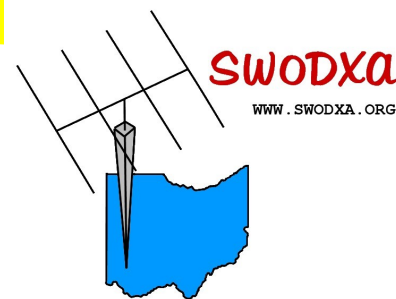




Volume 2, Issue 6

7/2019

the exchange



SouthWest Ohio DX Association

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Club Call : W8EX

The Prez says....Tom, NR8Z

What a busy time for SWODXA; the DX Dinner®, DX Forum and W8DXCC have all occurred since the last newsletter. This was an important time for our club as we held our most public outreach events. DXers look forward to these events that are the manifestation of our mission to promote excellence in DXing. All were a great success due to the planning, creativity and focus on execution of the club members involved.



The DX Dinner brought more than 350 DXers together for fellowship, learning, prizes and to recognize excellence in DXing. The DXpedition of the Year® was awarded to the Baker Island DXpedition for a job very well done under difficult conditions. We also welcomed the Island Radio Expedition Foundation for their first annual award and, as in the past, the CQ Hall of Fame.

Our first Annual W8DXCC convention in conjunction with the Milford Amateur Radio Club (MARC) was a success with over 100 hams in attendance. By holding the DX convention in the same facilities and on the same day as the MARC hamfest we realized a lot of synergies. The attendees were treated to four presentations from well-known and not so well-known DXers. The material ranged from a closeup tour of K3LR's amazing superstation to what is going on with our quiet sun and future propagation from K9LA. We continue to solicit feedback so we can make the second annual event even better.

SWODXA meetings are on vacation for the summer. We will start up again in September at the Marion's Piazza in Mason. As part of our DX outreach, Bill, AJ8B, is organizing a traveling get-together in July or August. The goal is to connect with DXers in central and southcentral Ohio. Watch the reflector for more details and please join in for this new way to network with DXers.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. Work them first, worry later.

73,
Tom NR8Z

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Interview with Andrey, R2FAQ

I worked Andrey and checked out his QRZ.com webpage. I was amazed at the information he posted and the projects he has taken on. He was kind enough to answer my questions and more!

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

R2FAQ: Back in 1971, when I was 8 years old, my uncle gave me a headset, a diode and a coil of wire. From this I made my first detector receiver. After that, my whole life was closely connected with radio: a collective children's radio station UK2FBJ, a Naval institute with a specialty radio engineer, service in the Navy ...



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

R2FAQ: After finishing service in the Navy, my professional activity is not connected with radio. My CB-band activity was not enough for me. I felt the need for more radio. Therefore, I passed the exam

and received my personal callsign in 2014. I consider 2014 to be my Amateur radio Year of birth, although I started on the collective radio station in the 1970s.

AJ8B: Do you have a favorite band or mode?

R2FAQ: Statistics show that I have the most connections at 20 meters, in digital, in FT-8. Taking this opportunity, I want to thank Joe Taylor and the entire development team for the excellent work in promoting digital communications.

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?



R2FAQ: I rarely participate in contests. Successes came by themselves. There are no special secrets, but I try to spend at least an hour or two behind the transceiver every day.

AJ8B: I noticed that you are a member of the EPC? Do you apply for the various awards as well?

R2FAQ: The EPC membership was an impulsive step, not a thoughtful decision ... Perhaps in the future it will be interesting.

AJ8B: What license levels do you have in Kaliningrad?

R2FAQ: According to the Russian classification, I have the 2nd category, which gives me the same rights as the highest - the 1st category, with the exception of the 4-digit call sign, which is important for quick work in contests.



Interview with Andrey, R2FAQ—cont.

AJ8B: Describe what you are currently using:

R2FAQ: Transceiver Kenwood TS-590SG, a pair of amplifiers HLA-300, antenna tuner MFJ-962D, phase suppressor MFJ-1026, aviation headphones. Stationary antennas - Windom and Gap Titan DX. For mobile and portable communications - Yaesu FT-857D, with tuner MFJ-941E or LDG Z-11 PRO II, antenna - Opek HVT-600. Of course, several portable UHF/VHF radio stations, including DMR and Sea-band.

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

R2FAQ: Listen, wait for the right moment ... there is no point in trying to shout out the loudest all.

AJ8B: Based on your webpage, it seems that you have done quite a bit of antenna work to optimize your verticals, specifically the Gap Titan. Can you tell us what you learned?

R2FAQ: Unfortunately, I do not have the ability to suspend dipoles at a sufficient height to provide low radiation angles, which is important for DX. Therefore, the choice was among the verticals. Normal GP requires radials that occupy a large area. I was approached by Gap Titan DX - a multi-band asymmetrical vertical dipole. It suits me: low angles of radiation, multi-bandwidth and a small area for its installation. I had to modify my antenna: replace the capacitor at the top with a more powerful and different nominal and play with the length of the elements.

AJ8B: Any QSLing hints?

R2FAQ: Everything is simple: the exact frequency, exact time, minimally sufficient power and... patience.

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

R2FAQ: Everybody started and made mistakes. It is necessary to study at any age ... preferably by textbooks, and not by "opinions" from the Internet.



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

R2FAQ: I want to thank You for the opportunity to speak. I want to wish prosperity to You and SWODXA! 73!



Countdown to W4DXCC

September 20th – 21st, 2019
Mainstay Hotel and Conference Center,
Pigeon Forge, TN

W4DXCC is a DX and Contest Convention held in Pigeon Forge, TN and it's our 15th 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

Call the Mainstay convention hotel at 865-428-350 to book your room,
ASK for W4DXCC by SEDCO special rates

Go Online at **W4DXCC.com** for Convention and Banquet tickets.

For More Details Visit us at **www.W4DXCC.COM**

60 Meters—The Channel Band

By Joe, W8GEX

60 Meter Update

NEW COUNTRY— Futuna island FW/G0VJG

I have received an update from G0VJG, Nobby, reminding us that his operations from 3D2 and FW can be QSLd via Manager MOOXO.

C5 Gambia—C5DL has been very activity as in the Gambia <http://www.dl7df.de/c5>

From New Zealand: A couple of items. A couple of days ago there was a pirate calling CQ with my callsign on 5357 FT8. New Zealand does not have access to 5357. You can find ZL's on 5362. Drop us a line and we are happy to work you there or split. 73, Mike ZL4OL

9G2DX: Updates on our trip can be found at <https://www.iarc.org/iarc/Content/docs/9G2DX.pdf>

Western Kiribati: This year will be T30GC activity only! I will be there together with Mitko, LZ3NY.

T30GC activity will be between 7 October 2019 and 23 October 2019. The tickets are pur-



chased, the accommodation is reserved and the license is obtained!

Sorry, but E51/ N is cancelled, due different reasons! Probably, I will try E51/N in next year.

Laos: By Bruce XW4XR : Just an FYI - Bruce will be back in Laos (XW4XR) June 26 thru July 7th and plans to be on 60m in the local wee hours as in past trips. t's not going to be pretty though as late night thunderstorms are common this time of year. He will stick to FT-8 as it has the best chance.

T2 – Tuvalu: 3D2AG, Tony next trip to T2AR will be from June 27 to July 6

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Recent Activity

SV5DKL	SV9RGI
SV9CVY	9A1AA
9A5C	E76C
Z39A	LX1NO
LZ2II	VP8EME
EY8MM	BG9NJY
407CC	S01WS
C5DL	9G5AR
HR5/F2JD	

9G2DX – 4X DXPedition to Ghana

Part 2—March 2019

Written by: Zvika Segal 4Z1ZV

Courtesy of Joe, W8GEX

Our next two destination were national parks: Kakum National Park (WFF004), about 3 hours drive west of Accra and Shai Hills Resources National Park (WFF007) about a one hour drive north of Accra.



At both parks the hospitality was warm and the park management, rangers and local people went above and beyond the call of duty to support us in any way they could. This included helping us to turn every tree into antenna pole, carry our equipment, and providing the best locations for operating. No need to explain that “best” is a relative term.

General lodging conditions in the parks do not meet western standards. There is a lack of hot water and low pressure to no water flow at all. Some of us slept on inflatable mattresses either in a tent or on the ground and had to shower using a bucket and a bottle like in the good old days.

During one of the nights we stayed in Shai Hills Park, a thunderstorm began, so the team had to rush and pack the radio equipment into the cars.

