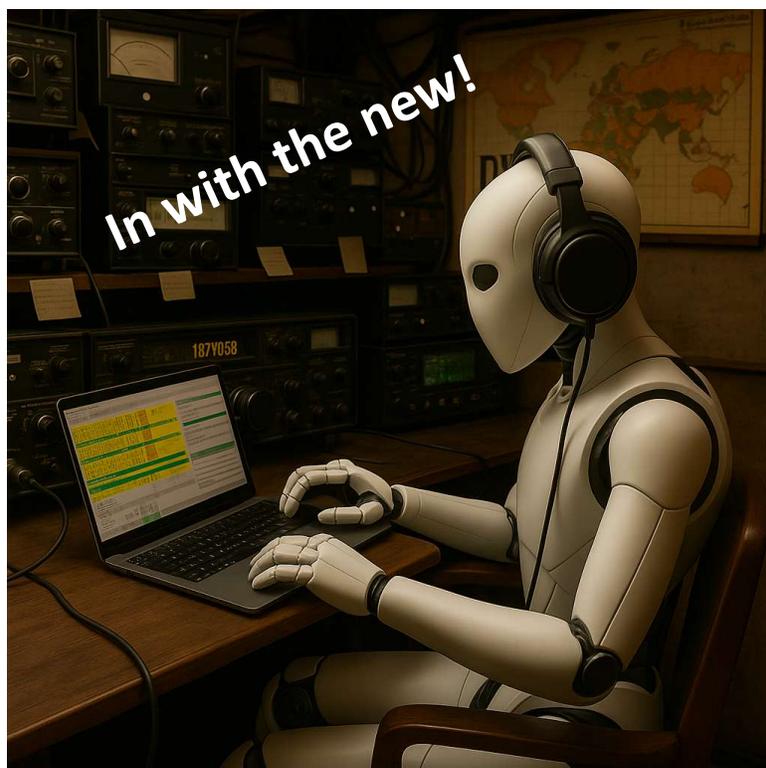


San Diego DX Club Bulletin

July 2025



MEETING PROGRAM

No program in July. Enjoy the BASH!

MEETING NOTICE

No meeting in July. Enjoy the BASH!

| | |
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Rob Reichman, WA3IHV

Vice President/Pgm Chair:

Bud Hennessy, AE6BH

Secretary:

Bob LaRose, W6ACU

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Brian.Roberts.01@gmail.com

Past President:

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Board of Directors:

Lou Poanessa, KW6Q

Danny Floyd, WB6FWS

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From the Prez . . .

Rob, WA3IHV

The SUMMER BASH is back in San Diego this weekend. We look forward to seeing everyone as well as our friends from the SoCal DX group. Your board has put together what looks like it will be a spectacular event.

Because of the BASH, we will not be holding a General Membership meeting in July. We will be back in full swing in August.

The Officers/Board for 2025-2026 are:

Rob Reichman WA3IHV, President

Bud Hennessy AE6BH, Vice-President

Bob LaRose W6ACU, Secretary

Jim Wellington K6SMT, Treasurer

Steve Handrop K6RSH, Director

Jerry Stafford W6KIN, Director

Ray Waldemar WA6NVL, Director

We thank the outgoing members Brian Roberts KN6MJK and Lou Poanessa KW6Q for their work in the previous years

Enjoy the Dog Days of SoCal Summer, hope to see y'all at the BASH, gud DX and 73

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](#)

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)

