

# San Diego DX Club Bulletin

November 2024



## MEETING PROGRAM

There will be no meeting program in November.

## MEETING NOTICE

There will be no meeting in November or December. In their place, please join us at the Holiday Party on December 15 at the Brigantine Seafood Restaurant in Poway, CA.

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**President:**

**Rob Reichman, WA3IHV**

**Vice President/Pgm Chair:**

**Bud Hennessy, AE6BH**

**Secretary:**

**Bob LaRose, W6ACU**

larose@shortwaves.com

**Treasurer:**

**Brian Roberts , KN6MJK**

Brian.Roberts.01@gmail.com

**Past President:**

**Miguel Rivera, KJ6YXI**

**Board of Directors:**

**Lou Poanessa, KW6Q**

**Danny Floyd, WB6FWS**

**Contest Results:**

**John Barcroft, K6AM**

k6am@arrl.net

**"TOP 10":**

**Glen Christensen, AI6RR**

iam.gchrist@gmail.com

**Webmaster:**

**Glen Christensen, AI6RR**

**Historian:**

**Glenn Rattmann, K6NA**

(760) 749-3936

k6na@cts.com

**Bulletin Editor:**

**Bob Farkaly, K9RHY**

(619) 602-2653

bob@farkaly.com

k9rhy@arrl.net

## From the Prez . . .

*Rob, WA3IHV*

Holiday season is upon us. As many of you recall, we do not hold a General Membership Club Meeting in November as it is so close to Thanksgiving Day. CQ Worldwide CW contest is on the weekend of November 23, 2024, just before Thanksgiving Day on November 28.

The SDDXC Holiday Party is set for December 15 1-4 PM at the Brigantine in Poway. This will be an exciting party as the Club is honoring Terry Baxter N6CW with the Hall of Fame Award. Terry has been a Club member since 1960. In addition, he obtained 6 Meter DXCC before the advent of FT8! Come to the party to join in our honoring of Terry. The URL for signup is <https://SDDXC-2024-Holiday-Party.rsvpify.com> At this website you may choose your entrée. Appetizers and dessert are included. My apologies to the Radio Sportsman in the Club that may miss a few hours of the ARRL 10 Meter contest which is also scheduled for December 14-15.

SDDXC has been around since 1949. It is important to keep the Club thriving with new ideas and new members. If you know of any hams looking for a top flite club with A1 operators and mentors recommend our Club.

This past week the Southern California DX Club voted to dissolve the Club as there were NO nominees for president or vice-president. Their Club has been in existence for 77 years. Their last official event will be their Holiday Party on December 7. If you know any SCDXC members, encourage them to join our Club. With the advent of Zoom meetings remote attendance is made possible and everyone is welcome.

Happy Thanksgiving, gud DX, best 73. Hope to see everyone on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Brigantine.

*Rob, WA3IHV*

# LIFE IS SIMPLE



## SDDXC YouTube Channel

Recordings of monthly meetings are available on the San Diego DX Club YouTube channel.

[\(1201\) San Diego DX Club - YouTube](#)

## Secretary's Report

Bob, W6ACU



### SDDXC Meeting Minutes October 23, 2024

Meeting began at 6:30PM at Elijah's Deli in Claremont Mesa.

There were 15 people in attendance and 9 on Zoom. We welcomed a guest, Quinn Lacey, KI6LAT.

The very interesting and informative presentation was by Brian Moran, N9ADG, on "How NOT to get in the log". He gave us tips on proper on-the-air etiquette to avoid upsetting DX stations to the point that they will not answer our calls.

After the presentation we had the usual roundtable.

Door prizes for attendees were as follows:

W6KIN - Jerry. Won a six-pack of ale

K6RSH - Steve. Won Chocolate chip cookies and Hershey Kiss pack

N6KI - Dennis. Won a bottle of wine.

A recording of the meeting and presentation can be found on our SDDXC YouTube Channel.

Bob, W6ACU

## SDDXC Bulletin Archives

Past issues of the SDDXC Bulletin (240 in all) are available on the Club website at:

<https://www.sddxc.org/docs/newslist/>

## Board Meeting Minutes

Bob, W6ACU



### SDDXC Board Meeting November 11, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President, Rob Reichman, WA3IHV. Also in attendance were Brian Roberts, Lou Ponanessal, Steve Handrop, Jerry Sanford, and Bob LaRose

**Brian Roberts** advised that he will be moving to Texas in the next few months.

#### October General Meeting

This month's presentation will be "How NOT to get Into the Log" by Brian Moran N9ADG. Bud is to get a more complete description for the Newsletter.

