



Long Path



Volume 33 Issue 8

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

August 2023

From the Editor's DESK



Summer is marching on.

Been able to catch up with my gardening. So now I have time for my antennas. My Big StepIR vertical stopped working some time this spring. Time to trouble shoot the fault. Still haven't perfected my 6M antenna and feedline. It would appear I have a 10db (yup. 10db) loss between my exciter and the antenna. Must be a bad (or two) hardline connector, or maybe water filled hardline. More investigation required. The thing I love (not) about this hobby, is that there is ALWAYS something to fix. If you think your station is 100%, think again. There's something wrong someplace that hasn't surfaced yet.

You'll notice that NG3Ks "Announced DX Operations" at the end of the newsletter is now a full 4 pages long. More and more DXpeditions are being announced. That'll give us something to do this winter. 6m certainly hasn't kept us busy. The only outcome of this years 6M season is that my butt has grown in size because of all the useless hours I've spend in the chair waiting for 6M to come alive. I finally figured out the reason 6Ms has been so bad this year. It came to my attention way too late that the Palos Verdes Sundancers were disbanded earlier this year because the HF propagation was exhibiting such great improvement. But I guess we forgot that we still needed the Palos Verdes Sundancers to bring 6M propagation out of the doldrums. It will take literally 6 months minimum to reassemble the Sundancers, hopefully in time for next years 6M season.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. See you at the Pint n' Fork next month on Wednesday, September 13th.

Good DX

73. Chet VE3CFK

NEXT Meeting:

In-Person

September 13th, 2023 at 7 PM

Fork n' Pint in Waterford

Program

Adrian Ciuperca

KO8SCA

Presenting

WRTC, UN Station, Bouvet, getting invited onto DXpeditions

SEMDXA OFFICERS

President: Fred Goeckel, **KD8ZYD**

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DXCC Checker: Bill Jones, **N8KF**

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VUCC Checker: Jim Sanford, **K8ZZU**

CQ Checker: Mike Rudzki, **N8MR**

CQ Checker: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

FT/G - Glorioso

Glorioso is now #7 on Club Log's DXCC Most Wanted List. The last time on the air was October 7, 2009. F4VVJ/FH4VVK has been planning to go there in a few months from now, callsign FT4GL, but he is still waiting for final approval from the French administration of the island. His Twitter account is @FT4GL. F8CRS, F5IRO and F5RQQ will be supporting back in France. QSL via F4FTV.

TX5S - Clipperton Is



Detailed planning is underway. Our current plan consists of two operating camps: CW/Digital/Satellite/EME and SSB/Digital. The camps will be separated by about 500 meters, with CW located at the main campsite and SSB being the distant camp. The combination of distance, bandpass filters, horizontal and vertically polarized antennas at both camps will enable simultaneous operation on the same band. WiFi networking will link the camps. The main encampment consists of ten sleeping tents (two people per tent) the CW tent, kitchen / dining tent and a HQ/networking tent. The power grid will consist of six Generac GP6500 generators. Five units will be on-line 24X7 and one spare.

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>

VK9XGM - Xmas Is



We had a preliminary review last weekend, of some of the stuff we need to take on the expedition, what we still need etc. Given this will be our 8th DXpedition, we have a fair idea of what is needed but every time is different. Some of our flights may have a baggage restriction that cannot necessarily be overcome by even more \$\$\$ (though we may have to try anyway!!) so we are looking to see if we can survive on 6 x 23Kg instead of seven bags. It is always amusing to think we take 140 Kg of kit, of which about 5 Kg is personal stuff like clothes etc.

T2C - Tuvalu

News #3 (July 26, 2023)

Expedition to Funafuti, Tuvalu October 10-30, 2023

As most of you know, our team conducts every year a serious light weight DXpedition to rare to semi-rare DXCC entities. These are not vacation trips. We take proper technology – including a pentaplexer – as well as antennas with us and operate on all bands from 160 to 6 m (as far as possible) and use the most important and most popular operating modes CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

This year, the transport costs for our 12-man team amount to roughly €32,000. This includes four economy flights one-way, which means being on the road for more than 35 hours, plus additional baggage and excess length fees. The team members will start their journey on October 8th from different airports in Germany towards Tuvalu with stop-overs in London, Los Angeles and Fiji. In total, the team is transporting around 250 kg of well sorted radio equipment – with a luggage limit of 23kg per person plus a few kg of carry-on luggage.

