

the exchange



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The Prez says...

It appears that winter has finally left us here in Southwest Ohio and with it the winter DXing season. I got closer to my goal of confirming DXCC on 80 meters this winter but didn't cross the finish line. There's always next year! Hopefully, you achieve your goals on the low bands before the summer static season comes crashing in. With the warmer weather I'm updating my Field Day plans, maybe something new this year to build on past learning. What ham radio plans do you have for the warm weather season?



The highlights of the SWODXA year, the DX Dinner® and DX Forum, are almost upon us. By the time you read this we'll be close to closing ticket sales for the DX Dinner. Mindi and the Dinner committee have done another incredible job pulling everything together, from seating to notifications. Jay has an interesting lineup of speakers for the DX Forum that will be late on Saturday afternoon. Plan to attend both, you'll enjoy the company of fellow DXers and learn something new related to DXing.

Unfortunately, since the last newsletter another SWODXA member, Gordon Brainard, K18I, has become a silent key. Gordon enjoyed DXing and always brought a positive attitude to the club. At his memorial service there were wonderful photos of his early shack with great examples of what are now vintage rigs. It is easy to forget how ham radio used to be.

Thanks to Bill, AJ8B, for redesigning the club website at www.swodxa.org. It is mostly complete but a few elements are still works in progress. I encourage you to get on and work the website as soon as you can. In fact, we're making some changes to our meeting location so you'll find the website a huge help.

After much discussion, some experimentation and even more discussion we're making changes to our meeting locations and calendar timing. We're moving to having meetings at both a northern location (Marion's Piazza, Kingsridge Dr. near the Dayton Mall) and a southern location (Marion's Piazza off Tylersville Rd. in Mason). We'll meet for several months in a row at each location to help minimize confusion. This way we'll all enjoy the shorter travel times for part of the year (or alternatively, experience the longer rides for only part of the year). We also decided to not have meetings in July and August. It is my sincere hope that all of you find yourself at the right Marion's on future meeting nights!

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9Y4D—Chris—My Favorite QSO EVER!

I have worked 9Y4D 6 times in contests since 2013. However, my favorite QSO ever was on 80 meters last March 18th. 9Y4D is not a DX challenge on the order of P5, but, for me, it was my #100 on 80 Meters for DXCC. Needless to say, I wanted that log confirmation sooner than later. Chris had immediately uploaded it to clublog, but, it did not transfer to LOTW. A quick email and Chris sent it along. THANKS! Anyway, Chris kindly agreed to answer a few questions about his outstanding station. Enjoy...

AJ8B: How did you first get interested in amateur radio?

9Y4D: My next door neighbor had a SSB CB at his house and I had found it fascinating. Eventually I started talking on it, my mother bought one for me at the age of 9 and I started DXing from then.

AJ8B: When did you get on the air?

9Y4D: I eventually got my licence in 1993 and never looked back but to answer that question correctly, I have been on radio for 47 years

AJ8B: Do you have a favorite band or mode?

9Y4D: Yes and that would be 20 meters SSB. When I went for my licence we still had to do the CW exam as well, which at that time I was good for about 20 wpm, but never like CW that much but for some reason it has sparked my interest again.

AJ8B: In reviewing your QRZ.com page, I noticed that you said you don't chase DXCC - Thanks goodness you don't mind using LOTW! What do you like to do on the Bands?

9Y4D: I jokingly call it (causing hate and discontent) a PILE UP. I will usually do this about once a week just to keep in shape for contest.

AJ8B: You are an extremely accomplished contester. Any secret to your success that you can share?

9Y4D: Most of all you need to figure out the bands ie:band openings and closures, where the propagation is coming from at certain times, what part of the band to be on at certain times as well and most of all call CQ contest for the 48 hours even if you think there is no propagation.

AJ8B: Describe what you are currently using:

9Y4D: The equipment is nothing fancy. Radio is a FT 2000 the AMP is very old Drake I7 and antennas are a 204 ba ,explorer 14 and a hex beam on 2 towers. BTW I only run between 400 to 600 watts in high power categories in contest.

AJ8B: What advice do you have for those of us trying to break pileups to work DX?

9Y4D: Listen, wait until a QSO is completed and throw your call in as fast as possible ...lol

AJ8B: Any QSLing hints?

9Y4D: Not sure of this question because you see I have only sent for about 3 QSL cards in all the years I have been on the radio, it comes to us as we are still considered kinda rare (9y4- 9z4) I guess .

AJ8B: What coaching/advice would you give new amateurs?

9Y4D: Listen, listen and listen, also remember this hobby has so much more avenues that you can go down and experiment. ie # satellite work, digital modes and most of all just HAVE FUN .

AJ8B: Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions. Is there anything you would like to share with us?

9Y4D: For those QRM`ersGO WATCH TVPLEASE!!!!

Most of all, I have a wife that supports my hobby 100 percent because every piece of equipment I ever bought was and is \$99.99.HA !! LOL..73 de 9Y4D.. Chris..



Icom IC-718

AC8G Donation By Byron Swainey, TI5/WA8NJR

I am excited to let you know that our long time member, Harry Flasher, AC8G and his XYL have donated an Icom (new) IC-718 to my orphanage project here in Costa Rica... This is an absolutely perfect radio to use for introducing the kids to Ham Radio...

It covers 160-10 and is very compact and easy to transport and set up... I have spare 12V 30A supplies, watt meters, antenna material, coax and antenna analyzers to set things up... The radio will be transported back and forth due to unfortunate theft concerns...

Again, when you see the Flashers let them know how much we as Hams appreciate their generous donation !!!

I'll try and keep you all updated on our progress... Depending on how my recovery goes from surgery in the US next month I'll be working to get this functioning for the orphanage...

I'm still looking for a radio for Nicaragua to fill in for emergency communications in the San Carlos area... This area was devastated by the hurricane a year ago... In this case I am looking for an all mode (including 6, 2, 440) f along with the low bands to be able to offer local as well as international communications relief... A Icom IC-706 MK2G or similar Yaesu or Kenwood radio... It does not have to be new, only fully functional and ready to go... Again, I have all the associated accessories to compliment its' installation... I hope to have something going here by Fall... Finding a reputable Ham in the San Carlos area has been difficult but I am working on it... Just a side note... Rose and I have been up there 4 times over the past 2 years and much is needed to help these people...

Well there you have it !!! Thanks again Harry and Marge !!!

Interesting CW Key—W8KJ—Kevin



One of the interesting keys in my small collection. Note the label on the bottom. This key was given to me by SK Dave Kalter KB80CP, SWODXA member, past officer of SWODXA. He also co founded the Youth DX Adventure.

