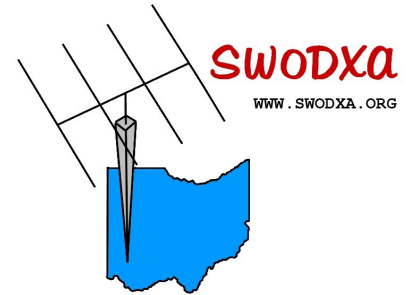




the exchange



SouthWest Ohio DX Association

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 Mike Suhar
 Club Trustee: KC8RP
 Richard Pestinger
 Club Call : W8EX

The Prez says.....

To steal a line from Animal House. "Holy Cow, is this fun or what?" DX is just waiting to be worked. I hope you have been spending some time on the air listening and working some needed band slots. Five years from now, we will be saying, "Remember when..."



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Speaking of DX, hats off to Jay, K4ZLE, and Don, N6JRL, for being a part of the H40WA DXpedition to Temotu Province. (Below) Well done guys. (cont. on page 4)



SWODXA 2024—2025 Calendar

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 DX 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

November 2024

4-5 ARRL SS CW
9 SWODXA Meeting
16-18 ARRL SS SSB

December 2024

6-8 ARRL 160M CW
12 SWODXA Meeting
14-15 ARRL 10M
28-29 Stew Perry 160M CW

January 2025

4-5 ARRL RTTY Roundup
9 SWODXA Meeting
18-20 ARRL January VHF
24-26 CQWW 160M CW

February 2025

8-9 CQWW WPX RTTY
13 SWODXA Meeting
15-16 ARRL DX CW
21-23 CQWW 160M SSB

SWODXA Club News

Upcoming Club Dates and Topics

Meeting Date	Topic
Thursday, April 11th, 2024	3D Printing—WV7W—Bob Creigh
Thursday, May 9th, 2024	Introduction to Node Red - WO2X - David de Coons
Thursday, June 13th, 2024	Everything You Need to Know for 6 Me- ter DXing - K5ND - Jim Wilson
Thursday, September 12th, 2024	Improving Your DX Experience - K9ZO - Ralph Bellas



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dxmentor@gmail.com or calling **1-513-855-3980**

The Prez Says (cont.)

Jay will be resting up for an encore DXpedition to CY9C, St. Paul Island later this year.

If you have been reading this each month, or attending the meetings, you know what my two talking points have been: We need you to volunteer and we need you to vote on the DXpedition of the Year.

Point #1—We have plenty of volunteer slots open at the DX dinner. If you are going anyway (and why not?), you can help us out. Helping folks with directions at the dinner, to the table, the Will Call Window, or just answering questions, is very helpful. We will also need help at the DX Forum on Saturday as well. Just let me know you are available! (aj8b@arrl.net, 513-503-9901)

Point #2—Joe and I are in our second year of our podcast, and I am always struck at how much “weight” the name Southwest Ohio DX Association carries in the DX community. When you mention “The DXpedition of the Year”, it gets peoples attention. So, what’s the point? The point is this: The DX Committee has done some great work going through all of the DXpeditions that have occurred in the last eligibility period and identifying the most “deserving”. All I ask is that you review the ballot when the email goes out and thoughtfully select the DXpedition that you believe deserves the recognition. This is what differentiates us from **every other DX club in the world**. Let’s make the best of it!

Finally, we have been working hard to get interesting presentations at our meetings that you can join via ZOOM. Last month I joined from Orlando and found the experience very satisfying. If you have not attended in quite a while, why not join us in April?

Hope to see you at the next meeting and at the DXDinner,

73 for Now

AJ8B => Bill

New Members

Hello all, my name is Matthew Stowe my call sign is KC8FTO. My QTH is on the eastside of Cincinnati near Coney Island. I was first licensed in 1997 at 14 years old as a technician. In my beginning years in the hobby I mainly focused on 6 meters using a IC-706 and a fixed position 3 element 6m beam mounted to my parents chimney. I used to leave that radio on the 6m DX calling frequency all night long, and one of those nights that radio came to life with stations calling from all over Texas and Arkansas, then within 10 minutes or so the band opening faded away, I managed to get a couple stations that night and have been chasing DX ever since.

My current license class is general, I spend most of my time on HF now when work & life allow. I currently work as a electrician in the solar industry throughout Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. My station consist of a IC-718 and a multi band vertical, and a magnetic loop antenna. I am currently studying for the extra exam and hoping to take the exam by the end of March.



73,
Matthew Stowe (KC8FTO)



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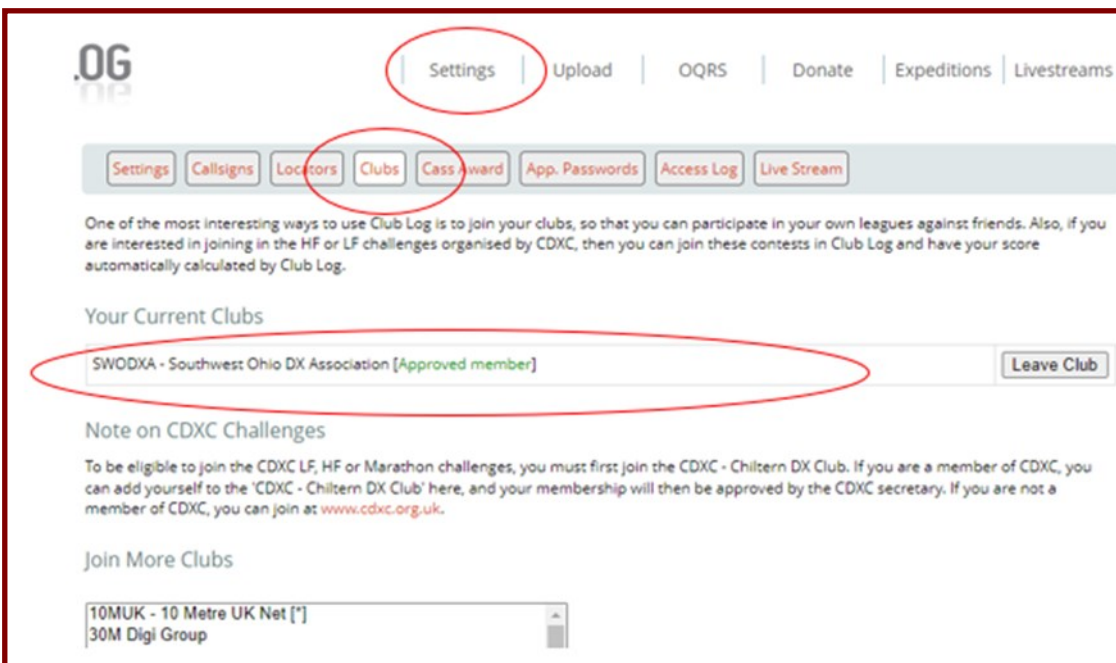
Clublog for SWODXA Members

Bob, W8RES, and I were talking at the last SWODXA meeting. He mentioned that after looking at the club standings in Clublog.org, there were only a few club members listed. He thought it would be a good idea to remind our club members that they can have their scores automatically added together and we could compete individually and also as a club.

I know how competitive DXers can be, so I thought it would be worth it to put some notes together to show how to do this.

If you use ClubLog, please make sure that you have SWODXA listed as YOUR club. Here's how:

-> Log in to clublog.org. Along the top menu, you will see Settings. Click on Settings. Then click on Clubs as shown in Figure 1 below.



-> After updating this, click on "Club Leagues" along the left side of the screen. You should see a screen that lists all of the clubs that are registered. You can scroll down and hit "Control-F" to open a search window at the top and enter SWODXA. The leagues will be displayed as shown in Figure 2.

