Volume 7, Issue 2

11/2023

the exchange

SWODXA
WWW.SWODXA.ORG
SouthWest Ohio DX Association

2023 Officers

President AJ8B
Bill Salyers
Vice—President W8KJ
Kevin Jones
Secretary KC8CKW
Mindi Jones
Treasurer W8RKO
Mike Suhar
Club Trustee: KC8RP
Richard Pestinger
Club Call : W8EX

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Prez says…..

'Tis the season to work some DX, FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA. Think about how things were 5 years ago! December 1st of 2018, the A and K Indices were 24 and 68. We had to slug it out to work anything new.

Now, we have DXpeditions a plenty and several more coming up. 10,12,15,and 20 have been open well after dark and morning grayline is proving fruitful. So, the question is, Are you taking advantage of this? There are a lot of activities that can give you a reason to get on the air. We have tried to present them at meetings and will continue to do so. Things like the CQ DX Marathon, WAZ, or the DXCC Challenge, keep me on the air every morning and evening during the grayline, during my "smoke breaks", and after work.

How about some New Years Resolutions? Maybe resolve to attend all meeting via ZOOM. We have had some great programs and I have gotten great feedback. If you can, why not attend a meeting? I will resolve not to make bad jokes during the meetings! Set aside $45 of your Christmas money and buy a DX Dinner ticket.

How about resolving to send me some station and antenna pics to use on our website? Think about the best QSOs and/or QSL cards that you have experienced and send me a quick story about that for the newsletter.

The club is growing and I want everyone to feel that they are participating and getting benefits.

Have a Blessed and Safe Christmas and New Year and consider my challenge!!!

AJ8B—Bill

SWODXA 2023—2024 Calendar

November 2023
- 4-5 ARRL SS CW
- 9 SWODXA Meeting
- 18-19 ARRL SS SSB
- 25-26 CQWW DX CW

December 2023
- 1-3 ARRL 160M CW
- ? SWODXA Christmas Party
- 9-10 ARRL 10M
- 23-24 Stew Perry 160M CW

January 2024
- 6-7 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 11 SWODXA Meeting
- 13-15 ARRL January VHF
- 26-28 CQWW 160M CW

February 2024
- 8 SWODXA Meeting
- 10-11 CQWW WPX RTTY
- 17-18 ARRL DX CW
- 23-25 CQWW 160M SSB

March 2024
- 2-3 ARRL DX SSB
- 14 SWODXA Meeting
- 30-31 CQWW WPX SSB

April 2024
- 11 SWODXA Meeting

May 2024
- 9 SWODXA Meeting
- 17 SWODXA Dinner
- 17-19 Dayton Hamvention
- 25-26 CQWW WPX CW

June 2024
- 8-10 ARRL VHF
- 13 SWODXA Meeting
- 14-15 All Asian CW
- 22-23 ARRL Field Day

July 2024
- 12-13 IARU HF Championship
- 20-21 CQWW VHF

August 2024
- 9-11 WAE DX CW
- 24 Ohio QSO Party

September 2024
- 6-8 All Asian DX SSB Contest
- 6-8 ARRL Sept. VHF Contest
- 12 SWODXA Meeting
- 13-15 WAE DX SSB Contest
- 28-29 CQWW RTTY

October 2024
- 10 SWODXA Meeting
- 26-27 CQWW DX SSB

SWODXA Club News

Upcoming Club Dates and Topics

Meeting Date	Topic
November 9th	My 4 Square Array By Dr. Scott Wright, K0MD
TBD December	SWODXA Christmas Party
Thursday, January 11th, **2024**	25 Most Watned Status by Bernie, W3UR

SWODXA Club News (cont.)

Congratulations to Rob, W8MRL. Over the weekend of October 14th, he picked up SIX ATNOs. Tavalu, French Polynesia, Swains Island, Niue, Tristan da Cunha and Mayotte. Well Done!

From Joe, W8GEX: Friday night (Oct 20th) was a great 6m day for me. First, I had a good South and North America opening. Then at 23:03z New Zealand popped in with ZL3RJ, ZL3RC, ZL3NW getting in my log. I logged the last ZL at about 23:15z.

Then to my surprise at 23:42z I worked VK4HT and at 00:20 I logged VK4WTN for my first VK's ever on 6m. Been waiting 53 years and thought it would never happen.

Some great QSL cards that W8GEX received: 5V7RU, EK/PD3DPK, and TY0RU.

QRP DXing & Contesting

Randy Shirbroun, ND0C

Randy is off and running as our QRP column editor. If you have a question or a suggestion for a column, you can email Randy at randysdvm@gmail.com

DXing with QRP – The Basics, Part 1

There is no doubt that trying QRP requires a paradigm shift and involves a leap of faith, especially if you are used to running higher power levels. But what about actually making DX contacts with QRP? Is it possible, or is it just an exercise in futility?

First, let's put some of the myths to rest, including the following:

You can't work DX running QRP. **Wrong!**

You can't work DX on SSB running QRP. **Wrong!**

It is impossible to work DX on 20 meter SSB running QRP. **Wrong!** (In fact, you can work DX on 40 and 80 running QRP with just a decent dipole. More on that later!)

We are going to take a deeper dive to explore the specific concept of using QRP to chase (and catch!) DX, and hopefully address some questions you may have. And in the process, we should be able to dispel the notion that you will be "crying in your pillow" after attempting to work any DX with QRP, or that you will need intense psychotherapy to cope with the frustration. 😊

But let's be clear: DXing with QRP can be challenging. As we've said in the first column, it is not "push-button". It is different than running a kilowatt or even running "barefoot" (100 watts) with equivalent antennas. You are not going to be able to "open" the bands when running QRP! If propagation is marginal, working DX can be difficult with QRP. Unstable paths with deep QSB and be very challenging at any power level – even more so with five watts.

Being heard through QRM is one of the real problems for the QRPer, whether it is adjacent frequency splatter or a pileup on the DX station's frequency. Obviously, and as we've stated previously, we aren't going to be able to "over-power" other callers chasing the same DX station. Since we can't usually be heard over the top of the competition, we must use other techniques and strategies to bag the DX. Or as the old QRP motto says: "wits, not watts".

QRP DXing & Contesting (cont.)

But before we get into specific tips of "what to do", let's revisit one "not to do". I've previously advised against adding "/QRP" to your call. In a similar vein, don't just transmit "QRP!" when trying to break a pile-up. A great example of this type of situation occurred the other evening. There was a good sized pile-up on S57DX, whom I worked after a couple calls. I stayed on frequency for a couple minutes to listen to the pile-up and heard a station repeatedly calling "QRP" without giving a callsign. Slavko came back to him saying "The station yelling 'QRP' – give your callsign!" I can't say it any better! Another thing that may happen if you are just saying "QRP" is that if the station comes back to "the QRP station", several other stations may jump in, including those running 100 watts. So you haven't accomplished anything. To sum it up, just give your callsign.

