

April 2006

KL7KC

Fairbanks, Alaska



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Tales of Working Peter I Island

The DXpedition

For 11 days in February, the 14 intrepid adventurer-operators of the 3Y0X DXpedition pounded out over 87,000 contacts from the Antarctic island known as Peter I. The logistics alone of such an effort are staggering, but imagine traveling half way across the planet to operate through the most challenging propagation and pileup conditions!

From this end, the challenges were many. Jerry Curry KL7EDK said, "I heard them....but 'PILE UP' doesn't even begin to describe it!!" Larry Ledlow N1TX confirmed the chaos on 30 meters in the early days of operation. Carl Horn WL7BDO added, "Never heard on SSB but did hear a very weak CW signal using a loop antenna on 10 MHz. But did not work this one."

A few lucky hams in Fairbanks did manage to add 3Y0X to their logs. Shelley Levine KL1SE succeeded with his modest station from North Pole.

KL7JM's Tale

Jim Movius KL7JM, of course, is a long-time DXer who's cracked some of the toughest pileups. He succeeded on multiple bands: "Worked 3Y0X on 30, and 40m CW, 15, 20, 40, and 80m SSB. Before you yell 'DX Hog!' be aware that the Qs were all one contact per band / mode. Also am 99% sure of a 17m CW Q, but it

does not appear in their web site log. They reported some garbled data transmission via Iridium phone, so will wait to see if it shows up, was a busted call or whatever.

"The 3Y0X ops all worked very hard and patiently to make good contacts even when the pileup behavior of some was less than exemplary. The 40m CW contact was the most challenging. I was not hearing others working him so had no idea where he was listening and eventually got him by QSYing about 200 Hz each time he stood by and finally transmitting on/near his listening frequency. On 80m SSB, he was working US call areas not in order, but I could hear everyone he was working and could track his listening frequencies, so when he stood by for 7s, I

was ready and made the first 7 contact. The band was long and the 7s in the 48 states were probably not able to track his listening frequencies. Most likely the 7s in the 48 heard me work him because a huge pileup touched off when he signed off with me.

"My brother Dave, W7KZO and I will be at the Visalia DX Convention in a few weeks and are looking forward to a presentation by the Peter the First Is. DXpedition crew."

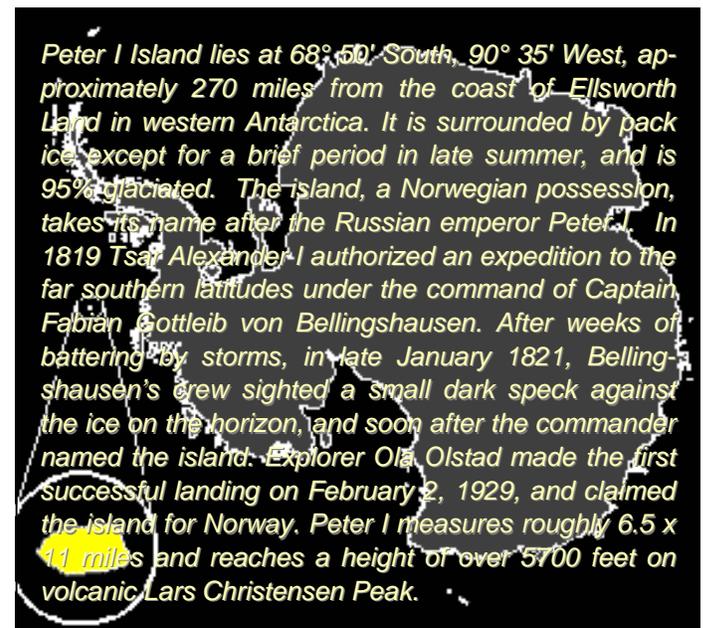
AL7KC Offers Tips

Mike Sambuco AL7KC was good enough to spread the word on his strategy to help others along. His experience and determination as a DXer paid off, and much of his in-

(Continued on page 2)

Plan Now for Frontier Days in Delta Junction

- This year the Delta Junction celebration will be held on Saturday May 27th.
- Wayne Santos N1CKM is coordinating the AARC presence. Ideas? Email n1ckm@arrl.net.





Way to go, gang!

(Peter I—Continued from page 1)

formation will be useful for newbies, too.

“Pretty good sigs here today [on 20m], and could hear L48 and SA stations calling, so it was fairly easy to track listening freq. Best time for us on 20M is between 3-5 pm local, best probably between 4-4:30.

“Ops are not all on same page as far as pileup mgmt and capability/knowledge. One guy on earlier was working by the numbers and only doing 1-5/8/9 (East Coast and Midwest) with a poor QSO rate and lots of 6/7 grumbling and fussing. (He did say he hadn't eaten and was going to have to QRT if not relieved, so he may have just been operating under diminished capacity.)

