Volume 34 Issue 9 SEMDXA NEWSLETTER September 2024



PRES Sez

Hi all,

I hope everyone is having a nice summer, make new contacts with new entities. I know I have made a few! This is the best time of the year to take a look at your antennas, feed lines, guy lines, etc. to make sure everything is ready for another Michigan winter!

How did you all do making contacts with Javis Island? There have only been 2 DXpeditions to Jarvis since post WWII. I can now say I have another ATNO. Here is a little history of the island.

Jarvis Island (formerly known as Bunker Island or Bunker's Shoal) is an uninhabited 4.5 km 2 (1.7 sq mi) coral island located in the South Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Hawaii and the Cook Islands. It is an unincorporated, unorganized territory of the United States, administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior as part of the National Wildlife Refuge system. Unlike most coral atolls, the lagoon on Jarvis is wholly dry.

Jarvis is one of the Central Line Islands (Palmyra is one of the Northern Line Islands) and for statistical purposes is also grouped as one of the United States Minor Outlying Islands. Jarvis Island is the largest of three U.S. equatorial possessions, which include Baker Island and Howland Island. Jarvis, in addition to being part of a different Island group from Palmyra is also separated from Palmrya by the division of territory by a treaty between the US and Kiribati signed in 2013. It deserves it's own country status.

They used a RIB (Rig in a box). The use of the RIB concept and our agreement to take 3 scientists with us to allow USFWS to conduct needed research on the Island were the factors making this possible.

(cont'd Page 2)

NEXT Meeting:

In-Person

September 18th.

2024 at 7 PM

Fork n' Pint in Waterford

Program

Rick Dorsch, NE8Z

Program

See Page 4 for Details

SEMDXA OFFICERS

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Vice-president: Pete Gladysz, K8PGJ
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SEMDXA Web Site: www.semdxa.org

Next up for DXpeditions is Saint Paul Island. This DX location I actually made a phone contact back in 2016. I think I was a ham for 2 years at that time. Very green!

St. Paul Island is a small uninhabited island located approximately 24 km (15 mi) northeast of Cape North on Cape Breton Island and 71 km (44 mi) southwest of Cape Ray on Newfoundland; it is along the boundary between the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Cabot Strait.

St. Paul Island is approximately three miles long by one mile wide at its widest point. It is formed of granite and is extremely rugged with its shores being completely encircled by rockface cliffs. It is split by a narrow channel that fills with sea water. The only land mammals inhabiting the island are originally domesticated rabbits, which were set loose after the lifesaving station was established in the late 1800s (the ramp and massive rowboat for ten men were still there in 1950/51 as well as an enormous house including a dam forming a fresh water reservoir also used by the radio range station operators and families up to the 1950s). The remains of a WWII RCAF radar station were also still there facing the landing area in 1950/51. It is also inhabited by numerous seabirds. There are also two small lakes in the interior stocked with trout. Its ecosystem is considered fragile and due to the danger posed by visiting the island, visits must be cleared beforehand with the Canadian Coast Guard which administers the island on behalf of its owner, the Government of Canada.

I have made progress on countries/entities that I have made contact with. Last reported I was at 239 contacts to different countries/entities. 219 are confirmed. I am now at 284 with 260 confirmed. Even more progress!! I'm 16 away to 300 contacts and only 40 away from 300 confirmed!!

Shirts!! Below are 2 website you can pic your shirt, coat, really anything they sell my friend can embroider our logo, etc on. At the last meeting of the year in the spring I wore my new shirt. I stepped up and got a Nike shirt which I love. Shirts will be around \$50 if you want a Nike shirt. She has shirts that cost less. Just let me know what your looking for and I'll get it ordered. Please let me know if you have any questions. She can add your call, name, anything you want on the shirt.

One Stop - America's Best Supplier (onestopinc.com)

Wholesale Apparel, Bags and Caps | SanMar

The Prez - 73's

C8K - Mozambique

Petr OK1BOA, Petr OK1FCJ, Palo OK1CRM, Pavel OK1GK, Ruda OK2ZA, Ludek OK2ZC, Karel OK2ZI, David OK6DJ will depart on January 17th. Arrival at the destination and transport to the QTH in the late afternoon of January 18th. In the following days, we will gradually bring each band into operation as local conditions allow. Departure is on February 1st, so we expect to start packing up partially on January 30th and finish everything on January 31st. More info coming.

