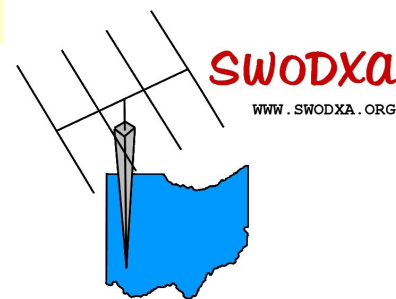




Volume 4, Issue 1  
09/2020

# the exchange



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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hamfest Update	2
60 Meters Update	3
Cycle 25 Hope?	5
Lessons from the Music World	8
YO8SSB Interview	10
LoTW Future	13
T30GC DXPedtions Part 2	15
EC6DX Interview	21
K0MD Update	23
OQP Results	24
VK0IR Update	28
Next Level of QP	29
License Fees?	31
New ARRL CEO	32
Club Fact Sheet	33
DX Donation Policy	34

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

Summer is winding down with the Labor Day weekend right around the corner. The hot and humid days have receded a bit where I am so this is the time to start thinking about your Fall antenna plans. Remember, if it stays up more than 2 years, it wasn't big enough!

While two months have gone by since the last newsletter, some things haven't changed. For one, we're still making accommodations for the pandemic, so the September 10<sup>th</sup> SWODXA meeting will again be via Zoom video conferencing. Members should look for an invite the week before the meeting and non-members should check our website [www.swodxa.org](http://www.swodxa.org) for more information on how to attend.

One thing that has changed is the solar cycle! Via the "Daily DX" I saw that the 13-month smoothed sunspot number finally turned around and is now increasing. The "official" bottom of the cycle appears to have been in December 2019. Given the wide range of forecasts for Cycle 25, let's all pull for a rapid rise to a very high peak.

Have you attended any of the virtual Hamfests in the last six months? I checked out parts of the "DX Engineering Hamfest and DX Academy" in July as well as the QSO Today Virtual Expo" in August. If so, I'd like to hear your thoughts. Is this the wave of the future for Hamfests or will it be an accommodation for the pandemic that we tell unbelieving new hams about some day?

Bill, AJ8B, has again produced an informative and insightful newsletter. There are articles covering the latest news and past activities. I'd like to point out that this issue is the start of Bill's fourth year producing the newsletter. What an amazing achievement, with each issue surpassing the last. Thank you, Bill, for a job well done!

73,

Tom—NR8Z



**Hamfest Update** - I have only been to 9 Hamfests in my life: Dayton in 1980, Georgetown and Milford in 2019, Ft. Wayne in 1983, and the Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Association (GCARA) Hamfest from 1975 through 1979. The GCARA event was very special as it was the only Hamfest that my dad, K8DWE (SK) and I attended together. I can still remember going to Strickers Grove early in the morning, getting coffee (milk for me) and donuts and meeting up with some of the hams that dad used to work on 6M AM in the late 50s and early 60s as well as HIS Elmer, Blackie. (Can't recall the callsign) Blackie smoked a big cigar and I can still smell the smoke and remember swatting at the bees as they circled around the donuts! The last year I attended the GCARA Hamfest I had my first and only Flea Market spot. I still have the flea market sticker. Boy do I miss the GCARA Hamfest!

Imagine my pleasant surprise when I learned that the Milford Amateur Radio Club has restarted the Greater Cincinnati Area Hamfest. Due to COVID 19, the Milford Hamfest was initially moved from June to August 29<sup>th</sup>. It was subsequently cancelled. There were already plans un-

derway to restart the Greater Cincinnati Hamfest and now it is official. Going forward, the Milford Hamfest will be the last weekend in August and will be known as the Greater Cincinnati Area Hamfest. It will still be held at the Clermont County Fairgrounds. Mark your calendar now! For more information, you can check out <https://cincinnatihamfest.org/> or <http://www.w8mrc.com/>



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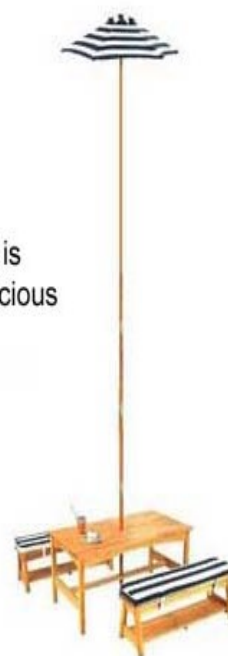


**The Daily DX** - is a text DX bulletin that can be sent via email to your home or office Monday through Friday, and includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and much, much more. With a subscription to The Daily DX, you will also receive DX news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

**The Weekly DX** - is a product of The Daily DX that can be sent weekly to your home or office via email in the form of a PDF (portable document format). It includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and graphics. *Subscriptions are \$27.00 for one year.*

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

The HOA is  
getting suspicious



Miklor.com

## 60 Meters—The Channel Band

By Joe, W8GEX

I haven't sent out a newsletter in a while as I had surgery to remove a melanoma just below my left eye a month ago. They got it all and the doctor says it is healing fine. I am so thankful for that.

I hope everyone is well during these changing times. 60m still has a lot of activity for all of us. I even worked A45XR, so propagation is still good. Too bad no DXpeditions are out giving us new ones, but it is what it is. Most DXpeditions are planning on re-scheduling to 2021.

Nice to see the ZL's on 5362. There are four regulars on 5362 ZL evenings (EU mornings). Usually Henry PG0DX is on +1150 giving reports and Henk PA2S somewhere in between doing propagation research.

**NZ 60m Trial Period Extended**—NZART – the New Zealand National Amateur Radio Society, has published an update on its 60m band page indicating that the current NZ 60m Trial period, which was due to have been concluded on 24<sup>th</sup> July has been extended for a further three months until 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020. NZART 60m Band Page: <https://www.nzart.org.nz/info/60m/>

### NEW COUNTRIES

**3X – Guinea**—F4AJQ, Frank, says the F6KOP team, noting their successful E44CC Palestine operation in February, is now planning another operation, this one for next January. Assuming the borders open after COVID-19 and they can

travel safely, they plan to be on

Guinea's Kassa Island, IOTA AF-051, QRV on 160-10 "with maybe 60M," CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8, with five stations on simultaneously. They will have three beams, several verticals and receiving antennas too. The call sign, operators and other details will be forthcoming soon.

Latest email from Frank:

Joe,

For the moment we are still ok for our XP in 3X. I am currently preparing the file for the license with the authorizations to be on the air on 60 meters. I hope that we will not have another big problem with COVID 19 so that the f6kop team will be on the island of KASSA in January 2021.

73 thanks, Frank f4ajq

**E6 – Niue**: This trip is still on as is his A3 trip. LZ1GC, Stan, says an expedition by him and LZ1PM is September 28, to October 17, call sign E6AM for 160, 80, 60 and 40 and a Hexbeam. They will be on 160-10 including 60 bands. For a QSL, go through OQRS for direct or bureau, or via LZ1GC or the LZ bureau. Below are his latest updates:

(cont. on next page)





## 60 Meters (Cont.)

Dear Joe,

Still is so early to say what will happen, but I am working very hard to prepare E6AM & A35GC DXPedition 2020. Transit travel is permit via VK and ZL, but the problem is 2 weeks quarantine on E6 and A35. I have permanently contacts via e-mail with the officer which sent me the A35GC license. He said me that A35GC quarantine is till 31 August 2020.

WEBSITE of the expedition [WWW.C21GC.COM](http://WWW.C21GC.COM)

**ISO – Sardinia**—ISO/IZ2DLV, Gil, will again be on the air, holiday style from Portobello di Gallura. He will be there August 10-28 with his K3S and SPE 1.3K, and 60. He plans to focus on 60 meter operations, CW, SSB and FT8. He will upload the log to Club Log, and LoTW when he's back home. For a traditional QSL, send an SASE being sure to cover the current postage costs.

