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

March, 2026

Inside this issue:

Gray Line Staff
WAØMHJ
WØJMP
WØZF
AJ8B

Note from the President

Bert Benjaminson, WB0N, President

Well, I guess you are all stuck with me for another team, so here goes. Congratulations to all of you that worked 3Y0K! I am looking forward to seeing all your war stories in this edition of the Gray Line.

I hope you all survived the blizzard with antennas intact. We all thought it was spring here, Bummer.

It's the start of the Hamfest season. I saw a few of you at the St Cloud Hamfest, hope to see a lot more of you at the Buffalo Hamfest.

As soon as we get rid of this white stuff it will be time for antenna work.

Our monthly meetings at Pub 42 have had a decent attendance lately, and I apologize for being slow lining up speakers, but it is a challenge. I still would appreciate help in getting speakers.

Our membership has been slowly going down. Any ideas why or how to get it back going in the right direction?

Enough of my rambling.

73

all ES GD DX Bert WB0N

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.

Club Calendar
(Let me know if I should add something)

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March 2026
- 7-8 ARRL DX SSB
- 16 TCDXA Meeting
- 28-29 CQWW WPX SSB

April 2026
- 18-19 CQMM DX
- 20 TCDXA Meeting

May 2026
- 14 CWOPs Dinner
- 15 SWODXA DX Dinner
- 15-17 Dayton Hamvention
- 18 TCDXA Meeting
- 30-31 CQWW WPX CW

June 2026
- 6— 7 ARRL INTL Digital
- 11 TCDXA Meeting
- 13— 14 ARRL VHF
- 20-21 All Asian CW
- 27-28 ARRL Field Day

July 2026
- 11-12 IARU HF Championship
- 20 TCDXA Meeting

August 2026
- 8-9 WAE DX CW
- 17 TCDXA Meeting

September 2026
- 5-6 All Asian DX SSB
- 12— 14 ARRL Sept. VHF
- 12-13 WAE DX SSB
- 19 W4DXCC by SEDCO
- 21 TCDXA Meeting
- 26-27 CQWW RTTY

October 2026
- 10 ARRL MN State Convention
- 19 TCDXA Meeting
- 24-25 CQWW DX SSB

November 2026
- 7-9 ARRL SS CW
- 16 TCDXA Meeting
- 28-29 CQWW CW

December 2026
- 5-7 ARRL 160M CW
- 13-14 ARRL 10M
- 15 TCDXA Meeting
- 27-28 Stew Perry 160M CW

January 2027
- 2-3 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 16-18 ARRL January VHF
- 18 TCDXA Meeting
- 29-31 CQWW 160M CW

February 2027
- 6— Minnesota QSO Party
- 13-14 CQWW WPX RTTY
- 15 TCDXA Meeting
- 20-21 ARRL DX CW
- 26-28 CQWW 160M SSB

Grayline History

Newsletters can be found at
https://tcdxa.org/gray-line-report-newsletter/

5 Years Ago in the Grayline

- *Shack Rearrangement by Dan, W0JMP*
- *CQ DX Marathon— by Dan, KB0EO*
- *MWA Contest Corner— Are Plaques Still the Best Way to Recognize Wins? By Al, K0AD*

10 Years Ago in the Grayline

- *K5P— Palmyra Atoll 2016— by Glenn, W0GJ*
- *Member Profile— W0JMP, Dan*

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Grayline History

15 Years Ago in the Grayline

- *South Orkney Islands— Jan-Feb 2011 DXpedition by Ralph, K0IR*
- *TCDXA Member Profile— Brian, NX0X*
- *Electronix Servicing— Dave, K0IEA*
- *2010 Year End Review— Joe, W1JR*
- *An Appliance Operators Approach t0 160M and 75/80M via a Mon-opole Antenna— Dennis, KF0QR*
- *The Farm goes "Green" - Paul, W0AIH*

20 Years Ago in the Grayline

- *3Y0X Peter I DXpedition— Ralph, K0IR*
- *Thoughts on Propagation by a non-professional— Jim, K0JUH*
- *TCDXA Member Profile— Larry, W0FLY*
- *HQ9H— 2006 ARRL DX CW— Ron, N0AT*
- *The Asia Pacific DX Convention— Glenn, W0GJ*
- *Maria Theresa Reef— The Phantom Island? - Dave, K0IEA*
- *QRZ North American Zeroes— W0GJ, Glenn*

Dollars for DX

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

We only had one DXpedition funding request again this quarter. A team of six young operators led by DK6SP are heading to Bangladesh to operate S21WD later this month. This is largely the same group who did such a nice job at 8R7X and V73WW. Bangladesh at #93 on the Clublog hit parade doesn't generate a lot of excitement, but the tough path from NA, where it ranks #33, and the young ages of the operators combined to inspire your board of directors to recommend a $500 donation. The membership approved and S2 will be a New One for 28% of our members. Let's hope they can put a decent signal into our part of the globe.

The Big News is the recently concluded 3Y0K operation on Bouvet. I was happy to add two of the three bands I needed, both on CW, and sent in my OQRS this morning. Look for an article with members' Bouvet "war stories" elsewhere in this issue.

Thank you.
Mike Cizek WØVTT
TCDXA DX Grant Manager

Congratulations to Dave, W0RX!!!

Our Members Say

The Quest for Bouvet— 3Y0K

Working Bouvet Island, K4SAF and WØJMP

Although we have been hams for a long time, we have not always been serious DXers. I have been a ham since 1963 and Carol has been one since 1957 and, over those years, we have worked many DX stations incidentally but never had been bitten by the DX bug.

I retired in 1999 and made a “bucket list”. One item was to earn DXCC. It was surprisingly easy. That got me started.

Carol (K4SAF) started to get more interested in DX about 10 or so years ago. For both of us, “life got in the way”. Life included college degrees, marriage and family. Carol raised two sons and a daughter; I had a son. Our careers also took a lot of time. My career was with Hy-Gain and Telex (after Telex purchased parts of Hy-Gain). Carol was a teacher, mostly in high school but also adjunct faculty at Morehead State University here in northeast Kentucky. Carol and I were both “non-traditional” students We both earned undergraduate degrees, Carol earned two master’s degrees and I earned an MBA.

Carol and I married in February 2023. At that point, I had about 295 current entities worked and confirmed, Carol had about 270. Working 300 seemed out of reach for both of us.

I looked forward to the 3YØZ DXpedition led by Ralph, KØIR and others from the TCDXA in January 2018. As we know, that DXpedition never landed on the island because of bad WX and a ship failure. Those intrepid sojourners spent 31 days on rough seas to only see the island from a mile away: probably the longest mile in ham radio history.

Next was 3YØJ in 2023. They had a very difficult time getting equipment onto the island. We heard them on the first day and they seemed to be workable, but the pileups were huge. We had a planned short trip to Florida. We figured they would be completely set up, and piles would diminish somewhat when we returned home. But that was not to be, they cut the DXpedition short after a heroic effort. When we got back to Kentucky, they had ended the DXpedition.

Carol and I met Adrian, KO8SCA at the 2025 Dayton Hamvention. I chatted with him for a while in a food line. I told Adrian, “I hope we will work you on your next trip to Bouvet”. His response was, “No, you WILL work us on the next trip”. Adrian is always an optimist.

As we all know, one of the problems working this DXpedition from North America is the island itself. From the selected camp on the SE edge of the Island, the big block of volcanic rock is between us and them. The 3YØZ DXpedition planned to overcome that by setting up camp on the upper, NE side of the island.

