



# The DX HUNTER

DECEMBER 2006

## TVDXA CLUB INFO

**MEETINGS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH  
**NEXT MEETING:** 1/11/07 - 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](mailto:howard.thickman@erlanger.org)

## CLUB NEWS

### TVDXA FIELD DAY RESULTS:

In Georgia, we maintained our #2 position in 2A

Buckhead	12462 pts
TVDXA	5886 pts

In addition, we were 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in Georgia  
In Alabama, we would have been 3<sup>rd</sup> overall  
In Tennessee, we would have been 5<sup>th</sup> overall

In the entire US, we were 189<sup>th</sup> out of 2184

W4AM	was 1212 <sup>th</sup> with 1338 pts
SCARS	was 574 <sup>th</sup> with 2975 pts

#1 in FD was Tony's PVARC @ 31144 pts

**ANOTHER GREAT JOB BY THE TVDXA GANG.** What will next year bring for our FD efforts? Let's start thinking and planning our '07 effort. Do we want to try something new or keep FD as-is?

## TVDXA PERSONALITY

### SANTA CLAUS

**American Origins.** The American version of the Santa Claus figure received its inspiration and its name from the Dutch legend of Sinter Klaas, brought by settlers to New York in the 17th century. As early as 1773, the name appeared in the American press as St. A Claus, but it was the popular author Washington Irving who gave Americans their first detailed information about the Dutch version of Saint Nicholas. In his History of New York, published in 1809 under the pseudonym Diedrich Knickerbocker, Irving described the arrival of the saint on horseback each Eve of Saint Nicholas. This Dutch-American Saint Nick achieved his fully Americanized form in 1823 in the poem A Visit From Saint Nicholas more commonly known as The Night Before Christmas by writer Clement Clarke Moore. Moore included such details as the names of the reindeer; Santa Claus's laughs, winks, and nods; and the method by which Saint Nicholas, referred to as an elf, returns up the chimney. (Moore's phrase lays his finger aside of his nose was drawn directly from Irving's 1809 description.)



**The American image** of Santa Claus was further elaborated by illustrator Thomas Nast who depicted a rotund Santa for Christmas issues of Harper's magazine from the 1860s to the 1880s. Nast added such details as Santa's workshop at the North Pole and Santa's list of the good and bad children of the world. A human-sized version of Santa Claus, rather than the elf of Moore's poem, was depicted in a series of illustrations for Coca-Cola advertisements introduced in 1931. In modern versions of the Santa Claus legend, only his toy-shop workers are elves. Rudolph, the ninth reindeer, with a red and shiny nose, was invented in 1939 by an advertising writer for the Montgomery Ward Company.

**Modern Influences.** The fully detailed modern image of Santa Claus plays a part in Christmas celebrations around the world. People are reminded of Santa Claus through advertising, greeting cards, decorations, and the annual appearance of Santas in department stores and shopping malls (in some cases accompanied by Mrs. Claus and Santa's elves). The figure of Santa Claus occurs in motion pictures for example, *Miracle on 34th Street* 1947 and in songs such as *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*, 1932 and *Here Comes Santa Claus*, 1947. Children write letters to Santa Claus and set out milk and cookies on Christmas Eve as a snack for Santa.



**Although** most adults view Santa as the embodiment of a spirit of giving, some argue that the modern image of Santa Claus conflicts with the true meaning of Christmas and promotes greed and commercialism. To reconcile the legend of Santa Claus with the religious significance of Christmas, some Christians emphasize that the modern figure is derived from legends about a saint who symbolized love, caring, and generosity. "Santa Claus."

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Healthy Happy New Year to All

