



K7EAR



December 2010

EAARS open repeaters. PL is 141.3 unless noted otherwise

Helio 146.860 and 440.700 EAARS Network, 146.900, 447.825 w/ closed remote PL 100.0 or 141.3. Packet 145.010 **MT. Lemmon** 147.160 EAARS Network **Pinal Peak** 145.41 EAARS Network **Guthrie Peak** 147.28 EAARS Network **South Mountain, Alpine** 145.27 EAARS Network **Greens Peak** 146.70 Eaars Network **Jacks Peak, NM** 145.21 EAARS Network

GMRS Repeater on Helio 462.625 PL 123.0

Website [HTTP://WWW.EAARS.COM](http://www.eaars.com)

Dues Renewal Drawing

The deadline to get your dues in is December 15th to be eligible for the Early Dues Drawing. The winner will receive an AES gift certificate. The drawing will be held at the January business meeting and you need not be present to win. Dues need to be paid by December 31st. If they aren't paid by the January meeting then, you aren't eligible to vote.

Next Meeting

January 18th at La Paloma in Solomon, AZ Arrive at 6 PM. This is the election meeting.

Sunday Night Net

James AF7AT has moved to Spokane, Washington. So far K7ILA, KD7EDP, and KB7CSE have run the net.

Echolink and IRLP and the EAARS Network

Joe, K7JEM is building up a computer for IRLP and Echolink on 146.90 that could be switched onto EAARS Network for nets and emergency communications. This will probably only be switchable locally and not from the internet. It will be parked on 146.90 NOT the link. Weather permitting this COULD be installed this month.

7th District QSO Party

I am enthused about the possibilities of the EAARS participation in the 2011 7th District QSO Party.

1. The higher bands are starting to show some life. Activity on 15 and 10 Meters will allow less experienced operators to enjoy some ideal operating time.
2. I have found out that the 10th District (Zero Land) is now also going to have a QP on the same Saturday as the 7QP. See <http://www.zerolandqsoparty.com/>

This is a real boon for us. Our area is ideally located for "one hop" skip into most all of the Zero District during the entire contest period. This QP will increase significantly the amount of stations that will be on the air looking for contacts, and we will be in a prime location to take advantage of them.

Together with the New England QP which has been, and will be, running concurrently with the 7QP, it will be a highly competitive weekend.

There are 8 states in the 7th District, 8 states in the Zero District, and 6 states in the 1st District (New England). Therefore, a total of 22 states will be on the air in a competitive mode making it a contester's delight.

Make plans now to join with the club on the first weekend of May. Saturday the 7th is the contest day. We will be setting up on Thursday and Friday. Teardown is at sunup on Sunday morning. Come and camp out with the group, or simply drive back and forth as you please. If you can't be with us for all the period, make sure you come on Saturday and participate in the actual operating.

2010 Officers

President Lon Whitmer K7LON
 Vice President Quentin Kavanaugh N7QK
 Secretary/ Treasurer Larry Griggs N5BG
 Net Control Operator James Reid AF7AT
 Helio Site Trustee Joe Montierth K7JEM
 Technical Adviser Milt Jensen N5IA
 Newsletter Editor Dave Wells N7AM

Club Address

EAARS
 P.O. Box 398
 Solomon, AZ 85551

Nets

EAARS Net; Sunday Night 7 PM general check ins
Smart Net; Monday evening 7:30 to 8:30 Technical discussion
Weather Net Daily 5:30 AM collect local weather information
MERC Net Second Saturday at 8:45 AM Emergency communications group
Saguaro NTS Traffic Net Every evening at 6:30 PM

Email Addresses

Email all Officers at once

Newsletter Editor

To get your own email at EAARS.com contact Larry, N5BG

EAARSOFFICERS at EAARS.COM

NEWSLETTER at EAARS.COM

73 de Milt, N5IA
EAARS 7QP
Newsletter Online

The newsletters are being converted to PDF format and put online at <http://www.eaars.com/newsletter/> as soon as I can get to them. If enough people want it, I may just send out an email link when the newsletter is ready instead of the whole newsletter.

As I find them, the old newsletters are also being put on the EAARS Website.

Ham Swap Meet

Does EAARS want to hold a hamfest in the Safford area? Wendell, W7WGW and I were talking about it. It would take a lot of members committing to a lot of work. Wendell said he might be willing to be in charge but it would take a lot of volunteers to find and arrange for location, to collect parking fees and park cars, assign vendor spots, publicity, cleanup, maybe a VE session, refreshments, etc. There would have to be insurance. It would be a plus if there was something else going on in the area to attract non ham family members. Something to think about. We have 75 voting members plus family members.

