



Newsletter of the
Twin City DX Association
www.tcdxa.org

March, 2024



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Gray Line Staff
KØAD
WAØMHJ
WØJMP
WØZF
AJ8B

The GRAY LINE REPORT

DXing from Minnesota - Land of 10,000 Lakes

Note from the President

Bert Benjaminson, WBØN, President

Well, here we go again... What should I write about this time? Let's start with a Thank-you to Pat Cain, KØPC, for all his years on the TCDXA board. He has been the straw that stirs the drink. He is still our webmaster so he is still a major contributor to the club.

Welcome to the board to JB, K8ØS, stepping up as our new Secretary/Treasurer, thank you JB! Also welcome to continuing board members VP, Tom Weigel, ABØJ, DX grant Mgr. Mike Cizek, WØVTT, and Director John Rusciano, NGØZ. Thank you to you all for your contributions to our great DX club.

Thank you to the Great Gray line Team led by AJ8B, Bill, including KØAD, Al Dewey, WAØMHJ, Mark Endorf, WØJMP, Danny Dantzler, and WØZF, Dave Fugleberg. Thanks guys!!!

Thank you to Tom Weigel, ABØJ, for all his work setting up Pub42 for our meetings! And a special thank you to all who have been showing up for our meetings either at Pub42 or on zoom. The 3rd Monday of the month is always my favorite day of the month, and you all make it special. I can really use some input from you all for future meeting speakers so we have speakers you want to hear from.

Now for DX... WOW has there been a lot to work. Thank the sunspots for making 2023 my best year chasing DX, and 2024 looks even better! Is this the year I make it to 300 confirmed? I suspect and expect it has been the same for all of you too.

Good luck to you all in the chase for DX! Enough from me for now. See you at the meetings, or in the DX pileups!

GL 73 ES GD DX De WBØN Bert

Dollars for DX Report

Mike Cizek WØVTT—mgcizek@gmail.com
DX Grant Manager



The beginning of the year has seen a fair amount of DXpedition activity. We voted on and approved four DXpedition grants and have two more on the horizon.

At the January meeting WØPR asked about giving another donation to the CBØZA team going to Juan Fernandez Island. We had already made a \$250 donation in August but the team had some extra expenses and was asking for more support. There were many comments in favor of another donation. We had four of the five board members present at the meeting, so we elected to put a second \$250 donation up for a vote. The donation passed by a vote of 49-2. The operation recently concluded with nearly 106,000 QSOs.

Our next DXpedition grant went to a German team going to Eastern Kiribati to operate T32EU. There was a fair amount of discussion on whether or not this was a worthwhile donation since the Rebel DX Group had recently activated T32 and made a large number of QSOs. At the time of our request, T32 was ranked #68 on the most needed list, so we put the donation up for a vote. (Today, T32 is listed at #116.) The vote passed 42-9 with T32 being a new one for only 19% of those voting.

Our next request came from Jeff, W5WE, for his upcoming trip to the Austral Islands to operate TX7W. The Australs are ranked #64 on the Clublog most needed list and we recommended a \$300 donation. The vote was 48-0 in favor with FO/A being a new one for 27% of those voting.

Our final request was from Gerben PG5M for an operation on Pitcairn Island as VP6G. Even though VP6MW is currently active, there is still a good demand for Pitcairn and it sits at #66 on the most needed list. Your board recommended a \$300 donation which passed by a vote of 45-3. Only 10% of voters listed VP6 as being a new one.

We are awaiting information from two other DXpedition groups going out later this year. CY9C going to Sable Island in August will include TCDXA members WØGJ and WØPR. Sable is currently listed at #53 on the Clublog most needed list. Just as this issue of the Grayline is going “to press”, we received a request from the Jarvis Island group led by AA7JV and N1DG. Jarvis & Palmyra, KP5, is ranked #18 in the world. Access has been limited recently because the islands are sensitive ecological areas. This group was successful in getting a permit because they will be using the Radio in a Box developed by George AA7JV and will have a minimal footprint on the island. More information on this operation will likely be available by the time you read this.

Thank you.

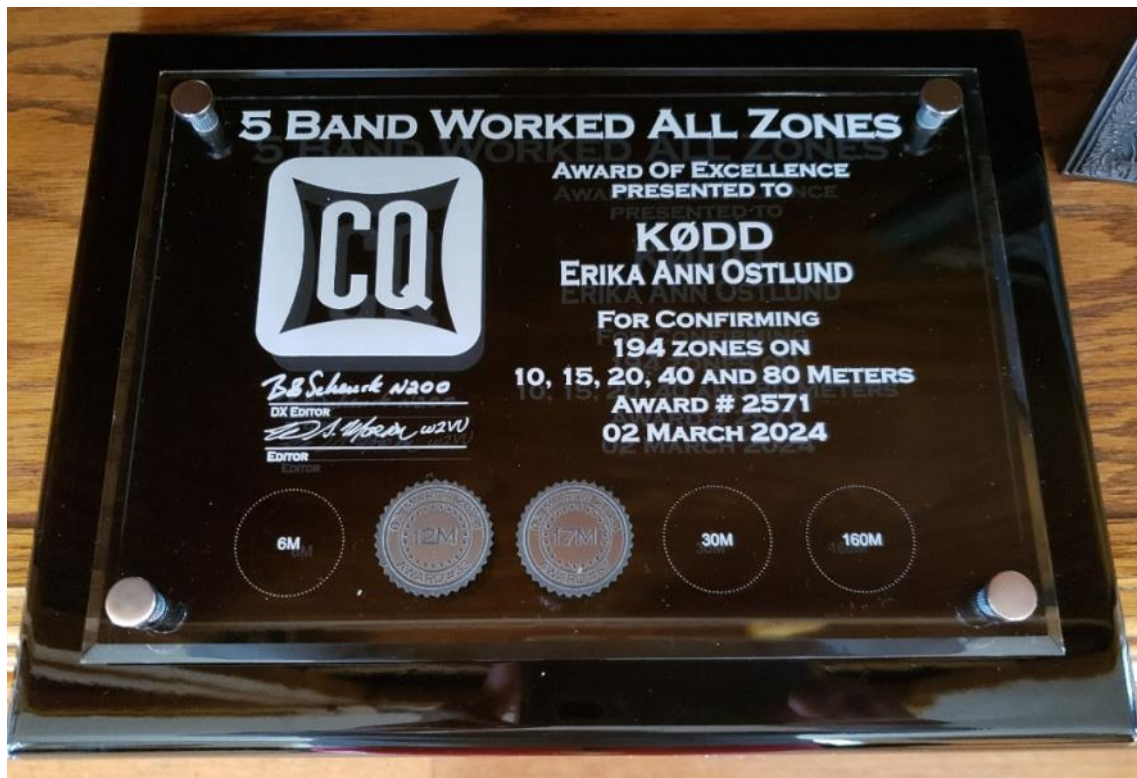
Mike Cizek WØVTT

TCDXA DX Grant Manager



Congratulations to Erika, KØDD

After KØKX and I visited Fred Deziel WØHZ back in 1979 or 80, I've been wanting to achieve my 5BDXCC and 5BWAZ awards. I asked Fred if I could touch his WAZ and he said no! HIHIHI! I managed to achieve 8BDXCC last June in one application. This month, I jumped on the 5BWAZ in process at 194 with 12m digi and 17m digi completed and 30m digi needing zone 34. Today the Plaque arrived; this morning #195 (zone 18 on 80m) showed up on LoTW. (3 on 80 and 2 on 40 and 1 on 30 still) I just wanted to share my achievement so far... – Erika KØDD



E6AM 2023 DXpedition to Niue

By Stan, LZ1GC

The idea to visit and activate the island nation of Niue dates to the beginning of 2020. Then I planned and prepared the E6AM & A35GC DXpeditions.

