



# Long Path



Volume 30 Issue 6

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

June 2020



## From the Editor's DESK

There will be **NO JUNE MEETING**. It is not anticipated that social gathering restrictions would be lifted by June 11th to allow us to meet at Gino's Restaurant. Hence, SEMDXA elections will be held in September.

Many DXpeditions have been cancelled in the short term, but there is lots of ham radio activity going on. Contests are still ongoing and Field Day will take on a new look. The ARRL has modified the rules for Field Day for 2020. Check out their changes in an article inside.

Your editor, Chet VE3CFK has another installment on his rebuild progress of his Collins 30S-1 amplifier in this issue.



Big news (I know, not DX news) SpaceX has succeeded in getting 2 astronauts to the space station. After 9 years, the USA is back in business of sending men and women into space. Congratulations!

We have a returning guest columnist Vic, VE3YT with a short article on SO2R.

Good DX and 73, Chet VE3CFK See you in September.

## Calendar

**NEXT Meeting:**

**2nd THURSDAY**

**September 10, 2020**

**Hopefully**

### Gino's Restaurant

1999 Cass Lake Rd,  
Keego Harbor, MI 48320

Directions: [Gino's Pizza](#)

Gathering starts at **5:30 pm (dinner on you) and meeting begins at 7 pm** followed by the presentation.

**PRESENTATION**

**TBA**

### SEMDXA OFFICERS

*President:* Robert Mueller, **K8RGM**

*Vice-president:* Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

*Treasurer:* Brad Nowak, **N8SNM**

*Secretary:* Doug Basberg, **N8VY**

*Program Director:* Gerry Treas, **K8GT** and Steve Culp, **K8QKY**

*Directors:* Ted, **K8NA**, and Lee, **N8LJ**

### Club Appointees:

*Web Site Editor:* Larry Gauthier, **K8UT**

*LP Publisher:* Chet Latawiec, **VE3CFK**

### ARRL and CQ Appointees:

*DXCC Checker:* Stan Arnett, **AC8W**

*DXCC Checker:* Bill Jones, **N8KF**

*DXCC Checker:* Less Butler, **W8MSP**

*VUCC Checker:* Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

*VUCC Checker:* Jim Sanford, **K8ZZU**

*CQ Checker:* Mike Rudzki, **N8MR**

*CQ Checker:* Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

## May Meeting Minutes

For those that missed the May meeting, you'll be happy to be informed that there was NO meeting in May. Cancelled because of the Covid 19 something or the other.

So our Secretary was off the hook this month for meeting minutes (again)!

## FW—Wallis and Futuna Islands

KH0/KC0W, Tom, is working on plans for a DXpedition as FW/KC0W to Wallis Island (OC-054), “unfortunately due to the state of the world right now most DXpeditions are kinda stuck”. Tom has obtained “time off from work” and is “waiting for travel to open up once again”. Over the past month the airport in “Saipan has been closed”. The dates of this DXpedition will be announced “as soon as international travel is accessible again” as Tom is “just kinda putting the word out there that a FW land DXpedition will happen (hopefully) sometime in the near future”. He plans to take an Elecraft rig and KW amp with hopes of being close to salt water to use verticals. Activity is planned for CW on 7 through 50 MHz, “the possibility of FT8 on 160/80 only”. Once there Tom will put in a “strong emphasis on Europe & East Coast USA”. QSOs will be uploaded to Club Log. QSL direct to KC0W.

## JD1/O - Ogasawara Islands

JD1BHA (aka JR7ISY), Mikio Goto is living permanently on Hahajima (Haha Island), which counts as AS-031 for IOTA. He has an IC-756ProIII and IC-PW1, FT-991A and UTV-1200BII (transverter for 23cm) and an IC-7300. Mikio can operate on 160m-23cm. He is mostly active on FT8 and CW and occasionally on SSB.