Clublog for SWODXA Members

Club DX League

The league below is based on all of the QSOs in active members' logs. Only the primary callsigns of members are considered. The data should be interpreted with care if the number of members in a club is much less than the full membership expected.

Clubs having fewer than 15 members are not included. Updated once every 7 days. Last updated: Thu, 14 Mar 2024 20:15:40 +0000.

Tip: You can click the headings to sort the table.

Position	Club Name	Members*	Years QRV	DXCCs
33	SWODXA - Southwest Ohio DX Association	19	27	281

-> Double Click on the Club entry and you will see who has counted SWODXA as their club.

Thanks Bob!

DXCC Leagues

The leagues are rebuilt once per day. Only callsigns active in the last 12 months are included in the league tables. The maximum size of a league is 2000 participants.

<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Mode Filter	<input type="radio"/> CW	<input type="radio"/> Phone	<input type="radio"/> Data
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rank by DXCCs	<input type="radio"/> Rank by slots	Rank by band: Totals ▼	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 160M	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 80M	<input type="checkbox"/> 60M	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40M
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30M	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20M	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17M	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15M
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12M	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10M	<input type="checkbox"/> 6M	
<input type="radio"/> Current entities	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Current and deleted	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Worked	<input type="radio"/> Confirmed
<input type="radio"/> No Date Filter	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2024	<input type="radio"/> 2023	<input type="radio"/> Last 12 months
Filter by club/continent:	SWODXA - Southwest Ohio DX Association ▼		

Generate DXCC League

League for SWODXA - Southwest Ohio DX Association

AJBB ranks 4

Rank	Callsign	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	N0PW	71	63	109	106	107	97	117	123	158	208	951	28 yrs
2	K9NW+1	61	106	139	105	153	83	169	115	164	202	1095	44 yrs
3	AD8FD *	0	44	98	72	105	46	105	55	113	157	638	5 yrs
4	AJBB	6	32	40	25	85	40	109	80	109	156	526	49 yrs
5	KD8SI	0	19	45	49	57	66	69	85	64	145	454	42 yrs
6	AABKY	12	41	72	24	27	73	75	74	93	140	491	31 yrs
7	WBASA+2 *	0	3	27	33	95	31	102	35	114	140	440	18 yrs
8	WBNU *	11	8	10	12	50	29	51	33	69	128	273	6 yrs
9	K4YJ	7	39	48	18	26	33	58	57	66	105	352	45 yrs
10	K8CMO	0	0	28	6	32	40	49	0	58	96	213	13 yrs
		160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10			

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



QRP Contesting and QRP DXing – a Great Match!

In past columns we have discussed various general concepts and techniques regarding QRP operation, emphasizing DXing. Now we are going to shift our focus just a bit to look at contesting with QRP.

But even if you are committed solely to DXing and not really interested in contesting, I'd encourage to read on – you might find that contesting can definitely help your DX totals, and in fact, many of the same principles apply whether we are contesting or chasing DX. No matter what the circumstances, whether it is contesting or routine DXing, we need to utilize effective tactics when running QRP to improve our chances of being heard and making contacts.

Not surprisingly there are some different strategies when contesting with QRP as opposed to using higher power. We will touch on a variety of concepts for QRP contesting that may or may not also apply when you are running higher power.

Since there is so much to cover when it comes to the topic of QRP contesting, we are going to break it up into two installments. And don't forget to shoot me an email with any questions, or some tricks and tips you have found effective when operating with QRP.

Contests offer a different opportunity to explore the challenges and rewards of operating with QRP. There are several reasons to get into a contest, and the reasons are as varied as the individual operators. Some folks just love the competitive aspect of contesting – trying to achieve the top score in their state, zone, country or the world for their category, or just to improve their score from last year. Plaques and certificates look great on the wall too!



Even if you're not really worried about your score, the reality is that the DX contests offer great opportunities to work a lot of DX and we want to use some of the same techniques as non-contest DXing. We can actually improve our DXing skills in domestic contests too, for example the ARRL November Sweepstakes.

Randy has been a great addition to our club newsletter. However, he is beginning to feel like it is a monologue and he wants to know what you want to read about and for you to provide input. As Randy told me "I would just love to get some tips, questions, comments, etc., so it's not just "the ND0C show"! Randy is one of the most approachable hams I know and loves to share in this hobby. Please email him your thoughts, questions, suggestions, etc. to randysdvm@gmail.com—Ed

Hunting rare multipliers and breaking pile-ups in contests require very similar approaches to hunting and working DX: good listening skills and effective timing.

Serious contesting requires that we rack up the most contacts possible as well as the multipliers (mults) which can really bump up the score. Depending on conditions and how loud we seem to be on a given band, we may just try to work anyone and everyone, with no regard to mults. But it is very important to be on the lookout for those multipliers!

QRP DXing & Contesting (cont.)

Whether you are an active contester, committed to spending a lot of time “in the chair” during the big contests, or just dabbling a bit looking for rare countries, the same principles will apply. In fact, if you are only planning to operate for a few hours in a given contest, you should have a good handle on when the propagation will favor you to enable you to optimize your efforts.

Contests can actually serve as a “laboratory” of sorts, allowing us to study propagation, observing and learning about different paths. In just a weekend you can see how conditions change as bands open and close, notice long-path opportunities and when they occur, etc. This will equip you to better know when, and on what paths, you have the best chances to work some rare DX in your non-contest time.



If you are an experienced contester using higher power levels, 100 watts or more, the prospect of trying to be competitive running only five watts may seem daunting. But I would suggest you not let that deter you. If you have a decent antenna system with which you have had success, I think you will be pleasantly surprised with how effective you can be while running QRP, especially if you utilize some tactics we will discuss. Read on.

Can a QRPer Experience Any Degree of Success in a Contest?

This is a very reasonable question, after all, contests seem to consist of a cacophony of QRM from a lot of big stations running a lot of power. So you may be wondering: isn't running QRP in a contest akin to bringing a knife to a gunfight?

But you really can be successful with QRP and have fun in contests. And fun is what it is all about, right? There will be some challenges and occasional frustration, just as there are when running QRP in any situation. But we will take a look at strategies and tactics to improve your chances of success and increasing the “fun factor”!

Contests, especially the big ones, provide a high level of activity on the bands. For the QRPer, this can be both a good thing and a not-so-good thing. A lot of activity means a lot of opportunity to work many stations. But there will also be a lot of competition for those contacts, especially the rare multipliers, and the resulting QRM can seemingly bury a QRP contester.

One positive aspect is the fact that many contesters are excellent operators with good stations. And they want your contact. If the conditions are decent and you utilize effective techniques, you will make a lot of contacts.

A Smorgasbord of Contests



To begin with, let's look at the amazing variety of contest options that are available. On any given weekend, there are several competitive operating activities, some small and some bigger contests. Some contests may last for just a few hours, not requiring as much of a time commitment, such as the NAQP or the Sprints. But others are 48 hour marathons – if you want to go that long!

Of course, some contests are strictly domestic (US or North America), such as the granddaddy of them all, the ARRL November Sweepstakes (SS). There are also many state QSO parties, some that generate considerable activity, as well as the North American QSO Party (NAQP).

QRP DXing & Contesting (cont.)

The WA7BNM Contest Calendar (<https://www.contestcalendar.com>) is a great resource for figuring out what contests are going on, and when, as well as links to the rules. There are many international contests, including the major ones such as CQWW DX and ARRL DX Tests, plus many regional DX contests, e.g. WAE, SAC, and on, and on. We will take a little closer look at some of those below.


