

Minutes-December 23, 2023, General Meeting

By Jim Gifford N8KET, Secretary

Executive Committee Members Present

President: Ray Hitt N8VMX, Newsletter

Vice President: Glenn Rodgers W18O, Greeter, Shack Tours

Treasurer: John Westerkamp W8LRJ, Communications Center

Secretary: Jim Gifford N8KET

Jr. Director: Jim Lusk KC8EFD, Clubhouse

Sr. Director: Don Parker KB8PSL, Public Service (via Zoom)

Functional Coordinators Present:

Jim Totten WA8HUB, BARC Lunch Bunch

Paul Sharp WS8R, Education, Flex Users Group

Tink Siwecki KD8NUA, Hospitality and Library

Tom McClory KE8FWZ, Youth

Executive Committee Members Absent

At 7:00pm, President Ray Hitt N8VMX led attendees in the pledge of allegiance. Hitt then welcomed our members and guests and recognized new hams and upgrades.

Agenda Item 1. John Westerkamp W8LRJ Presentation on DXing with DXpeditions



The screenshot displays the DXPEDITIONS software interface. On the left, a circular window shows a 'Recent Contacts' list with columns for 'Call', 'Country', 'ST', 'County', 'Name', and 'Other'. Below this is a 'Comments' section. To the right of the circular window, there are fields for 'Band', 'Mode', 'Power', 'Time On', 'Sent', and 'Re'. Below these are 'County', 'Frequency', and 'Other' fields, along with checkboxes for 'QSL Sent' and 'QSL Recd', and a 'Sign Last' button. At the bottom, there is a 'Comments' section with a table for 'Comments' and a 'Comments' button. On the right side of the interface, the text 'DXING WITH DXPEDITIONS' is displayed in large blue letters. Below this, it says 'BARC MEMBERSHIP MEETING'. Further down, it lists 'John Westerkamp/W8LRJ' and 'w8lrj@arri.net'. At the bottom right, it says 'December 21, 2023'. A small circular logo with 'BARC' and 'Baltimore Area Radio Club' is in the top right corner.

Overview

- Previously, we looked at logging and rig control for *voice and digital* contacts using N3FJP locally and LotW and ClubLog over the Internet.
- Tonight, we will look at working DX and using DXpeditions including finding DXpedition information, spotting, propagation, and DX techniques.
- Note that this information is available in five articles in the BARC Newsletter (April through August 2023).

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What is DX?

- DX stations are any countries outside the continental USA (Alaska and Hawaii are DX).
- So who are these DX entities and which ones are the most wanted (fewest stations have worked them)?
- You can find a list at [ClubLog Most Wanted](#).
- That will give you an idea of the number of official DX entities (340) and which ones are the hardest to work (North Korea).
- In the next few slides, we will look at ways to find these DX entities when they are on the air.

How to find dx

- ClubLog *DXCC Cluster* (new DX not in your log yet)
- DX Summit spots
<http://www.dxsummit.fi/>
- DX Watch spots
dxwatch.com
- N3FJP and N1MM+ spots
- Use DXpeditions!

DX Spotting in n3fjp

- Click *Telnet Host*
- Enter *dxspots.com*
- Enter 23 for *Telnet* port
- Use your callsign for *Telnet Login*
- ***Be sure to click Enable DX Spotting.***
- Other settings as desired.
- Click *Done*.
- A section with spots will appear at the bottom of the N3FJP window.
- ***If you set up rig control with N3FJP, you can just click on the spot and radio will tune the DX automatically.***

What about dxpeditions?

- Many DX entities are sparsely populated (islands), uninhabited (rocky volcanic island or cold/poor weather), or just don't have many hams.
- Groups of amateurs get together and go to the remote location and operate. This is a DXpedition.
- These DXpeditions are often somewhat dangerous and expensive as the operators must bring radios

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and antennas as well as power along with food and other supplies.

- Often sponsored by clubs or DX organizations.
 - Huge pileups result since the DX entity is often very rare, but it is an opportunity to work it if you get lucky.
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How to find Dxpeditions

- BARC website under QSO/QSL/DX
 - DX News Calendar at <https://www.dx-world.net>
 - Click on a callsign to get more information (bands and modes).
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Propagation

- ClubLog has a *Propagation Tool* that can be used to see when the best time of day and best band to contact the DX.
 - In *DX Cluster*, double-click on the DX name to bring up the *DXCC Analysis Tool*.
 - Then click on *Check Propagation* to see real (actual QSO's) and predicted (using VOACAP) propagation.
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VOACAP propagation

Propagation (Useful for FT8)

