



# Long Path



Volume 31 Issue 2

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

February 2021



## PRES Sez

We began the new year with a COVID delayed election of officers and managers. This resulted in a very good team being formed. The operations team had a zoom meeting on January 20th and discussed how we were going to coordinate our work. It is clear we will be doing zoom meets for some time. We will continue to monitor the situation as it unfolds. My own decision is to not attend an in person meeting until four weeks after my final vaccination (as they say and often do not mean ... based on the science). We are crammed in at the meetings and that does not help. We have a lead on a larger venue, but we will have to wait until we decide to resume meetings to firm that up.

Now that I will be chairing meets, we have worked out a plan for operating. I did four tutorials on Zoom to be better prepared. Our Zoom meetings are hosted by Don (AC8TO) with the paid U of M account. He is host. There is only one host but he can hand that off if he leaves the meeting or whatever. Usually though, co-hosting for others will suffice. The co-host has less control but enough for our purposes I think. So, Don will be host and the presenter and I will be co-hosts. We talked about controlling audio and decided trying to leave each participant to control their own audio. To control background noises like sneezes, dog's barking, and etc. everyone should mute their audio. When you wish to speak, you hold down your spacebar on the keyboard (cell phone alternative exists but I do not know what that is). It is just like push-to-talk (PTT) and we know about that operation. There are other modes like 'mute except hosts', but lets see how everyone controlling their own audio works out.

We also discussed opening up our Zoom meetings to other clubs that may be interested in the presentation. Everyone thought that was OK and may even generate new members. Our program managers have an exciting list of potential presentations and I think others will be interested in attending. When we are crowding into a meeting room again, then that is a different story.

## Calendar

**NEXT Meeting:**

# NEW

### Virtual Meeting

February 11th, 2021 at 7 PM

**Tim Duffy, K3LR**

**Presenting**

**“Contesting”**

### SEMDXA OFFICERS

*President:* Doug Basberg, **N8VY**

*Vice-president:* Dave DeRain, **K8ESQ**

*Treasurer:* Brad Nowak, **N8SNM**

*Secretary:* Chet Latawicz, **VE3CFK**

*Program Director:* Ted Pauck, **K8NA**  
and Steve Culp, **K8QKY**

*Directors:* Ted, **K8NA**, and Lee, **N8LJ**

### Club Appointees:

*Web Site Editor:* Larry Gauthier, **K8UT**

*LP Publisher:* Chet Latawicz, **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**

## PREZ Sez

Cont'd from page 1

The next elections will be in June. Our web master Larry (K8UT) will be retiring and we will be filling that position (handling our Wordpress web site). Please consider filling a position to support the club. We also need a 50/50 manager when we start in person meetings.

We have an excellent operations team in place and I am looking forward to our regular Zoom meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm. Meeting Zoom opens around 6:50pm for getting everyone operational before the meeting starts. See you there.

Doug, N8VY

## January 2021 Meeting Minutes

Robert Mueller, K8RGM, past President

Meeting opened at approximately 7:15PM

19 people in attendance thru ZOOM.

Secretary minutes approved as published in The Long Path.

Treasurer's report. Brad not at the meeting (Hawaii on our dime?). Al, K8SIX, phoned Brad, K8SNM and was assured we still have money.

Next came the elections. They started here and continued after the presentation. Rather than keep this in sequence here are the results.

President - Doug Basberg, N8VY

Vice President - Dave DeRain, K8ESQ

Secretary - Chet Latawiec, VE3CFK

Treasurer - Brad Nowak, N8SNM

Programs - Steve Culp, K8QKY and Ted Pauck, K8NA

Chet, VE3CFK, will continue as Long Path editor.

Thank you everyone for getting this all sorted out.

Cont'd.....

## January 2021 Meeting Minutes

Cont'd

The Program was presented by Glenn Johnson, W0GJ. It covered a DXpedition that started out for Bouvet and got cancelled and ended up at Pitcairn Island which was made famous by the Mutiny on the Bounty.