60 Meters—The Channel Band

By Joe, W8GEX (W8GEX@aol.com)

Our Bahamas (C6) 60M trip

Janet & I have been to many of the Bahama outer islands so every year we renew our calls C6ADX, C6AJR and C6AYL. I've had C6DX since 1998 but they failed to renew it three years ago, saying it has to have an "A" as the third letter. As you know, the IARU designator for the Bahamas is C6 but the locals say we also need that "A" so I have C6ADX and C6AJR. In the last several years our family vacation has been in the Exuma chain. We have been there several times and our daughter Kelli and her husband also fell in love with it and ended up getting married there on the beach.

As with many of my vacations, I take my radio equipment and this year was no different. While we love Great Exuma, this year we decided to try another location and went to Long Island. Last year in Exuma, I ran JT65 the whole week. With the sun spot so low or non-existent, I decided FT8 might be a good fit this year as I am familiar with using it at home.



We rented a two-story house on the beach back a long remote road.

After viewing the house on line, I thought it would be quite suitable for my operation. With no trees, which is common on the island, this two story house gave me a little height.

As always before a trip, I set up my sta-



tion and run a few QSO's from home. My IC-7300, KPA-500, the interface and connecting cables were all working. Now I was ready to pack it up.



My antennas this time were all inverted vee's; a 60, 40, 30, 20 and 12m. The 12, 20 and 30m were on one dipole fitting. The 40 and 60 were separate antennas but all on the same screw hook placed on the overhang by the gutter. Each had a 20 foot piece of RG8X and then a barrel connector to a run going to the radio. Janet and I adjusted them for low SWR and they worked very well.



Our Bahamas (C6) 60M Trip (cont.)

A bad cable: At first I had no waterfall on WSJT-X. This went on for two days until I found the problem with the help of my friend Dave K4SV. We connected thru Facetime where Dave could see my screen. The problem was simple. The audio stereo cable from the radio speaker to the laptop mic input was the problem. One end of the cable was mono while the other was stereo. Both ends need to be stereo. Luckily I had an extra cable with me and then all was well.

Carry-on luggage and TSA can be another story. We carry the equipment so as not to get it damaged. For a change, going through CVG was easy as a police dog was sniffing everybody first and no screening was done. When we arrived in St. George on Great Exuma it was again easy as we were connecting to Long Island (15 minutes away) on a chartered flight. By luck, our pilot was standing there when the Customs agent started asking questions about what we had, where we were staying, etc. When she realized we were going with him, she just told us we were ok to go without looking through our luggage.

Last year upon arrival they did a thorough search of our luggage, and we had to leave a

\$400 deposit with them to assure we were bringing the equipment back home. This also happened with our son-in-law who takes a drone. He has to leave a deposit for it and then get it back when he leaves. So you have to always be prepared with extra cash in case this happens.

Coming home was a different story. In St. George they unpacked all of the radio equipment, look at it as if they know what they're looking at, and then tell us we're ok to repack it. It happened again in Atlanta. We are so careful in packing to be sure it doesn't move and/or get damaged that it is a pain when there are a lot of people behind you in a hurry to get through security. This is the reason we never take our first line equipment from home.

Get some friends together and plan a small DXpedition. In planning your first trip, look for a location that is easy to get to, and where it is easy to obtain a license. It doesn't have to be remote to have fun as there is always a pileup. You'll have a lot of fun and it will give you an idea what the large DXpeditions have to go thru but on a much larger scale.

"You'll have a lot of fun and it will give you an idea what the large DXpeditions have to go thru but on a much larger scale."



"One day, son, all of these perfectly good A.C. adapters, which have long outlived the products they were originally designed for, will be yours."



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DX QRP

By Kevin, W8KJ

Kevin manages a QRP blog at
www.cincinnatiqrp.blogspot.com

QRP Contesting

Two types of contesting are available for the QRP'er.

1: Entry into a contest but in a QRP "category" For example Field Day, CQWW, CQWW VHF or any number of traditional contests.

2: Entry into the many QRP only contests, examples are: Run for the Bacon, ARCI, Bumblebee's, Fox Hunt, etc. The major difference between the two is:

1) – This type has you on the same frequencies and exchanging the same information

with all the 100 watt and greater stations. This can prove to be very challenging and frustrating at first, but will yield contacts.

2) - Which I recommend and prefer, is the contests where all participants are running 5 watts or less making the playing field even, for the most part. Typically, if you can hear a station, it can hear you. This type of contest I find much more enjoyable. Certainly for the new QRP'er.

Check: WA7BNM contest calendar/website for a current list of contests to participate in.
<http://www.contestcalendar.com>



Baker Island 2018 Press Release

N1DG, Don Greenbaum—Courtesy of DXWorld.net

The 2018 DXpedition to Baker Island is proud to announce the addition of Neil King, VA7DX to our team.

Neil was first licensed in 1979 as VE7CVM, attained his advanced certification in 1980 and acquired the call VA7DX in late 1999. An avid HF, VHF and UHF contester, Neil has also dabbled in meteor scatter, EME, tropo and satellite operation.

Neil has had the opportunity to visit and operate from 3DA0, 7P8, VU7, TX5C, JT1, K5D, HK0, C9, A25, FT5ZM, 7Q7, A35, and TX5T.

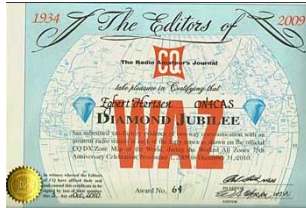
KH1 is the 6th most wanted entity. Our plans are to bring the KH1 entity to as many operators, and countries as we can.

As with any DXpedition to the really rare ones, this will be another large budget operation. The operator team will contribute over 50% of the expected budget of \$400,000. You can help make this DXpedition happen by visiting our website, and contributing today. <http://www.baker2018.net/pages/donate.html>

With two months to go before we board our ship in American Samoa, we thank you in advance for your support.

The Baker Island 2018 Team

ARRL & CQ Magazine Announce Launch of CQ's WAZ Award Support on ARRL's Logbook of the World



Officials from CQ magazine and ARRL, are excited to announce the launch of support for CQ magazine's Worked All Zones (WAZ) award program

on ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) system, effective Monday, April 2, at 10:00 a.m. EDT (14:00 UTC).

The goal of the project was to create the proper technical support system to enable amateur radio operators to submit LoTW confirmations for WAZ credit and that has been accomplished, say CQ and ARRL officials.

"We are very pleased that participants in CQ's WAZ award program will now be able to use their LoTW confirmations for award credit," said CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. "CQ WPX Award participants have found it very helpful and we are sure it will be equally helpful for those pursuing WAZ and its many variations."

ARRL First Vice President Greg Widin, K0GW, concurred. "Users of LoTW have been telling us for some time that they would like to use QSLs from LoTW to apply for the WAZ award. They will now be able to select confirmations to be used for WAZ credit."