My plans were with one trip to the Pacific Ocean to visit and activate two Pacific Ocean countries - Niue (E6) and the Kingdom of Tonga (A35).



Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the restrictive measures closed the borders and my plans were ... foiled and postponed!

Without going into details, I want to note that on March 12, 2020, I purchased all the plane tickets necessary for my travel to these two countries, and on March 13, 2020, the epidemic situation was declared, due to which we were totally closed and restricted, and travel was impossible!

However, in November 2023, after most of the restrictions were lifted, we carried out (with Ivan, LZ1PM) the activation of the Kingdom of Tonga, as the A35GC DXpedition 2022.

Niue was then still closed to visitors. For this reason, the E6AM expedition took place from October 10 to October 23, 2023.

By the way, here is the place to mention that I had planned this expedition to be from 10 - 27 October 2023, but New Zealand Airlines canceled the flight on 27 October and offered us to fly back to Europe on 23 October.

I am sure that many of the readers of this article have not heard and do not know about this small island country! Therefore, I will briefly describe some things about Niue.

Niue is a small, Pacific country - located more than 17,000 km from Bulgaria.



E6AM 2023 DXpedition to Niue (cont.)

This island nation, with an area of 261 square km, which many do not know about, is a coral island located in the central part of the Pacific Ocean, northeast of New Zealand and Australia and bordered by the Kingdom of Tonga to the west and the Cook Islands to the east. The island has a volcanic origin. The entire island is surrounded by powerful coral reefs, and in the interior of the island there is a plateau with an altitude of 66 m.



The island has a volcanic origin. The entire island is surrounded by powerful coral reefs, and in the interior of the island there is a plateau with an altitude of 66 m.

The population of Niue is about 1,600 people, 98% of whom are Christians.

However, a large part of islanders (about 15,000) have permanently settled in New Zealand, where they work, study and live.

Since 1901, Niue has been under the rule of New Zealand, but since 1974 it has been self-governing! Niue has no industry and relies solely on imports. The capital of Niue is Alofi, which is the administrative center and has a population of about 600 people.

The 2023 E6AM DXpedition was realized by 2 operators: Stan, LZ1GC and Dimo, LZ10N. The preparation of the expedition was carried out entirely by me - Stan, LZ1GC. It took me several months to prepare and test the equipment, antennas, and other equipment. Our plans were to activate Niue (E6) on CW, SSB and FT8 modes.

I want to express my gratitude to Kolao, LZ1QZ, and Hristo, LZ2HV, for helping me learn the intricacies and specifics of FT8 mode operation.

I also appreciate the help (in technical terms) that I received from Val, LZ1WX, as well as from Boris, LZ2JR, who providing us with his development - an ARGO ONE transceiver, which we used in FT8 and CW mode during the expedition.



E6AM 2023 DXpedition to Niue (cont.)

During the months of preparation for E6AM DXpedition, I tried to anticipate everything that could happen. During this period of time, I exchanged dozens of e-mails related to the organization of this expedition - logistics, booking a good place for radio amateur activity (accommodation) and many other!

Packing the luggage for the expedition took an important place in the preparation of this expedition.

Our equipment included 2 Kenwood TS 480 SAT transceivers, ARGO ONE transceiver, Yaesu FT DX 10 transceiver and 2 amplifiers: ACOM 1200S (1200 w) and ACOM 700S (700 w), as well as an antenna tuner ACOM 04AT. We are grateful for technical support of this expedition also from Iliyan, LZ3GA - assisting us with a Kenwood TS 480 SAT transceiver - 1 unit, and also from ACOM LTD Bulgaria, who provided us with an antenna tuner for the expedition - ACOM 04AT. The rest of the equipment used during the expedition is my personal property, purchased in the years before this expedition!

Our antenna equipment included - Exponential GP antenna having a prism shape - for 40 - 6 meter bands, Vertical with capacitive cap for 160/80/40 meters, INV. Vee on 60 m, verticals on the 30 and 20 meter bands, as well as slopers for 17 and 15 m - a total of 7 antennas.

Among our luggage, an important place was occupied by the coaxial cable - about 200 m. We transported all this technical and antenna equipment in 2 suitcases - 23.8 kg each, as well as 2 cardboard but well-secured boxes, also 23.8 kg. I will add that our laptop bags containing every one 2 laptops and 1 transceiver they weighed 12-13 kg each.

The first part of our trip included 2 flights: Sofia (Bulgaria) - Heathrow (England) and Heathrow (England) - Sydney (Australia) with an hour and 20 minute stopover at Changi Airport (Singapore) to refuel the plane.



E6AM 2023 DXpedition to Niue (cont.)

On 06 October, at 12:00 Stan, LZ1GC and Dimo, LZ10N, with 120 kg of luggage were already at Sofia Airport, waiting for our flight from Sofia (Bulgaria) via Heathrow (England) to Sydney, Australia.

At the airport in Sofia, we were cordially sent off, with wishes for a successful trip and a successful expedition, by Victor, LZ3NY, and Vesco, LZ2JE. The journey to Sydney, Australia, was long and hard. As I wrote above, Sofia - Heathrow - 3 hours flight, followed by a flight from Heathrow, England to Changi, Singapore - almost 14 hours flight, and then from Changi, Singapore - Sydney, Australia - 7 hours and 40 minutes flight!

Over the years, since 2014, traveling to such distant destinations, I have realized from personal experience that only, the sleeping time on the plane is not wasted! That's why on such long flights - I sleep and wake up only when I hear the flight attendants delivering breakfast or dinner with the carts. That's what I did too! Dimo, LZ10N, for whom this was the first trip of such a long distance, spent most of the flight talking with his seat neighbors on the plane and watching the travel route on the tablet.

The trip to Sydney, Australia, was the first leg of our trip to the island of Niue. We arrived at Sydney International Airport, Australia, at 06:50 on 8 October. At the airport in Sydney, Australia, we were met by our friendly family (Bulgarians) - Olga, LZ1QG, and Nick, LZ1QP, who have been living in Sydney, Australia for more than 25 years.

Nick and Olga - true friends! What's more, I feel like they are my brother and sister! For several years now they have met, sent and sheltered me with all comforts on my journey for the my Pacific Ocean Expeditions! I have no words to describe their dedication and support! I guess readers understand how important it is to be in the right place and with the right people after long journeys and expeditions!

