



Long Path



Volume 30 Issue 7

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

July 2020



From the Editor's DESK

Happy 4th of July to you and your families. Enjoy the day, but please stay safe.

Well, this past weekend was Field Day like we've never seen before. Hope you all got involved in some way. I set up in my backyard and operated as 1E. It was certainly different, but we had fun anyways.

As we are now into summer, it's time to work on your antennas in the anticipation that the propagation will pick up this fall. As far as I know, the propagation can't get any worse, so a good antenna is your only chance of overcoming the poor propagation and taking advantage of the precious moments when we have sporadic propagation.

Speaking of sporadic propagation, we are getting close to the end of 6M season for the summer. There were a couple of 6M openings into Japan. As usual, I missed them, but I did decode 3 JA stations. I never did work them. I heard NE8Z and K8SIX chasing the DX on 6M. Even though I missed most of the good openings, I did work 2 new ones and confirmed on LOTW one I worked in 2016 with another in 2020.

July 11 & 12 is the IARU Championships. Some summer fun. Complete rules: <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship>

Enjoy your summer.

Stay safe.

Stay home.

Play radio.

73, Chet VE3CFK

Calendar

NEXT Meeting:

2nd THURSDAY

September 10, 2020

Hopefully

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**

June Meeting Minutes

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

So our Secretary was off the hook this month for meeting minutes (again)!

Man. I'm gonna apply for his job in September! I hear it pays well, and as you've seen, it doesn't involve much of anything (at least during this pandemic!)

3X - Guinea

F4AJQ, Frank, says the F6KOP team, noting their successful E44CC Palestine operation in February, are now planning another operation, this one for next January. Assuming the borders open after COVID-19 and they can travel safely, they plan to be on Guinea's Kassa Island, IOTA AF-051, QRV on 160-10 "with maybe 60M," CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8, with five stations on simultaneously. They will have three beams, several verticals and receiving antennas too. The callsign, operators and other details will be forthcoming soon.

DX Marathon

By K9EL, John Sweeney, CQ DX Marathon manager.

The results of the 2019 CQ DX Marathon have now been published in the June issue of CQ Magazine. For digital subscribers, your issue is available now. Results are also available on the DX Marathon website. Congratulations to all the 2019 participants and the 2019 winners!

CANCELLATIONS

- Your VEC privileges unless you renew.
- All your magazine subscriptions unless you renew
- Your drivers license unless you renew. LOL. In Canada we have a reprieve until the government sends out renewal notices. (I get to keep my money a little bit longer!)
- 2020 Huntsville Hamfest cancelled

NOT Cancelled Yet

Some things to look forward to:

- Your inability to come to Canada by any means other than flying in
- Sun spot Cycle 25 and 26
- 2021 Hamvention
- September SEMDXA meeting
- ARRL and CQ upcoming contests

Mail Service

The United States Postal Service "has updated 6/26 their [list of International Mail Service Suspensions & Disruptions](#). The list is getting shorter but many still listed. Don't send your QSLs until the country you're mailing is off the list or it will be returned.

WSJT-X Update

WSJT-X 2.2.0 provides a number of features and capabilities that are new as of June 1, 2020. A list can be found in the WSJT-X 2.2 User Guide. The first several sections at the top of Release Notes contain a list of all-important program changes of the GA release of WSJT-X 2.2.0. Upgrading from a previous version will be straightforward. There is no need to uninstall or move any files. If you want to make sure to have the latest list of default working frequencies, go to File | Settings | Frequencies, right-click in the Working Frequencies list, and select Reset. Full Details and Downloads:

<https://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjitx.html>

-- WSJT-X working group

FT8 vs. FT4

– from K1JT, Joe Taylor

Joe, noting the transatlantic six meter opening(s), says he is enjoying the multi-hop sporadic E, “an excellent test of the original design goals for FT8, and more recently also FT4.” Over several hours he worked 76 European stations, 37 with FT8 on 50.313 (mostly) or 50.323. The other 39 were FT4 on 50.318, “in just 44 minutes.” Joe says, “I strongly recommend that for such openings in the future you should try FT4. It’s twice as fast as FT8, with only a 3db penalty on the AWGN channel. The sensitivity penalty is even less on a fading channel.”

