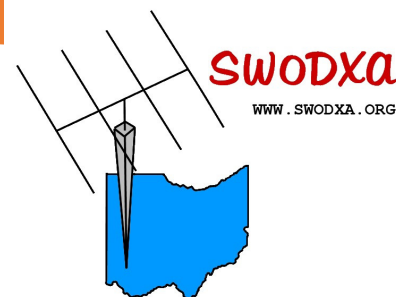




# The exchange



SouthWest Ohio DX Association

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Kevin Jones  
Secretary KC8CKW  
Mindi Jones  
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Mike Suhar

Club Call : W8EX

## The Prez says..... Tom, NR8Z

It's mid-August as I write this and the summer season is starting to wind down. Our club is fortunate to have an award-winning newsletter, see the "Newsletter" Update section. Great work Bill!

Unfortunately, this summer there have been many weeks with no sunspots, see the "Cycle 24 Solar Minimum" article for more of what my come. With those sunspot numbers, my QRP signal from Cape Cod was barely heard so I visited the nearby Marconi Maritime Museum in Chatham where the RCA station, WCC, operated from 1917 until 1997. The operating was all split CW, transmitting with dipoles and using separate rhombics for receiving. Their traffic was predominantly passed to ships in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Indian Oceans. One of their last transmitters is on display, the final ran 3 amps at 6000 volts, I call that QRO! They have an ama-

teur station, WA1WCC, if you come across it on the bands (running legal limit!). If you're on Cape Cod it is worth a



visit and a chat with former operators is enlightening.

If you participated in Field Day this year I hope it went well. It was a good weekend in Southwest Ohio, the threatened rain didn't appear and the temperatures weren't as hot as in the past. Saturday afternoon 10 meters opened for a while despite the low solar flux, I don't remember that from last year. I hope you got on for the Ohio QSO party, every county and contact counts.

The club meetings resume the second Thursday of September, it is time to kick off a new club year. We meet at the Marion's Piazza in Mason this month, don't go to the Dayton location. We have some new members, see profiles in the newsletter, so please welcome them with open arms.

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## New Member Spotlight : K8PJK—Peter Kulik



Peter K8PJK - An Electrical Engineer coming back to radio after more than 30 years, I passed the Technician exam in February 2016 through the Milford (OH) Amateur Radio Club, ([www.w8mrc.com](http://www.w8mrc.com)), and picked up General and Extra tickets soon after.

My rig is a Flex 6500 with a 160m OCF Dipole 50 feet up. I enjoy DXing and Contesting, Digital Modes and CW, and have received DXCC Digital, DXCC CW, and CQ WPX awards, plus WAS (2 bands).



## New Member Spotlight : AC8VK—Erik Heidt

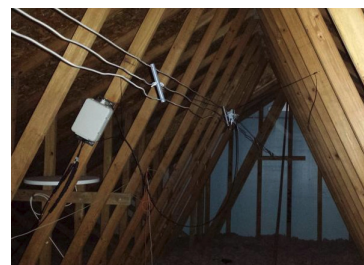


Erik AC8VK—This is my third era of amateur radio. As a youth, I was introduced to HAMS via CINTUG (Cincinnati TRS-80 User Group). Read and prepared for the exam, but it turns out I don't have an ear for morse code. In the 90s I was licensed as a technician N8VVM, but wandered away from the hobby and lapsed my license.

Then in 2017, my nephew became very interested in amateur radio. When I purchased the license prep book for him I also got a copy for myself so that I could help him out. When the book arrived, I took off the plastic wrap and the radio bug bit me immediately. About 60 days later I was relicensed and upgraded to extra as AC8VK.

I am a father with twin four-year-olds. Radio is a great hobby in that so many of its activities can work around family and keeps me close to home.

My current station is built around an Icom IC-7300 and 110' doublet that is tuned using an AH-4 remote tuner. We moved to this QTH in February, prior to that I used an AH-4 and Alpha Delta DX-EE hidden in an attic.



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# DX QRP

By Kevin, W8KJ

## NVIS - Near Vertical Incident Skywave

NVIS is a term used to describe ones effort to use HF frequencies to communicate in a "local" geographic area rather distant or "DX". Typically, 80 meters daytime and 40 meters nighttime are the bands of choice for this method of communication. Rather than erecting your antenna as high as possible, NVIS uses very low antennas (dipoles or long wires) placed between 6 to 10 feet off the ground.

Signals can be enhanced by also adding a "reflector" wire element just below the active antenna, directly on the ground. Signals are to radiate straight up into the sky and be reflected back down and cover an area about the size of ones state of residence or in our case, the tri-state area. (Southeast Indiana, Southwest Ohio, and Northern Kentucky)

For emergency communications and QRP low power output levels, NVIS works quite well for a served agency and purpose. Not having repeaters available or covering an area a bit too large for a typical 2m repeater to serve, near vertical incident sky wave fills the gap...



Kevin manages a  
QRP blog at  
[www.cincinnatiqrp.blogspot.com](http://www.cincinnatiqrp.blogspot.com)

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## 60 Meters—The Channel Band

By Joe, W8GEX

This article can also be "listened" to via CW—  
<https://tinyurl.com/yakz6m8n>

### Back to the Bahamas

The family went back to the island of Exuma in the Bahamas in July. We again rented a house which was about 100 feet above, and overlooking the water. It had a great takeoff to EU, JA and NA.

We like renting a house as most owners don't live on the island and that gives me the run of the property to set up my antennas. This house was a ranch so it was



easy to place my inverted vees with a hook on the gutters. This makes the apex about 8 ft in the air. With Janet's help, we ran the vees on 17, 20, 30, 40 and 60m wherever they would fit. She

tied one end off on a bush and would swing the other end until we had a good SWR. In most cases the ends were only a few feet off the ground. As with most of our trips, there is never a tree where you need one. After an hour in the hot sun, the antenna farm was set up.

My IC-7300, the KPA 500 amp and laptop were next to be set up. To my surprise I forgot the RCA jumper cable for the amp keying. I had left it at home where I had been testing the amp with my main station keying cable. The next day went to the lumber company and by luck, they had one. The amp had good output but I noticed while on FT8 when I plugged the keying cable into the amp, I lost all signals on the waterfall. NOT a good sign. I unplugged it and the receiver was good again. Have used this amp many times before with great success. The problem happened to be that the transmit/receiving relay had gone bad.



Lesson learned and after 57 trips I should know better. As always, before a trip I had hooked up all the equipment at home. The IC-7300 and laptop for FT8 worked great as did the amp, which had good output. But I had not checked to see if I was receiving thru the amp. Will check that next time for sure. This all being said, my amp wasn't working so I boxed it back up.

I operated FT8 for 6 days making hundreds of QSO's and then Murphy's law hit again. I lost the hard drive on the laptop, so now I had no FT8. Thank God I took my headset and foot switch so I at least had SSB. For the next four days I called CQ on five different bands and only made 20 contacts. I would listen on the FT8 freqs and could hear lots of QSO's going on. It just shows how much activity is on FT8 since the sunspots are so low.

As always, 60m was very good the first 6 days but only made two QSO's on SSB. I hope we can all learn from my experience. 60m and 6 meters were very productive those first 6 days.

Until the next time...Joe W8GEX

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# W4DXCC - September 21st and 22nd, 2018, Pigeon Forge, TN

By K4SV, Dave Anderson, Convention leader

## W4DXCC

September 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

Mainstay Hotel and Conference Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

**W4DXCC is a DX and Contest Convention held in Pigeon Forge, TN and it's our 14<sup>th</sup> year. If you're a DXer, Contester or just an active ham you should attend this year.**

The attendees enjoy the fellowship of other hams and share experiences. They meet old friends and make new ones. Once you attend you will be back every year. Representatives from Top equipment manufacturers will be on hand to demo new equipment and answer your questions One on One. It's an Easy drive from 2/3rds of the country.