The reality is that the use of these strategies and the resulting benefits are not unique to those of us running QRP, but they are especially helpful, and maybe even essential, to successful DXing with QRP. It is not as if these tactics are known only to a select few in a secret DX club – you've probably used them before. But it is beneficial to review these tips and remind ourselves of their value when chasing DX especially with QRP. In this column we'll address tip #1, perhaps the most important one. In the next column we'll cover others.

QRP DXing Tip #1 - Listening

The initial thought when considering working DXing is addressing the challenge of "being heard". Certainly we are depending on the DX station to have "good ears" and pull us out of the pile-up – right? It may seem odd to emphasize effective listening for the DXer running QRP, but it is essential to being successful and is crucial for the other tactics we'll discuss.

Obviously hearing is dependent on having a sensitive receiver with selective filters (and our familiarity with the rig to effectively utilize the technology). As I've mentioned previously, I use a top-grade transceiver with an excellent receiver that is smarter than I am! I am still learning to make the best use of the amazing technology. I rely heavily on the my receiver's great filters when on CW, especially if QRM is an issue. I've also found that a very sharp filter really brings a weak signal out of the noise. And on 40 and 80, I will often back off on the RF gain to decrease the noise.

But beyond the receiver itself, we need to be "tuned in" to what we are hearing. We can't afford to miss what the DX is transmitting, whether we are on SSB or CW. Is he operating simplex, or split? If he is operating split, what is the receive frequency or frequency range he has announced.

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.*

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, or at http://www.dailydx.com/trial.htm.

QRP DXing & Contesting (cont.)

(Later we'll dig into some tips on chasing DX that is operating split. In general the technique and philosophy is the same as DXing with QRO, with a couple little twists.)

Sometimes heavy accents may complicate things on SSB. As I have told my daughter, KE0W-PA, you just have "listen hard". Oh, and we need to confirm his/her callsign – don't trust the spots! Many spots are wrong. If you don't log the DX correctly, you'll get a NIL (not in log) and you won't get a QSL on LotW or a paper card for that matter!

And while we're talking about "listening hard", I'd like to mention that I use headphones 99.9% of the time. I think they allow me to really dig out signals more easily while also helping to eliminate ambient noise. I'd suggest getting the best headset you can afford and that is comfortable to wear for long periods of time. For SSB work I use a headset that includes a microphone.

What is the DX station's operating pattern? How is he/she ending QSOs and therefore listening for other calls. Does the DX identify after every QSO? Once you have figured out how the DX station ends each contact and solicits another one, you may be able to get the jump on the others calling him/her.

Another aspect of listening is determining exactly who the DX station is coming back to. This isn't always easy with a simplex operation with the pileup covering up the DX station itself! Most importantly: did the DX come back to you? This is equally important with partial callsigns. If a station comes back to "the zero" or "the station ending in Charlie", I need to immediately repeat my call. I have heard many stations miss their opportunity to work the DX station when they didn't quickly respond to their "partial". After one or two tries, the DX station will give up and move on!

Another aspect of listening is determining exactly who the DX station is coming back to. This isn't always easy with a simplex operation with the pileup covering up the DX station itself! Most importantly: did the DX come back to you? This is equally important with partial callsigns. If a station comes back to "the zero" or "the station ending in Charlie", I need to immediately repeat my call. I have heard many stations miss their opportunity to work the DX station when they didn't quickly respond to their "partial". After one or two tries, the DX station will give up and move on!

Conversely, if the station didn't come back to your callsign, or any part of it, don't keep calling!!! Running QRP doesn't entitle you to be a jerk and call endlessly over other folks!

Is the DX station taking tail-enders? Some DX stations will pick-up a well-timed tail-ender, but others don't want tail-enders. As a QRP caller, if your timing is poor, you won't be effective and may just antagonize other callers, as well as the DX. For casual Dxing outside of contests I use packet cluster spots – a lot. We'll talk later about how best to use spots when you are running QRP. But the reality is that QRP stations often have difficulty competing in the huge pile-ups that sometimes result from packet spots.

QRP DXing & Contesting (cont.)

There is definite value in avoiding those cluster pile-up situations and using the old-fashioned technigue of "using the big knob on the front of the radio" and tuning up and down the band, hunting. Often you will find DX stations that no one else has found yet. Maybe they are weaker or just started calling CQ. With no QRM, it is possible for QRP stations to snag weak stations that are all alone! As an example, a few months ago I saw a spot for an FR8 station on SSB and he was pretty strong, but with a big pile-up. I called a few times but it seemed futile, so I just tuned around the band a little, knowing that the band was open to that part of the world. A few minutes later I came across another FR8 station, slightly weaker, but very lonely with no callers. He came back to me on my first call!

Speaking of packet cluster pile-ups, it is interesting to listen to one develop. There are many examples, but I'll cite just one. I was tuning the bands in the ARRL CW Contest and stumbled across FK8IK with no callers. I immediately called him and a few seconds later he was in my log. Based on the lack of callers, I was pretty sure he had not been spotted yet. (I didn't know for sure since I was operating un-assisted, not monitoring spots.) Just out of curiosity, I listened on frequency for a couple minutes as a few stations called and worked him, then suddenly the frequency exploded with callers. I probably would not have been able to break that pile-up, but because I had found him first, I already had him!

A very important consideration when chasing a DX station is determining if the signal is actually coming in by the long path (LP) as opposed to the much more common short path (SP). Recognizing the correct propagation path can add several dBs to both the DX signal as well as your transmission received by the DX station. Similarly, there may be situations when a skew path is actually the strongest. Therefore listening – there's that word again – will help you to determine which way to turn your directional antenna. Keep in mind the rather simplistic concept: when the DX's signal is stronger, your signal will be louder for him/her too. And for a QRP station, optimizing the beam heading is crucial.

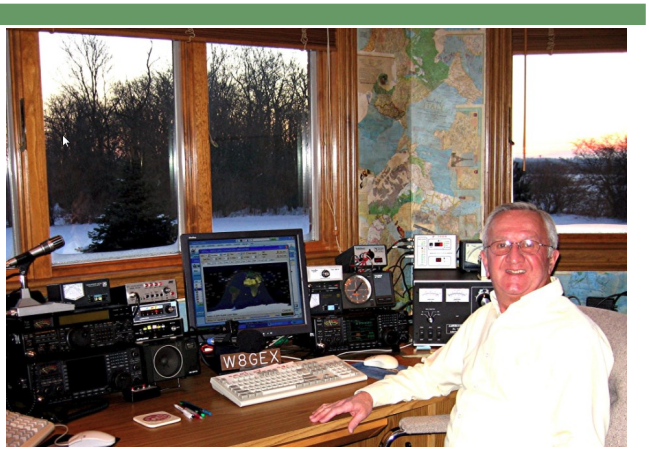
What can you do to help improve your listening skills? One of my interests besides DXing and contesting is Summits on the Air (SOTA). Since I'm a long way from the mountains, must of my SOTA activity is "chasing". The "activator" stations on the summits are typically QRP with wire antennas and their signals can be pretty light at times. I've found that searching for, and pulling out those weak signals from the summit stations, especially those outside of North America, improves my overall listening skills. It is definitely a good training exercise for your ears as well as practice utilizing the filtering capability of your receiver!

