



The DX HUNTER

APRIL 17

MDXA CLUB INFO

**MEETINGS: 2nd SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
7:30 AM @ GOLDEN CORRAL HWY 49
GULFPORT**

MDXA WEBSITE: MDXA.org

Net Frequency: 147.375 Tuesday @ 8:00 PM

Editor E-mail: KE4MBP@GMAIL.COM

“More than a Club – We are Friends”

CLUB NEWS

April Events:

Program: Working a pile up
Howard Thickman, KE4MBP

MS QSO Party April 1-2

Field Day is coming and we need to start getting ready. Since we have not been able to get CW operators what do you think about a digital station? Each contact will be 2 points. This could help us raise our score. Any other ideas you have to help will be greatly appreciated.

LET's LOOK at QSL'ing

Make it EASY!

There is one simple thing to keep in mind about QSLing; Make it as easy as possible for the other station to return a QSL card to you! DX stations receive thousands of QSL cards and the easier it is, the faster you will get a card in return mail.

Your Log



The place where good QSLing practice begins is in your log. You need to make sure it is accurate as possible. Take pride in your log. If you do paper logs, write as legible as possible, as this will become important when you go back later to fill out your QSL cards. Make sure you use UTC time, and it's also a good idea to use the date format Day, Month/Year. (This is pretty well standard in Europe .)

If you are using computer logging, make sure your clock is correct, also make sure the date stamp on the logged record is being done properly. I've had QSL cards returned with "Not in LOG" stamped on them, because my computer clock wasn't logging the right time into the log. (Daylight savings vs Standard time always bites some logging programs.)

Your QSL card.

QSL cards are an art form, and everyone has their opinion and personal tastes. Whether your card is a fancy full color photo of you standing beside your Rolls Royce, or a plain computer generated 3 x 5 card, there is one basic thing that you need to know here; all of your information needs to be on the same side of the card. Your CALL, the QSO info, etc. Don't make the DX station search for your call on the card. It should stand out as a prominent feature of the QSL card.



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The information recorded on the card should be easy to read and in a format such as RADIO (that's the other stations call), DATE, TIME (UTC), BAND, RST, MODE.

I also think if you want a QSL card from this station you should have a check box, or state on the card PSE QSL. If you are replying to a QSL, it should be TNX QSL.

Other items such as your equipment, dogs name, awards received, religious preference, etc. are all non-essential data that can be put on the other side of the card, left off entirely.

It's a good idea to print with block letters. Legibility is crucial here. If the other operator can't read your scribble, how do you expect him to confirm the information?

QSL Routes

Finding the proper (or best) way to get a QSL card to the other station is sometimes a challenge in it's self. In casual contacts, ask the other operator what his QSL route is, but when working busy DX stations, especially DXpeditions, LISTEN, as they will tell you sooner or later what the QSL route or manager is. There are several other methods of finding QSL routes. The Internet has several databases for QSL managers, or QSL addresses. Check <http://www.eham.net/> and <http://www.dxer.org/> for some of these databases.

Another good way is to use your local DX cluster. DX clusters are beyond the scope of this article, but needless to say it is an invaluable tool for any DXer. When logged on with you local cluster type "sh/qs DXCALLSIGN" to show the route or manager for the DX station. This database varies from cluster to cluster, but most use this method.

The QSL Bureau.

Sending and receiving QSL cards via the Bureau is the most economical of all the methods. Most of the time the other operator will say, "OK via bureau". In this case he's indicating that if you're not in a hurry for his card, he will both receive your card and send you a card via the bureau system. For more information on this system go to www.arri.org/. Keep in mind that not all DX countries have Bureau systems, so check before bundling the cards for shipment to the outgoing bureau. Expect long delay in getting your card by this method. One to two years is common. If you are going to use the Bureau system or even if you're just a causal DXer, you should have envelopes on file at you incoming bureau. For more inform on incoming bureaus go to www.arri.org/.

QSL via my Manager

This is the next most economical of the methods. The DX station has selected someone to manage his QSLing activities. Most of the time the manager will be a stateside ham that has volunteered his services, but not always. Sometimes the manager may be in another country, but usually where the postal system is fairly reliable. To QSL to a manager, again, keep in mind you must make it as easy for him as possible. If the manager is stateside (in the United States or its territories), it is best to send a stamped, self-addressed envelope of a size that most QSL cards will fit into. I've found that the common 3 1/2 x 5 envelopes are adequate for this purpose. Make sure you name, address, city and state are legible. Include in the outside envelope your QSL and any "donation" that might be appropriate.

QSL services.