Beta testing for bringing CQ magazine's

WAZ award program into ARRL's LoTW system had been underway since mid-December. Any problems in the implementation discovered by testers were corrected by the technical support team. Also, the documentation has been improved by feedback from the testers. At the same time, each LoTW user was given an additional WAZ account. Standard LoTW credit fees and separate CQ award fees will apply.

Logbook of the World is ARRL's electronic confirmation system for amateur radio contacts. It provides a confirmation when both stations in a contact submit their logs to the system and a match between the logs is confirmed. LoTW has supported the CQ WPX Award program since 2012.

CQ Communications, Inc. (www.cqcomm.com) is publisher of CQ Amateur Radio magazine and is the world's largest independent publisher of amateur radio magazines, books and videos. Worked All Zones is the second-oldest active award program in amateur radio, behind only the International Amateur Radio Union's Worked All Continents (WAC) award.



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Solar Cycle 25 Update—Frank W3LPL

Reprinted with the Courtesy of Bernie, W3UR

Solar precursors correlating solar physical phenomena with the level of future solar activity are much better indicators of progress towards solar minimum – a broad phase of the solar cycle – than forecasting a specific event such as the bottom of a broad solar minimum by observing the statistics of numeric values such as solar flux. They're also useful estimators of the future strength of Cycle 25.

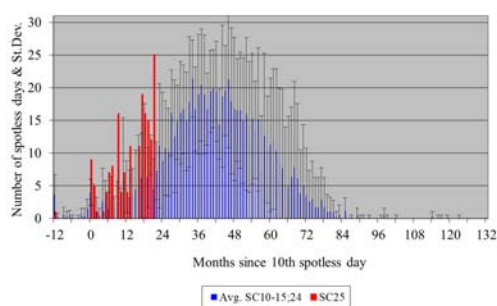
Here's an example of how one solar precursor – spotless days –can be used to assess progress towards solar minimum.

We entered the Cycle 24 solar cycle minimum with the onset of eight spotless days in June 2016. We had only 32 spotless days in 2016.

We had 15 spotless days in a row in March 2017, followed by relatively infrequent spotless days for the next seven months. The frequency of occurrence of spotless days accelerated in early November 2017 when we had 13 spotless days in a row followed by many more spotless days over the next five months. We had 104 spotless days during 2017.

The frequency of spotless accelerated again last month when we had 25 spotless days. We've already had 54 spotless days during the first 25% of 2018.

So where are we in our progress to solar minimum?



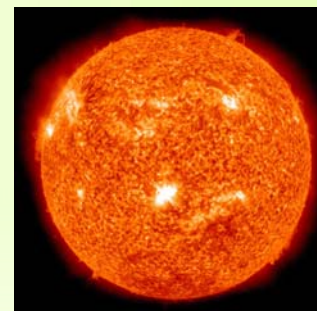
This chart shows the number of spotless days – in red – since the tenth spotless day of the onset of solar minimum in July 2016. Shown in blue are the average numbers of spotless days during sunspot minimums following weak sunspot cycles similar to Cycle 24. This data suggests that we may have just begun a period of very frequent spotless days for approximately the next two years.

The next solar precursor is frequent long periods of spot-free days. We had a 14 spotless days in a row in 2016, 15 in a row in March 2017, 13 in a row in November 2017, and 14 in a row early last month. Long periods of spotless days will become even more frequent as we go deeper into solar minimum.

We'll see another important solar precursor after long periods of spotless days become more frequent. New high latitude, opposite polarity Cycle 25 sunspots will then begin to appear more frequently, perhaps by late next year. More frequent Cycle 25 sunspots will signal that we're approaching the bottom of the solar minimum phase of the solar cycle.

So what about the intensity of solar cycle 25? An ongoing solar precursor of the future strength of Cycle 25 is the intensity of the solar polar magnetic fields prior to our current solar minimum. The good news is that the solar polar magnetic field strength is already slightly stronger than it was prior to the last solar minimum which suggests that Cycle 25 will be somewhat stronger than Cycle 24.

If the long periods of spotless days ends in about a year, it will be a solar precursor of a stronger Cycle 25. If it ends in more than two years it will be a precursor of a weaker Cycle 25.



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Directions: Follow I-275 to US Rt. 50 the Hillsboro Exit. Follow US 50 East into Owensville approximately 11 miles. Turn North onto Locust Street into the fair grounds. Watch for the signs. Talk In: 147.345 + tone 123.0

Milford Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 100, Milford, OH 45150

www.w8mrc.com

“SWODXA will have a “booth” at the Milford Hamfest. Why not stop by and spend a few minutes recruiting others?”



For Immediate Release
Press Release #4
April 16, 2018

VP6D Ducie Island 2018 DX-pedition (OC-182)

We are now in the implementation phase of the project; equipment is being consolidated in Fremont, California. Customs brokers in the USA and New Zealand have been selected, and the New Zealand Government issued us an import / export license to ship the equipment to and from the country.

Manufacturers and distributors of amateur radio equipment are critical to the success of DX-peditions to rare entities. We are happy to have received significant support from DX-Engineering. They have furnished coax cable, guy ropes, a 40 meter four square system, coax connectors, ground anchors and other accessories. DX-Engineering has been a long time supporter of our projects and many other DX-peditions to rare entities; we very much appreciate their continued commitment to the hobby.

Joining our list of corporate sponsors is SteppIR Communications Systems. We will add to our antenna lineup two 2 element Yagi antennas. These antennas proved to be indispensable during our TX3X Chesterfield Island project; we're happy to have them for VP6D and appreciate SteppIR's ongoing support.

A Garmin InReach Satellite Communicator will be used during the DX-pedition. You will be able to follow our journey on the web, details to be announced. This handheld unit also provides 2 way SMS messaging similar to that of a traditional mobile phone, and one way messaging to Twitter and Facebook. We will use this technology to communicate with family, the pilot team and to update you via social media, as required. We'll also have an Inmarsat BGAN terminal for log uploads and e-mail with the pilot team.

Our budget for this project is ~\$175,000(USD). Our current fundraising campaign is underway; you may see the progress at our website. We appreciate the donations and equipment support we've already received. With the final payment for the Braveheart due on September 1st, the next most expensive line item is equipment shipping budgeted at \$20,000. Please remember, we have to pay these expenses whether or not you make a contact. We need your help to keep our DX-pedition team's investment at a reasonable level. You may help by donating at: vp6d.com

Members of the VP6D team will be attending the International DX Convention, Visalia, California April 20 – 22, 2018. We hope to meet many old friends, and make new ones at the convention.

73,
Team Ducie – 2018

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The DX COP: Protector or Offender?

By Jim, WB2REM

I received as much feedback from Jim's article in our last edition as I did all of the other articles. I am looking forward to feedback on this one. Thanks to Jim for sharing his article and experience with us and I look forward to other submissions. This article first appeared in CQ Magazine, September, 2015



They're the vigilantes of the airwaves, self-appointed enforcers of what they perceive as proper etiquette and procedure in DX pileups, ranging from an unidentified "Up 5!" at best to profanity-filled rants directed toward the DX station at worst. Psychologist WB2REM takes a look at what makes a "DX Cop" tick.