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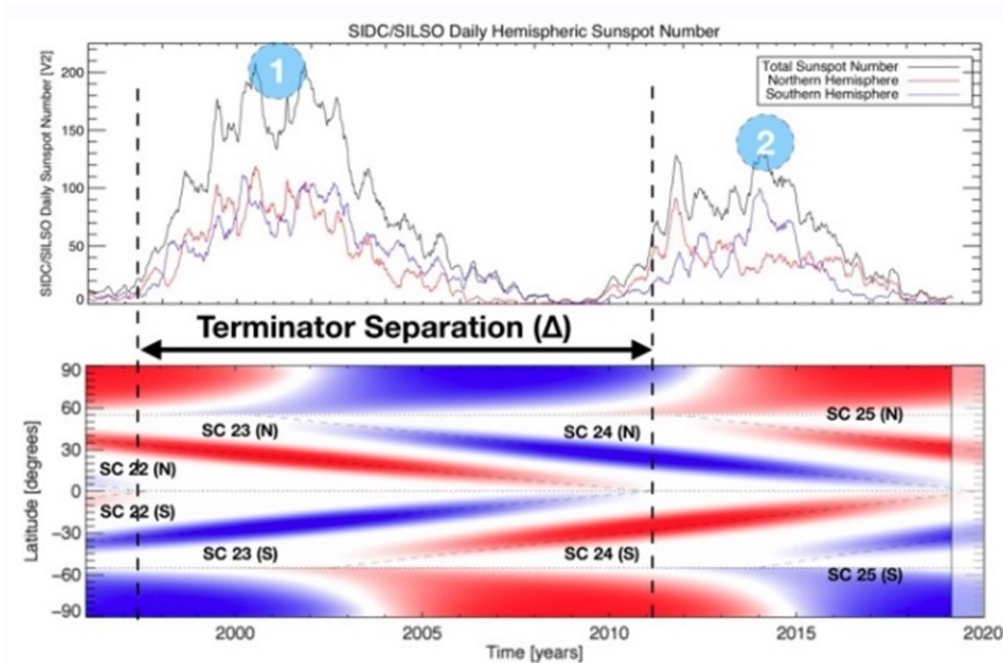
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## Maybe there's hope for Cycle 25?

*Thanks to Joe, W8GEX, for bringing this to my attention and to qrz.com for allowing me to re-print it for our consideration.*



Their prediction is based on the use of the discrete "Hilbert transform" to explore the relationship between magnetic activity cycle band overlap (via terminator separation) and the amplitude of (resulting) sunspot cycles. (All of which I'm completely unfamiliar with.)  
[https://](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hilbert_transform)

Five scientists associated with National Center for Atmospheric Research, Centre for Fusion, Space and Astrophysics, University of Maryland Department of Astronomy, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Centre for the Analysis of Time Series, London School of Economics and Political Science, School of Engineering and Innovation are making a bold prediction about Solar Cycle 25.

In the June 27, 2020 document titled "Overlapping Magnetic Activity Cycles and the Sunspot Number: Forecasting Sunspot Cycle 25 Amplitude" they write: "... we deduce that sunspot cycle 25 will have a magnitude that rivals the top few since records began. This outcome would be in stark contrast to the community consensus estimate of sunspot cycle 25 magnitude."

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hilbert\\_transform](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hilbert_transform)

They predict with 95% confidence that the cycle 25 amplitude will fall between 153 and 305 spots. This would be in the top five of those observed. Their method predicts that SC25 will probably be among the strongest solar cycles ever observed, and that it will almost certainly be stronger than present SC24 (116 spots) and most likely stronger than the previous.

Their prediction model differs from most others prediction models. These other prediction models assume magnetic fields are dynamically passive with respect to the large-scale flows, or are "frozen-in," using magnetohydrodynamical terminology.

(cont. on next page)

## Maybe there's hope for Cycle 25? (cont.)

Conversely, an explanation for the hemispherically synchronized, rapid, “triggering” of mid- and high-latitude magnetic flux emergence following termination events at the solar equator, requires that the magnetic bands of the Hale magnetic cycle are strong and are dynamically important relative to the flows.

Currently, very early indications of the spot pattern are appearing at higher than average latitudes. Historically, high latitude spot emergence has been associated with the development of large amplitude sunspot cycles.

Is this a false hope for the coming sunspot cycle? Time will tell.

If you want to read how they came about making this prediction, you can check out the details at:

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2006.15263.pdf>



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## Lessons from the Music World

By Jay, K4ZLE

*This originally appeared in the DX Magazine, March / April of 2009. It is as applicable now as it was then. Thanks to Jay for letting me reprint this.*

From Jay—"This series was originally written for the Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Association for publication in their monthly newsletter, 'The Mike and Key.' It ran from November 1993 through December 2001.

While watching an old John Wayne movie called *The Train Robbers*, I caught the following profound statement, "Don't grow old. You'll live to regret it." On one hand I liked the ironical humor; on the other hand I disagree with the statement. If you want to be a 'compleat' DXer, you have to outlast your competition. You gotta outlast 'em in the pileup and you gotta live long enough that at least one generation of cartographers have dipped their pen into the empty ink well. Persistence is the operative word in DXing. If you doubt my veracity, note the average age of those who have attained Honor Roll status!

The object of my columns is to expose the less experienced to the *art* and *science* of working DX. I do not pretend to know it all, although you may think I am trying to project that image. I am, however, persistent. I started seriously chasing DX in 1968, after purchasing a Galaxy V, MK II. I am on the honor roll and have operated from over 30 DXCC entities. Many of you probably have better credentials than I do and should be writing this column.

It is my intention to make DXing more fun for you and challenge you to become a better operator. Let's begin.



Like many of you, I was in the band in Junior High. I was never any good. As I matter of record, I sat in the last seat of a section of 6 trumpeters where the first 5 were in the marching band. The band director offered to move me to French horn because he only had three of them and he wanted to have four in the marching band. I was so bad I never made it to the marching band even on French horn! So why do I mention my ineptness in music in a column on DX? Because... as bad as I was, those musical (?) experiences taught me something about working DX. I learned how to be heard individually from within a cacophony we called music. (How else would you describe the sounds of a Junior High band?)

Music has many attributes such as meter, pitch, amplitude and timbre. If all the components are blended properly, no one instrument is heard above the rest. However, if an individual varies one of the attributes of the sound from their instrument, it will be uniquely heard.

Isn't that what we want to do from within a pileup, to be uniquely heard? So let's take lessons from the junior High band and see how to get heard 'more better.'

(cont. on next page)



## Lessons from the Music World (cont.)

Music has meter. It has beat. It has rhythm. Have you ever heard someone play when no one else was playing? In other words, they played on a 'rest.' Boy, do they come through loud and clear! Sometimes music goes for temporary displacement of the regular metrical accent by stressing the weak beat. This is called syncopation. If you listen to a pileup it has a natural beat. A trick to being heard is to transmit when everyone else is not, including the station you are trying to work; to stress the weak note; to play on a rest; to syncopate or play a half beat out of step with everyone else. This is one time you want to march to a different drummer! DX pileups pulsate. As soon as the DX station says over, TU, K or whatever, everyone usually rushes to put their call out at the same time. Then they listen (well, some listen), don't hear the DX coming back to anyone and all call in unison once again. Try waiting half a cycle. Another variation is to force your call out of beat by sending it twice in succession without a pause. You have to make a judgment call on that technique; certainly don't send it more than twice.

Pitch is the frequency of the tones being transmitted. If everyone is on the same frequency they will all tend to have the same pitch, especially on CW. Vary your pitch by tuning up or down ever so slightly from his frequency or the frequency he is listening on so you sound different but are within his receiver's pass band. Higher pitched tones seem to get heard better than lower pitched ones. That is ONE of the reasons a female voice gets through faster than the average male voice. DX operators tend to tune up in frequency rather than down, another reason to

set your TX frequency slightly higher than the rest of the pack.