#### Contribution to DX Marathon

After much discussion about the contribution policy of the club (we only make DXpedition contributions through the Northern California DX Foundation), it was decided that this was a little different and the Board approved a \$100 donation to DX Marathon Organization through Mark Wohlschlegel, WC3W. They will make a presentation at a club meeting shortly after the New Year.

#### Merch Store

Now open for business at <https://sddxc.goldmedalideas.com/>

Lou Ponanessal is to write some directions for ordering to be included in the Newsletter.

#### Holiday Party

- a) The date is confirmed as Dec 15, 2024 1-4 P.M.
- b) It was agreed to pay the roughly \$840 deposit to the Brigantine.
- c) Bud is reviewing the contract and went back to the Brigantine with several questions.
- d) Their holiday menu has not yet been fixed. We are pushing them to finalize so we can get the information to members to save the date and make their menu selections.
- e) We are asking to see if Gayle and Mike can use their eVites/PayPal subscription.
- f) We are also asking Gayle and Mike to make the table name again.

#### Treasure's Report

Brian said that the current balance as of 9/30 is \$4,692.84 with the holiday party expense coming up. The complete report will be in the Bulletin.

#### Video Camera for Meetings

With Brian leaving, Jerry suggested that the club buy a camera and PC similar to the ones that Brian has been using to record the meetings. Jerry is to investigate the cost.

#### Meeting Recordings on Zoom

Brian and Jerry noted that it is taking a long time for the meeting videos to upload to Zoom so that Bob can later download to YouTube. Bob is going to investigate.

Bob, W6ACU

# SDDXC Treasurer's Report

Brian, KN6MJK



## November 2024

### INCOME:

\$328.21 Christmas Dinner Payments

### EXPENSES:

\$100.00 Donation to DX Marathon

\$840 Christmas Party Deposit to The Brigantine

AVAILABLE CASH BALANCE 10-31-2024: \$4081.06

Brian, KN6MJK

## Turkey, Turkey, When's the Turkey?

I wanted to make sure my thinking about the November and December SDDXC meetings were on the right frequency, so I asked for confirmation. Here's the best answer I received (by far the best!).

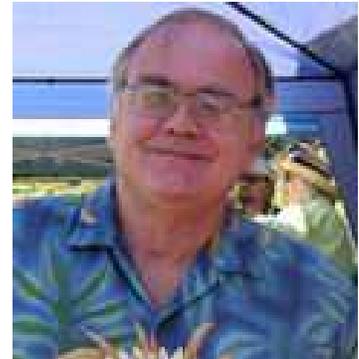
So Bob, I see why I was a confused newbie in 2013...

I joined SDDXC in the summer of 2012, a year where Nov 1 is on a Thursday, therefore Thanksgiving happened the week before the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, so indeed there was a meeting in November of 2012. This did not occur again until 2018, meaning 2024 would have been the next occurrence except for it being a leap year causing it to skip this year... The next occurrence of a Nov-1 happening on a Thursday is in 2029...

73 – Bud AE6BH

# SDDXC Contest Results

*John, K6AM*



## SDDXC RESULTS 2024 ARRL DX SSB CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
M/S	ZF1A (K6JO K7ZO W9KKN ops)	7,818,900	7,847	335	#1 WORLD
SO HP	N5ZO	2,721,516	2,526	362	#2 SW DIV, #13 US/VE
SO HP	K6NA	551,232	710	261	#5 SW DIV
SO HP	W6JBR	78,588	224	118	#12 SW DIV
SO HP	K6ZH	21,735	115	63	

*John, K6AM*



## From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



Since this is the season for giving thanks, I'd like to say a big "thank you" and tip my hat to the SDDXC members who contribute their time and efforts every month to help me bring this Bulletin to you, my fellow members.

In particular, I'd like to thank and acknowledge the contributions made every month by John, K6AM. Every month since I started as your editor in November 2009, John has been there for all of us with his pithy summary and comments about the most recent SDDXC member contest results. What a great job, John, and my sincere thanks for being there for myself and the membership.

This month's **From the Editor** column is based on an excerpt from an email I received from Bob, W6ACU with an accompanying and approving email from Rob, WA3IHV.

