

# San Diego DX Club Bulletin

June 2025



## MEETING PROGRAM

The June 2025 Meeting Program will be presented by Craig Thompson, K9CT who will discuss the design and improvements to his contest station over the last 14 years.

## MEETING NOTICE

The June 2025 SDDXC meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025 starting at 5:30 P.M. PDST 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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larose@shortwaves.com

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## From the Prez . . .

Rob, WA3IHV

Summer solstice season is upon us. For hams this means half as many geomagnetic storms which are half as strong and of shorter duration compared to equinox season. Also coupled with the summer solstice we usually experience an increase in Es on 6 and 2 meter bands. Activity has robust in Europe but lackluster on the west coast so far! We still have a few weeks, so keep your ears on "The Magic Band".

The SUMMER BASH is coming back on July 20 at San Dieguito Park in Del Mar (see flyer in this newsletter). In an effort to get a reasonable headcount for the caterer, kindly notify me at [WA3IHV@gmail.com](mailto:WA3IHV@gmail.com) or text to (760) 522-8688 if you are planning to join us.

The upcoming General Membership meeting will be Wednesday June 25, 2025 at 6:30 PM at Elijah's Restaurant or via Zoom (Meeting ID 819 5988 4773 Passcode 171836). Our presenter will be well known DX'er and Contester Craig Thompson K9CT who will be giving us a tour of his "superstation". We will also be voting on our slate of officers and Board members for 2025-2026.

Hope to see everyone on June 25 as well as July 20.

Stay cool and Good DX.

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](#)

# LIFE IS SIMPLE



## Secretary's Report

Bob, W6ACU



### SDDXC Meeting Minutes May 28, 2025

A complete video recording of the meeting is available on our YouTube Channel at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iy25z\\_vpQTk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iy25z_vpQTk)

**Abbreviated minutes due to travel schedules.**

Two new members joined the Club at the last meeting:

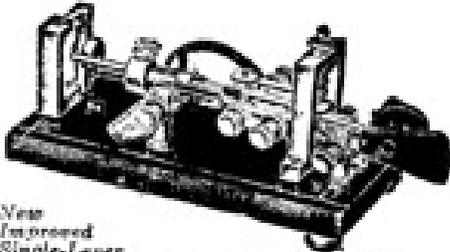
N6VH Jim Preston and his XYL, Linda WA6HGA were cordially accepted into membership.

There were 20 members attending in person and 6 online.

Bob, W6ACU

## Martin's New and Improved VIBROPLEX

Reg. Trade Marks Vibroplex Bug Lightning Bug



Transmits perfect signals at any desired speed. Easy to learn and operate. Saves the arm. Used and recommended by more than 85,000 wireless and commercial operators.

### Special Large Contacted Vibroplex

Equipped with 3-16 inch contact points to break high current without use of relay ...\$25.  
Sent on receipt of price

**THE VIBROPLEX CO. Inc.**  
825 Broadway, New York      Established 1890  
Brooklyn: 796 Fulton St.

*New Improved Single-Lever  
Approved Base, III Nickel-Plated, III*

## 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 June 5<sup>th</sup> 2025

the June meeting will be at Elijah's, as usual. This month only we will be on the side of the main dining room because of a scheduling issue. Last Friday we checked out all of the A/V and Wi-Fi facilities to make sure they all work in this area.

The main topic of discussion was the Bash. We need a headcount of who will be attending.

Bob, W6ACU



## SDDXC Treasurer's Report

Brian, KN6MJK



### MAY 2025 REPORT FIGURES (Full Month)

#### INCOME:

\$110.00 - Membership Dues

#### EXPENSES:

None

TOTAL EXPENSES -\$0

CASH BALANCE 05-31-2025: \$4447.18 (Checking \$4367.18, PayPal \$80)

Brian, KN6MJK

## SDDXC Zoom Meeting Notice

**The SDDXC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

The Zoom session can be accessed after 6:00 PM PDST and the meeting starts at 6:30.

San Diego DX Club is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic: San Diego DX Club's Zoom Meeting**

Time: Jun 25, 2025 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81959884773?pwd=UbGhJXJPIXBhNPU3zLT4Z0XZPylgW.1>

Meeting ID 819 5988 4773

Passcode 171836

## Meeting Program

*Bud, AE6BH*

**SDDXC Meeting June 25, 2025**

The June 2025 Meeting Program will be presented by  
**Craig Thompson, K9CT**



Craig will discuss the design and improvements to his contest station over the last 14 years.

