



Long Path



Volume 31 Issue 1

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

January 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Hope everyone had a good and healthy festive season to end 2020.
Hope 2021 is better than 2020.



A note from the PREZ

We will have elections at the January meeting. On December 15th, I sent out a notice asking for anyone interested in holding a position to let me know by the first of the year. As expected, no one responded! I will call for nominations at the meeting. If there are none then you have a serious problem.

Bob, k8rgm

President.



From the Editor's DESK

Hope everyone is surviving as well as can be expected during these trying times. I apologize for not publishing a December issue of The Long Path. I took a medical leave of absence from my editors desk late November, but I'm back now publishing as usual.

The January ZOOM meeting has an exciting agenda: Elections and a presentation by Glenn Johnson, W0GJ. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Calendar

NEXT Meeting:

NEW

Virtual Meeting

January 14th, 2021 at 7 PM

SEMDXA Elections and

a presentation by

Glenn Johnson, W0GJ -

VP6R Pitcairn Is.

DXpedition

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 Latawicz, **VE3CFK**

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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 next online virtual meeting on Thursday January 14th, 2021.

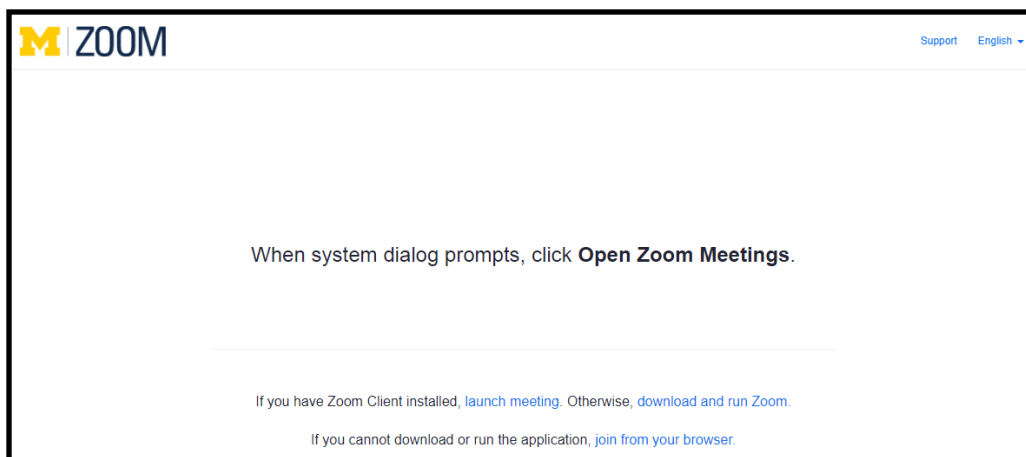
The meeting will be a presentation by Glenn Johnson, W0GJ. He'll be talking about his latest DXpedition - VP6R - Pitcairn Island.

The meeting will be conducted using ZOOM software. For the audience there is little to do other than to click on a link, which is 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>

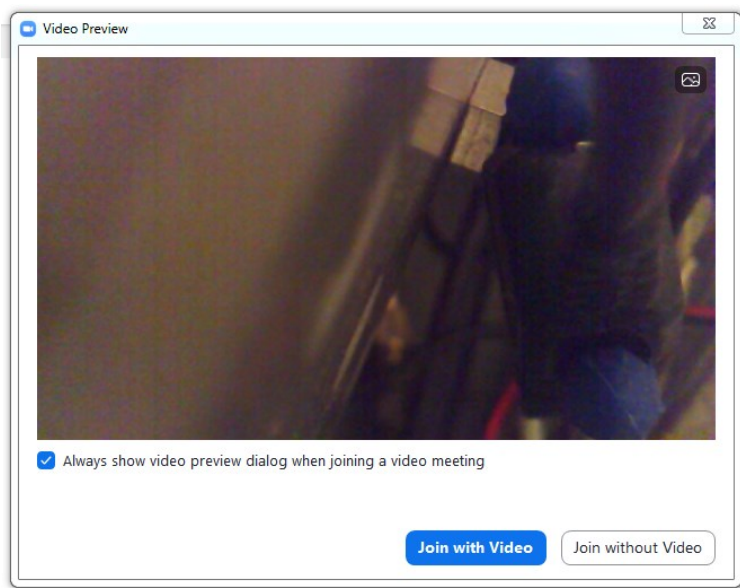
You may be redirected, but you should ultimately end up with this screen.