The cost of accommodation and food amount to €20,000. On top of that, there will be other fees, costs for electricity, internet access for log uploads and homepage updates, separate radio room, gifts for guests, QSL cards, T-shirts as well as humanitarian support for the island. Almost the entire technology and antennas are provided privately by the members. Everyone in the team pays around €5,000 themselves.

We provide daily online log updates and we respect the rules of the DX Code of Conduct

On our homepage, we offer information about the team, the technology, and more importantly also about propagation, the Online QSL Request Service (OQRS), regular news updates and a way to contact us during the DXpedition. Important: This e-mail address is not intended for log corrections!

NOT CANCELLED YET

Some things to look forward to:

- SEMDXA September in-person meeting at Fork n' Pint in Waterford on Wednesday, September 13th at 7:00 PM
- 2024 Hamvention
- The September issue of The Long Path
- W9DXCC
- Thanksgiving, Christmas

Hamfests

Aug 27	Seaway Swap, Port Huron, MI
Sep 9	Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Assn, Wyoming, MI
Sep 16	Hiawatha ARA Swap & Shop, Negaunee, MI
Sep 17	Adrian Hamfest, Adrian, MI
Sep 23	Top of MI ARC/Thunder Bay ARC, Gaylord, MI
Sep 23	BARA Trunk Sales, Berrien Center, MI
Sep 23	CMARC Hamfest, Lansing, MI
Oct 7	Kalamazoo Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI
Oct 13	Central Michigan ARC Meeting
Oct 14	Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest
Dec 3	LCARC Amateur Radio Swap, Troy, MI

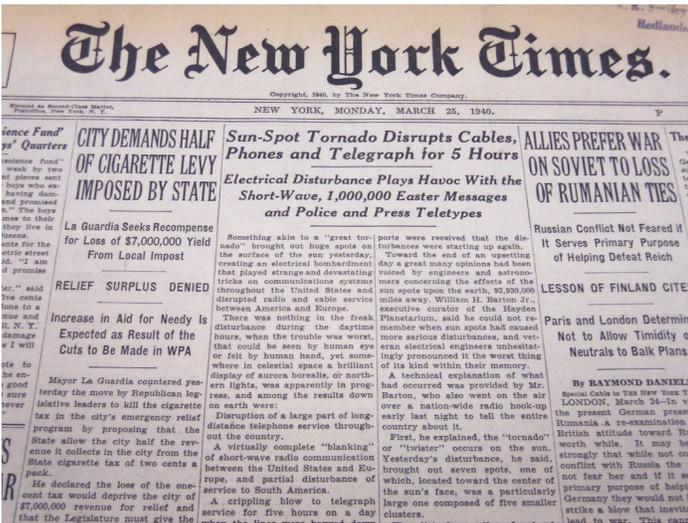
W9DXCC

W9DXCC Convention if September 15th and 16th at the Chicago Marriott Naperville, Naperville, Ill.

Registration is still open.

The Great Solar Storm of March 1940

This story is shocking. On March 24, 1940, a solar storm hit Earth so hard it made copper wires in the United States crackle with 800 volts of electricity. A New York Times headline declared that a "sunspot tornado" had arrived, playing havoc with any signal that had to travel through metal wires.



"For a few hours it completely disrupted all long-distance communication," wrote astronomer Seth B. Nicholson in a recap of the event for the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. Radio announcers seemed to be "talking a language no one could understand." The New York Times reported that more than a million telephone and teletype messages had been garbled: "Veteran electrical engineers unhesitatingly pronounced it the worst thing of its kind within their memory."

