



Long Path



Volume 36 Issue 6

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

November 2018



Pres Sez

Here is some information on FT8. Had lunch on Wednesday with Fred, W1SKU, and he advised me to upgrade my FT8 to version 1.9.1 and to also load the current "release candidate" which at this time is number 3 and is good thru November 30, 2018. The 1.9.1 is a beta version and they have scheduled upgrades on specific dates. Look at their website for a complete explanation.

Also, for those of you who are running JTAlert-X you can get rid of that. You don't need it. I have been having a lot of trouble with HRD and getting it to talk to FT8. FT8 was not working right. Since removing the JTAlert the FT8 is working. Still working on getting the K3s and HRD talking to each other. I am currently logging contacts to the log in FT8, making an ADIF file and loading that file to HRD. You can then update your LOTW from HRD. A little cumbersome at this point but it works.

The inverted "L" project is working fine. It is up and running with 15 radials and I have plans for adding 5 more.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Zukey Lake on December 14. Lunch at 11:30, however, you can come earlier if you wish. Some of the members have coffee before the lunch. This is our only meeting for December. Hope your Christmas shopping is all done by then!

Doug, N8VY, has advised me that the projector we did not like has gone back, he has his credit and he has purchased a spare bulb for the old projector for less than \$50. Thanks Doug for all your work.

73

Bob, K8RGM

Calendar

NEXT Meeting:

NEW DAY

2nd THURSDAY

November 8, 2018

Gino's Restaurant

1999 Cass Lake Rd,
Keego Harbor, MI 48320

Directions: [Gino's Pizza](#)

Gathering starts at **5:30 pm (dinner on you)** and **meeting begins at 7 pm** followed by the presentation.

PRESENTATION for Nov 8:

Travels throughout Europe by Rick Dorsch NE8Z

SEMDXA OFFICERS

President: Robert Mueller, **K8RGM**

Vice-president: Dave De Rain, **K8ESQ**

Treasurer: Brad Nowak, **N8SNM**

Secretary: Doug Basberg, **N8VY**

Program Director: Stan Arnett, **AC8W**
and Steve Culp, **K8QKY**

Directors: Ted, **K8NA**, Bob, **K8VFX**,
and Lee, **N8LJ**

Club Appointees:

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

LP Publisher: Chet Latawiec, **VE3CFK**

ARRL and CQ Appointees:

DXCC Checker: Stan Arnett, **AC8W**

DXCC Checker: Bill Jones, **N8KF**

DXCC Checker: Less Butler, **W8MSP**

VUCC Checker: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

VUCC Checker: Jim Sanford, **K8ZZU**

CQ Checker: Mike Rudzki, **N8MR**

CQ Checker: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

SEMDXA
Meeting Minutes
11 October, 2018

- ♦ Meeting called to order by Bob K8RGM, president, at 7:05pm 10/11/2018
- * Roll Call by voice. 20 members in attendance
- * Treasury Report for September presented by Brad N8SNM
- * motion to approve by Bob VA3RD and 2nd by Marsha N8FE and approved by unanimous vote.
- * Minutes as posted in Long Path
- * motion to approve by Greg N8GAS and 2nd by Jay WB8SBI and approved by unanimous vote.

Old Business

- * Doug N8VY, secretary, has procured a new projector and battery powered blue tooth speaker since the September meeting for under \$300 as budgeted. Tonight we will evaluate the projector during the presentation and then determine if we will keep this new projector.
- * Jay WB8SBI announced that a founding member of SEMDXA, Wayne K8BTH, became a silent key in January. Several long term members remember Wayne and he will be missed.

Minutes (cont'd)

New Business

- * Stan AC8W stated that ARRL is further considering whether the FT8 digital mode should have separate/different endorsements than other digital modes due to its extreme popularity and activity. Members should e-mail Stan with their thoughts on this matter at ac8w@arrl.net and Stan will convey this information to Dale WA8EFK, Director, Great Lakes Division.
- * The SEMDXA Christmas get together will be at Zukey Lake again this year on December 14th (Friday) at 11:30am. Some people arrive early for socializing.
- * The 50/50 drawing was won by Brad N8SNM
- * The November meeting presentation will be given by Rick NE8Z about his travel through Europe meeting HAMs including relatives.
- * Stan AC8W introduced Pete K8PGJ with his three mini-presentation titled "W1AW/8 multi-multi at K8PGJ QTH" and two visits to W1AW HQ.
- * After the presentation, the membership discussed the quality of the new projector. The majority found it to be unsatisfactory. It will be returned to Amazon by Doug N8VY. Alternatives were discussed. A bulb for the current projector may be available on eBay or elsewhere for much less than \$200 as originally thought (Doug will check). The

Minutes (cont'd)

membership would also consider paying more for a better quality projector. Doug N8VY will evaluate projectors offered at the 'Micro Center' store. If they appear better, then Brad N8SNM, treasurer, who objected emphatically with the one we are returning, can go and make the purchase decision at Micro Center. His critical eye would be better suited to the task (LOL). We can discuss this further at the November meeting where we will have more information. Another possibility arose. Rick Dorsch NE8Z, next month's presenter, mentioned he had a collection of projector bulbs and maybe he has the 'SP-LAMP-018' Lamp module our www.infocus.com projector requires.

* Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm by motion by Jay WB8SBI and 2nd by Doug N8VY and appreciated by all.

DUES Due

Have a little care that life is brief,
And less that art is long.
Success is in the listening,
And DX is in the song...

Hugh Casidy

3Y0I Bouvet Is.

The 2018/2019 Southern hemisphere's summer Bouvet Island DXpedition by the 3Y0I team have announced their "band plan" at

<https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbouvetoya.org%2F3yoi-bandplan%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7C41f31829c89a4fccc2108d633646c6b%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636752903740124346&sdata=N6xCybD4qJzX%2FTxr6G8hak%2B3Zgx7zZTUBYDSkAhTUvk%3D&reserved=0>. As of yet they have not announced a more accurate time frame.

ZUKEY Lake

As mentioned earlier, our December meeting is at Zukey Lake on Friday December 14th at 11:30AM

A Top Band Lament

Nothing against FT8 or FT8 enthusiasts, but FT8 activity has certainly siphoned off a lot of activity on CW, as many of us have predicted and feared. Anyone doubting this just needs to tune the lower portion of the band then tune up the band and listen for a moment. I, for one, will be continuing my activity on CW as I personally enjoy the audible and visceral connection with the person I'm QSO-ing.....Top Band Author withheld

PROPOGATION AID

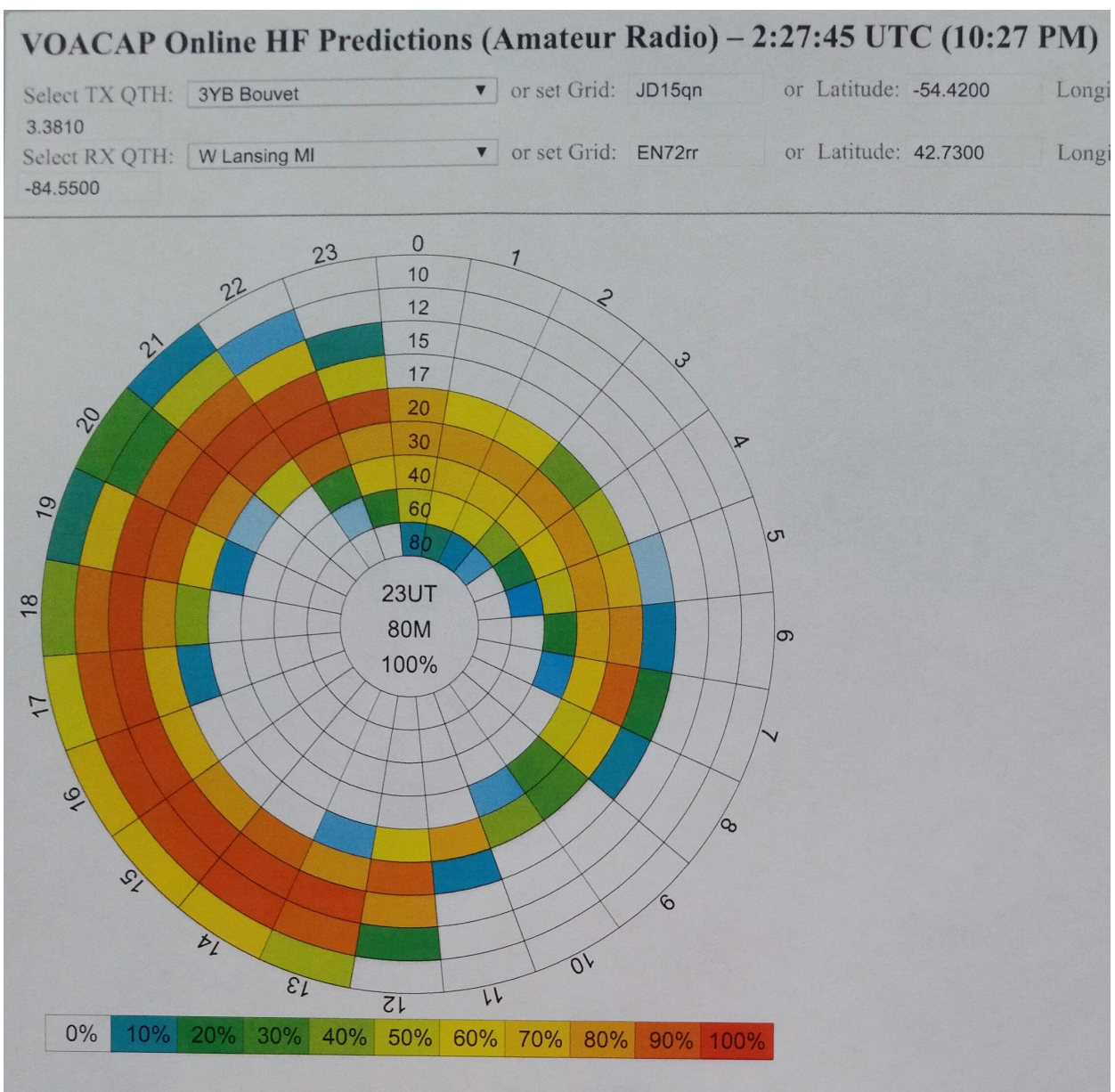
by Chet VE3CFK

When there is some juicy DX coming up that I need some band fills, or the last few ATNOs, I want to maximize the time I spend in the chair with successful contacts. Making sure that the equipment and antennas and rotators are all

functioning as designed is one thing, but at this point in the solar cycle, the propagation just well let's just say it's not great! So **when** and **what band** do I listen?

To aid in answering these important questions, I default to an internet tool I've used for several years very successfully in snagging that elusive DX. The program is called VOACAP, and is accessible at <http://www.voacap.com/hf/>

You can select the DX location, your location (I input Lansing MI since it's closer than other



options available), the antenna type and heights the DX and you are using, then let the program generate the above chart. The outer ring is Time in UTC. The Bands are concentric circles with 10M being the outermost circle and 80M being the innermost circle. Propagation likelihood is expressed as percentage and is color coded, with bright RED being 100% and 0% being COLD Blue. Now, as with all statistical models, there is an error of accuracy, and I believe the VOACAP prediction is accurate about 80% of the time.

