



Long Path



Volume 30 Issue 10

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

October 2020



From the Editor's DESK

In every organisation, charity, corporation, government and club there will be disagreement. People with different and sometimes opposing views. This is the way of human behaviour. This is the way of progress. This is the way of disbanding and having the organisation, charity, corporation, government or club fold and close up shop.

Only through firm belief by the membership in the value of the organisation, charity, corporation, government or club will it survive. A long history with many, many gatherings of members in fellowship sharing tales of woe and glory, of winning and loosing, of constructing and modifying, of watching and listening to the trials and tribulations of others who have gone before us and in our time, make us better people today. If it was of value yesterday. It is of value tomorrow,

And so it goes with SEMDXA. Our president, Bob K8RGM remains as president. Your LP Publisher, Chet VE3CFK remains as publisher. They have recognized the value SEMDXA brings to it's membership and have put their differences aside.

But membership in a club is more than just eating, drinking and being merry while being entertained. A deeper sense of belonging and pride in being a member, is being part of the executive. Being able to go forth in the company of others of same ilk and say that I am Secretary of SEMDXA brings a sense of great pride. I know I have this pride when I proclaim I am the LP Publisher for SEMDXA.

It will be months before we gather again in person. Take this time to reflect and evaluate your future as a member/officer of SEMDXA.

Good DX

73, Chet VE3CFK

Calendar

NEXT Meeting:

NEW

Virtual Meeting

October 8, 2020

Presentation by

Don Winsor AC8TO

on

FT8 for digital DXing

For details see Page 2

SEMDXA OFFICERS

President: Robert Mueller, **K8RGM**

Vice-president: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

Treasurer: Brad Nowak, **N8SNM**

Secretary: Doug Basberg, **N8VY**

Program Director: Gerry Treas, **K8GT**
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 ONLINE VIRTUAL MEETING

SEMDXA will host it's first online virtual meeting on Thursday October 8, 2020.

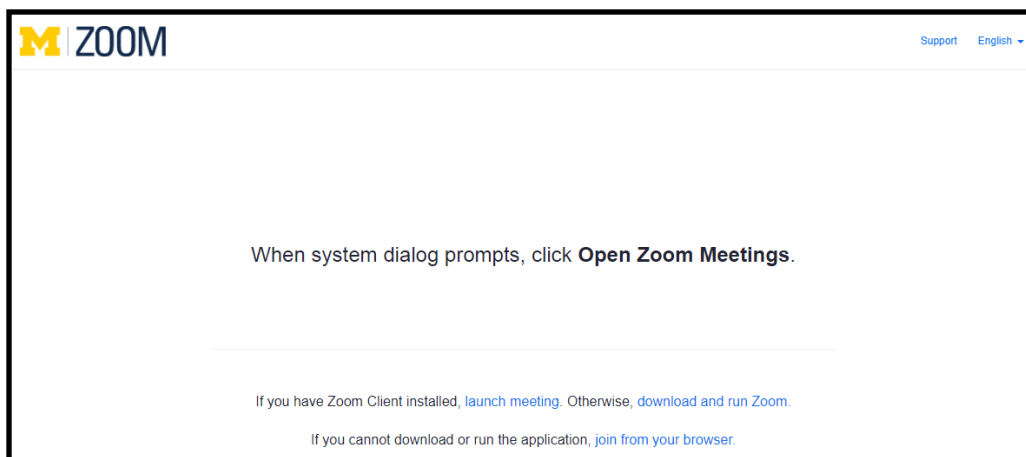
The meeting will be a presentation by Don Winsor, AC8TO. His presentation will be "FT8 for digital DXing". Don hopes to add his thoughts about DXing, working for digital DXCC awards, FT8 fox/hound mode for DXpeditions and FT4 contest mode. This is a presentation YOU DON'T want to miss!

The meeting will be conducted using ZOOM software. For the audience there is little to do other than to click on a link, which will be provided below. If you are NEW to ZOOM, it is relatively straight forward as a participant. So let's get started.

Below (in blue) is the "Join Zoom Meeting" link. Click on it.

