

The Official Newsletter of the Kansas City DX Club

# KCDX NEWS

**AB0X-EDITOR**

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**NEXT KCDXC MEETING:**

**NOV. 25**

The next meeting of the KCDXC is on Nov.25 at 7:30 P.M. The meeting location will be the Salvation Army building at the corner of Troost and Truman Road. The address is 1110 Truman Rd.. Coffee and donuts from Lamar's will be served. .

The program will be another video of a recent Dxpediton. An election of officers will be held. Come and see if K0LW is railroaded again, or if someone steps out of the shadows and agrees to run for election of the club. For your own protection, be there and be on time, or you may be elected!

**GERMAN GROUP GIVES OUT NEW ONE TO MANY DESERVING DXERS: 3XY7C**

A large group of German ops have activated Guinea, 3XY7C, for many Dxers around the world during the first two weeks of November. Their concentrated on the low bands has been outstanding. Well known low band authority, K0CS, said "the 3XY7C has the best 160 meter signal heard out of Africa in many years!

Several KCDXC low band Dxers have logged a new one on 160 as a result of this effort. The loud 3X signal has been heard on mostly transmitting antennas as many have not put up their 160 receiving antennas yet. Their signals are loud and workable on all bands if needed. Above are some scenes from Guinea.

## GUINEA 3X LANDSCAPE



## **3XY7C Ops:**

DJ6TF  
DJ7UC  
DK1BT  
DL4WK  
DL7UFR  
DL7BO  
DL7DF



**QSL: Sigi Presch, Wilhelmsmuehlen Weg 123  
D-12621 Berlin, Germany**

**President's Page is missing???**

# **EI8IC WEB PAGE: CONTESTING TIPS**

## **How to Search and Pounce**

### **Introduction**

This page is a re-write of a group of emails collected by KE1FO, in response to a question by Rick, WZ2T about the best ways to Search and Pounce during a contest. Although many of the replies are to do with the American Sweepstakes (SS) contest, the techniques talked about apply to all other contests.

### **The Emails**

**From: Brian ND3F**

Use a computer program with a band map, and keep it updated.

Even if you don't work a station on the first or second or third call, mark them in the band map, put a scratch pad memory on the freq, and come back later (but soon).

Never call a station that has just been put out on packet. Wait 6-10 minutes for the big guns to do it first.

Become an expert tailender. It really works, especially on CW.

Keep a second receiver on the local big gun/multiop--he will leave his CQ freq to find multipliers, and provide you with an occasional free 'spot', if you can track him.

Look in between the big guns for decent signal stations that you can work--slope tuning or very narrow filters required! Work on your timing--send your call sign during a pileup "null" (be first, last or just at the right time to be heard). When I had the newbies over for SS phone, this was their biggest problem - they couldn't figure out why folks almost always came back to me on the first or at worst second call, but they had to call many times to get through - timing is crucial.

Don't hang around one band too long if you are not calling CQ. I treat the whole spectrum as

continuous when I'm doing S&P at home. Start at the lowest band and go to the highest or vice versa. Check the band one lower or higher than you might expect - if it sounds closed, call CQ for a minute or two - you might create your own opening. We had 60 QSOs on SS phone on 160M by going to an 'empty' band and calling CQ.

**From: Charlie Morrison N1RR**

**Raising ur code speed: YEARS of PRACTICE / CONTESTING/ Making Contacts/ WIAW code Practice+Bulletins**

**Don't practice with speeds you can copy at 100% accuracy, you would not be pushing yourself - Practice at speeds you can not copy completely!**

**S&P rates are dependent upon: UR TX PWR / UR ANT / PROP.**

**How many times do u have to call ? If no answer, do u push the "A=B" button and tune for the next CQ?**

**Use a second radio! During EVERY transmission on the first radio (CQing Radio) and during some periods while RXing on the first radio, YOU CAN LISTEN AND LINE UP MORE QSOs ON THE SECOND RADIO. Remember to observe the following rule: Only one transmitted signal at a time!**

