



The DX HUNTER

NOVEMBER 2006

TVDXA CLUB INFO

MEETINGS: 2nd THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
NEXT MEETING: 12/14/06 - 6:30PM @ WALLY's
TVDXA WEBSITE: TVDXA.com
DX Packet Cluster: 144.990 @ 1200 Baud
DX Tele-net: k4jw.no-ip (41414)
Chat Frequencies: 145.500/446.600
Editor E-mail: howard.thickman@erlanger.org

CLUB NEWS

The Island Hoppers have completed another successful Mini-Dxpedition. This time it was to Emerald Isle, NC. Check out TVDXA web-site for more info and pictures.

2735 Log Entries

90 Countries - 47 States



Note: Modified External Ear Antennas

MEETING NOTES:

We discussed the trip to Emerald Isle and passed out some goodies:

Barbarra got a bouquet of roses and an "Atta Girl" for all her hard work. **Well deserved!!**

Kenny got a mug for slave driving the setup and take down of all the equipment.

Kenny, Tony & Greg were noted for their commitment to time on-the-air.

TVDXA PERSONALITY

PAUL QUILLEN – N4LCD

Paul was born in VA, raised in Miami, FL and now lives in Cartersville GA. He went to school in Coral Gables and then went on to VMI and graduated in 1968 with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

He is an Army Viet Nam vet and also spent time in Germany where he worked with Dr. Bose of speaker fame.

Paul is an "entrepreneur" and has many 'irons' in the fire. He teaches students from around the world Day Trading stocks and futures, sets up sound systems for churches, is a techno-jock and hosts our web-site. He is always connected to his computers with the latest geek gadgets.

Paul and Lydia, his wife, have 5 daughters, 9.9 grandkids and 2 great-grandkids. They are both Kansas City Certified BBQ judges and travel to contests to judge and sample BBQ. (Some job!!)

He was first licensed in 1984 and is now an Extra Class. He worked a guy in Indiana off a rain gutter used as an antenna tuned by an Icom AH-2.

You often hear Paul talk about his teen years as a Sea Scout in Miami. This is Paul circa 1961-62.



You can't see the pocket protector or K&E slide rule



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CONTESTING NEWS

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>WEEKDAY - TIME UTC</u>	<u>CONTEST NAME - MODE</u>
1- 7	Wed 0000 - Tue 2400	HA-QRP Contest - CW
2	Thu 1800 - 2200	10 meter NAC - CW/SSB/FM/Digi
4	Sat 0600 - 1000	IPA Radio Club Contest (1) - CW
4-5	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Ukrainian DX Contest - CW/SSB/RTTY
4	Sat 1400 - 1800	IPA Radio Club Contest (2) - CW
4-6	Sat 2100 - Mon 0300	ARRL Sweepstakes - CW
4-6	Sat 2100 - Mon 0300	NA Collegiate ARC Championship - CW
5	Sun 0600 - 1000	IPA Radio Club Contest (3) - SSB
5	Sun 0900 - 1100	High Speed Club CW Contest (1) - CW
5	Sun 1100 - 1700	DARC 10 m Digital Contest "Corona" - DIGI
5	Sun 1400 - 1800	IPA Radio Club Contest (4) - SSB
5	Sun 1500 - 1700	High Speed Club CW Contest (2) - CW
7	Tue 0200 - 0400	ARS Spartan Sprint - CW
8	Wed 0000 - 0200	SKCC Sprint - CW
11-12	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Worked All Europe DX-Contest - RTTY
11-12	Sat 0700 - Sun 1300	Japan International DX Contest - Phone
11	Sat 1100 - 1200	SL Contest - CW
11-12	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	OK/OM DX Contest - CW
11	Sat 1230 - 1330	SL Contest - SSB
12	Sun 1400 - 1500	SSA Månadstest nr 11 - CW
12	Sun 1515 - 1615	SSA Månadstest nr 11 - SSB
17	Fri 1600 - 2200	YO International PSK31 Contest - PSK31
18-19	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	INORC Contest - CW
18-19	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	LZ DX Contest - CW/SSB
18	Sat 1500 - 1700	EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party (1) - CW
18-19	Sat 1600 - Sun 0700	All Austrian 160 m Contest - CW
18	Sat 1800 - 2000	EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party (2) - CW
18-20	Sat 2100 - Mon 0300	ARRL Sweepstakes - SSB
18-20	Sat 2100 - Mon 0300	NA Collegiate ARC Championship - SSB
18-19	Sat 2100 - Sun 0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest - CW
19	Sun 0000 - 2400	EPC PSK63 QSO Party - BPSK63
19	Sun 0700 - 0900	EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party (3) - CW
19	Sun 1000 - 1200	EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party (4) - CW
19	Sun 1300 - 1700	HOT Party - CW
25-26	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW DX Contest - CW
25-26	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW SWL Challenge - CW
30	Thu 0000 - 0600	QRP ARCI Topband Sprint - CW/SSB