Nick and Olga "give" me what no one could give me - peace, comfort, true friendship!



E6AM 2023 DXpedition to Niue (cont.)

Arriving in Sydney, Australia, we could say that we have covered 2/3 of the distance of our trip to Niue Island. The last two parts left to travel were: Sydney, Australia - Auckland, New Zealand and Auckland, New Zealand - Niue. Our flight to Auckland, New Zealand was on 09 October at 19:35 local time.

In New Zealand we had a nearly 10 hour layover until our flight to Niue, which time was spent in the transit area at Auckland Airport.

On October 10, at 13:45, after a 4-hour flight, the New Zealand Airlines plane landed at the airport in Niue.

We were so happy, indeed....

Both of us - Stan, LZ1GC, and Dimo, LZ10N, felt joyful and happy that we were already on Niue and very soon E6AM would be on the air!

Arriving in Niue, after a quick passport check and without undue delay, we were met as we had previously agreed by the owners of the accommodation and the place where we would be staying - Mr. Kupa and Ms. Mary.

Mr. Kupa and Ms. Mary were notified in advance that we would be carrying a lot of luggage and they were waiting for us with two cars!

Before going to the accommodation place, we had to do a few things: get the E6AM license from the local licensing office, arrange things via the Internet at the local Telecom café and to shopping for food for a few days, so that we not waste our precious time.

Our meeting with Mr. Sioneheke in charge of amateur radio licenses was short but cordial! The E6AM license was ready and handed over to us.

Our visit to the local Telecom took us over an hour, but however we were at our accommodation around 17:00 local time.

The location was very convenient for placing various antennas.

There were a little time until nightfall, due this reason, we immediately began unpacking our baggage and prepared to install at least one vertical antenna to be on the air faster.



E6AM 2023 DXpedition to Niue (cont.)

At 07:12 GMT (20:12 Niue time) E6AM was already on the air - on 14074 Khz in FT8 mode, and we continued late into the night unpacking and equipping the workplaces with the necessary equipment.

At dawn, after 3 hours of sleep, Dimo and I started, still in the dark, preparing for lifting EXP. GP antenna for 40 - 10 m + WARC bands and the Vertical antenna for 160/80/40 m.

We managed it, but it took us a lot of time and effort. E6AM was already on the air with 2 working places!

The same day we also installed a sloper dipole antenna for the 17 meters band. With the antennas installed we started working on FT8 and CW on the various bands.

The next day we installed vertical antennas for the 30 and 40 meter bands, the inverted vee on 60m and sloper dipole on 12m. In 3 days we installed 7 antennas for the different radio amateur bands.

What struck me was that the sloper dipoles antennas worked perfectly!

A problem for our activity from Niue was the interruption of the power supply - twice, for 8 and 4 hours, respectively, and the necessary dismantling and a new installation of two of our antennas: the Vertical antenna for 30 m and the Vertical antenna for 160/80/40 m, which we erected again but in a different place.

From October 10 to October 23, E6AM was permanently on the air working with 2 and sometimes 3 working places on different bands and modes - CW, FT8, SSB.

During this time period we made 42,066 radio contacts (with only about 100 doubles), with 156 countries on CW, FT8 and SSB - on all HF radio amateur bands.

I provide Clublog statistics on the work of E6AM, which readers can familiarize themselves with below in the attached tables:

Continent By Band

Band	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	Total	Total %
AF	0	7	8	11	23	42	26	30	32	40	219	0.5%
AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AS	179	756	11	1724	1250	1690	1762	2370	1959	1927	13628	32.5%
EU	7	377	332	800	1984	3060	2359	1849	1772	1394	13934	33.2%
NA	60	602	174	872	556	850	1236	2113	2202	2446	11111	26.5%
OC	29	111	17	267	100	309	191	372	185	230	1811	4.3%
SA	1	9	10	46	29	104	201	303	269	271	1243	3.0%
Totals	276	1862	552	3720	3942	6055	5775	7037	6419	6308	41946	



E6AM 2023 DXpedition to Niue (cont.)

Breakdown by Continent

Continent	Total QSOs	%
Africa	219	0.5
Asia	13628	32.5
Europe	13934	33.2
North America	11111	26.5
Oceania	1811	4.3
South America	1243	3.0
Totals	41946	100.0

The propagation during E6AM activity was very good on the high bands and not so good on the low ham bands. However, we have spent a lot of time on the 160, 80 and 60 meter bands to enable radio amateurs to make contact with Niue on those difficult radio amateur bands as well.

In addition to the two-time interruption of the electricity supply and the relocation of two of our antennas, we also had another problem - in the dark part of the day, we had a loud noise from the street lighting, located about 100-150 meters from us. This disturbance made it difficult to work on the air, especially on the low bands.

Unfortunately, we could not eliminate this problem! E6AM was on air until 15:00 GMT (06:00 local Niue time) on 23 October. Throughout the night of the 22nd and 23rd of October, we dismantled the antennas and prepared the luggage for our departure.

An assessment of this expedition will be made by those we have worked with on air!

In view of the fact that we were only 2 operators and the short time of this expedition - only 12 full days, I personally think that E6AM was a good expedition!

Of course, it could have been better, but considering our modest resources at our disposal, I think it turned out to be a good activity!



E6AM 2023 DXpedition to Niue (cont.)

In the last part of this article, I want to share some things about the locals that made an impression on me.

The local people, as I already mentioned, are about 1,600 people on the island and they really all they know each other. They are very responsive and kind to foreigners.

On the island of Niue on Saturday and Sunday are not working days. The Sunday is a day for prayers and church attendance.

I remember that from October 17 to 21, 2023, there in Alofi - the capital of Niue celebrated the "Constitution Day". These all days (week) were declared holidays and all local institutions rested except the local Telecom, which works around the clock!

This holiday (The "Constitution Day ") has also become a kind of gathering of local producers and artisans! I was impressed that the locals knew how to celebrate and had fun doing it with all their heart and soul!

On October 23, 2023, at 15:00 with a flight NZ 937 on New Zealand Airlines, we departed from Niue and after 4 hours we arrived in Auckland, New Zealand, where we stayed for 4 days, as our next flight to Sydney was on October 28, 2023.

In Auckland we stayed in a guest house where the conditions were very good for rest and relaxation after 2 weeks of sleep deprivation during our Niue expedition.

We returned to Bulgaria on October 30, 2023, after flights from Auckland, New Zealand and Sydney, Australia to Heathrow and Sofia, Bulgaria.

As the organizer of E6AM DXpedition 2023, I want to express my gratitude to all the individual sponsors who helped us to be this expedition successful!

Thanks to all the amateur radio Foundations, Associations and Clubs that have supported us, namely: German DX Foundation, EUDXF, Swiss DX Foundation, INDEXA, Children DX Club (U.K.), **Twin City DX Association**, Oklahoma DX Association, SouthEastern DX Club, LA DX Group, GM DX Group, Clipperton DX Club, Mediterraneo DX Club and Jake McClain Driver Memorial Amateur Radio Club.

