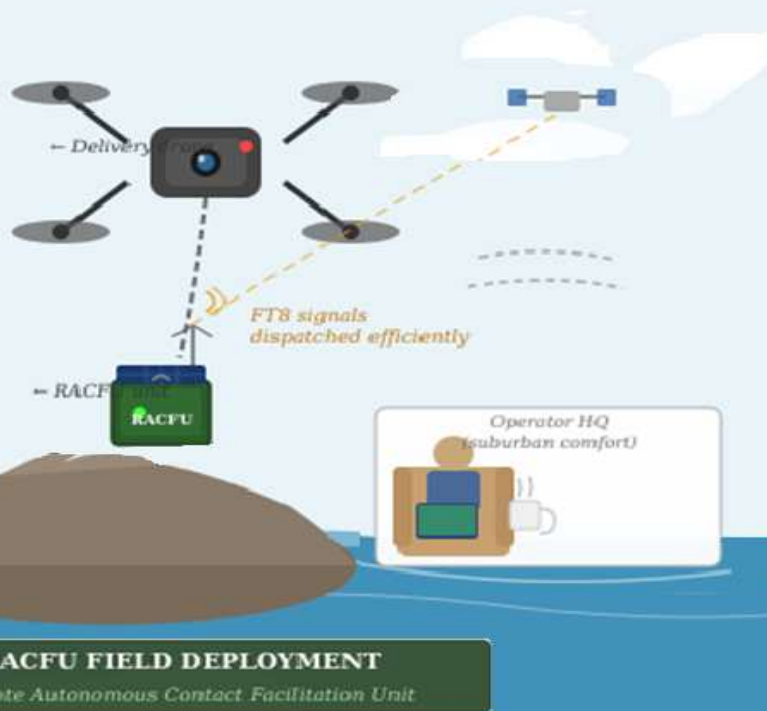


San Diego DX Club Bulletin

April 2026



MEETING PROGRAM

The April 2026 Meeting Program will be presented by Bud Hennessy, AE6BH and titled:
"How to protect your station from lightening!"

MEETING NOTICE

The April 2026 SDDXC meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 starting at 6:30 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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From the Prez . . .

Rob, WA3IHV

Four NASA Astronauts just returned from the Artemis II mission around the moon farther than any human has ever traveled. Thanks to AMSAY DL, we were able to see their complex PSK S-band signal using very large arrays comprising the deep space network (DSN). Talk about DX! I wonder if their travel caused our HF band conditions to become so disrupted?

Smaller DXpeditions continue around the world during the fairly mild weather conditions in the respective spring and fall seasons.

The 2026 Santa Maria DX and Contesters Convention was a great success. Over 200 hams were in attendance. Our own Marko Myllymaki, N5ZO was honored for having operated from all 40 zones! Congrats Marko!

Our upcoming monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday April 22, 2026 at Elijah's Restaurant (7061 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, SD). Our speaker is Bud Hennessy, AE6BH. Bud will be discussing how to protect your station from lightning!

Your Board discussed a Club event to operate Field Day in June from Lake Poway. Many of the Board members will be operating at other locations or will be travelling out of town. We are trying to get a feel for whether there is enough interest to pursue this event.

Mark your calendars, the BASH will be on Sunday July 19, 2026 1 o'clock PM at San Dieguito Park, Del Mar

73, hope to see everyone on the 22nd.

Rob, WA3IHV

LIFE IS SIMPLE



www.dxzone.com

SDDXC YouTube Channel

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

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

Board Meeting Minutes

Bob, W6ACU



SDDXC Board Meeting April 13th 2026

The meeting was called to order by our President, Rob, WA3IHV, at 7PM. All Board members were in attendance.

ARRL DX Advisory Committee

Bill Shell, N6WS thanked us for our input to keep the Honor Threshold where it is. Other organizations in his region feel the same way so that will be recommendation.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2026-27 BOD POSITIONS ARE DUE IN MAY WITH THE ELECTION IN JUNE

None of the BOD members expressed an interest in changing their positions but other nominations from the membership are open.

STATE AND FEDERAL TAXES

The required reports have been submitted and we have also filed the paperwork required for 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The report is published in the Bulletin.

