



Long Path



Volume 37 Issue 8

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

August 2019



From the Editor's DESK

Survival!

Hope all have survived the first half of the summer. Wow! Talk about hot, and I'm not talking about DX. It was way too warm to be working on outdoor antenna projects. So make sure you get them done in August because the DX is coming in September (or at least it's going to pick up).

W9DXCC is coming in September. I've heard that very few club members are going to the new venue. I'll be the designated club scout and report back in October on what I found. Our September club meeting is the Thursday before W9DXCC, so I will not be in attendance for the September meeting.

6M E skip propagation is coming to an end for the season. Prior to FT8, 6M was usually dead by mid-July. FT8/4 has extended that season into August and September. So it's not too late to get on 6M and have some fun. You don't need exotic antennas. Anything that will tune on 6M will get you heard. WAS or Fred Fish Memorial are two awards you can work towards on 6M. FT8 has really changed this band.

Till next month,

Good DX

73, Chet VE3CFK

Calendar

NEXT Meeting:

NEW DAY

2nd THURSDAY

September 12, 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

September 12:

TBA

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**

RX antennas for Top Band

Top band, AKA 160M is a noisy band. Natural noise and man made noise plague this band challenging those of us that chase DX on this band to pursue LOW NOISE antennas.

One antenna that I have found affective is to use my HF beam, which is a Mosley PRO-57B (20, 27, 15,12,10M). Because it is not resonant on 160M, it does not peek the noise on 160M. Granted that the signal that you are trying to copy is weaker than would be the case with a resonant 160M antenna, but what is interesting is that the S/N ratio improves with the non resonant antenna. Try it out sometime. You will find that it also works on 80 and 40 and 30M as well.

I came across this interesting web site from Top Band Reflector. It compares commercially available receive antennas as well as beverages and bogs for top band.

[Link to RX antenna comparison for Top Band](#)

For those that like to chase weak signals on 160, 80 and 40M, this comparison will help you in finding a solution that fits your back yard. And now is the time to get ready for those long winter nights of chasing DX on 160M.

CY9C

By the time you receive this newsletter, CY9C—St. Paul Island should be on the air. They had helicopter problems which forced the helicopter to return to base and be repaired. It was expected that this would delay the St. Paul setup and operation by a day. As of this moment I see several spots, so now's your chance to fill those band empty band slots. Don't forget FT8/4.

HAMFESTS

8/3/19	Columbus Hamfest	Columbus, OH
8/3/19	U. P. Hamfest	Escanaba, MI
8/10/19	DX Engineering Hamfest	Tallmadge, OH
8/10/19	Central Kentucky	Lexington, KY
8/11/19	Seaway Trunk Swap	Port Huron, MI
8/17/19	GARS Germantown	Germantown, OH
9/7/19	GRAHamfest	Wyoming, MI
9/7/19	CMARC Hamfest	Okemos, MI
9/7/19	Greater Louisville	Shepherdsville, KY
9/8/19	Findlay Hamfest	Findlay, OH
9/14/19	Central Kentucky	Richmond, KY
9/15/19	Adrian Hamfest	Adrian, MI
9/21/19	GMARC Trunk Swap	Shelby Twp, MI
9/21/19	OHKYIN ARS Hamfest	Cincinnati, OH
9/22/19	Cleveland Hamfest	Berea, OH
9/22/19	Flying Beers Int'l	Ferndale, MI
9/28/19	Paintsville Hamfest	Paintsville, KY

HAMVETION

Hamvention 2019 Attendance

Approaches All-Time Peak

The Hamvention Executive Team announced on July 15 that attendance at Dayton Hamvention® 2019 was 32,472. This marks the highest attendance recorded since Hamvention moved in 2017 from Hara Arena to the Greene County Fairgrounds and Exposition Center in Xenia, Ohio. This year's attendance also approached an all-time Hamvention high. Attendance at the show peaked in 1993 at 33,669, before the 1996 change in date from April to May while Hamvention was still being held at Hara Arena. Last year, Hamvention welcomed 28,417 visitors in its second year in Xenia. Attendance in 2016 for the show's final year at Hara was 25,364.