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ANNOUNCED DX OPERATIONS

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DATES		LOCATION/CALL	QSL VIA	INFO
2006 Nov01	2006 Nov07	Keguelen Islands	FT5XP	F4EFI By TU5KG; for 2 days TBD during the period
2006 Nov01	2006 Nov07	Micronesia	V63	See Info By JA1KJW JA1JQY JI1FOP JA8VE as V63JQ V63JY V63FP V63VE fm Kosrae Is (OC-059); 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY; QSL via home call except V63VE via JF1OCQ
2006 Nov02	2006 Nov10	Corsica	TK	Home Call By DL2SBY HA4DX HA0HW fm Sisco (EU-014); low band focus; CW SSB RTTY PSK31; QSL OK via Buro or direct
2006 Nov02	2006 Nov11	Corsica	TK	Home Call By DL2SBY HA4DX HA0HW from nr Sisco; HF, focus on low bands; CW SSB digital; QSL OK via home Buro or direct
2006 Nov02	2006 Nov14	Tonga	A35AX	By ON5AX ON3AX; 40 30 20m; CW SSB PSK
2006 Nov03	2006 Nov04	Israel	4Z0J	4Z4BS By 4Z4BS 4Z4KX 4Z1UF 4Z5LA 4Z5FI 4X6HP 4X1VF; 80-10m; CW SSB; QRT Nov 4, 1500z
2006 Nov04	2006 Nov07	Turks & Caicos	VP5	JA1XGI By JA1XGI as VP5/W8XGI; 80-10m; CW SSB RTTY
2006 Nov04	2006 Nov18	North Cook Islands	E51	By N7OU W7YAQ fm Penrhyn Atoll; 80-10m; mainly CW, some RTTY SSB; low power; verticals
2006 Nov05	2006 Nov09	Mariana Islands	KH0	UA3DX By RZ3AA UA3AB RA3AUU as KH0/NP2KY KH0/KB7YHQ KH0/K3UY; focus on low bands for EU and NA
2006 Nov07	2006 Nov09	Micronesia	V63	See Info By JA1KJW JA1JQY JI1FOP JA8VE as V63JQ V63JY V63OP V63VE fm Pohnpei Is (OC-010); 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY; QSL via home call except V63VE via JF1OCQ
2006 Nov09	2006 Nov14	Micronesia	V63	See Info By JA1KJW JA1JQY JI1FOP JA8VE as V63JQ V63JY V63OP V63VE fm Chuuk Is (OC-011); 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY; QSL via home call except V63VE via JF1OCQ
2006 Nov10	2006 Nov16	Micronesia	V6	UA3DX By RZ3AA UA3AB RA3AUU as V63RZ V63UA V63RQ; focus on low bands for EU and NA
2006 Nov13	2006 Nov18	Micronesia	V63DX	JA7HMZ By JA7HMZ fm Pohnpei; all HF bands; all modes; focus on 160m for NA + EU
2006 Nov14	2006 Nov15	Guam	KH2	See Info By JA1KJW JA1JQY JI1FOP JA8VE; 160-10m as KH2/homecall, except JA1KJW as AK0J/KH2; SSB CW RTTY; QSL via home call except JA8VE via JF1OCQ
2006 Nov14	2006 Nov28	Libya	5A7A	DL9USA Direct By an DJ7IK + international team; QRV for CQWW DX CW
2006 Nov15	2006 Dec01	San Andres Island	HK0GU	DL7VOG By DL7VOG fm NA-049; 160-10m; CW RTTY SSB; QSL: Gerid Uhlig, BOX: 700332, D-10323 Berlin, Germany or DARC Buro



