



# Long Path



Volume 30 Issue 5

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

May 2020



## From the Editor's DESK

Month two. I guess there's no need to announce the fact that we're still in lock down. It reminds me of being a teenager. Grounded and can't go anywhere! Brings back memories, but not fond ones!

I've heard reports of people experiencing cabin fever. They should have hobbies. I for one have been busy working on my Collins 30S1. I've included a update found in this issue of The Long Path for your perusal since if you're like me you're looking for something to do to fill in your day.

Keith's final installment was last month on his "DXCC on Vacation". I'm always looking for material for inclusion in the The Long Path. With all this spare time on your hands, why not try writing a small something for our DX publication? I know our newsletter is supposed to be DX oriented, but maybe we can make an exception and include off topics. DX University gives a discount to their participants if they have published something in the last 12 months (probably going to be a little longer for 2021). So why not give it a try?

A SEMDXA member sponsored contest starts May 1st to take your mind off of STAY AT HOME. See details deep inside this issue of "The Long Path".

Contest University, although cancelled at Dayton this year, is being offered FREE of charge on Zoom Thursday. Look for details in The Long Path. They have a good lineup of topics. Lunch is not included.

Just a reminder that there is NO meeting this month (May). We'll keep you informed as to whether there will be one in June.

73 and Good DX

Chet VE3CFK

## Calendar

**NEXT Meeting:**

**2nd THURSDAY**

**June 11, 2020**

**Maybe**

### 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

TBA

### 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**

## April Meeting Minutes

For those that missed the April meeting, you'll be happy to be informed that there was NO meeting in April. Cancelled because of the Covid 19 something or the other.

So our Secretary was off the hook this month for meeting minutes.

## SV/A—Mount Athos

Monk Iakovos, SV2RSG/A, will be on the air May 7-10, SSB and CW on 20 meters. Last fall when Monk Iakovos was QRV, it was usually on 14025 CW and 14185.5 SSB, listening up in both cases. Just prior to sending out today's issue Monk Iakovos left Bernie, W3UR a message saying he would depart for Mount Athos on Monday May 4th confirming activity will be on 20 meters and will give more details soon.

## EY - Tajikistan

The Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin reports that EY8MM, Nodir, says that EY hams have been off of 6 meters for 10 years but are being allowed back on, with broadcast stations on channel 1 going off the air now. His own 6M station is fully operational and he has started working EME and plans to be active during this e-skip season. He also notes that his QSL manager, K1BV is temporarily sidelined, so hold off on sending direct or bureau cards through K1BV. Nodir plans to do LoTW uploads regularly.

## Museum Ships Weekend CANCELLED

## CANCELLATIONS

It is simpler to announce what IS NOT cancelled.

- Daily, weekly and monthly amateur radio nets
- More announcements of what is cancelled
- Boredom
- Poor propagation
- Next solar cycle
- Procrastination
- DX
- Antenna repairs
- Weeds growing in your lawn
- BUT. May SEMDXA meeting is definitely cancelled

## NOT Cancelled Yet

Some things to look forward to:

- Poor propagation (I really wish they'd cancel this!)
- Sun spot Cycle 25
- 2021 Hamvention
- June SEMDXA meeting
- Christmas

## Contest University

K3LR, Tim, [Contest University](#) Chairman (aka University President) and the CTU professors are presenting their classes free of charge on Zoom Thursday, May 14. Connection details will be posted on the university's website a week ahead of time, and it will be recorded for later viewing. Here is the current lineup:

CTU will begin at 8:45 US Eastern Time (1245Z) with the welcome by W8CI, K3LR and N9JA.

**9:00** – W3LPL on “Effective Low Band Receiving Antennas.”

**10:00** – W2NAF, “2020 Solar Cycle Update and the HF Response to Ionospheric Storms and Traveling Ionospheric Disturbances.”