That is why they needed two helicopters and a big ship. I think that would have been an easier path, but it was not to be. I suspect that rock is why many saw a better signal from 3YØK on long path. Rather than trying to get over or through the rock, the signal snuck in the back door.

Right off, we saw the best signals on 40 meters. We don't know for sure, but those may have been long path signals as we only have a dipole here for 40. Early on, we saw them on 40 FT8 with signals as strong as plus 04! We called and called and called through the monstrous piles, DQRMers and accidental QRMers. We were up most of the night. Our amp heated the shack up to 80 degrees even though the house thermostat was set at 70. We never logged them that night.

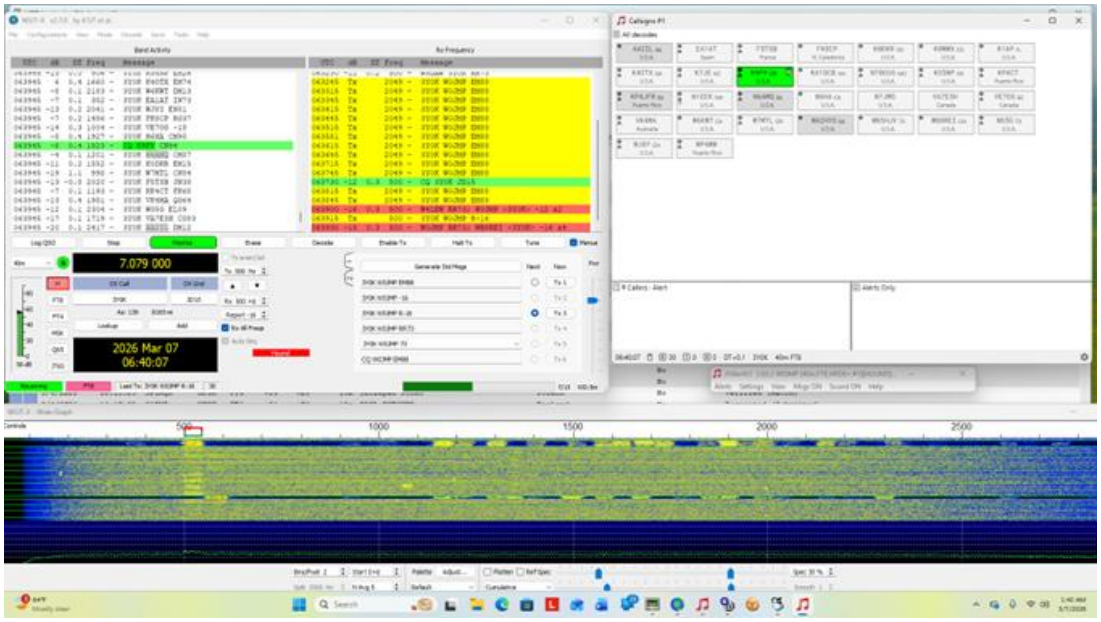
We decided to listen in shifts with K4SAF staying up late and me starting early. About 1:30 AM on March 9th, Carol woke me and said "I got um! Get in here and work them!" I was so groggy that I was not sure if I was awake or asleep. A few minutes later, I too had them in the log. What a rush!

A few days later on March 11th, in the afternoon, K4SAF worked them again, this time on 12-meter FT8. She called me and then I worked them too. What a great wife!!

The station here is a Yaesu FTdx101D into a KPA1500. Antennas are full sized dipoles for 160, 80, 60, 40 and 30 meters. The 160-, 80-and 60-meter dipoles are in an inverted vee configuration with the center on a 50-foot tower. The 30- and 40-meter dipoles are in a fan strung between our two towers, one at 50 feet and the other at 60. On 10, 15 and 20, we have a 3 element Mosley at 60 feet. A 3 element Cushcraft is our 12/17 antenna at about 65 feet. 5 Element Cushcraft is on top of the stack for 6 meters.

Of all the DX stations that we have in our log, this was the toughest one. I am sure we spent over 80 hours in front of the radio to get them on two bands, both FT8. We would have liked to also log them on CW but that didn't happen. We feel VERY fortunate to have them in the log at all.

Adrian was right, we DID work them.



I Was Lucky— Bill - AJ8B

I was lucky to get them on 40M FT8 and 10M CW. For some reason, when I dropped down onto 40M, there was a gap in the waterfall, and I moved squarely into that gap. It took 25 minutes, but I did get them. However, I had multiple events where they replied with my call once, but not again— Lots of wasted time!

For the CW QSOs, I used a trick that Joe, W8GEX, taught me quite a while ago. After it was obvious that I could not break the pileup or find gaps that I could call in, I went to spread plus 3. The frequency was 28.025, up 5. I watched for a bit and saw that the spread seemed to be 5 to 10. So, l called twice at 28.038 and got in the log. With my station, it was lucky, but I will take it!

K0KT

I feel fortunate to have worked 3Y0K on several new bands. 30, 40, and 80 meters seemed to be the best bands for Central NA, especially at and just after the 3Y0K sunrise. The 20 to 10 meter bands (where I use an OptiBeam Log-Yagi 16-5 at 72 feet) were much more difficult for me. I frequently heard many Europeans and some NA stations calling, but I could not copy 3Y0K at all. When I could copy, with just one exception, they were weak. I caught a long path opening at 1619 UTC on 17 meters, where they were a solid 579. I heard about the skew path toward Europe, but never copied 3Y0K from that direction. When on FT8, they were (when I could copy at all) running multi-stream (which was certainly part of the reason for the weak signals here). I kept listening on both FT8 and CW, but had reasoned (correctly, I think) that CW would be the best bet because of their multi-streaming on FT8. I worked them on 10 CW (SP at 1816 UTC) and 20 CW (LP at 1613 UTC), with weaker signals (barely Q5). One day they came back to me on 12 FT8, but I never got an RR73 and was NIL. A day or two later, on 12 FT8, they came back to me again; again, I did not get RR73 after three calls (on my original calling frequency). I moved my DF below theirs (following the usual F/H protocol), and then I finally got an RR73 after two more tries.

After you have collected all of the data, perhaps we can make some inferences about why working 3Y0K was so challenging for NA (only 16.89% of the QSO were with NA stations).

73, Bill K0KT

KA0LDG

My quest for an All Time New One (ATNO).

The search was on, the one we've all been waiting for, Bouvet Island – 3Y0K, 2026. Will it happen? Will the ship be ready? Operators dropping off the list – who will remain? Will the weather hold? Will propagation support signals to “the black hole of DX”? Will the helicopter be able to launch, carry supplies & people to the island, and recover safely? So many questions, so much anticipation.

After the last Bouvet DXpedition in 2023, which had its problems, 3Y0K was seen as a pipe dream to some and another brief hope of an ANTO for hams like me. With the internet “experts” weighing in seemingly every day in regards to the team's progress, I like a lot of hams, kept a close eye on things. Much to the chagrin of the naysayers, they made it and safely got established on the island.

March 1st , they're on the air and the hunt begins. Using resources such as Clublog, VOACAP, PSK Reporter, etc., and of course their website, I studied the best time for me to approach this quest. That best time was between 23Z and 07Z the next Zulu day – an eight-hour window of opportunity. The best bands were 30 & 40 meters which were concerning at best. My shack is composed of gear from the early 2000s: Icom IC-756 Pro 3 transceiver, Ameritron AL-80b amplifier, and a choice of two antennas; an 80M dipole at ~25 feet or a SteppIR Big IR vertical. The dipole was out of the question so the Big IR was going to have to earn its keep.