## CANCELLATIONS

- June SEMDXA Meeting
- Your amateur radio license unless you renew with the FCC
- Your LOTW subscription, unless you renew.
- All your magazine subscriptions unless you renew
- Your drivers license unless you renew
- 2020 W9DXCC

## NOT Cancelled Yet

Some things to look forward to:

- Some good deals on eBay and QRZ.com
- Sun spot Cycle 25
- 2021 Hamvention
- September SEMDXA meeting
- Thanksgiving turkey dinner
- July and August issues of The Long Path

## Mail Service

“The Postal Service™ is temporarily suspending international mail acceptance for [certain destinations](#) due to service impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Contest University

I hope many of you took the opportunity to attend Contest University on-line. The sessions presented were excellent! I always learn something from attending this event. This year was no exception. Quality presenters on quality and useful topics. If you get the chance in future years to attend a session in Xenia, you won't be disappointed. Here are a couple links: [Webinar](#) and [Course outline](#)

## 3Y—Bouvet Island

The Rebel DX Group says their plans for a 3Y0I Bouvet operation, maybe at the end of this year. They say the initial plans are not really affected by the global pandemic.

## CY0 - Sable Island

WA4DAN, Murray, and N0TG, Randy, remind everyone of the October 17-26, 2020 CY0C DXpedition to Sable Island. If you are bored during the Coronavirus Stay At Home and are "looking for something to do?" they suggest checking out their [website](#). "Check out the sponsors, maybe even become one, visit the team page to see who's who, and enjoy viewing the team's previous video [2019] DXpedition to St. Paul". The MPG4 video can be downloaded and shared with friends and your club. Also while on the website check out and participate in their "Sable most needed band, mode, ATNO, etc."

## 7Q - Malawi

The 7Q7AO operation has canceled. Yes, it's covid-19, the pandemic and travel restrictions that have caused the postponement. It was planned for September/October. HA5AO says the new date is

## KG4 - Guantnano Bay

W1SRR, Mike, says, "I will be mobilizing to Guantanamo Bay for a minimum of 9 months from June 2020 to Mar 2021, during my time off from work, I will juggle physical exercise, water sports, and operate KG4MA". Mike hopes to obtain his VE certificate and hopes "to maybe get some service members involved in the hobby". While there Mike will be on SSB and Digital modes, but also plans "to learn CW" and "will try [his] hand at that". Activity will be on HF and especially on 6 meters "as it seems to be requested of [him] via the numerous emails [he has] gotten as of late". Mike is planning to operate QRP when he hikes or bikes, as KG4MA/P. "I'd like to try different modes and equipment and if anyone wants to donate equipment towards the base shack I can maybe write a brief review and then leave it to the next KG4 operator as part of the shacks' equipment", says Mike. He has a Elecraft KX3 and KXPA100. To his knowledge there is no rig in the club shack. He is still contemplating his QSLing.

## ZL9 - Auckland, Campbell Is.

The Perseverance DX Group (PDXG) has some unfinished business. Several PDXG members participated on the 2012 ZL9 activation that was cut short by weather. After their successful VP8PJ South Orkney Islands 2020 DXpedition, PDXG is pleased to announce their intention to activate the New Zealand Sub Antarctic Islands (ZL9), **Clublog #24** most wanted, in the 2021-2022 timeframe.

The plan includes 160-10m operation, CW/SSB/RTTY/FT8, with emphasis on 160, 80, 60, 40 and, propagation dependent, 12 and 10 meters.

The landing permit process is pending and discussions with transportation partners have begun. However, the Covid-19 lock down has caused significant delays and uncertainty.

## 4U1 - PIRATE

Starting March 10<sup>th</sup> the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) was closed. Since then the 4U1ITU club station has been off the air. “Once again our friend from southern Europe has been pirating the 4U1ITU callsign. The pirate is mostly operating on 30 meters in the 0445 to 0700Z time frame, from close to the Italian/French border.

## Stay at Home Contest

May 1 - September 1

Don't forget to work those stay-at-home stations for the SEMDXA member sponsored contest. 3 great prizes for the top three scores.

## Another Stay at Home Contest

### STAYHOME CAMPAIGN REACHES ITS PINNACLE, JUNE 06-07. 2020

CONTEST-LIKE ACTIVITY FROM SATURDAY,  
12.00 to SUNDAY, 11.59

PRINT RULES HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/ybwctxok>

## DARA Picnic Cancelled

## FP - St. Pierre and Miquelon

KV1J, Eric, has changed his plans due to travel restrictions. His next operation was originally scheduled for June 30 to July 14. The current rescheduled dates are September 22 to October 6 for FP/KV1J. He plans 160-6 “primarily SSB,” RTTY and FT8/4, “with some CW.” Eric says with the new French 60 meter allocation he will concentrate on that with a quarter-wave vertical, plus will do some SSB and FM satellites and be active in the CQWW RTTY event and upload the HF log each night to LoTW and Club Log. The satellite log will be uploaded when he's back home. QSL direct, bureau or through LoTW.

