



Long Path



Volume 30 Issue 1

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

January 2020



From the Editor's DESK

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I hope everyone had a festive and safe Christmas season and no one overdosed on too much food. Hope 2020 brings health, happiness and prosperity to you and your families (and all the DX you can handle!).

Our Christmas Zukey Lake luncheon was an overwhelming success again. Many showed up for some Christmas cheer and face-to-face QSOs with those we haven't seen since the previous December. The food was excellent as usual as was the coffee. For entertainment, Rick, NE8Z provided numerous short video clips on previous DXpeditions.

Our January meeting will host Michael KD8QBA. His presentation entitled "The 50 Dollar Satellite Mission" - a fully functional Engineering Model Satellite will be demonstrated! This sounds like a very interesting talk. See Michael's bio on Page 2.

Membership Renewal Time

Calendar

NEXT Meeting:

2nd THURSDAY

January 9, 2020

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 January 9: Michael Kirkhart
KD8QBA "50 Dollar Satellite"**

SEMDXA OFFICERS

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VUCC Checker: Jim Sanford, **K8ZZU**

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CQ Checker: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

Bio for Michael Kirkhart

Michael Kirkhart is an electronics engineer, hardware hacker, and amateur radio operator (callsign KD8QBA). A chance encounter at the 2011 Detroit Maker Faire led him to attend the 1st Annual hackerSPACE workshop in Lexington, Kentucky, where he met Morehead State University Professor Robert Twiggs, one of the creators of the CubeSat. During the workshop, he inquired how folks outside the university community could participate in the design, construction, and operation of a small satellite. In an example of “be careful what you wish for”, he found himself working with university students and other outside advisers on the construction of a new class of satellite called a PocketQube. The end result of this collaboration were two PocketQubes: T-LogoQube, built by students at Sonoma State University and Morehead State University, and \$50SAT, built by Michael and the other advisers. Both were launched on November 21, 2013, and were operational shortly after launch.

Upcoming DXpeditions

There is still a chance for 3Y0I to activate Bouvet Island.

Other promised activity in January are ZC4UW, E44RU, VK9NK and TI9C followed by VP8/VP8DXU (South Orkney) in February.

Later in 2020 you can expect KH8S, T30, TU, FJ, KH4, CY0C to name a few. 2020 looks like an exciting year for DXers.

Above excerpted from 2019 DXCC Year End Review—by Joe Reiser, W1JR

9J - Zambia

Since 2016 ZS6JBS, Bernd “Jerry” Sinner, has been living near Mufulira a town in the Copperbelt Province some 300 kilometers north of Lusaka. On Friday December 13th he was issued the call 9J2BS. “I am restricted with antennas where I live as it is a protected wildlife area, so wire antennas in trees are the order of the day”, says Jerry. He is operating a Kenwood TS480SAT while home and an FT-857D when mobile. From home he uses a ZS6BKW version of a G5RV up in a tree some 14 meters above the ground and when mobile a 56” whip Tarheel II. He can be found on 20 meters SSB running 100 watts on or near 14.200 MHz in the 1330 to 1530Z time frame. Jerry plans to stay in 9J for the next five years, with a hopeful move in about six months to Mufulira and which time he hopes to “put up decent antennas”. QSL via LoTW.

Tnx Bernie “The Weekly DX”

J2 - Djibouti

DL7DF, Sigi, and company have announced plans for their March 4-16 DXpedition to Djibouti. Plans are to have three stations for activity on 1.8 through 28 MHz on SSB, CW and digital modes. They will have an Elecraft K2 and three IC-7300’s along with four amplifiers. As for antennas they will have a vertical on 160 and 80 meters, loops on 40, 30, 20, 15 and 10 meters, and a Spiderbeam for 20 through 10 meters. They will also have a Beverage for receive on the low bands. The team will include: DJ6TF, Tom; DK1BT, Manfred; DL4WK, Wolf; DL6SAK, Annette; DL7BO, Tom; DL7DF, Sigi; DL7UFR, Frank; and SP3DOI, Leszek. DF3CB, Bernd, will be the team’s pilot station. QSL via DL7DF.

Tnx Bernie “The Weekly DX”

A5B - HRH Prince Dasho Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck



On Dec 17th around 0700Z Bhutan's HRH Prince Dasho Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, A5B (Alpha Five Bhutan), is expected to be QRV, reports JH1AJT, Zorro Miyazawa. HRH Prince Dasho Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck is the half-brother of the King of Bhutan. Three years ago Zorro trained His Royal Highness. The Prince "is always busy" and has been so this week for Bhutan's 112th National Day. Over the last three days Zorro had multiple meetings with HRH Prince Dasho Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck. Zorro is very excited that HRH "will finally [be able to] participate" in the A5 activities. Zorro says, "Dec 17th, A5B will operate with the permission of HRH starting 20m SSB". This is an historical moment for Bhutan and Amateur Radio.