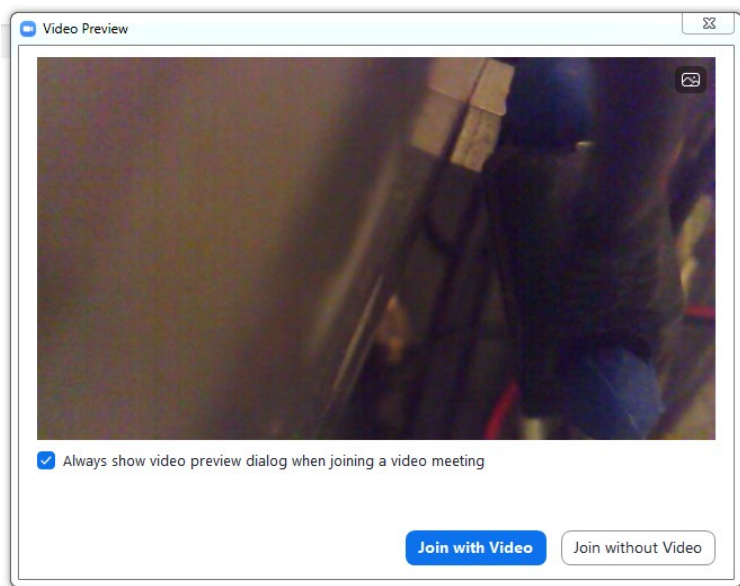
<https://umich.zoom.us/j/91352970493>

You may be redirected, but you should ultimately end up with this screen.



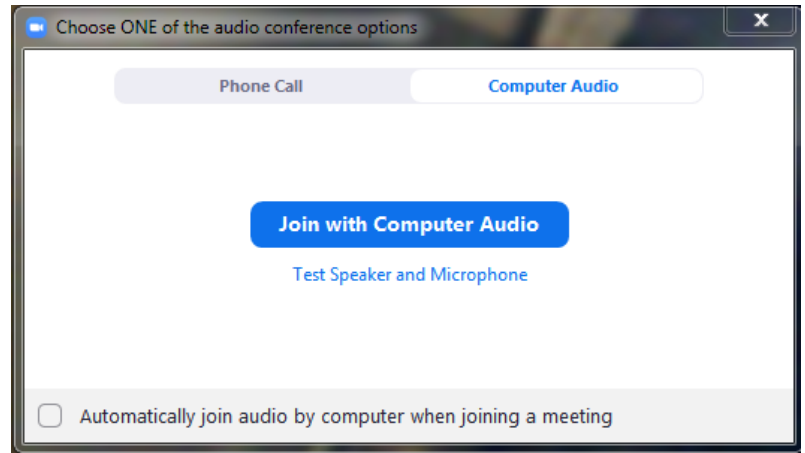
Follow the instructions on the screen and you should end up with a "Video Preview" screen.

I hit the "Join without Video" button, because everybody already knows what I look like. If you have a WEB cam on your PC or laptop, you can "Join with Video". These choices only impact what other people see of you from your webcam. It does not impact what you see from the ZOOM event orchestrator or the other participants. (so make sure you have clothes on if you are using your web cam!). No need to wear your medical mask for the ZOOM meeting since it is a virtual meeting.