Joe says it was also an excellent opportunity to use good operating practices. “As recommended, most European stations transmitted in the first/even sequence in both FT4 and FT8. North American stations transmitted in second sequence. This procedure minimizes QRN from strong local stations and helps everyone to work DX.”

2021 DX Convention

Organizers are announcing the “Visalia” International DX & Contesting Convention, IDXCC and “a choice of two Vs.” The challenge, looking ahead to 2021, is whether to have an in-person convention or a “virtual” one, hoping for the normal face-to-face meeting and asking themselves “What will our ‘new normal’ be like by next April?” and “Can we guarantee a covid-free environment for our attendees?” They have consulted with medical experts, epidemiologists and long-time attendees and have decided it will be virtual next year, spanning two weekends in April.

Part 1, April 16-18 and part 2, April 23-25. Each will be “a unique 3-day event,” without duplication. Registration will be in early 2021, registration dates to be announced.

The new name, IDXCC, the International DX & Contesting Convention, “more accurately reflects what the convention has actually become over the years; a gathering of both avid DXers and contesters from around the world.”

There will be forums, technical talks, DXpedition reports, awards, etc. There will be a contest academy, DX University, and hands-on demos, webinars by exhibitors and special guests, a chaotic “eyeball QSO hour,” “dinners without dinner,” the dinners for IOTA, “topband,” and contesting, “creative QSL card checking,” “great raffle prizes,” and “lasting memories.”

They summarize that “Whether you’re an old-timer or newcomer, you can have a safe, front-row seat at the first-ever virtual DX and contesting convention next April without leaving your QTH.” Sponsored by the Northern California DX Club, the story of this ionic get-together is here:

www.dxconvention.org

FT4/8 Explained

K1JT, Joe, and associates are explaining the FT4 and FT8 protocols, figuring ops may be interested in how it works, the implementation of WSJT-X. He says all the technical details are in a paper by K9AN, Steve Franke; G4WJS, Bill Somerville; and himself, K1JT, Joe Taylor, published in the July-August issue of QEX magazine. A copy is on the WSJT website:

https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/FT4_FT8_QEX.pdf

FT8 Anniversary

To commemorate the third anniversary of the FT8 Digital Mode Club, special event stations will be on air during the month of July for [FT8DMC Activity Days](#).

W8S - Swains Is.

From the Swains DXpedition Team:

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic it is still impossible to travel to Swains Island. This means that we have to postpone our DXpedition until spring 2021 at the earliest.

Alex Jennings and the team will start planning again as soon as we are allowed to travel to American Samoa without restrictions (such as 14 days in quarantine). All equipment already purchased is waiting for us in Pago Pago.

We are very disappointed with this postponement, but if we look at it from a positive angle, propagation will be better next year! We continue our Swains DXpedition project and keep you informed via our mailing list, website and the social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter.

<https://swains2020.ildxt.eu/>

Russia & Asiatic Russia

Currently there is no permission for 6 meters in Russia. This does not include Crimea, which for DXCC purposes can count for Ukraine or Russia. In Crimea and all of Ukraine 6 meters is authorized. The Communications Administration of the Russian Federation are working on an agreement which would allocated a small secondary distribution on 200 KHz, 50.080 to 50.280 MHz. The final approval of WRC-19 is expected to be in place by January 1, 2021. In the meantime it may be possible "administrations may provide 50 MHz national band allocation earlier or later than the specified

Cycle 25

With almost no warning, the sun launched the first two big solar flares of the new solar cycle on May 29th, 2020 less than one day before the Space-x launch.