This will be the most informative and relaxed DX and Contest convention you have ever attended, not to mention the many great prize drawings.

### Radio BootCamp

This year convention attendees can attend a day long Radio BootCamp training session on Friday. Experienced hams teach new and old hams about building shacks and antennas, learn how to operate better while DXing and Contesting. There is something for every ham, New and Old.

### It's time to make your hotel reservations

- 1) Call the Mainstay convention hotel at 865-428-8350 to book your room, ASK for SEDCO special rates
- 2) After May 1st Go Online or Call to order tickets.

For More Details Visit us at  
**[www.W4DXCC.COM](http://www.W4DXCC.COM)**



Hello again from W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention. The response to this year's event has been fantastic. The Updated Main Program is now available online here W4DXCC Program - <http://www.w4dxcc.com/program.html>

The convention has come together and as we approach September 21st we are ready with lots of Fun for all. It's not too late to come join the fun. Go here to make hotel reservations Hotel Reservations (<http://www.w4dxcc.com/hotel-reservation.html>) and go here for getting your tickets for admission and the Banquet Get your Tickets (<http://www.w4dxcc.com/ticket-purchase-here.html>). Heck jump in the car and come over and pay at the door!

We have all of the leading radio and equipment manufacturers setup in the lobby with the latest gear for you to twist the knobs or click the mice. More importantly you can have a one on one to ask questions about the gear with the company representative in a relaxed environment.

We have a Ham Shack you can operate from that is manned with our knowledgeable team members to show you the correct way to operate all modes including the latest Digital modes like FT8. The shack is opened late to give you plenty of experience. It's a popular place after the presentations.

If you are new to ham radio and never really had an Elmer to show

you the ropes, be sure to attend the Friday Ham Radio Bootcamp. These sessions will give you the insight on what and how to have fun in Ham Radio.

Check out the Website and learn about the W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention. Go Here W4DXCC Convention (<http://www.w4dxcc.com/index.html>) Papers from the 2018 Hamvention Antenna forum are available as PDFs on the [www.k3lr.com](http://www.k3lr.com) website. Actually you can select any between 2004 and 2018 by clicking on the Dayton Antenna Summary on the left side of the page.

## Interview with Janez-S51DX

*I have worked S51DX, Janez, many times. He is a constant in the world of Ham radio and contesting. He has logged over a **half a million** QSOs and counting! Please visit his qrz.com webpage contact him at s51dx@yahoo.com.*



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

**S51DX:** I have an older brother, he started with HAM radio back in the early 70's. As a youngster I was dreaming about chasing DX and hunting new ones. In that time we needed to know the CW to pass the exams. I was dumb for the Morse code. The learning of the code made me big problems, not a little talent in that.

In the 80's I went to Yugoslav army (we had 15 months of must service) – and they wanted me as a CW radioman. I learned CW in 4 months – I hated the Morse at that time.

**AJ8B:** When did you get on the air?

**S51DX:** First license was just 2m SSB license in 1981 (YU3HED). After the army I made the B class, and this permitted me to operate on HF. I got the call YU3HR. I made over 150 000 QSO's with that call. The 80's were a great time of my life. I was lucky to make some good scores in the contests. I started with DXCC and other awards, which I hunt even today (US County award, WPX on all modes etc...). In the early 90's Slovenia became independent from Yugoslavia and we all changed our calls to S5. Because of good results and activity I was able to get the S51DX call sign. And even today I still hold this call since I like it so much. I have never thought on changing to one letter. I think that the DX suffix suggest that such call can't be given to someone not knowing the "business".

**AJ8B:** Do you have a favorite band or mode?

**S51DX:** Sure, I like 20m much. On the mode, well I operate all modes, can't say, which one is the most favorite. Over the years I became a Morse code fan. Most hated mode became favorite to me, but I also like SSB and all digital modes. In general, I like any open band where I can get many callers. It doesn't matter where the pile-up is running. Currently I have 350 000 QSO's and I still adore the hobby.

**AJ8B:** In reviewing your QRZ.com page, I see that you have been very successful with chasing countries and with contests. Any secrets to your success?

**S51DX:** I was lucky to have almost 40 years of continuous activity. Many contests worked in this time. I never

miss any major DX-pedition through the 40 years. I worked them all. Because of this, I made all 240 countries and 10 deleted ones. Over 5000 prefixes on each of the modes. US Counties around 1300 – all confirmed with the QSL's. I'm chasing all bands DXCC (10 bands) and I have over 300 countries on each band from 7 and up.

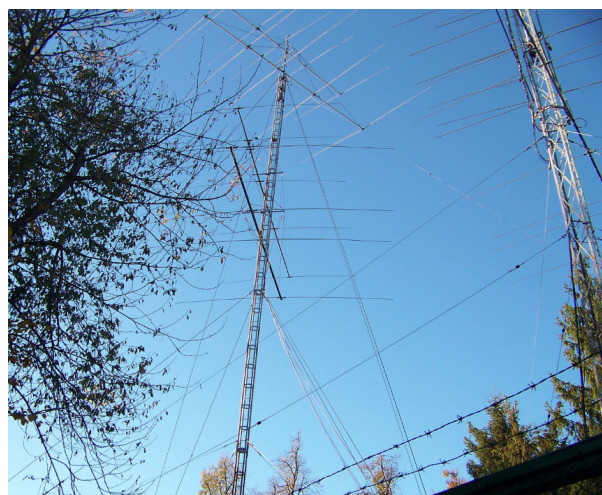
**AJ8B:** You are an extremely accomplished contester. Any tips that you can share?

**S51DX:** I like the contests much. I suggest the readers to try it, some like it, others don't. I think that the contest is the easiest way to make those new ones. Contest stations are the ones with the best gear and as such they hear weak ones. Both sides like it. Contesters get QSO points, we get new one. Why not to try. Any score is good and remember – you're competing with yourself.

**AJ8B:** Describe what you are currently using:

**S51DX:** Well, I operate mostly from our radio-club, since I don't have a good location at home. I use club's equipment, the transceiver is Yaesu FT1000MP Mark V and a Commander amp. (1500W). We have lot of antennas, 3el 40m, stacked yagis for 20, 15 and 10m. Also monobanders for WARC bands. On lower bands we have various wires.

I also have a small station at home. The rig is an Icom IC-775DSP and verticals for all bands, but this is just to work when the club location is occupied by others. (continued on next page)





## Interview with Janez-S51DX—cont.

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

**S51DX:** I don't want to teach how to do it. It's simple, just call and don't stop, sooner or later the DX will hear you. Use full calls, do not call in the middle of the QSO. Instead shouting "QRP" give your full call.

**AJ8B:** Any QSLing hints?

**S51DX:** I QSL fast. I'm sorry I just use paper cards and I still like the "old fashion" way. I simply like nice colored QSL's. If you QSL direct – do not use the GLOBAL stamp to cover the DX postage. Many Americans think that the Global stamp covers the mail costs from foreign countries. It can't be used at all and they have no value in foreign countries.

There is a free way – I QSL via the Bureau. I send many QSL's out (approx. 40 000). I have new sets of the QSL's and I will be glad to send them around over the bureau or direct. I use the LoTW, but I must say, I don't like it. I can't edit anything and as a paper QSL fan, I don't confirm many QSO's there. I confirm all QSO's in my log for QSL I get and also confirm it on LoTW.

