Information = Power

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The Golden Rule of DX is <u>PEPSI</u>:

<u>P</u>atience,

<u>E</u>nergy,

<u>P</u>ersistence,

<u>S</u>kill, and

<u>I</u>nformation. ← Today's topic.

Notice

What you are about to see contains lists of web sites and other products available on the Internet. Therefore, it may contain personal opinion, viewpoints, prejudices, and other subjective, unsubstantiated drivel with which you may disagree.

Today's Class

- References
  - Books, web sites, videos, and other publications
- Near-Real-Time Information
  - DX bulletins and publications
  - Email reflectors
  - More web sites
- Real-Time Information
  - Packet cluster system
  - Chat

References

The Complete DX'er

Locher proceeds to spill the beans about operating techniques [that are] dark mysteries to most operators. A more apt title for his book might have been "The Complete Operator," because most of what he has to say can apply to every time we turn our radios on ... Locher has put it all together in a readable fashion. His easy, conversational style never condescends to the reader ... "The Complete DX'er" leaves other tutorials behind: it not only advises what to do, it tells how to do it ... Sections on choosing a station and selecting antennas are particularly useful…

[*The DX Bulletin*]

Bob Locher, W9KNI, *The Complete DX'er*. 3rd ed. Geyserville, CA: Idiom Press. 2003. 223 pp. ISBN 0-9617577-0-1.

http://www.idiompress.com/books-complete-dxer.html
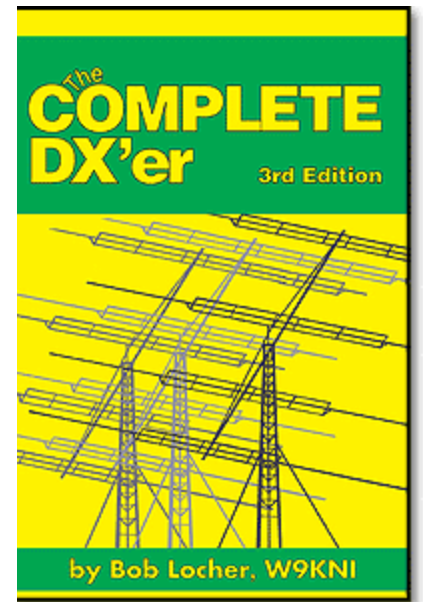
AC6V's DX101x

The book is the culmination of lots of time and effort, and the contents show it. Subjects covered include transceivers, and their specifications, antennas, Yagi beams, vertical antennas, cubical quads, computer equipment, antenna tuners, microphones, ESP hearing, foot switches, logging programs, grayline programs, beacons, the Big Gun myth, pileups, low band DXing, DX packet, awards ... the list is practically endless! And that's just the main part of the book. Also included are several appendices with subjects like prosigns, CW contesting equipment, SSB contesting, DXer phonetics, CQ zones, ITU zones, beacons, DX clubs, and much much more!

[*World Radio Magazine*]

Rodney R. Dinkins, AC6V, *AC6V's DX101x:HF + Six Meters Dxing Reference Guide*. Iola, KS: AC6V Publications. 2004. 236 pp. ISBN 1-43489-485-1.

http://www.ac6v.com/DXSAMPLE.htm
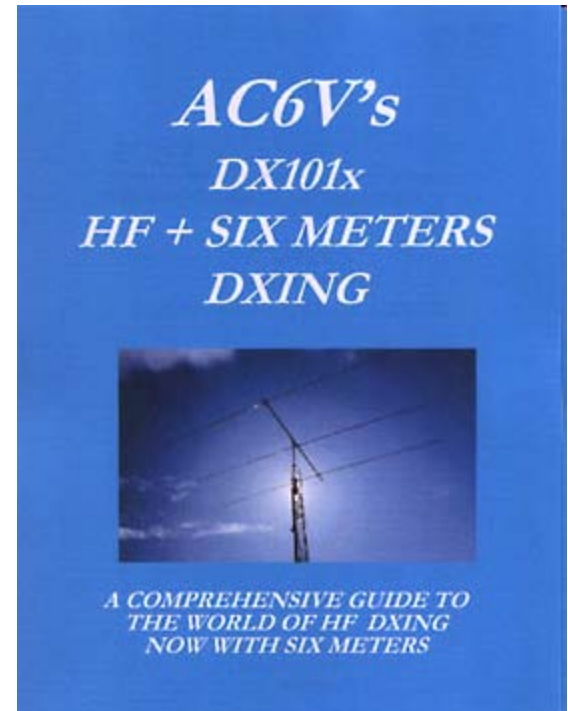
ON4UN's Low-Band DXing

Antennas, Equipment and Techniques for DXcitement on 160, 80 and 40 Meters … "Not a book – the Bible for low-band operation."

