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the exchange

SWODXA
WWW.SWODXA.ORG
SouthWest Ohio DX Association

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Prez says…..

What a busy time for SWODXA. The W8OK award, DXPedition of the year, DX Dinner, the DX Forum, the club DX Contest and the DX that is actually on the air is keeping us all busy!

The meeting last month was held at Marions Pizza in Mason. The venue seemed to be agreeable to everyone as we had one of the largest turnouts in quite a while. Thanks to Jay, K4ZLE, for exploring other venues, but I think we will use this one for the near future.

Make sure you are checking a couple of things on our website. (https://www.swodxa.org/) Verify that I have you marked correctly as a paid up member. (https://www.swodxa.org/swodxa-member-roster/) Also, make sure that your DXCC standings are accurate. (https://www.swodxa.org/club-dxcc-hr-ladder/) If they are not, send me an email.

We will be voting for the DXPedition of the year after the April meeting. It is this award that separates us from all other DX Clubs. Take some time to review the ballot and cast your vote thoughtfully.

I have recently read that W4DXCC is cancelled for 2025 with a possible restart for 2026. I have also heard that the International DX Convention (Visalia) is also in danger of being cancelled, or at least going “virtual.” That leaves us as the club with the biggest DX Dinner and DX Forum going. How might we take advantage of that? What can we do to provide a forum for DXers while maintaining our presence? Your thoughts and input are appreciated.

73 and Gud DX

AJ8B => Bill

SWODXA 2024—2025 Calendar

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

September 2025
- 6-7 All Asian DX SSB Contest
- 13-15 ARRL Sept. VHF Contest
- 11 SWODXA Meeting
- 13-14 WAE DX SSB Contest
- 27-28 CQWW RTTY

October 2025
- 9 SWODXA Meeting
- 25-26 CQWW DX SSB

November 2025
- 1-2 ARRL SS CW
- 13 SWODXA Meeting
- 15-16 ARRL SS SSB

December 2025
- 5-7 ARRL 160M CW
- 11 SWODXA Meeting
- 13-14 ARRL 10M
- 27-28 Stew Perry 160M CW

January 2026
- 3-4 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 8 SWODXA Meeting
- 18-19 ARRL January VHF
- 23-25 CQWW 160M CW

February 2026
- 14-15 CQWW WPX RTTY
- 14 SWODXA Meeting
- 21-22 ARRL DX CW
- 20-22 CQWW 160M SSB

Upcoming Club Dates and Topics

Meeting Date	Topic
Thursday, April 10th, 2025	All about RTTY and RTTY Contesting -W0YK—Ed
Thursday, November 13th, 2025	Is 3dB worth a divorce? - W0GJ—Glenn Johnson

ATTIC BEAM for 20 meters by Lynn W4NL.

This antenna was designed to be used in an attic for a friend hung from the underside of the roof in an inverted V fashion.

The first is a 2 element beam for 20 that is pointed in one direction. It does play well and is explained below.

1. 2 Element— 20 meter reflector Yagi using #16 wire. 10' spacing between the reflector and driven element. Fed directly with a 1:1 current balun and 50 ohm coax.

Reflector: 36' (one solid piece of wire) #16.

Driven Element: 33.5' split to look like a dipole.

There may be some adjustment depending on surrounding objects, but it will come in close to these specs.

Freq	Gain	F/B	Ohms	SWR
14.100	5.5	9.37	46	1.18:1
14.120	5.48	9.28	47.17	1.14:1
14.140	5.45	9.19	47.71	1.1:1
14.160	5.43	9.1	48.24	1.07:1
14.180	5.4	9.01	48.76	1.03:1
14.200	5.38	8.92	49.28	1:1
14.220	5.35	8.84	49.79	1.03:1
14.240	5.33	8.75	50.03	1.07:1
14.260	5.31	8.67	50.8	1.10:1
14.280	5.29	8.59	51.30	1.14:1
14.300	5.27	8.51	51.79	1.17:1

Normalized radiation resistance at 14.100 is 61.2 ohms.

ATTIC BEAM for 20 meters (cont.)

2. 3 element 20 meter Yagi using #16 wire. Driven element with reflector and one director using 5' spacing between each element. Fed with 50 ohm and a 1:1 current balun.

Reflector:36' (one solid piece of wire) #16.
Driven Element: 33.5' split to look like a dipole.
Director: 32.5' (one solid piece of wire) #16.

There may be some adjustments depending on surrounding objects but it will come in close to the specs in the table below..

If configured as a fixed antenna one can simply change the length of the reflector to assume the director's length and the director becomes a reflector by assuming the reflector length.

A relay or switch can be used and low current/voltage as they are parasitic elements. This can be done since the design uses the same spacing between the reflector and the driven element and the director and driven element. Simple!

Normalized radiation resistance at 14.100 is 67.5 ohms.

Freq	Gain	F/B	Ohms	SWR
14.100	6.06	14.15	48.15	1.02:1
14.120	6.06	14.15	48.41	1.02:1
14.140	6.07	14.36	48.49	1.02:1
14.160	6.08	14.50	48.54	1.01:1
14.180	6.09	14.68	48.26	1.01:1
14.200	6.1	14.88	47.85	1:1
14.220	6.12	15.13	47.25	1.01:1
14.240	6.14	15.41	46.47	1.07:1
14.260	6.17	15.73	45.5	1.10:1
14.280	6.19	16.11	44.36	1.14:1
14.300	6.23	16.54	43.06	1.17:1

Finally, for both of these antennas: While these were designed for an attic as stated they will play okay outside and perhaps better.

I won't say inside antennas do better in any way as good or better than outside antennas, but I've said many times that others have great joy with 'an' antenna and inside may be the only way at times.

Special Edition – 2024 DXCC Year-end Review – by Joe Reisert, W1JR – January 6, 2025

Each year, W1JR, Joe, and W3UR, Bernie, give me permission to reprint this excellent year end summary. We discussed it in depth on The DX Mentor podcast/YouTube. You can check it out there. Thanks to them for permission to reprint.

2024 DXCC Year-end Review, by Joe Reisert, W1JR

This year was like a roller coaster driven by increased radio propagation from Solar Cycle (SC) 25. January started with a great solar peak and was followed by a peak every month through October and late December.

Even 6 meters saw worldwide openings in late October.

As usual ,several DXpeditions faced transportation and permit problems, increased costs, local RFI problems, etc. Nevertheless, several of them exceeded 100K QSOs. Two of the top 25 Club Log DXCC Most Wanted Countries were activated. WSJT once again was often the dominant mode of communication.

ARRL was hit by an extensive ransomware attack in May. LOTW (Logbook of the World), DXCC, and many other programs were severely impacted. They are still working hard trying to recover.

Unfortunately, after the death of *CQ Magazine* owner Dick Ross, K2MGA the magazine ceased publication. However, most of their programs have been picked up by individuals, clubs, etc. MFJ owner Martin Jue, K5LFU decided to retire and is ceasing on-site production for MFJ and its sister companies.

Dedication: This Year-end Review is dedicated to the memory of Bob Allphin, K4UEE, who became a Silent Key in February. For many years, Bob participated or led numerous DXpeditions on the Most Wanted DXCC Entities List. He was a great CW op, a member of the DX Hall of Fame, FOC member, A-1 Operator, and more. Bob will surely be missed. May he rest in peace.

K4UEE, Bob Allphin, passed away on February 10, 2024.

2024 in Review: 285 DXCC entities were activated during 2024. Two on the Club Log DXCC Most Wanted List were activated. Single operator FT4GL put Glorioso Island on the air for a month and multi-op N5J activated Jarvis Island. Several DXpeditions made over 100K QSOs, including A8ØK, TX5S (Clipperton Island), N5J, 9L5A, 3D2V, VK9CV, PXØFF, CY9C and T32TTT.

2024 DX Year in Review (cont.)

As usual, many DX gatherings and conferences were held, including the International DX Convention in Visalia, CA; HamVention in Xenia, OH; W9DXCC in Chicago and others by many DX clubs. Congratulations to the 2024 CQ Hall of Fame inductees. Contest Hall of Fame: N2IC, PP5JR, and K2MGA, DX Hall of Fame: VE3LYC, W3UR, and K2MGA, and Amateur Radio Hall of Fame: DL8HCZ/(CT1HZE), K3LR, and K2MGA.

Radio Propagation: Needless to say, increased solar flux spiked radio propagation this year. In January the solar flux index hit 195. Even higher peaks followed for the next several months thru October. Later in October many long haul 6 meter contacts took place when the solar flux stayed above 200 for several days. However, the solar flux peaks decreased until the end of December when solar flux finally increased. In October 2023 NOAA predicted that SC 25 may peak between January and October 2024. In October this may have happened. Time will tell.

The weekday propagation column forecasts by Frank Donovan, W3LPL in The Daily DX by W3UR are a great source for current radio propagation. Frank always lists several sites such as SWPC/NOAA for further information. KC2G near-term maps are helpful as is DX.QSL.net/propagation. Recent articles by Frank, W3LPL in October QST and Carl. K9LA in the ARRL Letter on May 30 are also of interest.

Here are some useful propagation guidelines. Propagation is best on 10 and 12 meters when the A index is <15, the K index is <4, the solar wind is <400 KMS and solar flux is >160. A solar flux well over 200 for several days in a row is usually required for good 6 meter F2 propagation.

Ham Radio and the Internet: There is no doubt that the internet has had a profound influence on DXing. The DX spotting network on the internet consists of multiple DX Cluster nodes worldwide. Many DX Cluster sites such as DXSummit, DXHeat, VE7CC, RBN (Reverse Beacon Network), PSKReporter, etc. are great resources for timely DX spotting activity and DX information.

VK2/W7BRS, Jeff, did a one-man operation from Lord Howe Island in July.

When spotting DX on the DX Clusters, make sure to show the exact frequency and mode of operation such as CW, SSB, FT8, or FT8/FH especially when the frequency spotted is not in the expected spectrum. Please don't spot stations that you either aren't hearing or not sure of the call sign. Also, don't ask for skeds or brag about your QSO, etc. Most DXpeditions aren't watching the DX Spotting Network, and many users don't appreciate these interruptions.

2024 DX Year in Review (cont.)

Band-by-band Activity in 2024 (Frequencies in MHz):

160 Meters: The rise of SC 25 has adversely affected DX on this band. As a result, there was low to moderate activity, especially on CW, except when DXpeditions are active or during contests when activity fills the band. Increased FT8 activity is between 1.830 and 1.840. Try to avoid using frequencies on 160 meters that are divisible by 5 (e.g., 1.820, 1.825, 1.830 etc.) since broadcast birdies are often present.

75/80 Meters: DX activity has been low to moderate on these bands except during contests and DXpeditions.

CW is mostly on the low end and SSB near 3.795. On the other hand, FT8 activity has really increased around 3.573.

60 Meters: Many new entities have received permission to operate on this band, although they may be limited to 15 watts and a dipole antenna. Well over 250 DXCC entities have been active on 60 meters. Most DX activity is now concentrated around channel 3 at 5.357 and almost entirely on FT8. The FCC is still considering non-channelized operation near channel 3 for USA stations. The ARRL Awards programs do not recognize 60 meter contacts. USA operation on 60 meters is limited to 100 watts output power and a dipole antenna. Use of gain antennas requires reducing transmitter output power.

40 Meters: 40 meters is still the workhorse band during local nighttime. CW and SSB DX activity is especially high during contests. Most DX activity has shifted to the FT8 mode around 7.074. USA stations cannot operate SSB below 7.125, so it is best to stay above 7.128 for safety.

30 Meters: This band is still very popular for DXing, especially for low-power stations. It is usually open a few hours before sunset until after sunrise, but it can remain open most of the day during local winter. There is lots of FT8 activity between 10.130 and 10.140. The USA power limit is still 200 watts at the output of the transmitter.

20 Meters: It is still the go-to DX band especially during local daylight hours, but activity has decreased somewhat as the propagation on the upper bands has improved. Much of the DX activity on CW has decreased except for DXpeditions but SSB activity is still OK. FT8 near 14.073 and FT4 and F/H (Fox/Hound) modes between 14.080 and 14.095 are very active.

