



Long Path



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SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

August 2024

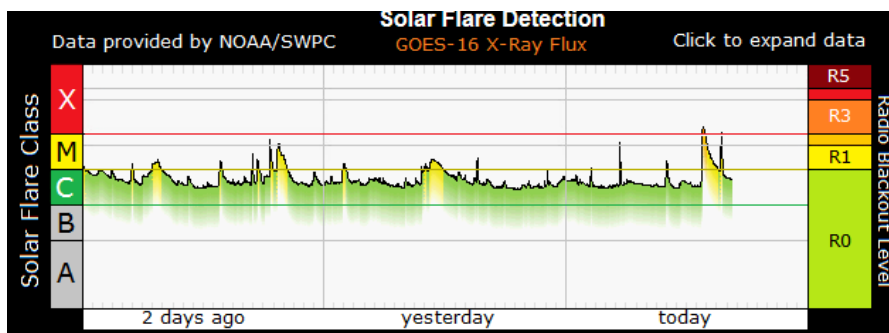


From the Desk of the Editor

WOW! What a summer so far. Blazingly hot, but not the bands. Although the solar cycle is still reaching for it's peak, it's also spewing out lots of solar flares. So many in fact that the propagation isn't so great. I would have thought that 10 and 12 meters would be just hopping, but not yet. Maybe when the flare frequency subsides?

Spending too much time in the swimming pool and camping with the grandkids. Haven't had the time to work on my antenna projects or a timely issue of The Long Path.

As I sit here and type, there are 2 more X-ray flare eruptions. Propa-



gation? Not for a while now.

There's an interesting article about the present solar cycle elsewhere in this issue of The Long Path.

Congratulations to Al Bailey, K8SIX. Al recently worked his "last one" for the Fred Fish Memorial! Well done Al! A life long quest finally achieved. If my research is correct, that would place Al as the 24th individual to have accomplished this feat.

73 and Good DX

Chet VE3CFK

NEXT Meeting:

In-Person

**September
18th,**

2024 at 7 PM

Fork n' Pint in Waterford

Program

Rick Dorsch,

NE8Z

Topic

TBA

SEMDXA OFFICERS

President: Fred Goeckel, **KD8ZYD**

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DXCC Checker: Bill Jones, **N8KF**

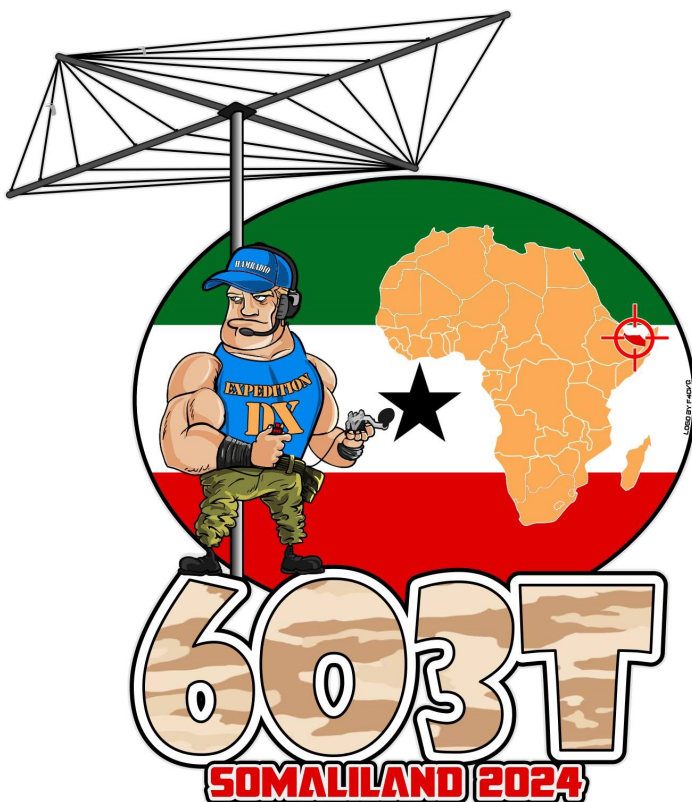
VUCC Checker: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

VUCC Checker: Jim Sanford, **K8ZZU**

CQ Checker: Mike Rudzki, **N8MR**

CQ Checker: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

603T - Somolia



Team 603T now have dates for their DXpedition: September 9-30, 2024. The location will be in the northern part of the country in the state of Somaliland. Special focus on low bands and 6m; SSB, CW & Digi.