## DX Eng'g Hamfest Cancelled

This would have been the event's second year. K3LR says public health concerns make the unfortunate decision necessary. The hamfest was scheduled for August 8 at the DX Engineering HQ near Akron, Ohio. It was going to be held together with the ARRL Ohio Section Convention. Last year's inaugural event made DXE think there would be large crowds again. K3LR, Tim, says there was much discussion but they thought it was best to not make a last-minute decision.

## Chinese Over the horizon RADAR?

A signal on 14193 jams everything for about 10 kHz it has been observed. It is believed to be a Chinese over the horizon radar, S7 or more. Previous nights the signal was on 14174, 14240 and 14267, “moving around.”

## VE3CFK's COVID SELF ISOLATION

As you recall...

My contact in Port Huron received my key and re-packaged my parcels from the PO Box and sent them off to me April 14th. It arrived one month and one day later on May 15th. As the crow flies, a total distance of 7.3 miles. That works out to a travel speed of 50 ft/hr or 0.83 ft per minute - literally a snails pace! However, long path that's an incredible speed of 32 mi/hr. The details aren't important. What was important is that they arrived.

Within 2 days I had the final two components replaced and on May 19th we tickled the Collins 30S-1 with some RF. With 30 watts of drive we got 700 watts output. Just as the Collins manual says we should.

Next we replaced the 4CX1000A tube with a 4CX1500B tube. With 30 watts drive, we got 950 watts output.

Next we installed a screen boost transformer to raise the screen voltage from 200 VDC to 325 VDC. This resulted in 1500 watts output with 100 watts of drive.

Project complete. I'm sure that Bob Crawford, K8VFFV would be proud that his amplifier is breathing life again. This rebuild is for you Bob.

It has been a very rewarding experience. I had estimated 240 hours to rebuild the amplifier. My final tally was 220 hours. Not bad estimating! I had some bumps along the way. In the end we replaced 68 components in the amplifier, not including nuts and bolts. The most time consuming activity was restringing the band switch mechanism. Took 3 hours! There is still some unfinished business, such as the ALC transformer, for

which I believe I have a cheap solution. Cheaper than the Peter Dahl alternative!

Along the way, I completed a flow/cooling study of the Collins 30S-1. A technical paper was finished tonight and is being proof read as I type this. The paper dispels the myths, misconceptions and non-truths about the 30S-1. Which is why I am able to get 1500 watts out of an amplifier that was originally marketed as a 1000 watt input amplifier.

Along the way, I met two other hams who were also rebuilding 30S-1 amplifiers. One was at the same stage as I was. He got his amplifier finished two days before I did. The other fellow was building one 30S-1 from two. Transplanting good parts from a bad cabinet into a good cabinet with bad parts. He's still rebuilding. But the three of us have had interesting conversation along the way as well as providing moral support to each other as we progressed with our rebuilds.

If the membership is interested I'm willing to put on a presentation of my rebuild after the summer is over and we can again meet as a group. I have a plethora of pictures and antic dotes of the rebuild. You won't be bored. I promise.



## Pirate ALERT

A pirate has been using the call EZ8CQ on 12 meters FT8. Turkmenistan has been off the air since August 2006 !

## 2020 Field Day

With only weeks to go before 2020 [ARRL Field Day](#), June 27 - 28, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) has adopted two temporary rule waivers for the event:

- 1) For Field Day 2020 only, Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points.
- 2) In addition, for 2020 only, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club (similar to the aggregate score totals used in ARRL affiliated club competitions).

Here's a link to the [ARRL Field Day](#) page with more details and rules.

## VP8 - Falkland Is.

Organizers say that due to COVID-19 VP8HDM/A will operate from "alternative locations" during International Museums Weekends 2020. This on air event will be the weekends of June 20-21 and June 27-28. This Falklands station usually operates from the Falkland Islands Historical Dockyard Museum (edit note...I've been at that museum!). These ops note Amateur Radio's long heritage and important role in social life on islands and far-flung overseas places, and particularly a network of stations who stay in touch on 80 meters.

