Volume 31 Issue 4 SEMDXA NEWSLETTER April 2021



From the Editor's **DESK**

As I write this on April 1st, I find it hard to believe that it has been a vear since Covid 19 became a life altering thing in our lives. A thing that we can not see, that has taken so many lives and affected everyone on this planet in one way or aother.

Another thing (at least it is believed to exist) that we cannot see, are radio waves. Are they real? Or is it magic? I for one, although I am a man of science, believe that it is magic. You send out a CQ with your call sign and magically your call sign is returned from an unknown source until it is suffixed with another call sign. At that moment, you do not know how those two call signs are going to affect your life from that moment on. How many friendships have begun in such a manner? Or, because of a common belief in radio waves and the technology required to make radio waves, we form groups we call "clubs" to talk about those experiences where we shared radio waves between individuals. Fascinating!

On a more down to earth concept, many people have undertaken activities they would not have normally undertaken over the last year while exercising social distancing and isolation. Your editor has delved into FT-8 in a very serious way and presents a few results of his endeavour within the pages of this edition of the Long Path.

Our guest speaker for the April meeting promises to give a fascinating talk. Adrian KOSSCA is a passionate DXer, DXpeditioner and Contester. His talk on Thursday will be on Bhutan, but after the presentation he will entertain questions on Bhutan as well as 4U1UN.

Happy Easter and may the Easter Bunny bring you Good DX 73, Chet VE3CFK

Calendar

NEXT Meeting:



Virtual Meeting

April 8th, 2021 at 7 PM

PROGRAM

Adrian KO8SCA

"Bhutan (A52BOC): The Land Of The Thunder Dragon "

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 CQ Checker: Al Bailey, K8SIX

March 2021 Meeting Minutes

Chet Latawiec, VE3CFK, Secretary

Meeting opened at 7:03 PM

A role call was not taken, but there were 26 participants in the ZOOM meeting.

February meeting minutes as published in the March issue of the Long Path were accepted. Motion to accept - Alan, KD8PKF and seconded by Kenneth, W9KB

A treasures report was not presented as Brad, N8SNM out treasurer was not present at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The first in-person SEMDXA club meeting is planned for October 2021. Our program directors have arranged for ZOOM presentations into and including September.

It was proposed that the club investigate utilizing ZOOM at in-person meetings in the future. It was stated that the opportunity to use ZOOM will be a function of the internet bandwidth available at our meeting venue.

The executive is continuing to explore alternate meeting venues for our first in-person meeting in October.

PRESENTATION

Our presentation for the meeting was given by Cezar, VE3LYC. The title of his talk was "Let's Talk about IOTA"

Cezar gave a very enthusiastic and passionate presentation of IOTA and his personal involvement with IOTA, ranging from being on the executive to actually conducting several IOTA expeditions, with details of 4 or 5. He expounded on his sinking 20' aluminum boat on Jamaes Bay and the Patagonian Walruses and seals. Such adventures we only dream of. Thankyou Cezar for the very informative talk.

The meeting officially adjourned at 9:45

Future SEMDXA Programs

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

April - Adrian KO8SCA -- topic "Bhutan (A52BOC): The Land Of The Thunder Dragon"

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 are 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 April 8th ZOOM meeting is:

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

The meeting begins at 7:00 PM

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.

Pirate ALERT!

On February 25th and 26thsomeone was pirating 5A0YL on FT8. Zorro received this info from 5A1AL, Abubaker, who contacted Elham directly confirming she was not on those two days.

9J - Zambia

HB9EWU, Bodo, will spend a year helping at the St. Paul Mission General Hospital in Kashikishi in the north of the country and has callsign 9J2BG. QSL direct or bureau to HB9EWU, the home QTH in Switzerland.

Another 9J

New ham KC3REK, Brent, is now in Lilayi, Zambia, callsign 9J2REK. He's running a fan dipole on 40 and 20M CW.

VK9W - Willis Is.

