



OKlahoma DX Association

From Da' Prez...

By LARRY SHIMA, WØPAN

Fall is upon us and that means it's time for DX Chasing and Contesting. With the static crashes of spring and summer a distant memory, the low bands are filled with comfortable copy and I hope you've been taking advantage of the excellent DX opportunities heard on 10 Meters lately. From top to bottom, the HF bands are putting on a show rivaled only by the autumn colors of nature. I hope all of you will take advantage of the season and finally get that elusive station that always seems to go QRT just before it's your turn.

Several weeks ago I received e-mail from Onis Cox, K5COX (x-KC5RPC) resigning as our Secretary / Treasurer. Mark Byard, N5OG is patiently handling the duties until we can hold an election. This election will be done via E-Mail & Snail Mail after a candidate is finalized. Which, I hope, will happen by October 31st. In the meantime, I'd like to remind the membership that Mark has been our Secretary / Treasurer for more than SIX YEARS and if anyone has done more than their share for the Association, it has to be Mark. I find it somewhat amazing that in a club with 93 members it has been so difficult to find just one willing to take the office... The OKDXA is a fine Association, but it won't run on good intentions alone.

Shortly after the election, you will receive a letter reminding all members that we are in the new club fiscal year that runs from October 1 to September 30 and that means **IT'S DUES RENEWAL TIME**. There will also be some ideas on projects for the year 2000 included in the letter and I hope you'll take the time to read them and share your thoughts with me via E or Snail Mail.

Nelson has put together an excellent follow-up to my column of last month so I will let that conclude my comments for this month. But, before I go, I'd like to remind everyone that we actively seek your advice on ways to promote the OKDXA as the outstanding group of

DX'ers and Contest enthusiasts it has become. We invite all kindred spirits to join with us as we assist DXpeditions and other projects with our financial support. If your radio universe extends beyond the local repeater, **WE NEED YOU AS A MEMBER OF THE OKDXA**. For now, please address your interest in joining us via E-Mail to w0pan@arrl.net and I will get the membership information to you.

73, Larry Shima, WØPAN

From Da' Editor...

By NELSON DERKS, KC5QVV

Let me begin by saying I am very grateful for the recognition of the Association in presenting me with the 'OKDXA Ham of the Year' award for 1999. There are plenty of members who are better DX ops than I'll ever be, and even more who run a better station, but when it comes to appreciating the goals of the OKDXA and pride in membership there are very few I'll take a back seat to. **THANK YOU** for your generosity! I'm proud to represent the Association through this Newsletter. The OKDXA is fortunate in the quality of its members and one of the best radio clubs I could hope to be associated with...

On a sad note, a recent E-Mail from the ARRL noted the passing of Jean Shepherd, K2ORS. Many of you won't recognize the name, as he was best known for his 20+ years on the air with WOR in the late Fifties through early Seventies. That's a tough copy in Oklahoma as WOR in NYC shares 710 KHz with KCMO in KC, MO. (how's that for a Vanity Call?) He wrote several books, a fair number of TV shows for PBS and others, and a few articles for *Playboy* magazine... Which we looked at for the articles. Right?

Jean Shepherd worked late nights and could hold an audience for hours with his humorous stories. At times he would run 5-10 minutes long and rarely got cut which is unheard of in Big Market Radio today. There were other nights when he'd get the crew rolling on the floor and WOR would drop a news break because the announcer got a bad case of the giggles. He was that good. I know this because I was living in Philadelphia and working nights in the late 60's and became a regular listener despite some of the best Top 40 stations ever heard sharing the dial. Jean Shepherd was definitely 'One Of A Kind'. Broadcast and Amateur Radio lost a gem when he passed.

If you took the time to read the comments of Larry Shima, WØPAN last month you discovered he has a significant history of supporting the Amateur community, both locally and nationally. Larry touched on the need to promote the hobby with an emphasis on how much fun this radio stuff can be... I'd like to continue the thought.