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

**S51DX:** HAM Radio is a great hobby. It's a long term, you'll connect with many new friends around the world.



As a HAM you have lots of ways what to do in the hobby. Never bored, always lots of things to do. But they need to be open minded, learn a lot and enjoy this beautiful hobby.

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

**S51DX:** Thank you Bill for contacting and for choosing me for the interview. I hope the readers like it. I know that my English is not a great one, but I try to improve it.

Best of luck and hear you all on the bands.  
73 es DX de Janez S51DX.

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Examples of QSL cards shown include:  
 N5KO (Agave, California + USA)  
 K3LR (KENNY'S QSL)  
 VK2JAF (Derek Neilson Sydney Australia)  
 NB7V (BUTTE, MONTANA USA)  
 KP3S (Carpenter & Associates, P.O. Box 314, Rockledge, FL 32955-4508)  
 KL7HRN (K7HRN)  
 C6AMS (Nassau, Bahamas)  
 N1AFT (Vernon, Vermont + USA)  
 KW4MM (Curtis Crowder, 600 Confederate Circle, Old Hickory, TN 37138)  
 KE5WIQ (2011 Cardiac, 3028 Irving Drive, Sugar Land, Texas 77479)  
 N4BRJ (Jacobus Buitendijk)  
 KG4DZA (K4DZA)

# My Most Prized QSL— What's Yours?

By Dave, K8DV

This article can also be "listened" to via CW—  
<https://tinyurl.com/ycsbflmu>



So most of you that know me know that I grew up in a ham radio house hold, well at least my dad was a ham and somewhat active. Growing up my only goal was to somehow find a way to please him, as I was used to hearing, "that was a fair job". So when I was 12 my dad started getting back into ham radio after taking about 10 years off due to work, kids, and life in general.

I could see that my dad loved the hobby and to me it looked pretty cool. I approached my dad to find out what

I needed to do. To my surprise he gave me the run down and then asked "When do you want to start learning the code?" I was like, man I am in like flynn, so I said, "right now." We sat down at my mom's kitchen table and he began to teach me the code with an old Hallicrafters HA-1 keyer and Vibroplex paddle. I can still remember it to this day, it was as close as the two of us had ever been.

I know, so far this has nothing to do with a QSL card, but I am getting there. Although it took two more years before I finally got to where I was ready to take my test and thought, "man this will be great!" Dad has no idea that I am doing this and won't he be surprised .. WRONG! Little did I know that Ken, the ham who gave me my novice exam, shared with dad what was going on. Nonetheless, I took the test and received my novice ticket in May 1978. I got on made a few contacts then did not get back on until the following winter and have not looked back since. A few years later my mom got her ticket as she wanted to get in on the fun,

which is whole story in itself.

So, throughout the next 35 years or so, dad and I had a lot of good times playing ham radio and used it as our main communication medium for years after I moved to Cincinnati. Through him I got one of the best ham radio educations one could ever get.

For those that know me I lost my dad in 2009 and for me it was losing my best friend. Although he and I did not always agree, just like any father and son, we still had a lot of great times. After the dust settled, I started going through some of my dad's old ham radio stuff and found a handful of QSL cards from when he was a novice himself in 1952. I also found several of his QSL cards for the different calls he had throughout the year, but none with his novice call. I had 5 QSL cards from other stations that dad had exchanged cards with. I wondered if any of these guys are still around and if any still have the same call minus the N of course. I checked all 5, and, as luck would have it, the last one I tried I got a hit! The name was the same and the state was the same, WOW I just hit pay dirt! I looked and there was even an email address. I sent WN5WLA (now W5WLA) a note and explained to him that I was trying to locate a QSL card for WN5TXV from 1952.



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## My Most Prized QSL— What's Yours? (cont.)

To my surprise he emailed me back and said not only did he have it but it was only his second QSO. He sent me the QSL card along with a copy of his logbook page showing the QSO information. I guess at this point you have figured out what "My Most Prized QSL" is, as it is not a DX card, nor some special event, nor even one made out to me. It is old QSL card for a new novice that I am sure at the time was not much different than I was when making my first contacts, nervous and just trying to find his way on ham radio. I proudly have this card and ones of my dad's other past calls, my mom's and mine all displayed in a frame hanging in the shack. I have included pictures of the QSL from Randy, the family QSLs in the frame WN5TXV, W8LMF, K4HRF, KZ4G, KA4MBF (my mom's call) and K8DV and the log page.

I have to give a big thank you to Randy, W5WLA for holding onto his QSL cards and his willingness to give one up after many years. As a side note I found Randy in my logbook twice from activity in the Ohio QSO Party, I

have to say it was way past his or my 2<sup>nd</sup> QSO.

I owe my dad a lot of gratitude for getting me involved in the hobby and now, 40 years later, I still get excited to hear signals coming out of the speaker. The gear has changed, the behavior in the hobby has changed but it is still about how it makes us feel and the feeling is the same whether it was in 1952 or 1978 or now in 2018.

We all have things in our ham radio past that mean something to us and this simple QSL card is just one of mine and it also reminded me that we share in a wonderful hobby full of great people.

At the end of the day it doesn't have any monetary value but it is priceless to me.

73, Dave, K8DV



Not sure when this was taken, but, it was not a digital picture!

How many of these SWODXA members can you identify? The answer will be in our November issue!

(TNX W8GEX)

Back Row						
Middle Row						
Front Row						



## How Well do you Know your Club Members? (Answer on last page)

### Who am I #1?

- ⇒ I was born in.... Cincinnati
- ⇒ I went to the University of Cincinnati twice. Once The College Conservatory of Music and years later The College of Applied Science.
- ⇒ My main occupation was... Electronics Engineer - Technical Operations Manager.
- ⇒ My other licenses include... pilot.
- ⇒ In the 70's I saw Elvis twice in concert in Cincinnati - and actually enjoyed it.
- ⇒ Something that will surprise you about me... I have an 8 x 10 color photo of MY beating heart... taken by the surgeon during my heart bypass operation before he closed me up.
- ⇒ Previously, I lived in ... Ohio, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina (twice), now again Ohio.
- ⇒ My first beer was as a teenager at a Boy Scout weekend campout. The Junior Leaders were so curious that the adult leaders obliged (supervised of course). First reaction: Nasty tasting awful stuff (that eventually thankfully changed).
- ⇒ My first car was a 1958 Rambler that cost \$250.
- ⇒ My first full time job in Florida in 1966 paid \$60 a week.
- ⇒ I'm very thankful to have 2 sons, 6 grandkids and 1 great grandson.

### Who am I #2?

- ⇒ I was born in....Sioux City, Iowa
- ⇒ My main occupation is/was...Toolmaker
- ⇒ My other hobbies include...Motorcycling, gardening, shooting
- ⇒ My spouses name is....Devlynn
- ⇒ I do/don't have pets....cat
- ⇒ Something that will surprise you about me...I was and am still a professional guitarist, playing for 60 years
- ⇒ Previously, I lived in ...California



# Dave Kalter Youth DX Adventure

## Update By Jim—AB8YK



The Curacao 2018 Dave Kalter Youth DX Adventure of PJ2Y went QRT at 5:45 pm EDT on Monday July 23. The youths made 6,261 QSO's starting Thursday evening at 7:30 pm EDT and ran until QRT time. There was a concentrated effort to have an FT8 station on the air as much as possible. Also, there were 2 additional radios on the air almost constantly. One was on SSB, and the other alternated between SSB and CW. All CW QSO's were made by the youth. The adults only made a few SSB and FT8 contacts, as the youth were quite active on the radios.