“Fortunately, N2WB arrived shortly before sigs peaked here, and new op ‘Wild Bill’ let everyone run head-to-head, split pileup (my preference) and got things cooking again. He was

listening over 10 kHz up using any productive listening freq, eventually increasing in freq.

“He also took time to listen up in general portion .240 for a while (a most benevolent gesture.) Didn't seem to have any certain number he's work before changing freqs, but would move occasionally. Spent most of the time on 14.200 and 14.210, though. Lots of people were wasting their time calling in the blind, and failing to listen to instructions when he asked people to spread out (typical; use it to your advantage. If he's asking, he's having trouble keeping up good rate due to too much congestion.)

“For those who aren't used to dealing with a big pileup, here's my suggestion: make it easy on the DXpedition operator. Don't make him have to dig you out of the mess. Go to him, where he's listening (do your homework, listen in the mess and find the person he's working. When you find his

listening freq, transmit there. Take it to him. That will cut out a lot of the clueless competition. When 75 people are calling on .205, but he's listening on .210, that helps your odds of success!) Still, with a big pile, you may have trouble getting through due to the sheer numbers, and the fact that in this situation, we're always weaker than most of the others who are closer and running full power.

“Try tail-ending... listen to his rhythm for a while and get a gauge on how long he listens, to know how many times you can call, then call towards the end. Or, listen to the others call until it begins to thin out, then call. That cuts out most of the big guns who are firing up front, trying to get by on signal strength alone. FYI, I put in about three to four hours listening since the operation started to bag them...”

The 3Y0X team's story can be read at www.peterone.com. #

Elmer Central; Questions & Answers

Q. I don't have time to sit at my radio day in and day out waiting for a long-distance opening on VHF. Is there an easier way to monitor DX conditions on six and two meters?

A. Of course! Whether you're not licensed for HF, or if you want to try something different, multi-mode, multi-band radios for VHF and UHF bring a lot of potential for fun. But it takes skill, patience, and BEING there for the openings.

If you happen to be near a computer with an internet con-

nection, one way to keep an eye on band conditions is to log into a DX Cluster. (See page 6. For example, try **SH/DX ON 6M** if you log into KL7G.) DX Summit at <http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs> has DX spots. You can also visit www.dxworld.com and check out their links to propagation loggers for V/UHF.

E-mail reflectors are a good way to see overall band conditions and to set up contact schedules. Two such reflectors are for 144 and 50 MHz enthusiasts. To subscribe send blank

message, along with blank SUBJECT line to 2meterham-subscribe@onelist.com and/or 6meterham-subscribe@onelist.com.

GoodDX.net has some interesting tools, including a way to sign up to receive aurora alerts or VHF band openings via text messages on your cell phone. Spaceweather.com goes one step farther by telephoning you and sending details by email during auroral activity, radio blackouts, and other interesting phenomena occur. Cost is \$4.95/month. #

GoodDX.net
has some
interesting
tools

“Odds” & Interesting Ends from Electronics

Liquid Metal Antenna

Galinstan is a metal alloy of gallium, indium, and tin which remains liquid at room temperature, typically freezing just below 0 degrees F. Its non-toxic nature makes it suitable for use in some applications as a substitute for sodium-potassium or mercury; e.g., thermometers.

Mike Lake KD8CIK has experimented with galinstan for antennas! The material's qualities, he says, inspired a subsequent novel antenna design. "I wanted the ideal antenna, one that would work its best on any frequency that I needed. Similar looking to an old fashioned mercury thermometer, I used air pressure to push a column of non-toxic liquid metal to the height I wanted out of a container. Electrical contact in the container turned the column of liquid metal into an adjustable antenna of any length that I desired!"

134 GHz DX Record Broken

Inveterate microwave enthusiast Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, says he's once again topped his own claimed world DX record on the 134-GHz band. On February 26, Justin, operating as WA1ZMS/4 in EM96ur, and Pete Lascell, W4WWQ, in FM07fm--both in Virginia--exchanged reports on FSK-CW (copied by ear) over a distance of 114.4 km (approximately 70.9 miles). That beats his previous world DX record of 79.6 km (approximately 49.35 miles) set in December.

SSTV on a Cordless Phone

Ken Beck WI7B has a novel use for inexpensive 900 MHz cordless phones. He purchased a VTech T2101 900 MHz cordless for \$14.95. Most 900 MHz cordless phones are analog and use wideband FM modulation. He downloaded and used Chroma Pix SSTV software, available free from <http://www.barberdsp.com/cpix/chroma.htm>.

The 900 MHz cordless phone handset was carefully modified with an audio cable and 3.5 mm plug to interface with the laptop's soundcard. Slow-scan TV transmissions were successful up to a mile away between the handset and a Yaesu FT7800 mobile radio!