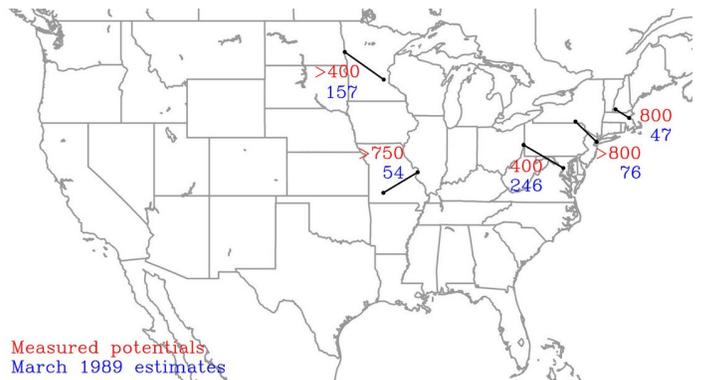
So why have you never heard of this storm? Even in 1940 it was fairly quickly forgotten. World War II was underway in Europe, and the USA was on the verge of joining. People had other things on their minds.

Modern researchers, however, are paying attention. A team led by Jeffrey Love of the USGS Geomagnetism Program just published a new study of the event in the research journal Space Weather. Their

work confirms that it was no ordinary solar storm.

"It was unusually violent," says Love. "There were very rapid changes in Earth's magnetic field, and this induced big voltages in long metal wires."

Love and colleagues learned about the voltages from old engineering reports. In 1940, the United States was cross-crossed by copper wires hundreds to thousands of miles long. They were not for power distribution; electrical systems were still mostly regional. Instead the wires were used for communications such as telephone calls and telegrams. When the "sunspot tornado" hit Earth, electricity began to move through the system. Technicians jotted down some of the voltages they saw--and the numbers were incredible.



Measured potentials, March 1989 estimates

"Records show 400 V in Minnesota, 750 V in Missouri, and more than 800 V in Massachusetts," says Love. "These are 10 times greater than long-wire voltages recorded during the Great Quebec Black-out in March 1989."

What caused the high voltages? Love's team examined old magnetogram records from the date of the storm and found evidence that two coronal mass ejections CMEs hit Earth only 1.82 hours apart. The double blow rattled Earth's magnetic field in a complicated way most single CMEs do not.

"This could be a harbinger of things to come," says Love. Modern studies show that as many as 5 CMEs leave the sun every day during Solar Maximum. With Solar Cycle 25 underway and intensifying, a double hit could definitely happen again.

The above article was lifted from Spaceweather.com. Here is a [link](#) to the article from Wed. Aug. 9, 2023.

My First 50MHz Foray

I've been a licensed radio amateur for 20 years and had – until this year – never bothered too much with 50MHz a.k.a the “Magic Band”. Living in the northern part of Europe, it's fairly easy to swing the beam south or east and pick up 40-50 European entities within a few weeks of being on 6m; I know this because it's exactly what I did.

I started my 6m journey on April 23 this year. To begin with it was a few local stations who made the log. Then Algeria, followed by Mauritius. Wow, it really was Magic! However, those who know and are 50MHz “veterans”, started to say this Sporadic E / 6m season was particularly bad (perhaps the worst in 20 years: talk about starting out at the wrong time!)

A few more long distance contacts were made with notable QSOs into Chile, St Helena, Angola, Gabon, Malawi and Japan to name a few. Every day, with eager anticipation, I would switch on the radio and check DX Maps for any potential openings. Sure enough there were plenty of openings, but just about always to European regions. It was becoming monotonous if truth be told so the only way to make some excitement working EU all the time was to chase grids.

I can count on one hand the number of openings to Japan that I had – just three or four. Equally, about five or six openings to CONUS / Caribbean. Even today as I write this, it's like the Magic Band wants to “take-off” and provide us with great openings, but it never really happens.

