



Long Path



Volume 30 Issue 11

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

November 2020



From the Editor's DESK

WOW! I think that just about summarizes it! Our first on-line ZOOM meeting was a success! And the presentation by Don Winsor, "AC8TO—FT8 for digital DXing" was excellent. For those that missed it, there's some highlights of Don's presentation inside this issue of The Long Path.

NOVEMBER MEETING ALERT! The November meeting will be held Thursday, November 5th at 7:00PM. This is the **FIRST THURSDAY** of the month. See page 6 for the biography on our guest speaker.

As in previous years, there will not be a meeting in December. So we will not have an in-person social gathering or a ZOOM meeting. The next meeting will be the second Thursday in January - January 14th, 2021. We have another great speaker lined up for the January meeting, but you'll have to wait till the next issue of The Long Path to find out who it is.

We've had one or two sun spots show up lately and the impact on DXing is almost like magic. As an example, during the CQ WW DX SSB contest a week ago, there was a 10 meter opening! If memory serves me correctly I think it was south into South America. I didn't work anybody, but there were plenty to be heard. So have faith! The bands are picking up and hopefully we'll see a strong solar cycle this time around.

Good DX

73, Chet VE3CFK

Calendar

NEXT Meeting:

NEW

Virtual Meeting

November 5th, 2020 at 7 PM

Presentation by

Lance Collister, W7GJ

on

**Current Trends in 6M
EME**

SEMDXA OFFICERS

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DXCC Checker: Bill Jones, **N8KF**

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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.

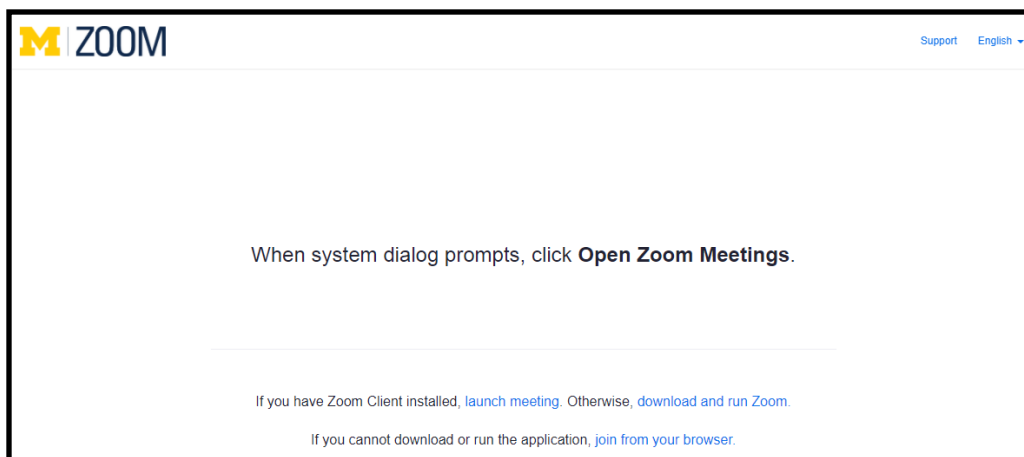
The meeting will be a presentation by Don Winsor, AC8TO. His presentation will be "FT8 for digital DXing". Don hopes to add his thoughts about DXing, working for digital DXCC awards, FT8 fox/hound mode for DXpeditions and FT4 contest mode. This is a presentation YOU DON'T want to miss!

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.