We will continue the discussion of basic operating tips for successful DXing using QRP in the next column, as well as share some additional "war stories". And please send me your QRP operating tips and experiences too – I'd love to include them, as well as any questions you may have.

73— *Randy, NDØC*

60 Meters—The Channel Band

By Joe, W8GEX—w8gex@aol.com



Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/347995275954755/

60m website: www.60metersonline.com

Comment Deadlines Set on Proposed 60 Meter Band Changes

10/04/2023 - Updated 10/10/23

A public period is open until October 30, 2023 for radio amateurs to comment on proposed changes to the 60 Meter band. ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is asking all radio amateurs to join it in urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to continue the existing use of the band. ARRL is encouraging expressions of support to the FCC for the current 100 watt ERP power limit (instead of reducing the power limit to 15 watts EIRP) and continuing secondary access to the current channels. An opportunity to reply to comments ends on Nov. 28. Comments should be submitted in FCC Docket No. WT 23-120.

HOW TO COMMENT: ARRL Urges Comments to FCC on 60-Meter Band

Currently, radio amateurs in the US have use of five discrete channels on a secondary basis on which they are permitted an effective radiated power (ERP) of 100 watts ERP. In the NPRM the Commission solicits comment on reducing the secondary allocation to 15 kHz of contiguous spectrum between 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz with a power limit of 15 watts EIRP (equivalent to 9.1 watts ERP). The lesser spectrum and reduced power limit was adopted by the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15).

The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the federal government's spectrum regulator, has argued that the WRC-15 proposals should be implemented as written. Doing so would result in amateurs losing four of the discreet channels they have been using on a secondary basis and having the maximum permissible power reduced by more than 10 dB, from 100 watts ERP to 9.1 watts ERP.

60 Meters—The Channel Band

In 2017, the ARRL petitioned the FCC to keep four of the current five 60-meter channels — one would be within the new band — as well as the current limit of 100 watts ERP. "Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially those between the United States and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly and more capably conduct those communications [and preparedness exercises], before the next hurricane season … ," ARRL said in its petition.

ARRL said that years of amateur radio experience using the five discrete 5-MHz channels demonstrated that amateurs coexist well with the primary users at 5 MHz. "Neither ARRL, nor, apparently, NTIA is aware of a single reported instance of interference to a federal user by a radio amateur operating at 5 MHz to date," ARRL said in its 2017 petition.

ARRL will continue to advocate to maintain the 100-watt limit for 60 meters, continued authorization for the four channels outside the WRC allocation that are being used today, and adoption of the new 15 kHz allocation with the same 100-watt power limit.

In the NPRM, the FCC recognizes that Canada adopted rules equivalent to those proposed by the ARRL. "Finally, we note that Canada has essentially implemented the same rules as ARRL has requested," the Commission wrote.

The FCC seeks comment on the proposed 15 kHz of contiguous spectrum, but also on whether the existing channels should remain allocated to amateur radio on a secondary basis, and whether the maximum power limitations should be reduced from 100 to 9.1 watts ERP. The FCC also requested comments on whether the power limitation should be expressed as EIRP as the WRC-15 recommends or as ERP as in the current rules.

NEW COUNTRY: Here is an update on Juan Fernandez Islands, CE0Z. The CB0ZA team goes there February 13-20, 2024. There will be 10 ops on Robinson Crusoe Island which has the IOTA designator of SA-005. As part of the trip, they will do a Parks on the Air activation, Juan Fernandez National Park, with IOTA designator CA-0022. They plan four stations, 160-6 including 60M, SSB, CW, RTTY, FT8 and 6M EME. Individual and club supporters will get a mention on the website

NEW COUNTRY: TJ – Cameroon. The upcoming TJ9MD November 2-15. The QTH, Kribi, is on the Atlantic coast.

NEW COUNTRY: Timor-Leste. 4W8X in November 2023. A team of 20+ skillful and experienced operators from Germany, Poland, Austria, Hungary and England will be active from Timor Leste in November 2023, and plan to be on 60m.

NEW COUNTRY: TX7L Marquesas Island: TX7L by a German team will be on 60m Nov. 4 to 17.

60 Meters—The Channel Band

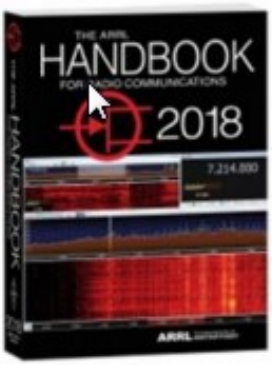
NEW COUNTRY: PY0T - Trindade and Martin Vaz Islands—PT2IC, PY1ZV and PY6RT plan an operation for 3-4 days in November, Call sign PR0T at the PY0T station. Not 100% sure they will have time for 60m.

NEW COUNTRY: E6 – Niue—DF8AN will be holiday style, callsign E6AJ, November 3-10. QSL direct or bureau to DF8AN; no LoTW or Club Log.

NEW COUNTRY: Namibia V51WH: I will be back in Namibia from November 16, to April 2024. I will operate from the farm near Omaruru and will pay attention to 60 meters.

Vy 73, Gunter, V51WH + V55Y

ARRL OH Section Updates



From our ARRL Section Manager, Tom Sly, WB8LCD

Hey Gang, Do you get updates from your ARRL Ohio Section Manager via email? If not, go to: http://arrl-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://arrl-ohio.org

Sable Island 2023—CY0S

By K4ZLE—Jay

According to our team leader, Murray, WA4DAN, Sable Island is a very special place. After my participation in the 2023 CY0S operation, I must agree with him. To finally obtain permission to make this multi-operator, multi-day DXpedition a reality. it took multiple phone calls, several trips from his home in North Carolina to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, and additional short trips out to Sable Island itself. All of this was at his own expense.

Our on-island team consisted of the following: Murray, WA4DAN; Dan, W4DKS; John, W2GD; Lou, N2TU; Lee, WW2DX; Craig, K9CT; Glenn, W0GJ and Jay, K4ZLE. The support team was Pat, N2EIN; Bill, K5DHY; Randy, N0TG; Bob, K4UEE; Hal, N4GG; Chaz, W4GKF; San, K5YY and John N8AA. There were no rookies on either team. Two are officers of NCDXF. Two are directors of INDEXA. Three are CQ DX Hall of Fame members. Two are CQ Contest Hall of Fame members. Over half of the team had previously operated from 'top ten' entities. Our results bear witness to the quality of the team.

