



Newsletter of the
Twin City DX Association
www.tcdxa.org

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Gray Line Staff

**KØIEA
KØJUH
WØBV**



BHUTAN

Land of the Thunder Dragon



TCDXA/MWA members Ralph Fedor, **KØIR (A52IR)**, Pat Cahill, **WØBM (A52PC)**, Glenn Johnson, **WØGJ (A51B)** and Vivien Johnson, **KL7YL (A52VJ)** announce plans to operate from Bhutan during the CQ World Wide SSB Contest October 29 to 30, 2011.

Ralph, Pat and Glenn and their XYLs will begin their 7,467 mile flight (15 hours) to Bhutan on October 22nd. It's Glenn's 5th trip, Pat's 2nd trip and Ralph's 1st trip to the Land of the Thunder Dragon. They will operate from the city of Paro.

During the contest Ralph, A52IR will operate on 75 meters; Pat, A52PC will operate on 40 meters and Glenn, A51B operate on 10 meters. 15 meters will be covered by Andy, **UA3AB (A52AB)** and 20 meters by Paul **W8AEF (A52PP)**.

Look for the group to be active before the contest weekend, beginning on October 25th. They plan to be back in Minnesota around November 2nd. QSL via home calls.



Ralph, KØIR/A52IR



Vivien, KL7YL/A52VJ & Glenn, WØGJ/A51B



Pat, WØBM/A52PC

Member News

FLORIDA DXer WORKS STØR FROM MINNESOTA

Roger Bettin, **K4KC**, (ex- **WØGKC**) and his XYL spend the summer months in Minnesota, and the remainder of the year as full time residents of Florida.

Roger is just one away (BS7, Scarborough Reef) from DXCC #1 Honor Roll, and when he heard about South Sudan being granted new country status, and **STØR** activating the new entity in July, he didn't want to miss this one.

He knew that his chances of working them from Minnesota with his low power HF station in his motor home were not very good. So, he decided to call on a local DXer to see if it would be possible to stop by and do some calling from a station with Yagis and power, to improve his chances in the pileups. **KØJUH** was the first local DXer Roger reached on the phone, and he didn't have to go any further. Jim invited him out, and Roger was able to put STØR into his log on CW and SSB.

Born and raised in SW Minnesota, Roger attended the U of M, graduating with a EE degree, and went to work for Collins Radio in Iowa. After 9 years at Collins as a design engineer, Roger and a partner started RF Communications in Rochester, NY where they designed and manufactured commercial SSB transceivers for a variety of "spook shops," including the NSA, CIA, and the U.S. Embassy Corp.

Before heading back to Florida this fall, you may get a chance to meet Roger as he plans to stop by the TCDXA meeting in September.

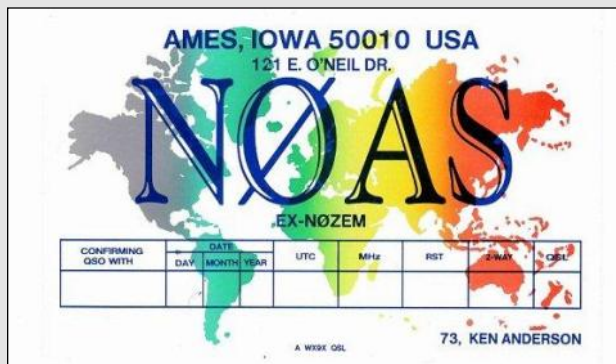


Roger, K4KC at the controls of KØJUH



Roger and Jim, KØJUH celebrate success with STØR, sporting their Gopher gear.

A BIG Welcome to TCDXA's Newest Member!!



Ken Anderson, Ames, Iowa



Member News

W3UR Volunteers in Antigua

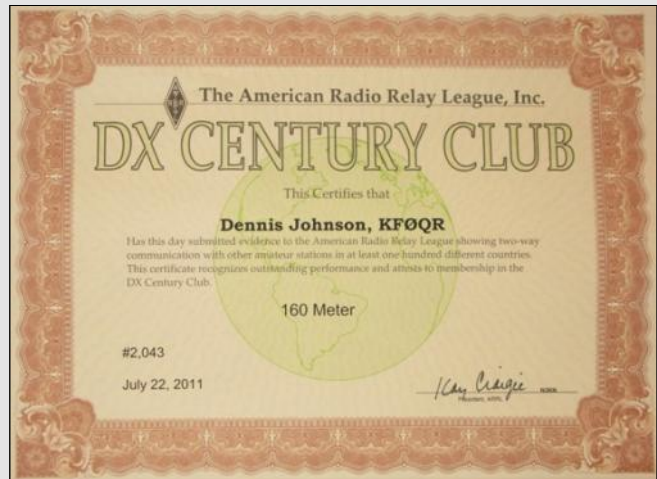
Bernie McClenny, **W3UR**, spent a week on Antigua Island with his son Kyle and 13 others from his church. They lead a Vacation Bible School, and presented the Gospel to the people of Gray's Farm, one of the most impoverished areas on the island. Shown here is Bernie along with three of the 80 some kids at the VBS.

