



Long Path



Volume 26 Issue 5

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

February 2009



President's Report

A *SEMDXA* crew is headed south! Stan, **AC8W**, and Hank, **K8DD**, are off to another DX spot...this time Nicaragua in Central America. Filling out the team are Jim, **KB8TXZ** from Gingelville, and Lee, **N8LJ**, from Metamora. Hank and Stan will be in Florida before and after the trip to **YN**. Trish and Kathie will stay in Cocoa Beach while they are gone

Nicaragua, officially the **Republic of Nicaragua** is the largest state in Central America with an area of 130,000 km, about the size of the state of New York. Nicaragua is the least densely populated country in Central America (42/km) with 5,600,000 people. The country is bordered by Honduras to the north and Costa Rica to the south. The Pacific Ocean lies to the west of the country, the Caribbean Sea to the east. Falling within the tropics, Nicaragua sits 11 degrees north of the Equator, Nicaragua's capital city is Managua.

Granada, near where we'll be staying, is located about fifty mile southeast of Managua in grid square EK71au, at the north end of a large freshwater lake, Lake Nicaragua. Granada, (11°56'N 85°57'W) founded in 1524, is the oldest colonial city in the Americas.

(Continued on Page 6—See Nicaragua)

January Minutes

Minutes of the January 9, 2009 *SEMDXA* Meeting

Called to order at 7:50 p.m. by President Hank, **K8DD**. Twenty-one members and three guests present at Jimi's Restaurant in Royal Oak. Because of the sudden closing of the Troy-Clawson Elks in December we were forced to look for a new meeting place. President Hank is soliciting email k8dd@arrl.net comments, pro or con about Jimi's

Minutes of the November meeting were printed in the Long Path. Stan, **AC8W**, reminded all to sign-in.

Treasurer Brad, **N8SNM**, reports an December balance of \$657.20, deposit of \$40 dues, leaving a balance of \$697.20. Our current membership stands at fifty-two members.

President Hank along with Stan, **AC8W** and **XYL**'s will be headed for Florida to attend Hamcation. On February 17th **AC8W**, **K8DD**, **KB8TXZ** and **N8LJ** will head for Nicaragua to

INSIDE ...

- ◆ **K5D Desecheo Island**
- ◆ **Polynesia**
- ◆ **Wallis and Futuna**
- ◆ **FW5RE and FW8DX**
- ◆ **2008 CQ Marathon SEMDXA Results**
- ◆ **2008 Most Wanted Countries**

the shack of **YN2N** with the goal of operating in the ARRL CW Contest. Callsigns are not known at this time. Please work them early and spot them often.

KP5, Desecheo Island, is coming up mid-February.

E44M, Palestine, is on the air and should end this weekend.

Gerry, **W8GF**, informed us of an RF DX Packet Cluster, **K8FBI** on 144.950. President Hank says you can get Telnet cluster access to [n8nm.servebeer.org - or- wa8dx@servebeer.org](http://n8nm.servebeer.org-or-wa8dx@servebeer.org)

K8VfV introduced a DVD of the **3X5A**, Guinea, 2008 CQWDX CW effort of the VooDoo Contest Group.

SEMDXA CLUB OFFICERS

President: Hank Kohl, **K8DD**

Vice-president: Gerry Treas, **K8GT**

Treasurer: Brad Nowak, **N8SNM**

Secretary: Stan Arnett, **AC8W**

Program Director:

Bob Crawford, **K8VfV**

Director: Sean Fleming, **K8KHZ**

Director: Fred Holmes, **W1SKU**

Director: Jim Vigne, **KB8TXZ**

Club Appointees:

Web Site Editor: Ken Schang, **W8LU**

LP Publisher: Chet Sprinkle, **K8YTO**

ARRL and CQ Appointees:

DXCC Checker: S.Arnett, **AC8W**

DXCC Checker: Bill Jones, **N8KF**

VUCC Checker: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

VUCC Checker: Jim Sanford, **K8ZZU**

CQ Checker: Mike Rudzki, **N8MR**

CQ Checker: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

2008 marks the 15th straight year these guys have operated from West Africa for this contest. Using equipment stored in place they put on an all-band effort which put this semi-rare DX spot in a lot of logs.

A great video presentation!