We operated 10m – 160, 2M EME, 6M, and Satellite. Modes were CW / SSB / FT8 / FT4 / RTTY. Antennas used were as follows: Hy-Gain 20-15-10 monoband yagis, a Cushcraft 12/17 A3WS duobander with diplexer, verticals on 30m – 160m (using Spider Poles), and a 60M dipole. The same Spider Pole supported both the 160 and 80 m verticals. This limited us to having only one or the other band operational at a given time.

CY0S—Sable Island (cont.)

On HF there were 4 K3's and, 3 KPA500 amps, The VHF station consisted of an IC-705 Transceiver and Italialabs 1KW SSPA amplifier; LNA: Antennas-Amplifiers EME2-144; Antennas: 2 X 12 Element Antennas-Amplifiers PA144-12-7AGPL; 3 element yagi for 6M, G5500 + RT21 AZ/EL Controller.

Originally, we had planned to have near real time ClubLog feeds, but the existing internet on Sable would not support that mode. True to the time proven adage, "Plan well but also plan to innovate", we had to change those plans. As a result, logs were pulled from the master at least twice per day and sent to K5DHY for ClubLog upload.

This was not a tent and generator operation, but that does not mean there were no other obstacles to overcome besides intermittent internet. While the weather on Sable was not as intense as some previous venues, it was not a summer stroll on a tropical beach. We experienced snow in some amount every day except one. Temperatures were generally in the 30's F. Wind was almost a constant 25 knots with gusts into the low 50's. Weather is also a limiting factor traveling to/from Sable, sometimes delaying plans for days. We were delayed by half a day traveling to Sable. Because Halifax was fogged in on our scheduled departure day, we were delayed a day in departing Sable. That extra day allowed us to push our total Q's over 80,000.

The island is a Canadian National Park Reserve and access is normally limited. Because of its protective status, no intervention is permitted between wildlife and humanity. The island is as pristine as nature provides. Intervention is prohibited, but scientific research abounds. One scientist, Zoe Lucas, has over forty years of experience as a naturalist on Sable Island. She does continuous research and monitoring involving terrain restoration projects and biodiversity studies. While there, we were informed that more than 500 wild horses currently make their home on this island. In addition, it is estimated that 300 to 400 thousand seals come to the island during the winter months to breed and pup.

CY0S—Sable Island (cont.)

More than 350 species of birds have been recorded on the island.

Sable is a shifting crescent shaped sandbar. It gets its name from the French "l'île de Sable" which means island of sand. It is approximately 300 km (190 mi) southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and about 175 km (109 mi) southeast of the closest point of the mainland. It is not more than 1.6 km (1 mi.) across its widest location and about 42 km (23 mi.) long.

Because, Parks Canada does not recommend coming by boat, transport was via air. Normally that would entail a charter with Sable Aviation on their BN-2A Britten Norman Islander from Halifax, NS.. Since there were eight of us on the team, we would have had to make two trips going and coming. Instead, we chose to also use Vision Air and their Sikorsky SK-76A++ helicopter. Otherwise, it would have taken two days each way. Our total weight allowance spread between the two aircraft was 3000 pounds. We all committed to personal weight of no more than 240 pounds each, including personal items which included food for the entire island stay. Murray spent many hours (days) juggling equipment composition vs weight to meet the weight restrictions. There is no airstrip on the island, so fixed wing takeoffs and landings are on the sandy beach.

We arrived on the island on March 20th. And departed on March 31. Except during the WPX contest, we operated split. Even though ClubLog had rated CY0 at 49, the piles were generally massive. The team participated as a Multi-Multi entry in the WPX SSB contest with the plan to satisfy much of the phone demand during that time. We made nearly 7900 QSOs during the contest in spite of a G-3 solar event. This resulted in a new Canadian Multi-Multi record. Overall Japan, Oceania, Africa, and South America were our priorities when there were openings. FT8 was exclusively Fox/Hound mode. On EME & SAT operation, Lee, WW2DX focused on 2m EME, 6M, and satellite. As mentioned previously, we did make some RTTY and FT4 QSOs. Total Q's approached 85,000. As a result of this expedition Sable Is dropped from 49 to 73 as of Sep 2023 on the ClubLog needs list.

CY0S—Sable Island (cont.)

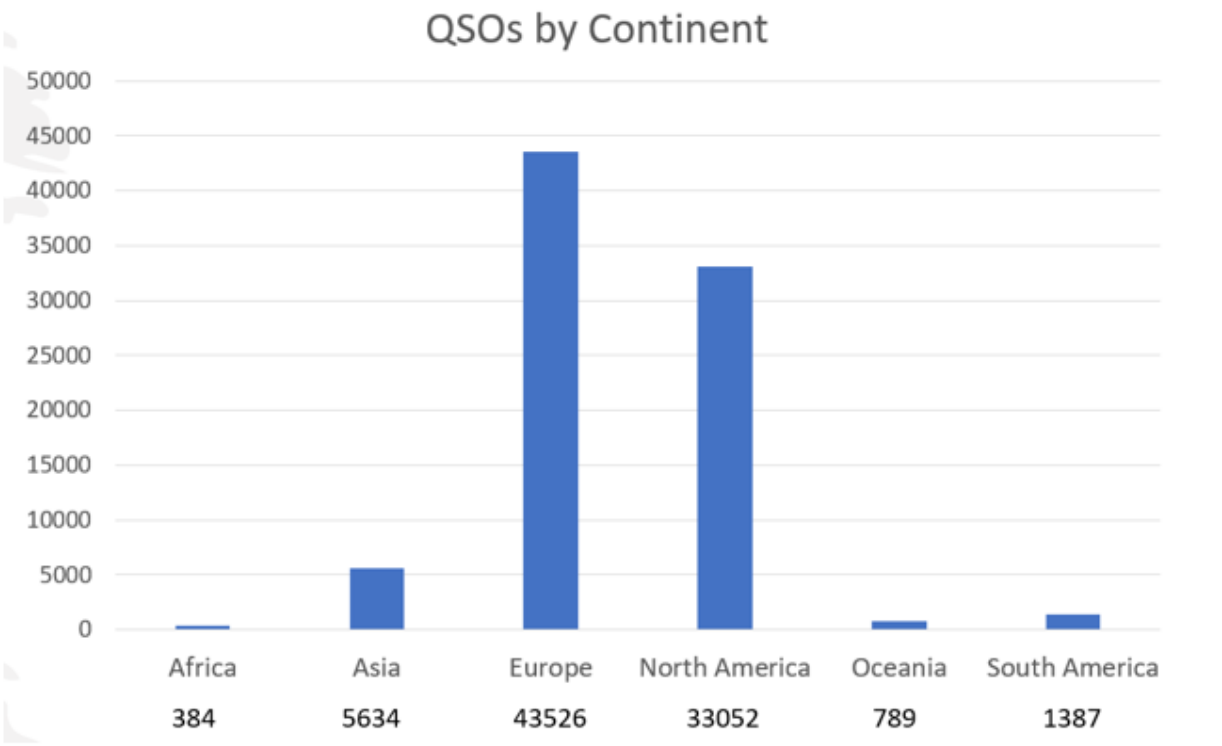
I have been on many DXpeditions, some at the top of the needs list, and while those were once in a lifetime experiences, I consider this operation from Sable Island another once in a lifetime event. There is much history of this island not herein covered and so much beauty to be admired. I have been truly fortunate to visit this place. It is the team's hope that you made it into the log, if you wanted to and if you did not, I fear it could be another seven years plus before it is activated again. However, if Murray has anything to do about that, perhaps it shall not be so long. Time will tell.