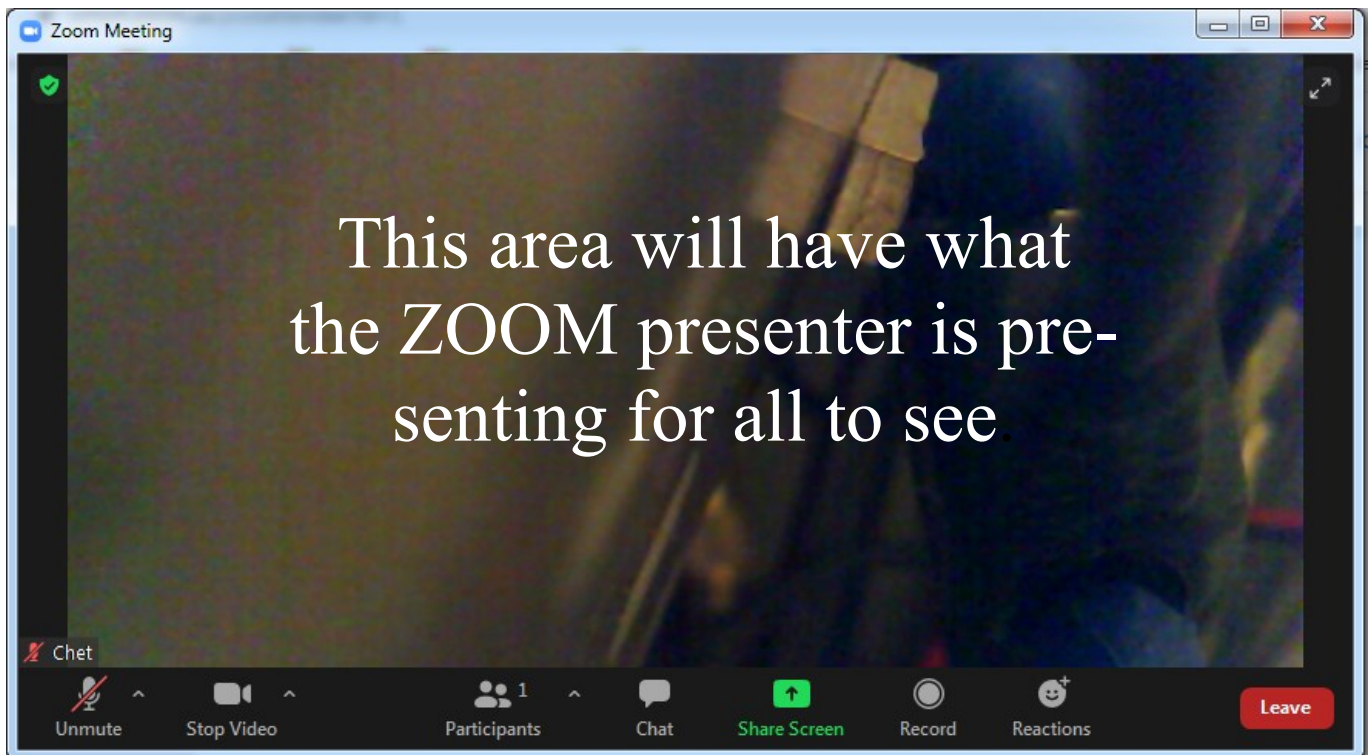


SEMDXA ONLINE VIRTUAL MEETING (cont'd)

Next you should see a screen like this. You can test your speakers and microphone or you can go “Join with Computer Audio”



Ultimately, you will have a screen that looks like this:



Don has indicated that he will open up the ZOOM session at about 6:50PM so that people can get comfortable with the operation of ZOOM software.

SO. Go back to Page 2. Open the link and configure ZOOM on you computer right now and see what ZOOM is all about.

We'll hear you on the 8th.

Till then, 73,

Chet VE3CFK

Meeting Minutes

No meeting = No minutes

PZ - Surinam

CO7XY, Yudel Torres, has been living in Nickerie in Northwestern Suriname since 2007. He has recently been licensed and is now QRV as PZ2YT. Listen for his 100 watts into an End Fed 40-10 on SSB on 20 meters daily in the 1900 to 2100Z time frame between 14.250 and 14.300 MHz.

USPS Status

Here's a link to "[USPS International Service disruptions list](#)" as of October 1st

YB - Indonesia

During the CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest, October 24-25. This will be a single-band 80 meter effort. QSL via LoTW.

Don't Cry for Hara Arena

W4DTA, Steve, brings attention to recent [photos](#) of the former home of Hamvention, Dayton's Hara Arena and the "one hit wonder" tribute "[Don't Cry for Hara Arena](#)". Hara Arena was hit by a Tornado and is currently in the process of being [demolished](#).

CANCELLATIONS

- SEMDXA October in-person meeting cancelled. BUT! We're having a Virtual Meeting!
- All future cancellations are cancelled, since there is nothing left to cancel!