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. to general fellowship

Stan, AC8W, Secretary

K5D Desecheo Island Begins Feb 12

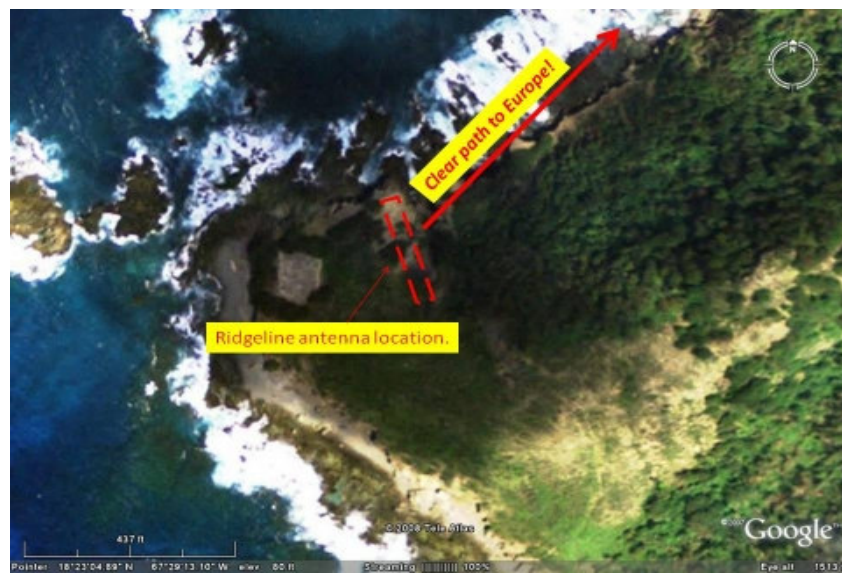
In their most recent news bulletin (#4), January 26 the K5D callsign was announced.

Due to the rarity of Desecheo, they are asking that you not contact the DXpedition on any band/mode that you have confirmed from a previous DXpedition.

“This will allow the people who really need a new DXCC entity a better opportunity to get through the pile-ups.”

“Our objective is not to establish a world record for contacts...there will be no "greenies", no boxes to check, no competitions for most band/mode QSOs, no certificate or awards for contacting the Dxpediton more times than anyone else. So, if you have KP5 already confirmed on a particular band/mode, we respectfully ask that you exercise restraint. If, late in the DXpedition, we are calling CQ for contacts, we will welcome your call.”

“The team has encountered higher expenses than anticipated. These mainly involve the transportation and feeding of other personnel that will be traveling to the island with us. Approximately ten other personnel will share our



Desecheo Antennas on ridgeline? Prior DXpedition antennas were around the helipad—gray area to left of red dashes

campsite and facilities for the duration of the DXpedition. They will be on Island with us to provide security and carry out field research. Therefore, we ask that you consider a contribution to the DXpedition to help with these incremental expenses. Just go to www.kp5.us and click the button that reads "How you can Help".

A 15 member DXpedition team is expected to be on the island on February 12. They hope to have two stations operational later that day.

According to the January 6 press release, eight HF stations plus a 6 meter station are to be operational (160 meters through 6 meters).

At the end of the first week seven of the team members are to be rotated off the island and be replaced by seven fresh operators.

The names and pictures of the 22 team members can be found on the Desecheo 2009 website. The seven off island team members are shown as well.

Detailed DXpedition information is

provided at:

<http://www.kp5.us/>

An online log is available through this link. It is expected to be updated twice a day.

Please check out the operating frequency table on the website.

The team is very conscious of the lack of a clear path of antennas from Desecheo to Europe and has solved that by planning ahead. They will locate some antennas on a ridgeline that has an open path in that direction. Previous DXpeditions were apparently restricted to locate antennas around the helipad. The ridge line blocked the path to Europe.

K8YTO

Polynesia

Within Oceania are the four sub-regions of Australasia, Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

Polynesia is a vast area with over 1000 islands scattered over the central and southern Pacific Ocean.

From Wikipedia.com:

“The term "Polynesia", meaning many islands, was first used by Charles de Brosses in 1756, and originally applied to all the islands of the Pacific. Jules Dumont d'Urville in an 1831 lecture to the Geographical Society of Paris proposed a restriction on its use.

Geographically, and to over simplify, Polynesia may be described as a triangle with its corners at Hawaii, New Zealand and Easter Island. The other main island groups located within the Polynesian triangle are Samoa, Tonga, the various island chains that form the Cook Islands and French Polynesia. Niue is a rare solitary island state near the centre of Polynesia.