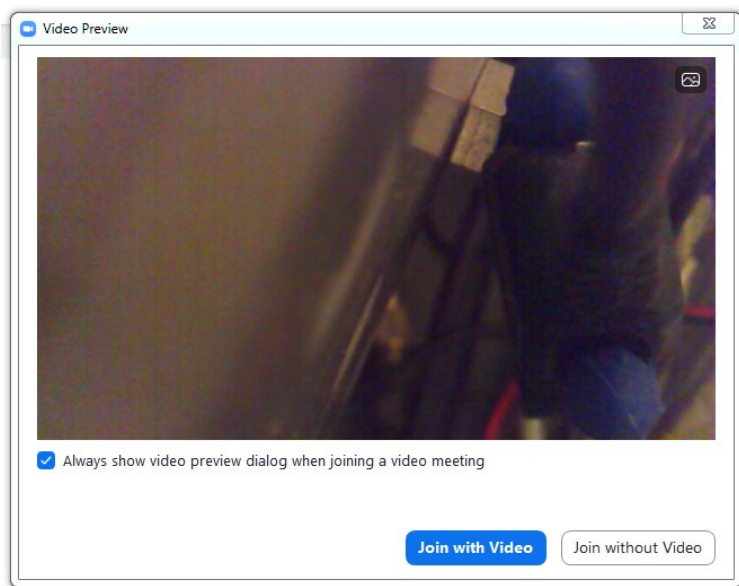
<https://umich.zoom.us/j/91352970493>

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



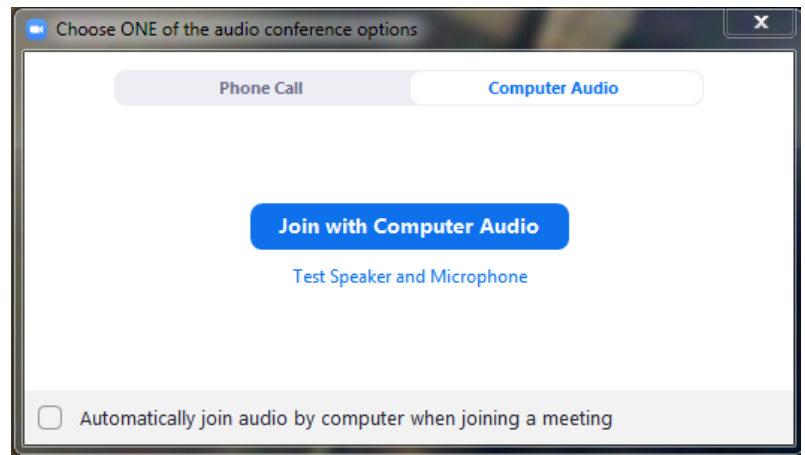
Follow the instructions on the screen and you should end up with a "Video Preview" screen.

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.