We had a few challenges. During prime band opening time on two of the days we had power losses resulting in lost time. This amounted to about 8 hours. The youth chose to do their sightseeing on Monday to permit contacts on Sunday while people were off for the weekend. Each operating day, the bands didn't open until about 10 local time and usually held until midnight.

The team was very compatible and worked extremely well together. We thank all of our sponsors and those who contacted us. The multiple contacts on a band were great as it was typically with a different youth operator. I know several people tried to work all kids (WAK) on one and more bands.

The QSL card will be designed and printed soon. See our PJ2Y QRZ page for more information. The entire log has been loaded to LoTW and ClubLog. At this time, we do not plan to do OQRS.

Thanks to the Curacao Bureau of Telecommunications for speeding the process of getting the PJ2Y call.

All CW, but 1, was made by David Samu. All Digital QSOs were FT8.

### Total Contacts by Continent:

Continent	Total	%
NA	4,072	65
EU	1,803	29
SA	236	4
AS	77	1
AF	42	1
OC	27	0

### Total Contacts by Operator: (Kids only)

Operator	Total	%	
KM4SII	1,895	30	Mason Matrazzo
VE7DZO	1,581	25	David Samu
KM4ATT	1,237	20	Violetta Latham
KC9ZJX	1,213	19	Dhruv Rebba

Once again a big thanks to SWODXA for supporting our 2018 team with a donation!

(More Pictures at the bottom of page 13)

### Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	21	31	0	52	1
40	451	848	15	1,314	21
30	0	0	145	145	2
20	1,061	2,372	0	3,433	55
17	0	265	265	530	8
15	67	494	184	745	12
12	0	8	0	8	0
10	0	34	0	34	1
Total	1,600	4,052	609	6,261	100



## Interview with Geoff—ZS6C

*When I worked Geoffrey, ZS6C, I immediately went to his QRZ.com webpage. Wow...has Geoff wracked up some accomplishments. I immediately sent him an email asking if he would consent to an interview. He replied within hours!. Please visit his qrz.com webpage contact him at [glevey@gmail.com](mailto:glevey@gmail.com).*



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

**ZS6C:** My Father was a ham so I grew up around radio. I sat for the exam in 1973 whilst still at school but did not make it. Family and career then took precedence.

**AJ8B:** When did you first get on the air?

**ZS6C:** It was only in 2005 that I wrote the exam again and made it. From then on, the bug bit and there was no stopping me. My first callsign was ZS6GRL but in 2014 I became ZS6C.

**AJ8B:** Do you have a favourite band or mode?

**ZS6C:** Not really, I look at the cluster and go where the action is. Being at the bottom of the world does not make things easier. At the moment I am concentrating on the digital modes (FT8) for contacts due to the propagation.

**AJ8B:** In reviewing your QRZ.com page, it becomes quickly apparent that you work all bands and all modes with contesting, chasing DX, and general operating. What do you like to do the most?

**ZS6C:** I really enjoy contesting. I try and partake in as many contests as possible, irrespective of mode. I am the Contest manager for the South African Radio League (SARL) as well as my Club West Rand Amateur Radio Club (ZS6WR). Next in line is chasing DX. There is not a better feeling than "snagging" an ATNO. I am not a fan of "rag chewing" but sometimes there is a place for it.



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

**ZS6C:** Basically, just a passion for Amateur Radio and trying to do my best against my fellow peers and "Lady Luck" and remember – you're competing with yourself.

**AJ8B:** Describe what you are currently using:

**ZS6C:** My current operating conditions are an ICOM IC-746Pro, into a 6-Band 2 element Spider Quad situated about 15M up. For digital work I also use a Rigblaster Advantage. I do have an old linear that I sometimes use but it needs some TLC at the moment. In contests 99% of the time I always run barefoot (100W). For mobile or portable work, I use an ICOM IC-7000

**AJ8B:** In reviewing your online logbook, it would appear that you have propagation to all parts of the world most of the time! Have you had experience elsewhere and how does the propagation compare?

**ZS6C:** I cannot compare propagation elsewhere as I have no experience of it. Occasionally I am lucky with propagation, but it is really difficult sometimes as most of the Stations always have their antennas pointing East to West or visa versa and forget about us down South. Most times I have the EU and NA wall to try and break which is challenging.

**AJ8B:** For most of us, the thought of being in Africa is exciting as it is a very exotic location. Are there special challenges to operating from South Africa?

**ZS6C:** Some places might be exotic but there is a saying that "Africa is not for Sissies." As mentioned above we are usually forgotten down here, but on the other hand I suppose the amount of activity that comes from Africa does not warrant the rare stations concentrating on us. I would appeal to DX-peditions to let Africa call whenever we hear them as I am sure we will not cause QRM due to our numbers.

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

**ZS6C:** For me personally you need to have patience, try and work out the strategy of the operator. Listening plays an important role. Luck is also a major factor

(Continued on Next Page)



## Interview with Geoff—ZS6C—cont.

**AJ8B:** Any QSLing hints?

**ZS6C:** My QSLing policy is on QRZ.com. I prefer LoTW as it is quicker, easier, and cheaper. Unfortunately, our postal system is non-existent. It is a lottery as to whether post gets received or sent out. I also use the other electronic QSL sites.

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

**ZS6C:** As you have done the hard work in getting your license, put it to good use. Although there are many facets to the hobby, I encourage new hams to take part in contests and chase DX. Most importantly try and stick to the “DX Code of Conduct”

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

**ZS6C:** Amateur radio is a fantastic hobby. I think it is the only hobby that has so many facets to it so you need to find your “niche” and once you do, go for it with vigour.



## Dave Kalter Youth DX Adventure Pics



	UTC	dx	UT	Freq	Message
1-06	210745	Tx	1576	-	UX188 PJ2Y -15
15	210900	-28	0.2	1576	- PJ2Y UX188 R-05
479	210915	Tx	1576	-	UX188 PJ2Y R-73
73	210945	Tx	1576	-	CQ PJ2Y PK52
67	210900	3	0.2	1576	- PJ2Y KQOM R-01
R-14	210900	-3	0.2	1576	- PJ2Y TX110 R-75
2N69	210900	-3	0.2	1965	- PJ2Y EC2ATM -11
2	210915	Tx	1576	-	KQOM PJ2Y +03
	210930	7	0.2	1325	- PJ2Y KQOM R-02
R-14	210930	-2	0.2	1576	- PJ2Y KX9FSP 2N44
15	210930	-2	0.2	1965	- PJ2Y EC2ATM -15
7092	210945	Tx	1576	-	KQOM PJ2Y R-73
479	211000	-2	0.2	1325	- PJ2Y KQOM 73
11	211015	Tx	1576	-	CQ PJ2Y PK52
15	211000	0	0.2	1576	- PJ2Y KX9FSP 2N44
10	211000	-4	0.2	1967	- PJ2Y EC2ATM -15
P-04	211015	Tx	1576	-	KX9FSP PJ2Y +00
D 888	211030	2	0.2	1325	- YV5KAJ KQOM R-01
2N69	211030	1	0.2	1575	- PJ2Y KX9FSP R-04
92	211030	-2	0.2	1885	- PJ2Y EC2ATM -15
S 73	211045	Tx	1576	-	KX9FSP PJ2Y R-73
01	211100	7	0.2	1324	- PJ2Y KX9FSP 73
R-15	211100	-5	0.4	1885	- PJ2Y EC2ATM -15
473	211105	Tx	1576	-	EC2ATM PJ2Y -04
474	211130	-4	0.2	1883	- PJ2Y EC2ATM -15
475	211130	-10	0.2	1324	- PJ2Y KX9FSP
476	211145	Tx	1576	-	EC2ATM PJ2Y R-01
477	211130	-20	0.0	1325	- PJ2Y KX9FSP