"At the BOD meeting Rob suggested that we try to include the excellent article from Oct 2024 on Solar Cycle 25 in the next newsletter. I contacted Frank and he said that he was personally was unable to give us permission since he gave rights to ARRL. In checking on the ARRL web site, their policy would appear to allow us to use it. A pdf of the article is attached for club purposes. Rob has approved it (see below).

As an outcome of our discussions with Frank, he will be giving us a presentation on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

That article is reprinted on the following pages.

73, Happy Thanksgiving and gud DX,

Bob, K9RHY



# What to Expect from the Solar Cycle 25 Surge



The highest sunspot activity since 2002, combined with revolutionary advances in digital communications technology, make this the most productive solar maximum ever for HF operators of every license class, especially for those using low power in challenging environments.

## Frank Donovan, W3LPL

This article provides insight into how the solar maximum greatly enhances HF and 6-meter propagation and provides practical advice about capitalizing on solar maximum propagation over the next 2 years and maybe more. Written from a North American operator's perspective, its general principles apply globally.

HF operators during the Solar Cycle 25 solar maximum often focus on the dramatically improved 12- and 10-meter daytime global propagation that began in January 2023. However, solar maximum also greatly enhances 40- through 10-meter nighttime propagation. Enhanced day and night solar maximum propagation is expected to continue for all license classes through 2026. Figure 1 shows NASA's sunspot number forecast through 2032.

HF operators benefit from the increased sunspot activity and the revolutionary advances in digital communications technologies such as FT4 and FT8 that provide good communications under weak-signal conditions. The new technologies opened global HF DXing to operators with even the most basic HF

stations, especially when operating under challenging conditions.

Fully automated DX spotting networks such as PSK Reporter and DX Maps capitalize on very high levels of global FT4 and FT8 activity to provide all HF and 6-meter operators — regardless of mode preference — with unprecedented real-time knowledge of global propagation. The Reverse Beacon Network provides similar capabilities for digital and CW operators. Spotting networks can also provide real-time reports of how well an operator's transmissions are being received globally.

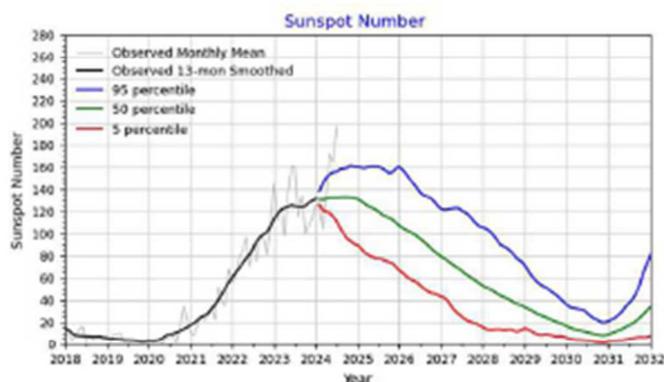
Activity alerting services such as HamAlert provide automated real-time notifications when specified stations are active, making tedious manual searches for call signs, DXCC entities, CQ zones, etc., no longer necessary.

## 10- and 12-Meter Propagation

Ten- and 12-meter global propagation improved suddenly and dramatically beginning in January 2023. Both bands provide reliable global propagation from dawn through at least early evening most of the year, except during the annual 3-month summer decline of the F2 region maximum usable frequencies (MUFs).

Reduced F2 region MUFs that significantly degrade 10- and 12-meter propagation every summer are unrelated to the solar maximum. Instead, reduced summer MUFs are caused by seasonal high-altitude hemispheric winds blowing atoms and molecules from the dayside to the nightside F2 region. Strong winds in the northern hemisphere from mid-June to mid-October significantly deplete the volume of essential oxygen atoms, which are one of the most important sources of atoms and molecules needed for ionizing the F2 region, and the resulting elevated MUFs.

Ten- and 12-meter horizontally polarized antennas only 20 feet high produce adequate low-angle radiation



**Figure 1** — This graph shows NASA's sunspot number forecasts from August 8, 2024. This graph is updated monthly through 2032. The unexpected July and August surge in sunspot activity is likely to produce future sunspot activity corresponding to the blue curve or perhaps much higher. Visit [www.nasa.gov/solar-cycle-progression-and-forecast](http://www.nasa.gov/solar-cycle-progression-and-forecast) for more information and updates before the 10th of every month. [Photo courtesy of NASA]

to support reliable global communications. However, similar antennas at that height for other HF bands do not produce sufficient low-angle radiation for reliable global communications.