Along with most of you, I patiently watched the clusters and listened to the bands. Since I don’t consider my station a “big gun”, my approach to DXpeditions is to study them for the first half of their proposed time, then try to work them once the chaos subsides. Well, the chaos never subsided for obvious reasons. I never heard them on SSB, briefly heard them on CW once, so I knew FT8 was going to be my only chance. Since reception was poor for me, I never heard the massive pile-ups or DQRM that was being discussed online. There’s a lot of controversy over FT8 vs. other “traditional” modes of operations, but I look on it as just another tool in my toolbox to get Qs when CW or SSB won’t cut it.

The Quest for Bouvet— 3Y0 (cont.)

With information in hand, I stalked the 30 and 40 meter bands nightly looking for a break. I briefly got a couple of FT8 decodes on 30 meters on March 4th & 5th , but no luck yet. 30 meters was going to be a stretch for obvious reasons, so I stayed up later watching 40 meters. On 40, I got a couple of decodes as well, so I felt there was a chance yet. Sunday March 8th , my quest was achieved. I had been watching closely the last few nights and staying up later than usual for a chance and it came. The propagation gods smiled and I could see five, faint streams of signals being displayed on the graph. Next the "CQ 3Y0K" appeared and my blood pressure went up. After four calls from me, the red call from them returned – blood pressure getting higher. 30 seconds later the "KA0LDG RR73" was received and I was elated! At 05:52Z (11:52L), 40 meters, FT8, 3Y0K was logged! The signal report was: Sent = -11, Received =-04. Wow, pretty good for a guy in the "DX black hole" and a limited setup!

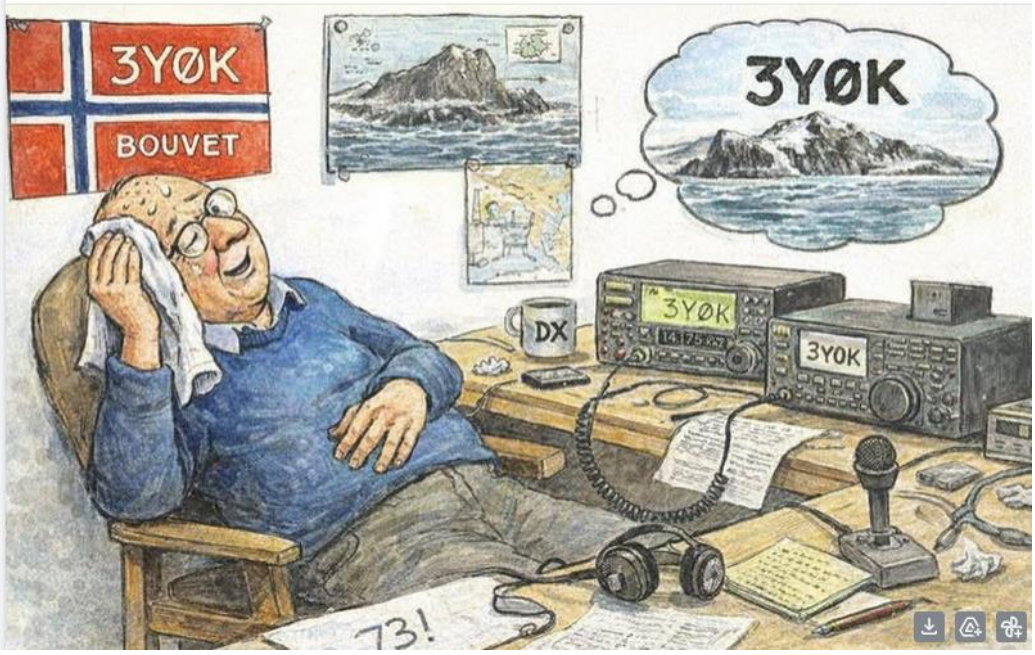
Well, as they say, "you're in the log"! Thankfully on Monday afternoon the logs were uploaded and my QSO was confirmed – ANTO! What a relief, as I know there were the usual pirates (slims) out there making problems and hopes disappear. I continued to hunt them until they packed up, but never heard them again, so lady luck shined on me for a brief moment. For the lucky ones that got 3Y0K, congrats, and for those who didn't, I'm sorry. Will there be a next time? Who knows...

What a great feat for the 3Y0K team and congratulations for their outstanding accomplishment. We should all be thankful there are hams who have the ability to go to such remote locations and give us all an ANTO or fill needed slots. Thanks to the TCDX Association's "Dollars for DX" that support DXpeditions such as Bouvet. Your continued support of TCDXA, ARRL, and other ham organizations is needed for all of us to continue to enjoy this great hobby. Good luck on the next DX all!

73, Kent, KA0LDG
Horace, ND

From NI0K

That moment when you finally log 3YØK... and your shack turns into a recovery room. Who else knows the feeling?



W0VTT

I was lucky to work both 3Y5X in 1989 and 3Y0J a few years ago on CW so all I needed were a few band fills. Most TCDXA members probably know how I feel about the FT modes. They are no fun at all, but I keep wsjt on my computer “for emergency use only”. 3Y 0K was spotted on 12m FT8, a band I needed, so I decided that constituted an emergency. They had good signals with a few streams but went QRT before I could make a QSO. The band was good; why did they suddenly quit?

I went to 24.890 and started tuning up the band. NV9L was calling someone on 24.898. I know Val is not a casual rag chewer and figured she was calling something good. I tuned back down the band, but couldn’t hear anything. Back on .898 I hear a weak signal under her; it was 3Y0K calling CQ. I go up one, give him a call, and he answers me. One call, no pileup. Call me a luddite, but even with all the electronic aids we have these days; the cluster, PSK Reporter, the Skimmers, I still prefer tuning the bands the old fashioned way. It doesn’t always pay off, but it’s a whole lot more fun than sitting there staring at the screen.

73, Mike W0VTT

FP5KE Saint-Pierre et Miquelon 2025 DXpedition

F2DX, Patrick Bittiger

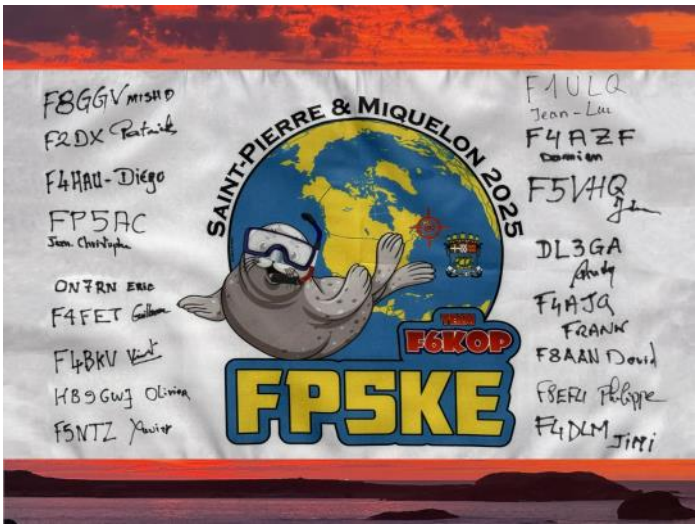
For the past 25 years, the Provins Radio Club F6KOP has organized a yearly DXpedition to a highly wanted destination. In December 2024, less than a month after returning from 9L5A (Sierra Leone), F2DX - who was known as FP5DX from 1988 to 1991 - got back in touch with his old friend FP5AC to plan a 16-operator expedition to Saint-Pierre et Miquelon.