John Devoldere, ON4UN, *Low-Band DXing*. 4th ed. Newington, CT: American Radio Relay League. 2005. 585 pp. ISBN 0-87259-914-0.
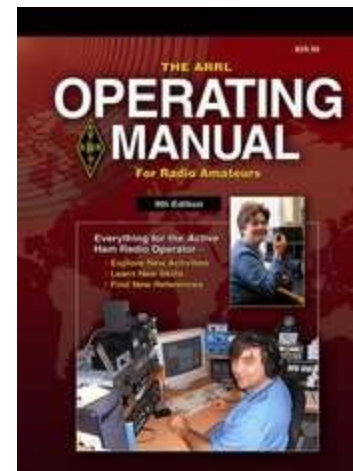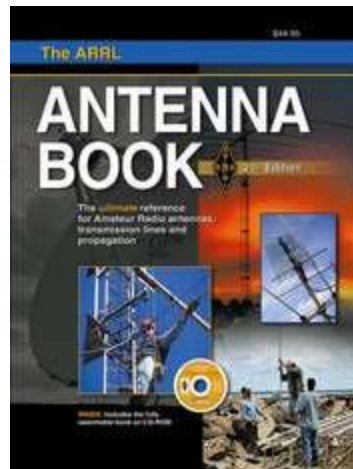
ARRL Bookshelf

http://www.arrl.org/catalog/ :
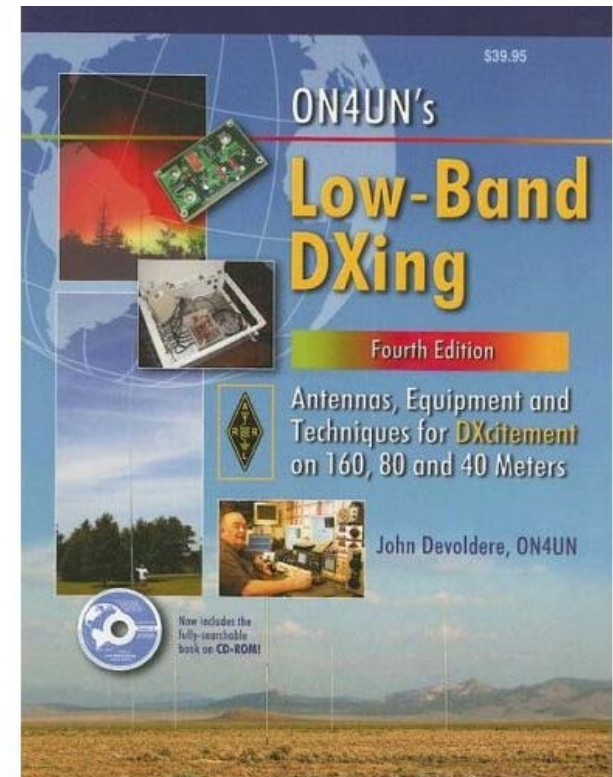
- ARRL Handbook (86th Ed.)
- ARRL Antenna Book (21st Ed.)
- Low Profile Amateur Radio (2nd Ed.)
- ARRL Operating Manual (9th Ed.)
- RSGB Radio Communication Handbook (9th Ed.)
- Etc.

The DX Magazine

- Published: Bi-monthly
- Publisher: N4AA, *CQ* DX Editor
- Subscription: Yes
- Web site: http://www.dxpub.com/
- Personal Comment: Snail mail. Annual "most wanted" entities survey considered the gold standard. Color, with photos and advertisements.

Bookmarks-General

- http://www.qsl.net/k4fk/
  - South Florida DX Association web site
- http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/index.html
  - Main DXCC web site
- http://www.rsgbiota.org/
  - Main Radio Society of Great Britain Islands On The Air site.
  - See also http://www.islandchaser.com/
    - IOTA fan site
- http://www.deltadx.net/ABCDx/ABCDx.htm
  - "A, B, Cs of DX" – essentially, this course on the web…excellent.

Bookmarks-Reference

- http://www.ac6v.com/prefixes.htm
  - Part of AC6V's massive ham radio site (*which see*), a detailed listing of all callsign prefixes assigned to the amateur bands
- http://www.hamatlas.eu/
  - SP6NVK's massive Internet atlas of all DXCC entities
- https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html
  - The CIA's World Factbook
    - Just what you'd expect…comprehensive and detailed.
- http://sunrisesunset.com/
  - Sunrise and sunset times world-wide.