We also learned the hard way that wet trees are like a Faraday Cage. They effectively block propagation and radio conditions were just dead.

Following the adventure in the parks we

went back to “civilization;” a high-class hotel in Accra which means clean rooms, hot water, and breakfast.

The last few days we went back to the beach resort and set up for the fourth time, all the stations and antennas. With the good sea shore conditions, the “harvest” was above 1,000 QSOs per day.

Early the next morning, the driver knocked on my door and was happy to share with me that he took down and re-packed all the antennas other than the Spider Beam. It turns out that he misunderstood the requirements to leave all antennas as is other than the Spider Beam. The Spider Beam was going to be relocated to near Haim’s office. Hence, we had the set up all the antennas for a fifth time.

One of our tasks was to leave Haim with a well installed radio station. Part of the challenge was to take apart the Spider Beam and transfer it and re-install it on two containers at Haim’s office.

Zeev did a fantastic job in marking each and every piece of the spider parts and elements using color masking technology. As suspected the re-setup of the antenna took a while due to its huge size (over 10X10 meters) and limited available space. (cont next page)



Zvika Segal 4X DXPedition to Ghana

9G2DX – 4X DXPedition to Ghana—Cont.



The local metal shop owner who was hired by Haim to supply a multi-pipe telescopic poles, gave us some additional insight to the way things work in Africa. There needed to be at least one dedicated Western guy attached to him, otherwise he would go to sleep. The welding machine was a real museum piece complete with a rusted transformer which was probably older than us. In addition, there was a



magnificent extension cord which came equipped with neither plugs nor sockets. I will leave it to your imagination to **guess how it worked.**

Before departing Ghana, we had a meeting with NCA, the Ghana Communication Authority. A professional presentation was delivered by Haim to the manager and his 20 engineers, some of whom had taken part in our operation.

Ghana was also a great place to celebrate birthdays of 3 team members – Dov, my-

self and Haim who will soon celebrate a round number of years.

Last night in Ghana, In the Chinese restaurant, we were exposed to the African version of “happy birthday song” along with fireworks and ice-cream cake.



Overall, we made in a net of 5 days of operation (3 locations and 4 setup and take down jobs), all combined with a lot of fun and adventures, over 5,200 QSOs. Over 50% CW by Dov and the balance divided between SSB and FT8. We worked over 80 countries including Antarctica and over 30 QSO with 4X stations back at our home in Israel.

All QSOs were logged into digital log s/w, at least once per day uploaded to eQSL and then screened of duplicates and errors. A corrected ADIF file was sent once per day to Mark Rosenberg 4X1KS, who supported us in setting up QRZ.COM, LoTW and clublog.com. He also acted as our focal point for all issues and on a daily basis reviewed and uploaded the QSOs to clublog.com. This helped to maintain very low level of errors (probably 2 complaints out of our over 5,200), and looked quite professional.

(cont. on next page)



9G2DX – 4X DXPedition to Ghana—Cont.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated team, to Dov for his vision, to Mark for his support as well as reviewing and editing this article, to Charles Wilmott M00X0 who is still acting as our QSL manager, to NCA management, to all of the local people who helped us succeed and did their best to give us warm hospitality, and last but not least, to Haim Lewy who made our dream come true with a lot of effort and investment



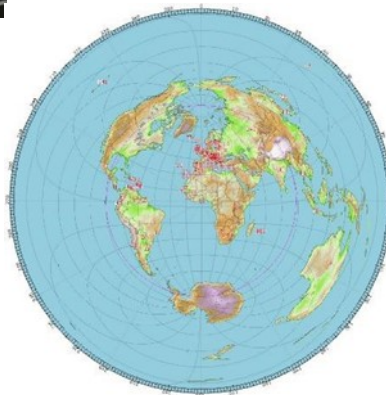
Zvika Segal — 4X DXPedition to Ghana March 2019



Zvika Segal — 4X DXPedition to Ghana March 2019



Zvika Segal — 4X DXPedition to Ghana March 2019



Zvika Segal — 4X DXPedition to Ghana

LIFE IS SIMPLE



And the Winner of the ICOM 7610 is...



WD8KUR, Chrissie, is shown receiving her Icom IC-7610 at the SWODXA DXDinner®. Ray Novak, N9JA, of Icom presented her with this Major prize. She was very excited as you can see. (and Hear!)



2018–2019 SWODXA DX Contest Winners

Second Place
N9RC—Ron



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K4YJ—Dwight



Third Place
N8AA—John



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ICOM®

New Contest Grade HF Transceivers at Dayton

Scott Wright—KOMD

Thanks so much to Scott for taking the time to put this together just for us.

Two of the leading manufacturers of HF competition grade transceivers had new products to show the contest community at Dayton. Yaesu had on display its new 101 models – the FTDX 101D and FTDX 101MP. The FTDX 101D has been on sale for a month or so in the USA and the MP model is expected out later this Fall. Elecraft announced at Hamvention a new SDR line, the K4. The K4 will be a basic unit (K4), a K4D and a K4HD. The K4 can be upgraded at the owner's discretion to the K4D and K4HD, and the K4D to the K4HD. Both lines of rigs will feature hybrid SDR radios – using the relatively new SDR platforms coupled with front-ends that have roofing filters and other aspects of the traditional super heterodyne models.

Yaesu FTDX-101D



The Yaesu FTDX 101D grabbed a lot of attention the week of Dayton, as it rocketed to the top of the Sherwood Receiver chart, with a 110 dB of DR -3 dynamic range at 20

and 2 Khz, Sherwood reported Blocking dynamic range of 147 dB and a reported RMDR of at least 124 dB. The radio is a dual receiver transceiver with an enhanced VCT (Variable capacitor tuning), which is a high Q RF preselector coupled with a very quiet stepping motor. The VCT can attenuate an out of band signal by up to -70 dB! The rigs have dual receivers, and the D model comes with the VCT standard on Receiver

A while the MP model comes standard with it on both receivers. One can purchase

a VCT for the second receiver if desired at the time of ordering with the FTDX 101D model. The rig as a single VFO but a rotating dial around the traditional VFO. The inner VFO knob controls receiver

A, while the rotating dial can be used to control receiver B. Both receivers can be displayed on the radio's panadapter in a 2d or 3 d

format or projected onto an external monitor simultaneously to enhance visibility. The D model has a 100 watt transmitter, the MP model has a 200 watt transmitter.

Tim Factor, KT7F of Yaesu mentioned that he has committed to support all owners of the FTDX 101 models personally. He indicated that he welcomes calls at his office at Yaesu USA in Cypress, CA at **1-714-827-7600, extension 1513**. He promised to return the call within 20 minutes if possible to any FTDX 101 owner if he is in the office (and not out at lunch or a hamfest), as he and Yaesu want the FTDX 101 owners to enjoy the new rig. I commend Tim and Yaesu for such support of customers!

(cont. on next page)



New Contest Grade HF Transceivers at Dayton (cont.)

Elecraft K4 line

Elecraft announced a new line of radios at Dayton, the K4 lineup. Three models will eventually be sold, the K4, the K4D and the K4HD. All of the K4 models are software defined receivers. The K4 is a software defined transceiver, the K4D is a more advanced option with two sets of bandpass filters and a second direct sampling ADC to allow both receivers to be on different frequencies or used for diversity reception. The K4HD model will include all that the K4D has plus Elecraft's dual super heterodyne module to ensure the highest possible blocking dynamic range for contesters and operators who need to use the rig in a challenging environment like Field Day or a multi-radio contest set up. The K4 and K4D models may ship last quarter 2019 or first quarter 2020. The K4HD model will likely not ship until 2020. Eric Swartz told me that the models will ship when they are confident with them and are ready for the demanding ham DX and contest community to test them! Elecraft stressed that the K4 and K4D models are upgradable in the future should the contesters want the additional features. The K4 rig line will be larger than the current K3s. The K4 will be the same size as the KPA 1500 amplifier. The screen on the front of the rig will be a 7 inch size.

This is an exciting time to be in Ham Radio! It is amazing to see manufacturers bring out new, advanced transceivers that allow us to hear and work weaker signals despite poor propagation and more noise in our communities. Over the past few years, we have seen SDR technology emerge thanks to Flex, Apache and others. Two years ago, Icom brought out the IC-

7610 as an advanced SDR rig with a traditional front panel. It's very popular IC-7300, which predated the IC-7610, re-defined the SDR user interface. This year, Yaesu has delivered a new rig with specs that top the Sherwood chart and now set the standard for SDR – Hybrid models and Elecraft has announced a new line to go

with their current K2 and K3 models which have traditionally defined performance standards for us. Those who believe ham radio is in decline are simply wrong. There has never been a better time to be on HF!