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

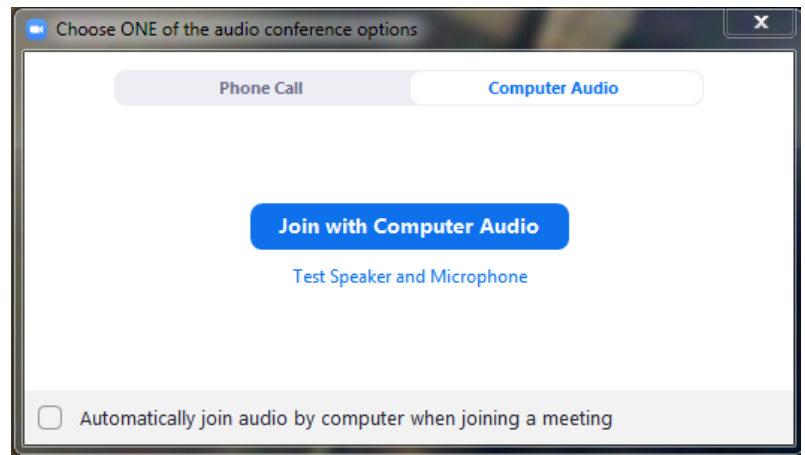
instructions on

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.

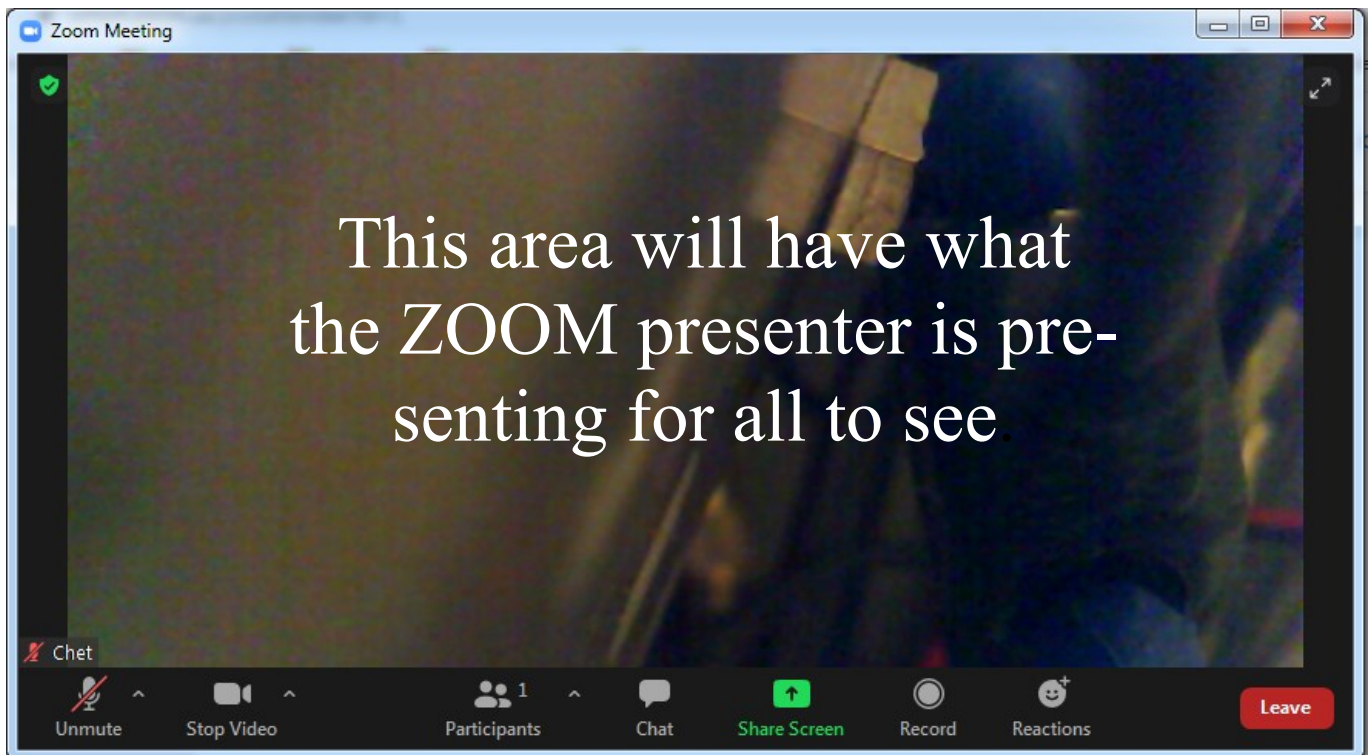


SEMDXA ONLINE VIRTUAL MEETING (cont'd)

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 14th.

Till then, 73,

Chet VE3CFK

November Meeting Minutes

Doug Basberg, N8VY, secretary

- Meeting called to order by Don AC8TO, at 7pm 11/05/2020
- 36 members and guests in attendance
- No Treasury Report
- No Minutes from last Zoom meeting in October.

New Business

- SEMDXA 'DX Most Wanted' survey is now available in the Long Path newsletter and on the web site.
- No 50/50 drawing this month.
- The November meeting was conducted on Zoom (as was the October meeting). The meeting host was Don AC8TO at U of M. Our presenter, Lance Collister, W7GJ did his presentation from Montana and had limited bandwidth, so Don would provide Lance's material from U of M.
- Lance's presentation was on Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) communication. His presentation covered 6M and 2M operation with emphasis on 6M. He presented how much digital modes have improved success by allowing a much lower Signal to Noise (S/N) to work. His operations on Dxpeditions used a packable antenna. We were able to see slides of antennas and operations at several Dxpedition locations. He presented information on how to start into EME and what equipment you could start with.
- David Schmocker, KJ9I, filled in when Lance's connection would drop. This was great and provided much material showing what contacts looked like on WSJT-X digital modes software.
