

Volume 31 Issue 3 SEMDXA NEWSLETTER March 2021



# **PRES Sez**

My wife, Helen, and I have had our Pfizer vaccine shots and it is my hope you and yours will also get the vaccine and safety soon. I am not sure whether field day can be done safely. I usually do that with OC-ARS and I expect we will decide at the Zoom meeting tonight or at least discuss it.

I saw the article in QST (March, page 40) about yet another digital mode by Joe Taylor called FST4. So, I downloaded the latest WSJT-X version 2.3 and sure enough it lists that mode. I also D/L the manual which has FST4 info. I guess I should read that. The article in QST did not mention what frequencies will be used but the program generally has values once you pick the mode. At this point I have not tried it, but will shortly. The QST article did mention using it on 6M (as in figure 1).

I have been doing well with FT8 on 10M lately (Northwest Territories, South Korea, New Zealand, Hawaii, etc.). Maybe next Fall/Winter will be a good DX and contesting season.

Thanks to the excellent program schedule (see schedule in this issue), we will most likely have a number of guests attending and perhaps becoming members. With our great newsletter and programs, this DX Association has a lot to offer.

We will discuss the June officer election during the April meeting. I am hoping the members are considering how they can assist in SEMDXA operations.

We have all been cooped up way too long. Here on Green Acres, we have seen 6" of snow melt away and tease us with Spring. I, for one, am ready!

73 Doug, N8VY

#### Calendar

**NEXT Meeting:** 



### **Virtual Meeting**

March11th, 2021 at 7 PM

**PROGRAM** 

### Cezar VE3LYC

"Let's Talk about IOTA"

#### SEMDXA OFFICERS

President: Doug Basberg, N8VY
Vice-president: Dave DeRain, K8ESQ
Treasurer: Brad Nowak, N8SNM
Secretary: Chet Latawiec, 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 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 CO Checker: Al Bailey, K8SIX

### **February 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Chet Latawiec, VE3CFK, Secretary

Meeting opened at 7:04PM

Doug, N8VY, our president introduced SEMDXA's new executive, as follows:

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.

At the meeting, Bob, K8RGM volunteered to take on the duties of 50/50 orchestrator.

Doug, N8VY conducted role call. 33 people in attendance via ZOOM. 4 members of the Kitchener/Waterloo Club were also in attendance.

January meeting minutes as published in the February issue of the Long Path accepted. Motion to accept - Al, K8SIX and seconded by Chuck, W8GWS.

Brad, N8SNM presented a financial report. Motion to accept - Al, K8SIX and seconded by Chuck, W8GWS.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was agreed that virtual meetings will continue until most people are interested in meeting in person.

SEMDXA elections will be held in June, 2021. A new Webmaster is required as Larry Gauthier, K8UT is retiring from the post.

The present executive have discussed the opportunity for other clubs to join our ZOOM meeting. The invitation is open to those clubs wishing to join us. There were no objections to this proposal from the floor.

### February 2021 Meeting Minutes

... Cont'd

Tim Duffy, K3LR gave a presentation via ZOOM on his contest station. A labor of love for 30+ years has yielded a station achieving many coveted wins and places amongst the world competitors. See my article further within this issue of The Long Path for many of the highlights of Tim's coveted station.

### **Future SEMDXA Programs**

Our program directors - Ted, K8NA and Steve, K8QKY have lined up a marvelous chorus of ZOOM presentations for March until September. Here they are:

**March** - Cezar VE3LYC -- topic - Let's Talk about IOTA. See Cezar's bio further into this issue.

April - Adrian YO8SDA -- topic 4U1UN

May - Bob Heil K9EID -- topic Audio

June - Rob K6RB -- topic CW OPS

**September** - Esteband. YV5DTA/W4DTA -- topic unknown

## **ZOOM MEETINGS**

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

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 March 11th ZOOM meeting is:

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

# Cezar VE3LYC Biography

Cezar has been licensed since 1995 and holds DXCC Honor Roll (339 MIXT, 339 SSB, 338 CW, 328 DIGI), DXCC 160M, 9BDXCC, WAZ (SSB, CW, RTTY), 5BWAZ (200), DXCC Challenge 2820, IOTA Plaque of Excellence, IOTA Trophy (IOTA 1000), Antarctica Award Honor Roll, VUCC, etc. He is a member of FOC (#1994) and A1-Op Club and is also the IOTA Operations Manager and serves on the Board of Directors of IOTA Ltd.

Not only has Cezar chased DX, he has been DX. Cezar has activated many IOTA, some never activated before. Here is a short list: Tatakoto Atoll OC-298, Tillamook Rock NA-211, Little Diomede Is. NA-150, Morane Atoll OC-297, Maria Est Atoll OC-113 and many more.

His presentation "Lets Talk about IOTA" on Thursday March 11th should be outstanding!