These days, when you hear a you will likely also find DX Cops. As a ham radio operator for more than 50 years, it seems that DX Cops today tend to be much more mean-spirited and disruptive rather than helpful as in the past.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the term, DX Cops come in a couple of distinct forms. By definition, a DX Cop is a self-appointed vigilante frequency policeman who believes by intervening in a DX pileup he can control stations that violate the DX station's rules. In theory, this is noble behavior, as we saw in the early years of ham radio. However, in practice, their behavior has been questionable in recent years.

In my opinion, approximately 10% of the DX Cops have good intentions and can be considered "protectors." They make brief, informative, and directed transmissions. For example, one casual DXer told me that "during one recent Caribbean DXpedition that will remain unnamed, the 10• meter op was working people and identifying regularly, but never indicated where he was listening. Being that 10 meters is a big band with lots of space, I took that to mean that he might be operating simplex and started calling him on his transmit frequency just in case. Another op quickly informed me where he was listening, and I moved up there. I don't know if he qualified as a DX Cop, but in this case, I appreciated his comment since he provided information that the DX station did not and helped reduce any QRM I might have been causing by calling on his transmit frequency." The other 90% of DX Cops are what I call "offenders" and have motivations and intentions contrary to the purpose of helping others work rare DX stations.



The Psychology of the DX Cop

As a psychologist, I find it fascinating to listen to the offenders. They remind me of some of my less-healthy mentally ill patients. The offenders come from all age groups and run the gamut of newbies and old timers to foreigners and domestic operators. The key factor is they are on the DX's frequency specifically to disrupt, not to help. So the question arises, why do they create confusion and discontent? Attention-seeking behavior combined with making others miserable appears to be the main theme. I believe this behavior comes from a number of psychological, socio-economic, and geographical issues.

Psychologically, many DX Cops feel inferior to the big gun stations who can easily work the rarest of DX. They become frustrated after numerous calls and feel that the only way they can release their frustration is to make it difficult for others to hear and work the DX station.

The DX COP: Protector or Offender? (Cont.)

Inherent in the DX Cops' behavior is a perceived feeling of insecurity and inferiority delineated by their inability to buy powerful stations and antennas, leaving them less than inept to work the DX. They are operating on a different playing field.

Likewise, geographical/regional issues play a major part in the DX Cop mentality. When a DXpedition is perceived as favoring a certain part of the world, DX Cop activity seems to increase. Next time you hear a rare DX station working the U.S. or North America, listen to see how many foreign stations are self-policing the frequency. The same occurs with foreign stations being called and U.S. stations acting as DX Cops. Just imagine the impressions that shortwave listeners come away with when they hear screaming DX Cops rants filled with profanity. In some cases, it has even gotten to the point where DX Cops will identify and announce stations on the DX frequency that they believe are calling out of turn off frequency.

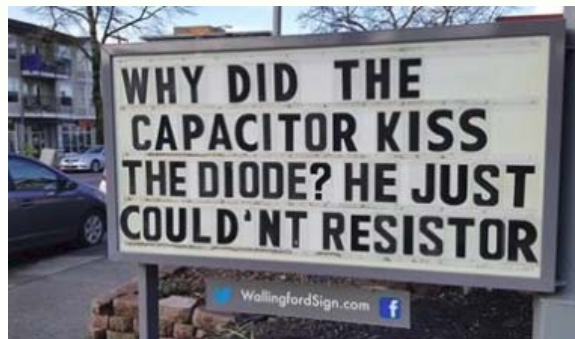
What to Do?

The question arises as to what can be done to rid the bands of the DX Cops. The obvious answer is that DX Cops need to learn to be polite and appropriate. This includes realizing that people make mistakes and may occasionally, in the process of creating a split frequency on their radio, reverse the frequency pair. In most of those cases, telling a person to split is ineffective because the other station probably is not even listening on the DX frequency (remember, the split is reversed). If a DX Cop feels that he must comment, say it briefly with the least amount of disruption to others.

There are a number of things a DX station can do to reduce the effectiveness of the DX Cop. One obvious thing is to announce the split after each contact. If a calling station doesn't have access to a DX cluster, he/she may have no idea where the DX station is listening without this verbal announcement. Secondly, when a DX station targets a particular region for contacts, this tactic tends to promote animosity and a feeling of partiality. If possible, a DX station should allow propagation to determine areas of coverage. This can be accomplished by the DX station turning his/her antenna away from the area of best propagation, thus enabling each area to have equal access and effectively equalizing signal strength. Finally, DX stations need to be sensitive to the disparity between big gun stations and stations with limited operating conditions. Calls for QRP and other less fortunate stations could help improve this disparity. (One encouraging step in this direction is the designation by some DXpeditions of their final day on the air as "ATNO Day," in which they seek to work only stations who need them for an "All-Time New One."

Conclusion

DXing is a fun and challenging aspect of our hobby. With the advent of the mean-spirited DX Cop over the last few years, there has been an obvious decline in civility in this area of our hobby. If it continues, this fracture could ruin the essence of amateur radio.



The SWODXA Soapbox

Comments from our members..

- How about suggestions to beat the “funk” we and friends sometimes get into and not get on the air for extended periods of time.
- Ragchewing is a great way to catch up and share ideas if you can get a group together.
- Organize work parties to help disabled hams get back on the air. It might only be a broken wire or support that has triggered a cease in operations.

- **W8ZT**



My XYL Sandy N3TQU and I just received our QSL cards from working the Bouvet Island ship 3G9A/MM on CW back in Feb. on their way from Bouvet Island to Capetown S. Africa - **N6JRL**

Licensed in 1957 with same call (KORAL) - was avid DX-er and had 320 when starting USAF career in 1965. Got active again in retirement (2014) - now running 100 watts (just got my Flex 6400M, replacing a Flex3000) into the same dipole I used when operating as G5AOC for my 4 years as a fighter pilot in England. Now at 358 DXCC. Bigger thrill to break big pileups (e.g. 3B7A that I already had from the 60's and 3C0W which was ATNO) with 100 watts and dipole than it was with KW and a beam. Love the Flex! - **KORAL**

I got on the air after a two and one-half year absence using a 43' vertical and an IC-7300. Worked an ATNO Z60 - Kosovo. I also accomplished two goals. Got on FT8 and on 60 meters. In fact I worked C6ADX (W8GEX - Mr 60 Meters) on 60 meters using FT8! - **N8AA**

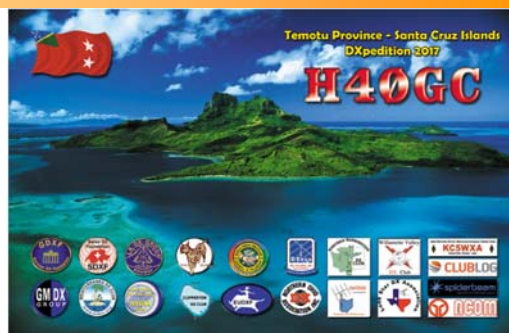
I built a 4 State QRP Club "Cricket" transceiver (80M, 0.5 watt) and put it on the air. It takes me back to my novice days when no one answered my CQs! - **NR8Z**

FINALLY received 80 Meter DXCC Certificate - **AJ8B**

On my 60m kick I was the first in July a month after we were granted 60m to have it on its first DXpedition to VP2MX. Then I put 60m on as a ATNO from K4M, K9W, J3, C6, PJ7. - **W8GEX**

H40GC DXpedition 2017 - LZ1GC—Stan

Mind and Kevin submitted this for publication. Stan is proving to be an excellent operator and humanitarian. Maybe he needs some official recognition?



