

The Nugget



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

When: Our next meeting is **Saturday, November 12th** at 12:00 noon.

Where: Mountain Mike's Pizza in Martel, CA. They are located in the shopping center with Save-Mart on Highway 88, just west of Highway 49. Our meeting room is reserved from 11AM-3PM. At our regular time (noon) (The room is reserved from 11AM-3PM.) See the club's website at <http://www.mldxcc.org/> and click on "meetings" for a map and more information.

What: Bob, W1RH will tell us all we ever wanted to know about Club Log and what it can do for us.

2011 Meeting Dates:

November 12

No December meeting.

2012-Officer Nominations

President – Bob, W1RH

Secretary – Kay, K6KO

Vice President – Dana, N6DW

Treasurer – Carolyn, K6TKD

Board Member – Ray, ND6S

Board Member – Shirl, AA6K

FROM THE PREZ

Congratulations to Bob/W1RH on assuming the office of MLDXCC President for 2012! We have a great group of members who provide outstanding support to the club officers.

I'd like to thank our club members once again for an outstanding CQP effort. And we got all of our logs in on time. Good job!!!

The club has chosen to concentrate on the CQWW contest in 2011 and I sure hope you got on the air for the SSB portion last weekend. All

bands were wide open and it was extremely enjoyable. I think it's been 10 years since I saw 10M that open! We are off to a great start with 9.8 M points so let's see if we can top 25 M for our composite score. Our composite CQWW score for 2010 (page 28 of the Sept CQ) was 3.97M so we have an opportunity to move up ranking.

I mentioned the CQWW as it is here and now but please visit the club web site and check the contest calendar. All items in **RED** are events we will emphasize as a club.

As I am leaving the office of president I wish to thank all of you for your support. A special thanks goes to our Vice President Dana Phillips/N6DW who kept things running smoothly, and to board member Ken Anderson/K6TA for his efforts in lining up our joint meeting presentation.

73 de AA6K , Shirley

FROM THE VP

Hi All

The November meeting will feature Bob, W1RH speaking about Club Log. Briefly, Club Log is a web-based application that analyzes log files from radio amateurs all over the world. Using the logs, Club Log offers you a wide range of reports for your own benefit, and identifies large scale trends from the sum of all activity in the database.

Get all the info on Saturday, CU then..

Dana Phillips, N6DW

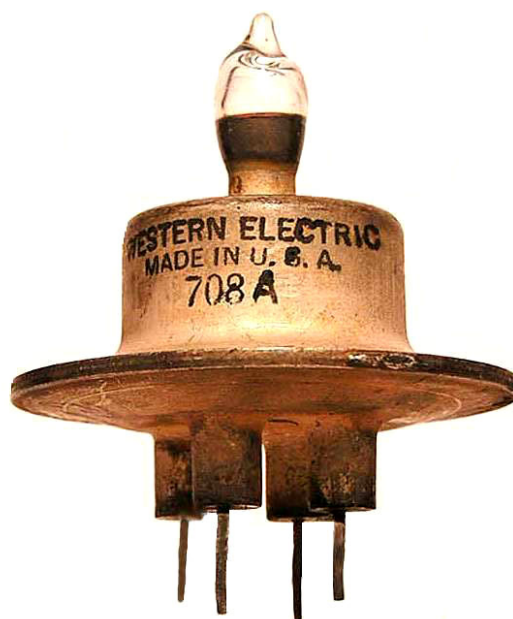
Tube of the Month de Norm, N6JV

WE 708A

Science fiction writers started featuring "Flying Saucers" especially after WWII. To me a saucer isn't an ideal shape for space travel. I wonder if Western Electric's WE708A from 1942 was their inspiration. It was certainly "alien" looking. This tube resulted from the need for SHF amplifiers and mixers running grounded grid for

stability. The grid needed to provide isolation between the tuned circuits. Western Electric solved this by making the entire case the grid, which could be bolted down to the chassis. To isolate the filament and plate, the leads were small coaxial lines. The body was made of steel and the tube was evacuated from the glass tip out the top.

The 708A was used in the Navy's ASC aircraft radars and the SE, SG and SJ shipboard systems.



More photos at <http://n6jv.com>.

Editor's Notes de Rick, W6SR

Hi all.....

Anybody want to use the W6SR station during the ARRL 160M contest? If so contact me. I plan a single op all band in the CQWW CW the week before, and a multi effort in the 10M the week after, I'm getting too old for 3 weekends of contesting (fun) in a row. Hi Hi.

HF Band conditions were great during the CQWW Phone Contest (our club scores reflect

it) and all of October as well. Thanks to Ray, ND6S for organizing the CQWW Phone, and to Norm, N6JV for posting the results on the website.

Karen and I recently returned from eight days on the road, we visited Bruce, K0YW (ex K6JYO) and Patti Clark near Durango, CO. We were there for 3 days, following the know rule that, "Fish and company begin to smell after 3 days". Hi Hi. We had a good time, relaxed, and repaired a couple of things at his place, as well as found a few things we couldn't fix, oh well..... One of Bruce's neighbors Art, K6XT, and his wife Maureen came over one night and we all went to dinner at the local Indian casino. BTW: Bruce and Art are both from the San Diego area and ex-SDDXC members.

On the way back from CO we stopped for a couple of days of R&R in Laughlin, NV, perfect weather.

I have attached a couple of photos of Bruce's 120 acre ranch and antennas.

A shot of K0YW's house/garage, and the guest apartment, and shop building. Yes that is a 28 foot dish Bruce uses for 1296 EME. It's for sale, any takers?



From left to right, Maureen (K6XT's XYL), Karen, WB6OKK, Art K6XT, Bruce K0YW, and XYL Patti. Note: If we all look too happy in the photo, it's because over the course of the evening we had put-away several bottles of our great El Dorado County Zinfandel.



W6SR at the western gate of the "Jawbone Ranch".



HF antennas? Yes there are HF antennas, in the photo below, is a full size 4 element optimum spaced 40M beam at 143 feet (foreground). Also off that tower is a full size 160M vertical; and if you look closely you can see a couple of 660' beverages. The towers in the background hold an 11 element 6M M2 beam at 83', and very long 2 meter M2 beam at 93 feet, and on a 89 ft crankup there is a DX engineering 36' log for 10,12,15,17 and 20M as well as another long 2M M2 yagi antenna.



