



# Long Path



Volume 30 Issue 8

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

August 2020



## From the Editor's DESK

Summer is upon us. Grass cutting. Watering flowers and plants. Repairing antennas. Chasing DX. These are the things us Amateur Radio operators do mid year whether there is a Pandemic going on or not. Social distancing is giving us more time to spend at ham radio and stay away from being in someones' way.

Or there are other hobbies we can be pursuing at this time as well. Repairing our favourite classic car or photography or genealogy or stamp collecting or reacquainting yourself with a musical instrument you played in the band in school or...whatever your favorite activity is. I've recently (the last year or so) become enthralled with genealogy. It is a deep rabbit hole that consumes massive amounts of time (I mean huge amounts of time). But the benefit is that I can do it in my ham shack while I'm chasing DX or just playing with FT8. Yup. I have succumbed! After a 1 1/2 year abstinence I have returned to FT8. I have to admit that there IS something to working FT8. Especially when there is a 6M opening to Japan and you would like to work as many as you can in the short window. More on this inside.

Our upcoming September meeting. Although it is still anticipated that we will meet, stay tuned for the final announcement to confirm that a physical meeting will be held. Your editor, who lives in Canada, will not be attending as the Canadian/USA border is presently closed and personally I do not anticipate it being reopened until sometime in 2021.

So. Until next time:

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay home and 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**

## July Meeting Minutes

Can't fool you guys!. There are no meetings during the summer. So. Nothing to report.

### OY - Faroe Is.

OY/DL4APJ and OY/DL2AQI, Torsten and Udo, will be on the air September 15-23, holiday style on 80-10, and CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK and FT8. QSL to the individual home QTHs of the two ops direct, or go through the DARC (German) bureau, eQSL or LoTW.

### Z6 - Kosovo

German team Z66DX will be on from Pristina, the capital, October 15-28, 160-10 including the WARC-79 bands, CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. On the operator list are DJ9KH, DL2AMD, DL2AWG, DL3APO, DL9GFB and DM2AUJ. They will have three IC-7300s, plus RF amps, 800 watts, to verticals for 160 and 80, plus loops and verticals on "spider poles" for other bands.

### ZB - Gibraltar

September 4-10 will be "Gibraltar National Week," when "the rock" marks its 1967 self-determination referendum. The exact date of that 1967 event is September 10. Stations will switch to special prefix ZG, so ZB2TT will become ZG2TT during that week.

## CANCELLATIONS

- W4DXCC DX and Contest convention
- JARL (Tokyo) Ham Fair 2020
- 2020 Huntsville Hamfest cancelled
- I can not conceive of anything else that has been cancelled because it has already been cancelled! The only thing that has not been cancelled is all those cancellations that have been postponed and will be rescheduled!

## 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

## SEMDXA CONTEST

Don't forget to keep working those "Stayathome" stations. Your excerpted log is due September 1st to be forwarded to Chet VE3CFK at [VE3CFK@gmail.com](mailto:VE3CFK@gmail.com). Top 3 scores get to share some incredible prizes - food vouchers at Gino's and a SEMDXA Club membership for a year. Good luck!

## JX - Jan Mayen Is.

Four ops plan to put JX0X on the air September 15 to October 5, 2021. A two-week operation is planned during that three-week window of time. The island was made a "nature reserve" "some years ago," imposing "heavy restrictions on where to set up a camp. Camping is strictly forbidden in the nature reserve itself." It is controlled by Norway's armed forces. The military has authorized a site on the west side of the island for this operation. The ops say it is the best spot to work North America, unobstructed across the saltwater.

The license and callsign are confirmed and the permits are in hand. Actual departure from northern Norway is September 15, 2021 in the afternoon for the three-day voyage. Setup is expected September 18, 2021 with operation starting within the first 24 hours. For the operators' safety, the military requires the ship to standby off-shore. Weather is a consideration with winter storms typically starting up in October.