- Thanks to Lance and David for a great program.
- There will be no meeting or Christmas lunch in December due to COVID-19.
- There will be a Zoom meeting and presentation on January 14th, 2021 at 7pm.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

CANCELLATIONS

- SEMDXA January in-person meeting cancelled. BUT! We're having a Virtual Meeting on Thursday January 14th!
- 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

NOT CANCELLED YET

Some things to look forward to:

- Sun spot Cycle 25 and 26
- February issue of The Long Path

USPS Status

Here's a link to "[USPS International Service disruptions list](#)" as of January 2, 2021.

UK - Uzbekistan

EA1CS reports UK9AA, Fedor, and other Uzbek Amateur Radio operators with class 1 licenses have gained authorization to operate on 60 meters on a secondary basis per WRC-15. UK stations can operate with up to 100 watts in the 5351.5 to 5366.5 KHz range. Fedor had previously received authorization to operate 5 MHz back in 2015.

K8CC - Silent Key

Dave Pruett, K8CC passed away December 29, 2020. Dave was author of NA Contest Software and keeper of the MIQP website and score tabulations. Here's a link to his [obituary](#).

ZC4 - UK Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus

2M1DHG, Garry, is back on the air as ZC4GR from the Eastern Sovereign Base Area. Listen for him during the day (his time) on 10 and 20 meters, then during his gray line on 20 meters and afterwards on 40 meters. He typically is active from 1700 to 1900Z on weekdays.