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2006 Nov17	2006 Nov30	Mauritius	3B8	OM2FY	By a Slovak team as 3B8/OM0C; focus on low bands, especially 160m + RTTY
2006 Nov18	2006 Nov28	South Cook Islands	E51		By N7OU W7YAQ fm Rarotonga; 80-10m; mainly CW, some RTTY SSB; low power; verticals; QRV for CQ WW DX CW
2006 Nov20	2006 Nov27	Cocos (Keeling)	VK9AA	DL8YR	By VK2IA; QRV for CQWW DX CW; will focus on NA prior to contest
2006 Nov25	2006 Nov26	Kergeulen	FT5XP	F4EFI	By TU5KG fm Port aux Francais; dates approximate
2006 Nov28	2006 Dec05	Aruba	P40Z	K9UK	By K9UK W9KXQ WW9WW WG9J W9AEB

The Station Notebook

By Wayne Greaves, W0ZW

Your station is one-of-a-kind. Do you have a record of how it's put together? Here's how to capture important details about your station for future reference.



The W0ZW station notebook.

There is a station accessory that no Amateur Radio shack should be without. It works with stations that operate HF, VHF, UHF, microwave and even moonbounce. It is useful to both "Big Gun" and QRP stations, casual operators, contesters, DXers and rag chewers alike. It doesn't matter if you operate phone, CW or data modes. Best of all, it is readily available and costs under five bucks. This amazing addition to your shack is the Station Notebook. Every ham should maintain one for his or her station. Here's what it is and how to use it.

Quite simply, the station notebook is a collection of technical or operational details specific to your station that you document in a journal. The Station Notebook is a living document that grows over time as your station evolves. What kind of information goes into the Station Notebook? Some examples include:

- Station block diagram
- List of equipment models and serial numbers
- Antenna descriptions and dimensions
- Record of measured SWR versus frequency for each antenna
- Document radio memory settings for stored frequencies and other variable settings
- Station RF exposure evaluation
- Results of tests and experiments
- Description of changes, additions, or modifications to equipment

Your notes can be as simple or as detailed as you want, but the important thing is that they are written down!

My concept of the Station Notebook is based on the engineer's notebook. For commercial purposes, the engineering notebook is considered a legal document used to record the invention process, which is essential for obtaining patents. While the requirements of the typical Amateur may not be identical to those of the practicing engineer, there are format similarities between the two notebooks. My personal preferences for a Station Notebook are as follows:

- Use a bound composition notebook, 9¾ in. by 7½ inches or larger (80 to 100 sheets per notebook are typical).
- Select a notebook with a ¼-inch grid page format (also called "quadrille") instead of a ruled page. It's easier to sketch graphs, plot antenna layouts and draw block diagrams.



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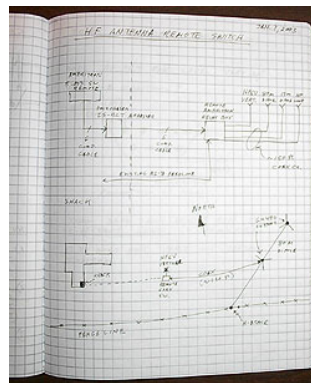
- Make entries in ink and date each entry.
- Write legibly, but don't be overly concerned about neatness. The information content is what's most important.
- Write your call sign and the title "Station Notebook" on the front cover.