The team from the Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia (HARAOA) that's planning a November 3 - 13 DXpedition to Willis Island (VK9HR) has expanded by one, and the DXpedition planning is on schedule. Mellish Reef is being postponed to 2022.

3W - Vietnam

3W9OK by AA5H, Brian Betourney, originally scheduled for April-May is now delayed to May-June. Brian plans to operate from Danang. Covid restrictions are delaying things but he says "travel logistics are again in motion as covid retreats."

CANCELLATIONS

- SEMDXA April **in-person** meeting cancelled. BUT! We're having a Virtual Meeting on Thursday April 8th!
- Friedrichshafen 2021 is cancelled.
- Hamvention 2021, XENIA, OH cancelled

NOT CANCELLED YET

Some things to look forward to:

- Sun spot Cycle 25 and 26
- May issue of The Long Path
- Easter, 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas
- 2021 W9DXCC

USPS Status

Here's a link to "<u>USPS International Service disruptions list</u>" as of April 1, 2021.

S2 - Bangladesh

S21DX with operators S21AM, S21RC and S21D, will be doing an island operation, Manpura Island, AS-140, scheduled for December 16-26, 2021. S21RC, Fazlay Rabby, says they will have a Yaesu FT-600 and FT-757GX2, 100 watts, to a three-band beam, a multiband dipole, and vertical for 40. They plan to be on 40, 20, 15 and 10 SSB and FT8. Fazlay says they will be on a remote part of the island with no commercial power, which will help avoid interference. They will power their station with heavy duty batteries and a 2KW generator to top up the batteries.

3Y0I - Bouvet & 3D2 Islands

Hello folks

Things are going slow during pandemic, but we are going forward with our plans. After visiting South Africa 2 months ago, we can confirm that all equipment is ready for this year 2021 (November - December) Bouvet operation part 2. We really hope this time wild ocean will cooperate with us.

In the mean time we are finally going back to our Rebel vessel located in Fiji. Plans are to go back to Conway Reef for 3 weeks, Rotuma for 3 to 4 weeks and some very rare iotas around 3d2 zone. We will be testing some our new ideas to operate 5 different stations on FT8 (FOX & HUND) at the same time by 1 operator. (NO ROBOTS IN-VOLVED!!!!) This will be video recorded. Some stationary test went very promising.

This (HATE OR LOVE) mode will defenently help some small pistols to get rare DXCCs in to the log. Just to remind you, our last trip to Conway (operated by 2 ops. Tack JE1CKA and Dom 3z9dx) did over 33.828 Qso's in less than 8 days. That is world record for QSO/DAY/Operator (2067 qso's a day/operator)

It means we are going to work DX not for party.

And now some very important words from the RE-BELS.

"Sincere thanks to my OH friends; OH0XX, OH1MA and our Rebel Ambasador OH2BH, who promptly responded my urgent need of amplifiers and released three (3) pcs of Juma 1000 light-weight amplifiers."

We had a plan to swap our amplifiers from heavy to light weight type. We got them in less than 3 days from Finland.

Thank you again guys

Rebel Dx Team

FCC Fees

The FCC fees Report and Order adopted last December was published in the Federal Register this past week. To quote from ARRL's Legal Counsel: "I want to note to everyone that although generally the rules take effect on April 19, collection of the amateur fees will NOT begin on that date.

"The effective date for new amateur radio fees has not yet been established. The FCC explicitly states in the published Notice (at p. 15061, para. 44,

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ta=04%7C01%7C%7C96d77d0602cf49b83f5008d 8ebdb0104%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaa a%7C1%7C0%7C637518673131569902%7CUnkn own%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwM DAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXV CI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=aJX013h1Mqt UNDfy6KJTJlo82ftTszWJiXMURfmg1W4%3D&a mp;reserved=0

that the fees "will not take effect until the requisite notice has been provided to Congress, the FCC's information technology systems and internal procedures have been updated, and the Commission publishes notice(s) in the Federal Register announcing the effective date of such rules." I expect that the effective date will be some time this summer, but in any event we will have advance notice".

FR - Reunion Is.

