



# the exchange



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- Secretary : KB8KE  
Ken Allen
- Treasurer W8RKO  
Mike Suhar
- Club Trustee: KC8RP  
Richard Pestinger
- Club Call : W8EX

## The Prez says.....



Welcome Back! Doesn't seem like that long ago we were wrapping up the DX dinner. Now we are starting to plan the next one!

Over the summer we had one event where we got together. About 15 club members showed up at the Cincinnati Hamfest to check in and do a few minutes of booth duty. It was glad to get caught up!

I mentioned at our last meeting that we would be going to a monthly newsletter to try to keep all of us more informed. We have quite a bit of content for this first episode and I hope you keep it coming!

The makeup of the DX Committee changed over the summer. Our chairman, Joe, W8GEX, is now in an advisory role and Dave, K8DV, is the new chairman. NR8Z, Tom, is the newest member of the committee. Thanks to Joe for his service, to Dave for stepping up, and for Tom for filling the role.

We have also had an active new member committee. Billy, AA8KY is the chairman. John, K2SY, and Joe, W8GEX, are the committee members. They have also been active this summer. Thanks to them for helping.

Speaking of thanks, I don't think I ever really took the time to thank Mindi for her many years of service to the club as the secretary. Mindi managed so many different aspects of our month to month activities, that we might need to get two volunteers to cover it all! Thank-You Mindi.

We have plenty of opportunities for you to serve your favorite club and to take a role. Just let me know and I will get you involved.

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73 and Gud DX  
AJ8B => Bill

## SWODXA 2024—2025 Calendar

### September 2024

7-8 All Asian DX SSB Contest  
 14-16 ARRL Sept. VHF Contest  
**12 SWODXA Meeting**  
 14-15 WAE DX SSB Contest  
 28-29 CQWW RTTY

### October 2024

**10 SWODXA Meeting**  
 26-27 CQWW DX SSB

### November 2024

2-4 ARRL SS CW  
**14 SWODXA Meeting**  
 16-18 ARRL SS SSB

### December 2024

6-8 ARRL 160M CW  
**12 SWODXA Meeting**  
 14-15 ARRL 10M  
 28-29 Stew Perry 160M CW

### January 2025

4-5 ARRL RTTY Roundup  
**9 SWODXA Meeting**  
 18-20 ARRL January VHF  
 24-26 CQWW 160M CW

### February 2025

8-9 CQWW WPX RTTY  
**13 SWODXA Meeting**  
 15-16 ARRL DX CW  
 21-23 CQWW 160M SSB

### March 2025

1-2 ARRL DX SSB  
**13 SWODXA Meeting**  
 29-30 CQWW WPX SSB

### April 2025

**10 SWODXA Meeting**

### May 2025

**8 SWODXA Meeting**  
**16 SWODXA DX Dinner**  
 16-18 Dayton Hamvention  
 24-25 CQWW WPX CW

### June 2025

**12 SWODXA Meeting**  
 14-16 ARRL VHF  
 21-22 All Asian CW  
 28-29 ARRL Field Day

### July 2025

12-13 IARU HF Championship  
 19-20 CQWW VHF

### August 2025

9-10 WAE DX CW  
 23 Ohio QSO Party

# 5 Years Ago in The Exchange

Interview with TA4LYL

Introduction to SMOM (1A0C)

Interview with TF3VS

W8GEX has his 60 Meter Update

CA earthquakes Disrupted HF Propagation

K7NM—Lee describes their attempt at Field Day

K8ZT presents Summer E-skip and FT8

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USA

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Jonathan Balaban

**KW4MM**  
Guth Crowder  
500 Castleside Circle  
Old Hickory, TN 37138  
USA

**KG4DZA**  
Kathleen  
USA

## *SWODXA Club News*

### *Upcoming Club Dates and Topics*

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Thursday, October 10th, 2024	TX5S—Dxpedition to Clipperton Island
Thursday, November 14th , 2024	Dxpedition to Vanuatu—K0BBC—Matt Holden



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# Club News



### Hot DX

E74K	18102.5
7X3WPL	14210.0
BU2GA	14029.0
OM80SNP	7074.0
EI4IT	14296.0
K4OP	21074.0
PF24GP	7130.0
IZ4VVL	7074.0
OV1CDX	14200.0
R9AV	3573.0
RU4CK	1853.0
JH1GEX	14193.6

*Did Anyone see this ==>*

**Featured Member**



 **W8EH**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 16, 2024

**3D2Z announces team member change; Dean Chapman, W2FQ, joins the DXpedition team!**

The 3D2Z team is pleased to announce that Dean W2FQ has joined our on-island team. A resident of Seekonk MA, Dean has been licensed since 1972 , and is a retired Special Forces Airborne RANGER. He currently works in management for the Dairy Farmers of America, and also operates his own business in the firearms industry.

Dean shares “My military service includes Combat Engineer, Infantry, and Special Forces branches in multiple assignments. I was fortunate to finish a 20+ year career as a Special Forces Airborne RANGER. The lessons learned from my service were teamwork, accomplish the mission, and never quit with always valuing the input from your men. This is my first DXPedition and I couldn’t be more excited to be part of the 3D2Z team”.

We are pleased to have Dean join our team. Dean’s skills, leadership and experience compliment our team nicely. His primary role over the next few months will be to lead our fund-raising efforts.

## Club News

Good morning, Bill.

My Virgin Voyage cruise on the Valiant Lady (Bahamas flag) was certainly and great experience that included guests, Richard Branson and Boy George. I was able to operate as C6/N9NUQ/MM with permission of Virgin leadership and with a reciprocal license from the Bahamas. I operated QRP with an Elecraft KX2 and an Elecraft AX1 attached to the railing. Working QRP is so different.

While on the Valiant Lady, I made contacts with the following stations: K4BTH, KD8KMY, K3DI, N1DES, NR4DS, KP4JAR, K9A, W8YNY, KQ4NBX, KC9ZUB/M, N6OKU, AC6ZM, V31ZA, WA2MZX, KP4CMT, WA4AV, HC5DX, K4RWE, KC4VO, TG9AHM, K6AER.

While on the beach in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic (reciprocal from D.R.) I operated as HI3/N9NUQ/P, I made a contact with KC5RT.

My next trip will be on October 2-15, in the islands of Puerto Rico and Vieques. I will be operating while traveling throughout the islands and visiting El Yunque Rainforest and El Morro. A friend, Alberic NP3MR agreed to pull a special permit from the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge and escort me and my family to Monte Pirata, Summit KP4/VQ-001 and activate.

Before leaving the cruise, my wife, Esme booked us on another cruise in 2025. From April 26-May 4, 2025, I will be on the Virgin Resilient Lady beginning in **Barcelona, Spain**, stopping in **Cannes, France** then **Civitavecchia, Italy** then **Valletta, Malta**, then **Mykonos, Greece** and finally Piraeus, Athens, Greece.

I will also be operating C6/N9NUQ/MM. However, I would like to operate in Spain, France, Italy, Malta, and Greece. If you there is a simple way in obtaining the requirements for operating those countries, your assistance would be grateful.

A QSL manager, Fran (EA7FTR) reached out to me to become my QSL manager. Fran sent me an email in which he mentioned accessing the ship's itinerary in order to know the QTH locator of each contact. He also mentions that many people collect contacts with different locators. If you or any club member has any information about this topic, your assistance will be appreciated.

Look forward to the meeting.

Roberto— N9NUQ

(Cruise Pics on Next Page)

# Club News





## Club News

Congratulations to Billy, AA8KY, for achieving his 5B DXCC award. That is quite an accomplishment! Well Done!



Heard It. Worked It. Logged It.



## Club News

I finally decided to build an antenna launcher, air cannon. The project took me longer than expected due to looking through the maze of PVC fittings trying to find the correct sizes.

I used the Zebco reel from my original sling shot after numerous rubber failures and my inability to aim correctly:)

My total expenditure was under \$50 since I already owned the reel and pressure gauge. The only flaw so far is the schrader valve, which leaks.

I have a Ryobi battery powered inflator which works perfectly for the application.

I have added pictures showing the completed project. I folded the barrel back over the air chamber to make it compact. With 10# of air it shot the projectile over 30', I'll try higher pressures later.

I used Charlotte PVC pipe and adapters available at Lowes, now that I have the part numbers I would order online and let them hunt the individual parts.