Hamvention hosted the ARRL 2019 National Convention, and both embraced the theme of "Mentoring the Next Generation."

Hamvention officials suggested that a small factor behind the increased attendance could have been the free admission on Sunday. Sunday-only tickets accounted for some 800 of the total attendance. The open admission day was an effort to allow local non-hams to experience Hamvention, and free Sunday admission is expected to be continued next year, Hamvention officials said.

Amateur operators from all US states and territories and 60 other countries attended Dayton Hamvention 2019.

The world's largest Amateur Radio exposition, Dayton Hamvention is sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) every third full weekend in May. Hamvention 2020 will take place on May 15, 16, and 17.

-- ARRL Website

FT8/4 Banter

If you do not subscribe to Top Band Reflector, you might want to consider doing so. Although primarily focused on 160M discussions, they sometimes get sidetracked and chat about other stuff which is loosely connected with 160M. The last several posts have been about FT8, and it's ramifications on the HF bands. Here's one mans view (Jeff VY2ZM):

It is mid summer here and E season on 6M has been fun to play with while 160m is pretty S L O W as it usually is.

On these pages (Top Band Reflector pages) there has been a lot of chatter regarding FT8—which

basically took over 6M DX'ing starting in July 2017 - all DX is now on 50.313 FT8 - which is why I had to adopt this mode in order to continue DX'ing on 6m). It was either do that or give up operating on 6M during E season.

I do hope that CW continues to thrive on Topband - but this past season there was TONS of DX on FT8 and in my opinion LESS DX on CW than in prior years. It is quite possible to work in JA on 160m from here on FT8 with 100w out - which would have been quite rare indeed on CW as I recall (I do not think I ever worked JA with 100w from here - but who knows?)

Today as I write this - I am listening to 28.074Mhz on a totally DEAD 10m band. If I tune the entire CW portion and the whole SSB portion, there is NOTHING - repeat NOTHING there - no signals whatsoever to be found. Yet on 28.074Mhz - I just worked a whole page of Europeans on FT8 - to my almost total INCREDULITY!!

I am not sure how I feel about all of this - but one thing is SURE - the DX world has changed - and there is no looking back.

I love CW on Topband and used to love CW on 6m - but that no longer exists -so I do hope the 6m migration to FT8 does not repeat itself on Topband! To all a good summer and CU on CW again starting in September.

73 JEFF VY2ZM

Historic trans-Atlantic contact made on 144 MHz

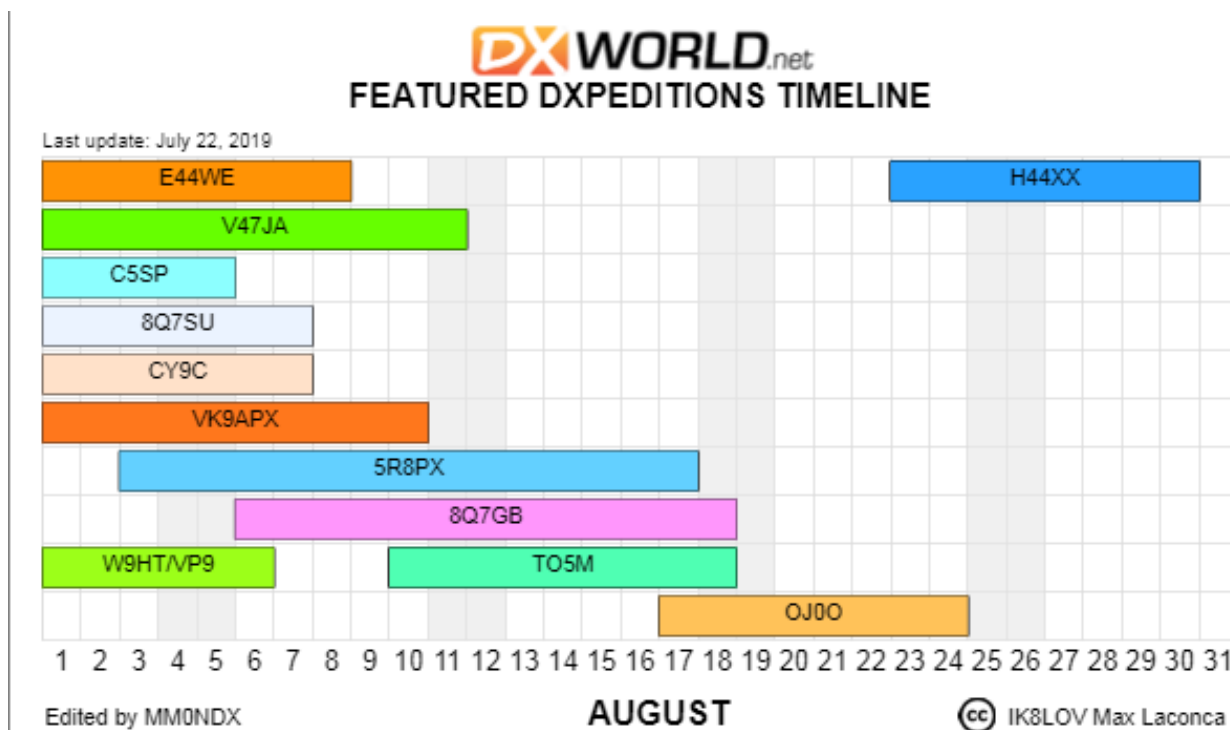
A historic contact was made on Sunday the 16th June 2019 when the Atlantic was spanned for the first time on 144 MHz.