Bernie did obtain the call **V25UR** before departing. The priority was the Mission. There was no time for Amateur Radio. However, he did call and speak with the local club secretary, and passed by the **V26B** station. Bernie's mission was extremely successful, as they were able to minister to many people from the Gray's Farm area.



KFØQR Earns 160 Meter DXCC in One Season!

Dennis Johnson, **KFØQR** of Forest Lake, MN worked 115 new entities on Topband during the 2010/2011 lowband season. To learn how he accomplished this prestigious feat from the Midwest, see the story of his monopole antenna project in the [February, 2011 GrayLine](#). Also, watch for his story to appear in an upcoming edition of *QST*.




Our next DX Hog Award Opportunity

September 16 to 26. <http://www.4w6a.com/>




Member News

Tom, K3VCH, Age 18




**After 39 Years,
Tom Menas
is Signing Off!**

Come Celebrate at his Retirement Happy Hour:



Thursday, July 21st
5:00 - 7:30 pm
Cowboy Jack's
2801 Southtown Dr.
(494/Xerxes Ave. S.)



K3WT is the New TCDXA Webmaster!

WOW!! How's that for a classy retirement farewell!?! Tom's dedication to Thermo King's success is highly respected, and he will be sorely missed there.

But, Thermo King's loss is our gain. Beginning this month, Tom, **K3WT** will take over design and maintenance of tcdxa.org from retiring webmaster Jim, **KØJUH**.



KØKG Earns the YASME Award and is Named the New CQ DX Awards Manager

The YASME Foundation offers a beautiful plaque to anyone who submits QSL cards showing contacts with 30 different call-signs of YASME officers, directors and/or operations. For proof of 60 contacts, a trophy in the shape of the sailboat "YASME" is awarded.

Complete rules and a list of qualifying operations can be found at: <http://www.yasme.org/awards.html>. Keith checked his QSLs and found 42 cards that qualified for the award.

Keith has recently been named the new **CQ DX Awards Manager**, replacing Billy Williams, N4UF who has retired after 32 years. Congratulations Keith!



Member News

WØDXCC 2011 in Leavenworth, Kansas



Keith, **KØKG** visits with Larry, **VQ9LA (NØQM)**.



Ron, **K4SX** and Dave, **KØIEA**.



Ralph, **KØIR** presents the **VP8ORK** South Orkney DXpedition.



Paul, **WØAIH** teaches how to build a contest station. See Paul's PowerPoint presentation [<here>](#).



Member News



KØPC and KØUU Bicycle Across Iowa in Seven Days in the Annual RAGBRAI Event

RAGBRAI, The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, is an annual seven-day bicycle ride across the state. Now in its 39th year, RAGBRAI is the oldest, largest and longest bicycle touring event in the world. Des Moines Register Media has been the title sponsor of RAGBRAI since 1973.

For the past several years, Jeff, KØUU and Pat, KØPC have spent a week riding their bikes across Iowa, participating in the RAGBRAI ride. The ride takes a different route each year, and runs between 450 and 500 miles, with about 10,000 riders.

Pat says, "One of the great joys of the ride is visiting all of the small towns along the route. Many of these towns have just a few hundred people, but the whole town pulls together to feed and entertain the riders. Typically, churches, volunteer fire departments and school clubs try to raise money with their food sales. You can get everything from breakfast burritos to meatloaf dinners. But, the favorite of all riders is the pie. You can't ride ten miles without being able to get a piece of homemade pie."



Jeff, KØUU and Bailey.



Abe meets Pat, KØPC.

Jeff and Pat have different ways of doing the ride. Pat takes the easy way out and goes with a group who haul his gear between the overnight stops. This makes for a fast ride between pie stops, during the day. Jeff prefers to haul all of his gear on the bike, and goes beyond the official overnight town to find a quieter spot to spend the night. They try to meet up each day somewhere along the route.

Other TCDXA members that have ridden RAGBRAI in the past include Roger, KØMPH and Larry, WØPR.



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**Dr. Scott
Wright**

KØMD

I grew up in southeastern Kentucky in a small town named Whitley City. It's nestled within the Appalachian Mountains, and has a high rate of poverty. It is the county seat of McCreary County, a rare county for county hunters. I got interested in ham radio in 7th grade. I had a substitute teacher for one week. He suggested that we should go to our school's library and find some books to read during class, or he would assign lots of homework. I found a book on Amateur Radio, and began reading it. I learned Morse code within about three days, and mentioned the book and my interest in learning about ham radio to my father. It turned out that he knew three men from our church who were hobbyists, and within a few days, I was sitting in the home of Jim Burgess, **WA4OJT**, a local pharmacist. Jim had a new Kenwood 599 line, an L-4B and a TH6DXX Yagi. In my mind, he had a super station, and did a great job demonstrating amateur radio. He turned me over to William Alcorn, **WB4GSG** (SK), who proctored me for the Novice examination, and helped me set up my first station. William owned the local appliance store, and sold televisions, towers, antennas, appliances and even coaxial cable. He was a ham's ham.