17 Meters: This band is often open shortly after 20 meters opens. All modes seem to be doing well. There is lots of FT8 activity around 18.100.

2024 DX Year in Review (cont.)

15 meters: With increasing sunspots, 15 meter DX is open during all four seasons and sometimes well into the night. FT8 activity near 21.074 is high, as are the nearby F/H modes.

10 and 12 Meters: Both bands are doing well during the day, Vigilant DXers are sometimes catching DX at least several hours after sunset. Summertime DX propagation is less reliable than during the other months. F2 propagation occurs during most summer days when the solar flux index exceeds 200. Sporadic-E DX propagation frequently occurs during June and July. FT8 activity is high near 24.915 and 28.074.

The CY9C team from St. Paul Island in August/September.

6 Meters and Above: In recent years, most of the DX activity has gone digital on 50.313 and 50.323 during band openings. There is no doubt that the increased sensitivity of FT8 over CW opens this band more often than expected. Also check the ON4KST website for other VHF/UHF traffic. Some F2 propagation is returning with the increase of sunspots during SC 25. TEP (Trans-Equatorial Propagation) and other related propagation associated with the equatorial ionization anomaly are also increasing. EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) DX using digital modes such as WSJT Q65 is becoming very popular on 2 and 6 meters, especially during local moonrise and moonset and during DXpeditions. Over 75 stations contacted ZD9GJ on a recent W7GJ 6 meter EME DXpedition and over 1,000 were also worked on other propagation modes. The top DXers on 6 meters have worked 283 entities but so far officially only about six or so North American stations have achieved the 200 level.

2024 Monthly DX Activity Sample: Here are just some of the medium-rare to rare DX stations that were active during each month.

January: This past January was very productive as solar flux increased with over 210 entities active. Notably rare to semi-rare stations included FW4AT, 3B9AT, T32TT, ET3AA, TX5S (Clipperton 114K QSOs), J52EC, and FH4VVK.

February: As usual, there was lots of activity especially during DX contests. 5X7O, 7O2WX, KH9/NL7RR, CBØZA/ZW (108K QSOs), H4ØWA, and VK9L/GM4DLG were active.

March: Conditions were still great with 4W/JH2EHV, TY5C, HC8MD, and TO5XG (FO/A) active.

April: A52CI, A52P, 3GØYA (142K QSOs), 3D2CCC (117K QSOs), TX7W (FO/A), and VP6G (16K QSOs). May: OJØT, C91CCY, T5/IT9HRE, VU7LAL, ZD7SC (1.3K QSOs), SV2RSG/A, PYØFZ. and FT4GL (61K QSOs).

2024 DX Year in Review (cont.)

May: OJØT, C91CCY, T5/IT9HRE, VU7LAL, ZD7SC (1.3K QSOs), SV2RSG/A, PYØFZ. and FT4GL (61K QSOs).

June: C91AHV, 5U5K (40K QSOs), VK9LA (21K QSOs), W8S and K8K (KH8), and S21ZI.

July: K8R (KH8) and FP/KV1J.

August: N5J (107K QSOs), TU/TA7YGT, TO8EP (FP), V73ML, OJØJR, and CY9C (115K QSOs).

September: Z81D, ZD9GJ, XT2AW, T2M, KH8T, and FO/NY1P (FO/A).

October: 3D2V, TI9/TI2JJP, C21MM, C91BV, YJØJJ, and PXØFF (129K QSOs) and ZL7IO.

In December 15 ops from Bangladesh, including 8 youth ops, were QRV as S21DX from IOTA AS-140.

November: VK9CV (108K QSOs), S9Z (52K QSOs), A35GC, 3D2Y (Rotuma), C5T, TL8ES, FJ/W6HGF, AU2K (AS-179 10K QSOs), 9L5A (111K QSOs), 3D2AG/P (Rotuma), and KH7AL/KH9.

December: This is YOTA (Youth on The Air) month with special YOTA call signs everywhere from dozens of entities. Also active were AU2S (AS-153), VU4A (30K QSOs), S21DX, T32TTT (100K QSOs) and of course OF9X (Santa Claus).

Unauthorized Operations: As usual many unlicensed or pirate stations were active during the year. Many expeditions were pirated and spotted before, during, and even after their operation. This explains why many don't release their call signs before commencing operation. Check your QSO using online logs if available. Foul language was sometimes present and is unacceptable.

Some call signs reported on the clusters were probably incorrectly listed. These spots affect many DXers. When spotting a station on the cluster accuracy is extremely important. If you are not sure of a call sign, don't spot it until you are sure it is correct, since it can cause bells to ring worldwide and increase anxiety.

Here is the on-island 3D2Y Rotuma Island DXpedition team. They had many remote youth ops.

DXpeditions: They are increasing and are the lifeblood to work rare or semi-rare DX entities. They usually face many obstacles since they often go to remote locations. Permission to operate from these locations can sometimes be difficult to obtain and travel can be very costly.

2024 DX Year in Review (cont.)

This past year was no exception with many delays, interruptions, and cancellations. High winds often damaged antennas. High temperatures above 35 degrees C (95 degrees F), high humidity, as well as critters were sometimes a big problem. Medical issues also occurred. Power outages and local RFI often made it difficult for them in some locations to copy weak signals. Despite these difficulties, at least nine DXPeditions made over 100K QSOs as noted earlier. Several EME expeditions also took place from semi-rare locations.

Support for DXPeditions has never been more important as costs are skyrocketing. While you are operating from the comfort of your shack, they are not always as lucky. Don't complain on the Internet about their operations since you don't know the circumstances. Please support their efforts so they can continue to activate rare entities. NCDXF (Northern California DX Foundation), INDEXA (International DX Association), GDXF (German DX Foundation), and The Yasme Foundation are just a few of the significant supporters of many DXPeditions . These foundations do a great job at vetting and funding upcoming requests.

Operating techniques: Needless to say, the RST report 599 on CW and 59 on SSB are now almost universal! The DX Code of Conduct is a great operating guide. **Deliberate QRM is always forbidden.** The adage still applies, always **Listen, Listen, and Listen** before you start to transmit and do not call on the DX station's frequency!

Don't call stations unless you are copying them or tune up your transmitter on the DX station and the common DX frequencies. Keep tuning time to a minimum and change frequency often. DXPeditions and rare to semi-rare stations almost always operate split frequency. Unfortunately, many stations still call right on top of the DX station or tune up on the same which causes panic.

Finally, don't spot rare DX on the DX Cluster unless you are sure it's legit, know the proper call sign, and surely don't spot rare DX call signs for test purposes. It causes lots of bells to ring worldwide and unnecessary worry. Also don't post rare call signs to thank someone for a QSO or for receiving a QSL etc. Those watching the cluster do not appreciate this type of boasting.

In October/November members of the Mediterraneo DX Club operated XT2MD in Burkina Faso.

2024 DX Year in Review (cont.)

Digital Operations: Nowadays digital modes such as WSJT-X (FT8, etc.) are often the dominant DX mode. WSJT-X is managed by K1JT, Joe Taylor, and his development team. It can often decode signals that are barely audible. FT8 sensitivity is up to 10 dB better than CW. The developers of WSJT have recently released updated software. Also, they released the new SuperFox mode (see below) to some stations which makes it possible to work up to nine stations at a time. More updates are expected soon.

3D2AG, Antoine, was QRV as 3D2AG/P from Rotuma in October/November.

FT8 can be a band opener, especially during times of poor propagation. It also allows smaller stations to participate in DXing. The Q65 mode is highly recommended for EME, ionospheric scatter, and other weak signal work in VHF, UHF, and microwave bands.

DXpeditions usually use the F/H (Fox/Hound) mode which requires stations to call at least 1KHz above the DX frequency. Selected stations are now using SuperFox which has no calling frequency requirements. Make sure to call in the proper time sequence and never call if you are not copying the station because if the station should reply, it just slows down the pile-up.

The F/H mode has a learning curve and requires special operating parameters. First off. always call at least 1 KHz above the DX station. Don't call the DX station if you aren't copying them well since if the DX station copies you and calls you it will tie up the report cycle and slow others from a QSO. Make sure that you are transmitting on the proper time slot. Stations are often observed calling in the wrong time slot and right on top of the DX station.

According to Club Log (outside of contests), 50-75% of all DX activity now takes place using WSJT modes. It's interesting to see many well-known DXers now operating FT8. RTTY activity is low but increasing primarily during contests.

DX Contesting: Contests as usual were everywhere this year and lit up the sometimes quiet bands using CW, SSB, and digital modes. There was a noticeable increase of activity on the upper HF bands. The WA7BNM Contest Calendar is a great source of contest information. Also, the **ARRL Contest Update** is a bi-weekly newsletter which often has interesting tidbits on upcoming contests and operating, etc. CTU (Contest University) is also conducted during the year. Remember that contesters should stay healthy so they can operate long hours of continuous activity. A recent article entitled "Healthy Contesting Habits" by KØMD in November QST should be of interest.

2024 DX Year in Review (cont.)

The H40WA team was QRV from Temotu Province in February/March.

During the CQ WW DX CW, GU4YOX, Bob, was active as VP2EBB from Anguilla.

ARRL and DXCC Matters: The DXCC program is the largest program at ARRL. As mentioned earlier, ARRL was hit by a huge ransomware attack in May. Many services such as LOTW were literally destroyed. Some have been fixed, but others are still being serviced, causing long processing delays. LOTW has over two billion QSOs on file and is becoming even more popular and widely used instead of paper QSLs.

There are now over 1,845 persons that have qualified for the top of the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll. Over 275 have reached the ARRL DXCC Challenge 3,000 level. To see the latest DXCC standings on the ARRL website first click the "On The Air" window and then DXCC Standings. ARRL also has many bulletins that are of interest to DXers. Some new books were published in addition to updates on existing books. The ARRL QSL bureau is another service for League members.

The DXCC program and rules are now being closely examined for the first time since 2000 by the ARRL Programs and Services Committee. See "Second Century, The Future of DXCC" by NA2AA, David Minster, in November QST. Changes are possible. Send your recommendations to your ARRL DXAC member.

Finally reports in the news media tell us that Bougainville, an autonomous region in Papua New Guinea (P29). has voted to become an independent nation in 2029. If this happens, it might be added to the active DXCC list.

QSLing: Postage and shipping costs have gone sky-high. Many DXPeditions are now requesting US$5 for a QSL. Use of OQRS (Online QSL Request Services) are Increasing. Paper QSLs are becoming a lost art form.

QRZ.com: This is still a great source for information and is very up to date. Locations, distance, bearings, and email addresses are readily available. Sometimes there are also interesting biographies or stories and photos.

2024 DX Year in Review (cont.)

Club Log: This is another important source of information for DX. Many DXers and DXpeditions post their logs on Club Log so it is a good place to verify QSO sometimes in a relatively short time. It is also a source for OQRS. Club Log.ORG.DXreport.htm is available on the Internet. They list solar activity, active expeditions, most active modes, etc. This gives you a good overall view of daily DX activity.

Technology: As usual rig improvements such as filtering, noise elimination, direct signal sampling, signal handling, software. etc. are continuing. Some say that AI (Artificial Intelligence) may soon be used to assist noise elimination. Time will tell. Solid state high power amplifiers are increasing. Likewise, antennas, especially smaller sizes, are being developed for people with limited space. Accessories are a necessary part of operating. Nowadays building is often being replaced by buying. Many commercial sources are available. Likewise electronic flea markets and hamfests are often a great source of inexpensive equipment and accessories.

Remote operation is now becoming common practice especially where antenna structures are limited. Gear for same is becoming available. RIB (Radio in a Box) is also being used. Small remote stations can be placed on land, especially where there are environmental concerns or nighttime restrictions. The recent N5J DXpedition used RIBs to make 107K QSOs and operated remotely from a boat and via the internet.

IOTA (Islands on the Air): The IOTA Program celebrated its 60th anniversary during 2024. Improved propagation and a decrease in COVID has increased operations from rare and semi-rare IOTA groups. This year saw two first -time IOTAs activated: 4A5D (NA-144) on Maria Madre Island in late March and AU2K (AS-179) on Kanika Island in late November. Many rare to semi-rare IOTAs were activated, such as AU2S (AS-153), N5J (OC-081), CY9C (NA-094), and TX5C (NA-011). Others had trouble in obtaining entry permits, increased costs ,and travel delays, as well as fuel shortages. The IOTA program now has made some accreditation restrictions when the DX station is working remote such as from a RIB.