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.

 $\frac{https://umich.zoom.us/j/91352970493?pwd=N0t3N1RpUFZjV}{GQzZHZwTnU0bHpuUT09}$

Solar News

Here's a <u>link</u> to an interesting Cycle 25 YouTube video by Dr. Scott McIntosh. Dr. Scott McIntosh, VP of Space Operations from Lynker Space provided an update on the sun's activity, discussing its magnetic cycle, the terminator event, and the current state of solar activity. Also discussed were the potential for a triple peak in the solar cycle, the complexities of the sun's interior, and the correlation between the far side of the sun and sloshing activity. Lastly, they explored the relationship between gravitational pull and the sunspot cycle, the need for further observations, and the challenges of modeling complex systems.

Also. Frank Donovan, W3LPL has a Solar Cycle 25 article in the October issue of QST.

ALSO also. W3LPL, Frank, did a Zoom presentation on "HF Propagation During Solar Maximum" last month for the Madison DX Club, recorded by K2TNO. Frank warns that it's a long presentation some of us may need to watch it "in short sessions rather than in one marathon session."

W9DXCC



W9DXCC is this coming weekend Friday 13th to Saturday the 14th. You can still register online as well as walk-in registration, although at this stage in the registration Banquet seating is questionable.

Your editor will not be attending this year. Too many other things going on for me to attend.

V7 - Marshall Is.

It is planned for February, 2025. It will be a team of "six skilled operators" for 12 days. Four of the ops were part of the 8R7X Guyana 2024 operation and a "young group," DX6SP, DJ4MX, HA8RT and M0SDV, all between 22 and 26 years old. They are joined by E77DX who is 50 (and possibly another to come up with the six ops number).

NE8Z's Presentation

Here's a synopsis of Rick's presentation for Wednesday September 18th:

HC1MD/2 QTH, antennas and local area

Pictures of all HC 6m DXers, shacks and antennas

HD8MD-2022 Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos Dxpn

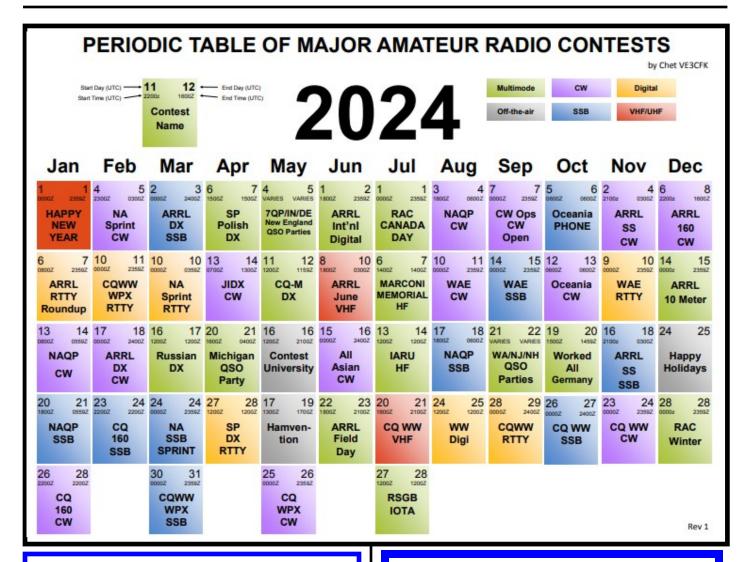
HD8MD-2024 San Cristobal Island, Galapagos Dxpn

SV2 - Mt. Athos

Acording tp Bernie, W3UR SV2RSG, Monk Iakovos will be QRV on and after September 10th.

DX Maps

I understand that DX Maps is off-line. Apparently is was hacked in much the same manner that ARRL's LOTW was. DX maps states that your personnel information is safe in a different location.



FT8 Super FOX

Thursday, September 5th, someone was pirating the callsign SV2RSG and SV2RSG/A. The real Monk Iakovos says it was not him. The counterfeit activity on Thursday was between 1300 and 1600 and then again around 2100 to 2300Z. This bogus activity was on FT8 on 20 and 17 meters. Yes, many reported receiving the "verified" indicator from the WSJT-X software. Several weeks ago, multiple hackers cracked the SuperFox software.