# Cycle 24 Solar Minimum: A Potentially Lengthy Period of Very Low Solar Activity

Frank Donovan—W3LPL (Reprinted with the Permission of W3LPL and Bernie, W3UR)

This article can also be “listened” to via CW—  
<https://tinyurl.com/ycg6cncq>

## What is a solar precursor?

Solar precursors – correlating ongoing observations of solar physical phenomena to expected solar activity a few years in the future – have proven to provide more reliable forecasts than traditional statistics-based forecasts. Precursors also provide more reliable estimates of the future intensity and timing of the Cycle 25 solar maximum than traditional statistics-based forecasts. One type of precursor – spotless days – can be used to assess progress towards what is likely to be another deep and potentially lengthy solar minimum with similarities to the deep and lengthy Cycle 23 solar minimum. But it’s important to understand that ongoing Cycle 24 has many unique characteristics, unlike any other recorded solar cycle in the behavior of many of its physical phenomena. Likewise Cycle 25 will have its own unique characteristics, distinguishing it from any prior recorded cycle. These unique characteristics can produce unexpected outcomes.

## What precursors of solar minimum have already occurred?

The first precursor of the Cycle 24 solar minimum occurred when nine spotless days occurred in June 2016. There were 31 scattered spotless days during all of 2016 and only 9 percent of the days were spotless. Periods of spotless days lasting more than two weeks in a row are precursors of a deep solar minimum with potential similarities to the last solar minimum. There were 16 spotless days in a row in March 2017 followed by 14 in a row from late July through mid-August. The frequency of spotless days accelerated when 13 spotless days in a row occurred in November followed by more than 50% spotless days during every subsequent month through April 2018, signaling the beginning of the period of very low solar activity known as solar minimum. There were 109 spotless days during 2017 and 30 percent of the days were spotless. And, 74 spotless days have occurred from January through May 2018 and 50 percent of the days were spotless.

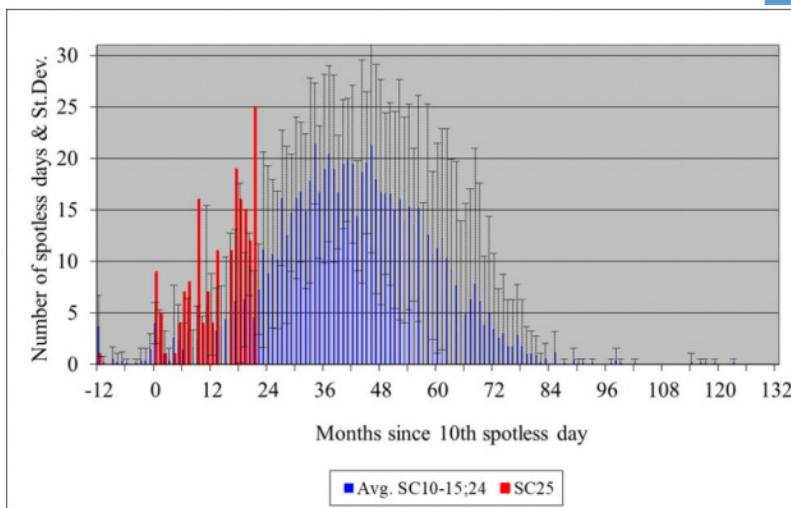


Figure 1

## How long will this solar minimum last?

Frequent spotless days are forecast to continue at least through July and are likely to continue through at least part of 2019 and perhaps into 2020. This chart (Figure 1) shows the number of spotless days – in red – since the tenth spotless day of the decline of Cycle 24 in July 2016. Shown in blue are the average numbers of spotless days during solar minimums following weak sunspot cycles similar to Cycle 24. This data suggests that we’ve just begun a deep solar minimum with frequent lengthy periods of spotless days that are likely to continue for at least 12 months., but possibly much longer. Recent published reports prematurely suggested that solar minimum may have already been reached based on the unexpected occurrence of many spotless days from March through mid-April 2018. However, the continuing slow increase of solar polar magnetic field strength through at least May 2018 suggests that we’ve just begun a deep and potentially lengthy solar minimum extending into 2019 and possibly much longer.



## Cycle 24 Solar Minimum: (cont )

### Will this be another deep solar minimum like we experienced last time?

A precursor of a deep solar minimum – which is just beginning to emerge – is frequent periods of spotless days each lasting more than two weeks. We had 16 spotless days in a row in March 2017, 14 in a row from late July through August 2017, 13 in a row in November and 14 in a row in March 2018. More lengthy and more frequent periods of spotless days are likely later in 2018.

Long periods of spotless days will occur much more frequently as we progress deeper into a potentially lengthy solar minimum. For example, during the 24 months of the deepest part of the last solar minimum there were 15 lengthy periods of spotless days, each having a duration greater than two weeks.

Another precursor of a deep solar minimum is a sustained monthly average adjusted 10.7 cm solar flux index less than 72. Monthly average adjusted solar flux below 71 from November 2017 through April 2018 signaled that Cycle 24 has now entered a deep and potentially lengthy solar minimum. Monthly average adjusted SFI rose to 72.5 in May 2018 caused by 21 days of weak sunspot activity. See Table 1

Year	Month	Monthly Average Adjusted SFI
2017	Nov	70.70
2017	Dec	69.46
2018	Jan	67.78
2018	Feb	69.96
2018	Mar	67.58
2018	Apr	70.45
2018	May	72.53

Table 1

### When will the next solar cycle begin?

SILSO's forecast of the remainder of Cycle 24 calls for a solar minimum later this year and the onset of Cycle 25 early in 2019. Unfortunately SILSO's statistics based forecast is significantly at odds with current observations of ongoing solar physical phenomena. See Figure 2. A precursor of the onset of Cycle 25 will occur when more intense high latitude, opposite polarity sunspots begin to appear, perhaps later this year but more likely during 2019. The onset of Cycle 25 will occur approximately when the number of sunspots from declining Cycle 24 and emerging Cycle 25 are about equal.

Figure 3 (below) from the 2-8 April issue of the Solar- Terrestrial Centre of Excellence (STCE) Newsletter shows the progress of old Cycle 24 sunspots shown in black and new Cycle 25 sunspots shown in white. As of April 2018, only four very weak, short duration Cycle 25 sunspots have thus far been observed, signaling that the onset of Cycle 25 is likely to occur late in 2019 or possibly later.

