

Printed Circuit

Joplin Hamfest 2003—August 25 & 26—Contact Jim Scott to Volunteer!

2006.08

FIELD DAY: WE'RE 3A MO!

The Club held Field Day at Dover Hill this year. We had ten participants and worked all HF bands, except 160 meters, and made some 6 meter contacts.

We used a 2 wave long sky loop antenna for 80 meters. The antenna was oriented in an east-west direction. Jim Scott, WB0IYC, reported that it had good reception of both coasts. The problem, Jim explained, was the difficulty in working a station on one coast if a station (on the opposite coast) was on the exact frequency *and* both coastal stations could

not hear each other.

While we operated mostly voice, John Tudenham, WOJRP, and Dale Skaggs of Carthage, WDOGKC, worked CW.

Table 1 lists the bonus points that we claimed, and Table 2 gives the point summary by mode, along with multiplier. Table 3 (Page 4) lists QSO breakdown by mode and band. Overall, we had a



Jay Rupar, KOETC, and Bunny drop by for a visit.

lot of fun and got to visit with some whom we hardly see.

Editor's Note: I'd like to thank Ray Brown, KBOSTN

and Vice-President, for sharing the Field Day statistics. I also appreciate Martin Matarazzo, WD6FIC and President, for sharing his photos with the newsletter. ❖



From left to right, Mark Mitchelson, N0ZPD; Dave Ferguson, N0KMP; and Gene Robinson, KG5PW, during setup. The antenna feedline is barely visible.

Table 1: Bonus Points Claimed

Bonus	Points
Emergency Pwr.	300
Media Announcement	100
Public Location	100
Information Booth	100
Web Submission	50
Total Bonus Claimed	650

Table 2: Point Summary

	CW	Phone
Totl QSOs	140	343
Multiplier	2	1
Totl Points	280	343
Total 2X (pwr)	560	686
Grand Total	1246	

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TIPS AND TRICKS TO ENJOY 6 METERS

JOHN TUDENHAM, WOJRP

This month, I'll share some ways to get those QSL cards and earn some exciting awards on 6 meters. Given southwest Missouri's location, obtaining awards on this band is a *real* challenge.

Before going into QSL procedures, I cannot overemphasize the importance of grid squares in 6 meter reports.

A grid square is your location in latitude and longitude expressed in 4 digits. For example, 30-40 degrees north and 80-100 degrees west is the EM grid (field). Each field is further divided into 1x2 squares; for example, 37-38N and 92-94W is EM27 and where Joplin is located. There are 2 more digits seldom used that determines your almost exact location in minutes. This is more critical in microwave contacts, though. I am in EM27RB, and downtown Joplin is EM27RC. During a QSO from home, I'd send "EM27" on CW and say "Echo Mike Two Seven" on voice. Contrary to "popular" operation, use the international phonetic alphabet. "Popular" doesn't mean "proper."

Another advantage of grid locators is knowing where to point your beam. Remember 6 meter contacts are often brief. What if you hear that "rare" station in Booker, Texas, and the band acts like it's going to close? Having a grid square map and hearing the station give a "DM96" to another QSO tells you *exactly* where to point your beam. Texas is so large that it's impossible to know where *every* location is for accurate beam headings.

Now, let's talk about "rare" grids. In the VHF and UHF world, rare refers to a grid that few operators either live in or *operate* on these bands. The great irony here is finding operators in these locations who work VHF. The Texas Panhandle and counties throughout the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains offer some rare opportunities to get grid

squares confirmed. In fact, many hams go out on grid expeditions to provide these rare contacts. When you get up to 600 grids like me, you will find new ones very hard to find. Some stations operating maritime have provided many water grids that have no land area at all—from over the world.

Many hams that need your grid will want your QSL card. Be sure to mark your grid on it if it is not already printed on your card. It is usually a good policy to enclose a SASE, if *you* are requesting a card. Many hams will not return a card without an SASE; this is especially true if it's a rare grid. Keep a grid map on the wall, and mark the grid when you get it confirmed. When you get 100, you may apply for the ARRL VHF Century club award. This and the Worked All States are two good starting points. For those wanting to earn the DXCC, QSL bureaus are a must, especially since some foreign stations *prefer* the bureau (AKA buro). The ARRL and FISTS (for CW) operate bureos. Plus, WF5E in Midland, Texas, offers a QSL forwarding service for a modest fee.

Look for 6 meter nets, and ask those whom you meet on air how they reel in the contacts. The ARRL VHF Sweepstakes, November Sweepstakes, and CQ contests offer great opportunities. Just make certain that you read the appropriate rules and give the proper exchange for the event.

Don't be discouraged; try working a 100 grids on 6 meters or even 2 meters. Hang in there, and you will *earn* a nice piece of wallpaper, which will make you proud. I have 6 meter VUCC #73, 2 meter VUCC #125, 222 VUCC #68, and 432 VUCC #82. Actually, you only need 50 squares on 222 and 432Mhz.