Polynesian island groups outside of this great triangle include Tuvalu and the French territory of Wallis and Futuna. Rotuma in the northern Fijian islands and some of the Lau group to Fiji's southeast have strong Polynesian character too.

There are also small outlier Polynesian enclaves in Papua New Guinea, the Solomons, the Caroline Islands, and in Vanuatu. However, in essence, Polynesia is an anthropological term referring to one of the three parts of Oceania (the others being Micronesia and Melanesia) whose pre-colonial population generally belongs to one ethno-cultural family as a result of centuries of maritime migrations.

The Polynesian people are considered to be by ancestry a subset of the sea-migrating Austronesian people and the

tracing of Polynesian languages places their prehistoric origins in the Malay archipelago.”

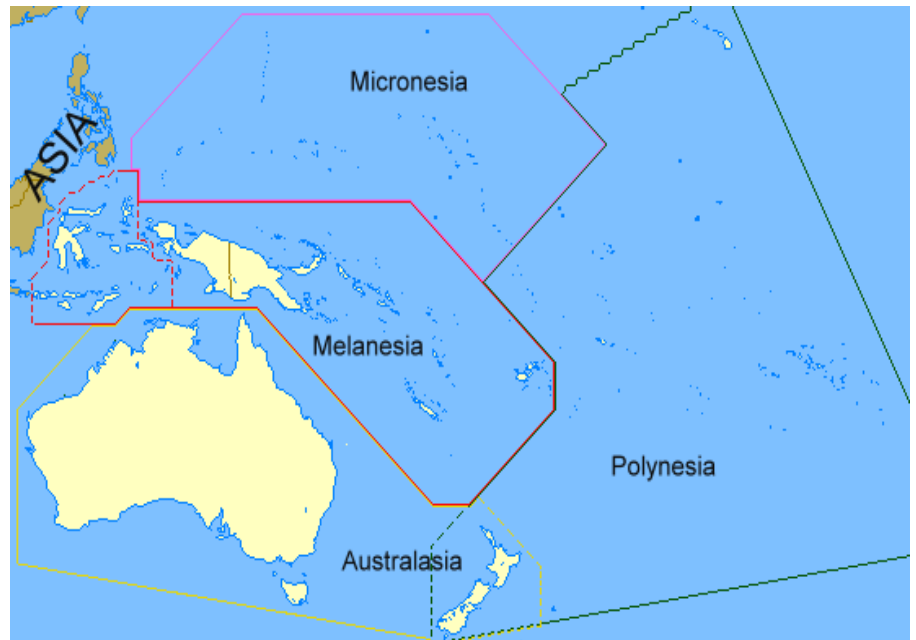
The table on this page lists the countries and dependencies within Polynesia which are recognized by the United Nations.

On the next page is a map of Polynesia.

Quite a number of the most wanted countries are located in Polynesia. The island group of Wallis and Futuna is among them.

K8YTO

	American Samoa (USA)
	Chatham Islands (NZ)
	Cook Islands (NZ)
	Easter Island (Chile)
	French Polynesia (France)
	Hawaii (USA)
	Juan Fernández Islands (Chile)
	Loyalty Islands (France)
	Niue (NZ)
	Pitcairn Islands (UK)
	Samoa
	Tokelau (NZ)
	Tonga
	Tuvalu
	Wallis and Futuna (France)





Wallis Island with surrounding reef

Only five percent of the islands' land area is arable land; permanent crops cover another 20%. Deforestation (only small portions of the original forests remain), largely as a result of the continued use of wood as the main fuel source, is a serious problem; as a consequence of cutting down the forests, the mountainous terrain of Futuna is particularly prone to erosion. There are no permanent settlements on Alofi because of the lack of natural fresh water resources."

In May of 1942, US Marines landed on Wallis in order to prevent Japanese occupation. Later, French forces arrived. The Allies constructed an air strip and other military buildings. At the end of the war much of the military equipment was dumped into the two crater lakes on Wallis.

Wallis has 62 miles of roads of which 16 miles are paved.

FW8DX and FW5RE Wallis and Futuna

It seems that there are two Dxpeditio to Wallis and Futuna in January and February.

FW8DX

FW8DX operation began in January. The first DX Summit spot was on January 13. **JA1DOT** on DX Summit identified the operator as Shinozakisan.

The Daily Dx on January 14 had him as a pirate as did a number of spots on DX Summit.

JH4IFF is listed as his ADMIN on QRZ.COM and added QSL info on **FW8DX** on January 23. WFWL (work first worry later).

