



HF DXing can be fun. Whereas VHF/UHF communication is limited mostly to line-of-site communication typically via a repeater, HF is capable of communicating point to point over long distances from hundreds to thousands of miles.

The 2 X 4 DX Group is affiliated with the Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association. We use HF communication to contact DX (foreign) stations. The Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at St Andrew Lutheran Church, 295 NW Prima Vista Blvd, Port St Lucie at 9:00am. We also have a Net on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month on the PSLARA

2 meter repeater. ALL AREA HAMS ARE WELCOME.

The 2 X 4 DX Group proposes a series of informative and fun HF, DX, and Contesting techniques and radio technical talks. Some will be presentations, some will be general talks by the group centered on a selected subject.

HOW YOU CAN HELP US

Please let us know if you like the proposed topics and the best form and time for the presentations and talks. **Please tell us what you think about the topics. Email: W4RJP@arrl.net**

PROPOSED 2 X 4 DX GROUP PRESENTATION AND TALKS TOPICS

Ham Radio Awards

- . Ham Radio Awards: DXCC, WAS, WAC, VUCC, A-1 OPERATORS, CQ DX,
- . Why and how to get them?
- . Contesting

DX

- . What is DX?
- . Where to find DX?
- . How to work DX?
- . DX code of conduct

QSLing & Logging – Getting your contact confirmed

- . What is a QSL Card?
- . How to QSL? (reviving a lost art)
- . How to get your QSL card checked. (if going after an award)
- . Other Confirmation methods: ARRL LoTW (easy and fast.)
- . N1MM logging software has all of the bells and whistles and is free

HF Ham Radio Equipment

- . How to buy used gear or don't buy and try building instead
- . Evaluating a receiver, transmitter, & transceiver.
- . SSB Steps TX audio (wide/narrow, compression, ALC, Equalizer, Leveler and more)
- . The 38 controls on your HF rig and how and when to use them and why?
- . What does your S-Meter tell you? More than you think.
- . Bandwidth – When wide or when narrow is best choice, what is most efficient
- . Linear amplifier: how to use and keep it working for a long time (Solid state and tube)

. Building a linear amplifier? Not a first time project. Not for the faint of heart.

HF Operating

- . The value of first listening.
- . The world's best ambassador... Ham Radio
- . Making friends overseas and stateside, group discussion.
- . The personality of each of the HF bands, how they are different
- . Q codes (when and how to use them.) Why would you use them?
- . Digital communications in ham radio, New - old (FT8 - RTTY)
- . CW - Why it is so efficient and great for DX. How to learn Morse Code
- . SPLIT control, why is the world swearing at you?
- . HF the original emergency communications. Why?
- . Ham software. (Free?) Where to find and how to set-up.

Troubleshooting, Testing, Grounding, Safety, & Tips

- . Troubleshooting your equipment
- . Test equipment
- . Computer maintenance and other tips
- . Why grounding is so important.
- . SAFETY (the red part is hot)
- . Hints and kinks

Antennas, Feedlines, & Propagation

- . Antennas how to choose, construct, install - When, where, why, & how
- . Antenna Gun What is antenna gun? Have pictures and instructions.
- . Directional antennas... Theory and construction, why and how
- . Using DXing to test and find out if your ideas about an antenna are true or false.
- . Horizontal vs Vertical radiation, what is best and when
- . What is angle of radiation, the most important but least known factors
- . Feed-line understanding feed-line and value of feed point Z considerations
- . Twin line feed-line how this can improve efficiency and bandwidth using high Z.
- . Difference between "radiation resistance" and "feed point resistance"?
- . Antenna efficiency, It's not SWR, Clue can we say "radiation resistance".
- . How does your signal get from point A to B without the use of a repeater?
- . What is Standing wave (SW), what is Traveling wave (TW)
- . What is the difference between SW and SWR and which is your friend?
- . Why does a dummy load have great SWR, but no antenna efficiency?
- . Why does your antenna have great SWR, but no efficiency?
- . What is a wave? Do you know?
- . What is the difference between Ground-wave and Sky-wave?
- . What is a Sky-wave band what is a Ground-wave band? Why is this important?
- . Propagation What is solar flux, K or A index, MUF, LUF, How long is a hop?
- . What is the Sun Spot Cycle and how does it affect HF propagation
- . Propagation control via your antenna. What, can it be?
- . What is an antenna analyzer/network analyzer and how to use.
- . What is EMP? Did you know foreign governments or Mother Nature can shut down all satellites, cell phone and internet, in only seconds. Only then HF would work around the world.
- . What is "Z" why is this everything important but not understood by many?