San Diego DX Club Bulletin

February 2025

Meeting Program

The February2025 Meeting Program will be presented by by Frank Donovan, W3LPL. His topic will be "What to Expect from Cycle 25!"

Meeting Notice

The February 2025 SDDXC meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 starting at 6:30 P.M. PST at Elijah's Restaurant located at 7061 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard as well as on Zoom. Come early for social hour and dinner.

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From the Prez . . .

Rob, **WA3IHV**

Winter time is in full swing in San Diego but without the rain. We were spared from the majority of the wild fires but not the winds. Typically, the next few months are antenna building/rebuilding periods for our damaged antennas.

Despite our best efforts, our email list will periodically be hacked by scammers trying to extricate money from club members. Neither your Club Officers nor your Board of Directors will ever send out an urgent request for payments such as gift cards. If you should receive such a request IGNORE IT! A tipoff is the sending name or callsign may seem appropriate but the originating email address does not match the email address for the officer or BOD.

Band conditions have been pretty good with V73WW Marshall Islands, 5N9DJG Nigeria, T77LA San Marino, and VK9XU Christmas Island heard on the bands, just to name a few.

The ARRL International DX Contest SSB will be held on the weekend of March 1. This is an easy contest to operate and should bring out some rare countries.

Cycle 25 is in full swing. This month's program will be presented on Wednesday February 26 by Frank Donovan, well known DX'er, Contester, and owner of super station W3LPL. His topic will be "What to Expect from Cycle 25!"

We hope to see everyone at the meeting on the 26th.

Rob, **WA3IHV**

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

Please refer to the YouTube recording of the January 2025 SDDXC meeting for questions and/or comments about the meeting. The link to the meeting recording is:

https://youtu.be/VF4Ec6CRNTs

Bob, **W6ACU**

SDDXC Bulletin Archives

Past issues of the SDDXC Bulletin are available on the Club website at:

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

Board Meeting Minutes

Bob, **W6ACU**

SDDXC Board Meeting February 10th 2025

Meeting started at 7:00 PM by President, Rob Reichman. All Officers were present.

EMAIL HACK – Several members received Emails that were hacked to show that they came from Rob. This was apparently due to a data leak/hack at the SCDXC. We all need to be mindful of any Emails that we receive on club business and verify the actual address it is sent from and any requested actions.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Report presented. Brian noted that 15 people have yet to renew for 2025 and there are two people that have not yet paid for the Holiday Dinner, He is in contact with all parties. Any payments that come by check will be given to Bob, who will get them to Randy for deposit.

Brian has the two large club-owned coolers in his storage and arrangements are being made to get them to Bud, who has agreed to store them until we decide on the ultimate disposition.

Rob is going to be sending the latest club roster and meeting announcement to Ed Shrine to include on the web site.

VISALIA International DX Convention (APRIL 11-13) – Rob discussed the Email he received from Art Rizzi, President of the NCDXC about encouraging people to attend to make sure that the convention continues to be viable. Art said that many rooms are still available at the Convention Rate of $159.

GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM (February 26th) – The presenter at the meeting will be Frank Donovan, W3LPL, with the topic "What to expect from Cycle 25". Bud is confirming and getting a bio and short summary for the bulletin.

Bob, **W6ACU**

SDDXC Treasurer's Report

Brian, **KN6MJK**

JANUARY 2025 REPORT FIGURES *(Full Month)*

INCOME:
$200.00 - Membership Dues
EXPENSES:
None

CASH BALANCE 01-31-2025: *$3887.74*

Brian, **KN6MJK**

SDDXC Zoom Meeting Notice

The SDDXC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

The Zoom session can be accessed after 6PM PST and the meeting starts at 6:30.