N5J from Jarvis Island used the RIB technology, hopefully paving the way for other rare islands.

2024 DX Year in Review (cont.)

YOTA (Youngsters on the Air): Throughout the year and especially in December, there were numerous stations some having easily identifiable call signs. They often operated and were supervised by licensed operators, especially on SSB, but also on FT8 and occasionally on CW. These operations are very important for the future of our hobby. Give these stations a call to incentivize the operators to become radio amateurs. Several groups have introduced CW training such as CWops with CW Academy, the Long Island CW Club, and K1USN that transmit slow-speed CW for practice. Several scholarships are also available yearly to youth under 25 years of age such as WROF, NCDXF and W2PV.

Safety: This can never be stressed enough. During the past year there was at least one fatal accident, VA2VKG. VE6WZ and others were nearly injured during tower and antenna repairs. We can never be safe enough when working with towers and antennas. See the article by Don Daso, K4ZA, in September QST. Even some professional experts have problems but still may be the correct choice. Proper safety harnesses are required.

TX5S started off the year in January from Clipperton Island.

Podcasts: These are increasing and sometimes available live or later on the Internet from clubs etc. Examples are The DX Mentor, QSO Today, DX world, AJ8B, W3LPL, K9LA, and others.

Silent Keys (SK): This was a dreadful year for DXers and those supporting amateur radio, although the number of persons on the QST Silent Key list has decreased slightly during this year.

The following is a partial list of SK DXers and others that contributed to our hobby. They are generally listed in the order as they have departed us during this past year: K5YKD, ZL3NB, K6AW, S57DX, K4UEE (see above), HC5T, W2UDT, IZ1GAR, K9IED, HC8JG, NN7D, DJ6TF, W5LE, WA3LPQ, UT5UT, W9YSX, YV5SF, VK4BLK, K2MGA (see above), W8SU, WX4G, WØPAN, W3HC, KC5LK, KB6LQS, N4XM, NQ7R, N6ZM, K3RR, K6GFJ, K5EWJ, W9GT, S21AD, EP2ES, OH5TS, FM5AN, HC5EG, W1FV, K5QE, K3PP, N3AO, N9NR, WB2YQH, K8UT, EK6TA, NE3F, ZL2AO, G3HTA, K9NR, KK9DX, 4S7VG, UT5SI, K4GK, W7DXX, ZA1H, ON4IZ, W4VQ, K8NA, AD6P, W4FLA, OH2BAD, ON4IZ, AB4IQ, K9ZO, NP2B, W6NYW, K2WR, EA5RM, and N2HX.

2024 DX Year in Review (cont.)

And now the Drum Roll: There were approximately 55 DXCC entities that were NOT believed to have been active during 2024*.
Africa (18): 3B6, 3C, 3CØ, 3Y/B, 5T, 9Q, D6, E3, FT/J, FT/T, FT/W, FT/X, FT/Z, T5, TN, VKØH, VQ9, and ZS8.
Antarctica (1): 3YØ/P.
Asia (9): 1S, BS7H, BV9P, E4, EZ, P5, T6, XZ, and YK.
Europe (3): 1A, JX, and R1F.
North America (6): CYØ, KG4, KP1, KP5, XF4, and YVØ.
Oceania (13): FK/C, KH1, KH3, KH4, KH7K, T33, VKØM, VK9M, VK9W, VK9X, ZK3, ZL8, and ZL9.
South America (6): CEØ/X, HKØ/M, PYØ/S, VPØ (G), VPØ (O), and VPØ (S).

*Please note that some rare entities may not be on this list for 2024 because operations were short, set up schedules, or were only on VHF, EME (Earth-Moon-Earth), etc.

DXCC entities that are not believed to have been activated in ten (10) or more years have increased and now include: 3Y/P, BQ9P, BS7H, CEØX, FK/C, FT/J/E, FT/T, FT/Z, HKØM, KH3, KH7K, KP5, P5, VPØ/S. Sand, YK, YVØ, and ZL8. An avid DXer working hard at DXCC who worked every country over the past 13+ years could have made the DXCC Honor Roll. This list also serves as a guide to those planning DXpeditions to rare entities. As for me, the top of my needs list for the DX Challenge has only slightly changed in many years and not surprisingly goes to P5, BS7H, and BQ9P in that order.

Upcoming DXpeditions: The following DX operations have been announced for early January: VK9C, C5RK, 6W1RD, TY5C, T88SM, TX7N (FO/M), 5N, and 9X5AW, followed in the next months by V7, VK9XU, H44MS, VK9C and 3B9DJ. It looks like 2025 will also be an exciting DX year.
Remember to stay tuned and check www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html for future operations.

Looking ahead to 2025 and beyond: As stated above, Solar Cycle 25 may still be cranking away in 2025. DX has really changed in the last few years with WSJT. Some DXers chase the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll, the ARRL DXCC Challenge, or the DX Marathon. In 2024 there were some 1,500 logs submitted in the DX Marathon. There is still time to improve or repair, if necessary, your 6, 10, and 15 meter antennas as well as keeping your 80 and 160 meter antennas in operation. Then there are the never-ending DX Contests, DX Marathon, DXCC Challenge, and IOTA chasing. There are lots of things to do. Don't let the airways slow down for lack of activity. HF radio conditions on the higher bands are doing well. Try to stay active and join the fun. Don't forget to support the various DX Foundations around the world that help make all of this possible.

2024 DX Year in Review (cont.)

Not exactly a DXpedition, but certainly a great photo of his YE9BJM QTH in Bali.

Finally: Once again, I am honored to be asked by Bernie, W3UR to write this 20th DXCC Year-end Review and for his valuable input and help. Thanks especially go to Frank, W3LPL for his many helpful comments and inputs. Also, to my son Jim, AD1C for his computer help and all the others who helped provide information. I have tried to rearrange and add subjects this year. Suggestions are always appreciated. We hope this review has been informative especially for historical purposes. Most prior DXCC Year-end Reviews can be viewed on the K8CX Ham Gallery. They are listed in the Table of Contents

Happy New Year and best wishes for DX during 2025.

73,

Joe Reisert, W1JR

NOTE: Obviously all the opinions etc. expressed are solely mine as are any errors that I have made. This Year- end Review is copyrighted. Therefore, copies or use of this review MUST first be approved by Bernie, W3UR and then a courtesy copy of the reprint must be sent to Joe@Reisert.org.

Special thanks to 3D2AG, AA7JV, GU4YOX, K5GS, KB2FMH, N6PSE, S21RC, WØGJ, W6IZT, W7BRS, and YE9BJM for the photos.

VP8G DXPedition Report

Gerben Menting, PG5M

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Like most other DXPeditioners, I am constantly exploring destinations for my next DXpedition. This search is not simply a look on the Most Wanted List, but also involves all aspects of how to get there/accessibility, can it be a suitable location for
setting up station, power supply, local support, etc. For me there is also an element of general interest in remote locations.

The Falkland Islands was one of the destinations that I always had an interest in visiting. But how does it rank on the Most Wanted List? (MWL) You never see this mentioned as a highly demanded country for DXers. However, when I looked at the MWL in a bit more detail, I found out that it ranks low for SSB and Digital, but for CW it was surprisingly high. The table below shows the details for most continents. As a CW operator, my interest was born, and I decided to take further steps to start this project.

Rank	EU	W-EU	E-EU	NA	NA-W	NA-E	AS	VK/ZL	Global
CW	27	36	23	38	54	37	27	24	30
SSB	204	217	193	223	234	205	171	187	
Digi	218	225	208	234	246	225	205	158	

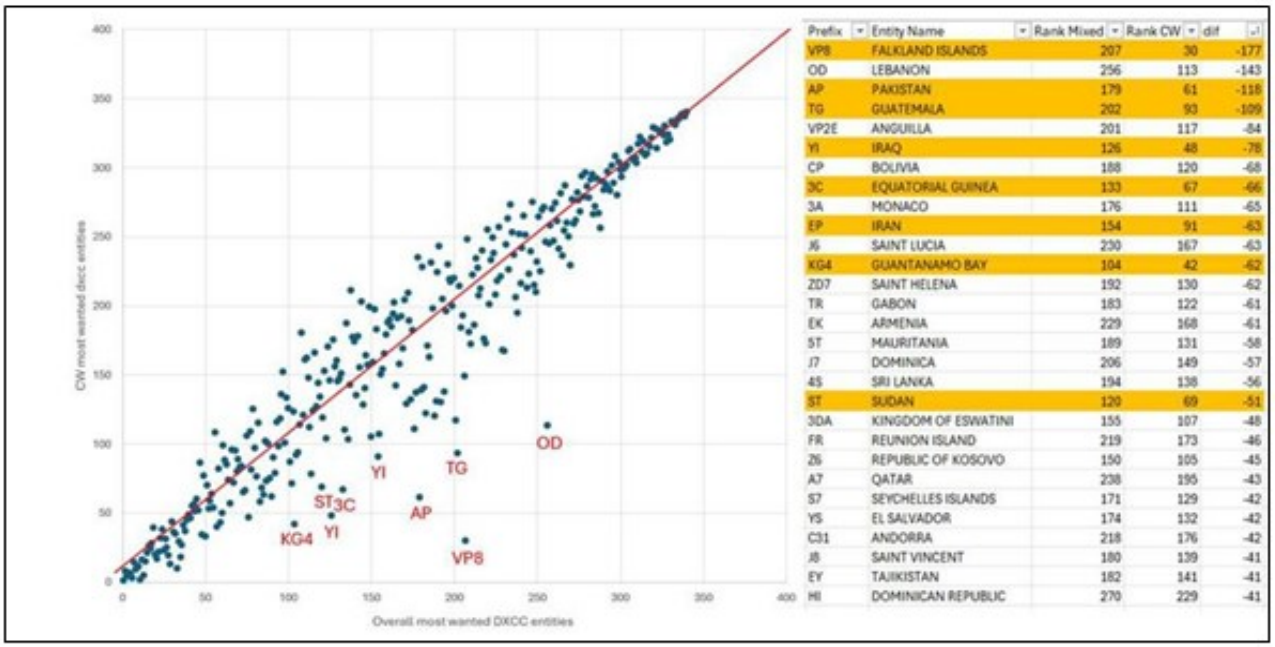
Source: Clublog

Some time later, Jose, CT1BOH, posted an even more detailed chart on X, confirming my analysis. (Top of next page.)

First thing was to obtain a license and that turned out to be easy. I requested the VP8G call sign and to my surprise, I got the license with the VP8G call sign in just 2 days after the application. Now I had to find a suitable location and the transport to the island.

In general, it is not too easy to find hotels that have sufficient space around for setting up antenna, but even when they have, they will not allow you to do so. The other issue is the use of LED lights and solar panels that cause interference. When I was surfing the internet for radio operations from the Falklands, I came across a report from G3ZAY and G7VJR who were operating from Darwin Lodge in 2010. When I looked it up on Google Earth, I could understand why they took that location. Close to water and just three other houses in the area.

VP8G (cont.)



Prefix	Entity Name	Rank Mixed	Rank CW	dif
VP8	FALKLAND ISLANDS	207	30	-177
OD	LEBANON	256	113	-143
AP	PAKISTAN	179	61	-118
TG	GUATEMALA	202	93	-109
VP2E	ANGUILLA	201	117	-84
YI	IRAQ	126	48	-78
CP	BOLIVIA	188	120	-68
3C	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	133	67	-66
3A	MONACO	176	111	-65
EP	IRAN	154	91	-63
J6	SAINT LUCIA	230	167	-63
KG4	GUANTANAMO BAY	104	42	-62
ZD7	SAINT HELENA	192	130	-62
TR	GABON	183	122	-61
EK	ARMENIA	229	168	-61
5T	MAURITANIA	189	131	-58
J7	DOMINICA	206	149	-57
4S	SRI LANKA	194	138	-56
ST	SUDAN	120	69	-51
3DA	KINGDOM OF ESWATINI	155	107	-48
FR	REUNION ISLAND	219	173	-46
Z6	REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO	150	105	-45
A7	QATAR	238	195	-43
S7	SEYCHELLES ISLANDS	171	129	-42
YS	EL SALVADOR	174	132	-42
C31	ANDORRA	218	176	-42
J8	SAINT VINCENT	180	139	-41
EY	TAJIKISTAN	182	141	-41
HI	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	270	229	-41

Figure 1 - Courtesy of Jose Nunes, CT1BOH

I contacted the hotel with the request if I could use my radio station when staying at their place. I quickly got a positive response. Next, I started to ask questions about whether I could place antennas in the area around the hotel, if cables could be brought into the room and if there was ample table space to place my radio equipment. It was advised that Renato, the manager, should answer all these questions.