While it might make sense to some to use a three-ring binder instead of a bound notebook, I believe the bound notebook is handier and therefore more likely to be written in and actually used. The bound notebook is easier to take out into the field for recording those antenna measurements. It also takes up less space on the bookshelf than most three-ring binders. The photos show the cover and an example page from my own Station Notebook.

The utility of the Station Notebook was demonstrated to me one day when I accidentally erased the memory contents in a VHF transceiver. Ordinarily this would have meant spending several hours with the *Repeater Directory* recreating the list of the dozens of channels that had been lost. Instead, all I had to do to recover was refer to my Station Notebook where I had a written list of the frequencies and tone settings that had been programmed in the radio. This episode alone proved the value of documenting my station.

Every station should have an up-to-date block diagram that describes the major system components and how they are interconnected. System components include transceivers, receivers, excitors, transverters, preamps, amplifiers, antennas, signal switching boxes, lightning arrestors, power supplies, as well as their interconnection. The Station Notebook is an idea place to document this. As your station architecture changes, simply modify the drawing or make a new one. Do you remember how long a length of coax is to your 40-meter dipole or when you last checked the connection at the feed point? Use the Station Notebook to capture a sketch of each run of transmission line you have, along with its length, type, and when you installed it or last inspected it. When you write it down, you can simply refer to your Station Notebook without having to rely on your memory. You already have enough on your mind!

Whenever I have a new idea for an antenna project, I sketch it out in my Station Notebook. I include rough plans for its design, where to locate it on the property, estimates of materials, and how to integrate it with existing antennas. When I install a new antenna, the design and installation details go in the Station Notebook, too. This includes a chart of the measured SWR across the band. This not only reminds me which sub-band I tuned an antenna for, but it is also useful to compare over time with current readings as an indicator that something has changed since the original installation.



Example of a typical page entry

Do you live close to an airport? Use the Station Notebook to document that your antenna structures comply with FCC and FAA regulations. Do you run 500 watts or more? Then you are responsible for evaluating your station compliance with FCC Maximum Permissible Exposure ([MPE](#)) RF limits. The Station Notebook is an ideal place to document this evaluation.

Many hams open up their stations for operation to visiting hams. This is popular with contesters who may travel to exotic DX locations or who visit "Big Gun" multi-operator stations. What better way to acquaint the visiting ham with the particulars of a new station than by the Station Notebook.



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These are just a few examples of the value of having a convenient, centralized notebook of station information. It is equally important to understand what the Station Notebook is not. The Station Notebook is not a logbook for documenting on-the-air contacts or your DXCC totals. You probably already own a favorite software logging application or use a paper logbook for that purpose. The Station Notebook is not intended to be a general technical reference. It is not the place to note the formula for Ohm's Law or the resistor color code; this job is better left to such texts as The ARRL Handbook or the popular Pocket Ref or Tech Ref books. Finally, don't store your user manuals, warranties and sales invoices in the Station Notebook. Create a separate file area to store these important documents.

Once you get in the habit of updating your Station Notebook, over time you will have created a documented history of your station. The notebook will have captured your shack's initial configuration, equipment changes and additions, results of experiments, your thoughts and ideas for future improvements, and antenna projects past and present. After only a few years of entries, not only does it make for very interesting reading, but it provides you with a real sense of accomplishment to remember all those projects you have implemented and had long since taken for granted. Not bad for a \$5 investment!

So visit your local stationery or office supply store and purchase your latest station accessory - the Station Notebook. Use it to keep a written record of your detailed station technical information. Store the Station Notebook in a convenient, accessible place in your shack (it doesn't take up much space). Keep it handy so you can find it when you need it. You will be glad you did!

While electronic documentation is not the focus of this article, it exists in various forms and capabilities. They include general purpose drawing applications, computer aided design (CAD) packages, schematic capture software, digital images, document scanning tools, text editors, word processors and portable document format (PDF) conversion tools. All these diverse file types can be pulled together and viewed from a Web browser by using your favorite hypertext markup language (HTML) editor to create a set of linked Web pages. Depending on your skill with such tools and the amount of time you wish to spend, it may be an appropriate route to take for creating a Station Notebook.