BTW: In October I added 19 new band-countries to my DXCC challenge count. This is great! Come on sunspots. Enough for now, see you all at the meeting on the 12thde Rick, W6SR

Member news/feedback/Announcements/and Items F/S.

Thanks everyone for reporting your scores promptly. 14 logs and over 10Megs total points!

My score was 88,508 pts SOIP 10m Assisted.

My certificate for 4th in US, 5th in NA and first in 6-land in last years contest with a new call area record inspired me to try again this year.

Thanks Rick for the CQWW announced Operations by Zones report. It probably saved me a few Mults. **Ray ND6S**

CQWW 2011 Totals:

CALL	PHONE
AA6K	490,154
K6LRN	67,524
K6TA	1,315,817
KI6CG	296,700
KF6T	137,856
N6JV	1,289,197
N6RK	89,996
ND6S	88,508
NU6T	280,540
W1RH	518,616
W6RFF	226,672
W6RKC	142,556
W6SR	1,250,775
WC6H	3,847,221
WX6V	332,605
TOTAL	10,373,737

Hi All, did a ten meter single band HP ended up with 3234 QSO, 119 countries and 38 zones for 1,465,700. !0M was open 24 hours a day if you wanted to put up with the CBers, splatter, QRM, poor audio and hard to understand English. See you all for CQWW CW from KH6LC. **Aloha from Big Island, Fred, KH7Y**

I worked CQWW from WC6H. Great fun. Got two personal bests: score of 3.8+ mil and logged 186 Qs in first hour.(10 mtrs) Rich's station plays well indeed!

Total: 2507 155 398 Total Score = 3,847,221

Club: Mother Lode DX & Contest Club

Comments:

Fun, fun, fun! Had to leave a lot of stuff on each band so I could get to the next.QSO.

10: Worked guys all the way up past 29MHz.

15: Easy DXCC this weekend.

20: Never got a JA run. (10 and 15 too good?)

40: Fantastic conditions (but one gripe...So we have this nice new window the DX and us can both transmit in...but the east coast guys fill it up listening below 100. Can they please move out of the window and go above 200?)

80: No answers to CQs...

160: Well... not much luck, but then again I am kind of a VHFer...and its a long way from VHF....

Thanks again to Rich for letting me use his FB station!!!

Tim - NU6S

last month a lot of of us chased H40KJ on 160M, most without success. I contacted him via e-mail after he returned to Poland and tried to verify my, and several other QSO's that were not listed in his log. I have posted his e-mail reply below.

For your info. :I received this from Jacek, H40KJ on 11/2/

Rick,

I feel really sorry for the situation; I did not reach the goals I put up before going to Temotu. I was alone and everything I was doing without any help. Unfortunately conditions were bad, and did not expect to have such high level of noise on so remote Island. I was feeling almost deaf over there.

No body was seriously working from this Island on 160m before, and I did not recognize properly the situation on the island.

All advices I got, turn me in wrong way. To put 4SQ I brought with me, needed twice more cables then information given to me, nobody inform me about transistor DC to AC converters, making S7 noise only on 160m!, earlier this year

started wet season with every single night with storms and lightning. I couldn't sleep during the day because of terrible noise making by hundreds of birds, very uncomfortable position in station produced pain in my back just after 15 minutes of sitting at station, etc , etc. Never the less I managed worked 128 different US calls, and work in less time more EU than T32C or TX7.

Operation on 3D2 or T30 was like holidays comparing to H40! So, I do hope the guys who I did not manage to receive will not blame me too much.

Next time will try do it better.

73 Jacek

H40KJ/SP5DRH

One more thing.....

News from W1RH...

During CQP, I noticed my AL-1200 varying power anywhere from 500 watts to 1000 watts. It was not doing full power at all. Rather than slow down our runs, Martin and I decided to stick with the AL-1200 rather than switching to the Henry 3KD since the run rate didn't seem to slow down and the amp was operating clean with no spurs, etc.

Following the contest, I mentioned it in my last newsletter report and Rick, W6SR, and former owner of the AL-1200 offered to extend the warranty and fix the amp. I'm sure Rick is sorry he made that offer because he worked his butt off. He had me do a couple of checks and, when doing so, the amp totally died. We had a scare that the 3CX1200A7 was dead.

I brought the amp over to Rick's place and he went through various checks including verifying that relays were operating properly, etc. He finally focused on the filament voltage to the tube, which was at that point non-existent. After checking the entire filament circuit, Rick decided it was the socket. I came over and we did major surgery, removing the socket and, sure enough, the spring tension had lessened

considerably and one of the two contacts was severely carbonized.

Norm, N6JV, just happened to have a spare 3CX1200A7 socket (go figure) that he contributed it to the cause. Rick installed it and the amp was back to doing 1600 watts into the dummy load.

THANKS, RICK AND NORM!!! As I write this, 3 hours before SS CW, I have the amp back in operation.

In other news, following CQP, but prior to submitting my log, I had another scare. My hard drive crashed! My last backup was September 26th. I lost everything between that date and about two weeks following CQP. I had exported the K6C CQP log into an Excel file and had emailed it to my contest partner, AA1ON, so I did have that available via my sent email. After installing a new hard drive, using the September 26th image, the computer was back in service and I was able to take a look at the old hard drive using a USB hard drive adapter. I went through some recovery processes, using some freeware software, and was able to recover the entire CQP log intact. Needless to say, I immediately submitted it (learned a lesson, Shirl!).

My DXBase log, however, was another story. It was not recoverable, so I was stuck with the image copy and lost everything after September 26th. While Martin was here, I had shown him how Club Log worked and, while doing so, I had exported my DXBase log to an ADIF file for a demonstration of how to upload the log to Club Log. That ADIF file was recoverable, so I was able to add a new more contacts, as of October 3rd, to my DXBase log. Everything after that, however, has been lost. I believe the only thing I lost was a 160 contact with 3D2R.

If you don't do regular images of your hard drive, you'll be sorry. Restoring the image on a new drive was a piece of cake.

ND6S 2011 Shack Cleanup 209-267-5958 or nd6s@arrl.net Phase II

ICOM 02 AT 2Mtr HT 5W max out with Double A battery pack.

Original owner and manual PL \$70.00 Reduced to \$60.00 Read review in current QST Nov2011

DX solutions CT232C Radio to computer interface with manual and cable. \$20.00

DIGITAL:Rig Blaster Your ticket to PSK 31.