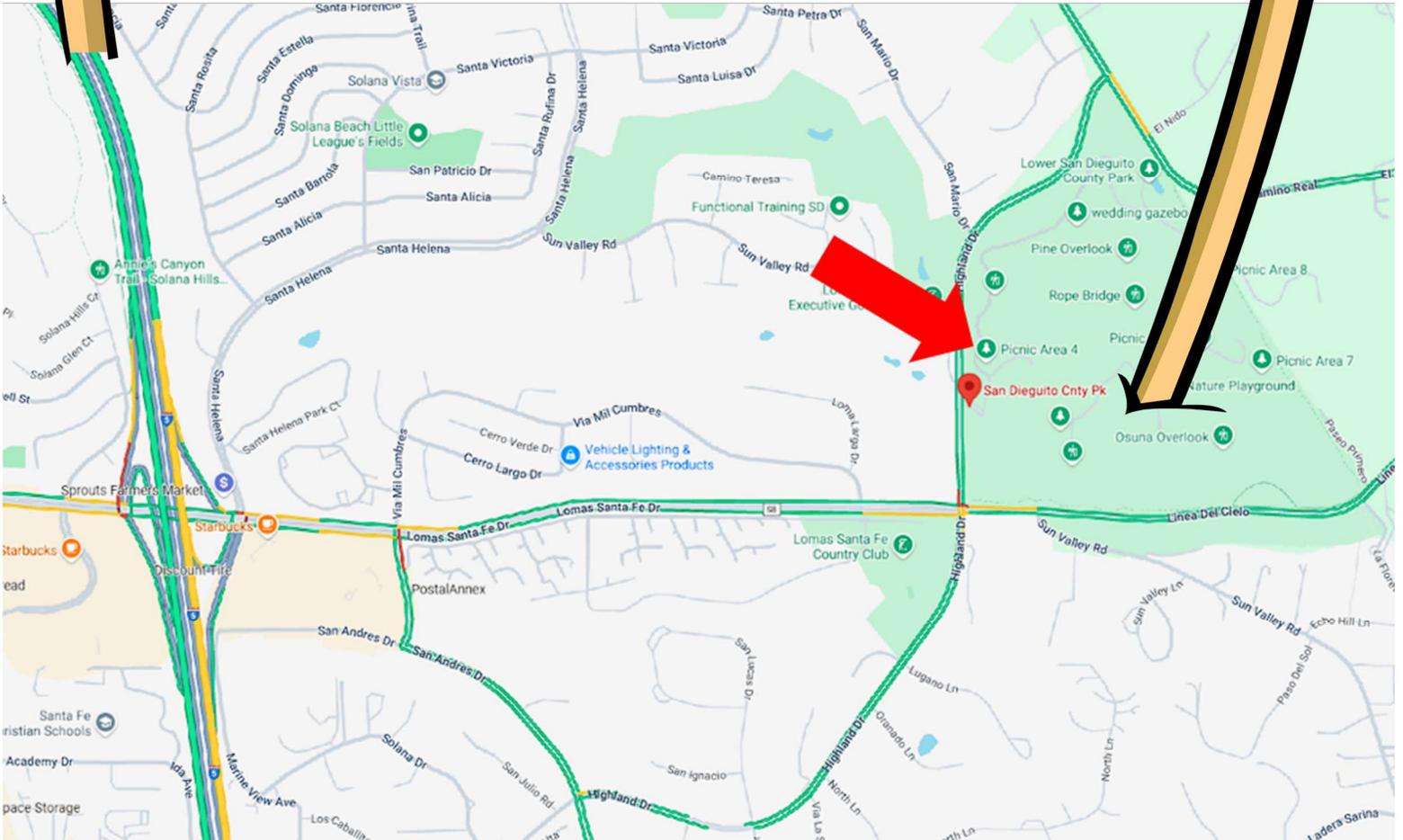
IF ATTENDING, KINDLY SEND HEADCOUNT TO:

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

WA3IHV@GMAIL.COM

SUMMER BASH

2025



Secretary's Report

Bob, W6ACU



SDDXC Meeting Minutes June 25, 2025

Called to order at 6:30 PM at Elijah's by our President, Rob Reichman, WA3IHV

PRESENTATION

K9CT, Craig Thompson, presentation on his fabulous contest station.

Recorded on our YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1dJveZckpE>

ATTENDANCE

We had 16 members in attendance and 9 on Zoom.

ROUNDTABLE

Recorded after the presentation on the YouTube channel (above)

DOOR PRIZES

Af6JO – Mug

N6KI – Mug

WA6NVL – Red Wine

K6GO – White Wine

W6ACU – Cheese Balls

WA6HGA – Sapporo Beer

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 July 14th 2025

In attendance- Rob Reichmann, Brian Roberts, Jerry Stafford, Lou Poanessal, Steve Handrop, Bud Hennessy, Bob LaRose

SUMMER BASH

Rob reported that the current confirmed attendance is about 42, which is about maximum for the space and the food. Several people will be coming from the disbanded Southern CA DX Club. Rob is contributing funds to cover the food because of the limited funds available in our accounts.

