The DX-Tra

A Newsletter of the South Florida DX Association

Nov-Dec 2026

President – Jeff, WB3ISP Vice President – Al ,KJ3Q
Secretary – Rich, WB4EHG Treasurer – Gil, W1RG
Directors: Randy, N4QV; John, K2SHA; Bill, W2CQ; Mark, K2AU
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Highlights from our November 4, 2026 SFDXA Meeting

Our membership has been growing, and this meeting was one of the best attended this year. And no wonder. **We had two outstanding speakers.**

Max Freedman, N4ML, was the youngest member of the recent Bouvet DXpedition. He shared with us his amazing experiences on that treacherous but highly successful trip. Max leaves next week for VK9XY, Christmas Island (Nov 16-Dec 4) with 10 young hams under 26 years of age.



The Bouvet Team



Max Freedman N4ML, youngest DXpeditioner to Bouvet Island

Our ARRL CEO, David Minster, NA2AA, gave a fascinating talk about the latest happenings at Headquarters. The news on the HOA antenna front is not great. Considerable money, time, and effort has been spent on this potential legislation. Yet, there has been little to show for it. David assures us that they haven't given up and that new ideas are in the works. One of the issues is the turnover of elected officials, including a critical supporter in Connecticut.

We also learned a lot about the thought processes of the DX Advisory Committee. The Committee has taken a lot of flak over issues such as the disapproval of the Turkmenistan travels of a ham professor from Germany who claims to have received permission to enter the country to perform "propagation research." He operated as EZ/DL7ZM over two or three summers. It seemed reasonable on the surface to many hams, but he had no permit to operate (amateur radio is outlawed) and a compound callsign has never been permitted in the country.



David Minster NA2AA, CEO of the ARRL

President's Message

Fellow members,



Jeff Dale WB3ISP

Thank you to everyone who came out to our November meeting. It was a full night, and it was good to see the room busy and the club station on the air before we got started.

A special thank-you goes to our guest speakers: ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, and Max Freedman, N4ML. Having the League's CEO join a local club meeting is not something that happens every day, and I appreciate both of them giving their time to SFDXA and staying for questions from the members.

K4FK Repeater

The K4FK repeater is not on the air yet, but the project is moving forward. We will keep sharing installation progress and timelines at meetings and in the newsletter. When it goes live, we will let everyone know right away.

Membership Renewal

This is a good time to renew your membership. Your dues keep the club station, the repeater project, and our meetings going. Renewal also matters for another reason this year: only members in good standing can vote in our upcoming election. Please don't let your membership lapse.

Call for Nominations

This winter, SFDXA holds its first officer election under the bylaws we adopted on July 8, 2026. The elected board will take over from the transition board that has been guiding the club. Nominations will be taken at a special meeting in December, and voting will be done by electronic ballot through an election service. I encourage every member to think about serving, or about who you would like to see on the board. Self-nominations are welcome. A club is only as strong as the people willing to help run it, and this is our chance to set the direction for SFDXA's next chapter.

Thank you for your continued support of the club. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

73,

Jeff Dale, WB3ISP President, South Florida DX Association

Questions of the Month

Answers are posted on the last page of the Newsletter

Question 1
Gerson Strassberg, WA2JXX invented this revolutionary item in 1952.

A) A Sideband adapter for the Heathkit Apache Transmitter
B) The Cubical Quad antenna
C) The Pocket Protector
D) The Bipolar Junction Transistor

Question 2
Copthorne Macdonald, VE1BFL, invented what ham radio mode in the early 1960s?

A) Split or cross-band tranmissions
B) Slow-Scan TV
C) Narrow Band FM
D) Moonbounce

Question 3
Bob Dennison W0DX, a past-president of the ARRL, led the first example of what popular DX activity in 1948?

A)A Worldwide DX Contest
B) The first National DX Convention
C) A DXpedition to the Bahamas
D) DXCC Awards



DX Happenings Nov - Dec 2026
By Rodger Stutes KM4NS

Have you bookmarked these popular DX News Sites?
ARRL W1AW DX Bulletin - Current and Archived
425 DX News
DX World

Daily DX (Free Trial then Paid)
NG3K Announced DX Operations List
DX Calendar at DX Maps - sign up for daily email
Deutschen Amateur-Radio-Club DX Newsletter

Another Macao operation concludes

Another Macao operation has concluded and again KM4NS does not have XX9 in the log. XX9TXN was using FT8 with three streams and I managed to decode only two times on 40M — both when he called CQ using only one stream.

