

Long Path



Volume 31 Issue 4

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

January 2014



President's Report

Hope everyone had a good Christmas and the new year brings you many new DX contacts. As I write this message, I am up at our Kalkaska portable 8 location looking out at a foot of snow and 14 degrees, great antenna project weather. The snowmobile is running good and the Force 12 beam is working well, what more could one want out of life? Zukey Lake was a great success again last month thanks to Rick NE8Z. The snowy weather didn't help attendance, but we all had a good time. I have heard a report that Tokyo Hy-Power has filed for bankruptcy. If

SEMDXA Dues Are Due

Meeting Presentation

**Friday January 10, 2014
2012L**

**The most successful special
event station ever
Celebrating the 2012 London
Olympic Games**

true, it is not a good sign of things to come.

Hope to see you at the meeting and in the pileups.
73 Dave K8ESQ

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the November 8, 2013
SEMDXA Meeting

Called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Dave, K8ESQ. Sixteen members and nine guests present at Jimi's Restaurant in Royal Oak.

Secretary Stan, AC8W, reports the minutes of the September 2013 meeting were printed in the Long Path. Motion to accept by K8SIX, second by K8QKY, mcu*

Treasurer Brad, N8SNM, reports a September 30st checking balance of \$1, 816.52. Three renewal totaling \$60.00 leaving a checking balance of \$1,876.52. PayPal balance started at \$179.27 with nine renewals for a balance of \$351.35, to accept by K8SIX, second by K8YTO, mcu.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

There will be NO December meeting.

Rick, NE8Z, will once again host a lunch December 16 at the Zukey Lake Tavern near Hamburg. Let Rick know if you plan to attend at ne8z@yahoo.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Al, K8SIX, tell us Lloyd, NE8I, from Traverse City area was released from the hospital after a serious illness.

We are saddened to hear that Rick, K8III, became a silent key.

SEMDXA OFFICERS

President: Dave De Rain, **K8ESQ**

Vice-president: Bob Crawford, **K8VJV**

Treasurer: Brad Nowak, **N8SNM**

Secretary: Stan Arnett, **AC8W**

Program Director: Gerry Treas, **K8GT**

Steve Culp, **K8QKY**

Directors: Ted, **K8NA**, Fred, **W1SKU**, and Lee, **N8LJ**

Club Appointees:

Web Site Editor: Larry Gauthier, **K8UT**

LP Publisher: Linda Metz, **KC8PKY**

ARRL and CQ Appointees:

DXCC Checker: Stan Arnett, **AC8W**

DXCC Checker: Bill Jones, **N8KF**

VUCC Checker: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

VUCC Checker: Jim Sanford, **K8ZZU**

CQ Checker: Mike Rudzki, **N8MR**

Logbook of the World (LOTW) has released TQSL ver. 2.0

Recent activity includes K9W until November 16, and T33A until November 18.

A reminder from Bernie from The Daily DX that you should NOT rely on spots. Instead, listen to find out who is the DX so as to no generate errors..

Minutes of the November 8, 2013 SEMDXA Meeting

Called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Presi-

Program

Gerry, K8GT, introduced Jack, KB8RJ, and Christina, WD8MUR, who told us of their February-March 2013 "vacation style" trip to Montserrat (IOTA NA-103). They rented Gingerbread Hill, a ham friendly villa on the north end of the island (www.volcano-island.com). Before the volcano erupted in 1995 there were fifteen thousand inhabitants and since then eleven thousand left the island. The southern two-thirds has limited access because the volcano is still active. Access to Montserrat is by ferry or Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL) aircraft. The people were friendly and the accommodations were great. DX was always hot and they received 700-800 QSL requests. Thanks for the info.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. by WD8S, second by KB8TXZ, mcu.

