



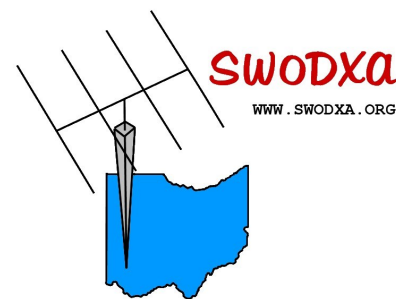
N5J— The 2024/2025 DXPedition of the Year!



Volume 8, Issue 9

5/2025

the exchange



SouthWest Ohio DX Association

2024 Officers

President : AJ8B
Bill Salyers
Vice—President : AD8FD
Brian Bathe
Secretary : KB8KE
Ken Allen
Treasurer W8RKO
Mike Suhar
Club Trustee: KC8RP
Richard Pestinger
Club Call : W8EX

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SWODXA Calendar	3
DXDinner Review	8
DXDinner Soapbox	17
Club News	19
New Member Bio	20
NCDXF Announcement	21
N5J—Jarvis Island	22
Station Grounding	30
ZB2MR Interview	32
SWODXA History	36
Club Contacts	37
Club Fact Sheet	39
DXPedition Donation	40

The Prez says.....

What a great dinner! We finished with 370 attendees at the DX Dinner, with a great speaker, lots of prizes, and a lot of networking going on. Thanks to Mindi, KC8CKW, for pulling all of that together, managing the team members, and delivering a great dinner.

Thanks to Jay, K4ZLE, for being the emcee. I don't know how many dinners Jay has emceed, but I think the first one was when I was a novice! He kept it moving and on time, even with a few last-minute insertions from someone...

The DX Forum was excellent as well. Although the attendance seemed a bit less than normal, the speakers did a great job, stayed on time, and the overall experience was excellent. Thanks to Brian AD8FD, for putting that together!

The DXPedition of the Year and the DXPeditioner of the Year were well received with loud applause for both.

MANY hams made it a point to tell me on Saturday and Sunday what a first-class operation we have, what a great job the club does etc. Thanks to all who have contributed in the past year!

June will be our last meeting until September. Please keep me updated on your summer ham activities and I may push out newsletters for July and August if I have enough content.

SWODXA will have a table at the Cincinnati Hamfest in Milford on Saturday August 9th. Plan on stopping by to say "Hello".

Hope to see you at our meeting on June 12th, either in person or virtually.

73 and Gud DX
AJ8B => Bill



SWODXA 2025-2026 Calendar

June 2025

12 SWODXA Meeting
14–16 ARRL VHF
21–22 All Asian CW
28–29 ARRL Field Day

July 2025

12–13 IARU HF Championship
19–20 CQWW VHF

August 2025

9–Milford ARC Hamfest
9–10 WAE DX CW
23 Ohio QSO Party

September 2025

6–7 All Asian DX SSB Contest
13–15 ARRL Sept. VHF Contest
11 SWODXA Meeting
13–14 WAE DX SSB Contest
27–28 CQWW RTTY

October 2025

9 SWODXA Meeting
25–26 CQWW DX SSB

November 2025

1–2 ARRL SS CW
13 SWODXA Meeting
15–16 ARRL SS SSB

December 2025

5–7 ARRL 160M CW
11 SWODXA Meeting
13–14 ARRL 10M
27–28 Stew Perry 160M CW

January 2026

3–4 ARRL RTTY Roundup
8 SWODXA Meeting
18–19 ARRL January VHF
23–25 CQWW 160M CW

February 2026

14–15 CQWW WPX RTTY
14 SWODXA Meeting
21–22 ARRL DX CW
20–22 CQWW 160M SSB

March 2026

7–8 ARRL DX SSB
12 SWODXA Meeting
28–29 CQWW WPX SSB

April 2026

9 SWODXA Meeting

May 2026

7 SWODXA Meeting
15 SWODXA DX Dinner
15–17 Dayton Hamvention
30–31 CQWW WPX CW

Upcoming Club Dates and Topics

Meeting Date	Topic
Thursday, June 12th	3Y0 Bouvet Update by W9AP—Bob Ronk
Thursday, September 11th	
Thursday, October 9th	
Thursday, November 13th	Is 3dB Worth a Divorce? By W0GJ—Glenn Johnson

N5KO
Aptos, California - USA

K3LR
KANSAS

Look for N5LR in every DX Contest!

W7MHZ
The Mountain View, California, USA

KP3S
Carlos P. Rodriguez
Rouge & Bay, VT
Rochester, NY 05662-4500

3905 CCN

KL7HRN
Klamath Falls, Oregon

VK2JAF
Derek Nelson
Sydney Australia

NB7V
BUTTE, MONTANA
USA

C6AMS
Nassau, Bahamas

N1AFT
Vernon, Vermont - USA

KE5WIQ
3041 Gardner
3050 Joppy Drive
Sugar Land, Texas 77479
USA

N4BRJ
Jonathan Balaban

KW4MM
Garth Crowder
600 Castledale Circle
Old Hickory, TN 37138
USA

KG4DZA
Karl D. Zander
USA

www.PhotoQSLs.com

Your Photos or Your Design
Order On-Line
Simple 5 Step Process
Inquiries:
PhotoQSLs@yahoo.com

5 Years Ago in The Exchange

- We bade Farewell to K8LEE, Wayne and W8ILC, Ron
- The *Trip to Montenegro—406DX* article by Joe, W8GEX, was reprinted
- W8GEX gave us a 60 Meter update
- We had an interview with Robertp—CE3CT
- There was a fascinating article about the life of Ernest Krenkel, UP0L
- We had an interview with SV2ESW, Pantelis
- There was a recap of the VU7RI DXpedition to Lakshadweep

The Southwest Ohio DX Association's 2025 DXPeditioner of the Year® Award

Welcome to the Southwest Ohio DX Association's announcement of the 2025 DXPeditioner of the Year. I am Bill Salyers, AJ8B, President of the Southwest Ohio DX Association.