Peter 1 Island 3Y0L — February 2027

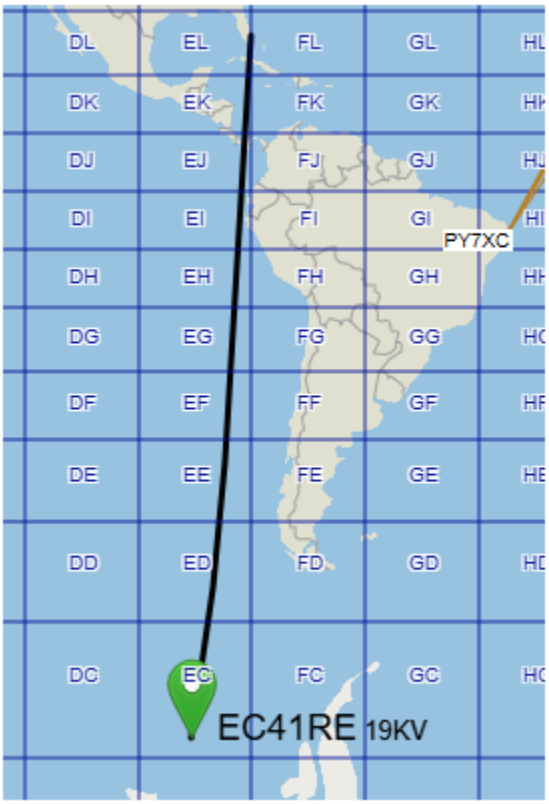
The next major DXpedition will be the January / February 2027 activation of Peter 1 Island by the Delta-Xray Group. They plan to depart Chile on January 22 and stay around the island for 3 weeks with 2 weeks of onshore operation. This one should be a relatively easy contact for members of the SFDXA because Peter 1 Island is 6,600 miles south of here and almost on the same time zone. Details of the Peter 1 Island DXpedition can be found on their web site at 3Y0L.com.

Prior DXpeditions were made to Peter 1 Island in2006 (3Y0X) and 1994 (3Y0PI).
The Motor Vessel Betanzos with 2 helicopters will provide transport to the Island.