My license arrived in May, 1977, several days before I turned 13. My callsign was **WD4HAD**. I took some ribbing from local guys about the **HAD** suffix. They said the FCC "had" to issue it to me. William loaned me a Heathkit HW-8 and some crystals. Jim, **WA4OJT**, put up my dipole for 80 and 40 meters. I was on the air, and my first QSO was with a retired ham in West Virginia who chatted with me at 5 WPM for at least 40 minutes. He sent me a nice letter and QSL after the QSO. It was only a matter of time until I was hooked on the hobby. My father and William decided I should have a Heathkit HW-101, and they found one from Associated Radio. It arrived in the summer of 1977. I was able to replace the HW-8 with a VFO-controlled rig, and I could actually be on 15, 40 and 80 meters. The sunspot cycle was great in the late 1970s, and southeastern KY had great propagation. I was able to work a lot of US and DX stations from my home QTH.

I upgraded to the General Class in December, 1977, after taking the exam for the third time. CW was not my problem; it was the theory. In those days, I was easily working 15 wpm soon after I was on the air. I did all of the studying on my own, using the ARRL material. Since I was an 8th grader and the school did not teach algebra until the 9th grade, I had to memorize Ohm's Law and all of its computations. We had to travel 3 to 5 hours to FCC testing centers in Knoxville, TN or Louisville, KY. Therefore, it was quite a commitment for my parents to take me to the testing sessions. I up-





WD4HAD in 1977

graded to the Advanced Class license in the spring of 1978.

Jim, WA4OJT and another pharmacist John Sandidge, **WA4ZKA** encouraged me to put up a tower and Yagi in 1978, when I wanted (instead) to buy a 2 meter HT like their new Kenwood HTs. Fortunately, I had enough money from my yard care business as a teenager to buy a 40-ft tower from William's store, an Alliance HD-73 rotor and a Wilson System 33 Yagi. I put up an inverted L for 160, and continued using the 80/40 dipole that Jim had built the previous summer. It was time to improve my DX antenna system that had been with me from the beginning. I learned what a difference a 3-element tribander at 40 feet made with DXing. One day, while chatting with a ham on Pitcairn Island, my father came in and listened. The ham's name was Tom, **VP6TC**. My dad asked to speak with him and confirmed Tom was a descendent of Fletcher Christian, of Mutiny on the Bounty. He later told me the story.

I continued to work my summer jobs to make money to upgrade the ham station. I bought a used Drake B line in 1979 from Calhoun's amateur supply in Hopkinsville, KY. It

was a beautiful pair. The receiver was much better than the HW-101, and it had a more stable VFO. I continued to be active in the hobby, doing mainly DXing and Field Day, until I graduated from high school in 1982.

I went off to the University of Kentucky in the late summer of 1982, and ultimately got permission to operate the radio station at U of K. I had a key to the shack, and operated in the late mornings or early afternoons to chase European DX, using the club's TS-520S.

I started Medical School in August, 1985, and received permission from my landlord to put up a small dipole. I brought my old HW 101, and occasionally got on the air in the evenings on 75 meters. I even met one of my Physiology professors on the air, David Randall, **K9ARK**. I enjoyed getting on the air, albeit infrequently, given the academic rigor of medical school. In 1986, I also got married and moved to an apartment with my wife, Jann. I brought along the HW-101 and put up an indoor dipole. It didn't get out very well, but I had other priorities. We lived in several residences from 1986 until graduation in 1989. During that time, two meters was all I operated. Yes, ultimately I did acquire the Kenwood TR-7400 HT that my mentors had. It was a neat rig in the early 1980s.

Move To Zero Land

My wife and I moved to Rochester, MN in the summer of 1989. She arrived about a month after I did, due to work issues. I met Jim Cain, **WØAGL** on my first weekend in Rochester at a local Baptist church. From the start, Jim and I became best friends. He was a native Texan, and had been a ham for many years. He was the personal physician of former President Lyndon B Johnson and many other "Mayo celebrity patients," and it was always exciting to go over to his home to meet his friends. Jim had two separate Collins lines (an S-line and a KWM-2 + 30L-1) and two ICOM lines, plus an Alpha 78 amplifier. Jim was old friends with Dick Erhorn, who had grown up in the Baptist church Jim attended.



Jim had a 3-element 40 meter monobander and a 5-element 20 meter monobander. He encouraged me to operate his station as much as I wanted, because he only got on the air to work friends in Texas. Jim urged me to get a station at the townhome I owned in Rochester. I applied to put up a Hustler vertical and it was approved. Jim suggested I borrow a rig from him, instead of bringing one up from my parents' home in Kentucky. He thought the Collins S-line would work for me, but I felt way too guilty borrowing that station. We compromised on the KWM-2 and 30L-1. This was probably September or October, 1989. That year, I received a Christmas card from Jim and his wife Ida May in December wishing Jann and me a Merry Christmas, with a note that said the Collins line was his gift to me for Christmas.

I changed my call sign from WD4HAD to **KFØFW** to have a Zero land callsign. I had grown tired of the questions about why a 4-land call was in Minnesota.