Temotu Province, Santa Cruz Islands group (H40) in Pacific area is a very sought-after destination by many radio amateurs around the World! In 2016 and early 2017, Temotu Province (H40) occupied 30th place in the CLUBLOG list for the most wanted countries. It is currently in 46th place and is still needed by many radio amateurs in worldwide, especially on SSB. The H40GC DXpedition 2017 was my second activation of this rare country. My first activation was from Lata, Nendo Island (IOTA OC – 100) - between October 4 - 17, 2016. Deciding to return to Temotu for a second activation was made easier as there were less unknowns! Additionally, this time I had a serious commitment besides the HF activation of this country. I had to carry out a humanitarian mission under the auspices of INDEXA and with the generous participation of CDXA & CDXF, Kontrax Ltd - Bulgaria and Andy, LZ2HM. I would like to recognize the individual and corporate sponsors, amateur clubs, associations and organizations that sponsored me before the expedition in practice are also participants in this humanitarian mission. I am thankful to all.

In October 2016 during the H40GC DXpedition 2016, I had meetings with teachers and students from the only high school in Temotu Province - JCP College, located on Nendo Island. About 400 students are learning in this school. So on the spot I got to know their problems and their needs. As early as 2016 I was convinced that the best way to help these boys and girls is to provide them with 1 or 2 laptops and other school supplies such as notebooks, pencils and pens. Such are luxuries in a province where the unemployment rate approaches 90 per cent of the population. This makes it difficult for the students to buy even simple supplies. The school had not a single computer available! I think that helping young people and investing in them is the best thing that can be done for a country and its people because our future belongs to the younger generation!

Also in October 2016, I had meetings with the head official and officers of the local provincial office for disasters and accidents. They also did not have even a laptop computer to help with their protection of the population living on the various islands belonging to Temotu Province. So, I was aware of what we, radio amateurs could do to help the people of Temotu. My view of helping Temotu inhabitants met with the understanding and support of INDEXA, under whose patronage this humanitarian mission was finally accomplished!

I write about all of this because my understanding is that it is not enough to travel and activate on radio amateur bands at various rare destinations around the world, but that we have to leave something of us there by doing something good that the locals can remember! This will also popularize our wonderful hobby! The organization and preparation of the H40GC DXpedition 2017 took about 6 months. During these six months, I purchased the required airline tickets, received a renewal of the H40GC and H44GC licenses (from 27 June 2017 - 26 June 2018), booked a room for my stay at Lata Motel on Nendo Island and prepared the antennas and the technical equipment necessary for the expedition. Every day during these six months I was doing something in preparation. Even when I was at work or on weekends I was walking in the nearby mountain - my thoughts were on what I had to do for the expedition so I would not miss something!

On 24 September 2017, my trip to Nendo Island, Temotu Province in the Pacific began with a 3-hour flight from Sofia (Bulgaria) to Heathrow, London (England). I had 20kg of hand baggage and two check-in baggage - each weighing 23kg. After a 5-hour stay at Heathrow Airport, a 13-hour flight from London to Changi Airport, Singapore, followed. In Singapore, the same plane was loaded with fuel, and the trip continued (8 hours flight) to Sydney, Australia. From there immediately - I took a domestic flight operated by QANTAS Airways to Brisbane (Australia). At 09:30 on 26 September 2017 local time, I was already at the International Airport in Brisbane



H40GC DXpedition 2017—(Cont.)

Next, I flew from Brisbane, Australia to Honiara, Solomon Islands (H44) on the next day - 27th of September 2017. The hotels in Brisbane are very expensive (over 100 EUR per a night), at least for people with my budget! So I decided to stay at the Airport and repack my luggage to meet the various baggage limits imposed by different airlines.

The airport in Brisbane is equipped with many luggage scales that helped me to organize my luggage to minimize any overweight charges. I packed my bags and paper boxes all night. All of my pockets were full of cables and different things which I needed for the expedition.

On September 27, 2017, after a 4-hour flight with Solomon Airlines from Brisbane to Honiara, I arrived on the Solomon Islands. The following two days in Honiara were used to get the originals of the H40GC and H44GC licenses. I was honored to visit the local telecom (TCSI) to meet and talk with Mr. Aaron Hopa - Manager of the local TCSI and get my license.

The meet with Mr. Aaron Hopa at local Telecom (TCSI) in Honiara, Solomon Isl. Considering Mr. Aaron Hopa as a good friend, I surprised him with a wonderful gift for his wife - Bulgarian perfume of rose oil! The meeting with Mr. Hopa was very useful because he helped me to buy two laptops (the donation to Temotu Province) by directing me to the best local computer shop.

On September 29, 2017, the day before my flight to Lata, Temotu Province, I visited the management of Solomon Airlines. It occurred to me to talk to someone of the leadership seek free shipping for the donations I had purchased. Having explained to them the purpose of my visit, a nice girl told me that I should discuss my proposal with Mr. Colin Sigimanu - Manager Commercial of Solomon Airlines. So I did - I met Mr. Sigimanu - a respectful and stern man. After a brief discussion - a conversation in which I included a brief introduction to our hobby, he responded positively to my request, assuring me that he would take care of the matter. On leaving, he gave me his business card and said, "If you have any problems with Solomon Airlines employees - show this business card. It will help you"! At the time this sounded exaggerated, but his business card really opened doors. Twice if found that showing this card helped resolve issues that surely would have caused me conflict!



On 30 September 2017 at 12:30 local time, the small 36-seat Solomon Airlines airplane landed at Lata Airport, Temotu Province after a 1 hour 40 min flight from Honiara. I was very happy because I was again on Temotu (H40) and in a few hours later H40GC would be on the air!

The Chief of the Provincial Disaster Management Office of Temotu Province - Mr. George Tego, anticipated my airport arrival with a service car. I was quickly taken with my baggage to Lata Motel where I had a reservation. Mr. Tego also had previously arranged for 3-4 local people to help immediately with the erection of the 160/80/40 m bands vertical antenna. The next activity was the installation of the radio shack and initial antenna testing. After several adjustments to the tuning box, I started working 40m CW.