## Here comes the SUN

The headline reads "The Sun unleashes its biggest flare since 2017. Is Solar Cycle 25 waking up?" One answer to the question is "It's still too soon to tell," but also "the Sun may be coming out of its slumber at long last." [www.space.com/sun-unleashes-biggest-solar-flare-since-2017.html](http://www.space.com/sun-unleashes-biggest-solar-flare-since-2017.html). The flare erupted Saturday, five days ago. It was an M-class, "so it was no monster." And "it wasn't aimed at Earth, so there's no chance of supercharged auroras from a potential associated coronal mass ejection of solar plasma." Still, it is seen as a sign the Sun may be ramping up to be more active.

## VR2 - Hong Kong

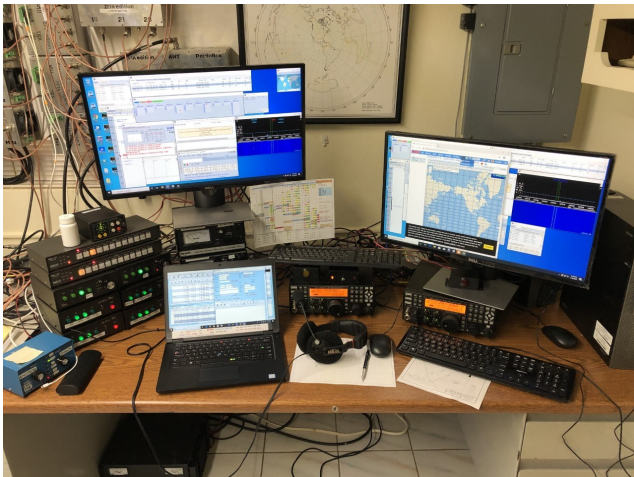
Last week US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stated "While the United States once hoped that free and prosperous Hong Kong would provide a model for authoritarian China, it is now clear that China is modeling Hong Kong after itself." After Great Britain offered Hong Kong back to China in 1997 the Special Administrative Region (SAR) no longer has the autonomy and freedom once promised. Some DXers are questioning the DXCC status of VR2 if they lose their autonym.

There should be no change to Hong Kong's DXCC status for several reasons. Hong Kong qualifies as a Political Entity for the following reasons from the ARRL DXCC Country Criteria: "1 b) The entity has been assigned a callsign prefix bloc by the ITU." \*"1d) The entity has a separate IARU member society AND is included on the U.S. State Department Independent States in the World." \*

If the US State Department removes Hong Kong from their "Independent States in the World" list and Hong Kong continues to have an IARU society they would remain as they would be grandfathered under the rules that got Hong Kong on the DXCC list to begin with.

**SPURIOUS SIGNALS**By Jason Togyer W3MCK  
spuriouscomic.blogspot.com

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**SO2R**

This is a photo of Pete, K8PGJ's SO2R setup for NAQP. His first time as SO2R.

**More on SO2R**

A previous feature article author, Vic, VE3YT has submitted a SO2R related article "The SO2R Mini Kit" Vic is an accomplished contester and DXer, employing SO2R for most of the contests he participates in. Without further adu:

Many people use the SO2R controller designed and adopted by members of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, called the YCCC SO2R Box, which seems just right for many contesters. Inputs include the audio from both radios, a microphone and a paddle. It connects to your shack computer and works under the control of your logging program, to provide outputs to whichever of the two radios is in use in the logger. It provides CW from the paddle, or an ascii character stream from the logger, emulating a WinKey inside the SO2R controller. It also switches the mic to the appropriate radio, generates PTT to the appropriate radio, and connects the radio's audio to your headphones, all under logger control, based on which radio's window you are using in the logger.

The YCCC box was provided as a kit, with a circuit board, all the parts, and a nice enclosure, at a price around \$175 USD. It has recently been discontinued.