Bookmarks-QSLing

- http://www.qrz.com/
  - <u>The</u> "go-to" site to find station information, QSL routes, etc.
- http://www.ik3qar.it/manager/
  - Extensive list of QSL managers.
- http://hamcall.net/call
  - "World's largest QSL database," by Buckmaster.
- Incoming QSL bureau:
  - System overview: http://www.arrl.org/qsl/qslin.html
  - Single-letter prefixes: http://www.cdxa.org/w4qsl.html
  - Two-letter prefixes: http://www.qsl.net/sterling/QSLBuro4/QSLBuro4.html
- Outgoing QSL bureau: http://www.arrl.org/qsl/qslout.html

…much more in a later class!

DXpedition Videos

- To get a feel for what it's <u>really</u> like on those great DXpeditions to the back of beyond
  - 9V1YC: http://www.dxvideos.com/
  - K4UEE: http://www.k4uee.com/dvd
  - NCDXA: http://www.ncdxf.org/services/videos.cfm
  - Many others . . .

"Near-Real-Time" Information

- DX Bulletins
- Email Reflectors
- Web Sites

DX Bulletins

The best way to hear of rare DX operations, learn of last-minute changes to operating plans, and just know what's going on in the DX world in general, is by subscribing to DX bulletins.

There are a few major ones and lots of regional ones; some free, some subscription-based; some daily, some weekly.

The Daily DX

- Published: Daily
- Publisher: W3UR, *QST* DX Editor
- Subscription: Yes
- Web site: http://www.dailydx.com
- Personal Comment: The *crème de la crème* of DX bulletins. Daily news updates make a difference. Breaking news sent via separate email. Has a Twitter account for up-to-the-minute news Tweets. Also has *The Weekly DX*, a weekly summary.

QRZ DX

- Published: Weekly
- Publisher: N4AA, *CQ* DX Editor
- Subscription: Yes
- Web site: http://www.dxpub.com/
- Personal Comment: PDF format sent as an email attachment. Color, with photos and advertisements.

425 DX News

- Published: Weekly
- Publishers: I1JQJ and IK1ADH
- Subscription: Free
- Web site: http://www.425dxn.org/
- Personal Comment: Has detailed companion calendar, emailed separately. Available in English, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish editions…

DXNL

- Published: Weekly
- Publisher: DARC "DX and HF-Contesting" Committee, DL7MAE
- Subscription: Free
- Web site: http://www.dxhf.darc.de/mailman/listinfo/dxnl
- Personal Comment: Excellent IOTA news; also available in German.

Ohio Penn DX (OPDX)

- Published: Weekly
- Publisher: KB8NW
- Subscription: Free
- Web site: http://hamnet.org/mailman/listinfo/opdx
- Personal Comment: Good IOTA, SOTA, CASHOTA, and lighthouse news. Has weekly DXCC entity activity report.

Email Reflectors

- Email reflectors can be a great way to ask questions to a group of (self-selected) subject matter experts
  - Caveat Lector, of course
- DX-QSL mailing list
  - http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/dx-qsl
- http://lists.contesting.com/
  - TowerTalk, Topband, RTTY, etc.
- Read the archives!

Bookmarks-DXpeditions

- http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html
  - NG3K's Announced DX operations site
- http://www.dailydx.com/Calendar.htm
  - Free resource from *The Daily DX*
- http://dx-hamspirit.com/
  - Beautiful site of upcoming DX operations
- http://www.n0hr.com/wk34/index.htm
  - Upcoming DXpedition maps
- Individual DXpedition websites

Bookmarks-Propagation

- http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/
  - Worldwide HF propagation
- http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/SWN/
  - Space Weather Now – what the sun is up to
- http://www.spaceweather.com/
  - More of what the sun is up to

…much more in a later class!

"Real-Time" Information

- The Packet Cluster System
- Chat

Background

- "Back in the day," DXers relied on phone trees to spread the word of rare DX activity
  - Late night phone calls → annoyed spouses!
- Later (late 1960s), 2m FM repeaters were used
  - Spots were neither filter-able nor archive-able
  - Still used today (SFDXA: 147.330/.930 - PL 103.5)
- In the early 1980s, 2m packet appeared
  - Dick Newell, AK1A, of Pavilion Software wrote "PacketCluster" for the Yankee Clipper Contest Club
  - "Clusters" of stations exchanging formatted data
  - Data was filter-able and archive-able
  - But still local, and mostly in urban areas

Today's Web-based Cluster System

- DXers send "spots" of DX stations heard to a web site, where they are displayed for all to see (and, hopefully, work)

- Web sites (usually) exchange spots received, for the benefit of all

- Differences include user interface, "bells and whistles" (DX entity ID, links to QRZ.com, maps, etc.)