FR8UA by F5TRO, Phil, is "not a special activity," he says, as he relocates there permanently. His arrival is set for May 13 with the antennas going up within a few weeks. He plans to be equipped for 80M to 23cm. Phil's wife, Ann, is FR8TZ, ex-F5BSB, and may operate some of the time too.

Drafted by - EA30 PERIODIC TABLE OF MAJOR AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS Start Day (UTC) -- End Day (UTC) Multimode CW Digital Start Time (UTC) -- End Time (UTC) 2021 Contest off-the-air Name Apr May Aug Sep Oct Dec Jan Feb Mar Nov 37 73 25 84 42 36 83 76 4 1 63 5 **CWOps** ARRL ARRL SP ARRL NA Marconi 7QP/IN/DE NAQP California ARRL SEANET Sprint DX Polish CW SS **New England** Memorial OSO Contest CW 160 SSB CW CW Roundup DX **OSO Parties** HE Open Party 10 13 14 14 14 10 118 9 14 10 11 14 15 11 129 10 13 14 11 12 ARRL NA NAQP WPX JIDX CQ-M IARU WAE WAE WAE ARRL Oceania Sprint June RTTY CW DX HF CW SSB CW 10 RTTY VHF 19 16 17 20 21 20 18 15 16 19 20 17 22 18 17 20 22 18 18 18 21 ARRL All Worked ARRL WA/NJ/NH NAQP Russian COMM King of CQ NAOP RAC DX All SS Asian oso DX SSB Spain Winter CW CW Germany SSB 18 26 28 27 28 24 25 20 23 26 27 24 26 23 24 27 25 ARRL CQ Florida Contest ARRL WPX ww RSGB CQWW COWW HAPPY University 160 QSO January Field SSB IOTA Digi RTTY CW Dayton HOLIDAYS SSB VHF Party Day Hamvention 29 31 30 30 31 CQ WPX CQWW 160 SSB CW CW

CW phishing attack

New phishing attack uses Morse code to hide malicious URLs

Starting Feb 2nd, a threat actor began utilizing Morse code to hide malicious URLs in their phishing form to bypass secure mail gateways and mail filters. BleepingComputer could not find any references to Morse code being used in phishing attacks in the past, making this a novel obfuscation technique. The phishing attack starts with an email pretending to be an invoice for the company. The mail includes an HTML attachment named in such a way as to appear to be an Excel invoice for the company. When viewing the attachment in a text editor, you can see that it includes JavaScript that maps letters and numbers to Morse code.

The script then calls a function to decode a Morse code string into a hexadecimal string. This hexadecimal string is further decoded into JavaScript tags that are injected into the HTML page. The injected scripts combined with the HTML attachment contain the various resources necessary to render a fake Excel spreadsheet that states their sign-in timed out and prompts them to enter their password again. Once a user enters their password, the form submits the password to a remote site where the attacker can collect the login credentials. Phishing scams are becoming more intricate every day as mail gateways become better at detecting malicious emails. As this phishing email uses attachments with double -extension (xlxs and HTML), it is important to make sure that Windows file extensions are enabled to make it easier to spot suspicious attachments.

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

W9DXCC

The annual convention is September 10-11 this year. Planning is underway for the 68th W9DXCC Convention and Banquet. Sponsored by the Northern Illinois DX Association, it will be at the Marriott in Naperville, Illinois. There will be a Contest University and DX University on Friday. Saturday there will be speakers, exhibits, QSL card checking and a CW pileup contest, and an evening reception and banquet. K9NU, Paul De-Felice, is the chairman. Registration and info on the special hotel rate will be available, but not yet.

https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fw9dxcc.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca81aeb0d6a204afd496d08d8ed3b1f9f%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637520185476612873%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=BA0lmynItp2c97h6zP2GR8Vzv%2FpTL%2BB81ptyc%2BZrNyE%3D&reserved=0

JW - Svalbard

JW1I on Bear Island is at the Bear Island Norwegian Meteorological Station. Note, Bear Island counts as a separate entity in the CQWW DX Contests and the CQ DX Marathon. JW/LB2PG, Erling, is operating until May 15.