Thank you for your trust and support!!!

73! Stan, LZ1GC (E6AM)



CB0ZEW Remote Operation

By Mike Cizek, W0VTT

Most DXers are probably familiar with the Radio in a Box (RIB) station by George Wallner AA7JV. The idea for the RIB was born on the KH1/KH7Z DXpedition to Baker Island in 2018. The team had a very difficult time getting permission for the operation because of the environmental impact of their camp on the island and the possibility of it interfering with the local flora and fauna. Over the next few years, George, in collaboration with Mike Snow KN4EEI, Gregg Marco W6IZT, and Hal Turley W8HC, and with support from the Northern California DX Foundation, developed, tested, and refined the RIB station. For those not familiar with the RIB or its history, George explains it very well in this 30 minute interview with K3LR of DX Engineering: <https://www.youtube.com/live/1XqBhp7M2Uk?si=u9WI3HVzydTA5Hl>



The upcoming Jarvis Island DXpedition will use RIB stations exclusively. This was the only way the team could obtain permission from USF&WS to do the operation.

W6IZT saw the need for a smaller, more portable version of the RIB and recently began developing the Next Generation RIB (NexGenRib). The NexGenRib is small and light enough to be transported as carry on baggage on a commercial airline. It uses an Elecraft K3, small Windows PC, a Raspberry Pi, a WiFi/Ethernet router, and control circuitry designed and built by Gregg. Software used includes N1MM+ for logging, SonoBus for remote audio, and Win4K3 for radio control. The NexGenRib was tested at Gregg's home QTH and its maiden voyage was on the recent Juan Fernandez Island DXpedition using the call CB0ZEW. CB0ZEW was operated remotely via Starlink satellites by operators all over the world.

TCDXA members W0GJ and W0VTT were among the 30 remote operators for CB0ZEW. We all spent a fair amount of time chatting via email, chatting in a Slack chatroom, meeting via Zoom, and reading the documentation that Gregg provided for us. We began testing in mid January with the RIB at Gregg's QTH. As with any new technology, there were a number of kinks to be worked out. We would operate, one of us would break something, and Gregg would fix it and figure out how to prevent it from breaking again. By the end of our ten day test period, things were running pretty well.

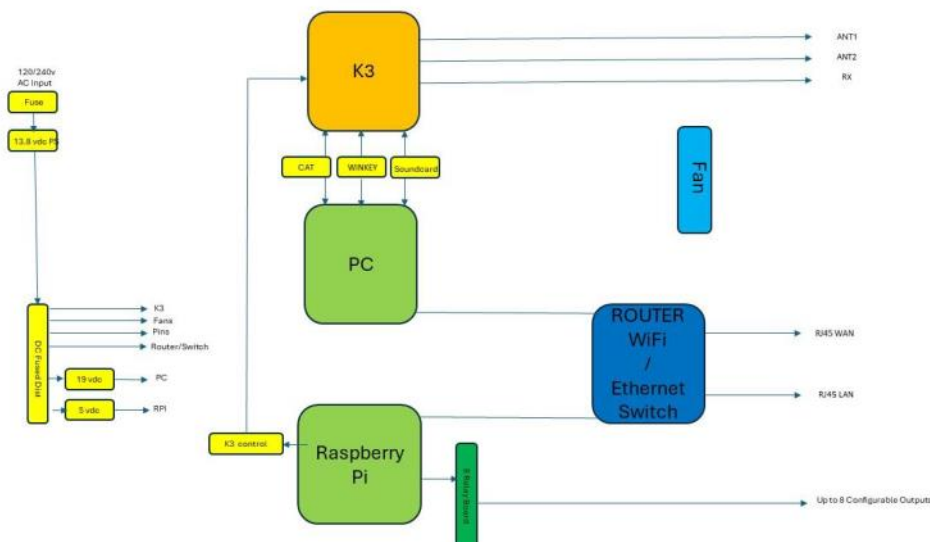


CB0ZEW Remote Operation (cont.)

CB0ZEW was the first station on the air from Juan Fernandez. We started making QSOs while the team on the island was setting up the main stations. Once again, there were more snags that came up, the first of which was not having access to the antenna we planned to use. Hal found some surplus items and pressed them into use so we could get on the air. Catch me at the bar before the next meeting and I'll tell you the name we gave this interesting antenna. (It's not fit for print in a family publication like the Grayline.) There were some other issues, and we lost some air time, but between Gregg and the team on the island, we got everything working and ended up making over 15,000 QSOs. I don't think Gregg got much sleep during the DXpedition.

I am not a well traveled, seasoned DXpeditioner, so I rarely get to experience propagation from different parts of the world. I found propagation from Juan Fernandez very interesting, and very different from what we have here in the Midwest. We are all familiar with the "spotlight propagation" that frequently occurs on 6 and 160 meters, but we seemed to get some of this even on the middle HF bands from CE0Z. I'm not a fan of the new digi modes, but FT8 gives us the opportunity to compare notes easily, and to "see" signals from different places at the same time. I would be operating CB0ZEW on 12m or 17m FT8, watching the frequency here at home on my own station, and comparing notes with some of the other remote operators in the Slack chatroom. W0GJ and I are only 50 miles apart, and there were times when only one of us could copy CB0ZEW. We could also see several stations calling that 'ZEW was not hearing. It was also interesting to see how propagation shifted to different parts of the world during the day. (cont. bottom of page 14)

• Mini RiB Block diagram Gator Case



New Weekly RTTY Contest

Reprinted with permission of Kirk, K4R0, from the Tennessee Contest Group News-Letter, January 2024

<https://radiosport.world/wrt.html>

Due to popular demand for a conventional (non Sprint) weekly RTTY Test, effective Thursday evening, Jan 4th (Friday Morning UTC) from 0145-0215Z, we will hold a half-hour RTTY Contest. Rules are similar to the highly successful Wednesday CWT - notably unique callsigns are a multiplier.

This standard format 30 minute RTTY test will allow us to stay on top of our game, test station upgrades in real contest conditions and most importantly keep RTTY alive and well.

We strongly encourage all operators, seasoned or new to RTTY to participate. Special note to new(er) RTTY ops, if you have any questions, comments or issues working the test please make a post on our Facebook page for the Weekly RTTY Test (WRT) Include details of your setup in your post, and we will be happy to assist you or find someone that can. Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/861286202404786>

General Rules

- * Held every Thursday night, 0145-0215Z (Friday UTC)
- * Everyone Works Everyone
- * Each unique call (once per session) is a multiplier
 - 10, 15, 20, 40, and 80 Meter bands
 - 100 Watt (Low-Power) and 5 Watt (QRP) Categories.
 - Suggested Frequencies * 3.585-3.590, 7.083-7.090, 14.083-14.090, 21.083-21.090, and 28.083-28.090 MHz.
 - The Exchange * W/VE - Name and State * DX - Name and Country Prefix
 - Logging-N1MM users can use the WRT UDC module available from the WRT home page, <https://radiosport.world/wrt.html>
 - For other loggers without WRT support, we suggest using the NAQP contest. Ignore the logger's multiplier count; instead manually count unique callsigns for the multiplier.
 - Claude VE2FK has set up a call history file for the WRT. Go to the "Associated Files" tab when opening a WRT log and hit the "Change" button for Call History Filename to load it.
 - Reporting Report your results on 3830scores.com

WRT Organizers: N3QE Tim Shoppa and WV4P Ron Koenig

CB0ZEW Remote Operation (cont.)