DXers Have A Choice



The Daily DX - is a text DX bulletin that can be sent via email to your home or office Monday through Friday, and includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and much, much more. With a subscription to The Daily DX, you will also receive DX news flashes and other interesting DX tidbits. *Subscriptions are \$49.00 for one year or \$28.00 for 6 mos.*

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Get two weeks of The Daily DX or a sample of The Weekly DX free by sending a request to bernie@dailydx.com, or at <http://www.dailydx.com/trial.htm>.

QSL Card Management at AC8G

Harry, AC8G answered the call when I asked how hams manage their QSL cards. Thanks Harry for this great submission!

I write this more as a QSL manager than as a ham exchanging QSL cards for contacts. I did start QSLing as a SWL before obtaining license. In the first few years of being licensed most QSLs were for a first state or country worked or special circumstances. Once bit by DX and participating in DX trips I became serious in QSLing as a manager for my various DX locations and some larger group efforts.

Likely my most unusual was where I became a last minute replacement for a Desecheo DXpedition in 1989. By agreement due to a major contest during the trip, I was allowing to use my call (W8KKF/KP5) on 10 meters to be different than the DXpedition call. With around 3000 QSO I had a huge pile of direct card requests upon returning home.

Later I was to Grenada around 40 trips and a number of other locations. For the various Grenada calls I had I did the QSLing for all but J3A. Some of the Grenada or a few other locations were multi-op contests with many logs of 8000 or more QSOs.

I tried to answer all SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) within a couple of weeks of receipt unless contact not found close to date/time indicated (many had local time and wrong date). Later with computer logs I would have an alpha list to get to call. Bureau cards were processed after directs basically when I would get to it. I did accept foreign money and postage stamps, and even old IRCs in lieu of the SE of SASE.

I did return all NIL (not in log) after looking for in log a day off, a few minutes off or even my logging error (checking held until good volume of requests processed). NILs seemed to be in 1-2% range.

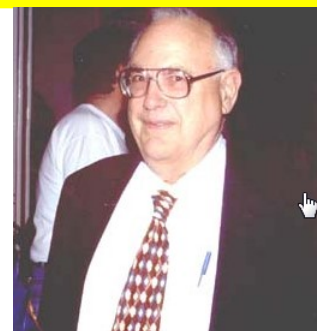
I found that I could process requests when sorted by contest or event faster using print out list which also allowed me to do checking away from computer.

Initially, I kept all inbound cards but not sorted. At a point I had boxes of cards where I found space. At a point, I threw away plain cards, keeping picture and special one to make room for more cards. Now I pitch plain one as I process.

Occasionally after I felt most requests were in, I counted reply marks and found generally a 25% requests in large contest logs. 39% of the Desecheo log were confirmed. I think that DXpedition was the 3rd or 4th. By the way I have kept the hand written log and just recently confirmed a QSO dating back to 1989.

Once LOTW has been available QSL cards requests dropped a lot. One nice feature of LOTW is that if both sides submit and match, ARRL (& I now think other) awards are automatically updated. For me I only had to QSL one of the more recent additions to DXCC.

(cont. on next page)



QSL Card Management at AC8G (cont.)

Just a fact—I recently received a bureau mailing of 22 Cards with 41 QSLs. Two cards each had 8 lines (one with 4 different years, the other with 5).

Here is a count of the years of the requests:

2000	3	2012	4
2001	1	2013	6
2003	2	2014	4
2004	1	2015	2
2006	1	2016	2
2008	1	2017	3
2011	5	2018	6

Since logs for recent years are in LOTW, I just may do checking by look up which I did a few of the last batch several months ago. Response

was very fast. I looked at my LOTW file.

I first started putting logs into LOTW during 2006. I did see one was log for a 2004 contest.

I now have 44,834 QSO records with 15,628 matches. This would be for my calls except J3A. I will have to check PJ2C but I think not included.

I think some of the PJ2C became part of the start of the present day super station PJ2T.

73 -Harry AC8G & Marge Flasher

Price Change on ARRL Outgoing QSL Service

The ARRL is rolling back Outgoing QSL Bureau rates to 2011 levels. Effective May 15, 2019, the new rates will be: \$2 for 10 or fewer cards in one envelope. \$3 for 11 – 20 cards in one envelope, or 75 cents per ounce for packages with 21 or more cards. That is, a package of 24 ounces, or about 225 cards, will cost \$18 ($0.75 \times 24 = \18.00). See <http://www.arrl.org/outgoingqsl-service>



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since 1996 by
fellow ham
Scott Neader KA9FOX*

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W8DXCC Report

On June 15th, SWODXA in conjunction with the Milford Amateur Radio Club, held the inaugural W8DXCC convention.

The inaugural W8DXCC convention is now in the rear-view mirror as is the 29th Milford Amateur Radio Clubs Hamfest. What a great day to celebrate all things ham radio!

The only downside to the day was the ever-present threat of rain. It was cool at times, even in the middle of June!

The feedback that we have gathered so far has been excellent and we will be deciding on the fate of W8DXCC soon. Stay tuned here for details OR go to www.w8dxcc.com and fill out the form to be kept updated. Please send me any thoughts, comments, or suggestions.

Tim Duffy, K3LR, kicked off the session as the keynote speaker and was interesting as always. I have received several comments about Tim's presentation and his station. Tim has been a great ham radio ambassador and runs a top-notch company. Thanks to Tim for taking time out of his hectic schedule to spend a few hours with us.

The "anchor" for the afternoon presentations was Carl, K9LA. Carl came down from Ft. Wayne with his XYL, Vicky, AE9YL. Carl is a leading authority on propagation and all things "solar" and really gave us something to look forward to. Our thanks to Carl and Vicky for making the trek and educating us!



Tim, K3LR, Bill, AJ8B, SWODXA Pres Tom, NR8Z, MARC Pres Dave, K8DV, Carl, K9LA & Vicky, AE9YL

There were two other excellent talks. The first was "100 W and a Wire" presented by Tom, NR8Z and Dave, K8DV. It was a great presentation that really inspired us to get out and try to work them in spite of sunspots etc.

The second presentation of the day was on FT8/FT4 by Rob, W8MRL, and Chuck, K8CR. I am hopeful that we will see many more FT signals on the bands because of Rob and Chuck. Chuck also had the Special Event FT8 station running during the morning.

Yaesu really came through for us by donating an FTDX-3000. Thanks to John Kruk of Yaesu for providing such an excellent prize for the day!



Finally, from the "not to brag, but, to sincerely say Thank-You" department, I must pass along my sincere thanks and gratitude to NR8Z, Tom and K8DV, Dave, for presenting me with the "Pinnacle Award – In recognition of outstanding achievement in the support and contributions to the ham radio DX community."

The idea for the W8DXCC convention sprang from a conversation that we had at Bob Evans (our planning home) on July 27th, 2018. There were really five steppingstones that brought this together. The first step was to get the opinion of our senior DX guru, Jay, K4ZLE. Jay is one of the most honest guys I know and will always tell you what is on his mind. We really wanted to know if this would be something that appealed to a seasoned DXer. It WAS!

(cont. on next page)



W8DXCC Report (cont.)



The second and third steps were to get buy in from each of the clubs. The mutual respect and professionalism shown by both of the club presidents was contagious and both clubs lined up behind the effort.

The fourth step was to talk to our (potential) Keynote speaker to gather feedback and to test the waters with Tim. Tim and Teri, K8MNJ, gave us valuable input that we implemented. More importantly, they helped us understand where other such events failed. On November 20th, Teri confirmed that Tim was interested and would be our keynote speaker. Once

we had K3LR on the marquee, we were off and running!

The final step was to get major support from a major Ham Radio Vendor. Yaesu has supported SWODXA at the DXDinner® and the DX Forum each year and we contacted them. They immediately committed to a donation. It was coming together!

The real point of listing this 10-month journey is to emphasize that it really WAS a team effort. I appreciated the public acknowledgment more than I can ever say, but, trust me when I say that it really was one of the most rewarding team efforts I have ever been involved with.