Somaliland is one of the 5 states that make up the de-facto country called Somalia. A difficult territory that has never been spared from war and famine. An exciting and complicated DXpedition, in a turbulent territory, and not always easy to activate.

According to Club Log rankings, Somalia ranks 53rd on the most wanted List, and with various requests on digital modes, NA / JA area, 6 meters and low bands. Our website is currently being prepared. Any news will be reported on the usual ham radio news websites. Follow us for real-time updates, Q&A sessions and much more. Your participation makes this DXpedition even more special!

ZOOM MEETINGS

In person meetings have resumed. We are getting better at presenting ZOOM meetings. Really hope you can join us in person, but if you can't, please join our ZOOM meeting.

For those not familiar with ZOOM, please refer to the 2020 October or November issues of The Long Path which are accessible online on the SEMDXA Website for details on how to setup your computer for a ZOOM meeting.

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

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

N5J - Jarvis Is.



The Magnet, with the N5J team and three USFWS scientists on board, got under way at 0500 AM from American Samoa for Jarvis island. The time required to cover the distance of 1050 Nautical Miles (1940 km) depends on the boat-speed that we are able to maintain. Currently we are cruising at 15 knots (27 kmph) in light winds and moderate seas (waves of 3 to 5 feet). According to the forecast this favorable weather should continue for the next three days. Although we are likely to encounter some opposing currents, we expect to arrive at Jarvis the morning of August 6. If for some some reason we need to slow down, we will time our arrival for the morning of the 7th

KH8T - USA Samoa

N5DD, W5MJ, K5PI, VE7KW will be operating from American Samoa as KH8T, OC-045 during September 2-16, 2024.

Plans include 2 stations for all bands 80 through 10, CW, SSB, and FT8, including SuperFox mode. Possibly 160m, 60m and 6m if antennas and propagation allow. Equipment includes two K3, FTDX10, Expert 1.3K, Expert 1.5K, two Hexbeams, half squares, and verticals.

S9Z - Sao Tome

NCDXF is pleased to announce its financial support for the S9Z Sao Tome DXpedition for their inclusion of a young DXer, Angus Alexander, KJ7KOJ. This will be Angus' first chance at being a DXpeditioner. He is a great operator and has the full support of his Dad, Robin, W7YED who is also on the team. The S9Z team is led by Tom, N4XP and has an experienced team of operators. The operation takes place in mid-November 2024.

HK0 - Malpelo

Last active in 2012 (by HK0NA who still maintain the 2nd highest ever QSO count for a DXpedition), the Colombian League of Radio Amateurs (HK3LR) and its Board of Directors has announced its main goal – to stage a DXpedition to Malpelo island, SA-007. It is hoped for a February 2026 activity, but this is not yet confirmed.

Hamfests

9/07/24 - Branch County ARC Fall Trunk Swap.