I imagine there could be all kinds of uses for this other than just getting an antenna up in the tree.

— KC8RP— Richard Pestinger



## Club News

### *DX Committee Update*

The DX Committee has taken the following actions in an effort to better serve the Dxpedition community with funding, to be more financially responsible to SWODXA, and to be able to fund more DXpeditions.

The guidelines that the committee had been using for the last several years was leaving SWODXA in the red at the end of the year and needed to be revised. Below are the two changes.

#1 SWODXA will now only fund DXpeditions that are in the most recent Club Log North America top 50.

#2 Entities falling from 1 to 10 will be eligible for \$500 and 11 to 50 will be eligible for \$250. After much discussion the committee feels this better in line with our yearly generated revenue. The committee also feels this give us the same representation from the DXpedition as SWODXA will still be listed as a donor and listed on the webpage as SWODXA has been in the past.



## *Club News*

### *Voting for DXpedition of the Year*

What does it take to have your vote considered for Dxpediton of the Year? This question comes up each March as we start to vote on the prestigious Dxpediton of the Year. However, by that time, it is too late! The DX committee felt that it would be beneficial to review the requirements to make sure that your vote counts next April. There are two requirements.

First, You must be a paid up member. You can check your “dues status” at <https://www.swodxa.org/swodxa-member-roster/>

Secondly, you must have attended 3 meetings in the past 8 months. ZOOM attendance counts!

Now You Know!

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### *Feedback from the 2023/2024 DXpedition of the Year*

My wife just returned from our weekend at the Friedrichshafen Hanvention in Germany, where Adrian K08SCA handed over the extra plaques that were made for the entire team. 9 out of 10 team members were present in Germany, and again we talked about the DX-pediton of the year award. A great plaque that will find a nice spot on the wall of my shack.

I would like to thank you and the SWODXA for first of all the award itself, but also for the effort to have extra awards made, and had them delivered in time to be presented at the Friedrichshafen exhibition.

73, Martin PA4WM

Bill— the plaque shipped to Utah arrived in perfect shape. Such a beautiful plaque. Please convey my thanks again!

Max NG7M

(You can hear about the Swains Island DXpedition at the following YouTube link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2\\_uZcW-rzXk&t=457s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_uZcW-rzXk&t=457s) )



## Club News



### *Feedback from the 2023/2024 DXpeditioner of the Year*

Hi Bill

As promised, here is a pic of the plaque with F8TRT web master and with me in Kerguelen when we receive green light, and Paul F6EXV QSL manager.

Again tks and best 73 to all Ohio guys ..





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## A Rock and a Hard Place

Bill Salyers – AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net)

*I wrote this in early July before the ARRL released the incident investigation results, printed after this article. However, it appears that it was a typical Ransomware attack so this is still applicable.*

After the outage last May at ARRL Headquarters, I felt like another opinion might be in order.

I am not an ARRL apologist nor am I someone who normally enters the fray just to be heard. However, after reviewing the comments in various locations such as groups.io forums, eHam forums, Facebook comments, and twitter information that has been spread, I felt it was time to at least provide some potential insight surrounding the recent ARRL situation. I have no inside information but quite a bit of knowledge can be gleaned from what was said and what was NOT said. Anyone who thinks that the ARRL took this lightly or were too casual about it doesn't realize what was at stake or the people involved. There are some folks at the league that I have not agreed with, but I never questioned their dedication to the league or the hobby.

I am not a White Hat hacker and not an expert. I have learned things the hard way and then spent considerable time and energy to learn after the fact. In 2019, our company suffered a Ransomware attack at one of our locations shutting down a district office for several days while we dealt with getting 20+ users back online in a way that we felt confident that we could safely move forward.

After putting in our layered defensive scheme, we have received a top rating from our Cyber Insurance provider, been asked to speak at several conferences, and to be a reference for some of the products that we use. If learning the hard way makes you a bit more of an expert, then I am the guy to share some information.

As soon as the ARRL announced that there was an issue with most of the services and systems, one had to conclude that this was a complex and wide-spread attack. As they listed most of the services that had been shut down, LoTW was not on that list. As a very active and popular service, I assumed that some sort of nefarious activity was ongoing such as Ransomware. The idea behind Ransomware is that your files are rendered useless when the attacker applies some sort of encryption to them.

## A Rock and a Hard Place (cont.)

Often you can open them, but they are filled with gibberish. You are then contacted by the attackers, either via email or in a pop-up window when you attempt to open an infected file, to supply some sort of payment (typically bitcoin) and the attackers will supply the reverse encryption key. (You hope.)

When we suffered our attack, we immediately contacted our cyber insurance provider for guidance. We had already isolated the office from the rest of our network. Our provider directed us to contact the FBI who assigned a special agent. The first order of business was to minimize our exposure to the public. We were told not to use terms such as Cyber-attack or Ransomware even to our users. We notified our users that we had a network component failure. The FBI's reasoning was simple. The attackers would be less likely to negotiate if they knew the entire picture and knew that they had you "over a barrel."

**Rock and a Hard place #1** - presumably the ARRL identified a Ransomware attack and had notified the FBI. I am confident that they were told not to mention anything about the severity of the attack. So, ARRL members wanted a full and accurate update and the ARRL *could not* provide one lest they compromise their bargaining position. When they ARRL did not give an LoTW update, wild speculation filled the void. Never helpful, but it happens.

The second step involves identifying the attack vector. Was it social engineering? (via email or a text message for instance) Was it a website drive by attack when someone visited a rogue website? Was it something brought in from the outside via a non-approved laptop, tablet, or a USB device? Perhaps a terminated employee was taking revenge!

There is a scarier situation than we have already discussed - what if something that was loaded on to a PC months ago was part of the objects that were backed up back then? Now when you restore from backup, you could be starting all over again.

**Rock and a Hard place #2** - All of this takes time. The more time you take, the more frustrated the user community gets - I know, I have been there!

Assuming it is a Ransomware attack, while you are going through the evaluation of how you were attacked, the extent of the attack, and what the state of your backups are, you are also performing a business analysis. I have no idea if a demand was made or what it was, but the average starting demand in 2023 was approximately \$568,000.<sup>1</sup>



## A Rock and a Hard Place (cont.)

So now, you are comparing your lost business, functionality, and risk versus the demand. You might set up a test environment and restore your backups to see how quickly you can get things up and running. How stale is the latest backup? Conducting a forced rebuild is not the time to learn that you no longer have the correct tape drives, backup drives, software, or Code Words!

**Rock and a Hard place #3 – Money!** It always comes down to money. Most organizations don't have unlimited funds and I am sure that the ARRL is no exception. In fact, with all the anguish and gnashing of teeth that recently occurred during the membership dues increase, the thought of buying new hardware, cloud services, new software, Cyber Engineers etc. would be the last thing on the league's mind.

A practice that some companies employ, is to relegate old servers to the data center. In many cases, a large server running windows will do a fine job running UNIX even as the hardware ages. It allows companies to avoid the capital expense that would be needed and is a common practice in non-profit organizations. They are hoping that they will never be a critical point of failure. "If it isn't broke, don't fix it!" Once these servers are set aside for a specific task, they are often neglected. It is easy to see how any company might use old hardware to support a project and then forget about it. Suddenly, it becomes a liability that only shows up during an audit or an attack.

We had one such server that we had to physically remove from the network. The software that ran on it was used by our HR department and the last version of Windows server that it could run on was Server 2007! That is no longer supported and is a huge liability.





## A Rock and a Hard Place (cont.)

Once we identified the issue, we took it completely off the network and mothballed it.

As I mentioned, I have no inside knowledge of what the league was facing. I do know that these problems are complex, difficult, and are not aided by sages and experts who seem to know better. As I mentioned, I am not an apologist but I thought another viewpoint my help clarify what the league may have been going through.

Your thoughts and input are appreciated via the Groups.IO groups ARRL-Groups and LOTW-groups.

See you in the pileups.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1409510/ransom-payment-us-quarterly-amount/>



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***DX Engineering is a proud sponsor of major DXpeditions like 3Y0J Bouvet Island 2023. Our active operators are dedicated to making ATNOs possible for hams around the globe. See you in the pileups!***

## ARRL IT Security Report Report to Members— 8/22/2024

Sometime in early May 2024, ARRL's systems network was compromised by threat actors (TAs) using information they had purchased on the dark web. The TAs accessed headquarters on-site systems and most cloud-based systems. They used a wide variety of payloads affecting everything from desktops and laptops to Windows-based and Linux-based servers. Despite the wide variety of target configurations, the TAs seemed to have a payload that would host and execute encryption or deletion of network-based IT assets, as well as launch demands for a ransom payment, for every system.