Renato turned out to be a perfect host and did everything possible to help me get things organized. He made pictures and video clips to show the details of my room. When I showed him a picture of the planned setup, he told me he would replace the twin bed with a single bed and put two dining tables in the room. With that, my room was well prepared.

The other remaining part was transportation. I had heard that military flights were available from the UK, so I started to explore that choice. There is a military base at Brize Norton (close to Oxford) from where they have regular flights to the Falklands, with a refueling stop at Ascension Island. These flights are operated by Air Tanker. There is a mixture of military and civil passengers on these flights. After a few enquiries I finally made a booking. Now the last piece was to travel from my home to Brize Norton. Flying from Amsterdam was not an option as you cannot fly to Brise Norton and would require extra road/rail transport. Finally, the most suitable possibility was to drive in my car to Brize Norton via the Calais Folkestone tunnel.

The flight would be at 00:35 local time, so I could make it the same day traveling by car. However, if anything went different (for instance with customs), or getting into trouble with the care, I would miss my flight. Therefore, I decided to travel one day earlier. One other issue was to find a place to park my car during the stay in the Falklands.

VP8G (cont.)

After checking with several hotels in the neighborhood, I found one with enough guarded parking space and no extra costs.

With that, everything was in place to start my next DXpedition. For the setup of the station, I used the same configuration as I used for the VP6G Pitcairn operation.

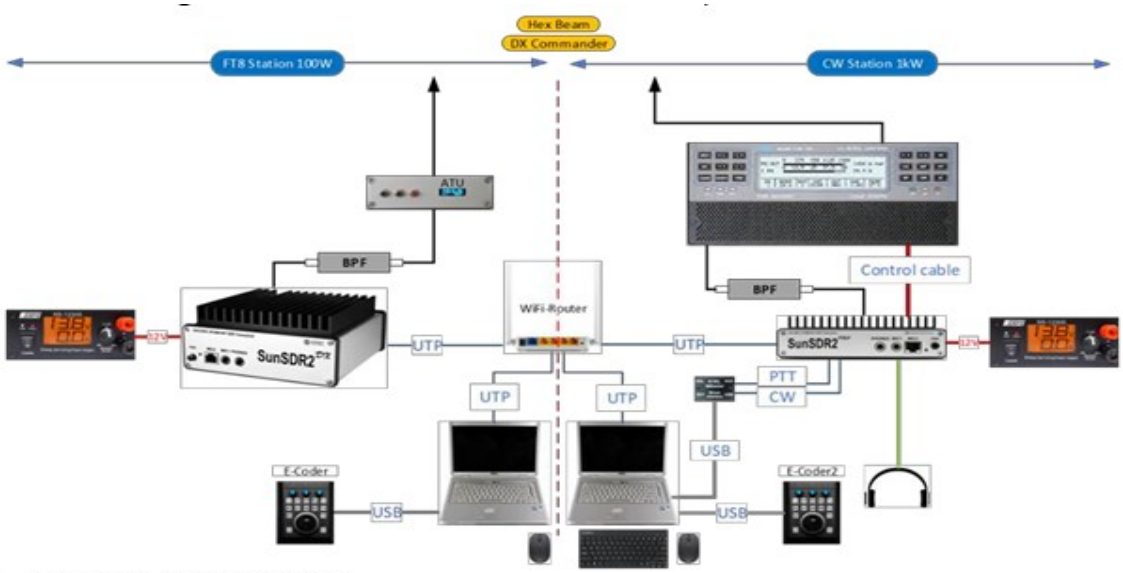


Figure 2 - VP8G planned station setup.

With the above configuration I would be able to run two stations in parallel, given enough distance between the antennas and using BPFs.

On the radio side nothing changed although I left the eCoder for the FT8 station home as it helped to reduce weight. For the antenna-part, I choose again for the DX Commander and a Hexbeam. The DX Commander was a proven concept for me and the antenna was ready.

The Hexbeam was another case. At Pitcairn I used a lightweight G3TXQ DXpedition version Hexbeam. That version had issues with rain (causing high SWR) and took quite some time to assemble. I also donated that Hexbeam to a local HAM on Pitcairn. I needed a new Hexbeam and decided to buy the SP6CYN version. The Dutch distributor Ham Radio Land was so kind to sponsor me for a next DXpedition and offered the antenna for a reduced price. The antenna is of high quality and made of excellent quality materials. However, weight is always a crucial factor for planning my DXpeditions and assembling time is important. Therefore, I decided to build my own DXpedition-version Hexbeam.

After a lot of research and considerations, I was ready to construct my own version. I had decided to use the K4KIO design and use the SP6CYN fiber spreaders tubes as they are of particularly good quality. That meant using only aluminum for the metal parts, welding the spreader holders instead of using clamps and using different means of wire guides.

VP8G (cont.)

Figure 3 - 81KG of luggage at check-in at Brize Norton RAF

This all helped to reduce weight and shorten the assembling time. A complete description of my Hexbeam is https://dx.to/hexbeam/

The next major hurdle was packing all equipment, materials, and personal stuff. The airline allowed each passenger to carry one suitcase with a weight of 27KG and hand carry a small bag of 9KG. Obviously, I would need more luggage, so the challenge was to get it all in two other suitcases/bags, each also 27KG. Since I needed a small 6m telescopic aluminum mast (for the Hexbeam), which 140cm long and the fiber spreader tubes of 125cm, it was necessary to carry this in a sturdy 150cm long bag. Also, the Spiderbeam pole for the DX Commander and the roll of 70m long coax cable were included which made it all together 27KG.

The second suitcase held the SPE amplifier, parts of the Hexbeam, a roll of 30m coax cable, guy wires, etc.

Finally, all together I had 3x 27KG of luggage plus a backpack.

Although the flight with Air Tanker looks like any other civilian flight, the booking is different. At the booking, you get one suitcase of 27KG, and hand carried luggage of 9KG included. Excess luggage cannot be booked in advance and needs to be requested only two weeks before departure. It should be noted that excess luggage is charged at GBP10/KG, not cheap! Explaining that I had to be sure that the excess luggage was necessary to travel with me, otherwise I had to cancel the whole trip, did not help. Two and a half weeks before departure I made my request for excess luggage, complete with a picture and dimensions. It was only on Monday that I got my confirmation for a flight on Wednesday!

On Tuesday morning at 05:00hr left home for a long drive to the UK. Everything went according to plan and arrived in my hotel around 16:00hr. Plenty of time to relax. I also received an email saying that the flight would leave 2 hours earlier, now 22:35 on Wednesday instead of 00:35 on Thursday. The next day I took a taxi at 16:30hr to the Brize Norton air base. From that moment it was unclear to me what exactly would happen. First, we were picked up from the main gate by a minibus to transport us to the air terminal. The rest was like any other check-in at an airport and the many hours of waiting started.

VP8G (cont.)

The flight to the Falklands made a refueling stop of 2 hours on Ascension Island. We arrived around 14:00hr local time (GMT-3) at Mount Pleasant, the RAF air base. I was collected by Renato, the manager of Darwin House. It took 45 minutes to reach the hotel at Darwin Settlement.

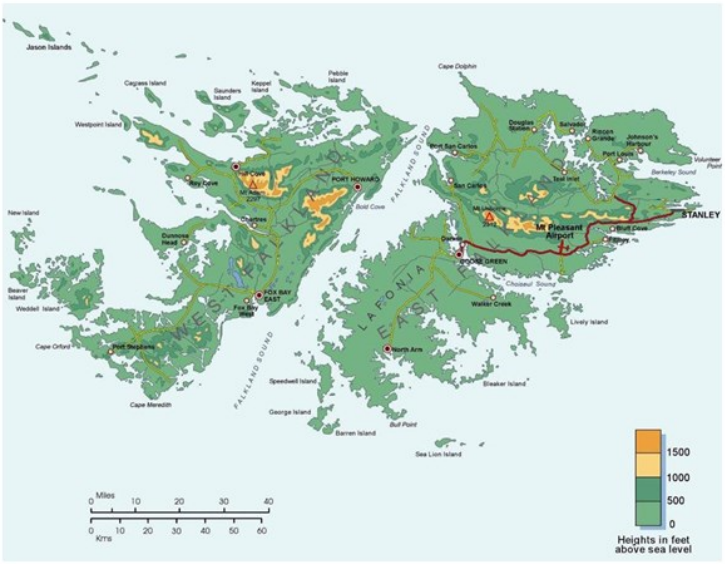


Figure 4 - Courtesy of Mapsland

Because the flight came in earlier gave me extra time on Thursday 14 November to work outside on the antennas. Most important was to have an antenna that could also cover the lower bands during the night, and therefore I started to work on the DX Commander. The weather was good (no rain and mild winds) and at that time I did not realize how different the weather could be.

First, I rolled out the 70m coax cable to allocate the place for the DX Commander. After the DX Commander was set up and provided with a second set of guy wires higher up the mast, the outside work for that day was finished. The next day Mario VP8A/VP8EME came by as a surprise. It turned out that he also has a house at Darwin settlement, just some 200 meters away from the hotel. We had a nice conversation and also briefly discussed the antenna guying. I mentioned that I brought some small guy anchors, as bringing large anchors would be very costly. Not much later he delivered 5 large guy anchors which I used to replace for my own anchors at the DX Commander. Later this proved to be essential for keeping the mast up during the storm.

Figure 5 - DX Commander with 2 sets of guy wires

Figure 6 - 32 radials, 3.5 meters long and extra-large guy anchors.

VP8G (cont.)

Next, I started to assemble the radios. As mentioned before, Renato had converted the room into a real amateur radio shack. There was enough space to create a convenient operating position. The two coax cables were entering the room via a window.

After everything was connected and tested, I started my CW operation and had my first QSO on 15 November at 17:26Z with N4RJ on 12m. From that moment the pile-up started.

Figure 7 - Very comfortable and "Radio Shack"

The next day, I started at 07:00 local time to assemble the Hexbeam. Putting the antenna together and fixing the antenna wires was a bit difficult with the strong wind.

Putting a Hexbeam on a mast can be a real challenge. During my preparation, I asked Renato (manager Darwin Hotel) if he had a tall ladder and if there would be someone to help me set up the Hexbeam. Later I reviewed many pictures of the hotel and found that the fence was made with big wooden poles about 1.5m high which could be a good base for the telescopic mast.

When the Hexbeam was ready, I fixed the telescopic mast to a pole of the fence, using two straps and tie wraps. Even without guy wires, the mast could not move anymore, so did not need someone to support me. With a short stair, I was able to place the Hexbeam on the mast and pushed the sections up and secured them with the clamps. After that, the four guy wires were fixed to the fence and a guy anchor.

I fixed two ropes to two of the spreaders to be used to keep the antenna in position or to turn the antenna in position. A quite simple and effective method.

In total it took only a few hours to have the Hexbeam ready and connected to the radio. With that, the setup was completed, and I could focus only on operating. Later I experienced that unexpected work was waiting, due to the weather. As Falklanders say: “In the Falklands you can have 4 seasons in a day”, something I have experienced during my stay.

VP8G (cont.)

Figure 8 - The Hexbeam fully assembled.

16-11-2024

In the morning it was nice sunny weather but, in the afternoon, heavy wind with snow and hail. I was happy the outside work was completed.

I had issues getting the second FT8 station working. Finally got the SunSDR2 DX working with FT8 and in the evening, I started with FT8 on 40m and CW on 20m, using BPFs but had to reduce power to 400W on CW.