Dx techniques

- Listen!!!
 - Working "Split"
 - Avoid pile-ups and keep DX frequency clear
 - Voice "Up 5"
 - CW "Up 1"
 - FT8 "Fox and Hound"
 - DX below 1000 Hz (Fox)
 - Put WSJT-X in F/H mode
 - Call above 1000 Hz (Hound)
 - FT8 "MSHV"
 - Multi-stream variant
 - FT8 often works outside "normal" FT8 bands
 - Check spots to decide
 - Use F/H if unsure
 - **What do I need to work dx?**
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W8LRJ Hardware

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BARC DXCC League

Agenda Item 2. Election of Officers

Jim Totten, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate to the attendees for the election:

Ray Hitt – President N8VMX

Jim Totten – Vice President WA8HUB

Treasurer – John Westerkamp W8LRJ

Secretary – Jim Gifford KD8APT

Junior Trustee - Bob French AC8ZU

Since there was no office with an opposing candidate, the vote was made to accept all by acclamation. A show of hands by attendees elected the slate of officers for 2024.

While Jim Totten had the floor, he told attendees that lunches will begin in January on the second and fourth Tuesday.

John Westerkamp asked the question: When are nominations closed for offices? Ray Hitt N8VMX and Jim Totten both answered “The November meeting.”

Agenda Item 3. Treasurer’s Report

John Westerkamp presented the Treasurer’s Report. He said dues payments had picked up and he anticipated that it would be about, or over, 75% by the end of the year. Our current balance is over \$10,000. He said that in the summer we will need to perform upgrades on the antennas on the roof. He said our 2-meter antenna is leaning, possible from weather issues. His report as emailed just before the meeting is below:

Dues payments have continued steadily since the beginning of the month (we are over 50% of members paid now), but expenses including Spectrum Internet, USPS P.O. Box rental, WFD Shelter rental, and refreshments were almost as large. I am hoping by the end of the month, income will be up even more and we will have closer to 75% of the membership dues paid.

Our balance as of this meeting is \$10,045.35.

Thanks!

John Westerkamp, W8LRJ
Treasurer

Fund	20-Nov-23	Income	Expenses	31-Dec-23
General	\$2,221.30	\$506.51	\$400.98	\$2,326.83
Comm center	\$1,586.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,586.22

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Refreshments	\$807.58	\$0.00	\$62.93	\$744.65
Repeater	\$319.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$319.53
All Liquid Funds	\$4,934.63	\$506.51	\$463.91	\$4,977.23
6 Month CD	\$5,068.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,068.12
ALL FUNDS	\$10,002.75	\$506.51	\$463.91	\$10,045.35

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Paul Sharp WS8R moved we accept the report; Ken Gunton W8ASA seconded. Passed.

Agenda Item 4. Minutes

Jim Gifford N8KET emailed the minutes from the November meeting to members.

Jim Totten moved we accept the minutes as written; Glenn Rodgers WI8O seconded. Passed.

Agenda Item 5. Special Event Station

Jim Gifford showed the following slide and told members that BARC will conduct a special event station on December 17, 2024, to commemoration of the first flight of the Wright Brothers. We are approved to use W8W. He said more information will follow in the months ahead. Gifford also said he was still working on obtaining information about BARC shirts, hats, and sweatshirts.

Agenda Item 6. Coordinators

Glenn Rodgers announced the Winter Field Day at the Paw Paw shelter at Hills and Dales Park, Kettering, on January 27, 2024.

Paul Sharp spoke about the BARC Education program and asked for input for the coming year. He said that the club attempted to combine educational topics with each month's speaker/program at the general meeting. Sharp said we are taking a different approach in 2024.

Sharp then spoke about the upcoming Flex Users Group and the POTA Users Group. He said plans are being made to hold a Yaesu FT-710 users meeting sometime in the next few weeks. Sharp also thanked several members of BARC for helping him raise his SteppIR antenna recently. He gave kudos to Stu Holzer K8ST, Ken Gunton, Bob Stafford W8NU, John Westerkamp, Glenn Rodgers, and Ken Moak KM8AM. Sharp said that our volunteers are what makes the club great.

Tink Siwecki announced the coming BARC Movie nights. The next one will be January 25 at 7pm.

Agenda Item 7. Questions from the Floor

Fred Stockwell KE8ZPN asked how we were preparing for the solar eclipse, which is coming over our area in the spring. John Westerkamp answered that Greene County ARES and the Beavercreek Twp Fire Departments are actively working in this general area. He said that they are coordinating in anticipation of over 100,000 people converging on the local area. Westerkamp said that his family

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traveled to see one in another state a few years ago, and traffic was a horrible mess. He said that planners need to anticipate the horde of people who will attend.

Jim Totten moved we close the meeting; Larry Darner KD8RER seconded. Passed.

Meeting closed at about 8:40pm.