

McKean County Amateur Radio Club



NOVEMBER 2018 NEWS LETTER



After a little more than one year I have achieved DXCC, QRP (5 watts) CW Mobile. All QSO's were made using my Elecraft KX3 from my car using my mobile antenna. If someone ever says "you need a beam and a KW to work DXCC" guess what, it is not true. If I can do it from my car with 5 watts anyone can do it. (Notice the number on the award 0001)

I really think this could be done in under a year. For a couple of reasons, look at the globe, we live within one hop from over 100 DXCC entities. One hop on 20 meters being about 4,000 miles. With all the countries in the Caribbean and in Western Europe there are plenty to choose from. November has the CQ WW CW DX contest. Lots of stations on the air. Then in February is the ARRL DX CW contest, more chances to add to the list. In May is the CQ WW WPX CW contest. These 3 contests have lots of low hanging fruit to pick. Of course

there is the phone versions of all these contests too if those annoying “beeps” are hard to decipher. Persistence is needed too. Many hours were spent setting in the car waiting for the propagation to improve, and the pileup to decrease in size so I could get through with my little pistol signal. So if I can do this from my car any one at home with 100 watts and a wire can do this too. So here is the challenge, all of you that don't have DXCC yet get on the air and complete this by the end of 2019. If you are concerned about your DX QSL cards remember I am a ARRL DX Card checker I can complete this part of the process for you.

As this has never been done before, as far as I know, I made up my own certificate too.



A little tongue in cheek here!

VP6D Ducie Island DXpedition just ended. Looking at the numbers, 121,136 QSO's were made. CW- 67,686 or 55.9%, Phone 28,736 or 23.7%, Digital (FT-8 and RTTY) 24,714 or 20.4%. Who says CW is dead. With more the half of the QSO's made CW is alive and well. There were 14 operators on the atoll under less the poor living an operating conditions. There have been 3 other operations from thus DXCC Entity over the years VP6DI in 2001, VP6DIA 2002, and VP6DX in 2008. I had worked Ducie many times in the past so I waited till the last few days to work the DXpedition I had the island on all bands but 10 meters, but I could not hear them well enough this time to get them in the log on 10. I did work them on 40, 30, 20, 17, and 15. They were using DXA which is a near real time log on the internet. Every minute they would upload via satellite phone the latest QSO's so you could see within a minute or two that you were in the log. Below you can see the screen shot of one of my QSO's with them. This is a really cool way of DXpeditions doing their logs. But it ain't cheap, making a satellite call every minute for weeks on end takes a few bucks.

20 Oct - 3 Nov 2018

Last packet uploaded at: 02:10

Switch Map

Show/Hide Data

Refreshes in 47

Pause

Contact Us

About DXA

Last Logged

JF1JTQ
N13K
W6FD
NV4G
K1TH
JA2TBS
K1ROA
W0TU
K0DTJ

K6UM
NC2Y
K6ANP
W1AW
UK3VP
NR8I
N4MIK
W7YOZ
VU2ABS
WE0DX
ZP5FIA
AA5DE
K8OM
JF4JTQ
WB4OMM
PP2CC
VK3VP
JJ3MJK
K0JGH

Message from VP6D

2018-10-29 19:57:21Z: 10/29 19:53 - Our current intention is to continue the operation until 1500 on Thursday 1 Nov. This may be revised based on the weather and sea conditions - we will announce any changes.

QSO SEARCH

Please enter...

N13K

...a valid call sign

CONFIRM LOGGED

160 80 40 30 20 17 15 12 10 6

CW

SSB

RTTY

FT8

CURRENTLY WORKING

160 80 40 30 20 17 15 12 10 6

CW

SSB

RTTY

FT8

TIME REMAINING

4 d 1 h 47 m

Wed, 31 Oct 2018

02:11:41 UTC

TOTAL QSOS

116207

CW SSB DIGI

65275 28857 22275

From Carol McNall KC2CMC

Four hamfests, one summer. It might not be a ham radio record, but it was the formula for a fun summer for Steve, AC2RT, and me, KC2CMC. The four we visited split into two local and not so large and two less local and larger. We volunteered at one of the four (two of the four for Steve).

All four shared one quality. Hamfest start times are not designed for night owls, especially night owls who live at a distance. We solved the problem for the less local ones by finding a motel near the site, cutting the sleepy morning drive to something more manageable. But can someone tell me why start times have to be that early, other than that they always have been?

Some observations on the hamfests, in order by date:

June: PROS hamfest, sponsored by the Pioneer Radio Operators Society.

How tough to get there: Not difficult. The location was Manion Park, on Grove Street just off Route 16 in Chaffee. Not a bad drive for people in McKean and Cattaraugus counties. Google says it's a 52-minute drive from our home in Olean.

License testing: Yes. (They put Steve to work as a VE.)

Food: Ah, yes. Breakfast fare, plus a great chicken barbecue for lunch.

And: No commercial vendors, but a reasonable group of people with gear to sell. I saw a lot of people either meeting fellow hams in person for the first time (we did that) or catching up with people they hadn't seen in awhile.

July: Batavia hamfest, sponsored by the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club.

How tough to get there: Maybe the easiest of the four, IF you know it's actually located in Alexander, south of Batavia. The Alexander firemen's grounds is on Route 98 and impossible to miss. About an hour and a half drive, if we'd gone from Olean rather than a motel room.

License testing: Yes.

Food: More standard hamfest fare, including breakfast and hotdogs and hamburgers.

And: Some commercial vendors, including RW Antennastore, who that day sold us the mobile radios that actually fit our two Subarus. Joining them were lots of private vendors with an array of radios, small but vital stuff, books and things like computers, CDs and movies.

August: ROC City Net hamfest, sponsored by ROC City Net.