NOT

Cancelled

Yet

Some things to look forward to:

- Your inability to come to Canada by any means other than flying in. Don't try taking your boat across the St. Clair River. People have been arrested for doing so!!!!
- Sun spot Cycle 25 and 26
- 2021 Hamvention (although I'm guessing it will be cancelled!)
- ARRL and CQ upcoming contests

SEMDXA CONTEST

Disappointingly, there were no entries. So the only winner is the sponsor who gets to keep his money and spend it at the next USA ham radio flea market if he can ever get across the USA/Canada border!

DXCC Anniversary

Mark your calendar as November 15th is the 75th anniversary of the beginning of the Post War DXCC program. The first Post War list of DXCC Countries was posted in the February 1947 issue of QST and contained some 257 countries.

The True Blue DXers Club
announces

BANDS ALIVE

The 2021 CW/SSB Ultra-Marathon

By Pete, MM0TWX

As the new solar cycle is now under way and conditions on the HF bands are expected to gradually improve throughout 2021, this unprecedented initiative is launched to give DXers a further motivation to get on the air and therefore support, improve and promote amateur activity using person-to-person modes of communication such as CW and SSB. This initiative, which we call "ultra-marathon" for a reason, is indeed unprecedented – its aim, reflected in its format, is to get people on the air and make as many unique contacts as possible over the duration of a full year, and not simply to work as many countries as possible. You will find a 5 minute introductory video (above).

Full rules for participation and the possibility of pre-registering <https://youtu.be/bU11rkuydyo>

PZ - Surinam

DJ4EL's October 11-25 operation from PZ5GE, is still a go, but the dates are changed to October 12-24 now. He has gotten his airplane tickets. Markus plans to be on 80-10 SSB and CW and plans to go to Papegaaien Island, IOTA SA-092, during the October 16-19 part. You can follow him on Twitter, @rapanuiman.

JX - Jan Mayen

LA7DFA, ex-JX7DFA, Per-Einar, says LA2US's, Erik's, flight to the Jan Mayen is October 1. A weather delay is always a possibility. When Erik arrives he will first focus on settling in so do not expect much activity right away. He will have the JX2US callsign on through the winter season there. Erik plans to be on CW, FT8 and maybe some other modes, focusing on 160, 80, 40 and 30. QSL JX2US via LA2US.

Chinese "Foghorn"

The Chinese "Foghorn" over-the-horizon radar (OTH-R) is once again showing up in the logs of the International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring Service (IARUMS) in IARU Region 1 (Europe, the Middle East, and Africa). While the reports reflect what's being heard by stations primarily in Europe, the same interference can and does affect other parts of the world, often depending upon the time of day. Named by former IARUMS Region 1 Coordinator Wolf Hadel, DK2OM, because of its sound, the Foghorn was first reported in 2017 operating in amateur bands. The signal is frequency modulation on pulse (FMOP) with 66.66 sweeps-per-second bursts.

TM82ALC

TM82ALC will be active during October to commemorate the 290th anniversary of the death in 1730 of Antoine de Lamothe-Cadillac, founder of the City of Detroit, Michigan, event sponsors say. He also once served as the governor of Louisiana. The Detroit Automobile Company was renamed the Cadillac Automobile Company in his honor and adopted the Lamothe-Cadillac coat of arms as its product logo.

JW - Svalbard

Provided the Covid situation allows them to travel LA6VM, Erling; LA9DL, Just; and LA7XK, Halvard; will be heading to Longyearbyen, Svalbard to operate as JW6VM, JW9DL and JW7XK respectively between October 7 and 12. Plans are for JW9DL and JW6VM to operate on HF, while JW7XK will be on the satellites, mostly RS-44.

HC - Ecuador

Promoting the biodiversity of Ecuador members of the HC DX Group will be operating special event station HD1X from the tropical rainforest Chocó eco-region (Grid FI09iv) from 1700Z on October 31 until 1700Z on November 3rd. Activity will be on HF, including the WARC-79 bands, on SSB, SSTV, FT4 and FT8 as well as VHF and UHF using FM and SSB on the satellites. QSL via EC5R.

Are you on LOTW?