This serious incident was an act of organized crime. The highly coordinated and executed attack took place during the early morning hours of May 15. That morning, as staff arrived, it was immediately apparent that ARRL had become the victim of an extensive and sophisticated ransomware attack. The FBI categorized the attack as "unique" as they had not seen this level of sophistication among the many other attacks, they have experience with. Within 3 hours a crisis management team had been constructed of ARRL management, an outside vendor with extensive resources and experience in the ransomware recovery space, attorneys experienced with managing the legal aspects of the attack including interfacing with the authorities, and our insurance carrier. The authorities were contacted immediately as was the ARRL President. The ransom demands by the TAs, in exchange for access to their decryption tools, were exorbitant.

It was clear they didn't know, and didn't care, that they had attacked a small 501(c)(3) organization with limited resources. Their ransom demands were dramatically weakened by the fact that they did not have access to any compromising data. It was also clear that they believed ARRL had extensive insurance coverage that would cover a multi-million-dollar ransom payment. After days of tense negotiation and brinkmanship, the ARRL agreed to pay a \$1 million ransom. That payment, along with the cost of restoration, has been largely covered by our insurance policy.

From the start of the incident, the ARRL board met weekly using a continuing special board meeting for full progress reports and to offer assistance. In the first few meetings there were significant details to cover, and the board was thoughtfully engaged, asked important questions, and was fully supportive of the team at HQ to keep the restoration efforts moving.

## ARRL IT Security Report (cont.)

Member updates were posted to a single page on the website and were posted across the internet in many forums and groups. ARRL worked closely with professionals deeply experienced in ransomware matters on every post. It is important to understand that the TAs had ARRL under a magnifying glass while we were negotiating. Based on the expert advice we were being given, we could not publicly communicate anything informative, useful, or potentially antagonistic to the TAs during this time frame.

Today, most systems have been restored or are waiting for interfaces to come back online to interconnect them. While we have been in restoration mode, we have also been working to simplify the infrastructure to the extent possible. We anticipate that it may take another month or two to complete restoration under the new infrastructure guidelines and new standards.

Most ARRL member benefits remained operational during the attack. One that wasn't was Logbook of The World (LoTW), which is one of our most popular member benefits. LoTW data was not impacted by the attack and once the environment was ready to again permit public access to ARRL network-based servers, we returned LoTW into service. The fact that LoTW took less than 4 days to get through a backlog that at times exceeded over 60,000 logs was outstanding. The board at the ARRL Second Board Meeting in July voted to approve a new committee, the Information Technology Advisory Committee. This will be comprised of ARRL staff, board members with demonstrated experience in IT, and additional members from the IT industry who are currently employed as subject matter experts in a few areas. They will help analyze and advise on future steps to take with ARRL IT within the financial means available to the organization.

We thank you for your patience as we navigated our way through this. The emails of moral support and offers of IT expertise were well received by the team. Although we are not entirely out of the woods yet and are still working to restore minor servers that serve internal needs (such as various email services like bulk mail and some internal reflectors), we are happy with the progress that has been made and for the incredible dedication of staff and consultants who continue to work together to bring this incident to a successful conclusion.

*This information was shared with  
ARRL Members via email on August 21, 2024.*

## Interview with TK4TH— "Syl" Corsica

*I have worked Syl at her home QTH and on many of the DXpeditions she has gone on. Great operator and a truly nice person. She responded immediately to my request to answer some questions. She can be emailed at [tk4thcorsica@gmail.com](mailto:tk4thcorsica@gmail.com)*



**AJ8B:** How did you first get interested in amateur radio?

**TK4TH:** 20 years ago I met my alter ego: an Irishman who was very passionate about radio and he passed the “*virus*” on to me; I started on the CB first, then I passed my exams for my full amateur license in 2020. I had to work hard to pass the exam because as I live in a remote mountain village, there is no radio club near my home and I had to fly to mainland France for the test; In a word, I am self taught.

**AJ8B:** Do you have a favorite band or mode?

**TK4TH:** My favorite band is 17m because it is a quiet band, but I also like 30m. There is always traffic within 30m, regardless of the time of day or night.

My favorite mode is SSB but when the propagation is poor, I enjoy digital modes.



## Interview with TK4TH (cont.)

**AJ8B:** What time of day and days do you like to operate?

**TK4TH:** I like to operate in the evenings and late at night.

**AJ8B:** Any secrets to your success?

**TK4TH:** My location I think : I live in a very quiet village, 1500 feet above sea level. My garden is located on a promontory overlooking a valley and I think this creates a very good takeoff point for the air waves.

But this geographical configuration also makes it a very windy place, which means that I often have to lower my antennas to protect from the strong winds.

**AJ8B:** Any tips that you can share?

**TK4TH:** Yes, SWL SWL SWL, that's the main ingredient for a good success.

**AJ8B:** Describe what you are currently using:

**TK4TH:** My transceiver is a Yaesu FT991A. I love this little radio that is very simple to use. I also use the Yaesu FT857D for portable DX.

Antennas :

- for 10 m : Yagi 4 el by PKW
- for 30 m : home made dipole

Wire antenna

Multiband :

- G5RV junior and G5RV full
- Cobweb that covers 6m, 10m, 12m, 15m, 17m and 20m,



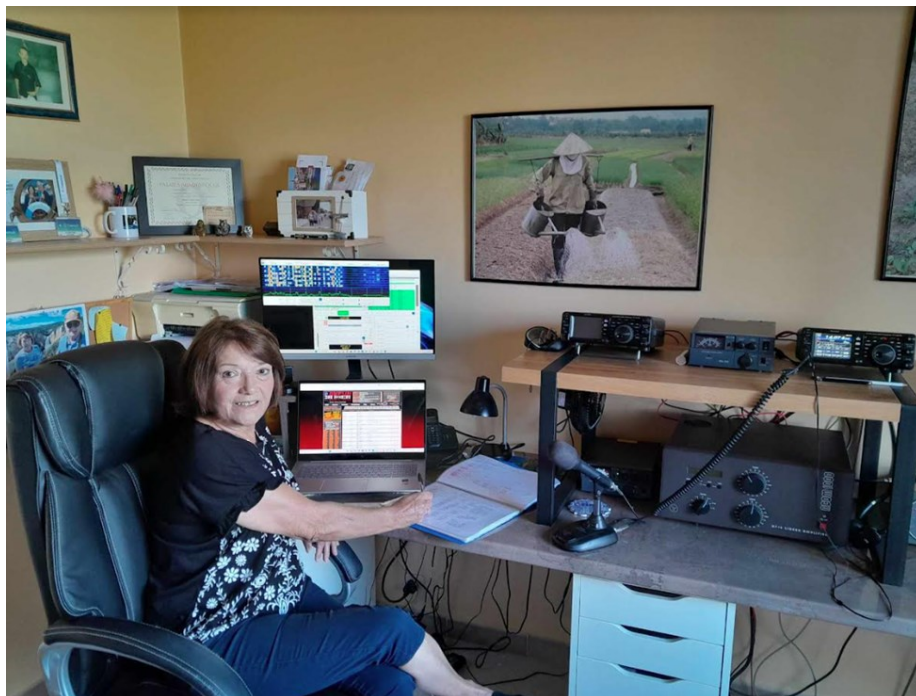
## Interview with TK4TH (cont.)

**AJ8B:** What time of day and days do you like to operate?

**TK4TH:** I like to operate in the evenings and late at night.

**AJ8B:** What advice do you have for those of us trying to break pileups to work DX?

**TK4TH:** Be patient, listen and call at the right time : if possible in a blank second left by the hound but don't call over another operator who is making the contact.



**AJ8B:** What is your favorite contest?

**TK4TH:** I love all contests but my favorite one is the IOTA contest.

**AJ8B:** Any QSLing hints?

**TK4TH:** I think that QSLing is very important, that's courtesy and it is the final step of a QSO. As the price of the stamp has more and more expensive, many operators are now EQSLing, which is still a confirmation of a contact. As my second passion (after Dxing) is designing, I offer a designing service that is totally FREE of charge for Dxpeditons. For those who wish to have a proper paper QSL or an EQSL, I create personal designs, customised QSLs. This is a NON profit activity, I only ask for a little donation that is enterely forwarded to the RED CROSS.