Jim has six members that have not paid their 2026 dues so he asked for assistance if any of the BOD personally knew them. It turned out that one had passed away and one was the widow of a member. Jim, W6SMT, is to call the others to follow-up.

FIELD DAY

Jim, K6ZH, has recommended that the club look at some level of participation on ARRL Field Day. Many of the members of the BOD, and for that matter members in general) are already affiliated with other clubs that traditionally participate in Field Day activities. Several members mentioned that they would be willing to participate with the Poway Group. Jim will be invited to share his ideas at the next meeting.

APRIL MEETING

The April meeting will feature a presentation by our Vice President Bud, AE6BH, about lightning protection, specifically about the design and features of various Lightning Protectors.

REMINDER THAT THE SUMMER BASH DATE IS JULY 19

San Dieguito Park #4 at 1PM

PAYPAL ISSUES

Rob has had a recent problem with his SDDXC membership PayPal charge. His PayPal account is set-up to CITI COSTCO card and due to their mishandling, it triggered several issues resulting in penalties. At this point in time, it seems to be a one-off issue but club members need to monitor it if anyone else sees an issue. The BOD wants to make sure that club dues continue to be handled in the most expeditious and efficient manner!

ZOOM PRICE INCREASE

Their price for our yearly subscription is going up by \$10/year in renewal in June. Hopefully we will have our 501(c)(3) by then so we will be classified as a non-profit and have a much better rate.

The meeting ended at 8PM.

Bob, W6ACU

Secretary's Report

Bob, W6ACU



SDDXC Meeting Minutes March 2026

Meeting began at 6:30 PM at Elijah's Restaurant.

15 people were in attendance with 10 people on-line.

Presentation was by Kristen McIntyre K6WX, titled : "SWR? Who Cares!"

At the meeting our President, Rob WA3IHV, presented the recent letter we received from Bill Shell, N6WS, soliciting comments on possible changes to the DXCC Honor Roll threshold. During discussions the club membership showed no interest in making any changes.

The meeting ended around 7:30

Bob, W6ACU

SDDXC Zoom Meeting Login

If the link does not work properly, log on to Zoom.com and use the meeting ID and passcode shown below.

San Diego DX Club invites you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: San Diego DX Club's Zoom Meeting

Time: Apr 22, 2026 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2504054238?pwd=2HMK4xi2Xcl7GHeQbxnjYsHhcAEfwa.1&omn=81300286286>

View meeting insights with Zoom AI Companion <https://us06web.zoom.us/launch/edl?muid=41e2755d-a78e-466c-b5ac-4a153790c09c>

Meeting ID: 250 405 4238

Passcode: 2gZpWn

QST

DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO

AMATEUR RADIO

Published by the American Radio Relay League



APRIL
1926

IN THIS
ISSUE

25¢

SDDXC Treasurer's Report

Jim, K6SMT



March 2026 REPORT FIGURES (Full Month)

BEGINNING BALANCE 3-2-2026: \$3,824.03

INCOME:

\$220.00 (Membership Dues)

\$0.01 (US Bank Interest)

EXPENSES:

\$275.00 (IRS Form 1023-EZ [Pay.gov](https://www.pay.gov/))

CASH BALANCE 3-31-2026: \$3,769.04

Jim, K6SMT

SDDXC Bulletin Archive

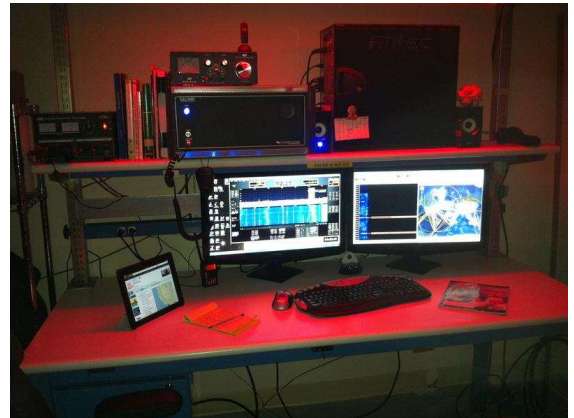
Past issues of the SDDXC Bulletin are available on the Club website at:

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

**SDDXC Meeting April 22, 2026
Meeting Program**

Bud, AE6BH

**The April 2026 Meeting Program will be presented by
Bud Hennessy, AE6BH. The topic of Bud's
presentation will be
"Protecting Your Station from Lightning".**