The ops are LA7GIA as team leader, and ops RA9USU, DL5EBE (R4BE) and SM5LRR (RM2D). They will be on CW, digital and SSB, three stations 24/7, focusing on 160, 80, 60, 40 and 30M. Jan Mayen has been worked a lot more on SSB so they plan to emphasize CW and digital modes, hoping for high rates during short band openings. These are all familiar calls, highly experienced operators with many DX operations to their credit.

At present, the JX0X operation will be equipped with Elecraft K3 radios, Kenwood TS590A radios or equivalent, to Expert 1.3 amps or others. The antenna farm is a top loaded vertical on 18M spiderbeam pole, possibly a pair of those. On 80, a vertical on 18M spiderbeam pole. 60, a vertical on fiberglass pole. 40 and 30, both with a single or pair of verticals. 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6, a pair of hexbeams on aluminum poles. Special receiving antennas, a K9AY, SAL, DHDL and BOGs.

## 9G - Ghana

9G5GS by IZ4YGS, Matteo, will again be on from the Western Region, in an area of jungle, palm trees, swamps, snakes and crocodiles, a few hundred meters from the Atlantic. Matteo will be on August 8 to September 15, operating in his spare time, most evenings he says, between 21-00Z. He will be on 160-10M mostly FT8 F/H and SSB, with his FT-891 to a vertical. For FT8 Fox and Hound frequencies he is looking at 3590, 7056, 10131, 14090, 18095, 21091, 24926 and 28091. FT8 standard mode he will be on the standard FT8 frequencies. He asks you send report first, not the location. Matteo also plans to use the QO-100 geostationary satellite, USB. He will do daily Club Log updates. QSL direct to IZ4YGS, or through LoTW or eQSL.

## Virtual Ham Expo

More than 12,000 have registered to attend the first [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#), August 8 - 9, QSO Today host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, said this week.

"Since the Expo is a completely new experience for the ham radio community, it's great that so many people are excited and already registered," he said. "And with almost 3 weeks before the event, the number of registrants continues to increase." Attendance is free and there are early-bird prize incentives for registering by July 24.

The Expo will offer four separate speaker tracks focusing on a range of topics. Speakers will also be able to provide related material, such as slides and white papers, that attendees can download. Every session will have a Q&A where attendees can submit questions in real time via chat.

## 5Z - Kenya

PA1TS, Joost, is in Naivasha, Kenya. He says “I got licensed in the Netherlands last November, but have been living and working in Kenya for the past 11 years”. Several months ago he received his Kenyan visitors license (5Z4/PA1TS) and now has his first rig, a Yaesu FT-450D. So far he has worked two QSOs, one in Poland the other in the UK. Due to work and family he does not have “a lot of airtime” but will be staying here “for the foreseeable future, so [he] will be on the air, time permitting. Joost has a homebrew 22 meter Doublet some 15 meters above the ground running 100 watts on SSB on 40 and 20 meters.

## 5H - Tanzania

Earlier in the year, UT5JRR (aka 3W3RR, YA0RR and other DXpedition calls in the semi-distant past), Romeo Stepanenko, also known as “Roman Vega” is out of prison and put on a plane to Russia. Within days he was on the air as RA/W3RDX. He has recently been issued the 9Q9RR and 5H1RR callsigns, planning to operate from Pongwe, Zanzibar, Tanzania (IOTA AF-032) at some point. For newer DXers who may not be familiar with “Romeo,” he was at one time a prominent DXer who made a big splash with operations supposedly from rare ones YA0RR in (or near) Afghanistan, strange North Korea military callsign P5RS7, and others, before running afoul of the law.

However! In 1996 “the ARRL Awards Committee voted unanimously to disqualify Romeo Stepanenko from participation in the DXCC program”. This means “Stepanenko is not eligible to participate in the DXCC program in any manner” that includes “disallowance of contacts made with any station or DXpedition operated by him from the time of this action”.