Icom connectors and wall wart 9v PS, software and manual \$40.00

ANTENNAS: Cushcraft 14element 2 mtr Beam.

Can be shortened or Moon Bounce? \$75

ELK Industries 440 log periodic antenna. 8? elements Lots of gain. 20-bucks

Barker and Williamson 15 meter lp filter. This is a FD must for running 40 and 15 meters \$15.00

Force 12 Ballun B1...Rated 3KW \$40-Bucks in 1997. Yours for \$20.

Heil Desk Mike cable 6' for Kenwood/K3 radios. \$20.00 Half the Heil shipped price.

Midland Portable SWR/power Meter, Case and Coax connectors. \$20.00

Compaq Presario 1260 laptop. Windows 95.

Includes a Dell Monitor. The screen is fired and so is the battery.

Therefore, the Dell CRT monitor. \$45.00

Quarterdeck Clean Sweep and Tuneupp Software \$5.00

U. S. Robiitics 802.11g USB wireless adapter.

Works with the Compaq for internet connection. \$15.00

MLDXCC Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2011

Call to Order – 12:07 PM, Martel, California

Introduction of Officers

Shirley, AA6K - President
Dana, N6DW - Vice President
Carolyn, K6TKD - Treasurer
Bob, W1RH - Secretary
Ken, K6TA - Director
Rich, WC6H - Director
Rick, W6SR - Newsletter Editor

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve - Passed

Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve - Passed

Next Meeting

November 12, 2011

Recognition of Achievements

MLDXCC awarded plaque for 2010 CQP.
W1RH to write thank you letter to NCCC and REDXA (sponsoring plaque).

Ray, ND6S - 1st place, WPX RTTY, Sacramento Valley

Dick, K6LRN - Got two certificates in the past month.

Rick, W6RKC - 5 Band WAS via 5 band certification by W6SR.

Membership Roster

W1RH to send N6DW copies of previous years rosters and partially complete spreadsheet.

CQP Scores Awaiting Submittal

K6C
KF6T
K6L
W6RKC

NEW BUSINESS

Old Business

Ray, ND6S, discussed the efforts of the Interfaith Food Bank Project Thanks, 2011. They serve 3,000 Thanksgiving dinners every year via Thanksgiving food baskets. This year, requests for baskets exceeds 600 families, however the organization currently has only enough funds to service 300 families. Ray asked MLDXCC if the club would be interested in supporting Project Thanks. The club voted to sponsor two \$40 baskets.

For Sale

Ray, ND6S, has a cable for a Heil desk microphone for a Kenwood radio and a 12 volt, 18 amp power supply.

KI6T (SK) QSL Presentation

K6TA and K6KO are working on a presentation of Gary's prized QSL cards.

Elections Nominations

President - Bob, W1RH
Secretary - Kay, K6KO
Vice President - Dana, N6DW
Treasurer - Carolyn, K6TKD
Board Member - Ray, ND6S
Board Member - Shirl, AA6K

Future Programs

Dave, W6DE, suggested bringing in CW keys for demonstration.

Contest Focus

This was the program segment of the meeting, a discussion of the Club's focus in upcoming contests. Ray, ND6S, offered to act as flogger for CQWW SSB and Bob, W1RH, offered same for CQWW CW.

N6JV will keep the website updated with individual scores and it was suggested that he keep track of other clubs with scores close to ours.

Meeting closed - 1:30 PM

Attendance

CALL	NAME	QTH	MLDXCC	NCCC
W1RH	BOB	LOTUS	X	X
W6RKC	RICK	PINE GROVE	X	X
W6SR	RICK	PLACERVILLE	X	X
W6DE	DAVE	PLACERVILLE	X	X
WC6H	RICH	VALLEY SPRINGS	X	X
N6DW	DANA	GRANITE BAY	X	X
K6LRN	DICK	OMO RANCH	X	X
K6TKD	CAROLYN	OMO RANCH	X	X
AA6K	SHIRLEY	STOCKTON	X	X
K6TA	KEN	PINE GROVE	X	X
K6KO	KAY	PINE GROVE	X	X
ND6S	RAY	SUTTER CREEK	X	X

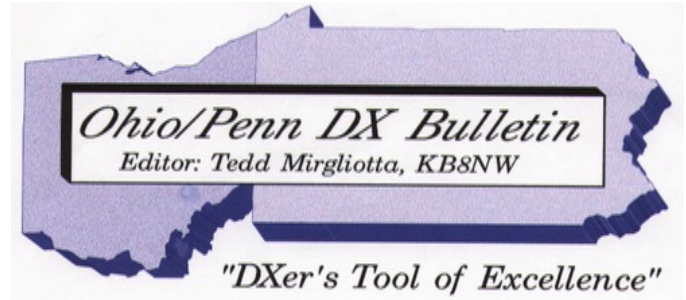
November 2011 Treasurer's Report

Balance October 1, 2011: **1490.85**
Expenses: Donation to Interfaith Bank **80.00**
Balance October 31, 2011: **1410.85**

Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD
Treasurer

**Click on the Hyperlink below to check-out the
MLDXCC scores in the latest contests.**
<http://mldxcc.org/scores.html>

UP-COMING DX and Dxpeditions
**Click the link below to display up-coming
Announced DXpeditions:**
<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>



OPDX Bulletin 1035 November 7, 2011

The Ohio/Penn Dx PacketCluster
DX Bulletin No. 1035
BID: \$OPDX.1035
November 7, 2011
Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW
Provided by BARF80.ORG (Cleveland, Ohio)

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, 00.00
Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, AB5K & the
AR TelNet Clusters Network, for the following
DX information.

\$1410.85

3D2 AND T2 (News Flash)

Bill, VK4FW, sent out the following on
November 3rd:

"Over the last several weeks, as many would know, there have been numerous problems on some Pacific Islands with water shortages. When we came to Fiji we immediately saw the necessary persons to get assurance that all our equipment would be able to go to Tuvulu. We were assured as best we could get, and told to come back on November 1 to book it all in. Well, that day came and MURPHY struck yet again..... Because of major back logs of very urgent freight (especially water) there are some 600kgs currently waiting to go. This continually rises daily. We immediately searched for shipping by boat with no joy, then tried to charter a vessel and again with no joy.