Many times, the Southwest Ohio DX Association has used the DX Dinner as the vehicle to honor those who have gone above and beyond the norm to positively affect the DX community. We chose tonight's dinner to bestow one of these awards.

The winning DXPeditioner logged 61,201 QSOs, with approximately 15,000 being unique. This entity was #8 before the DXPedition and currently sits at #35

The Southwest Ohio DX Association is proud to announce that the 2025 DXPeditioner of the Year award goes to

Marek, FH4VVK, who operated FT4GL on Glorioso Island.

We congratulate Marek for a well-organized and executed DXpedition in a very challenging environment.



The Southwest Ohio DX Association's 2025 DXPedition of the Year® Award

Welcome to the Southwest Ohio DX Association's announcement of the 2025 DXPedition of the Year. I am Bill Salyers, AJ8B, President of the Southwest Ohio DX Association.

Each year at the DX Dinner, the Southwest Ohio DX Association presents the DXPedition of the Year Award. Our goal is to recognize excellence in DXPedition planning and execution from Most Wanted entities.

DXPeditions that were completed between March 2024 through February 2025 are eligible for this year's award. It was a very difficult decision filled with several outstanding candidates.

The winning DXPedition logged 106,902 QSOs, with 21,298 being unique. This entity was #22 before the DXPedition and currently sits at #45.

The Southwest Ohio DX Association is proud to announce that the 2025 DXPedition of the Year award goes to

N5J, Jarvis Island.

We congratulate the team on a well-organized and executed DXPedition in a very challenging environment.



The Exchange—May, 2025

From the DXDinner....



The Welcoming Committee

Step Up and Get Your Tickets!



They can't wait to get in!

From the DXDinner....



One of the specialty tables

It was comfortable in the Annex—This Year!



The bar was busy!

From the DXDinner....



The Gathering Storm



From the DXDinner....

Dinner is
Served



The Exchange—May, 2025

From the DXDinner....

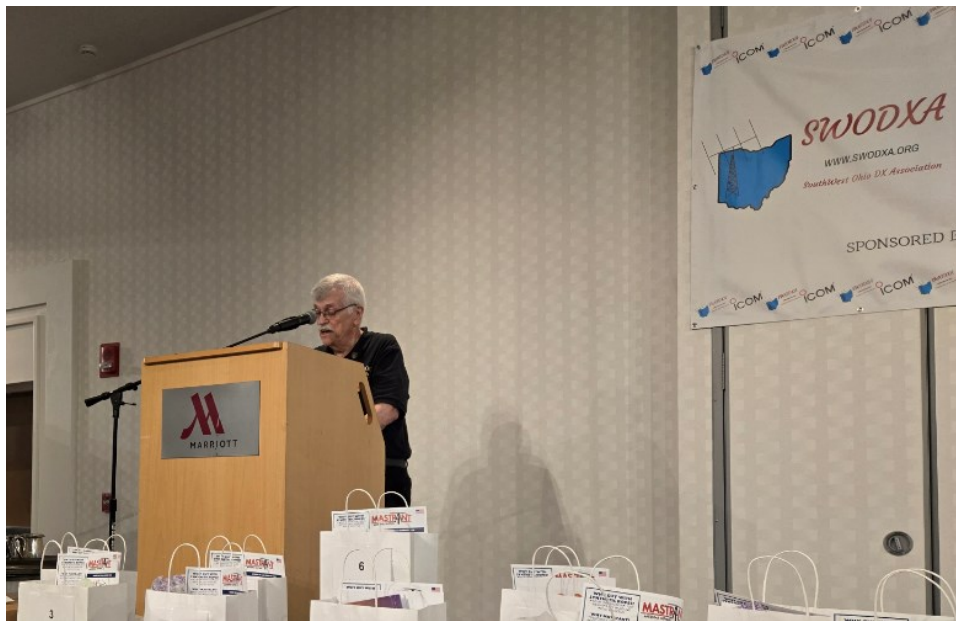


Guest Speaker – Hal Turley, W8HC

K9CT announcing a new NCDXF Program



From the DXDinner....



N200 Announcing the DX Hall of Fame Inductees...



S53R, Robert Kasca, was not in attendance but was inducted into the Heritage CQ DX Hall of Fame. The award was accepted by W3ICM, Fred Matos