## Cycle 25

W3LPL says it’s one of many conflicting forecasts but “Let’s hope it’s correct... enjoy it while you can... in five billion years the sun will burn out.” He is commenting on K1HTV’s note that five scientists associated with the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the Centre for Fusion, Space and Astrophysics, the University of Maryland Department of Astronomy, the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Centre for the Analysis of Time Series, London School of Economics and Political Science School of Engineering and Innovation have a “bold prediction” about solar cycle 25.

They have a document called “Overlapping Magnetic Activity Cycles and the Sunspot Number: Forecasting Sunspot Cycle 25 Amplitude,” they say they believe the next sunspot cycle “will have a magnitude that rivals the top few since records began,” “in stark contrast to the community consensus estimate of sunspot cycle 25 magnitude.” K1HTV, Rich, a major 6M DX fan, says it could mean F2 skip on 50 MHz like has never been experienced in the history of radio, “a real treat.” This article explains the prediction: [Link to Article](#)

## 4U1UN

The UN ARC’s Facebook page reports the UN HQ building has been shut down due to coronavirus. Basic maintenance of the ham gear has been postponed until the building is reopened. The ops hope to get access in October-November. They say there are “pressing equipment failures” to deal with including repair of the ACOM amp control module and the beacon antenna. K2QI, James, president of the UN radio club, has been testing a Flex 6600M loaned by the Flex company. He says it has “proven more than capable of performing in our constrained operating environment.” James says he hopes to have it in place soon.



# Superstorms!

**THE SOLAR MINIMUM SUPERSTORM OF 1903:** Don't let Solar Minimum fool you. Superstorms are possible even during the "quiet" phase of the solar cycle. A new study just published in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters* looks back to October 1903. Solar activity was at a low point eerily similar to now when one of the biggest storms in modern history erupted. Get the full story at [Spaceweather.com](http://Spaceweather.com)

## 6M DX

Your editor, VE3CFK has been chasing DX for over 50 years. I'm looking forward to getting my 10 band DXCC. The tenth band being 6 meters. I've stalled out at about 52 for a long time and figured that the only way I'd get to 100 is by moon bounce. Well. The playing field has changed. FT8 has enhanced everyone's ability to work the week ones and even work the ones we can't hear. On July 11th, I experienced one of those rare 6M openings from this part of the country and was excited enough that I sent off a little blurb to Bernie of the Daily DX. Here is an excerpt from his news letter:

[VE3CFK, Chet, says it was quite an opening into Europe on Saturday, when he decoded GM, F, G, OK, JW7QIA, JW4PUA, S5, OZ, GW, EI, I, MD, GI and EA, which included seven new ones. He notes that NE8Z and K8SIX also worked a bunch. He says it was a bonus when Japan opened up in the evening he worked his first JA and another 11 in a 30-minute session. Says Chet, "I was over the top. Just like Christmas morning!"](#)

They call 6M the magic band. I call it the band of disappointment. You can monitor that band for 364 days 23 hours and 50 minutes and if you take a 10 minute washroom break, you've missed the opening. I know a lot of folks that feel that way about 6M. But we keep on monitoring, hoping to catch a new one.

## VK0IR - Heard Is.

As you know, Cordell Expeditions carried out an expedition to Heard Island in Jan/Feb 1997, using the callsign VK0IR. Recently I discovered about 6 hours of video that I had shot during the expedition, but which had never been seen (not even by me!). I divided the collection into six parts, which I have posted to Youtube:

Part 1 Preparation: <https://youtu.be/IGbjiFWAig>

Part 2 Outbound: <https://youtu.be/RFCzL5dyDkM>

Part 3 Landing/setup: <https://youtu.be/50ykT4acnV8>

Part 4 Operations: <https://youtu.be/kYX-F1mulTo>

Part 5 Environment: <https://youtu.be/gXNAKC--EII>

Part 6: Departure: <https://youtu.be/uGFiFw3TWxY>

You can also find these by going to [Youtube.com](http://Youtube.com) and searching on "Robert Schmieler Heard Island."