**11:00** – N6TV – “Everything You Need to Know about USB and Serial Interfaces”

**12:00** – lunch on your own

**12:25** – K1AR – memorial reading of the Silent Keys for 2020.

**12:30** – NN1C – “Exuberance and Youth Contesting – Update on what is going on.”

**1:00** – W0YK – “Digital Contesting Hints & Kinks.”

**2:00** – K1DG – “Optimizing Your Station for Contest Operations.”

**3:00** - N0AX – “Grounding & Bonding”

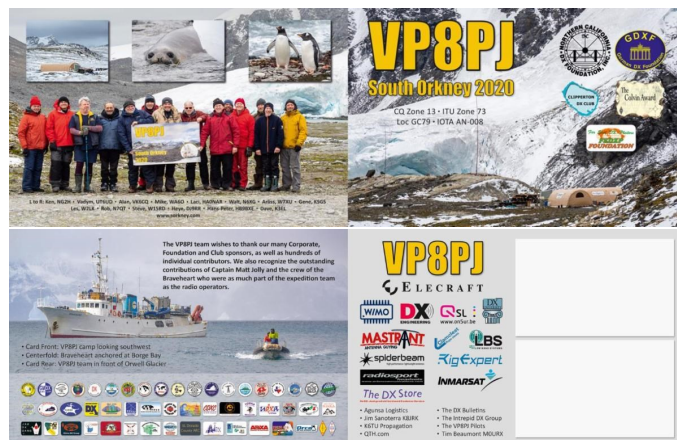
**4:00** - NC0B – “Contest & DX Performance A Complex Subject Today Great RX Performance – TX Limitations”

**5:00** - W3LPL – “60 Years of Competitive Contesting — the W3LPL Story”

**6:00** - K3ZJ – Presentation of CQ Contest Hall Of Fame 2020

## SOUTH ORKNEY

Here is what the new VP8PJ QSL card looks like.



## NCJ & QEX MAGAZINES

ARRL has made available NCJ and QEX magazines online for members as of April 8. The magazines are free to all members online, and paper issues will remain available by separate subscription.

## 9G - Ghana

IZ4YGS, Matteo, is currently working in the El-lembele District in Western Ghana until May 15th. He is QRV from Sanzule as 9G5GS on most days between 2000 and 2300Z and sometimes between 1200 and 1400Z and after 1700Z. He operates on FT8 using the Fox and Hound mode operating on 3.590, 7.056, 10.131, 14.090, 18.095, 21.091, 24.926 and 28.091 MHz. QSL via IK4YGS, LoTW or eQSL.

## NOAA's official updated Solar Cycle 25 prediction

by W3LPL, Frank Donovan

Early this month SWPC published their official updated prediction of Solar Cycle 25 in a [new user-interactive graph format](#). Their updated prediction is based on the results of NOAA's Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel.

SWPC forecasts a solar maximum between 105 and 125 with the peak occurring between November 2024 and March 2026. There is broad consensus that Solar Minimum is ongoing this year -- or may have already occurred -- and that Cycle 25 will have no major change in the level of solar activity compared to Cycle 24.

For many years SWPC's solar cycle predictions have used the Royal Observatory of Belgium's International Sunspot Number. SWPC's official solar cycle prediction now uses the SWPC sunspot number. The International Sunspot Number is typically about one third lower than the SWPC sunspot number.

While this is SWPC's official Cycle 25 prediction, it's important to note there is still divergence among various forecasting methods and members of the space weather forecasting community. Most forecasts and forecasters agree that the Cycle 25 is likely to be within plus or minus 20 percent of Cycle 24 and is likely to occur between 2024 and 2027.

[link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41116-020-0022-z/tables/2](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41116-020-0022-z/tables/2)

## Stay at Home Contest

May 1 - September 1

## SEMDXA 2020 DXCC Most Wanted Survey

We ONLY have 19 respondents to the SEMDXA DX survey. Please take a couple minutes to do the survey. Heck. With all this time on your hands and can't go anywhere...