37 people live there now and are very hospitable. Glenn indicated he was going to go back with his wife for another visit. It was also mentioned that YouTube is carrying many videos on Pitcairn Island. Just do a search on Pitcairn Island.

The presentation was one of the most interesting ones I have seen. Thank you again to Glenn.

After the presentation there was some discussion about opening up our meeting to other clubs. We have done this already to a small degree. The reaction was positive so our new President can pursue this subject.

The meeting was closed at approximately 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob, K8RGM, Past President (whew!)

## ZOOM MEETINGS

As most of our readership is aware, SEMDXA in-person monthly meetings have been replaced with virtual meetings, using ZOOM till September 2021 (and possibly later, depending on COVID-19 circumstances).

For those not familiar with ZOOM, please refer to the 2020 October or November issues of The Long Path which are accessible online on the SEMDXA Website for details on how to setup your computer for a ZOOM meeting.

Our link to the February 11th ZOOM meeting is:

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

## 3W– Vietnam

SP5FAR, Sebastian will be in Da Nang till March 21st. He'll be using an Xiegu G90 and OMET Magnetic Loop .

## VK0M - Macquarie

VK3YP, John, says he and friends are working on getting a landing permit but it is harder and almost impossible to get permission from the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service. Macquarie is a protected nature reserve.

## KH0 - Marianna Is

KH0/KC0W, Tom, aka KH0W, has gotten his shipment of 160M gear and is ready to be QRV on 160. He works until midnight and notes that he is making “the world’s first 160 meter FT8 QSO” when he gets off work. He will be fine tuning his 160M tx/rx skills over the next few nights and will be posting a video of the first FT8 QSO on his new YouTube channel. He says “Search for KC0W on YouTube.” His antenna is an inverted L with four elevated radials and power up to 1 KW. On receive he has a DX Engineering antenna and a loop. He is emphasizing CW but says, “I will unfortunately be doing a lot of FT8 I think.” He is targeting North America and Europe but knows Japan “will be pounding in since Japan is less than 1,400 miles away from KH0 land.”

## Pirate Alert

Someone has been using 1A0KM on FT-8. Work first. Worry latter. Chances are it's a pirate!

## CANCELLATIONS

- SEMDXA February **in-person** meeting cancelled. BUT! We're having a Virtual Meeting on Thursday February 11th!
- All future cancellations are cancelled, since there is nothing left to cancel! Well so I thought. This pandemic is lasting longer than it was scheduled to, and is now affecting many 2021 events!!!! Stay tuned to this post for future cancellations.
- 2021 Hamcation in Orlando Florida postponed to February 11-13, 2022
- Hamvention 2021, XENIA, OH cancelled

## NOT CANCELLED YET

Some things to look forward to:

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

## USPS Status

Here's a link to "[USPS International Service disruptions list](#)" as of January 29, 2021.

## SEMDXA 2021 DUES Cancelled

SEMDXA membership dues are cancelled for 2021. If you were a SEMDXA member in 2020, your membership is carried forward to 2021 gratis. You can check the SEMDXA Web Site membership roster to confirm your 2020 membership.

## JD1/O - OGASAWARA

JH3QFL, Takio, tells us he plans to operate JD1BQA from Chichisima (AS-031) from May 1-7. He will have an FTdx101MP, IC-7300 and FT-857D running 200 watts into a groundplane, dipole and Yagi. He will be capable of running FT8 on 1.8 through 50 MHz. Seems he may concentrate on FT8 and FT4 on 160, 80, 40 and 6 Meters. He will do some CW on the RS-44 satellite.