Here is the introduction to each of the videos.


On 11 Jan 1997, twenty men were landed on one of the most remote places in the world: Heard Island, located in the Southern Ocean, almost to Antarctica. They set up a village with all life support, including accommodations, light and power, galley, and a huge array of radios, antennas, and satellite communications gear.

Over the next two weeks, using the callsign VK0IR, the team logged 80,673 contacts with radio operators worldwide, a new world record for self-supported expeditions. The team also made daily explorations around the island to document the rocks, glaciers, rivers, plants, birds, and seals that are the dominant residents of this live volcano. Many of you will remember this expedition, and quite a few of you made significant contributions.

Unnoticed at the time, the author shot six hours of video of all aspects of the project. Unfortunately, these videos were lost until mid-2020, 23 years later. No one, including the author, had ever viewed these videos. Upon finding them, the author divided the material into 6 separate Parts. Other than separation into the Parts, the videos needed little editing. They contain almost all of the material that was shot in 1997, and most of it is in exactly the order it was shot.

**Upcoming DX**

**Credit to DX World**



**FEATURED DXPEDITIONS TIMELINE**

Last update: July 26, 2020

THERE
REALLY
IS NOT
MUCH
HAPPENING
KEEP IT
DX-WORLD.NET
FOR UPDATES
& BREAKING NEWS
+ IOTA INFO

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Edited by MM0NDX **AUGUST** © IK8LOV Max Laconca

*DX IS!*

We travelled down the country to hear from the sage of Throckmorton Ridge. We found him steady, dowsing rod ready and the future all plotted. “Sam” we asked. “What are the prospects for the future in sunspots? Tell us what you know”. We got a quick answer. “I look for the SSN to get close to zero in the next several months” he said, “and when it hits the bottom, when it hits zero, I am prepared to say that from then on things will go up Absolutely! We thought this over for a bit and then pressed for more information. “But are you sure?” we asked. “Are you sure?” The diving rod started to twirl. “Foursquare!” was the empathic answer. “My studies indicate that when we reach zero, the only way we are going is up. Positively!”

**Did YOU Know?**

In a 2020 poll the VK0IR Heard Island DXpedition ranked as #1 among all such DXpeditions of the past 30 Years?

**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	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by
2020					
<b>July</b>					
<a href="#">RSGB IOTA Contest (Jul 25-26, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity too.</a>					
2020 Jul25	2020 Aug15	Barbados	8P9QC <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200728
2020 Jul30	2020 Aug08	Jersey	GJ <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200803
2020 Jul30	2020 Aug10	Chatham Is	ZL7STU <a href="#">[spots]</a>		<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200730
2020 Jul30	2020 Aug31	Iraq	YI <a href="#">[spots]</a>	IU5HWS Direct	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20200701
<b>August</b>					
2020 Aug02	2020 Aug07	Aruba	P4 <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20200604
2020 Aug02	2020 Aug08	Aruba	P4 <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200106
2020 Aug06	2020 Aug07	Market Reef	OJ0	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200728
2020 Aug06	2020 Sep14	Corsica	TK	LoTW	<a href="#">425DXN</a> 20200801
2020 Aug08	2020 Sep15	Ghana	9G5GS	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20200713
<b>September</b>					
2020 Sep04	2020 Sep08	Maldives	8Q7QR	JJ1DQR	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200412
2020 Sep04	2020 Sep18	Malta	9H3TI	DL2AAZ	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200713
2020 Sep06	2020 Sep17	Albania	ZA	OE6TQG	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200218
2020 Sep08	2020 Oct02	Liechtenstein	HB0	Home Call	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200713
2020 Aug10	2020 Aug28	Sardinia	IS0	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200803