SWODXA had a great turnout. Thanks to Bob, W8RES, we have some excellent pics. (Next Page) By My count, we had 31 members in attendance including AB8YK, K2SY, K3YJ, K4YJ, K4ZLE, K8CMO, K8CR, K8DV, K8FL, K8LEE, K8PK, K8UD, KB8KE, KC8CKW, KC8RP, N8AA, N8DX, N8QNM, N8YFQ, NR8Z, W8CAA, W8GEX, W8ILC, W8ISZ, W8JBL, W8KJ, W8MRL, WD8NVN, W8RES, W8RKO, and W8WGT. Let me know if I missed you!



At the end of the day, NR8Z and K4ZLE are happy AND tired.



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ARRL OH Section Updates

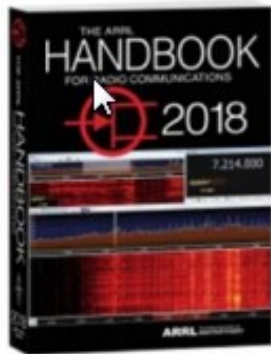
From our ARRL Section Manager, Scott, N8SY

Hey Gang, Do you get updates from your ARRL Ohio Section Manager via email? If not, go to: <http://arrrl-ohio.org/handbook.html> and get registered.

What's the catch? I want to get everyone checking in to the Ohio Section website as often as possible, and in order to register each month, you have to visit the website often! There's nothing else to it. I pay all expenses, and from time to time, I Give Away more than just a Handbook. And, you'll never know just what months will be those special times that I will have more than just a Handbook to Give Away!!

Did you see the ad from ARRL recently? Well, they liked my idea so much that they've copied it. Yup, they were giving away a Handbook too!

Many of you ask me just how do I know when the drawing is on? Well, that's easy all you need to do is check in on the Ohio Section Website on a regular basis and watch for the big RED Arrow that will appear on the left side of the page. This is the sign that the drawing is on and you need to get registered. So, keep a sharp eye out on the website and check in often! <http://arrrl-ohio.org>



The Monday Morning Memo...

If you aren't receiving this each Monday, you should!

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Interview with Laurent, TK4LS

I have worked Laurent several times and I have heard him mange a pileup a few times as well. Laurent is a world class operator and a great guy. Check out his grz.com webpage and don't be afraid to email him for a sked: tk4ls@free.fr

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

TK4LS: I started the radio listening to the different bands and in particular the 11m when I was in holidays in the countryside. It was magical moments and full of dreams to be able to listen to stations sometimes far away.

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

TK4LS: I did my first QSO with local CB stations in AM mode at the age of 10 and the following years with DX stations in SSB on 11m. It is only in 2009 that I pass my license for ham bands.

AJ8B: Do you have a favorite band or mode?

TK4LS: I do not have any favourite bands or mode. Maybe a preference for the CW because I'm proud to practice it after a long learning phase. I monitor the 6m band carefully when it's the right season. I try to be present on different bands, any mode (SSB, CW & DIGI) at any time according to my equipment and propagations conditions.

AJ8B: Describe what equipment and antenna you are currently using:

TK4LS: I use several home-brew mono-bander yagi antennas for 6, 10, 12, 15 & 17m. On 80m, I use a dipole. On 30 & 40m I use 1/4 home-made vertical. I'm not qrv on 160 & 20m yet and no longer active on VHF/UHF. About my radio, I have a Kenwood TS-590 and since 2 years an Ameritron amplifier.



AJ8B: You have operated from all over Corsica. What is the propagation like?

TK4LS: I operate only from my home QTH, never in mobile or portable. Occasionally from a few IOTA around the main island as portable when a well-known DX team came to activate. Also QRV once a year from the contest station. The propagation is probably different between the different stations on the island due to the relief. Corsica Isl is a big mountain (2710m height) and we also can find some nice spot on the seaside.



AJ8B: When you operate from other areas, what equipment are you using?

TK4LS: In portable (from IOTA), we used only 1/4 vertical antennas and 100w HF. And a generator when possible or battery as power supply.

AJ8B: I noticed that you are now QRV on 6M. How is that working out?

TK4LS: I'm QRV on 6m with my 6 element yagi LFA home-brew antenna and 100w only. I contact a lot of stations from Europe easily when I beaming to the north. For DX, that's an other story in particular when I beam to the West. Towards this direction, there is high summit. To the east, that more easy even if I must keep calling sometimes. To the south, my place is no so bad for QSO with Africa. I enjoy the trans equatorial propagation and I realized some unexpected QSOs.

(cont. on next page)

Interview with Laurent, TK4LS (cont.)

AJ8B: On your webpage you have a quote: "The only thing better than DXing is BEING the DX!!" - Are there any locations you plan on being QRV from in the future?

TK4LS: No, I have no project to be QRV from other location. With a TK prefix, pile-up is still guaranteed HI!! When a DXpedition is on air, I always imagine the happiness that it can be felt on the DX side.

AJ8B: You also encourage stations to request a sked with you to confirm Corsica. Does this happen often?

TK4LS: Only few sked during the year. Usually, for missing slots or previous qso with TK station never confirmed.

AJ8B: When did you start to offer the "Diploma of Corsica?" Has it been a popular request?

TK4LS: I'm not the manager of this diploma but I know a couple of diploma are delivered every year for the benefit of the club.

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

TK4LS: At first, listen & listen, be patient and wait your turn according to the Propagation. Propagation conditions will make the difference between all the hunters.

Call only when it seems to be the right time.

- When signal improves

- On a clear frequency if possible

Propagation will do the rest with a little bit of luck.

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

TK4LS: For radio contacts, take care of the antenna setup. In French, a motto is "Tant vaut l'antenne, tant vaut la station !!" (So much is the antenna, so much is the station.)

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

TK4LS: In ham radio life, we find all kinds of activity. There are so much facets of amateur radio that everyone will have fun.

Over-the-Horizon Radars Continue to Plague Amateur Bands

*Thanks to the Ohio Section Journal
(6/24/2019) for permission to reprint*

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS) reports a "new kind" of over-the-horizon (OTH) radar on 20 meters. The intruding signal, which appears to be emanating from the Far East, was monitored during May on 14.140 – 14.150 MHz. Another Chinese wideband OTH radar has been showing up on 15 meters, with a signal 160 kHz wide. An Iranian radar has appeared on 10 meters, centered on 28.860 MHz, and is audible in Europe during sporadic-E conditions. The signal is about 46 kHz wide. The Russian OTH radar "Konteyner" OTH radar centered on 14.127 MHz continues to be observed, with a 12 kHz wide signal.

The so-called "Foghorn" OTH radar from

China, first heard in 2017, and other OTH radars were spotted on several 20-meter frequencies. The Foghorn is a burst radar that has been heard on other bands, with the signal often jumping. The signal is frequency modulation on pulse (FMOP) with 66.66 sweeps-per-second bursts.

From the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) that emerged following the breakup of the Soviet Union, taxi traffic continues to appear on 10 meters, using FM. IARUMS said pirates in the Far East have been "abusing" 20 meters, transmitting on 14.000 MHz, using USB. IARUMS monitors also logged several fish net (driftnet) buoys between 28.000 and 28.500 MHz, transmitting a carrier followed by a CW identification. Codan selective callings (selcalls) believed to be in Oceania have been heard between 7.108 and 7.150 MHz.

DXDinner Report

By Dinner Chairperson & Club Secretary

— Mindi, KC8CKW

The 34th annual DX Dinner is now in the log! We had a great turn out this year with our very supportive attendees. Everyone appeared to have an awesome time.

Our key note speaker was Charlie Wooten, NF4A. He and his team did an outstanding job in getting the iHeartRadio Stations back on the air in Florida after Hurricane Michael hit that state hard!

We had an excellent selection of prizes and the winners seemed to be quite pleased. (ICOM prize winner, WD8KUR – Yaesu prize winner K6BV – other prize winners were W8HC, KOLW, ACOC, N9JV, KM4WHL, WA8RZR, N4PN, WOJM, W8KJ, K4KL, VA3LML, W5VY, WX1S and WA4MQW) We appreciate you patronizing those that donated items that were given away at the DX Dinner. A list of donors can be found on the back of the programs that were at each table.

I want to thank my super-de-duper DX Dinner team that helps bring this event to fruition each year! I could not do it without you. I wanted to give a special 'Thank You' to Lee, K7NM and Judy Barrett from AccuColor Printing for doing a tremendous job on our printed programs and also to The Marriott at the University of Dayton for taking such exceptional care of us each year!