2025-2026 OFFICERS AND BOARD

Rob Reichman WA3IHV, President
Bud Hennessy AE6BH, Vice-President
Bob LaRose W6ACU, Secretary
Jim Wellington K6SMT, Treasurer
Steve Handrop K6RSH, Director
Jerry Stafford W6KIN, Director
Ray Waldemar WA6NVL, Director

NO GENERAL MEETING IN JULY DUE TO BASH

AUGUST MEETING

Dennis Vernacchia, N6KI, will be making a presentation on Contesting (aka Radiosport).

DONATIONS FOR PENDING DXPEDITIONS

Several groups have again recently approached us and, as per our Bylaws, we only contribute to the Northern California DX Federation for their onward funding.

TREASURER

Jim Wellington, K6SMT, will be taking over for Brian Roberts. Brian will be back in San Diego soon and will hand over the materials and go with Jim to USA Bank to handle the necessary signature procedures.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Has been renewed for another year.

CHANGE IN BYLAWS

Several of the people that will be assuming positions for 2025-26 are keenly interested in the Club and DXing but currently are only associate members due to their DXCC status. We will need to change the Bylaws and put this change up for a membership vote.

Bob, W6ACU

SDDXC Treasurer's Report

Brian, KN6MJK



JUNE 2025 REPORT FIGURES (Full Month)

INCOME:

\$40.00 - Membership Dues

EXPENSES:

\$200.00 ARRL Liability Insurance

\$159.90 ZOOM Subscription

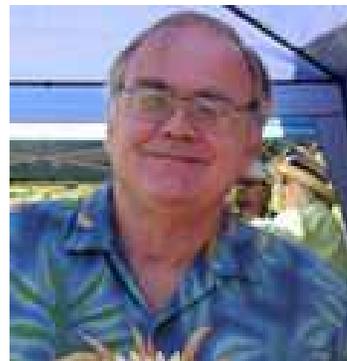
TOTAL EXPENSES -\$359.90

CASH BALANCE 06-30-2025: \$4,127.29



SDDXC Contest Results

John, K6AM



2024 ARRL SWEEPSTAKES SSB CONTEST

| CLASS | CALL | SCORE | QSO'S | MLTS | FINISH |
|---------|--|---------|-------|------|----------|
| SO - HP | ND7K (K6JO) | 256,200 | 1,525 | 84 | #7 US/VE |
| MS - LP | NX6T (ops K7ENA N6CY N6ERD N6KI W6ZAR WM6Y WQ6X @WA6TQT) | 134,568 | 801 | 84 | #4 US/VE |
| SO - LP | AI6O | 61,664 | 376 | 82 | |

John, K6AM



From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY

Fond Memories

Chasing the Gray Line: A Ham Radio Odyssey from America's Midwest to the Soviet "Stan" Republics



In another issue, I'll tell the tale about securing the R-100-O award I received for contacting and confirming contacts with all Soviet Union era USSR Oblasts. Until then, here's a tidbit about how I did this.

In the late 1980s, as a fervent DXer, I sat in my shack in Libertyville, Illinois, my Yagi antenna poised like a compass needle, pointing north toward the Soviet Siberia and the elusive "Stan" republics—Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan (and the occasional Georgian). The Cold War cast a long shadow, making these distant lands seem like forbidden realms, but the ionosphere was my ally, indifferent to geopolitical divides. The 20-meter band was my playground, and the gray line—the twilight boundary between day and night—was my secret weapon, unlocking fleeting windows of propagation at sunrise and sunset. Those moments, when my rig hummed with signals from across the Iron Curtain, were pure magic, each QSO a hard-won connection to a world shrouded in mystery.



The gray line's movement was the cornerstone of my Oblast DXing success, transforming my Illinois QTH into a portal to Central Asia. At sunset, as the sun sank below the horizon, the terminator swept westward, creating a low-loss corridor along the ionosphere's F2-layer, where the D-layer's absorption faded. This was prime time for east-to-west propagation on 20 meters, the band alive with the promise of distant signals. I'd swing my four-element Hy-Gain Yagi antenna from 30° to 60° azimuth, aligning with the great-

circle path to the "Stans," roughly 6,500 miles away. The solar flux index, hovering around 150 during the peak of Solar Cycle 22 (1986–1996), fueled robust propagation, and a quiet geomagnetic field (K-index below 3) made the band sparkle. My Kenwood TS-950S receiver crackled with static, a canvas for the faint but thrilling CW being sent from 20, 40 or 50 watt home-brew Kazakhstan UN7 or UP2 stations, their signals booming from Almaty's vast steps.