But it is absolutely amazing! You can sit in front of your radio and listen before the chart says there is a chance of hearing the DX, and over time the signal starts to be just heard, then it gets louder, and louder and then you've worked him, and then

gets weaker and weaker and then disappears. Just like the chart predicts! I find it is an invaluable tool.

To make it even more valuable, I print out the chart and then cut out the circle and tape it to my desk shelf for easy viewing and reference. After the DXpedition, I remove the circle and tape it into my log book (old school or what?) for future gloating or lamenting.

VOACAP also offers charts and graphs of the same information. Many DXpeditions use VOACAP to schedule their band to band activities so as not to miss openings to the deserving.

73 and Good DX

Calender of Upcoming DX

Credit to hamradioweb.org

DXPEDITIONS & CONTEST SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2018																							www.hamradioweb.org						
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
→ Z23MD																			CQW W TEST CW										
5W7X 5W2TB										WAE RTTY TEST												EP6RRC AS-189 VP2MUW				4W/DS3EXX YN4RRC NA-013 →			
→ YJ0GC																													
→ A52BH																						A35EU							
				EL2AL/4 AF-111														XV9D →											
E44WE																					JD1BPH JI1CRM/JD1 (OGA) →								
				VK9CH																									
			5R8UP																										
				5R8IC AF-090 UNTIL 2/2019,,																									
			VK9XQ																										
				8P9AE																									
FH/DJ7RJ																													
FG/SM7RYR																													
				5R8UP																									
NEXT MONTHS OVERVIEW																													
December					January					February					March					April									

Upcoming DX - TOP 100

Credit to The Daily DX Calendar

START DATE	END DATE	PREFIX	CALL	QSL MANAGER
01-Nov	30-Nov	6W	by IK7JWX (AF-078)	
01-Nov	30-Nov	6W	IOTA (AF-078) by IK7JWX	22-036 21-232
03-Nov	06-Nov	VK9/X	VK9XQ	DF8AN
06-Nov	10-Nov	VK9/C	VK9CH	DF8AN
10-Nov	17-Nov	VK9/X	VK9XQ	DF8AN
17-Nov	08-Dec	PJ7	PJ7AA	AA9A
18-Nov	26-Nov	VP2E	VP2EAB	WA7NB
18-Nov	26-Nov	VP2E	VP2EGW	K2UU
12-Jan	20-Jan	ZF	ZF2PG	K8PGJ