HAMFESTS!

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

JD1 - Ogasawara Is.

JH3QFL, Takio, says he may be on the air as JD1BQA April 23-30, earlier than the May 1-7 previously planned. He will be on 160, 80, 40 and 6, FT8 and FT4, plus CW on satellite RS-44.

W3HNK is not SK

There were false reports that W3HNK became a silent key. The news of his demise were false. He has been confirmed live and well.

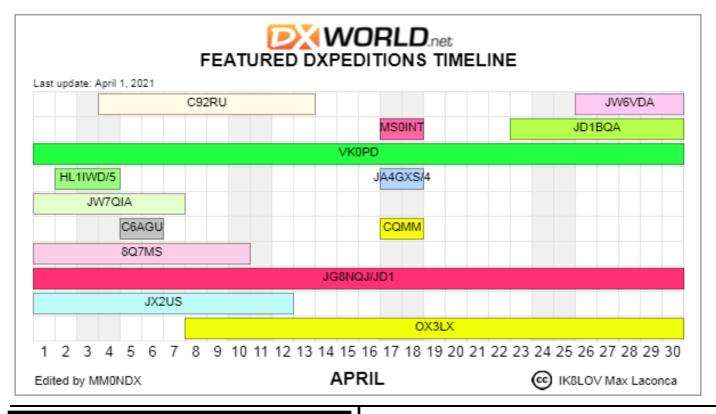
C9 - Mozambique

Following on their great A25RU expedition, the Russian DXpedition Team is headed to Barra Beach in Inhambane Province, Mozambique, callsign C92RU.

By April 4 they expect to be putting up antennas and doing limited activity on the air, with full operation by April 5, continuing through April 12.

Operation will be 160 to 10M with beverages and double flag for receiving.

Credit to DX World



FT-8 Boring Update

By Chet VE3CFK

Last month I reported on my venture into FT-8 and the discovery of the Grid Tracker program.

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.

My new numbers to the end of March are: 4272 FT-8 QSO's, worked 1257 grids, confirmed 939 grids, 156 DXCC entities worked and 133 confirmed. Also 611 USA counties worked and all 50 states, 38 zones and 6 continents.

So.

What are my opinions of FT-8?

Well. If I was a beginning ham, and started off with FT-8 originally, I would probably not become a

DXer. There is just no challenge in working and confirming DXCC entities with LOTW. Mind you. There are a few entities that require forwarding funds to get a QSL card since they don't subscribe to LOTW, but certainly not to the extent of years gone by. Oh the money I could have spent on rigs instead of postage.

For the ham that has arthritic fingers and hands, FT-8 is certainly a way to stay active. Greater success of making a Q with FT-8 versus phone. Breaking through the pile ups in Fox/Hound mode is certainly easier than finding a hole on CW to throw your call into.

I achieved my original goal of making 3650 QSO's by the end of the year in less than 3 months. So now I can concentrate on something else. 6M season is just around the corner. FT-8. Here I come.

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

Start	<u>End</u>	DXCC	Call	QSL	Reported
Date	<u>Date</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u> </u>	via	by
Ma	rch				
2021 Mar05	2021 May15	Ecuador	HC1MD/2 [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20210303
2021 Mar17	2021 Apr07	Svalbard	JW7QIA [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20210319
2021 Mar23	2021 Apr27	Bolivia	CP1XRM [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20210324
2021 Mar28	2021 Apr10	Maldives	8Q7MS [spots]	LoTW	DXW.Net 20210302
Ap	oril				
2021 Apr05	2021 Apr06	Bahamas	<u>C6AGU</u>	LoTW	TDDX 20210401
2021 Apr05	2021 Apr13	Mozambique	C92RU	LoTW	DXW.Net 20210401
2021 Apr08	2021 May01	Greenland	OX3LX	LoTW	DXW.Net 20210329
2021 Apr17	2021 Apr18	Armenia	EK6RL	EK6RL Direct	PY4WAS 20210327
2021 Apr17	2021 Apr18	Bolivia	<u>CP6UA</u>	LoTW	PY4WAS 20210330
2021 Apr17	2021 Apr18	Eswatini	3DA0AQ	LoTW	PY4WAS 20210329
2021 Apr17	2021 Apr18	Guatemala	TG9ADM	LoTW	PY4WAS 20210330
2021 Apr17	2021 Apr18	Kenya	<u>5Z4PA</u>	LoTW	PY4WAS 20210328
2021 Apr17	2021 Apr18	Paraguay	ZP4KFX	LoTW	PY4WAS 20210325
2021 Apr17	2021 Apr18	Peru	OA1F	LoTW	PY4WAS 20210330
2021 Apr17	2021 Apr18	Surinam	<u>PZ5JW</u>	LoTW	PY4WAS 20210325