From ARRL Web

Soar High in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest

This is a contest that ALL hams can participate in. Even Novices have priviledges on 10

The highest of the HF bands will be the central operating focus of many amateurs in the [ARRL 10 Meter Contest](#) December 11-12. During the event, many propagation modes will be available: Sporadic-E will help you work stateside stations, a touch of meteor scatter in the morning will give you split-second chances to work stations -- you'd better be quick, though! -- and DX stations could find their way into the log, thanks to some recent signs of life from the F-layer.

“Ten meters was open from the United States to Africa, Europe and South America during the CQ World Wide DX CW contest on the weekend of November 27,” said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. “Let’s see if those conditions remain for the second weekend in December.”

Single Operator entrants can use CW only, SSB only -- or a mixture of both. They can choose between High Power, Low Power (150 W or less) or QRP (5 W or less). Want to share the fun with your friends? Invite them over and enter in the Multioperator category.

US Novice and Technician class operators can get in on the fun, too. Both classes are permitted SSB operation between 28.3-28.5 MHz with 150 W. No antenna for 10 meters? A dipole for 28.4 MHz is about 16.5 feet long -- build it and get it up in the air as high as you possibly can. Kutzko said that it’s an easy construction project and you *will* work stations!

This year also introduces a new element to the contest: The addition of 32 Mexican states as multipliers. For a list of the Mexican states, download a free map provided by Grupo DXXE

from <http://www.dxxe.org/concurso/xe-mults.pdf> "This will no doubt add a new excitement to this long-standing ARRL contest," Kutzko said.

The ARRL 10 Meter Contest runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, December 11 through 2359 UTC Sunday, December 12. Logs must be [e-mailed](#) or postmarked no later than 0000 UTC Wednesday, January 12, 2011. Paper logs should be sent to ARRL 10 Meter Contest, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

The Spratly Islands DXpedition Gets Wings

The 37 operators from 15 countries who make up the DX0DX DXpedition Team that will go to the Spratly Islands are finalizing preparations for the almost month-long DXpedition that begins January 6, 2011. Instead of going by boat, the team will instead fly to Thitu Island where they will set up their operation. Thitu is the second largest island in the Spratly Islands. The Spratlys are a group of more than 750 reefs, islets, atolls, cays and islands in the South China Sea between Vietnam, the Philippines, China, Malaysia and Brunei. They comprise less than 4 square kilometers of land area, spread out over more than 425,000 square kilometers of sea.

"The boat that would have ferried the operators was damaged in heavy sea and needed substantial repairs," said DX0DX Team Leader Chris Dimitrijevic, DU8/VK3FY on the DX0DX Web site, and "aviation transport to and from the island became available. The charter of a twin-engine aircraft adds to the expense of the DXpedition and the personal costs for all taking part in it. Smaller sea transport will still be used to get equipment and supplies to the island."

Dimitrijevic said that there is "real excitement within the Amateur Radio community about this particular DXpedition, and most of the operators just can't wait to be part of action. It is much more than activating a rare DX spot. There is no doctor or health service on the island. As part of a humanitarian contribution, two DXpedition members who are doctors -- Josette Docherty, VK2FXGR, and Edward Soriano, 4F1OZ -- will provide medical checks to the island's residents." Amateur Radio Victoria -- a club in Australia -- announced it will make a substantial donation directly to purchase medical supplies for use as part of the humanitarian effort.

Other equipment include 10 HF transceivers (four each for CW and SSB, plus two for the digital modes), a VHF transceiver for 6 and 2 meters and 70 and 23 cm), eight generators with associated electromagnetic interference (EMI) filters, 11 laptop computers, four vertical antennas, a 2 element Yagi, two 80 meter 4-squares, two 40 meter 4-squares and 14 amplifiers, as well as headsets, foot switches and interfaces. There will also be moonbounce (EME) activity during the DXpedition. There will be four dedicated operating camps, one each for SSB, CW, RTTY and VHF/UHF operations.

The DX0DX Team is keen to give out contacts on 160 meters and will have two 65 foot phased verticals and a back-up antenna for this. "The DXpedition will be doing its utmost to satisfy the demand for contacts on the Top Band," Dimitrijevic said. The DXpedition was extended a week to be able to be on the air for the CQ 160 Meter Contest. "This limited extension was carefully considered and agreed to in light of strong interest from Top Band contesters and the 160 meter

band being the highest sought after in the DX0DX Web site online survey.”

“A new high tide photographic survey commissioned by the DXpedition has confirmed that the island’s coastline and available beach has dramatically changed from what was previously known, due to rising sea levels and sea erosion,” said Dimitrijevic. “This has meant a change in some aspects of the location of antennas and operating camps, but being fully aware in advance has enabled Station Layout Coordinator David Collingham, K3LP, and other DX0DX Team members to ensure it does not have a significant impact to the DXpedition plans.”

