



Long Path



Volume 31 Issue 12

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

December 2021



From the Editor's DESK

I hope everyone had an overabundance of turkey, cranberries and pumpkin pie this Thanksgiving. Although we are still very much affected by the Covid pandemic, we still have much to be thankful for.

Chuck Houston, W8GWS, SEMDXA's 2021/2022 president resigned from his position as president at the November SEMDXA meeting. We want to thank Chuck for his service as president and wish him well in his future endeavours.

As a result, SEMDXA is now looking for a member to step forward and take on the position as President for the remaining 2021/2022 year. Kindly contact any of the executive to convey your interest. During the interim, Dave DeRain, K8ESQ, SEMDXA's Vice-president has stepped in to assume the role of President.

An email has been forwarded to all paid-up 2021/2022 members soliciting approval of a motion by Ted Pauck, K8NA to donate funds to the upcoming 3Y0J DXpedition to Bouvet Is. There were insufficient members present at the November on-line ZOOM meeting to take a vote, so the meeting attendees suggested that an email vote be conducted. If you have not received your email from Chet VE3CFK, please send him an email (QRZ email OK) to have the ballot resent. Results for the email ballot will be announced at the January 2022 SEMDXA meeting.

Ho. Ho. Ho. Our annual Zukey Lake Christmas luncheon is a GO! Thursday, December 16th is the date. Unlike previous years, no early gathering is possible as per Tavern management. Doors open at 12 Noon. The full menu will be available for us. See you there.

(cont'd...)

NEXT Meeting:

NEW

Virtual Meeting

January 13th, 2022 at 7 PM

PROGRAM

TBA

SEMDXA OFFICERS

President: Vacant

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

Treasurer: Brad Nowak, **N8SNM**

Secretary: Chet Latawicz, **VE3CFK**

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

Directors: Doug **N8VY** and Bob **K8RGM**

Club Appointees:

Web Site Editor: Doug Basberg, **K8VY**

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**

From the EDITORS DESK... cont'd

Although I said "See you there", your editor will not be in attendance. So have fun without me....

Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year to all and your families. I hope Santa brings you your dream radio.

73, Chet VE3CFK

Minutes of November Meeting

by Chet VE3CFK, Secretary

Meeting opened at 7:02PM

A role call was not taken. But there were 14 participants in the ZOOM meeting.

Chuck W8GWS, President started off the meeting stating that effectively immediately he is resigning as President of SEMDXA and rescinding his membership.

Ted, K8NA showed 3 videos. All 3 were narrated by Tim Duffy, K8LR. The first was an in-depth tour of his multi-multi station. The last two were shorts regarding upgrades to his station.

Brad, N8SNM presented a financial report. Motion to accept by Ted, K8NA and seconded by Pete,

Doug, motioned that the September and October meeting minutes as presented in the October and November issues of The Long Path, respectively be approved. Seconded by Ted, K8NA.

Old Business;

In the October meeting, Ted K8NA motioned that SEMDXA donate \$500 to the 3Y0J Bouvet Is. DXpedition. Further discussion suggested that possibly \$1000 could be donated. There were insufficient members show up during the ZOOM meeting to approve the motion. Those present suggested that an email ballot be sent to the membership for vote of the amount and approval of, donation to the 3Y0J DXpedition.

Motion to close the meeting by Chet VE3CFK and seconded by Ted, K8NA.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Zukey Lake Christmas Luncheon

Back by popular demand and the easing of Covid restrictions, our traditional December Christmas Luncheon has been scheduled for Thursday December 16th at Zukey Lake Tavern. At the moment vaccination proof is not required and masks are optional. The full menu will be available, unlike the predetermined limited menu choices of previous years. Let's hope nothing changes from now till then.

ZOOM MEETINGS

As most of our readership are aware, SEMDXA in-person monthly meetings have been replaced with virtual meetings.

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.

