



# Long Path



Volume 37 Issue 3

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

March 2019



## From the Editor's DESK

It's been a busy month for some, especially our president who has been sunning himself in the southern climes. So I'm filling in for Bob for this issue.

For being in the lows of the solar cycle, there's still lots of DX to be had. In this issue, we again highlight the 3Y0, Bouvet DXpedition, which is still a go, this late in the season. An article by Nodir, EY3MM highlights Pitcairns' upcoming 160M activity. And as the chart and tables at the end of this issue of The Long Path, there is plenty of activity planned for the next several months.

A note from Frank, W3LPL explains our earth's magnetic field and poles, which is important for that DX located over the north pole for us.

I attended the Livonia Swap last month. Several of our members were out in attendance, and one or two were selling some really good stuff. I'm finding more and more boat anchors for sale. I guess us older hams who no longer can move this stuff around the shack are selling off the heavy stuff (some weighs as much as 160 pounds) for light stuff, like a K3, which weighs as much as the dust on some of the boat anchors. If you've ever had the ambition to recreate your original station from years gone by, you can do it much cheaper these days as the boat anchors become more plentiful for purchase. I wrote an article for The Canadian Amateur (The Canadian equivalent to QST) about recreating my station from 50 years ago! I'll bring a copy for next meeting. Till then...Good DXing

73, Chet VE3CFK

## Calendar

**NEXT Meeting:**

**NEW DAY**

**2nd THURSDAY**

**March 14, 2019**

### 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 March 14:

Tom, K8BKMs DXpedition to  
TO8T - Martinique and the ARRL  
DX Contest

### 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** 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

### For February 2019

Meeting opened at 7:10pm by K8RGM, President.

Brad, N8NSM, Treasurer, reported on our financial status. He also reported that this included the refund from Bouvet Island. Motion by Fred, KD8CYD to approve. Seconded by Al, K8SIX.

Doug, N8VY, Sec'y, was sick. Minutes approved as published. Motion by Chet, VE3CFK and seconded by Fred, KD8CYD.

Announcement: Bob, K8RGM, showed off his card from Ducie Island which arrived today in the mail. Passed it around.

Brad, N8NSM, purchased a new bulb for the projector. Cost was \$111.97

Al, k8SIX, reported Ted, K8NA, doing better. Al also had a box of frames from the K8VfV estate which anyone could purchase for a donation to the club.

50/50 was won by Stan, AC8W. \$29. Nice of Trish to buy him the ticket. Wonder if he shared?

Stan had a program on A52A, Bhutan from 2001. A very interesting country. Apparently very nice people.

Stan is going to Bermuda at the end of March with three other hams for a contest. Did not get their call signs.

8:25 meeting closed with a motion by Fred, KD8CYD.

Submitted by Bob, K8RGM

## SLIMS, PIRATES and CLOWNS

Over the last few days someone, not in St. Martin, has been pirating FS5DX on 20 meters CW. Another clown has been bogusly operating as P5USA. Don't waste your time calling these guys, but rather spot them as pirates and give their beam headings in the spots .

Thanks Bernie...DX News

## 3Y0 Bouvet Is.

In the next three days or so the Atlantic Tuna, formerly known as the BYR, will be undergoing the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) "final stages" of "proving the vessels sea worthiness". The trial run will depart from Cape Town but "don't jump to the conclusion" the 3Y0I team is "on [their] way to Bouvet just yet". In a release a week ago the team announced "If the sea trial goes as expected, we will announce our departure date" on one of their multiple outlets. You can follow the "Atlantic Tuna" at

<https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.marinetraffic.com%2Fen%2Fais%2Fdetails%2Fships%2Fshipid%3A5786633%2Fmmsi%3A601070100&amp;p:data=02%7C01%7C%7C5715696ba57a4747216508d698065c26%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636863550441040628&amp;sdata=VAJRpaIJhHju4BUvOZovKmvbeAzgBMmXju%2FlznJ0Wt0%3D&amp;reserved=0>  
or <https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.vesselfinder.com%2F%3Fimo%3D7225051&amp;p:data=02%7C01%7C%7C5715696ba57a4747216508d698065c26%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636863550441040628&amp;sdata=5ktRIjGxfbhYv8CSMr93CjEHDgfVfLTmMfqwYfIECWk%3D&amp;reserved=0>

Thanks Bernie...DX News

I sing the hymn of the conquered, who

Fell in the Battle of Bouvet -

The hymn of the wounded, the beaten,

who died overwhelmed in the fray.