You change the amplitude of your signal relative to everyone else by radiating a bigger, more bodacious signal. That is done by more power transmitted (linear, voice compressor, DSP), more power radiated (linear, lower loss transmission line, better match to the antenna, higher gain or more directional antenna) or using a better propagation path (using a band where the path better favors your area).

The last attribute to look at this time is timbre. Timbre is the quality of the tones played. Ever hear a woodwind squeak their reed? Ouch, it hurts the ears, but it certainly produces a distinctly recognizable 'note' that is heard above the rest. I do not recommend it, but off quality signals do stand out in a pileup. They may violate spectral purity rules, but they stand out!

We haven't covered all the tricks for busting a pileup, nor have we even covered all of those tricks related to the attributes discussed. (I have to retain some sort of edge over the average weekend warrior!) Sometimes the tricks mentioned above will work, sometimes they will not. What I have hoped to do is open your minds and ears to things that may help you be a more proficient DXer. I also hope you see that you can learn from experiences that superficially seem unrelated to the task at hand. Sometimes even the least enjoyable experiences actually equip us to better handle other life encounters. Now go forth: propagate and syncopate!

## Interview with Luc, YO8SSB

*I first worked Luc in 2018. I noticed what a great operator he was and hung around to hear him work the pile up. He graciously agreed to answer some questions. He can be reached at yo8ssb1@gmail.com*



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

**YO8SSB:** My name is Lucian (Luc) Damian, indicative of amateur radio YO8SSB. I have been licensed since 1993. My profession is a telecommunications engineer. I first got in touch with radio in 1989. The one who put me in touch with this passion is my brother YO8TK - Silviu.

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

**YO8SSB:** My favorite band is 80m, where I managed to work 250 different entities. The favorite way to operate is SSB. From 2018 I started working in digital modes, especially in FT8.

**AJ8B:** What time of day and days do you like to operate?

**YO8SSB:** I like to operate especially at sunrise and sunset. I monitor the 6m band throughout the day.

**AJ8B:** Any secrets to your success?

**YO8SSB:** Amateur radio has brought me a lot of satisfaction over time. Success came from patience and perseverance. I did a lot of dx hunting, but the main success came from perseverance in the gang.

**AJ8B:** Any tips that you can share?

**YO8SSB:** From my experience of amateur radio over time, I drew the following conclusion: In DX traffic, the key to success is antenna and patience. Even with relatively low power you can make DX connections in the lower bands, if you have a specialized antenna for the lower bands.

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

**YO8SSB:** My technical conditions are: ICOM IC -7300 and Kenwood TS-590S. In the lower bands I use the following antennas:

**160m:** dipole 2X40m, at a height of 20 meters.

**80m:** full vertical antenna, with 30 radials and an inverted „V,, 2x20m antenna, 20m above the ground.

**40m:** full vertical antenna, 6 meters from the ground, with 20 elevated radii.

The successful activity in the lower bands was done by a good friend YO8CLN / YR8D. The YR8D station is very equipped in 80 and 40m, where I use a 4 Square.

(cont. on next page)

## *Interview with Luc, YO8SSB (cont.)*



80 Meter 4 Square



40 Meter 4 Square



K9AY Array

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

**YO8SSB:** Distance connections are a great challenge for amateur radio enthusiasts of DXCC entities. To be a true dx gentleman, you must first respect the horses that have the same passion with you and the frequency that you use.

The next step to follow is to mount a special antenna for the bottom bands. Regardless of the equipment, if you don't have an antenna, you can't work for performance.

**AJ8B:** Is there a DXpedition that stands out for you?

**YO8SSB:** The TI9A expedition, which I received very well in FT8 and I didn't manage to work on otherwise. It was a new entity for me, long hunted.

**AJ8B:** Where is next?

**YO8SSB:** The future for me is entirely dedicated to new low band antennas.

Another important project for me is the 6m strip, where I managed in 2020 to reach the THRESHOLD of 100 DXCC worked and confirmed.

**AJ8B:** What is your favorite contest?

**YO8SSB:** I have three favorite contests: CQ WW, CQ 160, CQ WHF.

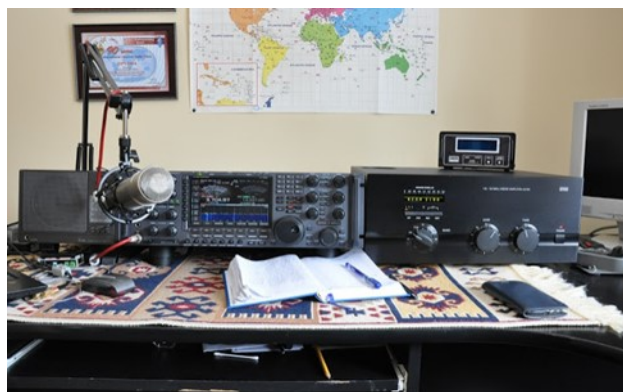
(cont. on next page)



## Interview with Luc, YO8SSB (cont.)

**AJ8B:** I read that your brother is also a ham. How often do you operate together?

**YO8SSB:** Thank you for the question. My brother is 9 years older than me. His amateur radio code is YO8TK. We do not use the same location, we have different broadcasting locations. In competitions we are often in different teams.



Station of YO8TK – Silviu.

**AJ8B:** Any QSLing hints?

**YO8SSB:** I am especially interested in qsl paper, but I also have an account in LOTW, EQSL, QRZ.com. I have 321 DXCC entities, worked and confirmed mixed. 100 DXCC countries in 6m.

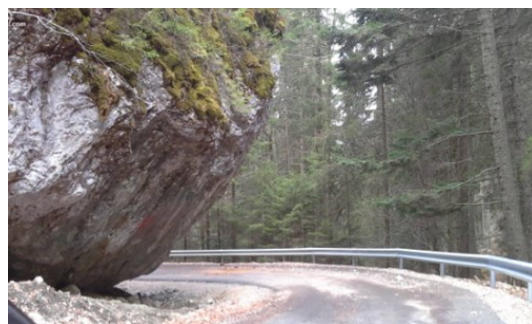
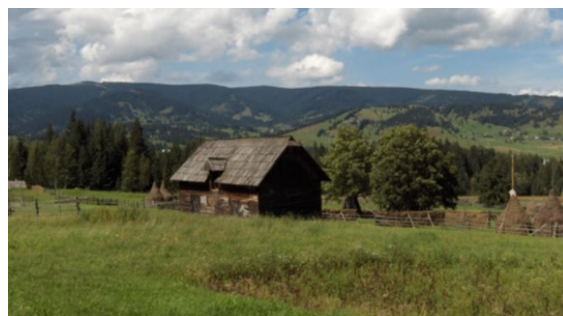
**AJ8B:** What coaching/advice would you give new amateurs?

**YO8SSB:** Even if they are at the beginning of the road, in modest working conditions, they must always break their own record with patience and passion.

**AJ8B:** What it is like in Romania?

**YO8SSB:** Romania is a beautiful country, with people who still respect tradition. A country where we find all the relief forms, from the mountains, the sea and the delta.

The Danube Delta is unique in Europe.



(cont. on next page)

## The Future of LoTW

Since 2003, Logbook of The World has provided amateur radio operators with a quick, simple way to claim and verify contacts. This verification formerly required exchange of paper QSL cards and submission of a paper application to ARRL — a slow, environmentally unfriendly, and somewhat expensive process. Using LoTW today, some digital contacts get confirmed *within minutes* of when they conclude.

