

# San Diego DX Club Bulletin

September 2025



## MEETING PROGRAM

The September 2025 meeting program will be presented by James Wilson, K6WRJ and titled:  
The Potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Amateur Radio

## MEETING NOTICE

The September 2025 SDDXC meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 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.

From the Prez	2
Board Minutes	3
Treasurer's Report	5
Contest Report	6
From the Editor	7
Meeting Program	10
DX Report	15
Sponsor Recognition	16



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Ray Waldemar, **WA6NVL**

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## From the Prez . . .

Rob, WA3IHV

As we experience the Autumnal equinox, we can look forward to better HF propagation particularly on 160-30 m. We continue to notice a slow unwinding of Cycle 25.

We want to welcome the 40 plus members of the previous SCDXC to our newsletter email thread. We hope that they can join us via Zoom for our meetings as well as in person for our Christmas Party and BASH. In addition, if anyone has anything of interest, we would be happy to publish it in our monthly newsletter. Contact Bob Farkaly K9RHY, our newsletter editor.

At our last general membership meeting, we amended our Constitution to allow any licensed ham with an interest in DX to be become a full member of the Club. The requirement for DXCC or WAZ is removed. We discontinued Associate membership effective August 2025.

Our upcoming monthly meeting is September 24 at Elijah's Restaurant in Kearney Mesa and via Zoom. Our presenter is James Wilson, K6WRJ speaking about AI in ham radio. We have also invited the candidates for ARRL SW Division Director and Vice Director for a brief statement. Ballots are due in November.

Our Annual Christmas Party will be on December 14...SAVE THE DATE!

Stay well, 73 and hope to see everyone on September 24.

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



EAT



SLEEP



AMATEUR RADIO

www.dxzone.com

## Board Meeting Minutes

Bob, W6ACU



### SDDXC Board Meeting September 14<sup>th</sup> 2025

In attendance- Rob Reichmann, Jim Wellington, Jerry Stafford, Steve Handrop, Bud Hennessy, Ray Waldemar, Bob LaRose

- 1) SCDXC sent a blast email to its members offering them inclusion in our email list for the monthly bulletin. So far, 43 have requested to be added to our list. The Email addresses were forwarded to Bob F, K9RHY, for the Newsletter and Bob L will also send out Zoom invitations for our meetings. Bob F also offered to publish any content from Bill N6RV.
- 2) We have added Jim Wellington to Club's ARRL Insurance Policy
- 3) Treasurer's report - posted separately.
- 4) Visalia 2027 Paul Ewing, N6PSE, NCDXC President welcomes SDDXC participation at the event. The 2026 conference is still scheduled for Santa Maria but we have no further details at this time.
- 5) Zoom -Jerry is going to create a "Check List" so that we don't miss the video recording again.
- 6) Xmas Party – Scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup>. We are now getting quotes and menus from Elijah's and Marie Callendar's for roughly 50 people.
- 7) Upcoming Meeting:
  - A) James Wilson, K6WRJ, *AI in ham radio*
  - B) ARRL SW Division Director Candidates
    - 1) Dick Norton N6AA-incumbent
    - 2) Rick Paquette W7RAP and Vice Director candidate, John Kitchens NS6X
    - 3) David Ginsberg N3BKV- Vice Director candidate (Has now said he can't make it)
- 8) Updated Constitution - Rob requested Jim Shryne, N6DHZ, to post current Constitution and Bylaws on our website
- 9) Centralized SDDXC email address. Some of the Board members were not aware of the [sddxclub@gmail.com](mailto:sddxclub@gmail.com) address so Bob L sent them the log-on credentials.

Bob, W6ACU

## Secretary's Report

Bob, W6ACU



### SDDXC Meeting Minutes August 27, 2025

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

#### PRESENTATION

Dennis Vernacchia, N6KI, made a very comprehensive presentation: CONTESTING 101, INTRODUCTION TO CONTESTING. Unfortunately, due to a technical problem, the meeting was not recorded, so it is not on our YouTube channel.

#### ATTENDANCE

We had 18 members in attendance and 7 attended on Zoom.

#### VOTE ON REVISED BYLAWS

Membership voted unanimously to change ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP of the SDDXC CCONSTITUTION. The revised Constitution is available on our web site.