Stan, AC8W, Secretary
*mcu = motion carried
unanimously

New ARRL Single Operator Unlimited Contest Category

ARRL News 12/24/2013:

"Responding to many requests, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee this year accepted the Contest Advisory Committee (CAC) recommendation to add the Single-Operator Unlimited category to the ARRL 10 Meter Contest, ARRL 160 Meter Contest, RTTY Roundup, and the IARU HF Championship."

"The new category permits the use of spotting information within the Single-Operator class. The RTTY Roundup January 4-5, 2014, will be the first event to which this new category applies. In the past, using spotting information placed a station in the Multioperator category. Per the revised rules, Single-Operator Unlimited: The use of spotting assistance or automated, multi-channel decoders is permitted."

CQ to Realign Publications

ARRL News 12/24/2013 :

CQ Communications Inc has announced plans to realign its publications lineup and to launch a new online supplement to its flagship magazine, CQ Amateur Radio.

Effective with the February 2014 issue of CQ, content from the magazine's three sister publications — Popular Communications, CQ

VHF and WorldRadio Online — will be incorporated into CQ's digital edition as a supplement to be called CQ Plus.

The print editions of *Popular Communications* and *CQ VHF* will be phased out, and *WorldRadio Online* will no longer exist as a separate online publication. Current *Popular Communications*, *CQ VHF* and *WorldRadio Online* subscribers will be converted to *CQ* subscribers and receive *CQ Plus* at no additional charge. Details will be posted on each magazine's website.

CQ Communications says the change will offer hobby radio enthusiasts a single source for articles from shortwave listening and scanner monitoring to personal two-way services and Internet radio, as well as Amateur Radio. Richard Fisher, **KI6SN**, currently editor of both *Popular Communications* and *WorldRadio Online*, will be editor of *CQ Plus*.

"Our primary audience is ham radio operators, but very few hams began their radio involvement as amateurs," Ross said. "Most of us started out as shortwave listeners, broadcast band DXers, CBers or scanning enthusiasts. Many continue to be involved in many different aspects of the radio hobby in addition to Amateur Radio." Ross said consolidating four specialized publications into one will keep "multidimensional readers" informed on all aspects of the radio hobby, at the same time exposing non-hams "to all the excitement and opportunities that Amateur Radio has to offer."

The expanded material will be an integral part of the digital edition of *CQ* and will be included as part of a standard digital subscription. Each month's digital edition will continue beyond where the print edition ends, offering supplemental material on all aspects of hobby radio communication.



Amsterdam Island FT5ZM (# 4)

Amsterdam Island is number 4 on the 100 Most Wanted Entities List. A team of 14 experienced DXpeditioners will operate from two locations on the north end of the island. It looks like operation may commence around the 24th of January and end around February 10. The schedule is not firm due to the lengthy sea travel via the MV Braveheart for about 9 days each way. Also, landing is subject to sea conditions.

Island Access

Amsterdam Island is under the administration of TAAF, the Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises, which controls access to the islands in the French Antarctic Territories. After reviewing the team's credentials and planning documents, TAAF issued a permit to land and conduct a DXpedition from Amsterdam Island for up to 18 days between the dates of January 15 and February 20 of 2014.

Schedule for FT5ZM

The MV Braveheart will arrive in the port of Fremantle, Australia on January

12, 2014 and will sail for Amsterdam Island on January 15, 2014. The sailing time to Amsterdam Island will be 9 days, with an estimated arrival date of January 24.

Landing operations will commence as soon as the sea conditions and weather allow. Once the team is ashore, they will have 18 days to set up, conduct the DXpedition, and tear down for departure. The return sail to Fremantle is also estimated at 9 days. The team anticipates being back in Fremantle by February 23, 2014.