After the operation concluded, the remote team met again via Zoom to do an after-action briefing. The problems we experienced during the operation were all addressed and solutions identified to prevent them from happening in the future. Gregg is already working on the second iteration of the NexGenRib and we can expect to hear it on another DXpedition before long.



Twin City DX Association to Activate New DX Entity—#341

As expected, there is a lot of discussion and activity surrounding the announcement by the DXCC desk of the new entity of Freedonia. TCDXA filed the petition for this new entity based on the criteria found in DXCC Section III, rule #2B, "In countries where Amateur Radio operation has not been permitted or has been suspended or where some reluctance to authorize amateur stations has been noted..."

There has been no activity in Freedonia since 1933 when two brothers operated GRØUCH/Ø. Zepo manned the AM station and Harpo handled CW chores. (Visit <http://tinyurl.com/zjptlmf> for more information about Freedonia)

Freedonia is located on the Ionian Sea, a peninsula off of the coast of Albania. The DXPedition will be led by WØVTT - Mike. Other team members will include WØGJ - Glenn, KØMD - Scott, and WØJMP - Dan.



The IARU has agreed to allow the same call sign to be used for this inaugural DXPedition, GRØUCH/Ø. The team logo is shown.

The DXPedition will be QRV from capital city of Chicolini. The Prime Minister of Freedonia, Rufus Firefly, has made it his agenda to bring Freedonia up to par with his neighbors in the region. He views amateur radio as a great public relations event and has put his whole hearted support behind this project.



DXCC Entity #341 – Freedonia
April 1, 2024



New DX Entity—#341 (cont.)

Quite a bit of planning has gone into this event and TCDXA is thrilled to be a part of this. There will be three stations in operation for the one-day activation. The picture shows the capital of Chicolini with its beautiful harbor and our intended operating positions. GR0UCH/0 will be QRV on 04/1/24 at 0000Z and shut down at 2359Z. QSL via AJ8B and visit the website to make donations or inquiries about this important event. The website is www.aj8b.com. Of course, Club Log will be used as well.



We are excited to be highlighting some new equipment on this DXpedition as well. We will have a full report at the DX Forum on Saturday of Hamvention@ weekend.

The first product is a low impact 1.5 m loop antennas from NG0C antennas. We will phase these into 8 and 16 element arrays for the low bands. Theoretically, these antennas should achieve a 12 dBi gain and a 4-degree take off angle.

The second product to test is a specially designed low loss co-ax fiber (not cable) with a 5 mm diameter and snap on pl-259 connectors. This could really help DXpeditions that have to carry miles of heavy coax. Fiber Coax will really make a difference.

Hope to see you at the DX forum.

Join TCDXA

Our mission is to raise *Dollars for DX*, used to help fund qualified DXpeditions.

Our funds come from annual member contributions (dues) and other donations.

TCDXA is a non-profit organization, as described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions from U.S. residents are tax-deductible.

Becoming a member is easy. Go to <http://tcdxa.org/> and follow the instructions on the home page.

All contributions (including annual dues) may now be paid on our secure site, using PayPal or credit card.



Tristan Da Cunha Island

Sep 29th to Oct 22nd, 2023

By Yuris, YL2GM



Hi there! We meet again with one of the LRSF latest DX-pedition's story. There has been already one more DXpedition after ZD9W, however, I will talk about that another time.

The first plans to visit Tristan Da Cunha Island (ZD9) were already set in 2018. Initially it was planned to visit ZD9 with a four-operator team. However, couple weeks before starting our trip we were informed by island representative that there won't be any available berths for us on the ship. The regulations say that the first hand for berths on the ship is for islanders, followed by their relatives, then officials and our category as tourists are the last ones to pick.

After this came covid and the island was closed down for all visitors. All restrictions were lifted only in spring 2023 and immediately I started to communicate with the island administration. Opportunity came up, however, this time I decided to go alone because the chances to get berths for more operators were lower. I was offered a berth on a cargo ship "Lance" leaving Cape Town on 15th of September 2023. The return was planned with fishing vessel "Edinburg" on 24th of October 2023.

As I'm used to do, in a timely manner I acquired necessary plane tickets and together with them I posted all necessary documentation to South African embassy in Stockholm to receive visa.



Yuris YL2GM starting DXpedition from home in Latvia



Tristan Da Cunha Island (cont.)

On that day when I should have received back my documents and visa, instead I got returned mail with a mark that the recipient did not collect it. Remaining time window till plane departure was getting shorter and to mitigate risks I decided to go for visa in person and the next day I was on a flight to Stockholm. Unfortunately, the visa was declined because my passport did not have enough empty spaces. To receive visa there has to be at least two blank pages left. Flew back home and in a matter of urgency a new passport was made the same day for additional costs. One more flight to Stockholm and the embassy staff was already waiting for me, visa was ready later in the afternoon.

On Monday 11th of September, the trip begins by boarding the plane from Riga to Cape Town. As usual, I have one extra bag of gear with me and this makes it difficult when I have to change terminals in Frankfurt airport by taking train between the terminals, baggage carts are no option there and all bags had to be carried by hand. After landing in Cape Town, I have three days to spend. I settle in a hotel and rent a car to visit my friend. During the visit I pick up antenna bag with Spiderbeam, LBS vertical and cables that I left with him during my previous visits.

Departure of Lance was planned on 15th of September 14:00z. The day before I brought all bags with equipment to the ferry station and in the morning the shuttle bus took me to the port.



Tristan Da Cunha Island (cont.)

After passing through all travel formalities and boarding the ship, everyone was shown to their individual rooms. The ship left the port as planned and the ocean journey had begun.

Later that day we were invited to lunch and got introduced to the captain. Afterwards the ship crew took us for a tour to great cabin, ship deck, engine deck, storage spaces and answered to all of our questions. We did also get the basic training regarding ship security. When the evening came, I started to feel sea sick and this continued for one more day. Chamomile tea helped and on third day I was feeling like nothing had happened.



First sight of Tristan Da Cunha Island through fog

Later, during the trip I got acquainted with the ship's captain Oleg. He is a good man originally from Kaliningrad. He has assembled an international crew that works like a watch. His ship "Lance" is the main supply ship for Tristan Da Cunha Island with its 234 islanders. Special shout out to "Lance" Indonesian chef, who prepares food for 18-man crew and other passengers. Food is served three times daily with

lots of variety and imagination. Any restaurant would be grateful to have a chef like him.