**From: Jim Kellaway G3RTE**

**One of the best bits of advice is to have a good memory when it comes to S & P. Not too hard when you are in a single operator section but not so easy when you take over from somebody else in a multi op section of a contest.**

**What I have tried to do when organising a multi op section is to have one operator who deals with an individual band. Though of course it doesn't always work out so well.**

**As for the memory guess now I am over 50 I need to eat lots of fish which is supposed to be good for the old grey matter.**

**From: Jim K4OJ**

**Listen to everything you hear, sometime you don't wait for the exchange to get to the point where you hear the guys call.**

**A seasoned contester can know to stop the dial or keep tuning by listening to everything sent. Example: if you hear a section of NWT being sent**

and you already have the mult - KEEP TUNING - odds are damned good it is the guy you already worked, and if it isn't there will be a humongous pileup on him.

In a DX contest, listen to the zone being sent, if it is a new one you know you have to work the guy even if he hasn't signed his call!

The more and more you contest the more familiar the calls will be and you will know that if you tune past a station sending .....PL it is W3LPL going to town.

The more you contest the better your mind will be at processing the thought "W3LPL" - you will know without typing it into your software that you have already worked them, etc.

Above all keep tuning - don't get hooked on listening to a rare dx station - it is just a contact, the longer you dwell the fewer contacts you will make on that weekend.... keep moving.

The greatest success secret in contesting is the more you are on the air the better you will do because of it! A lot of guys recommend honing your operating skills by operating in every contest you can. This not only gets you tuned in to the rhythms of contesting, but makes your call known, too, so you become an easily recognized call!

Get plenty of sleep during the week before a contest, you have to use your head a lot during a contest, the fewer cobwebs the better. You will insert cobwebs merely by having to operate for long hours - best to start out without any pre-existing webs!

During your learning curve pick two times to operate in the smaller contests, ones where you have a favorable advantage - i.e. you know you do well on 20 but not 40, so maximize 20 meter operating to maximize your "fun". The other times to operate are those where you are not familiar with band openings and propagation.

Just this past year I found an opening I never had before - it was at 7:00 AM local (12:00z) on 160 meters - to Japan!!!!!! I could not get over how easy it was to work far away JA on top band, 5 QSOs in 5 minutes. You have to know two things though; it is only a few minute long

opening, and they can only transmit above 1900. No wonder I never heard a JA on 160 before! It is things like this that you file away in your mental computer and when you start filling up that cerebral hard drive your score starts to rocket. The more you operate the more you know, the more you know the higher your score!

Contesting isn't easy....but it is very rewarding!

From: Bill Coleman AA4LR

I'll pass on some tips that Randy K5ZD gave me a few years ago. In SS, achieving 50-60 Q/hr rates while S & P'ing is quite difficult, mainly because the exchange is quite long. But the long exchange can work in your favor.

Your first tip is to tune faster. Your first objective is to find a station who you haven't contacted before. Once found, you have to call and then contact him. Don't waste any time here listening to pig farmers or ragchewers.

Once you've found a station, it may be some time before he's looking for another call. During that time, you can switch to your second VFO and tune around some more. (On my TS-430S, I hit the VFO A=B button, then continue tuning) With any luck, you'll find another station you haven't worked. Flip back and forth (My TS-430S has a rotary knob of this - eventually, it is going to wear out) and call the first station who is ready.

In this fashion, you spend more time tuning, and less time waiting for an opportunity to call, and it doesn't require two radios. If you have one of those fancy receivers with dual receive, you can eliminate the flip-flop part.

The second problem is to call and get through. Early in SS, just about everyone is going to be a new contact, so you can skip the weaker stations and go for the stronger ones. If your antenna system is good enough, you should be able to get through on the first or second call. If not, keep tuning on the other VFO or try the other station.

The third tip is knowing when to give up. After two or three tries, you might as well move on. You'll come back to them later. If someone CQs in my face, I give them one more try and then move on -- I know I'm just too weak for them to work. Come back to them later when conditions are better. Don't think about multipliers until you

are about 12 hours into the contest.

Another tip is to remove redundant phrases in the exchange. Kick yourself every time you say "please copy...." Keep it simple.