In addition, the 160 Meter and 10 Meter Contests provide activity specifically focused on those respective bands. For QRP operators, the 10 Meter Contest is especially appealing, because the propagation can be outstanding during favorable times of the sunspot cycle. There are also contests dedicated strictly to QRP, many of which are sponsored by the QRP-ARCI.

Most of the major contests feature separate weekends for each mode: SSB or CW, with the other mode available on another weekend (in a separate event). But others, for example the 10 Meter Contest, offer categories for the two separate modes, as well as mixed.


Contests with QRP Categories

If you are interested in a serious entry in a given contest while running five watts, it is certainly worth noting that most contests now have a specific QRP category. A couple decades ago that was not the case and those of us that still wanted to dive in with QRP in those “olden days” just accepted the fact that our scores would be well down the list among the “low power” scores! But now QRP contesters are competing with each other for certificates and plaques, and the recognition of our achievements with “flea power”!

Even though our QRP scores fall into a separate results category, we are still up against the “high power folks” as we compete for contacts during the contest. So, whether you are trying to pick up a rare Canadian section for a valuable multiplier in the November Sweepstakes, or attempting to snag a rare zone or country in one of the DX contests, you will find yourself in big pile-ups in which many folks are running a KW.



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bernie@dailydx.com, or at <http://www.dailydx.com/trial.htm>.

QRP DXing & Contesting (cont.)

International/DX contests

There are tons of contests focused on working DX. Some are “everybody works everybody” events, while some, typically sponsored by specific country DX organizations, are set up to focus on working that country or region only, while those in the “host” country work everyone. But for our purposes here, we will emphasize the “major” international (DX) contests. Each has their own rules but the good thing is that nearly all of the DX contests regardless of size, have separate categories for QRP!

The pile-ups in the big DX contests can be a bit intimidating, but the operators “on the other end” are usually extremely skilled and have excellent stations with big antennas. I am often amazed at how adept they are when it comes to pulling out my QRP signal in spite of bad QRM, especially the splatter from other European stations.

As mentioned previously, these contests are potential gold mines when it comes to working a lot of DX stations and potentially adding to that band country total for your QRP award chasing! Another great thing about the DX contests is that a lot of pretty rare entities will be active. So it definitely a super opportunity to pick up some new ones!

One note: the CQWW DX Contest allows everyone to work everyone else, but the point values vary depending on where the two stations are: different continents, countries, zones, etc. This is also true of the CQ WPX Contest. On the other hand, the ARRL DX Test pits Canadian and US stations against the rest of the world. The result is that for VEs and K/Ws, all those great DX stations are looking for us and we don't have to compete with European stations to work them!

Domestic contests

If we look at the approach to the domestic contests, e.g. Sweepstakes, North American QSO Party, the Sprints, state QSO parties, etc., the primary motivation here is just to maximize your score. There really isn't a chance to rack up a bunch of DXCC entities, so unless you are chasing WAS or 5BWAS, these are pure contesting activities. And the good thing is that they all have QRP categories! In addition, a few of these have a maximum power limit of 100 watts, so you're not battling against kilowatts!

What are the “best” contests for running QRP?



This is a very subjective question and different operators will have different opinions and preferences regarding “favorite” contests, depending on your objective, and, of course, your favorite modes. Some prefer CW contests because QRP can get through easier when everything else is equal. I don't mind CW contests, but personally I like SSB contests a bit better. But again, it really boils down to a matter of choice. (One important reminder regarding SSB contesting with QRP: always use standard phonetics, just as with routine DXing.)

QRP DXing & Contesting (cont.)

I think the ARRL 10 Meter Contest is a great contest for QRP. Back in the “dark ages” of the 1980’s, there was no QRP category for this contest, but I still loved it and entered every year possible. The 10 meter band is a good equalizer for low power stations and provides great opportunities for the QRP contester. When propagation is really good, the band will be filled with DX stations calling CQ. It also provides a good chance to call CQ and “run” effectively. Another nice aspect of the 10 Meter Contest is that regardless of the conditions, the fact that everybody works everybody for points, means that if the DX propagation is poor, you can work a bunch of North American stations.

Regardless of whether it is the 10 Meter Contest, or any contest, the wide frequency range of the 10 meter band allows stations to space out a bit and reduce QRM. And the ability for US Technician licensees to operate SSB from 28.500 and up provides more potential contacts for points! When it is open, I love to be on 10 meters for any contest, especially the DX events like ARRL DX Test or CQWW DX Contest. When 10 is open, it is possible to work 100 countries in a contest weekend.

Personally, I love contesting in both domestic and international contests, always with QRP. I like the ARRL Sweepstakes as well as the NAQPs when it comes to those limited to North America. And, as an avowed QRP DXer, the ARRL DX Tests and the CQWW DX Contests are huge favorites. The CQ WPX Contest is a bit of a hybrid contest that rewards all contacts, whether they are DX or domestic. So, if the propagation for DX contacts is poor, you can work a lot of US and Canada for credit.

Each contest has its own merits and we all have our favorites. But the important thing to remember is you can be successful and have fun with QRP in any of them!

That will wrap things up for the first part of our discussion on contesting with QRP. In the next column we will continue our exploration of this subject with a deeper dive, looking at the strategies of trying to “run” vs. using search-and-pounce, dealing with contest pile-ups, and tackling the age-old questions regarding the merits of competing as an “assisted” or “unassisted” entry, as well as other subtle aspects of the QRP contest game!

As always, please email me with any questions, comments or tricks and tips you have found effective when using QRP. If you have given it a try, sharing your experiences can help others and I will pass them along in this column as a “mailbag” section. Remember, we’re all in this together and we can learn from each other!

73,

Randy, NDØC

randysdvm@gmail.com



N3FJP

Amateur Radio Software®

WB8ART—Randy's Antenna Project

Here are some photos of the work we did last summer, July 29th. Of course, there was plenty of prep work!

The antennas on the mast are as follows:

Top 2—meter 9 elm M2

The crossbar holds 432 25 element K1FO and 35 element 1296 M2 Yagi.

Next is a 7 element M2 6 meter antenna. The bottom antenna is a JK antenna,

Force 12 XR5 antenna 5 bands; 20 thru 10 meters and is the only new antenna in the batch.

The mast pipe is 2 inch 1/4 inch wall aluminum 24 foot long with about 15 feet out the top for spacing of the antennas.



We used a rented a 50 lift to do the work as my climbing days are somewhat limited now and the amount of work to get the old antennas down and mast pipe changed out and then put up all the new ones in one day. I had a little help from my friends as the say. Worked out great and we put up the XR5 Boom then with bucket installed the elements. A lot less interference getting the boom up that way.



E6AM DXpedition to Niue

By Stan, LZ1GC

The idea to visit and activate the island nation of Niue dates to the beginning of 2020. Then I planned and prepared the E6AM & A35GC DXpeditions.

My plans were with one trip to the Pacific Ocean to visit and activate two Pacific Ocean countries - Niue (E6) and the Kingdom of Tonga (A35).

Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the restrictive measures closed the borders and my plans were ... foiled and postponed! Without going into details, I want to note that on March 12, 2020, I purchased all the plane tickets necessary for my travel to these two countries, and on March 13, 2020, the epidemic situation was declared, due to which we were totally closed and restricted, and travel was impossible!

However, in November 2023, after most of the restrictions were lifted, we carried out (with Ivan, LZ1PM) the activation of the Kingdom of Tonga, as the A35GC DXpedition 2022.

Niue was then still closed to visitors. For this reason, the E6AM expedition took place from October 10 to October 23, 2023.

By the way, here is the place to mention that I had planned this expedition to be from 10 - 27 October 2023, but New Zealand Airlines canceled the flight on 27 October and offered us to fly back to Europe on 23 October.