My initial aim before the season started was to try work 100 DXCC entities on 6m. I thought it might be possible given my close proximity to many other European countries, but as we soon approach the end of the Sporadic E season at least, my QSO tally so far is 91 entities worked and in the log since April 23. Grid count is at 415 worldwide. Close but no cigar?

I have been using a 2.el quad at approx 12m height



for 50MHz and this antenna has 100% surprised me, positively. I'm now hooked on the quad design and will be looking into similar design antennas for next year, even for HF bands. I also never used an amplifier.

Yes, all my QSOs were made using FT8. It's for others to judge or not on that mode, but it sure helped me almost reach my target. I appreciate CW and SSB are the “classic modes”, but I ask myself this question: “Where on earth are the voice and morse ops on 6m nowadays?” It's easy to say FT8 has ruined or changed the way we operate, but what are you doing in showing the traditional modes are supposedly the best other than saying “CW4EVER” or “SSB4EVER” etc.

73 Col MM0NDX
DX-World.net

3C - Eq. Guinea

3C3CA (TA2OM), Ersoy reports he has one more month left from his Malabo Island operation before shutting down. So far he has made over 183K contacts. If you have not worked him yet you still have time. After he gets back to Ankara, Turkey he will no doubt begin the undaunting task of working on the paper confirmations.

Thank you to Bernie, W3UR, The Daily DX, The Weekly DX, ARRL and DX World, NG3K, CLUBLOG, Dales Tales and CQ magazine for their contributions to this newsletter.

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
13	KH4	MIDWAY ISLAND
14	VK0M	MACQUARIE ISLAND
15	PY0S	SAINT PETER AND PAUL ROCKS
16	PY0T	TRINDADE & MARTIM VAZ
17	KP5	DESECHEO ISLAND
18	VP8S	SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS
19	KH5	PALMYRA & JARVIS ISLANDS
20	ZL9	NEW ZEALAND SUBANTARCTIC
21	FK/C	CHESTERFIELD ISLANDS
22	VK0H	HEARD ISLAND
23	EZ	TURKMENISTAN
24	FT/T	TROMELIN ISLAND
25	YK	SYRIA

FG8OJ Travels

Burt, FG8OJ will be active from the following Caribbean islands in August:

Saba as PJ6/FG8OJ (August 8-11)

St Martin as FS/FG8OJ (August 11-16)

Each activity will be low power on 10 or 6m with a dipole.

E5/N - North Cook Is



Following on from their VP6A RIB DXpedition to Ducie island, AA7JV & KN4EEI together with HA5YG & HA7RY are planning to be active from Penhryn Atoll (Tongreva), N. Cook Islands between August 20 and September 5 (dates are subject to WX.) Team do not have the callsign confirmed yet, but were promised they can collect their license in Omoka village.

Same as VP6A, this DXpedition will be using RIBs with three stations on the air. QRV on 160 to 6m; CW, SSB and FT8. While early in the low-band season, they also plan to make an effort to be on 160 and 80 meters on most nights.

3B9AT - Rodrigues



Ivan, IK3ZQA and Luca IV3JVJ announce they will be active from Rodrigues Island, as 3B9AT during December 27, 2023 to January 6, 2024. QRV on 40-10m; CW, SSB & FT8. QSL via IV3JVJ, LoTW.

PERIODIC TABLE OF MAJOR AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS

by Chet VE3CFK



2023

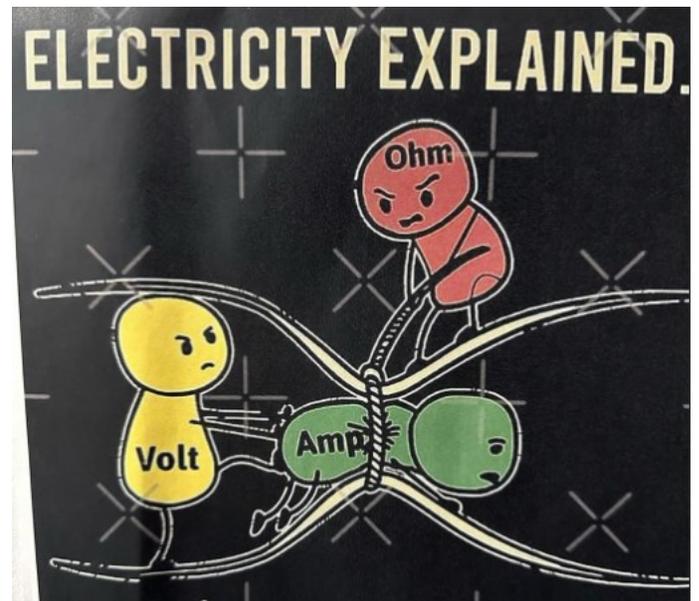
Multimode	CW	Digital
Off-the-air	SSB	VHF/UHF