The final tip is to try a CQ any time you find a clear frequency. You can achieve much higher rates calling CQ than you can S & P. I usually CQ for 1 minute, then move on if I get no responses. If I make a few contacts, I'll CQ for 2 minutes before moving on.

There is definitely some skill involved in S&P and it can be learned through lots of practice. On CW, you have to be able to 'guess' if a station is new based on just getting part of his call. This is a combination of knowing he calls active in the contest and the ability to use the check partial feature of CT. On Phone, it helps to have an ear for recognizing different accents and voices.

The "secret" seems to be:

- a) knowing what to listen for
  - partial calls
  - accents
  - special sounds of propagation effects
  - pileups
  - unusual exchanges
  - hunting for common ops on needed bands
- b) knowing what to SKIP
  - Weak ones on a fast scan
  - Stuff that doesn't "sound" like DX (in a DX test)
  - Stuff spotted on bandmap (if current)
- c) doing it all quickly
  - A=B switch
  - Trying not to S & P on the same band for more than 30 mins
  - Knowing what propagation should be to wherever

Since most of this involves listening, much of it should be practicable between contests. So the general solution is to spend a lot of time in the "chair". Doing it fast and knowing what to skip certainly aren't simple, but should come with experience.

From: Pete Soper KS4XG

Hook up rig control to your computer and use it with a logger that supports a band map. This will drastically reduce the time you waste recognizing the same set of folks you worked already. You

can also easily evaluate where the gaps are. As a side effect, after the contest you can see the ratio of your S& P and running QSOs because the frequencies have been captured.

If you've got time, worked everybody, can't find a run frequency, etc, visit the potential run frequencies a lot to see if you can jump in and also to find the new loud guys that have already jumped in. Monitor as many rag chews as you can. Calling "CQ" about 1 millisecond after the last rag chewer says his goodbyes and leaves a frequency usually works and for a short while there is a lot more elbow room than usual.

The loud stations will sometimes leave the high bands well before they close to jump on a lower band before it gets crowded. This can provide great opportunities for weaker stations to run. The rate will stink, but it may smell very sweet compared to the alternative on the other bands.

*\*Can you contribute some ideas to this topic??*

*\*Do you have a favorite technique that is successful for you?*

*\*Write it up for the newsletter and help the club. Don't expect to just be entertained each month in the newsletter. It is your responsibility too!*  
*AB0X-Editor*

**SB DX @ ARL \$ARLD045  
ARLD045 DX news**

**ZCZC AE45  
QST de W1AW  
DX Bulletin 45 ARLD045  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT November 7, 2002  
To all radio amateurs**

**SB DX ARL ARLD045  
ARLD045 DX news**

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, The Daily DX, KX7YT, WA4OAB, WA7BNM and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

**MADAGASCAR, 5R. Phil, G3SWH is QRV as**

**5R8HA.** He is active from various places on the main island until November 13, and then from Nosy Komba, IOTA AF-057, as 5R8HA/P until November 19. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using mostly CW. QSL to home call.

**SAMOA, 5W.** Paul, VK3DK is QRV as 5W0PV from Savaii Island, IOTA OC-097, until November 16. Activity is on most of the HF bands. QSL to home call.

**SIERRA LEONE, 9L.** Andy, G3AB is QRV as 9L1AB from Freetown for several weeks. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using mainly CW. QSL to home call.

**CHINA, BY.** David, BA4DW is active from Changxing Island, Liaoning Province, IOTA AS-151, until November 14. He concentrates his activity on 30, 17 and 12 meters. QSL to home call.

**CAPE VERDE, D4.** Nicolas, F5TGR is active as D44TR from Sal Island, IOTA AF-086, until November 12. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

**FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO.** Bob, WA4OAB will be QRV as FO/homecall from the islands of Tahiti Iti on November 9 and 10 and then on Moorea from November 12 to 13. Activity will be mainly on 20, 15 and 10 meters using CW and SSB. Since this is a vacation, his operating times will be limited. QSL to home call.

