

The Official Newsletter of the Kansas City DX Club

# KC DX NEWS

ABØX-EDITOR

KCDXC Website: <http://www.kcdxclub.com/>

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## NEXT KCDXC MEETING: Sept 26- **NEW LOCATION!**

The next Kansas City DX Club meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 26, in Suite 100 of the Prudential Kansas City Realty Office Building, 8101 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS. The building is easy to spot, on the south side of College Blvd at Hardy St., about a block east of Antioch. The parking lot and main entrance are on the south side of the building. Please try to arrive between 6:15 and 6:30. The main entrance is open until 7:00 p.m., but the Prudential Kansas City Realty office on the first floor, is locked after 5:00. Someone will wait at the door until 6:30, so if you are late, call me on my cell phone: 913.908.6906. Meetings run from 6:30 - 8:30 PM, with a gathering after the meeting for pie and coffee. We look forward to seeing you there! -DE KØVBU



## KCDXC DAYTON HOTEL ROOMS

The KCDXC has one room left available at the Crowne Plaza for Hamvention weekend in 2012. It is for 3 nights, starting on Thursday and checking out on Sunday. Contact ABØX if you are interested in the room. No more additional rooms will be added as we have in the past because of the new reservation system used this year.

## CODE PRACTICE ON 28.325 THURSDAY NIGHTS

KØRU, Rob, has been holding a code practice every Thursday night at 7 PM, local time, on 28.325. Rob uses SSB to give instructions and explain procedures. Rob starts at the slower speeds and progressively works his way up. He chose this frequency because Techs can transmit on phone in this range. Join in and increase your CW speed!

## KCDXC STORE IN OUR FUTURE??

NØAG, KCDXC President, at the last club meeting asked KSØDX and ACØKN to look into the possibility of establishing a KCDXC Store. The purpose would be to sell club related items, such as shirts and hats, as well as some construction kits created by KØRU. Other items such as club videos and past CW Pile Up Tests from Dayton may be included in the store inventory. If you have an idea for a club related item to sell, contact Dennis or Jim.

## KC DX CLUB DXCC HONOR ROLL

Call	Mixed	CW	Phone	RTTY	IOTA	160	DX Challenge
WØNS	356						
KØCS	356	314	349			232	2197
NØXA	355	352	354	200		313	2963
ABØX	355	351	333			218	
WØJLC	353	346	327			102	
AKØA	353	343	346	308			
NØRB	350	336	346				
NØCWR	349	347	349			130	2623
KØCA	349	343	342	313		75	2575
WØJM	345	337	343			100	
K3PA	348	341	337	226			2224
NXØI	347	340	342			196	1416
KØRWL	341	337					
KSØDX	344	250	344				
ACØA	340	231	338		450		1629
KØGY	340	334	340	204			1905
K4SV	333						
KBØX	336		322				
KØTHN	313	297	256	128			1586
KRØI	332	302	265				1037
AAØMZ	295	268	282	154	471	44	1669
KGØUA	283	277	116			4	
KØVXU	220	190	183	36			
KØRU	195	190	88	88		12	612
KØOU	171	145	140			27	
WDØBWM	108						
WØDR	83						
KUØG	70	68	14			4	146
WDØSRI	69	23	57			2	

## **W0AR DX CHALLENGE REPORTING DATE MOVED BACK!**

The club approved at the last meeting to push back the first required reporting date for members participating in the W0AR DX Challenge this year to Oct. 1, 2011. With all the activity involved in the W0DXCC preparation, it seemed only fair to push back the date so everyone could have a shot at the contest this year. Report your countries and zones worked to N0AG by Oct. 1 to be eligible for the award in April 2012.

## **KCDXC AWARDS COMMITTEE WORKING ON CONTEST AWARDS**

The KCDXC Awards Committee is presently working on the creation of a couple of new contest awards for members. The Committee is made up of N0AG, K0RU, AC0C, K0VBU, W7FB and AB0X. The group is trying to create an award for members that is as challenging as the W0AR DX Contest and is aimed at the hard core contesters in our group. The creation of a regional Contest Award is also being explored, which would be open to all contesters in the region. Look for an announcement soon from N0AG!