T6 - Afghanistan

S53R Robert is scheduled to fly out of snowy Slovenia this Saturday, January 9th, arriving in the Afghan capital on Monday January 11th.

Q65

Q65 is the designator of a new VHF/UHF transmission scheme due to arrive with WSJT-X 2.4.0. According to the Q65 Quick Start Guide "Q65 is particularly effective for tropospheric scatter, ionospheric scatter, and EME on VHF and higher bands, as well as other types of fast-fading signals."

Club Log Most Wanted

Check out Club Logs DXCC Most wanted List. Top 10 are: P5, 3Y/B, FT5/W, BS7H, CE0X, BV9P, KH7K, KH3, 3Y0/P and FT5/X

Interesting comment by David Minster, NA2AA

When writing my column for an upcoming issue of QST, I went into the scores database of CQWW to do some analysis. As I went through the results year by year, there was one thing that never changed: if you don't operate from Africa, it is very likely you cannot win, place, or show in CQWW. It may be time to take a page from Stew Perry and analyze what a big DX contest looks like when your score is based on band, distance, and power for each contact made. What becomes important? Does location get neutralized so that a station in Asia now has a chance of winning? Analyzing the years of excellent data from both CQWW and ARRL DX could revolutionize these events and lead to the creation of a more globally competitive contest.

KH4 - Midway Is.

Updating story on KH6VV/KH4, a multiop expedition, recently US Fish and Wildlife said they were uncomfortable with the proposed expedition date due to a forecast of a serious second covid wave and a new strain that may be 70% more contagious. Ron, KH6DV, says his group has agreed to the date change to September 2021 and are putting in a new supplemental use permit application. But "just after that discussion the email link went dark." Ron has learned there was "some incident" on Midway and the on-island management team was recalled, along with two of the supervisors for the contractor. A new management team is expected to arrive after the holidays. Then a new application may be submitted.

Drafted by - EA3O

PERIODIC TABLE OF MAJOR AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS



2021

Multimode CW Digital
 off-the-air SSB VHF/UHF

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2 1800Z ARRL RTTY Roundup	3 2400Z NA Sprint CW	7 0400Z ARRL DX SSB	7 2400Z SP Polish DX	3 1500Z 7QP/IN/DE New England QSO Parties	4 1500Z SEANET Contest	1 varies Marconi Memorial HF	2 varies NAQP CW	5 1200Z CWOps CW Open	6 1200Z California QSO Party	3 2100Z ARRL SS CW	8 0300Z ARRL 160
9 1800Z NAQP CW	10 0600Z WPX RTTY	13 0000Z NA Sprint RTTY	14 2400Z JIDX CW	14 0400Z CQ-M DX	10 0700Z ARRL June VHF	11 1300Z IARU HF	8 1500Z WAE CW	4 0600Z WAE SSB	2 2359Z Oceania CW	6 2100Z WAE RTTY	3 0300Z ARRL 10
16 1800Z NAQP SSB	17 0600Z ARRL DX CW	20 2400Z Russian DX	21 1200Z CQMM DX	17 0900Z King of Spain	18 2359Z All Asian CW	15 1200Z CQ VHF	16 1200Z NAQP SSB	19 varies WA/NJ/NH QSO Parties	18 1500Z Worked All Germany	20 0300Z ARRL SS SSB	18 0000Z RAC Winter
16 1800Z ARRL January VHF	18 0359Z CQ 160 SSB	26 2200Z WPX SSB	27 2200Z Florida QSO Party	28 2400Z Contest University Dayton Hamvention	24 1600Z ARRL Field Day	25 2159Z RSGB IOTA	20 1700Z WW Digi	23 0000Z CQWW RTTY	26 2400Z CQWW CW	27 0000Z CQWW CW	28 2400Z HAPPY HOLIDAYS
29 2200Z CQ 160 CW	31 2159Z			29 0000Z WPX CW	30 2400Z				30 0000Z CQWW SSB	31 2400Z	