Cold water, MI

9/07/24 - Grand Rapids Area Hamfest. Wyoming, MI

9/14/24 - GMARC Trunk Swap at the PPG. Shelby Twp, MI

9/14/24 - OAARS Ham Swap. West Branch, MI

9/15/24 - Adrian Hamfest. Adrian, MI

10/05/24 - Kalamazoo Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI

10/06/24 - USECA Hamfest, St.Claire Shores, MI

10/12/24 - Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest,
Muskegon, MI

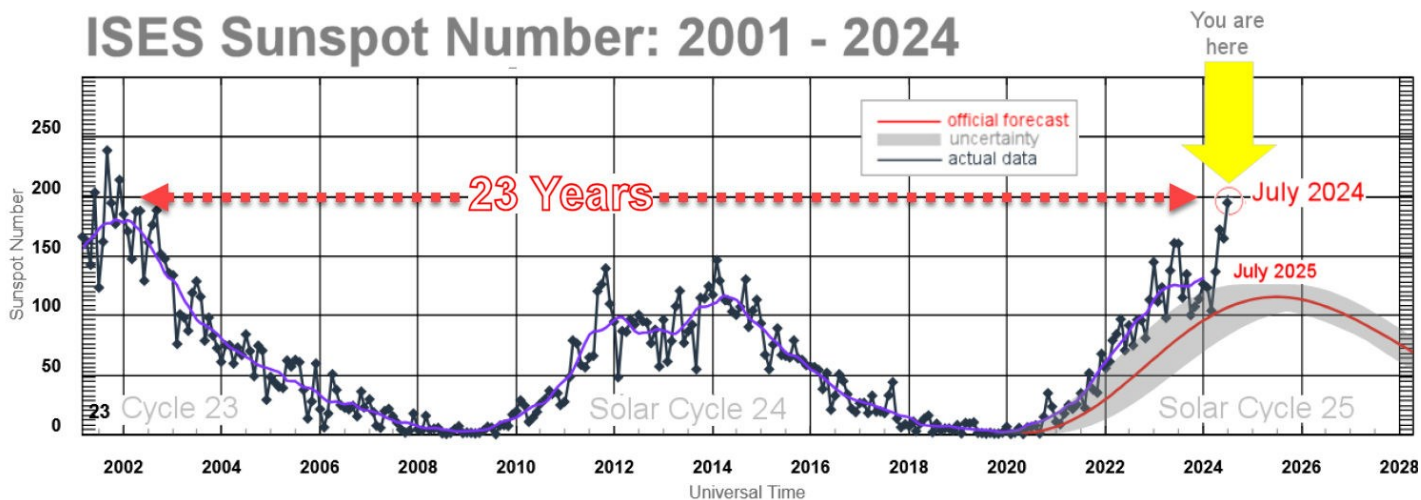
CY9C - St Paul Is.

The CY9C DXpedition team confirmed with Breton Air on Tuesday that the airlift of infrastructure gear over to the Northeast Island of St Paul will take place on Saturday, August 24. Six airlifts are currently planned and the airlifts will be taking the tents, tables, chairs, generators, fuel, electrical cables, coaxial cables and all other necessary gear to build the CY9C camp. As with most DXpeditions, weather will play a factor in the schedule. Preparations for the airlift will commence on Monday, August 5, with the arrival of the first load of gear in Dingwall. The estimated cost of just the helicopter airlifts is \$48,300 Canadian. Any support to help with this expense will be greatly appreciated. The CY9C team members are excited and have completed packing their personal gear for the trip.

Solar News

by Spaceweather.com

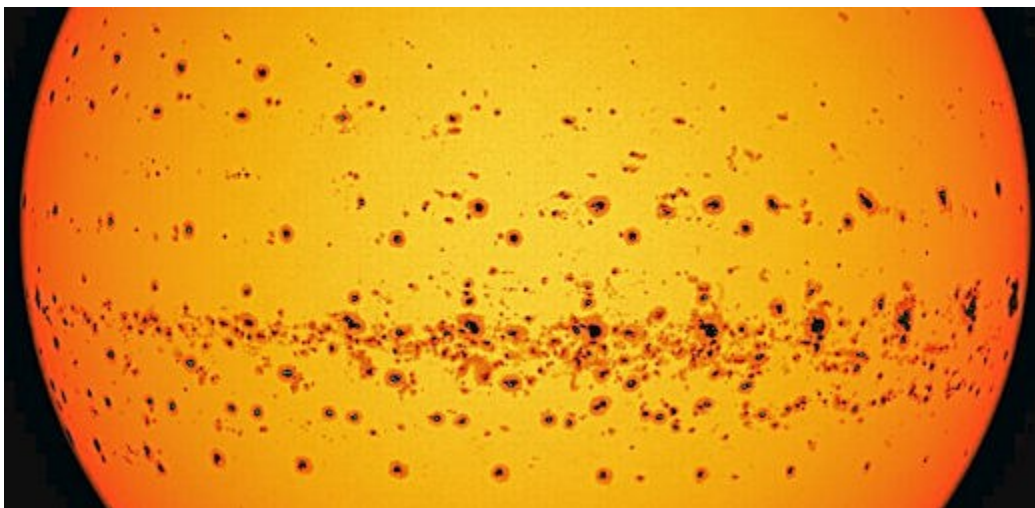
SUNSPOT COUNTS HIT A 23-YEAR HIGH: The sun is partying like it's 2001. That's the last time sunspot counts were as high as they are now. The monthly average sunspot number for July 2024 was 196.5, according to the Royal Observatory of Belgium's [Solar Influences Data Analysis Center](#). This eclipses every month since Dec. 2001:



Solar Cycle 25 wasn't expected to be this strong. When it began in Dec. 2019, experts predicted it would be a weak cycle like its immediate predecessor Solar Cycle 24. If that forecast had panned out, Solar Cycle 25 would be one of the weakest solar cycles in a century.

