



Long Path



Volume 32 Issue 3

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

March 2022



From the Editor's DESK

Last month I started off by saying “Time flies! And with it change.” No one would have anticipated the change as seen in Ukraine recently. Makes Covid almost seem insignificant. What next? Makes the lack of propagation seem inconsequential. But at least ham radio still works. If all else fails...

Last month, our scheduled guest speaker had some scheduling conflicts and was not able to present at our February meeting, but Tim has graciously rescheduled for our March meeting. As mentioned in the previous Long Path, it promises to be an excellent presentation, so try not to miss it.

Dayton Hamvention is still on the books. As is the 2023 Bouvet DXpedition. Let's hope their status does not change.

Field Day is also still on schedule, although the rules have changed. Checkout the ARRL website for details on the changes.

Swap meets are back on the books this year with the odd cancellation, but for the most part the majority are still a go. Hope you all get a chance to participate.

At our February virtual meeting, there was a discussion wrt resuming in-person meetings. Your editor (me) was supposed to send out an email soliciting feedback from the membership as to “if” and “when” in-person meetings would resume. Hopefully I can send something out to the membership shortly.

Hope to see you at our next meeting.

Good DX
73,
Chet, VE3CFK

NEXT Meeting:

NEW

Virtual Meeting

March 10th, 2022 at 7 PM

Rescheduled Program

Tim Duffy,

K3LR presenting :

Best Practice Station Bonding and Grounding

SEMDXA OFFICERS

President: Vacant

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

Treasurer: Brad Nowak, **N8SNM**

Secretary: Chet Latawiec, **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 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**

Meeting Minutes of February 2022

Submitted by Chet, VE3CFK

The virtual ZOOM meeting was held on February 10th, 2022. The meeting commenced at 7:01 PM. 21 people were virtually in attendance. Dave De-Rain, K8ESQ presided over the meeting.

No financial report presented.

Dave, K8ESQ asked if there were any omissions or corrections to the January meeting minutes as presented in the February Long Path. There were no objections or corrections and the minutes were thusly accepted.

OLD Business.

- Brad, N8SNM, SEMDXA Treasurer forwarded a PayPal donation of \$1000 to the 3Y0J Bouvet DXpedition. The SEMDXA club logo is now proudly displayed on the 3Y0J website as a contributor to the DXpedition which will be held in January 2023.
- In-person meeting was discussed. The Fork and Pint Restaurant in Waterford has been identified as a potential club meeting place. It was also suggested that Chet, VE3CFK send out an email soliciting input from the membership as to "if" and "when" in-person meeting should begin.
- SEMDXA is still looking for someone to step up as President for the club.
- There was no New Business.

The business meeting ended at 7:08 PM

A video of "W3LP presenting on 6M Antennas was shown.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM

3A - Monaco

3A/IK1TTD, Gianpi, will be in the WPX SSB weekend March 25-27. He expects to be on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10M.

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>

ZD9 - Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is.

"It is impossible to go to ZD9 this year because of Covid travel restrictions", says W7GJ, Lance Collier, who is now "on the waiting list for a berth to travel there in late summer/early fall of 2023 and/or 2024". More news on this 6 meter EME DXpedition in the future.

FK - New Caledonia

F5NHJ, Jean-Louis, travels to New Caledonia April 1, for a stay until June 7. His flight plans may be affected by Ukrainian events as his flight transits over Russia.



A state of emergency was declared in Ukraine just prior to the Russian military invasion. Among other things, the February 24 decree from President Volodymyr Zelensky will remain in effect for at least 30 days and may be extended. The state of emergency includes “a ban of amateur radio transmissions”.

As per Ukrainian presidential office request, we will be removing the Ukrainian callsigns from the DX Summit.

DX Summit wants to avoid being an advertising medium for war and war related messages of any kind. As a result, we see it reasonable to block out all cluster posted messages related to this unfortunate event.

In addition, as of this moment, we are also blocking callsigns and messages posted by hams from the invading countries and regions such as Russia, Belarus and Donetsk (D1).

Editors note: If you haven't discovered “DX Summit” before, it is an excellent DX webpage with all kinds of relevant DX information and tools. One tool I find very useful is their “Spot Search” tool that allows one to search a particular call sign to see when that particular station has been on the air.