#### ROUNDTABLE

Included a discussion on the usefulness of the free program *HamAlert* to notify cellphones of your predetermined spot requests.

#### DOOR PRIZES

NA6MB -Red Wine

KB6D – Pretzels

K6SMT – White Wine

W0NI – CW Trainer

??? – CW Trainer (Couldn't read my own handwriting!)

Bob, W6ACU

## SDDXC Bulletin Archives

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

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

**From: Hank Wayne W6NXS.**

*Ian annual event: ([hamtasticsd.com](http://hamtasticsd.com)) on Fiesta Island.*

*SDDXC is invited to this event*

## SDDXC Treasurer's Report

*Jim*, K6SMT



# Treasurer's Report

**August 2025 REPORT FIGURES** (*Full Month*)

<b>INCOME:</b>
None
<b>EXPENSES:</b>
None

CASH BALANCE 08-31-2025: 4,127.31 ( *Checking \$3967.41, PayPal \$159.90* )

*Jim*, K6SMT

## September 2025 Meeting Notice

San Diego DX Club is inviting you to our September2025 meeting on September 24th. Zoom opens around 6PM, meeting starts at 6:30PM, .

**In person at** Elijah's Restaurant 7061 Clairemont Mesa Blvd

**Join Zoom Meeting**

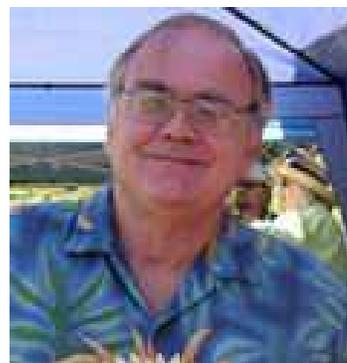
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/edl?muid=83a0b39d-75f8-4731-87cf-3d1ceeb2aa9d>

**Meeting ID: 250 405 4238**

**Passcode: 2gZpWn**

# SDDXC Contest Results

*John, K6AM*



## SDDXC RESULTS 2024 CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	CW QSO'S	SSB QSO'S	TOT QSO'S	MLT S	FINISH
SA HP	<b>NT6Q</b> (op N5ZO)	411,684	1,900	699	2,599	58	<b>All time SA HP record</b> <b>All time CW record (for a mixed entry)</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> place CA</b> Clean sweep Wine winner
M/S	<b>NX6T</b> <b>@WA6TQT</b> N6KI, K6PO, N7NR, WM6Y, K4RB, K7ENA, W6ZAR, N6CY ND8DX, KC7V ops)	346,724	1,394	898	2,292	58	<b>All time RIVE Co. M/S record</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> place CA</b> Clean sweep Entirely remote operation
M/S EXP	<b>K6QK</b> (N7CW, K6ZH, N6ERD, N6CW N6EEG ops)	304,210	1,093	983	2,076	58	<b>1<sup>st</sup> place CA M/S Expedition</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> place CA M/S</b> Clean sweep
<u>SO</u> HP	<b>K6NA</b>	286,752	1,648	0	1,648	58	4th place CA Clean sweep
<u>SO</u> HP	<b>K6AR</b>	82,836	531	0	531	52	
SA HP	<b>N6CW</b>	56,448	392	0	392	48	
SA LP	<b>K6JO</b>	11,808	0	144	144	41	

2024 once again produced another great showing from San Diego players in the CQP. SDDXC club stations won *three* more first place plaques and set three new all time records. Marco, N5ZO operating as NT6Q took SOHP again (this time assisted) while Dennis, N6KI's team had another great finish from the WA6TQT super station in Anza in Riverside County taking first place in M/S, and setting the all time record for that county for the fourth year in a row with all ops running remote from their respective homes in San Diego and elsewhere. The legendary K6QK expedition to Imperial county once again nets them a first place.

The CQP marks the beginning of the fall contest season. The 2025 running is fast approaching. It runs from 1600z Oct 4 until 2200z Oct 5. Go to [cq.org](http://cq.org) for details on rule changes, county abbreviations and all the other details.