**Use the one step process
and just click on the link
below to join upcoming
meetings.**

<https://umich.zoom.us/j/91352970493?pwd=N0t3N1RpUFZjVGQzZHZwTnU0bHpuUT09>

FT#C - Crozet Is.

Their website is up and running.

You can access it here: [Crozet Island Website](#)

SEMDXA 2021/2 DUES Are now DUE

Just a reminder that membership dues are now being accepted by Brad. He still is not accepting stamps or IRCs and because we're not meeting in-person till December at Zukey Lake, either on-line PayPal or mail-in checks or money-orders are being accepted.

S2 - Bangladesh

S21RC, Fazlay and team will be operating as S21DX from one of the AS-140 IOTA islands between December 10 to 16. For more details, check out their web page at [S21DX](#).

SV/A - Mount Athos

SV2RSG, Monk Iakovos, says he will be on 160M between December 1st and 7th. He says "Yes, it is true". He also says he will be trying FT-8 for the first time. He's been spotted on 40 and 20M FT-8.

9J - Zambia

IK1MYT, Mario is back in Lusaka as 9J2MYT. He says he's on the air into next June. Mario is on 40, 20, 18, 15 and 10 meters

OX - Greenland

XP1SC from Greenland, was scheduled to start November 25 and continue to January 6, a "Santa Claus station." Danes note that Santa Claus actually lives in Greenland (they claim).

CANCELLATIONS

- SEMDXA January 2022 **in-person** meeting cancelled. BUT! We're having a Virtual Meeting on Thursday January 13th at 7 PM
- There appears to be good news in NO NEWS. As the number of cancellations diminish in frequency, it would appear that Covid-19 is releasing it's hold on society and Ham Radio related activities are returning to a pre-pandemic levels.

NOT CANCELLED YET

Some things to look forward to:

- Zukey Lake Christmas Lunch—Thursday December 16th 12:00 NOON
- 2022 Hamvention
- January issue of The Long Path

Seasons Greetings !

Rebel DX Group

"December 1 finally borders are open in Fiji. We are free to go out / in after so many months. Due the current ban travel to/from South Africa (omicron covid variant) we are monitoring situation regarding our Cape Town to Bouvet trip. As soon as situation will be more clear we will update our schedule for 3y0."

KH2 & KH0

Guam and Northern Mariana Islands

WA7WJR, BJ, plans to be in Guam as KH2/WA7WJR in March of next year and then Tinian/Saipan as KH0/WA7WJR/P in April/May 2022.

JX – Jan Mayen



Stian, LB5SH reports the following:

Planned activity from Jan Mayen late June, 2022, estimated to last around 4-5 days. I'm catching a ride with a sail boat from Longyearbyen, Svalbard on June 17th. If everything goes as planned, we'll set foot on Jan Mayen on the 22nd of June, give or take depending on the weather conditions. Primarily SSB and FT8 operations. Bands, antennas, and equipment TBA.

He'll be signing JX/LB5SH

HAMVENTION

After a two year hiatus, the Dayton Amateur Radio Assn. has everything in gear to bring us back to the major ham radio event in the world. And it all happens here in the Great Lakes Division. It is major, it is local, and we all can step out and support Hamvention by being there. Go for all three days or go for one day, just be there! See the super-sized ham radio flea market, visit the vendor booths and see the latest and greatest radio products, attend the forums and get updated on that-is-happening-now in ham radio. Get those plans in place to attend in 2022.

Here are some words from the Hamvention Committee:

Ticket, booth and flea market space sales for Hamvention 2022 are underway earlier than usual. In the past, these sales have not opened until late December. General Chairman Rick Allnutt, W8SG, said the earlier sales were made possible through the hard work of several of committee chairs and the Assistant General Chair, Jim Storms, AB8YK. Storms said that anyone who rolled over Hamvention tickets, booths or flea market spaces from 2020 or 2021 should have received 2022 tickets by now. If they have not they should contact the appropriate committee: tickets@Hamvention.org, exhibits@Hamvention.org or fleamaret@hamvention.org. According to Storms and Allnutt, sales thus far suggest that 2022 should be a good year for Hamvention which was cancelled in 2019 and 2020 because of Covid-19. Allnutt added that several changes are in the works to improve the Hamvention experience for all the hams attending.