Figure 9 - Hexbeam on an approx. 5m tall mast which was fixed with straps to a pole of the fence.

17-11-2024

I woke up around 04:00 and took a shower and started working on 40m CW with full power. Had a huge pileup from Japan with strong signals and a very quiet band. Later I changed bands.

Interestingly, Japan was to the south, but there is a high hill nearby in southern direction but JA's were very loud with my Hexbeam pointing to the north. In the afternoon it was raining.

19-11-2024

From my operating position, I could look through the window and see the Hexbeam and the DX Commander in the distance. Although I have seen that the DX Commander was kept in position very well with the two guy sets, all of a sudden, I saw it was tilted. I went outside to see what was going on. It turned out that one of the clamps was not tightened enough and as a result one section glided down. In the heavy wind I could not do the repair work so took the antenna down and left it for a moment when there would be less wind. That day I made a short trip with Renato to visit Goose Green village, not far away from Darwin settlement.

VP8G (cont.)

Figure 10 - DX Commander out of service.

20-11-2024

We had strong winds and storm, and I was anxious watching the antennas. I was a bit concerned that things would go wrong and destroy my antennas.

Due to the storm, the 20m and 17m wires came loose from the fiber spreaders. Surprisingly, even with that situation, I was still able to work on the other bands.

The fact that the wires got loose from the wire guides is because I used open S-hooks. They are easy to install the wires, but now it turned out they are not a desirable choice for situations with heavy wind. Originally, I had chosen to use small stainless steel carabiner hooks. Obviously, back home I will replace the open S-hooks with stainless steel carabiner hooks.

The situation was now that the DX Commander was down and the Hexbeam had two bands that needed to be repaired. However, with the storm this was not possible. I did not want to lower the Hexbeam and not have the guy ropes securing the mast. I did not want to risk the mast to be damaged.

Renato asked me if I was interested in joining him for a trip to Port Stanley. With the antenna situation I thought it was a good opportunity. It was the only opportunity to see Port Stanley and started the 2 hour drive. During the visit to Port Stanley there was still a storm and sometimes it was difficult to keep yourself standing on the roadside.

I visited the museum, which was interesting and informative. There was also a small building about telecommunication. When visiting this part of the museum, I discovered that amateur radio and telegraphy were extensively exposed. A display with QSL cards, straight keys, radios, etc.

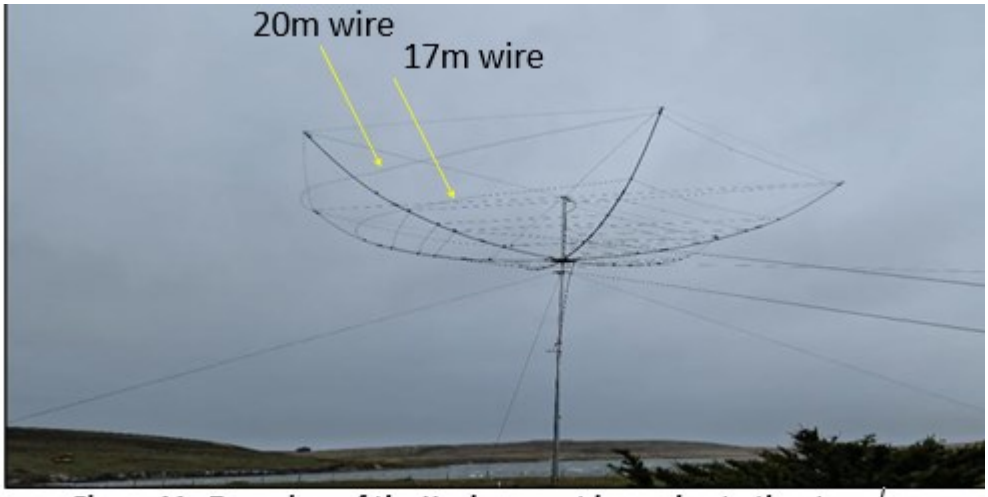


Figure 11 - Two wires of the Hexbeam got loose due to the storm

VP8G (cont.)

After returning back at the hotel in Darwin, the weather completely changed, and it was sunny with little wind. This was the right time to do the work on the antennas. I fixed the wires on the Hexbeam and brought the DX Commander in shape again. Together it took only 45 minutes. I was fully operational again.

21-11-2024

Being on the Falklands, I wanted to see penguins in the wild, but it would need a journey to one of the penguin colonies. An unexpected opportunity happened as a visitor of the hotel had planned a trip to New Heaven, a place at the Falkland Sound and where the ferry goes to Port Howard on West Falkland. Fortunately, I could join this trip, so we went for a half hour drive to see the Gentoo penguins.

Figure 13 - Visiting the Gentoo penguin colony at New Heaven.

23-11-2024

During the weekend of 23-24, there was the CQ WW DX CW Contest. Normally I try to avoid a contest during my stay, but based on the available flights, I could not avoid this one. During the contest weekend I had to focus on the WARC bands and FT8. However, even the FT8 segments were covered with contest stations and conditions were not that good on the higher WARC bands. As a result, the weekend resulted in fewer QSO's.

25-11-2024

After 00:00Z I started to run CW on 40m for those who were still chasing me on that band.

Based on the experience with the weather during my stay, I did not want to risk taking down the antennas and bringing in all the materials during rain, hail/snow of storm. Therefore, I announced that I would operate till 12:00Z.

I first started to work on the DX Commander. I brought all the materials and wires to the yard of the hotel for further preparation and packing. Also, the 70m coax had to be coiled so it would fit in the bag again.

As the weather was favorable, I continued the operation until 13:08Z when I made the last QSO with HB9MEJ on 10m.

It took me till 18:00 local time to pack all antenna materials and after dinner I completed the packing of my luggage, ready for the trip back home.

VP8G (cont.)

26-11-2024

The next morning, we left the hotel at 05:00 local time for the Mount Pleasant air base. After the check-in procedure, the waiting started again. On the flight back, we made a refueling stop on Ascension Island again.

27-11-2024

Back at Brize Norton air base early in the morning, things went smoothly. We were transported to the main gate from where I had to call a taxi to take me back to the hotel where my car was parked. It was a bit difficult to get a taxi and they all had long waiting times. When I finally was picked up by a taxi, I was told that there were floodings in the area and the reason for the delay.

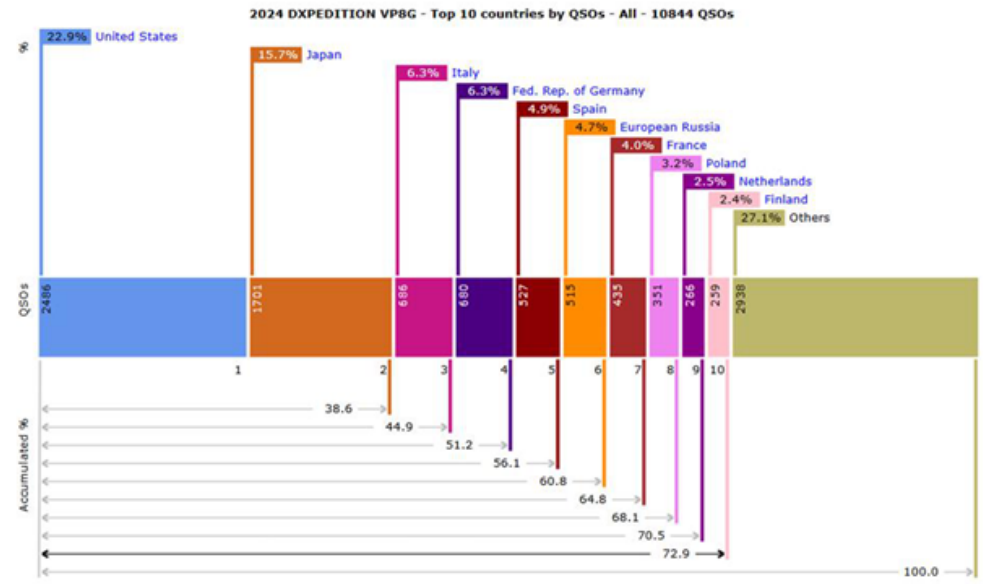
When we came close to the hotel, the road was closed due to flooding. The taxi driver chose an alternative route but when we were about 500m from the hotel, the road was also closed due to the floodings. Fortunately, I had a truly kind taxi driver who took my heavy 27KG bag and carried it to the hotel entrance. I took my two suitcases and followed him.

I packed my luggage into my car and drove back to the Netherlands where I arrived at 21:00 local time back home.

Results

As explained, the demand was for CW contacts and that is where my focus was. With a MWL ranking of #27 for EU, I wanted to give priority to those who needed VP8 as an ATNO. With the good propagation, I had a preference to work on the highest possible band. Low band activities can be done by others at the time propagation is dying out on the higher bands and improving for low bands. Although also operated FT8, there was no intention to spend too much time on that mode.

Continent	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	All	%	CW	Digital
North America	277	398	378	450	283	369	616	1	2,772	25.6	2,088	684
South America	33	38	56	53	90	77	65	4	416	3.8	308	108
Europe	184	555	343	424	1,187	1,535	1,401		5,629	51.9	3,938	1,691
Africa	2	5	9	7	15	14	13		65	0.6	49	16
Asia	88	633	459	207	223	287	27		1,924	17.7	1,008	916
Oceania	1	2	17	6	6	4	2		38	0.4	9	29
	585	1,631	1,262	1,147	1,804	2,286	2,124	5	10,844	100	7,400	3,444



VP8G (cont.)

Thanks

I would like to thank several organizations and individuals for their support; Renato, Carlos, and Stefanie who made my stay at Darwin House unforgettable.

The clubs and foundations that provided financial support; GDXF, CDXC, Clipperton DX Club, KC5WXA, NODXA, DDXG and Ham Radio Land. Further all the individuals that made financial contributions.

Last but not least, my QSL manager Charles MØOXO who again will provide excellent QSL services.

My website to view more details of the VP8G DXpedition and other DXpeditions: www.dx.to

73, Gerben – PG5M

Figure 14 - The wonderful team of Darwin House: Carlos and Stephy, both chef, and Renato, the manager.

Japanese Castles on the Air— JACOTA

Greg Cook— JO3SLK (kgregc1@mac.com)

I had a great call with Icom's Ray Novak, N9JA. Somehow we started talking about our newsletter and Ray suggested that I contact Greg, JO3SLK. Greg has a series of articles describing his activations of Japanese Castles. I read the first several and knew that these would be great for our newsletter. Greg was kind enough to allow me to reprint these.

Thanks to Ray for the connection and for Greg for his permission to reprint. You can slow watch the discussion about the Castles on the Air with Greg and the DX Mentor at (https://youtu.be/HrhHDzzqCjM)

Castle 10—Yamato Koriyama Castle

Introduction to Yamato Koriyama castle

I used to live in Oji, in Nara prefecture, not far from Koriyama castle…but I never visited the castle. That was before I started the "JACOTA" project. But the area and castle have a lot of history associated with them, so I decided to make Yamato Koriyama the 10th castle in this series. The official castle name is Yamato Koriyama, but most people just say Koriyama, so that is what I will call the castle in this article.

I now live in Kawanishi city, Hyogo prefecture, so it is about an hour and a half drive from my home to the castle. I left around 6:30am on a Saturday and took the expressway around Suita finally taking the Nara exit. I then followed the expressways and local roads, and arrived at the castle at 8:30am. The weather was very nice, with some clouds and sunshine. I found a small parking lot right next to the main castle gate, loaded my LC-192 backpack with the IC-705 inside, my Buddipole® antenna system bag and the pouch with my ID-51 inside onto my luggage carrier. The carrier has a built-in seat, which makes it nice when operating outdoors. The pouch I use was featured in the July issue of FB News.

The walk from my car to the Tenshudai (castle keep foundation) took about 10 minutes, and then a short climb up the steps to the top where I would operate. I set up the antenna, tuner, and rig, and was ready to go about 9:00am. But let us begin with information about Koriyama castle.

History of Koriyama castle

Koriyama castle was the single fortress structure in what was called "Yamato" prefecture in the Tensho era, between 1573 and 1592. Tsutsui Junkei took over the fort in about 1580. The actual castle construction was started in about 1585. Final construction of the outer moat was completed in 1595, and the castle grounds now are basically the same as they were at that time.