D41CV on Cape Verde Islands off the coast of Africa managed to work **FG8OJ** in Guadeloupe on 144.174 MHz using the FT8 digital mode. The distance was an incredible 3,867 kms.

To put that into context, the distance from the west coast of Ireland to Newfoundland is 3,000 kms.

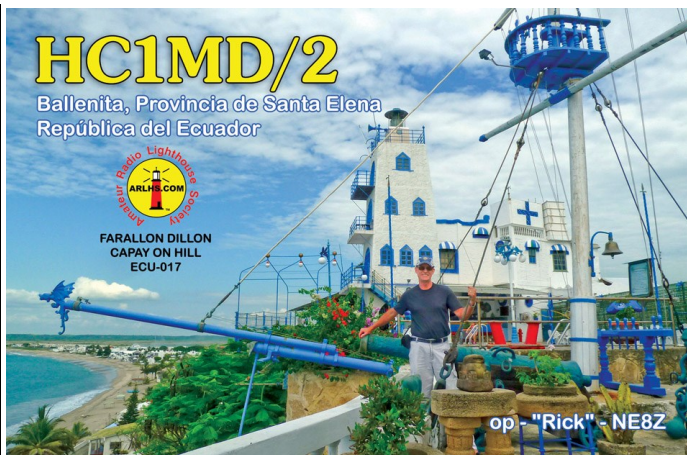
Upcoming DX

Credit to DX World



DX IS!

Recently one of the local QRPers came dashing in, a bit madly as usual, and shouted: “He lives. He lives. Superman lives”. When we got him down off the walls and somewhat coherent, he told us, between gasps: “You see, there was this rare DX station on and this W4 was in there trying to work him. When the DX station stood by for Fives, the W4 was portable Five. Then the DX station was listening for Sixes and the W4 was portable Six. When the DX station was looking for Ones, the W4 was portable One. It has to be Superman, it has to be. That W4 is faster than a speeding bullet”. Tearing himself loose, the QRPer dashed off into the storm shouting: “Superman lives. Superman lives in Four-land”. Son of a Gun! What could we say. We decided we had better do some listening ourselves. It is not everyday one can work Superman.