So here is what will now take place..... All operators are permitted just 23kgs of luggage

and nil oversize so we will take as many antennas as possible and 2 only complete Elecraft K3 and KPA500 stations. If there are any positive changes then we will, of course, send more equipment as it is all in Fiji with us. We would request the DX community have patience and try to understand that we have absolutely no choice unless we cancel the operation totally. Meantime 3D2A by Eddie, VK4AN, did a Single-Op/Low-Power 10m in the CQWW with some 2822 QSOs. We have also amassed over 5,500 QSOs as 3D2T. Eric, VK4NEF, arrived today so that gives us 3 ops to continue here. We have been very surprised at the 10m openings, but extremely disappointed with nil on 160m and very little on 80m.....Cheers"

5Z, KENYA

Sig, NV7E/ZS6SIG, who has relocated from Pretoria, South Africa, to Nairobi, Kenya, is signing 5Z4EE for about the next three years. Sig announced this past week that he will once again be in the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 24-25th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. Activity outside of the contests will be on all bands 160-10 meters. QSL via NV7E or at the address shown for 5Z4EE on QRZ.com.

9G, GHANA

Mark, W8MP, is an airline pilot who travels periodically to Accra for 1-4 days at a time and plans to be active as 9G5MP. He states that the radio and antenna is limited to what he can get in his suitcase, which goes on the flight deck as a carry on and is not checked. Mark is thinking about getting a Yaesu FT-817 or an Icom 7000 and use a dipole.

Operations will be sporadic based on when he has a layover in Ghana, and usually he only knows a day or two in advance. Mark mentions that he is also attempting to set up a permanent station in Accra for any visiting or local ham to use. He states, "It is a distant vision, but it is supported by Mr. Joseph Codjoe, the Chief Manager of Broadcasting at the National

Communications Authority. My thanks to Mr. Codjoe for making the license 9G5MP possible." QSL via his home call sign.

LAST MINUTE UPDATE BEFORE GOING TO PRINT:

Sunday afternoon, Mark informed OPDX that he is now in Accra and is about to leave in a few hours. He states, "I finally received the hard copy of my license yesterday in person, so I am officially 9G5MP. I tried to borrow a radio from 9G1RQ, but it won't work for this trip. I haven't figured out how to pull off actually operating from Ghana due to my severe limitations of only being able to bring things in my 'carry on' suitcase. That is everything I need to operate, as well as my normal airline stuff. It needs to pass through security screening, which leaves out tools or anything really odd. And of course, I need to bring a laptop. Easy to run out of room. I am open to any suggestions from you or any readers of the newsletter. I usually sit in Ghana with literally nothing else to do.

It would be a privilege to give out 9G in any mode or band possible, given my limitations. Electricity here is 230v 50hz with an odd plug, so power is yet another challenge. The 6 story hotel does not have windows that open (due to mosquitoes and the threat of malaria), but there are some trees near the pool area I can probably sit near. Or I can operate from inside my hotel room. Basic story is 'Have license, can travel, only lacking Small radio or Antenna...' Any thoughts?" If you have any ideas to help Mark, you can E-mail him at: w8mp@arrl.net

A3, TONGA

Sigi, DL7DF, will head up a team of 9 experienced operators to be active as A35YZ between March 7-24th, 2012. Operators mentioned are Manfred/DK1BT, Georg/DK7LX, Wolf/DL4WK, Reiner/DL7KL, Sigi/DL7DF, Juergen/DL7UFN, Frank/DL7UFR, Jan/SP3CYY and Leszek/SP3DOI. Activity will be active on 160-6 meters using several station operating on CW, SSB with one station exclusively dedicated to RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. QSL via DL7DF, direct or by the Bureau.

A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Ulli, DL9WVM, informs OPDX that he is going to fly to Dubai again Friday, November 4th, and will arrive on November 5th. This will be his 5th stay in The Emirates this year, and he plans to stay for 3 weeks. He will visit again with his children in Mirdif/Dubai. Ulli states that he will not be as active as his previous stays but has to work for his company in Germany, remotely. He will set up his station on Saturday, November 5th, and first use the already erected 3 band ground plane (10/15/20 meters) antenna. On Sunday, Ulli, plans to install a 7 band windom antenna (about 20 meters above the ground) and will be fully operational then. Even though his activity will be restricted by his job and family duties, he will concentrate on 10 and 12 meters. QSLs via his home callsign, by the Bureau or direct. QSLs will be answered immediately and cards are already printed.

ADDED NOTE: Ulli has already made plans to go to UAE again for March/April 2012 (flights are already booked).

ANTARCTICA 2012 CALENDAR

Mike, GM0HCQ, reports to the WAP that an Antarctica 2012 calendar is now available via the following Web links:

<http://www.gm0hcq.com>
<http://www.lulu.com/commerce/index.php?fBuyContent=11782579>

AH2, GUAM

Akira, JR1VAY, will be active as AH2J from **Guam (OC-026)**, USI GU003S, WFF KFF-110, WLOTA 0064) between November 11-14th. Activity will include entries in the JIDX SSB and WAE-RTTY Contests. QSL via JR1VAY by the JARL Bureau.

CR2, AZORES

Toni, OH2UA, will be active as CR2X from Ribeira Grande during the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 24-25th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL via OH2BH. For more details, visit the Web page at:

<http://www.cu2a.com>

CY0, SABLE ISLAND (Update)

Operators Murray/WA4DAN, Ron/AA4VK and Jeff/N1SNB are planning a DXpedition to Sable Island between December 28th and January 6th (2012). These dates may shift a day or so due to weather and flight conditions. The group has already received permission to visit Sable Island from the Canadian Coast Guard and have chartered the flights with Maritime Air operating out of Halifax, Nova Scotia. This DXpedition has been in the planning stage for almost three years. Operation will be on 160-10 meters using CW and SSB. Special emphasis will be made for 10 meters. They hope to be able to have two stations simultaneously operating on 10 meters at peak times. Updated information will be available on their Web site at:

<http://www.cy0dxpedition.com>

D4, CAPE VERDE

Luca, IK2NCJ, is expected to be active as D44TAL from **Sao Vicente Island (AF-086)**. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via IZ4DPV.