Welcome to Solar Cycle 25. Luckily for the astronauts the sun's solar flare radio bursts only lasted for a few hours and then as if in anticipation, the sun quieted down for the final countdown.

Amateur radio operators, with a nod and a wink, will always know that our sun celebrated right along with us in its own unique way.

-- Tamitha Skov WX6SWW for Amateur Radio Newline.

3A - Monaco

Ennio, IW1RBI will be QRV as 3A/IW1RBI beginning July 6. His length of stay is unknown. Activity will be on 30 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.

2020 Field Day

by VE3CFK

It was the best of times.!

It was the worst of times!

It was the best of times - I set up in my backyard and didn't have to drive anywhere.

It was the worst of times - I setup by myself with no outside guidance or kibitzing!

It was the best of times - took me 1/2 hour to set up the station and generator power.

It was the worst of times - it took me 2 1/2 hours to get a lap top to talk to a rig. After 2 laptops and two rigs, I finally got a 14 year old laptop and my Elecraft K2 to talk to each other.

It was the best of times - all my meals were prepared by my caring XYL. Nothin beats home cookin.

It was the worst of times - I didn't get to share burnt hot dogs and hamburgers with my ham club buddies!

It was the best of times - I got to sleep in my own bed instead of the trailer!

It was the worst of times - I forgot that the K2 won't take CW from N1MM so I was reluctant to run.

It was the best of times - searching and pouncing on CW I managed 228 QSOs.

It was the worst of times - I was all alone tearing my station apart

It was the best of times - Keith's XYL made me a strawberry pie as she does every year for field day, but this year I didn't have to share it with anyone.

It was the worst of times - My generator developed a surging problem in ECO mode so now it

needs to go into the repair shop to be ready for next year.



Here's a photo of my Field Day setup inside my Tiki Hut overlooking the back yard. I have to admit. It's the best looking Field Day setup I've ever operated from. hihi

JX0X - Jan Mayen

From Ken Opskar, LA7GIA...

We would like to announce the Jan Mayen 2021 low band trip with the callsign JX0X.

For about 14 months we have been planning a trip to Jan Mayen, which has a high ranking on the lowbands (#20+) as well on CW and Digi mode.