**FRENCH GUYANA, FY.** A group of operators from Radio Club Guyane are active as FY5KAC from the western part on the country until November 11. Activity is on all HF bands, including 6 meters and some satellite operation. QSL via bureau.

**HUNGARY, HA.** Special event station HG0WGC is active until November 30 to celebrate the World Gymnastic Championship in Debrecen. QSL via HA0NAR.

**OGASAWARA, JD1.** Special event station 8N1OGA is QRV until the end of January 2003 to commemorate the 75 years of the Japan Amateur Radio League. Activity of late has been found on 160, 80, 30 and 12 meters. QSL via JA1MRM.

**NORTH KOREA, P5.** Ed, P5/4L4FN has been QRV on 15 meters from around 1115 to 1230z. QSL via KK5DO.

**BANGLADESH, S2.** John, KX7YT is QRV as S21YV from Dhaka until December 4. Activity is on 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB and PSK31. QSL to home call.

**CHAD, TT.** Pascal, F5PTM is QRV as TT8ZZ in Djamaena until possibly December. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, including 12 meters, using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

**MYANMAR, XY.** Hiroo, XY1M has been QRV on 40, 15 and 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via XW2A.

**IRAQ, YI.** Club station YI1BGD has been QRV on 10 meters around 1400z.

**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.** The Japan International DX Phone Contest, European DX RTTY Contest (WAEDC), Arkansas QSO Party, OK/OM DX CW Contest and the Anatolian ATA PSK31 Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend. Please see November QST, page 102, and the WA7BNM contest website for details.

NNNN  
/EX

## KC DX CLUB DXCC TOTALS

CALL MIXED CW PHONE RTTY 160M

CALL	MIXED	CW	PHONE	RTTY	160M
K0JN*	355				
K0CS*	349	254	340		198
AB0X*	348	334			185
N0XA*	348				275+
AK0A*	343	243			
W0WG	340	333	335		191
K0ZM	322	303	185		
KG0UA	254	248	101		
K0XM	245	172	202	32	
NW0L	190	2	175	95	
AE9B	224	119	204	63	
KI7WO	169				
WD0SRI107		93			5

Notes: \*ARRL DXCC Honor Roll Member AND has been at the top of the Honor Roll ; totals show

all countries including deletions; totals shown with two numbers indicate outstanding QSLs; @ WD0SRI still waiting on UP2HI, 5U4GB, UR1LID, UF0OL and C0ORS QSL cards.



Figure 6

## K0LW GETS NEW SUV & BOAT

KCDXC President, K0LW, has finally broken down and got a new vehicle. Picture above is Lee's new SUV. He calls it a "Redneck Woodie", made by Armstrong & Hammer. It has a 4/80 air conditioner and runs well off the road!

However, K0LW is even more proud of his new boat. One of K0LW's cousin's is shown below running down the creek in Lee's new boat.



## THE KANSAS CITY DX CLUB

*The Kansas City DX Club is a regional, ARRL affiliated amateur radio club dedicated to Dxing and contesting. The Club meets the last Monday of*

*each month, except for the summer months. Membership is open to anyone interested in DX or contesting. Contact the Club President, K0LW, if more information is needed. Contributions for publication in the newsletter are always appreciated and should be sent to the Editor. Contact AB0X, at 913-334-0139, or [mcrabtree@kc.rr.com](mailto:mcrabtree@kc.rr.com) if you have any questions about the newsletter. The KC DX News is the official newsletter of the Kansas City DX Club. Any original article, except copyrighted ones, may be reprinted in another amateur radio journal as long the author and the newsletter are given credit.*

## KD0FW GETS NEW CAR ALARM

Mike, KD0FW, has made his mobile much more safer! Look at the photo below for a good view of his new car alarm. It is called the "Three Dog Night Car Alarm."



## CONTEST COLUMN DE AE9B

Recent Post on QRZ.COM regarding contesting.