Please make plans to join us in 2020 for our 35TH ANNIVERSARY DX Dinner. If you have any suggestions for the upcoming dinner, please don't hesitate to contact me at kc8ckw at arrl dot net.

73, Mindi, KC8CKW
DX Dinner Chairman & SWODXA Secretary



Advertising in The Exchange: To show our appreciation to those companies that support SWODXA, The DXDinner®, the DX Forum and W8DXCC, I will be including their logos in various editions of The Exchange. For instance, N3FJP has been an outstanding supporter and we really appreciate it. (Below)

We are not directly selling advertising in our newsletter, but, showing our appreciation to those who make donations to our events. Please let these folks know that we are getting the word out!

—AJ8B



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[The Daily DX] Announcement of New IOTA Groups at Ham Radio Friedrichshafen on 22 June 2019

By Bernie McClenny, W3UR

Thanks to Bernie and the Daily DX for permission to reprint this.

Following the decision to split the 5 yearly review of the IOTA list into two parts, we announced the first tranche of six new IOTA groups at the RSGB Convention, Milton Keynes on 14 October 2018 (see Management News item of the same date). The plan mentioned at the time was to add the second tranche at Ham Radio Friedrichshafen in June 2019. At the event's IOTA Forum on Saturday, 22 June this took place with the announcement of a further six new groups. The review has now completed its work; the next one is scheduled for 2024.

These new groups have provisional numbers. This means that they will need to be confirmed by an operation taking place after 22 June 2019 that meets the 1000 QSO and other normal validation requirements. Only after confirmation of the group number will credit for past operations be considered. Read the full list here.

The addition of these six groups takes the total of groups that have confirmed or provisional IOTA numbers to 1172. Of these 1131 have seen activity, the remaining 41 have not. The number of unnumbered groups remains at 33. A number of these will be withdrawn in due course to keep within the programme cap of 1200 groups set long ago by the Management Team as a firm policy decision.

AS-206 JA0, 1, 2, 7 Honshu's Coastal Islands East, Japan (qualifying islands to be added from Directory for these prefixes) 33o43–41o35N 136o00–142o15E. A new group, created by splitting the current AS-117 Honshu's Coastal Islands in accordance with the 'large island' criterion that allows more than one coastal island group. There has been considerable activity from both groups. The entry/title of AS-117 Honshu's Coastal Islands has been changed to JA3, 4, 9 Honshu's Coastal Islands West with the

above-mentioned islands transferred to AS-206 and its

co-ordinates box changed to 33o24–37o54N 130o00–137o38E

AS-207 R0K Chukchi Sea Coast Centre group, Chukotskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug, Russia – Asia (=Kosa Dvukh Pilotov) 68o08–69o27N 178.00E-177.00W Valid for the Arctic Islands Award. New 'unofficial/coastal island group', created by splitting the current AS-174 Chukchi Sea Coast West group. There has been no known previous amateur radio activity. This island does not currently appear in the listing for AS-174 Chukchi Sea Coast West group although it did many years back (it was deleted for lack of a map). The latter's new coordinates will be 69o27–70o00N 172.30-178.00E but the name will not be changed.

OC-298 FO Tatakoto Atoll, Tuamotu Islands, French Polynesia (=Tatakoto) 17o15–17o25S 138o11–138o35W. New 'remote island group'. This island was previously part of OC-066 Tuamotu Archipelago but is separated from the other islands in this large group by at least 154 km. There have been some four previous operations. Tatakoto will be deleted from OC-066 Tuamotu Archipelago without any change to the latter's group name or co-ordinates.

(continued on Next Page)



[The Daily DX] Announcement of New IOTA Groups at Ham Radio Friedrichshafen on 22 June 2019 (cont.)

OC-299 V6 Yap East group, State of Yap, FSM (=Elato, Lamotrek, Olimarao, Pikelot, Satawal, West Fayu) 07°15–08°15N 145°40–147°45E. New 'remote island group'. These islands were previously part of OC-132 East Yap group but are separated from the remaining islands in that group by at least 160.5 km. There has been no known previous amateur radio activity. These islands will be deleted from OC-132 East Yap group which will now consist of Eau-ripik, Faraulep, Gaferut, Ifalik and Woleai and be renamed as Yap Centre group. Its new coordinates will be 6°35–9°20N 142°55–145°40E.

OC-300 T31 McKean and Nikumaroro Atolls, Phoenix Islands, Central Kiribati, Kiribati (=McKean, Nikumaroro) 02°30–05°00S 173°00–174°50W. New 'remote island group'. These islands were previously part of OC-043 Phoenix Islands but are separated from the remaining islands in that group by at least 230 km. There has been no known previous amateur radio activity. These islands will be deleted from OC-043 Phoenix Islands which will now consist of Birnie, Enderbury, Kanton, Manra, Orona and Rawaki. The latter's new coordinates will

be 02°30–05°00S 170°25–173°00W.

SA-101 CE0 Alejandro Selkirk Island, Juan Fernandez Archipelago, Chile (=Alejandro Selkirk) 33°35–33°55S 080°35–081°00W. New 'remote island group'. This island was previously part of SA-005 Juan Fernandez Archipelago but is separated from the remaining islands in that group by some 159 km. There has been no known previous amateur radio activity. This island will be deleted from SA-005 group which will now consist of Robinson Crusoe and Santa Clara and be renamed as Juan Fernandez Archipelago (Robinson Crusoe Island). Its new coordinates will be 33°30–33°50S 078°40–079°05W.

IOTA Management
Islands On The Air (IOTA) Ltd
Chris Colclough—G1VDP

Bernie McClenny, W3UR

Editor of: The Daily DX (1997-2019)
The Weekly DX (2001-2019)
How's DX? (1999-2019)

The SWODXA Net—A Modest Proposal

In order to foster some "on the air" time for our members, would anyone be interested in a weekly net? We might try 10 meters around 2300Z or 80 meters? It would be a simple check in, what are you working on, who have you worked lately? etc. Maybe 30 minutes at 2300 and then CW at 2330 until 0000Z?

Let me know what you think, different time, frequencies etc.

AJ8B



What I did on my summer vacation

Remember that old school assignment, "What I did on my summer vacation?" How about writing another for the September issue of The Exchange! New antenna? Roaming while on a family trip? Canoe mobile on the Ohio? BOTA? (Breweries on the Air) Whatever you're doing this summer, if it has to do with radio, write up something (don't worry, if it's rough we can handle it). Send along a few pics, as well.

I really miss all you guys and am sorry I'm not able to make the trip to Hamvention this year. I am planning to go to SEDCO this year and hope to see you all there. Sad to admit that my last QSO was over a year ago. I've been working part time at the local Lowe's and volunteering at the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum in Titusville, plus being active in a local camera club. Check out the museum on the web. I spend my time in the restoration hanger. We're currently working to get a H-13 MASH helicopter back in the air. The photo is from our air show in March.



Take care, Bill & 73 for now,

Bouvet : Since hearing the news today (3-18-19) of the group heading to the island, my beam is pointed at 138deg.... NOW .. Claim they will be there in 7 days...OOOPS . Guess Not...

Low Band: My 160/80mtr Inverted "L" is working great!! Have 9 ground radials. This year, since Feb 12, I added 27 new 160 country's to my 30 that I have worked over the last 5 years. There was a couple of nights in Feb where 160 was on-fire.... That was luck..

BTW: 75% of these are FT8 and the rest is CW, with a couple of SSB.

Projects: More than I can list here..... including fixing and mod updates to my ALS-600 Amps.....—Chuck K8CR

I found a few nice keys to add to my collection at Milford HF: A Peterson swiss straight key and 3 nice Christmas key's. - Kevin—W8KJ





QSL query : I enjoy getting DXPedition cards but I no longer seek general or ragchew QSLs. I enjoy the unique cards, but feel LoTW or electronic photos. - Kevin—W8KJ

To: W8GEX

Joe,

Thank you! I am grateful to SWODXA for the support of T30GC 2019 DXPedition! I hope that we will work many members of SWODXA on different bands and modes, during T30GC activity!

Kind Regards!

We will keep in touch!

73! Stan, LZ1GC (T30GC)

I don't know if I mentioned it but I found out a couple weeks ago just before Visalia that my team I took to VP2M in December for the ARRL 160m CW contest won first place for DX, Multi-op, Single Transmitter, High Power. Ironically, my Elmer from 1966, K3VX and his team won the DX, Multi-op, Single Transmitter, Low Power first place from VP9I. - Lee—K7NM

Hi Tom-

I just received the current (5/2019) issue of "The Exchange" and to my great pleasure there is the article about DXA. What a great compliment! I speak for my DXPedition teams in expressing our appreciation for the support of SWODXA, and I personally add my appreciation for the very fine article about DXA.