E5, NORTH COOK ISLANDS

Bill, N7OU, who is currently active as E51NOU from **Rarotonga Island (OC-013)**, WFF E5FF-002), South Cook Islands, informs OPDX that his flight to Manihiki, North Cook Islands, has been delayed. He states, "I won't be up there until the end of the week, maybe on November 10-11th, or later. I'll be operating on 160-10m, CW only, 500w to verticals, with my focus on Europe. My Manihiki, N. Cook Islands, callsign will be E51MAN. Before and after my N. Cook Islands operation, I'll be signing E51NOU from Rarotonga, S. Cook Islands." QSL via N7OU.

EA6, BALEARIC ISLAND

Julio, EA3AIR, will be active as EA6URA (formerly EA6IB) from Ibiza Island during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-29th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (10m)/Assisted entry. QSL via EA3AIR, by the Bureau, LoTW or direct to: Julio Isa Garcia, Carrencia 25, 08017 BARCELONA, Spain.

ET3, ETHIOPIA

Operators Krassy/K1LZ, David/K3LP, Al/K3VN and Paul/N6PSE will be in Addis Ababa between December 8-13th, and plan to activate the ET3AA club station. The goals of their trip is to install antennas at the Addis Ababa University, administer VE Ham Radio Examinations and the creation of the "University of Addis Ababa - Technology Incubation Program (TIP)". For the complete details, see:

http://www.k3lp.com/et3aa_december_2011.htm

The ET3AA DXpedition team's operating goals from the club station are as follows: Krassy/K1LZ will operate as ET3AA on 80/40 meters, and David/K3LP will operate as ET3AA on 160/30 meters, during the evening to early morning hours (local time 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM). Operators Al/K3VN and Paul/N6PSE will operate during the day and early morning hours on all the other bands using SSB using the ET3SID callsign (from Sid's QTH) and ET3AA from the university's club station.

HB9, SWITZERLAND (Special Event)

Team HB9ON Radio Group is pleased to announce the celebration of the life of Steve Jobs, Apple founder, and will activate HB9STEVE throughout the month of November 2011. Commemoration operations will occur sporadically and will be mostly on CW, but with some SSB. QSL via LoTW and GLOBALQSL or direct to HB9DHG. See details on ORZ.com.

HK0NA MALPELO ISLAND 2012 DXPEDITION (Update)

Operators Sal/HK1T, Jorge/HK1R and Faber/HK6F went on a reconnaissance trip to Malpelo Island between October 23-30th. They did this to prepare for their January 2012 DXpedition. Read a short written summary of their observations and see the pictures of what they saw and did on the island at:

<http://hk0na.com/hk0na-reconnaissance-trip-oct-2330>

Also, the following a press release was sent out on November 2nd: "Three

members of the Malpelo 2012 team have just completed a seven day reconnaissance visit to Malpelo..... This will be a very demanding DXpedition for several reasons. The terrain is particularly difficult, near vertical at times. And in order to have a clear radio view of Asia, the Pacific region and W6/W7; it will be necessary to locate operating site(s) and antennas at the top of the mountain. This further complicates the difficulties and physical risks to the team.

Team members vary in age from 25 to 73. But under the leadership and constant urging of our team's medical doctors, K9SG and W0GJ, we have all embarked on a physical training regimen. We should all be ready for the challenges come early 2012.

Three members of the team K4UEE, N4GRN and W6IZT will travel to Colombia Nov. 5-8th, for a planning meeting with team leader, Jorge, HK1R, and other team members. The purpose of the meeting is to review all the checklists and responsibilities for each team member. With the information gained on the recent reconnaissance visit, decisions can be finalized concerning camp/operating sites, antenna types and placement, safety measures and other critical decisions necessary to the ultimate success for the DXpedition.

One critical decision to be made concerns the duration of the operation. We have permission to stay on site for 17 days versus the 14 days now planned. We will be reviewing the DXpedition budget to determine if we can afford the extra 15,000 USDs expense for 3 additional days.

Contributions are gratefully accepted at: www.hk0na.com/sponsors We plan periodic press releases with information of interest. Also, watch the website for breaking news.

Thanks,
Jorge Prieto, HK1R, DXpedition leader
Bob Allphin, K4UEE-co-leader
Gregg Marco, W6IZT-co-leader"

IOTA NEWS

NA-169. Operators Yuri/N3QQ and Johnny/KE7V were expected to be active as homecall/p from **Waadah Island** this past weekend, depending on the weather, and if they could receive permission from the Makah Tribal Council. They planned to be on 80-10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via N7RO.

NA-240. (NEW IOTA!) Members of the Russian Robinson Club (RRC) and support of the Bethel Amateur Radio Club (BARK) will activate the last new IOTA in Alaska in the **Bethel County IOTA Group** around January 5-8th, 2012 (depending on weather and transportation availability). The group's main reason for this winter activation is to help jump start the RSGB IOTA Marathon. See details at:

<http://www.rsgbiota.org/marathon/index.php>

The current team members are: Yuri N3QQ, Tim/NL8F, Alex/RW3RN and Yuri/UA9OBA. QSL via UA9OBA (Europe/Russia) and N7RO. For more details and updates, see:

<http://www.na-234.com>

SA-088. Operators Marcelo/PP5BK, Fabio/PP5BZ, Edson/PP5VK, Roni/PP5ZB, Jose/PU5ATX and Claudio/PY3OZ will be active as PS5F from **Santana de Fora Island (Ilha Santana de Fora)** between February 3-6th, 2012, sea conditions permitting. Activity will be on 40-6 meters using mainly CW and SSB. QSL via PP5BZ.

J7, DOMINICA

Mike, VE2XB, will be active as J79XB from Dominica (NA-101) starting January 5th (2012) for several weeks. Activity will be holiday style on all bands 160-10 meters and possibly 6m if there are openings. He states that he will be concentrating a bit more on 80/40/30 meters and of course the other bands including 17/12 meters as conditions allow. QSL via VE2XB (see QRZ.com) for address and details) with SASE and CDN stamps or 2 IRCs or 2 greenbacks. The postal rates have gone up, so take that into consideration before you send your QSL card.