Hugh Cassidy...DX IS

## Confusion among hams about the increasingly rapid drift of the magnetic north pole

By W3LPL, Frank Donovan

There's considerable confusion and misinformation in the amateur radio community caused by misinterpretation of press reports about the surprisingly rapid rate of northward drift of the Earth's magnetic north pole over roughly the last 35 years.

Contributing to the confusion are two broadly defined magnetic north poles:

- the fairly rapidly drifting dip north pole (often called the magnetic pole), and
- the relatively slowly drifting geomagnetic north pole

The dip north pole being discussed in current news reporting is drifting northward ten times more rapidly than the more lethargic geomagnetic north pole which has much greater significance to DXers and contesters.

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=www.scientificamerican.com%2Farticle%2Fthe-earth-has-more-than-one-north-pole&data=02%7C01%7C%7C141a5d6a11eb43c4810708d68cf9ca47%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636851401802673375&data=cnK%2FmwMaAdh6%2F%2F8AEaCUghCCLF9I9ld5m%2FEPvf7cg%3D&reserved=0>

The slowly drifting geomagnetic north pole has much greater significance to DXers and contesters because the northern auroral oval - which greatly affects HF propagation over the north Atlantic and north Pacific Oceans -- is closely centered on the geomagnetic north pole and not on the dip north pole. The geomagnetic north pole has been drifting generally northward only about three miles per year.

The geomagnetic north pole's location is defined by global models of the Earth's magnetic field, its location cannot be determined by direct measurement. Its currently located on Ellesmere Island about 165 miles southwest of Alert, Nunavut the northernmost permanently inhabited place on Earth. Its drifting much more slowly than the dip north pole, it has drifted roughly northward only about 75 miles over the last twenty years.

The much more rapidly drifting dip north pole is defined to be the location in the northern hemisphere where the geomagnetic field is exactly vertical as determined experimentally by magnetic surveys on land, ships and spacecraft. Its location is currently near the center of the Arctic Ocean

about 250 miles southeast of the geographic north pole roughly halfway between Nunavut and Eastern Siberia. The location of the dip north pole is important to navigation but of relatively little importance to space-based phenomenon such as HF ionospheric propagation.

# UA4WHX

From the West Virginia DX Association site is "Have You Worked UA4WHX?" at [UA4WHX](#)  
Vlad has been to many, many DX spots around the world!



*DX IS!*

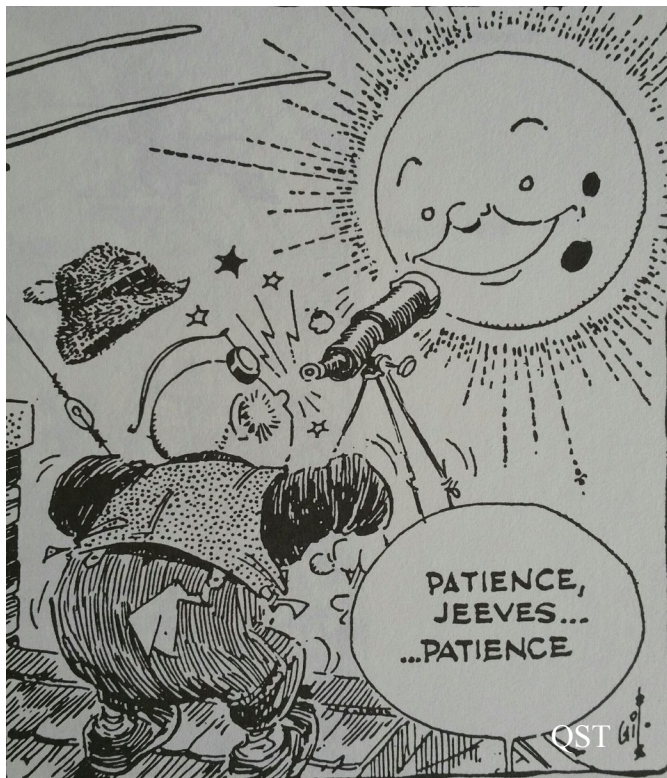
One of the local QRPers came by last week, filled with the most serious problems. "It's the birds", he explained. "With winter coming there are flocks of them around the place and they have taken to perching on the elements of the new TH6DXX I put up". We started to pay close attention to this because we have long hosted flocks of band-tailed pigeons who work on turning the beam into a drooping Yagi. "What did you do?" we asked, and the QRPer plunged on. "I figured out that maybe I would experiment", he said, "so I gave them a shot of 14 mc diathermy. A few departed but the rest just moved out towards the ends of the elements, apparently seeking the voltage nodes as the places to perch. So what do I do now?" Son of Gun! This was really a problem and after thinking it over, we took the QRPer and his problem to the Old Timer and tossed it up for him to catch. After hearing it, the Old Timer sat for a while, a long while, and watched some nimbostratus work north along the ridge across the valley. "So what's the answer?" the QRPer finally asked, and the Old Timer shrugged his shoulders. "Beats me!" he said. "I'm a DXer, not an Ornithologist". And so it is. For bird problems, do as Ben Bernie would often do...warble...