Two of My Faves

- DX Watch (http://www.dxwatch.com)
  - Progressive use of new features
  - SMS alerts sent to your cell phone
- DX Summit (http://www.dxsummit.fi/)
  - The "original"; recently received a facelift

➔ Spots are also integrated into almost all electronic logging programs

DX Watch

1 Tip of a flat belly :

Cut down 3 lbs of your belly every week by using this 1 weird tip.

show/hide my last filters

band: 160m,80m,60m,40m,30m,20m,17m,15m,12m,10m   rows to show: 50

cancel filter selection / send a spot / search spot by callsign

de	dx	freq	obs	time
RU9CI	LX1NO	14026.6	cq fb 599	1715z 17 Aug
F6EAZ	A61BK	14005.0		1715z 17 Aug
W1YY/7	LX1NO	14026.8	CQ	1715z 17 Aug
SQ2NNN	UA1ZFL	14076.0	JT65 -7dB	1713z 17 Aug
PD1AIH	YB4IR	14214.0	[LoTW] 4 x QSL DIRECT NO Return.!	1713z 17 Aug
W9LX	VU2PAI	14003.2	Wrkd easily up 1 KC	1713z 17 Aug
SP9RQJ	SP9JZT	18079.0	cq dx	1713z 17 Aug
W7DTG	OE/DJ7PR	14027.0	559 in NW WA state	1712z 17 Aug
EA5EN	9M8DX	14014.0	IM97KX<>	1712z 17 Aug
N6RK	VU2PAI	14003.0	Wkd up 1.2	1712z 17 Aug
IW9DAF	EA5GPC	28485.0	56	1711z 17 Aug
VU3USJ	T6AD	14017.0	CQ listening up 1	1711z 17 Aug
EC8OJ	EA4ESI/1	7105.0	IL18BP<>	1711z 17 Aug
YO6OAF	MD0CCE	18074.0	[LoTW] UP 1 pse correctly my call tnx	1711z 17 Aug
EA8DD	A61RJ	14251.0	59 in Tenerife Island	1711z 17 Aug
UR8GM	GD0BCJ	10108.9	PAUL 73%21 GL	1710z 17 Aug
EA7IBK	F4UKP/P	14260.0	EU-032	1710z 17 Aug
UA0SW	YB1AQB	14023.0	qsl via dj3kr tnx qso	1710z 17 Aug
IZ1HVD	IE9X	28502.0	IOTA EU-051 TNX	1710z 17 Aug
K7GSE	A61H	14280.0		1710z 17 Aug
IZ8NVV	IH9/I0KLV	28496.7	Short Skip Open	1709z 17 Aug
LA9TJA	EX2F	14002.0		1709z 17 Aug
VE3HBZ	MD0CCE	18073.7	[LoTW] 2 up	1708z 17 Aug
K2UMM	UA6GR	18085.0		1708z 17 Aug
WB7BBI	NC4SW/B	28265.0	NC beacon	1708z 17 Aug
N2JR	UA3ICN	14076.0	JT65-A > FM18CO	1707z 17 Aug
HB9EFJ	IZ7FLP/P	7080.0	DCI TA007	1707z 17 Aug
IK2SAV	IZ7FLP/P	7080.0	NUOVA FREQ.	1707z 17 Aug
IK8NII	IH9/I0KLV	28496.8	5/9 IN NAPLES ISL PANTELLERIA	1707z 17 Aug
K2UMM	UX0FF	18080.5	[LoTW] NIK	1707z 17 Aug