### What about the future intensity of Cycle 25 solar maximum?

Although an accurate forecast isn't possible until a few years after the onset of Cycle 25, a precursor – likely to occur very soon – will provide a more refined estimate of the future intensity of solar maximum. Another precursor providing an estimate of the future timing of solar maximum will occur several years in the future. A precursor of the intensity of solar maximum is the total solar polar field strength. A more refined estimate of the intensity of solar maximum can be made when both the north and south solar polar field strengths stabilize, likely to occur later in 2018. The onset of Cycle 25 is likely to occur at least a year after both the north and south polar fields become stable. While the south solar polar region field strength reached a stable peak during 2017, the north polar region has not yet peaked, suggesting that onset of Cycle 25 will occur no earlier than mid2019. The good news is that the polar field strengths are already slightly stronger than they were prior to the last solar minimum, providing physical evidence that Cycle 25 solar maximum will be somewhat more intense than Cycle 24 and that another Maunder Minimum is very unlikely during Solar Cycle 25. A precursor of a more intense than expected Cycle 25 solar maximum will occur if lengthy periods of spotless days end by early 2019. Conversely, a less intense than

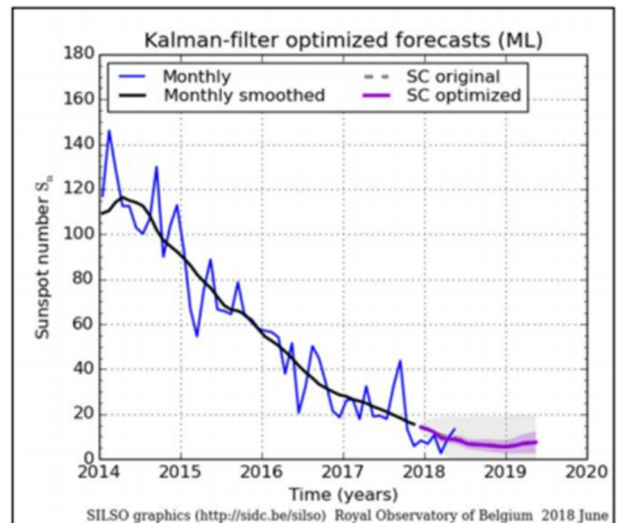


Figure 2



**W8RKO, Mike** : I have two Icom R7000 receivers. One I purchased new back in the mid 80's. The other I got second hand a few years ago. My unit is suffering from a display problem. This is a known issue and the same type of problem I experienced with my HF Icom IC-745. Electrolytic capacitors go bad on the DC-DC converter that generates voltages for the display. The most likely capacitor suspects are found in documents on the internet. I pulled the display board and the main DC-DC converter boards from the R7000. I checked all of the electrolytic caps. Not a single one was within specification. For example a 33uF measured at 1.8uF with an ESR of 52. Fortunately all the capacitors are through hole, standard off the shelf values, that are available from all the major parts houses. I replaced approximately 18 capacitors. The second R7000 was in a little better shape.

The R7000's are old enough that the memory battery is going dead. This is a standard coin battery with solder tabs. Also available through the same parts suppliers. While you are getting the order the little wheat germ lamp that goes into the display. I used a 14V, 80ma., lamp from Digkey. Part number CM2182-ND. You could try to use a white LED but comments online indicate that an LED does not provide sufficient light dispersion to give you a nice illumination of the meter face. I stuck with the incandescent bulb.

**N6JRL—Don** : Enjoying retirement here in Falcon, Colorado, near Colorado Springs. Although I am in a covenant area with our new home, I do have a tower at 6,285 feet a few miles away at my mothers old place. I was able to work Baker Island a few times on SSB and CW and I was also able to work all of the kids at PJ2Y (PJ2T) for the Dave Kalter Memorial YDXA from Curacao 19-24 July. the PJ2T station always comes in here at 30/9

**K8FL—Jim** : After many years, I received DXCC confirmed on 6 meters. I also worked the Baker Island group 160 thru 15 meters, but prop. was poor-- no 12 or 10 meters.

**K4YJ—Dwight** I worked in the ARRL IARU contest a few weeks ago. I had a great time. The only problem I had was when I settled in on an open frequency and called CQ I wouldn't get any response. I would call and call. When I stopped calling CQ and started pouncing, it seemed that every call I made now was getting replied on the first try. I guess they didn't like my CQ but was fine when I called them! The ARRL posted classes and scores. I sorted it by class and for USA only—I came in 4th! Too bad for me in the Great Lakes Division because I had MI and WV ahead of me. So, looks like I got 4th in the USA and 3rd in the Great Lakes Division. The attached just shows the top 10 in the USA. I still had a great time and the bands were doing OK. - **Congrats to Dwight!**

Call Sign	Category	Section	Claimed Score
K16RRN	Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power	ORG	1,035,300
N8II	Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power	WV	483,881
WB8WKQ	Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power	MI	252,967
K4YJ	Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power	OH	166,449
WN6K	Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power	SDG	146,510
K4EJ	Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power	WCF	144,531
N6NF	Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power	SCV	143,528
VE3TG	Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power	ONE	119,184
AA4NU	Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power	TN	117,978
WA2JQK	Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power	ENY	108,004

## Cycle 24 Solar Minimum: cont

expected solar maximum will be indicated if lengthy periods of spotless days continue well into 2020. What about the future timing of the Cycle 25 solar maximum? Steady, sustained increase in monthly average solar flux – perhaps in 2020 or possibly even later – will signal the onset of Cycle 25. The rate of increase of solar flux will provide an early estimate of the timing of Cycle 25 solar maximum. Monthly average solar flux increased unusually slowly during the initial years of Cycle 24. Hopefully Cycle 25 will exhibit a more rapid increase, signaling a stronger than expected Cycle 25. Accurate forecasts – rather than estimates – of the intensity and timing of solar maximum will be possible about two years after the onset of Cycle 25. Image credits: graphs and tables by the author, as cited. Page 1 solar image from JSOC at Stanford University

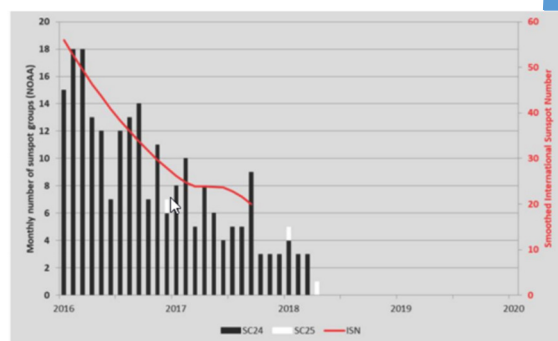


Figure 3



## Newsletter update...

With this edition, we embark on our second year of having a newsletter. So far, I think we are on the right track! In our first 6 issues, we have had 18 club members submit items or articles and have had 15 non-club members submit articles (or interviews)

Each of the regular contributors have been very patient with me when I bug them as we approach the publication date. I have also been encouraged by the response I get from foreign hams who have heard of us and WANT to answer my questions or submit an article.

Within our club, we have several members who have published articles in QST, CQ and other publications. Many of those folks have given me hints and suggestion to make this a solid club newsletter. Thanks to them!

To that point, with Jay's (K4ZLE) urging, I submitted our newsletter to the ARRL Ohio Section for inclusion in the club newsletter competition. Your newsletter, "The Exchange", finished fourth overall. This could not have been done without the excellent submission of the 18 club members and 15 non-club members! Kudos to us all!

I am trying a couple of things in this edition that I hope to continue. The first is to present several articles both in print and via an audio file in *MORSE CODE!* (Of course, only works if you are reading this on a PC!) Just click on the link in the title of the 60M Article by Joe, W8GEX, My Most Prized QSL—by Dave, K8DV, or the update on Cycle 24 by W3LPL. These files were created at 20 WPM. Let me know what you think.

We have 2 new members of which there is an introduction to them at the beginning of the newsletter. Finally, check out page 10 and the "Who Am I" section. See how well you know your fellow club members. The answers are on the back page.

We will continue our series on Propagation for the Little Pistols in the next edition.

Please keep the articles, items, and soapbox items coming. I think everyone looks forward to it.

Bill – AJ8B

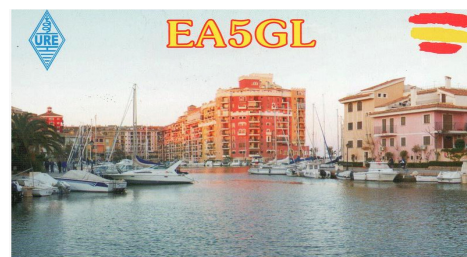


Speaking of the ARRL OH Section, do you receive the journal? You will find it full of League information, OH Section information, local club information, AND some technical information as well.