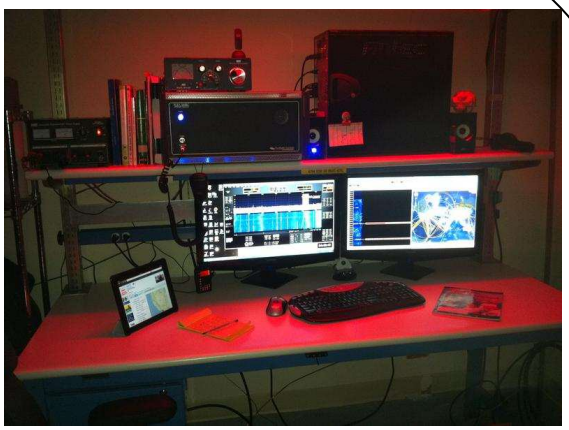
https://zoom.us/j/2973510648?pwd=ZzFSVzhKME9EbXUyRjdJTEQrb1g1Zz09&omn=92981494302

If the link doesn't work for you go to Zoom and enter this information:

Meeting ID: 297 351 0648
Passcode: 394011

Meeting Program

Bud, **AE6BH**



SDDXC Meeting February 26, 2025

February's presentation will be by Frank Donovan, W3LPL.

Frank's presentation will expand on the topics he covered in his October QST article including:

- What to expect during the next year of solar cycle 25
- Antenna suggestions for DXing and contesting during solar maximum

Frank's summary bio:

Frank Donovan, W3LPL, began his ham radio adventures at age 12 during the W1OP/1 Providence Radio Association 1959 Field Day. His multi-operator teams have made more than one million DX contacts in CQWW and ARRL DX contests. Frank was a contributor to the updated propagation section of the 100th edition of the ARRL Handbook. Frank retired 13 years ago as a chief engineer at General Dynamics Corporation. His 45 year career focused on electronics and systems engineering of spacecraft constellations and payloads, processing and dissemination systems and all aspects of their interactions with their environment.

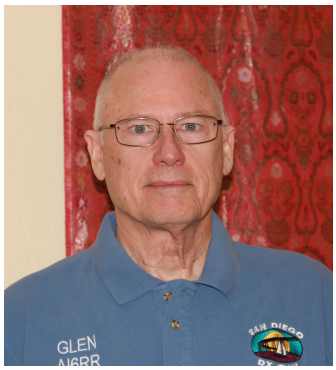
Frank can be reached at donovanf@erols.com

See you there or in person!

Bob, **W6ACU**

SDDXC DX Standings

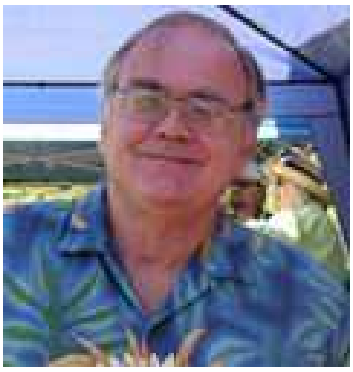
Standings are available on the SDDXC website at San Diego DX Club (sddxc.org)



Glenn, **AI6RR**

SDDXC Contest Results

John, **K6AM**



2024 CQ WPX PHONE DX CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
SO HP ALL	**NT6Q (N5ZO remote @WA6TQT)**	9,133,665	3,148	1,145	#1 W6 #11 US/VE
SO HP ALL	**NA6TT (K6NA op)**	3,176,870	1,728	815	#4 W6
SO HP ALL	**N6KI**	556,668	573	329	#15 W6
SO HP ALL	**W6JBR**	62,431	196	149	
SO HP ALL	**ND7K* (N6MJ @N6WIN)**	15,960,718	4,890	1,382	#4 US/VE #16 WORLD