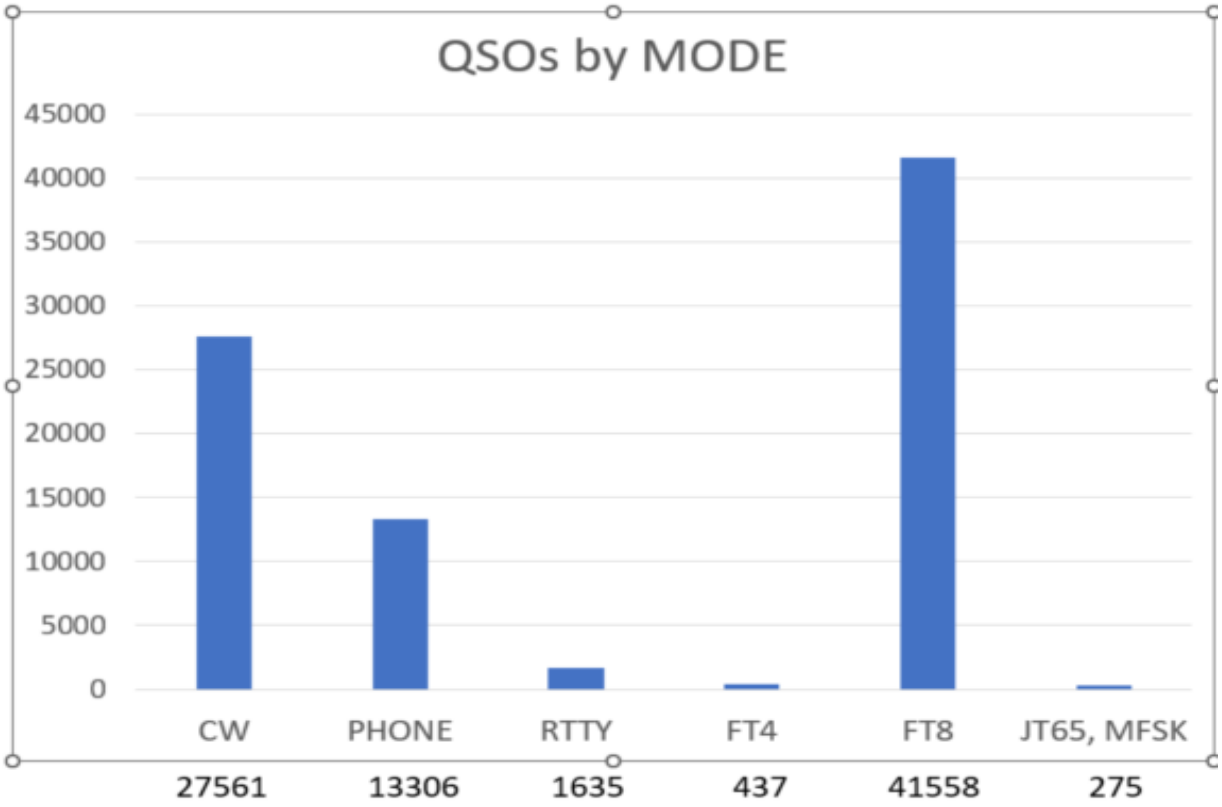
As a representative of the team, we are thankful for the individuals and organizations that made this operation possible. We are especially appreciative of Parks Canada staff (Sarah Medill and Ken Wile), our aviation partners and Zoe Lucas for their participation. And, of course, without the financial support of organizations like yours, operations like this would possibly not happen. Thank you for your support.

As and aside and a teaser, many of the same team members are hoping to activate CY9, St Paul Island, in 2024.

CYOS—Sable Island (cont.)

CY0S—Sable Island (cont.)





NEW

ID-52A

2M / 70CM Analog / Digital

Waterfall Display

See Band Conditions Instantly

- Multi-function Analog/D-STAR 2M / 70CM
- 2.3” Color Display with Waterfall band scope
- Dual D-STAR receive
- VV/VU/UU receive capability
- Bluetooth® enabled

ID-52A & Repeaters Shipping Now

ID-RP2010V	2m Analog/D-STAR Repeater
ID-RP4010V	70cm Analog/D-STAR Repeater
ID-RP1200VD	23cm Analog/D-STAR or DD Repeater

D-STAR ready

Perfect Companion On The Go

IC-705

HF / 6M / 2M / 70CM SDR Analog/Digital

www.icomamerica.com/amateur
sales@icomamerica.com

For the love of **ham radio.**

ICOM®

©2022 Icom America Inc. The Icom logo is a registered trademark of Icom Inc. All other trademark remain the property of their respective owners. All specifications are subject to change without notice or obligation. 31502

Japanese Castles on the Air—JACOTA

Castle #5 *by Greg Cook, JO3SLK*

This is part 5 of the Japanese Castles on the Air program submitted by Greg Cook, JO3SLK,. Thanks to Ray, N9JA, for connecting us for these great articles.

Shoryuji is a small, historically old, but very nice castle located in Nagaokakyo city, Kyoto. It is about a 45 minute drive from my house in Kawanishi. I found the castle using jcastle.info, as usual. The Jcastle website provided the historical information written below.

The reconstructed Tenshu (castle keep) is a community center.

"In 1339, Shoryuji Castle was built by Hosokawa Yoriharu, a leading retainer of Ashikaga Takauji, the first shogun of the Ashikaga Shogunate. The castle is located a strategic point to help defend Kyoto, the capital at the time, from incursions from the West. During the Onin Wars, the Iwanari Tomomichi was lord of the castle for the western alliance. After Nobunaga conquered the region, he stationed Hosokawa Fujitaka here. Fujitaka fortified the castle and built a double moat around it. The castle was also used as a base by Akechi Mitsuhide in the Battle of Yamazaki after the death of Nobunaga in 1582. Parts of the castle were cannibalized for use in Yodo castle, and it was left in a poor state. Nagai Naokiyo became lord of the castle in 1633 and attempted to reconstruct it, but the castle was decommissioned when he was moved to Settsu province in 1649."

I visited the castle on the 20th of March to take pictures and ask for permission to operate. The person in charge of the park and castle was very nice and supportive of my project. She asked me to send a request to operate, which I did. A few days later she sent me the "official application for park use". I received permission and operated there on Friday, April 9th.