See my website : <https://sylcorsicadesign.wordpress.com/>

**AJ8B:** What coaching/advice would you give new amateurs?

**TK4TH:** SWL (Listen) and don't call over other operators. A good operator is a good listener, that's my opinion.



## Interview with TK4TH (cont.)



**AJ8B:** If I were to stop by for a visit, what local place would you want us to visit?

**TK4TH:** Bonifacio for its very picturesque panorama and Cap Corse for its wild and natural beauty.

**AJ8B:** What local food would you want me to try?

**TK4TH:** The corsican cheese that is goat's or sheep's cheese.

**AJ8B:** Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions.



## Chasing Comets— An Intersection of Astronomy & Amateur Radio

*Steve AA8SW - AA8SW@att.net*

You may have heard of meteor scatter propagation, an exotic mode engaged in by only a tiny fraction of radio amateurs. I want to encourage more SWODXA members to try it.

What is this about? When small rocks enter the Earth's atmosphere at almost unimaginable velocity, they encounter air resistance, heat up, and vaporize in a fraction of a second. In their wake, they leave a fleeting ionization path which can reflect radio waves.

Bouncing radio signals off of meteors as they burn up in the atmosphere? Seriously, we can do that? Yes we can. It's one of the most entertaining things I have ever done as a ham.

Meteors, also known as "shooting stars" when visible at night, can originate with asteroids or comets. We are primarily interested in the little ones which burn up in the atmosphere, not the larger but uncommon meteorites which make it all the way to the ground.

While both comets and asteroids consist of debris left over from the formation of the Solar System, comets are much more interesting than the chunks of rock or metal which make up asteroids. Comets are complex structures often described as dirty snowballs, containing a vast number of rocky particles ranging from dust to boulders, held together by frozen carbon dioxide, frozen methane and water ice. And comets have a unique property which makes them a much more plentiful source of meteors for us to enjoy.

Most comets come from the Kuiper Belt, where Pluto is located, more than 2 billion miles from the Sun. For most of each orbit around the Sun, comets are frozen solid and remain dormant at a temperature of hundreds of degrees below zero in deep space, but when they enter our neighborhood and start to feel the strong radiant heating of the Sun, they come alive as the frozen gases and ice near the comet's surface quickly vaporize in the heat.

As shown in the photo on the next page, the head (nucleus) of the comet, which is only a few miles wide, becomes surrounded by a visible "coma" of vaporized gas which can be thousands of miles wide, and the comet develops a thin tail which can be a million miles long. *Here's the important part for ham radio* -- as the frozen gases holding the comet together vaporize, the comet sheds enormous amounts of rocky debris, more than a ton per second.



## Chasing Comets (cont.)



So Comets leave a very large rocky debris field behind – millions of pounds per hour -- as they pass near the Sun.

Asteroids usually come from the asteroid belt, which is relatively close to us, between Mars and Jupiter, so they have had a limited amount of time to gain speed as they fall toward the Sun. Comets come from much farther away than asteroids so they are moving much faster when they approach us.

So we have asteroids, comets and comet debris as possible sources of rocks burning up in the atmosphere that we can try to bounce signals off of. For ham radio, the debris shed from comets is by far the most interesting. Why? Asteroids are infrequent and small ones arrive at unpredictable times. Who wants to sit there all day waiting for an asteroid to come, and then only get one successful transmission out of it? A comet impact on the Earth is (fortunately) very rare, since it could mean the end of all life as we know it. So comet debris is the ticket – it conveniently comes in a high volume package at highly predictable times. With comet debris, we can know in advance when to be ready for major events (known as meteor showers), and approximately how many impacts to expect, since the patterns repeat every year.

Most of the millions of pounds of debris shed on a comet pass orbits the Sun and every year, at the same time of year, our path around the Sun intersects the debris field and we see “shooting stars” at night. There are meteor showers year-round but only a half dozen that are considered major.

Most of the comet debris is just the size of sand grains or a pebble. But the rocks are moving more than 20,000 miles per hour in many cases so they burn up as soon as they enter the upper atmosphere. It only takes a fraction of a second for the little rocks to heat up and vaporize at thousands of degrees, but due to moving at such high speed – another advantage of comet debris over asteroids -- each vaporizing rock creates an ionization zone miles long in the fraction of a second that it is vaporizing. We can bounce radio signals off of that ionization trail, just like we use ionization caused by the Sun for normal HF propagation.

## Chasing Comets (cont.)

But there is a catch when it comes to use of meteor trails! Normal solar excitation of the ionosphere often persists and supports HF communications for hours or days at a time, but the ionization trail from the destruction of small meteors only remains usable for radio communication for a few tenths of a second. How can we transmit our call signs in a recoverable way in a couple of tenths of a second?

It turns out, hams have been thinking about that question for more than 70 years. A QST article in 1953 discussed the state of the art of meteor scatter at that time, which was basically ignoring the small rocks and waiting for the rare larger meteors that create ionization zones for several seconds, so a fast CW ID could be sent during the ionization event. Thus at that early time, it was a very exotic activity with only a handful of hams involved. By the 1960s, cassette tape players were modified to send and recover CW at very high speeds, like 200 to 400 WPM. Operators would record their calls repetitiously at a normal speed like 20 wpm and then use the tape recorder to play back the tape at 10x speed or higher, shortening the length of time that a meteor trail had to be active in order to transmit a complete callsign but still not making use of the most plentiful “pings” which only last a tenth of a second or two. The advent of personal computers in the 1990s upped the ante -- then CW could be sent and received at more than 1000 wpm. But it was still CW so the signal had to be strong enough to be decoded by ear after the audio manipulations, which is tough to get when you are scattering your transmission off of a narrow meteor trail. It was still just a relatively small number of intrepid (and well-funded) hams participating in this exotic activity with their high-powered stations and big antennas.



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## Chasing Comets (cont.)