JACOTA (cont.)

The castle was abandoned after the famous battle of Sekigahara, which changed the political structure of Japan. But the new Shogun thought the castle's location close to Osaka and Kyoto was important, so he ordered reconstruction to begin in 1615. The castle changed hands several times later, but the Yanagasawa clan resided in the castle during the stable time of the Edo period, and it prospered economically and politically during that time.

Additional history

After Tsutsui Junkei defeated his long-time enemy Matsunaga Hisahide in 1580, he moved to Koriyama strengthening the fortifications that were there and building Koriyama Castle. In 1585 Hideyoshi's brother Hidenaga moved into Koriyama Castle and conducted many improvements making it into a large-scale modern castle. He also confiscated many stones from nearby temple gardens and even religious statues for use in the walls. Mashita Nagamori moved into the castle in 1595 but abandoned it when he lost at the Battle of Sekigahara. The castle fell into disrepair for a time until Ieyasu Tokugawa stationed Mizuno Katsushige here in 1615 and commissioned him to reconstruct the castle. Yanagisawa Yoshisato became lord of the castle in 1724. The Yanagisawa clan continued to rule until the Meiji Restoration when the castle was abandoned. (Additional history courtesy of Jcastle at http://jcastle.info)

Historical structures at the castle

Otemon Gate

A massive structure, with huge and heavy doors. The area above the door could be used for arms storage, and for soldiers to shoot dow on any enemy trying to break-in.

JACOTA (cont.)

Otemuko Yagura in front of the Otemon Gate. Another place for soldiers to shoot the enemy, through windows in the walls. Anyone approaching the gate had to enter this narrow space and became easy targets.

Inside the castle grounds through the Otemon gate.

Once through the gate, enemy soldiers had to again turn to the left and climb a narrow pathway, leaving themselves vulnerable to being shot from the gate above.

JACOTA (cont.)

Joshi Meiji era museum located just inside the Otemon gate

Moats and bridges

Ishigaki stone walls (left) and the moat (rignt) almost dry.

The pictures show how deep the moat is, and how tall the ishigaki walls are. The castle has inner, middle, and outer moats, all surrounded by ishigaki walls. Samurai houses were built around the castle, and town person's homes on the flat lands. The change from mountain top castles to hilltop castles allowed the founding of towns for housing, samurai protection and trade, in the lower land surrounding the hill.

JACOTA (cont.)

A view of the Gokuraku bridge and the inner moat.

JACOTA (cont.)

Newly constructed Gokuraku bridge. It resembles the original bridge that is depicted in the castle brochure drawing, made from old documents. This is a new bridge, and not seen in most articles or brochures about Koriyama castle.

JACOTA (cont.)

Special Cyprus trees were used in the construction

I heard that the cost was about 3+ million dollars, maybe more. Lots of ironwork post caps and braces, probably hand-made. Just inside the gate is where the guides are at, waiting to take visitors on tours.

Gokuraku Bridge leading to the Hakutaku Gate

The floor of the bridge as well as the posts and rails are all made of a special Cyprus wood. The wood is stained a special orange color. The grain of the Cyprus really stands out.

JACOTA (cont.)

The Tenshudai (Castle keep foundation)

The foundation is all that remains of the great Tenshu at Koriyama castle. The walls were crumbling, so they were renovated. Many important discoveries about the construction of the Tenshu foundation construction were discovered during the renovation. There is a nice sloping stairway leading up to the top, using stones as steps. The handrails take away from the "ancient castle" image but are necessary for the safety of the visitors.

Renovated Tenshudai (keep foundation)

JACOTA (cont.)

Views from the top

View from the top of the Tenshudai

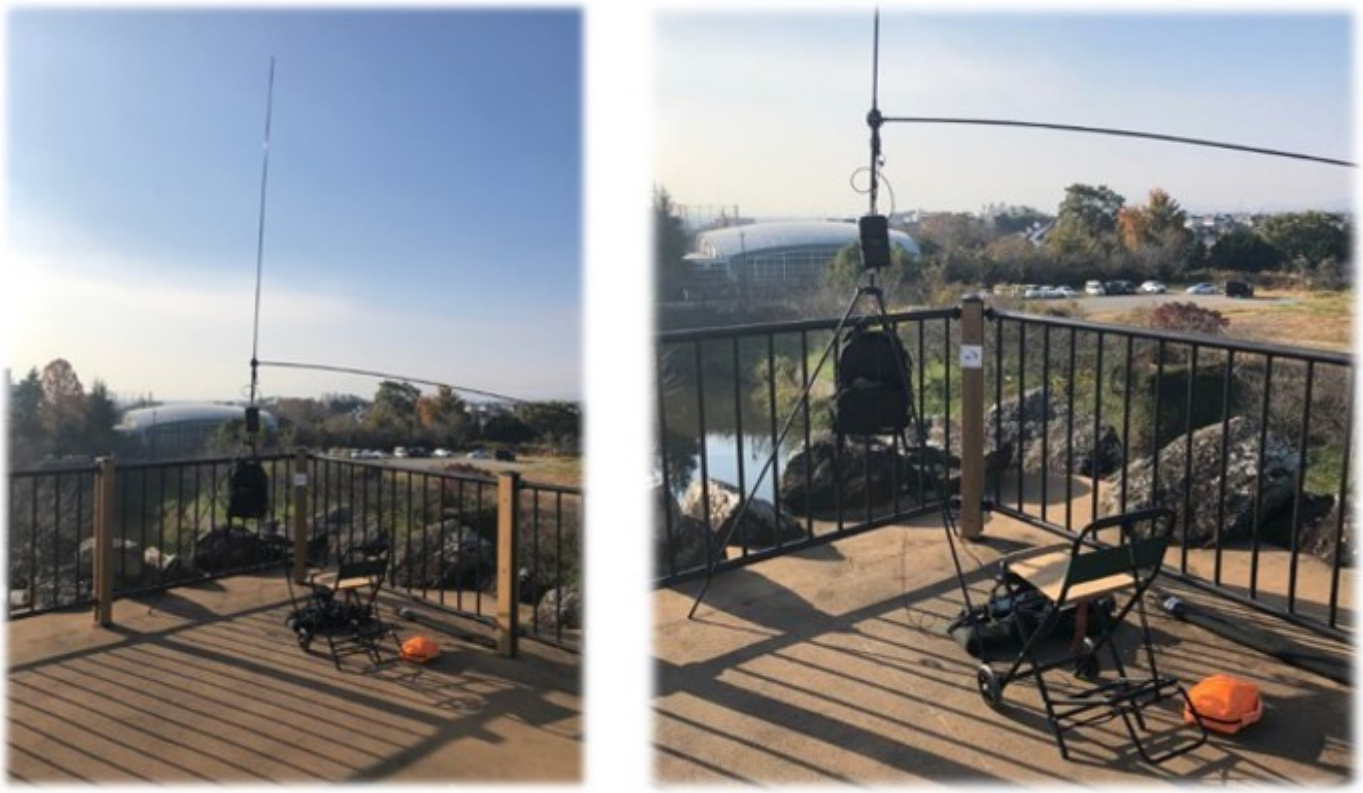
The Joshi museum is in the background, with the Otemon gate and Otemuko Yagura to the right. Further to the right, is the Gokuraku bridge that goes over the moat.

Beautiful view of the Meiji era museum from the top of the Tenshudai. I really like Meiji era architecture. I would like to go back to Koriyama castle and visit the museum, because I was limited in the time I could spend during this visit.

Panorama view.

If you look carefully, you can see Mt. Wakakusa, the twin 5 story pagodas, and the Todaiji shrine in the background. The Tenshudai is about 81 meters above sea level, so it is a low “hilltop” castle. However, as you can see, the castle lord had a very good view of any “enemy activity” going on around him. This view would have been even better from the top of the actual Tenshu castle keep, which would have been several stories higher.

JACOTA (cont.)



Operating "station" in a corner of the Tenshudai

On the top of the Tenshudai, I build a vertical dipole (L style radial) with the Buddipole® system.

The antenna consisted of an 11" section of aluminum tubing, the VersaTee® feed base, and a long expandable whip. The radial is attached to the VersaTee® base and is the same length as the main element whip. I adjusted slightly for a low SWR and the let the AH-705 tuner make the match to the IC-705.

The ARRL 10 meter contest was on the day I operated, and I made a quick contact with a local station on 28.450. But the activity hadn't started yet when I was ready, so I put an expandable 144/430 whip antenna on the IC-705 and made a few V/UHF contacts on D-Star, 2 meter FM and then switched to 2 meter SSB. As I mentioned in the December issue of FB News, 2 meter SSB is very popular in Japan, and it is fun to contact local hams that may know the castle, or have been to the castle before.

But I wanted to see what 10 meters would produce, so I reconnected the HF antenna and started hunting. There was not a lot of activity, but checking out the spectrum scope on the IC-705 showed some activity around 28.435, so I tuned there. A VK2 station was calling CQ and he came back to me the first time I called. He gave me the usual "59" signal report and then his call serial number 017 (I was his 17th contact).

JACOTA (cont.)

He was my 01 serial number, not only the first contact of the contest, but also my first DX contact with the IC-705. Knowing I was operating QRP (5 watts on battery power) he was kind enough to let me know my real signal report was 53. I was very pleased.

After some time had passed I found another station calling CQ, and then making a contact with another station. I waited until they had finished, and replied to the station's QRZ call. Again, he came back to me on my first call and gave me 59 and his number of 007, his 7th contact of the contest. I was pleased to put an FK4 call in my log. Again, I was very impressed with how the IC-705 and Buddipole® antenna were working.

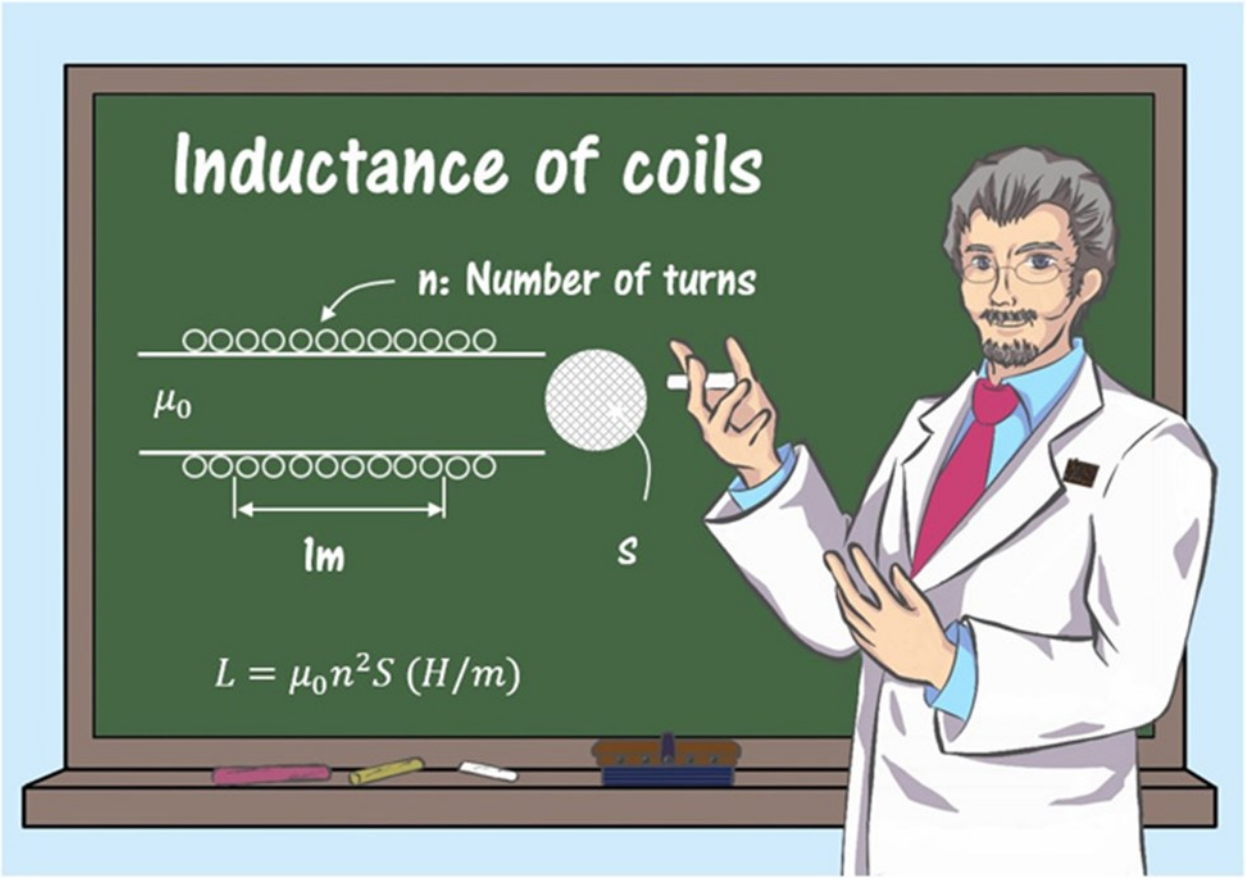
I am not a "contester" and have never submitted a contest log, but I do enjoy "hunting and pouncing" during a contest to see how my station setup is working, and whether or not I can compete with the "big guns". It is a lot of fun, and I always learn some techniques and tips each time I participate.

