



# The DX HUNTER

MARCH 07

## TVDXA CLUB INFO

**MEETINGS: 2<sup>nd</sup> THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH**  
**NEXT MEETING: 4/12/07 - 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

**Jim Hanna** is at home and doing well after having some major surgery. Please keep him in your thoughts.

### INCORPORATION

There was more discussion on the club incorporation and if/when Howard gets off his duff he will meet and get help from a lawyer. This will be one of the last steps before the club votes on the Bylaws.

### FIELD DAY JUNE 23-24

TVDXA will again setup 2-HF stations, a GOTA and 6-Meter station. **PLEASE PLAN NOW** to attend the festivities. If you have not experienced the fun of FD with us, you are missing a great weekend of fun, food, friends and foolishness. Don't let your team, either SSB or CW down, as the **QSO Plaque** will once again be up for grabs. The **CW Operator Winners** of last year will try to repeat. Let's see if Tony can find another "ringer".

We will assign "Captains" for CW & SSB stations and Power Grid/Computers. These captains will be responsible for their station setup, erecting their antennas and will be responsible for setting up the generator, routing power to each station and computer setup. We will continue to define our F.D. plans at future meetings. Let's have your ideas on better F.D. task management, workload and fun.

## TVDXA PERSONALITY

### ED DOUT - W3NR

Ed is a member of the "Chickamauga Gang" and is a long time member of TVDXA. He is an Extra Class operator and is one of the FD winning CW operators. He also helps setup the computers for FD and enjoys RTTY contesting.

In his spare time Ed works for the Post Office (**I C R A A T\***) and is an enjoys fly-fishing.

He was born & raised in New Castle, PA and has been licensed since 1978. His DXCC totals are 331 and tho impressive, they would have been even better but he has to put up with local BIG GUNS from the likes of W4FOA & K4VIG.

Ed and his wife, Edna, have been married for 20 years. They have 5 children, 4 grand-children and 1 great-grand child.

He has had contacts with notables like Barry Goldwater and King Hussein.



Ed at Field Day

(\* I Can Retire At Any Time)



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## CONTESTING NEWS

### MARCH 2007

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>WEEKDAY - TIME UTC</u> | <u>CONTEST NAME</u>                         | <u>MODE</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------|---|-------------|
| 1           | Thu 1800 - 2200           | 10 meter NAC - CW/SSB/FM/Digi               |             |
| 3- 4        | Sat 0000 - Sun 2400       | ARRL International DX Contest - SSB         |             |
| 3           | Sat 0400 - 0600           | Wake-Up! QRP Sprint - CW                    |             |
| 3           | Sat 2200 - 2359           | Open Ukraine RTTY CS Low band (1) - RTTY    |             |
| 4           | Sun 0000 - 0159           | Open Ukraine RTTY CS Low band (2) - RTTY    |             |
| 4           | Sun 0800 - Sun 1159       | Open Ukraine RTTY CS High band - RTTY       |             |
| 4           | Sun 1100 - 1700           | DARC 10 m Digital Contest "Corona" - DIGI   |             |
| 6           | Tue 0200 - 0400           | ARS Spartan Sprint - CW                     |             |
| 6           | Tue 1900 - 2100           | AGCW YL CW Party - CW                       |             |
| 8           | Thu 0200 - 0400           | Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase - CW            |             |
| 10-11       | Sat 0000 - Sun 2400       | Idaho QSO Party - All?                      |             |
| 10-11       | Sat 1000 - Sun 1000       | RSGB Commonwealth Contest - CW              |             |
| 10          | Sat 1200 - 1700           | DIG QSO Party (10 - 20 m) - SSB             |             |
| 10          | Sat 1400 - 2000           | AGCW QRP Contest - CW                       |             |
| 10-11       | Sat 1400 - Sun 0200       | Oklahoma QSO Party (1) - All                |             |
| 10          | Sat 1800 - 2400           | SOC Marathon Sprint - CW                    |             |
| 11          | Sun 0000 - 0400           | North American Sprint Contest - RTTY        |             |
| 11          | Sun 0700 - 0900           | DIG QSO Party (80 m) - SSB                  |             |
| 11          | Sun 0700 - 1100           | UBA Spring Contest - CW                     |             |
| 11          | Sun 0900 - 1100           | DIG QSO Party (40 m) - SSB                  |             |
| 11          | Sun 1200 - 1600           | NSARA Contest (1) - CW/SSB                  |             |
| 11          | Sun 1400 - 2000           | Oklahoma QSO Party (2) - All                |             |
| 11          | Sun 1800 - 2200           | NSARA Contest (2) - CW/SSB                  |             |
| 11-12       | Sun 1800 - Mon 0100       | Wisconsin QSO Party - CW/SSB                |             |
| 14          | Wed 0000 - 0200           | SKCC Sprint - CW                            |             |
| 17          | Sat 0001 - 2359           | 10-10 International Mobile QSO Party - All? |             |
| 17-19       | Sat 0200 - Mon 0200       | BARTG Spring RTTY Contest - RTTY            |             |
| 17-18       | Sat 1200 - Sun 1200       | DARC HF-SSTV Contest - SSTV                 |             |
| 17-18       | Sat 1200 - Sun 1200       | Russian DX Contest - CW/SSB                 |             |
| 17-18       | Sat 1700 - Sun 1700       | CLARA & Family HF Contest - CW/SSB          |             |
| 17-19       | Sat 1800 - Mon 0200       | Virginia QSO Party - CW/SSB                 |             |
| 18          | Sun 0700 - 1100           | UBA Spring Contest 6 m - CW/SSB             |             |
| 18          | Sun 1200 - 1600           | 9KCC 15m-Contest - CW/SSB                   |             |
| 18          | Sun 1400 - 1500           | SSA Månadstest nr 3 - CW                    |             |