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	4 NA Sprint CW	5 ARRL DX SSB	1 SP Polish DX	2 7QP/IN/DE New England QSO Parties	3 ARRL Int'l Digital	1 RAC CANADA DAY	5 NAQP CW	6 CW Ops CW Open	7 Oceania PHONE	4 ARRL SS CW	1 ARRL 160
7 ARRL RTTY Roundup	8 CQWW WPX RTTY	11 NA Sprint RTTY	12 JIDX CW	8 CQ-M DX	9 ARRL June VHF	8 IARU HF	9 WAE CW	12 WAE SSB	10 Oceania CW	14 WAE RTTY	10 ARRL 10 Meter
14 NAQP CW	15 ARRL DX CW	18 Russian DX	19 Michigan QSO Party	15 Contest University	16 All Asian CW	17 CQ WW VHF	18 NAQP SSB	19 WANJ/NH QSO Parties	16 Worked All Germany	17 ARRL SS SSB	16 RAC Winter
21 NAQP SSB	22 CQ 160 SSB	24 CQWW WPX SSB	25 SP DX RTTY	22 Hamvention	23 ARRL Field Day	19 Family Time	24 WW Digi	26 CQWW RTTY	23 CQ WW SSB	27 CQ WW CW	24 Happy Holidays
27 CQ 160 CW			29 UK/EI DX CW	30 CQ WPX CW	27 CQ WPX CW	28 RSGB IOTA	29 RSGB IOTA	30 RSGB IOTA			