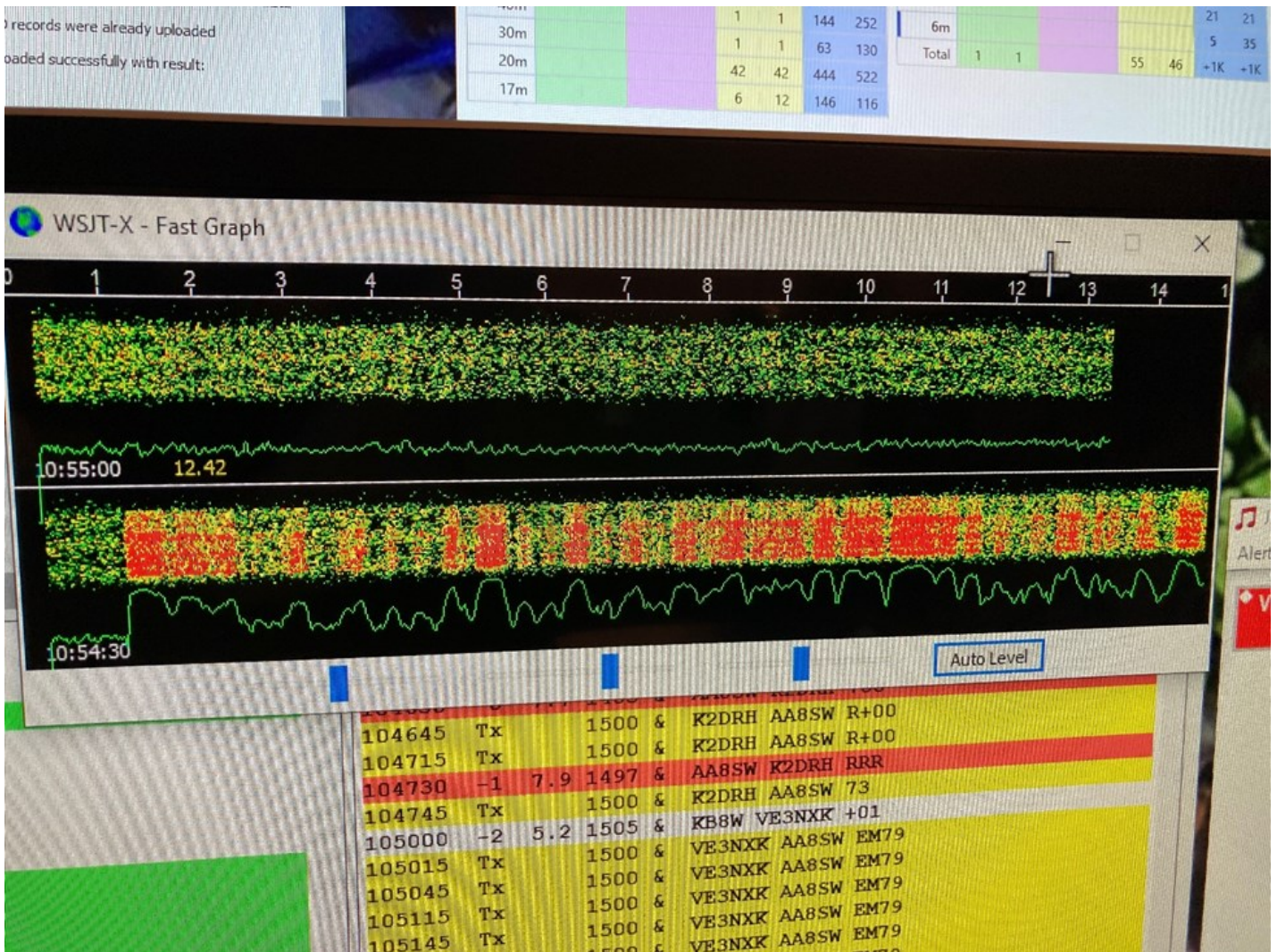
But then, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, everything changed. Joe Taylor, K1JT to the rescue! The intrepid Dr. Taylor, retired Princeton physics professor, Nobel laureate and, most importantly to our hobby, the creator of the fantastically successful FT8 and other WSJT-X modes, developed a mode specifically for meteor scatter, called FSK441. That got the ball rolling for wider adoption but it was still challenging. Then in 2017, around the time that FT8 came out, he issued another, greatly improved mode called MSK144. Finally, this was the opportunity for “normal stations” to work meteor scatter utilizing the relatively plentiful, small fraction of a second meteor strikes. Astoundingly, MSK144 transmits a complete data package, including redundant forward error correction features, every 70 milliseconds – 15 times a second. That is a data rate of 2000 bits per second! And recoverable even at very low signal to noise ratios with FT8-type technology including recovery of perfect decodes with only part of the data package being received, with the use of high-tech forward error correction. Suddenly, the exotic activity of bouncing ham radio signals off of meteor trails is available to a large number of radio amateurs without special equipment or Herculean efforts.

It turns out that 6 meters is by far the best band for this; lower frequencies are not reflected adequately by the wispy meteor trails, and the losses inherent in long-distance transmissions on higher bands make them impractical for widespread use (the stations that routinely pursue meteor scatter on 2 meters and above often have kilowatt transmitters and high gain antennas on big towers). For average stations, 6 meters is the only band of interest. That sounds like an unfortunate limitation but it has some advantages, since those operators only need an antenna for one band and there is only one frequency to monitor. Of course, many SWDXA members have impressive stations and for those folks, there is the opportunity to pursue even more challenging meteor scatter contacts on 2 meters and higher bands.

With the magic of MSK144, even little stations like mine can make meteor scatter contacts on 6 meters. I have made dozens of them, in 17 states at distances up to about 1000 miles.

The picture on the next page is an MSK144 “waterfall” (a misnomer since time runs horizontally in this graph) showing a burst that I grabbed in August at the peak of the Perseid meteor shower. The red vertical marks are the RF signatures of meteor strikes and most have a duration of just a few tenths of a second. Each of those strikes could support a complete MSK144 transmission. Below the graph, the software is listing several decodes obtained from transmissions bounced off of comet debris trails in the period shown on the graph, including a contact I completed with K2DRH, and then starting to call VE3NXK which was ultimately successful.

## Chasing Comets (cont.)



Note that each decode, back and forth, requires a separate meteor strike in a usable location, so sometimes it takes several minutes to complete a contact even under good conditions.

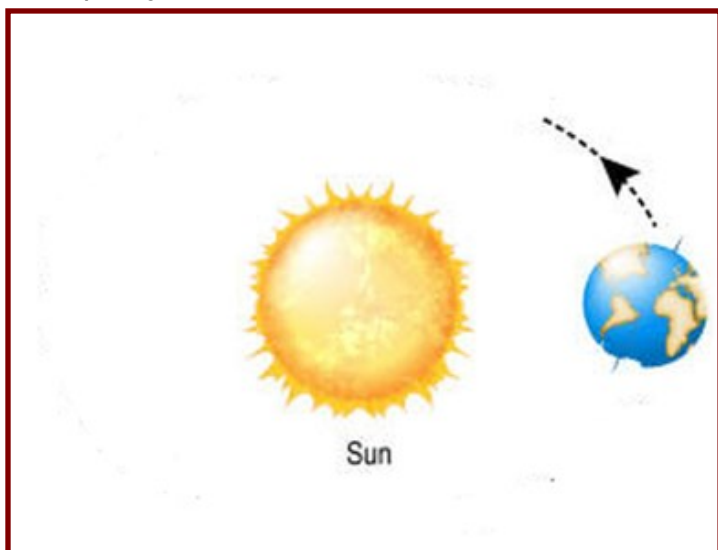
But what if we are not satisfied with just any comet, and we want to bounce signals off of debris that came from the king of the comets, Halley's Comet? Can do! Halley's has not been near the Earth for almost 40 years, but its debris field from that pass and previous ones continues to orbit the Sun and is available for the Earth to intersect reliably during its annual passage around the Sun.

The Earth passes through Halley debris every year in late April and early May (known to astronomers as the Eta Aquarid meteor shower), and during that time, I have made several MSK144 contacts on 6 meters between 500 and 900 miles. Other stations better equipped than mine have made many more contacts.

## Chasing Comets (cont.)

So, that's how debris from Halley's Comet and others is connected with amateur radio. Thanks to modern computer technology and the revolutionary inventions of Joe Taylor, the exotic experience of bouncing signals off of meteor trails is an opportunity open to all hams with reasonable 6-meter stations. Prior to MSK144, that was not the case – so in the 100-year-plus history of ham radio, ordinary hams have only been able to do this for the last 7 years.

Many of the older people like me will not be around to see the return of Comet Halley in 2061, but now we have another way to connect with the uniquely-famous comet.



Is there a favored time of day to attempt meteor scatter? Definitely. As the Earth proceeds around the Sun and impacts a zone of comet debris, the greatest density of meteor strikes will be around the “leading edge” of the Earth at that time; *i.e.*, the area of the Earth that is facing the same direction as the Earth is moving (the area facing the same way as the arrow in this schematic diagram, which is obviously not to scale). That preferred time turns out to be just before sunrise.

There is a dedicated message board for meteor scatter at [pingjockey.net](http://pingjockey.net), where much useful information about who is on and what they are doing can be gained at any given time. Except in peak meteor scatter periods, the group is usually on the air around an hour before sunrise to shortly after sunrise. Checking PSKreporter for MSK144 data is another good way to find out if the mode is active. Checking online for the peak days of the major meteor showers will produce the best results, although there are a few dedicated MSK144 users on the air nearly every day. Only the standard WSJT-X software is needed – if you are set up to operate FT8 on 6 meters, you need nothing else.

Not only is it great fun to make a meteor scatter contact, but chasing meteors has conversation value. Much of what we do as hams is not particularly interesting to other people but in my experience, bouncing signals off of comet trails, especially from Halley's Comet, will gain interest.

Good comet hunting to all!

73, Steve AA8SW



# The ARRL 2024 DX Contest from Iceland

*Henning— OZ2I— ha@oz2i.dk*

***Hen has been a constant contributor to "The Exchange" for several years and he submitted this interesting story. Thanks!***

The ARRL test is a nice "easy" Contest because, depending on where you stay, you don't need to turn the antenna or know the propagation conditions all over the globe. The only ones you need to contact are the USA and Canada, which are right next to each other. And even though Hawaii and Alaska are American states, they do not participate as such, but (like the rest of us) may only contact the other 48 American states and 14 Canadian districts.