**Propagation forecast for Thursday and Friday
January 7-8**

By W3LPL, Frank Donovan

Frank, W3LPL, generates a propagation forecast which is published in the Daily DX. It is an extensive forecast covering solar flux, propagation on 160, 80.....10M bands, the interplanetary magnetic field (IMF), geomagnetic storms, etc. etc. Just a wealth of information. Here's a small excerpt I found interesting: "Although northern hemisphere day length is just nine minutes longer than it was on December 21st, sunset is already 18 minutes later than it was four weeks ago as solar noon occurs about 30 seconds later each day mostly because of the affect of Earth's slightly elliptical orbit. Day length is increasing by one minute per day which gradually reduces the duration of common darkness between distant locations in the northern hemisphere and gradually shortens the duration of 80, 40 and 30 meter long path propagation to east Asia at north American sunset." (editors note. I am not connected to the Daily DX in any way shape or form. I have found the Daily DX over the years to be a wealth of timely DX information and highly recommend it to all DXers. Many of the DX tidbits in this newsletter have been extracted form The Daily DX).

3Y - Bouvet Is.

Per the Rebel DX Group's Facebook page they report "Some members of the Rebel DX Group have arrived in Cape Town, South Africa. After several Covid protocols we are in the good hands of our ZS friends and local supporters.

Just to remind you, the whole of our expedition equipment from the first Bouvet "attack" was secured at the QTH of Andre ZS1AN. What a great guy he is!! We will check again all our expedition gear during the coming days.

We had a very busy day yesterday with Shawn ZS1SBW, working on important paperwork for upcoming projects. More info on that soon.

The Bouvet (3Y0I) trip is on track. Still some budget is missing but we are hoping to get some of the missing \$\$\$\$. Our last attempt cost us over \$250K private money (donations were just 7%) and sadly that went to the "vessel chimney" (for fuel). Let's hope, this time we will be more lucky.

NE8Z Ponderings

NE8Z, Rick, has been "exploring the World via YouTube and Google Earth". He's been looking at Pratas Island noting the "huge military base there" and wondering if any of "the BV guys" stationed there are hams. Checking out San Felix (CE0X), he saw the "huge air strip" and the "military base" and continues to curiously ask if any of them are hams.

(above excerpted from The Daily DX)

Stew Perry Poem

A previous contributor to The Long Path - Vic, VE3YT had a creative moment while preparing for Decembers Stew Perry Contest. I present his "ode to Stew Perry"

'Twas the day after Christmas, when all through the house
Kids played with their toys and the cat caught a mouse.
Gathered round the tree, the people made merry
While the ham in the shack prepared for Stew Perry.

Although the Stew Perry contest was only Morse code
The ham didn't mind, 'twas his favourite mode.
The inverted L hung in a tall tree with care;
N1MM was loaded with the local grid square.

In the mid-afternoon the ham heard only static
And flew to the window looking down from the attic
To check the antenna, but it was still there.
It went up 30 feet, then across in the air.

His radials, of which he had only two,
They were not even straight but he hoped they would do.
It was not yet dusk, the sun was still high
The ham sat and relaxed with an audible sigh.

As the sun started to set, there arose such a clatter,
The ham spun the dial to see what was the matter.
160 meters was full of sigs that were strong
The ham picked one out and joined in the throng.

A few hours later, after running the band
The ham relaxed a bit, turkey sandwich at hand.
Already 100 QSOs in the log,
The ham dreamt of a Beverage or maybe a BOG.

As dawn approached, the ham was still at his work
Nodding off, a call woke him up with a jerk.
It was Santa, who had just got on for a bit

"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A DIT DIT."

JX - Jan Mayen

Erik LA2US is active as JX2US during the northern hemisphere winter. He operates CW, FT8 and probably some more modes. Focus on 160m, 80m, 40m and 30m. The season lasts until the end of March.

VP6 - Pitcairn Is.