## From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



### Chasing 5A0A on 80 Meters: The Quest for 5 Band WAZ

Long before FT8 powered nearly 80% of today's DX contacts, ham radio DXing was a hands-on pursuit defined by CW, SSB and the art of navigating propagation. In the 1970s and 1980s, we chased elusive stations by navigating noisy bands and tricky propagation with persistence and ingenuity, effectively connecting a global community of hams. For us Old Timers, it's a storied past; for newcomers, it's the heritage behind today's digital tools. Here's another tribute to the hams and technology that shaped those unforgettable pre-digital days.

The pursuit of the 5 Band Worked All Zones (5BWAZ) award is one of the most prestigious and grueling challenges in amateur radio, requiring operators to confirm contacts with all 40 CQ zones across five HF bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Each band presents unique propagation hurdles, and rare zones like CQ Zone 34—encompassing Libya—can test even the most seasoned DXers. In June 1987, as I neared the finish line of my 5BWAZ journey, Zone 34 on 80 meters stood as a formidable obstacle. Working 5A0A from Benghazi became not only a thrilling moment but also a testament to the perseverance required to earn this coveted award.

#### The 5 Band WAZ: A DXer's Everest

The 5BWAZ award demands more than just technical skill; it requires patience, strategy, and a bit of luck. With 40 CQ zones to work on each of the five bands, DXers must secure 200 total band/zones, confirmed by QSL cards, to claim the award. The challenge lies in the diversity of propagation conditions across bands. The 80-meter band, with its heavy reliance on nighttime ionospheric conditions, is notoriously difficult due to high noise levels, D-layer absorption during daylight, and limited long-distance openings. The 10-meter band, by contrast, thrives during solar cycle peaks but can be nearly silent during solar minima. Zones like 34, where active stations are scarce, elevate the challenge to near-mythic status.

In 1987, I was tantalizingly close to completing my 5BWAZ, needing only three band/zones: Zones 22 and 34 on 80 meters and Zone 34 on 10 meters. Zone 34, covering Libya, was particularly elusive. Libya's sparse ham radio activity, coupled with political and logistical barriers, made stations like 5A0A exceptionally rare gems. The 80-meter band added another layer of difficulty, as its low-frequency signals are prone to fading and interference, demanding exceptional antennas, low-noise receivers, and precise timing to catch fleeting DX windows.

#### The Elusive 5A0A Signal

The 5A0A operation, run by Hubert Trzaska, SP6RT, was the talk of the DX community in 1987. Spotted in DX bulletins and buzzing on the local Chicago DX repeater, 5A0A was operating from Benghazi with minimal power and a makeshift antenna. No one in my DX circle had yet logged it on 80 meters, and the challenge was irresistible. The thought of conquering Zone 34 on 80 meters—a critical piece of my 5BWAZ puzzle—kept me glued to my rig.

One early morning, while carefully tuning the low end of the 80-meter CW band, I heard a faint CQ. My pulse quickened as the call sign emerged: 5A0A. Despite the weak signal, I worked him swiftly, logging the contact with a rush of exhilaration. I shared the news on the repeater, made quick calls to fellow DXers, and headed to work, replaying the moment in my mind. That brief connection to Benghazi, nearly 5,500 miles away, on a band notorious for its challenges, was a triumph that brought me one step closer to the 5BWAZ.

### **Hubert's Heroic Operation**

Hubert Trzaska's 5A0A operation was a masterclass in resourcefulness. Stationed in Benghazi to teach electrical engineering at Garyounis University, Hubert faced daunting obstacles to get on the air. After securing a Libyan amateur radio license, he was unable to import equipment from Poland. Undaunted, he scavenged a Rohde-Schwarz EK-070 receiver and a Wavetek 178 signal generator, coaxing a mere half-watt into a rudimentary dipole antenna just 20 feet high. Switching from receive to transmit required manually keying the signal generator's settings, and sending CW meant tapping a banana plug into a socket—a far cry from modern QSK.

Despite these limitations, Hubert logged nearly 6,000 QSOs with his half-watt setup, reaching every continent and over 60 countries. His slow, sometimes erratic CW was a challenge to copy, but it was a beacon for DXers chasing rare zones. Later, with an electronic keyer from DJ2BW and DK1RV and a Yaesu FT-901D transceiver from the European DX Foundation (after DXCC approval), Hubert's QSO rate soared. By July 1, 1987, he had logged 35,569 QSOs across 167 countries, with 27,400 on CW and 3,700 with North American stations—a remarkable achievement for such a modest station.