Mental Typewriter

CeBIT, an annual tech conference in Germany, is mainly a consumer products show. The 2006 CeBIT held recently had some interesting developments on display. One was the "mental typewriter," a brain-to-computer interface, which translates thoughts into cursor movements on a computer screen. The user has 128 electrodes placed on their scalp, and the EEG-like signals are decoded by a software program to identify specific information, like the choosing of letters in order to compose words and sentences. The neural analysis is time-consuming. A typical sentence would take five to ten minutes to write, and the electrodes themselves take an hour to apply. Researchers hope to make it possible for people with severe disabilities such as extensive paralysis, to communicate through computers.

Stretching Silicon's Limits

Researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have developed a fully stretchable form of single-crystal silicon with micron-sized, wave-like geometries that can be used to build high-performance electronic devices on rubber substrates.

"Stretchable silicon offers different capabilities than can be achieved with standard silicon chips," said John Rogers, co-author of a paper appearing in the journal *Science* recently.

Functional, stretchable and bendable electronics could be used in applications such as sensors and drive electronics for integration into artificial muscles or biological tissues,

structural monitors wrapped around aircraft wings, and conformable skins for integrated robotic sensors.

Edison & The Electric Chair

As Edison and Westinghouse vied for dominance in the electrification of America during the late 19th century, there came an odd byproduct: the electric chair. Thomas Edison promoted a DC distribution system for electrical service, which required thick copper wires and numerous, closely-spaced DC generation systems to service even small towns. Resistance causes considerable loss, even over heavy gauge cable.

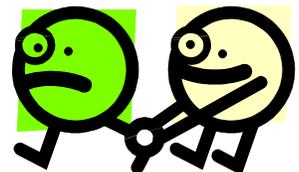
George Westinghouse countered the DC disadvantages with AC. Not to be outdone, Edison set out to demonstrate how dangerous AC could be. In 1887, he had staff set up demonstrations of AC electrocution using animals placed on a metal plate electrified with 1000 VAC. The press had a field day with tales of the dangers of alternating current.

On June 4, 1888, the New York Legislature passed a law establishing electrocution as the state's new official method of execution. The question of AC vs. DC was unresolved, and a committee was appointed to choose. Edison actively campaigned for the selection of the "Westinghouse chair" hoping that consumers would not want the same type of electrical service in their homes that was used for execution.

The head of the government committee selecting the electric chair was, in fact, paid by the Edison Company. For many years people referred to the process of being electrocuted in the chair as being "Westinghoused".

Westinghouse won the bigger prize, however. Edison's ideas and bribes failed to overcome the physical laws of DC!⚡

Stretchable silicon offers different capabilities than can be achieved with standard silicon chips.



Can you find the April Fool's joke?

What Will the Next Solar Cycle Bring?



According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Environmental Center, the next 11-year solar cycle should offer up significantly stronger storms than the one just subsiding. This could pose challenges for HF radio users, power grids, and satellite operators.

The stronger solar storms could start between 2006 and 2008, and they could peak around 2012. The last solar cycle peaked in 2001.

"We predict the next solar cycle will be 30 to 50 percent stronger than the last cycle," said Mausumi Dikpati, a solar scientist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado.

New techniques allow scientists predict the severity of the next cycle with greater accuracy. In particular, a method known as "helioseismology"

allows researchers to detect activity inside the sun by tracing sound waves reverberating inside Old Sol. The result is a "picture" of the interior like ultrasound creates an image of an unborn baby.

Solar storms are linked to twisted magnetic fields in the sun that suddenly snap and release tremendous amounts of charged particles and electromagnetic radiation into the solar system, often directed towards Earth. The storms can disrupt satellite communications, cause power outages, and expose astronauts to dangerous levels of radiation.

According to Richard Behnke, director of upper atmosphere research with the National Science Foundation, "This prediction of an active solar cycle suggests we are potentially looking at more communication and navigation disruptions, more satellite failures,

possible disruption of electric grids and blackouts, more dangerous conditions for astronauts—all these things."