I am sure that many of the readers of this article have not heard and do not know about this small island country! Therefore, I will briefly describe some things about Niue.

Niue is a small, Pacific country - located more than 17,000 km from Bulgaria.

This island nation, with an area of 261 square km, which many do not know about, is a coral island located in the central part of the Pacific Ocean, northeast of New Zealand and Australia and bordered by the Kingdom of Tonga to the west and the Cook Islands to the east. The island has a volcanic origin. The entire island is surrounded by powerful coral reefs, and in the interior of the island there is a plateau with an altitude of 66 m.

The population of Niue is about 1,600 people, 98% of whom are Christians.

However, a large part of islanders (about 15,000) have permanently settled in New Zealand, where they work, study and live.

Since 1901, Niue has been under the rule of New Zealand, but since 1974 it has been self-governing! Niue has no industry and relies solely on imports .



EA6M (cont.)

The capital of Niue is Alofi, which is the administrative center and has a population of about 600 people.

The 2023 E6AM DXpedition was realized by 2 operators: Stan, LZ1GC and Dimo, LZ1ON. The preparation of the expedition was carried out entirely by me - Stan, LZ1GC. It took me several months to prepare and test the equipment, antennas, and other equipment. Our plans were to activate Niue (E6) on CW, SSB and FT8 modes.

I want to express my gratitude to Kolao, LZ1QZ, and Hristo, LZ2HV, for helping me learn the intricacies and specifics of FT8 mode operation.

I also appreciate the help (in technical terms) that I received from Val, LZ1WX, as well as from Boris, LZ2JR, who providing us with his development - an ARGO ONE transceiver, which we used in FT8 and CW mode during the expedition.

During the months of preparation for E6AM DXpedition, I tried to anticipate everything that could happen. During this period of time, I exchanged dozens of e-mails related to the organization of this expedition - logistics, booking a good place for radio amateur activity (accommodation) and many other!

Packing the luggage for the expedition took an important place in the preparation of this expedition.

Our equipment included 2 Kenwood TS 480 SAT transceivers, ARGO ONE transceiver, Yaesu FT DX 10 transceiver and 2 amplifiers: ACOM 1200S (1200 w) and ACOM 700S (700 w), as well as an antenna tuner ACOM 04AT. We are grateful for technical support of this expedition also from Iliyan, LZ3GA - assisting us with a Kenwood TS 480 SAT transceiver - 1 unit, and also from ACOM

LTD Bulgaria, who provided us with an antenna tuner for the expedition - ACOM 04AT. The rest of the equipment used during the expedition is my personal property, purchased in the years before this expedition!

Our antenna equipment included - Exponential GP antenna having a prism shape - for 40 - 6 meter bands, Vertical with capacitive cap for 160/80/40 meters, INV. Vee on 60 m, verticals on the 30 and 20 meter bands, as well as slopers for 17 and 15 m - a total of 7 antennas .



EA6M (cont.)

Among our luggage, an important place was occupied by the coaxial cable - about 200 m. We transported all this technical and antenna equipment in 2 suitcases - 23.8 kg each, as well as 2 cardboard but well-secured boxes, also 23.8 kg. I will add that our laptop bags containing every one 2 laptops and 1 transceiver they weighed 12-13 kg each.

The first part of our trip included 2 flights: Sofia (Bulgaria) - Heathrow (England) and Heathrow (England) - Sydney (Australia) with an hour and 20 minute stopover at Changi Airport (Singapore) to refuel the plane.

On 06 October, at 12:00 Stan, LZ1GC and Dimo, LZ1ON, with 120 kg of luggage were already at Sofia Airport, waiting for our flight from Sofia (Bulgaria) via Heathrow (England) to Sydney, Australia.

At the airport in Sofia, we were cordially sent off, with wishes for a successful trip and a successful expedition, by Victor, LZ3NY, and Vesco, LZ2JE. The journey to Sydney, Australia, was long and hard. As I wrote above, Sofia - Heathrow - 3 hours flight, followed by a flight from Heathrow, England to Changi, Singapore - almost 14 hours flight, and then from Changi, Singapore - Sydney, Australia - 7 hours and 40 minutes flight!

Over the years, since 2014, traveling to such distant destinations, I have realized from personal experience that only, the sleeping time on the plane is not wasted! That's why on such long flights - I sleep and wake up only when I hear the flight attendants delivering breakfast or dinner with the carts. That's what I did too! Dimo, LZ1ON, for whom this was the first trip of such a long distance, spent most of the flight talking with his seat neighbors on the plane and watching the travel route on the tablet.

The trip to Sydney, Australia, was the first leg of our trip to the island of Niue. We arrived at Sydney International Airport, Australia, at 06:50 on 8 October. At the airport in Sydney, Australia, we were met by our friendly family (Bulgarians) - Olga, LZ1QG, and Nick, LZ1QP, who have been living in Sydney, Australia for more than 25 years.

Nick and Olga - true friends! What's more, I feel like they are my brother and sister! For several years now they have met, sent and sheltered me with all comforts on my journey for the my Pacific Ocean Expeditions! I have no words to describe their dedication and support! I guess readers understand how important it is to be in the right place and with the right people after long journeys and expeditions!

Nick and Olga "give" me what no one could give me - peace, comfort, true friendship! Arriving in Sydney, Australia, we could say that we have covered 2/3 of the distance of our trip to Niue Island. The last two parts left to travel were: Sydney, Australia - Auckland, New Zealand and Auckland, New Zealand - Niue. Our flight to Auckland, New Zealand was on 09 October at 19:35 local time.

In New Zealand we had a nearly 10 hour layover until our flight to Niue, which time was spent in the transit area at Auckland Airport.

On October 10, at 13:45, after a 4-hour flight, the New Zealand Airlines plane landed at the airport in Niue.

We were so happy, indeed.....



EA6M (cont.)

Both of us - Stan, LZ1GC, and Dimo, LZ1ON, felt joyful and happy that we were already on Niue and very soon E6AM would be on the air!

Arriving in Niue, after a quick passport check and without undue delay, we were met as we had previously agreed by the owners of the accommodation and the place where we would be staying - Mr. Kupa and Ms. Mary.

Mr. Kupa and Ms. Mary were notified in advance that we would be carrying a lot of luggage and they were waiting for us with two cars!

Before going to the accommodation place, we had to do a few things: get the E6AM license from the local licensing office, arrange things via the Internet at the local Telecom café and to shopping for food for a few days, so that we not waste our precious time.

Our meeting with Mr. Sioneheke in charge of amateur radio licenses was short but cordial! The E6AM license was ready and handed over to us.

Our visit to the local Telecom took us over an hour, but however we were at our accommodation around 17:00 local time.

The location was very convenient for placing various antennas.

There were a little time until nightfall, due this reason, we immediately began unpacking our baggage and prepared to install at least one vertical antenna to be on the air faster.

ARRL OH Section Updates

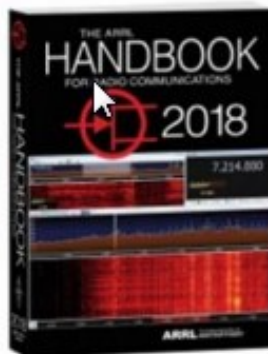
From our ARRL Section Manager,
Tom Sly, WB8LCD

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>



At 07:12 GMT (20:12 Niue time) E6AM was already on the air – on 14074 Khz in FT8 mode, and we continued late into the night unpacking and equipping the workplaces with the necessary equipment.

At dawn, after 3 hours of sleep, Dimo and I started, still in the dark, preparing for lifting EXP. GP antenna for 40 - 10 m + WARC bands and the Vertical antenna for 160/80/40 m.