On 30 September 2017, at 08:38 GMT - H40GC was already on the air. The first contact was with VK3GA. After 2 - 3 minutes the PILE UP grew ever larger, which is normal - H40GC - Temotu Province, a rare DXCC country was on the air! On the second day as H40GC, I installed a multi-band ground plane antenna for 40 - 6 meter bands, including the WARC bands. In the following days until the end of the H40GC activity, despite the extremely poor propagation, I did my best to maintain a good qso rate. The statistics for the operation show I managed to do it!



H40GC DXpedition 2017—(Cont.)

I tried to spend as much time as possible on the air - as much as 18 - 20 hours per day. During the night hours I worked 160/80/40 or 30m and during the day on high bands - 20/17/15/12/10. I worked all modes - CW, RTTY and SSB. With minimal pauses for a sleep, food, internet and some antenna repairs, H40GC made nearly 18,000 contacts from 08:30 GMT on September, 30 to 12:00 GMT on October 25TH, 2017! Unfortunately, a problem with the linear amplifier on 30 meters on the 10th day of the operation deprived me of the opportunity to realize at least another 1,500 QSOs on this band.

A few words about the propagation during H40GC activity - EXTREMELY poor propagation! I think, I nevertheless managed to use the small windows of better propagation when available on different bands so that I can give many radio amateurs the chance to make multi-band contacts with Temotu (H40). More qso's could have been made, but I was also engaged with the humanitarian mission of this expedition and that also cost me time and effort!

At the beginning of this article, I mentioned that I had a vision of what humanitarian mission could be accomplished during the H40GC DXpedition 2017 so that it would remain a lasting memory of the local population and help them effectively.

On October 6TH, 2017 while visiting the local Provincial Disaster Management Office of Temotu Province, I donated one new, fully equipped HP laptop. Mr. George Tego, who managed the work of this office accepted this donation with great excitement and gratitude. Only a few minutes later he began working with the new computer.

I want to highlight the fact that the 3 employees working for this important and responsible unit are Temotu residents who daily work for the benefit of their brethren and the local environment the province. Their work is often connected with travels to Reef Island and other islands of Temotu Province, so I am sure that this donation will help them carry out their daily and responsible work!

The main humanitarian activity during the H40GC DXpedition 2017 was intended for the local, and only high school, JCP College. At this school 400 students are progressing from grade 1 to 7 per their local education system. In order to qualify for this school, they must first have completed a primary school of grades 1 to 4. JCP College is located on Lata, Temotu Province, and draws students from various located on a distant part of Nendo Island, accessible only by motorboat. The journey from Lata to there is 40 minutes in one direction.

The JCP College visit was planned and coordinated with the College's management for 11:00 on October 12, 2017. In order to be safely transported to the college, I made contact with the Chairman and the Mayor of Nendo Island. I told them that I needed their help and cooperation. It turned out that the Mayor is the custodian of JCP College and he is also the chairman of his council! He directed that I was allowed to use a motor boat owned by the municipality. The Chairman and the Mayor of the island were fascinated with the forthcoming donation to JCP College and said that they were impressed by this humanitarian action. I gave credit to the sponsors, INDEXA, CDXA & CDXF and Kontrax Ltd - Karlovo, Bulgaria. The donation to JCP College consisted of one new HP laptop including accessories: laptop bag, extended mouse, flash RAM, 400 notebooks, 400 pens, 400 pencils, folders, markers, sharpeners and other school supplies.

The motorboat trip to the JCP College was successful although the ocean was not very quiet this day. After my arrival at JCP College a meeting was held with students and teachers at the local church. The meeting began with the performance of the Temotu Province anthem by the students. I will remember this moment forever - the students standing and singing the hymn, myself and the teachers standing also, standing still and listening to this brilliant performance! It was really impressive!

Having introduced the students as to the purpose of my visit, the college director gave me the floor. In my address to the college students and teachers, I briefly explained what the donation is and that it is given under the auspices of INDEXA, with the generous participation of CDXA & CDXF, Kontrax Ltd - Karlovo, Bulgaria, Andy (LZ2HM) and with the help also of all the clubs and organizations which sponsored my expedition to Temotu Province.



H40GC DXpedition 2017—(Cont.)

I explained to them what our hobby is and that the purpose of radio amateur organizations and clubs is to not only support radio amateurs but also humanitarian activities in different parts of the world. At this meeting I was asked many questions concerning our hobby and life and work in Bulgaria. I saw that my responses were interesting to those youngsters and students from JCP College. They asked me where Bulgaria is, what I have studied, do I have a family, what is my job and many other things. Keep in mind that most of Temotu residents spend their entire lives without visiting another country,

I answered their questions to the fullest. At the same time, I firmly told them that they must believe in the success and struggle to achieve more. I told them that it all depends of them to study and pursue a higher education leading them to a good profession, find a good job, to be able to work and visit other countries. I will remember forever those youngsters and girls with their interest in how other people and cultures live.

The meeting at JCP College lasted about 3 hours. When I left with the motorboat back to Lata, there followed an unforgettable friendly send-off. With the voices ringing - "Stan, come again here", the students did not hide their satisfaction and sympathy to me. After getting off with the boat, I heard their voices for a long time - wishing me good-bye!

Returning to the Lata Motel, I continued to work on the air. I did not need any rest because the meeting at JCP College was an exhilarating experience for me! By prearranged plan the H40GC DXpedition 2017 had to finish on October 20, 2017. My return to Bulgaria had to take place after a series of 5 flights starting with a flight from Lata, Temotu Province to Honiara, Solomon Islands. This first flight had to be at 1 PM local time on October 21, 2017. The night before the flight, I worked on 160 meters. My last QSO was at 14:20 GMT with WL7E.



After going QRT I spent all night dismantling the antennas and packing luggage for my upcoming trip. The next morning, while expecting the taxi to take me to Lata Airport, I was told that because a eruption of the volcano Tinakula, my flight to Honiara was canceled! At this point, the uncertainty was before me - When would there would be a flight? There was also a danger of my missing the other four flights to Europe and Bulgaria. I was worried about my job, my family, and about my limited funds at the end of the expedition. There were no banks and ATMs on the island! I was relieved to be among friends, people I knew from the previous year. I believed they would not leave me in trouble! I was most worried for my job. I have had this work for 38 years, and I understood that a delay of more than 10 days would not be good for me. I managed to get in touch with my relatives and my colleague at work and received permission to continue my leave.