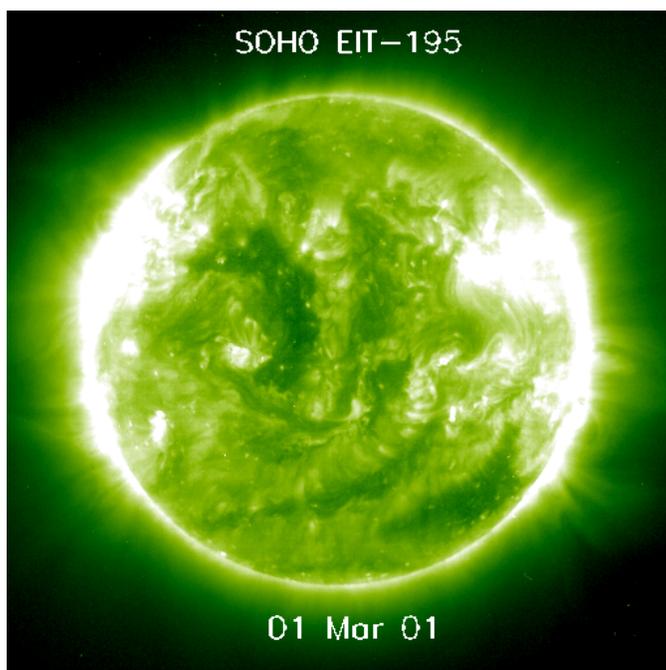
The new forecast draws on new understanding of how plasma currents in the sun's interior generate sunspots and the related solar storms. These plasma flows transport, concentrate, and help spread out solar magnetic fields.

Two major plasma flows govern the 11-year sunspot cycle. The first, known as the meridional flow pattern, circulates between the sun's equator and its poles over a period of 17 to 22 years and acts like a conveyor belt of sunspots.

The second flow results from the sun rotating faster at the equator than it does near the poles. This periodically concentrates the solar magnetic field at the equator, leading to peaks in solar storm activity.

If the space scientists' predictions are correct, the next cycle should begin in late 2007 or early 2008, which is about 6 to 12 months later than the cycle would normally start. The model shows the plasma circulation has slowed down during the current cycle.

Not all scientists agree on the timing, but there is general agreement of the end result. According to one team's analysis of past solar cycles, intense cycles are preceded by shorter cycles. This would suggest that the next cycle will start by the end of this year or early next year. It should be interesting for DX! ☼



"This prediction... suggests we are potentially looking at more communication and navigation disruptions..."

“If You Can’t Hear ‘Em, You Can’t Work ‘Em”

While a ham truism, the point really takes on a new meaning on the low bands; i.e., 40, 80, and 160 meters. Let’s face it. DXing on these frequencies is weak-signal work. Noise can quickly overwhelm the faint sounds on the low bands. A good receiving system can make all the difference to your success. Your window or G5RV may get a good signal out, but you’re not likely receiving as well as you could with a noise-reducing antenna. That’s because transmitting and receiving antennas have different requirements. For transmit, you want to send maximum power in the direction of interest. On receive, you want to *hear* the best signal possible, which may involve a combination of relatively weak signal from the station but much reduced noise on it when the sources are placed in the null of the receive pattern.

John Devoldere ON4UN is perhaps the best known DXer on 160 meters. His book *Low Band DXing* (available from the ARRL Bookstore) captures a lifetime of experience and then some, not the least of which is a 100-page discussion of suitable receiving antennas. Those interested in hearing medium- and shortwave broadcast stations can find some useful ideas in his book, too.

A key principle to consider is that gain and directivity are not the same. They’re related, of course. Directivity is the tendency for an antenna to favor signals in a particular direction. Antenna gain is determined by

directivity and electrical efficiency. A highly directive antenna can be very inefficient (even negative gain) and provide better receive characteristics than a high-gain antenna.

Noise sources are man-made or natural, and each tends to have its own time and amplitude characteristics; e.g., a buzzing street light versus lightning crashes. Noise blanking and DSP noise-reduction circuits in your receiver can significantly improve reception by attenuating various types of interference within certain limits. These tools can work much better, however, if the antenna design drops noise levels before reaching the radio’s front-end.

Harold Beverage W2BML invented his namesake antenna in 1921. The Beverage, also called a “wave antenna”, consists of a wire one to four wavelengths long placed near (<15 feet) the earth and terminated at the end with maximum directivity. The design has been adapted to include switchable directivity and other

characteristics. There are many variations. If you have some real estate or friendly neighbors, a Beverage or variant could be the antenna for you! W8JI has some excellent practical advice on constructing beverages, including parts selection, at his web site <http://www.w8ji.com/beverage.htm>.

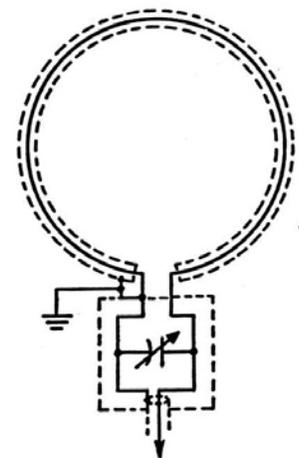
Loop antennas are very good options for those who desire a steerable pattern and/or are limited to city lots for their “antenna farm”. One such popular design in DX circles is by Gary Breed K9AY. Strictly speaking it, is type of “elongated, terminated loop.” It requires a single center support about 25-40 feet high and roughly 30 feet horizontal distance.