KH3, JOHNSTON ISLAND

OPDX has been informed by Susan, W7KFI, that she has finally received permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on November 1st, to land on Johnston Atoll between November or December of this year. However, Susan tells OPDX that she would like to sail there now during "the month of January (late)/early February for arrival, and with an extension to 10 days." For those who do not know about Susan -- she is a 76 year old grandmother (her birthday was this past Friday) who like to operate ham radio and is the Skipper of her own sailboat called "USSV DHARMA". Check out her Web page at:

<http://w7kfi.com>

Susan told OPDX that she will be sailing alone on this trip. Activity will be on 40-6 meters and operating CW and SSB, and also RTTY/FACTOR/PSK31 possibly on request. She mentions to us to look for her on 36 kHz above the lower edge of general bands (Suggested frequencies mentioned 14036, 14236, 18090, 18146, 21036, 21286, 28036 and 28450 kHz).

Susan also states that she will "only answer full callsigns....no one else. Period."

Her radios are an FT847, IC718 and a K3. She states, "Remember, I am spending a large portion of my social security to do this trip." QSL via KH6CG, direct or by the Bureau.

KH6BZF PROPAGATION

FORECAST/REPORT (November 7-13th)

Nov/07th AN	Nov/10th AN
Nov/12th HN	
Nov/08th AN	Nov/11th HN
Nov/13th HN	
Nov/09th AN	

SOLAR REFERENCE KEYS/INDEXES AND GEOMAGNETIC REFERENCE

=====

NORMALITY	GEOMAG
K Values	Alpha

-----	-----	
AN	- Above Normal	Quiet
K=0-1	0-7	
HN	- High Normal	Unsettled
K=2	8-15	
LN	- Low Normal	Active
K=3	16-29	
BN	- Below Normal	Minor Storm
K=4	30-49	
DIS	- Disturbed	Major Storm
K=5	50-99	
VRY DIS - Very Disturbed Severe		
Storm K=6-9	100-400	

LOTW EXPERIENCING DELAYS

The ARRL Web page reported on November 1st:

"Due to a large number of radio amateurs uploading their logs to Logbook of The World (LoTW) after last weekend's CQ Worldwide SSB Contest, the ARRL's online QSL verification service is experiencing delays. According to ARRL IT Department Manager Michael Keane, K1MK, there is about a 33 hour wait for logs to be processed. 'Logs are processed in the order in which they were received,' he explained. 'If you have uploaded your log to LoTW, your log is currently queued for processing. It has not been lost in the system. Uploading your log multiple times will only further delay your log and those of others to be processed.'" THEN ON NOVEMBER 4TH, they report: "The log processing delay for Logbook of The World (LoTW) remains at approximately 60 hours, with approximately 8000 logs queued for processing. PLEASE DO NOT UPLOAD THE SAME LOG MORE THAN ONCE. According to ARRL IT Manager Michael Keane, K1MK, the League has implemented an interim 'fast lane' for processing logs: 'In order to do this, resources have been shifted from servicing interactive requests to the processing of logs. As a result, LoTW users may notice some sluggish performance. Since these changes have been put into place, the number of logs waiting to be processed has been reduced by approximately 20 percent. The expectation is that this new measure will continue to make inroads into eliminating the backlog.'" "

OR4, ANTARCTICA

Karel, ON5TN, will once again be staying at the Princess Elisabeth Station (WAP BEL-02) in the Antarctica between November 16th and through the end of February (2012). As nobody is overwintering at the station, it might take some days before Karel gets on the radio as there is a lot of work to do first. QSL via ON5TN. Updates on OR4TN can be found regularly on:

<http://www.qrz.com/db/or4tn>

For more information about the Princess Elisabeth Station, go to:

<http://www.antarcticstation.org>

PJ4, BONAIRE

Hennie, PE1MAE, will once again be active as PJ4/PE1MAE from **Bonaire (SA-006, WLOTA LH-1279)** sometime this week for the next 4-5 months. Activity will probably be mainly SSB on 40 meters (around 7175 kHz) at 0000z. He will also be on 80 and 20 meters, possibly some other bands. Hennie will specifically be looking for PA and European stations. He will only run 100 watts into a Delta Loop antenna. QSL via PA2NJC, direct or by the Bureau.

PJ5, SINT EUSTATIUS (Update)

Just a reminder that Gerd, DL7VOG, will be active as PJ5/DL7VOG from **Sint Eustatius Island (NA-145)** between November 13th and December 4th. His three week operation will also include the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th) as PJ5G. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using mainly CW and RTTY, but he will have a microphone with him just in case someone really needs a phone QSO. Operations will be with a focus on the lower bands and listening for JA stations during his sunset and sunrise. As always, Gerd will be using his IC-706MK2G (this time with an amp) into an HF9VX for 80-6m and an inverted "L" (on a 15m fiberglass pole) for 160m. QSL via his home callsign, Bureau is preferred or direct. Bureau E-mail requests can be sent to:

qsl@dl7vog.de

QSL INFO AND NEWS

QSL-INFO from DB0SDX (dated November 6th)

3D2T via VK4FW EG5VOR via EA5KB
PJ7PL via WA1ZAM 7Q7GM via GM4FDM
HB0/DF7EF via DF7EF PJ7X via F6EXV
7Z1SJ via EA7TFR or HZ-Bureau
HB0/HB9AON via DJ2YE S5530N via S55N
9H1BX via G3TZM HB0/HB9EYR via IZ3AHY
T6BP via 9A6AA 9H3BR via G4BEE or eQSL
HG15IPA via HA3JB TM1R via F6KVP
AB1PV via DL1MWG HZ1MD/P via EA7FTR
TM95BV via F6KUP AH0/AB2RF via JJ2RCJ
IQ8MD via IZ8BGY TS2A via EA1IR
C6ALP via W8QT J48OV via HA5OV
TU2T via I2YSB CR6K via CT1ILT (direct)
KH2/JA7AYE via JA7AYE V26OB via DL8OBQ
CT9/DJ6TF via DJ6TF LX1DM via GOMMI
XV1X via OK1DOT DL/JK2VOC via JK2VOC
OG6K via OH6RX YR30DP via YO8AXP
E51Z via K6VNX PJ7NK via DJ8NK

4W6A QSL CARDS. Steve, 9M6DXX, 4W6A Team Member, informs that the final proof of the 4-sided QSL has just been received from the printer. The cards should arrive with QSL Manager Tim, M0URX, soon and will then be sent out quickly. Tim reports that he has already processed QSL requests for over 13,000 QSOs - 32% of the total log - in less than six weeks since the end of the DXpedition. There is also a 2-sided version of the QSL (with the same photo on the front) that will be used for bureau cards and for those people who made more QSOs than can be fitted onto the one card. To see what the QSL card looks like, visit:

<http://www.m0urx.com>

A51PN QSLs AVAILABLE. Glenn, W0GJ/A51B, reported this past week: "Last week when in Bhutan, I met Pradhan, A51PN, who was very active from 1972 to 1983 when he worked in the Wireless Dept. of the Bhutan government. He gave me his stack of log books to digitize and upload to LoTW, about 30,000 estimated contacts. Pradhan is now 73 and in good health and living a quiet retired life. I will be able to answer QSL requests for anyone needing a card for A51PN. He has meticulous

notes in his logs about QSLs that were returned."