Japanese Castles on the Air—JACOTA (cont.)

The Castle and Grounds

The reconstructed walls around the Honmaru (main inner courtyard) are complete and go all around the main castle grounds.

The moat and wall in front of the Tenshu.

The main entrance is just across a wooden bridge.

The entrance area. The main gate is to the left.

The main gate to the castle.

It is big, with a thick frame and doors.

The Tenshu/community center.

The entrance is to the left.

Japanese Castles on the Air—JACOTA (cont.)

The honmaru grounds are very well maintained and clean.

There are a couple of Yagura (turrets) in the corners of the castle grounds.

Parking and the Terrace

The terrace was my choice of operating locations.

There is a parking lot next to the park, which is next to the castle grounds. You have to get to the lot early as there are only about seven parking stalls there. I had to go to the City Hall office to pick up my permission paperwork, then rush back to the parking lot….just in time. The terrace is where some say the original Tenshu might have been located.

N3FJP
Amateur Radio Software©

Japanese Castles on the Air—JACOTA (cont.)

This is the trail to the terrace. The reconstructed Tenshu/community center is to the left.

The terrace offers a wide clear view.

This is where I choose to set up and operate my portable station. I thought it would be isolated enough behind the keep so that few visitors would climb the steps to the terrace. However, as it turned out, several visitors came to the terrace. Several people asked about my activity and were interested in Ham Radio.

Luggage Carrier with my stuff!

This time I brought a luggage carrier with me instead of the usual hauling cart. The carrier was a bit easier to pull up the two flights of steps, one of which had a lot of stone steps. There is a fold-out seat on the other side of the carrier. Strapped to the carrier is my Buddipole® bag, the LC-192 with the loop antenna and the IC-705 inside, tripods, and in the white bag is my camera and antenna analyzer.

Japanese Castles on the Air—JACOTA (cont.)

The 3 element 6 meter Yagi worked Great!

The 3 element 6 meter Yagi is the same configuration as the one I built and used at Tanabe castle, and is described in a lot of detail in the April 1 issue of FB News. The link is: https://www.fbnews.jp/202104/ww01/

The antenna was pointed south-southeast towards Osaka and I made several contacts with it. Six meters is quite popular in Japan, and should open up to some DX in Taiwan, Australia and even Hong Kong in the future.

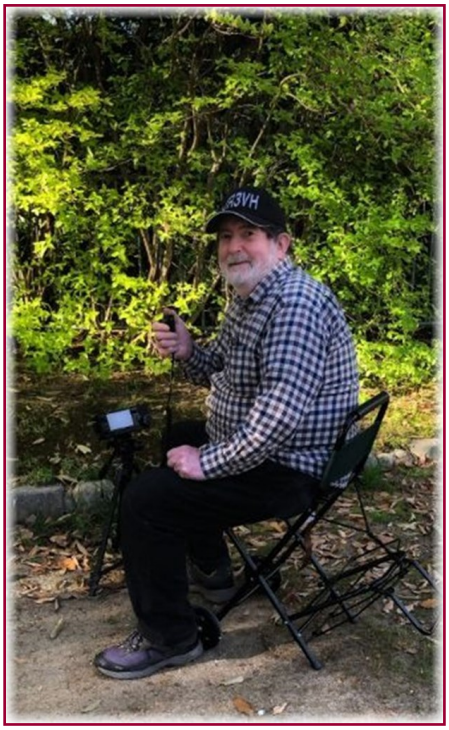
The AL-705 Loop Antenna

I tried 40 meters with the loop antenna, but propagation was not right for me, and also low power was a limiting factor. I hope to try higher bands in future castle visits.

I also worked some D-Star repeaters through the Kyoto Minami repeater, using call sign and Gateway routing. VHF and UHF operation will be covered in a future JACOTA article.

Japanese Castles on the Air—JACOTA (cont.)

The seat in the luggage carrier makes operating much easier. I can see this cart being used a lot in the future as I explore castles that will require a longer distance from my car to the castle and operating area. It hauls most of the gear I need, including the small plastic tripod that I use to mount the IC-705 on to operate. I am going to try to find a smaller camp table to hold my log and other things.



Shoryuji castle is one of the nicest and most fun castles to operate from. It has a lot of history, and if you have a chance, I highly recommend visiting it.

The keep, wall, and moat in a wide view.
The terrace is just to the left of the gate, and up a hill.

Our DX Friends are saying….

As we have done in previous newsletters, I sent our DX Friends a question and asked for their opinions. The question was "What contests will you be participating in this season? In what way? (Single OP, DXpedition, part of a team?) "

Thanks to our former interviewees for sharing their thought

I am no longer interested in contests
73 9j2bo

hello Bill!

Single OP:
every QSO Party
CQWW SSB
Silent Key Memorial Contest
CQWW CW
OK/OM DX Contest
ARRL 160m
ARRL 10m

73, Laci OM2VL

Hi Bill,

I plan to compete single op. in the CQWW SSB, CQWW CW, ARRL SSB, CQWW WPX, and IARU contests.

73 – John HK3C

Our DX Friends are saying (cont)

Good evening Sir

I will be partaking in CQWW SSB contest end of October 2023

I enjoy contesting local through SARL or ARRL or other contest around the world

I have not the best ham station on earth but i do not compare myself to anyone on this planet but it does do uts job and i am very happy.. other contesting was great this year and hopefully it will keep on going for years

Weather plays a big role in contesting and band conditions so hopefully it will improve and then have some fun with ham radio

This is my view of contesting

73 Enjoy the evening & BE SAFE

De Zs2ec,Theunis

Hello Bill

I don't do competitions anymore because they last too long during the weekend. I took part in the "Coupe du Ref " the french contest to meet some friends. I mainly take part in qso party type contests, which only last a few hours and allow me to improve my number of counties in each state. This year I finished California, which is great. By the way, if any of you readers find yourselves in a rare county, I'm OK for a CW sked. hi

73'

F8PDR - Ben

What a Day! CW Guys Visit KPH

This article, by Rob, K6RB, first appoeared in the CWOPS organization newsletter, Solid Copy, and is reprinted with the permision of the Editor and of the author.

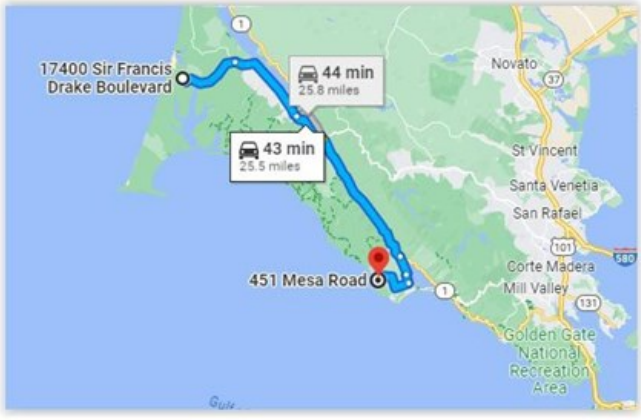
On June 17 2023 five CW operators visited the last coastal marine radio station, and what a day it was. The station is KPH, and its history goes back 109 years when Marconi had a station built in Bolinas California. But its lineage goes back even further. In 1904, the PH in KPH was for Palace Hotel, the site of one of the first wireless radio entities, located at that hotel in San Francisco. After the quake of 1906, and the destruction of the Palace Hotel, KPH moved around a bit.