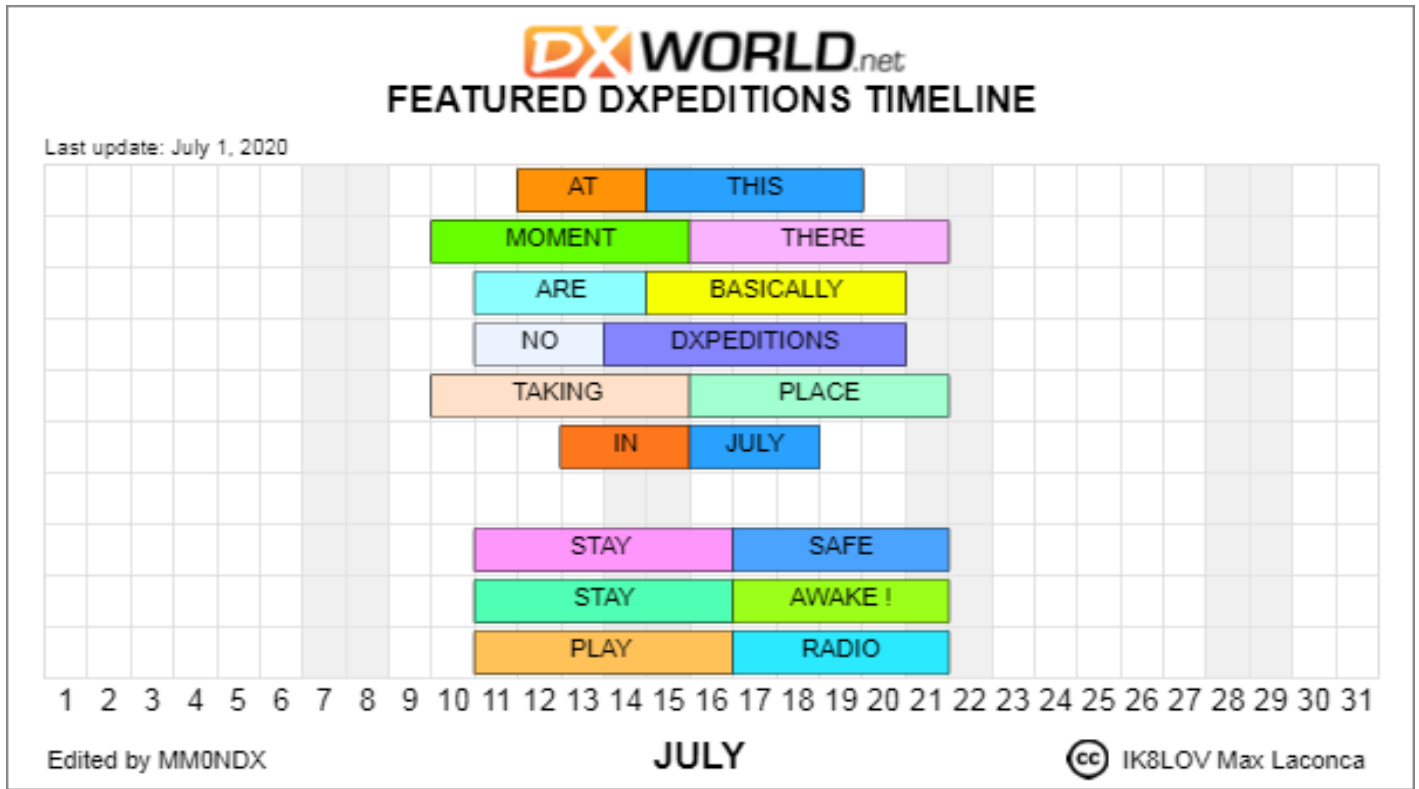
Going to Jan Mayen has proved to be a difficult task. Finally we have all permissions needed from the Military and the Norwegian authorities for an international team to enter Jan Mayen on a 2 week DXpedition in late September 2021.

This is an all band, all mode DXpedition. But we will focus on lowbands 160-30 using CW and Digi mode. We will also do other bands like 60, 20 and possible 17m depending on conditions, and we will be on SSB.

Going to Jan Mayen in Sep/Oct is not an easy task and the budget for this trip is currently in the range of 90k USD. To do this trip we depend on support from clubs & foundations, corporate and individuals.

Upcoming DX

Credit to DX World



DX IS!

To the un-initiated a pile-up for rare DX station probably sounds like a brawling free-for-all with no rules and no one in charge, but it is nothing more than a many-layered application of every tactic, trick, strategy, or device known to have even the slightest possibility of success. There is certain order to all of this, once you understand the game. Sadly, when the unlearned jump into such fracas, there is often contention.

The above behaviour on a rare DX station's frequency would make a fascinating study of human nature at its best and worst.

(above excerpted from "DX IS! The best of the West Coast DX Bulletin)

Editors note: all those cancelled DXpeditions have certainly curtailed our entertainment. Hasn't it?

HB0 - Liechtenstein

When HB9HBY, Loick and HB9TWU, Greg, are QRV from here July 24, 25 and 26 they will need to each use their own calls as HB0/home calls. On that Saturday they will jointly use a special callsign. More details on that callsign yet to be announced. They are planning to be QRV on 80 through 6 meters on SSB, CW and FT8. Equipment will include an FT-891 with an Italian RM amplifier running between 300 and 500 watts into dipoles.