DX operators generally won't tell you QSL via a service, but if you're not willing to wait years for your QSL card to arrive, this is the next best thing to QSLing Direct to the DX station. QSL services, such as provided by WF5E are an easy way to get your cards on the way to the DX station. WF5E finds the best route to a particular DX station and bundles several cards together to save on costs. Cards generally come back thru the incoming QSL bureau, but a lot quicker. I've gotten returns on cards within two months after sending them thru WF5E. For information on this service visit www.qsl.net/wf5e



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Direct QSLing

Many DX stations QSL direct only. Usually they will give their QSL address on the air, or will say CBA, this means, "CALL BOOK ADDRESS". In other words, his address has been published in a commonly available CALLBOOK, and you should send directed via this address. There are several pointers here, as you need to keep in mind to make it as easy for the DX station as possible. Your card is only one of many thousand that he may get over a year. Send a Self-Addressed Envelope. You can again use the common airmail envelope for this, or buy metric envelopes. Theft of the mails is common in many countries of the world, especially South America and Russia. Mail is routinely opened for valuables such as US dollars. To try to prevent this from happening, you need is to disguise the envelope. Don't put call signs on the outside, make it look as if it were a piece of business or junk mail coming from the US. I have found that a #10 Business Size Envelope works best. Print both the return address and the recipient's address on you printer. Disguise it a best you can. I also put a preprinted address peel-off adhesive label, just in case he doesn't want to use my return envelope. These are easy to make on a computer printer, and I usually make several pages of them, then cut them up to make individual peel-off adhesive labels.

In the past, I've also put brochures from my home state in the envelope. It's interesting for me when a DX station sends me something from his home country. (Even though I can't read it sometimes, I can look at the pictures!) Don't put this stuff into QSL envelopes for DXpeditions, as it will just get thrown away, as will your card in most cases. But be careful about putting extra things in envelopes, as it adds weight and \$\$\$ to the cost of mailing.

You can also put stamps from the DX country on the envelope if you're sure about the amounts, etc. I've never done this. The method that I prefer is to put two, \$1 bills (called green stamps) into the envelope for AIR MAIL postage back. Up until a few years ago, one green stamp was sufficient for most counties, but now it's more like two.

There is an art to QSLing direct, to help insure your envelope will get through the foreign mail system without being pilfered, or misdirected. It is a good idea to use a #10 Airmail business enveloped with a typed, printed or labeled address. The idea here is to make it look like ordinary business mail and not a QSL with green stamps in it. Don't put calls on the envelope, including your return address. This is a tip off to thieves who plunder the mails in some countries.

QSLing and the future

A major change in the DXCC awards program is the "Logbook of the World", this program will eliminate the need to send, receive, and submit QSL cards for checking with the ARRL's DXCC program. This will electronically match logbook entries from logbooks and automatically provide DXCC credit for the entity worked. This is great for folks that only want to chase the DXCC awards. But, there is something special about the excitement that you get in receiving a QSL card from a foreign land. I hope that this ham radio tradition will remain a part of the hobby.



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ANNOUNCED DX OPERATIONS

April					
2017 Apr01	2017 Apr08	St Lucia	J68HZ	LotW	By K9HZ fm Soufriere; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY; 500w; yagi + wires; QSL also OK via K9HZ direct
2017 Apr01	2017 Apr30	Nepal	9N1MD	IZ1BVZ	By 9N1AA
2017 Apr02	2017 Apr06	Easter I	CE0Y	W1MJ	By W1MJ as CE0Y/W1MJ; 40-15m; CW
2017 Apr04	2017 Apr06	Marshall Is	V73		By WW6RG as V73/WW6RG; SSB; 40 20m; perhaps 100w, if not 5w; fm 0330z
2017 Apr06	2017 Apr10	Greenland	OX	LotW	By SM7RYR as OX/SM7RYR fm Kangerlussuaq; 20 17 15m; 10w; vertical
2017 Apr06	2017 Apr12	Papua New Guinea	P29VXG	JA1XGI	By JA1XGI fm Rapopo, New Britain I (IOTA OC-008, QI65dp); 6.5 meter vertical w/ 19 radials; focus on EU
2017 Apr06	2017 Apr17	Vanuatu	YJ0YM	VA7YM	By VA7YM fm Port Vila, Efate I (IOTA OC-035); 80-6m; SSB RTTY PSK31; Hex beam, end-fed wire
2017 Apr06	2017 Apr18	Seychelles	S79Z	LotW	By OK1RI OK1NY OK1FFU OK1JKT OK1VVT OM5AW fm Mahe I (IOTA AF-024); 160-10m; CW SSB; QSL also OK via OM2FY
2017 Apr07	2017 Apr15	Guinea Bissau	J5	EA3BT	By EA3BT as J5B and EA3WL as J5W fm Rubane I (IOTA AF-020); 40-6m, perhaps 80m; CW SSB RTTY
2017 Apr07	2017 Apr16	St Martin	FS	eQSL	By W7NZJ as FS/W7NZJ fm OrientBeach (IOTA NA-105); 40-10m; CW + digital; 100w; Buddipole
2017 Apr09	2017 Apr16	Balearic Is	EA6	F5SGI	By F5SGI as EA6/F5SGI fm Minorca I; HF; CW; QSL OK via Buro or direct
2017 Apr11	2017 Apr13	East Kiribati	T32AZ	KH6QJ	By KH6QJ fm Kiritimati I (IOTA OC-024; 80-10m (except WARC)
2017 Apr11	2017 Apr18	Turks & Caicos	VP5	K3NK	By K3NK as VP5/K3NK fm Providenciales I (IOTA NA-002); 80-10m; CW SSB, perhaps digital; K3NK will upload log to LotW
2017 Apr12	2017 Apr18	Mauritania	5T3MM	PY4KL	By 5T0JL; HF; QRV for CQ MM DX Contest
2017 Apr12	2017 Apr26	Laos	XW4XR	LotW	By 3W3B; 160-10m; CW RTTY JT65; QSL also OK via E21EIC