Scott Yonally, N8SY, our section manager, really keeps things updated and promotes amateur activity and the league. You don't have to be a league member to receive this newsletter! If you are receiving it, send Scott a note about what you think. If you aren't receiving it, send Scott a note requesting to be added. You can always "opt out" so what's the risk? Scott can be reached at [n8sy@arrl.org](mailto:n8sy@arrl.org).

## A Note from EA5GL—Pedro

I have worked *many* of the stations that use Pedro, EA5GL, as their QSL manager. He is very interested in making sure that our members get QSLs from the stations he represents and he would like to be the manager for many more! Feel free to check out his QRZ.com page and email him at [ea5gl@hotmail.com](mailto:ea5gl@hotmail.com).



Hello, my name is Pedro EA5GL, I have been a QSL manager since 2010.

In early 80's confirmation of QSL cards became my passion. Personally, I don't regret digital QSO confirmations, they are fast and very useful, but a QSL card that you can handle from a new entity or rare island has no comparison.

From the beginnings of my hobby, I realized that there will be some entities very difficult to work and obtain the precious QSL cards for a variety of reasons:

- ◆ Stolen mail, specially in countries in South America, Asia and Africa.
- ◆ Bad management
- ◆ Lack of time to answer QSL cards
- ◆ QSL printing high prices, etc.

Then I realized that there are people helping us to obtain that QSL cards that was impossible to have in other ways, I'm talking about the QSL managers. Thanks to them I could obtain a lot of new entities worked but never confirmed with a QSL card. Each time I made a QSO with an entity with a QSL manager I was hoping to get the QSO confirmation even more if the QSL manager was one like W3HNK and many others who unfortunately are S.K.

That's why I thought we could not lose that job and I could not just dedicate myself to doing DX and wait to others hard work to get the QSL card! I decided to take action when my friend Pedro LU7HZ asked me to be his QSL manager.

From there the requests for new stations went on, asking me for help so that it would be their manager, I didn't think about it. Apart from being able to help people get their QSL at the same time, it was a hobby for me. Fortunately, there are a lot of new QSL manager entering the scene that are continuing with this work and new technologies that make this work much easier.

I would also like to demystify the work of QSL manager as being a business. There are many uninformed people who think that Managers get rich doing this work. Nothing is further from reality, at least it is not my case, I do everything free, I don't have any economic help from the DX station nor do I ask for it. I pay QSL printing, QSL handling, label printing, printer ink, bureau handling, QSL mailing of received cards to the DX station and routing to the other stations the QSL's needed for him. There are always some stations that generously send more than those requested for shipping costs, this makes the expenses somewhat more bearable, I am not rich and I have a humble job but as in all hobbies there are expenses and this is my hobby. There are many countries that barely have resources for basic needs such as eating, which makes it impossible to afford the luxury of being able to buy old radio equipment. Within my possibilities I have helped them to be able to buy some equipment so they can give us the opportunity to work their entities. I have also sent some medicine, with this I do not want to brag about everything that I have done because I did it with pleasure and without anyone forcing me.

With this I only ask that the next time you request a direct QSL from a Manager, don't see it as a business. If they ask for \$3, \$4 or \$5, it is possible that the expenses are much greater. (Let's not talk about the big expeditions.)

I hope that this article has helped you to see the reality of the QSL managers that, as in all fields, there are unfortunately exceptions. I would like to thank the help that my friend Gennady, UX5UO, gives me with his special prices and quality that he offers in the QSL cards and Miguel EA5ZD who is responsible for the designs that make that QSL, apart from confirming a QSO, be so special.

If you are going to make an expedition or need a QSL manager please contact me at [ea5gl@hotmail.com](mailto:ea5gl@hotmail.com) and I will be happy to help you.

73 and see you in the pile-up  
Pedro EA5GL

## 4U1UN Update—W3UR Bernie McClenny

The following post is from K2QI, James Sarte, President of the United Nations Amateur Radio Club.

It's been a while since the last update but I have some news to share. We're one step closer to being back on the air. As some may know, Dmitri Zhikharev RA9USU along with Adrian Ciuperca KO8SCA have been working with me behind the scenes to get the station operational again. Through the generous donations of Dima and his associates (notably Ed Kritsky NT2X), we were able to get a rack mounted K3, Acom 2000 linear amplifier, and associated network-enabled control hardware. We were also granted another K3 to act as a remote head from SK Tony N2UN via his widow, and delivered to us by Andrew Bodony K2LE. Finally, Adrian has been doing a lot of behind-the-scenes networking and legwork with his counterparts to help get things done from within the United Nations.

Yesterday represents an additional milestone for the club as Adrian (who did most of the work) and I, finally erected a brand new SteppIR BigIR vertical antenna on the Secretariat's roof. All that remains is to connect and lay the ground radials, fine-tune the rack mounted devices, and setup and configure the remote K3. Once done and after almost a decade off-air, we can finally call CQ 20 de 4U1UN.



## Grant ARC Hamfest

SWODXA will have an information table at the Grant ARC Hamfest Saturday, November 3rd. The Hamfest runs from 8 AM to 2 PM and admission is \$2! They had over 600 attendees last year. They also have a flea market and over \$2000 in prizes.

Flea Market tables are free. The location is 406 West Plum St., Georgetown, OH 45121.

Hope to see you there! For more information, contact Alvin Norris, W8UJM (anorris@abcap.net)



# Dozens heard Amelia Earhart's Final, Chilling Pleas for Help, Researchers Say

Thanks to John, N8AA, for submitting this fascinating article

From The Washington Post, Cleve Wootson, July 25th, 2018

Amelia Earhart waded into the Pacific Ocean and climbed into her downed and disabled Lockheed Electra. She started the engine, turned on the two-way radio and sent out a plea for help, one more desperate than previous messages.

The high tide was getting higher, she had realized. Soon it would suck the plane into deeper water, cutting Earhart off from civilization — and any chance of rescue.

Across the world, a 15-year-old girl listening to the radio in St. Petersburg, Fla., transcribed some of the desperate phrases she heard: “waters high,” “water’s knee deep — let me out” and “help us quick.”

A housewife in Toronto heard a shorter message, but it was no less dire: “We have taken in water . . . we can’t hold on much longer.”

That harrowing scene, the International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR) believes, was probably one of the final moments of Earhart’s life. The group put forth the theory in a paper that analyzes radio distress calls heard in the days after Earhart disappeared.

In the summer of 1937, she had sought to become the first woman to circumnavigate the globe. Instead, TIGHAR’s theory holds, she ended up marooned on a desert island, radioing for help.

Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, could only call for help when the tide was so low it wouldn’t flood the engine, TIGHAR theorized. That limited their pleas for help to a few hours each night.

It wasn’t enough, TIGHAR director Ric Gillespie told The Washington Post, and the pair died as castaways.

But those radio messages form a historical record — evidence that Gillespie says runs counter to the U.S. Navy’s official conclusion that Earhart and Noonan died shortly after crashing into the Pacific Ocean.

“These active versus silent periods and the fact that the message changes on July 5 and starts being worried about water and then is consistently worried about water after that — there’s a story there,” Gillespie said.

“We’re feeding it to the public in bite-sized chunks. I’m hoping that people will smack their foreheads like I did.”