Residency and later a Cardiology fellowship at Mayo Clinic turned out to be more work and time than even medical school. This schedule did not allow me enough air time. In 1993, after the birth of our first daughter Ashley, we moved to Oronoco, a small town north of Rochester. I found a tower and Yagi (Mosley Classic 33) at a discounted price, and had it installed in the summer of 1993. This was a big upgrade from my vertical. Wow! I had never had a 3-element Yagi at 56 feet. The world was now at my beck and call. My parents had sold my tower, rotor and Yagi after medical school to another ham, so I could not go back home to operate!

I upgraded to the Extra Class license during my fellowship, while assigned to a research laboratory. I changed my call to **AAØPS** in 1993, so all would know I was an Extra Class ham! I had two complete stations at my home QTH now – the Collins KWM-2 + 30L-1 and my Drake B-line.

I finished cardiology training in 1996, and

joined the faculty of Mayo Clinic. I bought a new ICOM 775 DSP as a gift. It was a wonderful rig, the best I had ever used. With the DSP, the receiver was amazing. I had a great station in Oronoco with a tower, Yagi, rig plus amplifier and an 80/40 dipole. Sometimes you don't realize how good you have it until you lose it.

The Move to Four Land

After much soul searching, in early 1997, I left Minnesota and went to practice in Kentucky. I changed my call to **WK4W**, and moved my 56 ft tower, Yagi, rotor and rigs with me. I never put up the tower in Kentucky, instead opting for a 40-ft TV tower with a Cushcraft R7000 vertical. The job in Kentucky was quite hard. I routinely worked 100 hours per week, and spent half of the year on-call every other night and half of the year on-call every third night. It was not a long term solution, and my wife and I had come to realize that Kentucky had changed in the 7 years we were away, and equally importantly, we had become Minnesotans. One afternoon, I worked Tom Bro, a ham and dentist in Zumbrota. It hit me that we had more in common than the health professionals I knew in Kentucky. I also made an appearance on a national radio talk show one afternoon as a caller. The next morning, the Congressman from Rochester, Gil Gutknecht, called me to say how nice it had been to hear me on the show. Minnesota Nice goes a long way!

The Return to Zero Land

My friends at Mayo wanted me back, and I was honored to return to Rochester on Dec 31, 2007. We were featured on the local news that night, along with our moving truck. The move to Kentucky and back to Minnesota was expensive. To help pay our way back to Rochester, I had to sell my tower, Yagi, rotor and KWM-2 to a physician ham in Madisonville, KY. The ICOM 775 DSP was enough radio for me anyway. In hindsight, those were great sacrifices to make to get back to Rochester and its community.

After being back in Minnesota, I switched



my call back to **AAØPS**. Someone encouraged me to change my call to a vanity call. So, in March, 1998, I applied. I wanted **WØSW** but later learned the Wilmar Club had that call, so I knew it wasn't going to be available. I did apply for **KØMD** as my fifth choice, and thankfully the FCC assigned it to me. What a lucky break!

Later in 1998, I received permission to erect a tower at our Rochester home. Jay Bellows, **KØQB** was incredibly helpful in connecting me to resources that I needed to get the permits, etc.

One day in the fall of 1998, I came home and told my wife Jann that we were expecting a personal visit from a Mayo patient, King Hussein. He had sent me a note saying that he wanted to come to my QTH to operate. We kicked everything into high gear to get the tower and new Yagi up. I had bought a Cushcraft X-7 from Burghardt Amateur Supply. It was up by early November, 1998, but King Hussein's health had deteriorated to the point that he could not leave our hospital to visit my home. I regret that we were not able to host him at **KØMD** for his last ham activity.

I really enjoyed casual DXing with my new Yagi and ICOM 775 DSP. By that time, I had acquired Jim Cain's Alpha 78, and now had a full power amplifier to use. One night, I worked a ham in Brussels. He thought I was the original holder of **KØMD**, and then told me the story about what a nice person the original holder of **KØMD** had been. I have now confirmed that I am the second person to hold the call **KØMD**. Both holders were physicians, and I hope that someday my friends will speak as highly of me as the original **KØMD**.

I was very much focused on research and publishing between 1998 and 2005. I was not on the air much, and regret missing all of Glenn and Ralph's DXpeditions during that time. I may never get to work those entities. My attention at work was needed, as I was promoted to Full Professor of Medicine in 2005 at the young age of 41.

We moved to our current QTH in 2003, after the birth of our fourth child, a son named Scotty. We had outgrown our previous QTH. I did not buy the property with ham radio in mind, but it turned out to be a wonderful location. The house sits 180 ft above the surrounding valleys, including the city of Rochester. I have superb take-offs to Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific Rim. I moved my tower and Yagi to this QTH, and my wife finished an unfinished room in the basement for me as a ham studio (not shack).

In late 2006, **K4IU** suggested I try contesting. Immediately, I wondered why I had waited so long to really dive into contesting. I decided to seriously work on my DXCC totals, and wrote to **WØGJ** for advice. Glenn made a house call to my QTH a year later and advised me on how to upgrade the station. All of his suggestions focused on antennas. My wife probably wonders what happened to me, because in late 2006, I took a serious interest in the hobby like never before.