Wearing masks when necessary is very common in Japan, even before the Corona pandemic. Now we wear them everywhere we go, especially where there are many other people nearby. Outdoors at a castle site is no exception, and all the visitor, guides, and I wore them. I would take it off to operate, but when visitors were around, I put it back on. This picture was kindly taken by one of the guides, who took time away from his tour duties, and seemed to know about amateur radio. He gave me lots of information about the castle, including some very nice bilingual brochures, and a detailed map.

Several of the visitors stopped by and asked me "is this amateur radio", and so I explained, "yes it is"…and talked about JACOTA and the other castles I have visited. They were truly interested in and surprised about posting articles on the web about castles and ham radio. They also mentioned other castles that they had visited, and we had a nice time chatting.

It was noon, and I had been there three hours. So, I packed up my gear, descended the steps and made the 10-minute walk back to my car. It was another 1+1/2 hour drive home, and I was tired, but it had been a really fun and productive day. I hope you enjoyed reading about it too.

About the Inductance of Coils



Resistors, coils (hereafter called inductors), and capacitors are essential components in electronic circuits. Both resistors and capacitors have their values printed on the surface of each component, but many inductors do not have such printing on them, and to working with inductors is troublesome for electronics project fans. I did a simple experiment on the inductors of an LC resonant circuit that is installed in an RF amplifier section when I built a medium wave radio, so I will introduce it.

Four types inductors

The inductors used in the experiment are (a) through (d) in Figure 1. One inductor is used in an LC parallel resonance circuit. It is connected to a variable capacitor in parallel, and functions to select a desired broadcasting station.

About the Inductance of Coils (cont.)

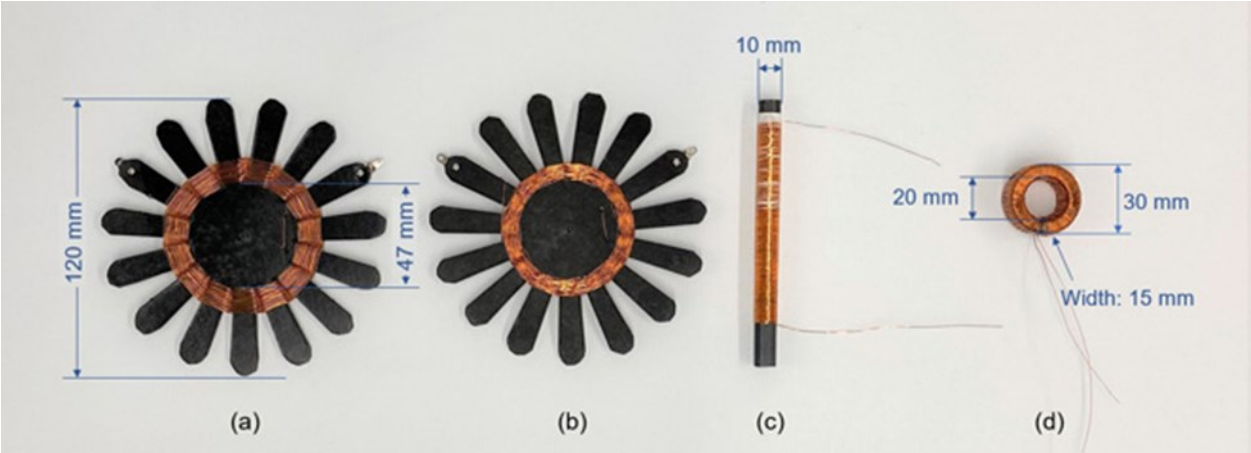


Figure 1. The four types of coils used in the experiment.

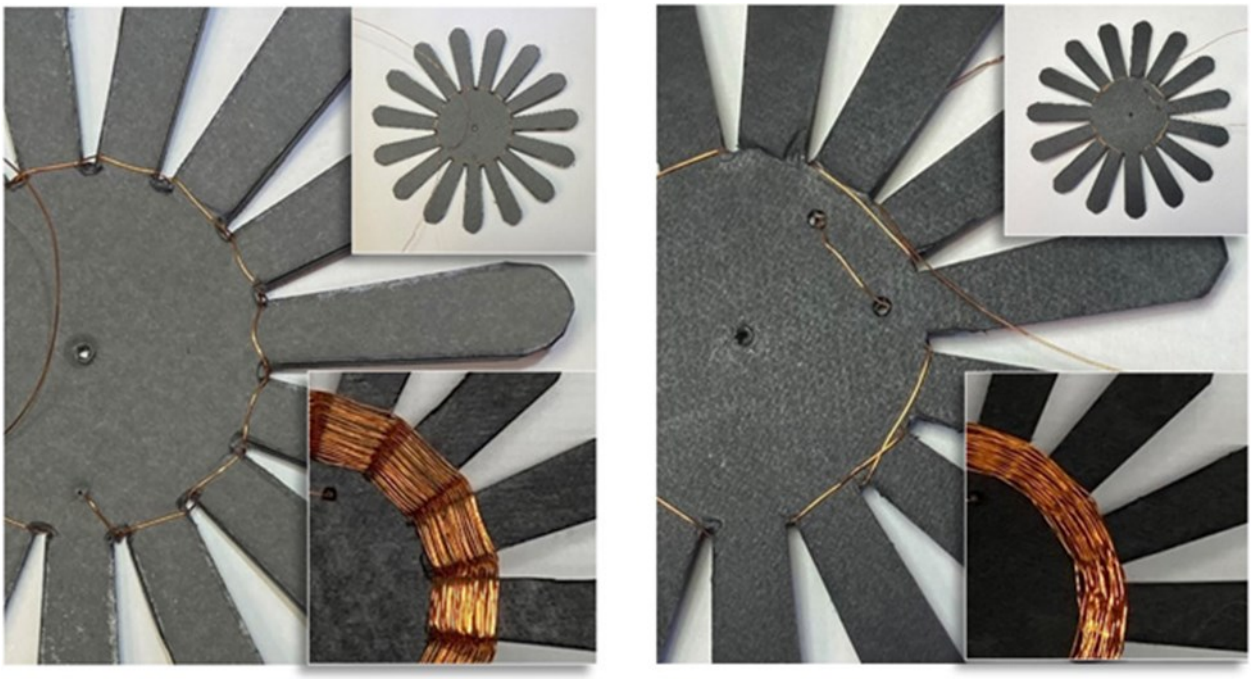
The diameter of the enameled wire used for the inductors is φ0.321 mm, shown in Figure 2, and the length is 8.3 m. The actual measured DC resistance is 2.1 Ω. The mounts used for the inductors (a) and (b) were made of thick paper glued together. The thickness of the mount paper is about 1 mm. These inductors are often called a spiderweb coil because of its spider web appearance. (c) is a ferrite rod with a diameter of 10 mm and a length of 120 mm. I do not know the permeability and other data other than the physical length. Same as the inductor for (d), I do not know the detailed data.

Figure 2. Measurement of the enameled wire diameter

Investigation - Part 1 (Winding the spiderweb inductor)

The inductors shown in Figures 1(a), (b), and (c) are often used in germanium radios when they are connected in an LC parallel resonance circuit. When you buy a germanium radio kit, the instruction manual shows how you wind the inductor. There seem to be two main ways of winding the inductors, (a) and (b). I was wondering how this winding method affects the reception of the germanium radio, so I decided to investigate.

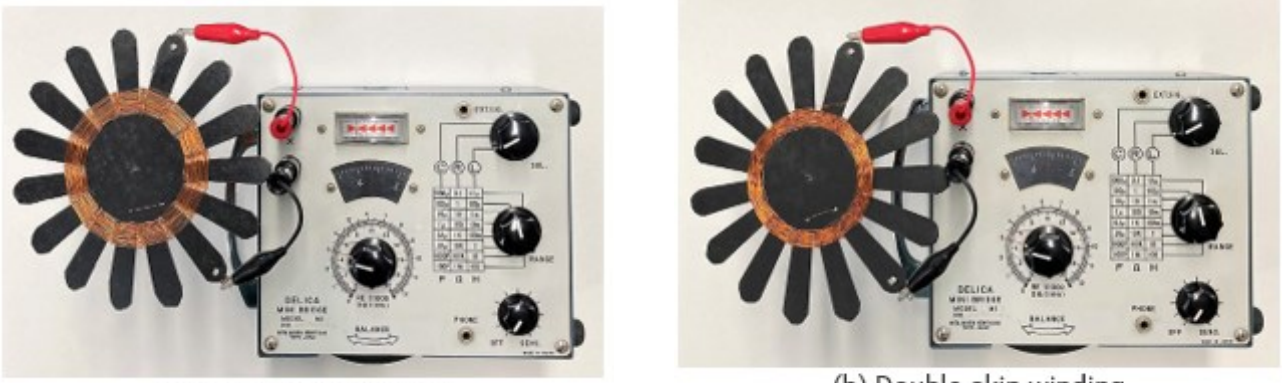
About the Inductance of Coils (cont.)



There are 15 blades on the mount that I made. As I started winding the inductor, I realized that the odd number of blades is the key point. On the left side of the inductor, I wound the enameled wire on each blade alternately such as front to back, back to front, and so on. I call this winding single-skip winding here in this article. On the right side, I wind the wire around two blade skips. I called this winding double-skip winding. The completed inductors are shown in Figure 1(a) and (b).

(1) Measuring inductance

I measured the inductance with an impedance bridge, shown in Figure 3, and found that the inductance was about 350 µH regardless of the winding method, either single-skip or double-skip winding.



(a) Single-skip winding

(b) Double-skip winding

Figure 4. Measuring inductance

About the Inductance of Coils (cont.)

(2) Checking the receive sensitivity with each inductor

(3) I connected inductors (a) and (b) I made, one with a single-skip winding and the other with a double-skip winding, to the inductor section of a germanium radio, and checked the receive sensitivity. The results showed that there was no difference between the two inductors.

(3) Difference between the two winding methods

The difference in the diameter of the inductor when wound can be seen in the diameters of the coil sections in Figure1 (a) and (b). If I were to wind the spiderweb inductor dozens of times, the physical size would increase. Although it may not be apparent, electrically, the performance of a single-skip winding and double-skip winding may be slightly different because of the capacitance between enamel wires, but this experiment did not reveal this.

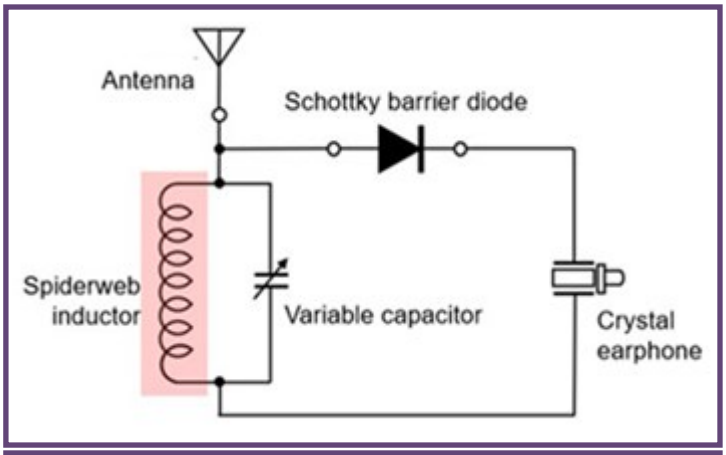


Figure 5. Checking the performance of the spiderweb inductor with a germanium radio

Investigation - Part 2 (What happens to inductance when wound on a ferrite core?)