Rev 1

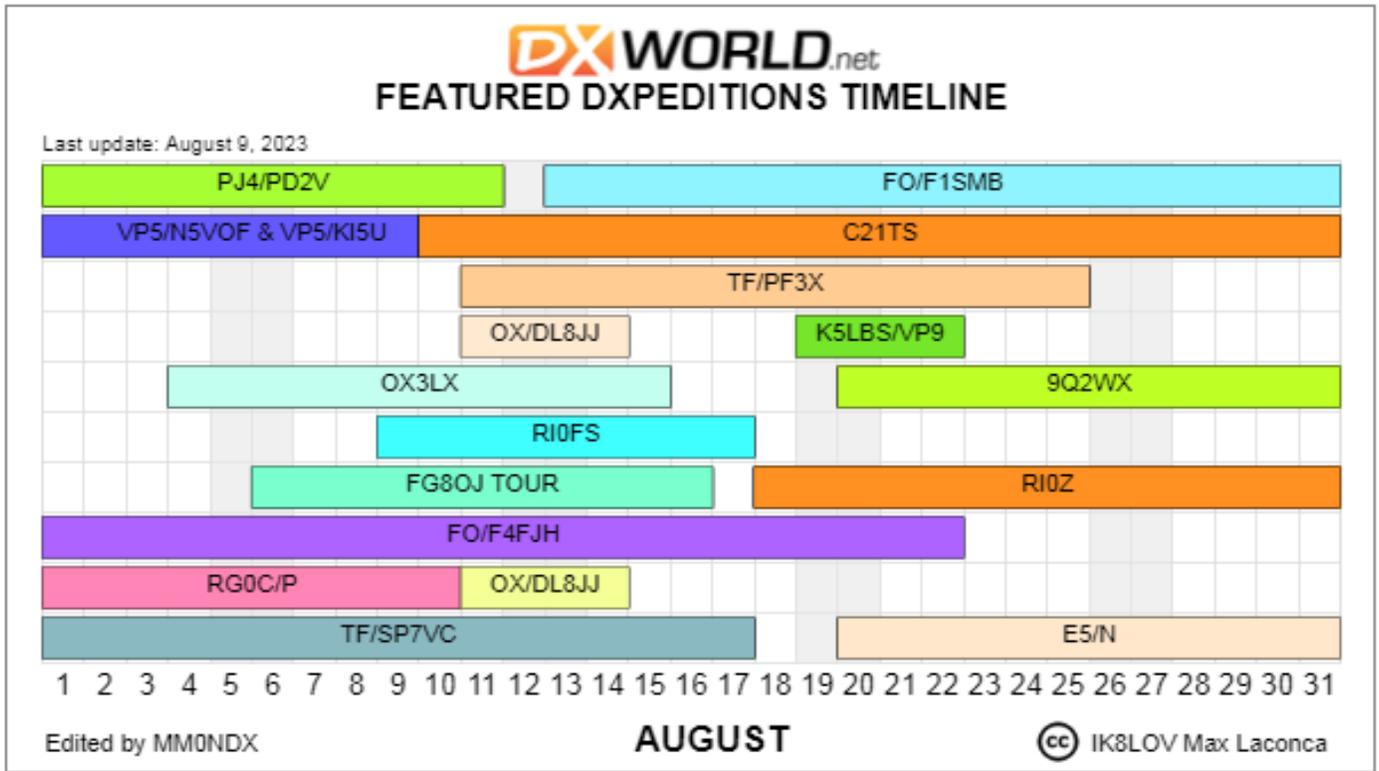


Have a little care that life is brief
 And less that art is long
 Success is in the listening
 And DX is in the song.



