DX Topic : Entities

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SouthWest Ohio DX Association

All DX awards are based on an "entity." There are hams who will personally spend $20,000 or more to be part of a DXPedtion trip to a rare entity. Some entities only have ham activity every few years or more! As you can imagine, this really increases the demand for that entity.

In its' simplest form, an entity is a country recognized by the United Nations. There are other criteria such as separation by another county (i.e. Alaska) or separation by a significant distance of water. (i.e. Hawaii) The criteria for inclusion or exclusion of entities from the list have been refined occasionally during the life of the program. There are currently 340 entities on the official ARRL DXCC list.

One of the awards that I like to pursue is the annual CQ Marathon. (More on that in a few issues) The Marathon uses the CQ entity list, of which the ARRL list is a subset. From the CQ website (http://dxmarathon.com/countrieslist/countrieslist.htm) "This list of separate countries (entities) for the CQ World Wide DX Contest and the CQ DX Marathon is based on a combination of the ARRL DXCC list, additional entities on the WAE (Worked All Europe) list, and the Italian islands of Lampedusa (IG9) & Pantelleria (IH9), in CQ Zone 33 off the coast of North Africa. This provides a total of 346 entities, based on 340 DXCC entities, six additional WAE entities (GM/Shetland, IT/Sicily, TA1/European Turkey, 4U1VIC, JW/Bear Is.) plus African Italy."

Good Hunting!

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