He has been operating mainly on 40 Meters and has been worked on several other bands.

FW5RE

The second, **FW5RE**, began January 28, a day or so after writing this article. This one is being run by DXpedition Hungarian Group. QSL via **HA8IB**. They will be on Wallis Island (OC-054).

Three hams are activating the island, **HA9RE**, **HA9SDA** and **HA0NAR**. They became active as **FW5RE** at 05:00 UTC January 27. They spent several hours on 30 meters CW. The weather was very windy, the typhoon which hit Fiji before, was at Wallis. It cleared on January 28 and they were able to complete putting up the antennas.

(continued on next page)

They will be operating with:

- ◆ Two stations, all band (160-80-40-30-24-20-17-15-10m)
- ◆ Modes: CW-SSB-RTTY
- ◆ Antennas:
 - 24m vertical on 160-80-40m
 - Spiderbeam on 20-17-15-10m
 - HB9CV on 20-15m
 - 7-band Butternut

So far they have been spotted on 80, 40, 20, and 17m.

An online log is available. It has been updated on a daily basis. See:

<http://www.ha0du.com/search.php>

Your support is requested. For further info see:

www.ha0du.com

K8YTO

2008 CQ Marathon SEMDXA Results

The totals for *SEMDXA* members that submitted their results to the *Long Path* were:

Call	Entities	Zones	Total
K8NA	287	40	327
K8SIX	284	40	324
W1SKU	253	40	293
K8YTO	244	40	284

Note that **AD1C** has created a conversion program which reduces the time it takes to put your results into the CQ Excel template to about 10 minutes. It should work fine for 2009 too.

Support Michigan PRB-1 Legislation

Jim Vining, **N8JV**, sent me a copy of an EMAIL from Bobby Corr, **N8CY**, Chairman, Michigan ARRL PRB-1 Committee.

This committee is overseeing ARRL activities to have Michigan formulate and pass a bill to codify PRB-1.

27 other states have passed this legislation.

Bobby wrote: "... *we definitely need the support and action of all Amateur Operators to make this legislative effort successful. Please encourage your fellow HAMs to sign-up for the eMail list so we can keep them informed of our progress and let them know when the time comes to write to their elected representatives.*"

So far 192 hams out of many thousands of Michigan hams are on the mailing list.

The website contains more information.

Please visit the website. See the Column on the left, "Join the e-mail list":

www.prb1michigan.org.

ED
Year

Nicaragua (Cont. from pg 1)

Our primary goal is to operate in the ARRL DX CW contest February 21 & 22. Outside the test we will be on CW and SSB, so look for us. We will make a special emphasis on 160M. If you want to try a sked email Hank or I at ac8w@arrl.net or k8dd@arrl.net. Calls will probably be YN/ or H7/ home call (dunno yet)...see you on the bands!
Stan, **AC8W**

Transceivers K3, IC-7800, FT-2000, FT-950, F-9000

The Elecraft K3 is proving to be as good as many *SEMDXA* members expected. Currently 5 members have the K3. Early usage reports by them are very positive.

Three members now have the ICOM IC-7800. Reports are very positive. This transceiver is a winner. It has very low noise and clearly outperforms earlier generation radios. The guys love this radio, period.

Finally the FT-2000 has received a real rework of the DSP. Version 042 (Jan 12, 2009) seems to be a hit with many on the FT-2000 Yahoo Users Group. See comments on Yahoo.

While the FT-950 has not had a single firmware update, the two *SEMDXA* members that have them are enjoying their radios. It may be that the main focus on the FT-9000 and FT-2000 have delayed any firmware effort on the FT-950 (or maybe it doesn't need improvement).

The Yaesu folks must be feeling the impact of the competition. They have done an extensive rework of the FT-9000 hardware, and are replacing 5 boards in them, doing the board change out and shipping both ways for free

February Dxpeditions

The 100 Most Wanted February Activity chart offers a number of DX opportunities.

Crozet has had very little activity so far.

Within the last week Marion Island actually was active for a short time. Hopefully there are more QSO's to come.

Desecheo, Aves Island, and Wallis and Futuna offer many QSO opportunities.

ED

2008 Most Wanted Countries

The January/February issue of *The DX Magazine* contains the new 2008 Most Wanted Countries survey results.

The worldwide mixed list is available on the magazine website.