I hope you've enjoyed this series. I hope to hear about *you* earning your wallpaper soon!❖

SECRETARY'S REPORT

MARK MITCHELSON, NOZPD

The meeting was called to order by president Martin Matarazzo at 7:07 p.m.

Members present included Martin, Ray Brown, Andy Gabbert, John Tudenham, Susan Matarazzo, Bill Reynolds, Jim Scott, Wayne Graham, and Larry Sparks.

The financial report was approved with a minor change. Martin made the motion, and Ray seconded it

No minutes were read.

Andy reported on the storms (all minor) and informed us that Nancy Brown stepped down as executive director of the Red Cross due to health.

The condition of Letha's equipment was discussed (mostly between Martin and Jim Scott.

A motion was passed to revise the clubs flyer. Andy made the motion John seconded it.

The meeting concluded with a mailing party to prepare 200 club pockets for the hamfest. The tickets will start at 2001.❖

Editor's Note: There is no Treasurer's Report in this edition.

EDITORIAL POLICY

- 1 Articles are due the first Monday by 4:00PM.
- 2 Submissions may be handwritten, typed, or emailed.
- 3 Readers are welcomed to comment but should focus on the article.
- 4 Buy-Sell-Trade items may be posted for no fee.

All articles are subject to editing.❖

EVEN DXPEDITIONS CAN BE A FAMILY AFFAIR

PARKE SLATER, N4KFT
ARRL Website

Radio and family need not be mutually exclusive. When you can turn a DXpedition into a combination of radio and family vacation, you might just have your non-ham spouse saying, "Let's do it again!"

A familiar sight? Most spouses don't share their ham-husband's appreciation of radio, especially when it competes with home projects.

Shirley's Bed and Breakfast -- Not exactly a hardship; comfortable accommodations, a relaxed atmosphere, and dining room breakfasts with friends can go a long way to convincing most non-ham spouses to support a radio weekend.

Even the most hard-core ham can appreciate nature's beauty. Taking time to enjoy a sunset with those in your household can make the next excursion something that everyone will eagerly anticipate.

When you bring family and friends, along with the radio gear, it lets you get to know each other a bit better.

With the water tower and microwave tower the island's most prominent features, the quaint township can be toured on foot in less than an hour.

There is one signal that can penetrate the worst solar indices the sun can dish out. Sitting in the shack for hours listening for that rare DX with an A-index in the double digits, the static in the headphones is disrupted. It's faint..., yet familiar. It's.... it's.... the wife.

"QRZ?" Nope. I know who is calling me. The trash is calling me. The yard work is calling me. My non-licensed wife is calling me.

For most male hams, there is but one operator in the household. My idea of fun vastly differ; I, for one, have trouble

picturing my wife having "fun" dangling from a 65-foot tower with a mouth full of lock washers and 9/16 nuts while wrestling a tri-bander into position.

What if there was a way to "marry" a radio vacation and a traditional vacation? Imagine hearing her say, "Honey, I really enjoyed that weekend when you worked the radio. Can we do it again sometime?"

It's Not a Dream!

Sound like a dream? Not necessarily. Call it thoughtful on my part. Call it romantic. Okay -- call it conniving. The truth is, when someone says "island," I think Islands of the World (IOTA). Say "island" to my wife, and she thinks beaches, waves, sunsets and room service in a resort hotel.

Who says those visions must be mutually exclusive? In spring 2004, the Virginia-based Dominion DX Group (DDXG) set out to prove they are not.

Wanting to combine a ham radio event with friends and family, minus the visions of wind-blown tents perched on the likes of Kingman Reef, the club opted for an IOTA event on Virginia's Chesapeake Bay. No generators. No KP duty. No hardships. No nagging spouse. The fact that many of the club's members still have recurring nightmares about a 2001 radio weekend where mosquitoes, thunderstorms, and lightning kept them in their tents much of the time may have also come into play. That event, although high profile, taxed even the heartiest team members and ended with an abrupt Coast Guard evacuation.

"DXpedition Lite"

Call it DXpedition-lite if you will. But how many of us really have the luxury of time and resources to travel to a remote rock for three or more weeks? While

stories of sub-zero temperatures, dangerous boat landings and erecting vertical antennas in an ocean of sea lion poop make it real DX for some of us, such would be the first, last and only trip for a non-ham spouse. The bottom line for the DDXG was the knowledge that island-chasers worldwide won't pass up a chance to bag another entity, even if it's not at the top of the "most wanted" list. At the same time, the goal was but a few hours (and a car, boat and golf cart) away.

What drew in the wives? "Honey? Some of the guys in the club were talking about chartering a boat and taking a ride to Tangier Island one weekend and working a little radio. What do you say we all go and stay at a bed and breakfast? I've left the Web site of the B-and-B up on the computer for you to see."