There has been and will no doubt continue to be, a divided population with regards to contesting. Titled "Contesting On Ham Radio", The article on QRZ.com created an uproar of responses from both sides of the ham community. The Article began with, " I appreciate that this is a very old debate and a

tender point for the majority of amateurs today. The issue that I want you to consider is not whether contesting has a place in amateur radio but rather how contesting affects non-contest stations." The author goes on to explain, "The purpose of this article is to attempt to effect a change in the way that the contests ARRL 160 Meter Contest all bands, can co-exist during a contest weekend. So Far:

13 pages of responses showed just about every side of responsible and not so responsible answers to the author and other poster's. A read most of them with some prejudice as I enjoy contests as you all know. That doesn't mean that I can't look through the same glasses as those who hate contests. The final post, By K1XM, which caught my eye and not so sympathetically explains some of my feelings about the topic follows:

"In the recent CQ WW SSB contest CQ9K worked 4,166 stations on 20 meters. That means at least 4,167 stations operated the contest on that band that weekend. 20 meters is 350 KHz wide. In the US the phone band is just 200 KHz.

With those numbers, QRM is going to happen. You are asking for a clear frequency for your non-contest communications, which means that testers will have fewer frequencies available for their use, and therefore more QRM.

But you have not stated a reason why you should be given this special treatment. If you want the contest sponsors to change the rules in ways that make it more difficult to operate the contest you'd need something more compelling than "I don't like it".

Reducing frequencies available to testers would hurt the smaller contest station. Not everyone has a beam and a KW.

As far as petitioning the FCC, They've said that non-emergency communications have equal priority. Even you could get an NPRM issued the testers would write opposing the measure. And even if it passed most hams don't live in the US and so would not be affected. We may all agree that intentional QRM is

wrong, but beyond that if 4,166 of my friends show up for a party I expect it will be a little noisy."

The Kansas City DX Club is beginning to form a 10 Man team for

2200Z, Dec 6 - 1600Z, Dec 8

- 1-KU1CW (Alex)
- 2-AE9B (Tom)
- 3-K0LW (Lee)
- 4-AA0FO (Marshall)
- 5-KG0US (Dave)

Maybe N0AG (Tom Laux)  
Maybe N0TT (Charlie)

I believe we have a good chance of winning this competition and bringing back some of that Low Band Pride to the KCDXC.

If you have the capability of operating on 160M and wish to contribute even a few Q's to our total, please let me know. We really need to get 10 operators on for this competition. There is a gavel (the award given for 1<sup>st</sup> place) with our name on it waiting, if we can field a good team.

### MULTI – MULTI

I'm beginning to think about our next Multi Multi Event ay AE9B and would like some input. Last year's WPX contest was a good success with some fire and vinegar after the contest regarding contest clubs. I'm hoping we can build on that enthusiasm by making the next few Multi Multi's, KCDXC Events. I am currently hoping to host two events this year. One CW and one SSB contest. My first thought is to run One contest in February and the Second in March. I'm thinking the ARRL International CW DX Contest the weekend of Feb. 15 and then the CQ WW WPX SSB contest on the weekend of Mar. 29. If you think you'd like to participate, even a little bit, please let me know. I will try to get some serious commitments later, but a general idea of

interest would be adequate to get the ball rolling. I hope we can get a nice list of operators again this year. The goal is to put the KCDXC back on the map in the Contest Arena.

“..if 4,166 of my friends show up for a party I expect it will be a little noisy.” AND I WANT TO BE THERE ! Tom Baugh AE9B

## **New HF Transceivers - Now & Future:**

[Jim Benedict \(N8FVJ\)](#) on November 7, 2002

[View comments about this article!](#)

I find it interesting to guess the design and marketing of new to be released HF transceivers. I am using the 'guess' word strongly! The majority of the amateur community wants a superior performing HF transceiver at 1990 or better prices. Amateur equipment engineering and design costs has been partly supported by commercial and industrial sales for years. I believe the manufactures are not as supportive of this 'in-house give away'. Amateur equipment will continue to depend upon commercial technology for advancement.

DSP, the low cost, multi-task alternate- Digital processing has in part replaced the expensive I.F. crystal and mechanical filters now. As the overall technology improves and the microprocessors become less expensive, the expensive crystal and mechanical I.F. filters will go away. As for features, the software already replaces an array of filters.