5U - Niger

IU5HWS, Giorgio, says he is now located near Niamey and waiting for his 5U callsign. He plans to be there until the end of the month. He is on a work assignment and will be QRV in his spare time focusing on the low bands.

8Q - Maldives

F8CZI, Laurent, plans to be active as 8Q7ZI from March 9 to 21 in his spare time.

CANCELLATIONS

- SEMDXA March 2022 **in-person** meeting cancelled. BUT! We're having a Virtual Meeting on March 10th at 7 PM
- 2022 International DX Convention in Visalia on April 8, 9 and 10th has been cancelled.

NOT CANCELLED YET

Some things to look forward to:

- 2022 Hamvention
- April issue of The Long Path
- W9DXCC
- Thanksgiving, Christmas

SV/A - Mount Athos

SV2RSG/A was on the air on February 21st on 40 meters FT8. Keep an eye open for him!

8Q - Maldives

G0VJG, Nobby, should now be operating as 8Q7CQ on SSB and FT8.

4S - Sri Lanka

4S7DRG (DK7DR) and 4S7KKG (DC0KK) will be there March 2-9, visiting the former Deutsche Welle shortwave broadcast relay station near Trincomalee. SLBC, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation. Look for them on SSB and FT-8.

TL - Central African Republic

The Italian DXpedition Team is lining up its expedition for March 27 to April 9, TL8AA. They plan to be on CW, SSB, RTTY and have TL8ZZ on FT8. Six operators will man four stations, 80-10M including 60. QSL via I2YSB, with the real-time log on OQRS

ARRL DX SSB

THE "ARRL DX SSB Contest" is this weekend - March 5th to 6th. Hope to see you there!

Sunspots (or not)

Spotless Days

Current Stretch: 0 days

2022 total: 0 days (0%)

2021 total: 64 days (18%)

2020 total: 208 days (57%)

2019 total: 281 days (77%)

2018 total: 221 days (61%)

2017 total: 104 days (28%)

2016 total: 32 days (9%)

2015 total: 0 days (0%)

2014 total: 1 day (<1%)

2013 total: 0 days (0%)

2012 total: 0 days (0%)

2011 total: 2 days (<1%)

2010 total: 51 days (14%)

2009 total: 260 days (71%)

2008 total: 268 days (73%)

2007 total: 152 days (42%)

2006 total: 70 days (19%)

Updated 01 Mar 2022

HAMVENTION

From the Home page of "Contest University":

Attention Contesters and DXers! Contest-related activities that have previously taken place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel during the Dayton Hamvention(R) are moving to the Hope Hotel beginning in 2022.

In May 2022, official Contesting activities will be at the Hope Hotel, including four nights of the Contest Super Suite, Contest University, The Top Band Dinner, The Contest Dinner and the KC DX Club CW copying competition. There may be additional related events as well.

The Hope Hotel is an excellent facility, well suited for Contesters and DXers. There is plenty of parking and it is located closer to the Hamvention than the downtown Dayton hotels. The Hope Hotel is adjacent to the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Guests do not go through the security gate.

Contest University Registration. [Register here](#)

Top Band Dinner. [Register here](#)

Contest Dinner. [Register here](#)

SWODXA DX Dinner. [Register here](#)

Hamvention Tickets. [Order here](#)

From the Hamvention Team:

"We strongly anticipate that the Hamvention 2022 is a go. We cannot guarantee what government may decide about unknown changes in the pandemic. It has become obvious that the State of Ohio is very unlikely to call a halt to large gatherings anytime soon. Despite a recent large spike in Omicron COVID cases and hospitalizations, there is no move to restrict large indoor or outdoor events such as sports events."

Your editor has already registered for Contest University and Top Band Dinner. Hope to see you there!!!