Hamvention, an official ARRL Sanctioned Event, will be held Friday-Sunday, May 20-22 2022 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center.

FT4XW – Kerguelen Islands



Arthur Perrin is an Electronic / Scientific engineer for the French Polar Institute and has been located at Base de Port-aux-Français on the Kerguelen Islands (AF-048) since October this year.

His stay there lasts up to 14 months (taking him to December 2022) and he recently acquired the callsign FT4XW.

At this time, Arthur is unsure when he will be active but has with him an XIEGU G90 transceiver and a DX Commander vertical antenna. Kerguelen is #10 most wanted DXCC globally according to Club Log.

Note, he is completely new to ham radio hobby.

Happy New Year !

Hamfest Calender

1/16/2022 - SCARF Hamfest, Shade, OH
 1/23/2022 - Hazel Park Swap, MI
 2/5/2022 - HARA Swap, Negaunee, MI
 2/12/2022 - Cherryland, Traverse City, MI
 2/26/2022 - Livonia Swap, Livonia, MI
 3/5/2022 - Cave City, Cave City, KY
 3/13/2022 - NOARS Winter Hamfest, Elyria, OH
 4/19/2022 - Cuyahoga Falls, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
 5/20 to 5/22/2022 - Dayton Hamvention, Xenia OH
 6/4/2022 - Fulton County, Wauseon, OH
 6/5/2022 - Flying Beers Hamfest, Ferndale, MI
 6/18/022 - GMARC Trunk Swap, Shelby Twp, MI

7P8 – Lesotho

Chris ZS1CDG informs DX-World that he plans to return to Lesotho during December 20-26. QRV on FT8 holiday-style using a long wire on 40, 20, 15 and 10m.

TZ1CE – Mali



Ulmar DK1CE is still active from Bamako (QTH: TZ4AM) as TZ1CE until December 15, 2021. QRV on 160-10m; CW/SSB/FT8. QSL via H/c.

Explainer: WSJT-X FT8 Fox/Hound DXpedition mode



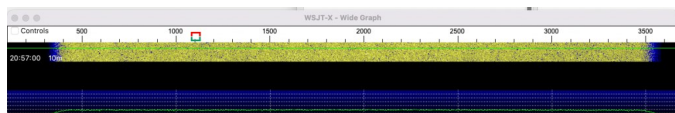
A reader (they'd like to stay anonymous) of DX-World got in touch about a hidden system issue with regards WSJT-X FT8 Fox/Hound DXpedition mode and we thought it useful for others to read about too:

There is a hidden system issue with the WSJT-X FT8 Fox/Hound DXpedition mode. It is NOT a software bug. Instead, it's a not entirely appreciated condition having to do with receiver performance.

It seems that many radios cut off the low frequency of the audio passband normally used by WSJT-X. This is often something to do with the firmware in the radio, or the settings used on the radio.

Here are plots I made using the internal waterfall graph within WSJT-X. In all the cases, the plots were taken with the receive frequency set to above 28.100 MHz, on a pretty dead band. All the receiver gains were turned up so that the noise floor shape could be seen. Receiver AGC was turned off. This effectively shows the receiver passband.

This is with the (anonymous) radio set to DATA mode, as you might naturally decide to use with WSJT-X. The receiver Passband Tuning was set to 4000 Hz bandwidth.



See how the noise rolls off rather dramatically starting at about 400 Hz? (That 4000 Hz passband bandwidth is obviously an estimate.)

The problem for Foxes is this.

The default Tx Freq for a Fox in DXpedition mode is 300 Hz. The Hounds call above 1000 Hz.