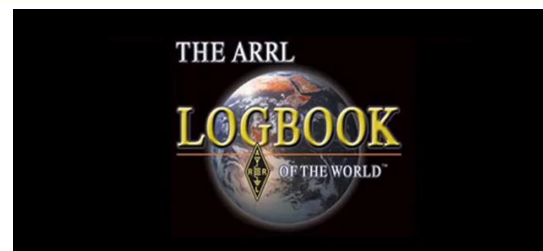
Because ARRL wants there to be no barriers to stations uploading their QSOs, LoTW is available to any amateur radio operator at no cost to the user. However, there are costs incurred by ARRL for Logbook operations run by ARRL staff members including costs for programmers, equipment, web access, and user help and support.

ARRL Headquarters staff works with a permanent committee to oversee, maintain, and improve LoTW. Some notable achievements and goals that have resulted from this work include:

- Continuous reviewing and updating of Logbook processes to facilitate ease of use
- Adding new ARRL awards as well as awards from other organizations
- Enhancing DX registration through supporting email methods
- Future growth including a redesign of Logbook's web presence

Your donation to Logbook of The World will support maintenance of the current database and expansion of the system in the future.

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## Interview with Luc, YO8SSB (cont.)

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

**YO8SSB:** Thanks Bill, for the interview, it was a nice surprise for me. My activity in the Dx area is intense, I hope to change as many controls as possible. Now I work more in FT8 digital modes.

More information:

<http://yo8ssb.blogspot.com/>

73 de YO8SSB!



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## *T30GC DXpedition 2019, Part II*

### *— Stan, LZ1GC*

*Stan was the 2019 recipient of the SWODXA DXPeditioner of the Year. He send this version of his DXPedition story along for the club.*

*In the picture is Mitko, LZ3NY, Karel, OK2WM, and Stan, LZ1GC Enjoy...*

We met Karel as planned at the International Airport CDG in France and the three of us continued our journey with Korean Air (flight KE 902) at 21:00 on October 2, 2019.

On October 3, 2019 at 3:00 PM, an Airbus A380-800 aircraft of Korean Air landed successfully at Incheon Airport, Seoul, South Korea. Our next flight from Seoul to Sydney, Australia was in 3 hours and 30 minutes. I had an appointment with Aves Kang (DS2AGH), who had agreed to bring me the ACOM 700 linear amplifier at the airport, which I had left to him the previous year after 5W0GC & YJ0GC DXpedition 2018.

The meeting took place. Aves Kang was waiting for me at the exit of the "arriving passengers" sector. A hearty handshake and a brief conversation followed, since there wasn't much time until the next flight. I want to tell you that I feel this person as my brother. Every year he does so much for me and others who are on the expedition team and travel with me. He greets us, sends us off, provides us with lodging, and despite his many business commitments, he devotes so much time to us during our stay in South Korea for it to pass unnoticed and quickly. After meeting with Aves (DS2AGH), our "hand luggage" increased by another 15 kg - I mean the ACOM 700 power amplifier I got from Aves Kang(DS2AGH).



Our journey from Seoul, South Korea to Sydney, Australia lasted almost 12 hours, but it went unnoticed for us. We had a 6 hour stay in Sydney until the next flight, but this worked out well as we needed to take a walk after two 12 hour flights from Paris, France to Sydney, Australia.

At 1:00 PM local time on October 4, 2019, the T30GC team was already aboard the Airbus 330-200 (FJ 910) in anticipation of our departure to Nadi, Fiji.

After a 4 hour flight, at 7pm our plane landed at Nadi International Airport, Fiji. We were stopped here for inspection by Fiji Customs officers for the huge amount of technics we carried, but after explaining to them that we are travelling for an expedition to Kiribati and after showing them our license we were quickly released to continue our journey! We took a taxi in front of the airport. We had a lot of luggage - about 150 kg and we had to hire 2 taxis.

(cont. on next page)

## *T30GC DXpedition 2019, Part II (cont.)*

I have no idea, after 3 flights what I looked like, but I remember that when I got in the taxi - the driver, named Taki, who was about 30 years old, turned to me and told me: "When I saw you, I said - this is Rambo! Yes I was impressed! ". Understanding that I was from Bulgaria, he kept driving the car and kept saying, "The Bulgarian Rambo", and we bursted out laughing!

We stayed at the Down Town Hotel, located in the central part of Nadi, Fiji. In the meantime, we made an appointment with Taki to drive us to Tony (3D2AG) in Suva, on the following day.

So it happened - on October 5, 2019, we spent some unforgettable hours at Tony's home, 3D2AG.



**The T30GC team at Tony's (3D2AG) home**

Tony (3D2AG) is a wonderful person and a very good radio amateur. I have known him personally since 2019, but in previous years we have contacted him by phone and e-mail. Writing this article now, I think of the tragedy that struck him, when he lost his elder son in January 2020 ... I still can't believe this has happened! I remember playing football with his two sons when we visited Tony on October 5, 2019. I hope, Tony can overcome this huge loss! I pray for him and his boy!

Before we left Tony's home (3D2AG) we also met with Philip (3D2TS), who lives close to Tony. It has always been a pleasure for me to meet fellow radio amateurs and interact with them. In such meetings, I do not feel "alone", although in this case I was thousands of kilometres away from Bulgaria!

On October 6, 2019, we had a day off - a day of relaxation, before our flight the following day to Bonriki, Tarawa Atoll, Western Kiribati. In anticipation of our last flight to Western Kiribati (T30), we couldn't stay in one place. Even the night, before the flight we were able to sleep only 3-4 hours, waiting for the morning. We were excited thinking, that soon we will arrive in Kiribati!

(cont. on next page)

### **The Monday Morning Memo...**

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

The Monday Morning Memo is a free electronic newsletter sponsored by the Highland Amateur Radio Association, Hillsboro. Information published may be used in local club newsletters and distributed to others providing proper credit is given to the Monday Morning Memo or the Highland ARA.

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## *T30GC DXpedition 2019, Part II (cont.)*

On October 7, 2019, after a 3 hour flight from Nadi, Fiji to Bonriki, Kiribati, at 10:30 local time we arrived at Bonriki Airport, Tarawa Atoll, Western Kiribati.

It turned out that the people from the guest house where we had reservation, had forgotten to wait for us at the airport and to transport us to our accommodation! With the help of an employee from the airport, the owner of the guest house was informed of the problem and after an hour they came and drove us to Dreamers Guest House, Ambo, Tarawa Atoll, Western Kiribati.

After our arrival at the Dreamers guest house, we quickly started installing the equipment, creating three different operators places. Karel (OK2WM) quickly installed his Crank IR vertical antenna for 40 - 10m bands and started working on 20 m, CW using an Elecraft K3 transceiver and linear amplifier Expert 1.3 K. He started with a good rate and the contacts began to grow fast!

Stan (LZ1GC) and Mitko (LZ3NY) started to prepare the 18 m masts for vertical antennas on 160/80/40 m bands. We had 2 such antennas, but unfortunately, we were unable to install them immediately after our arrival due to the fast approaching evening. At the same time, it struck me that the coastline is very narrow at the time of tide. This was a problem for the installation of our vertical



**T30GC is on the Air – op.Karel (OK2WM)**

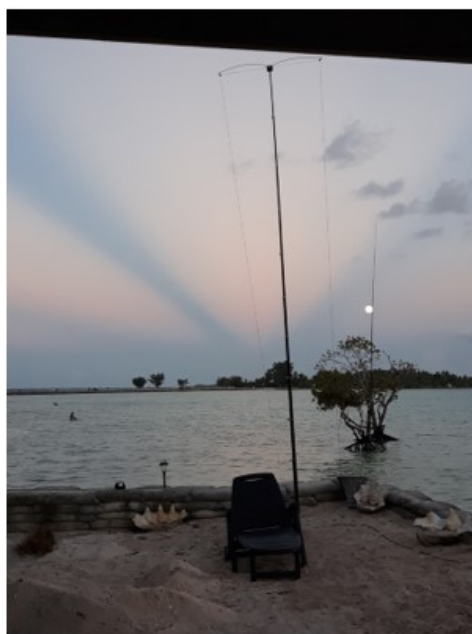
antennas, because the tuning boxes of these antennas would end up in the water at the daily high tides!