My latest station improvement:
100-ft. Rohn 45G with Yagis (see text, below).

In short order, I made the following improvements:

- ◆ Computerized logging and rig control.
- ◆ Installed a 40 meter 2-element Yagi that I had acquired in 2005, but never put up.
- ◆ I bought a second rig, an ICOM 756 Pro III, and a third rig, an ICOM 7000.



- ◆ I attended Dayton 2007 with Glenn and John, **NØIJ**, and have become a Dayton regular and Contest U attendee.
- ◆ I installed an 80 meter 4 square for DXing.
- ◆ I installed a 160 meter vertical for DXing.
- ◆ I traded my IC-775 DSP for an IC-7800.
- ◆ I installed a second tower, a Rohn 55g at 100 ft, and added a phased Yagi array for 10-20 with a Force 12 C49XR at 100 feet and a C31XR at 45 feet. I moved my 40 meter Yagi to the 100 ft tower. (See the story of Scott's tower project [<here>](#).)
- ◆ I added a WARC antenna to my first tower, the Force 12 4-BA. It doubles as a spotting Yagi on 10 and 15.
- ◆ I bought a second amplifier, the ACOM 1010 for use in So2R DXing, contesting and overseas operations.
- ◆ I began going overseas to operate.
- ◆ My three daughters have gotten their licenses, and two have contested with me: Sarah **WØSMW** and Ashley, **KØAEW**. Katie, **KØKEW**, cannot find time for radio because school, church and Facebook consume her attention.



Sarah, **WØSMW** with my HW-101.

Planned upgrades to the station include:

- ◆ My son who is now 8 wants to get a license.
- ◆ I plan to replace the C31XR with a sec-

ond C49XR and my TIC rotor with a KØXG model. I also plan to replace my KLM 40 meter Yagi with a Force 12 240B or N model next year.

- ◆ Ultimately, I hope to get an automatic amplifier like the ACOM 2000 or Alpha 9500 for contesting efficiency.
- ◆ I hope to turn KØMD into an M-2 or M-1 contest station for MWA Team South to compete with Team North and Team Hennepin multioperator stations that really perform amazingly.
- ◆ Installation of a K9AY loop for a receiving antenna for low band contesting and DXing.
- ◆ I now operate a So2R DX station with my ICOM 7800 and my ICOM 7000. The ICOM 7000 also goes overseas with me for operations. I use MacLoggerDX as my non-contesting software for logging and rig control. It's an incredible program, and it's so much easier to use than any other program that I've used. I have Microham Microkeyer II rig interfaces for my two rigs and a W2IHY audio system. I use the EQplus and the 8 band equalizer – audio has never sounded so good. I also have an Array Solutions 6 Pak antenna switch, a WXØB Stack Match for the phased Yagis, a Comtek controller for the 80 meter 4 square array and an M2 Orion rotor for the 100 ft tower. I currently have a T2X rotor on my Rohn 48-ft tower, but may switch it out for a second M2 Orion rotor that I have.

Amplifiers include a used but great Alpha 78 and a rarely used ACOM 1010.

My station website is www.k0md.com, and it has a full description of my station and operations.

Overseas operating

One of the great joys I have had in the hobby has been to operate in China with **B1Z** in May 2007 during the CQ CW WPX contest, placing



#1 in China and #13 in the world M/M. I have previously written about this experience for this newsletter. (ed. - See Scott's story [<here>](#).) My China calls were **KØMD/BY1TX** and **B1Z**.



I operated from Ecuador in 1999, and actually worked my family at my home QTH. My friend Butch Schartau, **KØBS** was kind enough to come over one evening and work me. I was visiting **HC2EE**'s QTH during a medical trip to Guayaquil, Ecuador. It was really neat to hear my family's voices on the other end of the rig. My call was **KØMD/HC2EE**.

I have also operated multiple times in Chile, both in the CQ WW CW, and just DXpedition portable from the South of Chile and from the coastal city of Vina del Mar. I placed first in the CQ CW WW SOABLP from Chile in 2009, and have worked about 50 countries outside of the contest, as well. My Chilean calls were **CE7/KØMD** and **CE2/KØMD**.



The most fun operating overseas, though, has been to operate with Glenn Johnson from **VP5H** during the ARRL DX SSB contest. We placed second in 2008, third in 2009 and first worldwide in 2010, along with Mark Endorf, **WAØMHJ**. There are no pileups like those from the Caribbean. It's addicting! I plan to be back in 2012 and maybe twice in 2013.



I planned to go to Bhutan this year, but work has precluded my going. I hope to operate again from Chile in November, 2011 and from the Caribbean in 2012 and maybe also from Europe in 2012.

DX awards and/or achievements

I hold WAS, WAZ, DXCC mixed, DXCC SSB, DXCC CW, DXCC on 80, 40, 20 and 15 meters. I am working to finish my 5- and 9-band DXCC totals. I have achieved all of this since 2007, when I decided to get serious with the hobby!

I am a proud member of the TCDXA, MWA, ARRL and ARRL Diamond club, RARC, NCDXF, QCWA and the CW operators club. I am an honorary member of B1Z.