Paul Young K1XM, one of the YCCC SO2R box creators, published an article on a smaller but similar Arduino-based SO2R box in the National Contest Journal about a decade ago. More recently, K1XM and Dennis Egan W1UE, the kit creator for the YCCC box, have collaborated with a young contester, Marty Sullaway NN1C, to create and sell the Arduino-based SO2R Mini kit. <https://nn1c.org/so2r/>

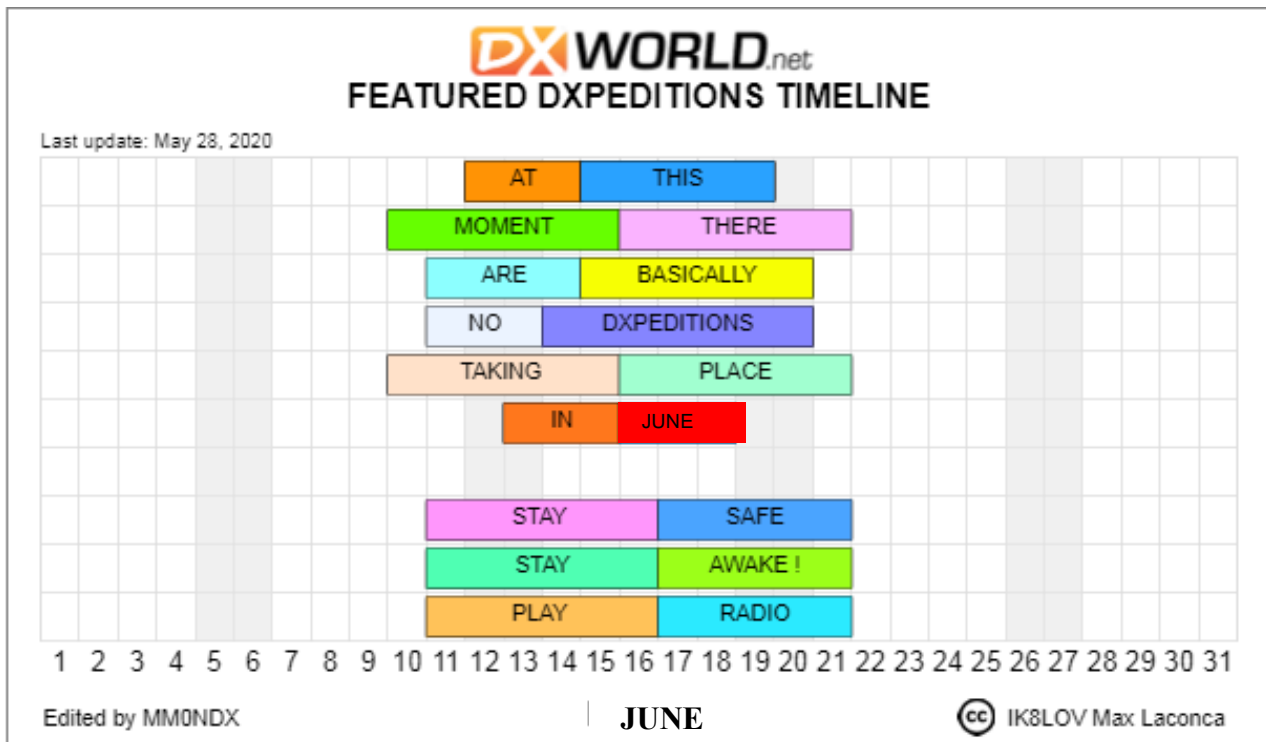
(You may have worked Paul, Dennis or Marty. They are active in every contest and enthusiastic members of the fraternity of contesters.)

The kit sells for under \$60 USD and I got mine shipped (very quickly, from Kanata ON) for \$75 USD. It's a high quality kit, and a fast and fun build – see the pictures below. How does it compare to the Goldilock's "just right" YCCC SO2R box?

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Upcoming DX

Credit to DX World



## DX Marathon

John Sweeney, K9EL, the CQ DX Marathon Manager states “The results of the 2019 CQ DX Marathon have now been published in the June issue of CQ Magazine. For digital subscribers, your issue is available now.

Results are also available on the DX Marathon [website](#).

Congratulations to all the 2019 participants and the 2019 winners!