The narrow shoreline also proved to be a problem for the installation of my favourite antenna - the multi-band GP antenna designed to operate from 40 to 10 meters bands. Including WARC bands.

During the first night of T30GC activity, Karel continued to work at 20 and 40 meters, and me

and Mitko (LZ3NY) continued to prepare for the installation of our 160/80/40 m vertical antennas, including mono bands vertical antennas for the 30, 20 and 17 m bands. Early in the morning on October 08, 2019 we started to install the two vertical antennas for 160/80/40 m. That way we had the possibility of working during the night of following days on 160 and 80 m, with two operating places.

In the early afternoon of October 8, 2019, in addition to the Crank IR antenna, we had already installed 2 pieces vertical antennas for 160/80/40 m and one vertical for 30 m.



**Our Crank IR antenna**

(cont. on next page)



## *T30GC DXpedition 2019, Part II (cont.)*



**Stan (LZ1GC) is on the Air as T30GC**

The installation and adjustment of these antennas took us a long time because we had to lift the tuning devices to these antennas about 80 cm from the bottom (base) of the masts. So we solved the problem of rising water levels at the time of tides.

The same day, we started on the Air with 2 more operating places equipped with the Kenwood TS 480 SAT + Linear Amplifier ACOM 1200 S and ICOM 7300, complete with ACOM 700 S.

On October 8, 2019, afternoon, the T30GC was already on the air with 3 operating places on 40/30/20 m, CW. Throughout the night we continued to work on the Air at 160, 80 and 40 meters with two places.

On the 3-rd day of the T30GC activity, we installed a receiving antenna for 160 and 80 m of Array Solution: SAL - 30 and two vertical antennas for 20 and 17 meter ranges, which at high tides turned out to be literally in the water but they worked well.

During the first week of the T30GC activity we were working on CW, SSB and RTTY. Since October, 16 2019 we were also active on FT8 mode. Using the good condition windows, we alternated the bands and modes, striving to transmit without any interruptions on the Air.

My worries about the island's power supply problems were justified. More than 50% of T30GC activity was with the use of a Honda-3 generator, which luckily worked flawlessly.

Another problem during the expedition was the daily repair of torn radials after the tides.

There were days with high winds during our activity, but thanks to Spiderbeam's resilient and sturdy masts, we had no problems with our verticals.

Despite the problems described above, between October 7 and October 23, 2019, the T30GC was on the Air all times.

(cont. on next page)



**Our 30 m Vertical antenna**



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## *T30GC DXpedition 2019, Part II (cont.)*

Since recent years have been characterized by a period of minimal solar activity and lack of any good propagation on the high bands, our focus has been - more activity on 160/80/40/30/20 m bands, without missing even the small windows of better propagation on higher bands - 17/12/10

I want to share very briefly the good attitude of the local people towards us. We had the full support of the locals we contacted during our stay in Tarawa Atoll, Western Kiribati. Whenever we needed anything, we met the support not only of the people at Dreamers Guest House - Mr. Ata and Mrs. Beta, but also of their neighbours.

We did not have any problems with the locals, although part of the antennas and their radials, took some place from their yard! From 3:45 AM GMT on October 7, 2019 to 6:05 PM GMT on October 23, 2019, the T30GC made 20164 contacts on all HF amateur radio bands: 160 to 10 m, in CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 modes.

I will remember this expedition especially with the many contacts on low bands! The

contacts on the other bands were enough many and also impressive!

I provide the readers with a statistic of Clublog about T30GC activity. (Next Page)

On October 23, 2019, at 6:10 AM GMT, T30GC went in QRT and finished his activity and We began to quickly dismantle the antennas and pack our luggage.

At the end of the previous day, we had carefully dismantled some of the antennas so that despite our limited time, we were able to cope with the preparation of our luggage for our upcoming trip. Our long journey back to Europe began with a flight from Tarawa, Western Kiribati to Nadi, Fiji.

At Nadi Airport, Fiji, despite our short stay, we had an appointment with Tony (3D2AG) which took place. We gave Tony (3D2AG) an 18m Spiderbeam Fiberglasspole mast as a gift, which he can use for his forthcoming expedition to Rotuma and after a short but very cordial conversation we headed to the sector for our next flight to Sydney, Australia.

On October 24, 2019 at 10:10 PM, after 4 hours flight : Nadi, Fiji - Sydney, Australia operated by Fiji Air, the T30GC team arrived at Sydney, Australia. At Sydney airport we were greeted by my friendly family of Bulgarians - Olga (LZ1QG) and Nick (LZ1QP) who drove us to their home, about 30 km from the airport. We had nearly 8 hours until the next flight and we spent many pleasant hours at their home, for which we are very grateful.

(cont. on next page)



**Our 2 Vertical antennas for low bands, both of them used on 160/80/40m bands**

## T30GC DXpedition 2019, Part II (cont.)

On October 25, 2019 at 5:45 pm, after a 12 hour flight Sydney, Australia - Seoul, South Korea, with Airbus 330-300 (KE 122) on Korean Airlines, we arrived at Incheon Airport, Seoul, South Korea. There waiting for us were Aves Kang (DS2AGH), along with two of his business colleagues. In the following few hours, we enjoyed of the wonderful Korean food (cuisine) in a local small diner place. In the evening we stayed at a local hotel - Punta Star, before our upcoming 12 hour flight on the following day to Paris, France.

The flight Seoul, South Korea - Paris, France on October 26, 2019 was 12 hours. After so many sleepless nights during the expedition, we took advantage of the long flight and spent most of the flight time in sleep. So, time passed unnoticed and at 6:30 pm on October 26, 2019, the Korean Airlines Airbus A380 -800 aircraft landed at International Airport CDG, Paris, France.

There at the International Airport CDG in Paris, more than 12 hours of stay until our last flights followed: for me and Mitko (LZ3NY) to Bulgaria, and for Karel (OK2WM) to Vienna, Austria and after that to Czech Republic. Finally, in the evening of October 27, 2019, we all went

home. That's how the T30GC DXpedition 2019 ended.

We, the T30GC operators, are very happy to have done our utmost for the success of this expedition, that we delighted many radio amateurs with a new country!

We are very grateful for the support we received from many individual sponsors - before and after the expedition!

We are extremely grateful for the support which we have received in carrying out this expedition from all Amateur Radio Foundations, Associations and Clubs, such as: the **South West Ohio DX Association**.

We, are very grateful to our corporate sponsors for their support, namely: Clublog, ACOM Ltd - Bulgaria, LZ Antenna, Spiderbeam Ltd - Germany and GES Electronics.

In the end of this article, We hope that the T30GC DXpedition 2019 will leave good and lasting memories among the radio amateur community!

Here's to new meetings on the air!

With respect!