We managed it, but it took us a lot of time and effort. E6AM was already on the air with 2 working places!

The same day we also installed a sloper dipole antenna for the 17 meters band. With the antennas installed we started working on FT8 and CW on the various bands.

The next day we installed vertical antennas for the 30 and 40 meter bands, the inverted vee on 60m and sloper dipole on 12m. In 3 days we installed 7 antennas for the different radio amateur bands.

What struck me was that the sloper dipoles antennas worked perfectly!

EA6M (cont.)

A problem for our activity from Niue was the interruption of the power supply - twice, for 8 and 4 hours, respectively, and the necessary dismantling and a new installation of two of our antennas: the Vertical antenna for 30 m and the Vertical antenna for 160/80/40 m, which we erected again but in a different place.

From October 10 to October 23, E6AM was permanently on the air working with 2 and sometimes 3 working places on different bands and modes – CW, FT8, SSB.

During this time period we made 42,066 radio contacts (with only about 100 doubles), with 156 countries on CW, FT8 and SSB - on all HF radio amateur bands.

I provide Clublog statistics on the work of E6AM, which readers can familiarize themselves with below in the tables below.

The propagation during E6AM activity was very good on the high bands and not so good on the low ham bands. However, we have spent a lot of time on the 160, 80 and 60 meter bands to enable radio amateurs to make contact with Niue on those difficult radio amateur bands as well.

In addition to the two-time interruption of the electricity supply and the relocation of two of our antennas, we also had another problem - in the dark part of the day, we had a loud noise from the street lighting, located about 100-150 meters from us. This disturbance made it difficult to work on the air, especially on the low bands.

Unfortunately, we could not eliminate this problem! E6AM was on air until 15:00 GMT (06:00 local Niue time) on 23 October. Throughout the night of the 22nd and 23rd of October, we dismantled the antennas and prepared the luggage for our departure.

An assessment of this expedition will be made by those we have worked with on air!

Continent By Band

Band	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	Total	Total %
AF	0	7	8	11	23	42	26	30	32	40	219	0.5%
AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AS	179	756	11	1724	1250	1690	1762	2370	1959	1927	13628	32.5%
EU	7	377	332	800	1984	3060	2359	1849	1772	1394	13934	33.2%
NA	60	602	174	872	556	850	1236	2113	2202	2446	11111	26.5%
OC	29	111	17	267	100	309	191	372	185	230	1811	4.3%
SA	1	9	10	46	29	104	201	303	269	271	1243	3.0%
Totals	276	1862	552	3720	3942	6055	5775	7037	6419	6308	41946	

Breakdown by Continent

Continent	Total QSOs	%
Africa	219	0.5
Asia	13628	32.5
Europe	13934	33.2
North America	11111	26.5
Oceania	1811	4.3
South America	1243	3.0
Totals	41946	100.0

EA6M (cont.)

In view of the fact that we were only 2 operators and the short time of this expedition - only 12 full days, I personally think that E6AM was a good expedition!

Of course, it could have been better, but considering our modest resources at our disposal, I think it turned out to be a good activity!

In the last part of this article, I want to share some things about the locals that made an impression on me.

The local people, as I already mentioned, are about 1,600 people on the island and they really all they know each other. They are very responsive and kind to foreigners.

On the island of Niue on Saturday and Sunday are not working days. The Sunday is a day for prayers and church attendance.

I remember that from October 17 to 21, 2023, there in Alofi - the capital of Niue celebrated the "Constitution Day". These all days (week) were declared holidays and all local institutions rested except the local Telecom, which works around the clock!

This holiday (The "Constitution Day ") has also become a kind of gathering of local producers and artisans! I was impressed that the locals knew how to celebrate and had fun doing it with all their heart and soul!

On October 23, 2023, at 15:00 with a flight NZ 937 on New Zealand Airlines, we departed from Niue and after 4 hours we arrived in Auckland, New Zealand, where we stayed for 4 days, as our next flight to Sydney was on October 28, 2023.

In Auckland we stayed in a guest house where the conditions were very good for rest and relaxation after 2 weeks of sleep deprivation during our Niue expedition.

We returned to Bulgaria on October 30, 2023, after flights from Auckland, New Zealand and Sydney, Australia to Heathrow and Sofia, Bulgaria.

As the organizer of E6AM DXpedition 2023, I want to express my gratitude to all the individual sponsors who helped us to be this expedition successful!

Thanks to all the amateur radio Foundations, Associations and Clubs that have supported us.

Thank you for your trust and support!!!

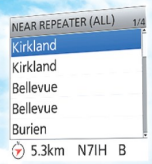
73! Stan, LZ1GC (E6AM)



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SWODXA Announces the Activation of a new Entity—#341

As expected, there is a lot of discussion and activity surrounding the announcement by the DXCC desk of the new entity of Freedonia. SWODXA filed the petition for this new entity based on the criteria found in DXCC Section III, rule #2B,

"In countries where Amateur Radio operation has not been permitted or has been suspended or where some reluctance to authorize amateur stations has been noted..."

There has been no activity in Freedonia since 1933 since two brothers operated GR0UCH/0. Zeppo manned the AM station and Harpo handled the CW chores. (Visit <http://tinyurl.com/zjptlmf> for more information about Freedonia)

Freedonia is located on the Ionian Sea, a peninsula off the coast of Albania. The DXPedition will be led by W8GEX - Joe. Other team members will include K8DV - Dave, AD8FD - Brian, and K4YJ - Dwight. Billy, AA8KY, will be the pilot station.

The IARU has agreed to allow the same call sign to be used for this inaugural DXPedition, GR0UCH/0. The team logo is shown.

The DXPedition will be QRV from capital city of Chicolini. The Prime Minister of Freedonia, Rufus Firefly, has made it his agenda to bring Freedonia up to par with his neighbors in the region. He views amateur radio as a great

public relations event and has put his whole hearted support behind this project.

Quite a bit of planning has gone into this event and SWODXA is thrilled to be a part of this. There will be three stations in operation for the one-day activation. The picture shows the capital of Chicolini with its' beautiful harbor and our intended operating positions. GR0UCH/0 will be QRV on 04/1/24 at 0000Z and shut down at 2359Z. QSL via AJ8B and visit the website to make donations or inquiries about this important event. The website is www.aj8b.com. Of course, Club Log will be used as well



New Entity Activation — #341 (cont.)

We are excited to be highlighting some new equipment on this DXpedition as well. We will have a full report at the DX Forum on Saturday of Hamvention© weekend.

The first product is a low impact 1.5 m loop antennas from NG0C antennas. We will phase these into 8 and 16 element arrays for the low bands. Theoretically, these antennas should achieve a 12 dBi gain and a 4-degree take off angle.

The second product to test is a specially designed low loss coax fiber (not cable) with a 5 mm diameter and snap on pl-259 connectors. This could really help DXpeditions to have to carry miles of heavy coax. Fiber Coax will really make a difference.

Hope to see you at the DX forum.



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DX Engineering is a proud sponsor of major DXpeditions like 3Y0J Bouvet Island 2023. Our active operators are dedicated to making ATNOs possible for hams around the globe. See you in the pileups!

What is the CQ DX Marathon¹ and Why Should You Spend Any Time & Energy on it?

By Bill Salyers, AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net)

After a ham listened to Episode 28 of the DX Mentor podcast, “The CQ Marathon”, he sent me an excellent email with a couple of questions that caused me to pause and really think about the CQ DX Marathon. I have been participating in the Marathon since 2010 and I get more involved each year. I really did reflect to see what impact the Marathon has had on me as an operator and I thought I would share that in the classic “Point/Counterpoint” format.