The first to break through was often a Kazakh operator, their CW steady and deliberate, cutting through the QRM like a beacon. I'd tweak the VFO, zeroing in on their frequency—14.020 MHz or thereabouts—my heart racing as I sent my call sign, praying for a reply. A 599 signal report from Almaty was a triumph, scribbled in my dog-eared logbook (logging without software – imagine!) with pride. As the gray line marched west, Uzbekistan's UJ8 or UM8 stations from Tashkent emerged, their signals fainter, often battling interference from European pileups on the crowded 20-meter band. Turkmenistan's EZ5 stations from Ashgabat were rare gems, their signals dancing on the edge of audibility, like whispers from the Karakum Desert. The gray line's westward progression aligned my Illinois QTH with these eastern stations, the ionosphere

bending signals along the terminator's path, where the F2-layer's density was optimal for long-distance skips of 6,000–7,000 miles.

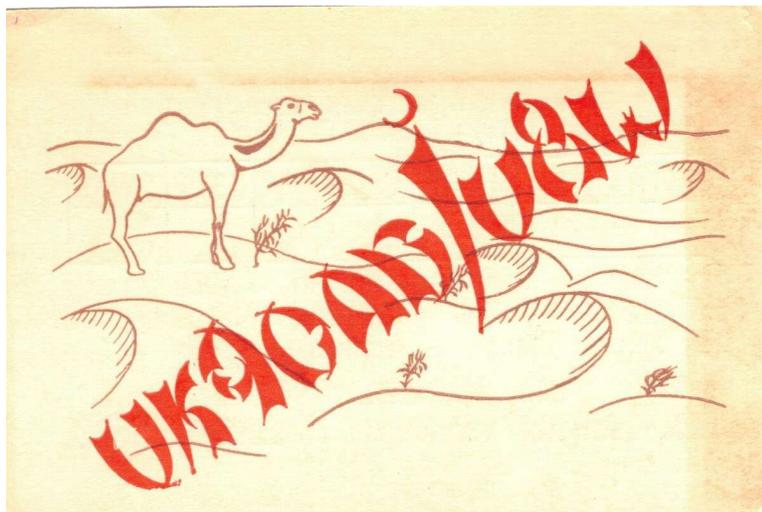
The mechanics of gray-line propagation were my obsession. At sunset, the terminator's westward sweep created a sweet spot where the ionosphere's F2-layer, at about 200 miles altitude, reflected 20-meter signals with minimal loss. The D-layer, which absorbs lower-frequency signals during daylight, dissipated in the twilight, allowing signals to travel along the gray line's path, where the ionosphere was neither fully sunlit nor fully dark. This enhanced east-to-west QSOs, as my signals skipped from Illinois to Central Asia, bouncing off the F2-layer in one or two hops. I'd monitor solar and geomagnetic data daily, knowing a high solar flux (SFI 150–200) and low K-index amplified these openings. The 20-meter band's skip distance—about 1,500–3,000 miles per hop—was perfect for reaching the "Stans," and I'd rotate my antenna to track the terminator's movement, catching signals before they faded as the gray line moved beyond Central Asia.





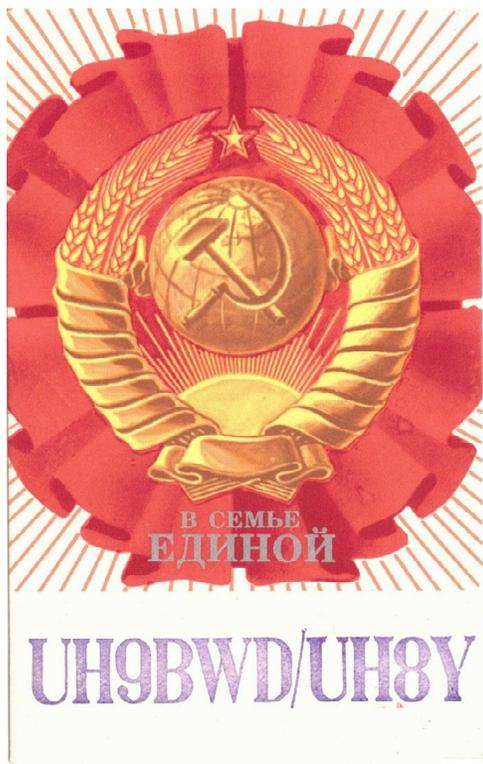
Sunrise offered a mirror image, with the gray line sweeping eastward, opening a west-to-east corridor to the same republics. As dawn broke over Illinois, the 20-meter band came alive again, the F2-layer reflecting signals from Central Asia with incredible signal strength. Kyrgyzstan's UM (EX) stations from Bishkek and Tajikistan's UJ (EY8) from Dushanbe would fade in around 14.030 MHz, their CW signals pulsing through the early morning static. The terminator's eastward movement aligned their sunrise with mine, creating a brief window—often just