73! Stan, LZ1GC (T30GC)

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	RTTY	Total	Total %
160	1778	127	0	0	1905	9.5%
80	1879	0	12	0	1891	9.4%
60	85	14	0	0	99	0.5%
40	1842	752	313	92	2999	14.9%
30	2736	486	0	282	3504	17.4%
20	3251	557	696	557	5061	25.1%
17	1141	772	358	223	2494	12.4%
15	810	656	265	0	1731	8.6%
12	186	219	10	0	415	2.1%
10	3	35	0	0	38	0.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13711</b>	<b>3618</b>	<b>1654</b>	<b>1154</b>	<b>20137</b>	

Band	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	Total	Total %
AF	0	2	0	11	7	2	1	0	0	0	23	0.1%
AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AS	576	698	6	1147	1300	2221	1495	983	381	36	8843	43.9%
EU	582	596	31	880	1281	1164	30	30	0	0	4594	22.8%
NA	700	516	60	724	729	1286	703	443	14	0	5175	25.7%
OC	42	62	1	160	135	311	177	121	15	2	1026	5.1%
SA	5	17	1	77	52	77	88	154	5	0	476	2.4%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1905</b>	<b>1891</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>2999</b>	<b>3504</b>	<b>5061</b>	<b>2494</b>	<b>1731</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>20137</b>	



## Interview with Jose, EC6DX

*I had a great QSO with Jose in 2018. When I was checking out his qrz.com page, I realized what an active QSL manager he was and a very active operator. He seemed like the kind of ham we would all be interested in hearing from!*

*Fortunately, he kindly agree to answer wome questions. Jose can be reached at [ec6dc.jose@gmail.com](mailto:ec6dc.jose@gmail.com).*



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

**EC6DX:** I was a child (during 80s) when I listened to my Father talking with my Grandfather through a CB Radio because he was Fisherman in the Mediterranean Sea. Every morning we try to contact him to ask if they were well and how much fish they catch to sell in the next port. It was amazing and incredible!!!

Later in 1990 I did my first DX QSO on CB on SSB with Sweden and all started !!! .

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

**EC6DX:** I play in all bands because I like DX and Contest, but I have 2 favorite bands: 80 M and 6M.

**AJ8B:** What time of day and days do you like to operate?

**EC6DX:** Any time because bands work different and I must be waiting to catch a new one... I am not a night owl and I prefer to wake up when is dark to be prepared for Grey Line

**AJ8B:** Any secrets to your success?

**EC6DX:** The most important thing in life, and personally on the Radio, is to be honest and professional. I have always tried to help my colleagues, and especially surround myself with great operators to learn from them. I like to improve myself and be competitive every day.

**AJ8B:** Any tips that you can share?

**EC6DX:** For me, Radio Amateur is like life, it is a small Society where we live together with many types of personalities ... But above all I would highlight two adjectives: Be humble and patient. Patience is a very good companion since we always have technical problems that we cannot solve and I promise to analyze what is happening to choose the best option.

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

**EC6DX:** I moved from EA Land to Menorca I which is the most northern island in Balearics 2 years ago and I had not time to have a better antenna system but I am enjoying during this bad low solar cycle moment.. At this moment I am using a Vertical Butternut HF9V with 100 Radials and metallic net 4 by 4 meters located in my QTH Garden. I am preparing a project with a 12 meters tower with elevator. Antenna will be an Dinamic 3 elements (Stepp Ir or Ultra Beam ) or an Opti Beam ... Still thinking about that... Here Wind are strong and dangerous and I must consider it... On 6 Meters I play radio with an EAntenna 5 Elements LFA located in a mast with an small rotor...

My Main Transceiver is Yaesu FTDX 5000 MP and second one is an ICOM 7300.

(cont. on next page)

## *Interview with Jose, EC6DX (cont.)*

Really happy with both Radios and I am not interested to change them in a next future... Amplifier is an AMERITRON AL82... I never use more than 1 KW...

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

**EC6DX:** When you are on the other side of the Pile Up, in a DXPedition, it is appreciated to have order and respect. When we have an ordered pile up, the rate of entry to the Log is higher and so more stations have the option of working the expedition. Being in a DXPedition is not easy and the international community that everyone has the right to attend one of them. I do not support how there are operators that criticize the operator of the DXPedition in the clusters.

**AJ8B:** You are a veteran of my DXPeditions. Is there one that really stands out and why?

**EC6DX:** Each DXPedition has its own personality, but for me the best two have undoubtedly been 3B8 & 3B9 and S9CQ. There the Pile ups with USA and Japan were tremendous and I enjoyed a lot of the order and respect of all the operators.

Outside of Europe any radio activity is more complicated to organize due to the different flights, licenses, location and control over the electric power and the wifi connection. I must highlight the help of local stations and operators that have been before me in the dxcc that I want to activate to request logistical support or information that I can find on the ground.

**AJ8B:** What was the worst experience you had?

**EC6DX:** I don't remember any bad moments or major problems. I have never had problems carrying equipment in my hand either at the entrance or exit of the country. Many of my DXPeditions are Holiday Style and I always really enjoy pile ups. It should be said that I have always had the support and logistical help to install antennas of my wife, which I thank her from here because she facilitates me the radio activity from remote places.

If I should tell one, in Sao Tome & Principe I have a Electric cut but I had a fast support and I get a Car Battery in 20 minutes to be on air... Also, QRM in Africa is very high...

**AJ8B:** Where are you going next?

**EC6DX:** Now with COVID19 all is stand by and I will think about it in the future. A DXPeditioner needs Pile ups... hihihihhi... and I am thinking of visiting some of my friends who I help with my QSL Manager Service. As you now, I have many stations who work with me. I believe that it is very difficult to obtain an Award, buy it is more if you get it with paper QSL's.

**AJ8B:** You are also the QSL manager for many DXpeditions. You must really enjoy this. Isn't it a lot of work?

**EC6DX:** Yes, of course, one of the most important thing for me when I am planning a DXPedition is to design a beautiful QSL. All my DXPeditions are confirmed directly via Bureau and LOTW, and via Direct with SASE if some operator needs a fast request. It is a hard work but I understand that Paper QSL is an important thing inside Ham Radio.

(cont. on page 24)

## Interview with Jose, EC6DX (cont.)

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

**EC6DX:** I really like this question ... What do each of us do individually? ... If each operator contributed a little to the recruitment and advice of new radio amateurs, I think there would be more additions. There are many people involved and they deserve special recognition as they work so that in 30 years we can have new blood and we can have DXpeditions.

Now, I'm working with an old group of CB friends to get them to pass the exam. One already has an indicative and several of them will be examined in the coming weeks.

**AJ8B:** What it is like in Menorca?

**EC6DX:** Menorca is one of the jewels of the Mediterranean, preserving nature and slow life, but with all the quality of life that anyone needs. Regarding transmitting from Menorca; we are very few operators and that means that we also have good pile ups without leaving home. I manage a Camping Resort here and I am working to be "Ham Friendly".

## K0MD Update

Dr. Scott Wright, K0MD, has been one of the busiest hams anywhere. He has been the editor of the National Contest Journal (NCJ), led the charge against COVID-19 as well as being the keynote speaker at the first ever QSO Today Ham Expo. Recently, I have had the chance to exchange emails with Scott concerning the NCJ. In fact, Scott has had to relinquish his NCJ editorial duties to Ward Silver, N0AX.

Scott has also changed his shack and fashioned a new QSL card. He was kind enough to send me some updated pics. He has been a frequent contributor to the newsletter over the years, has attended many DX Dinners and DX forums and is a personal friend of many of our members.



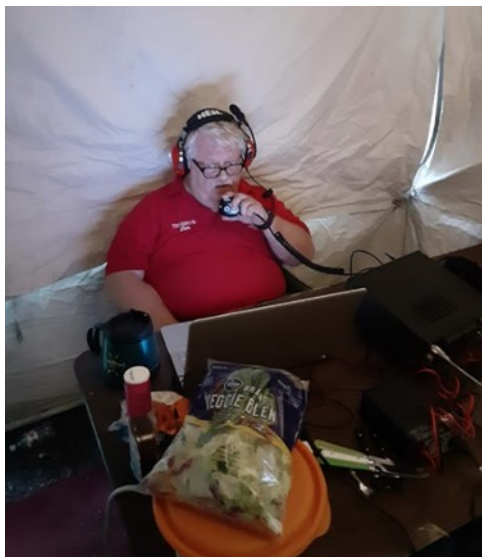


## Ohio QSO Party Results

Many of our members participated in the Ohio QSO party. Some results and comments are below.