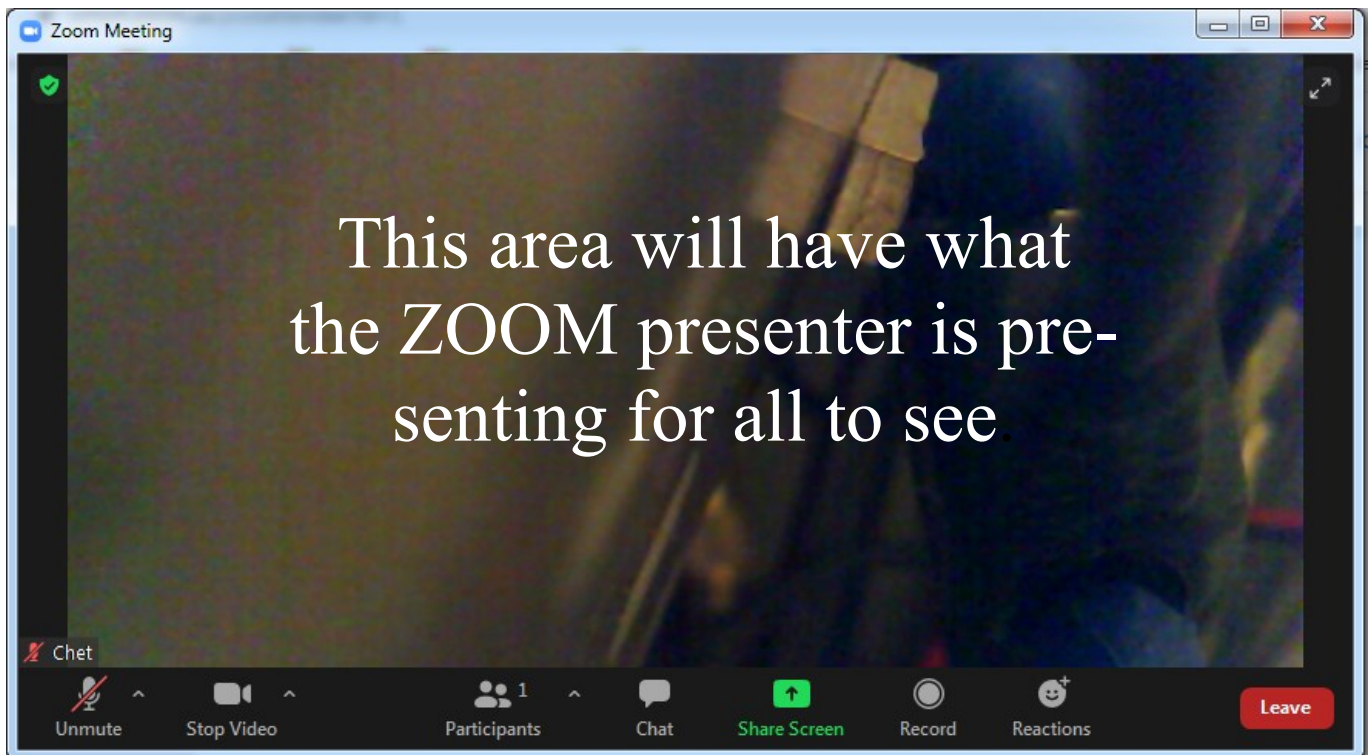


SEMDXA ONLINE VIRTUAL MEETING (cont'd)

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

We had an on-line meeting via Zoom on Thursday October 8th.

Attendance was taken and there were 23 people on line for the meeting.

No new business was tabled and no financial report was made.

Highlights of Octobers Presentation

Don, AC8TO gave an excellent presentation on "FT8 for digital DXing". For those not familiar with FT8 Don gave a great introduction as well as details into how FT8 works behind the scenes.

One major take away that I appreciated was the link to Gary, Z12IFBs "FT8 Operating Guide" Here's the link to [Gary's Guide](#). The guide is 80 pages long and is packed with info for the novice and expert alike! This guide is a great follow up to Don's presentation for those that missed our meeting last month.

KH9 - Wake Is.



Tom, NL7RR is a contractor working on Wake island. His KH9/NL7RR operation is time permitting, but does hope to operate (daily) between 06:00 - 08:00 UTC on 20 or 40 SSB.

CANCELLATIONS

- SEMDXA November in-person meeting cancelled. BUT! We're having a Virtual Meeting on Thursday November 5th!
- All future cancellations are cancelled, since there is nothing left to cancel! Well so I thought. Several DXpeditions that were planned expecting this virus to be mitigated by now have been forced to cancel because the virus is alive and well!!!!
- 2021 Hamcation in Orlando Florida postponed to February 11-13, 2022
- JX0X Jan Mayen DXpedition cancelled

NOT CANCELLED YET

Some things to look forward to:

- Sun spot Cycle 25 and 26
- 2021 Hamvention (although I'm guessing it will be cancelled!)
- December issue of The Long Path

USPS Status

Here's a link to "[USPS International Service disruptions list](#)" as of October 28th.

Of all the fish that swim or swish
 In radio's deep autocracy
 There's none possess such haughtiness
 As the DX Aristocracy

9G - Ghana

9G5FI by DL2RMC, Tom (aka HZ1FI, SU9TH, V31FI and other callsigns), says after his HZ and SU visits he is now in Accra, Ghana doing vocational training, currently the "Ghana Skills Development Initiative," a project which goes through September, 2022. He expects to be there for at least the next year. He is on all bands and CW, SSB and FT8.

JX - Jan Mayen

LA2US arrived October 1, to stay for the winter. He will be QRV as JX2US until March, operating on CW, FT8 and possibly other modes. He plans to emphasize 160, 80, 40 and 30M.

HS - Thailand

Callsign HS10A has been given to Thailand's King Vajiralongkorn, an advanced class license. This happened in Amphon Hall in Dusit Palace on September 24.

7Q - Malawi

K6ZO, Don Jones, is back at the Embangweni Mission Hospital in Northern Malawi until mid-December and QRV in his spare time as 7Q6M. QSL cards should go to Don Jones, P.O. Box 21500, Washington, DC 20009-1500, USA.

Z8 - South Sudan

Z81B is the callsign that IZ0EGB, Massimo, has, as he continues to work from the border area, SSB on 40 and 20 from time to time. He is assigned there until December.

Cycle 25

Highly regarded solar physicist Leif Svalgaard of the W. W. Hansen Experimental Physics Laboratory at Stanford University gives his prediction on solar cycle 25 forecasting a smoothed sunspot number of 128 +/- 10.