DX Happenings Nov - Dec 2026
By Rodger Stutes KM4NS

Peter 1 Island is 183 Degrees Short Path



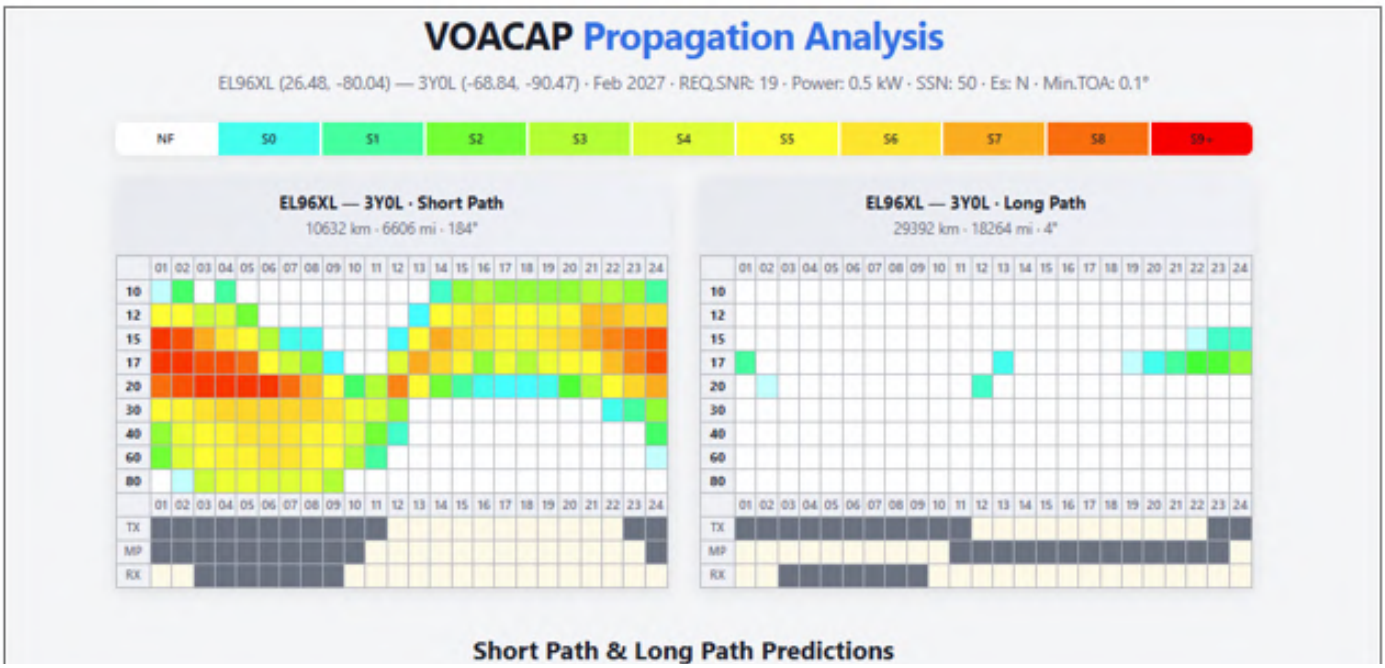
3Y0L Peter 1 Island — key facts

Departure from Chile on January 22, 2027

About 3 weeks around the island, with 2 weeks of onshore operation

6,600 miles south of South Florida and nearly the same time zone

Peter 1 Island is 183 degrees short path
Transport by the Motor Vessel Betanzos with 2 helicopters



Peter 1 Island: propagation and resources

The Delta-Xray Group's 3Y0L team plans to depart Chile on January 22, 2027 and stay around the island for 3 weeks with 2 weeks of onshore operation. Details of the Peter 1 Island DXpedition can be found on their web site at 3Y0L.com.

An interesting propagation tool

There is an interesting propagation tool on the DX-WORLD.net web site that uses the 3Y0L expected antenna layout and allows users to specify their own antennas. It is a good way to plan your own operating before the team goes on the air.

https://www.dx-world.net/peter-1-island-dxpedition-2027/
https://www.voacap.com/dx/peter/
https://3Y0L.com — official DXpedition web site

Peter 1 Island activations

Year	Call Sign	Notes
1994	3Y0PI	Earlier Peter 1 Island activation
2006	3Y0X	Earlier Peter 1 Island activation
2027	3Y0L	Delta-Xray Group — departs Chile January 22



Peter 1 Island has no Starbucks or McDonald's

VK9XY: A Youth-Led DXpedition to Christmas Island



November 16 – December 4, 2026 · Christmas Island (IOTA OC-002) · Indian Ocean

Something truly special is happening this November — a DXpedition that is not only technically ambitious but also offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for young amateur radio operators to experience DXpeditioning at the highest level for the very first time.

The VK9XY DXpedition, our third DXpedition in three years, will activate Christmas Island (IOTA OC-002) with a youth-led international team of eight young operators — including hams from the United States, Lithuania, and Malawi — led by Max Freedman (N4ML). Veteran DXpeditioners Gregg W6IZT and Glenn W0GJ join the team on-island purely as advisors and mentors; the planning and the on-air work belong to the young ops.

Additionally, 30–40 young hams worldwide will join remotely using the innovative NexGen RiB2 remote stations, made possible through an equipment grant from the Northern California DX Foundation. The dates of operation are November 16 to December 4, 2026 — roughly eighteen days on the air from one of the Indian Ocean's rarest and most remote entities.

With its focus on hands-on leadership, training, and knowledge transfer, this is more than a DXpedition — it is an investment in the future of our hobby.

Our goal is to fully cover the travel and operational expenses of every one of our young team members — so that financial circumstances are never a barrier to participation for these enthusiastic and dedicated young hams.

Complete information and updates: https://vk9xy2026.com/

Youth-led planning

This expedition is run by its young operators. Each young op owns a defined area of responsibility — from fund-raising and logistics to station and antenna planning, operating strategy, logging, pilot coordination, and remote-operator support — with Gregg W6IZT and Glenn W0GJ on hand to advise.