(Based on this information, the DX operation would end sometime between

February 10 and 15. See website for most current information. – ED)

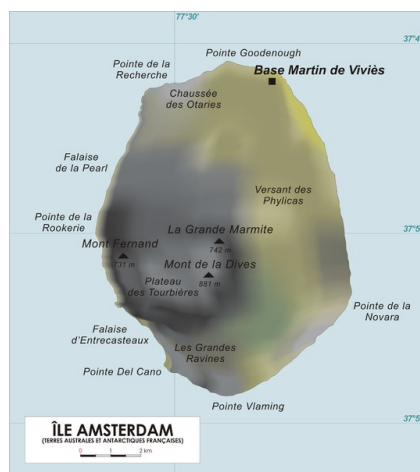
Operating Sites

The landing site is on an outcropping along the north coast of the island near the base. Landing can be difficult due to the direct exposure to the open sea. Both the arrival and departure times could be effected by the weather and high seas.

Two operating sites on the north end of the island have been assigned. One site, a shelter called Mataf, is located just northeast of the base. It is over 400 feet from the sea and the beach area has small cliffs, is rugged and rocky, and is exposed to the high sea. Having antennas at the water's edge is not really an option. The slope downward and to the north favors propagation to most major population areas.

At the second they will use a shelter called Antonelli. This site is 1.6 miles inland from Mataf and has an elevation approximately 600 ft. above Mataf. Again, terrain slopes downward to the north. The terrain around Antonelli is quite rugged and the shelter sits on the edge of an old volcanic crater.

The two shelters are not large. They



Amsterdam Island
(Use Zoom to See Details)



measure approximately 15 by 15 feet and have some built in bunks and benches, limiting available space for stations.

Equipment

There will be eight stations, four at each of the two operation sites. Both sites will have vertical and monoband yagis antennas available.

There are three station operating configurations:

160 M Station Config
Low Band Station Config
High Band Station Config

See table in next column for station configuration details.

160 M Operation Information:

Between sunset and sunrise, station number 4 at the Antonelli site will be dedicated 160 meters. Multiple receive antennas will provide directional reception and allow diversity receive. The transmit antenna will be a 60 ft. vertical with 4 loading wire sloping downward from the 50 ft. level.

Between sunrise and sunset, this station will be fully functional on all other bands.

80, 40 and 30 M Operation Information:

The 80, 40, and 30 meter bands will be covered from both sites, Antonelli and Mataf. Simultaneous CW/Digital and

160 M Station Config

K3 Transceiver
OM Power 2000 Amp
160 M Top Loaded Vertical
Beverages
DX Engg RX 4 Square

Low Band Station Config

K3 Transceiver
80 and 40 M OM Power 2000 Amp
80, 40, 30 M Verticals
Beverages
DX Engg RX 4 Square

High Band Station Config

K3 Transceiver
KPA 500 Amp
10, 12, 15, 17, 20 3 Element Yagis
(Monoband)

Band	CW	SSB	RTTY
160	1.826.5		
80	3.523	3.79	3.58
40	7.023	7.082	7.045
30	10.115		10.142
20	14.023	14.185	14.08
17	18.079	18.13	18.099
15	21.023	21.285	21.08
12	24.894	24.955	24.912
10	28.023	28.485	28.08

SSB operation will be possible on 80 and 40 meters. Likewise, two stations could be on 30 meters if it is practical.

The 80 meter antennas will be 60 ft. verticals; the 40 and 30 meter antennas will be full-sized ¼ wave verticals. All vertical antennas will have 36 quarter wave radials.

DXpedition Cost:

The web site provides some information on estimated cost. The bottom line is if they do 100,000 QSO's, the approximate cost will be \$4.00 per QSO. This was an early rough estimate. Some of the cost will, as usual, be paid by the 14 operators.