A good pre-amplifier coupled to your low-noise antenna will help audibility on the low bands, especially with loops. You can find pre-amps, antenna kits, switches, and accessories at www.dx-engineering.com and www.arrayolutions.com. ☺

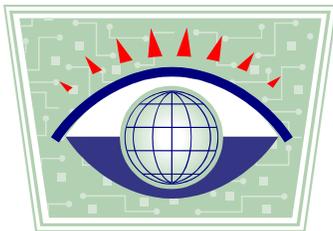
“A highly directive antenna can be very inefficient (even negative gain) and provide better receive characteristics than a high-gain antenna.”

Small Loop Antennas

Small loop antennas range from .05 to .10 wavelength in circumference and have bidirectional nulls perpendicular to the plane of the loop. In addition to its suitability for city dwellers, this antenna’s main advantage is that it packs a lot of low-angle directivity into a small size. Nulling out many urban noise sources becomes easier while maintaining good medium- to high-angle skywave reception. They can be made with multiple turns of wire or coaxial cable coiled around a wooden or PVC frame. Visit W6NF’s website for coaxial loop design details: <http://www.greertech.com/hfloop/mymagloop.html> ☺



DX Cluster: Eyes and Ears Everywhere at Once



Whether you're a newcomer to chasing DX or an old hand looking for country 300 to the log, one of the most effective tools available is the DX Cluster. By keeping an eye on what other stations are working or hearing, you can quickly jump into the fray and try to snag a new one.

In packet radio jargon, a "cluster" refers to a multi-user network connected through a central node that permits broadcasts as well as user-to-user messaging. Add DXers and the Internet to the mix, and you have a truly worldwide spotting network. Developed by Dick Newell, AK1A, during the late 1980's the PacketCluster™ software became the most popular and exciting way for ham radio operators interested in DXing to exchange related information.

While PacketCluster remains widely used, other "flavors" of the software have been developed to meet a variety of needs. The most common server programs used by include DXSpider, Clusse, CLX, and AR-Cluster.

The Internet has greatly augmented the way a DX Cluster network operates. Amateur radio stations are popping up worldwide running DX Cluster software, connecting to one another via the Internet using the telnet protocol, to collect DX spots, talk messages, announcements, and mail messages.

When you first log into a DX Cluster, you will be required to enter some basic information like your callsign and location (see sidebar). You also want to give some thought to tailoring the information you wish to view on the cluster, or else you can be quickly overwhelmed. Left unfiltered, dozens of DX

reports will scroll past your screen each minute. You may be looking for a particular country on a specific band or mode, or perhaps you just want to do a quick check of propagation conditions on one band. While most common commands are the same from cluster to cluster, some do depend on the software version used by the mode.

You can access a huge list of DX Cluster servers at <http://www.dxcluster.info>. Alaskan hams should check out the KL7G DX Cluster sponsored by the South Central ARC. It runs the DXSpider server. Review the manual before connecting! If you're in the Anchorage-MatSu area, you can connect to the server on packet frequency 145.03 MHz. Otherwise, point your web browser to <http://www.kl7g.org/dxcluster.htm> and click on the link. Alternatively, you can telnet directly to IP address 24.237.4.235 port 8000.

A standalone telnet program very popular with hams is DX Telnet written by Fabrizio Sartoni IK4VYX. This is no ordinary telnet program, but rather one with special features for DX hounds. For more details, read the Nov. 2000 *QST* review: <http://www.geocities.com/onlydx/qst.pdf>. ARCTelnet and iCluster (Mac) are other clients designed with the Dixer in mind.

Most logging software integrate capabilities to connect to a local packet radio DX cluster using your TNC or to telnet into a DX Cluster via the Internet. If your radio has PC control, software with DX Cluster support can immediately change frequency to the station of interest with a click of the mouse.

DX "purists" may balk at using modern tools in the game, but see who makes Honor Roll first! Good luck and best DX. ☺

Getting Started on the KL7G DX Cluster

Log in with your call. To enter your name, type SET/NAME [name]

Example = SET/NAME Bill

To enter your location, type SET/QTH [qth]

Example = SET/QTH Nenana, AK

To use the features which give the DX station heading and sunrise-sunset times, you need to enter your latitude and longitude. Enter for example,

SET/LOCATION 64 33 N 149 04 W

To verify the information entered, type in SHOW/STATION [yourcall],

Example = SHOW/STATION KL7SF

To display DX spots that have been sent, type SHOW/DX 5 to list the last five DX announcements. If you're interested in one band, say, 15 meters, type SHOW/DX ON 15M.

To list spots for a particular call, type SHOW/DX [call]

Example = SHOW/DX P40A

To send a DX announcement, the format is: DX [freq in KHZ] [call] [comment-optional]. Suppose you hear CO8AB on 14077.3.