The station plan

We are not operating from an existing station — the team will set up four local stations and two remote stations
A portable QO-100 satellite station, operating CW, SSB, FT8, and QO-100 satellite from more than one location on the island
There will be no unattended QSOs



The result is real ownership and real skill-building. We are preparing these young hams to become the DXpedition leaders of the next generation, and their planning and on-island progress will be shared with our donors and sponsors along the way.

Meet the team on Christmas Island

We plan several podcasts from the island. You will have the opportunity to hear from the young ops firsthand while they are on the island. We will announce the schedule as our departure date approaches. Click on the Video for more information.



A special thank you

Every donor, and every member of a club that supports our project, will receive a personalized, downloadable certificate of appreciation as a token of our sincere gratitude. It's something to display proudly — because you believed in the future of amateur radio.

How you can help

Without the support of clubs and individuals, this expedition would not be possible. Your donation helps us create a truly transformative experience for the next generation of DXpeditioners. Our goal is to fully cover the travel and operational expenses of every one of our young team members — so that financial circumstances are never a barrier to participation. As radio amateurs, we have always stood together. Now we invite you to help make a lasting impact by supporting this ambitious DXpedition — one that trains, uplifts, and inspires tomorrow's leaders. Every donation counts — and just as importantly, please help us spread the word!

Thank you for believing in the next generation! 73, The VK9XY DXpedition Team

VK9XY at a glance

Dates: November 16 – December 4, 2026 — about eighteen days on the air
Entity: Christmas Island, IOTA OC-002, Indian Ocean
Team: eight young operators led by Max Freedman, N4ML
Mentors: Gregg W6IZT and Glenn W0GJ, on island as advisors
Remote: 30–40 young hams on NexGen RiB2 remote stations
Modes: CW, SSB, FT8, and QO-100 satellite
Web: https://vk9xy2026.com/

DX Happenings Nov - Dec 2026

By Rodger Stutes KM4NS

Upcoming Announced DX Operations Courtesy of NG3K (for the latest listings CLICK HERE)

Dates	DXCC Entity	Call Sign
Nov 01 - Nov 30	Juan Fernandez Is	XR0Z
Nov 13 - Nov 20	Cape Verde Is	D44JB
Nov 14 - Nov 22	South Cook Is	E51A
Nov 16 - Dec 04	Christmas I	VK9XY
Nov 20 - Nov 27	Cocos (Keeling) I	VK9DS
Nov 20 - Dec 03	Mauritius	3B8
Nov 22 - Dec 02	Rodrigues I	3B9
Nov 22 - Dec 05	St Helena	ZD7
Nov 23 - Nov 30	Sint Maartin	PJ7WW
Nov 28 - Dec 04	Tonga	A35TV
Nov 29 - Dec 07	Br Virgin Is	VP2V
Dec 10 - Dec 16	Nauru	C21GD
Dec 12 - Jan 02	Falkland Is	VP8THW
Dec 14 - Jan 01	St Helena	ZD7LC
Dec 23 - Jan 06	Tanzania	5H1RK
Dec 27 - Jan 03	Gambia	C5H
Dec 28 - Jan 08	Seychelles	S79
Dec 29 - Jan 03	Marianas	KH0
Jan 08 - Jan 14	Palau	T88SM
Jan 10 - Oct 17	Falkland Is	VP8TOG
Jan 17 - Jan 24	Burkina Faso	XT2MAX
Jan 19 - Jan 27	Sint Maarten	PJ7
Feb 01 - Feb 28	Peter I	3Y0L
Feb 03 - Mar 03	St Kitts & Nevis	V4
Feb 05 - May 07	Solomon Is	H44MS
Feb 10 - Feb 18	Palau	T8KT
Feb 15 - Feb 27	Somalia	6O6X

Doug Waller, NX4D (SK):
A Lifetime on the Low Bands

A Tribute by Jose Carlos, N4IS

How a teenager's homemade transmitter led to an inventive receiving antenna - and what one small-lot station can teach every aspiring 160-meter DXer. Doug worked 314 countries CW on 160m from a 1/5-acre lot.

I had planned to write a 20-year review of the Waller Flag receiving antenna, which I first built in November 2006. Then my good friend Doug Waller passed away. This story is about Doug's curiosity, his engineering imagination, and the antenna that carries his name. It is also a reminder to hams with city lots that a small property does not have to end the dream of working DX on 160 meters.