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|       |                     |                                    |
|-------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 18    | Sun 1515 - 1615     | SSA Månadstest nr 3 - SSB          |
| 19    | Mon 0200 - 0400     | Run For The Bacon QRP Contest - CW |
| 24-25 | Sat 0000 - Sun 2359 | CQ WW WPX Contest - SSB            |
| 26    | Mon 0000 - 0400     | QRP Homebrewer Sprint - CW/PSK31   |

## **K1AR CONTESTING HINT**

Have you checked the direction of your antennas and compared them to what your rotator is telling you lately? A short walk out back can add dBs to your signal by deploying a little attention to detail. Forgetting the obvious will almost always lower your score!



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## ANNOUNCED DX OPERATIONS

### MARCH 2007

| DATES         |               | LOCATION/CALL            |        | QSL VIA |  | INFO  |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------|---------|--|---|
| 2007<br>Mar03 | 2007<br>Mar12 | Egypt                    | SU8DLH | F5NQL   |  | By the German Lufthansa ARS; HF; CW SSB + digital; also SES as SU0ARA (QSL via DL1BDF)  |
| 2007<br>Mar03 | 2007<br>Mar17 | South<br>Cook<br>Islands | E51PJT |         |  | By G3PJT fm Raratonga (OC-013); mainly CW; QRV for RSGB Commonwealth Contest; QSL OK via RSGB Buro or direct  |
| 2007<br>Mar03 | 2007<br>Mar23 | Senegal                  | 6W     | DL7CM   |  | By DM2AYO DL6CT DL7CM as 6W/homecall fm Cap Skirring (IK12pi); 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY PSK; SR/SS: 06:55/18:47z   |
| 2007<br>Mar04 | 2007<br>Mar22 | Guinea<br>Bissau         | J5UAR  | DL7CM   |  | By DM2AYO DL6CT DL7CM fm Varela (IK12qh); 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY PSK; SR/SS: 06:55/18:47z   |
| 2007<br>Mar06 | 2007<br>Mar16 | Aruba                    | P4     | AA1M    |  | By W1USN W1SSR; HF; SSB PSK CW  |
| 2007<br>Mar08 | 2007<br>Mar11 | Svalbard                 | JW     |         |  | By IN3TCH IN3SAU as JW/homecall fm Longyearbyen (EU-026); focus on low bands; RTTY SSB  |
| 2007<br>Mar08 | 2007<br>Mar12 | Brunei                   | V85NL  |         |  | By JA4ENL; all bands, including 160m; mainly CW   |
| 2007<br>Mar08 | 2007<br>Mar22 | Madeira                  | CT3    |         |  | By DL3KWR DL3KWF as CT3/homecall fm AF-014; mainly WARC CW, some RTTY   |
| 2007<br>Mar09 | 2007<br>Mar20 | Spratly<br>Islands       | 9M4SDX |         |  | By 9M2KT 9M2CF 9M2TO + JA ops; all bands; all modes; 2-4 stns, QRV 24 hours/day   |
| 2007<br>Mar13 | 2007<br>Mar21 | East<br>Malaysia         | 9M6    | SM5GMZ  |  | By SM5GMZ; focus on low band CW   |
| 2007<br>Mar14 | 2007<br>Mar22 | Jersey                   | MJ     |         |  | By K8PT K3PLV as MJ/homecall; 160-6m, focus on low bands; CW SSB RTTY   |
| 2007<br>Mar14 | 2007<br>Mar27 | Guinea<br>Bissau         | J5BI   |         |  | By F6BUM fm Bubaque Is (AF-020); 40-10m; SSB; 100w; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct   |
| 2007<br>Mar16 | 2007<br>Mar19 | Cambodia                 | XU7    | JA1ELY  |  | By JA3PPH JA3EGZ JA3DFM as XU7PPH XU7EGZ XU7DFM; 160-6m; CW SSB; QSL via JARL Buro; XU7EGZ + XU7PPH to JA3EGZ, XU7DFM to JA3DFM; also direct w/ SASE to: Himeji Armature Radio Club, PO Box 6, Himeji, 670-8691 Japan |
| 2007<br>Mar16 | 2007<br>Mar19 | Guam                     | KH2    | JA1ELY  |  | By JK2VOC JA2BNN as KH2/JK2VOC and KH2/JA2BNN; QRV for Russian DX Contest; QRV on WARC before contest   |