From the very first discussions, the choice naturally fell on Île aux Marins, located close to Saint-Pierre but offering a good take off in every direction and far enough away from the city's radio noise. However, we needed to be fully self-sufficient in accommodation, power supply and logistics, which required even more meticulous preparation this year. The only rental house large enough to host such a team and offering enough space for all our antennas was Maison Marie-Ange. An initial contact was made in late 2024 with the local "Association de gestion du patrimoine".

Our team was quickly formed with 16 operators from F6KOP, all experienced DXpeditioners except for F4BKV for whom this was the first one with our group: F2DX (CW and leader), F1ULQ (SSB and co-leader), F4AJQ (DIGI), F4AZF (SSB), F4BKV (SSB and SAT), F4DLM (DIGI), F4FET (SSB and EME), F4HAU (SSB), F5NTZ (CW), F5VHQ (SSB), F8AAN (CW), F8EFU (CW), F8GGV (CW), DL3GA (CW), HB9GWJ (SSB and SAT) and ON7RN (CW). FP5AC was in charge of the enormous logistics workload.

Over ten months my exchanges with FP5AC multiplied as there were many issues to resolve like accommodation, supplies, power generation, and transport. "Every problem has a solution" is Jean-Christophe's motto, and we owe him the success of this expedition thanks to his dedication and his extensive network of contacts. Thanks to our solid reputation, many sponsors and individual donors offered their support, even though FP ranks only 104th in the most wanted DXCC entities.

FP5KE Saint-Pierre et Miquelon 2025 DXpedition (cont.)



We are very grateful to all of them, especially since costs were particularly high this year. At the last minute, for instance, we had to charter an Air Saint-Pierre plane to return to Newfoundland (a €7,400 expense), as the scheduled boat trip was cancelled. This was the only way to not to shorten the expedition.

In the latest months, our equipment was prepared, tested, and packed at F6KOP under the supervision of F5PBM while finances were meticulously managed by F5GVA and F5GSJ. This crucial work was carried out not only by the operators but also by several club members who were not part of the DXpedition team but were essential to its success.

Thanks to a 30-page document that I constantly update, each participant has access to all the detailed information, both logistical and financial, and also commits by signing a charter. Another important task this year was to compile an ATA (temporary export declaration) where everything is listed and numbered, from the transceivers to the smallest cable or tool. Since Saint Pierre and Miquelon has a special customs status, this official document will really simplify our trip with nearly one ton of equipment spread across about forty pieces of luggage (including five oversized bags for masts and antennas).

FP5KE Saint-Pierre et Miquelon 2025 DXpedition (cont.)

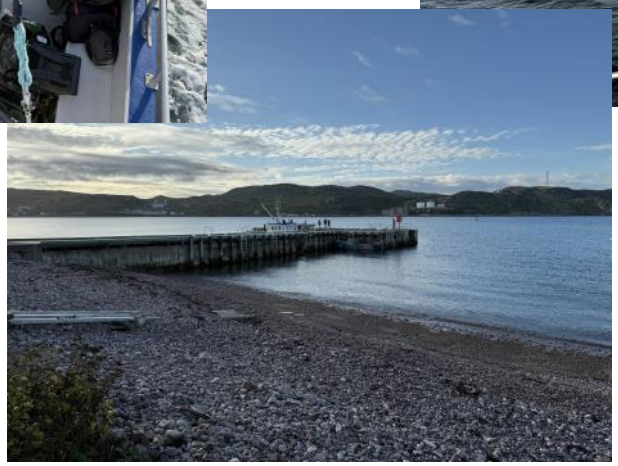
Those coming from far distances meet on September 13, 2025 evening at a hotel near Roissy. It's the perfect way to get into the spirit of the expedition. On the morning of September 14, we all meet at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris where F5PBM and F4JCT join us to deliver the one-ton shipment of gear. Everything has been carefully planned and everyone normally knows which bag they're responsible for, but F1ULQ and F8EFU systematically check that the distribution is correct (and will continue to do so at every stage). Then, our forty equipment bags must be cleared by Customs, as well as the sixteen personal bags of the operators but everything goes smoothly (thanks to the French Customs).

At 11:35 AM we take off for St. John's (Newfoundland, Canada), landing six hours later with a 4.5-hour time difference with France. After going through immigration, we head to the Air Saint-Pierre desk. The airline, one of our sponsors, kindly helps us with the check-in despite our large number of bags.

FP5KE Saint-Pierre et Miquelon 2025 DXpedition (cont.)

After a one-hour flight we fly over l'Île aux Marins and land at Saint-Pierre airport, but Murphy has joined the trip too: eleven bags including all the antennas and amplifiers were left behind in Canada due to the ATR -42 being overweight!

On the afternoon of September 14, after a short ride on a chartered bus, we arrived at the dock to board the "P'tit Gravier" ferry which was also privately chartered as the regular schedule didn't fit our needs. Ten minutes later we reach l'Île aux Marins and all the equipment is carried to our house one kilometre away, using a trailer and a small tractor. (Many thanks to Axel for his invaluable help).



FP5KE Saint-Pierre et Miquelon 2025 DXpedition (cont.)

FP5AC did the shopping in advance so we had everything we needed to pass the first two days. We had planned to set up all our antennas on September 15, but we didn't get the 11 missing pieces of luggage back until early afternoon but with another visit to the airport customs and an additional chartering of the boat, which increased our budget by another 250 euros.

Dominique and Franz had prepared stakes and electrical wire in Saint-Pierre several weeks earlier. On the afternoon of the 15th all coax cables and several antennas were installed until sunset while F1ULQ supervised the setup and configuration of the stations. We decided, however, to start operating only the next day once all twenty antennas were in place as we needed a well-rested team for that. At sunrise on the 16th, after a good night's sleep, the full team was back in the field under the supervision of F8EFU with whom I had previously defined the position of each antenna and the layout of our 1,000 meters of coaxial cable.

In the end we lost one night and an entire morning of operation since our first QSO was logged on September 16 at 17:44 UTC (13:44 local time). We will now have to double our efforts as our goal remained to reach 100,000 contacts. From that moment, each operator simply had to follow the operating schedule carefully prepared by F8EFU (and his YL Martine!) and give their very best.

Unfortunately, the house's diesel generator supposedly rated at 15 kVA only delivered about one-third of that! FP5AC immediately took the point and, thanks to the well-known solidarity of the Saint-Pierre community, managed to find two backup generators the next day. We operated this way for a few days until an electrician from Saint-Pierre came to make the proper connections on the main three-phase generator (thanks Stéphane and Jean-Patrick).

FP5KE Saint-Pierre et Miquelon 2025 DXpedition (cont.)

However, to protect it and avoid any bad surprises, we decided to run our eight stations at reduced power during the entire stay.

As soon as their HF shifts were over, F4BKV and HB9GWJ, our two satellite specialists, went on the hunt for QO-100 even climbing a large rock to get the best possible angle. But after many attempts from various spots around the island it became clear that with a negative elevation of 3.2°, we would never be able to reach QO-100. Still, there was some consolation: 118 QSOs were successfully made via low-orbit satellites.

F4FET, our EME specialist, who built and brought along an ultra-light 12-element 144 MHz antenna of only 3.4 kg, set up in a small shed near the house and began his “ bagpipe “ sessions, while still doing his HF shifts which remained the priority. During our stay, 56 QSOs were made via the Moon, quite a good result for F6KOP’s first attempt at EME during a DXpedition.