How tough to get there: Fairly easy, but check a map first. The hamfest is on the grounds of the Log Cabin Family Restaurant, West Walworth Road, Macedon. A glance at a map will tell you West Walworth is off Route 31F. Google tells me it's about a two hour drive from Olean. (Again, we got a motel room nearer there.)

License testing: I didn't see evidence of it.

Food: Whoever suggested having a hamfest on the grounds of a restaurant was genius. Log Cabin folks had a booth outside with a limited selection, but you could also go into the restaurant and order from their menu. We did and were happy with that decision.

And: A first-time hamfest, but beautifully organized. A mix of commercial and private vendors, including RW. Also included was Rochester Makerspace, which was selling some build-your-own code key kits. They were \$2; we bought several.

Also **August**, on the other half of the same weekend: CARS hamfest, sponsored by the Chautauqua Amateur Radio Service.

Note: I'm not an unbiased observer on this one. We also belong to CARS and volunteered at the hamfest.

How tough to get there: Definitely map or GPS time. It's not far from Chautauqua Mall, but you're going to want to have a couple of turns marked. The location, at the Lakewood Rod and Gun Club, is gorgeous, with a view of Chautauqua Lake and a roomy pavilion for set-ups. Drive time from Olean is about an hour and 15 minutes.

License testing: Yes.

Food: Breakfast pastries, snacks and hot dogs.

And: A small number of private vendors this year, but planning is already under way for expanding that selection in 2019. Lots of hams catching up with each other or meeting people for the first time.

The Pa QSO Party was October 13 and 14. Again this year we set up at the Boy Scout Camp at Elk Lick near Farmers Valley. Thank you Chris, KC3GJR, for arranging the camp for us. We had a **GREAT** time and ate too much. We had one digital station and two phone stations also one QRP CW station. This year I was in a separate building a few hundred yards away from the phone guys and this helped a lot with interference. We made 484 phone contacts, 8 digital and 390 CW. If you were unable cheese to attend this year you missed a great opportunity to get on the air with some experienced operators. Mark your calendars for the second full weekend in October 2109, the 12 & 13. Look forward to seeing you there.

From Vice President Tony Doriguzzi N3KTA

PA QSOPARTY Summary Sheet

Start Date : 2018-10-20

CallSign Used : W3VV

Operator(s) : W3VV

Operator Category : MULTI-OP

Band : ALL

Power : LOW

Mode : MIXED+DIG

Default Exchange : MCK

Gridsquare : FN01QX

ARRL Section : WPA

Club/Team : McKean County Amateur Radio Club

Software : N1MM Logger+ 1.0.7300.0

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Mul	Mt2	Pt/Q
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1.8	CW	8	16	0	0	2.0
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3.5	CW	150	300	3	0	2.0
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3.5	LSB	155	155	11	1	1.0
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3.5	USB	2	2	0	0	1.0
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7	CW	214	428	43	1	2.0
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7	LSB	324	324	52	1	1.0
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7	RTTY	5	10	1	0	2.0
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14	CW	18	36	6	0	2.0
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14	USB	5	5	0	0	1.0
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21	USB	1	1	0	0	1.0
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Total Both		882	1277	116	3	1.4
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Claimed Score : 152,563

Bonus Station Summary

Callsign(s) : N3LI

QSOs : 3

Bonus Points : 600

Soapbox :

We, the McKean County Amateur Radio Club (W3VV), operated portable from the Elk Lick Scout Reserve near Smethport, PA.

This year is the 80th anniversary of our club. More info at www.w3vv.com

From Ted W3VG;

I was asked to speak with Tom Bowersox of 1855 Windfall road, Olean NY, phone 716 397 5862.

Tom moved into a house previously owned by a ham and there is a 30' aluminum tower with a beam antenna (unknown band) rotor and Hazer to lower the antenna to the ground also the tower folds over at the base.

He would like it to be removed from his yard by someone who could use it.

I have not seen the tower so don't know more about it, I told him I would try to have the contact information and description included with our news letter to see if anyone was interested.

He said he wanted \$500 for it but I think he would take much less.

73, Ted W3VG

Pictures of our 80th



Amateur Radio License Class Dates.

Again this year the McKean County Department of Emergency Services is hosting a Technician and General license class. Dates, Technician January 5, 12, 19, 26, February 2 and 9. The test will be on the 9th. General dates, February 23, March 2, 9, 23, 30, and April 6. The test will be April 6th. Time 0900 til 1600 with an hour off for lunch, location in the DES building, 17175 Rt 6 west of Smethport. Deadline to register is December 22 so we can get the books ordered, There is no cost for the class, books provided by the McKean County DES. Test is free also. For more information and to register contact me, Bruce Manning, at bmanning@zitomedia.net or 814-331-3095.

Upcoming Events

Hamfest: If you attend a Hamfest, send me a report and some pictures I am sure are readers would be interested.

Hamfest/Convention

11/04/2018 | [WACOM 2018 HAMFEST](#)

Location: Canonsburg, PA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Washington Amateur Communications

Website: <http://www.wacomarc.org/hamfest.html>

Winter is here, kind of, so this is all there is for now!

Contests:

We have some big contests coming up. ARRL Sweepstakes this weekend is the CW version November 3-5. Phone Sweepstakes is November 17-19. The Granddaddy of all CW DX contests is November 24 - 25 and the ARRL 10 contest is November 30 - December 2, this one is CW only. Great time to work on DXCC, WAS and other awards.
<http://www.contesting.com/>

Another note: If you have QSL cards to be checked for DXCC, (including 160 meters) WAS or VUCC I can do this. Contact me at bmanning@zitomedia.net

As always if you have something you want me to include in the newsletter please let me know. Send it to bmanning@zitomedia.net