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|               |               |                            |       |       |  |
|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|-------|-------|--|
| 2007<br>Mar16 | 2007<br>Mar22 | Marshall<br>Islands        | V73KN | OPDX  | By JK1QLR fm Majuro Is (OC-029); all bands; QSL OK via JARL Buro or direct: Keisuke Nagase, #203 371-1 Bishamonyokocho, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto 6020817 Japan                      |
| 2007<br>Mar16 | 2007<br>Mar25 | Swaziland                  | 3DA   | EI4DJ | By EI7CC/3DA0PB EI8CE/3DA0AM EI4DJ/3DA0DG EI4DJB/3DA0RH EI3GV/3DA0GV GI4VIV/3DA0GI EI2CA/3DA0PM; SES for 75th Jubilee of IRTS; QRV for CQ WPX SSB; QSL OK via Buro or direct |
| 2007<br>Mar18 | 2007<br>Mar21 | Sint<br>Maarten            | PJ7   |       | By PY1WAS as PY1WAS/PJ2 fm NA-105; 40-10m; mainly CW, some SSB; QSL OK via Buro or direct  |
| 2007<br>Mar19 | 2007<br>Mar25 | Antigua                    | V25   | W4OWY | By W9OP W4OWY as V25WY and V25OP; 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY   |
| 2007<br>Mar19 | 2007<br>Mar26 | Bahamas                    | C6AWN |       | By W1CGT fm South Andros + New Providence (NA-001); 40 20m, perhaps other bands; check mid-afternoon 14260 + 14300 kHz   |
| 2007<br>Mar22 | 2007<br>Mar27 | Kermadec<br>Islands        | ZL8   |       | By ZL3CW ZL1GO as ZM8CW and ZL8GO (probably) fm Raoul Is (OC-039)  |
| 2007<br>Mar22 | 2007<br>Apr02 | Agalega &<br>St<br>Brandon | 3B6   | VA3PL | By SP9MRO SP9SX SP9BQJ SP3IQ SP5BFX SP9PT as 3B6/SP9MRO (QSL via SP9SX) and 3B6/SP9PT (QSL via SP9PT) fm Agalega Is (AF-001); 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY                           |
| 2007<br>Mar29 | 2007<br>Apr21 | Swains<br>Island           | N8S   |       | By YT1AD K3LP K1LZ N3KS N6TQS RK3AD RA3AUU SV2BFN UA3AB RZ3AA YZ7AA YZ1BX; all bands and modes   |



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## 160 Contesting – Or, Trying to be a Big Dog.

Thanks for coming tonight. I'm not here to tell you how you'll win at 160 Contesting, nor will I give you complete masterful insight into working DX. What I'm here to do is try to tell you that even with smaller antennas and lower power, you can successfully play on the Top Band. You can even do pretty well there, with a little persistence and luck. The true focus of this one is the ARRL 160 Contest, coming up in a couple weeks. As RDXA Members, we can participate in club competition.