FP5KE Saint-Pierre et Miquelon 2025 DXpedition (cont.)

In charge of communication, photos and video, I try to fly the drone as often as possible but it's almost always close to stalling as the wind ever blows on Île aux Marins. It would stay like that during the entire stay, except for half a day when the best aerial footage was finally captured.

Each day, one operator is assigned to kitchen duty and household tasks. When supplies are needed, that person must also take the regular ferry to Saint-Pierre, where FP5AC takes care of transportation. We also made an arrangement with the "Association de gestion du patrimoine" (which manages both the house and the island's only restaurant, usually closed at this time of year) for their chef to prepare our lunches. (Many thanks to Christophe for his kindness and the variety of his dishes).

We regularly receive visitors, including the local press and television who closely follow our expedition. Several great articles, reports, and even live broadcasts are produced. Whenever we go to Saint-Pierre, it's impossible to go unnoticed as everyone has heard about the radio amateurs on Île aux Marins. The local gendarmerie command, representatives from the Prefecture, a school group, and several residents of Saint-Pierre also came to visit us, curious to learn more about amateur radio.

FP5KE Saint-Pierre et Miquelon 2025 DXpedition (cont.)

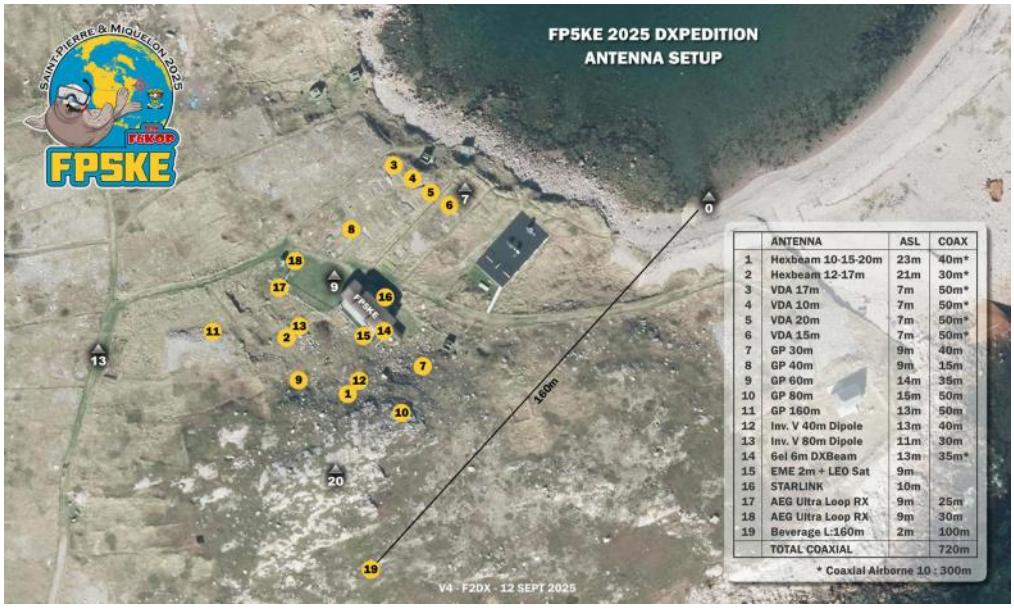
Outside operating hours, the team members take the opportunity to explore Île aux Marins which I personally can hardly recognize after 35 years, as most of the wooden houses have since been beautifully restored. The island is amazingly well maintained. The colourful houses are mainly occupied during the summer and on weekends. Only about ten “ pieds rouges “ (red feet) live there for most of the year, and we quickly form strong bonds of friendship and mutual help with them. In the evenings, Maison Marie-Ange turns into a warm and lively meeting place, where we share a good locally brewed *Miqu’ale* beer, but radio traffic never truly stops with at least six operators always on the air.

For comfort, the house is well equipped with plenty of room for our eight HF stations, all set up at a good distance from the shared living area. We brought our own sleeping bags, and the operators sleep upstairs in three dormitory-style rooms. Water management, however, requires strict discipline as rainfall has been scarce this year and the storage tanks are far from full.

FP5KE Saint-Pierre et Miquelon 2025 DXpedition (cont.)

It is naturally agreed that everyone will take only a very quick shower (in the only bathroom with hot water) at most every other day.

For the low bands, we set up quarter-wave verticals on 30, 40, 60, 80 and 160 m, and two inverted-V dipoles for 40 and 80 m. On the high bands, we deployed two Hexbeams which, thanks to a triplexer on one and a duplexer on the other, allow us to operate all five high bands simultaneously. These are supplemented by four monoband VDAs.



	ANTENNA	ASL	COAX
1	Hexbeam 10-15-20m	23m	40m*
2	Hexbeam 12-17m	21m	30m*
3	VDA 17m	7m	50m*
4	VDA 10m	7m	50m*
5	VDA 20m	7m	50m*
6	VDA 15m	7m	50m*
7	GP 30m	9m	40m
8	GP 40m	9m	15m
9	GP 60m	14m	35m
10	GP 80m	15m	50m
11	GP 160m	13m	50m
12	Inv. V 40m Dipole	13m	40m
13	Inv. V 80m Dipole	11m	30m
14	6el 6m DXBeam	13m	35m*
15	EME 2m + LEO Sat	9m	
16	STARLINK	10m	
17	AEG Ultra Loop RX	9m	25m
18	AEG Ultra Loop RX	9m	30m
19	Beverage L:160m	2m	100m
	TOTAL COAXIAL		720m

This setup gives us two antennas on each HF band, enabling true *in-band* operation (two stations working simultaneously on the same band in different modes). This is made possible by adequate antenna spacing, opposite polarization, and band-pass filters. For low-band reception we added three highly effective antennas: two Vertical-Array loops and a 160-meter Beverage, using a kit supplied by SO9I Engineering.

FP5KE Saint-Pierre et Miquelon 2025 DXpedition (cont.)

Contrary to the propagation forecasts prepared by F4HAU and VOACAP, we were pleasantly surprised by excellent openings on 10 m and 12 m allowing us to log 14,000 QSOs on each of these two bands.

With a storm approaching, we definitely left Île aux Marins on 26 September, a bit sooner than planned and spent the night in a hotel in Saint-Pierre. On the morning of the 27th, we boarded our " private plane " to St. John's (Newfoundland, where the airport security staff kindly provided us with a locked room to store all our luggage. We spent the day in St. John's before our flight to Paris, scheduled for the middle of the night.

A true pilgrimage for radio amateurs, we were determined to visit Signal Hill, the legendary site where Guglielmo Marconi received the very first transatlantic radio transmission. Welcomed by Chris VO1CH and Frank VO1HP we even had the privilege of taking turns operating VO1AA, the official Signal Hill station located inside the Cabot Tower. The day continued with a tour of St. John's and several nearby locations.

FP5KE Saint-Pierre et Miquelon 2025 DXpedition (cont.)

In 9 and a half days on the air, FP5KE logged a total of 131,604 QSOs across 164 countries, averaging 13,850 QSOs per day (577 per hour). Our goal of prioritizing human-operated modes was met, as of 60% of the log. Our only disappointment was the complete lack of propagation on 6 meters despite having a well-positioned 6-element antenna. By comparison, during 9L5A last year in Sierra Leone, we logged 4,000 QSOs on 50 MHz.