(Remember that?) This is not my “DX brag tape” but a trip down memory lane for me to explain how the Marathon has inspired me.



So, as Jane Curtain may have asked, “First, even after listening to the episode a few times I never found a clear explanation of what the DX Marathon is. Secondly, how is the Marathon relevant to the new DXer who operates an extremely modest station? I think this would be crucial information for those of us who are not long time DXers to have. Finally, when does it even make sense to submit a log? If my scores aren’t competitive is there any benefit in sending them in?”

Well, my Dan Akroyd response might be something like “Bill, you ignorant lid!” Just kidding, they were great questions!

To answer the first question, “What is the DX Marathon?”, I would reply with “It’s a reason to get on the air. It makes it interesting. It forces me to better understand my rig, antenna, and operating procedures.” Technically, the Marathon is a yearlong contest where the final score is the sum of the entities you have worked and the zones that those entities are located in. The total possible score is 386. (346 entities and 40 Zones)

I will endeavor to answer the remaining questions in the next section.

I first learned of the DX Marathon after picking up a copy of “A Year of DX” by Bob Locher, W9KNI². I found that I could not put it down. I felt like I was in the shack with Bob each time he added to his count! I have read it several times since.

After my first year of entering the competition, I really did not appear on the radar. (See Chart 1) I was not very active until the fall of 2010 and worked some entities in the CQWW contests that year. However, it got me to the point where I felt I could make some decent numbers, *for me!*

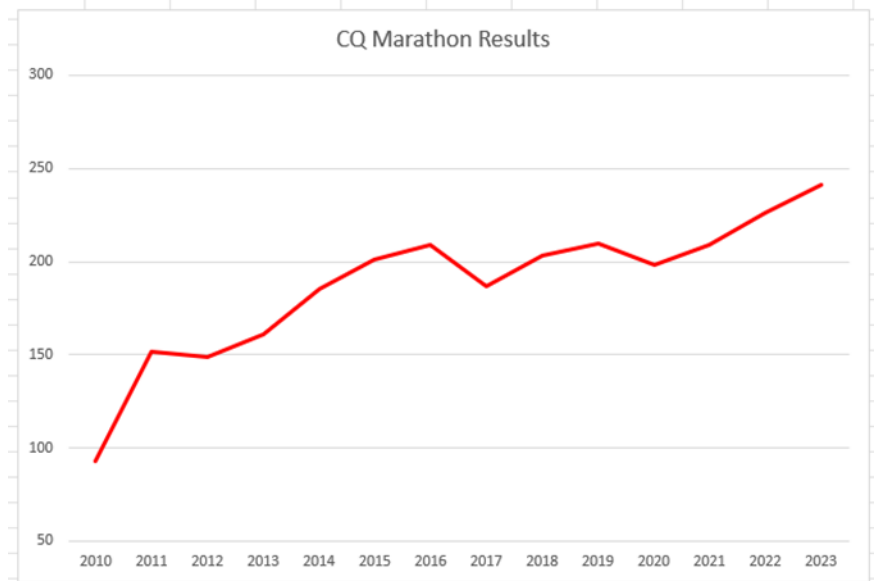
In January of 2011, I examined the contents of my logs to identify areas that would help me to achieve a better score. I decided that my time was still somewhat at a premium, but if I participated in more contests, I could improve my score. It worked.

CQ DX Marathon (cont.)

That was my strategy for 2012 and 2013. However, it appeared that I would not be able to make a major jump with the time I had on hand and the contests that I would be able to participate in. So, a log review was conducted.

2014 dawned with 2 OCF dipoles for 80 meters hanging 40 feet up and in opposed directions. I was now adding entities on 80 meters early and late in 2014.

At a DX Club meeting in 2015, I recall one of the members saying “I haven’t been on the air in months. I give it a listen occasionally and I watch the cluster, but there is nothing I need. How many times can you work Germany?” In my mind I was thinking, at least once a year!



Put A Spring In Your STEP

Stay Active On All The Bands






CQ DX Marathon (cont.)

At this point, I was a bit stagnant. Sunspots were not exactly plentiful. I was working contests when I could, watching the cluster, as well as listening on a regular basis. Joe, W8GEX, and Jay, K4ZLE, are ardent “gray line” supporters. I spent some time researching this. Not just the explanation for it, but HOW to work along the gray line twice a day. I watched spots and did some “data mining” of those spots using DXLab³ and Spot Collector³. I adjusted my work schedule to take advantage of the morning gray line at times and the evening gray line at other times. For three years, I averaged 200 entities/year. Not a world beater score, but certainly getting better for me.

In 2019 I had my top score at the time, 201, and I achieved WAZ for the first time in one year. Not big for some, but for me, it was a sign that I was getting better. I still had a 6-band vertical and 2 80M OCF dipoles as my “antenna farm”.

As often happens, work travel got in the way and for 2020 and 2021, I held right around 200.

January of 2022 forced another log review. I set out with 3 goals; work the major contests as much as I could, continue to focus on the gray line, and analyze what I was missing and find ways to get those entities in the log. For instance, I was not very successful into Asia. Reviewing the WA7BNM website⁴ shows several Asian contests during the year. I started to plan the best times to get involved in those contests to leverage my station. Again, my DXLab software helped me to find those best time slots to maximize my time. I ended the year with a score of 226; 187 entities and 39 Zones. I was beginning to feel like I could compete; not necessarily win but compete!

In September of 2023, I finally put up a K4K10 hex beam⁵ at a robust 25 feet! Wow, what a difference! Many of you are thinking “Duh”, but for someone who had a vertical and a variety of wire antennas for 50 years, this was a difference maker. Of course, with a strong solar cycle, and the hex beam, I had a solid finish to 2023 with my best score ever; 241 (202 entities and 39 Zones)

So far this year (as of Feb 23rd), I am at 163 consisting of 124 entities and 39 Zones. I am very optimistic with 10 months ahead of me and many big contests coming up. Couple that with increasing sunspot numbers and I am excited!

So What? What’s the point? There are a couple of important things to consider. First, for my personality, I need to have a challenge. For me to get better at anything, I need a yardstick. If I were operating at the same skill level that I had in 2010, I would have a similar score as in 2010. However, with the changes and enhancements that I made, I have gotten to be a better operator. Just spending more time in front of the rig has forced me to really learn the rig and propagation.

Looking back over the past years, it is exactly the fact that I had a modest station that I knew I had to get the most out of it if I wanted to move up the DXCC ladder. I knew I wasn’t going to bust pileups on the first call. I had to learn and develop techniques to snag those DX entities in pileups. (tail ending, timing, split, etc.)

CQ DX Marathon (cont.)

So, if you are going to ask, “Why submit a log?”, I am going to ask “Why submit your cards to the DXCC desk until you have hit honor roll?” It is the chase that makes it worthwhile!

I passed that question along to the program administrator and here was Mark’s response: *The answer to this one is two parts. The first is that we have traunched the Classes to try to create a level playing field...that is to say, if you enter in the Formula Class with the rest of the world, you all will be running 100W with a wire or vertical antenna. No arrays. Second part of the question, you already touched on...I once had an amazing boss that told me if you cannot measure anything you are doing, it simply is not worth doing. The Marathon is a metric upon which you can measure your self-improvement...I would argue most people in the Marathon are not in it to win it. Like a contest-er.*

I hope you can see why I participate and how it has helped me to improve. It is a 12-month ride that is also a vehicle for other awards such as DXCC and DX Challenge among others. Every January 1st, you start all over! You could start now and catch everyone else!

My only question for Mark, WC3W, the program administrator is “When will the Japanese entity on the moon be counted?”