Memorable DX contacts

There are several memorable DX contacts during my 34 years as a ham. I rank working **VP6TC** as the neatest contact ever made on low power.

I enjoy working friends like Glenn, Ralph Fedor, **KØIR**, Peter Cross (**8P9NX**) and Paul Bittner **WØAIH** when they are operating over-



seas. It was a real treat to work Paul on 20 meter CW when he was in Kazakhstan.

I also enjoy working fellow Minnesotans from my **CE2/KØMD** and **VP5/KØMD** or **VP5H** operations. It's especially nice working friends from the TCDXA and RARC clubs. If you hear me on the air, please call!

Non-Ham Interests

It may seem hard to believe I have interests outside of ham radio. I have fewer hobbies and interests now that I am a contester!

I travel a lot with work. I am invited to lecture as a professor, and my current research activities focus on working with multicenter randomized clinical trials. I am leading a 20,000 patient study in 500 sites, worldwide, and am assisting with leadership in four other studies that involve at least 20,000 patients at over 1,200 worldwide sites. It's a tremendous honor within the medical profession to assist with large randomized clinical trials, and I feel very blessed and fortunate to have these opportunities at this stage in my career. I typically travel 125,000 miles annually by air, frequently from the Minneapolis airport. I rarely have time to come to the Metro for TCDXA meetings, due to these demands.

I'm also a clinical cardiologist at Mayo Clinic, and have a full clinical practice and teaching load with students, residents and fellows. I work in our coronary intensive care unit, and hospital call seems to fall frequently on contest weekends. Work provides the means for me to have a nice radio station, but the "trade off" is limited time to operate. I think that is why I like contesting so much.



I golf only infrequently. I miss playing, but am not willing to take time during antenna re-

pair season to play golf. Ralph, **KØIR** once commented that hams without multiple towers and big arrays fail to appreciate how much time it requires to maintain and repair them. I agree with that.

Our children keep us very busy. We took our oldest daughter to College this past August. The other children are 15, 13 and 8 years of age. We try to spend a fair amount of time with them and their activities. The older two play varsity soccer.

I am also active in a local church in Rochester: Autumn Ridge (www.autumnridgechurch.org). It's a great community of faith, and that is very important to me and my family. I have a number of ham friends who attend there, as well.

I also enjoy organizing ham conferences, like the **WØDXCC** 2008 and 2009 meetings. Organizing meetings is easy for me, and I love seeing the hobby put on premier educational meetings. I hope to remain engaged in the **WØDXCC** meetings, as I was with the 2011 Kansas City convention.

Final Thoughts

I want to thank a number of hams who have contributed significantly to my enjoyment of the hobby:

Glenn Johnson, **WØGJ** has given countless hours of advice and tower assistance. Thank you Glenn!

I need to say a special thank you to Fred Regennitter, **K4IU**, who has been a source of encouragement and advice like none other. I also want to thank a number of TCDXA hams who have advised me on station and antenna improvements including John Baumgarten, **NØIJ**; Paul Bittner, **WØAIH**; Ralph Fedor, **KØIR**; Pat Cahill, **WØBM**; Jim Junkert, **KØJUH**; Tom Lutz, **WØZR**; Don Currier, **WØDJC**; Terry Van Benschoten, **WØVB**; Rich Torgerson, **KI7K** and Tom Menas, **W3WT**.

I also need to thank Tom Schiller, **N6BT**; Dean Straw, **N6BV**; Carl Luetzelschwab, **K9LA**; Mark Hooper, **N5WEB** and Dan White,



W5DNT, who have been tremendous resources within the hobby, despite living long distances from Rochester.

I want to thank Al Dewey, KØAD for the invitations to publish articles in *NCJ*. It has been a growing experience to write material for one of the hobby's premiere journals.

Finally, I thank all of the members of TCDXA and the ham community of MWA and RARC, who are some of the nicest professionals I have ever known in the hobby. Our ham community functions as a professional group, rather than a hobbyist group.

73,
Scott, KØMD



STØR QSLs will be flowing to mailboxes, soon!



Join TCDXA

Our mission is to raise *Dollars for DX* used to help fund qualified DXpeditions. Our funds come from annual member contributions (dues) and other donations. TCDXA is a non-profit organization, as described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions from U.S. residents are tax-deductible.

Becoming a member is easy. Go to <http://tcdxa.org/> and follow the instructions on the home page. All contributions (including annual dues) may now be paid on our secure site, using PayPal or credit card.



DXers Have a Choice!



The Daily DX - is a text DX bulletin that can be sent via email to your home or office Monday through Friday, and includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and much, much more. With a subscription to The Daily DX, you will also receive DX news flashes and other interesting DX tidbits. *Subscriptions are \$49.00 for one year or \$28.00 for 6 mos.*

The Weekly DX - is a product of The Daily DX that can be sent weekly to your home or office via email in the form of a PDF (portable document format). It includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and graphics. *Subscriptions are \$27.00 for one year.*

Get two weeks of The Daily DX or a sample of The Weekly DX free by sending a request to bernie@dailydx.com, or at <http://www.dailydx.com/trial.htm>.