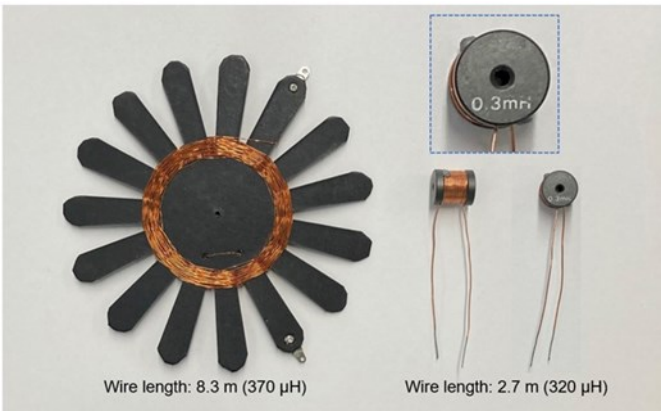


Figure 6. Comparison of a spiderweb inductor and an inductor wound on a core

I have an inductor with 0.3 mH (= 300 µH) printed on it. The inductor was wound on a ferrite core. When I measured the inductor inductance with an impedance bridge, it was 320 µH. Comparing it to the spiderweb inductor in Figure 6 (left), the difference in size is obvious.

The inductance of the spiderweb inductor was 370 µH, and the enameled wire used for it was 8.3 m long. On the other hand, when I unwound the enameled wire of the choke coil wound on the ferrite core, I found that it was 2.7 m long. If I consider only the length of the enameled wire, it is 1/3. Just by winding it around the core, the inductance increases to such an extent.

Furthermore, when enameled wire of the same length as that wound on the spiderweb inductor was tightly wound on a 120 mm ferrite rod, the inductance was 2 mH. It is clear that the function of the ferrite core is very large.

About the Inductance of Coils (cont.)

Investigation - Part 3 (What happens to inductance when wound on a toroidal core?)

As you can imagine, the inductor inductance with a ferrite core is much higher than that of an inductor with an air-core inductor. Now, let's see what happens if I wind the same length of enameled wire around the toroidal core. When I wound 8.3 m of enameled wire with a diameter of 0.321 mm around the toroidal core, I could wind 194 turns. When I measured the inductance of this inductor using the impedance bridge, it was 42 mH. This is 20 times greater than the inductance when wound on a ferrite rod. The power of the core is tremendous.

Figure 7. Measurement of inductance on a ferrite rod inductor

Figure 8. Measurement of inductor wound on a toroidal core

The self-inductance of an inductor wound on a toroidal core, can be calculated by the formula below. I cannot calculate it with certainty because I do not have the exact data of permeability, but if I assume μ=10x10-4, it will be about 45 mH. Although this is only a provisional data, the inductance is almost equal to the actual measured value.

Used a web-site http://ipsylon.jp/2016/05/16/crystal-set-parts8/ as a reference for making the spiderweb inductor mount.

$$L = \frac{\mu N^2 S}{2\pi R} \text{ (H)}$$

N: 194

S: $0.015\text{m} \times 0.005\text{m} = 7.5 \times 10^{-5}\ (\text{m}^2)$

R: 10mm = 0.01 (m)

9L5A Sierra Leone 2024 DXpedition

F6KOP radio club of Provins (France) had already organized a DXpedition to Sierra Leone (Banana Island) in 2019 with the callsign 9LY1JM. With limited human and material resources, we made 50.000 QSOs. No big expedition have taken place in Sierra Leone for 5 years and the DXCC country is at the 77th place on Club Log most wanted list. So we decide to go back there.

The team is composed of 15 operators, most of whom are regulars. However we wanted to give a chance this year to a few new operators who had never left with F6KOP or who had never done a group expedition.

The team is composed as follows: F2DX (CW and leader), HB9GWJ (SSB and leader), F1ULQ (SSB), F1DHX (SSB/RTTY), F4AZF (SSB), F4FET (SSB/RTTY), F4HAU (SSB), F4HHL (SSB), F4HRG (SSB/RTTY), F5AGB (CW), F5NTZ (CW), F8AAN (CW), F8EFU (CW), F8GGV (CW) and ON7RN (CW).

Our equipment is prepared, tested and weighed at F6KOP over several weeks. This work of major importance is managed by operators but also by a few members of the radio club who don't even go on expedition but who undoubtedly contribute to the success of our expedition.

9L5A DXpedition (cont.)

Each participant receives a document of around thirty pages constantly updated by F2DX. Everyone therefore has the same information down to the smallest details and also commits by signing a convention.

On the evening of November 26, 2024 we all meet in a hotel in Roissy as departure takes place early the next morning. This is the opportunity to know each other for some and to have a nice evening together. We are already in the mindset of the expedition.

On November 27 before sunrise we all are at Charles-de-Gaulle airport (Paris) where F5PBM and F5GSJ join us to bring the expedition equipment. Everything has been prepared for a long time and everyone knows exactly what luggage he has to take during the outward and return journeys. We take 30 checked bags, including 4 oversized bags for the masts and antennas. The transceivers, ACOM 500s amps and PC are with us in the cabin.

This is the first time we are traveling with Brussels Airline but we will not keep good memories of it. The check-in is very long and poorly organized. Some additional bags are not listed on their documents (even though they have been paid) and we have to pay again. On top of that, some bags are simply refused for a excess weight of 1 kg (while others weight significantly less than the regulatory 23 kg).

9L5A DXpedition (cont.)

We have the feeling that even for a group of 15 people having paid a nice bill everything is done to charge us supplements. It should also be noted that cabin baggage is limited to 8 kg (instead of the usual 12 kg) which forced us to review the packaging of sensitive equipment.

On November 27 at 8:15 PM we landed at Freetown airport after having transited via Brussels and Conakry (Guinea). Baggage claim is slow and we get out from the airport only 2 hours later. Fortunately everything was planned and organized by our host "Zuzu" and our police escort awaits us patiently. However, as our flight was delayed by 2 hours by Brussels Airline, it is impossible to take the last ferry which would have saved us long hours of driving and we have to take the longest route by night.

With our 45 bags and around twenty people, our bus is full to bursting. The atmosphere is good, especially as "Zuzu" and the escort sing very lively welcome songs. We look forward to joining our hotel but that's without counting on an aging clutch which decides die in the middle of nowhere. Local people are magicians; they achieve to repair with nothing and an hour and a half later we resumed the road.

We arrive at our hotel at 04:00. Lumthubul Gardens staff is still up to serve us a hearty meal. We will even push the vice so far as to do the briefing which was initially planned the next day and we go to bed at 05:00.

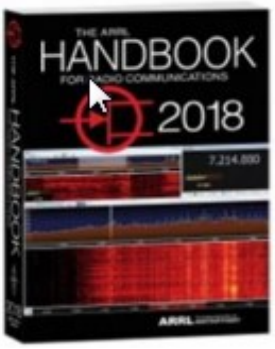
9L5A DXpedition (cont.)

Despite a very short night we planned to install everything during the day of November 28 starting with our 10.5 kVA diesel generator for which we first drain and change the filters, before pulling 2 large-gauge power lines to the stations. The hotel is flooded in the vegetation and the tide is important which limits a bit the installation of our antennas. At 9:00 PM the equipment is operational except for a few antennas (which will be mounted the next day) and we begin to operate. We have 6 stations all equipped with ACOM 1010 or 500s amplifiers (kindly loaned by ACOM and the French company PROSIC). The pile-ups are huge and quickly make us forget about fatigue.

We have planned to balance the traffic and prioritize as much as possible the "human" modes even if it means making fewer QSOs. It is in fact inconceivable to have such an amount of operators and let our stations run automatic FT8 while we would enjoy the beach and long nights of sleep. We we are here to please ourselves but also to satisfy as many people as possible especially in classic modes such as CW, SSB and RTTY. One of our 6 stations is reserved for 6m during the day and 60m at night. These two bands will appear particularly productive since we will make 3836 QSOs over 6m and 6678 over 60m. A QO-100 station is also installed to satisfy satellite enthusiasts.

The days follow one another and are similar: Filling up and drain of the generator, sun, heat, humidity, excellent atmosphere and good meals prepared by our Lumthubul Gardens hotel where we occupy all the bungalows and where the staff takes great care of us. The pile-ups are often very intense and even complicated due to good propagation and discipline which is difficult to enforce. We don't go out much. The only escapades take place in the Bureh village where we deliver to the school some supplies which are in short supply there. The inhabitants we meet are very kind and welcoming.

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

9L5A DXpedition (cont.)

We will however award a red card to the village mayor who did not seek to meet us but sent us a battalion of police to rough control instead. Our license being in order the story is fortunately well finished after a few hours necessary for verifications.

With an average of 13.000 QSOs per day we are reaching the symbolic milestone of 100.000 QSOs after 8 days to finish with almost 115.000 contacts (including 53% in CW and SSB) in 9 days of traffic.

In conclusion it is rather sad to say for the inhabitants who suffer this lack of comfort, but the fact that the village is not connected to the grid has considerably limited the QRM. We have not deplored any failure except bad contacts on a transceiver and some band filters out of order. The small ACOM 500s amplifiers that we had never used before were are very reliable without heating. In addition their featherweight (7 kg) permitted them to travel in the cabin.

On December 8, 2024, we reach the airport, this time taking the ferry which saves us considerable time. Note however that we could not leave differently than we came, by falling a new broken down once with the same bus! A few welds later along the road, the African magic has worked again.

9L5A DXpedition (cont.)

We would like to particularly thank:

- NatCA (National Communications Authority) qui a été à notre écoute pour l'attribution de notre licence 9L5ANatCA (National Communications Authority) who listened to us for granting our 9L5A license.
- Christine, the owner of the Lumthubul Gardens hotel who made things much easier in all areas.
- The hotel staff were very kind.
- Our "Zuzu" who was really the man for the job by facilitating all the checks and remained with us throughout the stay in particular to guarantee our safety. \
- Our sponsors who have been particularly generous and without whom we would certainly never have been able to leave in such numbers.
- The numerous individual donors listed on our site.
- ACOM and PROSIC for the loan of the 3 ACOM 500s amplifiers.
- The members of F6KOP who prepared the equipment and the administrators who kept our accountings up to date.

A video is available. You can also find many details on our site: https://9l5a.wordpress.com.

9L5A will be remembered as one of the best expeditions made by F6KOP.

See you soon for a new adventure.

F2DX, Patrick

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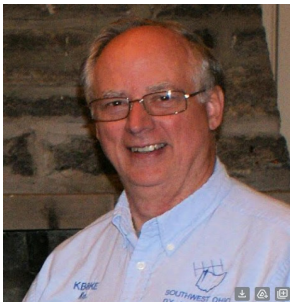

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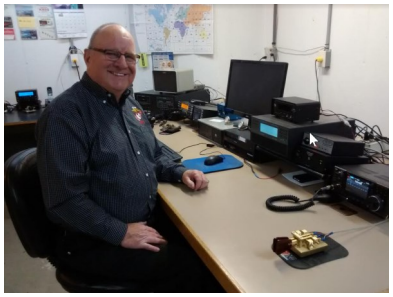

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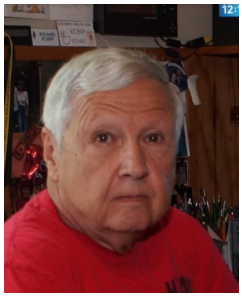

SWODXA Station
TrusteeW8EX
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SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA)
Club Fact Sheet

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 and www.swodxaevents.org managed by Bill, AJ8B. These sites provide information about a variety of subjects related to the club and DXing.

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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	