Example = DX 14077.3 CO8AB

**"Alaskan hams
should check
out the KL7G
DX Cluster ..."**

Ladder Line to Eternity: Episode II

By Eric Nichols KL7AJ

Floyd Franklin Furter couldn't believe his good fortune. As he sat across the grimy table from Jeeves, in the bilge of the *Rainbow Sea Cucumber*, he scrutinized the old butler's face. Here was the real man...the man of legend. In the flickering glow of the swaying kerosene lamp, the patriarch didn't look a great deal older than the man in the *QSTs* Furter had grown up with.

"So, what's the deal, Mr. Jeeves?" Frank ventured. "Who was that little twerp who was making you do all the work while he sat around chasing DX? Why did we never see the guy? Did you have some kind of 'alternate lifestyle' arrangement with him?"

Jeeves leaned back in his rickety chair and laughed, his voice echoing off curved steel walls of the RSC.

"Not unless you can have an 'alternate lifestyle' with a computer!"

Furter pondered silently for a moment, as the truth sank in. "You mean...they had voice recognition computers back in the 30s?!" he blurted.

Jeeves laughed again. "You don't know the half of it! All that obsolete technology we tried to pass off in *QST* as cutting edge? Forget it...that was just a decoy to take everyone's mind off what they were REALLY doing at ARRL! Heck, the entire staff of W1AW is really a bunch of clones! Hollingsworth? He's actually got Hiram Percy Maxim's brain in his skull. Old "Percy-Poo" was the first man to have himself cryogenically preserved.

Furter felt the blood drain from his head. "You won't have to shoot me after you've told me this, will you...Mr...sir...Jeeves?"

Jeeves pounded the table in mirth. "Nah. It's actually really great to get this off my chest...to come out of the closet. Come out of the closet! Hah! That's a hoot!"

It was deathly quiet in the RSC beneath the Bermuda triangle. Jeeves put the sub on autopilot and turned to face his benefactor. "I must confess, it's good to get back in the proverbial saddle again, Mr. Furter."

A wry smile tugged at corner of Furter's mouth. "I have to admit, we all thought you'd retired, or DIED ages ago. You seem to be in pretty good shape for an old...I mean...seasoned gentleman.

Jeeves laughed melodiously. "'Old' doesn't even scratch the surface, my good man! Heck, 'prehistoric' barely does me justice. When I said everyone at ARRL was a clone, I didn't exclude yours truly!"

Furter rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "You know, Mr. Jeeves...this really is a rare privilege for me. Just to be in your company. So many things I'd like to ask...if we only had the time."

Jeeves opened his hands expansively toward the porthole. "My friend...from the looks of it, all we have here is time and the deep blue sea. Ask away..."

Furter wasn't going to let such a rare opportunity slip away. "Well...to start with. At ARRL. What *were* they working on while they were hawking boat anchors and vacuum tubes and ladder line...you only hinted at

something..."

Jeeves looked thoughtful. "Yes, yes. Well, you might have heard about this big debate that we had going about King Spark vs. CW. Mercy me...you should have been there! The fights we had then made today's code no-code debate look like Ozzie and Harriet arguing over curtains. You *do* know who Ozzie and Harriet were."

Furter laughed. "I may not be a clone, but I wasn't born yesterday!"

"Yes. Well, we started this big spark vs. CW debate to take everyone's attention from the real issue. You can certainly guess what that was."

Furter furrowed his brow. "I imagine it was 200 meters, if I read my history well."

Jeeves laughed so hard Furter thought the porthole glass would shatter. The old butler's face turned beet-red, and tears coursed down his cheeks. When he finally recovered enough to speak, he said, "You're kidding, right?"

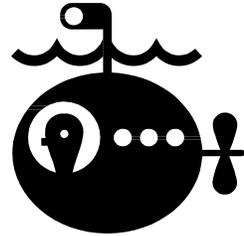
"Uh...no...I'm sure I read about 200 meters being a real issue back then..."

Jeeves roared with mirth. "No, my good man! It was BPL! I say, we REALLY did a job on you folks didn't we!"

Furter sputtered. "B-B-B-P-L...??"

"Of course, BPL! The Old Man himself came up with that idea back in 1915. What did you think BPL meant...Brass Pounders League?!"

"Well...er...um...actually...I guess I *did*," Frank sputtered. "I guess I have a lot to learn." *To be continued... #*



"Jeeves put the sub on autopilot and turned to face his benefactor..."

"Heck, the entire staff of W1AW is really a bunch of clones!"

"[T]he 3Y0X QSO will elevate W1BIH into a tie for second place in the DXCC standings at 390 entities..."