A bicycle, a key, and a first signal

Doug's interest in radio began as a teenager in the 1960s. He was fascinated by new ideas and liked to build things. He found a Popular Mechanics article describing a simple transmitter made from readily available parts. He assembled a small motorcycle battery, an ignition coil, a spark plug, a coil, and a wire antenna into a homemade CW transmitter. He mounted it on his bicycle and put a Morse key near the handlebars.

His friend John, (now W4GD and a member of SFDXA) had a portable radio. Doug would ride to a high spot in the neighborhood and send CW while John rode farther away, checking how far he could copy the signal. During one test, Doug heard his own signal coming from a nearby house. He noticed a wire over the roof. A man came outside to see what he was doing; he was a ham radio operator and kindly invited Doug to see his station. John joined them, and both boys were introduced to amateur radio. Doug's first experiment became the start of a lifetime with radio.



Doug's original Waller Flag, photographed September 10, 2002.

Doug Waller, NX4D (SK):
A Lifetime on the Low Bands (cont'd)
A Tribute by Jose Carlos, N4IS

From high-band DX to 160 meters

Doug became an enthusiastic DXer and worked all countries on the higher bands. He reached #1 DXCC Honor Roll while living in W7 land. He loved DX and muscle cars, and he had the technical background to take on hard problems: Doug held a B.S.E. in Mechanics.

After moving from W7 land to Florida, Doug turned his attention to 160 meters. His home was in a subdivision on a one-fifth-acre lot, with almost no front or back yard. The band was noisy, and the conventional low-band antennas he saw around him seemed to require more space than he had. A friend invited Doug to a hamfest and persuaded him to attend a presentation about 160 meters by the well-known DXer Zorro (Yasuo "Zorro" Miyazawa, JH1AJT, SK). Zorro showed a map of the United States highlighting the better locations for top-band operation. South Florida looked like a black hole: a difficult place from which to work 160-meter DX. That challenge caught Doug's attention.

The receiving problem

Doug joined local hams on 1845 kHz SSB. Many had large lots and Beverage receiving antennas extending hundreds of feet - some roughly 1,000 feet long. They could hear new countries that Doug could not copy. He first tried a rotatable Flag antenna based on Larry W7IUV's design. It reduced local noise and helped, but Doug still could not hear everything the others could.



Doug's antenna installation at his Central Florida home.

Doug Waller, NX4D (SK):
A Lifetime on the Low Bands (cont'd)
A Tribute by Jose Carlos, N4IS

The Adcock: an idea that changed the story

Doug was only getting started. With the mindset of an engineer and the persistence of a DXer, he developed a new receiving antenna. The early design phased two Flag elements 180 degrees apart in an end-fire arrangement. It used a 16-foot boom and two loops measuring about 14 by 7 feet. Doug called it the 'Adcock' antenna.

Its directional pattern worked like a receiving beam. The design looked unusual, and local hams joked about it. Then the antenna began delivering contacts that larger stations could not match. In one memorable week, Doug worked JT1CO in Mongolia over the North Pole. He also worked R1FJL by pointing north, when no other Florida station could copy the signal. Some nearby operators had long Beverage antennas, but none was aimed toward the North Pole. Doug's small-lot experiment had found a path their larger installations missed.



Jose Carlos's Big Waller Flag: dual 20-by-10-foot loops on a 32-foot boom.


A visit to Doug's station. From left: Doug NX4D, Conrad W4RCC, Jose Carlos N4IS, Dave, and Stam.

A visit, a friendship, and a name

I first learned about Doug and his antenna in 2006. I had moved to South Florida in 1999 and was operating as N4IS. I was interested in the low bands, but I had no room for long Beverage antennas. I began modeling my own two-loop design, realizing that the small antenna would need a good preamplifier. I built my first version without having seen Doug's original project. Mine had a 50-foot boom.

From experiment to the Waller Flag

I built three antennas: one for myself, one for Ron W4BP, and one for Conrad W4RCC. Then we went to visit Doug in Central Florida. The visit was wonderful, and we became close friends. Conrad teased me about the size of my antenna: Doug's original was about 30 feet long, while mine was 50 feet. Even so, my antenna performed remarkably well.