OLD QSL COLLECTION (Update). Jean Michel, F6AJA, wants to remind everyone to visit the Les Nouvelles DX (LNDX) Web page to see more than 9500 old QSL cards in several different albums/galleries. This site contains:

- The ten most wanted DXCC entities (2004 to 2010) with more than 300 QSLs
- At least one card for each 60 deleted DXCC countries (more than 1300+ QSLs)
- Nearest the totality of current prefixes, disappeared now (more than 3500+ QSLs)
- Album for stations from Magrebh - 1945 to 1962 (more than 300+ QSLs) - More than 800 QSLs from the Antarctic bases.
- Nearly 260 QSLs from the TAAF (Terres Australes and Antarctiques Francaises).
- More than 300 QSLs for the rare French Pacific Islands such as FK/C, FO/C, FO/A, FO/M, FO/C and FW
- Nearly 300 cards from Eparses Islands such as FR/B/E/G/J/T
- More than 1300 cards for the old timer with more than 120 countries before 1945.
- Cards from the French Department before 1945.
- One card from each of the states in the U.S. before 1945.

The URL address for the Web site is:

<http://LesNouvellesDX.free.fr>

Some cards are still needed for the collection, and your participation is welcome. Please visit their site and give them your comments by sending an E-mail to: LesNouvellesDX@free.fr

Ron, AC7DX, reports that ALL CARDS for **PJ4/LU1FAM** go to LU2FE for this special operation.

QSL RECEIVED VIA LoTW: 4O3A, 6Y5/W1UE, 6Y9X, CE3FZ, ED1DAX, ER1MM, HB0/HB9CVQ, HC2A, J37BO, LN3Z, NP4G, OG0I, OH1XT, PJ2T, PZ5RA, RI1ANC, SK3W, SV0XCC/9, TM6M, TX7M, UA3KW, V44KAI, VE6WQ, WP4SK and ZK2X

QSLs RECEIVED VIA MAIL: 4O3A, 4S7DXG, 5N6/YL2SW, A92GR, C31CT, CE0Y/DK2ZF, D44AC, DS3HWS, E51PMR, ET3BN, FO/N6JA, HC1HW, HC2A, HC2SL, HL5KY, J39BS, KH6SAT, NH0Z, RC0F, RI1FJA, SU1SK, SV1ENG, TI5/KI4TRG, VK0TH, VK9NN, VK9OL, VP2EMR, VR2UW, ZD8D and ZL7VR

QSLs RECEIVED VIA THE BUREAU: OX3KQ

TF, ICELAND

Siggi, TF3CW, has announced that he will be active in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th) as Single-Op/Single-Band (20m) entry. QSL via LX1NO.

V2, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Dan, K6IF, will be active as V25R from Antigua between December 9-11th. Activity will be mainly SSB for the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. He tells OPDX that outside of the contest activity will be limited on 40 and 20 meters after 10 meters closes at night. QSL via K6IF.

V3, BELIZE

Operators Dennis/K2SX and Leslie/W2LK will be active as V31SX and V31AO between November 22-29th. Activity will include the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th) as a Multi-Single entry (callsign TBD). QSL via LoTW. Their operations outside of the contest will be mainly CW with some RTTY. Look for them on the lower bands and the 30/17/12 meter bands. They will also do some 6 meters, conditions permitting.

V3, BELIZE

Will, AA4NC (W4MR), will be active as V31RR between February 16-26th. Activity will be on CW, SSB, RTTY, and the 30/17/12 bands. His activity will include the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 18-19th). QSL via AI4U.

V4, ST. KITTS

Jon, W5JON, will once again be active as V47JA from the Calypso Bay, St. Kitts (NA-104, WW Loc. FK87SG), hillside QTH located 300 feet from overlooking the Caribbean Sea

and Atlantic Ocean, between February 8th and March 28th. Activity will be on 80-6 meters (including 60m) using a Kenwood TS-590S, Yaesu FT-857D, and SB200 Amplifier. Antennas include: a 80-10m Multi-band Dipole, and metal roof mounted S9, 18' and 31' Verticals and 3 element Yagi for 6m. His operations will include the ARRL International DX SSB Contest (March 3-4th), and CQ WPX SSB Contest (March 24-25th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entries. XYL Cathy (W5HAM) will occasionally operate as V47HAM. ALL QSLs go to W5JON. Also LoTW.

V6, MICRONESIA

Operator Kazuhide "Kazu"/JA0VSH and his XYL Miyuki/JG0PBJ will once again be active as V63KZ and V63MP, respectively, from **Phonpei Island (OC-010)** between November 7-13th. Kazu will be here on holiday after completing his job mission in Uzbekistan. Activity last time was on 160-10 meters, CW and SSB. There might be some RTTY this time. Kazu is interested in 160m and will use a 500w amp. QSL via JA0VSH, by the Bureau or direct to: Kazuhide Maruyama, 1-25-49 Irima, Chofu, Tokyo 182-0004, Japan.

VE2, CANADA (Zone 2)

Victor, VA2WDQ, will be active as VE2EKA from Sept-Iles in Zone 2 during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via VA2WDQ.

XU7 & XV2, CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM (Update/Reminder)

Mal, VK6LC, has started his "DX Vacation" from Cambodia as XU7AEO and will be there until November 21st. Activity will be mainly 20 meters using mostly CW with some SSB. From XU7, he will then return once again to Vietnam and will be active as XV2LC from Vung Tau between December 2-8th. He states that this will be a dedicated 30 day "Culture Tour" of Cambodia (XU7) in November and Vung Tau, Vietnam, in December (which all started in October, from 9M2 Malaysia). Activity will be

on 20/17/12 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via his home callsign, only direct. He does NOT use the QSL Bureau. Check out QRZ.com for some more details and pictures under VK6LC, XU7AEO and XV2LC.