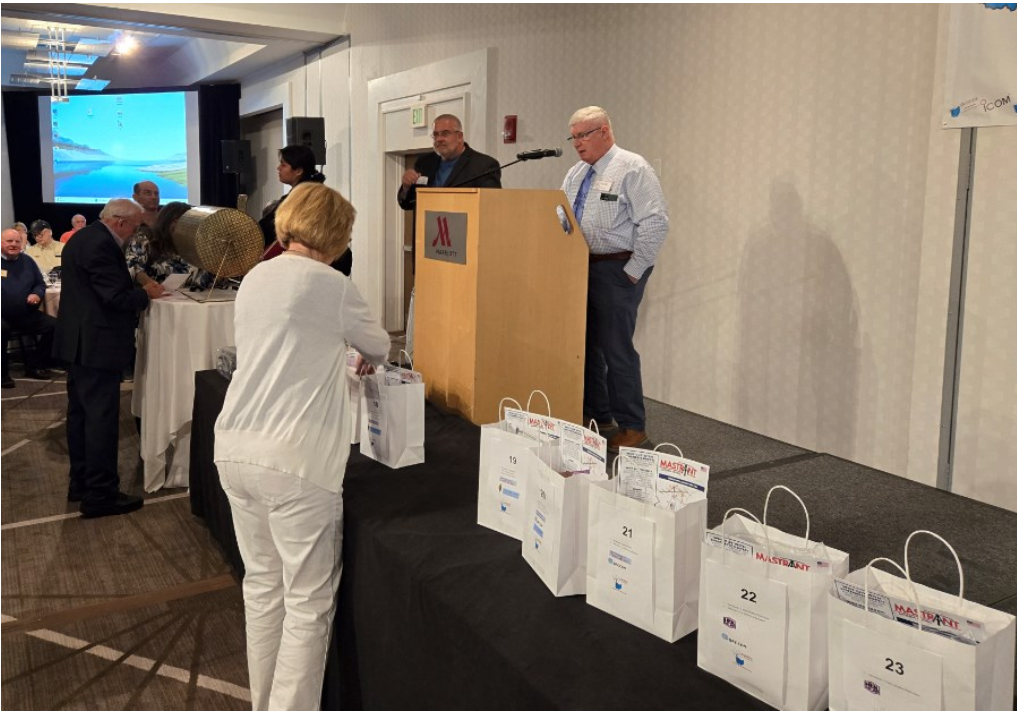
From the DXDinner....

EY8MM, Nodir Tursen-Zade was on hand to accept his 2025 Heritage CQ DX Hall of Fame award

Some of the Marriott wait-staff that was recognized—a very cool SWODXA tradition.



From the DXDinner....



Now, what we have all
been waiting on...

Ray, N9JA, addressing
the crowd right before
the grand prize
drawing. (Will W8KJ
win again?)

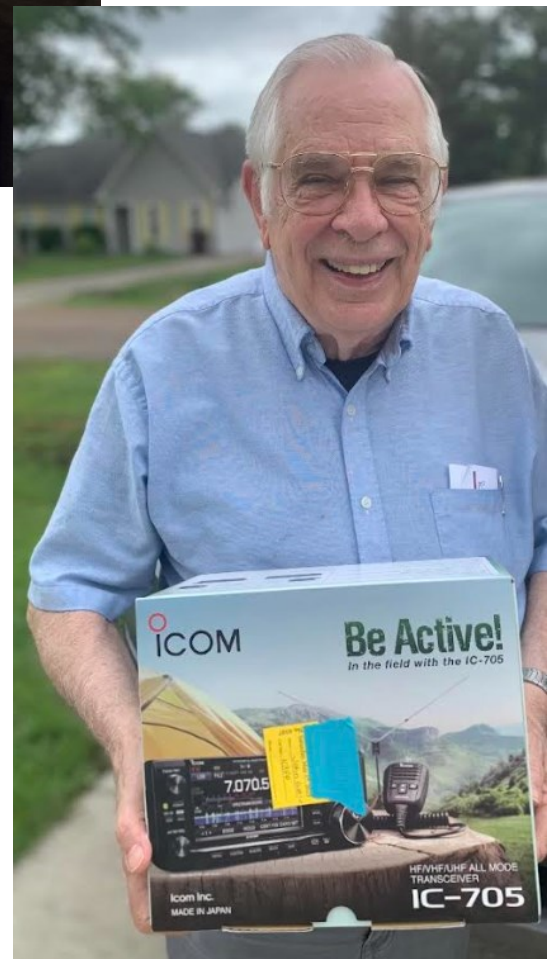


From the DXDinner....



K6BV is the grand prize winner!

The winner of the IC-705 drawn at
the conclusion of the
DX Forum —
John Outland, K3FP



DXDinner Soapbox

Hi Bill,

It was a delightful experience all around! (As usual). Everyone did a great job pulling it off. Fun to see all of the SWODXA friends I have there. Was able to bring two Utah neighbor hams with me for their first time - and it was great for them too. The club does a nice job. (I especially liked the printed program - hi hi).

73, Lee - K7NM

I was disappointed by the attendance of the DX Forum...I said something to you on Saturday, but do we need to expand the topics in an attempt to appeal to more individuals or maybe just go to a single session with those years really hot DXPeditions rather than trying to showcase a spectrum of DXPeditions.

Brian — AD8FD

The dinner was very nice. I really enjoyed the presentation on the Alaskan expedition by Hal W8HC. The Marriott at the University of Dayton was a great place for me to stay. Clean rooms and a fast elevator made hotel life easy. I hope to return next year for the DX Dinner.

73, Bob Hajdak N8QE

I heard many great reports about the magnificent dinner! A wonderful addition to Hamvention weekend.

VY 73, Michael Kalter W8CI

Hi Bill

It started out rocky, my car blew the brake booster two blocks from Hamvention. After I finished day one I drove home and rode up with K4YJ Dwight on Saturday.

I bought a new radio, power supply and other items, ate good food and had fun seeing others I knew and meeting new friends.

One thing I was really interested in was the Amsat area. I didn't know the satellites were so small yet heavy. I'm looking forward to working a few someday

Billy. AA8KY

DXDinner Soapbox

What a night!!!

Kathy and I greatly enjoyed the evening, although getting back to Hillsboro through that storm and marble size hail was concerning. Also that Kathy won one of the door prizes was quite unexpected and made her evening.

Again, thank you so much for thinking of us.

W8KIW—John and Kathy Levo

I thought the food was much better this year than in years past. What were those carrot things? (I think I chipped a tooth, but I won't hold SWODXA responsible) The speaker was very interesting. The prizes were great, except the part where I did not win one!

I think that the dinner represented your club very well and you should all be proud!

Finally, I had to find out who was the dinner chairman. If this person can put together a dinner like this, just imagine what they could do as President of the club!!

