



OKlahoma DX Association

From Da'Prez

By LARRY SHIMA, W0PAN

WE NEED YOU!

That's right, we need you to renew your membership or become a new member of the **OKLAHOMA DX ASSOCIATION**. Since we are a "non-meeting" club, most of our activities are 'On the Air'. Chasing DX, Contesting, or just checking in to our Monday evening 6:30PM Net on or near 3860 kHz, we do much of what we do where we enjoy it most... On HF Amateur Radio. For those who don't mind 'getting down to earth', we will have a business meeting at the Green Country HamFest on Saturday, March 25th... We hope you plan to attend Green Country 2000 and visit with us, but be aware **THE LOCATION HAS MOVED** to the Tulsa Technology Center Air Park Campus in JENKS, OK... It's a beautiful new facility, but a little tricky to find. For a map and more info, visit: <http://www.greencountryhamfest.org>

In July we'll be at Ham Holiday in OKC, and September is our annual banquet. This past September we had two outstanding DXpedition presentations at our banquet.

Membership is open to any licensed Ham interested in DX'ing and / or Contesting. Our membership includes rookies starting their DXCC pursuit and members of the DXCC Honor Roll. Most of us will also be found participating in various contests. For some reason, known only to T.O.M., DX chasing and Contesting sorta go hand and hand. Both are fun and include the "thrill of the chase" either through a massive pileup calling you in a contest or you trying to break through a huge pileup to work a rare one.

The OKDXA has a continuous project of providing financial support to DXpeditions through QSL Card assistance. Typically, we will contribute \$100-\$150 to a major DXpedition for purchase of QSL cards with our logo on them as a sponsor. While this may not seem like much at first glance, it's always well appreciated and is

one less thing for a DXpedition to worry about. It really does make a difference and we support as many as possible. We have also provided sponsorship of a West Gulf Division Plaque in the November ARRL Sweepstakes contest... The OKDXA is a high-visibility club known worldwide.

Soooo... Why not increase your visibility?
**JOIN US AS A NEW MEMBER
OF THE OKDXA !!!**

— W0PAN

Secretary / Treasurer Report

By JERRY CHOUINARD, K5YAA

There isn't much to report this month.... Please note a call sign correction for Robert Armstrong. I had him down as KC5VGX, but his actual call is KC5UGX. Several renewals have been received and we are currently sitting at 63 members. As always, new members are welcome!

— K5YAA

From Da'Editor

By NELSON DERKS, KC5QVV

Congratulations are in order to OKDXA Member **COY DAY, N5OK** for his recent promotion to ARRL West Gulf Division Director following the election of **JIM HAYNIE, W5JBP** as ARRL President!

Without a doubt, the topic of interest this month is FCC 99-412; the Report & Order on Amateur license restructuring released December 30, 1999. Starting April 15, no new licenses for the Novice, Tech Plus or Advanced classes will be issued, but Hams with these licenses retain all their current privileges and are renewable indefinitely. If you like what you have now, keep it, use it, enjoy it, renew it. Nothing changes.

Licenses issued after April 15th will be for Technician, General or Amateur Extra with only four tests: 5 WPM CW and three written. New Technicians must pass a 35 question written test; General requires the 5 WPM CW test and a second 35 question written test, while Extra adds a 50 question written test. The FCC has streamlined the licensing process by returning to the old tradition of three license classes used prior to 1951. A General or Advanced Ham who upgrades to Extra will have the modern equivalent of the old Class A license. Your faithful & obedient "Class A" Newsletter Editor recently passed the Extra written (at one of the busier VE Sessions I've seen) and will be upgrading in late April... Yay!

If you've been thinking about upgrading your Tech Plus or Advanced license, there is a window of opportunity available. Your friendly neighborhood VE's are authorized to accept a valid CSCE less than 365 days old for credit toward your next upgrade, same as always. A current Tech Plus who passes the General written before April 15th can return after the 15th to file the paperwork for upgrade to General under the new rules without taking another CW test. Likewise, an Advanced class Ham who passes the Extra written prior to April 15th can upgrade to Extra after the 15th without another CW test. Give this some thought, as the question pools could be significantly different after April 15th. Recent news reports claim the National Conference of VEC's plan to release the new Question Pools around February 1st, so the wheels are in motion. If you're a No-Code Tech concerned about the loss of the Tech Plus license, any Tech who passes the 5 WPM CW element now (or after April 15th) remains legal on the Novice and Tech Plus HF band segments.