Future SEMDXA Meeting Guest Speakers/Presentations

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

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

T32 - E Kiribati

Ken, KH6QJ will again be active as T32AZ from Crystal Lodge, Kiritimati, East Kiribati during October 11-24, 2023. QRV on 80-40-20-15-10m; CW/SSB. QSL via KH6QJ.

KH2 - GUAM

Hirata, JH3DJX will be active from Guam as KH2/JH3DJX during September 29 to October 2, 2024. QRV holiday-style on 40-10m; mainly CW & FT8.

YJ0 - Vanuatu

Adding to his Fiji (3D2YY) and Tuvalu (T2M) activities, Maxim OH7O will now also be QRV from Port Vila, Vanuatu as YJ0YY during September 6-10. He will use an IC-7300, vertical with elevated radials and possibly a wire antenna for 80m. His Pacific itinerary is:

Fiji – September 4-19 (including visits to T2 & YJ).

Vanuatu – September 6-10.

Tuvalu – September 12-16.

XT2 - Burkina Faso

Harald, DF2WO will again be active from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso as XT2AW starting September 8 and lasting two weeks. Plans are to QRV on 80-10m; SSB & FT4 and QO-100 SAT (10489666.) LoTW will be uploaded after the DXpedition ends.

Hamfests

- 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

Larry, K8UT - SK

Larry Gauthier, K8UT became a silent key on August 13, 2024.

Larry had been licensed since 1968, and enjoyed chasing DX, contesting, rag-chewing, working IOTA contacts, and logging TenTen numbers. He operated all bands from 2 meters to 160 meters, and his modes of operation include FT8, RTTY, CW, and (rarely) SSB.

Originally licensed as WB8BGO, Larry also held the call KE8BF briefly before getting his Extra Class license and the vanity call K8UT. Larry had 340 current DXCC countries confirmed in Mixed mode (phone: 336, cw: 336, rtty: 333), plus confirmations for 10 deleted countries. He had 9 Band DXCC (160 - 10) and 9 band WAS (160 - 10). He had DXCC, WAZ, and WAS in three modes (CW, SSB, and RTTY).

He was also a key member of the N1MM coding team.

Rest in Peace Larry.

Dual Decoders for FT8

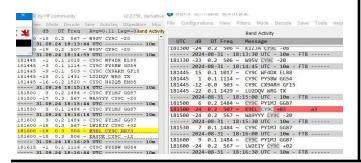
K9EL, John, has a write-up on "using more than one FT8 decoder to increase your completed FT8 QSO totals". Here's his write-up:

For many years, I have operated FT8 using two decoders - WSJT-X and JTDX. WSJT-X (including the latest version) has been my main FT8 software and the one I almost always use for transmitting. However, on receive, I run both decoders at the same time. Windows PC's are very flexible on audio and multiple devices can use the same audio feed at the same time with minimal degradation.

So, why use two decoders? Although JTDX is built on the same engine as WSJT-X, they rarely decode every station the same and almost always have different signal strength levels. I like to think that JTDX is a second receiver for FT8.

Here is a great example:

On August 31st, I was trying to work CY9C on 10 meters. That is a very difficult path for northern Illinois and I was able to weakly decode their signal by aiming my Yagi at 110 degrees - skewed path. At 181500, CY9C called me and gave me a +03 report while I was decoding CY9C at -24 using WSJT-X. I was running JTDX at the same time but JTDX did not decode the CY9C calling me. I returned to them with a report and at 181600, CY9C sent me RR73. But, I only decoded the RR73 on JTDX! Their signal level was -18, but nothing was decoded by WSJT-X. If I had depended on only one or the other, I would not have a QSO.



I cannot explain why they decode differently, but there is a clear advantage to having both decoders running at the same time.

Unless you have a port splitter, it is not possible to connect both FT8 programs to the same com port, so choose the FT8 software that will be your "main" FT8 program and the one you will use for transmitting. In the settings for the second decoder, set the radio to "NONE". The frequency information will not be accurate on your second decoder, but that does not matter as you are logging with your primary decoder. For Audio, set the Input on the second decoder the same as your main FT8 decoder.

I hope this setup will be successful for you!