Upcoming DX

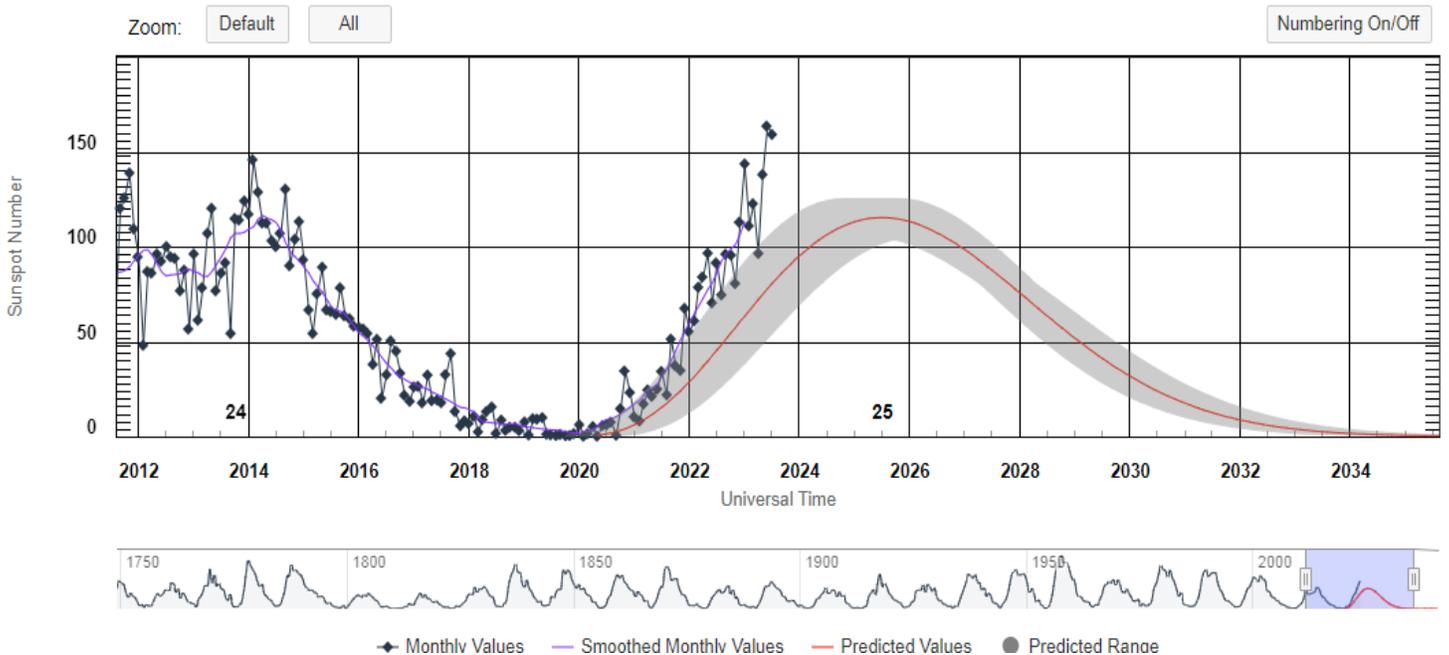
Credit to DX World



SOLAR CYCLE 25

NOAA/SWPC

ISES Solar Cycle Sunspot Number Progression



Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

Editors NOTE:

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

Start Date	End Date	DGCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by
2023					
July					
2023 Jul16	2023 Aug16	Morocco	CN2DX [spots]	F5LRL (B/d)	TDDX 20230717
2023 Jul17	2023 Aug11	Bonaire	PJ4 [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20230718
2023 Jul20	2023 Aug31	Minami Tor- ishima	JD1 [spots]	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230719
2023 Jul27	2023 Aug17	Iceland	TF [spots]	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230622
RSGB IOTA Contest (Jul 29-30, 2023) Check here for pericontest activity					
2023 Jul31	2023 Aug14	Turks & Cai- cos	VP5 [spots]	See Info	TDDX 20230720
August					
2023 Aug05	2023 Aug31	Nauru	C21TS [spots]	LoTW	C21TS 20230807
2023 Aug07	2023 Aug09	Faroe Is	OY [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20230724
2023 Aug08	2023 Aug11	Saba & St. Eustasias	PJ6 [spots]	FG8OJ	TDDX 20230724
2023 Aug11	2023 Aug16	St Martin	FS	FG8OJ	TDDX 20230724
2023 Aug11	2023 Aug25	Iceland	TF	LoTW	TDDX 20230724
2023 Aug13	2023 Aug15	French Poly- nesia	FO	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230801
2023 Aug14	2023 Sep07	Namibia	V5	LoTW	TDDX 20230728
2023 Aug15	2023 Aug17	French Poly- nesia	FO	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230801

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

2023 Aug17	2023 Aug20	French Poly- nesia	FO	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230801
2023 Aug19	2023 Aug22	Bermuda	VP9	K5BLS Direct	TDDX 20230724
2023 Aug20	2023 Aug23	French Poly- nesia	FO	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230801
2023 Aug20	2023 Sep09	DR Congo	9Q2WX	IZ8CCW	DXW.Net 20230510
2023 Aug23	2023 Aug25	French Poly- nesia	FO	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230801
2023 Aug25	2023 Aug28	French Poly- nesia	FO	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230801
2023 Aug28	2023 Sep05	French Poly- nesia	FO	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230801
2023 Aug28	2023 Sep12	St Kitts & Ne- vis	V47JA	LoTW	W5JON 20220530
2023 Aug29	2023 Sep04	Palau	T8	See Info	JA6UBY 20230729
2023 Aug31	2023 Sep14	Mariana Is	KH0	LoTW	DL2AH 20230116
September					
2023 Sep01	2023 Oct17	East Kiribati	T32AZ	KH6QJ (B/d)	TDDX 20230716
2023 Sep02	2023 Sep17	Cape Verde Is	D44TWO	LoTW	TDDX 20230713
2023 Sep05	2023 Sep21	Dodecanese	SV5	LoTW	TDDX 20230803
2023 Sep06	2023 Sep14	Belize	V31XT	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230707
2023 Sep10	2023 Sep30	Jamaica	6Y5DH	LoTW	TDDX 20230807
2023 Sep12	2023 Sep18	Palau	T8	See Info	EA1CS 20230119
2023 Sep15	2023 Sep21	Greenland	OX0J	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230219
2023 Sep16	2023 Sep30	Guam	KH2	LoTW	DL2AH 20230116