US Technician-class licensees are authorized to operate in the bottom 500 kHz of the 10-meter band, providing excellent opportunities for worldwide DXing. By using alerting services such as HamAlert, DXCC and other awards can be easily achieved using modest stations during the next 2 years.

### 15- and 17-Meter Propagation

Reliable 15- and 17-meter global propagation is expected to occur from dawn to late night during most days through 2026, after which both bands will gradually become mostly daytime bands. Low power is particularly effective on 17 meters because stations using high power and large antennas are less prevalent than on 15 and 20 meters.

### 20-Meter Propagation

Twenty meters has been the workhorse day and night DX band for 100 years. Since 2023, solar maximum has improved global propagation so much that it's now nearly a 24-hour DX band during most of the year. Unfortunately, 20 meters is a poor DX band during summer midday hours, especially during the solar maximum years. From several hours before noon until several hours after noon during most summer days, the ionosphere's much lower-altitude E region reflects 20-meter propagation mostly to ranges less than 2,200 kilometers (1,300 miles). This prevents propagation to the high-altitude F2 region necessary for almost all 20-meter global propagation.

### 30-Meter Propagation

Solar maximum combined with FT4 and FT8 digital communications radically transformed 30 meters into a major global DX band. Global propagation begins several hours before sunset and continues throughout the night until several hours after sunrise almost every day of the year. Low power is particularly effective because few 30-meter stations use more than 100 W, and large, high antennas are not widely used. Low power and simple antennas will continue to provide excellent global coverage nearly every night of the year through 2026, after which middle-of-the-night global propagation will gradually degrade.

### 40-Meter Propagation

Forty meters has been the workhorse nighttime DX band for 100 years. Solar maximum transformed it into an exceptionally reliable DX band from dusk

throughout the night until after sunrise. Solar maximum almost eliminated the propagation dropouts that occur frequently during winter nights throughout the solar minimum. Forty meters is particularly effective for low-power DXers because high power and large antennas are not in as widespread use as they are on 20 meters. Low power and simple antennas provide excellent global coverage every night of the year throughout the 11-year solar cycle.

### 80-Meter Propagation

Eighty-meter global propagation is moderately degraded during solar maximum years. Late nights continue to provide excellent propagation opportunities, particularly during the hours near midnight and for about an hour before sunrise, especially from November through February. Low power and simple antennas produce surprisingly good global coverage during many late nights in the winter. Global 80-meter propagation will gradually improve as solar maximum begins to wane after 2026.

### 160-Meter Propagation

Global propagation on 160 meters significantly degrades during solar maximum years. Although global propagation occurs regularly from November through February, only operators with efficient vertically polarized antennas can usually capitalize on it. Many operators overcome degraded 160-meter propagation by using FT8 digital communications. Global propagation will gradually improve as the solar minimum approaches in about 2030.

### 6-Meter Propagation

Six-meter propagation greatly benefits from the solar maximum from October through April during strong solar cycles. While Solar Cycle 25 has so far produced only very infrequent transatlantic 6-meter F2 propagation, 6-meter DXers should be alert for the likelihood of transatlantic F2 propagation from late October 2024 to February 2025 if sunspot numbers persist significantly higher than 200 for about a week or more. Figure 2 includes the Sunspot Index and Long-Term Solar Observations' (SILSO) estimated daily international sunspot numbers for July and August 2024 and the average monthly international sunspot number for August 2024.

Transequatorial propagation (TEP) from the northern to the southern hemisphere occurs frequently during solar maximum from late March through early May and less frequently from late October through early November. Stations in the Caribbean, Central America, and occasionally those in the southern tier of the US

states experience strong TEP much more frequently than those in northern locations. Northern stations propagate into the southern hemisphere only when more northern sporadic-E or F2 propagation couples them into TEP propagation.

### Basic Antennas for Global HF and 6-Meter Communications

Simple horizontally polarized antennas such as half-wave dipoles, end-fed half-wave (EFHW) antennas, or unobstructed quarter-wave verticals can provide global DX contacts every day of the year throughout the 11-year solar cycle. The minimum recommended heights of horizontally polarized half-wave dipoles, EFHWs, and Yagi antennas capable of providing adequate low-angle radiation for reliable global communications are listed in the table below. Doubling these heights is not necessary, but it will significantly improve their low-angle performance.