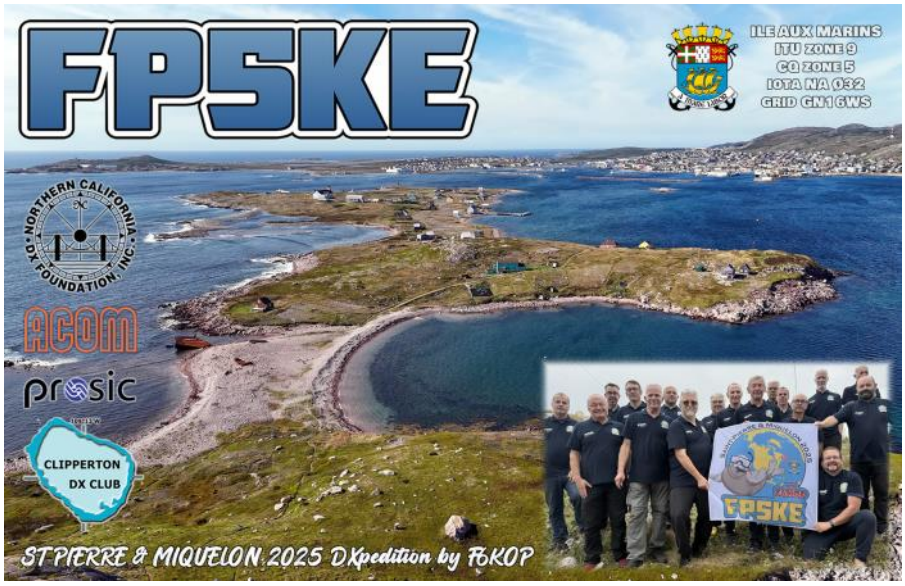
We are pleased to report that we have experienced no equipment failures. The expedition was fully equipped with Acom amplifiers which proved to be reliable and robust from start to finish and we thank both ACOM and PROSIC for their support.

Beyond the extensive preparation, the equipment deployed, the experienced operators and the operating strategy, one crucial factor is the harmony within the group, especially when fatigue arrives. In this regard, once again this year it was a complete success, and not by chance.

You can watch the DXpedition film at the following address: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3DOw2gdB1Y and you can find more information about the DXpedition by visiting our website: https://fp5ke.wordpress.com

F2DX, Patrick
Team leader FP5KE

FP5KE Saint-Pierre et Miquelon 2025 DXpedition (cont.)



W4DXCC

DX & Contest Convention

SEPTEMBER 19th, 2026

KB4C SEDCO W4DXCC

LeConte Hotel and Convention Center

(formerly The Mainstay—where it all began...)

410 Pine Mountain Road

Pigeon Forge, TN, 37863

Hotel Reservation 865-428-8350

www.W4DXCC.org

. . . to bring DXers and Contesters together in fellowship

Flea Market 8am-12pm behind the Hotel

Convention Starts 8am till 4pm

What is AI and What can I do with it?

By Bill Salyers, AJ8B

Most of us have been overwhelmed with advertising and articles describing AI, what it can do, and how it might affect our lives. I thought it was time to share some information on this technology.
For the typical user, AI "engines" can be accessed via a website or an app. There are several free AI tools that you can use including ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and Grok. If you are a Microsoft Office user, you may have been introduced to Copilot. For the sake of this article, we will discuss ChatGPT.

What we are not going to do is to deep dive into what makes AI work, Large Language Models, and other buzzwords.

To start with, What Can ChatGPT Do?

ChatGPT is great for:

- ✍ Writing (emails, essays, stories, scripts)
- 📚 Explaining concepts (math, science, history, tech)
- 💡 Brainstorming ideas (business names, content ideas, solutions)
- 🎓 Studying and tutoring
- 💻 Coding help (examples, debugging, explanations)
- 🌍 Translation and language practice
- 📋 Summaries and rewrites

Think of it as a general-purpose helper, not an all-knowing oracle.

How do you Start Using ChatGPT?

1. Open ChatGPT (www.chatgpt.com) in your browser or app
2. You will see a query box, something like "What can I help with?"
3. Type your question or request
4. Press **Enter** (or send)

That's it—you're already using it.

The correct way to ask a question or request information (known as **the prompt**) is the real trick to using ChatGPT. The quality of the answer depends on how you ask.

For instance, this would be an example of a Vague prompt:
"Explain Ham Radio."

Here is a better prompt:
"Explain Ham Radio to a junior high student in simple terms with examples."

Here is an even better prompt:
"Explain ham radio to a 45-year-old person with a professional background with examples."

Try it – the difference is amazing!

The difference between this and just using a search engine like google is that google will return items that it finds on the web where ChatGPT creates content for you.

At the end of the answer, you can click a link to copy the answer to the windows clipboard, have it provide further research, create a presentation, or even create images.

Here are a few tips for strong prompts to return better results.

- Be Specific
- Give Context
- Say what format you want (list, steps, essays, table, etc.)

Here are some common prompt examples

Asking for explanations
"explain a superheterodyne receiver like I am 12 years old ."
Writing help
"Rewrite this paragraph to sound more friendly."
Learning & studying
"Describe two ways to learn morse code"
"Quiz me on ham radio, one question at a time."
Coding
"Write a simple HTML page with a button."

You can reply back to the results you get to help to refine the answer in the prompt window. You don't have to start over if the answer isn't perfect.

In the prompt window, you can say:

- "Make it shorter"
- "Explain it more simply"
- "Give me more examples" (ChatGPT remembers the context of the conversation)

Here are a few things to keep in mind if you use ChatGPT

⚠ **ChatGPT is not perfect**

- It can make mistakes
- It may sound confident even when wrong
- Always double-check important facts

🔒 **Privacy tip**

- Don't share passwords, personal IDs, or sensitive private info

🕒 **Knowledge limits**

- It may not know very recent events depending on the model and settings

Best Practices

- Treat it like a collaborator, not a calculator
- Ask follow-up questions
- Experiment with different ways of asking
- Use it to learn *how* to think, not just *what* to answer

Example: A Full Interaction

You: "Help me write a resume summary for a junior software developer."
ChatGPT: (Provides a draft)
You: "Make it more confident and shorter."
ChatGPT: (Improves it)

That back-and-forth is where ChatGPT shines

Final Thought

ChatGPT works best when you're curious, specific, and willing to iterate. There's no "perfect" prompt—just better conversations.

You probably guessed it, I used ChatGPT to compose this article. Below is the final text that I got from ChatGPT.

"If you want, I can also:

- **Tailor this tutorial for kids, teachers, or workplaces**
- **Turn it into a slide deck**
- **Make a one-page cheat sheet**

Just say the word 👍"

ChatGPT Example

By Bill Salyers, AJ8B

Below is what I entered in the Prompt field:
"Compare and contrast wire antennas for the 160-meter ham band"

Here are the results— May be right or may be wrong, but here is what I got:

"Below is a practical, wire-antenna–only comparison for the 160-meter (1.8–1.9 MHz) band, focused on what hams can realistically build, how each antenna behaves, and where each one excels or disappoints on Top Band.
I'll stay away from towers, aluminum verticals, and exotic arrays—this is wire in trees, on masts, or near the ground."

Why 160-meter wire antennas are challenging

- Wavelength ≈ 530 ft
- Most wire antennas are electrically short
- Height is usually < 0.15 λ
- Radiation angle and ground losses dominate performance
- Many wire antennas are excellent on receive but mediocre on DX transmit

Major Wire Antenna Types for 160 Meters

1. Half-Wave Horizontal Dipole (~260 ft total)
2.

Description - Two ~130-ft wires fed in the center, typically 40–70 ft high.

