

THE ECDXA PILEUP

www.ecdxa.org

Club Callsign — K2VK

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Upcoming Contests, DXpeditions And Special Events:

Get A WAS (Worked All Steves) Certificate—Work KP2/N2IFA, KP2/KB2ENF & KP2/KF2TI

St Croix, US Virgin Islands

May 19-22 2006

<http://3stevesandkurt.dynu.com/>

ARRL June VHF QSO Party

June 10-12 2006

www.arrl.org/contests/

ARRL Field Day

June 25-26 2006

www.arrl.org/contests/

ECDXA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ECDXA MEMBERS - THEY'RE ACTIVE AND ON THE AIR!

Welcome to the second edition of "The ECDXA Pileup". We have a new addition at our residence and Club Station in Ridgewood, NJ. NO, it's not a new baby, but it is a new Radio! I have finally crossed over. George, KC2GLG, and I have purchased a new ICOM IC-7000. No longer can I say that I am a "Kenwood Woman"! After 20 years, it's nice to be able to catch up with technology and what a difference the new radio makes! I can't believe what I am hearing, and we haven't even hooked it up on the Beam yet. We are having a great time working numerous States and Countries using the G5RV as well as mobile from the car with a few Hamsticks.

Since our last issue, we have tried to keep everyone informed as to what has been happening in the way of DX, Contesting and Mentoring. We encourage you to visit our website often as it is always being constantly updated (at least weekly—sometimes daily); with events that are going on in the world of Amateur Radio. (www.ecdxa.org)

I have asked, Krista – KB2MER to be the Membership Manager for East Coast DX Association, and she has agreed. She will be sending out Membership Cards with a frame-able Member Certificate validating that you are a Member in good standing with ECDXA. This will be a one-time mailing, since we do not collect membership dues, the cards will not have an expiration date on them. Please make sure that we have your updated membership application on file.

East Coast DX Association is proud to be an ARRL Affiliated Club and an ARRL Special Service Club. We have the ability to provide Amateur Radio testing through our affiliation with the ARRL/VEC and our VE Examiners. A list of upcoming VE Session can be found, where else? On the ECDXA website! (www.ecdxa.org)

Some members of East Coast DX Association have been actively participating in many contesting events since November of 2005. We are small in our numbers and would like to encourage the rest of you to help us out by giving some time to operating contests. You don't have to give up an entire weekend to do this. Just oper-

ate when you can, either from your QTH or here with other club members using the club Callsign. Participation is important, no matter how great or small your score. We ask that you to submit your contest logs by the deadline and mention East Coast DX Assn as your club affiliation. Check the website for listings of upcoming contests.

In March, we did a bit of mentoring here at my home. We had Chris, KC2OAD (now AB2VB) over to answer some of his one hundred thousand questions. Poor Chris, he got so much information. Since Chris's visit, he has upgraded to Extra! Congratulations, Chris! Helena, K9HHE was also over and she got on the air making several contacts in the ARRL SSB DX Contest. What a natural behind the mic! Helena is preparing to take her General soon, so we hope that her experience here helped her. It's so nice to be able to share operating with others. It makes it more fun!

In other operating news, Paul Elder, W2PWE says he had a blast working the BARTG RTTY Contest. This was not his first experience with RTTY but a return to it. Jerry, NO2T was on from his QTH as well making contacts and of course, K2VK was on the air for BARTG with operators: Krista, KB2MER, Joyce, KA2ANF and George, KC2GLG.

A new ECDXA trifold handout is available. I have some that I will be giving out at area Hamfests and VE sessions to promote our Club. Please, feel free to tell others about what ECDXA is doing and invite them to visit the Website and to become members. Remember our goals, which are listed on the next page!

In this issue I include some information on upcoming DX operations to hopefully boost your country counts. Of course, it is up to you to get on the air and work them! See you in the pileups!

73, Joyce—KA2ANF
ka2anf@arrl.net

Who Is The Typical Amateur Radio Operator?

“Amateur Radio operators come from all walks of life—movie stars, missionaries, doctors, students, politicians, truck drivers and just plain folks.

They are all ages, sexes, income levels and nationalities. They say Hello to the world in many languages and many ways.