If I may, I'd like to remember and thank the SWODXA as well for the 1997 DXPedition of the Year, for XRØX/Y, Easter Island and Salas y Gomez. You'll probably remember that the criticism of that project was epitomized by the phrase "Who need Easter Island—Nobody." But SWODXA recognized that the project introduced many new concepts—experiments—not all of which failed(!): the website, the online log server, and electronically based QSLs became a central part of DXPedition. SWODXA recognized that this kind of innovation would be important to the future of DXing, and honored us with the DotY. The extension to near-real-time online log posting (DXA) came from that experience and the award, so I say that SWODXA is partially responsible for DXA!

I do hope that the SWODXA members know how influential and appreciated the organization is, and how great has been its contribution to this great hobby we all enjoy.

Bob KK6EK

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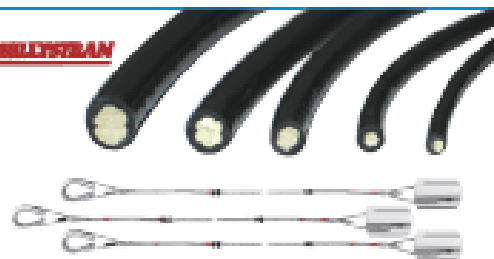
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Ultimate Award Application Center

By Bill—AJ8B

I happen to be on a QRZ.com page of an avid FT8 DXers from Serbia and read about something called UAAC. UAAC is an abbreviation for the Ultimate Award Application Center. DK5UR has build a very easy to use and understand interface that “talks” to hundreds of awards. Each of these awards has a very colorful certificate for reaching various levels. Once a month I load an adif of my logbook into the UAAC and it evaluates what awards I have earned and have become eligible for. These awards are downloadable as soon as you earn them. All of this is available at no cost. Since my interest in UAAC has started, I have joined the Digital Modes Club (DMC), European PSK Club (EPC), FT8 Digital Modes Club (FT8DMC), and the 30 Meters Digital Group. (30MDG). After you explore these options and then register for the ones that you are interested in, you will receive a membership number from each group. You can load that number in to the UAAC and then have the UAAC app evaluate your logbook. In my case, within a few hours, I received about 30 certificates from the organizations. The software can be accessed at https://www.eupsk.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8&Itemid=112



There are two clubs that I have focused on, both are free, both are handled by the UAAC, and both offer really colorful awards that can be downloaded as soon as you are eligible. I contacted the FT8DMC (FT8 Digital Modes Club) and the 30MDG (30 Meter Digital Group). I have included information about both below. I really encourage you to join, work, and submit. I have been thrilled with the results

FT8 Digital Mode Club

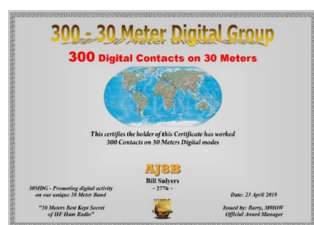


I received the following information from Jo, OE4VIE, FT8DMC Member #00001.

FT8DMC-the first 20 months

How time flies! On July 12, 2017 Jo, OE4VIE and Hannes, OE1SGU/OE3SGU founded the Ft8DMC and a lot has happened since then. Both of us are serious long-time DXers and operate in almost every mode, with CW as the main activity. Well, then why did these two old folks start the FT8DMC? Honestly, it was a spontaneous idea. We could have instead also created any other Ham Radio related group. We simply were (as so many others) puzzled by the efficiency and possibilities of this new mode and its potential, especially in weak signal operating on 6m and the low bands, so we started the group.

(continued on Next Page)



Ultimate Award Application Center—cont.

None of us expected that after a bit more than one year we have grown to more than 9500 regular members. Additionally, almost 8500 people joined our Facebook group. Our group has become truly international with many members who are “real DX”.

We have been featured in international radio magazines, especially overseas (some magazines and associations in EU try to ignore us, but who cares?). In the meantime, 10 award managers administer 45 different awards from really easy to quite challenging. Overall, more than 150,000 awards have been issued!

All this would not have been possible without you, our members, and the help of Heinz, DK5UR, who implemented our awards into the UAAC system of the European Phase Shift Club. This way we could increase efficiency and create new awards on a regular basis.

What are our plans for the future? We will certainly continue to spread the popularity of FT8 (or any other mode by JT to come in the future) and the Club. More awards are in the planning, especially some more difficult ones. We also have an idea about an upcoming contest and/or marathon. An important factor in our opinion is to spread the word about proper operation techniques in FT8, especially important in DX-mode and on a busy band. A members meeting is also in our thoughts, but, we have yet to find a proper location and/or date. Also, financing and organizing such a meeting is a real challenge since membership is free and we rely on donations.

Some people say that FT8 is killing Ham Radio. We at the FT8DMC believe that the numbers shown above and the continuing interest and growth in the group clearly prove that the opposite is true. Well, history shows us that Ham Radio has died many deaths (e.g. AM vs. SSB, drop of CW-tests for shortwave-access and so on). Many folks who were lacking interest in the hobby rejoined thanks to JT.

Many members (including the presiden-

cy) of the FT8DMC are avid CW and/or SSB-operators and can be found in most pile-ups. Yes, it really is possible to enjoy both-traditional and revolutionary modes! Our hobby has so many facettes, so who decides what is “true” or “false”?

We at the FT8DMC welcome everyone who is interested in the JT-modes, be it in addition operating the conventional modes or the “Digi freak”. There are no prejudices and there is no feeling of superiority. Just enjoy the hobby, that’s it.

How can you become a member or obtaining awards? Visit www.ft8dmc.eu where you will find the answer!

30 Meter Digital Group (30MDG) Established November 2007		JONES		Members	10340	DXCC	142
W.A.S	50	W.A.E.	53				
W.A.C	07						

From the 30 Meter Digital Group Website
(<http://www.30mdg.org/intro.html>)

Our goal is to promote the use of digital modes on the 30 meter band and awareness on how great this band is - plus provide place for like minded operators with the same interests. We will promote awareness of this unique HF band which many have called 'the best kept secret' in Ham Radio and encourage good digital operating practices, the use of different digital modes, experimenting, known weekly or monthly activities, skeds/spots, antennas, and study propagation for 30 meters.

There is no HF band in our minds, better to support and promote, than 30 meters - which in the U.S. is the only LOW POWER, Digital ONLY (includes CW), NON-CONTEST band. (note: this is a WARC band so we do not promote contests on 30 meters - the group/members would NOT participate if this idea was ever suggested - again NO CONTESTS but we will promote activity)

(continued on Next Page)

Ultimate Award Application Center—cont.

Some other reasons to join this Group:

- ♦ It is FREE! This site is supported by donations only, no Group fees, no hoops to jump - join and have fun on the band.
- ♦ If you have never explored or used 30 Meters then there is no better time than now to explore - this group is dedicated to the 30 Meter Digital band.
- ♦ If you are a seasoned Digital Mode Operator using other bands like 20 or 40 meters and are looking for a virtually under used band that has unique propagation qualities similar to both 20 and 40 Meters, then don't skip over 30 meters! You get the best of both bands here on 30 Meters, be it local propagation to World-Wide DX (it is open somewhere 24/7)
- ♦ New to digital modes? We are dedicated Digital Operators, so join, look around and ask questions- then get on the band!
- ♦ Not sure where to find 30 Meter Digital activity? This Group is dedicated to promoting and increasing digital activity on our digital only HF band (U.S). There will be postings of known 30 Meter activities and events so please join in (if you tried in the past on 30 Meters with little results on digital modes then please note, the band has increased in activity since 2007!)
- ♦ Don't like Contest Weekends, then join in on this NO CONTEST 30 Meter WARC band as there is plenty of room to have some very nice qso's/ragchews or work some DX while others are scrambling for a clear spot on other crowded bands with sometimes, poor operating practices.
- ♦ 30 Meters (in the U.S. and in some other Countries) is the only HF Digital ONLY band, so it certainly makes sense to use and promote digital activity on this Digital ONLY band.
- ♦ '30 Meters is the Energizer Bunny Band' - join in because this band just keeps going and going! 30 Meters is open somewhere and has propagation from local to World Wide DX - ALL stations are welcome.