Instead, Solar Cycle 25 has shot past Solar Cycle 24 and may be on pace to rival some of the stronger cycles of the 20th century. Already in May 2024 we have experienced [a century-class geomagnetic storm](#) with auras sighted in the South Pacific, central America and south Africa.

The last time sunspot numbers were this high, the sun was on the verge of launching the Great Halloween Storms of 2003, which included the strongest X-ray solar flare ever recorded (X45) and a CME so powerful it was ultimately detected by the Voyager spacecraft at the edge of the solar system.



Is this Solar Max? The jury is still out. Sunspot numbers may continue to rise in the months ahead and, based on the behavior of previous cycles, we can confidently expect high solar activity for at least 2 to 3 more years.

PERIODIC TABLE OF MAJOR AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS

by Chet VE3CFK

Start Day (UTC) → 11 12 ← End Day (UTC)

Start Time (UTC) → 2200Z 1800Z ← End Time (UTC)

Contest Name

2024

Multimode

CW

Digital

Off-the-air

SSB

VHF/UHF

Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
1 0900Z	1 2359Z	4 2300Z	5 0300Z	2 0000Z	3 2400Z	6 1500Z	7 1500Z	4 VARIES	5 VARIES	1 1800Z	2 2359Z	1 0000Z	1 2359Z	3 1800Z	4 0600Z	7 0000Z	7 2359Z	5 0600Z	6 0600Z	2 2100Z	4 0300Z	6 2200Z	8 1800Z
HAPPY NEW YEAR		NA Sprint CW		ARRL DX SSB		SP Polish DX		7QP/IN/DE New England QSO Parties		ARRL Int'n'l Digital		RAC CANADA DAY		NAQP CW		CW Ops CW Open		Oceania PHONE		ARRL SS CW		ARRL 160 CW	
6 0800Z	7 2359Z	10 0000Z	11 2359Z	10 0000Z	10 0359Z	13 0700Z	14 1300Z	11 1200Z	12 1159Z	8 1800Z	10 0300Z	6 1400Z	7 1400Z	10 0000Z	11 2359Z	14 0000Z	15 2359Z	12 0800Z	13 0600Z	9 0000Z	10 2359Z	14 0000Z	15 2359Z
ARRL RTTY Roundup		CQWW WPX RTTY		NA Sprint RTTY		JIDX CW		CQ-M DX		ARRL June VHF		MARCONI MEMORIAL HF		WAE CW		WAE SSB		Oceania CW		WAE RTTY		ARRL 10 Meter	
13 0800Z	14 0559Z	17 0000Z	18 2400Z	16 1200Z	17 1200Z	20 1800Z	21 0400Z	16 1200Z	16 2100Z	15 0000Z	16 2400Z	13 1200Z	14 1200Z	17 1800Z	18 0600Z	21 VARIES	22 VARIES	19 1500Z	20 1459Z	16 2100Z	18 0300Z	24 0000Z	25 2359Z
NAQP CW		ARRL DX CW		Russian DX		Michigan QSO Party		Contest University		All Asian CW		IARU HF		NAQP SSB		WA/NJ/NH QSO Parties		Worked All Germany		ARRL SS SSB		Happy Holidays	
20 1800Z	21 0559Z	23 2200Z	24 2200Z	24 0000Z	24 2359Z	27 1200Z	28 1200Z	17 1300Z	19 1700Z	22 1800Z	23 2100Z	20 1800Z	21 2100Z	24 1200Z	25 1200Z	28 0000Z	29 2400Z	26 0000Z	27 2400Z	23 0000Z	24 2359Z	28 0000Z	28 2359Z
NAQP SSB		CQ 160 SSB		NA SSB SPRINT		SP DX RTTY		Hamvention		ARRL Field Day		CQ WW VHF		WW Digi		CQWW RTTY		CQ WW SSB		CQ WW CW		RAC Winter	
26 2200Z	28 2200Z			30 0000Z	31 2359Z			25 0000Z	26 2359Z			27 1200Z	28 1200Z										
CQ 160 CW				CQWW WPX SSB				CQ WPX CW				RSGB IOTA											

Rev 1

VU4 - Andaman Is.

