCDXA is to support DXing and major DXpeditions by providing funding. Annual contributions (dues) from members are the major source of funding.

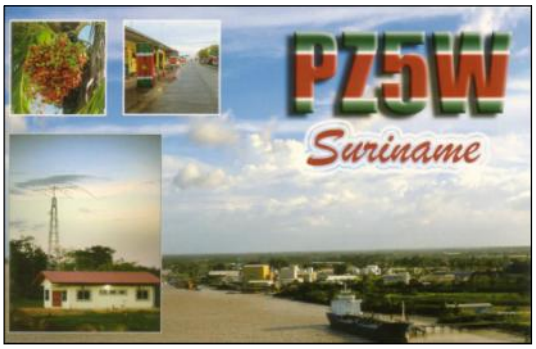
A funding request from the organizers of a planned DXpedition should be directed to the DX Donation Manager, Matt, KØBBC, k0bbc@arrl.net . He and the TCDXA Board of Directors will judge how well the DXpedition plans meet key considerations (see below).

If the Board of Directors deems the DXpedition to be worthy of support, a recommended funding amount is presented to the membership for their vote. If approved, the TCDXA Treasurer will process the funding..

Key Considerations for a DXpedition Funding Request

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

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