# PY0F - Fernando de Noronha

The "PX0N Team" will be on the air during May-June. The group includes PY2RMZ, PU4MDO and likely other ops, planning to be on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10. QSL via EA7FTR.

### **VP8 – Falkland Islands**

VP8 ops plan a field day setup, March 12-14, with dipoles and inverted Vs on the beach at Yorke Bay east of Stanley. Each of the ops will use their own callsign /P. To be sure they can make QSOs they'll use FT8 and may move to FT4 if signals

## **CANCELLATIONS**

- SEMDXA March **in-person** meeting cancelled. BUT! We're having a Virtual Meeting on Thursday March 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.
- Hamvention 2021, XENIA, OH cancelled

# NOT CANCELLED YET

Some things to look forward to:

- Sun spot Cycle 25 and 26
- April issue of The Long Path
- Easter, 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas

### **USPS Status**

Here's a link to "<u>USPS International Service disruptions list</u>" as of March 1, 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.

# **ZR2A** says Hello

... by Chet VE3CFK

I was chasing DX on FT-8 late in February when a South African station showed up on WSJT. I called and called and called but to no avail. Shortly thereafter I received this email....

#### Hello Chet,

Thank you very much for trying on 20m and I am sorry that the QSO did not work out. Conditions were tanking and I could not get through any longer. I am running only 30W and a low wire in a tree behind our home.

As you may know, I lived in Michigan from 2003 until 2009 and was (am?) a SEMDXA member. I am still receiving and enjoying the SEMDXA newsletter - thank you very much for that!

We will stay here in South Africa until July 2021 and return to our home country of Germany then. We have been here since mid 2018 and it has been a very interesting time. I was able to qualify for WRTC2022 in Bologna from here which is a contester's dream come true.

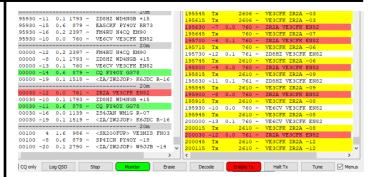
I hope to get you in my log before the end of our stay.

#### 73! Uli ZR2A / KK8I / DM5EE

Here a couple photos Uli attached to the email.



And a screen shot of his PC...



And then a couple days later success!, followed by



#### Hi Chet,

Thank you for the QSO, very happy, we made it!

#### 73 to Sarnia! Uli ZR2A

In an intermediate email, Uli mentioned that NE8Z, K8SIX and W1SKU also made it into his log earlier.

### 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

# **Drafted by - EA30**

### PERIODIC TABLE OF MAJOR AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS



# VK9C – Cocos Keeling

Ten members of the Northern Corridor Radio Group are planning an activation of Cocos Keeling



- VK9C between March 16th and 23rd 2021. Theoperation is vacation style although having said that, with 10 of us on the team, we expect to be quite active, but possibly not 24/7. We also hope to have involvement of the sole resident amateur on Cocos and we would like also to get him set up on HF while we are there. We plan to be active on 80 through to 10m (possibly 6 as well), with two radios operating on FT8, CW and SSB. Antennas will be modest.

### HV - Vatican

IK0FVC/HV0A will be on the air with the HV0A callsign, next weekend in the ARRL SSB, March 6-7.

# **HC** - Equador

Rick, NE8Z will be in Equator from March 5th to May 15th. He'll be staying at Farallon Dillon Lighthouse, CQ Zone 10, Grid: EL97 using an FT857D and a vertical on 20,17, 15, 12, 10 and 6M using CW, SSB and FT-8. QSL via K8LJG & LOTW after the trip

### 5W - Samoa

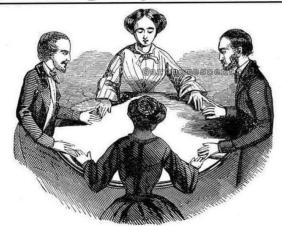
JF1OCQ, Hiro, is now running 5W7X remotely from Japan to Samoa via the Internet. The station includes an IC-775DX and Longwire with an antenna tuner running between 50 and 100 watts on 1.8 through 28 MHz.

# 3D2 - Fiji Is.

The Rebel DX Group plans to operate for three to four months from Conway, Rotuma and several rare IOTA groups for the next three of four months.

The following was submitted by Rick, NE8Z.

#### Zoom meetings are just modern seances



- "There's someone who wants to join us."
- "Elizabeth, are you there? "We can't hear you."

#### "Can you hear us?"

# **K3LR's Presentation**

Tim, K3LR has spent 30+ years building his contest station. His antenna farm is amazing, especially his 40M capabilities. He has the world's tallest and largest 40M antenna array. And his receive antennas are a Hi-Z 8 circle array for 160M, a pair of 4square on 80M which gives 3db gain over just a single array, and dedicated 4 square arrays for 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. Because these are vertically polarized from the yagis they allow simultaneous listening while transmitting on the same band! A real advantage for searching for multipliers.

Power failures during contests? No problem with his 50kW back-up generator.