Bud, AE6BH



SDDXC Contest Results

John, K6AM

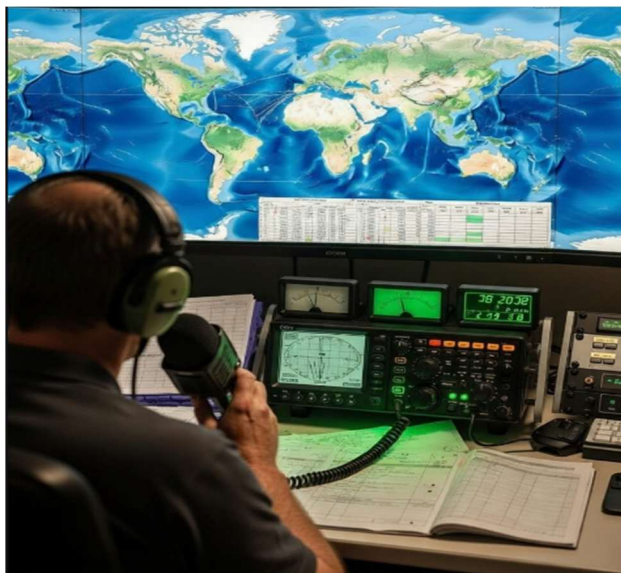


2025 CQ WORLDWIDE DX PHONE CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MULTS	FINISH
MS - HP	CQ9A (OPS 3Z1NY EU1A EU4CK EW6W EW8ADX EW8Y K6JO KL9A KM3T LY4A N6MJ)	33,752,580	12,447	940	ALL TIME WORLD RECORD!
SO- HP	OA4O (N5ZO) (SEE NOTE)	6,735,673	4,877	503	#2 ZONE 10 #5 SA # 11 WORLD
SA- HP	W6YI	1,921,592	1,170	599	#3 W6 #5 ZONE 3
SO- HP	K6NA	701,568	753	348	#3 W6 #5 ZONE 3
SO- HP10	N6KI	50,641	206	89	
SO- HP (C)	W6JBR	96,432	206	168	
SA- HP	NA6MB	19,339	84	83	

NOTE: This expedition by Marko, N5ZO to zone 10 marks the 40th and final zone in his quest to operate a contest from every single zone. This feat has only been accomplished by 2 other testers that I know of, N6AA and N6ZZ. So when you see Marko, give him a big atta-boy for a fantastic job well done!

John, K6AM



From the Editor

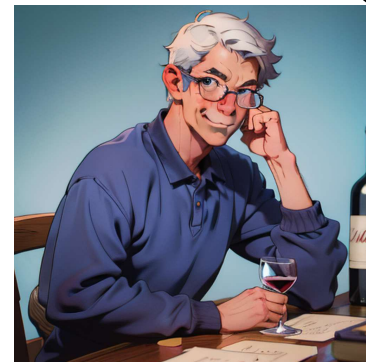
Bob, K9RHY

The DXCC Honor Roll Accelerator:

A Modest Proposal for the Time-Constrained DXer

By “Professor” Alphonse Q. Whittaker, KØAPR

(Honor Roll Pending Since 1978)



Prof. Whittaker, 3:17 a.m. — awaiting word from Bouvet. Again.

There was a time—not so very long ago, though it now seems as distant as spark transmitters and hand-cranked generators—when achieving the DXCC Honor Roll was a life’s work. It required patience bordering on sainthood, a tolerance for static crashes that would test the composure of a monk, and a willingness to wake at 3:17 a.m. because someone, somewhere, thought they heard a whisper from Bouvet.

The old-timers among us will remember this era fondly. We built antennas that threatened local aviation, rotated beams that groaned like World War II destroyers, and spent evenings hunched over logbooks containing more crossed-out callsigns than confirmed ones. We waited years—years!—for a rare entity to go active. When it finally did, we battled pileups that resembled bar fights more than orderly communications. And when, after decades, the final QSL card arrived, we experienced a quiet satisfaction that can only be described as... well... worth every sleepless hour.

Naturally, this approach has fallen somewhat out of favor.