UR - Ukraine

Amateur radio has been suspended for 30 days by Ukraine's government, under a declaration of emergency, part of a decree from President Zelensky. This is not the first time amateur radio has been banned since World War II; it was temporarily banned in Poland during martial law in late 1981. From various reports and sources, it appears an exception is made for eastern Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts because those two already have special legal status because of Russia's occupation since 2014. Various other parts of the decree set up a new system for entry and exit to and from Ukraine, restriction on the movement of vehicles and their inspections, a ban on mass events and strikes, a curfew if necessary, document checks and other measures. The US Postal service reports that: "Ukraine Post advises that due to the conflict in the region international postal transit through Ukrainian territory has been suspended until further notice. Post offices will remain closed beginning February 24 and postal deliveries are suspended until further notice. As soon as the situation allows, the post will resume delivery of all international postal items." Stations from Ukraine with the letter I after the number in the prefix are located in this region and can theoretically be active as well their counterparts the D1 and D0 stations, who lean towards Russia. It should also be noted IARU Region I is suggesting not to spot Ukraine stations...

7Q - Malawi

Don, K6ZO is QRV as 7Q6M while working at the Embangweni Mission Hospital. Activity is in his spare time. This includes being an entry in the upcoming ARRL International DX SSB contest.

Pete - K8PGJ

Pete will be at PJ2T for ARRL DX March 1-8.

Hamfest Calender

3/5/22 - Cave City, Cave City, KY
 3/12/22 - MOVARC Hamfest, Bidewll, OH
 3/13/22 - NOARS Winter Hamfest, Elyria, OH
 3/19/22 - Crossroads, Kalamazoo, MI
 3/20/22 - CANCELED, Toledo Mobile Radio Assn Swap, CANCELED, Perrysburg, OH
 4/9/22 - Cuyahoga Falls, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
 4/24/22 - Athens Hamfest, Athens, OH
 4/24 to 4/29/22 - RV Radio Network Spring Rally, Millersburg, OH
 5/1/22 - Lucas County Trunk Swap, Toledo, OH
 5/7/22 - Cadillac Hamfest, Cadillac, MI
 5/20 to 5/22/22 - Dayton Hamvention, Xenia, OH
 5/21/22 - GM ARC Trunk Swap, Shelby Twp., MI
 6/4/22 - Fulton County Swap, Wauseon, OH
 6/4/22 - IRA Hamfest, Hudsonville, MI
 6/5/22 - Chelsea Hamfest, Chelsea, MI
 6/5/22 - Flying Beers, Ferndale, MI
 6/11/22 - Luce County Yooper Hamfest, Newberry, MI
 6/18/22 - GM ARC Trunk Swap. Shelby Twp., MI
 6/19/22 - Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI

9N - Nepal

Robert, 9N7AA has been active using FT8 on 30 meters around 1230z and 17 meters around 1300z.

NCDXF Newsletter

The Winter 2022 NCDXF Newsletter is now available. <http://www.ncdxf.org/pages/newsletter.html>

KH0/KC0W QRT

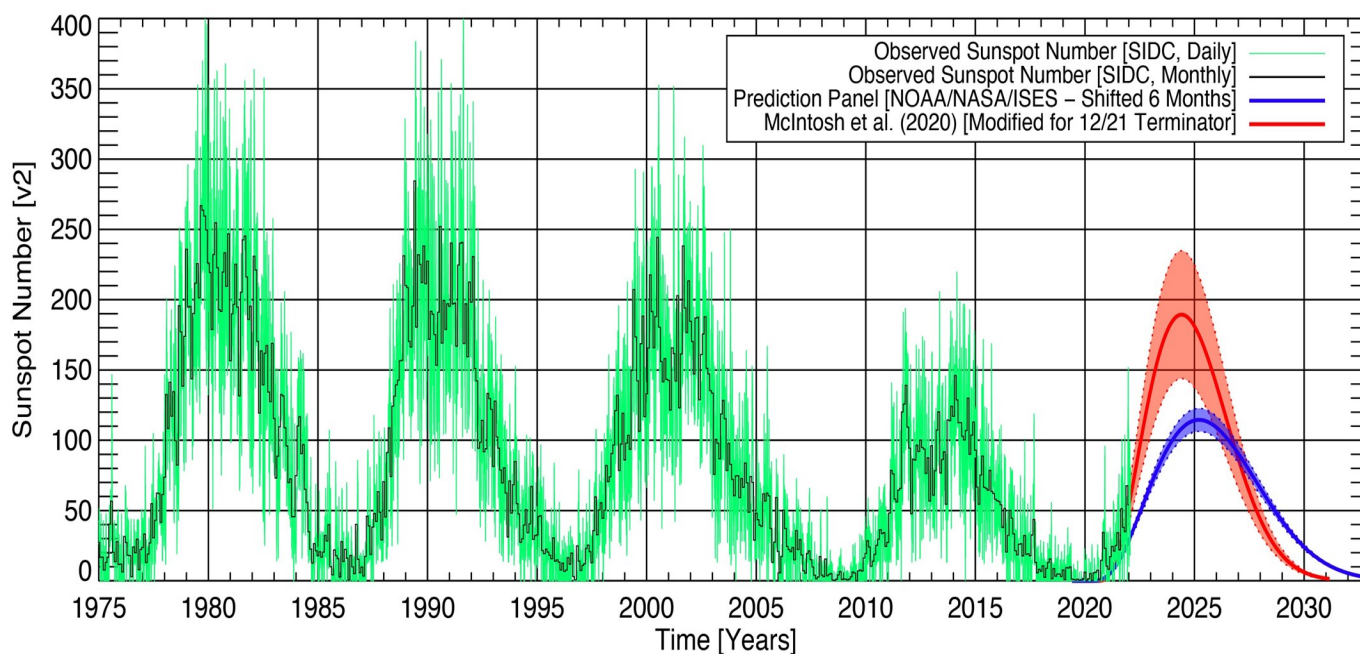
Tom, KC0W moved into a condo in January and has gone QRT from all amateur radio activity. More info at: <https://www.dx-world.net/qrt-kh0-kc0w/>