I have a hunch the VE Sessions will be very popular this spring. For those of you with Internet access, you can download all the current Amateur question pools at: <http://www.perigee.net/~chrisw/tech.html> Substitute novice.html, or general.html, or advanced.html or extra.html in the suffix of the URL for any of the question pools. When you're ready, feel free to take a practice test on AA9PW's web page at: <http://www.biochem.mcw.edu/Postdocs/Simon/radio/exam.html> (and watch those caps, enter the URL exactly as shown!) Once you're passing the practice test with room to spare, dazzle a VE or three...

Of newsworthy note in late January, the FCC voted to end the 20 year freeze on new low-power FM Broadcast licenses in the 10 to 100 watt range. Listen for the flurry of FM micro-broadcasters expected later this year. We should also note the passing of Austrian-born film actress Hedy Lamarr at the age of 86 on January 19th. Why would I mention this in the OKDXA Newsletter? Ms. Lamarr held a 1942 US patent for a frequency-hopping technique intended as a QRM tolerant mode that was well ahead of the technology of the time... We call it 'Spread Spectrum' today.

And, let's not forget, the OKDXA Y2K Competition continues through March 31st... My first qualifying QSO was with

9AY2K in Croatia on Ten. Not a bad way to get started... Check your December C&E or the OKDXA web page for details. The entry form will be reprinted in the March C&E. For now, just work as many countries on as many bands & modes as possible and keep a good log... You won't know how well you did unless you enter!

— KC5QVV



Grenada is the most southern of the Windward 'Spice Islands' in the Caribbean and known for Nutmeg and DX!

CONTESTING FROM J3A

By JIM HOOD, K5TT

The following is a collection of thoughts after my recent trip to Grenada. I hope you find it entertaining, interesting, and informative. Every amateur should make one of these trips at some time in their life. With proper planning, it is in the grasp of anyone and the cost is comparable to a trip to one of the major theme parks in Florida.

While at Dayton last May, I was invited to join the Yankee Clipper Contest Club CQWW CW DXpedition to Grenada. Two of my friends, John, NJ1V, and Ann, WA1S, were going so I could not pass up the opportunity to be part of a "big time, off shore contest operation". John made the trip a year before along with OKDXA member Lee, N5PO (x W5UDA). Making such a commitment was not taken lightly because of the cost, the work, the Thanksgiving Holidays, and the vacation time from work, not to mention the stress of operating at a high level. I had not made a serious effort in a contest for over a year.

I managed to keep the costs down by being patient and catching a heavily discounted airline ticket in August. John and I shared a hotel room to split the cost, but the price per hour of the room was still pretty high, as we didn't spend much time there.

Don, K2KQ was the leader of the group. He made several trips previously and had

been there just a few weeks prior for the CQWW SSB Contest and made the arrangements for us to operate from the Grenada Emergency Operations Center. Antennas and amplifiers for 6 bands were stored at the EOC. Don has done a super job of clearing the political tracks as well as coordinating all the work associated with the multi-multi contest station.

In addition to John, Ann, Don, and myself, two other operators were committed. Ed, K1TE was making his first DXpedition trip as a multi-multi and is a seasoned Contester and marathon runner. Kazu, JA1GAD had operated from J3A the year before and was

returning again. He is now an investment banker in London and travels the world operating contests. He was also the youngster of the group.

The logistics for the trip were simpler than others I have been on since the antennas and amps were already there. I took my entire station (except for the amplifier) and carried my FT-990 and laptop on the plane. Everything else went in a suitcase with a few clothes, but the plane changes in Dallas and Miami were challenging.