Imagine that P5JX is using the default Fox Tx Frequency of 300 Hz, and his radio has a passband like shown in the screen shot above.

MM0NDX calls P5JX at 1140 Hz and P5JX puts him into the queue. P5JX will then send MM0NDX a report. Let's say that it's -01.

MM0NDX's radio will then tune itself down to 300 Hz to respond to P5JX. But, MM0NDX isn't heard because P5JX's radio rolls off a lot at 300 Hz and MM0NDX is in the noise. Oops.

P5JX will send a report over three sequences to MM0NDX. Unless a contact is completed, P5JX will go on to the next caller in the queue. At the same time, MM0NDX's radio will retune itself to 300 Hz higher and keep calling.

If P5JX is paying attention and MM0NDX isn't being interfered with by other stations put into the repechance band, P5JX might put MM0NDX into the log and send RR73 if he sees MM0NDX's report. If not, well, the QRM piles up and MM0NDX has to find another frequency to call above 1000 Hz. Hopefully, this pattern doesn't repeat itself. But, very often it does.

How many times have you seen this on the bands?
Not especially efficient.

The good news is that there are a couple solutions for Foxes confronted with this.

1. Buy a new radio without this problem. (That could be tough if you find yourself on an expedition somewhere.)
2. See if there are adjustments or different operating modes that get around the issue. For example, the very same radio as shown above, with the very same settings (receiver Passband Tuning still set to 4000)

(cont'd on page 7)

Drafted by - EA3O

PERIODIC TABLE OF MAJOR AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS



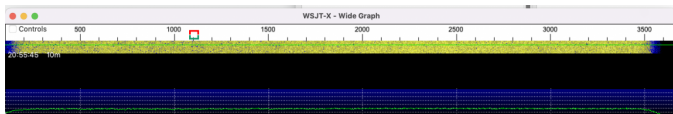
2021

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 1200Z 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	3 2100Z WAE RTTY	6 2200Z 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	16 1500Z Worked All Germany	17 1459Z ARRL SS SSB	18 0000Z RAC Winter
16 1800Z ARRL January VHF	18 0359Z CQ 160 SSB	26 2200Z WPX SSB	27 0000Z Florida QSO Party	24 1600Z Contest University Dayton Hamvention	25 2159Z ARRL Field Day	20 1100Z RSGB IOTA	23 1700Z WW Digi	26 2400Z CQWW RTTY	25 0000Z 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	

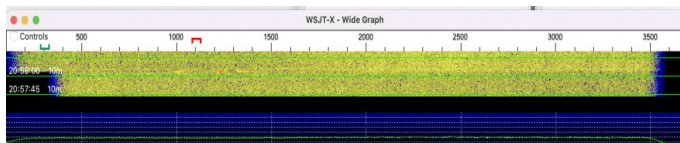
Explainer: WSJT-X FT8 Fox/Hound DXpedition mode (...cont'd from pg 6)

when used in USB mode instead of DATA mode looks like this:



Now, the radio is flat down to below 200 Hz. That default 300 Hz Fox Tx Frequency looks pretty good now! (4000 Hz is still an estimate..)

Here's a comparison of the two:



3. Make a slight setting change in the WSJT-X software, which is very simple to do.

The Fox can change the Tx Frequency to, maybe, 500 Hz. Some DX stations have already started doing this, to great success.