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2017 Apr14	2017 Apr16	Panama	H91IT	HP1RCP	By HP1RIS HP1MAC fm Taboga I (IOTA NA-072); 40-10m; SSB CW; vertical, dipole, end-fed
2017 Apr14	2017 Apr21	Palau	T8	Home Call	By JH7IPR as T88UW, JI6IHG as T88IH, JA7WFT as T88FT, JM1LRA as T88TA; 160-6m; CW SSB JT65 JT9; T88UW QSL also OK via LotW
2017 Apr14	2017 Apr23	St Vincent	J88PI	GW4DVB Direct	By GW4DVB fm Prune I; 40-10m; SSB; 100w; vertical; holiday style operation
2017 Apr15	2017 Apr22	Isle of Man	GT4BRS	DJ6OI	By GW0ANA MW0DHF DJ8NK DL9GFB DL9RCF; special effort on 160m and 60m for WCNA; CW SSB JT65
2017 Apr18	2017 Apr25	Cape Verde Is	D4T	LotW	By CT1FFY fm Sal I (IOTA AF-086, HK86no); HF + 6 4m; CW SSB + digital; QSL also OK via CT1FFY
2017 Apr21	2017 May15	Guatemala	TG9	LotW	By VE7BV as TG9BBV and VE7VZ as TG9/VE7VZ; 20-12m, possibly 6m; wires; QSL also OK via VE7BV (Buro or direct) and eQSL
2017 Apr22	2017 Apr26	Aland Is	OF0KA	OH3KAV	By OH3KAV fm IOTA EU-002; perhaps including 60m; CW + digital
2017 Apr24	2017 May01	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	W1CDC Direct	By W1CDC as V4/W1CDC; 160-10m; mainly CW
2017 Apr25	2017 May06	Botswana	A25UK	M0OXO	By G0VJG + team; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY; up to five stations
2017 Apr28	2017 May13	South Cook Is	E51		By W6HB as E51AND, KG7MXL as E51JD, KI7DLK as E51BQ fm Rarotonga I (IOTA OC-013); 160-10m; SSB
2017 Apr29	2017 May06	Cayman Is	ZF2AB	WA3EOP	By KZ3AB fm IOTA NA-016; HF
2017 Apr30	2017 May12	South Cook Is	E5	Home Call	By AD7MM as E51BAS and W6HB as E51DLD fm Rarotonga I; 160-10m; yagis, wires



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CONTESTING NEWS

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1	Sat 1400 - 2200	Florida State Parks on the Air - CW/SSB
1- 2	Sat 1400 - Sun 0200	Mississippi QSO Party - CW/Digital/Phone
2	Sun 1400 - 2000	Missouri QSO Party (2) - CW/Digital/Phone
8- 9	Sat 1400 - Sun 0200	New Mexico QSO Party - CW/Digital/SSB
8- 9	Sat 1400 - Sun 0200	Texas State Parks On The Air (1) - CW/Digi/Phone
8- 9	Sat 1800 - Sun 0359	Georgia QSO Party (1) - CW/SSB
9	Sun 1400 - 2000	Texas State Parks On The Air (2) - CW/Digi/Phone
15-16	Sat 1600 - Sun 0400	Michigan QSO Party - CW/SSB
15-16	Sat 1800 - Sun 1800	North Dakota QSO Party - CW/Digital/Phone
15-16	Sat 1800 - Sun 0500	Ontario QSO Party (1) - CW/SSB
16	Sun 1800 - 2359	ARRL Rookie Roundup - SSB
22-23	Sat 1300 - Sun 0100	Nebraska QSO Party (1) - CW/Digital/Phone
23	Sun 1300 - 2200	Nebraska QSO Party (2) - CW/Digital/Phone
29-30	Sat 1600 - Sun 0159	Florida QSO Party (1) - CW/Phone
30	Sun 1200 - 2159	Florida QSO Party (2) - CW/Phone

If you have info or articles you would like in the Newsletter, e-mail them to me and I will get them published.

K1AR CONTESTING HINT

Do you recall the painful experience of having a beautiful QSO run disappear almost instantly? Many times it's nothing more than the band changing. However, it can be often the result of a QRM caused by a station you can't hear. An open frequency does not always mean it is QRM-free on the other end. Try asking the question: "How clear is my frequency on your side?"