Thank you to DJ9ZB, Franz Langer, for the above photo.

So keep an ear out for A5B. You never know who you might hear!

Bob, VA3RD (SK) celebration of life is January 26th at the Sarnia Yacht Club, Point Edward, ON, Canada

SOUTH ORKNEY



For Immediate Release

Press Release #9

Jan 2, 2020

South Orkney Islands DXpedition

VP8PJ

We are pleased to announce the call sign for the Perseverance DX Group's expedition South Orkney 2020 will be changed to VP8PJ. In past years it was relatively easy to get a preferred VP8 call sign for the British Antarctic Territory. After a licensing administrative change, we were unable to obtain a VP8 call sign for operation from South Orkney and were advised to use /VP8.

Alan, VK6CQ, a recent addition to the team, holds the call sign VP8PJ that was issued to him for operation from the British Antarctic Territory. After submission of a copy of Alan's license, ARRL has issued us a new LoTW certificate for the use of this call from South Orkney for the duration of our expedition.

73,

Team VP8PJ

Website: <https://sorkney.com/>

Please direct your questions to: info@sorkney.com

DXpedition will run from Feb 20 to March 5

2019 DXCC Year End Review – by Joe Reisert,

Looking ahead to 2020 and Beyond: SC 24 is definitely on its last legs. Solar activity is near minimum as we wait for the official Solar Minimum and the start of SC 25, probably during 2020. DX means different things to each DXer. Some DXers chase the DXCC Honor Roll, the DXCC Challenge or the DX Marathon. I'd estimate from the latest DXCC mixed listings on the ARRL "DX Standing" list that there are well over 2,000 persons worldwide that have confirmed all 340 on the present DXCC entities list. Fernando, EA8AK now has an amazing 3264 entities to lead the DXCC Challenge. More than 185 DXers have now achieved the very difficult DXCC Challenge 3000 level.

The top 6 meter station, LZ2CC has an amazing 280 entities. There are only about 20 NA stations to break the 6 meter 150 entities level. K2ZD has 209 and W7GJ has 204 confirmed. 6 meter EME is being more frequently used by major DXpeditions and is now a very important factor for leading North American 6 meter DXers.

It's time to improve your 20 and 17 meter as well as your 80 and 160 meter antennas. Then there are the never ending DX Contests, DX Marathon, DXCC Challenge and IOTA chasing. There are lots of things to do. Don't let the airways die for lack of activity. HF radio conditions on the mid-bands are still fair but improving on the lower bands. Stay active and join the fun. Also don't forget to support the various DX Foundations around the world that help make DXpeditions possible!

...credit Bernie "The Daily DX"

Solar Cycle 25 Forecast

The following Solar Cycle 25 Forecast Update is from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) website.

"The NOAA/NASA co-chaired, international panel to forecast Solar Cycle 25 released their latest forecast for Solar Cycle 25. The forecast consensus: a peak in July, 2025 (+/- 8 months), with a smoothed sunspot number (SSN) of 115. The panel agreed that Cycle 25 will be average in intensity and similar to Cycle 24."

"Additionally, the panel concurred that solar minimum between Cycles 24 and 25 will occur in April, 2020 (+/- 6 months). If the solar minimum prediction is correct, this would make Solar Cycle 24 the 7th longest on record (11.4 years)."