## VK9/W & VK9/M Willis & Mellish Reef

**The Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia October 2021 DXpeditions to Willis Island and Mellish Reef.** VK3YP, John, says the callsigns VK9HR are expected to be renewed in August and "VK9IR will be an additional callsign to be allocated". The most important document is the landing permit, which comes from Parks Australia. A permit is not "required to visit these coral sea islands for non-commercial purposes but a permit application is required to setup a camp site and to stay overnight on the island". The seven operator team plan to use verticals on 160, 80, 40 and 30 Meters, while VDAs will be used on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 Meters. Activity is expected on SSB, CW and FT8 on 1.8 through 28 MHz. They expect to have two Kenwood TS-590S and two Icom IC-7300 with all SPE amplifiers.

## 3A - Monaco

There is a new ham in Monaco - 3A2OC, Blaise. He has a Yaesu FTDX-3000 to a long wire and a vertical.

## HAMFESTS !

03/06/2021 - Cave City Hamfest, Cave City, KY -- CANCELED  
 03/07/2021 - WINTERHAMFEST, Elyria, OH -- CANCELED  
 04/25/2021 - Athens Hamfest, Athens, OH  
 5/21/2021 - Dayton Hamvention, Xenia, OH -- CANCELED  
 6/5/2021 - Fulton County, Wauseon, OH  
 7/10/2021 - Mansfield Mid Summer Trunkfest, Mansfield, OH  
 7/18/2021 - Van Wert Hamfest, Van Wert, OH  
 8/28/2021 - Cincinnati Hamfest, Cincinnati, OH  
 9/11/2021 - Greater Louisville, Shepherdsville, KY  
 9/18/2021 - Cadillac Hamfest, Cadillac, MI  
 9/18/2021 - Richmond Hamfest, Richmond, KY  
 9/26/2021 - Cleveland Hamfest, Berea, OH  
 12/4/2021 - Fulton Co Winterfest, Delta, OH

## 8J - Antarctica

The Japanese Antarctica Research Expedition (JARL) station 8J1RL will continue to be QRV from February 2021 to January 2022 with operator JG3PLH, Takumi, at the helm. This Antarctic station is located at the Japanese Syowa Station East Ongle Island, Lutzow-holm Bay, Dronning Maud Land (AN-015). At the station are an IC-7610 and IC-7300 capable of running 50 watts into a 4 element Yagi (20/15/10 Meters), 3 Element Yagi (30/17/12 Meters) and Wire (40 Meters).

## ZD8 - Ascension Is.

TA1HZ, Tevfik passed quarantine and is now on the air as ZD8HZ on 20 and 17 meters FT8. Due to his work schedule, Monday through Saturday, he can only operate after 1900Z.

Drafted by - EA3O

**PERIODIC TABLE OF MAJOR AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS**



**2021**

Multimode (green), off-the-air (grey), CW (purple), SSB (blue), Digital (yellow), VHF/UHF (orange)

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 2200Z 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 2359Z WAE SSB	2 1600Z 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	21 1200Z King of Spain	17 0900Z All Asian CW	18 2359Z CQ VHF	15 1200Z NAQP SSB	19 1600Z WA/NJ/NH QSO Parties	16 1500Z Worked All Germany	17 1459Z ARRL SS SSB	18 2359Z 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	20 2159Z ARRL Field Day	23 1700Z RSGB IOTA	26 0000Z WW Digi	28 1200Z CQWW RTTY	25 0000Z CQWW CW	26 2400Z HAPPY HOLIDAYS	27 0000Z CQWW CW
29 2200Z CQ 160 CW	31 2159Z CQWW SSB			29 0000Z WPX CW	30 2400Z CQWW SSB				30 0000Z CQWW SSB	31 2400Z CQWW SSB	

**KH9 - Wake Is.**

NL7RR, Thomas, is planning to be back on Wake Island starting in mid-February 2021. He was last there and QRV as NL7RR/KH9 in October of last year. During that trip he was active on both 40 and 20 meters SSB operating for three days for several hours making about 75 contacts. This time he will be there for 90 days. Once on the island and set up Thomas will post suggested “bands and frequency’s and UTC times”. QSL via AL7JX.