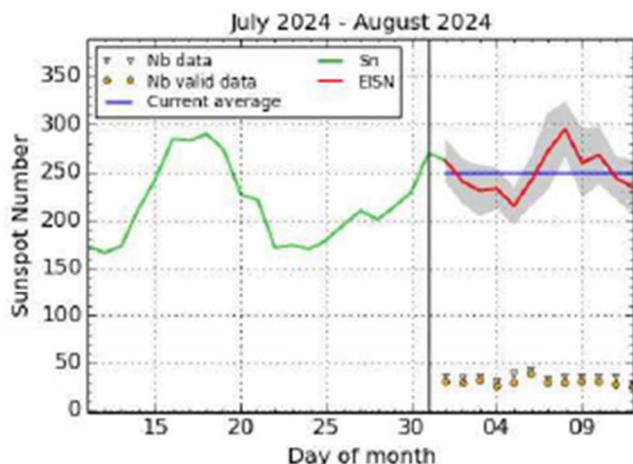
Minimum Recommended Heights of Horizontally Polarized Antennas	
Band	Minimum Height
10 meters	20 feet
12 meters	20 feet
15 meters	25 feet
17 meters	30 feet
20 meters	35 feet
30 meters	45 feet
40 meters	50 feet
80 meters	50 feet

Horizontally polarized antennas for 160 meters perform poorly at any height for global propagation, while inverted-L or vertical antennas with at least 40 feet of vertical wire are much more effective. Inverted-L and vertical antenna performance is improved significantly by increasing the length of their vertical wire to about 70 feet.

Six-meter vertically polarized antennas are poor DX antennas. A small Yagi on a 20-foot mast can make many DX contacts (see Joe Reiser's, W1JR, article "Simple, Small 2- and 6-Meter Yagis" in the June 2024 issue of *QST*). Its performance can be improved significantly by raising its height to as much as 50 feet. Small, lightweight Yagi antennas ideal for portable operations are particularly effective when installed only 20 feet high over sloping, unobstructed terrain.

### Further Reading about Antennas and Propagation

ARRL's book *Here to There: Radio Wave Propagation* presents the principles of radio propagation in an



SILSO graphics (<http://sidc.be/silso>) Royal Observatory of Belgium, 2024 August 12

**Figure 2** — The red and green curves show the unexpected surge in daily sunspot numbers for July and August. The blue line shows the average sunspot number for August. Visit [www.sidc.be/SILSO/eisnplot](http://www.sidc.be/SILSO/eisnplot) for more information about the estimated international sunspot number and frequent updates of this graph. [Photo courtesy of SILSO]

easy-to-understand style. The propagation chapter in the 100th edition of *The ARRL Handbook* is a superb source of detailed propagation information. The 25th edition of *The ARRL Antenna Book* is the ultimate source for basic and detailed antenna information.

I'd like to offer a special thank you to my article reviewers John Dorr, K1AR; Domenic Mallozzi, N1DM; Thomas Greenwood, W1ER; Joseph Reiser, W1JR; Rick Miller, N1RM; Jim Pierson, Jr., N1SZ; Nicholas Elias, N3AIU; Thomas Valenti, K3AJ; Michael Cresap, W3IP; Michael Dodd, N4CF; Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, and Daniel Hausauer, W0CN. They provided valuable comments that made this article much more useful to readers.

#### See QST in Depth for More!

Visit [www.arrl.org/qst-in-depth](http://www.arrl.org/qst-in-depth) for the following supplementary materials and updates:

- Record High Solar Cycle 25 Solar Maximum Sunspot Numbers Impacts

Frank Donovan, W3LPL, began his ham radio adventures at age 12 during the Providence Radio Association, W1OP/1, 1959 Field Day. His multioperator teams have made more than 1 million DX contacts in CQWW and ARRL DX contests. Frank contributed to the updated propagation section of the 100th edition of *The ARRL Handbook*. He retired 13 years ago as a chief engineer at General Dynamics Corporation. He can be reached at [donovanf@erols.com](mailto:donovanf@erols.com).

For updates to this article, see the QST Feedback page at [www.arrl.org/feedback](http://www.arrl.org/feedback).



## Our House Almost Burned Down!

By *Jim*, K6ZH

Friends,

As you may have heard, there was a major brushfire in our neighborhood on Halloween. It got **\*really\*** close to our home. Had it not been for the SD Fire Department, both on the ground and in the air, many of the homes in our neighborhood, including ours, would be ashes at this point.