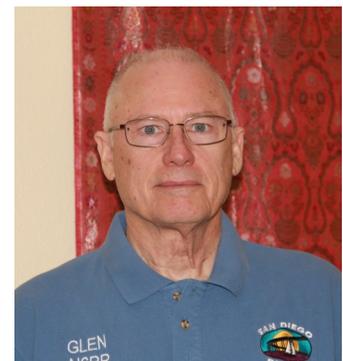
First licensed in 1967 as WN9TXL, then WA9TXL in the same year and became an Extra Class licensee in 1971.

K9CT since 1976 -

Member of DXCC Mixed, CW and Phone Honor Roll. Life member of the [ARRL](#) and a member of the [Maxim Society](#), [CWops](#), [NIDXA](#) and [A1 Operator Club](#). I am Vice President of [NCDXF](#) and treasurer of CWops. I was the President of the Society of Midwest Contesters, [SMC](#) 2014 to 2019. Craig also serves on the [ARRL Contest Advisory Committee](#) as Chairman. January, 2023. He was elected by the ARRL Board of Directors to the [ARRL Foundation](#) as a Director.

## SDDXC DX Standings

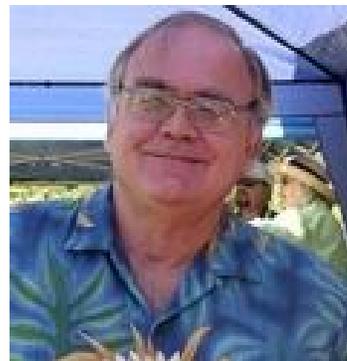
Standings are available on the SDDXC website at  
[San Diego DX Club \(sddxc.org\)](http://San Diego DX Club (sddxc.org))



*Glenn, AI6RR*

# SDDXC Contest Results

*John, K6AM*



## 2024 ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CW CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
SO - HP	K6AR	165,070	971	85	#1 SW DIV
MS - LP	NX6T @WA6TQT (ops K4RB K6PO K7ENA N6CY N6KI WM6Y WQ6X)	133,280	784	85	#1 US/VE
SO - LP	N7CW	122,740	722	85	#2 SW DIV
SOU - LP	A16O	68,392	412	83	
SO - LP	K6ZH	31,720	244	65	

*John, K6AM*



## From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



### To CW or Not to CW?

William Shakespeare, writing in the 16th century, voiced a vintage query: "To be, or not to be? That is the question."

In the evolving world of ham radio and especially DXing, few topics spark as much passion as the use of CW on the DX bands. Once the backbone of long-distance communication, CW's rhythmic dits and dahs have connected operators across continents for over a century. Its simplicity and reliability made it the gold standard for DXing, enabling hams to pierce through noise and fading signals to reach distant stations. Yet, in recent years, its presence has waned, overshadowed by digital modes like FT8 (which accounted for fully 80% of ALL DX activity reported thus far in June. . For many in the San Diego DX community, this shift raises a poignant question: is CW fading into history, or does it still hold a vital place in our hobby, much like the nostalgic allure of vintage motorsport at my very favorite motorsporting event, the Goodwood Revival held in Chichester, West Sussex, UK every year in September?



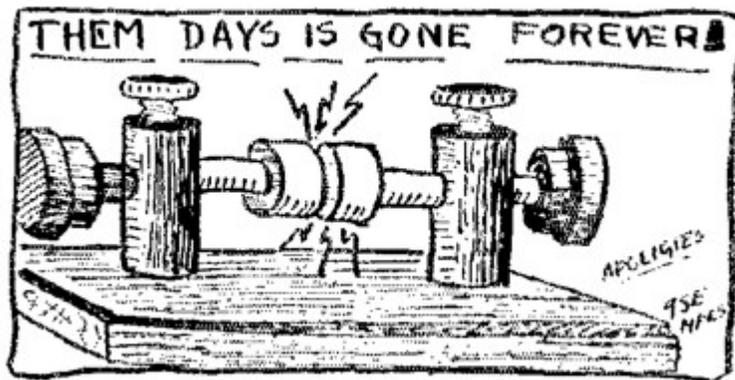


Surfing the bands today, you might notice the once-bustling CW segments quieter than before, much like the Goodwood Circuit before its revival in 1998. The allure of digital modes—offering efficiency, automation, and weak-signal performance (but at the cost of rag chewing and renewing friendships as well as E-com) —has drawn operators away from the telegraph key. FT8, with its ability to complete contacts in mere seconds under challenging conditions, has become a darling of the DX world. But for CW purists, this alternative lacks the soul of Morse code: a skill that demands focus, a mode that cuts through interference, and a tradition that binds hams to the roots of radio, just as the Goodwood Revival binds motorsport fans to the golden era of racing.