I will be active as follows:
 HC1MD/2 from the Provincia de Santa Elena, Ecuador
 QTH: FARALLON DILLON LIGHTHOUSE - CAPAY ON HILL
 Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (arlhs.com) ECU-017
 JULY 27 - AUGUST 5, 2019
 Rig: TS-50s & Spider Vertical (40-30-20-17m) - mainly CW (no FT8)
 QSL via: K8LJG (Lotw after the trip)

73, Rick NE8Z/HC1MD

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

Start Date	End Date	DGCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by
June					
2019 Jun15	2019 Jul31	Somalia	6O1OO [spots]	EP3CQ	TDDX 20190528
July					
2019 Jul04	2019 Aug08	Corsica	TK [spots]	LoTW	425DXN 20190622
2019 Jul06	2019 Aug09	Palestine	E44WE [spots]	SP9FIH	DXW.Net 20190609
2019 Jul20	2019 Aug03	Vietnam	XV9DXB [spots]	EB7DX	DXNews 20190709
2019 Jul20	2019 Aug11	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA [spots]	LoTW	W5JON 20190228
2019 Jul21	2019 Aug03	St Lucia	J6 [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20190715
2019 Jul21	2019 Aug03	Vanuatu	YJ0GA [spots]	ZL3GA	ZL3GA 20190709
2019 Jul23	2019 Jul31	Crete	SV9 [spots]	SV2CLJ Direct	SV2CLJ 20190718
2019 Jul23	2019 Aug05	Gambia	C5SP [spots]	SP3PS	SP3PS 20190713
RSGB IOTA Contest (Jul 27-28, 2019) Check here for pericontest activity					
2019 Jul27	2019 Aug05	Ecuador	HC1MD/2 [spots]	LoTW	NE8Z 20190724
2019 Jul28	2019 Aug01	Guernsey	MU [spots]	HB9GW J	TDDX 20190722
2019 Jul31	2019 Aug07	Maldives	8Q7SU [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20190504
2019 Jul31	2019 Aug07	St Paul I	CY9C [spots]	Club Log	WA4DAN 20190513
2019 Jul31	2019 Aug10	Lord Howe Is	VK9APX [spots]	AI5P	TDDX 20190625

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

August					
NEW 2019 Aug01	2019 Sep01	Ecuador	HC2	LoTW	IZ1HGP 20190604
2019 Aug03	2019 Aug17	Aland Is	OH0UDG	LoTW	TDDX 20190513
2019 Aug03	2019 Aug17	Madagascar	5R8PX	LoTW	IZ2DPX 20190321
2019 Aug04	2019 Aug16	Georgia	4L	LoTW	TDDX 20190722
2019 Aug06	2019 Aug18	Maldives	8Q7GB	LoTW	DXW.Net 20190514
2019 Aug08	2019 Aug12	Madeira	CR3EE	OZ2I	OZ2I 20190605
2019 Aug10	2019 Aug18	St Pierre & Miquelon	TO5M	LoTW	DD5ZZ 20190625
2019 Aug17	2019 Aug24	Market Reef	OJ00	OE1ZKC	425DXN 20190614
2019 Aug23	2019 Sep02	Solomon Is	H44	LoTW	TDDX 20190625
2019 Aug31	2019 Sep17	Burundi	9U3TMM	LoTW	DXW.Net 20190409
September					
2019 Sep01	2019 Sep30	Somalia	6070	LoTW	DXW.Net 20190719
2019 Sep02	2019 Sep09	Fiji	3D2VR	DD0VR	DE3BWR 20180830
2019 Sep06	2019 Sep09	Palau	T88PB	LoTW	DXW.Net 20190630
2019 Sep08	2019 Sep21	Ghana	9G5QU	N4GNR Direct	DXNews 20190728
2019 Sep09	2019 Sep16	Samoa	5W0VR	DD0VR	DE3BWR 20180830
2019 Sep12	2019 Sep18	Liechtenstein	HB0	LoTW	TDDX 20190701
2019 Sep14	2019 Sep25	Palau	T8	Home Call	DXNews 20190427