Some of Earhart’s final messages were heard by members of the military and others looking for Earhart,

Gillespie said. Others caught the attention of people who just happened to be listening to their radios when they stumbled across random pleas for help.

Almost all of those messages were discounted by the U.S. Navy, which concluded that Earhart’s plane went down somewhere in the Pacific Ocean, then sank to the seabed.

Gillespie has been trying to debunk that finding for three decades. He believes that Earhart spent her final days on then-uninhabited Gardner Island, a tiny dot in the Pacific, nearly 2,600 miles north of New Zealand. She may have been injured, Noonan was probably worse, but the crash wasn’t the end of them.

On July 2, 1937, just after Earhart’s plane disappeared, the U.S. Navy put out an “all ships, all stations” bulletin, TIGHAR wrote. Authorities asked anyone with a radio and a trained ear to listen in to the frequencies she had been using on her trip, 3105 and 6210 kilohertz.

It was not an easy task. The Electra’s radio was designed to communicate only within a few hundred miles. The Pacific Ocean is much bigger.

The searchers listening to Earhart’s frequencies heard a carrier wave, which indicated that someone was speaking, but most heard nothing more than that. Others heard what they interpreted to be a crude attempt at Morse code.

But thanks to the scientific principle of harmonics, TIGHAR says, others heard much more. In addition to the primary frequencies, “the transmitter also put out ‘harmonics (multiples)’ of those wavelengths,” the paper says. “High harmonic frequencies ‘skip’ off the ionosphere and can carry great distances, but clear reception is unpredictable.”

That means Earhart’s cries for help were heard by people who just happened to be listening to their radios at the right time.



## Amelia Earhart—(cont.)

According to TIGHAR's paper:

*Scattered across North America and unknown to each other, each listener was astonished to suddenly hear Amelia Earhart pleading for help. They alerted family members, local authorities or local newspapers. Some were investigated by government authorities and found to be believable. Others were dismissed at the time and only recognized many years later. Although few in number, the harmonic receptions provide an important glimpse into the desperate scene that played out on the reef at Gardner Island.*

The tide probably forced Earhart and Noonan to hold to a schedule. Seek shelter, shade and food during the sweltering day, then venture out to the craft at low tide, to try the radio again.

Back in the United States, people heard things, tidbits that pointed at trouble. On July 3, for example, Nina Paxton, an Ashland, Ky., woman, said she heard Earhart say "KHAQQ calling," and say she was "on or near little island at a point near" ... "then she said something about a storm and that the wind was blowing." "Will have to get out of here," she says at one point. "We can't stay here long."

What happened to Earhart after that has vexed the world for nearly 81 years, and TIGHAR is not the only group to try to explain the mystery.

Gillespie is just one member of competing researchers who have dedicated their time and resources to one of aviation's greatest mysteries.

Mike Campbell, a retired journalist who wrote "Amelia Earhart: The Truth at Last," insists along with others that Earhart and Noonan were captured in the Marshall Islands by the Japanese, who thought they were American spies, and died in Japanese custody after being tortured.

Elgen Long, a Navy combat veteran and an expert on Earhart's disappearance, wrote a book saying her plane crashed into the Pacific and sank.

Gillespie said he believes that evidence supporting his Gardner Island theory is adding up. He believes that the messages sent out over those six days were by Earhart and, occasionally, Noonan. He believes that bones found on Gardner Island in 1940 belonged to Earhart but were misidentified and discarded. He believes that Amelia Earhart died marooned on an island after her plane was sucked into the Pacific Ocean.

But he realizes that the public needs more than his tide tables and extrapolations from data that predates World War II.

"We're up against a public that wants a smoking gun," he told The Post on Tuesday. "We know the public wants, demands, something simple. And we're also very much aware that we live in a time of rampant science denial. Nobody does nuance anymore."



DX World is conducting a World Wide transceiver survey. You can vote at:

[Transceiver Survey](#)

## California QSO Party—Thoughts?

For Discussion at Our Next Meeting- We aren't necessarily a contest club, but, this could be a fun club activity!

### California QSO Part (CQP) - Improving your Operating Skills

From an operating point of view, what do Public Service, chasing DX or working contests have in common?

They all require accurate copy of information under stress – whether the stress of the moment, the adrenaline rush of rare DX or contest pile up, you have to accurately copy and relay information.

Entering a contest either casually to give some points or as a serious effort, Contesting provides a great learning experience for information copy “under fire”.

The first weekend of October (October 6-7 this year) sees the 53rd running of the California QSO Party – a great opportunity for stations in California because everyone else HAS TO WORK US!

We are the DX! Whether you are a “big gun” with stacked yagis and 1500 watts, or a “little pistol” with 100 watts to a vertical or a wire antenna, everyone else in the world wants to work YOU to pick up one of the 58 counties in our state.

It's a lot of fun being on the receiving end of a pile up or searching & pouncing for other states and countries.

For California stations the object of the contest is to work as many stations as possible on SSB and CW. You can work the same station on each band and each mode for score credit. Every US state and Canadian province you work counts as a multiplier – 58 total for us just like the number of counties in California.

Want to really be on the end of a pile up? Plan a “CA Expedition” to one of the rarer counties in California and the rest of the world will beat a path to your log!

Low Power, High Power? CW or SSB? CQP is a fun contest for all.

CQP is sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club. A group of NCCC volunteers help with promotion, planning county expeditions and processing all the logs to score the contest.

The last 10 years have seen a great increase in the number of logs submitted from the US, the DX world and (of course!) from California.

Last year we received 915 logs representing a total of 250,000 QSOs:

- Every station that submits a log is eligible for an achievement certificate and there are several operating categories where the leader receives a CQP plaque for proud display on the shack wall.
- Three categories are designed to encourage operation in contests:
  - YL award
  - Youth (< 18) award
  - California New Contester

To encourage more small-medium club participation, we've created three new competition categories:

- "Small" = the 10 highest scores from a club whose members who submitted their log in the Small category will count for this competition category.
- "Medium" = the 35 highest scores from a club whose members who submitted their log in the Medium category will count for this competition category.
- "Large" = clubs may combine the scores of any number of their members

If you work all 58 counties, you qualify for the “Worked All California Counties Award” sponsored by NCCC.

You can find the full rules and award details on the CQP web site at <http://www.cqp.org>.

So if you've never entered a contest or have only dabbled in the past, this QSO party is for you! Part-time or full-time, home operator or an expedition to a new county, CQP is a blast! We hope you will join us this year and have a lot of Fun!

**Glen Brown, W6GJB**  
CQP Chair

Here is a link to a set of PowerPoint slides to give more information about the contest

<http://www.cqp.org/files/CQP2018-Presentation.pptx>



# 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 on 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

To join SWODXA, go to <http://swodxa.org/member.htm>



# SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA)

## Club Fact Sheet

**Who We Are:** SWODXA is comprised of active DX'ers and contesters 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: <https://www.swodxa.org/dxgrant-application/> 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 where Frank Schwob, W8OK (sk), was elected 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 alternating locations between at Marions Piazza on Kingsridge Dr. in Dayton, OH or Marions Piazza in West Chester. (Check the website) 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 roster of officers are: President Tom Inglin, NR8Z; Vice President Kevin Jones, W8KJ; Secretary Mindi Jones, KC8CKW, and Treasurer Mike Suhar, W8RKO.

**Website:** We maintain websites at [www.swodxa.org](http://www.swodxa.org) and [www.swodxaevents.org](http://www.swodxaevents.org) managed by Bill, AJ8B. These sites provide information about a variety of subjects related to the club and DXing.

**Who Am I #1?**

**W8JBL**

**Who Am I #2?**

**W8FAX**