***Non member honorable mention**

John, **K6AM**

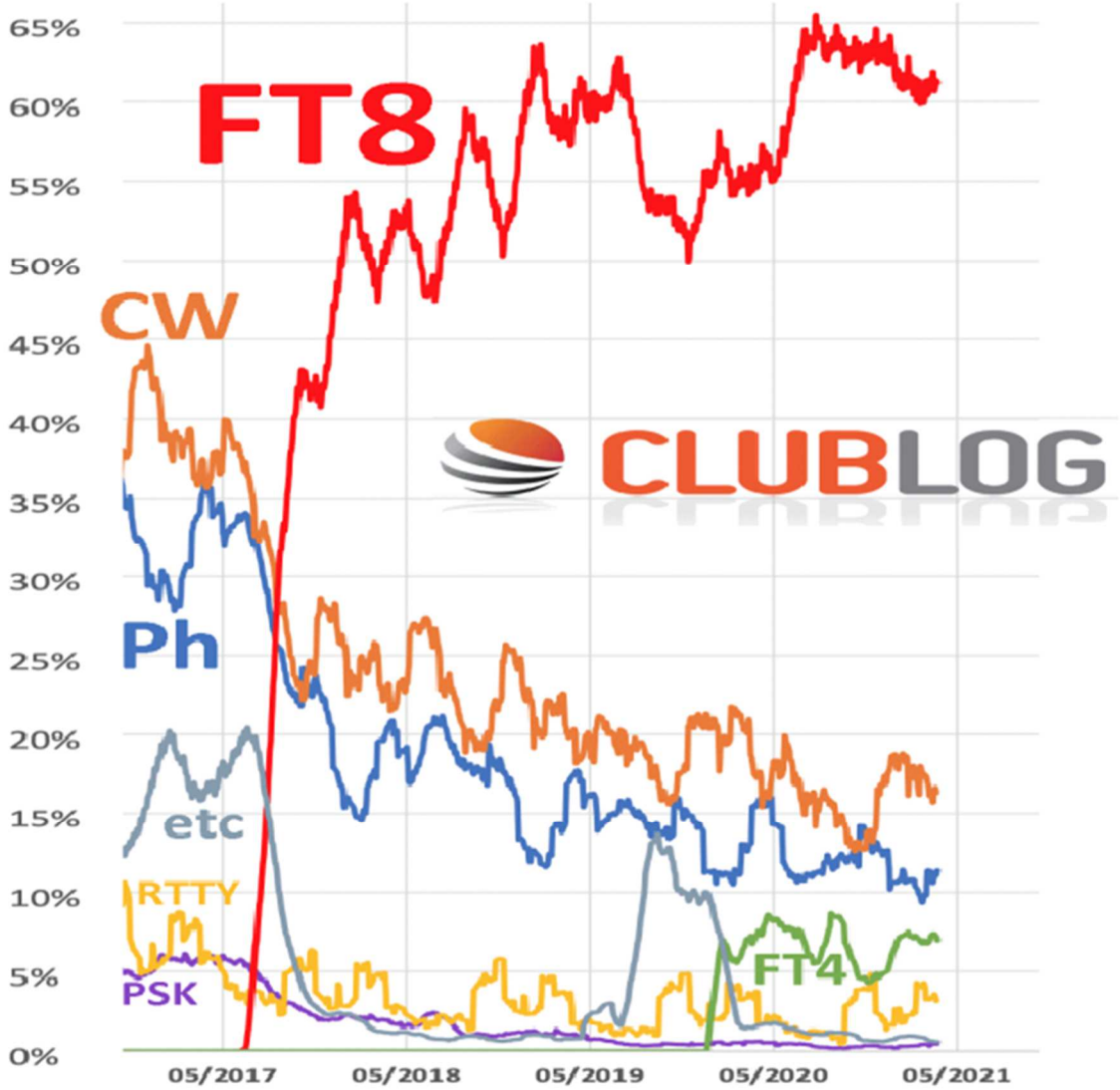
From the Editor

Bob, **K9RHY**

What's Happened to DXing and Contesting?

I first described the rise of FT8 as the dominant mode for DXing back in September 2023. I guess it remains safe to say that FT8 remains the dominant mode for DXing today, far outdistancing CW and SSB by a wide margin. Indeed, Clublog, which generates and maintains statistics covering monthly DX-related activity, showed that in all of 2024, FT8 represented 66.6% of all DX activity followed at a distance by CW at 21.2% and SSB at just 12.2%.