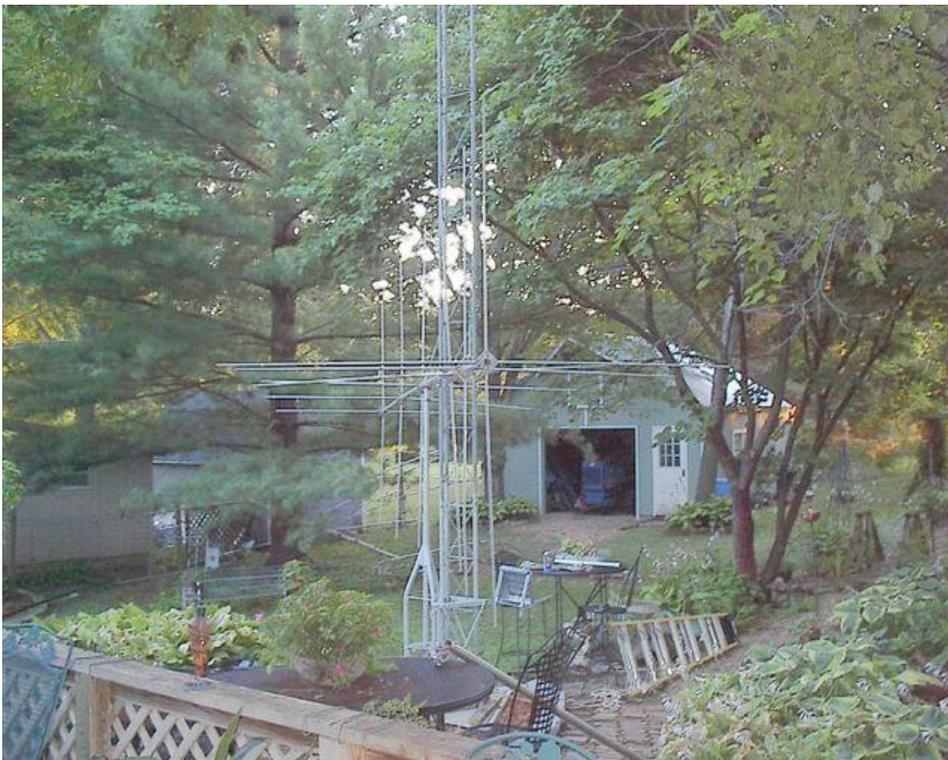
## **W0DR COMPLETES TOWER ERECTION IN AN INVENTIVE WAY!**

W0DR, Dave, has been working steadily all summer to cultivate his antenna farm at his Clinton, MO, QTH. Dave is nearing completion of the hardware with a homebrew hazer device that looks great and appears strong enough to lift big Dave himself!

Take a look at the heavy duty structure of the hazer in the following pictures. It is obvious, that Dave is pretty good with a welding torch!



The photo below shows the rotor mounted in place ready for an antenna mast. The last photo below shows and antenna in place on the hazer shelf ready to be hoisted in the air!



**W0DR's Details on the antenna shown above and the installation:**

"It is a 6 meter dual polarity beam made primarily from a bunch of old CB antenna parts I got from a railroad salvage store - Initially it was a 6 element but I am thinking the spacing isn't working well and am changing it to a seven element and not cutting the boom - I am building a remote coax switch that mounts at the boom of the antenna and that is about where I am as we speak - I fell last Monday and messed up a leg a little so I am taking it pretty slow right now but still hoping to get most of my

antennas up before cold weather - hard to get off your walker and start climbing all at once - Yes, I sorta went a little nuts and drew pictures on MS Paint of how I might be able to build a hazer - A friend of mine ( NØHG) and I dreamed up how we thought it should operate ( as he had a Glen Martin hazer prior ) and together we have settled pretty much on this layout - mine is the first one to have an automatic latch / unlatch device and he now has 2 installed and at approx 50 feet with some rather large antennas - Yes, I welded and built it all but it always has room for improvements and the actual welding looks purty poor, it lifts from a 12 volt winch attached to my tractor. It is resonant at about 50.1 mhz on horizontal polarity and very near 52.525 for the vertical or FM portion.

Anything I have neglected please feel free to contact me.”

WØDR

## **ACØC: RECOGNIZED AS “MAD SCIENTIST”**

What we all knew has finally been confirmed by the ARRL! We have a “Mad Scientist” in our club. ACØC was recognized by the ARRL, in Sept. QST write up on page 98. Jeff’s genius for solving antenna restrictions was described in detail in the article, by Steve Ford, WB8IMY. Club members who have attended recent meetings have heard Jeff make presentations on his antenna farm inside the attic of his home. A couple of nice photos show the some of the wire beams inside Jeff’s attic is included in the QST article. Details of Jeff’s antennas are listed in pdf on the ARRL web site.