10–20 minutes—when signal strength soared. The ionosphere's F2-layer, still active in the pre-dawn twilight, funneled signals with minimal attenuation, making these QSOs feel like a gift from the ether. I'd tweak my beam to 45°, chasing the gray line's eastward path, logging each contact with a sense of awe and a sigh of relief when snagging a cherished "new one".



The west-to-east propagation at sunrise relied on the

same gray-line magic but in reverse. As the terminator moved east, the ionosphere's density along the dawn line created a low-loss path for signals from the "Stans" to Illinois. The F2-layer's reflection was strongest when their sunrise coincided with my early morning, typically around 4:00 – 5:00 A.M. local time in Illinois. The 20-meter band's shorter skip distance compared to lower bands like 40 meters made it ideal for these 6,500-mile contacts, as signals hopped once or twice across the Arctic path. I'd battle QSB and occasional auroral interference, but a clear signal from a Kyrgyz operator was worth the effort, their CW cutting through like a lighthouse beacon light in the fog.



Each QSO was a dance of timing and precision. At sunset, east-to-west QSOs felt like chasing the sun's shadow, my antenna tracking the terminator as it opened paths to Kazakhstan, then Uzbekistan, and rarely Turkmenistan and the Georgia Republic.

I'd spend hours preparing, checking propagation forecasts on my "DX Edge" (anyone else remember those plastic sunrise sunset maps?), knowing the gray line's window was fleeting. A typical sunset opening on 20 meters lasted 15–30 minutes, with signals peaking as the terminator crossed Central Asia, around 8:00 – 9:00 P.M. local time. I'd work quickly, exchanging signal reports (599, if I was lucky), each contact a fleeting bridge across a divided world. The thrill was in the chase—dodging pileups, tweaking the antenna's azimuth, and snagging a rare UJ8, a far east Oblast DXpedition or UG6 before the band shifted.

It was like shining a flashlight from east to west or west to east to light up distant, dark corners. It was also unforgettable.

Sunrise QSOs were equally intense, the west-to-east path opening as the gray line swept east. I'd rise before dawn, coffee in hand, tuning from 14.000 MHz to 14.025 MHz to catch a Kyrgyz or Tajik station as their sunrise aligned with mine. The 20-meter band's clarity during these moments was uncanny, with signals from Bishkek or Dushanbe often stronger than much closer European stations. The gray line's eastward movement meant I had to act fast, as the window closed when the ionosphere transitioned to full daylight, scattering signals. I'd log each QSO meticulously—UN7PW, UJ8DX, EX8AA—each call sign a trophy from lands few Americans glimpsed or even knew existed.

The gray line's magic wasn't just technical; it was personal. Each contact felt like a secret handshake, a moment of connection with operators in a world cloaked by Cold War tensions. I imagined them in dimly lit shacks with home-brew receivers and QRP vacuum tube transmitters, their antennas pointed west, chasing the same ionospheric magic. The 20-meter band, with its reliable long-distance propagation, made these QSOs possible, but the gray line's fleeting alignment was the true enabler, turning my Illinois shack into a global outpost. Those sunrise and sunset contacts, etched in my logbook, remain a testament to ham radio's power to transcend borders, carried by the terminator's ephemeral dance across the globe.

And all these fabulous memories were made on CW.

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 km², 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.