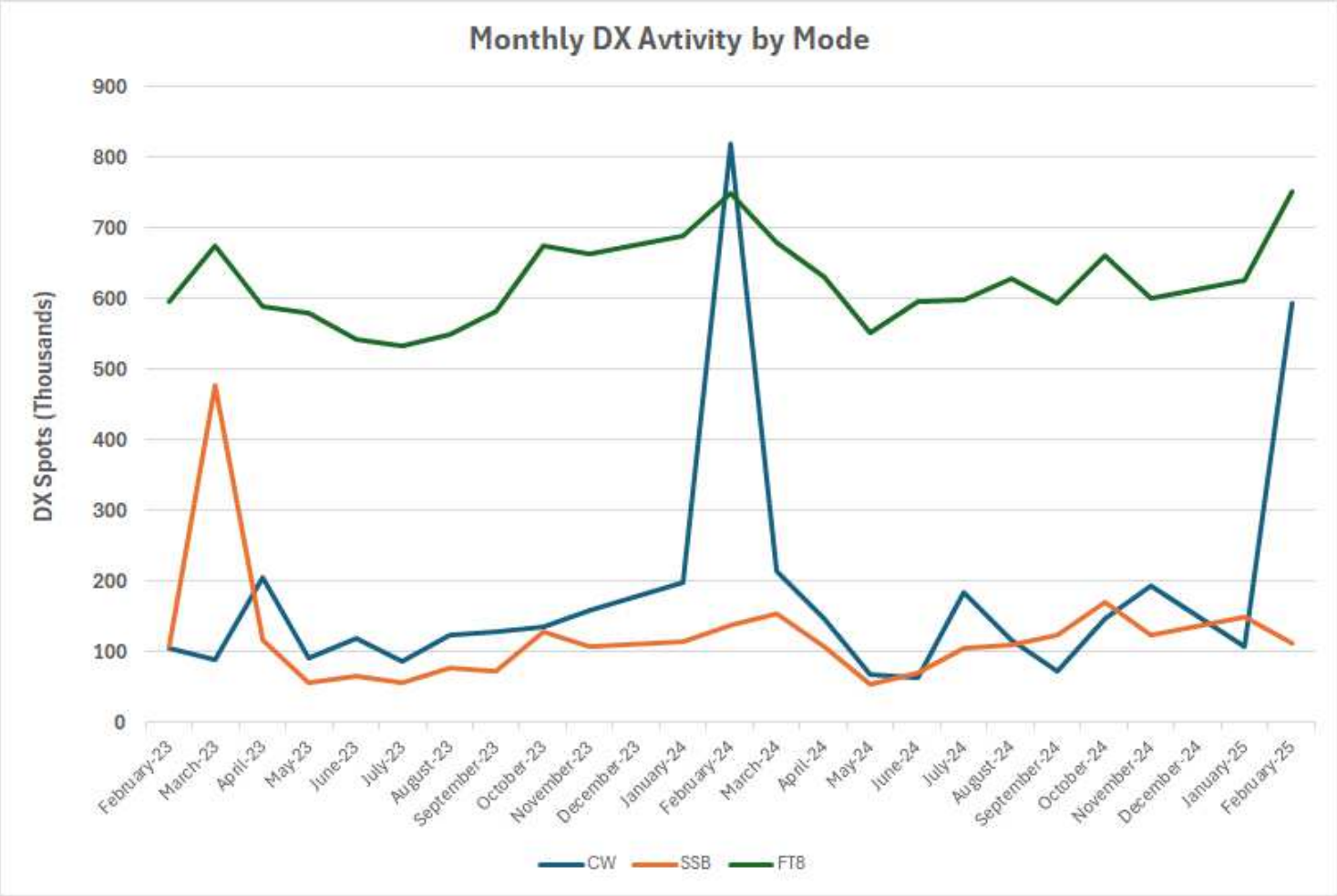
Figures don't lie. FT8 has been the dominant DX mode today and has been since 2017. Here's the chart I first published in September 2023:



The dominance of FT8 as the primary mode for DXing hasn't diminished since 2017. Indeed, the latest Clublog stats show FT8 activity representing 71% of the total DX spots reported.

These figures caused me to take a closer look at FT8/CW/SSB activity starting with my first reproduction of the Clublog activity by mode in the SDDXC Bulletin starting with the February 2023 edition.

As you can see from the following chart, FT8 has continued to dominate the mode race for the entire period with just one monthly exception. Since I continue to be a bit of a traditionalist, I was intrigued by the SSB blip I saw in March 2023 and the CW "aberrations" in February 2024, repeated in February 2025 (to date).



What I found interesting was that the ARRL SSB DX Contest in March 2023 (but not repeated in 2024) and the ARRL CW DX Contest in February 2024 marked the high points for SSB and CW activity on the bands for those months. Indeed, the CW activity coincident with the ARRL CW DX Contest in 2024 was the ONLY month in the two-year period in which CW (or SSB) activity exceeded FT8 activity.

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I included the most recent Clublog data to show the effect of one event in 2025 that moved the CW number closer to the FT8 number. Close, but no cigar as they say. More on that in a moment.

The CQ WW DX Contests in October and November produced minor peaks in those months, but these peaks were not even close to those observed during the ARRL DX Contest months.