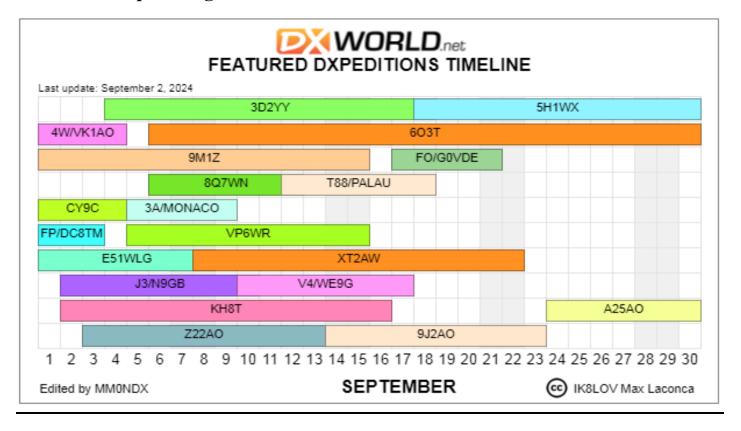
Editors note: I too have found the same. Sometimes when using a single decoder, I do not copy RR73 but others do copy my RR73.

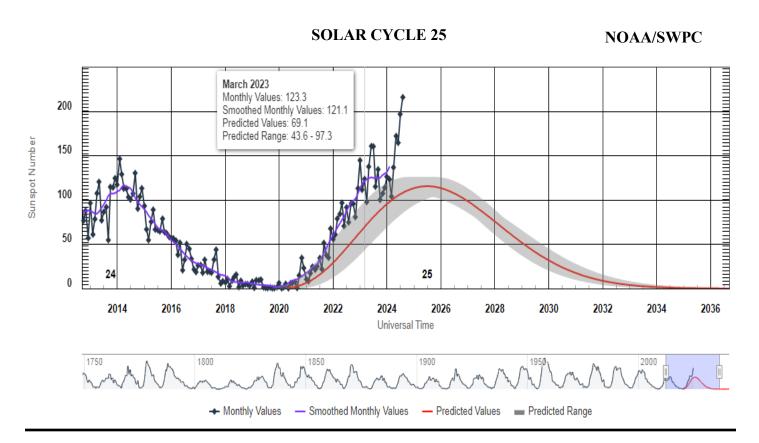
CLUBLOG

Most wanted - Top 25

- 1. **P5** DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
- 2. **BS7H** SCARBOROUGH REEF
- 3. CEOX 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 IS-LANDS
- 20. FK/C CHESTERFIELD ISLANDS
- 21. VK0H HEARD ISLAND
- 22. FT/T TROMELIN ISLAND
- 23. EZ TURKMENISTAN
- 24. YK SYRIA
- 25. **ZL8** KERMADEC ISLAND

Credit to DX World





Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

| Start | <u>End</u> | DXCC | <u>Call</u> | QSL | Reported |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Date | <u>Date</u> | <u>Entity</u> | <u> </u> | via | by |
| 2024 | | | | | |
| Aug | just | | | | |
| 2024 Aug15 | 2024 Sep15 | French Polyne- sia | FO [spots] | LoTW | <u>DXW.Net</u> 20240612 |
| 2024 Aug16 | 2024 Sep15 | Guadeloupe | FG [spots] | LoTW | TDDX 20240819 |
| 2024 Aug18 | 2024 Sep15 | Solomon Is | H44MS [spots] | LoTW | TDDX 20231111 |
| 2024 Aug23 | 2024 Sep30 | Tristan da Cunha | ZD9GJ | LoTW | DXW.Net |
| 2024 | 2024 | Maldina | [spots] 8Q7JH | DL3JH | 20231123 TDDX 20240902 |
| Aug27 | Sep12 | Maldives | [spots] | Buro | |
| 2024 Aug28 | 2024 Sep24 | Crete | SW9IL [spots] | DJ5IL (B/d) | TDDX 20240826 |
| 2024 Aug29 | 2024 Sep30 | Georgia | 4L [spots] | LoTW | TDDX 20240730 |
| Septe | mber | | | | |
| 2024 Sep01 | 2024 Sep08 | South Cook Is | E51WLG [spots] | LoTW | DXW.Net 20240720 |
| 2024 Sep02 | 2024 Sep10 | Grenada | <u>J3</u> [spots] | LoTW | TDDX 20240820 |
| 2024 Sep02 | 2024 Sep16 | American Sa- moa | КН8Т | M0URX | TDDX |
| ОСРО2 | ОСРТО | IIIOa | [spots] | | 20240530 |
| 2024 Sep03 | 2024 Sep10 | Svalbard | JW [spots] | LoTW | <u>DXW.Net</u> 20240904 |
| 2024 Sep03 | 2024 Sep13 | Zimbabwe | <u>Z22AO</u> [spots] | HA5AO OQRS | DXW.Net 20240304 |
| 2024 Sep05 | 2024 Sep09 | Monaco | 3A [spots] | EB7DX | DXW.Net 20240418 |
| 2024 Sep05 | 2024 Sep15 | Pitcairn | VP6WR [spots] | LoTW | DXW.Net 20240123 |