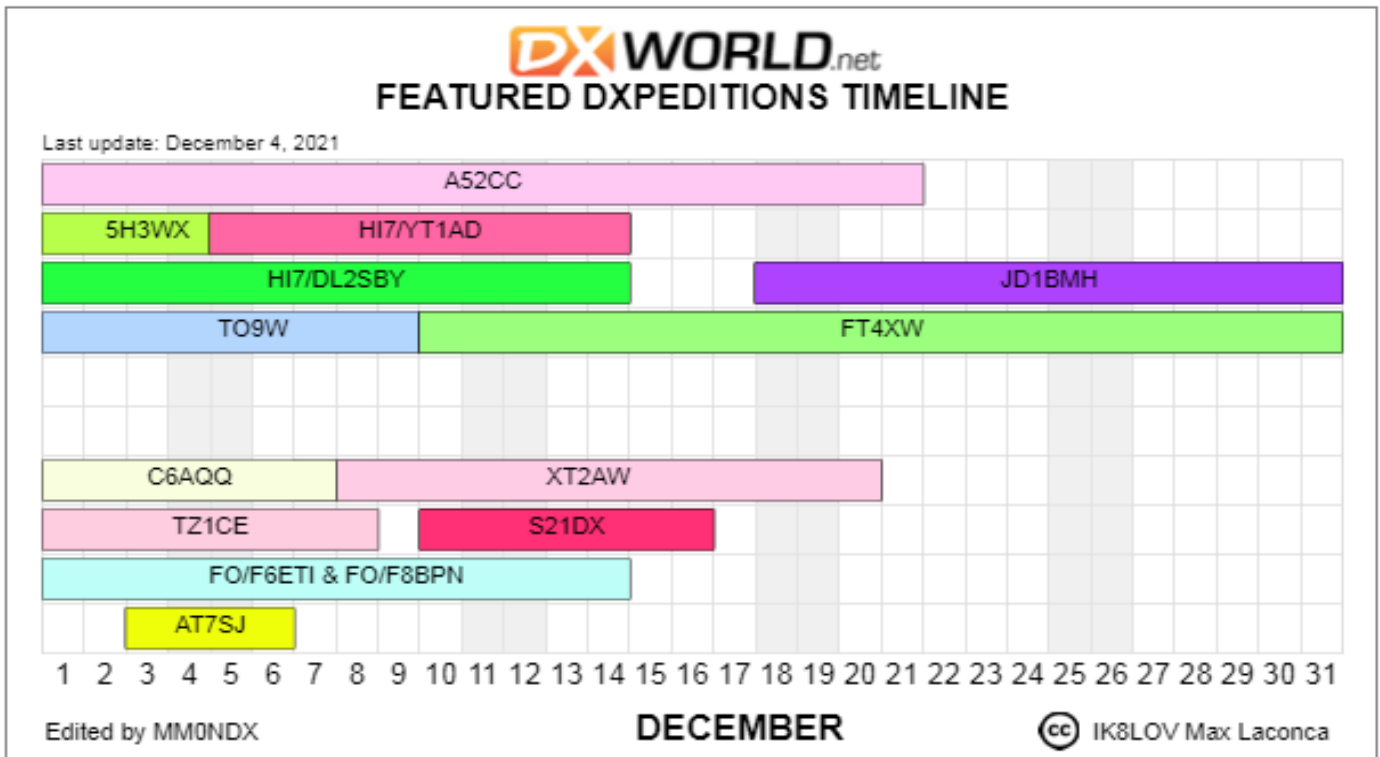
Look down to page 6 here:

https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/FT8_DXpedition_Mode.pdf

(cont'd on page 8)

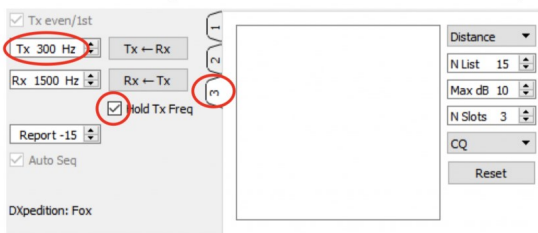
Upcoming DX

Credit to DX World



Explainer: WSJT-X FT8 Fox/Hound DXpedition mode (...cont'd from pg 7)

4. Select **Tab 3** for Tx messages. Set Tx 300 Hz, and check **Hold Tx Freq**.



5. To evade QRM you can choose another Tx frequency in the range 300 – 600 Hz.

Simple as that. Now, the Fox will transmit at 500 Hz and up and the Hounds will respond there, where the receiver passband is flat. Many people will be happy. Smiles will flow across the radio bands.

