



QRZ NEWS

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February 2011Extra

Burkina Faso DXpedition

By Jon Rudy XT2RJA , K3QF

You probably have the newsletter out already but here are my stats from my XT2RJA operation and following that are some reflections I had about the nature of big DX pileups.

	SSB	CW	RTTY	PSK31	band

160m	1	33	0	0	34
40m	0	1630	53	6	1689
30m	0	1346	1	0	1347
20m	0	884	405	24	1313
17m	0	730	90	0	820
15m	0	798	219	24	1041
12m	0	258	0	0	258
10m	0	1	7	0	8

mode	1	5680	775	54	6510

Unique calls

1-Band QSOs:	2974
2-Band QSOs:	722
3-Band QSOs:	242
4-Band QSOs:	125
5-Band QSOs:	51
6-Band QSOs:	25
7-Band QSOs:	4

XT Op notes

15 Jan – 13 Feb 2011

XT2RJA – Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

-in the calliope tone frequencies and shifting amplitudes of a pileup, the of use electronic keyers is crucial. The DX operator's brain develops predictive fill-ins but only if the keying is uniform. Old bugs make copy very difficult at speeds of 30+.

-Use good RX with good BDR because a 1KC split listening to a weak station will mean that BDR and IMD3 are everything. Don't expect good results in a pileup with an old Heathkit.

-Wonder if EU is actually disciplined but they have a hard time hearing and so just call lots. K3 and FT-5000 making a difference.

-go split immediately if you use 100 w and dipoles on a DXpedition

When 2 stations call simultaneously within 10 hz of each other it is nearly impossible to tell them apart.

To work DX listen carefully to timing and patterns. Listen for a while and then call. Calling blindly only slows down the DX stations running through the pileup.

If the pattern of the DXer is to send 599, and you know he has your call correct, then for heavens sake don't send your name or radio. Give a snappy 599 and rely on timing of his response to determine if you are in the log or not.

-Tail ending, for me was unwelcome as I often had to confirm the last part of the call of the person I was currently working and tailending just covered up that last part of the QSO. I purposely did not call tailenders as it was disruptive to the pattern.

- RTTY Splits are difficult because MTTY seeks to frequency correct and so it keeps seeking and never locks. Best to listen to a number of frequencies say 300 hz up taking up 1.2kc or less.

- I heard, in CW pileups, the stations on the extremes of my bandpass like very low or high.

- The ear, in a pileup is amazing. I was conscious of my listening process and this is how it went.

-identified a strong enough signal on first dit or character

-the brain builds a filter to exclude all other frequencies in the brain bandpass

-the whole call is copied only a dit or dah behind the call being sent

-predictive callsign windows help to narrow the last letter or two of the call down and the enter (in N1MM) can be sent immediately after the last letter.

-this pattern of copying calls is very efficient when there is no QSB and one can make sense and run a sustainable 240+ in good conditions.

-if QSB takes the signal down and another within the brain bandpass comes up in strength, this is the worst situation because your brain loses lock and the pattern of QSOs gets interrupted and you erase the first 2-4 letters and type in another only to have that one fade in QSB.

-Many many stations using amplifiers have chopped first dits. OM2XXX was often JM2XXX and IK2XXX was heard as EK2XXX and occasionally K2XXX. Be sure to set the keying timing delay so the first dit or two make it through the amp.

-It's a quandary, in a massive pileup, to copy a complete call before sending a report or to send a partial call hoping the sending operator gets enough to know it's him. In high noise conditions of those chasing DX it's an invitation for multiple people to think I was calling them.

73,
Jon Rudy, K3QF

Coming Events

SPARC programs for 2011

Tuesday 22 March Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ, "HF Contesting"

Tuesday 26 April 2011 Jon Rudy, K3QF with the full XT2RJA report.

If you would like to offer a presentation for a future meeting, please contact George, W3FEY. We need programs for May through the rest of the year.