“Jim—AB8YK, Ron—N8VAR, and Larry- -N8QNM operated as N8VAR from A W Marion State Park near Circleville. Lots of fun making antennas and operating from two campers. Thunderstorms plagued us with two shut downs. One was over two hours. It just didn't want to move on.

Made over 200 contacts however our CW wasn't working well and made less than 20 QSOs. All on 40m and 80m. Looking forward to OSPOTA in a couple of weeks.”



### K4YJ—Dwight

Score Statistics	
Total Contacts	428
Total QSO Points	766
Total Multipliers	143
Total Score	109,538

(cont. on next page)

## Ohio QSO Party Results (cont.)

**Dave – K8CMO** I only worked the Ohio QSO Party for 3 or 4 hours on an intermittent basis. I worked an hour, then another hour later, and another hour still later. I worked ONLY CW on only 20 and 40 meters. Band conditions on 40 especially were not very good. Signals were weak but the propagation was long. I only heard 4 of 5 Ohio stations although I heard others working them. I only worked 3 Ohio counties--Hamilton, Clermont, and Butler but made 101 QSOs and a multiplier of 38 for a total score of 7676. I did work South Africa, Germany, and Slovak Republic on 40 meters. I had thought about doing some portable operation with my KX2 in Brown and/or Highland Counties, but I don't think I would have done too well QRP anyway. I was born in Highland County and grew up in Brown County. Maybe next year! Maybe propagation will be better. Dave ;Yockey, K8CMO CW Ops #1652 I submitted my score for credit to SWODXA.

**Joe—W8GEX :** I started the contest on 10 meters and had a nice run but it was short lived. Then I jumped on 15 meters, called CQ for a while and no QSO's; its also dead. So now I went to 40m for the rest of my time and ended up 126 totals QSOs and they were slow coming. Over all it was not good.

It was real and its was fun but it wasn't real fun hi.



**Summary from John, W8KIW** – The 2020 edition of the Ohio QSO Party is now history. It's now time to submit the logs and await the results early next year. In the meantime, we can prepare ourselves for the upcoming Ohio State Parks on the Air event on September 12.

It was good to hear a number of HARA members and friends of HARA participating. Highland County stations operating were N8CUB, N8BAP and KD8VUY. Ted, KQ4TL, even got out of his easy chair to get on for a bit. KC8OKJ and K8IYO also operated contest station W8OH. KD8LDS, W8PU and future ham Josh Morrow were visitors to the N8CUB/N8BAP site. Highland County native K8DEV even showed up for some contacts. The rain prevented the planned EOC activation.

Clinton County was well represented this year. Contacts were exchanged with WF8B, KD8GII, W8PU and N8WRW from W8KIW's portable site at his New Vienna farm. It's told some others operated but were not heard.

N8ORJ was active from K8FAY at the Fayette County EOC and KB8VUM also made his way into the logbook.

(cont. on next page)

## Ohio QSO Party Results (cont.)

Scioto County resident and HARA member Jennifer Bailey, N8JEN, was chatted with on 75 as was Portsmouth RC's Hamfest guru WX8G.

Neighboring Pike County was represented by Dwight, K4YL and wife K3YL. Frequent Field Day picnic visitor N8FTD made the log as did AJ8B who presented a fantastic DX program at a past HARA meeting.

Although conditions weren't the greatest I was able to meet my personal goals with my FD style operation between the storm crashes. I heard only four counties I was unable to contact- Columbiana, Defiance, Meigs and Ross-and two states-CT and ND-plus Alberta that didn't make the log. And yes, I spent about 11 of the contest's 12 hours in front of the radio.

### Claimed Scores from the Ohio QSO Party Website and 3830scores.com

Call	Class	Score
AJ8B	Fixed Single Op Low Power	103,635
K4YJ	Fixed Single Op High Power	109,538
K8CMO	Fixed Single Op Low Power	7,676
K9NW	Fixed Single Op Low Power	48,140
N8AA	Fixed Single Op Low Power	106,832
N8BJQ	Fixed Single Op High Power	153,652
W8EH	Fixed Single Op Low Power	59,330







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## 1997VK0IR DXPedition Update

by KK6EK, Dr. Bob Schmieder

*The VK0IR DXPedition to Heard Island was our DXPedition of the year in 1998. I thought it was appropriate to pass this information along.*

As you know, Cordell Expeditions carried out an expedition to Heard Island in Jan/Feb 1997, using the callsign VK0IR. Recently I discovered about 6 hours of video that I had shot during the expedition, but which had never been seen (not even by me!). I divided the collection into six parts, which I have posted to Youtube:

### Part 1 Preparation

<https://youtu.be/IGcbjiFWAig>

### Part 2 Outbound

<https://youtu.be/RFCzL5dyDkM>

### Part 3 Landing/setup

<https://youtu.be/50ykT4acnV8>

### Part 4 Operations

<https://youtu.be/kYX-F1mulTo>

### Part 5 Environment

<https://youtu.be/gXNAKC--EII>

### Part 6 Departure

<https://youtu.be/uGFw3TWxY>

You can also find these by going to [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and searching on “Robert Schmieder Heard Island.”

Here is the introduction to each of the videos: “On 11 Jan 1997, twenty men were landed on one of the most remote places in the world: Heard Island, located in the Southern Ocean, almost to Antarctica. They set up a village with all life support, including accommodations,

light and power, galley, and a huge array of radios, antennas, and satellite communications gear.

Over the next two weeks, using the callsign VK0IR, the team logged 80,673 contacts with radio operators worldwide, a new world record for self-supported expeditions. The team also made daily explorations around the island to document the rocks, glaciers, rivers, plants, birds, and seals that are the dominant residents of this live volcano. Many of you will remember this expedition, and quite a few of you made significant contributions.

The expedition was documented in numerous articles, presentations, and professional videos, and received many awards, including a 2020 poll that ranks it #1 among all such expeditions of the past 30 years.

Unnoticed at the time, the author shot six hours of video of all aspects of the project. Unfortunately, these videos were lost until mid-2020, 23 years later. No one, including the author, had ever viewed these videos. Upon finding them, the author divided the material into 6 separate Parts. Other than separation into the Parts, the videos needed little editing. They contain almost all of the material that was shot in 1997, and most of it is in exactly the order it was shot.”



## Taking QSO Party Contesting to the Next Level

By Tom Williams, N2CU

*I read this article in the National Contest Journal and I felt that many of our active hams would enjoy this article. As we had several members participate in the Ohio QSO Party, this may be very applicable. This article appeared in the July/August 2020 edition of the NCJ and it is reprinted here with their permission.*

State QSO parties have been in the contesting arena for decades. I recall operating my state's New York QSO parties in the mid-1970s, before it went away for decades. A new sponsor revived it. Some states with little or no state QSO party activity have joined forces with neighbouring states to create regional QSO parties. The New England QSO Party (NEOP) and the 7th Call Area QSO Party (7OP) are two examples. State QSO party participants may include non-contesters just stopping by to let you know you're being heard, the casual contester doing only search and pounce, or the serious contester operating full-time SO2R. Mobiles and rovers activating multiple and often rare counties are the lifeblood of these events. County hunters also can benefit from QSO parties by working stations in rare counties that might not have resident hams or are infrequently activated.

On any given weekend, you're likely to find a QSO party on the schedule, and they're a great way to keep your contesting skills sharp. Some states take a friendly approach, with participants taking time on the air to explain the contest or tell you about the weather. Camaraderie among operators often stems from making repeated contacts with the same stations on other bands and/or modes.

Interest in state QSO parties has surged over the past few years, and states that had been dormant in this regard have again joined in the

fun. Doing well in a contest can earn you a plaque or certificate, and some even offer modest prizes as an added incentive.

Some smaller QSO parties don't have enough on-the-air presence to attract out-of-state participants. Those of us who love to operate these events felt that something needed to be done to increase interest and activity.