Editors NOTE:

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

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

2021 Apr23	2021 Apr30	Ogasawara	JD1BQA	JH3QFL Direct	DXW.Net 20210129		
2021 Apr26	2021 May09	Svalbard	JW6VDA	LoTW	<u>DXNews</u> 20210223		
M	ay						
2021 May23	2021 Jun05	Martinique	FM	ON4RU Direct	ON4RU 20210314		
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW (May 29-30, 2021) Check here for pericontest							
June							
2021 Jun12	2021 Jul10	St Kitts & Ne- vis	<u>V47JA</u>	LoTW	W5JON 20201222		
2021 Jun22	2021 Jun28	St Eustatius	<u>PJ5</u>	LoTW	W5JON		
					20201222		
2021 Jun29	2021 Jul13	St Pierre & Miquelon	<u>FP</u>	LoTW	DXW.Net		
		-			20191126		
July							
2021 Jul07	2021 Jul14	Aruba	<u>P4</u>	ND7J	ND7J 20190722		
2021 Jul14	2021 Jul21	Bahamas	<u>C6AHA</u>	LoTW	DXW.Net 20210305		
2021 Jul23	2021 Aug03	St Vincent	<u>J88PI</u>	GW4DVB Direct	DXW.Net 20200727		
RSGB IOTA Contest, SSB (Jul 24-25, 2021) Check here for pericontest activi-							
Aug	just						
2021 Aug01	2021 Aug30	Dominican Republic	HI9	eQSL	<u>TDDX</u>		
		-			20200206		
2021 Aug08	2021 Aug16	St Pierre & Miquelon	TO5T	LoTW	<u>DXNews</u>		
					20200804		
September							
2021 Sep20	2021 Sep30	Tanzania	5H1IP	ClubLog OQRS	<u>DXNews</u> 20210227		
CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY (Sep 25-26, 2021) Check here for pericontest ac-							

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

2021 Sep29	2021 Oct13	Maldives	8Q7CQ	M0OXO	DXW.Net 20201025	
October						
2021 Oct01	2021 Oct30	Sable I	<u>CYOC</u>	TBA	DXW.Net 20200718	
2021 Oct01	2021 Oct30	Mellish Reef	VK9HR	TBD	TDDX 20210128	
2021 Oct09	2021 Oct23	Surinam	PZ5GE	LoTW	DXW.Net 20210323	
2021 Oct16	2021 Nov12	St Kitts & Ne- vis	<u>V47JA</u>	LoTW	W5JON 20201209	
2021 Oct25	2021 Nov01	St Eustatius	<u>PJ5</u>	LoTW	W5JON 20201209	
CQ WW DX Contest, SSB (Oct 30-31, 2021) Check here for pericontest activ-						
<u>ity too.</u>						
Nove	mber					
2021 Nov03	2021 Nov13	Willis I	VK9W	TBD	<u>DXW.Net</u> 20210215	
CQ WW DX Contest, CW (Nov 27-28, 2021) Check here for pericontest ac-						
tivity too.						
December						
2021 Dec16	2021 Dec22	Bangladesh	<u>S21DX</u>	LoTW	<u>DXW.Net</u> 20210319	