[survey.semdxa.org](https://survey.semdxa.org)

## A Note of Thanks

I want to thank Bernie, W3UR and the Daily DX for all the extracts used in this issue of "The Long Path"

## SOLAR UPDATE

W3LPL's recent comments on solar cycle 24's minimum and cycle 25 mentioned the discrepancy in the sunspot numbers on the Space Weather Prediction Center website. Apparently this will be resolved soon. An online article explains: "[May 20 Bonus – Sunspot Number Confusion](#)"

## NEW Q Signals

QSH - Stay home and healthy

QCV - I hate Corona virus

QTP - I have toilet paper. Want to trade for a new car?

QHS - I have hand sanitizer. Want to trade for 2 new cars?

## VE3CFK's COVID SELF ISOLATION

As you recall...

I found an understanding soul in Port Huron, who understood my plight. I have mailed him my Post Office key (hope the intra border police don't confiscate the key). He has agreed to clean out my mail box, repackage the packages and mail it to me in Canada. The price he stipulated made me gag. But, it's in the name of HAM RADIO.

Well. My contact in Port Huron received the key 2 weeks later. He cleaned out my post office box, repacked the vital Collins 30S1 parts and mailed it to me in Canada. That was 18 days ago. As far as we can tell from the tracking, the package has not made it to Chicago for Customs clearance as yet! Hopefully customs doesn't think that the parts are spares for a ventilator, then I'll be in real trouble (again).

So, since the last we updated the reader, assembly and check out is complete. The RF deck is fully reassembled. Tube installed. Cooling air functional. All interlocks functional. All voltages present and accounted for in standby and operate mode. Just really waiting for the soft-start relay so I can tickle the amplifier with some RF.

But the road was a little bumpy getting to this point! While assembling the blower deck I discovered the primary and secondary windings of the ALC transformer were open. No big deal. I'll just use the spare from my donor 30S1 RF deck which I purchased on eBay 6 months ago. WHAT! The primary side is open! But secondary is good. It's a 1:1 transformer so I just switched sides and installed it while I order a new one.

So I went online and checked out Hammond Transformers who bought out Peter Dahl transformers and checked out the availability of a replacement.

Oh noooooo! They want \$165 US (translates to \$261 CDN after import taxes) plus shipping from Buffalo, NY. Gotta be kidding! The transformer is no bigger than one (1) cubic inch! So I'm still searching for a replacement. I dislike running an amplifier without ALC. One can easily destroy a tube and your received signal can be easily distorted in an AB1 Class amplifier where any grid current is not desired.

Here are some photos of the rebuild:



The RF deck with the changeover relay in the upper left corner. The red screw driver is over-riding the HV interlock during checkout.



The tube compartment with tube (4CX1000A) installed and air flow detector (which was checked out with a heat gun) on discharge of tube.

continued next page...

## VE3CFK's project



Here's the blower compartment. Blower and motor are on right (black stuff). The tube socket and boot are on discharge of blower and you can just see the tube on the other side of the aluminum partition. The ALC transformer is hiding in the lower right hand corner out of view.