73 until 2026—Name withheld by request

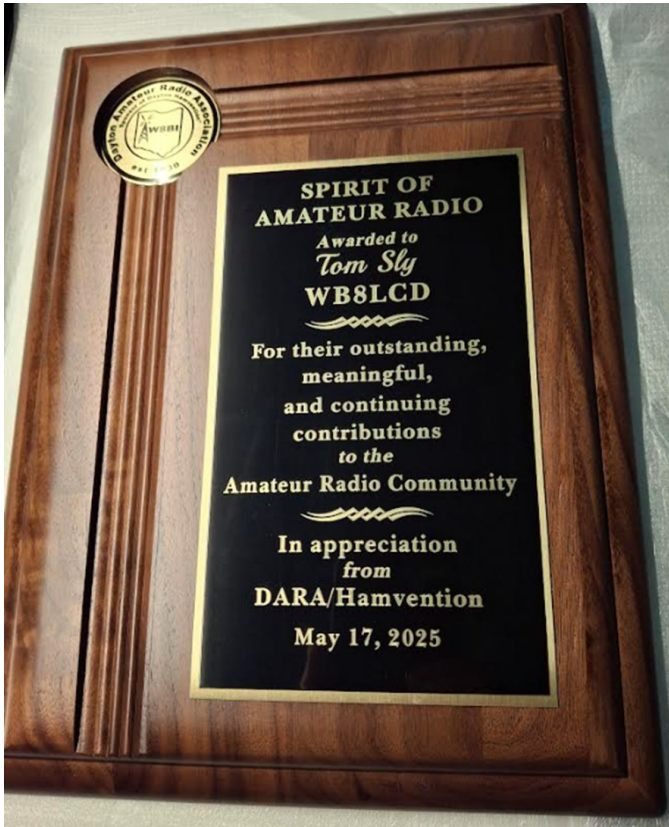


- Become a Better DXer, no matter your current level.
- Entry level DXers and seasoned DXers will all learn something.
- Each podcast focuses on a specific topic and will feature several guests in a roundtable format to analyze the topic at hand.

To listen, go to your favorite Podcast service and download **The DX Mentor** and subscribe. If you prefer YouTube, subscribe to **The DX Mentor** YouTube® channel.

More information can be found by emailing the
thedxmentor@gmail.com

Club News



Tom Sly, WB8LCD is a club member in addition to being the ARRL manager of the Ohio Section.

At the ARRL awards banquet, Tom was presented with the Spirit of Amateur Radio Plaque as shown in the picture.

If you have spent anytime with Tom, and followed his exploits in the Ohio Section Journal, you know that he really earned this award.

Congratulations to WB8LCD for much deserved recognition.

Volunteer Opportunities for the DX Dinner for 2026

Please let me know (aj8b@arrl.net) if you can help with:

- ♦ Putting together the dinner program— requires basic skills in manipulating PDF files
- ♦ Putting together the dinner slides— requires basic skills in manipulating PowerPoint slides
- ♦ Assign tickets to seat numbers and then pass them out. I will still be heavily involved with this



New Member Bio



W1HRB— Howard Belkin (hrbelkin@yahoo.com)

I was first licensed in 2022 and now operate exclusively in CW. I hold an Amateur Extra license and use a Yaesu FTDX10 with a 6BTV vertical antenna.

I'm a member of CWOPs, LICW, FISTS, SKCC, and NAQCC, and I serve as a volunteer examiner (VE). I've become increasingly active in contesting and DXing and am currently working toward my DXCC. Outside of ham radio, I practice psychiatry full-time in southeast Michigan.



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>.

The Northern California DX Foundation made a major announcement at the DXDinner. Craig Thompson, K9CT, made the announcement aimed at encouraging DXPeditions to the Top 20 Most Wanted Countries.

Make DX Happen

\$50,000 USD NCDXF Top 20 Incentive Award

To encourage the activation of a Top 20 entity listed on the Club Log DXCC Most Wanted List, the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) is offering a cash incentive for DXPeditions taking place on or after July 1, 2025, that meet the following conditions:



- ♦Get permission and a license to operate from a Top 20 DXCC entity according to the Club Log DXCC Most Wanted List on the date the DXPedition operation begins. *
- ♦Securing permission to operate and a license for the DXPedition operation must not violate any law or regulation. **
- ♦The ARRL's DXCC Desk must approve the DXPedition for DXCC credit.
- ♦The DXPedition must have qualified for funding by NCDXF. (Note: This award is above and beyond any NCDXF funding for the DXPedition.)
- ♦The DXPedition must log over 50,000 QSOs.
- ♦Within 90 days of the completion of a DXPedition to an entity described above, an application for the award must be submitted to the NCDXF with all required documentation.

The application form for this award will be posted on the NCDXF website.

The NCDXF Board of Directors will decide on making an award at its next meeting after receiving the application and all required documentation.

All applications submitted will be maintained in confidence by the NCDXF Board.

Only one award will be made per DXCC entity. No Officer, Director, or advisor of NCDXF shall be eligible to receive any benefit from this award. This program may be terminated at the discretion of the NCDXF Board.

* Bouvet, Peter 1, and St. Peter and Paul Rocks are excluded as previously announced in 2025.

** For example -- no bribes or payoffs are used to secure either the license or permission to operate.

N5J— The DXPedition to Jarvis Island

By Don Greenbaum, N1DG

Reprinted with permission from the Northern California DX Foundation



I am writing this on the way to Pago Pago from Jarvis Island. What a ride! And, no, I'm not talking about the storm we just went through, which had hurricane-strength winds peaking at 68 knots.

An idea is born

The trip to Jarvis really began eight years ago, right after the successful Baker Island DXpedition where we tried to keep a few operators on the ship and remote to the radios on the island. The remote idea was a total failure, yet the DXpedition was a great success, though it left the team totally exhausted.