Ho Ho Ho



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## CONTESTING NEWS

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DATE	CONTEST NAME WEEKDAY - TIME UTC	MODE
1-3	<u>ARRL 160 Meter Contest</u> Friday 2200 - Sunday 1600	CW
2	<u>New Mexico QSO Party</u> Saturday 0000 - 2359	CW Phone
2	<u>TARA RTTY Mêlée</u> Saturday 0000 - 2400	RTTY
2	<u>Wake-Up! QRP Sprint</u> Saturday 0400 - 0600	CW
2-3	<u>TOPS Activity Contest</u> Saturday 1800 - Sunday 1800	CW
5	<u>ARS Spartan Sprint</u> Tuesday 0200 - 0400	CW
7	<u>10 meter NRAU Activity Contest (NAC)</u> Thursday 1800 - 2200	CW SSB FM Digi
9-10	<u>28 MHz SWL Contest</u> Saturday 0000 - Sunday 2400	CW Phone
9-10	<u>ARRL 10 meter Contest</u> Saturday 0000 - Sunday 2359	CW Phone
9	<u>UBA Low Band Winter-Contest (1)</u> Saturday 1800 - 2200	CW SSB Digi
10	<u>Great Colorado Snowshoe Run</u> Sunday 0200 - 0359	CW
10	<u>UBA Low Band Winter-Contest (2)</u> Sunday 0500 - 0900	CW SSB Digi
13	<u>SKCC Sprint</u> Wednesday 0000 - 0200	CW
15	<u>Russian 160 Meter Contest</u> Friday 2100 - 2300	CW Phone
16-17	<u>MDXA PSK DeathMatch</u> Saturday 0000 - Sunday 2400	PSK-31 PSK-63
16	<u>OK DX RTTY Contest</u> Saturday 0000 - 2400	RTTY
16	<u>"Memory Lives Forever" Contest</u> Saturday 0500 - 0900	CW SSB
16-17	<u>Croatian CW Contest</u> Saturday 1400 - Sunday 1400	CW
16-17	<u>International Naval Contest</u> Saturday 1600 - Sunday 1559	CW SSB
17	<u>SSA Månadstest nr 12</u> Sunday 1400 - 1500	SSB
17	<u>SSA Månadstest nr 12</u> Sunday 1515 - 1615	CW
17	<u>QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint</u> Sunday 2000 - 2359	CW



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DECEMBER 2006

24	<b><u>RAEM Contest</u></b> Sunday 0200 - 0959	CW
25	<b><u>SSA Jultest (1)</u></b> Monday 0700 - 1000	CW
26	<b><u>SSA Jultest (2)</u></b> Tuesday 0700 - 1000	CW
26	<b><u>DARC XMAS-Contest</u></b> Tuesday 0830 - 1059	CW SSB
30	<b><u>RAC Canada Winter Contest</u></b> Saturday 0000 - 2359	CW Phone
30-31	<b><u>Original QRP Contest</u></b> Saturday 1500 - Sunday 1500	CW
30-31	<b><u>Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge</u></b> Saturday 1500 - Sunday 1500	CW

## ANNOUNCED DX OPERATIONS

### DECEMBER 2006

DATES		LOCATION/CALL	QSL VIA	INFO
2006 Dec04	2006 Dec13	<b>American Samoa</b> KH8	JA7GAX Direct	By JA7GAX fm Tutuila Is (OC-045) and Manua Is (OC-077) (1 week)
2006 Dec11	2006 Dec12	<b>French Guiana</b> 9Y4/N1DL	N1DL	By N1DL fm Isle Diablo (SA-020); QSL OK via Buro or direct
2006 Dec14	2006 Dec14	<b>Barbados</b> 8P6/N1DL	N1DL	By N1DL fm (NA-021); QSL OK via Buro or direct
2006 Dec14	2007 Jan08	<b>Tonga</b> A3	JA7GAX Direct	By JA7GAX fm OC-049 OC-169 (1 week) OC-064 (1 week)
2006 Dec15	2006 Dec15	<b>Dominica</b> J7	N1DL	By N1DL as J7R and J79DL fm (NA-101); QSL OK via Buro or direct
2006 Dec17	2006 Dec17	<b>British Virgin Islands</b> VP2V/N1DL	N1DL	By N1DL fm Tortola (NA-023); QSL OK via Buro or direct
2006 Dec18	2006 Dec19	<b>Dominican Republic</b> N1DL/HI9	N1DL	By N1DL fm (NA-096); QSL OK via Buro or direct
2006 Dec20	2006 Dec22	<b>Guam</b> KH2	JM3PIT	By JM3PIT
2006 Dec25	2007 Jan03	<b>Tonga</b> A35GN	VK2GND	By VK2GND fm OC-049; check 7050 14195 14273 kHz
2006 Dec28	2007 Jan01	<b>Puerto Rico</b> KP4	DL3VFN Buro	By DL3VFN as KP4/DL3VFN fm Vieques Is (NA-099)



# The DX HUNTER

DECEMBER 2006

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

### Adopt-a-School (By N6JSX from e-ham)

A frustration of mine is seeing the decline of youth in HAM radio; we've all heard the gloom and doom that HAM radio is nearing death. There are various reasons we can "all" cite for this decline; Internet, computers, cell phones, our social system, etc. But one of the BIGGEST reasons plaguing the USA is the lack of school funding for electronics (schools boards define as non-essential) education programs. I do not advocate HAMdom donate money to the school system as these narrow minded School Boards will spend it on everything other than the purpose it was given. But we could help the schools in donating our time and services to setup up a School HAM club and establish/maintain a student HAM shack. I call this a HAM club - Adopt-a-School program.