I departed Oklahoma City the Wednesday morning before Thanksgiving and met John in Miami. We arrived in Grenada around 9:00 p.m. where Ann, Don, and Ed met us at the airport. They had arrived at various times during the week. Ann had gotten scuba certified and did some diving although a nearby hurricane was causing pretty big waves. All of our gear made it and we were quickly out of immigration and customs.

We changed clothes at the hotel as the weather was warmer than expected, then had our first team meeting where Don got us started with our first Rum Punch of the trip. I could immediately tell we had a great team and this WAS going to be fun. The Tropicana Inn is a modestly priced little hotel but its open-air restaurant has a beautiful view of the yacht harbor across the street. Food was priced about the same as the US but different with such items as Calliloo Soup made from a local plant.

The warm water lobster was great but somewhat expensive. Grenada is known for its nutmeg, so everything has nutmeg in it, even the rum punches.

Early the next morning we drove up the mountain to the EOC about 700 feet above the harbor, and the Capitol City of St. Georges is about 3 miles from the hotel. What an antenna site! There is nothing but open water toward the US and Japan with distant mountains toward Europe. RF will have no problems getting out, but every drive up and down the mountain was an adventure. They drive on the left, the roads are very narrow with major drops on the sides (part of the road had slid down the mountain) while houses and stores are right on the road. People park and walk in the streets and Grenadians are the fastest, most aggressive drivers I have seen.

I could swear they try sending CW on their horns. A beep means 'watch out, I'm coming through', and you hear plenty of beeps. Several times we had to stop and back up because two cars could not pass each other on the road. Meeting a truck was even more hair raising, as they don't like to slow down or stop. Of course there were traffic circles, that went the wrong way, in the busiest areas. I needed several rum punches after each trip.

The early arrivals had some of the antennas assembled with sunburn evidence of the hours spent the day before. We began Thanksgiving Day by surveying the antenna sites. Even at 9:00 a.m., the sun was blazing hot. Don began pointing out the antennas and towers to be erected. 5 elements on 10M at 20', 4 elements on 15M at 20', 4 elements on 20M at 50', 80M inverted V on a 20 meter tower, and Don's special 160M antenna on 50' push up poles. The 2 element 40M beam at 40' was permanently in place for hurricane net use. Fortunately, Don had recruited four Grenadians to provide the muscle for the towers. By the end of the day, all antennas were up and operating. Around sunset, I put up a little WARC band antenna I had brought, unpacked my radio and managed to work about 50 people on 30 meters. That was the only time I had for any operation outside of the contest. Then it was down the mountain for a late dinner and a little sleep.

On Friday, Don had us up early to set up the six stations. As expected, Murphy ran

rampant. Running six high power stations required 220 volts at each desk with the load balanced across the three phases. The radios also ran on 220 volts, but 110 volts had to be on each desk to power computers and accessories. Feed lines had to be run, amplifiers connected to radios, computer keying lines connected to the radios, computer to radio interfaces connected, and the network cable connecting the computers together. Of course, all this had to work. After several trips to the hardware store and considerable effort, it did.

Ann brought cold cuts for sandwiches during the operating hours and I dug out my protein and energy bars. Fortunately, the tap water in Grenada is potable, so we were able to fill containers at the hotel and put them in the fridge at the EOC.



Don loaded the latest version of CT on all computers then went to work on the network. This was impressive. Each workstation displayed the total log for all stations combined. And, since all radios were computer interfaced, the frequency of each radio was displayed so the multipliers could be passed from band to band. A band map was also shown for needed multipliers and derived from the Internet, plus we had a chat window to

talk between stations. Very Nice!

— K5TT

(To Be Continued in Part II next month)

OPDX Bulletin – Internet Edition

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

3B6, AGALEGA

A multi-national team led by HB9BXE will be active in October of this year. They expect to land on Agalega October 5th and operate between October 7-23rd. Activity will be on all bands and modes. The licenses and landing permits have been assured and should be issued in the next

few months. They are looking for sponsors and contributions. For more information contact Joe Meier, HB9AJW (via E-mail at: 100450.540@compuserve.com).