Cycle 25

THE TERMINATION EVENT HAS ARRIVED: Something big just happened on the sun on. Solar physicists Scott McIntosh (NCAR) and Bob Leamon (U. Maryland-Baltimore County) call it "The Termination Event."

"Old Solar Cycle 24 has finally died--it was terminated!" says McIntosh. "Now the new solar cycle, Solar Cycle 25, can really take off."

The "Termination Event" is a new idea in solar physics, outlined by McIntosh and Leamon in a December 2020 paper in the journal *Solar Physics*. Not everyone accepts it--yet. If Solar Cycle 25 unfolds as McIntosh and Leamon predict, the Termination Event will have to be taken seriously.



Above: Predictions for Solar Cycle 25. Blue is the official prediction of a weak cycle. Red is a new prediction based on the Termination Event.

The basic idea is this: Solar Cycle 25 (SC25) started in Dec. 2019. However, old Solar Cycle 24 (SC24) refused to go away. It hung on for two more years, producing occasional old-cycle sunspots and clogging the sun's upper layers with its decaying magnetic field. During this time, the two cycles coexisted, SC25 struggling to break free while old SC24 held it back.

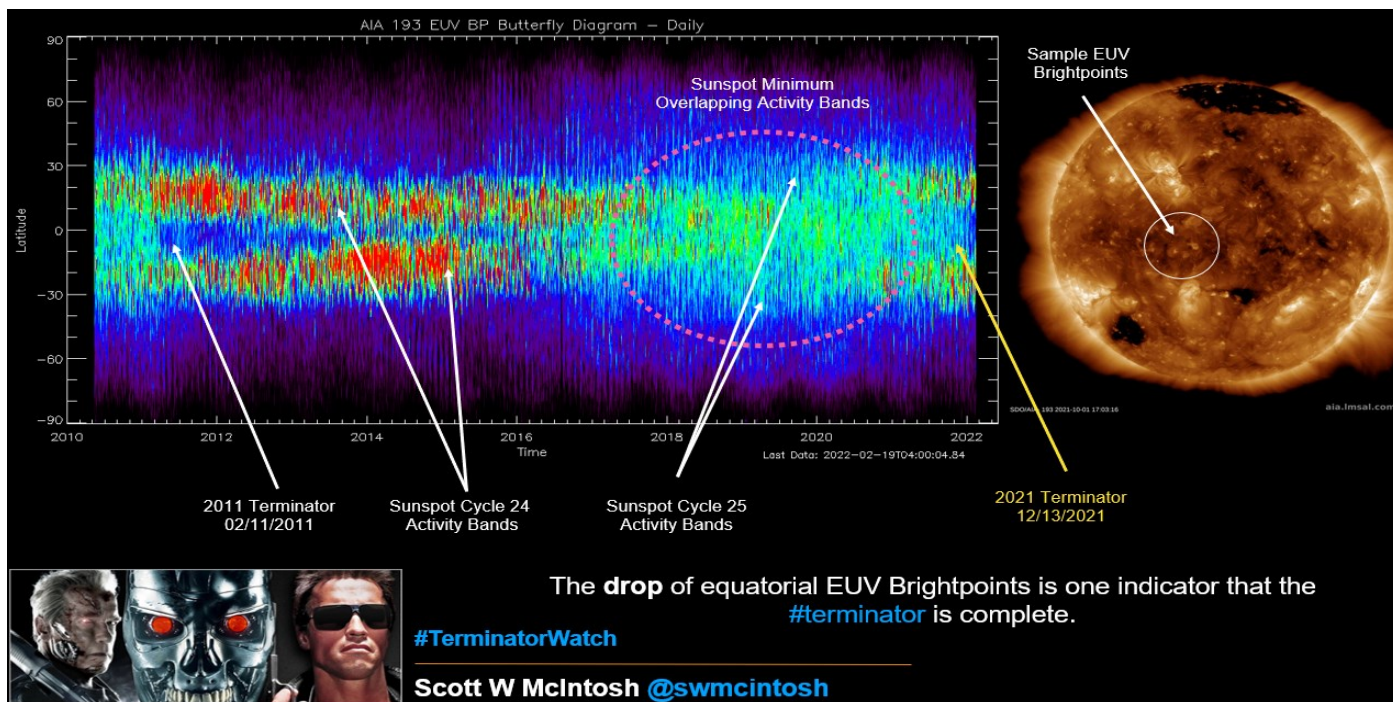
"Solar Cycle 24 was cramping Solar Cycle 25's style," says Leamon.