Today’s DXer—let us call them the “Efficiency-Oriented Operator”—has grown accustomed to a different tempo. Information is instant. Results are expected promptly. If a rare entity is not workable within a reasonable window (say, eleven minutes), questions begin to be asked. Why must Honor Roll take decades? Why not... accelerate?

THE PROBLEM, CLEARLY STATED

The obstacles to Honor Roll have been well documented. Remote locations. Political complications. Environmental hazards. And, perhaps most daunting of all, the stubborn requirement that an operation be... legitimate.

These barriers have, for generations, ensured that DXCC retained its prestige. They have also, unfortunately, ensured that many operators reach Honor Roll at an age when their primary antenna concern is whether the retirement community permits verticals.

GCADA identified three principal impediments:

- Geographic Inconvenience – Entities located in places that are cold, wet, disputed, windswept, or some combination thereof.
- Administrative Friction – Permissions, licenses, and other documents that stubbornly require actual authorization from actual authorities.
- Verification Protocols – The insistence that contacts originate from bona fide operations physically present within the entity.

THE SOLUTION

To the traditionalist, these may appear fundamental. To GCADA, they were merely... opportunities.

The turning point came during a late-night strategy session in a conference room situated somewhere between Palo Alto and a very good espresso machine. Present were engineers, legal scholars, and at least one individual who claimed to have worked every entity using nothing but a rain gutter and sheer determination.

The idea, when it arrived, was elegantly simple:

If the mountain will not come to the DXer... send a very small, very clever box to the mountain.

Thus was born the Remote Autonomous Contact Facilitation Unit—or RACFU (pronounced “rack-few,” though a vocal minority insists on “rack-foo”).

Each RACFU consists of:

- A compact HF transceiver
- A solar power system rated for “optimistic conditions”
- A multi-band antenna that deploys itself with surprising enthusiasm
- A satellite uplink (geofencing... optional)
- Software capable of conducting FT8 QSOs with a level of efficiency some have described as “borderline unsettling”

Deployment is handled via drone, balloon, or—in one memorable case—an enthusiastic kayaker with excellent