I was more relaxed now! My only concern remained - when will there be a flight to Honiara. The first two days after canceling the flight, I visited Solomon Airlines local office 3 - 4 times a day, hoping to find out that there would be a flight on the next day! Alas, because of the continued eruption of the Tinakula volcano, flights were impossible! Not knowing when there will be a flight, I decided to erect again the 160/80/40m antenna and continue to work on these three bands. So, I continued H40GC activity until 12:00 GMT, October 25, 2017. Just a few hours before my flight to Honiara on October 26, 2017, I dismantled the antenna again and fast packed my luggage.

Finally, October 26TH, 2017, a little before 3 PM local time, the Solomon Airlines plane from Lata to Honiara landed at the Honiara Airport. I was even more relaxed now, realizing that the nightmare after the volcano eruption and the canceled flights was over!

I immediately decided to visit again Mr. Colin Sigimanu - Commercial Manager for Solomon Airlines, who I previously met before my trip to Lata, Temotu Province. My idea was ask for his assistance with my missed out flight from Honiara to Brisbane by Solomon Airlines. It turned out that Mr. Colin remembered me! After explaining to him that the humanitarian mission had been successful, I briefly discussed with him the problem of my missed 5 flights back to Bulgaria. I will remember this man with good feelings. Understanding my problem, Mr. Colin ordered his subordinates immediately to include me in the list of passengers traveling the next day from Honiara to Brisbane. He told me that a first class hotel paid for by Solomon Airlines will be provided for me in Brisbane.

H40GC DXpedition 2017—(Cont.)

Thank you, Mr. Sigimanu, for your goodness and humanity. We parted like good friends. Immediately after this meeting, I took a taxi to S. S. E. C. Guesthouse Honiara, where I had to spend the night and met Bernard (H44MS) and Mrs. Serah in charge of the accommodation there. My meeting with them was very friendly - like a meeting between old friends! It was an honor for me to meet personally with Bernard (H44MS). I want to point out that this is the man, who since 1990, visits yearly for several months the Solomon Islands. During these more than 25 years he has activated for the IOTA program from very rare islands belonging to the H44 and H40 DXCC entities!

Bernard (H44MS) and I quickly found a common language. The next morning, with his help, I contacted via mobile phone a British Airways representative who assisted my booking return tickets from Brisbane, Australia to Sydney, Singapore, London and Sofia (Bulgaria)! Finally, after a long and tiring trip on October 30, 2017, I arrived successfully in Bulgaria, and on 31 October 2017 I was in my home - "my fortress"!

With the story of this DXpedition told, I would like to thank all the individual sponsors before and after the expedition that helped for the success of this expedition!

I thank all members of the GDXF which supported me after the Tinakula Volcano eruption on Nendo Island! Thanks a lot for the support at this moment from Chris (DL5NAM), Rolf (DL7VEE), Uli (DM5EE), Sigi (DL6QW), Gerd (DL7VOG), Roland (DL7BA), Volker (DL7AUV), Helmut (DL5DSM), Wolf (DL8USA), Peter (DK2NG), Ulla (DF6QP) & Walter (DL8JS), Tom (DL1AMQ), Bernd (DL3GCB), Volker (DJ8QP), Tom (DK3DUA), Uwe (DK2ND), Tom (DJ6YX), Ed (EA8AXT), Ed (N4II), Bob (W9BF) and many others!

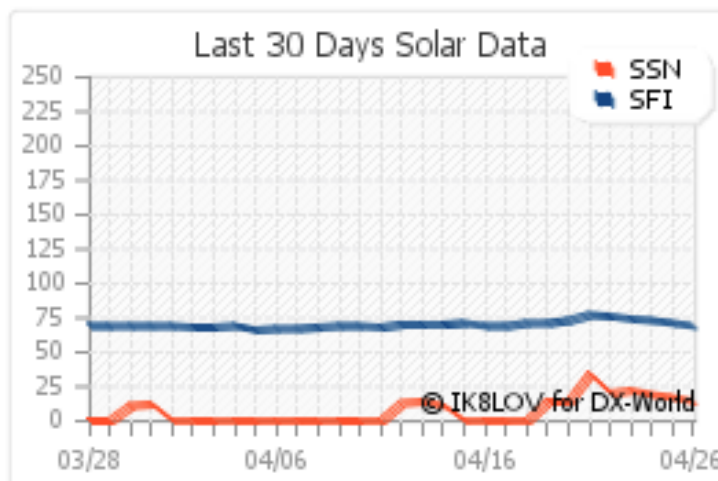
Thanks to all the Foundations, Associations and Clubs which supported me for this expedition: GDXF, SDXF, CDXA & CDXF, EUDXF, INDEXA, WVDXA, Lone Star DX Association, **SWODXA**, NODXA, KC5WXA - Jake McClain Driver Memorial Amateur Radio Club, WWDXC, Willimette Valley DX Club, LA DX GROUP, GM DX GROUP, Clipperton DX Club, Mediterraneo DX Club and LYNX DX Group!

Thanks for the understanding and support from Spiderbeam, Clublog, ACOM Ltd Bulgaria and Kontrax Ltd - Karlovo, Bulgaria!

Here's to new meetings on the air!

73! Stan, LZ1GC (H40GC).

Propagation



The Little Pistols Guild to HF Propagation—Part 3

The Sun and its Radiation

By Robert Brown, NM7M

This is part 3 of our series. K9LA, Carl, contacted the family of Robert Brown, NM7M (SK), and I received their gracious permission to reprint this excellent technical discussion. Thanks to the Brown family and to Carl for this.



The solar radiation that we're all familiar with is in the visible portion of the spectrum, with wavelengths from 400-700 nanometers (1 nm = $1\text{E-}9$ Meter), in going from violet to red. Using more classical units, the visible spectrum lies between 4,000 and 7,000 Angstroms (1 Å = $1\text{E-}8$ cm). The fact that the frequency of radiation is the speed of light (300,000,000 meters/sec) divided by the wavelength allows one to find the frequency for visible radiation, around $1\text{E+}14$ Hz or almost a billion times greater than typical HF Amateur Radio frequencies (3-30 MHz).

While the visible spectrum goes through the "atmospheric window," the radiation responsible for creating the ionosphere does not, being absorbed at high altitudes as it ionizes and dissociates atoms and molecules in the upper atmosphere. For our purposes, dealing with HF radio propagation, the amazing thing is that only a tiny fraction, about .001%, of the solar radiation incident on the earth's atmosphere is the source of energy for ionospheric processes. Ponder that for a moment or two! One-thousandth of one percent — simply amazing!

That energetic part of the spectrum lies below the visible spectrum, in the extreme ultraviolet (EUV) and X-ray range. And for the radiation to ionize or dissociate constituents in the atmosphere, its energy must be equal to or greater than the ionization potential or binding energy of the atoms or molecules. But those are atomic and molecular processes and so we have to digress a moment to give the energy unit that's appropriate to use, the electron-Volt or eV, instead of the Joule, the unit for mechanical energy in the M.K.S. system.