**A2 - Botswana**

Dave Johnson, VE7VR’s Botswana trip was planned for 2020 but was postponed 1 year due to covid-19. He is hoping that was enough time. All flights, vehicle and overnight stays have been confirmed so unless this comes off the rails again, we should be on the way April 28-May 24, 2021. This will be my 3rd trip to Botswana. I lived there for 9 months in 1972 and was on the air using A2CEW. In 2018, my wife and I returned, and I was on the air in a limited way as A25VR. Propagation was so bad I only managed 96 Qs in 6 days of trying. This year we will be back for a 3 week self-driving 4X4 camping safari. Each day I will set up camp, which will include inverted vees and IC-7100.

## 5V - Togo

Daniel Eberil, HB9EHD has his equipment packed, the visas obtained and the callsign granted (5VDE). All is ready for our next mini-DX adventure to Togo/Africa from February 11 to February 20. After clearing customs in the capital Lome, making a second COVID Test at arrival, followed by a 24h quarantine, we will drive 7h north by jeep to Kara, w[h]ere we will set up our QTH. This will be just a little north of the famous historic telegraphy station KAMINA from 1914. The rise and death of this German communication outpost could serve as a script for an intense spy movie (more on Wikipedia). Daniel (HB9EHD) and Dominik will support the doctors at the university hospital in Kara and use their spare time to put Togo on the ham map. The team will put up wire antennas and sat dishes. The overall goal is to use the open 40m and 20m bands for FT-8 and QO-100 for SSB. For FT-8 we will bring an Yaesu 991-a and an EFHW running 100W. Without too much QRM this should work fine on 40m after sunset. We will not use Fox/Hound mode. For QO-100 a 40cm camping dish with an Adalm-Pluto is used. This setup was already field tested and works fine. While our signal is always fairly strong, there might be a limitation in hearing other QRP stations. So please use your larger sat dishes to contact us. We will be working just below the middle beacon, maybe in split mode. Please keep in mind that any travel during COVID pandemic brings uncertainty. We will do our best to be on the air as often as time permits. All QSOs will be confirmed by LoTW and eQSL. Specially printed QSL-Cards are available via HB9EHD (2USD and SA-Envelope). See QRZ.com for details. Looking forward to a friendly QSO with all of you.

Haul up the flag, you DXers,  
Not half-mast but all the way;  
The cycle is done and ended;  
DXers will have their day!

## 3A - Monaco

F4FRL, Mireille; and F5RBB, Patrick, will sign 3A/F4FRL and 3A/F5RBB when there, February 24 to March 2. Look for them on 40 and SSB and digital modes. QSL—LOTW or eQSL.

## What's the Time?

Things might just get a little challenging for UTC - Coordinated Universal Time, that is - the time-keeping system so familiar to us hams who pursue precision in our DX contacts or use some of the newer digital modes. Scientists are now suggesting that the world's atomic clocks, which control UTC, shorten the minute so that UTC can better keep pace with the irregular rate of the Earth's rotation, which most people measure using the less precise method known as "solar time."

When the Earth's rotation was seen to be slowing, scientists added something called a "leap second" to the end of a particular year. They've done this 27 times since 1972 to keep atomic clocks and UTC sympatico with solar time. Scientists believe Earth's 24-hour rotation has grown swifter now, making the days ever-so-slightly shorter. They also believe 2021 could well be the shortest year we've had in many decades. They say this will ultimately have an impact on navigation systems and satellite communications and anything else that requires precision in cosmic timekeeping.

This very subject is up for discussion at the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2023 which is at least two years - and many, many, many, many seconds away.