There are a few HAM clubs in the USA that do this - only one comes to mind that is located in New York. I do not understand why the ARRL has not made this Adopt-a-School a foundation program to help secure HQ salaries but they haven't.

The HAM club group would assist the school administration in cultivating student interests, setting up a school HAM station, obtain equipment donations, and offer our services to teach electronics/HAM licensing/computer courses. Give the kids a chance to experience the fascination and frustrations of building their first electronic kit and communicating around the world.

What I advocate is local clubs adopting a local School by working through the school principal and school board. Establish your roots into the local School system then branch out to other local High Schools and Jr. High Schools. (Another words - don't bite off more than you can chew.) Get your feet under you and work out the kinks in your local program. Any HAM working with kids may need a full background check, the school may require a faculty sponsor, and there will be many items to work out with the school administration/facilities. But keep your focus on the purpose of this mission - "for the kids" and eventually HAMdom!

The Adopt-a-School program is ideal for our overlooked senior "retired" HAM citizens. With the immense "wealth" of wisdom, knowledge, and experiences they can teach even an old-salt like me something.

A couple of pitfalls to side step in an "Adopt-a-School" program are:

1. Do not donate the physical ownership of the equipment to the school.
2. Donate an indefinite "usage" of this equipment by the school but retain ownership.
3. Donate the clubs experience in maintaining this equipment for the school.

I know of an instance when a Wisconsin High School science teacher decided not to support the School HAM radio station/program. This teacher got an unscrupulous local HAM to support his position stating the Collins equipment was out dated, no longer supported, and unusable. The School administration allowed this same HAM to buy this equipment for less than 5 cents on the dollar. This HAM then took all this equipment to various swap meets and made a killing pocketing a few thousand dollars. If this equipment would have been the property of the HAM club on indefinite donated loan to the school this could never have happened.



# The DX HUNTER

DECEMBER 2006

**DX Stories by Paul M. Dunphy, VE1DX**

## **Busted Calls**

One of the Local QRPers came by the other day and made his way up the hill. He strolled over to the tower and stood there with his hands in his pockets and a pensive look on his face. We had just finished checking the guy wires on the tower. There were reports the El Niño was stirring things up a bit and we remembered what as Lord Baden Powell had so often said, "Be prepared!" And we were. Always.

After a few minutes the QRPer began, "This past week or so there has been a discussion going on as to whether or not electronic logs on the Internet should have the time and date." He paused, took his hands out of his pocket and wiped a bead or two of sweat off his upper lip. "This seems like a serious situation", he continued, "and I don't think the DXCC desk has made public its position on the matter, either. What do you think?" Son of a Gun! If the QRPer thought we were going to dive into this one, he was mistaken . . . so we went for the usual out. We hauled him up the hill to see the Old Timer.

When we got there, the Old Timer was up on the roof of the house, securing another guy rope from the tripod to the ridge board. These were trying times for DXers, with dire forecasts of heavy rain and wind in the southeastern and southwestern reaches and just about everywhere else too. We began to think this might not have been the time to bother the Old Timer with questions about the Internet. He made his way down the ladder and as soon as he cleared the bottom rung, the QRPer started. "Some of the locals are saying that making public the times and dates of the QSOs in electronic logs will encourage cheaters!", he said, staring the Old Timer straight in the eye. The Old Timer was wiping his hands off with a rag and just nodded.

The QRPer, building up a head of steam, continued on, "You see, there are always busted calls in a pileup. And more so in a big pileup, like those generated by major Dxpeditions. The same ones that might put logs on the Internet. The Big Guns that have been around the track a bit figure that someone's call might get in the log accidentally, and if so, that person could search the log and find their call, compete with the time and date it was logged. And that's the problem!"

The Old Timer looked at the QRPer for a moment, then asked, "So, the worry is that this person could send for a QSL for a QSO he didn't make?" The QRPer nodded enthusiastically, "Yes! Of course he could. And that would be cheating. And it would take away from the rest of us. Our DXCC achievements would be lessened . . . they would be diluted by the acts of these dishonest DXers whose totals would be inflated with QSOs they never made." The QRPer was sweating profusely now, and he was glaring at the Old Timer and us with those beady little eyes. "What are we going to do about it?"