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 Sep15	2020 Sep23	<b>Faroe Is</b>	<b>OY</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 2019123
2020 Sep15	2020 Sep30	<b>Easter I</b>	<a href="#">XROYSP</a>	LoTW	SP6EQZ 20200314
2020 Sep22	2020 Oc- t06	<b>St Pierre &amp; Miquelon</b>	<a href="#">FP</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a>  20191126
2020 Sep24	2020 Sep27	<b>Svalbard</b>	<b>JW</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20200710

[CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY \(Sep 26-27, 2020\) Check here for pericontest activity](#)

2020 Sep28	2020 Oc- t17	<b>Niue</b>	<b>E6AM</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200403
2020 Sep29	2020 Oc- t12	<b>Chad</b>	<a href="#">TT8RR</a>	Web OQRS	I2YSB 20191210

### October

2020 Oc- t03	2020 Oc- t06	<b>Ogasawara</b>	<a href="#">JD1BLY</a>	J15RPT	J15RPT 20200804
2020 Oc- t07	2020 Oc- t15	<b>Palau</b>	<b>T88UW</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20200214
2020 Oc- t14	2020 Oc- t27	<b>St Kitts &amp; Nevis</b>	<a href="#">V47JA</a>	LoTW	W5JON 20200527
2020 Oc- t19	2020 Oc- t28	<b>Kosovo</b>	<a href="#">Z66DX</a>	LoTW	DL2AWG 20191213
2020 Oc- t19	2020 Oc- t28	<b>Sable I</b>	<a href="#">CYO</a>	Club Log OQRS	WA4DAN 20190513
2020 Oc- t19	2020 Nov02	<b>Tonga</b>	<b>A35GC</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200403

[CQ WW DX Contest, SSB \(Oct 24-25, 2020\) Check here for pericontest activity](#)

### November

2020 Nov11	2020 Nov25	<b>Surinam</b>	<b>PZ5GE</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200705
2020 Nov16	2020 Nov19	<b>Surinam</b>	<b>PZ5W</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200705
2020 Nov21	2020 Dec05	<b>Nicaragua</b>	<a href="#">YN5AO</a>	DL7VOA	DL7VOA 20200524
2020 Nov23	2020 Dec07	<b>Burkina Faso</b>	<b>XT2MAX</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200224



## Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio  
Contest/DX Page

<b>NEW!</b> 2020 Nov23	2020 Dec01	<b>St Vincent</b>	<a href="#">J88PI</a>	GW4DVB Direct	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200803
<a href="#">CQ WW DX Contest, CW (Nov 28-29, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity</a>					
<b>2021</b>					
<b>January</b>					
2021 Jan01	2021 Jan31	<b>Guinea</b>	<b>3XY</b>	TBA	F5NQL 20200608
2021 Jan03	2021 Jan09	<b>Costa Rica</b>	<a href="#">TI</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200622
<b>February</b>					
2021 Feb27	2021 Mar27	<b>Sint Maarten</b>	<b>PJ7AA</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200612
<b>April</b>					
2021 Apr28	2021 May24	<b>Botswana</b>	<b>A25VR</b>	VE7VR	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200130
<b>July</b>					
2021 Jul07	2021 Jul14	<b>Aruba</b>	<a href="#">P4</a>	ND7J	ND7J 20190722
2021 Jul23	2021 Aug03	<b>St Vincent</b>	<a href="#">J88PI</a>	GW4DVB Direct	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200727
<b>August</b>					
2021 Aug08	2021 Aug16	<b>St Pierre &amp; Miquelon</b>	<b>TO5T</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20200804
<b>September</b>					
2021 Sep15	2021 Oc- t05	<b>Jan Mayen</b>	<a href="#">JX0X</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200624
<b>October</b>					
2021 Oc- t01	2021 Oc- t30	<b>Sable I</b>	<a href="#">CY0C</a>	TBA	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200718