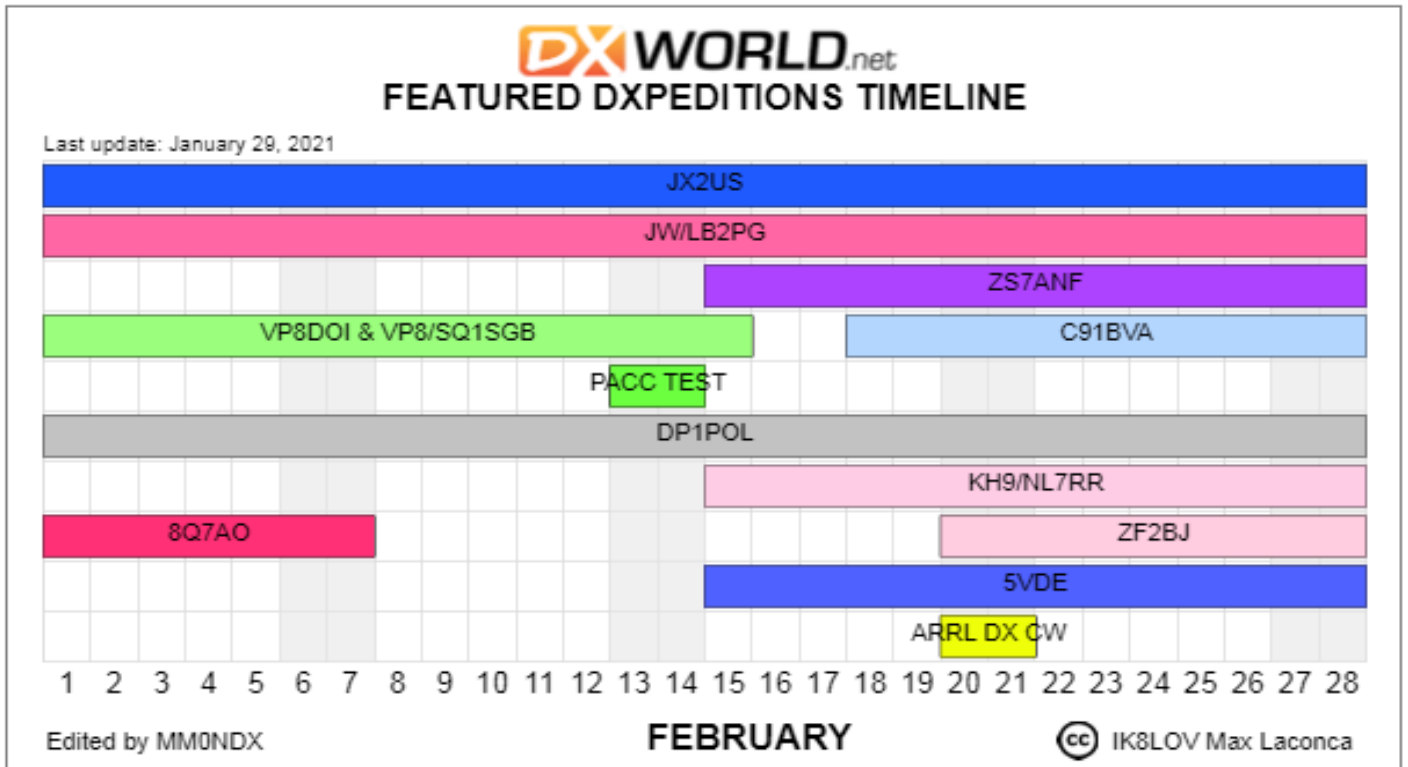
The logo for DX WORLD.net features the letters 'DX' in a stylized, bold font with a yellow-to-orange gradient, followed by 'WORLD.net' in a black, sans-serif font.

QUIZ number 17:

[DX-World Quiz #17 LINK](#)

Upcoming DX

Credit to DX World



**Say What?**

Jim Brown, K9YC writes: Hearing "doctors" who sell hearing aids get a 100% commission for what they sell, doubling the cost to the buyer. When my XYL was looking for aids, several ham friends who also happen to be engineers, recommended Costco. I went with her to the appointment to check her hearing and prescribe aids, and I took the same evaluation as she did. I was also present when they "tuned" the aids she bought a few weeks later. As an audio professional, I had to learn a lot about human hearing, and I was VERY impressed with every aspect of the process. They used excellent instrumentation, and the people doing it knew what they were doing. AND -- Costco sells top quality aids without the 100% markup, so the cost is half of what we would pay to an audiologist's office.