To this reporter, it remains clear that CW activity during the annual ARRL CW DX Contests ***are the only months in which CW DX activity approaches*** (or in 2024 actually exceeded) FT8 DX activity. SSB activity does not appear to be greatly affected by contests, either ARRL or CQ.

So, the question I ask is: "Are CW and SSB obsolete today?" Despite the fact that CW ops enjoy loads of activity during the few days of the ARRL CW DX Contest, is it time to start retiring the key, the microphone, the contest super-station and the huge antenna arrays? Are these "legacy" modes disappearing, being replaced by computers and FT8 just as CW replaced spark and SSB replaced AM phone in earlier days?

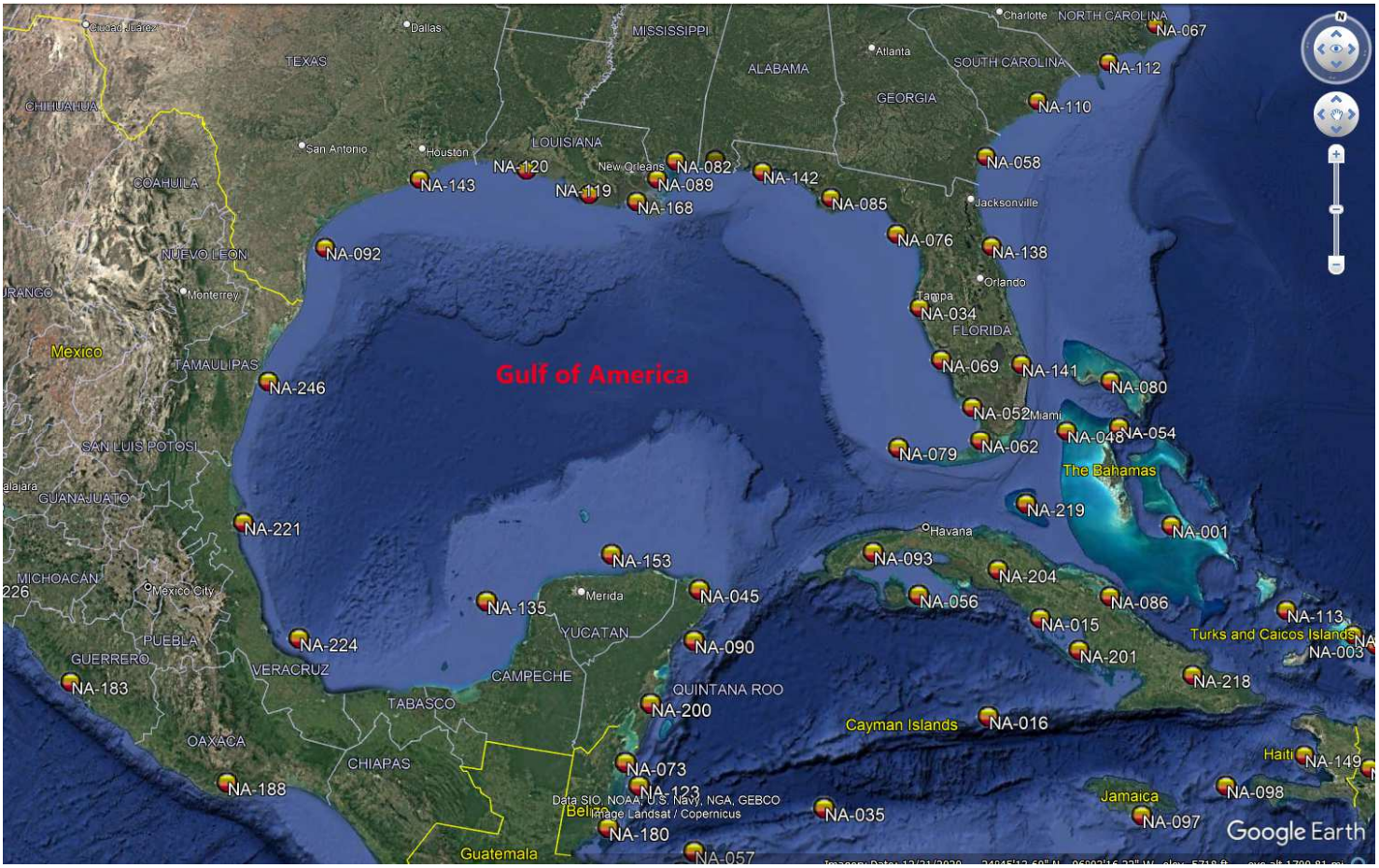
What I'm presenting are the cold, hard facts. I will defer to the crystal balls and tea leaves of my fellow Club members to draw their own conclusions about the future.