My station is a pretty good example of a "Little Pistol". A Kenwood TS-930S, Amp Supply LA-1000 sweep tube PA and an inverted-L are all that I've been using on the band for the past few years. In the RDXA newsletter, a year or so back, I wrote up the diagram of my antenna – so there's something for reference. (I'll put the file at the back of this package for you to look at!)

Let's talk Technique:

**Speed Kills:** As in other contests, you'll hear folks winging along at 30+wpm. No big deal, but sometimes you'll find them sitting in a pileup for a while. Why? QSB Cycling on 160 can be deep and long. Therefore, a single slower call often bridges the fading, where a single fast call can be missed completely. I've often found a well-placed 20wpm call can beat bigger stations.

When the DX starts popping (here, between 0100 – 0500 Z is prime Eu), you'll want to think about modifying your speeds. Early on, you'll be working stuff out to 1500 miles - lots of it, but fairly short loud signals. Crank it up then! Once DX is there, that's where the speed reduction really works. Last year, I found a clear spot, called CQ at 23wpm, and ended up running 50+ EU stations. I was snuggled in-between 2 large stations. Ironically, many of these stations had been calling one of them, but gave up since he wasn't listening long enough. I just happened to be there, and easy to work. When the VK/ZLs popped – 20wpm was just enough to get their attention. No faster stations I heard work them.

**Center is Bad:** Like most, you'd think that hovering around 1.830 or so is the place to be. Unless you are K1ZM or WB9Z, that MAY not be the case. Often, you'll be on a spot for HOURS, only to find someone try to "take over your spot". Well, they're saying the same thing about YOU. When propagation changes – you will notice a W5/6/7 sitting calling CQ where you have been. That's the way it is – whoever is being hurt more by the other moves along! It is often better to stay to the fringes of the activity and CQ. You'll be more assured of a cleaner spot, and since you AREN'T K1ZM, will be heard by more people. Don't get me wrong – there are TIMES where being in the middle of the band is needed. Just CQing, though – isn't one of them.

I've often found that, just like a VHF Contest on 6 meters – going around the crowd to something like 1.845 or 1.801 is a good place to be. These spots are great for running. Frankly, I worked more multiplier QSOs by staying away from the grunge than within the fray. If you are loud enough, go in the middle.

**Run, THEN pounce:** The first few hours of the ARRL 160 Contest are where you make 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of your QSOs. The past 2 years, I've averaged over 300 QSOs in the first 3 hours (1<sup>st</sup> hour over 130/hr) with a minimal station. It will be really difficult to make up many of these contacts. . . so if you can don't miss it! Try finding a spot, plop down and start CQing. You'd be surprised that even with 100w and a dipole you'll be able to run stations.

**Don't Stop at Sunrise!** Depending on conditions – you'll probably hear/work the juiciest DX of the contest during this time. I worked 2 VK6s and 1 ZL along with a couple KH6s about 30 minutes past sunrise. Remember the Grayline propagation – that's what makes 160 so much fun. I'll generally keep blasting until about 10:30AM or so, just to make certain I've wiped out all potential callers.

**Install another Transmitting/ Receiving Antenna:** Having a horizontal dipole might just be a good thing! If you have a choice – be able to switch between them at a moments notice! If you're limited in space, and can't install beverages – a low horizontal dipole is often a quieter receiving antenna than an inverted-L or vertical. It ain't optimum, but you'll hear better that way. Last year, I used my horse pasture fencing as a large unterminated loop. It worked pretty well, reducing the S-9 noise to S-1, while the signals actually became MUCH MORE AUDIBLE. You'd be really surprised how well Vertical antennas hear crap. EWEs, Pennants and the like are super-easy to install and use. Do it if you can.