The voyage continues and the initial plan to reach Tristan Da Cunha Island was one week later on 22nd of September. However, captain informs us that the weather conditions will be getting worse and in best case scenario we will reach our destination only by 26th of September. Also, the weather on the island must allow us to disembark.



Tristan Da Cunha Island (cont.)

Internet on the ship was very limited and only available every second day for one hour only for text messaging. No picture and video transfer possible. However, this was enough to inform our families that we were safe.

After rough sailing through high winds and waves, in the evening of 27th of September, we finally saw the contours of Tristan Da Cunha Island and when we reached the island it was completely dark outside. Next morning the weather was bad and we had to spend one more day on the ship. Bags are packed and we are hopefully waiting for next day to finally disembark. Around midday, the barge arrives and takes us ashore.

Locals and Islands administration kindly welcomed us and showed us to our homes. I have a guest house with little space for antennas. The house is close to other houses and roads. Nevertheless, I installed a small vertical for FT8 and got on the air. The first QSO was with JE1RMI on 21 Mc 15:25. Then it started to rain and the wind picked up. There was no internet at the guesthouse so I had to go to town center where the internet and its antennas are located. After receiving login credentials, I was finally able to contact home.



Waiting to disembark



Guest house - first QTH location



Tristan Da Cunha Island (cont.)

During the night, weather conditions deteriorated. In the morning, I saw that my vertical had broken in half, but the upper bands still worked. Later, after the rain stopped, I repaired the antenna. That afternoon, the rain and high winds returned. The 50 m/s winds forecast came true and I had to take down the antenna so it did not break again. By morning, the storm passed and I returned to work.

Tuesday morning, I went to tourism administration and talked about finding a different location for me because this one was not suited for my activities. I asked for a place somewhere in town outskirts so there would be place for setting up antennas. Some of the guest houses were going to be vacated only on 15th of October when the next ship departures. In the end, we found a different solution and arranged a room in the kindergarten building. Kindergarten works 5 days a week from morning till 3pm, with 3 baby sitters and 5 kids. With place for antennas and free horizon to main directions for US, EU and JA this place was ideal. For lunch and dinner every day I still went to the guesthouse where the meals were prepared by the hosts.

For the next three days, the weather was ideal! First I set up the LBS (Low Band System) 18m vertical for the low bands. It was located inside fence perimeter and its 20m radials didn't bother anyone. This was followed by Spiderbeam and 6m antenna that were placed closer to the station. Antennas for this expedition were prepared so I could set them up alone without help from others.



Antennas and the free horizon



Tristan Da Cunha Island (cont.)

At this point I could have said that the station was ready and all that remained is just to operate. However, my work with the antennas didn't stop there. On Friday 11th of October, during midday the wind gusts got stronger. With difficulty I managed to lower the Spiderbeam and LBS vertical. For the next day antennas remained lowered and just before getting dark I raised LBS



Cows tangled in the Spiderbeam wires

vertical to work EU and JA on 80m telegraph. I was planning to do the same on low bands for the following night as well, however, the weather had different plans and the winds just got stronger. This continued for a week and during these days I lowered and fixed LBS vertical three times and similar situation was with Spiderbeam also. The 6m Yagi was beyond repair.

On early morning of 21st of October, while there still was dark outside, SPE power amplifier switched off several times. It turned out that the antenna field got visited by cows and one cow with its calf tangled in the Spiderbeam guy wires and my last hopes to fix this antenna were gone. The final days were worked only with DX Commander and LBS vertical.

Initially my goal was to make 60k QSOs so it would qualify for a new Single Op record. However, on 17th of October, when this milestone was reached, my friend Girts YL2KL encouraged me to go for 70k QSOs. The #70 was also special because of my 70th birthday that was coming soon. This was tough but in the end, I managed to reach it on Sunday evening 20:27Z by making the last 70112th QSO on 7 mc CW with CQ00DX. After dark I took down the DX Commander and packed my gear.



Tristan Da Cunha Island (cont.)

Ship Edinburg arrived on Friday, however, weather conditions permitted passengers to disembark only on Monday. Monday morning, after finishing all formalities in the immigration and tourism office, I visited the islands administration and then it was time for boarding. This time the ship was a fishing vessel that's used to catch lobsters that are being processed and packed right there in the ships factory.

Initially, the sailing was planned for 7 days but because of bad weather conditions it was 2 days longer and Cape Town was reached only on Thursday morning. After disembarking and travel formalities I drove to the airport that was followed by couple of flights and finally on Friday's evening I was greeted by my loving wife in Riga airport.

This time I was away from home for more than six weeks. Back home I will be only for one week before going to the next DXpedition VK9XY un VK9CY.

Thanks to all supporters and family. Thanks for going through all of this together with me.

73, Juris /Yuris /YL2GM

Expedition website: <https://lral.lv/zd9w/>



With Tristan Da Cunha's Island administrator





The MWA Contest Corner A DX Contest for the Ages!

By Al Dewey, K0AD

Top of the Cycle

Those of us in TCDXA and MWA who have been contesting and chasing DX for many decades are certainly familiar with the 11-year propagation cycle. Some of us old timers have been through 5 or 6 of these complete cycles during our time as hams. We contesters bemoan the “conditions” when we are at the bottom of the cycle. We complain about 10 meters, and sometimes even 15 meters, being pretty much closed especially for us here in the black hole. With nobody on the high bands, 20 meters is jammed with stations often with huge pileups on routine DX. The low bands are sometime better but often hit and miss (and crowded).



On the other hand, we have also enjoyed the top of the cycle where all bands are open and low power, QRP, and antenna challenged stations can work tons of DX especially on the high band which are now open.

Having said all that, I think very few of us were prepared for the outstanding band conditions that blessed us during the ARRL CW DX Contest on the weekend of Feb 16-18 this year. A hint of what was to come came when this comment floated across the reflector a few days before the contest:

“The best ARRL CW DX Contest propagation in more than 20 years is likely this weekend with a high sunspot activity, quiet geomagnetic activity and low polar cap absorption from Thursday through Sunday February 18th by Frank Donovan, W3LPL.”



The MWA Contest Corner (cont.)

With an advance indication that the solar flux index was going to really soar over the contest weekend, Rich, NØHJZ put out the challenge to MWA that we all shoot for at least one million points each! As it turned out, 19 MWA stations accomplished this feat with two of our members scoring over 3 million points !

Running VS Search and Pounce

Although the CQ DX Contest is considered the granddaddy of DX Contests, I prefer the ARRL DX event. The big reason I prefer the ARRL contest is that stations outside the US can ONLY work W/VE stations. That sort of puts all of us in W/VE "in demand". With an average station, (50 ft Tribander on 10 - 40, wires on 80/160, and 500 watts), I have tended to limit my attempts at running to 10-20. Rarely, have I been able to run on 40 meters in a DX contest. This year was different! I ran on 40 meters a LOT on both Friday and Saturday night. The pileups of Europeans were endless. Unfortunately, I had some RF problems on 80 and 160 so I didn't spend much time there (less than 50 QSOs).