For myself, I enjoy driving my shiny Nissan Z but I LOVE driving my vintage MG TD. I also LOVE CW.

Although a diminishing breed, some of my fellow dinosaurs still agree with me. To get me off CW, you'll have to pry my fingers off my beloved Begali Sculpture paddle. (And Good Luck doing that!)

Bob, **K9RHY**

Attention: IOTA Enthusiasts



The ***Gulf of America*** region now includes several islands that qualify for the **Islands on the Air (IOTA)** program. Below is a list of IOTA-qualified island groups in this area:

IOTA-Qualified Islands in the Gulf of America:

1. **NA-079**: Florida State (Dry Tortugas Islands) group, United States
2. **NA-080**: Little Bahama Bank group, Bahamas
3. **NA-090**: Quintana Roo State Centre group, Mexico
4. **NA-092**: Texas State West group, United States
5. **NA-093**: Pinar del Río/La Habana Province group, Cuba
6. **NA-123**: Turneffe Islands, Belize

Announcing the 2025 Young Ladies Radio League Scholarships

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Diane Ortiz
VicePresident@ylrl.net

February 13, 2025 — The **Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL)** has announced the Memorial Scholarship program for 2025. The scholarship program is aimed at women Amateur Radio Operators studying radio, communications, electronics or Amateur Radio related arts and sciences.

The Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) is an international non-profit organization of women Amateur Radio enthusiasts. It was founded in 1939 and is the longest running YL club in the world. The YLRL is sponsoring three memorial scholarships for 2025:

The Ethel Smith K4LMB Memorial Scholarship—$2,500 award

The Mary Lou Brown NM7N Memorial Scholarship—$2,500 award

The Martha "Marte" Wessel K0EPE Memorial Scholarship—$1,500 award

The YLRL believes that education in the fields or radio, communications, electronics and Amateur Related arts and sciences will play an important role in shaping the world's future. Through these Memorial Scholarship, YLRL hopes to encourage female students to learn more about Amateur Radio.

"YLRL is committed to investing in women in Amateur Radio, and we believe that every act of volunteerism through Amateur Radio — even a small one — helps turn the world into a better place," said Vicki Zumwalt, President of YLRL. "We hope that our scholarships will not only encourage students to learn more about science, technology, engineering and also inspire them to take pride in being an Amateur Radio operator and to encourage others to do so as well."

To qualify, students must be female, have an Amateur Radio License, meet the requirements listed on the YLRL.net website and apply using the online application. Applications are due by April 30, 2025. Winners will be announced in July 2025.

Application link: https://YLRL.net/Scholarships

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Club Log DX Report for February, 2025

Most active bands

Band	QSOs	% DX	Graph
160M	19,716	42.44	
80M	80,107	49.60	
60M	11,042	31.90	
40M	228,725	54.63	
30M	87,771	56.33	
20M	280,802	61.23	
17M	90,125	65.57	
15M	276,688	78.08	
12M	118,574	73.53	
10M	374,614	79.22	
6M	7,788	73.09	

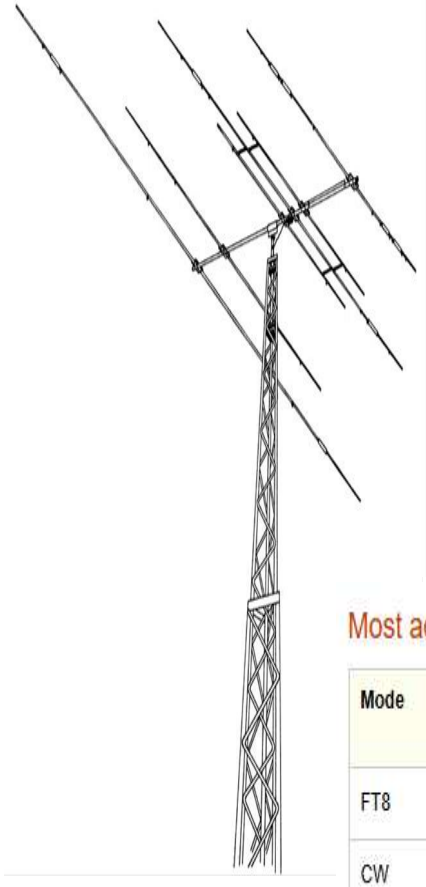
Rank	Prefix	Entity Name
1.	P5	DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
2.	BS7H	SCARBOROUGH REEF
3.	CE0X	SAN FELIX ISLANDS
4.	BV9P	PRATAS ISLAND
5.	KH7K	KURE ISLAND
6.	KH3	JOHNSTON ISLAND
7.	FT/G	GLORIOSO ISLAND
8.	3Y/P	PETER 1 ISLAND
9.	FT5/X	KERGUELEN ISLAND
10.	YV0	AVES ISLAND
11.	3Y/B	BOUVET ISLAND
12.	ZS8	PRINCE EDWARD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