The decline isn't just anecdotal. Data from recent DXpeditions and contests paint a stark picture. In the 2023 ARRL DX Contest, CW contacts dropped by nearly 20% compared to a decade ago, while digital mode entries surged. DXpeditions to rare entities like Bouvet Island reported that FT8 accounted for over 60% of contacts, with CW trailing far behind. SDDXC members in the San Diego area have noticed similar trends, with some bands—once alive with the chatter of CW—now dominated by the robotic beeps of digital protocols. The reasons are multifaceted: digital modes require less skill, offer faster QSO rates, and appeal to a generation accustomed to instant results. This mirrors the shift in motorsport, where modern Formula 1 races at Silverstone have largely eclipsed the vintage wheel-to-wheel action of Good-

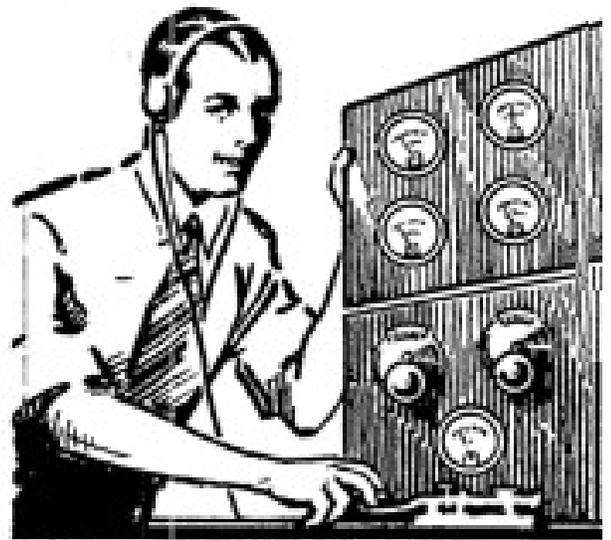
wood's heyday from 1948 to 1966.

For many veteran DXers, this shift feels like a loss. CW is more than a mode; it's a craft. Mastering it requires patience, muscle memory, and an ear for rhythm. There's something deeply human about decoding a call sign through static, recognizing the unique "fist" of a fellow operator thousands of miles away. Unlike digital modes, where software does the heavy lifting, CW demands active engagement. A pileup on CW is a symphony of strategy and skill—operators jostling for a rare DX station, timing their calls to break through the fray. This echoes the visceral thrill of the Goodwood Revival, where drivers in classic Ferraris, Jaguars, and Aston Martins navigate the unchanged circuit, relying on raw skill rather than modern safety nets like roll cages or digital aids.



Yet, efficiency is hard to argue with. FT8's ability to work weak signals with minimal power has revolutionized DXing, making rare contacts accessible to operators with modest setups. In San Diego, where urban noise can plague the bands, digital modes offer a lifeline for hams struggling to hear faint signals. A local club member recently shared how FT8 allowed him to log a new country with just a vertical antenna and 50 watts—something that might have taken hours on CW. The mode's structured format also appeals to newer hams, who may lack the confidence or equipment to compete in chaotic CW pileups. Similarly, at Goodwood, the accessibility of modern motorsport events draws broader crowds, but the Revival's commitment to period authenticity—complete with straw bales and tire stacks as safety measures—captures a unique, nostalgic charm that resonates with purists.

But at what cost? CW's decline risks eroding a cornerstone of amateur radio's DXing heritage, just as neglecting vintage racing could dim the legacy of circuits like Goodwood. CW, born in the 1830s, was the first mode to make global communication possible. It carried distress calls from the Titanic, connected soldiers during wartime, and enabled countless friendships across borders. For DXers, CW was the great equalizer—its narrow bandwidth and low power requirements allowed hams in remote or resource-limited areas to compete with big stations. Losing this mode could mean losing a piece of our identity, a link to the pioneers who built this hobby, much like the Goodwood Revival preserves the legacy of motorsport legends like Stirling Moss and Juan Manuel Fangio, who duelled on its historic track.