## **ASK ELMER?? BY WDØSRI**

WØDXCC- I hope ya’ll had as much fun as I did at the WØDXCC Convention! WØW! Where can you stand next to so many famous DXers and testers in one place?? I walked into the lobby that morning and met K5UR, W5ZN, K9LA right off the bat! Carl is a real nice guy for being so smart. I liked the way Joel and Rick talked with that “Arkansas Twang.” It made me miss my dead Mama who was an Arkie, too. K5UR sounds like a guy you could drink a cold Tall Boy with while leaning against your pick up, that’s for sure!

I went in and got me some coffee after that and bumped into that guy that runs me off 160 meters every contest, WØAIH. Paul was such a nice feller I couldn’t get mad at him, though. He was talking with that other 160 Meter guy, W8JI. During W8JI’s forum I asked which was the best vertical a Gap or a Butternut. I noticed Tom kind of winced when I asked that question. Maybe it was too tough, or he didn’t want to make either antenna company mad, but he gave me good advice.

The next thing that really impressed me that day was when WØDR came in the door. He didn’t have on his usual Big Smith uniform on, overalls. He had on a spiffy pair of dress pants and sport shirt and looked like he was going out on the town or something. He cleans up real well! KØLW told me they stopped at a Wal-Mart and bought him those britches on the way to Leavenworth, but I think Lee was just poking fun at Dave.

Later in the day, I took a break and sat down at one of the tables with KØLW, WØGJ and K4SV in the vendor’s area. Dave and Glenn were looking thru one of the *DX Was* books, by ABØX, and were laughing real hard at one of the old Godzilla Radio Ads. It was sure nice that Lance Johnson Publishing donated a copy to every one at the convention.

The highlight of the whole event was the DX Dinner. K4UEE made a great talk and showed some penguin pictures and told about his most favorite DXpeditions. I sure enjoyed Bob’s talk. However, I made the mistake of sitting next to AAØMZ and ABØX at the DX Dinner. When MZ eats ribs he sticks his elbows out and really “goes to town.” I couldn’t decide who ate the most, Mikey Zulu or Mikey ABØX. Of course, neither could

have stood a chance if KBØX had been there! It looked like dueling rib bones for a while. Anyway, it was a great day and the KCDXC should be proud!

With the WØDXCC taking up so much space in the newsletter in recent months, I am sure you all noticed I had to stop my column in the newsletter. So, I am taking technical questions again from any hams on any radio topic. Here's a couple Tech questions to get us back into the groove:

*Dear Mr. Elmer,*

*I need help. My swr went crazy the other night during a contest on my dipole. Of course, I was a few watts under the legal limit and swr just went nuts! I went out and looked up at my antenna thinking it fell down or something. I had my daughter key the rig for me and as I looked into the darkness I saw this blue fireball in the night sky! Obviously, something was wrong. I discovered later a wire was arcing causing the crazy readings and blue fireballs in the night sky. I have attached a video of the blue flame for you to see.*

*What can I do to prevent this from occurring again?*

*CW Op in Gardner, KS*

Dear Rob,

I have two suggestions for you. Either buy you a used Gotham Vertical and feed it thru a huge loading coil for all bands or go over to ACØC's house and copy his attic antennas. Both will solve your problem. Running less power will help, too, but I know that ain't happening! Thanks, for the entertaining video of the arcing with your email. The last time I saw blue flames like that was back in my frat house at KU when guys were lighting up their excess flatulence! Loved it! Your video, I mean.

*Dear Wise one,*

*Some geese have moved in and set up house keeping on my farm pond. We didn't mind that a first, as they are beautiful and interesting to watch. However, later they started walking all over the place and would suddenly just take off flying from wherever they were on the property. Any noise startles them and they go crazy trying to get into the air. They consistently started knocking down my dipole wires, nylon guy lines and beverage wires. It seemed like something would get broken almost every day. How can I solve this problem?? Would putting flags or markers on the wires help them see the wires?? Are there any electronic devices out there that are made to ward off geese?? Any help would be appreciated.*

*Goosed in Peculiar, MO*

Dear KØLW,

Send me directions to your QTH. Skeeter and I will be right down there. I'll bring along "old Betsy" and plenty of bird shot. Can you raise the screens on the windows on the front of your house? You don't have any neighbors who are cops or game wardens do you?? Grandma always loves to cook a goose around Thanksgiving!