As avid QPers, Dave Edmonds, WN4AFP, and Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ, brainstormed how they could establish a national program/points system in which competitive QPers could battle it out one contest at a time throughout the year. Another objective was to tie all QSO parties together to create something bigger than just individual contests.

Dave and Stan wanted to create two programs - one for participation and one for performance. The goal would be an increase in contacts for in-state participants and more logs submitted to the QP organizers, as well as building relationships between contesters.

A prime example is what Paul Newberry, N4PN (SK), brought to the contesting community. Not only could he win just about any contest but would always take time to greet his radio friends and have a short chat in the midst of the battle.

(cont. on next page)





## Taking QSO Party Contesting to the Next Level —cont.

### The State QSO Party Challenge

The first step was to establish the State QSO Party Challenge (SQP). This year-long competition would award points for cumulative number of contacts made and the number of states QSO parties participated in. The goal would be to encourage operators to participate in as many QSO parties as possible and become hooked on them. The more QSO parties you work, the better your own state's party will be, because you learn how they work and how to play in them. The only requirements would be to participate in at least two QSO parties, make at least two contacts in each, and submit your scores to 3830scores.com. The results would be tabulated, and results published.

The second step would be to create a recognition program for the operators who put in the effort to win the OPs they enter. This would encourage competitive QPers to participate in more events and to challenge each other weekend after weekend. The QSO Party Cup leaderboard will be updated as results of each QSO party are published. The expectation is that we will see a much higher level of interest in the QPs and the QPs will gain prestige within the contesting world.

As 2020 approached, Dave and Stan decided to focus their energy on building the State QSO Party Challenge. Stan provided Dave with 3830 data in an Excel spreadsheet that included 1,296 operators who had participated in QSO parties during 2019. The next task was to find an internet home for the leaderboard and post statistics. Dave contacted Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, and he offered to help. Dave hoped that they could roll out the 2020

State QSO Party Challenge before the initial QSO parties of the year took place - Minnesota, British Columbia, and Vermont all happen during the first weekend in February. That was only 7 weeks away. Just 29 days before the planned kick-off, Bruce said he would launch the State QSO Party Challenge page on 3830 once the State QSO Party website was up and running. Additional team members were recruited. Mark, WB9CIF, a very active QPer and manager for the Indiana QSO Party signed on. About 2 weeks later, Jeff, N8II, and I agreed to join the team. Bruce launched the State QSO Party Challenge page on 3830scores.com 3 days ahead of our target date. To see current statistics, visit 3830scores.com and click the SOP Challenge link under Special Summaries.

### Update as of August 1:

July 1 marks not only the middle of the calendar year, but also the mid-point of the state QSO contest series. I am sure most of you have been following your individual progress in the State QSO Party Challenge on 3830Scores (<https://www.3830scores.com/sqpsummary.php>).

We have had 690 operators qualify for the SQP Challenge so far, compared with 681 a month ago.

- An additional 728 have submitted 3830 reports but have not yet qualified for the Challenge.
- That totals up to 1418 operators who have submitted SQP reports to 3830.
- 641 (93%) of the qualified operators have attained a level.
- 22 members have already attained the Diamond level (>50,000 points). That is 3.2% of the qualified ops.
- There are still a staggering total of 42 operators that have perfect attendance, participating in all 26 SQPs.

## FCC Proposes to Reinstate Amateur Radio Service Fees

Amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio license application if the FCC adopts rules it proposed this week. Included in the FCC's fee proposal are applications for new licenses, renewal and upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees.

The FCC proposal is contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* ([NPRM](#)) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 — the so-called "[Ray Baum's Act](#)."

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. In its *NPRM*, the FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service that had been excluded by an earlier statute. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

"Applications for personal licenses are mostly automated and do not have individualized staff costs for data input or review," the FCC said in its *NPRM*. "For these automated processes — new/major modifications, renewal, and minor modifications — we propose a nominal application fee of \$50 due to automating the processes, routine ULS maintenance, and limited instances where staff input is required."

The same \$50 fee would apply to all Amateur Service applications, including those for

vanity call signs. "Although there is currently no fee for vanity call signs in the Amateur Radio Service, we find that such applications impose similar costs in aggregate on Commission resources as new applications and therefore propose a \$50 fee," the FCC said.

The FCC is not proposing to charge for administrative updates, such as mailing address changes for amateur applications, and amateur radio will remain exempt from annual regulatory fees. "For administrative updates [and] modifications, which also are highly automated, we find that it is in the public interest to encourage licensees to update their [own] information without a charge," the FCC said.

The FCC also proposes to assess a \$50 fee for individuals who want a printed copy of their license. "The Commission has proposed to eliminate these services — but to the extent the Commission does not do so, we propose a fee of \$50 to cover the costs of these services," the FCC said.

The Ray Baum's Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service. The FCC dropped assessment of fees for vanity call signs several years ago.

Deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the *NPRM* appears in the *Federal Register*. File comments by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)), posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. This docket is already open for accepting comments even though deadlines have not yet been set.

## Board of Directors Elects New ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA

The ARRL Board of Directors has elected David Minster, NA2AA, of Wayne, New Jersey, as ARRL's new Chief Executive Officer, starting on September 28. Minster is currently Managing Partner at Talentrian Partners, a management consulting firm serving the consumer goods and luxury goods industries.

Minster began his career as a software engineer, moving into management at Unilever, as a Chief Information Officer of this globally recognized portfolio of brands that includes Elizabeth Arden Company, Chesebrough-Ponds Canada, Thomas J. Lipton Co., and others. From there, he moved to fine jewelry manufacturer and retailer David Yurman, where he served as COO and CIO. More recently, Minster served as CEO of jewelry brands Scott Kay and Judith Ripka.

"Building a culture of accomplishment and accountability is what I do best. My initial focus will be working with the Board on establishing strategic goals and concrete plans to navigate ARRL through the digital transformation required for the coming decades of its Second Century. This includes exciting and innovative ways to be engaged in amateur radio, while growing activity and membership."

Minster got his Novice license, WB2MAE, in 1977, when he was in his teens. He progressed from Advanced to Amateur Extra and, after a stint as NW2D, he settled on the vanity call sign NA2AA in the 1990s as a way to honor a mentor, N2AA, and the contest station that he used to frequent, K2GL, in Tuxedo Park, New York.

Minster's ham radio pursuits have ranged far and wide over the years. His background includes National Traffic System training and participation in public service events,

as well as contesting from home, club stations, and contest stations in the Caribbean — particularly on Bonaire, where he is a member of PJ4G. Primarily a CW operator, Minster collects unique and vintage bugs and keys.

Minster earned a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from The Ohio State University and has a special interest in satellites, digital communications, remote operation, and ham radio computing and software. He has written keyer software for the commercial market, and contest logging, packet, and satellite telemetry software for personal use.

In addition to being an ARRL member, Minster is a member of AMSAT, the Frankford Radio Club, the Straight Key Century Club, CWops, and the North American QRP CW Club.

"I spend every day of my life, one way or another, engaged in amateur radio. It is more than just a hobby for me; it is my community. It is where I live; where I have built lifelong friendships, and friendships that span the globe. Amateur radio allows me to dream and to experiment. I can't wait to bring my energy and boundless enthusiasm in service to ARRL."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said, "We are excited to welcome David as our new CEO, and look forward to his progressive leadership. His experience in management and operations, plus his activities in amateur radio, will serve our organization and members well."





# 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
6O6O	VP6D	TO4E	XR0ZR	VP8STI	SP8SGI
W1AW/KH8	K1N	3D2C	VK0EK	S21ZBB	E30FB
ST0RY	TI9/3Z9DX	VK9MT	K5P	9U4M	TX3X
VU7AB	3Y0Z	3C0L	TX7EU	CE0Z	3C1L
TI9A	3D2CR	3B7A	K9W	VU7RI	6O7O
C21WW	CE0Z	T30GC	T30L	D68CCC	

# 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.