



DX Topic : DX Spots

I have gotten a few queries about “clusters” and “spots”. I thought it would be a good idea to go into a bit of detail about these items. Years ago, we had a local “spotting network”. If there was some rare DX that was showing up, we had a group of hams that would call each other – independent upon the time of day (or night). As technology developed, we started using 2-meter repeaters and 2-meter clusters to share the same information. One of the advantages of this approach was that you could load your local country needed list and the 2-meter clusters would “beep” your terminal when a country was “spotted” for a band or mode that you needed. These spots usually consist of quite a bit of information: Callsign, Prefix, Frequency, Mode and Comments. The comments field varied from a signal report to what frequency the station was worked at to QSL information and any other information the person who entered the data (the spotter) wanted to provide. As the internet became a standard piece of our equipment in our hamshack, websites sprang up with “spotting pages” such as these.



www.dxsummit.fi



www.dxwatch.com

Logging programs have also taken advantage of the spotting network. This picture is from my logging software spots received window. Each spot is color coded indicating that it is a new mode, band, country, or zone, or some combination of these. It will also indicate that the station uses Log Book of the World and/or eQSL.cc. It also gives you the ability to search on various criteria as shown on the buttons at the bottom of the screen. Clicking on the spot of interest will set your rig to the correct frequency and mode and can also set up a split frequency if applicable. You can also configure this software to automatically turn the rotor to the appropriate heading; something that Uncle Frank takes advantage of, but I don't need with my vertical.

SpotCollector 8.0.6 © 2018-09-27 14:57 Z [CC,DXK,DXV,WW] 3966 entries (log: AJ8B.mdb)

WVY 09-27 1205 Z Outgoing Spot (notes saved) Call: 4K100W 18,074.5 Freq Cluster Spot source status

SFI GS History Notes Local Report Stats Prop Config Help

	CallSign	Pfx	Freq	Last Time	Notes	Band	Mode
	KQ4SS	KQ4	14,081.0	9/27/2018 1412	TTP	20M	RTTY
	9X0T	9X	21,210.0	9/27/2018 1413	PT2GTICPM IN LOG 5 UP 73	15M	SSB
	LY782A	LY	14,019.5	9/27/2018 1414	OO	20M	CW
	DF9FB	DL	18,080.0	9/27/2018 1415	OPRG correction	17M	CW
	OM100CSR	OM	14,017.0	9/27/2018 1416	Pos 17 Meters	20M	CW
	GW8VE1	GW	14,074.7	9/27/2018 1417		20M	RTTY
	9X0T	9X	18,153.0	9/27/2018 1450	5 UP Calling NA	17M	SSB
	9X0T	9X	14,027.1	9/27/2018 1453	up 1 to 4EU	20M	CW
	H80/DL5YL	H80	14,013.0	9/27/2018 1454	598, TU CWATNOI	20M	CW

Sort: Filter: Band and Mode and Origin

First Call AutoHide Need Call DXCC Freq Tag Band Mode Cont Digh
 Last Freq Audio Age LoTiv eQSL MtrIn
 Rev Az SQL 1 SQL 2 SQL 3 SQL 4 SQL 5 SQL 6 SQL 7 SQL 8

DX Lab Logging Software Spot Window

Good Hunting!

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