This is the list that is included at the end of the *Long Path*. In this month's issue, the new 2008 Most Wanted Countries list has three additional columns.

1. DX OP

For entities where there is known or planned activity, a color code as well as a letter is used:

A = Active DXpedition

P = Planned this year

PN = Planned next year

R = Resident active ham(s)

This information also is listed on the 2008 Most Wanted page.

2. LP Date

The date of the Long Path issue which contains an article on the entry.

3. Resident

The call sign, if known, of a resident ham. More than one may exist.

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100 Most Wanted February Activity

#	Entity	Station	QRV	Ending
6	DESECHEO	KP5	Feb 12	Feb 26
9	CROZET	FT5WO	Now	Nov 30
25	MINAMI TORISHIMA	JD1BMM	Now	Feb 09
25	MINAMI TORISHIMA	JD1BND	Now	Feb 09
43	TEMOTU	H40FN	Feb 28	Mar 16
43	TEMOTU	H40MS	Feb 28	Mar 16
45	BANABA	T33HC	Now	?
65	CENTRAL AFRICAN REP	TL0A	Now	?
75	AFGHANISTAN	T6AC	Now	Mar 31
56	TUVALU	T2 (N7OU)	Feb 17	Mar 02
56	TUVALU	T2 (W7YAQ)	Feb 17	Mar 02
89	VANUATU	YJ0AZQ (OC-035)	Now	Sep 01
84	SOLOMON ISLANDS	H44MS	Now	Apr 28
69	AVES ISLAND	YW0A	Feb 01	Mar 31
81	WALLIS & FUTUNA	FW5RE (Hungary)	Jan 28	Feb 23
81	WALLIS & FUTUNA	FW8DX (Japan)	Now	?
88	VIETNAM	XV9DX, 3W1W	Now	?
93	CHAD	TT8SK	Now	?
98	TONGA	A35HA	Feb 14	Feb 21
-	Guinea Bissau	J5UAP	Now	Mar 31

2008 Most Wanted Countries—World Wide Mixed Mode"

Courtesy of DXpublishing, Inc." www.dxpath.com

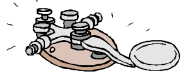
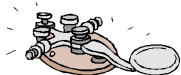



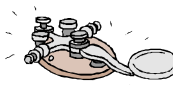

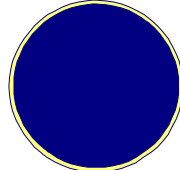
	2008			2007		
DX OP	#	PFX	COUNTRY	#	LP Date	Resident
	1	P5	NORTH KOREA	1		
	2	7O	YEMEN	2		
	3	KP1	NAVASSA	3		
P	4	FR-G	GLORIOSO	4	May-2008	
A??	5	ZS8	MARION ISLAND	6	May-2008	
A	6	KP5	DESECHEO	7		
	7	3Y-B	BOUVET	5		
	8	VKØ-H	HEARD ISLAND	10		
A	9	FT5W	CROZET	9	Jan-2009	
	10	FT5Z	AMSTERDAM	11		
	11	VP8-O	SOUTH ORKNEY	13		
	12	VP8-S	SOUTH SANDWICH	15		
R	13	SV-A	MT ATHOS	14		SV2ASP
	14	ZL9	AUCKLAND & CAMPBELL	18		
	15	VKØ-M	MACQUARIE	20		
	16	HKØ-M	MALPELO	17		
	17	PYØS	ST PETER & ST PAUL	23		
	18	FR-T	TROMELIN	16		
	19	BS7	SCARBOROUGH	8	Mar-2008	
	20	KH5	PALMYRA	29		
	21	KH5K	KINGMAN REEF	22		
	22	3D2C	CONWAY REEF	24		
	23	FR-J/E	JUAN DE NOVA	26		
	24	KH4	MIDWAY	27		
A	25	JD1-M	MINAMI TORISHIMA	28		
	26	VK9-M	MELLISH REEF	35		
	27	T31	CENTRAL KIRIBATI	30	Nov-2008	
	28	VK9-W	WILLIS ISLAND	12	Oct-2008	
	29	KH9	WAKE	31		
	30	VP8-G	SOUTH GEORGIA	34		
	31	E3	ERITREA	32		
	32	BV9P	PRATAS	37		
	33	FK-C	CHESTERFIELD	36		
	34	VU4	ANDAMAN	38		
	35	KH3	JOHNSTON	33		
	36	CEØ-X	SAN FELIX	51		
	37	KH1	BAKER & HOWLAND	39		
	38	KH7K	KURE	49	Jun-2007	
	39	3CØ	ANNOBON	40		
	40	FT5X	KERGUELEN	50		
	41	ZL8	KERMADEC ISLAND	41		
	42	ZD9	TRISTAN DE CUNHA	57		
A	43	H4Ø	TEMOTU	46		
	44	1S	SPRATLY	53	Apr-2008	
A	45	T33	BANABA	69	Nov-2008	
	46	VU7	LAKSHADWEEP	64		
	47	ZK3	TOKELAU	60		
	48	E4	PALESTINE	19		
	49	PYØT	TRINDADE	67		
	50	XZ	MYANMAR	56		