3Z, POLAND

Ed, SP1MHV reports that "each member" of the of Polish Amateur Radio Society (PZK) can use the special 3Z prefix in celebration of the 70 years of PZK and the Millennium Year 2000. Each member can use the 3Z prefix with their call area and suffix (example - SP1MHV will use the special callsign 3Z1MHV). Ed, SP1MHV will be using his special contest callsign "3Z1V" for the year 2000. Listen for 3Z1V and 3Z1MHV to be active on the digital modes (RTTY, PSK and SSTV) in addition to the usual CW and SSB.

5R, MADAGASCAR

A new resident is now active from IOTA AF-013. Listen for Michel, ex-F5LET as 5R8GL. He will be active with a 2-element beam on 3 bands and has antennas for the WARC bands. The low bands will come later. Michel is active all days mainly on CW, but can QSY to SSB if requested. QSL direct only as there is no QSL Bureau in 5R. Also, DO NOT send any mail to his old address in France because the postal box is closed indefinitely. For information or QSL requests write to: Michel Bon, BP 342, (201) Antsiranana, Madagascar.

5Z, KENYA (IOTA DXpedition Update)

Phil, G3SWH has finalized the dates and bookings for the DXpedition to Wasini Island in Kenya (IOTA AF-67). The team will consist of Jim, G3RTE; David, G3UNA; Phil, G3SWH; Rob, 5Z4RL; Ian, 5Z4IC and Graham, 5Z4GS. They plan to be active March 8-15th with two stations, one CW and the other SSB 24 hours a day using the special call 5Z4WI. They plan to operate all bands from 160 to 10 Meters, except 30 Meters which is not permitted in Kenya. QSL via G3SWH direct (QTHR) or via the RSGB bureau.

8P6, BARBADOS

"The 59(9) DX Report" reports Richard, G3RWL will be active February 14-28th as 8P6DR while on holiday. He will be on 20-10 Meters during his early mornings and late evenings. QSL via G3RWL.

8Q7, MALDIVIVE ISLANDS

"The 59(9) DXReport" says to listen for 8Q7CR to be active from February 10th on SSB, RTTY, Amtor and Packet. QSL

via DF5JR. The "425 DX News" reports that Bert, PAØLPE is also expected to be here and sign 8Q7PA through February 3rd. Activity will be on CW and SSB. QSL via PAØLPE.

9G, GHANA

On March 2nd, Bob, PA3DEW and Vincent, PA3FQX members of the previous 9G1AA team will activate this callsign again - as their workload permits. QSL via PA3ERA (he is also the QSL MGR for 9G100).

9Q, DEM. REP. OF CONGO

"The 59(9) DXReport" states that Pat, F6BLQ reported the PTT in Kinshasa will issue new 9Q licenses before the end of January.

ASIAN AND AFRICAN TOUR

Andy, G4ZVJ will be travelling in Asia and Africa for 8 weeks beginning January 24th with an itinerary as follows:

*January 24th through February 24th
(with G3XAQ)*

XW – Andy, G4ZVJ and AI/G3XAQ plan to visit Vientiane, Laos and hope to obtain operating permission.

XU - During the first week of February they will travel to Cambodia and will be active as XU7AAV. Their emphasis will be on 80 Meters to EU/NA.

February 24th through March 7th

ET - Andy will go to Ethiopia during this time and states that his callsign will be announced later. This will be a guest operation.

March 7th through March 20th

9G - Andy will be active as 9G5VJ from Ghana. Activity will include activity in the RSGB Commonwealth Contest (March 11 & 12th). Andy reports his activity will be CW only. QSL via G4ZVJ: Andy Chadwick, 5 Thorpe Chase, Ripon HG4 1UA U.K. For more info, visit Andy's Web site: <http://www.g4zvj.demon.co.uk>

9U, BURUNDI

Leif, SMØBFJ/SM5BFJ reports that Gus, 9U5D is back in Burundi and should be active through March. Activity will be on all bands 160 thru 6 Meters. QSL via SMØBFJ/SM5BFJ (direct only, please).

A2, BOTSWANA

A22EW will be active starting February 6th for a 3 week period on all bands, depending on conditions. A sked to work NA on 80 Meters is set between 5:30 and 7:30 EST to take advantage of gray line propagation. QSL via KB2MS.