On the way back to Fiji, George Wallner, AA7JV, said to me: "There has to be a better way." And so began a three-year process where the end result was a fully remote system, including a custom-made landing craft, software control systems, and custom-designed antennas made to work with reduced height and minimal guying. George's Radio-in-a-Box (RiB) system design DX Foundation (NCDXF) and tested successfully in the Bahamas. (See the Spring 2021 and Winter 2023 NCDXF newsletters for articles on the evolution of the RiB concept and design.)

In December 2021, we started the long process of approaching the superintendent of the Pacific Remote Island National Monument for a Special Use Permit allowing amateur radio on either Johnston or Jarvis Islands. We were quickly told that the U.S. Air Force was not in favor of visitors to Johnston, so we proceeded with Jarvis, where the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was eager to send a biologist.

First, a Compatibility Determination (CD) was needed. In September

N5J— (cont.)

amphibious boat containing all the radios and generators, six or seven vertical antennas of reduced height and no need to stay on the island. I brought along videos of the RiB in action in the Bahamas and detailed PowerPoint presentations explaining the system. And, we could offer needed transportation to their biologists.

After that meeting, the USFWS began the process of approving a CD based on a reduced footprint RiB activation. Finally, in January 2024, we received the good news of a positive determination. It was only then that we could formally apply for a special use permit (SUP). The CD empowered the superintendent (now a different person) to issue the



Jarvis Island— 1936
(N1DG on the left and W8GEX on the right)

terms and dates of a SUP for us and issue the actual permit. The date offered was August 2024 based on available USFWS personnel. While not an optimal date, DX-wise, it was what was offered and we accepted it.

Jarvis Island history

The uninhabited 4.5 sq. km (1.7 sq. mile) coral island is located about halfway between Hawaii and the Cook Islands in the South Pacific, and the U.S. territory is administered by the USFWS as part of the National Wildlife Refuge system.

One of three Central Line Islands (Palmyra is one of the Northern Line Islands), Jarvis is the largest; the other two are Baker and Howland Islands. Jarvis, in addition to being part of a different island group than Palmyra, is also separated by the division of territory created by a treaty between the U.S. and Kiribati, signed in 2013. It deserves its own country status! Discovered in 1821 by Captain Brown on the British ship *Eliza Francis*, Jarvis was mined for guano in the late 1800s under the Guano Act of 1856 when it became a U.S. possession. It was placed under the ju-

N5J— (cont.)

Jarvis truly is a long distance from everywhere.

The American Equatorial Islands Colonization Project was initiated in 1935 by the United States Department of Commerce to place U.S. citizens on the uninhabited islands of Howland, Baker and Jarvis so weather stations and landing could be built for military and use on Pan Am air routes Australia and California. Additionally, the U.S. government wanted to claim these remote islands to provide a check on eastern territorial expansion by Japan.

The colonists, who became known as Hui Panala`au, were primarily young native Hawaiian men and other male students recruited from schools in Hawaii. In 1937, the project was expanded to include Canton and Enderbury in the Phoenix Islands. The project ended in early 1942 when the colonists were evacuated from the islands at the start of the war in the Pacific.

Getting ready

After securing the SUP in early 2024, we had little time to organize the DXPedition, raise funding for fuel and boat personnel and recruit remote operators. In 2023, the MV Magnet, owned by AA7JV, had already entered the Pacific and by June 2024 we had successfully trained a core of remote operators with operations from FO, E5, VP6D, KH8S and KH8. The island team would be George, AA7JV; Tomi Pekarik, HA7RY; Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA, Mike Snow, KN4EEI, and myself, Don Greenbaum, N1DG.

QSOs with any of these ops would also count for IOTA and POTA credit, a big change from previous program rules. That is how rare Jarvis was, and the award programs knew the restrictive USFWS rules prevented on-island operators. Since we were operating in the island refuge, exceptions were made. Remote operators not in the refuge wouldn't count.

The NCDXF stepped up with funding to cover the fuel costs — the largest part of the funding. Many other foundations and clubs provided additional funding to cover permit fees and other costs associated with an endeavor of this size. Our friends at DX Engineering and Flex were our main equipment suppliers, and individuals, as always, tossed in funds needed to activate this rare island.

The RiB concept of the Jarvis DXPedition overcame permitting issues. As the largest sooty tern colony in the world, the USFWS has been very protective of large-scale visits to the island — the last amateur radio activity there was 34 years ago. We overcame that.

N5J— (cont.)

We organized the two remote teams under Ned Stearns, AA7A (FT8), and Gerry Hull, W1VE (CW). Pilots were Donald Mikes, AA1V; Eiki Satomi, JH8JWF, and Manny Fonseca Junior, CT1FPQ. Remote ops were: Dennis Egan, W1UE (our top remote QSO generator); Axel Schernikau, DL6KVA; John Miller, K6MM; David Jaffe, WD6T; Ned, AA7A; Robin Alexander, W7YED; José Nunes, CT1BOH; Filipe Lopes, CT1ILT; Jose Emanuel Ribeiro De Sa, CT1EEB; Champ Muangamphun, E21EIC; Florian van der Wagt, PB8DX; Dan Craig, N6MJ; Hal Turley, W8HC; Paul Granger, F6EXV; Stan Stockton, K5G0; Seiji Okumura, JK1KSB; Angus Alexander, KJ7K0J (age 17); Gerry, W1VE; Tack Kumagai, JE1CKA; Jon Kimball, KL2A; Peter Chamalian, W1RM; Ken Tanuma, JN1THL; Vlado Lesjak, E7ØT; David Heumann, N7NR; Mark Aaker, K6UFO; Eiki, JH8JWF; Emir-Braco Memic, E77DX; Jacky Calvo, ZL3CW; Miriam Briggs, N1QV; Ewan Alexander, KK7EXT (age 14); Mike, KN4EEI; Atilano Oms, PY5EG; Donald, AA1V; Stephen Bloom, KL7SB; Kevin Rowett, K6TD; Roberto Ramirez, CE3CT; Lee Finkel, KY7M; Attila Holop, HA2NA; Felipe Hernandez, NP4Z; Sven Lovric, DJ4MX; Tom Bernson, ND2T; Todd Bendtsen, VE5MX; John Crovelli, W2GD; Lee Moyle, VK3GK; James Idelson, K1IR and Nathan Wood, K4NHW.