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 July, 2025

Most active bands

| Band | QSOs | % DX | Graph |
|------|---------|-------|-------|
| 160M | 3,121 | 7.24 | |
| 80M | 25,045 | 17.11 | |
| 60M | 4,086 | 23.98 | |
| 40M | 147,993 | 22.11 | |
| 30M | 47,560 | 46.81 | |
| 20M | 301,608 | 41.45 | |
| 17M | 78,840 | 56.49 | |
| 15M | 144,407 | 57.73 | |
| 12M | 12,075 | 57.56 | |
| 10M | 48,798 | 45.48 | |
| 6M | 53,186 | 10.69 | |

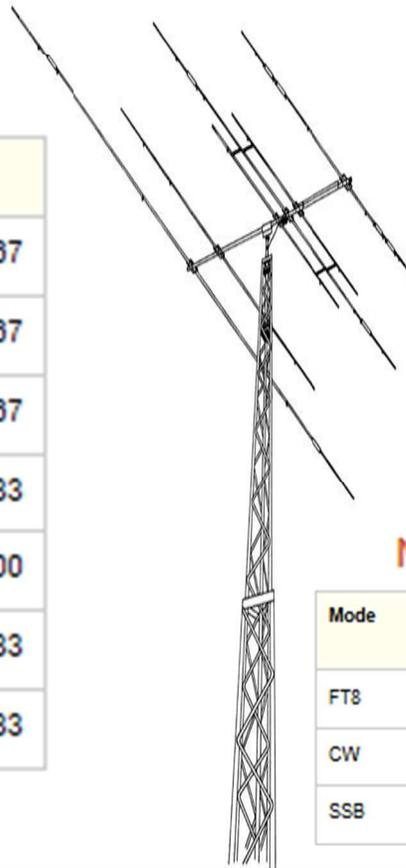
| Rank | Prefix | Entity Name |
|------|--------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | P5 | DPRK (NORTH KOREA) |
| 2. | BS7H | SCARBOROUGH REEF |
| 3. | CE0X | SAN FELIX ISLANDS |
| 4. | BV9P | PRATAS ISLAND |
| 5. | KH7K | KURE ISLAND |
| 6. | KH3 | JOHNSTON ISLAND |
| 7. | FT/G | GLORIOSO ISLAND |
| 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 |
|------------|---------------------|------------------|---------|
| 5H8HZ | TANZANIA | 2025-07-16 12:53 | 26,376 |
| C93RRC | MOZAMBIQUE | 2025-07-16 10:57 | 3,695 |
| C94RRC | MOZAMBIQUE | 2025-07-12 14:09 | 15,762 |
| VP9/JL8AQH | BERMUDA | 2025-06-30 11:45 | 2,797 |
| FS/K9EL | SAINT MARTIN | 2025-06-18 15:41 | 59,091 |
| TX5U | FRENCH POLYNESIA | 2025-06-11 09:50 | 8,098 |
| OJ0L | MARKET REEF | 2025-06-07 03:30 | 11,343 |
| 3D2USU | FIJI ISLANDS | 2025-05-31 18:37 | 280,078 |
| 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 |

Solar activity

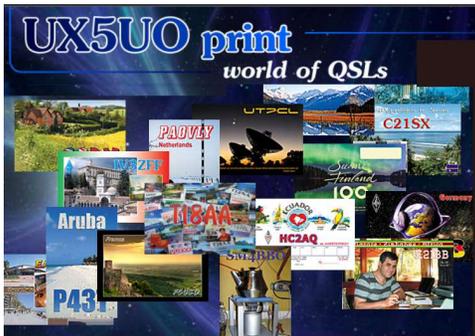
| Date | SFI | A | K |
|------------|-----|----|------|
| 2025-07-16 | 139 | 23 | 3.67 |
| 2025-07-15 | 128 | 16 | 4.67 |
| 2025-07-14 | 128 | 23 | 1.67 |
| 2025-07-13 | 139 | 12 | 3.33 |
| 2025-07-12 | 132 | 19 | 3.00 |
| 2025-07-11 | 129 | 4 | 4.33 |
| 2025-07-10 | 120 | 8 | 1.33 |



Most active modes

| Mode | % Use | QSOs | Graph |
|------|-------|---------|-------|
| FT8 | 58.10 | 510,885 | |
| CW | 25.00 | 219,808 | |
| SSB | 13.12 | 115,376 | |

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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