The Old Timer took a deep breath and asked, "How many HAMS are Dxers? And how many of these DXers use the Internet? And supposing a DXer did, what are the odds of his call getting busted and into the DXpedition's log? And if it did, what are the chances of him finding it and sending for the card? Wouldn't you say the odds of all these things happening in that manner to be pretty remote?" The QRPer looked at the Old Timer, then down at the ground, then back up and said with a little less conviction, "Well, for all those events to happen, I guess the odds would be fairly unlikely, like maybe one in a few thousand. Maybe a bit more or less. I'm not a mathematician." He still wasn't satisfied: "But you have to agree, it could happen, right?"



# The DX HUNTER

DECEMBER 2006

"Yes", the Old Timer replied, "it could. Let's take your estimate of one in several thousand, say one in four thousand, OK?" The QRPer nodded in agreement. "Now, the most successful DXpedition on record was the recent one to Heard Island. They made somewhere around 80,000 QSOs . . . a record for any DXpedition. And they posted their logs on the Internet, although without the date and time. Let's assume they had included this extra information. Factoring in all the numbers, that's 20 potential cheaters out of 80,000 QSOs. Or, looking at it another way, the percentage of good, honest QSOs is 99.98%, right"

The QRPer was pacing in a circle and looking at the ground again. He stopped, looked at us, then the Old Timer and finally said, "Well maybe a 99.98% success rate is good, but it still isn't 100%! And if all DXers were true blue, we'd have 100%. But since they aren't, we can't post the times and dates . . . this is still serious stuff." He looked the Old Timer in the eye with a triumphant stare. "Most aspects of DXing are serious", the Old Timer agreed, "and one thing that's 100% sure and 100% serious is that if Bouvet comes on and you don't have an antenna, you won't work them." The QRPer followed the Old Timers glance up at the extra guy rope on the tripod. "Ever hear of El Niño?" he asked.

The QRPer never answered. He was off down the hill, arms waving and making his way home to secure down his tower. We looked over at the Old Timer, "Is Bouvet really coming on?" we asked. He shook his head slowly, "Who knows? But if they do, I'd say that fellow has a lot better chance of getting a QSL if he keeps his antenna in top shape than if he spend his time worrying about the 0.02% busted calls in electronic logs." And with that, he turned and made his way into the shack to tune 15 meters for the afternoon opening to the southeast.

What could we say? Only that the Deserving will work the DX. And they will work the DX that is on the air, not the DX that is on the Internet. DX IS!

73/DX Paul VE1DX

## **K1AR CONTESTING HINT**

It may seem obvious, but labeling antennas and amplifier settings is a must for contest or DX stations. In the excitement of Friday afternoon it may be more tempting to work guys than taking that final step towards efficiency. Paying attention to the details of preparation in the long run is what separates successful contest/DX efforts from mediocre ones.

***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.***



# The DX HUNTER

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## TVDXA CLUB BBQ RECIPE THE BALD BBQ'er



### Pork Porterhouse with Bourbon Brown Sugar Butter

Method: direct grilling

Serves 4

#### **For the Bourbon Brown Sugar Butter:**

3 tablespoons salted butter, at room temperature

1 tablespoon dark brown sugar

1 tablespoon Dijon-style mustard

Freshly ground black pepper

A few drops of bourbon

#### **For the Pork:**

4 pork "porterhouse" steaks or loin chops (each 1 inch thick and 10 to 12 ounces)

4 teaspoons dry mustard powder

Coarse salt (kosher or sea) and freshly ground black pepper

A few tablespoons bourbon

1. Set up your grill for direct grilling and preheat to high. Brush and oil the grill grate.
2. Make the Bourbon Brown Sugar Butter. Place the butter, brown sugar, and mustard in a mixing bowl and whisk to mix. Whisk in pepper and a few drops of bourbon. Taste and add another drop or two of bourbon, if needed.
3. Generously season one side of each porterhouse with 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard and salt and pepper to taste. Sprinkle with a few drops of bourbon, patting the spices and bourbon onto the meat with a fork or your fingertips. Turn the steaks over and repeat on the second side.
4. Grill the chops until cooked through, about 6 minutes per side, rotating them a quarter turn after 3 minutes to lay on a handsome crosshatch of grill marks.
5. Transfer the chops to a platter or plates and top each with a spoonful of bourbon brown sugar butter

**I need your favorite BBQ Recipe(s) or side dish to have them published in the Newsletter.  
Let everyone enjoy an afternoon family BBQ of good eats.**