During the day, I spent my time alternating between 10, 15, and 20. I ran most of the time again with virtually endless pileups. Every once in a while, I would quickly scan 10-20 picking up as many of the RED (i.e. new) multipliers as I could. Were it not for some time commitments I had on both Saturday and Sunday, I am sure I would easily have cleared 2M points. Many MWAers did -even one running low power! When the dust settled, I ended up with 1.7M points in 21 hours.



DXers Have A Choice



The Daily DX - is a text DX bulletin that can be sent via email to your home or office Monday through Friday, and includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and much, much more. With a subscription to The Daily DX, you will also receive DX news flashes and other interesting DX tidbits. *Subscriptions are \$49.00 for one year or \$28.00 for 6 mos.*

The Weekly DX - is a product of The Daily DX that can be sent weekly to your home or office via email in the form of a PDF (portable document format). It includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and graphics. *Subscriptions are \$27.00 for one year.*

Get two weeks of The Daily DX or a sample of The Weekly DX free by sending a request to bernie@dailydx.com, or at <http://www.dailydx.com/trial.htm>.



The MWA Contest Corner (cont.)

An ARRL DX Contest Record for MWA

Figure 1 Shows a summary of the top MWA scores for this year's ARRL DX CW contest compiled by Rich, NØHJZ. The total club score of over 48 million points was a club record for the ARRL DX CW contest in recent years.

Figure 2 (next page) is a representative sample of some of the comments posted by MWA members at the end of the contest. Obviously, this event was a lot of fun for everyone.

I'm not a propagation expert so have no way of knowing how many more contests we will see with such great conditions during the peak of cycle 25. Will the peak extend into next year's contest season? Wouldn't that be fun!

See you in the pileups.

73, A1, KØAD

Top MWA Scores in ARRL DX CW Contest - Feb 2024

NØAV	3,389,694	NØBUI	1,223,145
KØPC	3,021,314	WØELT	1,200,045
ACØW	2,956,823	KB9S	1,168,365
NAØN	2,414,355	KØEA	989,172
WØOR	2,343,450	WØUC	930,216
NØHJZ	2,141,568	KIØF	849,300
KA9FOX	2,114,940	KNØV	845,064
WØPR	1,966,734	KØMPH	833,388
KØRC	1,941,027	NDØC	748,584
KMØO	1,859,676	KAØPQW	631,701
KØAD	1,710,276	KØYR	616,437
WØRX	1,621,746	KØJJR	604,968
K4IU	1,542,690	KØCN	506,547
WØBM	1,333,800	NRØT	500,388
KØHB	1,288,413		

Total MWA Score: 48,632,476 Points from 56 members

Figures configured by Rich, NØHJZ

Figure 1 - Top MWA Claimed Scores in 2024 ARRL DX CW Contest



The MWA Contest Corner (cont.)

“The best ARRL CW DX Contest propagation in more than 20 years is likely this weekend with a high sunspot activity, quiet geomagnetic activity and low polar cap absorption from Thursday through Sunday February 18th by Frank Donovan, W3LPL. It is glorious to be at the peak of the solar cycle!”

– KØMD

“It’s hard to believe Saturday could have been better than today!”

– WAØMHJ

“10 meters was too good so I did a single band 10.”

– KØKX

“Wow what great conditions!!”

– NØBUI

“Wow. That was something. Best conditions in years.”

– KØJJR

“Lots of DX on all bands...nuts right to the end,”

– WØPR

“Outstanding conditions. We were spoiled this weekend.”

– KNØV

“The propagation gods, sun, stars, and my stamina aligned for one of the best CW contests I can remember!”

– KØRC

“Conditions were arguably the best I've ever seen for a DX contest.”

– KØHB



The MWA Contest Corner (cont.)

“I feel like this was the best conditions I've experienced in 30 years of DX contesting.”

– NØHJZ

“Propagation was stellar during the second weekend in February 2024 and, by all accounts, the ARRL DX CW contest was one for the record book”

– WØCN

– I think we just experienced some of the best conditions for a DX contest....ever! What a weekend! There were times in the early evening when we had five bands open at the same time! “

– NØHJZ

“Wow, that was by far the most QSOs I've ever made in a contest!”

– NAØN

Figure 2 - MWA Member Comments on 2024 ARRL DX CW Contest



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Qdure Outgoing QSL Service

Reprinted with permission of Kirk, K4RO, from the Tennessee Contest Group News-Letter, January 2024

<https://radiosport.world/wrt.html>

QSL chores got you down? Spending more time filling out cards than making QSOs? Looking for an alternative to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau? You might want to consider investigating the QDURE outgoing QSL service.

I used to spend literally dozens of hours per year answering bureau QSLs. I spent countless hours printing labels, affixing labels to cards, sorting the cards, then mailing packages of cards to either the ARRL outgoing QSL bureau, or directly to DX bureaus in other countries. It was a task that I grew to dread, and if I waited too long, the job seemed to grow exponentially larger. Bureau cards never sleep.

Over a decade ago, I discovered the “Global QSL” service. Two enterprising 4X hams created the first (that I know of) service that provided a turnkey outgoing QSL bureau service. All that was required was generating an ADIF file of the contacts to QSL, and upload that file to the service. Global QSL handled everything from there. While it cost a little more than manual QSLing, the time savings was phenomenal. The ease and speed of managing QSLs electronically allowed me to clear out a growing backlog of QSL cards, and as of today I am 100% current on bureau card replies. Once I discovered the online QSL service, I never looked back.

Unfortunately, the guys who were running GlobalQSL became silent keys, and their service ended. Luckily, another contester told me about the “QDURE” service, which is run by Spain’s version of the ARRL (URE.) The concept is identical – you simply submit an ADIF file of QSOs to be QSLed, and they handle the rest. The QDURE web site allows you to pick a card design, or upload your own custom design.

I've been using QDURE since 2021, and have been pleased with them ever since. Orders up to 100 cards cost about 12 bucks. It gets cheaper per card with larger quantities. One nice thing is that they put up to 6 QSOs on a single card, resulting in more savings. When generating my ADIF files, I typically stack every band-mode worked on a card with a particular station, in order to reduce future requests. I use my general logging program Logger32 to generate the ADIF file, and it keeps track of which QSOs I have sent to the QSL service. It could not be easier. You may learn more about the QDURE service at the link below: <https://qsl.ure.es/en/como-funciona/>



TCDXA OPERATING BUDGET FY 2024
(Sep 2023 - Aug 2024)