KH2 - GUAM

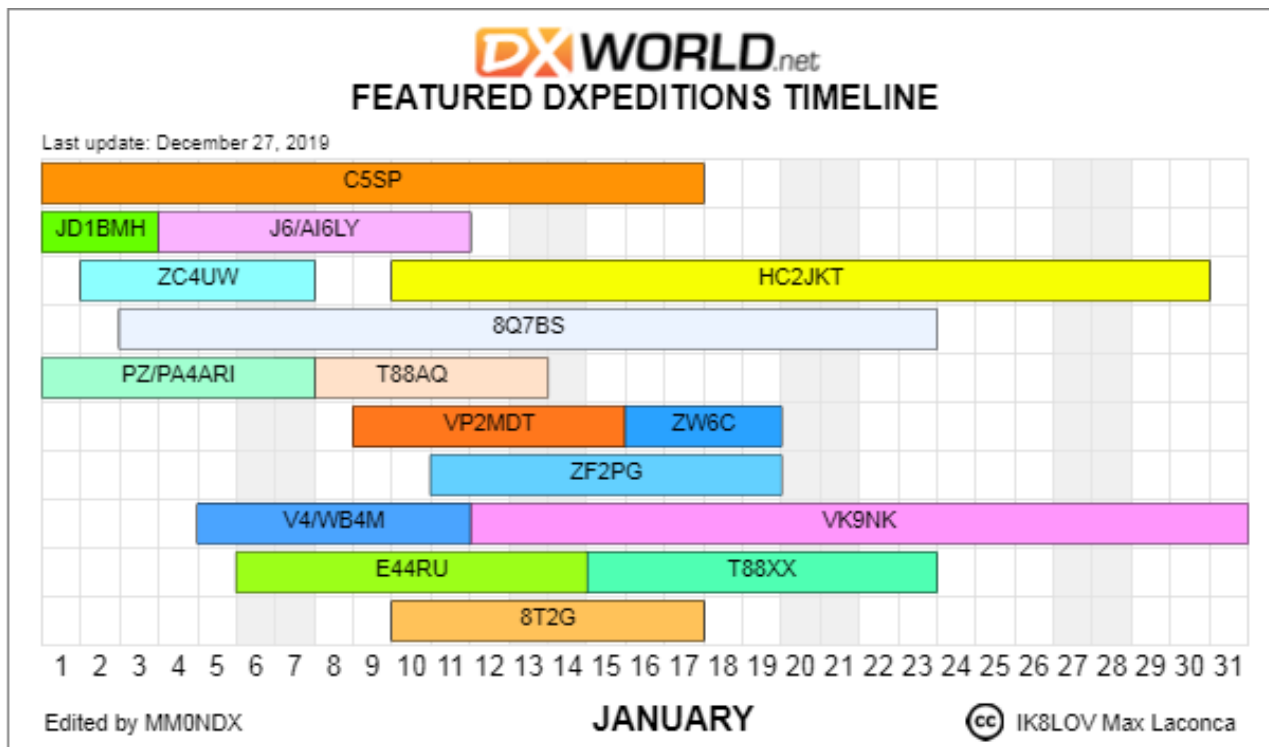
NH2KY appears to be a planned multiop effort, March 26-31 in the CQ WW WPX phone contest. Outside the weekend event the ops plan to be on FT8, FT4, SSB, RTTY, PSK, JT65A and CW on 160-6M. Organizers request a direct QSL via JR3QFB's QRZ.com address with SAE and one IRC or two USD. Bureau cards from Japanese ops, send to JR3QFB through JARL. The rest of the world, go through the regular bureau routes. They also plan eQSL, LoTW and Club Log availability for QSLs.

Feature Editors!

Ever consider writing a feature article? Well we could publish it here. One was published a few months back, written by Vic, VE3YT on Samuel Morse. Give it a thought.

Upcoming DX

Credit to DX World



HAMFESTS

1/19/20	SCARF Hamfest	Nelsonville, OH
1/19-20	Hazel Park	Madison Hgts, MI
1/26/20	Tusco	Strasburg, OH
2/1/20	HARA	Negaunee, MI
2/16/20	Mansfield	Mansfield, OH
2/23/20	Livonia	CANCELLED
3/7/20	Cave City	Cave City, KY
3/21/20	Gallipolis	Gallipolis, OH

CQ 160m Contest, CW Jan 24-26, 2020

Dayton Contest University

The Dayton Contest University will be in its 14th year at the HamVention in May. K3LR announces registration for students is now open: <http://contestuniversity.com>.

It is all day May 14, 2020. As of December 16, the first day of registration, 50 had signed up. 2019's event was a sell-out with 350 attending! CTUs have now been held in eight countries. 2020 Dayton speakers ("professors") will be NC0B, W0YK, K3LR, W3LPL, N6TV, W3YQ, N0AX and K1DG. More, including some first-timers, will be added.

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

Start Date	End Date	DGCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by
November					
December					
2019 Dec02	2020 Jan05	Ecuador	HC5AGT [spots]	EA5RM	TDDX 20191007
2019 Dec14	2020 Jan08	Thailand	HS0ZNR [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20191001
2019 Dec22	2020 Jan03	Ogasawara	JD1BMH [spots]	JD1BMH Buro	DXW.Net 20191203
2019 Dec27	2020 Jan17	Gambia	C5SP [spots]	LoTW	DXW.Net 20191221
2019 Dec28	2020 Jan02	Algeria	7X7X [spots]	LoTW	KF5EYY 20191217
2019 Dec31	2020 Jan02	Iceland	TF [spots]	LoTW	DXW.Net 20191120
2020					
January					
2020 Jan02	2020 Jan07	Cyprus SBA	ZC4UW	LoTW	DXW.Net 20191011
2020 Jan03	2020 Jan23	Maldives	8Q7MA	RX3AMY	OPDX 20191223
2020 Jan05	2020 Jan11	St Lucia	J6	AI6LY	DXNews 20191214
2020 Jan05	2020 Jan11	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	LoTW	TDDX 20191213
2020 Jan06	2020 Jan12	Palestine	E44RU	LoTW	DXW.Net 20191130
2020 Jan07	2020 Jan13	Palau	T88AQ	LoTW	TDDX 20191112
2020 Jan09	2020 Jan14	Bermuda	VP9	LoTW	TDDX 20191206
2020 Jan09	2020 Jan15	Montserrat	VP2MDT	WV2B	WV2B 20190917
2020 Jan11	2020 Jan19	Cayman Is	ZF2PG	LoTW	TDDX 20191001

Editors NOTE:

I've intentionally left a wide margin here for your notes on band and mode fills required.