In July, the team operated as K8R from American Samoa as a thorough equipment test and warm-up, making 37,000 QSOs.

Just like the 2018 Baker Island DXpedition with the very first Fox/Hound activation, the Dateline DX Association was working with the WSJT-X developers to introduce another major advance in digital mode FT8 technology, the “SuperFox.” We even had a special logo courtesy of MMØNDX and DX-World.net.



*Left: The RiB amphibious boat loaded on the deck of Magnet.
Right: Underway to Jarvis Island.*

N5J— (cont.)

Underway

On 31 July, the day arrived with the five-man team (already assembled from the K8R DXPedition) joined by the arrival of the three USFWS biologists. While we waited for optimal sailing weather, the USFWS personnel briefed us of the on-island rules, and we practiced safety drills aboard the Magnet, including jumping off the boat and climbing into a life raft.

The RiB amphibious boat (built by George and Mike out of a lake pontoon boat) was fully loaded and ready for fast deployment. This vital piece of the kit contained radios, amplifiers, generators, the 900 MHz link and most of the antennas.

On 2 August, we left the port of Pago Pago and dropped anchor on the northern side of American Samoa, positioned to leave before first light, and, the next morning we did just that, and started our nearly 1,900 km (1,180 mile) journey. Yes, Jarvis is a long distance away! Enroute we set up all the notebooks and checked out the data network.

After an uneventful 3-day journey, we arrived at Jarvis at around 0600 local time on 6 August, and by 0700, the first tender was loaded with Beth and Meagan (two of our USFWS monitors), George, and some supplies and headed to the island. George set the on-shore anchor for winching up the RiB boat and the USFWS approved the planned antenna locations.

Setup

The RiB boat was lowered and began to make its way to Jarvis piloted by Mike. Shortly afterwards, Adrian, Tomi, and I were on our way. By 0750 we were all on the island helping to position the RiB boat. The RiB, using the anchor set ashore, was winched up on the beach in a few minutes. Click the link to see the video of the RiB boat heading to Jarvis youtu.be/4W3Q9iUhESI.

After positioning the RiB boat, Mike started the generators and set up the 900 MHz, 34Mbps link to the Magnet. George started up the radios and RiB-based notebooks; Tomi started laying out coax while Adrian and I started assembling antennas. The beach temperature was approaching 40°C (104°F). Meanwhile, the USFWS contingent moved down the beach and started setting up their camp by the day beacon.



First Trip to the Island

N5J— (cont.)

On the air

Within four hours of landing on the beach, five radios were up and running, the link was established, and three antennas were guyed and tuned. The ship's crew had delivered all the USFWS gear and fuel and other antennas that weren't on the RiB boat. It was time for a break, and we returned to the Magnet for lunch.

George quickly made sure all the ship's PCs were connected to the radios in the RiBs and let loose the first team of remote operators on three radios. Within four hours of the first landing on Jarvis, QSOs were appearing in the log. By the time we returned to Jarvis after lunch almost 1,000 QSOs were already in the log!

In the afternoon, while the remote teams had stations on the air, the five of us returned to the beach and set up the remaining verticals and the 15-20 Meter dual-band VDA antenna. By sunset we were exhausted, but the basic DXPedition was on the air with six radios (three with amplifiers), six antennas, and good connectivity over the internet. George was ready to operate 160!

This is a drone view of what the complete remote station on the island looked like after day one: [https://youtu.be/ L4bqsoHRLB4?si=L5wwucNQtmr_FgBM](https://youtu.be/L4bqsoHRLB4?si=L5wwucNQtmr_FgBM)

The antenna work was never finished. On day three, our low-band RX DHDL went up and the 6-Meter beam (vertically polarized) was installed. USFWS monitors were concerned about the interaction of the tern bird colony (the largest in the world) and our guy wires. First, we added more flags and streamers to the antennas and guys. Then we reduced the height of the verticals and moved them from the berm to the sealine. By the end of the DXPedition, our 45-foot verticals were down to 23 feet, reducing the need for the high guy wires. Reports indicated few could tell the difference.

The DXPedition quickly took on a routine similar to other remote island adventures — checking antennas, refueling generators, fixing wires affected by salt corrosion, etc. One aspect of a RiB remote site is the need to maintain the link to the island while having a vessel that was not allowed to drop anchor in a coral reef. It required staffing the bridge 24/7, and constantly repositioning the boat so that the link didn't drop.

N5J— (cont.)

During our DXpedition we even made time to do two live interviews, one for the DX Engineering podcast and one live at the Pacific Northwest DX Convention during which KJ7K0J and KK7EXT were operating N5J remotely at the event in Everett, Washington.

Daily, we were adding 8,000 to 10,000 QSOs to our log. That was until the sun decided to send a bunch of CMEs our way, and our daily rate dropped by half. We started to doubt we would reach our goal of 100,000 QSOs, including 25% with Europe and 20,000 unique calls. We were pleased then when those goals were met, as the last few days saw some of the best conditions of the DXpedition and this solar cycle. Imagine, 2,000 160 Meter QSOs in the middle of the summer, reaching as far as southern and eastern Europe and the Middle East. FT8 QSOs were less than half the total. We were on the air 94% of the time at Jarvis. None of our homebrew solid-state amplifiers failed; no Flex radios failed, and other than one night when a generator shut down (one of three paralleled together), our uptime was impressive. And the three USFWS biologists were able to spend close to two weeks doing science on a remote island courtesy of the Amateur Radio community.