## E6 - Niue

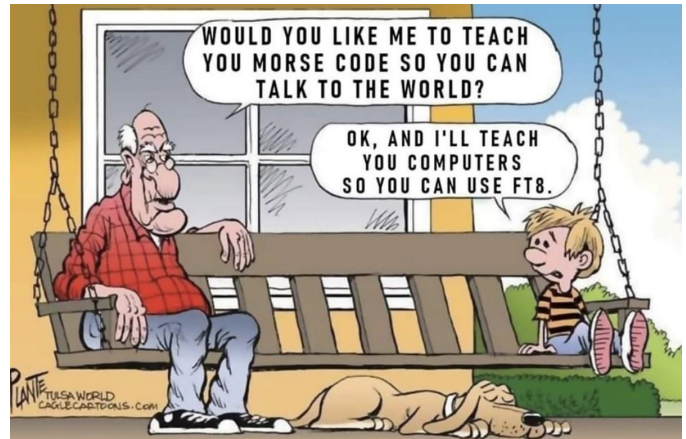
LZ1GC, Stan, says an expedition by him and LZ1PM is September 28 to October 17, callsign E6AM. Niue is IOTA OC-040. They plan to take a Kenwood TS480SAT and a TS590SG, to an ACOM 1200S and ACOM 700S. The antennas will be a multiband groundplane for 40-10 including the WARC-79 bands, a vertical for 160, 80, 60 and 40 and a hexbeam. They will be on 160-10 including 60 and the WARC-79 bands, in other words all the HF bands, CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. For a QSL go through OQRS for direct or bureau, or via LZ1GC or the LZ bureau.

## A3 - Tonga

A35GC will be the second stop for LZ1GC but apparently without LZ1PM. This will be Tongatapu Island, OC-049. This stop will be October 19 to November 2. He will have the TS480SAT and an RGO One as backup and ACOM 1200S.

## Club Log Update

The [Club Log Most Wanted List](#) has been updated.



## JAPAN Band Extensions

Japan's JARL reports on April 21, Japanese radio amateurs were granted extensions to the 1.8 and 3.5 MHz bands and simplification of licensing procedures.

The frequency bands that have been additionally allocated are as follows:

- 1,800 to 1,810 kHz
- 1,825 to 1,875 kHz
- 3,575 to 3,580 kHz
- 3,662 to 3,680 kHz

With this revision, Japanese radio amateurs can now operate FT8 on international standard frequencies.

In addition, with regards to operation by guests, the lower age limit has been removed, and the opportunity for many people from youth to the elderly to be interested in amateur radio will be expanded.

The full text of the JARL post can be seen at <https://tinyurl.com/JapanJARL>

## Hamvention-Ohio

W8CI, Michael Kalter, says a “Hamvention QSO Party” will be held on May 17 to celebrate the many years at “the Great Gathering,” and remembering W8ILC, Ron Moorefield, who never missed a Hamvention and contributed to the sponsoring club until his recent death, “Let’s light up the airwaves with our remembrances of Hamventions of the past.” Another promoter of the 12-hour event is longtime Hamvention forum emcee and Contest University host, K3LR, Tim Duffy. They are promoting interest in this event on the air, 8 AM to 8 PM EDST Sunday, May 17, 2020, CW and SSB on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. The exchange will be signal report and the first year you attended the Hamvention. If you have never attended, send “2020.” Within five days after the event send your total number of QSOs to 3830scores.com. You can print a certificate for yourself online via [www.HVQP.org](http://www.HVQP.org). More details will be released on the website that is being set up now. A special bonus is W8BI, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) callsign, which will be on the air from club members’ home stations. Add 10 points (QSOs) for each band mode you work W8BI on, a total of 12 band modes, so you can earn 120 bonus points, which is like 120 additional QSOs, by contacting W8BI.

## More Humor

After hearing about W3LPL’s, Frank’s, QWH dilemma and not knowing “if we’re allowed to take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands???” W4UM, Mike, gives W3LPL permission and the new Q signal QTS (Take a shower).

## Stay at Home Contest

Your Long Path editor, Chet VE3CFK is sponsoring a contest open to SEMDXA club members only.

The object is to work as many “STAYHOME” stations from around the world from May 1 to September 1, 2020. Look up [OH2STAYHOME](http://OH2STAYHOME) on QRZ.COM to see a listing of countries and call signs on the air. More being added daily.

The modes that are acceptable for entry are Phone and CW. No digital QSOs accepted.

QSLs are not required. A log extract is all that is required. Send all log entries to Chet at [VE3CFK@gmail.com](mailto:VE3CFK@gmail.com) by September 8th, 2020

Winners will be notified prior to the September meeting and announced at the September meeting.