Foot Notes

¹Information about the CQ DX Marathon can be found at <https://dxmarathon.com/>

² You can still find copies of this excellent book on eBsy or st: <https://ham-supply.myshopify.com/products/a-year-of-dx>

³ Information and downloads for the DXLab suite of DX logging tools can be found at <https://dxlabsuite.com/>

⁴ The WA7BNM contest calendar can be found at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

⁵ The k4kio.com hex beam can be reviewed and purchased at <https://www.k4kio.com/>. An article describing my installation can be found at <https://www.aj8b.com/projects/>

CB0ZEW Remote Operation

By Mike Cizek — *W0VTT (w0vtt@arrl.net)*

Most DXers are probably familiar with the Radio in a Box (RIB) station by George Wallner AA7JV. The idea for the RIB was born on the KH1/KH7Z DXpedition to Baker Island in 2018. The team had a very difficult time getting permission for the operation because of the environmental impact of their camp on the island and the possibility of it interfering with the local flora and fauna. Over the next few years, George, in collaboration with Mike Snow KN4EEI, Gregg Marco W6IZT, and Hal Turley W8HC, and with support from the Northern California DX Foundation, developed, tested, and refined the RIB station. For those not familiar with the RIB or its history, George explains it very well in this 30 minute interview with K3LR of DX Engineering: https://www.youtube.com/live/1XqBhp7M2Uk?si=u9_WI3HVzydTA5HI The upcoming Jarvis Island DXpedition will use RIB stations exclusively. This was the only way the team could obtain permission from USF&WS to do the operation.

W6IZT saw the need for a smaller, more portable version of the RIB and recently began developing the Next Generation RIB (NexGenRib). The NexGenRib is small and light enough to be transported as carry on baggage on a commercial airline. It uses an Elecraft K3, small Windows PC, a Raspberry Pi, a WiFi/Ethernet router, and control circuitry designed and built by Gregg. Software used includes N1MM+ for logging, SonoBus for remote audio, and Win4K3 for radio control. The NexGenRib was tested at Gregg's home QTH and its maiden voyage was on the recent Juan Fernandez Island DXpedition using the call CB0ZEW. CB0ZEW was operated remotely via Starlink satellites by operators all over the world.

I was fortunate to be among the 30 remote operators for CB0ZEW. We all spent a fair amount of time chatting via email, chatting in a Slack chatroom, meeting via Zoom, and reading the documentation that Gregg provided for us. We began testing in mid January with the RIB at Gregg's QTH. As with any new technology, there were a number of kinks to be worked out. We would operate, one of us would break something, and Gregg would fix it and figure out how to prevent it from breaking again. By the end of our ten day test period, things were running pretty well. The next step was getting the RIB to Hal W8HC so he could carry it down to Juan Fernandez for the real test.



W6IZT—Greg—With the next Gen RIB. The first generation RIB had its first public display at our W8DXCC several years ago.

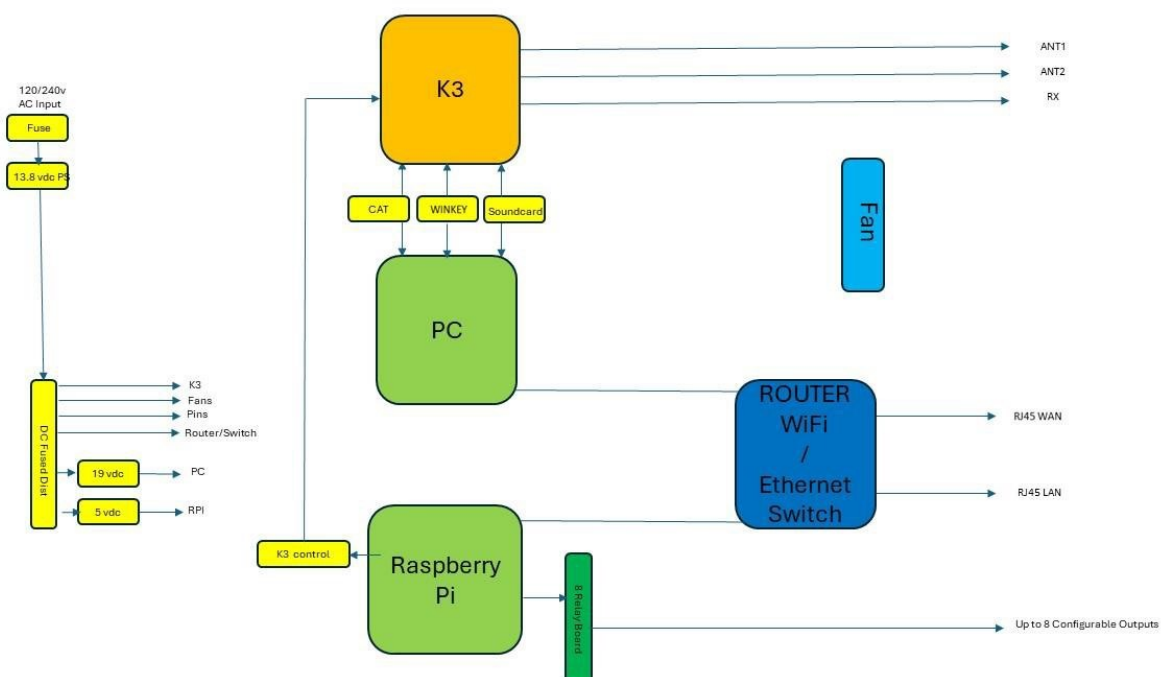
CB0ZEW Remote Operation (cont.)

CB0ZEW was the first station on the air from Juan Fernandez. We started making QSOs while the team on the island was setting up the main stations. Once again, there were more snags that came up, the first of which was not having access to the antenna we planned to use. Hal found some surplus items and pressed them into use so we could get on the air. Catch me at the bar in Dayton and I'll tell you the name we gave this interesting antenna. (It's not fit for print in a family publication.) There were some other issues, and we lost some air time, but between Gregg and the team on the island, we got everything working and ended up making over 15,000 QSOs. I don't think Gregg got much sleep during the DXpedition.

I am not a well traveled, seasoned DXpeditioner, so I rarely get to experience propagation from different parts of the world. I found propagation from Juan Fernandez very interesting, and very different from what we have here in the Midwest. We are all familiar with the "spotlight propagation" that frequently occurs on 6 and 160 meters, but we seemed to get some of this even on the middle HF bands from CE0Z. I'm not a fan of the new digi modes, but FT8 gives us the opportunity to compare notes easily, and to "see" signals from different places at the same time. I would be operating CB0ZEW on 12m or 17m FT8, watching the frequency here at home on my own station, and comparing notes with some of the other remote operators in the Slack chatroom. W0GJ and I are only 50 miles apart, and there were times when only one of us could copy CB0ZEW. We could also see several stations calling that 'ZEW was not hearing. It was also interesting to see how propagation shifted to different parts of the world during the day.

After the operation concluded, the remote team met again via Zoom to do an after-action briefing. The problems we experienced during the operation were all addressed and solutions identified to prevent them from happening in the future. Gregg is already working on the second iteration of the NexGenRib and we can expect to hear it on another DXpedition before long.

• Mini RiB Block diagram Gator Case



Tristan Da Cunha Island—Sep 29th to Oct 22nd, 2023

By Yuris, YL2GM



Hi there! We meet again with one of the LRSF latest DXpedition's story. There has been already one more DXpedition after ZD9W, however, I will talk about that another time.

The first plans to visit Tristan Da Cunha Island (ZD9) were already set in 2018. Initially it was planned to visit ZD9 with a four-operator team. However, couple weeks before starting our trip we were informed by island representative that there won't be any available berths for us on the ship. The regulations say that the first hand for berths on the ship is for islanders, followed by their relatives, then officials and our category as tourists are the last ones to pick.