The pre-tourist season visit to Tangier Island (NA-083) was more like an assault. Taking over all nine cottages at Shirley's Bed and Breakfast late Friday afternoon, the wives unpacked clothes while the husbands set up antennas. Club member and pilot Warren Mitchell, KO4XB, arrived late, flying in with two other operators. Operating three stations Friday night and Saturday on 10-80 meters, the group managed to make almost 900 contacts via CW, PSK and phone, despite some dicey band conditions.

What else happened? Books were read. Beaches and shops were explored. Local cuisine was experienced and mid-afternoon naps were taken. Time was spent with spouses and friends. It may be "DXpedition-lite," but my wife is ready to return, even if there were no sea lions.

Quality Time With (and Without) the Radio

(Continued on page 4)

WOIN FIELD DAY

HAMFESTS

20 August 2006. Saint Charles, MO. St. Charles Hamfest, American Legion Post 312, 2500 Raymond Drive Street. St. Charles ARC. Talk-In: 146.67. Contact: Lee Hilliard, KOMMT, PO Box 658, St. Charles, MO 63302. Phone: 636-734-3292. Email: lee.e.hilliard@netzero.com

20 August 2006. Salina, KS. Kansas State Convention, Salina Bicentennial Center, 800 The Midway. Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club. Talk-In: 147.030+ and 443.900+. Contact: Ronald Tremblay, WAOPSF, 112 North Douglas Drive, Salina, KS 67401. Phone: 785-827-8149. Email: rtremblay@cox.net

25-26 August 2006. Joplin, MO. JARC Hamfest 2006, Hammons Center. Joplin Amateur Radio Club. Talk-In: 147.210+. Contact: Jim Johannes, N0ZSQ, PO Box 2983, Joplin, MO 64803-2983. Phone: 417-781-2211. Fax: 417-781-2234. Email: jimjohannes@sbcglobal.net❖

DX & FAMILY AFFAIR

(Continued from page 3)

Perhaps there is a point of radio interest near you where you can enjoy the benefits of family and ham radio. For some reason, it seems we too often focus on radio and neglect those opportunities that can involve the whole family. I may not be setting a record, but I am racking up some valuable points in the Logbook of My Home.

Look around. It may not be number two on the "most wanted" list, but the pile-up may be only a few hours and a weekend away. And your family may want to go back again. ❖



Mark, Dave, and John taking a breather during setup. Gene is behind John. In the background, Martin Matarazzo, WD6FIC, helps set up another antenna.



Rob George (right), W0TTM, and Mary Ann Phillips (Jim Scott's XYL) at one our HF rigs.

Table 3: QSOs by band/mode

Band	CW	Phone
80M		129
40M	21	99
20M	54	62
15M	63	29
10M	2	9
6M		15
Total	140	343



Ready, Set....Bill Reynolds, N6HXI, (left) giving John (middle) dupe sheets. Mark (right) is the logger.



And they're off! John (left) is getting the QSOs, while Mark records them.

August

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<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 5:30PM—Pizza Night	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 9:00AM Breakfast— Granny Shaffer's
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 6:30PM—VE Testing 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	<i>8</i> 7:00PM—Club Meeting	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 5:30PM—Pizza Night	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 9:00AM Breakfast— Granny Shaffer's
<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 5:30PM—Pizza Night	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 9:00AM Breakfast— Granny Shaffer's VE Testing—Neosho Preregistration only
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	<i>22</i> 7:00PM—Club Meeting	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 5:30PM—Pizza Night	<i>25</i> HAMFEST	<i>26</i> HAMFEST

2006

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Note: W4VEC testing information is on the back page; those with questions should contact Martin Matarazzo, VE Manager.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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CLUB INFORMATION

Meetings

The Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month, except December. Meetings are held at the Joplin Red Cross (4th and Jackson) and begin at 7:00 PM. All amateur operators welcomed at meetings and other club functions.

Club Repeaters - Open for all to use

WØIN - 147.210+ (No tone)

WØIN South - 145.390- (91.5)

Weekly Net (Mondays at 7:30 PM, 147.210+)

All operators are welcome to check in the net. ARRL Audio News, ARES, buy-sell-trade, and other announcements are made.

W4VEC Volunteer Examining Sessions

On the first Monday of each month, exams are offered at St. Paul's United Methodist Church on W. 26th Street, west of Maiden Lane. Applicants need to bring 2 pencils, 2 forms of ID (including 1 photo ID), and the *original and 2 copies of any current license and/or Certificates of Successful Completion if applicable*. Registration begins at 6:30 PM. For questions, contact Martin Matarazzo, VE Manager.

Social Gatherings

On Saturdays, members gather at Granny Shaffer's (7th & Illinois) for breakfast, beginning at 9:00 AM. On Thursday evenings, members gather at a local restaurant. Check with John Tudenham (624-8058) for location.