

# "MEMBERS' TOPICS"

Starting in December 2001, we decided to introduce a new feature to the list, this was called the "Members' Topics". This is a very good way of allowing any of the members who might have experience in a particular field to share it with everyone else in the group. Topics covered can be anything from a short article on the subject of your choice, a profile of your own NDB chasing experiences, the equipment you use, the techniques you employ in your dxing, the results of any aerial experiments, or tests with other types of equipment. Tell us about the results of any dxpeditions that you might have been on, or give us reviews of the equipment that you use, in fact, why not tell us just about any other field or topic that you might be interested in. If you feel that you'd like to share something with other list members then we'd certainly love to hear about it.

Below is the original idea and suggestion behind the "Topics" scheme put forward by Brian:

"I'm sure most of our members have interesting knowledge and experience of aspects of NDB-ing, but don't often have a good opportunity to share it with us. The exchanges on the list are usually on very specific matters and one has to hunt to find useful tips of a general nature.

I thought of trying an idea where members would be invited to write a fairly short account - about an A4 page say - of their own experience and views on any matter of GENERAL interest within the NDB field. It could be on Listening Techniques, How NDBs got their names, Log-keeping, QSL-ing, Experience with Aerials, Negative Idents, My First Month of NDBing, etc., etc. It could be technical or philosophical, pacifist or provocative [but always within the gentlemanly approach of this List, of course].

Any submissions would always go direct to a "Topic Co-ordinator". He would then feed them to the List on a regular basis - weekly, if enough arrive - giving time for any exchanges after each one and avoiding any one author coming up too frequently. We wouldn't worry much about writing styles or grammar but the Co-ordinator might occasionally diplomatically suggest that an author make minimal additions and changes to improve an offering, or maybe give help on request to members whose first language is not English.

We could call the items "Alpha's Topic", "Beta's Topic", etc. [Alpha, Beta representing their names]. As an idea of what I have in mind, I'm being forward enough to offer myself as a guinea pig with a "Brian's Topic", being sent after this email.

Any views on the idea, whether "for" or "agin" are welcomed. Some members, including those who wouldn't want to compose anything themselves might have ideas for general-interest topics they would like someone to take up".

Following that original posting a number of list members took up the challenge, and so far we have had some very interesting articles covering subjects as diverse as "daytime listening", and "active antennas". If you feel you could write a short article on some topic, we'd love to hear from you. Sharing your experiences will help other members who may be new to the hobby, and help them to learn all kinds of useful techniques. You don't have to be an expert writer to do this, and interesting subject is far more important. You needn't worry if you feel that your grammar or knowledge of english isn't too good either, this doesn't matter at all, and we would welcome articles from members wherever they might be. You will find list members are only too willing to assist you with any articles, and all you really need is the idea, or the suggestion of an idea, or perhaps a Topic that you would like to see if someone else could write it. We will happily welcome all ideas and suggestions.

If you would like to write a topic of your own, or find out more about it why not contact our "Topics Co-ordinator" Jack Woods of Oregon, who will be glad to hear from you. Jack is responsible for deciding which articles will be used, and when to post them and if you, have a topic of your own you can reach Jack at the following address:

[jwoods@orednet.org](mailto:jwoods@orednet.org)

Please note that articles should preferably be submitted in plain text format!

**Topics posted previously to the group include the following:**

"DAYTIME LISTENING" by Brian Keyte G3SIA

"WHIP ANTENNA CONSIDERATIONS" by Steve Ratzlaff

"HEALTH EFFECTS OF NDB LISTENING" by Robert Connolly GI7IVX

"FROM THE BOTTOM TO THE TOP - A LOOK AT HF BEACON DXING: by Alan Gale G4TMV

"LAND LOSS" by Jack Woods

"BE YOUR OWN NEGATIVE KEYING EXPERT" by Brian Keyte G3SIA

"WEATHER EFFECTS ON SKYWAVE BEACON PROPAGATION" by Robert Connolly GI7IVX

"HOW IT ALL BEGAN" by Robert Connolly GI7IVX

These articles will eventually appear at the NDB List Members Area, please keep a look out for any new Topics appearing on the reflector from time to time!