We are relieved, but we DO have quite a bit of burned trees, fences, out-buildings, etc. to deal with –

Jim & Joan





The San Diego DX Club has just opened an online apparel and accessories online storefront accessible via the SDDXC website at <https://sddxc.goldmedalideas.com/>

San Diego DX Club web store offers a variety of unique products tailored for members and friends of our DX Club. The store's goal is to provide high-quality items that reflect the spirit of our DXing community.

In the store, you will find exclusive merchandise, including apparel, accessories, and collectibles. Each item is designed with care to ensure that you can showcase your passion for the San Diego DX Club wherever you go.

<https://sddxc.goldmedalideas.com/>

Amy Kritzman, WB9URU

Gold Medal Ideas, Inc

847-478-0041, ofc

847-361-7361, cell

1160 Thompson Blvd

Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

[www.goldmedalideas.com](http://www.goldmedalideas.com)



# Join Us!

Holiday Get Together

December 15, 2024

1:00 to 4:00

Entrees:

NY steak

Swordfish

Chicken cordon bleu

cauliflower steak (vegetarian option)

Cost is \$30/person

Signup at:

<https://SDDXC-2024-Holiday-Party.rsvpify.com>



# Club Log DX Report for November, 2024

## Most active bands

Band	QSOs	% DX	Graph
160M	12,399	15.93	
80M	59,115	20.49	
60M	15,371	31.59	
40M	169,491	31.61	
30M	61,440	52.01	
20M	177,099	38.77	
17M	57,905	64.43	
15M	134,353	57.20	
12M	79,275	69.28	
10M	230,146	68.79	
6M	10,781	56.08	

## Active expeditions

Callsign	DXCC	Last QSO	# QSOs	% Unique
3D2Y	ROTUMA	2024-11-24 08:08	15,522	36.30
E51SGC	SOUTH COOK ISLANDS	2024-11-24 06:03	48,111	32.99
ZL7IO	CHATHAM ISLAND	2024-11-22 00:03	43,027	35.88
3D2USU	FIJI ISLANDS	2024-11-21 04:54	233,698	27.60
5H8HZ	TANZANIA	2024-11-20 17:45	15,829	64.90
S9Z	SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	2024-11-20 07:05	52,242	29.00
VK9CV	COCOS (KEELING) ISLAND	2024-11-14 23:30	105,789	24.78
HP1PAR	PANAMA	2024-11-11 19:55	2,603	63.08
JD1BLY	OGASAWARA	2024-11-10 00:36	93,649	34.58
FJW6HGF	SAINT BARTHELEMY	2024-11-07 15:11	6,582	57.37
J68HZ	SAINT LUCIA	2024-10-30 03:09	343,985	19.42

Rank	Prefix	Entity Name
1.	P5	DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
2.	BS7H	SCARBOROUGH REEF
3.	CE0X	SAN FELIX ISLANDS
4.	BV9P	PRATAS ISLAND
5.	KH7K	KURE ISLAND
6.	KH3	JOHNSTON ISLAND
7.	FT/G	GLORIOSO ISLAND
8.	3Y/P	PETER 1 ISLAND
9.	FT5/X	KERGUELEN ISLAND
10.	YV0	AVES ISLAND
11.	3Y/B	BOUVET ISLAND
12.	ZS8	PRINCE EDWARD & MARION ISLANDS

## Most active modes

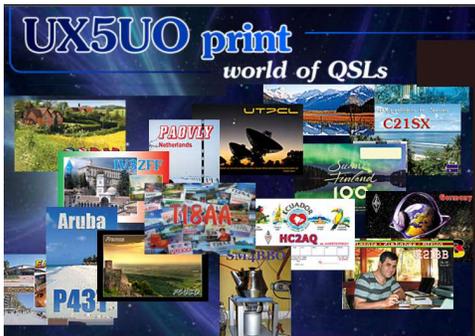
Mode	% Use	QSOs	Graph
FT8	58.96	599,562	
CW	19.11	194,355	
SSB	12.15	123,550	
FT4	9.03	91,811	

## Solar activity

Date	SFI	A	K
2024-11-24	200	8	1.00
2024-11-23	179	12	1.67
2024-11-22	166	8	1.67
2024-11-21	163	8	1.67
2024-11-20	157	8	2.67
2024-11-19	165	4	2.00
2024-11-18	146	8	0.67



**Many Thanks to our Supporters, Friends and Sponsors**  
**We are pleased to recognize the many businesses that help contribute to the success and vitality of the SDDXC**



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