SuperFox

As previously mentioned, N5J was the first SuperFox DXpedition and our results were nothing short of fantastic. We had rates consistently around 200

QSOs per hour, per radio for most of the first week. Gradually the completion rate fell off and some stations just could not copy their R reports.

For some, it was having their radios set with too sharp a bandwidth; others had wrong AGC settings, and some had the wrong version of WSJT-X. Many sent us screen shots and those showed they were running JTDX and MHSV (not sure how they copied anything).

After a week, we accommodated these Hounds by switching some stations to the normal F/H mode to give everyone a chance at a Jarvis QSO on digital.

N5J— (cont.)

Teamwork

The local team made a quarter of the total QSOs while the remote operators accounted for over 80,000 QSOs. Unlike many large DXPeditions today, every QSO on FT8 was handcrafted. There were NO automated QSOs. Each of the five local ops played a different part in making this a success. The RiB technology (including homebrew amplifiers) required the engineering genius of George. Mike was instrumental in fabricating the RiB boat ensuring a 4-hour landing-to-first-QSO feat. I obtained the Special Use Permit through my volunteer work with USFWS and managed the finances. Tomi is an absolute QSO machine and our QSL manager. Adrian worked on the networking and PC issues that a highly advanced remote operation like this throws at a DXPedition. We had two dedicated remote team leaders (W1VE and AA7A) who ironed out scheduling and mode technical issues. W7YED was our Flex Radio guru.

In conclusion, the RiB concept of the Jarvis DXPedition overcame permitting issues. As the largest sooty tern colony in the world, the USFWS has been very protective of large-scale visits to the island — the last amateur radio activity there was 34 years ago. We overcame that. Jarvis successfully introduced SuperFox to the world. All FT8 QSOs were handcrafted. No automated FT8 for us. Time at the island was 13 days, 7 hours — and 13 days were spent operating. A team of five local operators set up six radios, eight antennas, and even made 25,300 QSOs. An incredible group of 46 remote operators worked to make this a team success.

Club Log shows that over 14% of our QSOs resulted in a new country and over 43% of those QSOs handed out a new band counter to those in its database. We feel that is the measure of a successful DXPedition.

The 2024 Jarvis Island DXPedition thanks the staff of the USFWS in Hawaii for their hard work in approving this minimally invasive operation on Jarvis Island NWR. Jarvis is part of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (MNM). The MNM encompasses approximately 495,189 square miles of open ocean, coral reef and island habitats, making the total area of the MNM nearly five times larger than all the U.S. National Parks combined, and nearly twice the size of Texas. Within the boundaries of the MNM rest seven national wildlife refuges: Howland, Baker, Jarvis, Johnston, Wake, Palmyra and Kingman. Since 1871, the USFWS has been the only federal government agency whose primary responsibility is to manage fish and wildlife resources in the public trust for people today and future generations.

Now we can all sit, relax, and rejoice in our success and plan the next adventure using new technology we are now dreaming about.

Grounding a modern Ham Station by W4NL (SK) April 2010

Grounding is a subject where I find myself in the smallest segment. However I am strong in my beliefs which are based on over 55 years of experience in Ham Radio and my profession, ordnance in DoD/military and new electronics technology.

KEEP the bad stuff OUT OF THE HAM SHACK.

Things have changed since the dominance of tube technology. In case you haven't noticed, there are very few tube rigs these days. In newer rigs tubes have been replaced by a maze of solid state devices. These devices are not friendly with static charges, let alone lightning strikes.

The rules I follow.

- * If you have a tower ground it well and in accordance with proven methods well published in the ARRL Antenna handbook and other publications. Broadcasters have done it for years.
- * Do not have ground rods outside the window to hook that famous ground bus to run into the shack. It will come in and go through or splatter into your equipment and take it out, period.
- * Bond all your equipment together of course for reasons other than lightning/charge protection. Good advice and do it well, but you don't need 2" copper strapping which is expensive. A good braid is fine or even a good wire. Do it well.
- * Often lightning and the little brother 'static charges' run in on the service ground of your house. Stop it. Unplug EVERYTHING at first sign of a storm. I use a 'contactor' of the 4 pole variety (about \$65 for a 20 amp) to disconnect even the service ground for the 'desk'. Many would not do this hence - - UNPLUG. This goes for anything plugged into the house wiring. This way there will be no path for any stray charges which WILL cause damage to your equipment.
- * Your rotator control, remote switch control or anything coming in from the outside needs to be disconnected from their controls. A simple plug in the line close and easy to get to will do the trick. Don't forget to unplug it or it was wasted effort.

Thoughts on Station Grounding – (cont.)

Assume you have eliminated all ground coming in from the outside and of course this includes the antenna (s). When you reconnect them, take a screw driver or whatever and short the center pin to ground. Remember coax can hold a charge and you can damage your equipment if you don't discharge before reconnecting.

Now do your job and don't forget to disconnect. This is aggravating so make it as easy as possible. No amount of effort will totally do the job if you take a near direct hit. Some utility companies offer whole house protection so check with them. Some have a gaguee to show how they have helped you save your Sony or that great transceiver.

BTW, the disconnecting goes for cables into the modems. I've seen it get to radios this way, strange as it may seem.

The concept is simple, keep it out of the house and don't provide a path to earth ground via your equipment since today's equipment will not tolerate it.

Again, just my ideas and it works for me so far.