The test takes place on all HF Contest bands ; 160 – 80 – 40 – 20 – 15 – 10 metres. There are Single Operator (No cluster help) and Single Operator Unlimited (with cluster help) categories, both as All Bands or Single band and a Multi Operator category. Furthermore, there are different Power groups; QRP (Max 5W), Low Power (<100W) and High Power (>100W). The codes you send are a number for the output power you use and the codes you receive are the abbreviation for the state or district. The test lasts 48 hours and there are no restrictions on how many of these hours you may be active.

Over the years I have participated in the test from Denmark as OU2I and OV90EDR as well as OZ5W, Cape Verde 2 times with the call sign D44EE, Madeira 2 times with the call signs CT9ABR and CR3EE, the Azores with the call sign CQ8EE and this year I participated from Iceland with the call sign TF2R. Since I always participate as Low Power, I always have used to send the report 599 99 – nice and fast on CW; 5NN NN.



## Iceland (cont.)

My approach to Iceland was the first time in 2023 when I participated in the CQWW test. It became a somewhat chaotic pre-journey and several contacts with various Icelandic amateurs didn't really help me. As I was sitting at the airport, on my way to Iceland, I was contacted by Sigggi TF3CW. He himself was on Madeira to participate in the test from there together with the Slovakian (403A/CR3DX) team, but he suggested me to contact Georg TF2LL. As said, done, and even though it was a little late, Georg opened the door for me to use his antennas that weekend – YES.

It was the CQWW test in November 2023. The callsign was TF/OU2I and I ended up with a good result: #1 Iceland + #8 Europe + Iceland Record + CQ Zone 40 Record .

In addition to being a fantastic test, it also gave me a new radio amateur friend who would very much like to give me access to run the ARRL test 2024 from his QTH. Georg is a contest operator himself, but he does not use CW, so his station is not occupied for CW tests, and that is my luck.

My second trip to Iceland was in February 2024 and started with some sightseeing in Reykjavik and a visit to the IRA, **Icelandic Radio Amateurs** who are based right next to the smaller airport in Reykjavik (not the international one in Keflavik). More info at <https://www.qrz.com/db/TF3IRA>

I was warmly welcomed by the club's chairman Jonas Bjarnason TF3JB, who is also chairman of the Icelandic national association. I handed over an EDR pennant and together with coffee I got to talk with several exciting radio amateurs - of course mostly about Contests. The club had a lecture on Collins radio stations and there were a few radios on display. I don't understand Icelandic so I went to the radio room with Oskar TF3DC and got a talk about radio and of course some CW. There are four major stations in Iceland with particularly good antennas; TF3T + TF3W + TF4M + TF2R. The last one is a Contest station located approximately 150km north of Keflavik and is where Georg TF2LL, has his QTH.



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## Iceland (cont.)

My agreement with Georg was that I arrived at his place around noon on Friday and then we had to install the 160m antenna so that it was possible to use that band as well.

His antenna farm consists of an Opti Beam OB-19-4, 19 elements and 4 bands which are 10-15-20-40 meters. With 3 elements on 40 meters and at a height of approximately 25 meters, there is a fairly good signal all around the world. Also, a 20-meter-high vertical was mounted for the 80m band with four elevated and aligned radials. In addition, there was the 40-meter-long wire which we mounted as Inverted -L.

Georg had prepared the ground network with 12 , approximately 40 meter long radials spread out as you can see in the picture. We started by picking up his "Tractor-Tower", which consisted of a John Deere tractor with a front loader on which he had mounted a holder, a round tube that fitted with a 12 meter long fiberglass mast. The "mast" was driven into position and the antenna wire led through an eye at the top, after which the whole glory was lifted up to maximum height - front loader approximately 8-9 meters plus the mast's approximately 12 meters, i.e. around 20 meters.

We worked in the field together with 6 Icelandic horses and minus 8-degree Celsius frost with a weak wind, so the Dane gradually froze while the Icелander worked on undeterred, even without gloves!

All antennas were checked and since Georg only uses SSB they were just adjusted a little so they fit better in the CW area. Everything was clear and I spent a few hours sleeping before the big battle had to begin.

As extra motivation to make a good result was the fact that several Danish stations were ready to make a good effort from OZ and, in addition, Alex OX7AM was also ready in Sdr. Strømfjord, Greenland. I would prefer to "give" myself so that I was not driven completely behind in the dance. The computer was also set up for the Live Score server, but unfortunately there was no OX7AM to be found on the list. On the other hand, there were several OZ'ers that I could follow.



160M Vertical



## Iceland (cont.)

Saturday morning at 00:00 I was ready with the key and started on 40m where there was good activity. I was around both 160m and 80m without making many contacts – only a single QSO on 160m. On the other hand, I had some really good RUNs on 40m. At 02:00 there came an opening on 80m and I got many nice contacts, but it only lasted in little over an hour. Then back to 40m until 20m started to open around 04. I had many band changes to try the low bands but it didn't do much and was disappointing because I would be missing the Multipliers from the two bands. In total I got 2 (two) QSOs on 160m with 2 Mults and 82 QSOs on 80m with 22 Mults.

In comparison, 40m gave 553(54), 20m 662(59), 15m 632(58) and 10m 399(49).

You can see my result at <https://www.oz2i.dk/sh5/2024-ARRL-TF2R/>

Since I couldn't really get connections on 160m and 80m, I looked at RBN (Reverse Beacon Network) at <https://www.reversebeacon.net/> under the "Main" menu. By entering my call sign, I can see where in the world my radio signals can be heard.

And on 40 meters I could be heard all over North America without problems. 80 meters was somewhat worse, my signal strengths were much lower and on 160m I could be heard all over Europe but not in NA. I could hear several faint Americans and Canadians but they couldn't hear me at all and, as several have told me; "Turn up the effect" – that would probably have helped, hi.

The preliminary results are now on the ARRL website and I am in 12th place worldwide in my category, SOLP. Alex OX7AM takes a nice 6th place in his category, SOUHP.

A bit of post-rationalization: I could only keep myself going for 25 hours of the test's 48 hours and I think that is too bad. At least I should have been active for 36 hours, which corresponds to a "CLASSIC" participation in the CQWW test. SO – now I need some mental training not to give up so easily to the urge just sleep for a few hours in the middle of the game.

### ARRL OH Section Updates

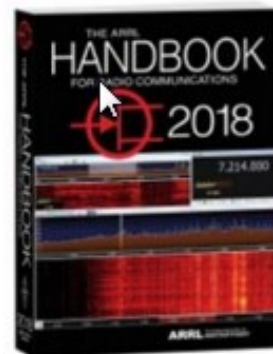
From our ARRL Section Manager,  
Tom Sly, WB8LCD

Hey Gang, Do you get updates from your ARRL Ohio Section Manager via email? If not, go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/handbook.html> and get registered.

What's the catch? I want to get everyone checking in to the Ohio Section website as often as possible, and in order to register each month, you have to visit the website often! There's nothing else to it. I pay all expenses, and from time to time, I Give Away more than just a Handbook. And, you'll never know just what months will be those special times that I will have more than just a Handbook to Give Away!!

Did you see the ad from ARRL recently? Well, they liked my idea so much that they've copied it. Yup, they were giving away a Handbook too!

Many of you ask me just how do I know when the drawing is on? Well, that's easy all you need to do is check in on the Ohio Section Website on a regular basis and watch for the big RED Arrow that will appear on the left side of the page. This is the sign that the drawing is on and you need to get registered. So, keep a sharp eye out on the website and check in often! <http://arrl-ohio.org>



## Iceland (cont.)



TF2LL QTH

Maybe I had a contact with some of you in SWODXA, in the ARRL DX CW Contest. I was using the call sign TF2R, it belongs to the *Tango Fox Radio Foxes* radio club placed at TF2LL QTH near Nordtunga Kirkja.

My next journey goes to Malta. With the call sign 9H6EE I will be active in the CQ WPX CW Contest from “*Marconi Amateur Radio Circle*” a club in the town of Mtarfa (Near Mdina). I have been invited to use their nice antennas and look forward to meet them again. Keep an eye on the RBN and the Cluster for 9H6EE.

Read updated news on [https://oz2i.dk/?page\\_id=2331](https://oz2i.dk/?page_id=2331)

Best 73 de OZ2I Henning



Iceland (cont.)