Pros

- Simple to build
- No radials or ground system
- Predictable tuning
- Good regional coverage

Cons

- High takeoff angle at realistic heights
- Weak DX performance
- Needs significant horizontal space

ChatGPT Example (cont.)

Radiation pattern

- Mostly straight up (NVIS-like)
- Poor low-angle radiation unless >130 ft high (rare)

Best for

- Ragchewing
- Regional nets
- Backup antenna

Bottom line: Works, but often disappointing for DX on 160 m.

2. Inverted-L (Vertical + Horizontal Wire)

Description - A vertical wire (30–70 ft) with a horizontal top wire extending outward.

Pros

- One of the best wire antennas for 160 m DX
- Vertical section produces low-angle radiation
- Horizontal section adds top loading
- Much easier than a full vertical

Cons

- Needs radials or counterpoise
- Asymmetrical pattern
- Needs at least one tall support

Radiation pattern

- Strong low-angle component
- Directional favoring the horizontal leg

Best for

- DX-oriented stations
- Properties with trees

Often the best “performance per foot” wire antenna on Top Band.

3. T-Antenna (Top-Loaded Vertical Wire)

Description - A vertical wire with two (or more) horizontal wires forming a "T" at the top.

Pros

- More symmetrical than an inverted-L
- Better current distribution than base-loaded vertical
- Lower loss than short verticals without top loading

Cons

- Mechanical complexity
- Requires multiple supports or spreaders
- Still needs radials

Radiation pattern

- Low-angle, fairly omnidirectional

Best for

- DX with limited height
- Stations that can support top wires

Electrically excellent, mechanically harder than an inverted-L.

4. Full-Wave Horizontal Loop (~530 ft)

Description - Closed loop (square, rectangle, or irregular) fed with ladder line or coax + tuner.

Pros

- Very quiet on receive
- No ground system
- Multi-band capable with tuner
- Robust and forgiving

Cons

- Very high radiation angle
- Large physical size
- Weak DX performance on 160

ChatGPT Example (cont.)

Radiation pattern

- Strong overhead radiation
- Some broadside lobes, but still high-angle

Best for

- RX performance
- Regional QSOs
- Noise-limited locations

Excellent listener, average talker on Top Band.

Performance Comparison Table

Antenna	TX DX	RX Noise	Space	Complexity	Notes
Dipole	Poor–Fair	Good	Large	Low	High angle
Inverted-L	Excellent	Moderate	Moderate	Low–Mod	Top wire helps
T-antenna	Very good	Moderate	Moderate	Mod–High	Symmetrical

Key Takeaways for 160-Meter Wire Antennas

- **Vertical current is everything** for DX on 160 m
- Horizontal wire antennas excel at **RX**, not TX
- Top loading dramatically improves efficiency
- Ground systems matter even with wire antennas
- RX antennas often provide bigger gains than TX upgrades

If you want, I can:

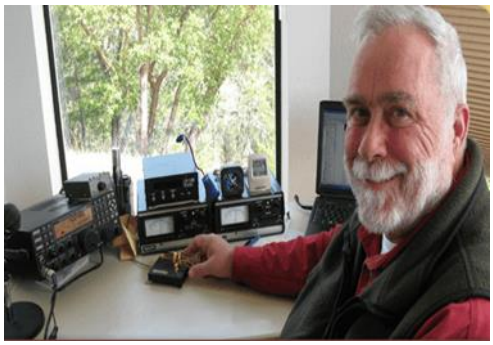
Compare inverted-L vs your current vertical

Help design a wire RX antenna that fits your property

Rank antennas specifically for DX vs ragchew vs contest use

Q: How do we amateurs explain the fascination of amateur radio DXing? A: Very Badly!

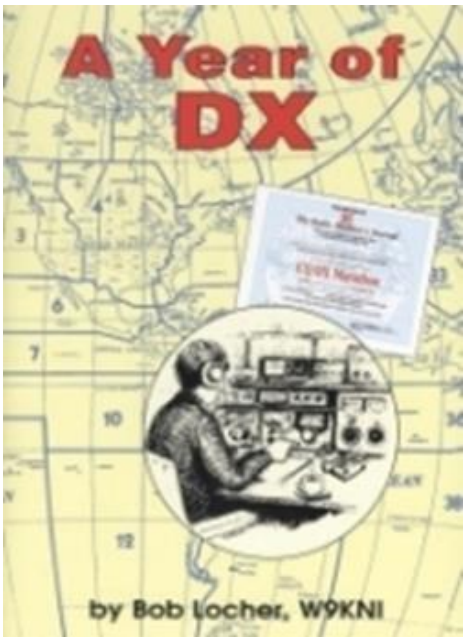
I have shared this section of the book, A Year of DX by Bob Locker, W9KNI, with many young DXers. It never fails to inspire them. With Bob's permission, I thought it might be entertaining for us as well!



As committed DXers, we know why we love DXing, right? Of course, we do but we invariably stumble badly when we try to put the reasons for our love into words, even in trying to explain it to ourselves. When we try to explain the fascination of DXing to non-DXers, generally we really screw up we rarely if ever get it right.

Now, up to a point, maybe this is a good thing if we did get it right in explaining it to outsiders our bands would be overrun. But on the other hand, most hams today would agree that we need more people using our bands, especially younger ones, and to help make this happen we must sell what we have. And to sell what we have we must first understand what we have.

So, what is it that makes us erect towers and antennas, structures we see as beautiful, but others see as eyesores? What gets us out of warm beds on cold mornings well before sunrise when we otherwise do not need to? What strange and special magic makes us study to take tests, learn an antiquated and otherwise essentially unused communication methodology, spend considerable sums of money. develop strange friendships world-wide, all-in hopes of accomplishing something that would appear to be child's play via a cell phone or the Internet?



But we do use the mails, phones, and Internet! We use them to communicate with people we first met over the air, and as tools for our pursuit of DX. Indeed, some of the best DXers in our amateur DXing community are extremely clever engineers; engineers who designed and implemented the cell phone concept. Other active DXers designed the equipment and protocols that make the Internet something taken for granted today. And these people among us, brilliant engineers, remain active DXers to this day. But of course, it is not only engineers that are DXers -far from it. As we know, DXers come from all walks of life, and you certainly need not be an engineer to be a successful DXer.

Why DX? (cont.)

Using a cell phone or the Internet is like flying. Anyone can fly for the price of a ticket. You pay, get on the plane and it takes you there and lets you off. You flew. No fuss, no bother. No adventure.

Or you could be a pilot and fly your own plane. To do that, you need to study, and learn how to fly. You must pass tests. Being a private pilot is one of only two avocations that require a federal government issued license that is acquired by passing tests. And guess what the other one is? Right amateur radio!

Flying yourself somewhere becomes an adventure, very different indeed from sitting in row 17 in the middle seat.

In the front of the plane, you are alive; you control the plane, you see mountains, oceans, deserts. In row 17 you are asked to pull the shade for the viewing convenience of those passengers who paid for the headset to see the crummy movie. But yes, you indeed CAN use your cell phone to call Tibet - when the flight attendant tells you that use of cell phones is now permitted.

So, what then is the special magic of ham radio DXing? For active DXers, it is not about radios we do tend to love our radios, and comparing our gear with others, but our equipment, the towers and transceiver, the Yagis and the amps, are the tools we use for DXing, our portals to adventure and the world. And that is the real reason we love them.