Active expeditions

Callsign	DXCC	Last QSO	# QSOs
V73WW	MARSHALL ISLANDS	2025-02-22 14:29	84,902
5H8HZ	TANZANIA	2025-02-22 13:27	19,784
J74D	DOMINICA	2025-02-22 13:24	7,982
3D2XD	FIJI ISLANDS	2025-02-22 09:45	3,404
TI1RRC	COSTA RICA	2025-02-22 09:03	4,031
TZ1CE	MALI	2025-02-21 10:28	44,867
C5DX	THE GAMBIA	2025-02-20 15:20	11,536
VK9/W5EIT	COCOS (KEELING) ISLAND	2025-02-18 01:36	714
TO4A	MARTINIQUE	2025-02-18 00:19	62,102
HR5/F2JD	HONDURAS	2025-02-12 06:15	166,902
C5PL	THE GAMBIA	2025-02-07 03:25	11,540
TX7N	MARQUESAS ISLANDS	2025-01-27 20:31	41,391

Solar activity

Date	SFI	A	K
2025-02-22	197	6	1.33
2025-02-21	184	7	1.33
2025-02-20	178	20	0.67
2025-02-19	178	14	1.67
2025-02-18	185	15	1.00
2025-02-17	185	18	2.33
2025-02-16	184	28	3.33

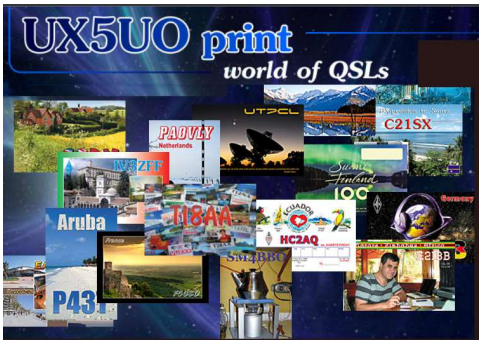


Most active modes

Mode	% Use	QSOs	Graph
FT8	47.49	751,539	
CW	37.46	592,851	
SSB	7.12	112,699	

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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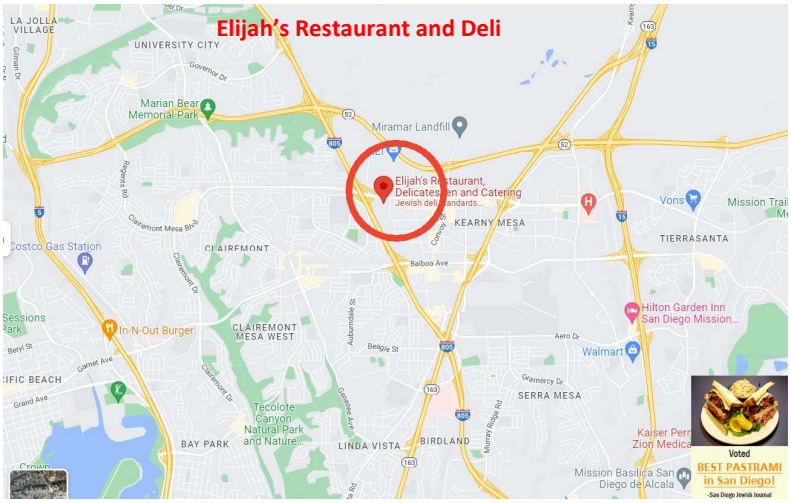

WEST MOUNTAIN RADIO

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