DXpeditions Can Be Dangerous

Small, remote islands such as the Spratlys have little economic value in themselves, but are important in establishing international boundaries. There are rich fishing grounds and geological surveys indicate the area may contain significant oil and gas reserves. As such, many countries claim the islands for their own, including the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, the People’s Republic of China and Republic of China (Taiwan). Additionally, Brunei claims Louisa Reef, as well as an Exclusive Economic Zone around that and neighboring reefs.

On March 31, 1979, just three days out since departing Brunei, North Borneo -- six hams -- Harry Meade, VK2BJL; Stew Woodward, K4SMX; Bill Poellnitz, K1MM; John Ackley, KP2A, Austin Regal, N4WW, and Bob Schenck, N2OO -- were on the boat *Banyandah* that would take them to the Spratlys. The boat was captained by the husband-wife team of Jack and Judith Binder. In the February 1998 issue of *QST* Schenck recounted their trip: “We all cheered when we first spotted Amboyna Cay in the distance. It first appeared as a small white speck on the horizon. It was sheer torture in slow motion as we slowly crept closer. As we watched, our mood went from joy, to confusion, to despair, to hope, to sheer horror!”

When the boat was about one mile from the island, they saw that there were structures on the beach. Since the aerial photographs from only months before showed no structures and no people, the hams and crew were perplexed. “We saw no flag or other indication as to what country was represented on the island,” Schenck wrote. “Could they be Filipino fishermen?”

Binder wrote in his ship’s log that as the boat got closer to the island, he, his wife and the six amateurs could see “three distinct groups of people visible on that tiny mound of sand, a group at each end with a smaller number on the top. The ‘top’ hardly more than two meters above the sea. The smaller centralized group has begun signaling us with semaphore flags.”

At that point, Jack Binder and Woodward decided to go to the island in the dinghy and check things out. “Suddenly the person sending the semaphore threw down his flags,” Schenck recalled. “Within seconds, we heard four loud canon blasts from the island! The shells missed us by a wide margin, but their message was clear -- we were not welcome.” Binder wrote in his log that as they began their final approach to the island, one operator was at the radio scanning the bands and listening for a possible contact with the island. They were then shot at by the people on the island and got out of the area quickly. “We quickly put the 2 knot diesel into gear, put up the sails and steered away from Amboyna Cay,” said Schenck.

The boat returned to Brunei. Regal went back to the States, but Ackley and Schenck stayed in

Brunei while the other three amateurs went back out in search of an island; Ackley and Schenck agreed to maintain a backup operation as VS5KV and VS5OO. Eventually, Binder assisted Mead, Woodward and Poellnitz get to what he called "a tiny scrap of sand." The reef was Barque Canada Reef, a 30 foot wide sand cay that was only a foot or two above water at high tide.

Here the three amateurs set up what became 1S1DX, making nearly 14,000 QSOs

In 1982, a Singapore yacht operated by the owner and his wife were carrying four German hams on a DXpedition to Amboyna *Cay* in the Spratlys. The boat was fired upon by Vietnamese forces. Diethelm Mueller, DJ4EI, was hit by an artillery round and fell overboard as the yacht caught fire. The rest of the party drifted for 11 days on debris, but Gero Band, DJ3NG, passed away from thirst the day before the group was rescued by a passing Japanese freighter and taken to Hong Kong. --*Thanks to DX0DX DXpedition Public Affairs Leader Jim Linton VK3PC for some of the information*

From Amateur Radio Newsline

LONG DELAYED ECHOS CAPTURED ON 40M

Another case of Long Delayed Echo's of a ham radio signal being heard by the originating station has been reported and this time the ham had enough time to capture the sound to a recording. Amateur Peter Brogl, DK6NP, reports hearing Long Delayed Echos on 7 MHz during a geomagnetic storm on November 27th.

This is part of one of the recordings he made: -- Long Delayed Echo audio: Hear it on the MP3 edition of this weeks newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org --

What you just heard was what DK6NP heard forty-six seconds after he transmitted his call sign at 7 MHz, he received an echo of his own transmission. Brogl said that at first he thought someone was playing on him so he changed frequency, re-keyed his call and got another echo. This went on for more than an hour, enough time for Brogl to make several recordings.

Long Delayed Echo's are not a new phenomena. They were first reported in 1927 by Norwegian civil engineer Jorgen Hals but happen rarely and are not really understood. Most researchers believe that unusual propagation conditions linked to solar storms may be one of many possible explanations. Others can be seen on Shlionskiy's Long Delayed Echo page at tinyurl.com/3551vc6.

Audio recordings made by DJ6NP of the 7MHz Long Delayed Echos can be heard at brogl.net/audio. (Space Weather, Southgate) **