options:
show/hide

language:
english

spots format:
dxwatch

map (beta version):
○ show
● hide

LoTW users:
● show
○ hide

Done

Cell Phone Alerts

Spot Filtering

Filter Result

show/hide my last filters

DX dxcc: YA - Afghanistan / DE continent: NA - North America

rows to show: 50 ✓

cancel filter selection / send a spot / search spot by callsign

de	dx	freq	obs	time
Follow dxwatch.com at twitter.com/dxwatch				
W9KNI	T6AD	14010.0	calling you	1547z 11 Aug
W9KNI	T6AD	14046.3		1621z 09 Aug
N6SC	YA3TCJ	14215.0		0539z 26 May
KD8IIJ	YA3TCJ	14240.0	thanks for the dx	0537z 26 May
K6AWB	YASU	14175.0	SY2WT	2330z 25 May
N3LL	YAV4AB	50025.0	in el86 579 now also	1151z 22 May
AB9M	YA4EQW	14070.6	PSK PSK31	1245z 26 Mar
KG6EDD	YA5TR	7010.0	very rare, afghan stn	1450z 14 Mar
N5XZ	YA/IW0HPJ	14340.0	VIA MW0EFA	1455z 01 Mar
K5OVC	YA/IW0HPJ	14340.0	Luca VERY STRONG Simplex	1440z 01 Mar
N4JDU	YA4LCH	14200.0		1240z 21 Sep
K5OAZ	T6AA	14180.0	I think that is t6ab via it9yvo	1751z 31 Jul
NE8Z	T6AB	14270.0	44 in Michigan	1332z 04 Jul
KG2RG	T6AB	14266.1		1402z 21 Jun

options:
show/hide

language:
english ✓

spots format:
dxwatch ✓

map (beta version):
○ show
◉ hide

LoTW users:
◉ show
○ hide

DX Summit

DX Summit Spot Page

Law of Unintended Consequences

– Before cluster web sites, pileups grew "organically," as people tuned across them and found the DX:

Pileup
Size

Time
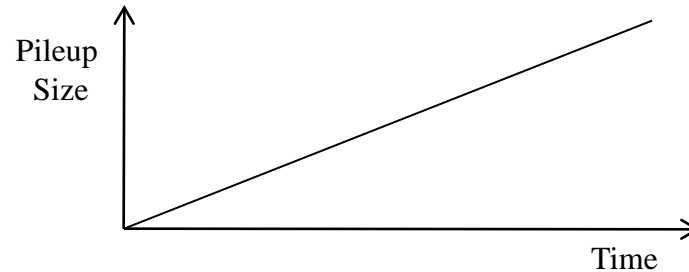
– With cluster web sites, pileup growth changed:

Pileup
Size

Time
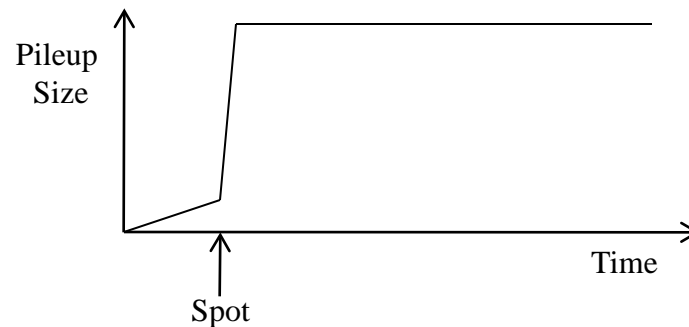
Spot

Cluster Etiquette 1

- Don't self-spot
  - Let others have the joy of discovering your CQ
  - Exception: Rare digital modes, e.g., Olivia
- Don't spot your entire log
  - Save your spots for "interesting" DX
    - DL, F, G, VE, etc. usually not "interesting"
      - Exceptions: IOTA, SOTA, CASHOTA, and Special Event stations; unusual bands
  - But it's OK to spot DX that's nearby, if it's rare somewhere else
    - JAs appreciate our spots of Caribbean DX

Cluster Etiquette 2

- Try to spot "new" stations, not those already spotted eleven times in the last ten minutes
  - Exception: If you're the first on your continent or entity to spot the DX
    - To help those filtering spots by spotting entity
  - I prefer to spot DX CQs, myself
- Remember that the system is a "spotting" system, not a "QSO announcement" system
  - You don't have to work 'em to spot 'em!

Coming Soon to a Computer Near You

- Automated DX spotting, using *CW Skimmer* or similar software
    - Digital modes to follow
- Further integration into logging tools

Chat

- Chat can be useful as a "back channel" between DXers

- Many choices

  - http://www.on4kst.info/chat/start.php

    - Low-band (160, 80 & 40m) DX; also 6m DX

  - http://www.obriensweb.com/sked/

    - Schedule-making

Chat Etiquette

- Don't "help" a QSO in progress
  - If the info can't be correctly received over-the-air, **it's not a QSO**.

- Coordinating schedules, however, is fine, useful, and fair game.
  - Great for getting new band/entity points for DXCC Challenge, as well as those last states for WAS, "Triple Play", etc.
  - Don't let it be a crutch, though; there's no substitute for time in the chair, listening

Questions?