Wayne Greaves, W0ZW

K1AR CONTESTING HINT

Log checkers will usually tell you that incorrectly copied call signs is the most common mistake in DX/contest logs. When CQing and running other stations, always repeat the call sign of the other station you are working. Even though you may be absolutely certain that you copied the call sign correctly, a repeat of the call will allow the other station to correct any possible mistakes. It's worth the time!

If you have articles or information of interest and would like it published in the NEWSLETTER, send or e-mail them to me. Pictures are also needed. This is YOUR Newsletter.



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DX Stories by Paul M. Dunphy, VE1DX

Basic DXing

by Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

Originally published in the WCDXB, 20 July 1976

(With a minor modification by VE1DX, 18 January 1997)

One of the Local QRPers came up the hill last week and he was not happy. "Put me down as another one who missed VK0IR", he said. "Those high-powered, non-stop-calling Eastern types pushed the QRM needle off the peg at my place." We were properly sympathetic for a broken heart is a nagging burden. "Too bad", we said, hoping to ease the grief with some small talk, "we heard you in there calling and figured you'd worked them. We could not hear him here."

The QRPer shrugged. "Oh, I wasn't hearing him. I was in there calling blind. Called for three days and got nothing. Nothing at all with all that eastern QRM." We had to think this over a bit for it appeared something was not meshing. "If you could not hear him", we asked, "how would you ever know if he came back to your call? Wasn't that a bit of a futile effort to call blind?" The QRPer bristled. "Look", he said, "If I didn't call, how would they have heard my call and come back to me? Heck! That's basic DXing."

We were still not getting the story. "But if you call blind and you are not hearing the DX station, how will you know when he comes back to you . . . if he does?" The QRPer started to bristle again . . . and it was apparent we had run our string. "I can see you really never will be a Big DXer", he said devastatingly, "You just cannot understand that they won't hear you if you don't call. You just don't understand!"

Son of a Gun! Let's face it. There are some of the Eternal Enigmas that only a few will understand. These are trying times in this world of DX, although for some more than others. We thought again about what the QRPer had told us. We pondered the Mysteries of the Ages, for there is often wisdom hidden beneath the surface and there are none so blind as those who will not see. After a few minutes, we decided a visit to the optometrist wasn't necessary . . . and while one of us wasn't seeing, we had convinced ourselves that our eyes were just fine! So we turned back to the rig and waited for the Heard Island boys to flash up again on fifteen. The Great Days of DXing were at hand. DX IS!



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TVDXA CLUB BBQ RECIPE THE BALD BBQ'er

FINISHING SAUCE FOR PORK RIBS – by KE4MBP

FINISHING SAUCE

1/4 Cup	Vinegar
1/4 Cup	Mustard
1/3 Cup	Brown Sugar



DIRECTIONS:

COMBINE THE FINISHING SAUCE INGREDIENTS - HEAT IN A PAN TO MAKE THE BROWN SUGAR DISSOLVE THEN LET RETURN TO ROOM TEMPERATURE WHILE BBQing YOUR RIBS. BBQ YOUR RIBS AS YOU NORMALLY DO.

THE IMPORTANT PART OF USING THIS FINISHING SAUCE IS TO APPLY IMMEDIATELY (NOT A MINUTE OR TWO LATER) AFTER THE RIBS COME OFF THE GRILL. THE SAUCE GIVES THE HOT RIBS A NICE GLOSSY MAHOGONY FINISH. IF YOU LIKE A DARKER FINISH, ADD MORE BROWN SUGAR. LET RIBS REST FOR 5-10 MINUTES BEFORE SERVING. CUT INTO INDIVIDUAL BONES AND CHOW DOWN.

Send me your favorite BBQ Recipe(s) or side dish and have them published in the Newsletter.
Let everyone enjoy an afternoon family BBQ of good eats.