This is on average with 6 other predictions, except for one where it was predicted that Cycle 25 will be better than any ever experienced by ham radio operators since the birth of Amateur Radio.

Logging Software Survey

Clublog recently conducted a survey of Logging Software preferences. Here is a short summary:

Users with 200+ DXCC		Honor Roll Users	
Logger32	34%	Logger32	43%
DXKeeper	21%	DX4WIN	22%
HamRadioDeluxe	19%	DXKeeper	21%

Here's a link for the full details: [Logger Survey](#)

ARRL Multi-op

Did you see the article "[Guidelines Issued for ARRL DX Contest Multioperator Stations](#)" on the ARRL website? The COVID-19-related accommodations for 2021 provide opportunities for groups of hams to cooperatively use their own stations to enter one of the multi-operator classes. See the ARRL website article for the details.

Something to be aware of: Some state QSO parties prohibit the remote operation of in-state stations. As always, it pays to check the rules of the contest before operating in it.

Biography of our Thursday night guest speaker - Lance Collister, W7GJ

Lance Collister currently holds Amateur Extra Class license callsign W7GJ. On September 21, 2016, he celebrated his 50 year anniversary of being a licensed amateur radio operator.

Lance received his first ham radio license WN3GPL in 1965 at the age of fourteen. His first contact was in Lancaster, PA on 2m AM with a Heathkit Twoer. From that first contact, he was hooked on VHF DXing and soon became active on 2m meteor scatter and aurora. While earning bachelor degrees in Physics and Religion, he helped form the Middlebury College Amateur Radio Club. He copied his first 2m EME signal in 1974, and wrote his first moontracking computer program that same year. As WA1JXN in Vermont, he completed his first 2m EME contact by working W6PO on March 17, 1978. The following year, he moved to Frenchtown, Montana and on December 1, 1983, he gained notoriety in the worldwide amateur radio community by being the first civilian to contact space, using his 2m EME array to complete a 2m contact with astronaut W5LFL aboard STS-9. He also took first place worldwide on 2m in the ARRL International EME Competition that same year. In the early 1980's, he was active on the Board of Directors of the CSVHFS and helped develop and promote the Maidenhead grid awards that later became the ARRL VUCC program. In September 1999, he achieved 2m DXCC #11, by CW on EME. He made four CW 2m EME DXpeditions to C6 (The Bahamas) and two to ZF (Cayman Islands).

In 1996, he upgraded to Amateur Extra class and obtained the callsign of W7GJ. He constructed his first 6m antenna and amplifier. Later that year, he completed his first 6m EME contact by working SM7BAE on CW. He achieved 6m DXCC #815 in 2005. With the advent of the digital transmission mode of JT65A and expansion of his 6m EME antenna to four nine element yagis, he has completed contacts with 221 countries on 6m, 165 of which were made via 6m EME. He has published numerous articles and guidelines and written computer programs to assist operators around the world in successfully operating EME, and has given many people their first 6m EME contact. In 2011, he was awarded the Jersey Trophy by UKSMG for his work in helping people get on 6m and for his tireless promotional efforts regarding 6m EME. In 2016, he was honored by the CSVHFS with the Mel.S. Wilson W3BOC Award "For Continuous Service & Dedication Towards Promoting VHF & UHF Amateur Radio Activity".

He retired for medical reasons in 2007, and since then has made 6m EME DXpeditions to E51 (The South Cook Islands), 3D2 (Fiji), 5W (Samoa), E6 (Niue), TX5K (Clipperton Island), KH8 (American Samoa), V6 (Micronesia) twice, T8 (Palau), VK9C (Cocos/Keeling), VK9X (Christmas Island), C2 (Nauru), CP (Bolivia) and S79 (Seychelles). In fall of 2021 he is planning to activate FO/A (Austral Islands) and FO/M (Marquesa Islands) in French Polynesia. He is credited by the American Radio Relay League with completing fourteen 6m "firsts" from the USA to new DXCC. On his birthday in 2015, he completed a 6m EME contact with KB3SII and K1WHS in FN67, and received the seventh FFMA award issued. Lance has demonstrated the ability to keep up with technical developments and successfully use new modes to capitalize on the propagation opportunities available on 6m. Much information about his 6m weak signal work - as well as his previous trips to activate rare countries for the first time on 6m EME, and his free *GJTRACKER* moon tracking program - are available on his web site.