But whether they prefer Morse code on an old brass telegraph key, voice communication on a hand-held radio, or computerized messages transmitted via satellite, they all have an interest in what's happening in the world, and they use radio to reach out”

From The ARRL
Hello Campaign

www.hello-radio.org



“Amateur Radio IS Public Service”

This Is The Theme For The
2006 Dayton Hamvention

www.hamvention.org

Setting Goals For ECDXA:

In 2006 And Beyond We Will:

Introduce new people to ECDXA

Keep communications open and frequent between Club members

Support, promote and participate in operating events like contests (ARRL, CQ, etc.)

Plan to get together at least once every couple of months

Share thoughts, operating successes, new contacts, etc with each other.

Submit your contest scores; using East Coast DX Assn as your Club affiliation

Keep up to date with events in the world of Amateur Radio via the ECDXA webpage

Take Part in ARRL Field Day 2006 and every year thereafter!

HAVE FUN! Make a daily commitment to do something radio-related everyday!

PARTICIPATE IN A RTTY CONTEST? WELL I NEVER...

PAUL ELDER—W2PWE

I've operated RTTY before, but that was back in the day before PC sound card interfaces, so (10 years later) I'm really in the "beginner" category.

For an antenna, I've been using the GAP Challenger DX multi-band vertical dipole as it fits in my limited yard space and covers most of the HF bands plus 2 and 6 meters.

My rig is the ICOM 756Pro. This radio has a RTTY decoder built in which is fine for simply scanning the bands and reading other people's conversations. But for full transmit and receive operation I use the MMTTY PC software and my sound card along with a couple of cables to connect to the rig. MMTTY has basic logging capabilities to help me keep track of my contacts.

Up until this contest, I had never used the logging feature before so it took a few BIG mistakes to get things sorted out. Of

course, the mistakes involved real QSO data and that added to the stress. Fortunately, I was able to stay in touch with Joyce via Instant Messenger and with her help and careful reading of the MMTTY instructions I discovered my error and was back in business, with the log data corrected, and I was having a good time.

At one point, I was very surprised to see my own call appear on the screen. Turns out it was Jerry, NO2T, and we had a short chat. It's always nice to bump into someone you know on the air!

I've always enjoyed operating RTTY and participating in contests, but sharing the experience with other club members made it even more fun! The bands may be in a slump at times, but the contests seem to bring the hams out and make for a great learning experience.

Don't miss out on the fun... Join in and operate with along with K2VK!

Paul, W2PWE

ARRL HUDSON DIVISION AWARDS DINNER 2006

MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDER NOW!

SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 11 2006

Its not to early to start planning to attend the 2006 ARRL Hudson Division Awards Dinner and join with ECDXA who is planning to have at least one table for this event!

For 2006, the event will be sponsored by the Bergen Amateur Radio Association (BARA), and it will take place on Saturday evening, November 11, 2006 at the Holiday Inn Saddle Brook NJ.

Tickets will be available through ECDXA as well as other Hudson Division ARRL Affiliated Clubs.

www.hudson.arrl.org

Pictures From The 2005 ARRL Hudson Division Awards Dinner



Where's The DX?

DX Opportunities May 2006

YK1BA - Syria
 JT1Y & JT0Y - Mongolia
 OZ/DL1TM - Denmark
 OZ/DJ4MG - Denmark
 3B8/ON4LAC-Mauritius Island
 6O0M - Somalia
 7Q7HB - Malawi
 TR8FC - Gabon

DX Opportunities June 2006

HB20DIG - Switzerland
 6W/HA3AU - Senegal
 J5UA - Guinea-Bissau
 SY05AIA-Spl Event Greece
 6W/EA4ATI Senegal
 6W1EA - Senegal
 JW4GHA - Bear Island
 TT8LN - Chad

This is just a sample of some of the upcoming DXpeditions in May and June 2006. If you need to improve your country count, visit the following for current updates

The 425 DX Page:

<http://www.425dxn.org>

The OPDX Bulletin:

www.papays.com/opdx.html

AMATEUR RADIO AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Are you and your equipment up to date for Emergency and Public Service activities?