Antennas at TF2LL



UT4EK

TF3JB, OZ2I, and TF3DC





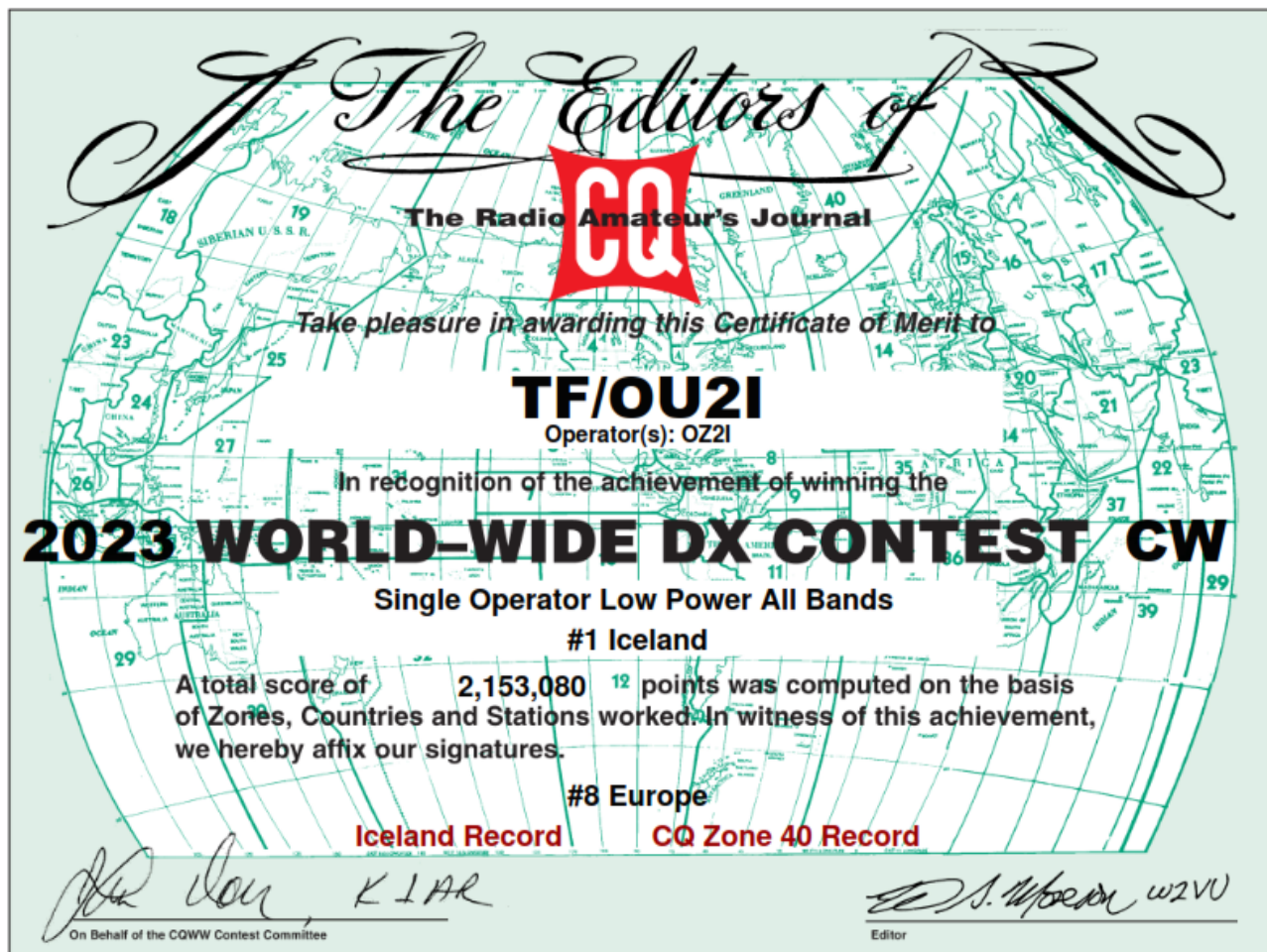
Iceland (cont.)

Scores for ARRL Intl. DX CW Contest

February 2024

OZ2I

# World	# Cont	Call Sign	Year	Location	Cat	Score	QSOs	Mult	Tim	Record
		TF2R	2024	<b>TF</b>	SO LP	1.676.280	2.329		25	ICELAND RECORD
<b>11</b>	7	OU2I	2023	<b>OZ</b>	SO LP <b>40</b>	15.651	142	37	6	DENMARK RECORD
<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	CQ8EE	2022	<b>CU</b>	SO LP	793.866	1.500	181	29	AZORES RECORD
31	8	OU2I	2021	<b>OZ</b>	SO LP	116.352	395	101	17	
<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	CR3EE	2020	<b>CT3</b>	SO LP	1.223.175	1.754	235	30	
37	4	CT9ABR	2019	<b>CT3</b>	SO LP	139.944	398	119	19	
<b>6</b>	2	D44EE	2018	<b>D4</b>	SO LP	939.918	1.978	161	30	
33	8	OV90EDR	2017	<b>OZ</b>	SO LP	153.888	465	112	20	
40	14	OU2I	2016	<b>OZ</b>	SO LP	288.855	660	147	23	
<b>8</b>	3	D44EE	2015	<b>D4</b>	SO LP	1.740.942	2.391	246	31	CAPE VERDE RECORD
32	22	OU2I	2013	<b>OZ</b>	SO <b>HP</b>	1.132.650	1.698	225	32	
97	53	OU2I	2012	<b>OZ</b>	SO LP	95.328	337	96	17	



Iceland (cont.)

ARRL-I-DX - All Bands - CW **TF2R** op.0Z2I - Single Operator - Low Power - 25 hours

	1.8	3.5	7	14	21	28	Total
QSOs	2	84	553	662	632	399	2332
Points	6	249	1587	1962	1875	1191	6870
Multi 1	2	22	54	59	58	49	244
Multi 2+3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QSOs/h	8	77	81	85	91	108	89
Score	1%	6%	22%	26%	25%	18%	1676280

# Put A Spring In Your STEP

Stay Active On All The Bands





## Interview with YE9BJM— Mike

*I had a great QSO with Mike and just had to send him some questions. He responded quickly along with some great pictures.*

*mike0198@gmail.com*

**AJ8B:** Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions. Is there anything you would like to share with us?

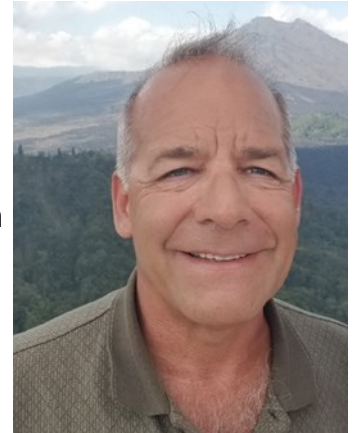
**YE9BJM:** I have been an amateur radio operator for 58 years but due to living in an apartment in the Washington DC area was off the air for nearly 20 years and was anxious to get back on the air here in Indonesia. My most recent Extra Class US callsign is WQ2M.

I graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Electrical Engineering and later received my MBA from Portland State University. My career began at age 16 with 10 years in commercial broadcasting before moving into telecommunications and IT sales and management. I was based in Brussels, Belgium for five years responsible for AT&T's operations in Central Europe after the fall of the Soviet Union. I worked for AT&T in various management positions for over 30 years and later moved to General Dynamics for 9 years where I was Capture Manager responsible for winning large contracts with the Department of Defense. I still do some consulting work but am mostly retired enjoying my ham radio hobby.

When my wife, Dewi, and I decided to move to Bali, we looked for "ham friendly" land adjacent to the ocean and were able to find a one-acre lot with approximately 200 feet of beachfront. We built our 3400 square foot house during Covid-19 which helped us keep construction costs low. Ongoing costs are also low. Annual property taxes run around 200 USD per year. It took approximately 14 months to complete our house and we were able to move in in January 2022. Two months later, I received my Indonesian operating license and was on the air. What a change since I last operated in 2003 - digital modes, LOTW and costly DXpeditions!

In a little over two years since I resumed operating as YE9BJM, I completed 23,500 contacts, worked 270 countries (262 confirmed), worked over 1000 USA counties and was first place in Indonesia in ARRL DX, and CQ WPX; #1 Indonesia and #1 Oceania in CQ WW and WW Digi contests for years 2023-4. I also received first place awards in several other contests.