The San Diego DX Club has seen this shift firsthand. At our monthly meetings, discussions about CW often turn nostalgic, akin to Revival attendees reminiscing about the 1950s roar of V12 engines. Older members recount epic DXpeditions where CW was king, while newer members admit they've never learned it, relying instead on software-driven modes. Yet, there's a growing movement to preserve CW. CW training programs have attracted a small but dedicated group of learners. They practice with straight keys and paddles, chasing the thrill of their first CW QSO. Some are motivated by nostalgia; others see it as a challenge, like learning a musical instrument. This mirrors the Goodwood Revival's "Revive & Thrive" ethos, where vintage cars are meticulously restored, and attendees embrace 1940s–60s fashion to keep the era alive.

Beyond sentiment, CW has practical advantages. Its narrow bandwidth—often just 500 Hz—makes it ideal for crowded bands or poor propagation. During solar minimums, when signals are weak, CW can still get through where voice or digital modes falter. Emergency communications, too, benefit from CW's simplicity; no computer is needed, just a key and a radio. For DXpeditions to remote locations, where power and equipment are limited, CW remains a go-to mode. Similarly, the Goodwood Revival showcases the raw efficiency of pre-1966 race cars, which rely on mechanical ingenuity rather than modern electronics, thriving in conditions where contemporary vehicles might struggle.

So, why the decline? Time and technology play a role. Learning CW takes effort, often months of practice to reach proficiency. In an era of instant gratification, fewer hams are willing to invest. Digital modes, meanwhile, are plug-and-play, requiring little more than a computer and an interface. The aging demographic of CW operators also matters—many skilled CW ops are in their 70s or older, and fewer young hams are filling the gap. This parallels the Goodwood Revival’s challenge: while it draws 150,000 enthusiasts annually, its niche appeal requires active effort to engage younger generations who may prefer modern racing’s flash.



Just as I enjoy walking around the circuit at the Revival on a warm September afternoon, experiencing the sounds and odors of vintage racing fuels, I also enjoy CW. It’s my favorite mode and will stay so until I receive my Silent Key award. Love FT8 or hate it—it’s your choice. But to this Old Timer, CW is—and always will be—the way to go.



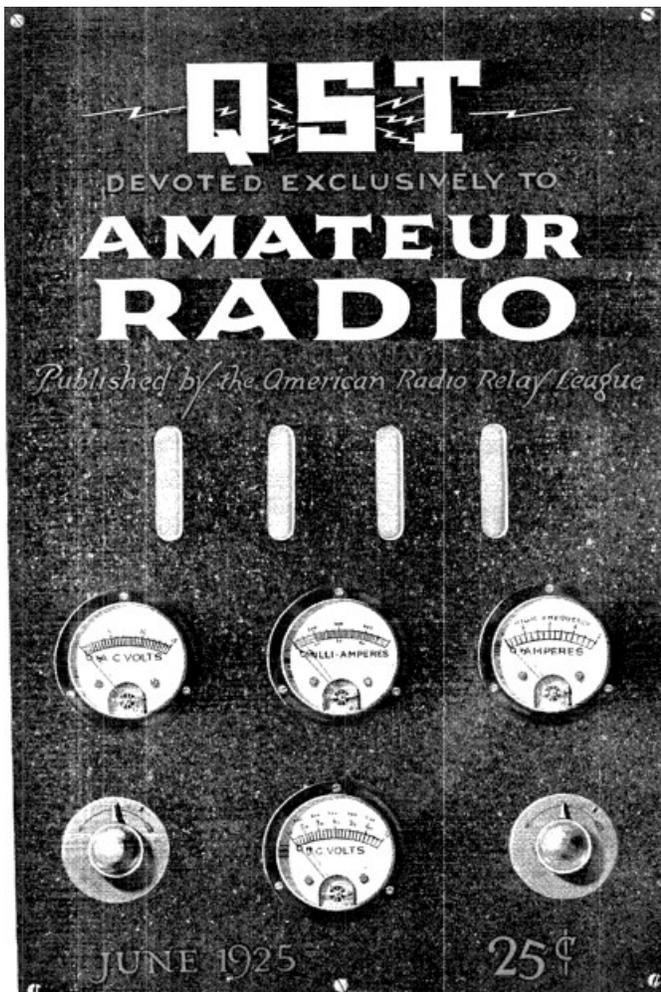
Yet, the San Diego DX community isn’t ready to let CW fade, just as the Goodwood Revival refuses to let the spirit of classic motorsport die. Our club should be doubling down on outreach, promoting CW contests and attracting new blood. We can also leverage technology to make learning easier—apps like Morse Trainer and online platforms like LCWO.net have lowered the barrier to entry. Some members advocate for hybrid approaches, blending CW with digital tools to appeal to tech-savvy hams. Imagine a CW pileup where operators use software to assist with decoding but still key by hand—a nod to tradition with a modern twist, much like the Revival’s use of sustainable fuels to power vintage races, blending old and new.