See:

<http://www.amsterdamdx.org/>

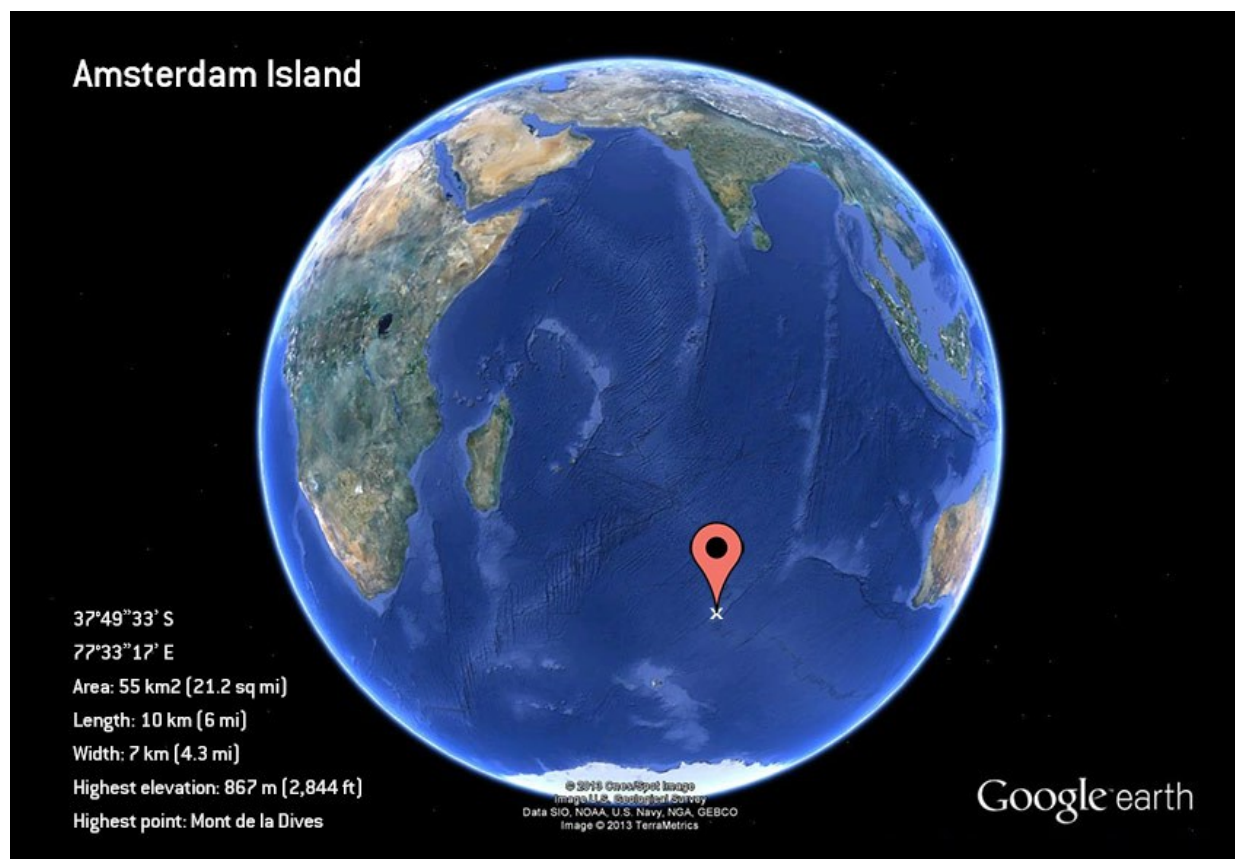
Chet, **K8YTO**

Amsterdam Island

From Wikipedia:

Île Amsterdam, also known as **Amsterdam Island**, **New Amsterdam**, or **Nouvelle Amsterdam**, is an island named after the city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

It lies in the southern Indian Ocean and is part of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands. Together with neighboring Île Saint-Paul 53 miles to the south, it forms one of the five districts of the territory. Martin-de-Viviès research station, the only settlement on the island, is the capital of the territory and is home to about 30 non-permanent inhabitants involved in biological, meteorological and geomagnetic studies.



The island has a mild, oceanic climate, with a mean annual temperature of 55.4 °F, rainfall of 43.3 inches, persistent westerly winds and high levels of humidity.

Discovery

The island was discovered by the Basque Spanish explorer Juan Sebastián Elcano in 1522, in the course of his voyage of global circumnavigation. However, he did not name the island. Having found the island unnamed, Dutch captain Anthonie van Diemen named it *Nieuw Amsterdam* after his ship in 1633. The first recorded landing was made in December 1696 by Dutchman Willem de Vlamingh.