ZL2IFB, Gary Hinson, has written a 'simple step-by-step instructions' called "LoTW New User Guide, Get going with Logbook of The World". The 33 page instructions includes lots of graphics and photos to help get you get on LoTW. Check it out at

VQ9 - Chagos Is.

WT3A (DU7ET), Bob, was able to get off the ship he has been working on for the past two weeks. He has secured his new license – VQ9T. In the past Bob has operated as VQ9ET, last QRV in June of 2015. This new callsign (VQ9T) is a reissued callsign, which was last used by N1TO, Ed, during 2001 and 2002. Bob is currently under a two week quarantine. He is expected to be in the Chagos Islands area for the coming months.

YI - Iraq

After operating during the week of September 7th as YI/IU5HWS, Giorgio, has now received an official callsign YI9WS thanks to the support of the Iraq Amateur Radio Society members YI1WL, YI3WHR and YI1SA. The YI9WS callsign is issued by Iraq's National Communications and Media Commission (CMC). In order to operate legally from Iraq one must have approval from both the National Communications and Media Commission (CMC) and the Iraqi Amateur Radio Society (IARS). If you worked YI/IU5HWS during the week of September 7th it would behoove you to work him again with this new callsign.

W8UVZ Retires

Al Bailey, K8SIX has been in contact with George W8UVZ who has indicated that he is retiring from the Amateur Radio hobby for medical reasons.

As most of you know he is the Michigan 160 meter guru and maintained a huge station on his remote farm. He currently has over 3060 band countries and 320 countries confirmed on 160.

George has decided to sell his gear. Below is a preliminary list of his equipment. Al plans on working with Larry, K8UT to post Georges equipment for sale on the SEMDXA website.

Hygain TH-11 Multiband Yagi (20, 17, 15, 12 & 10 m) Partially disassembled. Been stored inside. Excellent condx \$450

Cushcraft 2-M 10 el long boom yagi, assembled \$40

Cushcraft 10-M Ringo vertical \$20

Cushcraft 2-M Ringo Vertical \$20

All for pickup in Battle Creek, Near I-94, Exit 100

Contact W8UVZ Cell 269-209-6607.



Ann Landers

ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

woman wrote about her mother-in-law who insists that she frequently receives secret radio messages through her bridgework. The situation became critical when the mother-in-law announced at a dinner party that she was listening to an exchange of secret information between Russia and Red-China and wanted to notify the F.B.I. I suggested psychiatric help.

This is what MY mail has been like for the past three days. You can draw your own conclusions.—ANN LANDERS

DEAR ANN: I am a research engineer who wishes to comment on the woman who says she is bringing in radio messages on her bridgework. It is entirely possible that she IS receiving radio programs, but if she's getting Russia, she is the first person in electronic history to bring in an overseas signal in this way.—CHARLESTON, W. VA.

DEAR ANN: There is an established case of a carborundum worker who retained enough of the dust so that it acted as a detector in his mouth. He had a great deal of gold work, plus a sensitive jaw bone. This man did bring in Station WOR in New Jersey.—YONKERS, N. Y.

DEAR ANN: I'm a ham and hold a second class radio-telephone license. I've known people who have received radio signals through the fillings in their teeth—particularly when they have two different types of metals in the mouth. The teeth carry the vibrations to the brain by bone conduction, as in a crystal-tuned circuit.—LITTLE ROCK

DEAR ANN: During the war we had lots of fun listening to radio messages by attaching a safety pin to a rusty razor blade and a little piece of copper wire.

State Posts Go to 3 Local FOP Ladies

Three Prescottians have been elected to state office in the FOP.

We actually got Tokyo Rose.—GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

DEAR ANN: My grandmother wears a hearing aid. She gets radio messages all the time—especially when she's eating with stainless steel silverware.—ABILENE, KANS.

DEAR ANN: My uncle once sat in the corner of the living room smiling and tapping his foot rhythmically. When I asked what he was listening to (he had his ear cocked slightly) he replied, "Lawrence Welk is coming through my teeth." We thought the old guy was balmy, but since I've read the one about the woman and Red China, I'm not so sure.—SANDUSKY, OHIO.

DEAR ANN: I work in a small plant. For several months I thought I was going out of my mind because I imagined I heard voices. I was afraid to tell anyone for fear they'd put me away.