Editors NOTE:

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

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

| 2024 Sep06 | 2024 Sep10 | Vanuatu | YJOYY [spots] | LoTW | OPDX 20240906 |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 2024 Sep06 | 2024 Sep13 | Maldives | 8Q7WN [spots] | I8KHC | DXW.Net 20240428 |
| 2024 Sep07 | 2024 Sep09 | Palau | T88PB [spots] | JA0JHQ | <u>DXW.Net</u> 20240901 |
| 2024 Sep08 | 2024 Sep22 | Burkina Faso | XT2AW | LoTW | DXW.Net 20240818 |
| 2024 Sep09 | 2024 Sep30 | Somalia | <u>600T</u> | LoTW | DXW.Net 20230910 |
| 2024 Sep10 | 2024 Sep17 | St Kitts & Nevis | V4 | LoTW | DXW.Net 20240803 |
| 2024 Sep10 | 2024 Sep20 | Madagascar | 5R8SR | Club Log OQRS | TDDX 20240711 |
| 2024 Sep11 | 2024 Sep16 | Jersey | MJ | LoTW | DXW.Net 20240822 |
| 2024 Sep12 | 2024 Sep16 | Tuvalu | T2M | LoTW | <u>OPDX</u> 20240906 |
| 2024 Sep14 | 2024 Sep23 | Zambia | <u>9J2AO</u> | HA5AO OQRS | DXW.Net 20240304 |
| 2024 Sep17 | 2024 Sep21 | French Polyne- sia | FO | ТВА | DXW.Net 20240123 |
| 2024 Sep18 | 2024 Oct01 | St Kitts & Nevis | V47JA | LoTW | W5JON 20240626 |
| 2024 Sep18 | 2024 Oct06 | Tanzania | 5H1WX | 18KHC | DXW.Net 20240621 |
| 2024 Sep19 | 2024 Nov12 | Namibia | V51WH | DK2WH (B/d) | TDDX 20240819 |
| 2024 Sep20 | 2024 Sep22 | Greenland | XP2I | LoTW | <u>DXW.Net</u> 20240821 |
| 2024 Sep24 | 2024 Oct04 | Botswana | <u>A25A0</u> | HA5AO OQRS | DXW.Net 20240304 |
| 2024 Sep28 | 2024 Oct07 | Reunion | TO2DX | OM2DX | DXW.Net 20240813 |
| 2024 Sep30 | 2024 Oct11 | Namibia | <u>V55LA</u> | M0OXO | OPDX 20240823 |