He has hosted many top operators from around the world to enjoy multi-multi contests. Team Exuberance were hosted in 2019 and the young participants won!

Interestingly there are NO wall warts on Tim's property. Only linear power supplies! All cell phone chargers are confiscated as soon as the operator arrives on site and returned before they leave!

Many interesting questions from the audience were fielded by Tim. I learned a lot from Tim's presentation and I know many in the audience did as well.

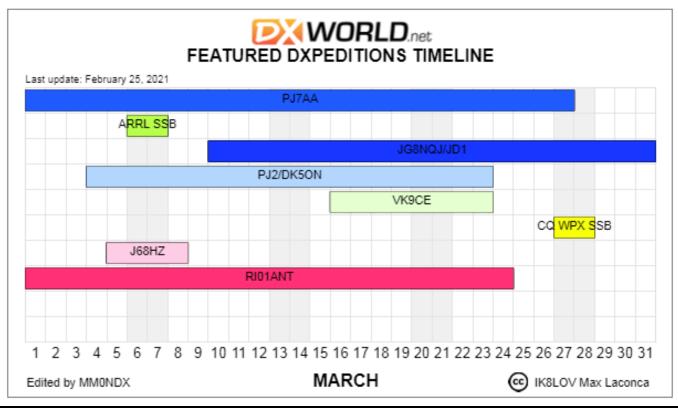
Thank you Tim on behalf of SEMDXA for the excellent presentation. And may the contest wins keep on coming.

# Polar QSO's

DC8TM, Thomas, and DF3TS, Martina are planning to be QRV from JW – Svalbard from April 10-13, then from the drift ice camp (DP0LE and RA/DC8TM/p) from April 14-17 and then finally for about 30 minutes from the North Pole using calls DP0LE and DC8TM/p. Exact date and time for that activity has not been determined. For the latest, check https://www.grz.com/db/DC8TM

#### **Upcoming DX**

#### Credit to DX World



# FT-8 Boring

By Chet VE3CFK

Whow. Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that FT-8 is boring. I meant to say that I was bored at the start of this year and was looking for something different to do during this period of pandemia.

So I decided to explore FT-8 in a more serious way than in the past. I decided to see if I could work 10 FT-8 contacts a day for a year for a total of 3650 QSO's in 2021.

Well! One thing led to another. It was fun creating pile-ups of 4, 5, 7 at a time. Trying to keep them all sorted and not denying the deserving a QSO with a rare Canadian grid square at times was a challenge.

But as time went on, I was curious as to how many grid squares, DXCC entities, USA counties I had worked as the numbers started to climb. And then I found a program called "GridTracker". A FREE program that tracks all that I wanted and has a marvelous graphical display.



Here's a screen shot of Europe from Grid Tracker. Red indicates confirmed grids with LOTW, yellow indicates worked but not yet confirmed. GridTracker is certainly worth while exploring. Lots of YouTube videos on how to set it up and use it.

So how have I done? Well from January 1st to March 2nd: 2815 FT-8 QSO's, worked 938 grids, confirmed 696 grids, 128 DXCC entities confirmed and 141 worked on 160, 80,40,20,17,15 and 12M.

I think I'll have 3650 QSO's by end of March!

### **Upcoming DX**

# Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

Start	<u>End</u>	DXCC	<u>Call</u>	QSL	Reported	Editors NOTE:						
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2021 Feb26	2021 Apr02	Wake I	KH9 [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20210212							
2021 Feb27	2021 Mar27	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA [spots]	LoTW	DXW.Net 20200612							
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ARRL International DX Contest, Phone (Mar 6-7, 2021) Check here for pericon-												
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Mar16	Mar23	Cocos Keeling	VK9CE	LoTW	20210215							
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB (Mar 27-28, 2021) Check here for pericontest activity												
<u>too.</u>												
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2021 Apr26	2021 May09	Svalbard	JW6VDA	LoTW	<u>DXNews</u> 20210223							
2021 Apr28	2021 May24	Botswana	A25VR	VE7VR	TDDX 20200130							
	May											
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### **Upcoming DX**

# Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

<sup>NE'9</sup> 2021 Jun29	2021 Jul13	St Pierre & Mi- quelon	<u>FP</u>	LoTW	<u>DXW.Net</u> 20191126					
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2021 Jul23	2021 Aug03	St Vincent	J88PI	GW4DVB Direct	<u>DXW.Net</u> 20200727					
Aug	just									
2021 Aug01	2021 Aug30	Dominican Republic	HI9 eQSL		TDDX 20200206					
2021 Aug08	2021 Aug16	St Pierre & Miquelon	TO5T	LoTW	<u>DXNews</u>					
September					20200804					
					DXNews					
2021 Sep20	2021 Sep30	Tanzania	5H1IP	ClubLog OQRS	20210227					
CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY (Sep 25-26, 2021) Check here for pericontest activition.										
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