From the pages of DX IS!

The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin

## DARK MAGIC

Nodir, EY8MM has written an article “DARK MAGIC—160 Meters from Pitcairn Island”. You can find the article [HERE](#).



### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

VE7DXW's "RF Seismograph" May Be Real Seismograph

Alex Schwarz, VE7DXW, in British Columbia, is exploring the possibility that "RF signatures" detected by the RF Seismograph propagation tool could also be indicating earthquakes, and may even be able to predict them shortly before they occur. A real-time HF propagation-monitoring tool developed by Schwarz and the MDSR team, the RF Seismograph shows both band noise and activity or band activity alone on six HF bands. "The earthquakes show up as RF noise because of the electric field lines, now scientifically confirmed to change the way the ionosphere reflects RF," Schwarz said. He cited an article in the October 2018 edition of Scientific American, which, he says, "explains it really well." (See Erik Vance's "Earthquakes in the sky," Scientific American, October 2018, p. 44).

## SPOTLESS DAYS

We're now experiencing the longest stretch of spotless days since the sudden end of the last solar minimum when 32 spotless days occurred from July 31 to Aug 31, 2009. The last time there were more than 32 consecutive spotless days was when 42 spotless days occurred from Sept 13 to Oct 24, 1996.

Because we haven't yet seen any strong or long lasting Cycle 25 sunspots, it's very likely that we've entered a long duration solar minimum similar to the 528 spotless days we experienced during 2009 and 2010. We're likely to experience many more long stretches of spotless days before we reach solar minimum possibly in 2020.

By W3LPL, Frank Donovan

## WSJT-X 2.0.1: Bug-fix Release

The WSJT Development Group is pleased to announce the general availability (GA) release of WSJT-X Version 2.0.1, a bug-fix release. It includes repairs of defects reported up to February 22, 2019.

For a list of corrected bugs see the Release Notes:

[RELEASE NOTES](#)

Additional details on code changes can be found here:

[found here](#)

Links to installation packages for Windows, Linux, and Macintosh are available on the WSJT web site:

[WEB Site](#)

You can also download the packages from our SourceForge site:

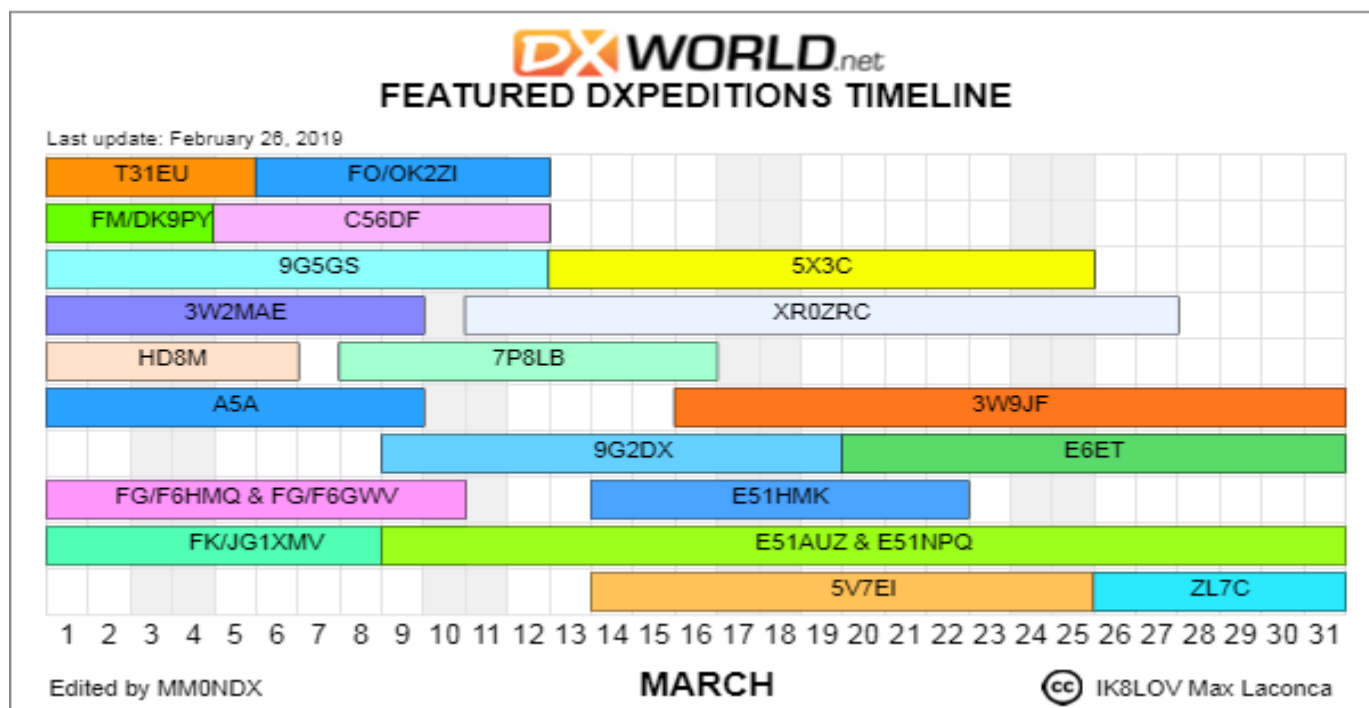
[SourceForge Site](#)

It may take a short time for the SourceForge site to be updated.

We hope you will enjoy using WSJT-X Version 2.0.1.

## Upcoming DX

## Credit to DX World



## VK0 - Macquarie Island

VK5MQ, Norbert, has been on Macquarie Island since March of last year as part of the ANARE team working here for one year. Within a month of arriving he began operations as VK0AI, mostly on FT8. Time is getting short as he only has a "couple more weeks of operating" before Norbert has "to pack up the remaining ham gear for return to Australia". VK0AI is expected to QRT "sometime in March". "As far as I know there will not be another Amateur Operator here at Macca for the coming season" says Norbert. Norbert has been mostly on FT8 as the "propagation has been really poor" and would much rather do some SSB. When he has tried to get on SSB he has had no results and has "hardly ever hear[d] any SSB signals anyway. In the coming days he will start on SSB on 14.195, listening 14.210 and 7.050 MHz in his afternoons (local time) after work. If he does not get any responses he will go back to Ft8. "Hope I have been able to give Macquarie Island to those keenest Amateurs" as "it's been tough this end" reports Norbert. Confirmations go via eQSL, LoTW, via the bureau or direct to VK5MQ. "I will attend to the large backlog of QSLs mailed to me when I land in Australia in April", says Norbert. The Aurora Australis icebreaker is expected to depart from Hobart on March

5th arriving at Macquarie Island on March 8th and then heading back to Hobart on March 23rd.

For those who still need Macquarie Island NE8Z, Rick, who worked him on 40, 30, 20 meters and decoded him several times on 17 meters makes the following recommendations in the hunt for VK0AI.