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

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

Start Date	End Date	DCCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by
2020					
June					
2020 Jun15	2020 Jul15	Guantanamo Bay	KG4MA [spots]	TBA	TDDX 20200508
2020 Jun27	2020 Jul03	Svalbard	JW7QIA [spots]	LA7QIA Direct	LA7QIA 20200617
July					
2020 Jul01	2020 Jul11	Balearic Is	EA6 [spots]	LoTW	DK5ON 20200621
2020 Jul01	2020 Jul31	Vanuatu	YJ40IND [spots]	TBA	TDDX 20200618
2020 Jul06	2020 Jul19	Monaco	3A	IW1RBI	425DXN 20200626
2020 Jul24	2020 Jul26	Liechtenstein	HB0	EB7DX	DXW.Net 20200618
RSGB IOTA Contest (Jul 25-26, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity too.					
2020 Jul30	2020 Aug31	Iraq	YI	IU5HWS Direct	DXNews 20200701
August					
2020 Aug02	2020 Aug07	Aruba	P4	LoTW	DXNews 20200604
2020 Aug02	2020 Aug08	Aruba	P4	LoTW	TDDX 20200106
2020 Aug10	2020 Aug17	St Pierre & Miquelon	TO5T	LoTW	VO1CH 20200201
2020 Aug22	2020 Sep05	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	LoTW	W5JON 20200527
2020 Aug27	2020 Sep07	Easter I	XR0YHM	LoTW	TDDX 20200415

Editors NOTE:

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

Upcoming DX

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Contest/DX Page

September					
2020 Sep04	2020 Sep08	Maldives	8Q7QR	JJ1DQR	DXW.Net 20200412
2020 Sep06	2020 Sep17	Albania	ZA	OE6TQG	TDDX 20200218
2020 Sep15	2020 Sep23	Faroe Is	OY	LoTW	TDDX 2019123
2020 Sep15	2020 Sep30	Easter I	XROYSP	LoTW	SP6EQZ 20200314
2020 Sep22	2020 Oct06	St Pierre & Mi- quelon	FP	LoTW	DXW.Net 20191126
CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY (Sep 26-27, 2020) Check here for pericontest					
2020 Sep28	2020 Oct17	Niue	E6AM	LoTW	DXW.Net 20200403
2020 Sep29	2020 Oct12	Chad	TT8RR	Web OQRS	I2YSB 20191210
October					
2020 Oct01	2020 Oct14	Midway I	KH4	Club Log OQRS	DXW.Net 20190731
2020 Oct07	2020 Oct15	Palau	T88UW	LoTW	DXNews 20200214
2020 Oct19	2020 Oct28	Kosovo	Z66DX	LoTW	DL2AWG 20191213
2020 Oct19	2020 Oct28	Sable I	CY0	Club Log OQRS	WA4DAN 20190513
2020 Oct19	2020 Nov02	Tonga	A35GC	LoTW	DXW.Net 20200403
CQ WW DX Contest, SSB (Oct 24-25, 2020) Check here for pericontest ac-					
November					
2020 Nov21	2020 Dec05	Nicaragua	YN5AO	DL7VOA	DL7VOA 20200524
2020 Nov23	2020 Dec07	Burkina Faso	XT2MAX	LoTW	TDDX 20200224
CQ WW DX Contest, CW (Nov 28-29, 2020) Check here for pericontest ac-					

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

2021					
January					
2021 Jan01	2021 Jan31	Guinea	3XY	TBA	F5NQL 20200608
2021 Jan03	2021 Jan09	Costa Rica	TI	LoTW	TDDX 20200622
February					
2021 Feb27	2021 Mar27	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	LoTW	DXW.Net 20200612
April					
2021 Apr28	2021 May24	Botswana	A25VR	VE7VR	TDDX 20200130
July					
2021 Jul07	2021 Jul14	Aruba	P4	ND7J	ND7J 20190722
September					
2021 Sep21	2021 Oct05	Jan Mayen	JX0X	TBA	DXW.Net 20200624