That's all the space I have this month. Don't forget to send in your technical questions to [wd@sri@redneck.com](mailto:wd@sri@redneck.com) .

73, WDØSRI

## MFJ-259B Antenna Analyzer and Dipole Antennas By WD0BWM

I want to share an experience with you from working on an antenna this summer. In my small city lot, I don't have much room for any antennas of any size and also have nothing to get wire antennas into the air. I have KCP&L lines, cable TV line, and AT&T line fanned out across my yard from a single telephone pole out at the back property line.

Enough there, I have a 40M dipole mounted on the edge of my property up about 17 feet elevation. The antenna has worked pretty well for just short distance work. The dipole had to be trimmed because of the low elevation. This is where a borrowed MFJ-259B came in handy. I installed the antenna at a standard calculated length for the center of the 40M band. Then I went into the house and connected the 259B to the coax attached to my radio. Then I started spinning the knob on the 259B to see where the antenna was resonant. It was off quite a bit (I remember it was around 6.90 Mhz) so back outside I went. The 259B told me where it was resonant.

To make a long story short, I had to adjust it several times from calculations to get it resonant on the middle of the 40M band at that height with power lines, steel gutters, etc. in the area.

The antenna worked very well for a year. This spring the SWRs went wild one day. The reason turned out to be squirrels doing a number on my coax. So I installed a new 100 foot piece, which is somewhat longer than the chewed up coax. Back to the 259B to make sure everything was OK again.

The 259B said everything was OK, low SWR over most of the band except both the high and low band edges as before. Now for those new to the 259B, it sends out 20mw of signal to the antenna to get its readings. Great, ready to go again. But the trusty old Swan WM-2000 and new Daiwa CN-801HP SWR meter in the house had a different story as did my TS-450S. Neither of them liked the SWR. So I started running SWR checks on the same frequencies I did with the 259B. Nothing matched and the radio was seeing very high SWRs.

So I sent an email to a club member or two to see what they thought. I was told about some rule about dipole coax cables need to be certain wave lengths long or something like that and changing the length may be the problem. I need to learn more about this length stuff. I really didn't want to go the route of cutting and redoing a connector so I kept playing for several days when I had time. Retired people never have enough time I'm finding out. In the shack I changed some 3 foot jumpers to 6 foot jumpers in case this coax wave length thing was true and rechecked. No changes there.

So being this far, I sat down, made a list of what I had done, and things to try next. I re-checked the coax using the 259B with one of its abilities (more on that later), I did actually check the 259B with a 50 ohm dummy load to make sure I hadn't smoked a borrowed 259B (whew, it appeared OK), I ran some checks on the antenna physically, and did some more thinking. I had one more thing to try since it was warm that day and I was too lazy to go outside. With a spin of the "power" knob on the TS-450S, I turned the power way down thinking it might be a problem with the

radio. The SWRs on the radio and SWR meter went down quite a bit, but didn't quite match the 259B readings.

OK, here's what I finally figured out. The 259B worked, the coax checked out OK with a Fluke meter, the SWR was always good using the 259B and never good going thru the radio and SWR meter in the shack except when I turned the radio power down to its minimum. Well, maybe the radio failed and I need to buy that new TS-590S finally. So I headed for my trusty parts box and pulled out an old Radioworks (this is not a commercial) T-4 Line Isolator as a last gasp trial. I put it in the easiest place in the shack to test. Wahoo, the 259B readings and the radio and SWR reading were the same. After a whole bunch of re-checks on several things including changing the jumper coax lengths and turning the power back to 100 watts on the TS-450S, I came up with this theory.

Anyone guessed the problem yet?? It was RF coming back into the shack on the coax shield. I'm still not certain why or possibly if it was because the new coax was a different length. The reason the 259B didn't show the RF coming back thru the coax shield is that it only transmitted 20mw, not enough power to send enough RF on the shield to be read on the meter of the 259B. It may not be enough power to send any RF on the shield. That may be a design power level of the 259B to keep that from happening. The 259B read true numbers on the antenna itself without any false readings that can be caused by the operator. But 100 watts on the radio was enough to get the RF on the coax shield going back toward the transmitter. Another lesson learned here, also a second lesson that an antenna analyzer does more than just check SWR. More on that later. -WD0BWM

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