One day the voices became so clear I decided to see the plant doctor. You can imagine my relief to learn that small particles of metal filings were getting between my teeth and I was receiving radio waves.—RICHMOND, VA.

DEAR ANN: The steam radiators in our apartment give us better dance music than the radio, especially when it's raining.—TRAVERSE CITY, MICH.

DEAR ANN: Very often when my hair is up in metal curlers a familiar tune goes through my mind. When I turn on the radio that same tune is being played. Could I be receiving through my were not being transmitted in English.—STAMFORD, CONN.

To learn how to keep your boy friend in line without losing him, send for ANN LANDERS' booklet, "Necking and Petting—And How Far To Go," enclosing with your request 20 cents in coin and a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

(Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of this newspaper enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.)

The LEGO Solution

In last months The Long Path, your editor had noted that a replacement part for an Emotator control box took 3 months and 2 weeks to arrive from Australia.

Well. While I was impatiently awaiting the arrival of the needed part, which was a rubber fan belt equivalent (but much smaller) I was looking for suitable replacements.

As noted in an earlier Long Path, I had mentioned my affinity to playing with LEGO with my 5 year old grandson.

While we were rummaging for pieces to build the "next-generation" space contraption, I came across a yellow rubber band. And I thought to myself..."I think there is another one of these someplace". Sure enough after a 10 minute search the second one was found. Now. Is it the right size?

So we diverted from LEGO construction and took apart one of the control boxes. After careful disassembly and reassembly using clock makers tweezers and surgical forceps, we manages to install said yellow rubber band. And IT WORKED. The LEGO part fixed a Ham Radio piece of equipment. Now that's thinking outside the box (the LEGO box that is).

Why did I need 2 of these yellow rubber bands? Because I had two identical rotators. Both of them had rubber belts that had deteriorated with age. And I really needed to fix one of them because I had sold it to a new ham along with a Mosley TA-33. This new ham is a budding DXer!

What about my grandson and the lack of two yellow rubber bands? Well. Apparently you can get replacement pieces from LEGO. Who knew that LEGO could become a source of parts for amateur radio gear?

The above news clip was excerpted from the Prescott evening Courier—June 27, 1960.

DX IS!

In their most basic form DXers are dreamers. They have to be in order to stay competitive. We all dream of bigger antennas, higher towers, hilltop QTH's, and any number of other technical innovations that would make it easier for us to work DX. But beyond this type of imaginary window shopping, we dream about all sorts of DX successes, such as working Heard Island on the first call, or having North Korea answer our CQ, or finding out that the unfamiliar call we just logged turned out to be one of those elusive "...stan" countries. Slim could not exist were it not for DXers' propensity to believe in the most improbable circumstances.

New DXers are particularly susceptible to dreaming. They have not yet been beaten back and worn down by the realities of DXing. Through the years it was refreshing to see the boundless optimism of youth and sometimes amusing. But even when DXers' dreams were just too hilarious to be believable, Cass was gentle enough to avoid hurting their feelings.

Interesting Story

There once was a DXer in Sarnia, Ontario that used to have a sked with King Hussein, JY1 of Jordan. They became very good on-the-air friends.

One day, Canada had invited King Hussein to come to Canada on a diplomatic visit between the two countries. The King accepted under one condition! That Vic Olacke, VE3IG (the ham from Sarnia) be present at the official government dinner honouring the King's presence in Canada.

And so the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) interviewed Vic Olacke, his XYL, his neighbours, his employer to guarantee the King would be safe. There was quite the hoopla! The government of Canada flew Vic to Canada's capital - Ottawa and he met King Hussein in person. What other hobby would facilitate the meeting of a common man and Nobility?