W0AA FD 2011 Recap

by Ron Dohmen, N0AT

Six operators from the Minnesota Wireless Association (MWA) operated Field Day at a location near Park Rapids, Minnesota. They operated from a resort location belonging to N0AT's father-in-law.

K0TO, the trustee of the **W0AA** callsign, made the **W0AA** callsign available for the event. **W0AA** is the callsign of the MWA club.

Operation was in the 2A class. This class allows 2 fulltime stations, plus a free VHF station and a GOTA station. The goal was to make 3k QSOs.

80 meter QSOs were less than expected, due to heavy QRN and a storm that came through Sunday morning.

A surprise was 6 meters. Sporadic E propagation favored the VHF station, with over 400 QSOs.



Operators (left to right): Michael (GOTA op), N0KK, AE5E, N0AT, K0AD and W0GJ.



2A Class configuration.
Ron, N0AT and Kirk, N0KK operating.



Al, K0AD operates 6 meters.



Glenn, W0GJ makes the sat QSO.

Box Score W0AA FD 2011

Club: Minnesota Wireless Assn (MWA)
Class: 2A Section MN

Band	CW QSOs	PHONE QSOs	RTTY QSOs
160m	0	0	0
80m	137	2	0
40m	470	6	0
20m	579	232	65
15m	500	7	0
10m	302	73	0
6m	149	268	0
Sat	0	1	0

Total QSOs: 2791

Points:

CW QSOs: 2137 x 2 = 4274

PHONE QSOs: 589 x 1 = 589

RTTY QSOs: 65 x 2 = 130

Score: 4993 X 2 (100w) = **9986**





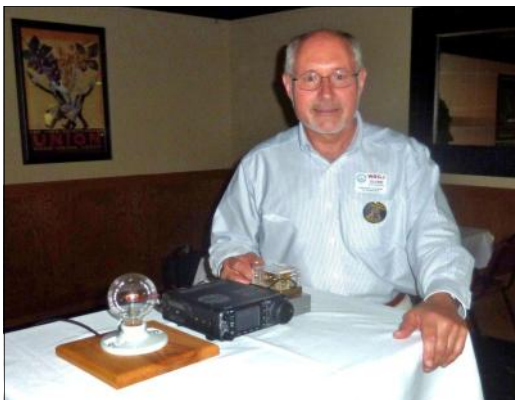
Annual MWA Meeting Report

photos courtesy of John, W9LHG

The 2011 MWA meeting was a big success, with over 60 attendees. Members were treated to a complete breakdown of the contest scores by club statistics master Rich, NØHJZ. He demonstrated the importance of submitting all logs and log accuracy.

Al, KØAD showed a video from the WRTC 2014 organizers. He is organizing donations from MWA members to sponsor one of the operating locations during WRTC 2014. For more information, please contact Al at aldewey@aol.com.

The meeting closed with a lively presentation by Glenn, WØGJ on how to get that next 3dB improvement. [Glenn's presentation](#) is now available for download (9 mb pdf).





TCFMC Field Day 2011

by Bert Benjaminson, WBØN

The TCFMC had our Field Day operation, again, at Louisiana Oaks Park in St Louis Park, MN. We operated 3A, with CW, SSB and Mixed stations. We also had a 6 meter station and a GOTA station, where we had several kids make their 1st QSO! Our call was **WØEF**, and the GOTA call was **WBØN**.

We had several TCDXA members mixed in with non-contesters and newbies. TCDXA ops were: **KØBBC, KØBUD, KØHB, KØKX, KØMPH, KEØL, KØXQ, NØKBD, NØNO, WØOR, WAØMHJ, WGØM** and me, **WBØN**.



Steve, **NØNO**

We had two antennas per station, designed for maximum stateside use by Roger, **KØMPH**. We had some problems, as always, with Field Day. But, with good bands and good operators, we had our best score ever recorded.



Dave, **NØKBD**

I didn't get to operate much, as I was too busy with other duties....showing people



around, problem solving, etc. But, I had a lot of FUN on the GOTA station with the kids.



That's me at the GOTA station.

Without taking a lot of space, here is the short version of our score:

SSB Qs: 1433 HF + 330 6m + 42 GOTA = 1805

CW Qs: 1621

Score: 5055 (QSO pts) x 2 (100w) = 10,110, plus we had 1,090 bonus points for a total of **11,200**.

I'm not sure what we can do to top this score, but we will certainly be trying. Field Day is a very important part of Amateur Radio publicity and emergency training, and I want to help in any way. I feel a good score means we are prepared!



Mark, **WAØMHJ**

Paul, **WGØG** and I were co-chairs, and the work load was split up as follows:

Paul was in charge of getting antennas, towers and the generator there and setup.

I was in charge of site procurement, interaction with the Park Board and Fire Dept, Station 1 CW and Station 3 Mixed mode operator line-ups, and inside setup of the radios, computers and network.

Jim, **KEØL** was in charge of the operator lineup for Station 2 SSB.



Tom, **K3WT**

Roger, **KØMPH** did the antenna design work and layout for our stations.