DX Still King for 90-Year-Old Radio Amateur

[From *The ARRL Letter* Vol. 25, No. 10 March 10, 2006]

Veteran DXer and contester John Thompson, W1BIH, has been largely out of the game since disposing of his tower, antennas and linear and moving into a retirement community in Massachusetts last year. But the DXCC Honor Roll member held onto his transceiver and his desire to work the few rare ones he lacked. When the 3Y0X Peter I DXpedition got under way in February, Don Greenbaum, N1DG,

did his older friend a good turn by taking Thompson to his station February 9 for a crack at 3Y0X. During the last two Peter I Island DXpeditions, Thompson was at his winter home, PJ9JT, so Peter I has been among his most wanted. It only took about 30 minutes for W1BIH to make himself heard through the fray on 15-meter SSB and exchange reports. "We got him!" Thompson exclaimed seconds after the quick QSO. Greenbaum captured the occasion on video

<http://005d89a.netsolhost.com/videos/videos/w1bih.wmv>.

Once confirmed and submitted to DXCC, the 3Y0X QSO will elevate W1BIH into a tie for second place in the DXCC standings at 390 entities--including deleted entities--or 335 current entities. W1BIH subsequently worked 3Y0X from his retirement community station on 20-meter CW while running 100 W into a G5RV strung from his window some 20 feet above ground. #

CURACAO
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

W1BIH/PJ2

W1BIH SINCE 1930 ex-PJ9JT ARRL AMSAT QCWA FCC

QSO WITH	DATE	GMT	MHZ.	RST	Z-WAY
H44PT	MAR. 22, '82	0158	58	57	SSB

MY BEST DX FOR PJ2
USING 10 WATTS
TNX QSL 73
PSE *John*

JOHN H. THOMPSON
P.O. BOX 1
TORRINGTON, CT. 06790

John Thompson W1BIH was active for many years from Curaçao as a contester and added his call to the logs and DXCC awards of countless hams. His accomplishments are legendary. You can send congratulations to him at The Inn at Silver Lake, 21 Chipman Way-Apt. 128, PO BOX 1, Kingston MA 02364.

Some Thoughts About 25 Years in the Game

By Larry Ledlow N1TX

A few weeks ago I received my Quarter Century Wireless Association membership certificate in the mail. I have to admit some mixed feelings. After all, I've never thought of doing anything for 25 years.

I remember very well the night classes in the old army barracks back in the early spring of 1981. We made code oscillators using junk parts and a schematic traced out on index

cards. The electronics was easy. I hated code practice, and then one evening it suddenly clicked. I fell in love with CW, and I passed my Novice.

In those days, weeks could pass before the postman would deliver the license. The wait seemed interminable. Finally it arrived: KA3HIY! After a few trips to the FCC office in Baltimore over the next year, I finally landed my Extra and call-sign NA5E.

So here I sit, a true Old Timer by some measures and still a youngster by others, really somewhere in between, thinking about my ham "career" after this long. My goodness, how things have changed. And yet, they really haven't. Ham radio still offers many challenges, unique opportunities to serve, and above all enriching fellowship.

I sure look forward to the next twenty five years as a ham! #



WG4Y Sets Example for Young Hams

[From *Amateur Radio Newslines*.]

At age 12, Rebekah Dorff, WG4Y, of Hoover, Alabama, is proof positive that being young is no liability when striving toward success. She entered ham radio in 2001 at age 8. A year later she had already upgraded to Extra and was awarded a plaque by the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club celebrating her becoming (to the club's knowledge) the youngest Extra ever in the state of Alabama and, possibly, the entire South. Now, she was named the 20th recipient of the Amateur Radio Newslines™ Young Ham of the Year Award in 2005.

Rebekah comes from an almost all-ham family. Her father is Truman Williams Jr., NN4C; her mother Angela Williams, WN4C, and older

sister Christal holds the call KG4WYN. Her two non-ham siblings are her brothers Jeffrey and Joey. She is currently a 6th grader at the Homeland Christian School, where she has already achieved Honor Roll standing along with many awards for Citizenship.

Among Rebekah's numerous ham radio related accomplishments was her involvement in a toy drive for the Alabama victims of Hurricane Ivan. Rebekah not only received donations of toys, she also raised over \$1100, which she used to purchase winter clothing and additional toys, all of which she delivered to those in the City of Mobile who were most in need.

Rebekah serves as the Net control station for the Birmingham Amateur Radio

Club's weekly BARC Kids Net that she originated in 2002. She also assists in teaching duties with the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club's "Technician Class" well as at license exam sessions. Mayor Loretta Spencer to discuss Amateur Radio related issues.