WSJT-X

[WSJT-X is getting a new mode](#) in the just-published release candidate version 2.3.0: [FST-4](#). This mode is intended as a replacement for JT9 and WSPR. Based on a 4-GFSK modulation scheme, FST4 has some "knobs" that can be turned: selectable transmission length and different sub-mode tone spacings. Designations of the particular mode and settings for communicating with potential QSO partners will be in the form of FST4{W}-{Transmission Length}{Submode} - Examples: FST4W-120A, -300A, -900A, -1800A for WSPR-like modes, or FST4-15A, FST4-30B, FST4-30C, FST4-30D for 15 second A, 30 second B, C, and D modes. *WSJT-X* version 2.3.0rc1 is available for download now from the [WSJT-X webpage](#). Mac users of *WSJT-X* version 2.3.0rc1: You will receive an error message at startup unless you change your system configuration for shared memory. See [this article for more information and the changes](#) that are necessary.

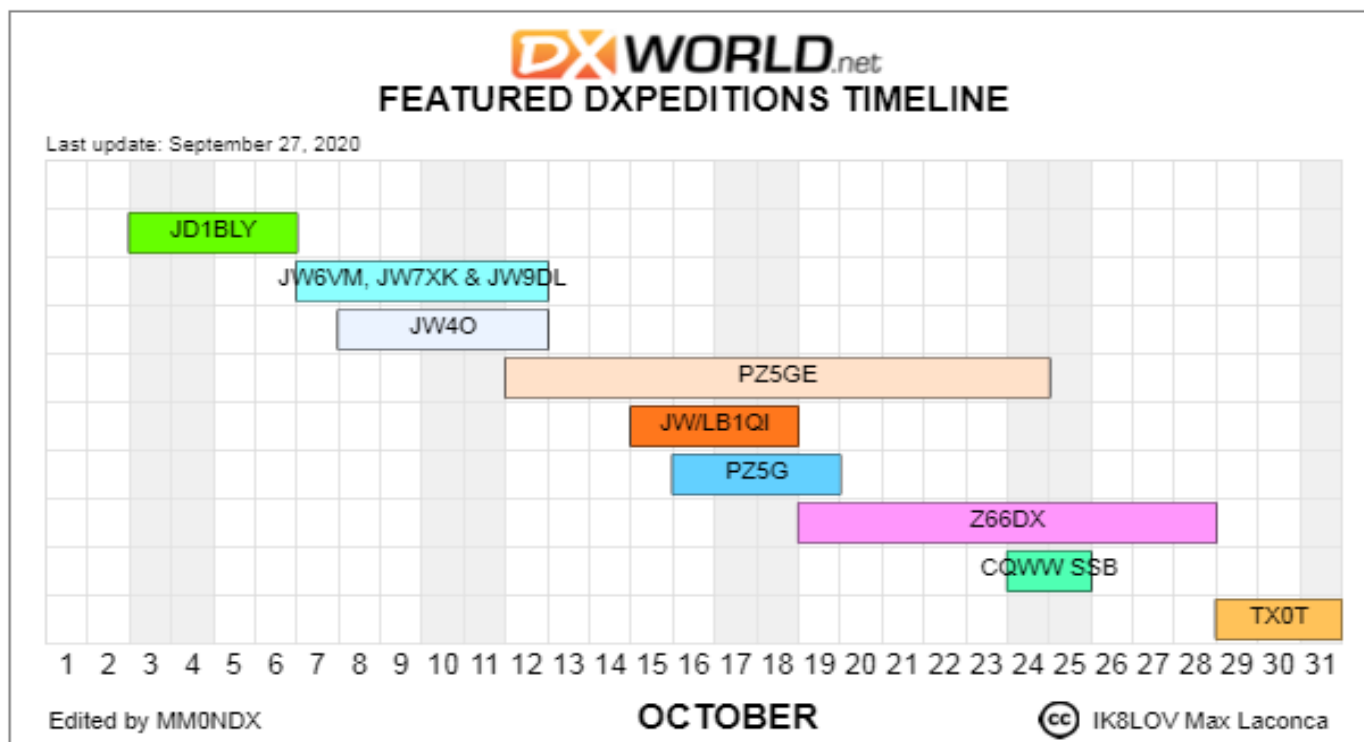
April 1932 QST Magazine



THE BATTLE WITH THE OCTOPUS

Upcoming DX

Credit to DX World



Hamfests !