**FT-100D vs FT-897-** The Yaesu FT-100D vs the FT-897 is a good example. The FT-897 is for the most part (I believe) a FT-817 with a linear amp. I would rather own a FT-100D with for about \$200 less if I am correct that the FT-897 has the FT-817 receiver. Most amateurs would prefer the new FT-897! The first released FT-100 had a history of problems. Interesting when a new product is 99.9% well engineered and the .1% shows up. The FT-100D is now well upgraded with engineering revisions. I would not be wary of a FT-100D

purchase now, in fact, I am going to tell my wife 'the bad news' shortly. The FT-817 has had much better success regarding manufacturing, warranty costs and I believe sales. The fun factor of both radios is great, but a history of repair does reduce the fun factor and sales. I believe the FT-100D time may be limited as we know it. The price is just to low for such a high-performance radio. Perhaps a repackaging is forthcoming with DSP filtering replacing the FT-100D I.F. crystal filters. After all, the engineering has been paid for. The FT-100D with expanded DSP capacity in a FT-847 base type configuration would be an improvement. Now, the FT-100D would be a \$1800 radio just like the IC-746 PRO with DSP filtering and some FT-847 features included. The FT-920 is a great radio. Its performance is dangerously close to a FT-1000MKV when sold at the low price. Yaesu has elected to keep the \$1200 'slot' alive. Where does the FT-840 fit in? At \$600, a low profit item for Yaesu.

**IC-746 vs IC-746 PRO-** This was a good marketing move for ICOM. As the IC-746 pricing became lower, ICOM had to replace the radio, lets say upgrade the radio with DSP and use the well known 'PRO' nameplate. I believe the IC-746 PRO was introduced somewhat on the expensive side, however demand will increase. History proves this to be true. The interesting marketing move was where is the \$1200 HF radio? The IC-706 MKIIG is the compact alternate to the FT-100D. I believe sales has been superior to the FT-100D. Perhaps a 'all options' IC-706 MKIIG fills the profit gap somehow and ICOM does not want the TS-570SG/FT-920 battleground. I am not sure of the IC-706 MKIIG future. Again, pricing is very attractive for us amateurs, but perhaps not as much for ICOM. As for the IC-718, another low profit, entry level HF sharing the IC-706 DSP technology as an option.

**Kenwood TD-570DG & TS-570SG-** This was a very smart move for Kenwood. First, the mobile TS-50S HF engineering and tooling cost was paid for by Kenwood. The IC-706 came to market with an offering from Yaesu in the near future guaranteed. Why battle it out. Instead,

offer the TS-570D with a TS-570S as an option. The successful TS-570 series is reasonably compact, yet had an antenna tuner. The TS-570S filled the \$1200 market range as well with 6 meters included. DSP upgrades created the 'G' series and sales are good. The costly TS-950SDX had to go like the FT-1000D did later and the excellent TS-870S was available. Minor engineering changes improved the TS-870S performance and agreed, it would have been better if in place on the first models. Now, enter the TS-2000. Interesting radio to take the \$1800 position and offer VHF/UHF capacity. The only issue was the slightly high price that had been adjusted later. Along the same thinking as the TS-570D, offer 1.2GHz as an option. I am unsure of Kenwood's future offerings. I know R&D is either very guarded or minimal at this time.

TEN TEC- Very smart marketing moves for TEN TEC as well. Riding on the superior performance of the dated OMNI series, out comes the Pegasus and Jupiter. These are not hot OMNIs, but priced low enough. DSP technology everywhere, even on-line software upgrades for free! The '6N2' VHF transceiver is available next and finally, the Orion about to appear. The Orion may outperform the most other radios using a mix of current technology DSP and crystal filtering. At the high-end of HF radios, the cost is not much of a jump from the aging Omni series! If this radio gets a superior performance handle on the IC-756 PROII, it is going to get very interesting!

The above is simply my ideas and not scientific in anyway. I have not any contact with the manufactures and have not even studied hard data production numbers. If I somehow touched a sensitive area, it was by chance. This is just 'radio chat' as often heard on the ham bands. Have fun.

Posted on eHam.Com.