In addition to his amateur radio activities, Lance enjoys singing bass in various choirs. He toured with the Middlebury College Choir, has sung with the Missoula Symphony Chorale for over three decades, and participated in Eric Whitacre's Virtual Choirs 3,4,5 and 6. He also was accepted to sing in Disney's World of Color Honor Choir, which was a virtual choir opening Disney's World of Color program at Disney World. Lance also sang with Eric Whitacre at Lincoln Center in New York City at the end of March, 2014, and at Carnegie Hall in April 2018. He serves on the Board of Directors for the International Choral Festival, which brings choirs from all over the world to Missoula, Montana every 3 years. He also sings in his church choir at Holy Spirit Episcopal church in Missoula, Montana. Lance married Judge Karen A. Orzech in 1996, and has one daughter, Brittany, who is married with 2 young daughters of her own.

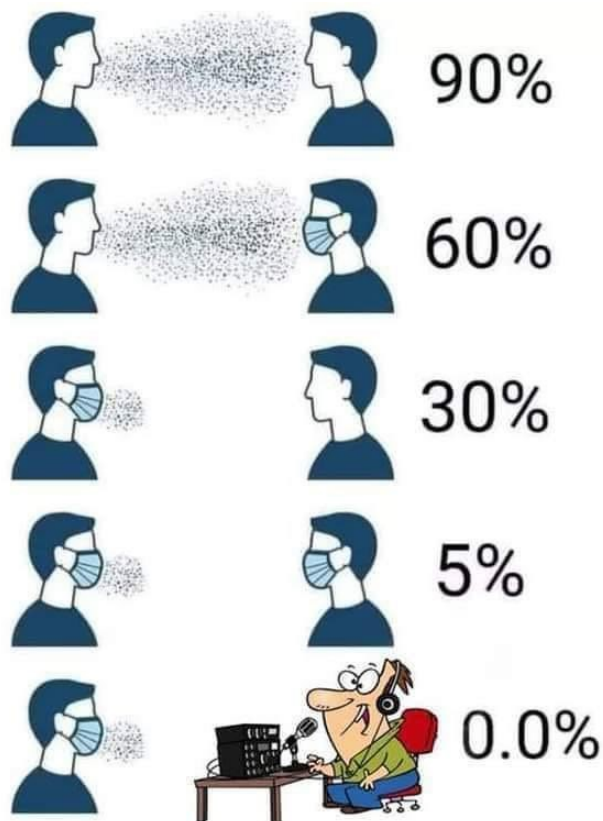
SEMDXA MOST WANTED

Here are the results of the SEMDXA Most Wanted survey compiled by Larry, K8UT. Thank you Larry for orchestrating the survey.

Top 25 = In keeping with previous practices, we consider all entities tied at a specific count (5 in this case) as #25 - which takes us to 39 "Most Wanted". And here are the results:

P5 - North Korea 13
 BS7H - Scarborough Reef 11
 FT5W - Crozet 11
 3Y/B - Bouvet Island 10
 BV9P - Pratas Island 10
 VU7 - Lakshadweep Islands 8
 1S - Spratly Islands 7
 4W - Timor-Leste 7
 EP - Iran 7
 VK0/M - Macquarie Island 7
 VK9C - Cocos-Keeling 7
 VU4 - Andaman & Nicobar Islands 7
 9N - Nepal 6
 A5 - Bhutan 6
 FR/G - Glorioso 6
 FR/T - Tromelin 6
 FT5X - Kerguelen 6
 JD1/O - Ogasawara 6
 KH7K - Kure Island 6
 SV/A - Mount Athos 6
 V8 - Brunei Darussalam 6
 XX9 - Macau 6
 XZ - Myanmar 6
 ZS8 - Pr. Edward & Marion Islands 6
 AP - Pakistan 5
 BV - Taiwan 5
 CE0X - San Felix Island 5
 H40 - Temotu 5
 P2 - Papua New Guinea 5
 PY0T - Trindade & Martim Vaz Is. 5
 S2 - Bangladesh 5
 T5 - Somalia 5
 VP8/O - South Orkney 5
 VP8/S - South Sandwich 5
 YA - Afghanistan 5
 YI - Iraq 5
 YK - Syria 5
 YV0 - Aves Island 5
 ZL9 - New Zealand Subantarctic Islands 5

Covid Transmission



8Q - Maldives

HB9SHD, Remo, is scheduled to be on Kandolhu Island and QRV as 8Q7RM between November 2nd and 29th. This will not be a "hardcore DX-pedition" but rather a holiday style operation with plans to be on SSB, Digital and CW.