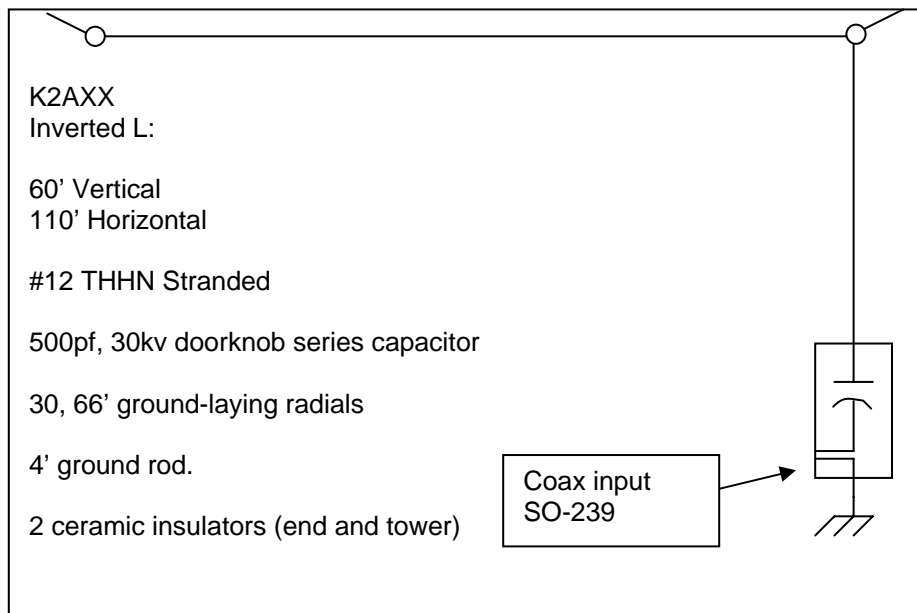
The K2AXX 1999 ARRL Contest Location. See – it really isn't very much of a station. CT keys the radio, have a paddle just in case I need to fill info not in the keyboard buffer.

This station worked 952 QSOs and 80-some multipliers, including 50+ European stations and 2 VK6s and 1 ZL. All states minus KL7, too. Not bad for a puny 600w station and puny wires!

### ***Building a simple transmitting antenna for 160 meters – that really works!***

*Mark Hoffman, K2AXX (ex-KA2RDO)*

This fall, I put up a 64' tower for my VHF and above stuff. HOWEVER – being the contradiction that I am - decided to decorate it with a wire antenna for my other love, 160. I wanted something resonant, with reasonable bandwidth (2:1 SWR B/W of about 50KHz) and above all, simple. Talking with K2UA, he pointed me towards the venerable Inverted L (he has one that barks, too!). In analyzing the design, there's NOT much to it. Here's how it looks:



This setup gives 2:1 SWR B/W of about 60KHz (1.800 – 1.860). At 1.823, it is 1.12:1.

- 1) Buy THHN wire from Home Depot or Lowes. You can get #12 stranded, 500' roll, for about \$20. This wire is decent, jacketed, and seems to hold up pretty well. So cheap, in fact, that if it breaks – replace it. Don't repair it. The broken ANTENNA makes great RADIALS!
- 2) Start off with more wire. I began at about 180', and trimmed to about 170' for resonance at 1.823. Don't short yourself! You might find that the lower to the ground you get – the more wire you'll need to achieve the resonance in the band. For instance – if you have only 30' vertical, you MAY NEED up to 190' of wire to start. Make certain you borrow an antenna analyzer – makes tweaking so much easier!
- 3) Use Ground buss bars to connect radials. These things are cheap in any electrical shop, and make a really good common ground point. No more copper pipe and flame. Radials can be just about any wire you can find – doesn't matter. If you can elevate the radials – do that too. Just need 4 133' radials for that. . . and 4 tall end supports.
- 4) You don't need a 30kv cap – you can get by with an air-variable if you're adventurous. Just make certain it is in series with the antenna wire. If you want to design your own remote-tuning network – there are a number of articles on doing just this. Put it in a cheap Radio Shack plastic project box, use a ceramic feedthrough to connect the wire. Seal it from the wx, but DO drill some weep holes. Nothing like a water-cooled series cap. . .

***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.***

***PS – I'm running out of material for the Newsletter***



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## TVDXA CLUB BBQ RECIPE THE BALD BBQ'er



### GRILLED BANANA SPLITS

- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 8 ripe bananas
- Vanilla ice cream (Chocolate or your favorite)
- Hot Fudge Sauce (or Caramel, Butterscotch, etc.)
- Whipped cream
- Chopped nuts

Preheat your barbecue grill to 350 to 400 degrees F.

Combine the butter and brown sugar in a small saucepan and cook over medium-low heat until the butter is completely melted and the sugar is dissolved. With a sharp knife cut each banana in half lengthwise, leaving the peel on the halves.

Brush the cut side of the banana halves with the sugar mixture and place the bananas cut side down on the grill. Grill until golden brown and caramelized, about 2 minutes. Turn the banana halves over, peel side down and brush each with more glaze. Grill 2-3 minutes longer or until tender.

To serve, place two grilled banana halves in a sundae dish or shallow bowl. Top with two scoops of ice cream, drizzle with your favorite dessert sauce, and top with whipped cream and chopped nuts.

**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.**