Sometime in the next few years, we plan to move back to the US so we can be closer to our children and grandchildren. We hope to be able to find a ham radio operator buyer for our home who can continue to take advantage of this excellent DX location and station.





## YE9BJM Interview (Cont.)

**AJ8B:** How did you first get interested in amateur radio?

**YE9BJM:** I was a long-distance AM radio listener beginning around 1964 and over the next couple of years built several Heathkit radios and other electronic devices so I could listen to shortwave stations and amateur radio stations. This led to obtaining my Novice amateur radio license in 1966 at the age of 15.

**AJ8B:** Do you have a favorite band or mode?

**YE9BJM:** I have always found 40M phone to be a challenge, especially working DX crossband when there was no overlap in US and rest of world band allocations. I have experimented with various multiband antennas, always trying to optimize my station's performance on 40M.

**AJ8B:** What time of day and days do you like to operate?

**YE9BJM:** Here in Indonesia, the HF bands are mostly dead during the day, so I get on the air in the early evening as the grayline approaches this part of the world.

**AJ8B:** Any secrets to your success?

**YE9BJM:** Location, location, location. ( [YE9BJM - Google Maps](#) ) My tower/antenna is only 100 feet from the Bali Sea. My QTH is on the north end of Bali Island with nothing but ocean between me and North America (30 degrees) and Europe (315 degrees).

**AJ8B:** Any tips that you can share?

**YE9BJM:** When we built our place, I set up an extensive grounding system surrounding each of our buildings. It consists of 87 x 2.5M long ground rods separated by ~2.5 Meters connected together with 6-gauge copper cable.



## YE9BJM Interview (Cont.)

**AJ8B:** Describe what you are currently using:

**YE9BJM:** Yaesu FTdx10 Transceiver  
Elecraft KPA1500 Solid State Amplifier  
SteppIR DB36 for 80M thru 6M on 20-meter free-standing tower

**AJ8B:** What advice do you have for those of us trying to break pileups to work DX?

**YE9BJM:** Patience and politeness. If stations continue to call while I am making contact with a station, I will ask them to let me complete my QSO without interruption. If they repeatedly continue to ignore my requests, I will simply go QRT which ruins the contact opportunity for those who are being courteous.

**AJ8B:** What is your favorite contest?

**YE9BJM:** My favorite phone contests are the ARRL International DX, CQ WW and CQ WPX. For Digital, the Worldwide Digi contest. My next challenge is to get software setup so I can participate in CW contests. I would welcome any advice on the best software arrangement for sending and receiving CW.

**AJ8B:** Any QSLing hints?

**YE9BJM:** The safest way to reimburse for QSL costs is using PayPal. When sending greenbacks in the mail to/from poorer countries you run the risk of having the envelopes stolen and pilfered for the greenbacks. If you really want to make sure your greenbacks, SAE and card reach the destination, pay extra for registered mail.



## YE9BJM Interview (Cont.)

**AJ8B:** What coaching/advice would you give new amateurs?

**YE9BJM:** Many new amateurs in Indonesia (and I expect Worldwide) only know of FT-8 and find obtaining DXCC is relatively easy. I encourage them to try to get a balance between digital and phone modes. It will also help them improve their English fluency.

**AJ8B:** If I were to stop by for a visit, what local place would you want us to visit?

**YE9BJM:** My home island of Bali is a major tourist destination with over 5 million visitors in 2023. Quite a change from only 51 tourists in 2021 due to Covid. There are many sights to see ranging from Hindu temples to beautiful landscapes and waterfalls to some of the most beautiful beaches in the world

**AJ8B:** What local food would you want me to try?

**YE9BJM:** When in Bali, my top recommendation is fresh seafood at Jimbaran beach. Tables are lined up on the beach where you can watch the sunset while enjoying your meal. Rather than ordering from the menu, I personally select my seafood from the area just outside the kitchen, picking out the freshest whole red snapper, squid, clams and prawns. I prefer for them to be barbequed using a natural garlic and butter garnish or with the famous Jimbaran sauce. The total cost for such a meal for 4 people including beverages, salad, soup, rice and fruit and service is around \$40.



*Jimbaran Beach Seafood Dinner*



## YE9BJM Interview (Cont.)



*Mike, Budi-Tower Installer - YB9BUD, Budis wife-YB9ELS,  
Dewi-Mikes wife*

*Tower and DB36 in Picturesque Background*



*View from the Shack*



*Waterfall near our home -  
With Grandchildren*

## Club Contacts



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President, Newsletter, and  
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## Club Contacts



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# SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA)

## Club Fact Sheet

**Who We Are:** *SWODXA* is comprised of active DX'ers and contesters with a deep passion for all aspects of Amateur Radio. We welcome everyone who is interested in joining our club to please contact us. *SWODXA* members are active in all facets of DX and Contesting. We also travel to, and fund various DXpeditions all over the world. *SWODXA* sponsors the annual DX Dinner held on the Friday evening of Hamvention weekend in Dayton, Ohio. In addition, *SWODXA* members moderate the Hamvention DX Forum and host the *W8DXCC DX Convention*. *SWODXA* is proud sponsor of the prestigious *DXpedition of the Year Award*.

**DX Donation Policy:** The policy supports major DXpeditions that meet our requirements for financial sponsorship. Details are available on the website at: <https://www.swodxa.org/dxgrant-application/> and elsewhere in this newsletter

**Club History:** The Southwest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) is one of the country's premier amateur radio clubs. Though loosely formed in mid-1977, the club had its first formal organizational meeting in August of 1981 where Frank Schwob, W8OK (sk), was elected our first President. While organized primarily as a DX club, SWODXA members are active in all aspects of our hobby.

**Requirements for Membership:** We welcome all hams who have an interest in DXing. It doesn't matter whether you're a newcomer, or an old-timer to DXing; everyone is welcome! Visit <http://swodxa.org/member.htm>

**Meetings:** The club meets on the second Thursday of each month at Hunter Pizzeria in Franklin, OH, and virtually via ZOOM. Members gather early in the private room for dinner and then a short business agenda at 6:30 PM, followed by a program. If you enjoy a night out on the town with friends, you'll enjoy this get together. Meeting attendance is NOT a requirement for membership.

**Club Officers:** Four presiding officers and the past president (or past VP) make up the Board of Directors. The current roster of officers are: Past President Tom Inglin, NR8Z, President Bill Salyers, AJ8B; Vice President Brian Bathe, AD8FD; Secretary Ken Allen, KB8KE, and Treasurer Mike Suhar, W8RKO.

**Website:** We maintain websites at [www.swodxa.org](http://www.swodxa.org) and [www.swodxaevents.org](http://www.swodxaevents.org) managed by Bill, AJ8B. These sites provide information about a variety of subjects related to the club and DXing.

# SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA)

## DX Donation Policy

The mission of SWODXA is to support DXing and major DXpeditions by providing funding. A funding request from the organizers of a planned DXpedition should be directed to the DX committee by filling out an online funding request.

(<https://www.swodxa.org/dx-grant-application/> )

The DX Grant committee will determine how well the DXpedition plans meet key considerations (see below). If the DX Grant committee recommends supporting the DXpedition in question, a recommended funding amount is determined based on the criteria below. The chairman of the committee will make a recommendation at the general meeting on the donation.

### Factors Affecting a DXpedition Funding Request Approval

DXpedition destination	Website with logos of club sponsors
Ranking on the Clublog Most Wanted Survey	QSLs with logos of club sponsors
Online logs and pilot stations	Logistics and transportation costs
Number of operators and their credentials	Number of stations on the air
LoTW log submissions	Bands, modes and duration of operation

H40GC	H44GC	ZL9HR	XX9D	HK0NA	FT4TA
KH1/KH7Z	EP2A	FT5ZM	C21GC	VK9WA	NH8S
K4M	CY9C	VK9MA	PT0S	FT4JA	YJ0X
6O6O	VP6D	TO4E	XR0ZR	VP8STI	VP8SGI
W1AW/KH8	K1N	3D2C	VK0EK	S21ZBB	E30FB
ST0RY	TI9/3Z9DX	VK9MT	K5P	9U4M	TX3X
VU7AB	3Y0Z	3C0L	TX7EU	CE0Z	3C1L
TI9A	3D2CR	3B7A	K9W	VU7RI	6O7O
C21WW	CE0Z	T30GC	T30L	D68CCC	W8KKF/WP5
K5D	3Y0J	T33A	3Y0J	CY9C	