YB26, INDONESIA (Special Event)

Members of the YB Land DX Club (YBDXC) will activate YB26SEAG between November 11-17th. Activity is to celebrate the "26th South East Asia Games" (SEAG) which take place from Jakarta - Palembang, between November 12-22nd. Look for operations to be on all bands and modes. QSL Manager is Hans, YB2DX. QSL direct to: PO BOX 123, PW, 58100, Indonesia.

**PLEASE NOTICE (as of February 12, 2007),
NEW ADDRESS CHANGES FOR THE
OPDX INTERNET
HELP/SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE
REQUEST:**

Help: opdx-request@barf80.org Subject:help
Subscribe: opdx-request@barf80.org
Subject:subscribe
Unsubscribe: opdx-request@barf80.org
Subject:unsubscribe

**OPDX WORLD-WIDE WEB HOME
(provided by John, K8YSE
(k8yse@papavs.com):
<http://www.papavs.com/opdx.html>**

ARRL Solar Update

11/04/2011

First, a few updates on Solar Cycle 24. As you might suspect, the average of daily sunspot numbers for October shot way up -- from 55.5 in June, to 67.2 in July, 66 in August, 106.4 in September and 123.6 in October. Our three month moving average of daily sunspot numbers was also up, of course, with the three month average ending in October at 98.6, up from 61.5

in July, 63 at the end of August, and 70.6 ending in September. Because of increasing solar activity, NASA revised its prediction for the peak of the current solar cycle for the third consecutive month, each time estimating higher intensity and changing the projection for the month the cycle is expected to peak.

Note that these numbers are not the higher Boulder sunspot numbers we report here, but the much lower Zurich numbers. They are also smoothed sunspot numbers, meaning they represent an average taken over a year, with the indicated month in the middle. On September 1, NASA moved the expected peak from June 2013 to May 2013, and the smoothed sunspot number from 69 to 70. At one time, they were predicting a maximum nearly the same as the 1907 maximum of Solar Cycle 19, which was 64.2, but recent predictions are substantially above that value. NASA noted that the current cycle would still be the smallest in the past hundred years.

A month later on October 3, they upped it again, with the maximum smoothed sunspot number jumping from 70 to 77 and the peak moving again, this time from May to April 2013. But at this level, it would still be the weakest cycle in 100 years. On November 2, their prediction made a big jump -- from 77 to 89 -- but with the peak moving back out, this time from April to May 2013. This makes the cycle slightly bigger and longer, and instead of 100 years, it is the smallest solar cycle in more than 80 years.

NASA's prediction for solar max jumped nearly 30 percent in three months -- not bad. Still, a [graphic](#) comparing the beginning of Solar Cycle 24 with the last three solar cycles shows how weak it really is. But note this is a 13 month moving average, so the latest point on the graph is over 6 months ago, and the higher activity is recent.

Sunspot numbers for October 27-November 2 were 98, 104, 73, 80, 112, 141 and 121, with a mean of 104.1. The 10.7 cm flux was 131.5, 133.9, 123, 126.7, 138.1, 138.6 and 153.6, with a mean of 135.1. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 2, 2, 6, 8, 21 and 11, with a mean of 7.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 1, 2, 4, 9, 14 and 7 with a mean of 5.9.

The latest prediction from NOAA and USAF for the near term has solar flux at 165 on November 4-10, 160 on November 11, 150 on November 12-15, 160 on November 16 and peaking again at 165 on November 17-18, then falling to 155, 145, 140 and 130 on November 19-22. For November 4-6, the predicted planetary A index is 15, 10 and 8, then 5 on November 7-10, 12, 10, 8, and 5 on November 8-10, 8 on November 11-13 and 5 again on November 14-23. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions November 4, unsettled November 5, quiet to unsettled November 6 and quiet conditions November 7-10.

A huge sunspot group -- number 1339, with an area of 1400 millionths of a solar hemisphere -- has rotated into view. There was one new sunspot group on October 30, three more on October 31, another two on November 1 and another new one on November 2. On Thursday, November 3, sunspot group 1339 was reported to be the biggest sunspot in a number of years. The total sunspot area for that day was 2005 millionths of a solar hemisphere, and a larger total sunspot area has not been observed since July 18-23, 2004 when the total sunspot areas were 2300, 2325, 2190, 2420, 2070 and 2050. It is interesting that no new sunspots appeared during that period, and the daily sunspot numbers were 169, 176, 147, 162, 117 and 86 over those same six days.

The sun is currently peppered with spots, so don't be surprised if a solar flare is released, possibly disrupting HF radio communications if it is aimed at Earth. MSNBC ran an [article](#) on

the latest solar activity. You can also watch a [video](#) of a flare from sunspot group 1339. Note that you can select twice the default resolution by clicking on the "360p" at the bottom and restarting the video. This gives a very good picture for full screen viewing, accessed by clicking in the lower right of the screen.

Scott Smith, VK2AET, of New South Wales, Australia, wrote to say, "I was enjoying a CW contact with the USA on 10 meters today (November 3) at 2015 UTC when all of a sudden, the band went completely dead. Before this I had just worked EA8, which was quite exciting. After this fadeout, there were no signals at all on 10 meters. It appeared so dead that I thought my antenna had fallen down and I had to look out the window at it. Here in Australia, we get a great indicator of 10 meter propagation by listening to 27.025 MHz, where US CBers are usually well over S9 when the band is in good shape. These guys had also disappeared completely, whereas half an hour before they were their usual strength."

Scott must have observed an effect from the X-Class solar flare, which peaked about 12 minutes later at 2027 UTC. That is the same flare reported in the article at Universe Today linked above.

UP-COMING CONTESTS (complete)

For the latest contest info. click on the following link:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 12 to 2359Z, Nov 13
Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z, Nov 12 to 0200Z, Nov 13
CQ-WE Contest	1900Z, Nov 12 to 0500Z, Nov 14
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 19 to 0300Z, Nov 21

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 21
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 26 to 2400Z, Nov 27

December 2011

ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 2 to 1600Z, Dec 4
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NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 9
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ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 10 to 2359Z, Dec 11
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NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 16
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Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 17 to 1500Z, Dec 18
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The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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See the W6 Bureau-home.