DID YOU Know?

"Roger That"

Roger "indicates that a message was heard and understood" while the "that" part refers to the message. According to Dictionary.com, "Roger was brought into the spotlight in part due to public broadcasts of NASA's Apollo missions in the 1960s." (Ward, N0AX)

3Y0I - Bouvet Is.

We are still pushing with the missing budget (\$24,300) to finalize last payment for the vessel to make 3Y0I happen. So far (as an international team) we still can't travel to South Africa due the Covid situation. **Bouvet is not cancelled!** All our equipment is ready there, waiting for us.

Time is running like crazy, also Antarctic summer will not wait for us so long... Please keep in mind that we will maybe need to reschedule this trip for the next season.

In the meantime Dom 3Z9DX received his Fijian government travel permit to go back to the Pacific Rebel Base as a back up plan. There is three different DXCC's around: 3D2/C Conway, 3D2/R Rotuma, 3D2 Fiji + several IOTAs including some very rare groups. Unfortunately, cyclone season starts from November to March... so all looks very difficult and hard from logistic point of view. Let's see what happens soon. (News update by Rebel DX Group)

Ham Spirit

VU7 – Lakshadweep Islands

After reading the August 2020 How's DX column in QST Magazine and learning newly licensed Amateur Radio operator VU3EBX, Aboobaker Kunhi Badayi, who lives on Kavaratti Island, Lakshadweep Island, did not have an HF radio KB1DJ, Alan Kline decided to do something about that. Aboobaker is the only licensed Amateur Radio operator in the number 55 Most Wanted List, per Club Log. He was licensed in April 2018. Up until now he has been operating on VHF working into the VU2GCC repeater in Kerala on mainland India, some 470 kilometers away. VU2JOS, Mr. Jose, has an excellent article which ran in a recent issue of Telangana Today. I'd like to publicly thank Alan and Jose for helping Aboobaker. True Ham Spirit!

ZLs and 60M

New Zealand Radio Amateurs Lose Access to 60 Meters

Radio amateurs in New Zealand no longer have access to 60 meters, effective October 24.

Use of the band by radio amateurs in New Zealand is provisional, allowing hams there to use two frequencies in the band as part of a "trial."