18th century

French Captain Pierre François Péron says he was marooned from 1792 to

1795 on the island. Peron's *Memoires*, in which he describes his experiences, were published in a limited edition which is an expensive collectors' item. There was confusion in the early days between Amsterdam and Saint Paul Islands. In February 1793 Sir George Staunton on his way to China on board the H.M.S. Lion found a sealer named Perron and four others on the southern of the two islands, now called Saint Paul Island.

19th century

In Autumn 1833 the British ship *Lady Munro* was wrecked at the island and 21 survivors were picked up two weeks later by a sealing vessel.

In January 1871 an attempt to settle the island was made by a party led by Heurtin, a French resident of Réunion Island. After seven months there, their attempts to raise cattle and grow crops were unfruitful and they returned to Réu-

nion. The Amsterdam and Saint-Paul Islands were first claimed by Martin Dupeyrat for France in 1843. However, the governor of Réunion refused to ratify the act of possession and France took formal control only in October 1892.

20th century

The islands were attached to Madagascar in 1924 and became a French colony. The first French base on Amsterdam was established in 1949.

Territorial claims

Amsterdam Island, along with Saint Paul Island, is considered by some Mauritian parties as a national territory. The question of Mauritian sovereignty over the two islands was raised in 2007. This new claim could be raised in discussions with France, along with a claim to Tromelin Island.

Contest Calendar

QST Magazines provides a list of most of the contests. Here is a brief summary of some major ones:

Jan 1 SARTG RTTY
Jan 4 ARRL RTTY Roundup
Jan 4 EUCW 160 M Test
 Jan 11 MI QRP Jan QRP Test
 Jan 12 DARC 10 M Test
 Jan 18 LZ Open CW Test
 Jan 18 HA DX Test
Jan 18 ARRL Jan VHF
Jan 24 CQ WW 160 M CW
 Jan 25 BARTG RTTY Sprint

DX Magazine 100 Most Wanted Survey

The DX Magazine 100 Most Wanted Countries survey results for MIXED MODES - WORLD WIDE should be available in January.

The DX MAGAZINE's Most Wanted Survey has been conducted for over 20 years, typically during September & October.

Complete results, by continent, is published in the January/February 2013 issue of *The DX Magazine*.

Hamfest Calendar

1/12/2014 Hazel Park

**Location: Hazel Park High School
 23400 Huges**

Hazel Park, MI 48030

Website: <http://www.HPARC.org>

Talk-In: 146.640 - (PL 100) DART repeater

**Contact: Bernie Hildebrand ,
 W8NBC**

PO Box 368 Hazel Park, MI 48030

Jan/Feb - 100 Most Wanted Activity as of Dec 23 - In [QRV Date Order](#)

QRV	End	Prefix	Call	Entity	2012	Website	LP Date
NOW	01-Jan-14	T6	T6MC	AFGHANISTAN	48		
NOW	10-Jan-14	H40	H40FN	TEMOTU	46	Yes	01-Feb-10
NOW	10-Jan-14	H40	H40TA	TEMOTU	46	Yes	01-Feb-10
NOW	18-Mar-14	JD1/M	JD1/JG8NQJ	MINAMI TORISHIMA	42		01-Jan-10
NOW	31-Mar-14	VP8/H	RI1ANU	SOUTH SHETLAND	95		
NOW	01-Apr-14	T6	T6EC	AFGHANISTAN	48		
NOW	20-Apr-14	4S	4S7KKG	SRI LANKA	92		
24-Jan-14	10-Feb-14	FT5/Z	FT5ZM	AMSTERDAM	4	Yes	01-Jan-14
26-Jan-14	28-Feb-14	XT	XT2AW	BURKINIA FASO	97		
01-Feb-14	31-Mar-14	ZL7	by ZL3LF	CHATHAM IS	75		
10-Feb-14	18-Feb-14	3B9	3B9/OE4AAC	RODRIGUES IS.	90		