After this came covid and the island was closed down for all visitors. All restrictions were lifted only in spring 2023 and immediately I started to communicate with the island administration. Opportunity came up, however, this time I decided to go alone because the chances to get berths for more operators were lower. I was offered a berth on a cargo ship "Lance" leaving Cape Town on 15th of September 2023. The return was planned with fishing vessel "Edinburg" on 24th of October 2023.

As I'm used to do, in a timely manner I acquired necessary plane tickets and together with them I posted all necessary documentation to South African embassy in Stockholm to receive visa.

On that day when I should have received back my documents and visa, instead I got returned mail with a mark that the recipient did not collect it. Remaining time window till plane departure was getting shorter and to mitigate risks I decided to go for visa in person and the next day I was on a flight to Stockholm. Unfortunately, the visa was declined because my passport did not have enough empty spaces. To receive visa there has to be at least two blank pages left. Flew back home and in a matter of urgency a new passport was made the same day for additional costs. One more flight to Stockholm and the embassy staff was already waiting for me, visa was ready later in the afternoon.

On Monday 11th of September, the trip begins by boarding the plane from Riga to Cape Town. As usual, I have one extra bag of gear with me and this makes it difficult when I have to change terminals in Frankfurt airport by taking train between the terminals, baggage carts are no option there and all bags had to be carried by hand.



Yuris YL2GM starting DXpedition from home in Latvia

Tristan Da Cunha Island (cont.)



After landing in Cape Town, I have three days to spend. I settle in a hotel and rent a car to visit my friend. During the visit I pick up antenna bag with Spiderbeam, LBS vertical and cables that I left with him during my previous visits.

Departure of Lance was planned on 15th of September 14:00z. The day before I brought all bags with equipment to the ferry station and in the morning the shuttle bus took me to the port.

After passing through all travel formalities and boarding the ship, everyone was shown to their individual rooms. The ship left the port as planned and the ocean journey had begun.

Later that day we were invited to lunch and got introduced to the captain. Afterwards the ship crew took us for a tour to great cabin, ship deck, engine deck, storage spaces and answered to all of our questions. We did also get the basic training regarding ship security. When the evening came, I started to feel sea sick and this continued for one more day. Chamomile tea helped and on third day I was feeling like nothing had happened.

Later, during the trip I got acquainted with the ship's captain Oleg. He is a good man originally from Kaliningrad. He has assembled an international crew that works like a watch. His ship "Lance" is the main supply ship for Tristan Da Cunha Island with its 234 islanders. Special shout out to "Lance" Indonesian chef, who prepares food for 18-man crew and other passengers. Food is served three times daily with lots of variety and imagination. Any restaurant would be grateful to have a chef like him.

The voyage continues and the initial plan to reach Tristan Da Cunha Island was one week later on 22nd of September. However, captain informs us that the weather conditions will be getting worse and in best case scenario we will reach our destination only by 26th of September. Also, the weather on the island must allow us to disembark.



First sight of Tristan Da Cunha Island through fog

Tristan Da Cunha Island (cont.)

Internet on the ship was very limited and only available every second day for one hour only for text messaging. No picture and video transfer possible. However, this was enough to inform our families that we were safe.

After rough sailing through high winds and waves, in the evening of 27th of September, we finally saw the contours of Tristan Da Cunha Island and when we reached the island it was completely dark outside. Next morning the weather was bad and we had to spend one more day on the ship. Bags are packed and we are hopefully waiting for next day to finally disembark. Around midday, the barge arrives and takes us ashore.

Locals and Islands administration kindly welcomed us and showed us to our homes. I have a guest house with little space for antennas. The house is close to other houses and roads. Nevertheless, I installed a small vertical for FT8 and got on the air. The first QSO was with JE1RMI on 21 Mc 15:25. Then it started to rain and the wind picked up. There was no internet at the guesthouse so I had to go to town center where the internet and its antennas are located. After receiving login credentials, I was finally able to contact home.

During the night, weather conditions deteriorated. In the morning, I saw that my vertical had broken in half, but the upper bands still worked. Later, after the rain stopped, I repaired the antenna. That afternoon, the rain and high winds returned. The 50 m/s winds forecast came true and I had to take down the antenna so it did not break again. By morning, the storm passed and I returned to work.

Tuesday morning, I went to tourism administration and talked about finding different location for me because this one was not suited for my activities. I asked for a place somewhere in town outskirts so there would be place for setting up antennas. Some of the guest houses were going to be vacated only on 15th of October when the next ship departs. In the end, we found different solution and arranged a room in the kindergarten building. Kindergarten works 5 days a week from morning till 3pm, with 3 baby sitters and 5 kids. With place for antennas and free horizon to main directions for US, EU and JA this place was ideal. For lunch and dinner every day I still went to the guesthouse where the meals were prepared by the hosts.



Waiting to disembark



Guest house - first QTH location

Tristan Da Cunha Island (cont.)

For the next three days, the weather was ideal! First I set up the LBS (Low Band System) 18m vertical for the low bands. It was located inside fence perimeter and its 20m radials didn't bother anyone. This was followed by Spiderbeam and 6m antenna that were placed closer to the station. Antennas for this expedition were prepared so I could set them up alone without help from others.

At this point I could have said that the station was ready and all that remained is just to operate. However, my work with the antennas didn't stop there. On Friday 11th of October, during midday the wind gusts got stronger.

With difficulty I managed to lower the Spiderbeam and LBS vertical. For the next day antennas remained lowered and just before getting dark I raised LBS vertical to work EU and JA on 80m telegraph. I was planning to do the same on low bands for the following night as well, however, the weather had different plans and the winds just got stronger. This continued for a week and during these days I lowered and fixed LBS vertical three times and similar situation was with Spiderbeam also. The 6m Yagi was beyond repair.

On early morning of 21st of October, while there still was dark outside, SPE power amplifier switched off several times. It turned out that the antenna field got visited by cows and one cow with its calf tangled in the Spiderbeam guy wires and my last hopes to fix this antenna were gone. The final days were worked only with DX Commander and LBS vertical.



Cows tangled in the Spiderbeam wires



Antennas and the free horizon

Initially my goal was to make 60k QSOs so it would qualify for a new Single Op record. However, on 17th of October, when this milestone was reached, my friend Girts YL2KL encouraged me to go for 70k QSOs. The #70 was also special because of my 70th birthday that was coming soon. This was tough but in the end, I managed to reach it on Sunday evening 20:27Z by making the last 70112th QSO on 7 mc CW with CQ00DX. After dark I took down the DX Commander and packed my gear.

Tristan Da Cunha Island (cont.)



Ship Edinburg arrived on Friday, however, weather conditions permitted passengers to disembark only on Monday. Monday morning, after finishing all formalities in the immigration and tourism office, I visited the islands administration and then it was time for boarding. This time the ship was a fishing vessel that's used to catch lobsters that are being processed and packed right there in the ships factory.

Initially, the sailing was planned for 7 days but because of bad weather conditions it was 2 days longer and Cape Town was reached only on Thursday morning. After disembarking and travel formalities I drove to the airport that was followed by couple of flights and finally on Friday's evening I was greeted by my loving wife in Riga airport.

This time I was away from home for more than six weeks. Back home I will be only for one week before going to the next DXpedition VK9XY un VK9CY.

Thanks to all supporters and family.
Thanks for going through all of this together with me.

73, Juris /Yuris /YL2GM

Expedition website: <https://lral.lv/zd9w/>



With Tristan Da Cunha's Island administrator

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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	