Editors Note: I'm not endorsing Costco. I just found Jim's comments interesting.

**Helpful ZOOM Hint**

ZOOM can sometimes be a noisy environment. Especially if everyone has their microphone turned on. To help the attendees better hear the presentation or speaker, please mute your microphone. The push-to-talk feature allows you to remain muted throughout your Zoom meeting and hold down the spacebar when you want to be unmuted and talk. In the Zoom Desktop Client, click your profile picture then click Settings. Click the Audio tab. Check the option Press and hold SPACE key to temporarily unmute yourself. This setting is now enabled.

**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
<b>2021</b>					
<b>January</b>					
2021 Jan07	2021 Feb11	Niger	5UAIHM <a href="#">[spots]</a>	F4IHM	<a href="#">425DXN</a> 20201225
2021 Jan21	2021 Feb06	Guadeloupe	FG <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20210125
2021 Jan25	2021 Feb07	Maldives	8Q7AO <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20210114
2021 Jan25	2021 Feb06	Grenada	J3 <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20210128
<a href="#">CQ 160m Contest, CW (Jan 29-31, 2021) Check here for pericontest activity</a>					
<b>February</b>					
2021 Feb11	2021 Feb20	Togo	5VDE	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20210114
2021 Feb15	2021 Feb28	Wake I	KH9	AL7JX	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20210118
2021 Feb18	2021 Feb28	Mozambique	C91BVA	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20210201
<a href="#">ARRL International DX Contest, CW (Feb 20-21, 2021) Check here for pericon-</a>					
2021 Feb20	2021 Mar05	Cayman Is	ZF2BJ	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20210126
2021 Feb24	2021 Mar02	Monaco	3A	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20210111
2021 Feb27	2021 Mar27	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200612
<b>March</b>					
2021 Mar04	2021 Mar23	Curacao	PJ2	LoTW	DK5ON 20210131
2021 Mar06	2021 Mar22	Maldives	8Q7CQ	M0OXO	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20201025
<a href="#">CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB (Mar 27-28, 2021) Check here for pericontest activ-</a>					

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

April					
<b>NEW!</b> 2021 Apr28	2021 May24	Botswana	A25VR	VE7VR	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200130
May					
2021 May01	2021 May07	Ogasawara	<b>JD1BQA</b>	JH3QFL Direct	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20210129
June					
2021 Jun12	2021 Jul10	St Kitts & Ne- vis	<a href="#">V47JA</a>	LoTW	W5JON 20201222
2021 Jun22	2021 Jun28	St Eustatius	<a href="#">PJ5</a>	LoTW	W5JON 20201222
2021 Jun29	2021 Jul13	St Pierre & Miquelon	<a href="#">FP</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20191126
July					
2021 Jul07	2021 Jul14	Aruba	<a href="#">P4</a>	ND7J	ND7J 20190722
2021 Jul23	2021 Aug03	St Vincent	<a href="#">J88PI</a>	GW4DVB Direct	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200727
August					
2021 Aug08	2021 Aug16	St Pierre & Miquelon	TO5T	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20200804
October					
2021 Oc- t01	2021 Oc- t30	Sable I	<a href="#">CY0C</a>	TBA	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200718
2021 Oc- t01	2021 Oc- t30	Mellish Reef	<b>VK9HR</b>	TBD	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20210128
2021 Oc- t01	2021 Oc- t30	Willis I	<b>VK9IR</b>	TBD	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20210128
2021 Oc- t16	2021 Nov12	St Kitts & Ne- vis	<a href="#">V47JA</a>	LoTW	W5JON 20201209
2021 Oc- t25	2021 Nov01	St Eustatius	<a href="#">PJ5</a>	LoTW	W5JON 20201209
<a href="#">CQ WW DX Contest, SSB (Oct 30-31, 2021) Check here for pericontest activity</a>					