**Thank you to Bernie, W3UR, The Daily DX, The Weekly DX and ARRL for their contributions to this newsletter**

## More on SO2R (cont'd)

Well, it’s a bit stripped down, in that there are no manual switches to force connection to one radio or the other for transmit and receive. There are no LEDs indicating which radio is selected for transmit and receive, although these can be added with minor modifications described on the web pages. It’s powered from the logging computer’s USB. One big improvement is the interconnections with the radios; they are all stereo 1/8 (3.5mm) audio cables. The YCCC box had two 8-pin DIN connectors on the back, and you had to solder cables to DIN plugs for audio in and out, key out, PTT out and ground – not a pleasant task. I soldered these cables for several friends. With the SO2R Mini, you plug in a few audio cables, and perhaps use some adaptors for ¼ phone plugs, and you’re done. The software needed on your logging computer is easy to download and works well.

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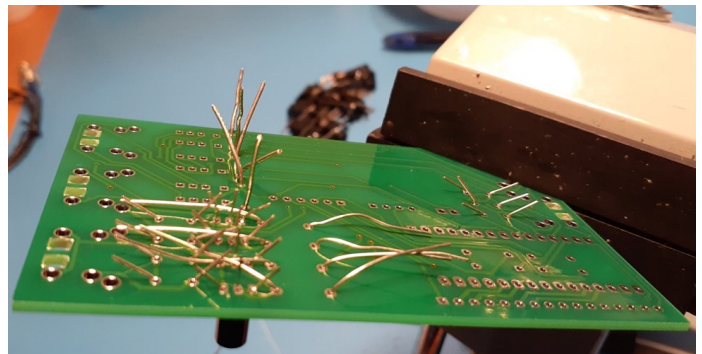
# More on SO2R (cont'd)

From me, the whole concept gets a big thumbs up. My goal is to run SO2R on a park bench, with two QCX 5 watt transceivers on 20 and 40, to two quarter wave antennas tossed up in a tree, with the SO2R Mini, laptop computer, and some batteries.

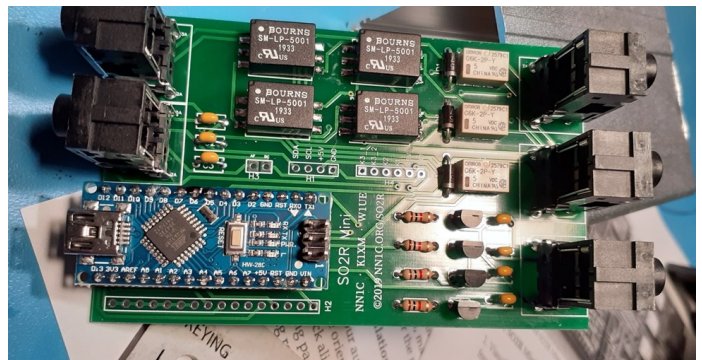
Opening the package when the kit arrived:



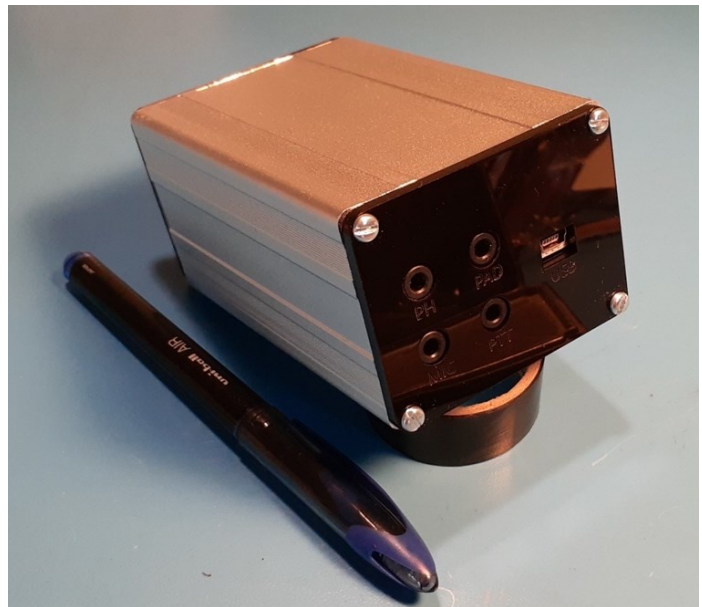
It's tedious, but you should always identify and inventory your parts at the beginning of a kit build. A beverage helps:



Time to apply some solder:



Finished board. The tall black things are dual 3/8 inch jacks for connections to the radios:



Tucked in the box with the protective paper peeled off the end covers. labels:

## Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio  
Contest/DX Page

Start Date	End Date	DCCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by
<b>2020</b>					
<b>May</b>					
2020 May04	2020 Jun30	Nicaragua	YN7ZTR <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200529
<a href="#">CQ WPX Contest, CW (May 30-31, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity</a>					
<b>June</b>					
2020 Jun02	2020 Jun27	Alaska	KL7 <a href="#">[spots]</a>	KC1KUG SASE	KC1KUG 20200521
2020 Jun05	2020 Jun12	Market Reef	OJ0A	OH3Jr	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20200602
2020 Jun10	2020 Jun17	Cayman Is	ZF2FD	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20191211
2020 Jun15	2020 Jul15	Guantanamo Bay	KG4MA	TBA	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200508
<b>July</b>					
<a href="#">RSGB IOTA Contest (Jul 25-26, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity too.</a>					
2020 Jul29	2020 Aug15	Uganda	<a href="#">5X1RI</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200224
<b>August</b>					
2020 Aug02	2020 Aug08	Aruba	P4	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200106
2020 Aug10	2020 Aug17	St Pierre & Miquelon	<a href="#">TO5T</a>	LoTW	VO1CH 20200201
2020 Aug22	2020 Sep05	St Kitts & Nevis	<a href="#">V47JA</a>	LoTW	W5JON 20200527
2020 Aug27	2020 Sep07	Easter I	XR0YHM	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200415

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

September					
2020 Sep04	2020 Sep08	<b>Maldives</b>	<b>8Q7QR</b>	JJ1DQR	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200412
2020 Sep06	2020 Sep17	<b>Albania</b>	<b>ZA</b>	OE6TQG	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200218
2020 Sep11	2020 Sep18	<b>Alaska</b>	<b>KL7RRC</b>	N7RO	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20200518
2020 Sep15	2020 Sep23	<b>Faroe Is</b>	<b>OY</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 2019123
2020 Sep15	2020 Sep30	<b>Easter I</b>	<a href="#">XROYSP</a>	LoTW	SP6EQZ 20200314
2020 Sep22	2020 Oct06	<b>St Pierre &amp; Mi- quelon</b>	<a href="#">FP</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a>  20191126
2020 Sep23	2020 Oct06	<b>Swains I</b>	<a href="#">W8S</a>	PG5M	PA3EWP 20190922
<a href="#">CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY (Sep 26-27, 2020) Check here for pericontest ac-</a>					
2020 Sep28	2020 Oct17	<b>Niue</b>	<b>E6AM</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200403
2020 Sep29	2020 Oct12	<b>Chad</b>	<a href="#">TT8RR</a>	Web OQRS	I2YSB 20191210
October					
2020 Oct01	2020 Oct14	<b>Midway I</b>	<a href="#">KH4</a>	Club Log OQRS	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190731
2020 Oct07	2020 Oct15	<b>PYN7ZTRalau</b>	<b>T88UW</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20200214
2020 Oct19	2020 Oct28	<b>Kosovo</b>	<a href="#">Z66DX</a>	LoTW	DL2AWG 20191213
2020 Oct19	2020 Oct28	<b>Sable I</b>	<a href="#">CY0</a>	Club Log OQRS	WA4DAN 20190513
2020 Oct19	2020 Nov02	<b>Tonga</b>	<b>A35GC</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200403
<a href="#">CQ WW DX Contest, SSB (Oct 24-25, 2020) Check here for pericontest activi-</a>					

## Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio  
Contest/DX Page

November					
2020 Nov21	2020 Dec05	<b>Nicaragua</b>	<a href="#">YN5AO</a>	DL7VOA	DL7VOA 20200524
2020 Nov23	2020 Dec07	<b>Burkina Faso</b>	<b>XT2MAX</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200224
<a href="#">CQ WW DX Contest, CW (Nov 28-29, 2020) Check here for pericontest activi-</a>					
<b>2021</b>					
April					
2021 Apr28	2021 May24	<b>Botswana</b>	<b>A25VR</b>	VE7VR	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200130
July					
2021 Jul07	2021 Jul14	<b>Aruba</b>	<a href="#">P4</a>	ND7J	ND7J 20190722