From Don KB9UMT kb9umt@yahoo.com

(30MDG#00001) Founder/Award Manager

I will give you a few facts about 30MDG and then some links and hope that helps:

- ♦ 30MDG was formed back in 2007 so we have been around for a while (but we are very casual and quite like the 30-meter band!)
- ♦ 30MDG formed to promote the use of the 30-meter band and digital modes (which includes any and ALL digital modes -including the original CW -on this unique band but we promote ONLY 30 meters and keeping it active!)
- ♦ 30MDG has over 10,400 members.... all 50 States, 53 WAE, and over 142 DXCC entities
- ♦ 30MDG does NOT promote contesting on the 30-meter band or any WARC band...but we do promote experimenting with different digital modes, antennas, power, making 30m friends with like interests, rag chew keyboarding to DX...30 meters has it all in our view.
- ♦ 30MDG has over 100 Awards to collect but in your own time and all casual so for example WAC you can do this in a day, a week, a year or anytime it is easy to just have fun casually working the 30 meter band then using UAAC (Ultimate Award Application Center-Software Manager)
- ♦ 30MDG has about 40% of our members participating in the Award Program and average of 20 Awards per member and our Award Managers have issued well over 100,000 Awards

Below some links for 30MDG and info:

30MDG Intro: <http://www.30mdg.org/intro.html>

To join 30MDG: <http://www.30mdg.org/join.html>

30MDG Awards:

http://www.30mdg.org/award_rules.html

http://www.30mdg.org/awards_01.html

30MDG Q and A:

<http://www.30mdg.org/qa.html>

A Look at Generalities and Unusual Observations

By Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA - Carl was a key presenter at our W8DXCC convention a few weeks ago and he has a website on which he publishes monthly articles. This article was published on January 2019 and is reprinted here with his permission.

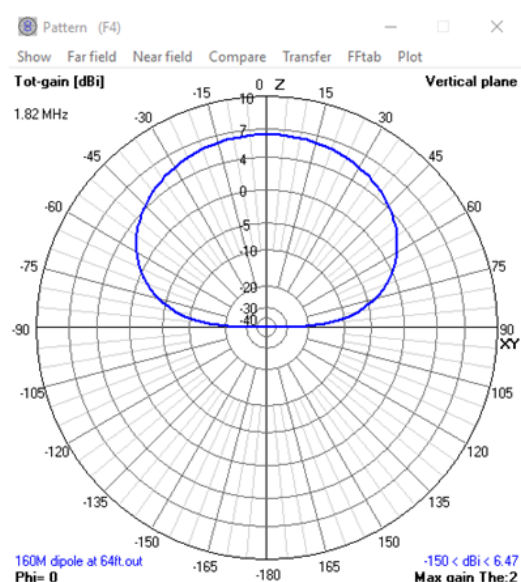


I occasionally see people making general statements that are true most of the time and therefore are good advice, and others commenting on what appears to be an unusual observation. In many cases I can think of an exception to the general statement or an explanation for an unusual observation. Let's look at three recent examples – two in the “general statement” category and one in the “unusual observation” category.

General statement #1

“A horizontally polarized receiving antenna only 64 feet high on 160 meters will have exceptionally poor performance at the angles you need for DX QSOs.”

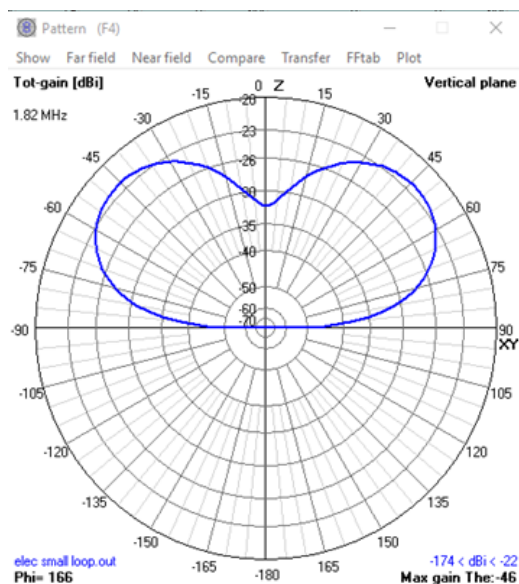
This statement should be well-recognized. The figure below (from the free antenna analysis software 4nec2 by Arie Voors) shows the elevation pattern of a 160-Meter dipole cut for 1.82 MHz over average ground ($\epsilon = 13$, $\sigma = .005$ Siemens) at 64 feet.



160-Meter Horizontal Dipole at 64 Feet

This dipole has much of its radiation straight up – not at the lower elevation angles good for DX [note 1]. Note that in this 4nec2 plot that 0o is straight up and 90o is on the horizon – this is backwards from our normal plots – normally 0o is on the horizon and overhead is 90o.

Do all horizontally polarized 160-Meter antennas at 64 feet perform the same with radiation mostly straight up? Most do, but I can think of one exception – an electrically small loop mounted horizontally. Here's the elevation plot at 1.82 MHz of a small loop (10 feet by 14 feet – 48 feet total perimeter, which is 0.089 wavelengths on 160-Meters) mounted horizontally at 64 feet over average ground.



An electrically small loop usually isn't used in transmit (it can be if you pay special attention to losses), but it certainly can be used in receive. In fact, a Waller Flag antenna uses two such small loops appropriately spaced and fed 180o out-of-phase.

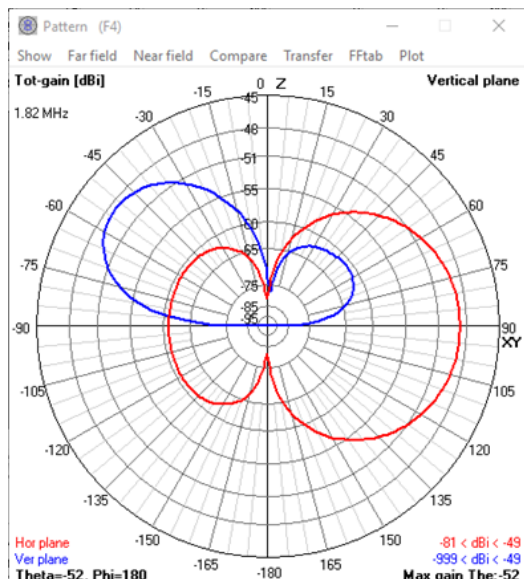
(cont. on next page)

A Look at Generalities and Unusual Observations—cont.

The resultant pattern is essentially unidirectional, and thus it makes a good receive antenna that improves SNR (signal-to-noise ratio).

The following azimuth and elevation plots on 1.82 MHz are for a Waller Flag using 14 foot by 26 foot loops on a 42 foot boom and mounted horizontally at 64 feet over average ground.

Waller Flag Mounted Horizontally at 64 Feet



The azimuth plot (red) shows decent front-to-back and good side nulls. This suggests a decent RDF (receiving directivity factor) – the model says 11.6 dB.

The elevation plot (blue) shows maximum radiation is received at an elevation angle of around 35-40° – not bad for DX with an antenna at only 64 feet high on 160-Meters. At an elevation angle of 15°, the response is 6 dB down.

The main issue with a Waller Flag is the low gain due to the loops being so small. For the above Waller Flag, the maximum gain is -49 dBi. A very well-designed preamp is needed for this system. Moving the Waller Flag up to 150 feet would increase the gain to -43 dBi, and the maximum radiation would be at an elevation angle of around 30-35°. Because of the characteristics of an electrically small loop mounted horizontally, the performance of this antenna is somewhat height independent.

General statement #2

“If your inverted L is any good at all it will suck as a receiving antenna.”

I can believe this general statement if you live in a residential noise environment. Then you would likely need a receive antenna that improves SNR.

If you live in a quiet noise environment, then I think that statement is questionable. For example, I achieved DXCC on 160-Meters using my inverted-L (60 feet up, 65 feet sloping down, three elevated radials). On a typical winter night, my noise level is around -103 dBm (S3 on my OMNI VI Plus) in a 500 Hz bandwidth on the inverted-L. Sure, there were many stations that I couldn't hear, which means many times I had to wait for a good night propagation-wise.

If you have patience and live in a relatively quiet noise environment, you can work many DXCC entities on 160-Meters with an inverted-L.

Unusual Observation

An Oregon station reported on PacketCluster hearing EA3JE on 3793.8 KHz at 0013 UTC on December 17, 2018, and commented *“coming in from Barcelona during the day!”*

The following map from W6ELprop shows this path between Oregon (OR) and Spain (EA) via the short path (the red line).