ARES, RACES and SKY-WARN, are just a few of the organizations with which you can put your Amateur Radio skills to use to help your Communities.

Additionally, organizations such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, CERT, Search and Rescue groups and the Civil Air Patrol all make use of Amateur Radio for their Communications.

For its role in the 2005 severe weather events, Amateur Radio and Winlink 2000, received praise for their ability to get reliable and interoperable communications on the air quickly and efficiently.

ECDXA, using its Club Call-sign K2VK, has established a fixed, as well as portable, Winlink 2000 presence to add to its already strong

commitment to Public Service and direct community involvement via Amateur Radio. More information on Winlink's unique abilities for digital communications is available here:

www.winlink.org



ECDXA ANNOUNCES AN AFFILIATION WITH WK3SS

East Coast DX Association is pleased to announce that it is formally affiliated with *The 3 Steves Amateur Radio Club - WK3SS!*

The 3 Steve's (N2IFA, KB2ENF and KF2TI) have a history of traveling to the Dayton Hamvention, working HF mobile throughout the night and then again during the day as they return home.

On the last Wednesday of the year, you'll also find the 3 Steve's signing W1AW, as they operate from ARRL in Newington, CT.

The 3 Steve's are regularly joined by Kurt, W2MW (who doubles as a Steve during these operations) as well as Steve's son, Andrew, N2IFB.

For 2006 instead of making the Dayton Trip, the 3 Steve's will be operating as KP2/homecall, May 18-21. Bands: 160-10M, General portions. Check their website for more details:

<http://3stevesandkurt.dynu.com/>

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ECDXA Website:
www.ecdxa.org

Articles For Consideration
Or Comments On
The ECDXA Pileup
Can Be Sent via Email To:
newsletter@ecdxa.org

ECDXA Is Proud To Be
An ARRL Affiliated
And Special Service
Amateur Radio Club
Callsign — K2VK



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Take Part In ECDXA Contesting - From Your QTH Or From K2VK

ECDXA members can participate in Contests, especially the ARRL Club Competition Contests, from their home stations as well as from the Club Station K2VK.

To submit your score to be added in along with other ECDXA Members, be sure to include your Club Name in your Cabrillo file (East Coast DX Assn).

ECDXA also takes part in many Contests throughout the year from its Club Station K2VK located in Ridgewood NJ. Members and guests are able to use equipment installed there for modes such as CW (Key or Keyboard), RTTY, PSK31 or SSB.

The modest but well equipped facilities at K2VK also offer a perfect place for the mentoring of new Hams. Here not only can these newcomers to the hobby get a

feel for the many modes of Amateur Radio they can also learn the skills of operating both HF and on the higher frequencies via Voice or Digital. If you would like to join us for one of the upcoming contests, send an Email to:



contesting@ecdxa.org.

Some Upcoming Contests Include:

ARRL June VHF QSO Party

IARU HF World Championships

ARRL September VHF QSO Party

ARRL November Sweepstakes

More information on these and other ECDXA Contests is available here:

www.ecdxa.org/ecdxaContests.htm

!!! Attention All ECDXA Members !!!
Do We Have Your Current Email Address And Updated County Count?
Send Your Current Info To: info@ecdxa.org

News On FCC License And Vanity Callsign Renewals

With the FCC's Vanity Callsign program reaching its 10 year anniversary soon, many will need to not only renew their Amateur Radio License but also their FCC issued Vanity Callsign.

The ECDXA VE Team is now not only able to help you through this process but also they are also able to file your paperwork and payments via the ARRL VEC. Complete information is available from links on the EXCDA VE Webpage at:

www.ecdxa.org/ecdxaVE.htm

If you have any questions about renewing your FCC Amateur Radio License or Vanity Callsign be sure to contact the ECDXA VE Team via Email at:

ve@ecdxa.org



Recent And Upcoming ECDXA Sponsored VE Sessions

The ECDXA VE Team has been on the road doing VE Sessions for the Red Cross in Passaic and Essex Counties as well as for the 10-70 Repeater Association's License Class and soon at the Hudson County NJ Office of Emergency Management.

Visit the ECDXA VE Webpage for the latest information on upcoming VE Sessions.

www.ecdxa.org/ecdxaVE.htm