The question remains: can CW stage a comeback? The answer lies in our hands—literally. If we value CW’s legacy, we must actively promote it, not just as a relic but as a living, breathing part of DXing. Contest sponsors could increase their incentives for CW-only categories. DXpeditions could prioritize CW slots to draw operators back to the key.

Clubs like ours can lead by example, showing that CW isn't just history—it's a skill that sharpens the mind and connects us to the world. The Goodwood Revival, with its vibrant celebration of motorsport's golden era, proves that nostalgia can thrive when passion drives preservation. From the roar of a Ferrari 250 Testa Rosa to the rhythmic tap of a brass key, these traditions remind us why we cherish the past while embracing the future.

As we navigate this crossroads, your humble editor invites you to reflect: to CW or not to CW? The bands are quieter, but the dits and dahs still echo for those who listen, just as the Goodwood Circuit reverberates with the thunder of classic cars each September. Whether you're a seasoned operator or a newcomer, consider picking up a key. You might find that CW's magic—its rhythm, its challenge, its humanity—is worth preserving, much like the timeless spectacle of the Goodwood Revival. Let's keep the conversation alive, on the air and in these pages, as we chart the future of DXing.

Bob, K9RHY



# **SUMMER BASH IS BACK**

**WHERE: SAN DIEGUITO PARK  
1628 LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE  
DEL MAR, PARKING AVAILABLE  
PICNIC AREA #4**

**WHEN: SUNDAY JULY 20, 2025 - 1PM UNTIL???**

**COST: FREE**

**MENU: BBQ BABY BACK RIBS  
BBQ BONELESS CHICKEN  
COLESLAW, POTATO SALAD  
CORN ON THE COB  
FRIED ONION RINGS  
ASSORTED PIES**

**SOFT DRINKS, WATER, BYOB BEER/WINE**

**PARKING: \$5/CAR FOR ALL DAY (FREE Senior parking if over 62)**

**IF ATTENDING, KINDLY SEND HEADCOUNT TO:**

**ROB WA3IHV, SMS (760) 522-8688 OR EMAIL:**

**WA3IHV@GMAIL.COM**

# 3Y0K DXpedition to Bouvet Island, February 2026

ClubLog #10 most wanted DXCC entity  
Dependency of Norway in South Atlantic Ocean  
Volcanic origin, 49 km<sup>2</sup>, 93% covered by glacier

*The most remote uninhabited island on Earth*



LOC JD15pn  
CQ ZONE 38  
ITU ZONE 67

# 3Y0K

# Bouvet 2026

IOTA AN-002 | POTA BV-0001 | WWFF LAFF-0044

*The Most Remote Uninhabited Place on The Planet*



• **[UPDATE]** –

We are pleased to announce that well known DXer and POTA Administrator KB2FMH, James Gallow has joined the 2026 Andaman Island DXpedition Team. His DX experience and POTA knowledge are important to the Team to improve the Andaman Dxpediton's QSO rate and activation of three rare POTA locations on Andaman Island.

The Andaman Island DXpedition is scheduled to begin transmitting on October 19, 2026. Then it will be entering the 2026 CQ WW SSB Contest representing India with a goal of first place for Asia. Three POTA locations, IN-0003, IN-0005, and IN-0007, will be activated between October 27-29. This will be the initial activation of all three locations

If you are interested in joining the 2026 Andaman Island DXpedition Team please contact Van Herridge, N4VGE, immediately at [N4VGE@worlddxpedition.org](mailto:N4VGE@worlddxpedition.org).

# Peter I Island Dxpediton 2026



Peter I Island DXpediton 2026 preparation has started!

Peter I is the #8 DXCC in ClubLog most wanted list.