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

2019 Sep15	2019 Sep30	eSwatini	3DA0AO	HA5AO Direct	DXNews 20190325
2019 Sep16	2019 Sep21	Tonga	A35J4	DD0VR	DE3BWR 20180830
2019 Sep20	2019 Oct03	Crete	SV9	LoTW	TDDX 20190301
2019 Sep21	2019 Sep27	Isle of Man	MD	M0URX	ON4ANN 20190507
2019 Sep21	2019 Oct07	Belize	V31US	V31DX	TDDX 20190720
2019 Sep23	2019 Sep27	Fiji	3D2	DD0VR	DE3BWR 20180830
2019 Sep24	2019 Oct06	Tonga	A35JT	LoTW	DXW.Net 20181218
2019 Sep24	2019 Oct08	St Pierre & Miquelon	FP	LoTW	TDDX 20181128
CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY (Sep 28-29, 2019) Check here for pericontest					
2019 Sep28	2019 Oct11	Liberia	A82X	LoTW	I2YSB 20190417
2019 Sep29	2019 Oct05	Tanzania	5H3	RC5A	DXW.Net 20190618
2019 Sep29	2019 Oct13	Cape Verde Is	D44TWO	M0OXO	OPDX 20190513
October					
2019 Oct01	2019 Oct19	Lesotho	7P8AO	HA5AO Direct	DXNews 20190325
2019 Oct02	2019 Oct11	Tokelau	ZK3A	LoTW	DXW.Net 20181217
2019 Oct02	2019 Oct14	St Pierre & Miquelon	TO80SP	LoTW	DXW.Net 20190722
2019 Oct03	2019 Oct10	Vanuatu	YJ0BCP	KD7WPJ	KD7WPJ 20190530

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

2019 Oc- NEW t07	2019 Oc- t23	West Kiribati	T30GC	LoTW	425DXN 20190510
2019 Oc- t08	2019 Nov04	Norfolk I	VK9N	LoTW	DXW.Net 20190529
2019 Oc- t15	2019 Nov03	Mayotte	FH	DJ7RJ	TDDX 20190610
2019 Oc- t17	2019 Oc- t31	Aruba	P4	PA7DA Buro	DXW.Net 20190704
2019 Oc- t18	2019 Nov01	Pitcairn I	VP6R	TBA	OPDX 20181217
2019 Oc- t19	2019 Nov03	Lakshadweep Is	VU7RI	LoTW	DXNews 20190416
2019 Oc- t20	2019 Nov01	Comoros	D68CCC	TBA	MDXC 20190609

[CQ WW DX Contest, SSB \(Oct 26-27, 2019\) Check here for pericontest ac-](#)

November

2019 Nov04	2019 Nov07	Vanuatu	YJ0RRC	TBA	DXW.Net 20190403
2019 Nov04	2019 Nov16	Rwanda	9X2AW	M0OXO	DXW.Net 20190512
2019 Nov06	2019 Nov19	Marquesas	TX7T	LoTW	K4UEE 20190409
2019 Nov08	2019 Nov13	Vanuatu	YJ0RRC	TBA	DXW.Net 20190403
2019 Nov12	2019 Nov29	Cocos Keel- ing	VK9CZ	LoTW	DXNews 20190313
2019 Nov14	2019 Nov20	Vanuatu	YJ0FWA	TBA	DXW.Net 20190403
2019 Nov17	2019 Nov30	Vietnam	XV9D	LoTW	SM6LRR 20190114
2019 Nov21	2019 Nov27	Lord Howe I	VK9LQ	DF8AN	DXW.Net 20190730

[CQ WW DX Contest, CW \(Nov 23-24, 2019\) Check here for pericontest](#)

December

2019 Dec02	2019 Dec20	Burkina Faso	XT2AW	M0OXO	DXW.Net 20190512
2019 Dec04	2019 Dec13	St Martin	FS	LoTW	TDDX 20190522

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

2020					
January					
2020 Jan12	2020 Jan31	Norfolk I	VK9NK	SP9FIH	SP9FIH 20190626
February					
2020 Feb20	2020 Mar05	South Orkney Is	VP8	LoTW	K5GS 20190316
March					
2020 Mar01	2020 Mar15	Zambia	9J2LA	M0OXO	DXW.Net 20190514
ARRL International DX Contest, Phone (Mar 7-8, 2020) Check here for					
2020 Mar18	2020 Apr03	West Kiribati	T30ET	LoTW	OPDX 20190630
April					
2020 Apr06	2020 Apr14	St Vincent	J88PI	GW4DV B	DXW.Net 20190625
July					
2020 Jul08	2020 Jul15	Aruba	P4	ND7J	ND7J 20190722
October					
2020 Oct05	2020 Oct12	Sable I	CY0C	Club Log	WA4DAN 20190513