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

2023 Sep20	2023 Oct04	Lord Howe I	VK9LAA	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230801
2023 Sep28	2023 Oct08	Uganda	5X3K	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230805
October					
2023 Oct01	2023 Oct14	Samoa	5W0LM	9A3MR	DXW.Net 20230529
2023 Oct01	2023 Oct31	Vanuatu	YJ0TT	TBA	TDDX 20221222
2023 Oct02	2023 Oct10	St Vincent	J88PI	GW4DV B Direct	TDDX 20220216
2023 Oct02	2023 Oct15	French Poly- nesia	TX6D	LoTW aft 6 mos	DXW.Net 20230623
2023 Oct03	2023 Oct15	Marshall Is	V7	LoTW	DL2AH 20230116
2023 Oct04	2023 Oct17	Swains I	W8S	M0OXO OQRS	DXW.Net 20230517
2023 Oct10	2023 Oct23	Niue	E6AM	LoTW	TDDX 20230105
2023 Oct10	2023 Oct30	Tuvalu	T2C	LoTW	TDDX 20230630
2023 Oct18	2023 Oct30	Micronesia	V63AH	LoTW	DL2AH 20230116
2023 Oct20	2023 Nov04	Chatham I	ZL7	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230616
2023 Oct25	2023 Oct31	Micronesia	V6SZ	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230716
2023 Oct25	2023 Oct31	Saba & St Eu- statius	PJ5	LoTW	W5JON 20230205
2023 Oct26	2023 Nov09	Temotu	H40WA	LoTW	N6PSE 20230126
2023 Oct27	2023 Oct31	Micronesia	V63CB	LoTW	TDDX 20230716

[CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB \(Oct 28-29, 2023\) Check here for pericon-](#)

Upcoming DX

Credit to: NG3K Amateur Radio
Contest/DX Page

November					
2023 Nov01	2023 Nov30	Timor Leste	4W8X	LoTW	TDDX 20230722
2023 Nov03	2023 Nov10	Niue	E6AJ	DF8AN (B/d)	DXW.Net 20230406
2023 Nov04	2023 Nov19	Marquesas	TX7L	LoTW	TDDX 20230306
2023 Nov08	2023 Nov27	Timor Leste	4W8X	DJ4MX	TDDX 20230622
2023 Nov09	2023 Nov22	Chatham Is	ZL7A	LoTW	TDDX 20230802
2023 Nov15	2023 Nov29	Solomon Is	H44WA	M0URX	DXW.Net 20230513
2023 Nov21	2023 Dec05	Christmas I	VK9XGM	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230506
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW (Nov 25-26, 2023) Check here for pericon-					
2023 Nov26	2023 Dec08	St Martin	TO9W	LoTW	K9EL 20230508
December					
2023 Dec04	2023 Dec16	Micronesia	V6EU	LoTW	DL2AWG 20230707
2023 Dec27	2024 Jan06	Rodrigues I	3B9AT	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230807
2024					
January					
2024 Jan11	2024 Jan30	Montserrat	VP2MDX	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230807
2024 Jan18	2024 Feb01	Clipperton I	TX5S	LoTW	DXW.Net 20230321
February					
2024 Feb13	2024 Feb20	Juan Fernan- dez	CBOZA	HA1AG	DXW.Net 20230605
2024 Feb14	2024 Feb24	Guyana	8R	LoTW	DK6SP 20230611
2024 Feb20	2024 Feb27	Mauritius	3B8	LoTW	TDDX 20230725
March					
2024 Mar02	2024 Mar10	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	LoTW	TDDX 20230807