1. PSK Reporter monitoring for VK0AI "all bands, FT8" (on the shack computer and on a laptop set up next to the bed at night! hi) yes, I can open "one eye" at night and see if he is shown on PSK Reporter. Here in Michigan Norbert is typically active from MN until 6am our local time-EST. Most of his openings to Michigan from Macquarie Island are on 40m or 30m FT8 between 4am and 6am local time (0900-1100z) when I am typically sleeping.
2. Do not rely on the DX Cluster Network as many stations that use FT8 do not put out SPOTS on FT8 QSO's.
3. Gray Line map: I watch this closely. It gives me a good idea when he is waking up and going to bed. Most of his activity is at his sunset and for a few hours afterwards.
4. If you have NETFLIX: Watch: "Journey to the Edge of Nowhere". It is a beautifully made documentary about life and research on Macquarie Island. (may not be available on NETFLIX, so try AMAZON PRIME if you have it -editors note)
5. Macquarie Island time chart: Current Local Time in Macquarie Island, Tasmania, Australia - [Time Chart](#)

Thank you Bernie...Daily DX and Rick, NE8Z

## Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by
<b>2019</b>					
<b>February</b>					
2019 Feb03	2019 Feb28	Turks & Caicos	VP5VMA [spots]	Club Log	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190130
2019 Feb16	2019 Mar18	Vietnam	XV9YM [spots]	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20190116
2019 Feb17	2019 Mar05	Central Kiribati	T31EU [spots]	LoTW	PA3EWP 20181016
2019 Feb17	2019 Mar05	Martinique	FM [spots]	DK9PY	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190127
2019 Feb17	2019 Mar15	Ghana	9G5GS [spots]	IZ4YGS Direct	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190218
2019 Feb17	2019 Mar31	Mauritania	5T5PA [spots]	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190218
2019 Feb19	2019 Mar06	Vietnam	3W9JF [spots]	EA5GL Direct	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190111
2019 Feb20	2019 Mar30	Senegal	6W7 [spots]	ON4AVT	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20181220
2019 Feb22	2019 Feb28	Honduras	HR5 [spots]	F6AJA	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190120
2019 Feb22	2019 Mar10	Guadeloupe	FG [spots]	F6HMQ	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190109
2019 Feb23	2019 Mar02	Belize	V31GF [spots]	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190128
2019 Feb23	2019 Mar10	New Caledonia	FK [spots]	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190129
2019 Feb24	2019 Mar08	Vietnam	3W2MA E [spots]	DL5MAE Buro	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190225
2019 Feb24	2019 Mar19	Sint Maarten	PJ7 [spots]	W3FSA	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190226

Editors NOTE:

I've intentionally left a wide margin here for your notes on band and mode fills required. Good luck in the chase!

## Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

2019 Feb25	2019 Mar13	<b>Senegal</b>	<b>6W</b> <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190228
2019 Feb26	2019 Mar24	<b>Somalia</b>	<b>6O100</b> <a href="#">[spots]</a>	EP3CQ	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20190221
2019 Feb27	2019 Mar05	<b>Bhutan</b>	<b>A5A</b> <a href="#">[spots]</a>	JH1AJT	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190131
2019 Feb27	2019 Mar06	<b>Galapagos</b>	<b>HD8M</b> <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20180921
2019 Feb28	2019 Mar08	<b>Turks &amp; Caicos</b>	<b>VP5</b> <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20190121
<b>March</b>					
2019 Mar01	2019 Mar15	<b>Cayman Is</b>	<b>ZF2CA</b>	G4CWH Direct	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20181217
<a href="#">ARRL International DX Contest, Phone (Mar 2-3, 2019) Check here for</a>					
2019 Mar03	2019 Mar30	<b>Sint Maarten</b>	<b>PJ7AA</b>	AA9A	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20181204
2019 Mar05	2019 Mar12	<b>Gambia</b>	<b>C56DF</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">425DXN</a> 20190216
2019 Mar06	2019 Mar09	<b>Bhutan</b>	<b>A52</b>	See Info	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190205
2019 Mar06	2019 Mar12	<b>French Polynesia</b>	<b>FO</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">425DXN</a> 20190201
2019 Mar06	2019 Mar13	<b>Guantanamo</b>	<b>KG4</b>	Home Call	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20190211
2019 Mar08	2019 Mar16	<b>Bahamas</b>	<b>C6AKT</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20181130
2019 Mar08	2019 Mar16	<b>Lesotho</b>	<a href="#">7P8LB</a>	M0OXO	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190130
2019 Mar09	2019 Mar11	<b>South Cook Is</b>	<a href="#">E51</a>	Home Call	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190215
2019 Mar09	2019 Mar20	<b>Ghana</b>	<b>9G2DX</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20190221
2019 Mar10	2019 Mar16	<b>Vietnam</b>	<a href="#">XV9JK</a>	SP5APW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190119
2019 Mar11	2019 Mar27	<b>Juan Fernandez</b>	<a href="#">XR0ZRC</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20190106

## Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

2019 NEW Mar12	2019 Mar25	North Cook Is	<a href="#">E51</a>	Home Call	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190215
2019 Mar13	2019 Mar25	Uganda	<a href="#">5X3C</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190125
2019 Mar13	2019 Apr17	Barbados	8P6DR	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190208
2019 Mar14	2019 Mar22	South Cook Is	E51HMK	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20180622
2019 Mar14	2019 Mar26	Togo	<a href="#">5V7EI</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20181230
2019 Mar14	2019 Mar30	Curacao	<a href="#">PJ2</a>	LoTW	DK5ON 20181209
2019 Mar15	2019 Mar17	Jersey	MJ5Z	LoTW	M0CFW 20190214
2019 Mar16	2019 Apr06	Vietnam	3W9JF	F6CTF Direct	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190111
2019 Mar18	2019 Apr02	Niue	<a href="#">E6ET</a>	Club Log	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20180603
2019 Mar21	2019 Apr22	French Gui- ana	TO2BC	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190131
2019 Mar27	2019 Mar31	South Cook Is	<a href="#">E51</a>	Home Call	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190215
2019 Mar28	2019 Apr10	Jamaica	<b>6Y5KB</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190226

[CQ WPX Contest, SSB \(Mar 30-31, 2019\) Check here for pericontest](#)

### April

2019 Apr01	2019 Apr14	Norfolk I	VK9N	TBA	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190204
2019 Apr02	2019 Apr11	South Cook Is	<a href="#">E51</a>	Home Call	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190215
2019 Apr06	2019 Apr16	Burkina Faso	<a href="#">XT2AW</a>	M0OXO	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20181031
2019 Apr14	2019 Apr20	Djibouti	<a href="#">J20DX/p</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20181231
2019 Apr14	2019 Apr22	Iceland	TF	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190206
2019 Apr15	2019 Apr22	American Sa- moa	<a href="#">KH8</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190101



## Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

2019 NEW Apr17	2019 Apr25	<b>Burkina Faso</b>	<b>XT2MAX</b>	LoTW	DK1MAX 20181201
2019 Apr21	2019 Apr28	<b>South Cook Is</b>	<a href="#">E51DLD</a>	W4HB	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190128
2019 Apr21	2019 May03	<b>French Polynesia</b>	<b>FO</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20180827
2019 Apr27	2019 May08	<b>Reunion</b>	<b>TO19A</b>		<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190226
2019 Apr30	2019 May05	<b>Jersey</b>	<a href="#">GJ6EFW</a>	ON6EF	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190228
<b>May</b>					
2019 May03	2019 May05	<b>Fiji</b>	<b>3D2AS</b>	M0OXO	G0VJG 20181226
2019 May06	2019 May15	<b>St Vincent</b>	<a href="#">J88PI</a>	GW4DV B Direct	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190211
2019 May06	2019 May20	<b>Wallis &amp; Futuna</b>	<b>FW</b>	M0OXO	G0VJG 20181226
2019 May07	2019 May14	<b>St Vincent</b>	<b>J88PI</b>	GW4DV B	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20180831
2019 May20	2019 May22	<b>Fiji</b>	<b>3D2AS</b>	M0OXO	G0VJG 20181226
2019 May20	2019 Jun19	<b>Guatemala</b>	<a href="#">TG9BBV</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20181128
<a href="#">CQ WPX Contest, CW (May 25-26, 2019) Check here for pericontest</a>					
2019 May25	2019 Jun01	<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>LX</b>	LoTW	GM0OBX 20181008
<b>June</b>					
2019 Jun23	2019 Jun25	<b>Cayman Is</b>	<a href="#">ZF2CJ</a>	LoTW	AB2RF 20190119
2019 Jun25	2019 Jul02	<b>Saba &amp; St Eustatius</b>	<b>PJ5</b>	W9DR Direct	W9DR 20181228
2019 Jun26	2019 Jun28	<b>Jamaica</b>	<a href="#">6Y3Y</a>	LoTW	AB2RF 20190119