Researchers have long known that solar cycles can overlap. The twist added by McIntosh and Leamon is the realization that overlapping cycles can interact. This makes sense. In the early 20th century, George Ellery Hale discovered that the magnetic polarity of sunspot pairs reverses itself from one cycle to the next; indeed, the sun's entire global magnetic field flips every ~ 11 years. When adjacent, opposite-polarity solar cycles overlap, they naturally interfere.

Cont'd...

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Cycle 25



Above: Bands of coronal bright points linked to old Solar Cycle 24 vanished in Dec. 2021, signalling a Termination Event. A Twitter thread from Scott McIntosh explains this in more detail.

Termination Events mark the end of interference, when a new cycle can break free of the old.

The timing of the Termination Event can predict the intensity of the new cycle. In their Solar Physics paper, McIntosh and Leamon looked back over 270 years of sunspot data and found that Termination Events happen every 10 to 15 years.

"We noticed that the longer the time between terminators, the weaker the next cycle would be," explains Leamon. "Conversely, the shorter the time between terminators, the stronger the next solar cycle would be."

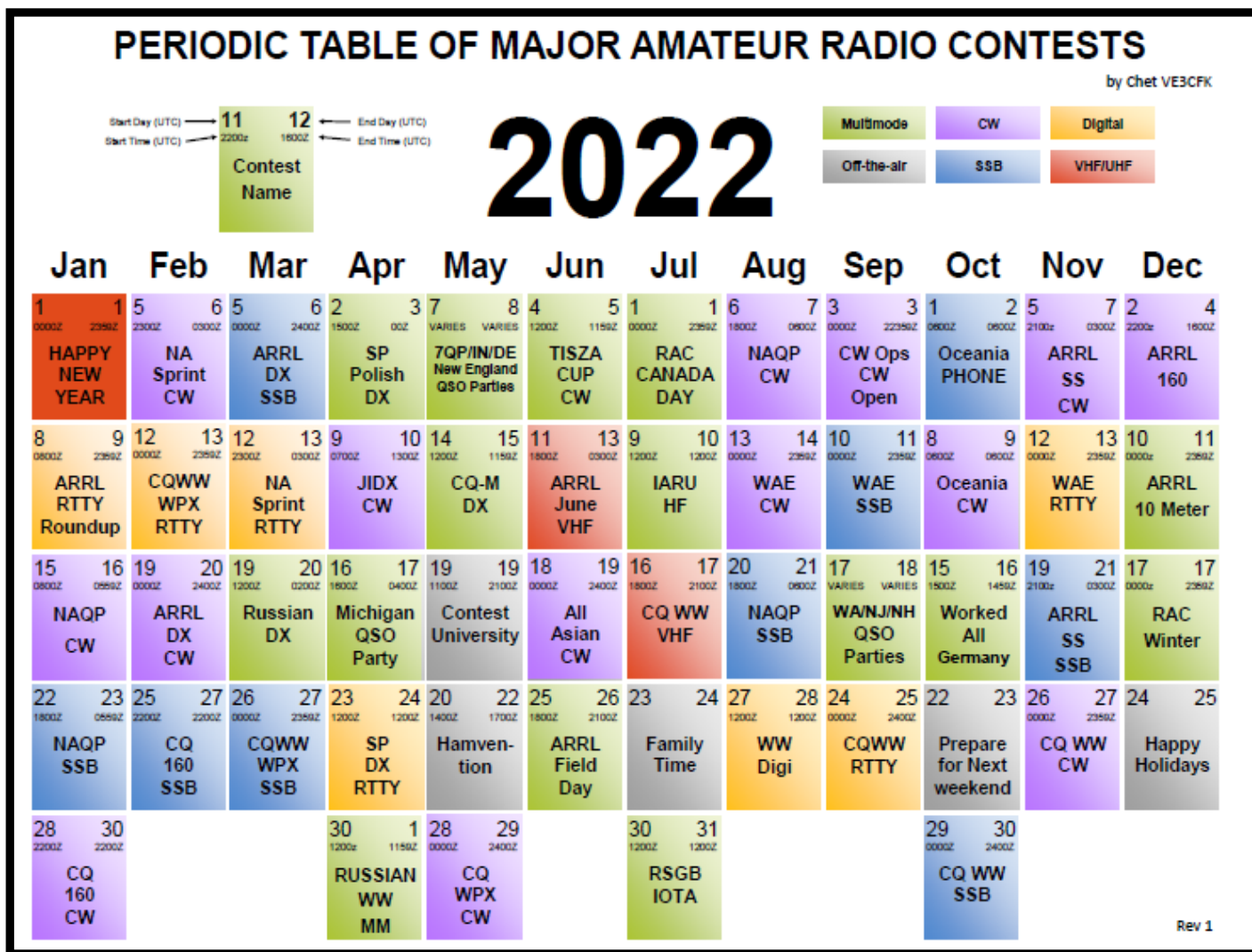
So when did the latest Termination Event happen? Dec. 2021. This yields a specific, testable prediction for Solar Cycle 25.

"We have finalized our forecast of SC25's amplitude," says McIntosh. "It will be just above the historical average with a monthly smoothed sunspot number of 190 ± 20 ."

"Above average" may not sound exciting, but this is in fact a sharp departure from NOAA's official forecast of a weak solar cycle. It could be just enough to catapult Terminators into the forefront of solar cycle prediction techniques. Stay tuned.

Editors note: Let's keep our fingers crossed for a stronger cycle than previously predicted.

The above article is reprinted from "Spaceweather.com"



Credits for the Periodic Table of Major Amateur Radio Contests

In 2021 your editor found the 2021 Calendar created by EA3O on the internet. In 2022 the search was reinstated, but a suitable calendar was not found. The closest match was by Tim Gennett, K9WX. Tim was gracious enough to share his template with me. Thank you Tim! Tim also directed me to “[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)” website, where the information contained in the above calendar was extracted. Again. Thank you Tim!

Without the help from the amateur radio community, the above calendar would not have been possible.

A better quality copy of the above calendar is available from the SEMDXA website. Here is a direct [LINK](#) to the calendar.