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

2020 Jan12	2020 Jan31	Norfolk I	VK9NK	SP9FIH	SP9FIH 20190626
2020 Jan15	2020 Jan23	Palau	T8	Home Call	DXW.Net 20191203
2020 Jan20	2020 Feb09	Cocos I	TI9	LoTW	TDDX 20190917
2020 Jan23	2020 Feb18	Reunion	FR	F6AJA	425DXN 20191229
CQ 160m Contest, CW (Jan 24-26, 2020) Check here for pericontest ac-					
2020 Jan28	2020 Feb07	Gambia	C5XW	G5XW	DXW.Net 20191209
2020 Jan30	2020 Feb13	El Salvador	HU1DL	LoTW	DXW.Net 20191027
February					
2020 Feb02	2020 Feb14	South Cook Is	E51DDG	LoTW	VE7DS 20191229
2020 Feb03	2020 Feb08	Martinique	TO3FM	LoTW	TDDX 20191115
2020 Feb04	2020 Feb18	Tanzania	5H	I2YSB	I2YSB 20190820
2020 Feb06	2020 Feb18	Tanzania	5H4WZ	OM3PA	TDDX 20191206
2020 Feb11	2020 Feb17	French Pol- ynesia	TX4N	EA5GL	AA4NC 20191213
2020 Feb16	2020 Mar16	Tanzania	5H3DX	LoTW	TDDX 20191118
2020 Feb05	2020 Feb17	Palestine	E44CC	LoTW	DXW.Net 20191029
2020 Feb14	2020 Feb23	Cayman Is	ZF2AN	DF8AN	TDDX 20191107
ARRL International DX Contest, CW (Feb 15-16, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity too.					
2020 Feb20	2020 Feb25	Norfolk I	VK9NR	EA5GL	AA4NC 20191213
2020 Feb20	2020 Mar04	Costa Rica	TI5	LoTW	AA1M 20191012

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

2020 Feb20	2020 Mar05	South Orkney Is	VP8	LoTW	K5GS 20190316
2020 Feb21	2020 Feb23	Puerto Rico	KP3RE	EA5GL	KP4RV 20191120
2020 Feb23	2020 Mar01	Bahamas	C6AAN	DF8AN	TDDX 20191107
March					
2020 Mar03	2020 Mar06	Vanuatu	YJ0NC	EA5GL	AA4NC 20191213
2020 Mar04	2020 Mar16	Djibouti	J2	LoTW	DL7DF 20191217
2020 Mar05	2020 Mar15	Zambia	9J2LA	M0OXO	DXW.Net 20190514
2020 Mar06	2020 Mar13	Antigua	V26FP	LoTW	DXNews 20191130
ARRL International DX Contest, Phone (Mar 7-8, 2020) Check here for					
2020 Mar09	2020 Mar18	Rodrigues I	3B9	Club Log OQRS	TDDX 20191216
2020 Mar10	2020 Mar25	Swains I	W8S	TBA	PA3EWP 20190922
2020 Mar14	2020 Mar15	Belize	V31GX	LoTW	DXW.Net 20191203
2020 Mar18	2020 Apr03	West Kiribati	T30ET	LoTW	OPDX 20190630
2020 Mar23	2020 Apr03	Ivory Coast	TU2R	LoTW	ON4EI 20191103
CQ WPX Contest, SSB (Mar 28-29, 2020) Check here for pericontest ac-					
April					
2020 Apr06	2020 Apr14	St Vincent	J88PI	GW4DV B	DXW.Net 20190625
May					
2020 May04	2020 May12	Maldives	8Q7KB	LoTW	TDDX 20190912
June					
2020 Jun01	2020 Jun14	Chad	TT8RR	Web OQRS	I2YSB 20191210

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

2020 Jun30	2020 Jul14	St Pierre & Miquelon	FP	LoTW	TDDX 20191126
July					
2020 Jul08	2020 Jul15	Aruba	P4	ND7J	ND7J 20190722
RSGB IOTA Contest (Jul 25-26, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity					
September					
2020 Sep15	2020 Sep23	Faroe Is	OY	LoTW	TDDX 2019123
October					
2020 Oct01	2020 Oct14	Midway I	KH4	Club Log OQRS	DXW.Net 20190731
2020 Oct05	2020 Oct12	Sable I	CY0	Club Log OQRS	WA4DAN 20190513