(cont. on next page)

A Look at Generalities and Unusual Observations—cont.

Yes, the Oregon station is in daylight – but it's only 17 minutes before his sunset at 0030 UTC.

What's NOT important is where you are in relation to the dark ionosphere. What IS important is where your RF encounters the ionosphere. Since this report was on 75-Meters, absorption is the critical parameter (not the MUF). Thus where the ionosphere encounters the D region is critical.

Assuming a 15 degree elevation angle and assuming the D region is around 75 km high, this means the RF will encounter the D region about 300 km from the Oregon station. That puts it just east of the terminator in the dark ionosphere.

Of course the terminator is not an abrupt change from daylight to darkness as shown in the above figure. But it shows that the encounter point with the ionosphere is more in "darkness" than in "daylight".

A related daylight issue is a path across the higher latitudes in the winter (for example, a path from K9LA in northeast Indiana to Europe in the late afternoon in winter when there is still

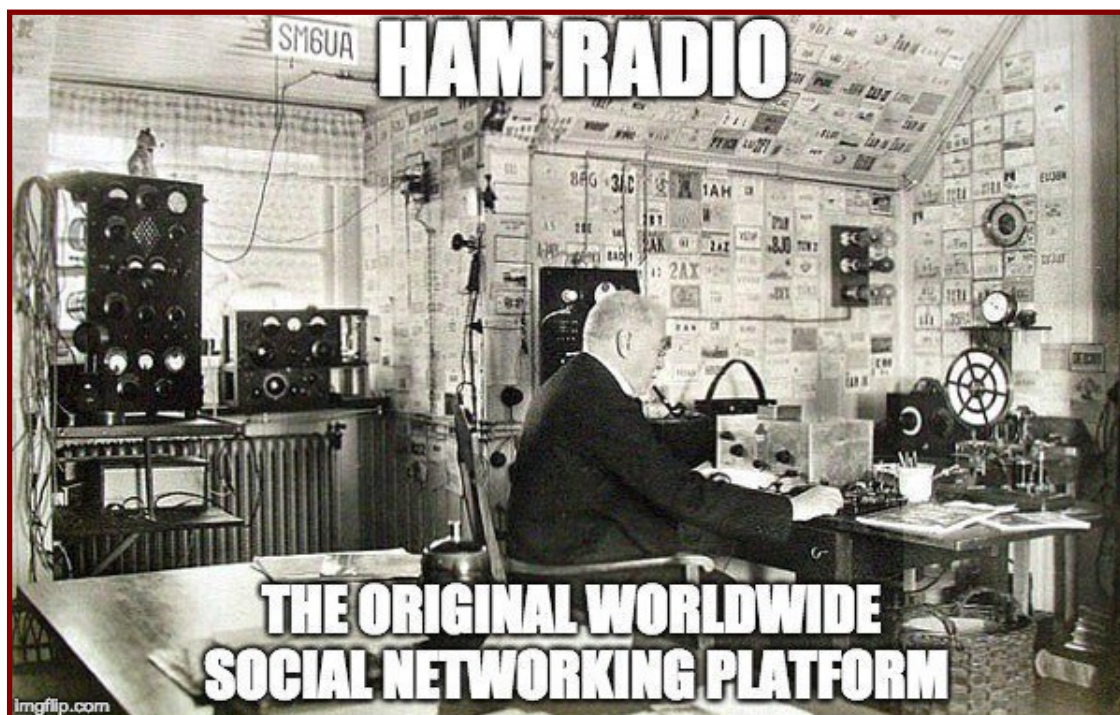
much daylight). With the Sun in the southern hemisphere, the amount of absorption incurred is significantly less than along the same path as in the summer. Thus it's possible to have much daylight along a higher latitude path in the winter.

Of course the band also comes into play – 40-Meters can withstand more absorption (more daylight) than 80-Meters, which can withstand more absorption than 160-Meters.

For more details on these daylight issues on the low bands, please take a look at the January 2017 Monthly Feature at [Jan17_Sunrise_Sunset_and_Daylight_in_Relation_to_Low_Band_Propagation.pdf](#).

Notes

1. Note that I said "much of its radiation is straight up". I didn't say "all of its radiation is straight up". You can still work lots of DX on 160-Meters with a low dipole. You won't be first in the pile-ups, and you'll likely need an amplifier – but if that's all you can put up, go for it.



Northern Market Reef, The OJO-land is Celebrating Her 50th DXCC Year.

By OH2BH, Martti Laine

DXOTICA FROM 1969 TO 2019

The first ever DXPedition to icy Market Reef landed on December 27th of 1969 and put OJOMR on the air. The first operators were Sigge, OH0NI (SK), Martti, OH2BH, Erkki, OH2BW (SK) and Raimo, OH2KK. Soon after the first operation, the permanent lighthouse keeper Karl-Erik, OJOMA also hit the airwaves. A stream of DXPeditions followed. These later DXPeditions kept OJO a dream location for hundreds and hundreds DXPeditioner, allowing them to discover the light and become performers within the admired DXPedition industry.

The Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) had helped OJOMA become a household DXer and later a great ham as OH0NA, while later on, the NCDXF and OHDXF assisted the Finnish Light House Society (FLS) to restore the beauty of this remote DX outpost between Aland Islands and Sweden.

The 2019 season will see many veteran DXPeditioners returning to their dreamland to provide OJO QSOs to those who deserve - the Deserving! Their return will enable them to once again experience the camaraderie and friendship only a true DX location can provide. Adding to the crew will be upcoming OH and SM youngsters!

The invited guests of the season are: CO8DM, E21EIC, E20NKB, W5XU, DS4EOI, JH4RHF, JE6HIB, PB2T, DJ9ZB, DL3DXX, DJ4MF, DL5SE, SM0W, SA0LAT and others. They will be hosted by OH3WS, OH3JR, OH2BH, OH2TA, OG2M, OH2PM, OH4EA, OH6FSG, OH6LSR, OH6KV, OH6OK, OH6NJ and the younger vintage of OH2FB, OH1UBO and OH3UAF.

The activity is in several phases throughout the summer and may even extend to the hard winter season in order to capture the best low-band

openings. It all starts this Saturday June 8th with OJOAW and OJOJR.

Next, following the international week of

July 6 will be OJOA and OJOZ. Then the IARU Contest weekend of June 13/14 with OJOB and then turning to Youth Week of OJOC from July 15 and IOTA week of July 27 (OJODX) and Light House weekend of August 17 (OJOO). The OJO-regulators Pasi, OH3WS/OJOW, Henri, OH3JR/OJOJR; Martti, OH2BH/OJOBH and

There are twenty-one valid OJO licenses. More than 50% are expected to Pertti, OG2M/OJOMR will take the slots along with their official duties be active during this year. If you work five of them (5) in 2019, a special award will be released. If you work ten (10) of them in 2019, you will qualify for a special award and a symbolic key to the light house. Your log extract should be submitted to Pasi, OH3WS, the contact person between the FLS and the global ham fraternity.

The Aland Islands Postal Administration will also release a special Market Reef stamp to commemorate Market's 50th DXCC year for philatelist community. The special stamp on a Market Reef postcard can be obtained from the Market Reef Post Office with appropriate stamping at the cost of 4.00 Euros from Pasi, OH3WS/OJOW.

And finally, as the sugar at the bottom, the Aland Island boat captain Fredrick will provide a day tour to those who want to see this wonderland and make few contacts on their own from OJO on July 10 and July 16. Please contact Martti, OH2BH for details at oh2bh@arri.net

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.
(<https://www.swodxa.org/dx-grant-application/>)

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

H40GC	H44GC	ZL9HR	XX9D	HK0NA	FT4TA
KH1/KH7Z	EP2A	FT5ZM	C21GC	VK9WA	NH8S
K4M	CY9C	VK9MA	PT0S	FT4JA	YJ0X
6060	VP6D	T04E	XR0ZR	VP8STI	SP8SGI
W1AW/KH8	K1N	3D2C	VK0EK	S21ZBB	E30FB
ST0RY	TI9/3Z9DX	VK9MT	K5P	9U4M	TX3X
VU7AB	3Y0Z	3C0L	TX7EU	CE0Z	3C1L
		3B7A	K9W		

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: <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 and www.swodxaevents.org managed by Bill, AJ8B. These sites provide information about a variety of subjects related to the club and DXing.