SEMDXA Web Site: www.semdxa.org

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

| October | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|------------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| 2024 Oct03 | 2024 Oct10 | Samoa | 5W0TE | TBA | DXW.Net 20240521 | | |
| 2024 Oct09 | 2024 Oct14 | Svalbard | JW5X | LA5X | DXW.Net 20240114 | | |
| 2024 Oct10 | 2024 Oct29 | Nauru | C21MM | Club Log OQRS | DXW.Net 20240729 | | |
| 2024 Oct15 | 2024 Oct31 | Chatham Is | ZL7IO | LoTW | OPDX 20240824 | | |
| 2024 Oct16 | 2024 Oct30 | Vanuatu | YJ0VV | LoTW | DXW.Net 20240109 | | |
| 2024 Oct17 | 2024 Oct23 | Svalbard | JW | DK1VK | DXW.Net 20240817 | | |
| 2024 Oct17 | 2024 Oct24 | Mozambique | C91BV | EB7DX | DXW.Net 20240814 | | |
| 2024 Oct20 | 2024 Oct25 | Cayman Is | ZF2XX | LoTW | DXW.Net 20240904 | | |
| 2024 Oct23 | 2024 Nov06 | Jamaica | <u>6Y</u> | eQSL | TDDX 20240429 | | |
| 2024 Oct24 | 2024 Nov02 | Malawi | 7Q1 | EA7FTR | DXW.Net 20240630 | | |
| CQ World | CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB (Oct 26-27, 2024) Check here for pericontest | | | | | | |
| 2024 Oct31 | 2024 Nov11 | Burkina Faso | XT2MD | TBA | 18KHC 20240521 | | |
| Nove | mber | | | | | | |
| 2024 Nov01 | 2024 Nov15 | Cocos Keeling | <u>VK9CV</u> | OK6DJ | DXW.Net 20240630 | | |
| 2024 Nov06 | 2024 Nov24 | South Cook Is | E51SGC | LoTW | LZ1GC 20240816 | | |
| 2024 Nov08 | 2024 Dec12 | Fiji | 3D2TP | РА3СВН | DXW.Net 20240905 | | |
| 2024 Nov11 | 2024 Nov20 | Sao Tome & Principe | <u>\$9Z</u> | ТВА | TDDX 20240709 | | |
| 2024 Nov15 | 2024 Dec04 | Rotuma | <u>3D2Y</u> | МООХО | DXW.Net 20240501 | | |
| 2024 Nov19 | 2024 Nov26 | Chatham Is | ZL7YL | LoTW | OPDX 20240824 | | |

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page

| | | | | | TDDV | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| 2024 Nov19 | 2024 Nov29 | St Martin | FS | LoTW | TDDX 20240905 | | |
| 2024 Nov25 | 2024 Nov29 | Gambia | C5T | EA5GL | <u>DXW.Net</u> 20240817 | | |
| 2024 Nov25 | 2024 Dec06 | Tonga | A35GC | LoTW | LZ1GC 20240816 | | |
| 2024 Nov30 | 2024 Dec13 | St Martin | <u>TO9W</u> | LoTW | TDDX 20240506 | | |
| CQ World | wide DX Co | intest, CW (Nov 23-2 | 24, 2024) C | heck here t | for pericontest | | |
| Dece | mber | | | | | | |
| 2024 Dec08 | 2024 Dec18 | Br Virgin Is | VP2VMM | LoTW | TDDX 20240726 | | |
| 2024 Dec13 | 2024 Dec19 | Bangladesh | <u>S21DX</u> | LoTW | OPDX 20240818 | | |
| 2024 Dec20 | 2024 Dec31 | French Guiana | TO0J | LoTW | OZ0J 20240331 | | |
| 2024 Dec26 | 2025 Jan04 | Dominica | J75K | LoTW | DXW.Net 20240804 | | |
| 2024 Dec30 | 2025 Jan03 | Mariana Is | <u>KH0</u> | LoTW | TDDX 20240722 | | |
| 2025 | 2025 | | | | | | |
| Janı | uary | | | | | | |
| 2025 Jan12 | 2025 Jan27 | Marquesass | <u>TX7N</u> | LoTW | TDDX 20240902 | | |
| 2025 Jan17 | 2025 Feb02 | Mozambique | <u>C8K</u> | LoTW | 425DXN 20240906 | | |
| Ma | rch | | | | | | |
| 2025 Mar09 | 2025 Apr05 | Sint Maarten | PJ7AA | LoTW | TDDX 20240725 | | |
| 2025 Mar10 | 2025 Mar25 | Andaman Is | <u>VU4X</u> | M0URX | DXW.Net 20240723 | | |
| Ap | ril | | | | | | |
| 2025 Apr18 | 2025 Apr27 | Galalagos | HD8G | LoTW | DXW.Net 20240609 | | |
| June | | | | | | | |
| 2025 Jun01 | 2025 Jun10 | Faroe Is | <u>0Y</u> | LoTW | <u>DXW.Net</u> 20240619 | | |