### **The 80-Meter Challenge and Zone 34**

Working Zone 34 on 80 meters from the RF black hole of Illinois is a formidable task, even for experienced DXers. The band's low frequencies are heavily influenced by ionospheric conditions, with openings often limited to narrow windows at dawn or dusk. Noise from atmospheric static, man-made interference, and strong European signals can drown out weak DX stations like 5A0A. For North American operators, the path to Libya crosses the Atlantic, contending with auroral absorption and long-distance signal loss. Hubert's half-watt signal, radiating from a low dipole in a city described as stark and littered with debris, was a needle in a haystack.

The 5BWAZ requirement to confirm such contacts with QSL cards adds another layer of complexity. In 1987, securing a QSL from a rare station like 5A0A could take months, and Hubert's QSL manager, SP6BZ, faced scrutiny from DX "policemen" for not being listed in the latest Callbook. Yet, the promise of adding Zone 34 to my 5BWAZ log kept me focused, and the thrill of working 5A0A was one of the highest points in my DXing career.

### **A Milestone in the 5BWAZ Journey**

The 5A0A contact was more than a checkmark; it was a defining moment in my pursuit of the 5BWAZ award. The combination of Hubert's ingenuity, the 80-meter band's challenges, and the rarity of Zone 34 made this QSO a standout memory. The 5BWAZ is not just about logging contacts; it's about mastering the art of DXing across diverse bands and conditions, from the noisy depths of 80 meters to the solar-dependent highs of 10 meters. Each confirmed band/zone is a hard-won victory, and working 5A0A brought me tantalizingly close to the finish line.

For the San Diego DX Club, this story celebrates the passion and persistence that define our hobby. Chasing CQ Zone 34 on 80 meters tested my skills and patience, but the joy of logging 5A0A—a fleeting connection to Benghazi—remains a highlight of my 5BWAZ journey. Hubert's 35,569 QSOs stand as a legacy of what's possible with determination, and for me, that contact was a step toward DXing immortality.

Bob, K9RHY

## Candidates Named for ARRL Director and Vice Director Elections

08/18/2025

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has announced that the candidates for the 2025 ARRL Division elections are now official. ARRL members will choose between four candidates for Director in the Southeastern Division, two candidates for Director in the Pacific and Southwestern Divisions, and two candidates for Vice Director in the Southwestern Division. The Directors in the Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions are unopposed, as are the Vice Directors in the Pacific, Rocky Mountain, Southeastern and West Gulf Divisions.

### Declared Elected without Opposition

- In the Rocky Mountain Division, Director Jeff Ryan, K0RM, who has held the position since 2018, and Mel Parkes, NM7P, who ran uncontested for the position of Vice Director.
- In the West Gulf Division, Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, and Vice Director Lee Cooper, W5LHC. Both have held these positions since 2019.
- In the Pacific Division, Vice Director Carol Milazzo, KP4MD, who was appointed to the position in July 2025. In the Southeastern Division, Vice Director Andrew Milluzzi, KK4LWR, who has held the position since 2024.

### Contested Seats

- In the Pacific Division, Director John Litz, NZ6Q, will face challenger Bob Vallio, W6RGG, who has previously served as a Vice Director, Director, and Second Vice President.
- In the Southeastern Division, Director Mickey Baker, N4MB, will face challengers Jim Kvochick, K8JK, a former Michigan Section Manager; Scott Roberts, KK4ECR, who is the Northern Florida Section Manager, and Tom Schaefer, NY4I.
- In the Southwestern Division, Director Richard Norton, N6AA, will face challenger Rick Paquette, W7RAP, who is the Arizona Section Manager. John Kitchens, NS6X, the Santa Barbara Section Manag-