Like many of you, I developed an interest in electronics as a teenager. I tinkered with 1940's vintage 'Curbside Consoles' in the 60's which usually needed a new tube or wax paper condenser (what?) and weren't too hard to fix. Remember the fancy glass dials with the World Capitols and a 6U5 'cats-eye' tube? Pretty nifty stuff to a kid like me, and when I got one going I could spend hours listening to DX BCB stations. It seemed like the whole world was inside that box, and I still enjoy pulling KDKA in Pittsburgh out of the QRM late at night...

I can remember tuning around 4, 7, and 14 MC's (huh?) to hear Radio Amateurs from across the country when AM was common on the HF bands. Imagine being a teenager today when a short wave radio is a rare item and the low cost models receive SSB as gibberish. How will you become aware of the Amateur Arts? Maybe through a magazine or special event like Field Day, but most likely through a scanner or CB radio. Will you have the same fascination I found 30 years ago on HF DX? I suspect it depends on what you're listening to...

CB radio is often confused with Ham radio among the unaware as the descriptions are similar... An acquaintance mentions they "Talked to somebody in Massachusetts on the radio" which is pretty cool stuff, but did you hear it from a Ham or a CB'er? It could work either way. Anyone with the urge to radiate will find the easiest path is a cheap CB radio and mag-mount whip, but plenty of would-be Hams get turned off by the rude traffic and go no further. If Ham Radio is like CB, why bother?

As for VHF scanning, how many times can you hear "in for the count" before it gets boring and you hit the scan button? There are plenty of homes with Cable or Satellite TV, Internet connections or other means to bring 'The World' into a teenager's life without the hassle of study guides or running coax through the walls. Maybe I'm putting too much emphasis on teenagers, but I believe those are the years when 'Ham Pox' most often takes hold.

So... Where does that put the hobby? The days of relying on tinkers like myself are gone. Electronic goods are too disposable. The scanner hobby is in decline while CB radio is far below its peak of the 70's. If you really want to get morbid about the radio hobbies, tell me how many Amateur Radio stores are in Oklahoma? Last I heard, it was 'Zero' and I'd prefer to be wrong about that... Radio Shack tried expanding their Ham line while Kenwood considered offering study guides and Two Meter rigs at truck stops, but almost every town near a major highway has a CB shop doing enough business to keep their doors open... Ham Radio hasn't been so lucky. A small percentage of CB'ers will remain our most likely source of new Hams, the rare birds who admire the variety of bands and modes that come with every Amateur Radio license.

This Newsletter is read by plenty of Hams who belong to their local ARC and, in my opinion, the best activity you can organize are well advertised VE Sessions... Think about it... In some cases the most difficult step in becoming a Ham can be finding the study materials and test session. You may know how it's done, but are you getting the word out to the general public? The Green Country HamFest in May of '95 was advertised to the public as an Electronics and Computer Swap Meet. I hadn't been to a HamFest in years but I bought the study guides on Saturday and returned Sunday for a VE Session, then started checking the mailbox for my ticket. At that time I had almost no idea of what was available locally or how to get started, but they had the books and VE Sessions. I took the bait and the rest is history...

I salute the OM's who drag themselves out of a warm bed on rainy Saturday mornings to hold VE Sessions. They build the future of this hobby one upgrade at a time and we should all say THANK YOU. If you have regular VE Sessions, take the extra step of appropriating a few dollars from the club treasury for a small classified ad in your newspaper. They tend to run \$5.00 or less. "Become a Radio Amateur (at time & place)" can be cheap and effective when done regularly. Would you rather see your club dues spent promoting the hobby, or on a project that interests three people...?

Most clubs have a repeater and they can be a great resource for promoting the hobby. Announce your VE Sessions and Club

Meetings often enough that someone in the club complains... That's a good sign it's being heard, and potential Hams do listen on their scanners. Talk up the local Club Meetings, VE Sessions, and be sure they are heard at the top & bottom of every Net. The most effective way to build awareness is through consistency and repetition in promoting your club activities.