Still on the calendar:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 10/18/20 St Joseph County | Centreville, MI |
| 10/24/20 Hazard | Hazard, KY |
| 11/1/20 Massillon | Massillon, OH |
| 12/5/20 Fulton County Winterfest, | Delta, OH |



DX World presents a DX Quiz on a regular basis. The first one appeared in August 25th , 2020 and generates a new quiz about every one to two weeks. There are some interesting questions and either my memory is poor, or I just wasn't paying attention as time went on. Here's the link to the latest QUIZ - - - [QUIZ 6](#)

JD - Ogasawara

Makoto, will be QRV as JD1BLY from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, from October 3 to 6. Activity is on the HF bands and 6 meters using CW, SSB and FT8, and on 630 meters using JT9. QSL via J15RPT.

Thank you to Bernie, W3UR, The Daily DX, The Weekly DX, ARRL and DX World, NG3K for their contributions to this newsletter.

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

Editors NOTE:

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

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by
2020					
August					
2020 Aug20	2020 Sep30	South Sudan	Z81D [spots]	LoTW	OPDX 20200823
2020 Aug21	2020 Oct18	Iceland	TF [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20200819
September					
2020 Sep08	2020 Oct02	Liechtenstein	HB0 [spots]	Home Call	TDDX 20200713
2020 Sep25	2020 Oct14	Dodecanese	SV5 [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 2019125
CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY (Sep 26-27, 2020) Check here for pericontest					
2020 Sep26	2020 Sep30	Greenland	OZ0J [spots]	LoTW	DXNews 20200919
October					
2020 Oct01	2020 Oct31	Jan Mayen	JX2US	LoTW	DXW.Net 20200919
2020 Oct03	2020 Oct06	Ogasawara	JD1BLY	JI5RPT	JI5RPT 20200804
2020 Oct07	2020 Oct12	Svalbard	JW		TDDX 20200922
2020 Oct08	2020 Oct12	Svalbard	JW4O		DXW.Net 20200924
2020 Oct12	2020 Oct24	Surinam	PZ5GE	LoTW	DXW.Net 20200705
2020 Oct15	2020 Oct18	Luxembourg	LX	LoTW	TDDX 20200908
2020 Oct15	2020 Oct18	Svalbard	JW	LoTW	DXNews 20200710
2020 Oct16	2020 Oct19	Surinam	PZ5G	LoTW	DXW.Net 20200705
2020 Oct19	2020 Oct28	Kosovo	Z66DX	LoTW	DL2AWG 20191213
2020 Oct20	2020 Oct20	Curacao	PJ2C	EC5AHA	PJ2SM 20200921
CQ WW DX Contest, SSB (Oct 24-25, 2020) Check here for pericontest					

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

2020 Oct29	2020 Nov05	French Poly- nesia	TX0T	LoTW	DXNews 20200921
November					
2020 Nov23	2020 Dec01	St Vincent	J88PI	GW4DV B Direct	TDDX 20200803
CQ WW DX Contest, CW (Nov 28-29, 2020) Check here for pericontest					
2021					
January					
2021 Jan01	2021 Jan31	Guinea	3XY	TBA	F5NQL 20200608
2021 Jan03	2021 Jan09	Costa Rica	TI	LoTW	TDDX 20200622
February					
2021 Feb13	2021 Mar05	St Kitts & Ne- vis	V47JA	LoTW	W5JON 20200527
2021 Feb27	2021 Mar27	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	LoTW	DXW.Net 20200612
April					
2021 Apr28	2021 May24	Botswana	A25VR	VE7VR	TDDX 20200130
June					
2021 Jun29	2021 Jul13	St Pierre & Miquelon	FP	LoTW	DXW.Net 20191126
July					
2021 Jul07	2021 Jul14	Aruba	P4	ND7J	ND7J 20190722
2021 Jul23	2021 Aug03	St Vincent	J88PI	GW4DV B Direct	DXW.Net 20200727
August					
2021 Aug08	2021 Aug16	St Pierre & Miquelon	TO5T	LoTW	DXNews 20200804
September					
2021 Sep15	2021 Oct05	Jan Mayen	JX0X	LoTW	DXW.Net 20200624

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

October					
2021 Oct01	2021 Oct30	Sable I	CYOC	TBA	DXW.Net 20200718