VP6 – Pitcairn Island - VP6MW, Meralda, has been showing up most days on 18.147 MHz SSB around 1600 to 1730Z. She has a Yaesu FT-991 and vertical antenna.

3D2AG - Rotuma Is.

3D2AG's, Antoine, stay as 3D2AG/p on Rotuma has been extended until January 15th with plans to go QRT on either the 12th or 13th. Antoine has been very active on 160 meters between 0500 and at least 1200Z and long path to EU between 1700 and 1830Z. He's been heard on CW and FT8 on 20 and 17M.

NO Russian 6Ms

Posted on DX-World social media on Jan 6, 2021: Russian Government Radio Frequency Commission meeting took place December 30. They didn't approve 6M band allocation for hams and this issue was postponed without dates. Don't expect any activities on the 6M band in 2021 (with the exception of Crimea on whose territory a temporary permit is valid).

KH4 - Midway Is.

Ron, KH6DV announces a trip to Midway during September 2021 for about 2 weeks (if the COVID 19 is under control). Midway Atoll is #14 on the Clublog most wanted list and has not been active for some time. The aircraft used for the logistics flights has been downsized and visitors are no longer allowed to fly to the island. Operators interested in joining the expedition should be prepared to undertake a 6.75 day ocean voyage. The vessel DXpedition veteran A/S Machias can be seen on my QRZ page KH6DV.

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.

CY0 - Sable Is.

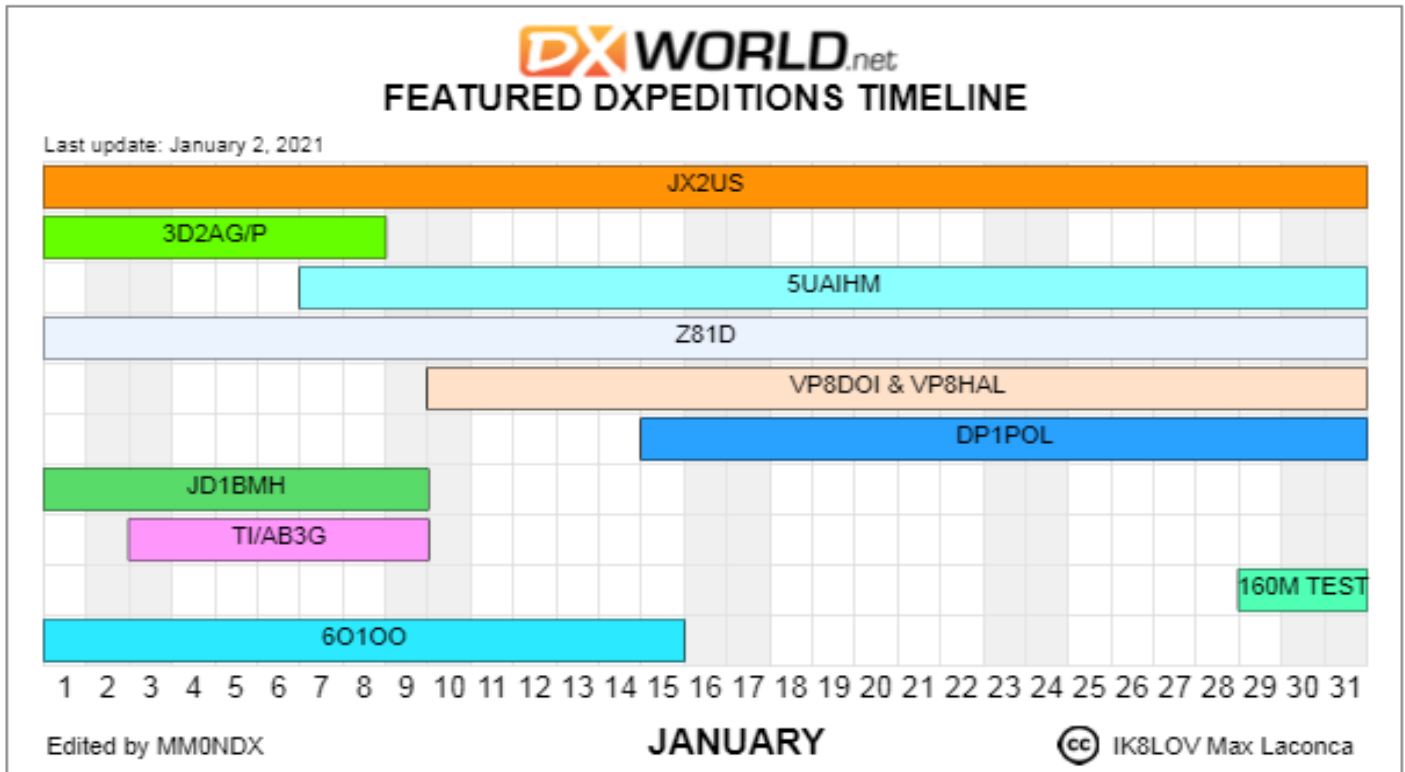
Permission for a DXpedition has been authorized with the team: WA2DAN, N2IEN, K5DHY, K5YY, K4UEE, WW2DX, AA4NC, N8AA, N2TU. The CY0C Sable Island DXpedition team will be active somewhere October 2021.