March 6th, 2024



Submitted by Jim Anderson, K8OS

INCOME	ACTUAL	BUDGET	<i>Actual 2023</i>
Surplus from FY 2023 (balance 8/31/2023)	10017.73		<i>10024.48</i>
Member Dues 2024	4466.94	4400.00	<i>4600.84</i>
Door Prize Ticket Sales club share	325.00	500.00	<i>519.00</i>
Donations (estates, wills, etc.)	0.00	0.00	<i>0.00</i>
Refunds and Reversals	0.00	0.00	<i>0.00</i>
TOTAL INCOME	14809.67	4900.00	<i>15144.32</i>
EXPENSES		BUDGET	<i>Actual 2023</i>
Member Recruitment/Retention/Zoom	0.00	(300.00)	<i>(195.96)</i>
Website ISP & Domain Name	(97.17)	(150.00)	<i>(97.77)</i>
Office Supplies, Miscellaneous expenses	0.00	(50.00)	<i>(200.00)</i>
Meeting Room Rental	(305.23)	(600.00)	<i>(500.00)</i>
Holiday Party Dec	(490.77)	(500.00)	<i>(451.28)</i>
ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund	0.00	(250.00)	<i>(250.00)</i>
NCDXF Donation	0.00	(250.00)	<i>(250.00)</i>
MWA Plaque	0.00	(80.00)	<i>(80.00)</i>
DXpedition Contributions Total	(2,962.51)	(5000.00)	<i>(3051.58)</i>
#1 DXpedition - ZD9W Tristan Da Cunha	(500.00)		
#2 DXpedition - PRØT Trindade	(250.00)		
#3 DXpedition - CBØZA Juan Fernandez	(250.00)		
#4 DXpedition - V62P/V62S Micronesia	(300.00)		
#5 DXpedition - 7ØØAD Somalia	(500.00)		
#6 DXpedition - Fw8GC Wallis & Futuma	(250.00)		
#7 DXpedition - T32EU Eastern Kiribati	(300.00)		
#8 DXpedition - TX7W Austral Islands	(300.00)		
#9 DXpedition - VP6G Pitcairn Island	(312.51)		
#10 DXpedition -	0.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES	(3855.68)	*****	<i>(5076.53)</i>
NET	10953.99	*****	
Checking balance	10685.14		
PayPal balance	179.85		
Cash / Checks on Hand	89.00		
NET BALANCE	10953.99		

When required, Wells Fargo & PayPal online statements can provide detail not shown in this report.





TWIN CITY DX ASSOCIATION (TCDXA)

CLUB FACT SHEET

Who We Are:

The Twin City DX Association (TCDXA) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit amateur radio organization, whose members have an interest in DXing and in supporting the club mission: **Dollars for DX**. Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation govern the club's operation.

Club Mission:

The club mission supports major DXpeditions with financial donations. The source of operating income for this activity is an annual contribution (dues) of \$25 from each member.

DX Donation Policy:

The policy supports major DXpeditions that meet our requirements for financial sponsorship. All requests must be approved by the Board of Directors. Final approval is by vote of the full membership. Over 70 DXpeditions have been sponsored since 1997. Details are available on the website at: <http://www.tcdxa.org/sponsoredxpeditons.html>

Club History:

The club was formed in the early 1970s by a small group of DXers from the Twin City area. Over the years, the club has changed; most notably by opening its doors to anyone interested in DXing - from the casual to the very serious operator. Our membership now resides in numerous states and several countries.

Requirements for Membership

We welcome all hams who have an interest in DXing and hold a valid FCC Amateur Radio License. It doesn't matter whether you're a newcomer, or an old-timer to DXing; everyone is welcome!

Meetings:

The club meets on the third Monday of each month (except July & August) at PUB 42 Restaurant in New Hope, MN. Members gather early in the bar for Happy Hour, and move into a private room at 5:00pm for dinner and a short business agenda, 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 officers, plus one additional member make up the Board of Directors; currently: Bert Benjaminson, WBØN, President & Director, wb0n@yahoo.com, Vice President & Director, Tom Weigel, AB0J, Secretary/Treasurer & Director, Pat Cain, k0pc@arrl.net, Mike Cizek, WØVTT, Director & DX Grant Manager and John Rusciano, NG0Z, Director.

Website:

We maintain a website at www.TCDXA.org that provides information about a variety of subjects related to the club and DXing. The site is maintained by our webmaster Pat Cain, KØPC.

Newsletter:

The **Gray Line Report** is the club newsletter, which is published on a quarterly basis. We're proud of the fact that 99% of the content is "homegrown" – written by our members. Past issues are on the website at:

<http://www.tcdxa.org/newsletter.html>.

How to Become a Member:

An application for membership can be completed and submitted online, or printed and mailed in. (See <http://www.tcdxa.org/Application.html>) Contributions may be made by check or via the PayPal link on the homepage at www.TCDXA.org.

Visit us at a Meeting:

You are most welcome to attend a meeting, and look us over, before joining. Meetings are held at the PUB 42 Restaurant at 7600 Avenue North in New Hope (<http://pub42.com/>). Join us for happy hour at 4:00pm with dinner at 5:30pm, followed by the meeting at 6:30pm.



VKØIR	K5D	AHØ/NØAT	3W2DK	K4M	XU7MWA
ZL9CI	VK9DWX	5X8C	FT4TA	TX3A	S21EA
A52A	FT5GA	K9W	VK9MT	KMØO/9M6	J2ØRR
T33C	3D2ØCR	XRØZR	VK9DLX	YS4U	J2ØMM
3B9C	E4X	T3ØD	VU4KV	YI9PSE	BS7H
TX9	CYØ/NØTG	3W3O	EP6T	ZL8X	N8S
CP6CW	VP8ORK	3W2DK	VP8STI	4W6A	3B7SP
3YØX	VU4PB	FT4TA	VP8SGI	T32C	3B7C
K7C	STØR	VK9MT	TX3X	HKØNA	5JØA
5A7A	3D2C	VK9DLX	VP6DX	7O6T	K5P
VU4AN	3CØE	VU4KV	TX5C	NH8S	FT4JA
VU7RG	TT8TT	EP6T	9XØR	PTØS	PZ5W
VK9DWX	9M4SLL	3GØZC	9U4U	FT5ZM	ZL9A
S9OK	3DAØRRU	7P8RU	VU4W	CY0S	ZL7/K5WE
TN8K	3B7M	FT8WW	TX5S	VU7W	3Y0J

TCDXA DX DONATION POLICY

The mission of TCDXA is to support DXing and major DXpeditions by providing funding. Annual contributions (dues) from members are the major source of funding.

A funding request from the organizers of a planned DXpedition should be directed to the DX Donation Manager, Mike Cizek, WØVTT. He and the TCDXA Board of Directors will judge how well the DXpedition plans meet key considerations (see below).

If the Board of Directors deems the DXpedition to be worthy of support, a recommended funding amount is presented to the membership for their vote. If approved, the TCDXA Treasurer will process the funding..

Key Considerations for a DXpedition Funding Request

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DXpedition destination Ranking on <i>Most Wanted Survey</i> Most wanted ranking by TCDXA Members Logistics and transportation costs Number of operators and their credentials Number of stations on the air Bands, modes and duration of operation Equipment: antennas, radios, amps, etc. Stateside and/or foreign QSL manager | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website with logos of club sponsors QSLs with logos of club sponsors Online logs and pilot stations Up front cost to each operator Support by NCDXF & other clubs LoTW log submissions Previous operations by same group Valid license and DXCC approval Donation address: USA and/or foreign |
|---|---|

To join TCDXA, go to <http://tcdxa.org/>.