The DX Adventure team heading to South Andaman taking place between March 10-21 of next year have announced their team members. They are ON4AMX (VU3PFV), Marc; ON4HIL (VU3PFT), Patrick; ON5UR (VU3PFE), Max; ON5RA (VU3PFF), Pascal; ON5TN, Karel; ON6CC (VU3PFN), Marc; ON7FT (VU3PFH), Jonas; ON7USB (VU3PFQ), Geert; ON7RU (VU3PFJ), Franky; ON8AZ (VU3PFP), Francis; PA9M (VU3PFO), Marcel; and PA3EWP (VU3PFI), Ron. Their website says 13 ops in Dutch and 15 ops in English. They list 12 with bios. They will be operating as VU4X.

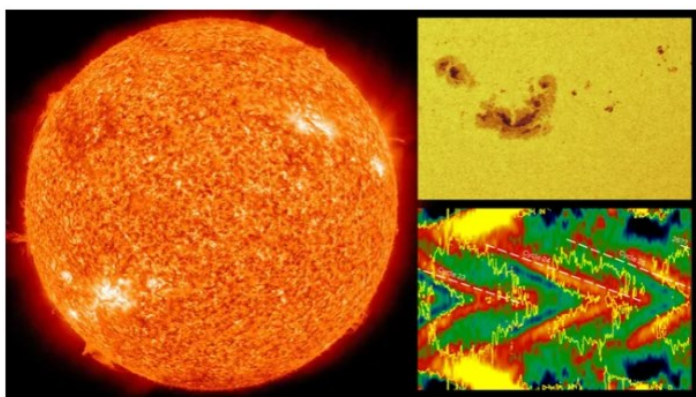
FP - Miquelon Is.

St Pierre and Miquelon Islands
 Team TO8FP are on the air August 10-22. This will be IOTA NA-032 and grid GN17tc. The team includes VE2GCE, VA2MM, VE2DDZ, VA2XZA, VE2YNI and VA2AN. They will be on 80-6 including 60, CW, SSB and digital.

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

The sun's next solar cycle has begun, 'starquakes' suggest

The current 11-year solar cycle hasn't even finished yet, and the next is beginning!



(Above) The sun which has an 11-year solar cycle (top right) Helioseismic and Magnetic Imager (HMI) image of the big sunspot that occurred on 5 May 2024 (bottom right) a Helioseismic and Magnetic Imager (HMI) image of the big sunspot that occurred on 5 May 2024 map shows which latitudes on the Sun were rotating faster (shown in red and yellow) or slower (shown in blue and green) than average over the last 29 years (Image credit: NASA/SDO and HMI science team/Rachel Howe)

Solar scientists have spotted indications that the next solar cycle is beginning. That is despite the fact that it isn't due for another six years, and the current solar cycle (Cycle 25) is still in progress.

The current solar cycle is expected to reach its peak or "solar maximum" midway through 2025 when the magnetic field of our star will flip and its poles will switch. Leading up to this solar activity has been ramping up with an increase in sunspots, solar flares and eruptions of stellar plasma called coronal mass ejections (CMEs).

Despite the gearing up of Cycle 25 to its peak, it looks like Cycle 26 just can't wait to tag in. The rumblings of the onset of the next 11-year-long solar cycle came in the form of "starquakes," sound waves ricocheting through the interior of the sun detected by researchers from the University of Birmingham.