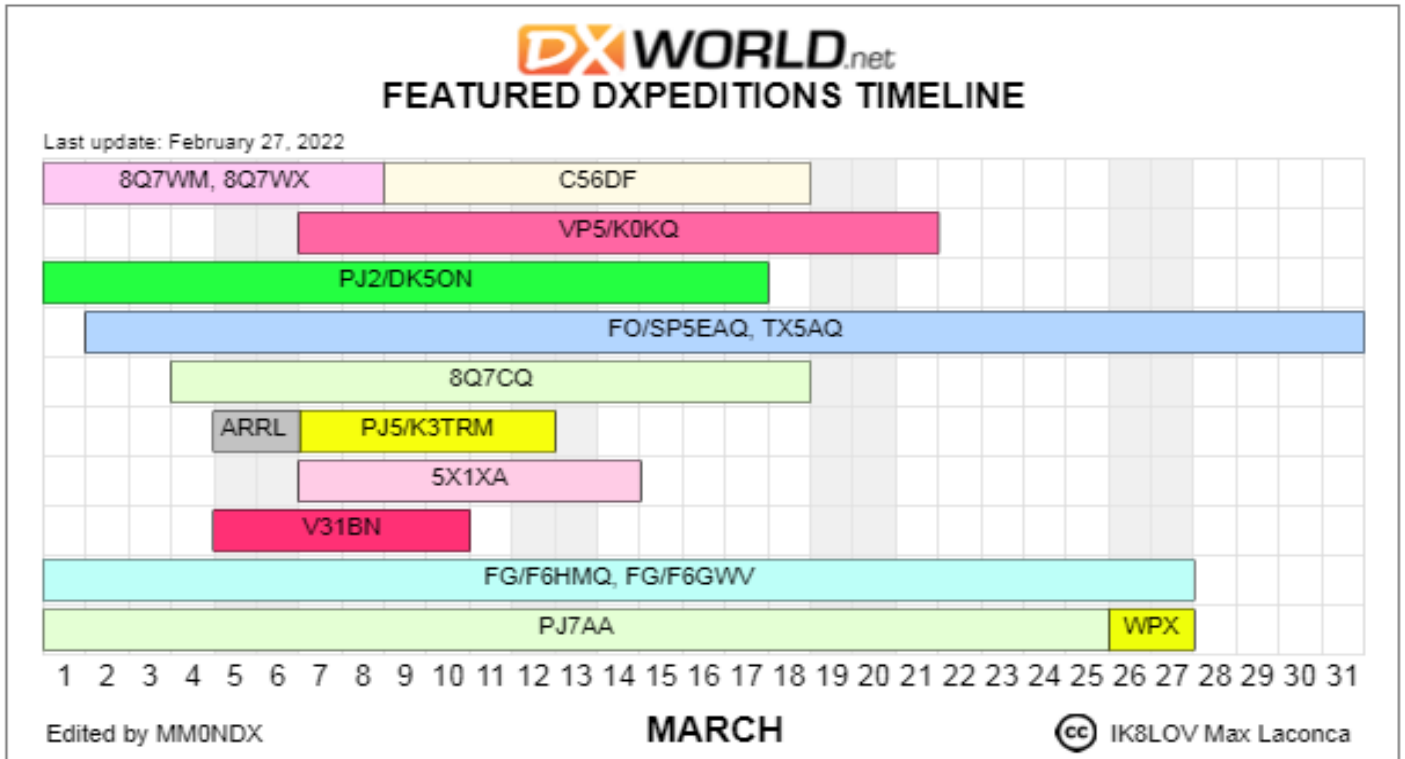
It is impossible to accommodate all the contests ongoing on any particular weekend (see WA7BNMs list). I hopefully have captured the most desirable entries which our club is interested in. See you in the pileups!

73,

Chet VE3CFK

Upcoming DX

Credit to DX World



DXCC Most Wanted 2021

DXCC Most wanted countries 2021 Club Log version. Updated 25 December 2021.



[Click here for link](#)

Thank you to Bernie, W3UR, The Daily DX, The Weekly DX, ARRL and DX World, NG3K, CLUBLOG and Dales Tales for their contributions to this newsletter.

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

Editors NOTE:

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

Start Date	End Date	DGCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by
2022					
January					
February					
2022 Feb08	2022 Mar01	St Kitts & Nevis	V4 [spots]	LoTW	DXNews 20211014
2022 Feb08	2022 Mar04	Belize	V31 [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20220208
2022 Feb12	2022 Mar08	Maldives	8Q [spots]	Home Call	DXNews 20220121
ARRL International DX Contest, CW (Feb 19-20, 2022) Check here for					
2022 Feb19	2022 Mar01	Surinam	PZ5GE [spots]	LoTW	DXW.Net 20220205
2022 Feb14	2022 Mar02	Cape Verde Is	D4 [spots]	DJ5QW Buro	425DXN 20220211
2022 Feb24	2022 Mar08	St Vincent	J88PI [spots]	GW4DVB Direct	TDDX 20210823
2022 Feb26	2022 Mar26	Sint Maar- ten	PJ7AA [spots]	AA9A	AA9A 20211219
March					
2022 Mar01	2022 Mar07	St Lucia	J68HZ [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20220223
2022 Mar01	2022 Mar17	Curacao	PJ2 [spots]	LoTW	DK5ON 20220130
2022 Mar01	2022 Mar31	Austral Is	FO [spots]		DXW.Net 20211203
2022 Mar02	2022 Mar09	Sri Lanka	4S7KKG	Club Log OQRS	DXNews 20220205
2022 Mar02	2022 Mar09	Sri Lanka	4S7DRG		DXNews 20220226
2022 Mar03	2022 Mar10	Antigua & Barbuda	V26K	LoTW	AA3B 20220224

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

2022 Mar04	2022 Mar18	Maldives	8Q7CQ	M0OXO	TDDX 20220215
ARRL International DX Contest, Phone (Mar 5-6, 2022) Check here for					
2022 Mar05	2022 Mar10	Belize	V31BN	LoTW	425DXN 20220225
2022 Mar05	2022 Mar12	Madeira	CT9	LoTW	425DXN 20220225
2022 Mar06	2022 Mar12	Saba & St Eustatius		LoTW	DXW.Net 20220219
2022 Mar05	2022 Mar10	Belize	V31BN	W0BCN	TDDX 20220215
2022 Mar07	2022 Mar14	Uganda	5X1XA	LoTW	DXNews 20220205
2022 Mar07	2022 Mar21	Turks & Cai-cos	VP5	LoTW	TDDX 20220120
2022 Mar09	2022 Mar18	Gambia	C56DF	Club Log OQRS	TDDX 20220201
2022 Mar12	2022 Mar13	Cayman Is	ZF2CA	G4CWH Direct	DXNews 20220228
2022 Mar16	2022 Mar18	Comoros	D60AB	K6ZO	K6ZO 20220226
2022 Mar18	2022 Mar22	Mayotte	FH	K6ZO	K6ZO 20220226
CW WPX Contest, SSB (Mar 26-27, 2022) Check here for pericontest activity					
2022 Mar22	2022 Mar29	Comoros	D60AB	K6ZO	K6ZO 20220226
April					
2022 Apr01	2022 Apr09	Aland Is	OH0EG	LoTW	TDDX 20220216
2022 Apr01	2022 Apr15	Central Afri-can Rep	TL8AA	I2YSB	I2YSB 20210827
2022 Apr07	2022 Apr20	Burkina Fa-so	XT2MAX	EA5GL	DXW.Net 20220121

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

2022 Apr13	2022 Apr27	Maldives	8Q7DX	LoTW	DXNews 20220228
2022 Apr15	2022 Apr28	Austral Is	TX5N	LoTW	TDDX 20220101
2022 Apr19	2022 Apr26	Svalbard	JW0Z	LoTW	ON5UR 20220213
2022 Apr22	2022 Apr29	Aland Is	OH0EG	LoTW	TDDX 20220216
2022 Apr26	2022 May04	Saba & Sint Eustatius	PJ5	LoTW	W5JON 20211230
May					
2022 May22	2022 Jun07	Gambia	C5C	LoTW	DXW.Net 20220131
CW WPX Contest, CW (May 28-29, 2022) Check here for pericontest activity					
June					
2022 Jun22	2022 Jun27	Jan Mayen	JX		DXW.Net 20211203
July					
RSGB IOTA Contest (Jul 30-31, 2022) Check here for pericontest activity too.					
October					
2022 Oc- t26	2022 Nov03	Cocos Keel- ing	VK9CM	EB7DX	VK6VY 20211208
CQ WW DX Contest, SSB (Oct 29-30, 2022) Check here for pericontest activi-					
November					
2022 Nov30	2022 Dec10	St Martin	TO9W	LoTW	DXNews 20220123
December					
2022 Dec15	2022 Dec31	Crozet	FT8/c	TBA	TDDX 20211028
2022 Nov30	2022 Dec10	St Martin	TO9W	LoTW	DXNews 20220123
January 2023					
2023 Jan	2023 Jan	Bouvet I	3Y0J	LoTW	DXW.Net 20210809