DX Engineering's Amateur Radio Blog for New and Experienced Hams

Visit OnAllBands.com every day for information you can use to improve your on-air experience.

Interview with ZB2MR— Michael

I have worked Michael several times on several modes and when I received his QSL card,. It was the trigger to contact him for an “interview”. He agreed and sent this along. He can be reached at mrrecagno@gmail.com

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

ZB2MR: Well, I vividly remember my late Dad with his world Band Receiver listening to both commercial and Airband transmissions, this was back in the late 70's when I was about 7 years old. After that my brother Eddie (ZB2ER) bought his first CB, a 40 channel Asahi. I was hooked!!

From cheap Walkie Talkies to really Expensive Rigs, we had them all! We looked forward to rainy days and my brother and I still joke to this day, that every time we change the shack or put up an Antenna it normally rains! Which has happened on quite a few occasions!



AJ8B: Do you have a favorite band or mode?

ZB2MR: My favorite bands are 15 and 40 Meters. I enjoy FT8 and BPSK plus listening to QSO's in 40 meters.

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

ZB2MR: Since I was very young, I have always enjoyed my hobby late at night, all

the way to the early hours of the morning. Hence why one of my favorite bands is 40 Meters. I operate on a daily basis but due to work I can only stay late on weekends.

AJ8B: Any secrets to your success?

ZB2MR: No secrets, just patience, when after a specific Country and with the help of some much-needed propagation.

I have worked most parts of the Globe with minimum power. Can sometimes be frustrating but conditions changes, sometimes drastically and if you are persistent enough you will get the Countries that you are looking for.

ZB2MR (cont.)

AJ8B: Any tips that you can share?

ZB2MR: You don't need to overpower your Rig! I normally transmit with no more than 50watts. no more than 25watts if on Digi Modes.

Having said that I live quite high up the Rock of Gibraltar very near the Moorish Castle and believe it or not what I use is a small Balcony Antenna for 10, 15, 20 & 40 meters.

AJ8B: Describe what you are currently using:

ZB2MR: At the moment my main Rigs are Yaesu FTDX 3000 and a Yaesu FT991A for Digimodes.

I have recently joined the DMR craze and enjoying it thoroughly, as it has brought back very fond memories of the QSO's back in the 80's which sadly we don't hear any more.

I also own multiple Scanners. With my last purchase a the Uniden SDS-200E.

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

ZB2MR: This is a very talked about topic, as many Hams prefer to crank up the Watts while others prefer to wait for a space. I prefer to be able to hear the calling station clearly if not I won't even bother calling.

I also give my full callsign and not just my prefix/suffix. I hate to repeat myself, but Patience is the key!

AJ8B: What is your favorite contest?

ZB2MR: To be honest, I have never participated in any, need more hours on my daily routine! although I enjoy listening to them. Maybe when I retire, I will give it a go!



This Week in Amateur Radio
North America's Premiere Amateur Radio News Magazine

**Stay on Top of all that is Happening in Amateur Radio
via a Podcast. A weekly Radio News Magazine**

ZB2MR (cont.)

AJ8B: Any QSLing Hints?

ZB2MR: Not really other than if you receive a QSL, always reply! I make it a point to reply to all my QSL's immediately and with as little delay as possible.

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

ZB2MR: To be patient, especially to the younger generation. This is not the Internet where you can speak with crystal clear audio to anyone around the world! This is Radio and I always stress to friends and my son Johnjoe who is starting to find interest on the hobby, about propagation conditions.

On advice, always be safe when installing your first Antenna, watch out for power cables and height restrictions. If not sure ask your local Ham Radio Club for advice.

AJ8B: If I were to stop by for a visit, what local place would you want us to visit?

ZB2MR: The Upper Rock! The views are spectacular and on a clear day you can see Africa.

The Alameda Botanical Gardens is also a place to visit. I visit a lot to do Photography, one of my other Hobbies.

AJ8B: What local food would you want me to try?

ZB2MR: Calentita! (Hottish) Which is similar in texture to a Yorkshire Pudding. Ingredients are Chickpea Flour, Olive Oil, Water, Salt & Pepper. This is normally eaten inside a piece of bread or in small slices as a side dish.

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

ZB2MR: Just keep up the good work! It's people like you that keep this Hobby alive!

Thank you for considering me for this interview.

You have a new Member on your Team!

Best 73's de ZB2MR.

Qrz.com/db/zb2mr

ZB2MR (cont.)



SWODXA History Review

Club Contacts



Previous President,
NR8Z—Tom Inglin
nr8z@arrl.net



President, Newsletter, and
Website Editor
AJ8B—Bill Salyers
aj8b@arrl.net



Vice-President &
DX Forum Chairman
AD8FD—Brian Bathe
bbathe@willyboy.com



Treasurer
W8RKO—Mike Suhar,
msuhar@woh.rr.com

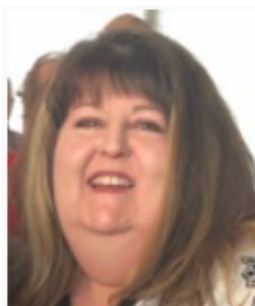


Secretary
KB8KE—Ken Allen
kna.kb8ke@gmail.com

Club Contacts



DX Grant Committee Chairman
K8DV—Dave Vest
k8dv@cinci.rr.com



DX Dinner Chairman
KC8CKW—Mindi Jones
kc8ckw@fuse.net



DX Dinner Moderator
K4ZLE—Jay Slough
k4zle@yahoo.com



DX Dinner Prize Chairman
W2FQ—Dean Chapman
mdchap@verizon.net



W8EX SWODXA Station
Trustee & Photographer—
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 Brian Bathe, AD8FD; Secretary Ken Allen, KB8KE, 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	