DXing, if we will give it the chance to be, is adventure, high adventure. And how do we define "adventure"? One good definition is: "An adventure is an endeavor for which the outcome is uncertain." That is what can happen any time we turn on our rigs and start digging into the noise. We have no idea of what we are going to find.

Unlike telephones or the Internet, DXing is always an uncertain endeavor. We simply do not know what we will find when we put on the headphones. Bands may be unexpectedly dead, mediocre in one direction and better in another, or red hot in all directions. Spotting nets give hints and clues, but until we start listening for ourselves, we don't really know what we might find. The unknowing is a major part of what makes DXing an adventure.

We must give DX operating the chance to be adventure. When you turn on your rig you must at the same time open your mind to the possibilities, and not just those called out on the DX Spotting Nets. The ritual of putting on your headphones leaves behind the mundane world and its worries, and you take on a new mantle, indeed, a new persona. You become the stalker in the night, listening to the plaintive signals of a station on some island half a world away. No one knows you are listening on frequency, ready to call if you desire or not, instead deciding to move on to another frequency, another station, hunting for your prey.

Why DX? (cont.)

Perhaps you are on Dawn Patrol, shivering in the half- light of an early winter morning, sipping at that first cup of coffee, carefully tuning the band for signals expected and unexpected, picking through them, seeking for what you know not. But you will know it when you find it!

The radio waves of the world wash over you, bringing to your ears the thoughts and words of strange and exotic places, of great cities and remote settlements. Signals reach us from valleys surrounded by mighty snow-covered mountains, from atolls in mid ocean, Asian deserts, Antarctic islands, South American jungles.

An open band offers the possibility of adventure at every kilohertz. Shamelessly, we eavesdrop on the words and thoughts of stations in contact with other stations, both stations often thousands of miles away. Much of what we overhear is mundane, even boring, talk of weather and of equipment being used, of an operator's age, of years licensed. But we hear so much more of tropical monsoons while we sit snow-bound, of starry nights while we endure rain and fog. Reports of cholera or drought, of children born, of old friends lost. The world is calling us, talking to us, if only we are there to hear it.

Anyone who has made the effort to get a license and get on the air is already something of a hero. They are doing something to improve their lives, expanding their horizons, learning new things, and making new friends. Adventure waits them and they are eager to experience it. They are enlarging their lives. Good for them - and they are us!

A major part of the magic of DX we create ourselves, using our imaginations. Consider a parallel example. You read a novel you find fascinating. You really identify with the characters; while you are reading it you live their lives, see through their eyes, think their thoughts.

Then the movie comes out. You see the film, and so often you are disappointed - the characters simply do not fit the identities you had already formed in your mind for them. The beauty of the novel is often the world your mind created for the background to the plot, a world based on a combination of your experiences, your knowledge, and your imagination. But when you then see the movie the world you imagined is lost when overrun by the movie.

A radio contact can be much the same as reading the novel. You work the station, hearing his or her signal come back to you. You come to form an image of the operator and their surroundings in your mind's eye. Perhaps it is close to reality. More likely it is not and who cares? If you never meet the operator or see a photo of same, your mental image is as good as any. And should you meet him or her, your mental images will be instantly corrected. More to the point though, you have in your mind images of where he or she lives, what the climate and terrain are like, what the economy in the station location is about etc.

Why DX? (cont.)

Very possibly you have seen pictures of the area your contact is in, or at least the parts of the country that are interesting, be they of mountains, sand dunes, trees, or pretty girls in local garb. The beautiful four color QSL cards that so many amateurs are using these days often further those impressions. QSL's don't typically show the neighborhood surrounding the local bus station. Instead, you see photos of the highlights of the area. The travel and the QSL photographs you are likely to see show the tourist highlight and the beauty of the country, not the bad parts. We DXers are radio tourists.

When you work a DX station, this is part of the adventure. Your mind is drawn to some place you did not particularly expect when you put the headphones on. I work an English station, I think of green hills, I think of London with red telephone boxes and double-decker buses. I work a Scottish station, bagpipes and shortbread cookies come to mind, not to mention fine whisky and misty hills, with a background chorus of "Flower of Scotland." I work a Norwegian, I think of icy fjords and long winters. I work an Argentinean, I think of the Andes, of gauchos and steaks, of Tierra del Fuego. Working the Antarctic Island of South Georgia is always a special treat I think of high mountains ringing a remote harbor, and the great Explorer Ernest Shackleton's grave. And then there is Easter Island ...

Adventure almost always involves a journey. But journeys, especially those to exotic places, frequently involve days or weeks of tiresome, boring travel mixed in with the adventure. Ham radio DXing gives us instant journeys to far lands.

Anytime I make an interesting contact, I make an effort to find out more about the place I worked when the contact is finished. I keep several atlases, both definitive reference works, and a smaller desk atlas that can be easily accessed during an interesting QSO, and often check look up the location of the station I worked on the map. A true adventurer, even of the armchair variety, is someone who can get a thrill looking at a map.

There are many other resources available as well that offer interesting information. For one, you can check out a call you worked on www.qrz.com. The site will usually have the name and address of the station you worked, further details of his license, perhaps his Internet address, and very possibly a picture selected and posted by the amateur in question, as well as some personal details.

For details about the town and the country of the station you worked, you can access Wikipedia: <www.wikipedia.org>, then type in the name of the city or country.

Why DX? (cont.)

A station capable of working DX then is the ultimate ticket to armchair adventure. Every time we power up the rig and slip on the headphones on we begin a new experience. You don't know where the bands will take you, or whom you will meet, and it may turn out to be nothing but a bust - or it may turn into high adventure ... I was tickled. I had just worked an ST2 station in the Sudan for a very good catch indeed for the CQ Marathon, and a native operator to boot. I walked from the shack into the kitchen to join my wife. I lifted my hand, shaped like an imaginary revolver, and blew imaginary smoke from the end of my finger, then dropped my hand to the invisible holster. My wife watched all that, and then asked, "Who did you get?"

"You are addressing Bob of Khartoum." Such is the magic of DX that we are addicted to. Here are some suggested books for DXers who, like the author, are out and out romantics. None of these works have any significant content of ham radio, but they all deal with adventure. I cannot imagine any reader finding them boring.

- Wind Sand and Stars by Antoine de Saint-Exupery
- Spirit of St. Louis by Charles A Lindbergh
- Night Flight by Antoine de Saint-Exupery
- Trustee From the Tool Room by Neville Shute
- All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy

Anything by Rudyard Kipling, with an understanding that much of it is by today's standards politically incorrect, but, that said, great fascinating stuff by one of the finest writers ever to use the English language.

I would be remiss if I did not draw the reader's attention to one special endeavor designed to attract younger people to the joys of amateur radio and DXing. I refer of course to the Radio Arcala project being spearheaded by very committed Finnish DXers. Our Finnish brethren are working very hard to attract the interest of young people, exploring several approaches to capture interest. They recognize that young people would find it impossible in many cases to establish or even visit a traditional station.

So, they are studying a variety of ways to remove such entry barriers and introduce the radio experience to young people by utilizing the World Wide Web and meeting young people at their regular hangouts.

I do urge the reader to look at this at their website: http://www.radioarcala.com/ The Finns' effort on this project deserves our applause and support, not to mention increasing our own efforts to develop new younger radio amateurs.

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/sponsoreddxpedtions.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	3DA0RRU	7P8RU	VU4W	CY0S	ZL7/K5WE
TN8K	3B7M	FT8WW	TX5S	VU7W	3Y0J
					CY9C

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

DXPedition destination
Ranking on *Most Wanted Survey*
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
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/