Mike, **WGØM** was in charge of assembling the Explorer 14 beams. (He makes 'em talk!)

Dewey, **KØHAQ** was in charge of the 6m station.

Matt, **KØBBC** did publicity.

Many other people not mentioned had a big part in it. They helped me with bonus points, and assembling and erecting antennas. They helped me inside with the stations, and with making the food for our Sunday picnic. And, they helped me take down all of the antennas, so we could be out of there by 3pm. We have a well-oiled setup and takedown system, thanks to Al, **KØAD**, and all of his years of dedication.

THANK YOU to all who participated!!!

73 all,
de WBØN, Bert



How you can help... and build a legacy that reaches far into the future!

As you undoubtedly have read in the news, philanthropy is down considerably from years past, due to the current economic conditions, with no relief on the horizon. *Courage Center is forced by these circumstances to concentrate more of its remaining philanthropy on core services.* This means that programs such as ours are being funded less by Courage. We have cut staff hours and cut costs everywhere we can, but we need to build our Handiham endowment fund, and cover current costs in order to keep operating. The endowment fund helps keep our Handiham budget independent of the overall Courage Center budget. When you place the Handiham program in your estate plans or donate to build the endowment, you help make our services more secure far into the future.

For more information on how to include the Handiham program in your estate plan, contact Walt Seibert, **KDØLPX**, at 763-520-0532 or email: walt.seibert@couragecenter.org.

The Courage Handiham System is a program service of the non-profit Courage Center, a registered 501(c)(3) charity. Your gift will help people with disabilities enjoy the world of amateur radio. All gifts are formally acknowledged.



By mail - letters and gifts of monetary support:

Courage Handiham System
3915 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55422

Shipping address for gifts of ham radio equipment:

Handiham System
Camp Courage
8046 83rd St. NW
Maple Lake, MN 55358

Please make checks to "Courage Handiham System" or call toll-free: 1-866-426-3442 to donate via credit card, or go to: <http://www.handiham.org/node/270>.

"Thank you for your support! We really appreciate your help."

- Patrick Tice, **WAØTDA**, Handiham Manager

TCDXA Treasury Report

September 15, 2011

Submitted by TCDXA Secretary-Treasurer Gary Strong, **KOØQ**

Income:

Carryover from 2010	\$ 1,422.50
2011 dues collected	3,147.47
Donations & misc.	522.92
Door prize ticket sales	402.00
2012 dues collected	25.00
Cancelled DXpedition refunds	360.00
Non-member donations (estates, wills, etc.)	50.00
Total YTD income	\$ 5,929.89

Expenses YTD:

Bank service fees	\$ (3.00)
Website: ISP and domain	(67.69)
Office supplies, guest dinners, and misc.	(508.96)
MWA plaque	(75.00)
VU4PB DXpedition funding	(500.00)
T32C DXpedition funding	(250.00)
STØR DXpedition funding	(500.00)
4W6A DXpedition funding	(267.06)
Mini DXpedition funding	(100.00)
Member refund - dues overpayment	(25.00)
Total YTD expenses	\$ (2,296.71)

Current Checking Balance (2/18/2011):	\$ 3,633.18
PayPal balance	0.00
Cash on hand	0.00
Total current funds	\$ 3,633.18



VKØIR
ZL9CI
A52A
T33C
3B9C
TX9
CP6CW
3YØX
K7C
5A7A
VU4AN

K5D
VK9DWX
FT5GA
3D2ØCR
E4X
CYØ/NØTG
VP8ORK
VU4PB
STØR



K4M
TX3A
KMØO/9M6
YS4U
YI9PSE
ZL8X
4W6A
T32C

XU7MWA
S21EA
J2ØRR
J2ØMM
BS7H
N8S
3B7SP
3B7C
5JØA
VP6DX
TX5C
9XØR

TCDXA DX DONATION POLICY

The mission of TCDXA is to support major DXpeditions by providing funding. Annual contributions from TCDXA members are the major source of funding for this mission.

A funding request from the organizers of a planned DXpedition is directed to the TCDXA Donation Manager, Ron, NØAT, n0at@comcast.net, who makes an initial evaluation of the request, and discusses the attributes with the TCDXA Board of Directors. The request will be judged by how well DXpedition plans meet several key considerations (see below).

If the Board of Directors deems the DXpedition to be worthy of support, a recommended funding amount is presented to the membership for a vote. If approved, the TCDXA Treasurer will process the funding..

Key Considerations for a DXpedition Funding Request

DXpedition destination	Website with logos of contributing clubs
Ranking on <i>Most Wanted Survey</i>	QSLs with logos of contributing clubs
Most wanted ranking by TCDXA Members	Online logs/pilot stations
Logistics and transportation costs	Up front cost to each operator
Number of operators and their credentials	Support by NCDXF & other clubs
Number of stations on the air	LoTW log submissions
Bands, modes and duration of operation	Success of previous operations by same group
Equipment: antennas, radios, amps, etc.	Valid license and DXCC approval
Stateside and/or foreign QSL manager	Funding mode: USA and/or foreign financial address

To join TCDXA, go to <http://tcdxa.org/>.



- end -