

The logo is circular with a yellow border containing the text "MAGNOLIA DX ASSOCIATION" at the top and "MISSISSIPPI" at the bottom. The center features a globe with a red compass rose and a green magnolia branch with a yellow flower.

How to be a Better DX'er

Do's and Don'ts for the Deserving

Or,

Things to avoid finding yourself doing...

Why Avoid Errors?

- Almost without fail, errors hurt your DXing
- Few, if any, of the folks you will meet here got to WORK the DX
- Your identity is all we have to know you by

Types of Errors

- Mistakes of the head
 - Not thinking
 - Carelessness
 - Everyone has done this!
- Mistakes of the heart
 - Intended to do wrong
 - Knew it was wrong and did it anyway
- Etiquette errors (less serious!)

Mistakes of the Head

- Wrong VFO
- Simplex instead of split
- Tuning up on frequency
- Calling while DX is working

Avoiding These Mistakes

- Listen!
- If you can't hear the DX well enough to copy, don't call
- Know your station and how to work it
- Avoid operating when you are not at your best

Mistakes of the Heart

- Wrong VFO
- Simplex instead of split
- Tuning up on frequency
- Calling while DX is working
- (Pretty much the same mistakes...)

Telling the two apart

- How do you tell the difference between mistakes “of the head” and mistakes “of the heart?”
- They sound alike at your end!
- Reputation, repetition, reflection
 - What do you know about that operator?
 - How does that operator usually behave?
 - Once you’ve calmed down, how do you feel about it?

Time for some examples!

- K3** in the pile-up for 9J2FM on 30 Meter CW doesn't get through. Right after 9J2FM comes back to another station there's a long series of dits with the same audio tone as the K3**
- K4** calling HB9*** on 160 Meter CW, right atop an on-going DX pile-up
- W0*** trying to work KL7**. W0*** determined to be last, even if that means sending his call while the KL7 is in QSO
- N0*** calling CQ atop LA3**. 599 signal says "N0*** QSY." But, N0*** calls CQ again.

Some more examples!

- N3** giving his call while OE8*** is calling CQ
- W5*** giving his call while LZ1*** is calling CQ
- FK8** QSX down 15, I'm hearing him 229.
W6*** (who should be hearing him better) is calling on his QRG. Many cluster spots with QSX
- 5N50K (Five N Five Zero K) gets called by a W9** who refers to him as Five N Five O K, despite having that corrected more than once by the DX. Bad cluster spots... Five N Five O K and Five N Five K were spotted.

Some MDXA input

- Butting in to existing QSO's with nothing to say
- Criticizing or gossip about others
- Operating under the influence
- Use of CB terms
- Calling CQ on FM
- Over-use of Q-signals on voice
- Continuous blind calling
- Not using split when needed
- Use of "seventy-threes" instead of "73"
- Improperly set audio on FM
- Two meter ghost spots from cluster that spotter can't hear

How to tell if you're GUILTY! (by The Not So Old Man)

- Why do other amateurs ignore your CQ?
- Do you miss the DX most of the time?
- Do you often hear the word "LID" used in your presence?
- Is your learning from the book, with no thought of learning from the practice of others?

What to do, what to do...

- How do you handle such things?
- Don't add to the problem on the air!
- Maybe a quick "UP" is reasonable... but you don't need to be the tenth person sending "UP" and you don't need to send it ten times!
- What about for people you know?
 - Is it a mistake of the head or of the heart?
 - Avoid accusations but let them know it was noticed
 - "I heard you calling on top of the P5 yesterday."
 - Let the other operator explain if he or she wants to
 - If not, at least they know their behavior has been noticed

Pile-up Rules I (by Uncle DX)

- 1.) The DX Station operators are in charge of any pile-up.
- 2.) The DX station should make and adhere to their operating rules quietly and respectfully.
- 3.) The DX station should use, when appropriate, call areas and areas of the world for better accuracy, rate and order
- 4.) The DX station should use split operation and spread stations out, keeping in mind others not in the pile-ups.

Pile-up Rules II (by Uncle DX)

- 5.) The DX station should give their call sign at least every 10 minutes and maintain a pattern, especially when ending a QSO.
- 6.) The DX station should create a rhythm or timing which maintains a good rate and allows the pile-up to call at the right time.
- 7.) The operators in the pile-up, if not sure of a QSO, should dupe and the DX operator not waste time complaining.
- 8.) The DX station should work those who will create the fastest rate, at least at first, then make an effort to work the weaker stations.

Pile-up Rules III (by Uncle DX)

- 9.) No one should lecture on the air.
- 10.) Everyone should always require and give full calls.
- 11.) Know and practice the gray line.
- 12.) Know your equipment, such as the SPLIT button, audio levels, keying wave form, etc.

Pile-up Rules IV (by Uncle DX)

- 13.) Never be a KC Cop... Never!
- 14.) Operators giving spots on the DX Cluster should ensure their accuracy.
- 15.) Keep away from personal, political and religious comments at all times. Keep all comments in the true spirit of ham radio whereby ALL ARE EQUAL.
- 16.) Don't rush when giving your call as the DX station is standing by, especially on CW. Time will be lost trying to obtain ALL of your call sign.

Pile-up Rules V (by Uncle DX)

- 17.) Don't call the DX station constantly. Get in the rhythm.
- 18.) Let the last station complete his or her QSO.
- 19.) Use only the power it takes and figure out what that is.
- 20.) Figure out the DX operator's operating practice for greater success.

The Amateur's Code (from the ARRL)

- **The Radio Amateur is**
- **CONSIDERATE**...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
- **LOYAL**...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
- **PROGRESSIVE**...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.
- **FRIENDLY**...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
- **BALANCED**...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
- **PATRIOTIC**...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.
- ***--The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.***

Further Resources

- Your ears.
- Your friends.
- If you must learn from a book, the best I have found is “Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur”
 - Available free at <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc>

Questions?