CLUBLOG

Most wanted - Top 25

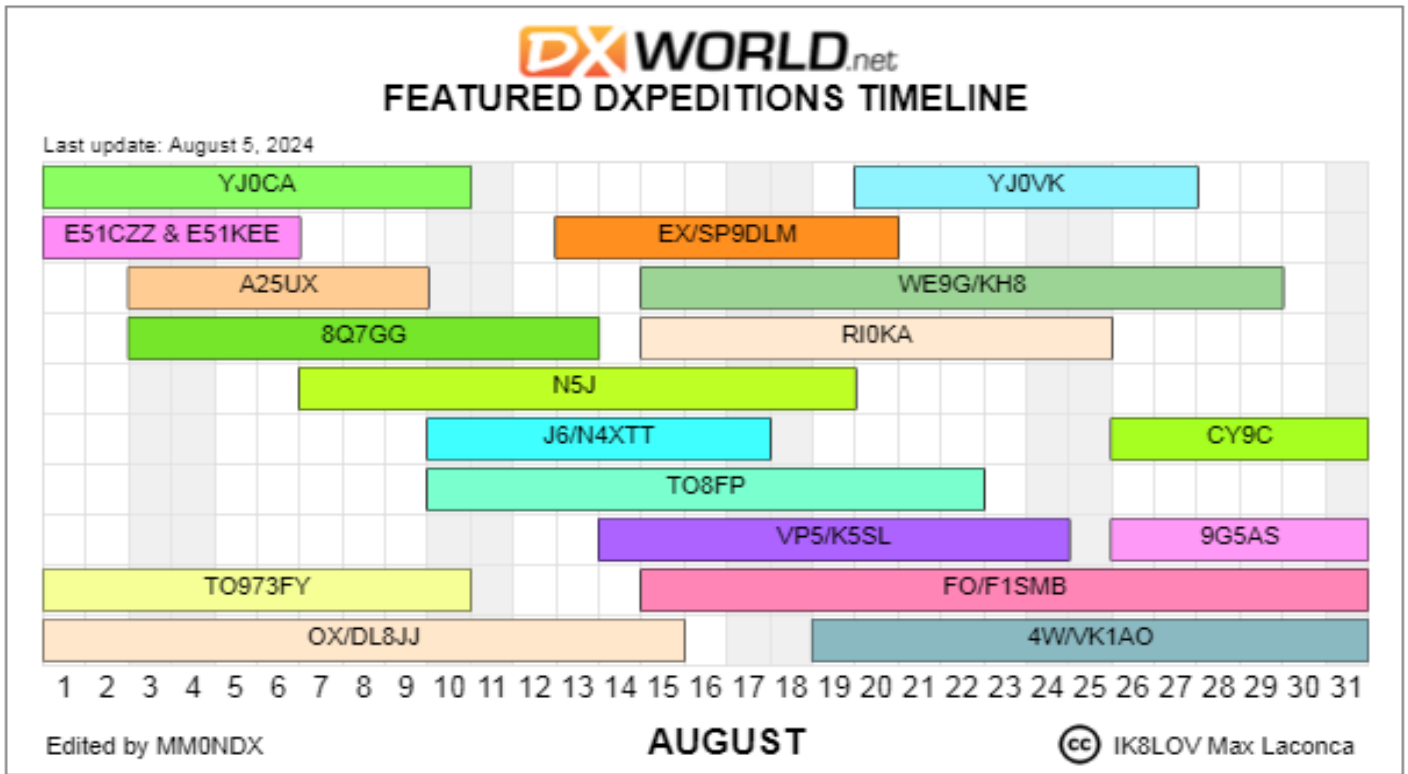
1. **P5** DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
2. **BS7H** SCARBOROUGH REEF
3. **CE0X** SAN FELIX ISLANDS
4. **BV9P** PRATAS ISLAND
5. **KH7K** KURE ISLAND
6. **KH3** JOHNSTON ISLAND
7. **FT/G** GLORIOSO ISLAND
8. **3Y/P** PETER 1 ISLAND
9. **FT5/X** KERGUELEN ISLAND
10. **YV0** AVES ISLAND
11. **3Y/B** BOUVET ISLAND
12. **ZS8** PRINCE EDWARD & MARION ISLANDS
13. **KH4** MIDWAY ISLAND
14. **VK0M** MACQUARIE ISLAND
15. **PY0S** SAINT PETER AND PAUL ROCKS
16. **KP5** DESECHEO ISLAND
17. **VP0S** SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS
18. **KH5** PALMYRA & JARVIS ISLANDS
19. **ZL9** NEW ZEALAND SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS
20. **FK/C** CHESTERFIELD ISLANDS
21. **VK0H** HEARD ISLAND
22. **FT/T** TROMELIN ISLAND
23. **EZ** TURKMENISTAN
24. **YK** SYRIA
25. **ZL8** KERMADEC ISLAND

Future SEMDXA Meeting Guest Speakers/Presentations

- September - Rick, NE8Z - TBA
- October - Fred, KD8ZYD - TBA
- November to June 2025 - Open