My first DX contact with it was 8Q7DV in CQ Zone 22. Before long, Doug and I had each worked 250 countries on 160 meters. We became well known in the low-band community. I named the antenna the Waller Flag, or WF, in honor of its inventor, Doug 'Waller' NX4D. My version became the Big Waller Flag; Doug's larger version was the Monster Waller Flag.



A Waller Flag installation and its recorded 160-meter CW totals: 314 DXCC entities and 40 CQ zones.

The 'Impossible QSO'

Doug continued to fight local noise. He found that pointing his antenna at 210 degrees reduced it, even though that direction looked out over the South Pacific. To his surprise, he heard 9M2AX coming from that direction. They did not complete a contact, but Doug's observation gave us a clue. At the time, I was in contact with Peter, XU7ACY, in Cambodia. Peter was installing a new Beverage antenna, and I asked him to point it south and west.

Doug Waller, NX4D (SK):
A Lifetime on the Low Bands (cont'd)
A Tribute by Jose Carlos, N4IS

A path over the pole

The next morning, before sunrise in Florida, I pointed my antenna toward 210 degrees, following Doug's observation. I heard Peter, and we made the long-path contact. This was considered an impossible path on the low bands. Doug also logged the long-path QSO. The path from South Florida toward Asia was little known, and the signals were often horizontally polarized.

From 2010 into 2011, we worked several new countries in Asia this way. The Waller Flag earned national attention, and Doug and I were invited to present at the 160-meter dinner in Dayton. I later turned my receiving antenna horizontal and developed the Horizontal Waller Flag, or HWF, to help address noise.



Jose Carlos's Horizontal Waller Flag on the tower, August 27, 2010



The SFDXA Waller Flag antenna on the hospital rooftop.

What Doug's story offers new hams

Doug did not begin with a large property, a perfect antenna site, or a guarantee of success. He began with curiosity. He listened, noticed what others could not hear, changed the design, and kept experimenting. His first receiving antenna helped; the next one helped more. The jokes stopped when the results became impossible to ignore.

For operators on city lots, the lesson is practical and encouraging. A receiving antenna does not have to be enormous to be useful. Reducing local noise and improving directivity can make a real difference. Doug showed that persistence and sound engineering can make limited space an invitation to innovate.

Doug was an example of dedication and engineering skill, but he was also my good friend. I will miss him. His antenna continues to help operators hear farther, and his example continues to encourage those of us who believe that the next contact may be just beyond the noise. Rest in peace, Doug.

Doug Waller, NX4D (SK):
A Lifetime on the Low Bands (cont'd)
A Tribute by Jose Carlos, N4IS

Further reading and presentations

- Doug Waller NX4D and Jose Carlos N4IS: Dayton 2011 Waller Flag presentation (PDF)
- High Performance RX Antennas for a Small Lot - WWROF webinar archive
- N4IS - Waller Flag Construction - WWROF webinar archive
- Larry W7IUV: Rotatable Flag receiving antenna (PDF)

About the Author, Jose Carlos. N4IS



JC was introduced to Morse code as a Boy Scout in Brazil in 1968, when he was 14 years old. A friend's portable radio first caught his attention, and visits to a relative who was a ham operator soon drew him into amateur radio. At the time, Brazil's Class C license was for operators aged 15 to 18. In 1972 he earned the call PY2FOS, with privileges on 160 and 80 meters. After turning 18, he passed the Class B and A exams, with Class A comparable to the U.S. Extra class.

JC earned a B.S.E.E. in Electronic Engineering in 1978, with a minor in Mechanics, and built his first transmitter using vacuum tubes. It took him 20 years to complete his 160-meter DXCC, in part because of city noise and the limitations of a small lot.

In 1992, he decided to earn an American amateur radio license. At a radio club, he took all five exams—from Novice through Extra—in a single day, finishing in four hours. A few months later, he received the call AB6WC. He then moved to Florida with his family in 1999 and later obtained the call N4IS.

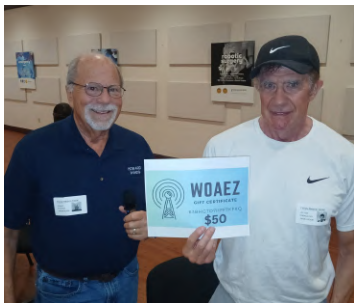
JC enjoys weak-signal DXing on the low bands and VHF, especially EME in CW. South Florida offered excellent opportunities on the low bands, but electrical noise was a challenge. He began developing receiving antennas to reduce it, starting with an EWE and then a Flag. After meeting Doug, NX4D, he optimized his dual-Flag design. In 2006, he built his first large Waller Flag, and in 2010 he developed a horizontally polarized version, the Horizontal Waller Flag (HWF). It greatly reduced man-made noise and made reception from his small lot near Fort Lauderdale feel like listening from a quiet island in the ocean.