## What Type of CW Operator are YOU?



THE NIBBLER



THE TEA DRINKER



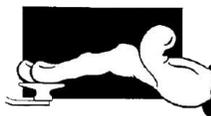
THE TAPPER



THE JITTER



THE SLAPPER



THE HITCH HIKER



THE CLUTCHER



THE POUNDER

## Meeting Program

Bud, AE6BH

### SDDXC Meeting September 24, 2025

The September 2025 Meeting Program will be presented by  
James Wilson, K6WRJ



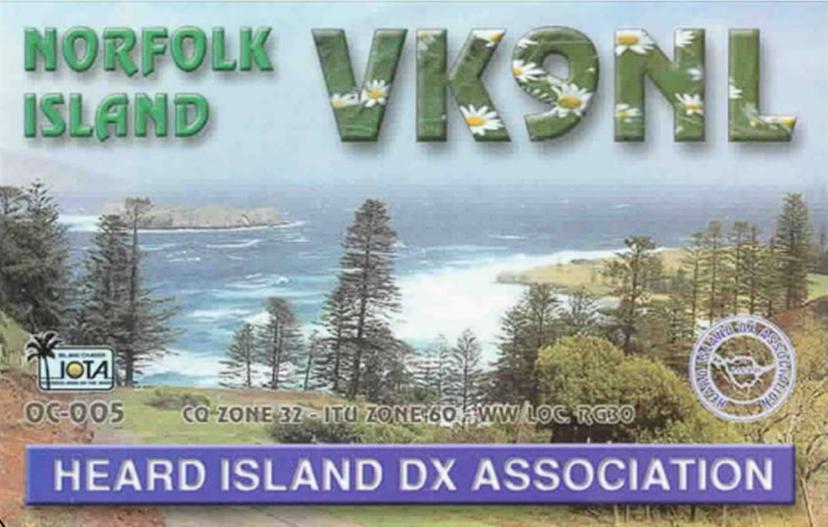
James Wilson, K6WRJ, is a seasoned IT professional and passionate amateur radio operator. Since 1990, he has excelled in roles from bench technician, Manager of Network Operations and today is the Director of Information Security at a leading litigation research firm, specializing in cybersecurity since 2008. Licensed as a ham since 2005, James discovered radio at age 11, captivated by tuning in Chicago WLS-AM 890 from Bradley, CA. Operating from San Diego and remotely from a solar-powered, RFI-free remote station near Fort Hunter Liggett. His motto, "I want to know the unknown," drives his pursuit of cutting-edge solutions in cybersecurity, amateur radio, and other pursuits like quantum mechanics, and our understanding of the universe.

#### Abstract

This presentation explores the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in amateur radio, offering practical insights for operators of all levels. From automated QSO logging to real-time propagation forecasting, we'll uncover how AI enhances efficiency and elevates the ham experience. Designed to provide actionable, usable information, this talk covers AI-driven tools, effective prompting techniques, and emerging applications like agentic AI. Attendees will learn how to integrate AI into their shacks for smarter DXing, logging, and troubleshooting, with real-world examples and tips to experiment immediately. Join us to see how AI can amplify your radio adventures without replacing the thrill of the chase.

 DX-World  
August 30 at 1:51PM · 🌐

Very sad to report that Kirsti, VK9NL (wife of Jim Smith VK9NS) has died peacefully at home on Norfolk Island, aged 89.



NORFOLK ISLAND VK9NL

IOTA CQ-ZONE 32 - ITU ZONE 60 WWW.LOC.RG30

HEARD ISLAND DX ASSOCIATION

## China approves nature reserve at contested Scarborough Shoal

The South China Sea feature is also claimed by the Philippines and is a major source of tension between the two countries

Reading Time: 2 minutes



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**Holly Chik and Laura Zhou**

Published: 5:36pm, 10 Sep 2025 | Updated: 9:05pm, 10 Sep 2025

China has approved the creation of a nature reserve at a disputed territory in the [South China Sea](#), a decision that could escalate tensions with rival claimant the Philippines.