The prizes are:

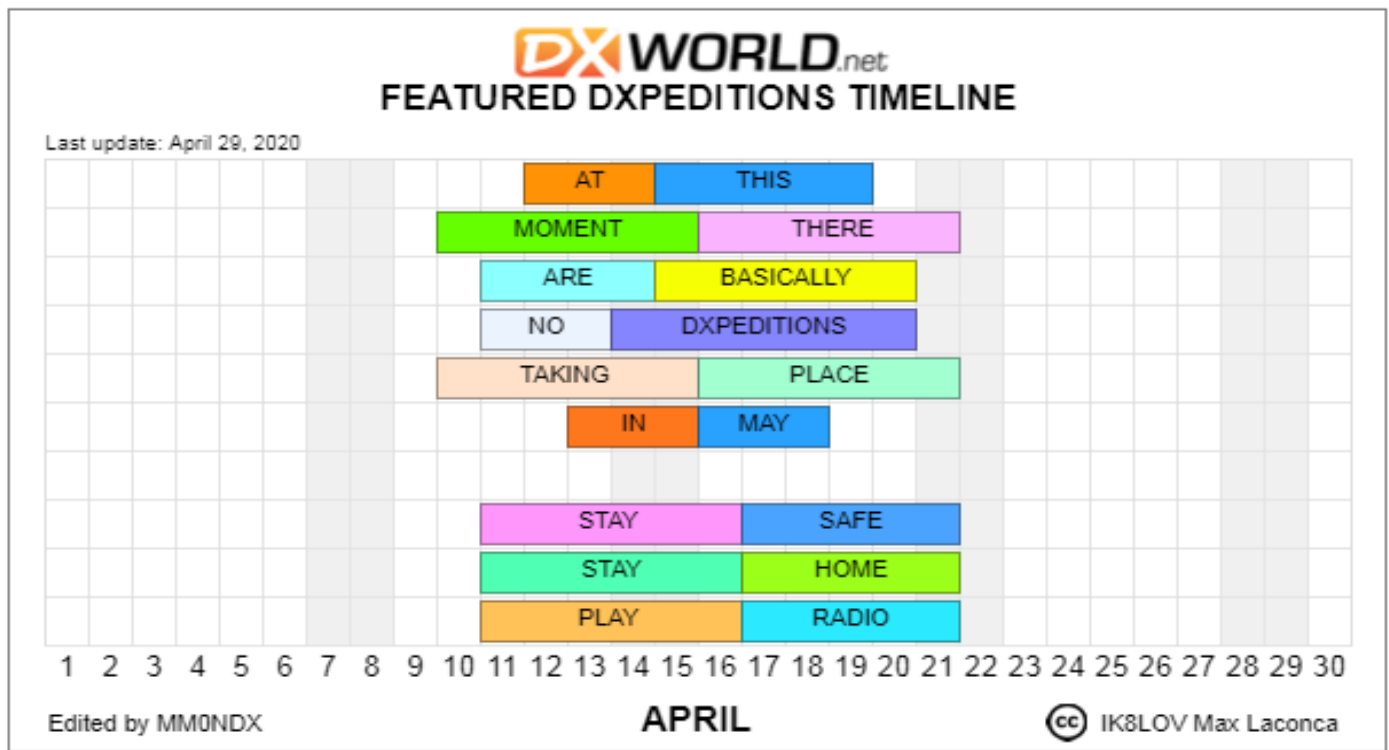
1st Prize - 1 years SEMDXA membership

2nd Prize - 1/2 years SEMDXA membership

3rd Prize - A beer at Gino’s Restaurant

### Upcoming DX

### Credit to DX World



## HAMFESTS

**CANCELLED**

## Dayton Contest University

**CANCELLED**

See previous notes about Dayton Contest University.



## Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio  
Contest/DX Page

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by
<b>2020</b>					
2020 Mar08	2020 Apr30	Barbados	8P6DR <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200106
<b>April</b>					
2020 Apr14	2020 May15	Ghana	9G5GS <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200331
2020 Apr14	2020 Apr30	Cambodia	XU7AMG <a href="#">[spots]</a>	BG9XD	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200415
2020 Apr18	2020 May02	Brunei	V84SAR <a href="#">[spots]</a>	See Info	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200420
<b>May</b>					
2020 May04	2020 May12	Maldives	8Q7KB	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190912
2020 May07	2020 May10	Mt Athos	SV2RSG/A	SV2RSG Di- rect	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200427
2020 May07	2020 May11	Guernsey	GU75LIB	GU8ITE	GU0SUP 20200403
<a href="#">CQ WPX Contest, CW (May 30-31, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity too.</a>					
<b>June</b>					
2020 Jun10	2020 Jun17	Cayman Is	ZF2FD	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20191211
2020 Jun11	2020 Jul02	St Kitts & Nevis	<a href="#">V47JA</a>	LoTW	W5JON 20191120
2020 Jun30	2020 Jul14	St Pierre & Miquelon	<a href="#">FP</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20191126
<b>July</b>					
2020 Jul08	2020 Jul15	Aruba	<a href="#">P4</a>	ND7J	ND7J 20190722
<a href="#">RSGB IOTA Contest (Jul 25-26, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity too.</a>					
2020 Jul29	2020 Aug15	Uganda	<a href="#">5X1RI</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200224

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

August					
2020 Aug02	2020 Aug08	Aruba	P4	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200106
2020 Aug06	2020 Aug12	Peru	OA7	N3QQ	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20200414
2020 Aug10	2020 Aug17	St Pierre & Miquelon	<a href="#">TO5T</a>	LoTW	VO1CH  20200201
2020 Aug27	2020 Sep07	Easter I	XR0YHM	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200415
September					
2020 Sep04	2020 Sep08	Maldives	8Q7QR	JJ1DQR	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200412
2020 Sep06	2020 Sep17	Albania	ZA	OE6TQG	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200218
2020 Sep15	2020 Sep23	Faroe Is	OY	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 2019123
2020 Sep15	2020 Sep30	Easter I	<a href="#">XROYSP</a>	LoTW	SP6EQZ 20200314
2020 Sep15	2020 Oct15	Malawi	<a href="#">7Q7AO</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200208
2020 Sep23	2020 Oct06	Swains I	<a href="#">W8S</a>	PG5M	PA3EWP 20190922
<a href="#">CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY (Sep 26-27, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity</a>					
2020 Sep28	2020 Oct17	Niue	E6AM	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200403
2020 Sep29	2020 Oct12	Chad	<a href="#">TT8RR</a>	Web OQRS	I2YSB 20191210
October					
2020 Oct01	2020 Oct14	Midway I	<a href="#">KH4</a>	Club Log OQRS	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190731
2020 Oct07	2020 Oct15	Palau	T88UW	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20200214
2020 Oct19	2020 Oct28	Kosovo	<a href="#">Z66DX</a>	LoTW	DL2AWG 20191213
2020 Oct19	2020 Oct28	Sable I	<a href="#">CY0</a>	Club Log OQRS	WA4DAN 20190513

**Upcoming DX****Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio  
Contest/DX Page**

2020 Oct19	2020 Nov02	<b>Tonga</b>	<b>A35GC</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200403
<a href="#">CQ WW DX Contest, SSB (Oct 24-25, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity</a>					
<b>November</b>					
2020 Nov23	2020 Dec07	<b>Burkina Fa- so</b>	<b>XT2MAX</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200224
<a href="#">CQ WW DX Contest, CW (Nov 28-29, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity</a>					
<b>2021</b>					
<b>April</b>					
2021 Apr28	2021 May24	<b>Botswana</b>	<b>A25VR</b>	VE7VR	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200130