After retiring, JC founded TOP-BEAM and manufactured hundreds of HWF antennas, which found homes in more than 50 countries, including several installations in Florida. As the market changed during the pandemic and digital modes grew in popularity, he closed production in 2020.

He continues to enjoy discovering what can be heard from his 100-by-150-foot backyard, where there is no room for Beverage antennas. Over more than 20 years with the HWF, he's worked 308 countries and all 40 zones on 160 meters, CW only, and heard 16 additional countries that he wasn't able to log. From South Florida, a good receiving antenna can make it possible to work more than 150 countries and 36 zones in a year.

For JC, the secret is to enjoy every part of the journey, just as he did with his first QSO as a teenager. Always alert!

Raffle Prize Winners/Sponsors



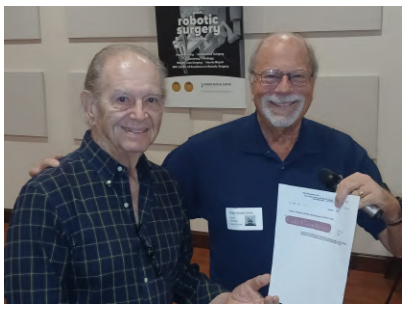




Top Left: $50 Gift certificate from W0AEZ won by Victor KD2HE. Howard W6HDG is presenting.

Top Middle: QRZ Premium subscription won by Ray N4RU

Top Right: $50 Alpha Antenna coupon won by N4QV Randy





Bottom Left: $25 Wireman Gift Certificate won by Bill W2CQ

Bottom Right: $50 Gift Certificate from Alpha Antenna won by Bob (Callsign Pending)

We are pleased to recognize our generous Club Sponsors who contribute to the success and vitality of the SFDXA. We couldn't do it without you!

All logos are clickable

Answers to the Questions of the Month

Answers

Question 1

Answer: C

Gerson Strassberg, WA2JXX, invented the Pocket Protector, which no self-respecting ham geek or engineer would be without. The tweezers were optional. Gerson, an electrical engineer by training, was working in Brooklyn as a development engineer. As Strassberg recalled, one day a phone call interrupted his work on a bankbook cover he was making. He was using a low-heat welding technique that employed both compression and high-frequency radio waves to fuse sheets of vinyl to make the cover. In answering the telephone, he stuck the unfinished product into his shirt pocket, where part of it flopped over the outside front of the pocket. During the phone conversation, he instinctively stuck a pen in his pocket, which, according to Strassberg, gave him the idea for “one of the first known pocket protectors.”



Do you miss this?

Question 2

Answer: B

Copthorne Macdonald, VE1BFL, invented Slow-Scan TV. Copthorne “Cop” Macdonald was born in Chicago in 1936 and earned his ham license in 1951. In 1957, as an engineering student at the University of Kentucky, he read about a Bell Labs picture system in the school library. He worked out a way to send pictures over ordinary voice radio gear. That was slow-scan TV. His paper won a national student prize in 1958, and QST ran his articles in August and September 1958. As WA2BCW, he sent the first SSTV picture across the Atlantic on December 20, 1959. The FCC authorized regular SSTV on the HF bands in 1968. Early color SSTV required sequential color filtering (sending red, green, and blue color components separately through color filters and combining multiple exposures or scans).



Early Color SSTV using the Robot 1200C

Question 3

Answer: C

It was "Gon-Waki", the VP7NG DXpedition to the Bahamas during the second weekend of the 1948 ARRL International DX Contest. Bob Denniston — then W4NNN — was credited with being the "father of the modern DXpedition." The DXpedition's name was a spoof on Thor Heyerdahl's "Kon-Tiki" expedition the previous year. (The full "Gon-Waki" story appeared in QST, July 1948, page 80.)



Kon-Tiki, 1947: The inspiration for modern DXpeditions.