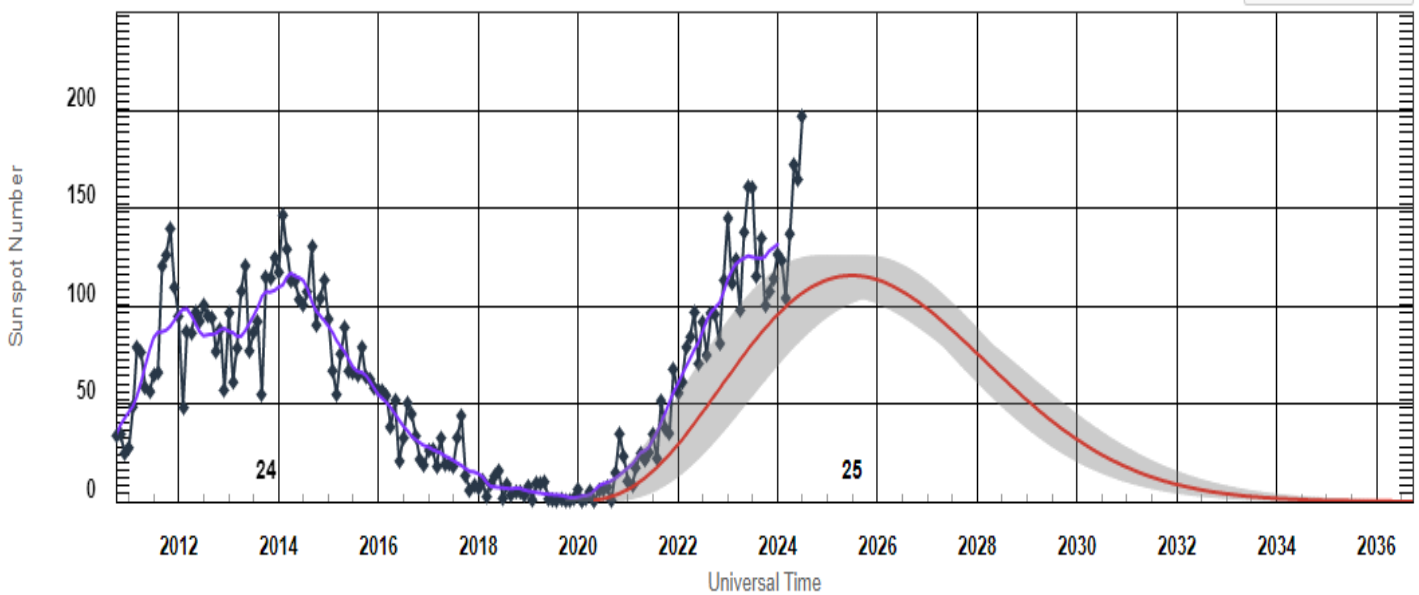
Upcoming DX

Credit to DX World



SOLAR CYCLE 25

NOAA/SWPC



Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

Start Date	End Date	Dxcc Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by
2024					
July					
2024 Jul24	2024 Aug20	Nicaragua	YN2RP [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20240619
2024 Jul26	2024 Aug10	French Guiana	TO973FY [spots]	EA5GL	DXW.Net 20240721
RSGB IOTA Contest (Jul 27-28, 2024) Check here for pericontest activity too.					
2024 Jul27	2024 Aug12	Falkland Is	VP8DPD [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20240731
2024 Jul30	2024 Aug10	Vanuatu	YJ0CA [spots]	VK2YUS Direct	VK2YUS 20240306
August					
2024 Aug01	2024 Aug06	South Cook Is	E51 [spots]	IK2DUW	OPDX 20240622
2024 Aug03	2024 Aug09	Botswana	A25UX [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20240429
2024 Aug03	2024 Aug13	Maldives	8Q7GG [spots]	TBA	DXW.Net 20240709
2024 Aug03	2024 Aug20	Albania	ZA [spots]	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240728
2024 Aug04	2024 Aug12	Barbados	8P9MC [spots]	OE6MCX Direct	425DXN 20240802
2024 Aug07	2024 Aug19	Palmyra Jarvis Is	N5J	TBA	DXW.Net 20240304
2024 Aug10	2024 Aug17	St Lucia	J6	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240226
2024 Aug10	2024 Aug22	St Pierre & Miquelon	TO8FP	Club Log OQRS	DXW.Net 20230910
2024 Aug13	2024 Aug20	Kyrgyzstan	EX	Home Call	DXW.Net 20240719
2024 Aug14	2024 Aug24	Turks & Caicos	VP5	K5SL	TDDX 20240723

Editors NOTE:

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

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

2024 Aug15	2024 Aug29	American Samoa	KH8	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240803
2024 Aug15	2024 Sep15	French Polynesia	FO	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240612
2024 Aug17	2024 Aug30	Timor Leste	4W	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240131
2024 Aug20	2024 Aug27	Vanuatu	YJ0VK	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240714
2024 Aug23	2024 Sep30	Tristan da Cunha	ZD9GJ	LoTW	DXW.Net 20231123
2024 Aug26	2024 Sep04	Ghana	9G5AS	eQSL	TDDX 20240721
2024 Aug26	2024 Sep05	St Paul I	CY9C	LoTW	WA4DAN 20240315
2024 Aug29	2024 Sep30	Georgia	4L	LoTW	TDDX 20240730
2024 Aug31	2024 Sep03	St Pierre & Miquelon	FP	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240804
September					
2024 Sep01	2024 Sep08	South Cook Is	E51WLG	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240720
2024 Sep02	2024 Sep16	American Samoa	KH8T	M0URX	TDDX 20240530
2024 Sep03	2024 Sep13	Zimbabwe	Z22AO	HA5AO OQRS	DXW.Net 20240304
2024 Sep05	2024 Sep09	Monaco	3A	EB7DX	DXW.Net 20240418
2024 Sep05	2024 Sep15	Pitcairn	VP6WR	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240123
2024 Sep10	2024 Sep17	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240803
2024 Sep10	2024 Sep20	Madagascar	5R8SR	Club Log OQRS	TDDX 20240711
2024 Sep12	2024 Sep19	Palau	T8	JO3LVG Buro	OPDX 20240612

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

2024 Sep14	2024 Sep23	Zambia	9J2AO	HA5AO OQRS	DXW.Net 20240304
2024 Sep17	2024 Sep21	French Poly- nesia	FO	TBA	DXW.Net 20240123
2024 Sep18	2024 Oct01	St Kitts & Ne- vis	V47JA	LoTW	W5JON 20240626
2024 Sep18	2024 Oct06	Tanzania	5H1WX	I8KHC	DXW.Net 20240621
2024 Sep24	2024 Oct04	Botswana	A25AO	HA5AO OQRS	DXW.Net 20240304
October					
2024 Oct03	2024 Oct10	Samoa	5W0TE	TBA	DXW.Net 20240521
2024 Oct05	2024 Oct14	Namibia	V5	HA5AO OQRS	DXW.Net 20240304
2024 Oct09	2024 Oct14	Svalbard	JW5X	LA5X	DXW.Net 20240114
2024 Oct11	2024 Oct26	Nauru	C21MM	Club Log OQRS	DXW.Net 20240729
2024 Oct16	2024 Oct30	Vanuatu	YJ0VV	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240109
2024 Oct23	2024 Nov06	Jamaica	6Y	eQSL	TDDX 20240429
2024 Oct24	2024 Nov02	Malawi	7Q1	EA7FTR	DXW.Net 20240630
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB (Oct 26-27, 2024) Check here for pericontest					
2024 Oct31	2024 Nov11	Burkina Faso	XT2MD	TBA	I8KHC 20240521
November					
2024 Nov01	2024 Nov15	Cocos Keel- ing	VK9CV	OK6DJ	DXW.Net 20240630
2024 Nov11	2024 Nov20	Sao Tome & Principe	S9Z	TBA	TDDX 20240709
2024 Nov15	2024 Dec04	Rotuma	3D2Z	M0OXO	DXW.Net 20240501
2024 Nov30	2024 Dec13	St Martin	TO9W	LoTW	TDDX 20240506

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

[CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW \(Nov 23-24, 2024\) Check here for pericon-](#)

December					
2024 Dec08	2024 Dec18	Br Virgin Is	VP2VMM	LoTW	TDDX 20240726
2024 Dec20	2024 Dec31	French Gui- ana	TO0J	LoTW	OZ0J 20240331
2024 Dec26	2025 Jan04	Dominica	J75K	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240804
2024 Dec30	2025 Jan03	Mariana Is	KHO	LoTW	TDDX 20240722
2025					
March					
2025 Mar09	2025 Apr05	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	LoTW	TDDX 20240725
2025 Mar10	2025 Mar25	Andaman Is	VU4X	M0URX	DXW.Net 20240723
April					
2025 Apr18	2025 Apr27	Galalagos	HD8G	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240609
June					
2025 Jun01	2025 Jun10	Faroe Is	OY	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240619