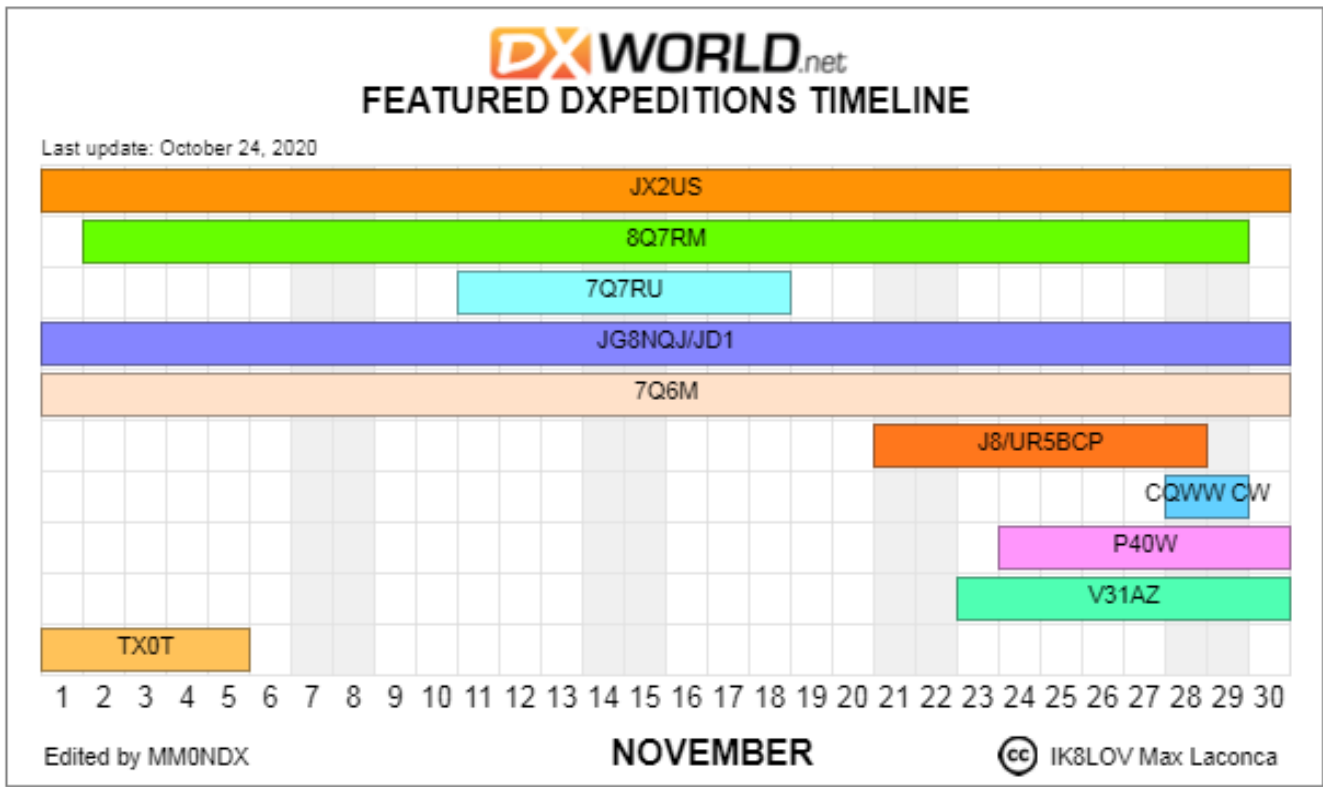
The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) advised it was not willing to approve another renewal of the 5 MHz trial allocation. As in the US, the federal government and military are primary on the 5 MHz band. According to NZART, the decision was not made lightly by NZDF, but access to that part of the HF spectrum is very important to support NZDF's new platforms, tactical radio equipment, and updated HF site equipment in the delivery chain.

VP8 - S. Shetland Is.

The Worldwide Antarctic Program reports that DS4NMJ is heading to King Sejong Station on the big southern continent. Op Lee Sang-hoon has completed 15 days of self-isolation and has the opportunity to go back to the station on Antarctica aboard the ARAON Korean icebreaker ship. Embarkation was October 31 with a stop at Jangbogo Station "for a while," then on to King Sejong Station, arriving there about January 15th. This will be his sixth time on Antarctica. King Sejong Station is on the coast at Maxwell Bay, with King George Island and Nelson Island, the South Shetland Islands, nearby. King Sejong Station was established in 1988 as a year-round station, typically with an over-wintering staff of 17 or so. In Antarctic summer there are about 100 international researchers and scientists there.

Upcoming DX

Credit to DX World



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.



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 10](#)

E5 - N. Cook Is.

Warwick Latham, E51WL, on Penrhyn Atoll, North Cook Islands, is operating as time permits, he says, on 80, 40, 30, 20, 17 and 15 and has even made some contacts on 10 and 6. He says he has made several 6M moon bounce QSOs. Email him if you are interested in making a QSO.

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					
2020 Oct24	2020 Nov13	Belize	V31CO [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20201021
November					
2020 Nov02	2020 Nov29	Maldives	8Q7RM		DXNews 20201021
2020 Nov11	2020 Nov18	Malawi	7Q7RU	LoTW	DXW.Net 20201014
2020 Nov21	2020 Nov28	St Vincent	10	KD7WPJ	KD7WPJ 20201022
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 ac-					
2021					
January					
2021 Jan01	2021 Jan15	Rotuma	3D2AG/p	PayPal	DXNews 20201019
2021 Jan03	2021 Jan09	Costa Rica	TI	LoTW	TDDX 20200622
2021 Jan14	2021 Jan29	Maldives	8Q7CQ	M0OXO	DXW.Net 20201025
CQ 160m Contest, CW (Jan 29-31, 2021) Check here for pericontest activi-					
February					
2021 Feb13	2021 Mar05	St Kitts & Nevis	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

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

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
October					
2021 Oct01	2021 Oct30	Sable I	CY0C	TBA	DXW.Net 20200718