This is a known thing, but it hasn't been explained very much.

Thank you to Bernie, W3UR, The Daily DX, The Weekly DX, ARRL and DX World, NG3K and Dales Tales 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
2021					
November					
2021 Nov06	2021 Dec18	India	VU2ABE [spots]	LoTW	425DXN 20211105
2021 Nov08	2021 Dec06	Tanzania	5H3WX [spots]	HA3JB	DXW.Net 20211107
2021 Nov18	2021 Dec08	Mali	TZ1CE [spots]	DK1CE (B/d)	TDDX 20211014
2021 Nov25	2021 Dec07	Bahamas	C6AQQ [spots]	EA5GL	N3IQ 20211122
CQ WW DX Contest, CW (Nov 27-28, 2021) Check here for pericontest activi-					
December					
2021 Dec01	2021 Dec14	Dominican Republic	HI [spots]	DL2SBY B/d	TDDX 20211018
2021 Dec01	2021 Dec10	St Martin	TO9W [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20210527
2021 Dec02	2021 Dec16	Kenya	5Z4 [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20211103
2021 Dec03	2021 Dec20	Burkina Faso	XT2AW [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20211029
2021 Dec04	2021 Dec14	Dominican Republic	HI7 [spots]	YT1AD	DXNews 20211128
2021 Dec08	2021 Dec31	Honduras	HR5	F6AJA (B/d)	TDDX 20210902
2021 Dec16	2021 Dec22	Bangladesh	S21DX	LoTW	DXW.Net 20210319
2021 Dec18	2022 Jan01	Ogasawara	JD1BMH	JD1BMH Buro	TDDX 20211203
2021 Dec25	2022 Jan25	Bouvet I	3Y0I	TBA	DXW.Net 20210405

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

2022					
January					
2022 Jan15 <small>NEW</small>	2022 Jan31	Comoros	D6	TBA	DXW.Net 20211010
2022 Jan20	2022 Feb01	Guadeloupe	TO6S	F6KJS Di- rect	F5LRL 20211021
2022 Jan20	2022 Jan27	Mauritius	3B8HH	HB9DNG Direct	TDDX 20211203
2022 Jan23	2022 Feb01	Aruba	P4	DL4MM	DL4MM 20211020
February					
2022 Feb03	2022 Feb20	Zimbabwe	Z2	LoTW	DXNews 20211118
2022 Feb08	2022 Mar01	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	LoTW	DXNews 20211014
ARRL International DX Contest, CW (Feb 19-20, 2022) Check here for pericontest activity too.					
2022 Feb24	2022 Mar08	St Vincent	J88PI	GW4DVB Direct	TDDX 20210823
March					
2022 Mar01	2022 Mar31	Austral Is	FO		DXW.Net 20211203
2022 Mar02	2022 Mar11	Galapagos	HD8M	LoTW	TDDX 20210423
ARRL International DX Contest, Phone (Mar 5-6, 2022) Check here for pericontest activity too.					
April					
2022 Apr01	2022 Apr15	Central African Rep	TL8AA	I2YSB	I2YSB 20210827

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

June					
<small>NEW</small> 2022 Jun16	2022 Jul01	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	LoTW	W5JON 20211104
2022 Jun22	2022 Jun27	Jan Mayen	JX		DXW.Net 20211203
July					
2022 Jul02	2022 Jul09	St Eustatius	PJ5	LoTW	W5JON 20211104
November					
2022 Nov01	2022 Nov29	Bouvet I	3Y0J	LoTW	DXW.Net 20210809
December					
2022 Dec15	2022 Dec31	Crozet	FT8/c	TBA	TDDX 20211028

My Wife and I both send our greetings to all in this Holiday Season, hoping for each of you and your families a safe, healthy and happy coming New Year.

Good DX

73

Chet, VE3CFK