# 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 | WWF 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 September, 2025

## Most active bands

Band	QSOs	% DX	Graph
160M	7,532	33.88	
80M	39,235	26.73	
60M	20,000	47.85	
40M	166,492	25.82	
30M	82,008	50.08	
20M	216,329	45.70	
17M	88,559	65.00	
15M	141,077	73.53	
12M	40,078	73.51	
10M	73,355	81.56	
6M	7,940	28.90	

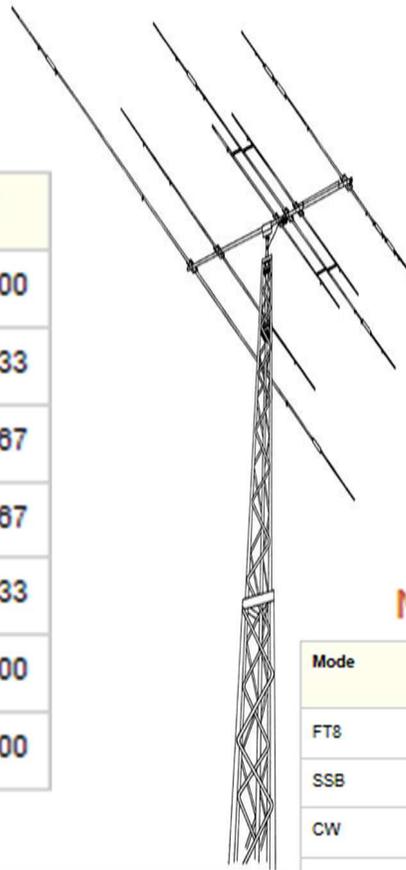
Rank	Prefix	Entity Name
1.	P5	DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
2.	BS7H	SCARBOROUGH REEF
3.	CE0X	SAN FELIX ISLANDS
4.	BV9P	PRATAS ISLAND
5.	KH7K	KURE ISLAND
6.	KH3	JOHNSTON ISLAND
7.	FT/G	GLORIOSO ISLAND
8.	3Y/P	PETER 1 ISLAND
9.	FT5/X	KERGUELEN ISLAND
10.	YV0	AVES ISLAND
11.	3Y/B	BOUVET ISLAND
12.	ZS8	PRINCE EDWARD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

## Active expeditions

Callsign	DXCC	Last QSO	# QSOs
PJ7K	SINT MAARTEN	2025-09-18 14:29	60,262
FP5KE	SAINT PIERRE & MIQUELON	2025-09-18 13:35	29,326
E44OM	PALESTINE	2025-09-18 05:09	32,127
3D2USU	FIJI ISLANDS	2025-09-17 20:15	280,280
5H8HZ	TANZANIA	2025-09-17 19:06	30,109
3C3W	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	2025-09-05 17:47	51,867
OG0C	ALAND ISLANDS	2025-08-24 12:51	147,231
TO3K	MAYOTTE	2025-08-09 17:19	25,589
JD1BRC	OGASAWARA	2025-08-07 22:43	1,923
TY5FR	BENIN	2025-08-05 15:21	12,225
3D2XD	FIJI ISLANDS	2025-07-24 00:46	4,357
C93RRC	MOZAMBIQUE	2025-07-19 18:55	15,058
C94RRC	MOZAMBIQUE	2025-07-12 14:09	15,771

## Solar activity

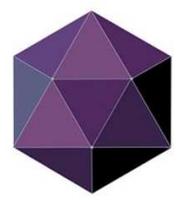
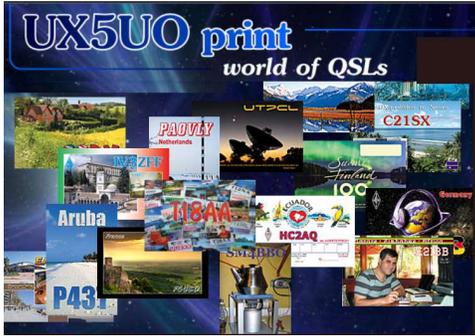
Date	SFI	A	K
2025-09-18	147	12	2.00
2025-09-17	135	21	3.33
2025-09-16	130	48	3.67
2025-09-15	122	14	4.67
2025-09-14	118	6	2.33
2025-09-13	114	8	2.00
2025-09-12	115	10	3.00



## Most active modes

Mode	% Use	QSOs	Graph
FT8	68.81	613,916	
SSB	14.54	129,726	
CW	11.05	98,609	
FT4	4.66	41,536	
RTTY	0.31	2,764	

**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)