As an avid DX'er, Rebekah achieved DXCC by age 10. She also enjoys contesting and has participated in the Alabama QSO Party, in which she won first place in the "multi-operator" category. Other contests in which she has taken part include the ARRL160m Contest, CQ World Wide WPX Contest and the CQ World Wide DX Contest. Two other major operating events in which Rebekah is a regular are Kids' Day and ARRL Field Day. #



WG4Y demonstrates the power of ham radio when combined with the strength and enthusiasm of youth.

Estranged Twins Achieve 24 GHz Records 5000 Miles Apart

When Hans Gsbeck HB9FDC of Bern, Switzerland, opened a recent copy of *Microwave Contester*, he received quite a surprise. On page 4 there was a photo of him standing atop a mountain pass with his familiar dishes and transverters. The caption read, "Swiss ham captures 24 GHz world distance record from Mount Morrumbala, Mozambique."

There was just one problem: Hans had never been to Mozambique! In fact, he had not yet submitted paperwork to the Swiss Microwave Radio Society (SMRS) to document his recent achievement of working a German station on 24 GHz over a 426 km path.

In efficient Swiss manner, Hans immediately rang SMRS

to correct the apparent typographical error. However, the editor offered only more surprises instead of apologies. The ham in the photo, she insisted, was Bernhardt Heitmann HB9TER. According to the documents in hand, he worked for the United Nations in Africa and had achieved the distance record July 9, 2005, only two weeks before Hans had made his own attempt from the Alps!

Hans took down the contact information for HB9TER and fired off several emails in an attempt to understand how his photo could have been confused with Bernhardt's.

Several days later the Bern ham's telephone rang, and a familiar voice sounded forth.

"Dearest brother!" Bernhardt exclaimed, "How long I have hoped to find you!!!" Hans was stunned and even more confused.

Within minutes the fog began to clear. It seems Hans and Bernhardt, identical twins, had been given up at birth 42 years earlier for adoption by separate families. Unfortunately for Hans, his adoptive parents had not shared this fact with him, but Bernhardt had known the details since a teenager. They spoke for over three hours and found incredible parallels in their lives, not just ham radio.

The phone call led to a happy reunion six weeks later. "We are inseparable," said Hans, "even by distance." They have weekly contact on HF. #

Several days later the Bern ham's telephone rang, and a familiar voice sounded forth.

Arctic Amateur Radio Club

Membership \$20 individual, \$25 family. Send checks to
AARC
PO Box 81804
Fairbanks, AK 99708
Phone: 907-479-5203
E-mail: bennie@qci.net

Visit www.kl7kc.com for the
latest club news and events!

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BOARD BITS! The March board meeting re-capped Yukon Quest. Linda AD4BL discussed need to complete assembly of emergency kits and planned work party. Hamfest 2006 was supported by vote, Jim KL7JM to take lead on venue. Weather service HF antenna needs work party ASAP. Contact KL7JM. Frontier Days and Field Day are upcoming KL7KC special events for early summer. Elections committee ID'd some potentials. #

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2006 Hamfest

Listening to your suggestions and feedback, in March the AARC Board voted to pursue a swap meet and social gathering in late September to mid-October. Details on venue and date will follow soon. Thanks for your ideas.

Discussions are under way between various Alaska radio clubs, including AARC, about a Statewide hamfest in 2007 or 2008 to be held in Anchorage. Standby!

Calendar of Events

Apr 1: License exams, Noel Wien Library 1 PM. Contact NL7XH.

Apr 4-6: DX YL to North American YL Contest -- CW, sponsored by YLRL from 1400Z Apr 4-0200Z Apr 6. www.ylrl.org.

Apr 7: Club meeting UAF IARC @ 7 PM. Pre-meeting starts at 6 PM.

Apr 13: AARC Board meeting. Airport Way Denny's 7 PM.

May 5: Club meeting UAF IARC @ 7 PM. Pre-meeting starts at 6 PM.

May 6: License exams, Noel Wien Library 1 PM. Contact NL7XH.

May 27: Frontier Days, Delta Junction. Contact N1CKM.

**NO CLUB MEETINGS
June, July, and August.**

June 3: License exams, Noel Wien Library 1 PM. Contact NL7XH.

June 8: ARRL Board meeting 7 PM. Location TBD.

June 24-25: ARRL Field Day. Join KL7KC for fun! Contact N1TX.

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

Apr 9-Apr 15, 1330Z-2100Z, Indian Orchard, MA. Titanic Historical Society, W1MGY. 94th Anniversary of the Titanic voyage. 14.260 14.033 7.260 7.033. Certificate. www.hcra.org/titanic.htm.

Apr 9-Apr 15, 1700Z-2400Z, Cape Canaveral, FL. Titusville and North Brevard Amateur Radio Clubs, N4S. 25th Silver Anniversary of America's First Space Shuttle Launch, from Kennedy Space Center. 21.350 18.150 14.250 7.250. www.northbrevardradioclub.org.