CE0Y - Easter Is.

The Polish DXpedition Team with Jan SP3CYY, Jurek SP3GEM, Wlodek SP6EQZ, Janusz SP6IXF, Roman SP9FOW and Piotr SP9RCL will be active somewhere during 2021 as XR0YSP. Plans are to be QRV with 3 stations from 160 to 10 meter using CW, SSB and FT8.

Upcoming DX

Credit to DX World



Pete K8PGJs Update

I now have a SO2R remoting set-up and I will be on the air over the next month as ZF2PG including the NAQP SSB Contest. If COVID keeps me from traveling thru March, I will also do the WPX SSB remotely.



VK9W - Willis Is.

The 2016/2019 CY9C team, and the upcoming Sable Island DXpedition CY0C team, is pleased to announce our next DXpedition. After the Sable CY0C DXpedition, they will go to Willis Island VK9W in 2021. 8 Operators from those two teams will comprise the 2021 Willis Island DXpedition team. Boat arrangements have already been made. We are currently working with the Australian government for the necessary permits.

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

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by
2020					
December					
2020 Dec15	2021 Jan13	Rotuma	3D2AG/p [spots]	PayPal	DXNews 20201019
2021					
January					
2021 Jan03	2021 Jan09	Costa Rica	TI [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20200622
2021 Jan07	2021 Feb11	Niger	5UAIHM	F4IHM	425DXN 20201225
2021 Jan09	2021 Jan26	Bolivia	CP1XRM	LoTW	TDDX 20201207
2021 Jan10	2021 Jan17	Cayman Is	ZF2PG	LoTW	OPDX 20210103
CQ 160m Contest, CW (Jan 29-31, 2021) Check here for pericontest activi-					
February					
ARRL International DX Contest, CW (Feb 20-21, 2021) Check here for					
2021 Feb27	2021 Mar27	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	LoTW	DXW.Net 20200612
March					
2021 Mar06	2021 Mar22	Maldives	8Q7CQ	M0OXO	DXW.Net 20201025
April					
2021 Apr28	2021 May24	Botswana	A25VR	VE7VR	TDDX 20200130
June					
2021 Jun12	2021 Jul10	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	LoTW	W5JON 20201222

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

2021 Jun22	2021 Jun28	St Eustatius	PJ5	LoTW	W5JON 20201222
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
October					
2021 Oct01	2021 Oct30	Sable I	CY0C	TBA	DXW.Net 20200718
2021 Oct16	2021 Nov12	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	LoTW	W5JON 20201209
2021 Oct25	2021 Nov01	St Eustatius	PJ5	LoTW	W5JON 20201209
CQ WW DX Contest, SSB (Oct 30-31, 2021) Check here for pericontest ac-					