Now an electron volt is the energy that an electron gains in going through a potential difference of 1 Volt, that is to say it's equal to the electron's charge Q ($1.6\text{E-}19$ Coulomb) multi-

plied by the potential difference V , 1 Volt or 1 Joule/Coulomb, so 1 eV equals $1.6\text{E-}19$ Joule.

Going to the energy associated with photons in the solar spectrum, we use the Planck's Law, the energy of a photon being given by Planck's Constant h ($6.6\text{E-}34$ Joule-sec) multiplied by its frequency f in cycles per second (or Hz). And rewriting that expression to use eV for units of energy, Planck's Law would give the energy of a photon in eV as the product of $4.1\text{E-}15$ and the frequency in Hz or 1240 divided by the wavelength in nanometers.

Now a quick look at one's high school chemistry text shows that the ionization potential for hydrogen, the simplest atom of all, is 13.6 eV. As you might expect, the ionization potential of atomic oxygen, found in the upper atmosphere, is about the same and that for atomic nitrogen is about 1 eV higher. For the important diatomic molecules in the upper atmosphere, those of oxygen, nitrogen and nitric oxide (NO), their ionization potentials are 12.5 eV, 15.5 eV and 9.5 eV, respectively. On that basis, the part of the solar spectrum that's effective in creating the ionosphere is wavelengths of about 100 nm (1000 Å) or shorter. And the same energy range would apply to the photodissociation of oxygen and nitrogen molecules into their constituent atoms.

At this point, the discussion has become quantitative, dealing with the parts of the solar spectrum which ionize and dissociate atoms and molecules in the upper atmosphere. But it should be noted that the "quiet sun" not only emits EUV photons in the 100 nm range, as was discussed above, but also X-rays at shorter wavelengths, say 10 nm or even 1 nm.

The Little Pistols Guild to HF Propagation—Part 3

The Sun and its Radiation (cont.)

So, they, too, contribute to ionizing the upper atmosphere but to degrees in accordance with their relative strength in the solar spectrum and the abundance of targets in the upper atmosphere.

All those remarks apply to what is termed the “quiet sun” but as the Little Pistol well knows, there are times when the sun is rather disturbed, sending out bursts of radiation across the spectrum, say radio noise, light, and X-rays. Obviously, the energetic photons in such outbursts may change the amount of ionization in the ionosphere, affecting the LP’s DXing. So the question comes up, “Does the Little Pistol himself have any way of knowing about variations of the flux of photons, energetic or otherwise, from the sun?”

The answer to that question is a qualified “Maybe!” and depends on the part of the spectrum under discussion. So if the Little Pistol is operating at the top of the HF spectrum, say on the 10 Meter band, solar noise bursts might be heard, sort of a “whooshing” sound, and if strong enough, “solar QRN” could even interfere with the LP’s pursuit of DX. Another possibility is when the LP is in a contact where the path goes across the sunlit part of the earth; then, increases in the EUV and X-ray flux that go with solar flares could make signals fade, maybe even to the extent of being the victims of a blackout. As for increases in visible light, as an

indication of a disturbed state for the sun, that is extremely unlikely. The light output of the sun is remarkably constant and only a few solar flares have been seen in white light; much more sophisticated optical devices are needed to observe changes in the visible portion of the solar spectrum.

The above response to the question of variations in the flux of solar photons assumes that the Little Pistol is the only observer. Of course, that’s not the case as there’s a whole industry, as it were, just watching and listening to the sun. And the information that’s collected is disseminated promptly and widely so if the LP misses some activity on the sun, it’ll be available as part of the solar data for the day. So if the LP wants to know about any changes in the solar radiation which might affect DXing, it’s just a matter of getting hold of the solar record and looking at it. And that’s the record keeping that I alluded to earlier; in the LP’s case, it’ll be part of the discipline that goes with DXing, keeping tabs of solar/terrestrial conditions.

Before getting to those matters, we have to start the discussion of propagation and then bring forth some of its finer points for the Little Pistol. When that is done, we can get to how it is affected by changes in the various physical parameters that go to make up an appraisal of solar/terrestrial conditions.

SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) Club Fact Sheet

Who We Are: *SWODXA* is comprised of active DX'ers and testers with a deep passion for all aspects of Amateur Radio. We welcome everyone who is interested in joining our club to please contact us. *SWODXA* members are active in all facets of DX and Contesting. We also travel to, and fund various DXpeditions all over the world. *SWODXA* sponsors the annual DX Dinner held on the Friday evening of Hamvention weekend in Dayton, Ohio. In addition, *SWODXA* members moderate the Hamvention DX Forum. *SWODXA* is proud sponsor of the prestigious *DXPedition of the Year Award*.

DX Donation Policy: The policy supports major DXpeditions that meet our requirements for financial sponsorship. Details are available on the website at: <http://aj8b.com/application-for-dxpedition-grant/> and elsewhere in this newsletter

Club History: The Southwest Ohio DX Association (*SWODXA*) is one of the country's premier amateur radio clubs. Though loosely formed in mid-1977, the club had its first formal organizational meeting in August of 1981 and Frank Schwob, W8OK (sk), was elected as our first President. While organized primarily as a DX club, *SWODXA* members are active in all aspects of our hobby.

Requirements for Membership: We welcome all hams who have an interest in DXing. It doesn't matter whether you're a newcomer, or an old-timer to DXing; everyone is welcome! Visit <http://swodxa.org/member.htm>

Meetings: The club meets on the second Thursday of each month at Marion's Piazza on Kingsridge Dr. in Dayton, OH. Members gather early in the private room for dinner and then a short business agenda at 6:30 PM, followed by a program. If you enjoy a night out on the town with friends, you'll enjoy this get-together. Meeting attendance is NOT a requirement for membership.

Club Officers: Four presiding officers and the past president (or past VP) make up the Board of Directors. The current officers are President Tom Inglin, NR8Z; Vice President Steve Coy, K8UD; Secretary Mindi Jones, KC8CKW, and Treasurer Mike Suhar, W8RKO.

SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA)

DX Donation Policy

The mission of SWODXA is to support DXing and major DXpeditions by providing funding. A funding request from the organizers of a planned DXpedition should be directed to the DX committee by filling out an online funding request.

(<http://aj8b.com/application-for-dxpedition-grant/>)

The DX Grant committee will determine how well the DXpedition plans meet key considerations (see below). If the DX Grant committee recommends supporting the DXpedition in question, a recommended funding amount is determined based on the criteria below. The chairman of the committee will make a recommendation at the general meeting regarding the donation.

Factors Affecting a DXpedition Funding Request Approval

DXpedition destination	Website with logos of club sponsors
Ranking on the ClubLog Most Wanted Survey	QSLs with logos of club sponsors
Online logs and pilot stations	Logistics and transportation costs
Number of operators and their credentials	Number of stations on the air
LoTW log submissions	Bands, modes and duration of operation