Here's what left of the Bolinas Building 1 where the Marconi station was installed in 1914.

The Marconi station of 1914 was a spark transmitter station. But, with the advent of first arc based stations, and, later, the Alexanderson alternator based radios, KPH kept up with the times. And, it was still cooking with new technologies as vacuum tubes were invented and improved versions were introduced. Marconi's enterprise had been bought by RCA between World Wars I and II, and the Bolinas California transmitter site grew in the numbers and types of transmitters installed and used there.

It was common, in those days, to locate the transmitter site some distance from the receiver site, and KPH was no exception. About 20 miles north of Bolinas, at Point Reyes National Seashore, a receiving site was put in place. Operators at the receiving site would key the transmitters at Bolinas using landline based remote links. One of the reasons for the separation was to minimize the interference from transmitted signals at the receivers. In addition, the transmitter site was quite noisy, physically, so that it was hard to hear audio signals, too.

Stations like KPH were used both for commercial ship-to-shore communications and for point-to-point communications. Between World War I and II, and for a while after, commercial point-to-point and ship-to-shore communications was quite lucrative, and it paid for the buildings, equipment and labor needed to keep everything up and running.



The transmitter and receiver sites are about 20 miles apart.

To be sure, the history of KPH is both fascinating and rich. A book sized document could do it justice. But I want to talk more about what we saw that day, so I recommend that those interested in the history of KPH check out these websites: https://www.nps.gov/pore/planyourvisit/kph_treetunnel.htm and https://www.radiomarine.org/

What a Day! CW Guys Visit KPH (cont.)

Beginning the Journey

My first inkling that a visit might be in the works came by virtue of an email from Bob, WO6W, who had been one of my intermediate, and then ad- vanced, CW Academy people. He asked if I had any interest and I responded with a definite "yes." While I was away in May, things had progressed, and when I returned Bob had set up a visit to KPH for five of us: Bob, me (K6RB), Roland (AE6VL), Jim (W6JIM) and Rob (W2ITT).

None of us lived close to Bolinas or Point Reyes, so we carpooled. I drove to Bob's house in Menlo Park, and so did Rob (W2ITT). Then Bob drove the three of us to Bolinas, later Point Reyes, and then back to Menlo Park. (Thanks, again, Bob). Jim and Roland met us at Bolinas. We all arrived there around 9 am and were met by Bob Venditi (W6AW), a volunteer with Marine Radio Historical Society (MRHS) and National Park Service.

Bob V. took us inside and began showing us around the Bolinas transmitter site. We were await- ing the arrival of Bill Ruck, a MRHS/National Park employee. He would be the one to provide all the information about what we were seeing and how it all came together. More about Bob V. and Bill R., later.

L to R – K6RB, W2ITT, W6AW and W6JIM. Behind Jim is AE6VL. The transmit site is on the left. (Bob, WO6W, took the photo)

Inside Building 2

I estimate that Building 2 was about 20,000 square feet (10,000 on the first floor, and the same on the second floor). The action was on floor 2. It was the site of all the different transmitters, thepower-distribution system, a control center, parts department, a small lunch room and a bathroom.

Some of the many transmitters on floor 2 at Building 2 in Bolinas.

What a Day! CW Guys Visit KPH (cont.)

Bill Ruck tells about the various transmitters, when they were used,

When the market for point-to-point and ship-to-shore CW began to dry up, the commercial Morse stations, like KPH, began to disappear. In 1997, what had remained of KPH's equipment and facilities was bought by Globe Wireless and essentially left unused and in place. In 1999, the last ever commercialMorse transmission was made by KFS (Half Moon Bay California) in July and on that very same day, July 12, the MRHS was created.

Working together with the Point Reyes National Seashore, MRHS took over KPH. Much to its sur- prise, it found that the equipment was largely still in place, and some was even operational. Over the last 24 years, MRHS has restored several transmitters and gotten the TX and RX sites linked up, again.

In Bolinas, there's a control room that monitors all the gear operation, but actual sending and receiving of CW takes place at the Point Reyes RX site. Visitors without prior arrangement do not go to Bolinas. Yet, to a CW operator, it is a very interesting location. The lines and lines of trans- mitters are impressive. And, the storeroom/parts room is replete with passive and vacuum-tube components. It is truly a ham "treasure trove." And, the enthusiasm of Bill Ruck for the equip- ment, the spare parts, and the stories that go with them is palpable.

KPH has been a part of radio since its earliest days of spark. Sitting on the floor is a fixture that at one time was the heart of an arc transmitter where instead of an intermittent spark, a continu- ous arc was struck inside a sealed, gas-filled, metal vessel. Not long after, sparks and arcs were be- ing largely replaced by Alexanderson alternator- based transmitters. None of those alternators re- main at KPH but a plaque describing such was recently discovered and is proudly displayed at Bolinas.

Bill points to a somewhat rusted-out vessel that at one time provided the arc core of an arc transmitter.

The working transmitters are all massive, tube- type, transmitters. You won't find a solid-state amplifier anywhere. There's a constant thrum of sound produced by HVAC and power supplies and fans. It made sense, and still makes sense, tohave the RX site separated from the TX site for the sake of being able to receive RF signals unimpeded by high-powered adjacent RF signals as well as the audio that is produced.

What a Day! CW Guys Visit KPH (cont.)

Taking a Short Break before the Trek to Point Reyes

After being regaled by stories of equipment past and present, the group was invited into the small lunch room for some caffeinated brew and some pastries brought by Bill Ruck from a bak- ery in San Francisco. While we ate and sipped, Bill and Bob V. told us hair-raising stories about poles, towers, wires and "riggers." During its heyday, KPH had full-time riggers whose job was to fix whatever needed fixing on those poles, towers, and wire antennas. It turns out Bill and Bob V. had also done their share of pole and tower climbing at other venues. When Bill talked about fix- ing an antenna, on a tower's side, with nothing between his shoes and the ground except for 900 feet of space, I had a hard time imagining what that felt like.

Bill and Bob V. at the far end kept us entertained with hair-raising stories.

The ride to the RX site would take 40 plus minutes driving the 25 miles of winding, narrow, roads. The plan was to stop, first, at a market near Point Reyes, in Inverness, and pick up some sand- wiches and drinks for lunch, then proceed to the RX site.