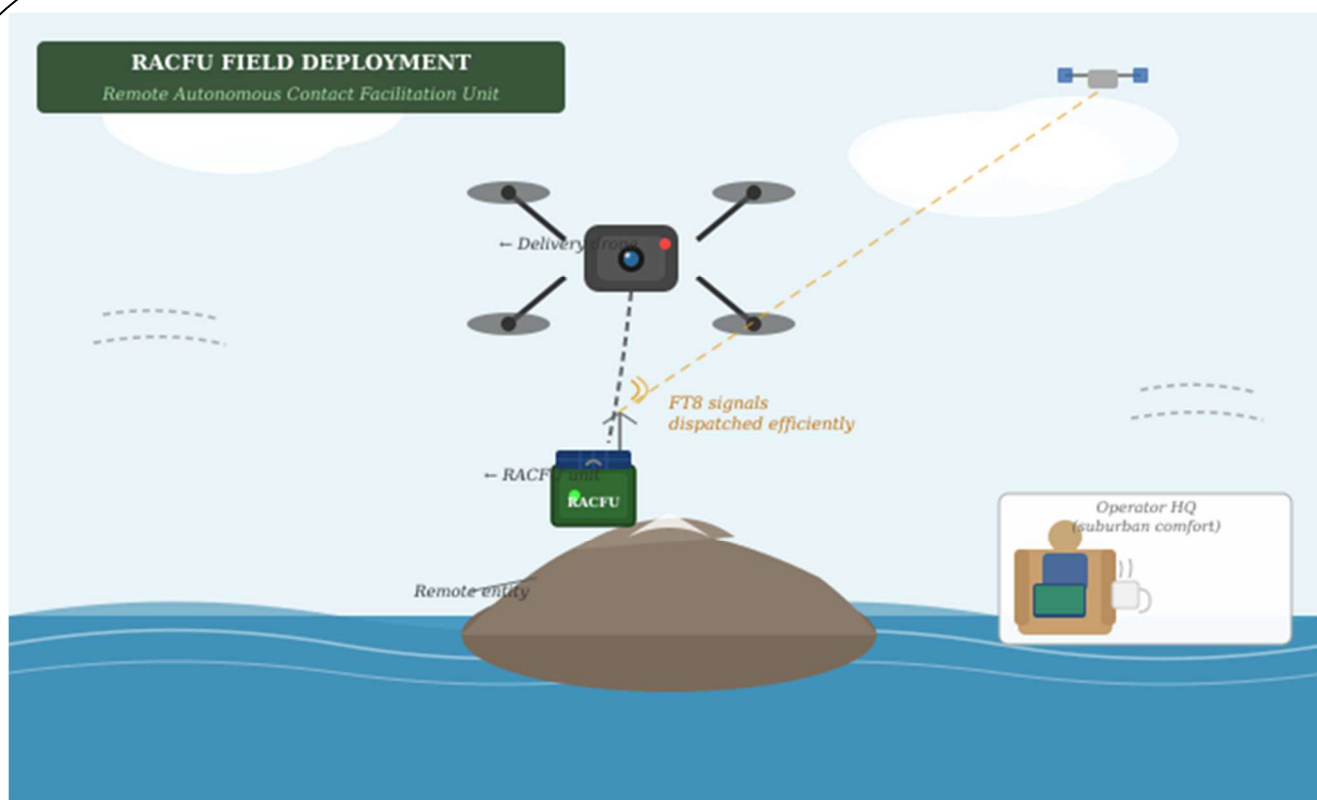


Fig. 1 — Standard RACFU field deployment. Operator (not pictured) is enjoying coffee at home.)

ADDRESSING THE FINE PRINT

Of course, certain questions arose.

For example: Does a radio left unattended in a remote location constitute an “operation”?

Here, GCADA’s legal division—operating under the reassuringly named Center for Equitable Spectrum Access (CESA)—proved invaluable. Drawing upon a rich tradition of creative interpretation, CESA advanced the concept of “Distributed Operator Presence.”

In essence: if an operator can control a station remotely, and the station is physically within the entity, then the spirit of the rule is satisfied. The fact that said operator is simultaneously eating a sandwich in suburban comfort is, legally speaking, immaterial.

More challenging was the matter of authorization. Some entities, regrettably, do not issue amateur radio licenses on short notice—or at all. This obstacle was addressed through what CESA termed “Preemptive Regulatory Clarification.” Without delving into excessive detail (or naming specific jurisdictions), this approach involves:

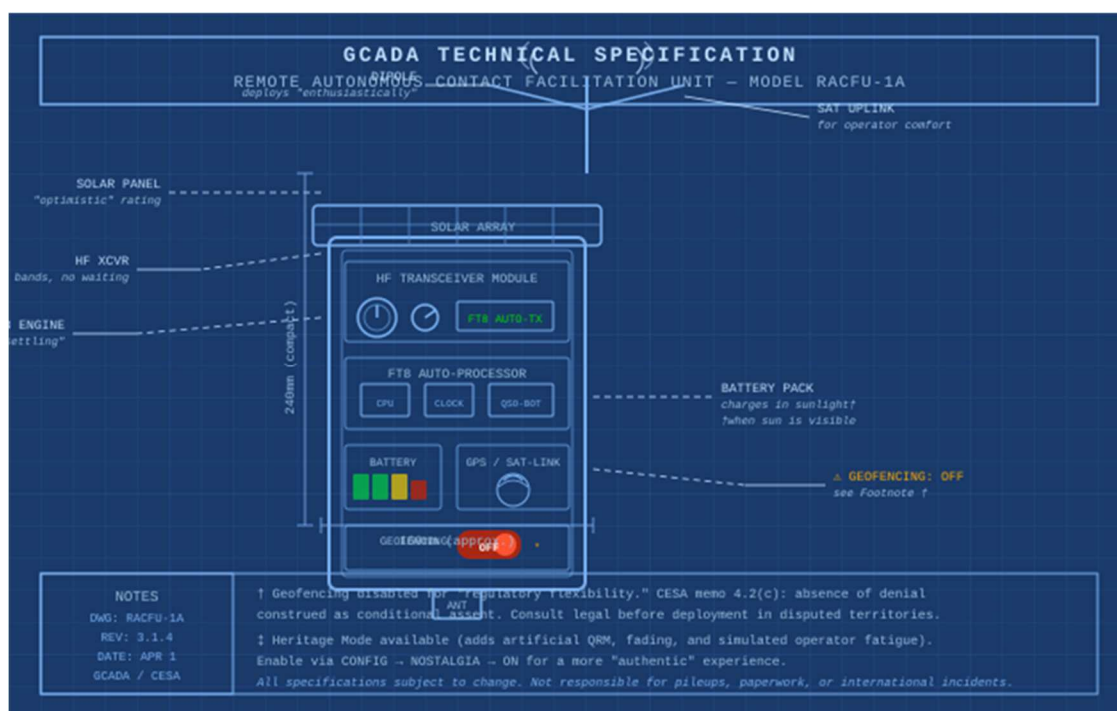
- Filing for permission
- Not receiving permission
- Interpreting the absence of denial as a form of **conditional assent**

THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY

No discussion of the Honor Roll Accelerator would be complete without acknowledging the transformative role of modern digital modes. FT8, in particular, has proven ideally suited to the RACFU paradigm. Its structured exchanges, precise timing, and extraordinary tolerance for weak signals make it the perfect companion for unattended operation in environments that would discourage even the most enthusiastic human operator.

Critics have suggested that this reduces the art of DXing to a series of automated transactions. Proponents counter that it reduces the time required for DXing, which is, after all, the point.

"We are not eliminating the challenge. We are simply... compressing it." — GCADA Spokesperson



EARLY RESULTS

The initial deployments were, by all accounts, encouraging. Within weeks, entities long considered "difficult" began appearing with remarkable regularity. Signals were modest but consistent. QSOs were efficient. Confirmations flowed into logs with a steadiness that some found deeply satisfying and others found vaguely unsettling.

"I've waited 30 years for this. It only took 12 minutes!"

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

As with any innovation, reactions have been mixed.

The Efficiency-Oriented Operators have embraced the program with gusto. For them, the Honor Roll Accelerator represents a long-overdue modernization of a venerable institution.

The traditionalists, meanwhile, have raised thoughtful concerns. They ask: What becomes of the journey? The anticipation? The stories that begin with “You should have been there when...”?

These are valid questions, and ones that GCADA has addressed with characteristic optimism.

“We are not replacing tradition,” a spokesperson explained. “We are offering an alternative pathway for those whose schedules do not permit multi-decade engagement.” It is, in other words, a matter of choice.

LOOKING AHEAD

Plans are already underway for Phase II of the program. Enhancements under consideration include:

- Adaptive Propagation Optimization – RACFUs that adjust frequency and power in real time based on global conditions

- Predictive Pileup Management – Algorithms that anticipate demand and allocate QSOs with near-perfect efficiency

- Heritage Mode – An optional setting that introduces artificial QRM, variable signal strength, and simulated operator fatigue for those seeking a more “authentic” experience

There is even talk of a commemorative certificate for early adopters, printed on paper designed to resemble slightly yellowed QSL cards. A thoughtful touch.

A FINAL REFLECTION

It would be easy to view the Honor Roll Accelerator as a departure from tradition. In some respects, it is.