Finally... (for now) Don't be a repeater snob! We've all heard a new Tech calling for a QSO, nervous and sounding a bit like a CB'er... And it's so easy to QSY... But think for a moment. Where do CB'ers learn their patter? Where do Hams learn theirs? Good QSO Etiquette is learned by practice and example. Given half a chance, the new folks will become FB OM's. That's why they tested. Treat every Ham as an equal since the newest Tech is just as legal on the 2 Meter machine as the oldest Extra. They will learn from you as you learned from others, especially if you're a friendly OM and not a crusty OB. You'll be rewarded with a reminder of how much fun this hobby can be. And, tell the truth, wasn't your first year on the air one of your best? It's the same for the other guy... There's nothing worse for a new Tech who passed their tests only to get the doofus treatment on the local machine. Be a positive influence, it helps all of us!

- KC5QVV

Does this sound familiar to anyone?

Received via E-Mail as follows:

From:

Shigeru UEDA <QZB01227@nifty.ne.jp>

Subject: Want to confirm KH9's QSL

Date: Sunday, October 24, 1999 6:57 PM

Dear OKDXA friends,

I made some QSO with KH9's on September 1993 which QSL info to OKDXA. The calls are AH9B, AB6EV/AH9, AH6ML/NH9 and AH6MM/VH9. But I have never received any QSLs.

It was include the new band for my DXCC. I want to confirm them. Are the logs still open? How can I do to confirm.

Please inform me. 73

de JR4QZH Shigeru UEDA

Ex. S21YO JR4QZH/4S7 DX11YY(Op)

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OPDX Bulletin - Internet Edition

The Ohio / Penn DX PacketCluster
Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW
Provided by BARF-80 BBS Cleveland, OH

3B8, MAURITIUS

The "LNDX" reports Jacques, F6HMJ will be active as 3B8/F6HMJ from November 15th through December 5th on all bands and hopes to be on 160 Meters.

3F, PANAMA

Cam, HP1AC reports he and other Panama stations will be using the special 3F prefix between December 1 and January 5, 2000 to commemorate the turnover of the Panama Canal to the Republic of Panama. Listen for him as 3F1AC on 40-10 Meters CW only and QSL via HP1AC.

3W6, VIETNAM

"The 59(9) DXReport" claims Mike, NØODK will be active November 15-29th as 3W6DK. His activity will be mostly 20 and 15 Meter SSB. QSL via NØODK.

3XY, GUINEA

Dennis, E2DPS will be active here until December 22nd as 3XY2D. His activity has been mostly 10 and 20 Meter SSB. Check above 28500 and around 14190 kHz. He will be using an FT-840 and G5RV. QSL via his home call VE2DPS.

4X, ISRAEL

Enia, YO3JGC is active as 4X/YO3JGC. QSN's report activity on 10 meters (28436 kHz around 1515z). However, Enia says her QSL info is not correct in some books. QSL 4X/YO3JGC Eugenia Radu, P.O.Box 18-56, Bucharest 71500, Romania.

9G, GHANA

A press release from Roger, G3SXW says the Voodoo Contest Group will be active from West Africa in the CQWW CW Contest (November 27-28th) for the seventh year. After successes as 5V7A, the group returns to Ghana and will sign as 9G5AA in the Multi / Multi category with seven full stations and 18 antennas. Before the contest, November 24-26th, listen for activity on various bands including 160 and 6 Meters which is likely to be all CW. QSL 9G5AA via GM4FDM, Tom Wylie, 3 King's Crescent, Elderslie, Renfrewshire, PA5 9AD, Scotland. Bureau replies may be requested by sending QSO details and your callsign by E-mail to Tom at: twylie@net.ntl.com Also visit the Voodoo Contest Group site: <http://voodudes.com>

9H, MALTA

Deryck, G3VLX will be active as 9H3AM from October 21st until the early part of November using an FT-757 with vertical and dipole antennas.