The Trip to Point Reyes

Anyone who has never visited the beach towns of Marin County is missing one of nature's bountiful areas. With Bob (WO6W) driving his new hybrid Honda, yours truly in the co-pilot seat, and Rob (W2ITT) owning the back seat, we proceeded to follow Bill Ruck to the RX site. This place was timeless. The small beach towns were quaint and compact separated by huge swaths of rolling hills, meadows, trees, and occasional grazing animals.

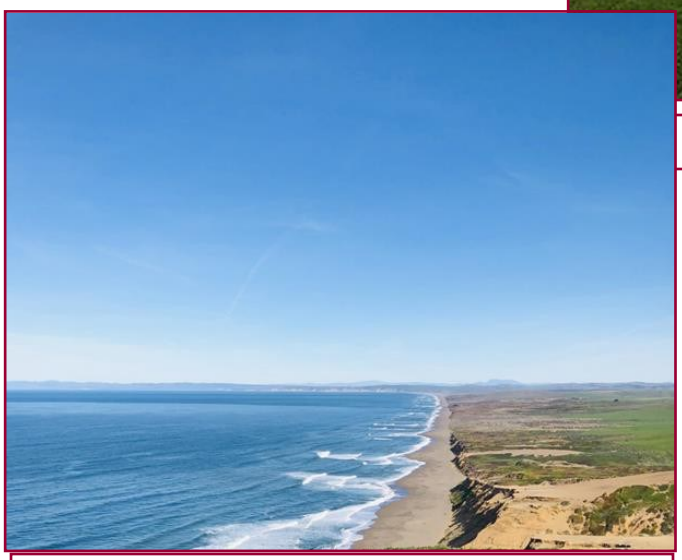
When we arrived at the locked gate, Bill opened it, and we drove in to what was a unique, long driveway to the RX site. The road passed through a magnificent tunnel of trees which is often photographed and included with the photo of the RX building, an art-deco structure.

Each cubicle has a key, at least one RX and a control setup that determines whether you will be transmitting on a marine fre- quency, as KPH, or an amateur radio frequency, as K6KPH. At each operating position, you can see which other stations are active, and which band each is on by eyeballing red LEDs on each panel. Once we arrived, Bill escorted us through the "guests" front entrance (as opposed to the visitor's side entrance).

What a Day! CW Guys Visit KPH (cont.)

The tree-lined driveway leading to KPH's RX site.

The tree-lined driveway ends here.



Nearby is Point Reyes National Seashore's gorgeous beach.

What a Day! CW Guys Visit KPH (cont.)

A short hallway led us back to the operator's area.

Getting the royal "guest" treatment.

The stations are set up for both marine and amateur, and a switch selects to which set of bands the operator will have access. When set to amateur bands, there is a choice of five – 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 meters. The frequencies are crystal controlled at 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 18.0975, and 21.050 MHz.

Once you select a band, and tune the receiver to your operating frequency, you are ready to go. Plug in a hand key, or a bug, or a keyer set up to handle -8 volts to ground, and have at it.

With some of the group operating the positions simultaneously, it was interesting to note that there was virtually no sign of their signals on the band you chose. It turned out that 20 m was both a bit noisy and there were a few stations close enough to 14.050 to pose a QRM issue. So, we operated 40, 17 and 15 meters.

Jim (W6JIM) brought along a small, side-action, bug. Rob (W2ITT) used one of the available hand keys, so did Bob (WO6W), and I elected to use an MFJ keyer that was set up to key my operating position.

Left: Bob, WO6B, operating 40 meters with a hand key.

Right: Rob, W2ITT, is stirring up action on 15 meters.

What a Day! CW Guys Visit KPH (cont.)

What you are actually keying is one of the transmitters we saw back at Bolinas, and you are running 1.5 KW to boot. I first started on 15 meters and immediately worked JK1YWW but signals were not very strong. It was probably 5 am in Japan, a bit early for 15 meters. On 17 meters, I ended up working two JAs, a W8 in Florida, a W3 in Maryland, and a K7 in Seattle. The K7 was 599 plus. Each of us who chose to operate worked at least one station, usually several.

Rob, K6RB, kicking out the jams on 17 meters.

After getting our fill of operating, we all went into the small lunch room and ate the sandwiches we had gotten in Inverness. There was true consensus that this was an interesting, rewarding visit. On our way out, Bill took us into a room where there were shelves of receivers dating back to before WW II through the 1960s – all tube type. In a closet were a bunch of keys. Again, a ham "treasure trove."

I applaud Bob (WO6W) for having arranged the visit, and for driving me and Rob (W2ITT) from Bob's home in Menlo Park and back. He did a masterful job of driving. I also want to thank both Bill Ruck and Bob Venditi for being great hosts, and being enthusiastic founts of information.

KPH is open to visitors and guest operators every Saturday. If you choose to visit, impromptu, you are most welcome at the Point Reyes station. You need to make arrangements, beforehand, to visit the Bolinas station. It is a trip truly worth the time.

Club Contacts

Previous President,
NR8Z—Tom Inglin

nr8z@arrl.net

President, Newsletter, and
Website Editor
AJ8B—Bill Salyers

aj8b@arrl.net

Vice-President

W8KJ—Kevin Jones

w8kj@bcara.net

Treasurer & DX Dinner
Chairman
W8RKO—Mike Suhar,
msuhar@woh.rr.com

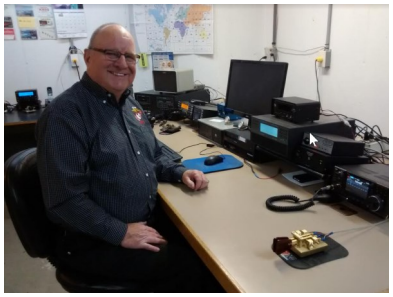
Club Contacts

Secretary
KC8CKW—Mindi Jones

kc8ckw@fuse.net

DX Grant Committee Chairman
W8GEX—Joe Pater

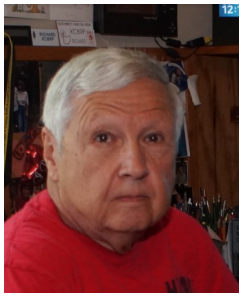
w8gex@aol.com



DX Dinner Moderator &
DX Forum Chairman
K4ZLE—Jay Slough

k4zle@yahoo.com

DX Dinner Prize Chairman
K4YJ—Dwight Kelly
k4yj@frontier.com



SWODXA Station
TrusteeW8EX

—

KC8RP—Richard Pestinger
rpestinger@gmail.com

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 and host the *W8DXCC DX Convention*. *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 at Hunter Pizzeria in Franklin, OH, and virtually via ZOOM. 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: Past President Tom Inglin, NR8Z, President Bill Salyers, AJ8B; 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.

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	VP8SGI
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	W8KKF/WP5
K5D	3Y0J	T33A	3Y0J	CY9C	