	2008			2007		
DX OP	#	PFX	COUNTRY	#	LP Date	Resident
	51	C2	NAURU	55		
	52	FO-A	AUSTRAL	63		
	53	T3Ø	WESTERN KIRIBATI	59	Nov-2008	
	54	FO-M	MARQUESAS	42		
	55	S2	BANGLADESH	44		
A	56	T2	TUVALU	54		
	57	3Y-P	PETER I	71		
R	58	FJ	ST BARTHELEMY	NA	Feb-2008	FJ5DX
	59	4W	TIMOR LESTE	48		
R	60	EP	IRAN	58		Several
	61	VP6	PITCAIRN	47		
	62	ZK2	NIUE	65		
	63	VK9-L	LORD HOWE	80		
	64	4U-UN	UN NEW YORK	75		
R	65	TL	CENTRAL AFRICA REP	62		TL8PRV
	66	VK9-X	CHRISTMAS ISLAND	66		
	67	A5	BHUTAN	82		
	68	CEØ-Z	JUAN FERNANDEZ ISL.	76		
	69	YVØ	AVES ISLAND	84		
	70	XF4	REVILLA GIGEDO	85		
	71	3D2R	ROTUMA	61		
	72	CYØ	SABLE ISLAND	70		
	73	E5-N	NORTH COOK	87		
	74	T5	SOMALIA	91		
R	75	YA	AFGHANISTAN	73		
	76	3C	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	43		
A & R	77	TN	CONGO	52		TN5SN
	78	FO-C	CLIPPERTON	21	Nov-2008	
	79	T32	EASTERN KIRIBATI	68	Nov-2008	
	80	VK9-C	COCOS KEELING	89		
A	81	FW	WALLIS & FUTUNA	90		
	82	KH8-S	SWAINS ISLAND	74		
A	83	H4	SOLOMON ISL.	81		
A	84	1AØ	SOV.MIL. ORD.-MALTA	NA		
	85	CY9	ST PAUL ISLAND	NA		
	86	SØ	WESTERN SAHARA	93		
R	87	EZ	TURKMENISTAN	96		Stopped 2006
A	88	3W/XV	VIETNAM	92		
A	89	YJ	VANUATU	NA		
	90	JD1-O	OGASAWARA	78		
	91	XX9	MACAU	95		
R	92	9N	NEPAL (9N7BO at times)	98		
A & R	93	TT	CHAD	NA		TT8FC
	94	YK	SYRIA	77		
	95	R1MV	MALYJ VYSOTSKIJ	NA		
R?	96	TJ	CAMEROON	NA		TJ3SL?
	97	VP8-SS	SOUTH SHETLAND	NA		
A	98	A3	TONGA	NA		
	99	9U	BURUNDI	88		
R	100	AP	PAKISTAN	NA		

A Active DXpedition R Resident active ham(s) P Planned this year PN Planned next year

February 2009

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Ground Hog Day	3	4  W1AM Qualifying Run	5	6	7 10-10 SSB QSO Party DE, MN, NM, VVT QSO Parties XE Int'l RTTY Test
8 FM Simplex Test - 50-440mHz NA CW Sprint	9	10	11  K9JM Qualifying Run	12  Lincoln Bicentennial	13  SEMDXA Meeting	14 CQ WW RTTY WPX Test Dutch PACC Test LA, NH, NNY, OMS QSO Party RSGB 1.8 MHz Test Valentine's Day
15 NA SSB Sprint	16  Presidents Day	17	18	19  W1AW Qualifying Run	20	21
22  Washington's Birthday	23	24  New Moon	25 Ash Wednesday	26	27	28 CQ WW 160M SSB NA QSO Dig Party Russian WW PSK Test UBA Test

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				