We have secured a vessel, and we're now building a team of 19 operators that will go to Peter I Island in February 2026 and stay there for 14 days. The vessel is a proper Antarctica vessel with 2 helicopters, two Expedition leaders and with all permits needed.

We are working closely with the Norwegian Polar Institute to obtain the landing permit. A website has been created and additional information about Peter I Island DXpediton will be released shortly. Fundraising is expected to start 2024

Team leader Ken LA7GIA, Co-leader Adrian KO8SCA, Co-leader Cezar VE3LYC and Co-leader Dave WD5COV.

Media Officer: James Gallo KB2FMH.

# Club Log DX Report for June, 2025

## Most active bands

Band	QSOs	% DX	Graph
160M	738	13.72	
80M	14,271	13.70	
60M	3,730	26.17	
40M	118,898	16.31	
30M	38,562	42.50	
20M	202,091	36.01	
17M	68,278	51.28	
15M	90,903	51.37	
12M	8,296	44.84	
10M	52,008	43.36	
6M	168,787	18.81	

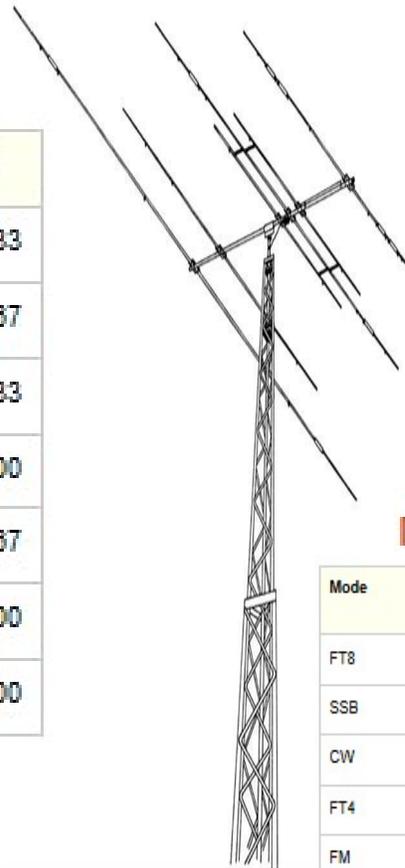
Rank	Prefix	Entity Name
1.	P5	DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
2.	BS7H	SCARBOROUGH REEF
3.	CE0X	SAN FELIX ISLANDS
4.	BV9P	PRATAS ISLAND
5.	KH7K	KURE ISLAND
6.	KH3	JOHNSTON ISLAND
7.	FT/G	GLORIOSO ISLAND
8.	3Y/P	PETER 1 ISLAND
9.	FT5/X	KERGUELEN ISLAND
10.	YV0	AVES ISLAND
11.	3Y/B	BOUVET ISLAND
12.	ZS8	PRINCE EDWARD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

## Active expeditions

Callsign	DXCC	Last QSO	# QSOs
FS/K9EL	SAINT MARTIN	2025-06-18 15:41	59,091
TX5U	FRENCH POLYNESIA	2025-06-11 09:50	8,098
5H8HZ	TANZANIA	2025-06-06 22:28	26,055
OJ0L	MARKET REEF	2025-06-04 08:02	1,760
3D2USU	FIJI ISLANDS	2025-05-31 18:37	260,078
PJ4M	BONAIRE	2025-05-29 16:52	12,435
VU7T	LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS	2025-05-27 19:41	23,529
ZL7IO	CHATHAM ISLAND	2025-05-25 18:47	46,203
3W9C	VIET NAM	2025-05-25 09:55	1,740
3W9JK	VIET NAM	2025-05-24 03:25	783

## Solar activity

Date	SFI	A	K
2025-06-21	130	9	1.33
2025-06-20	138	12	2.67
2025-06-19	137	13	1.33
2025-06-18	139	9	3.00
2025-06-17	148	10	1.67
2025-06-16	161	10	2.00
2025-06-15	151	24	3.00



## Most active modes

Mode	% Use	QSOs	Graph
FT8	78.78	619,976	
SSB	9.33	73,388	
CW	8.06	63,456	
FT4	2.97	23,364	
FM	0.35	2,724	
RTTY	0.19	1,468	

**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



HAM RADIO DELUXE SOFTWARE  
The Radio Amateur's Best Asset  
[www.HamRadioDeluxe.com](http://www.HamRadioDeluxe.com)