Jan/Feb Other DX

QRV	End	Prefix	Call	ENTITY	QSL Mgr	Web Site
Now	01-Jan-14	PJ4	PJ4/K9HZ	Bonaire	K9HZ	
Now	06-Jan-14	T8	T8CW	Belau (W. Caroline Is.)		
Now	06-Jan-14	5Z	5Z4/ON4EZ	Kenya	ON4EZ	
Now	08-Jan-14	V5	V5/DL3DXX	Namibia	DJ2HD	
Now	14-Jan-14	S7	S79ACR	Seychelles	UA3DJY	
Now	15-Jan-14	PJ2	PJ2/SM4KYN	Curacao	SM4KYN	
Now	31-Jan-14	9L	9L1BXU	Sierra Leone	G7BXU	
Now	01-Feb-14	9L	9L1A	Sierra Leone	9A2AA	Yes
Now	03-Feb-14	9M2	9M2MRS (AS-015)	West Malaysia	PA0RRS	
Now	28-Feb-14	FK	FK8RO (OC-032)	New Caledonia	F5IRO	Yes
Now	01-May-14	JW	JW2US (EU-027)	Svalbard	LA2US	
Now	25-May-14	VP8/F	VP8BTU	Falkland Is.	G1EUZ	
Now	31-May-14	OD	OD5/EA1CYK	Lebanon	EA7LS	
Now	24-Jun-14	Z6	Z6/LZ1BJ	Kosovo (ARRL Not Recognize)	LZ1BJ	
01-Jan-14	05-Jan-14	V5	V5/DH3WO	Namibia	DH3WO	
02-Jan-14	18-Jan-14	V5	V5/DL9NDS	Namibia	DL9NDS	Yes
02-Jan-14	18-Jan-14	V5	V5/DJ2BQ	Namibia	DJ2BQ	
03-Jan-14	21-Jan-14	6W	6W7SK	Senegal	F6BLP	
08-Jan-14	14-Jan-14	XU	XU7AEU	Cambodia	M6CFW	
16-Jan-14	27-Jan-14	3W	XV2E or XV2JJ	Vietnam	JH5RXS	
17-Jan-14	29-Jan-14	PJ2	PJ2/K8ND	Curacao	K8ND	
18-Jan-14	22-Jan-14	VP2/M	VP2MPG	Montserrat	SP7VC	Yes
18-Jan-14	22-Jan-14	VP2/M	VP2MTK	Montserrat	SP3IPB	Yes
21-Jan-14	27-Jan-14	E5/S	E51CDW (OC-013)	S. Cook Is.	BA4DW	
25-Jan-14	26-Jan-14	PJ2	PJ2T	Curacao	W3HNC	
01-Feb-14	09-Feb-14	5H	5I0DX	Tanzania	IK7JWX	
01-Feb-14	12-Feb-14	S9	S9TF	Sao Tome & Principe	IK5CRH	Yes
11-Feb-14	16-Feb-14	7P	7P8ID	Lesotho	DK3ID	
11-Feb-14	25-Feb-14	YJ	by NE7D	Vanuatu	NE7D	
11-Feb-14	25-Feb-14	YJ	by N7OU	Vanuatu	N7OU	
12-Feb-14	24-Feb-14	8Q	8Q7KB (AS-013)	Maldives	SL2SBY	
22-Feb-14	08-Mar-14	PJ4	PJ4D	Bonaire		
22-Feb-14	16-Mar-14	PJ7	PJ7AA	St. Maarten	AA9A	
24-Feb-14	07-Mar-14	A3	A35AX (OC-049 & 064)	Tonga	DK1AX	Yes
25-Feb-14	16-Mar-14	5X	5X1XA	Uganda	G3SWH	
25-Feb-14	21-Mar-14	XU	XU7ACQ	Cambodia	KF0RQ	