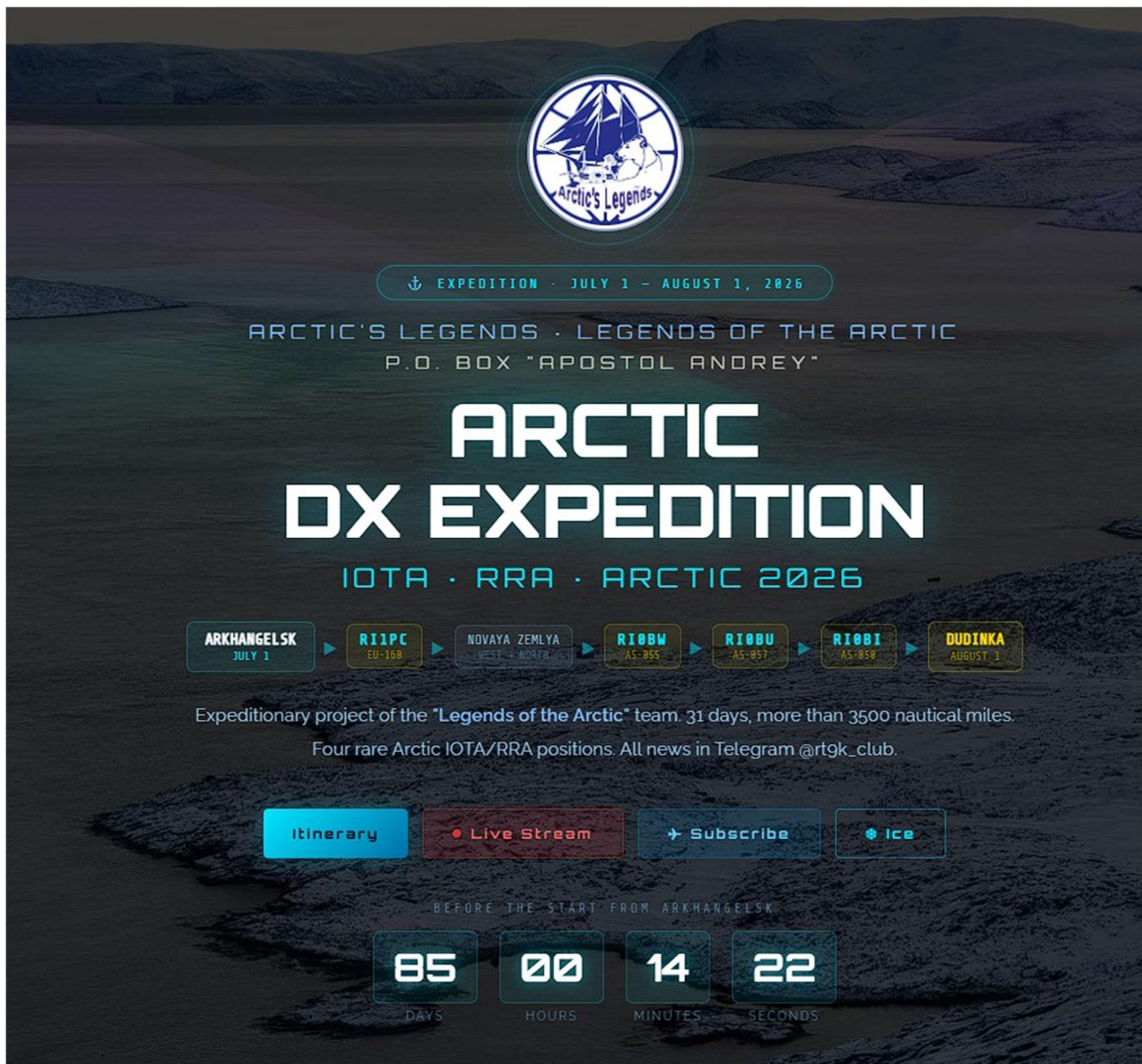
But it is also, perhaps, a continuation of a long-standing amateur radio spirit: the desire to push boundaries, to innovate, and occasionally, to take ourselves just a little less seriously. After all, the essence of DXing has never been solely about the entities. It has been about the pursuit, the camaraderie, and the shared understanding that—whether we are stringing wire in the backyard or deploying a RACFU to a windswept outcrop—we are all part of the same curious endeavor.

And if, along the way, a few more operators find themselves on the Honor Roll—perhaps a bit sooner than expected—well...

One suspects the bands will continue to be lively.

Editor’s Note (April 1st): The preceding article is offered in the spirit of good humor and gentle satire. No RACFUs were deployed in the making of this narrative, though several were enthusiastically discussed over adult beverages. As always, may your signals be strong, your logs accurate, and your sense of humor intact. 73.

Bob, K9RHY



EXPEDITION · JULY 1 – AUGUST 1, 2026

ARCTIC'S LEGENDS · LEGENDS OF THE ARCTIC
P.O. BOX "APOSTOL ANDREY"

ARCTIC DX EXPEDITION

IOTA · RRA · ARCTIC 2026

[ARKHANGELSK
JULY 1](#)
[RIIPC
EU-168](#)
[NOVAYA ZEMLYA
WEST - NORTH](#)
[RI0BW
AS-855](#)
[RI0BU
AS-857](#)
[RI0BI
AS-858](#)
[DUDINKA
AUGUST 1](#)

Expeditionary project of the "Legends of the Arctic" team. 31 days, more than 3500 nautical miles.
Four rare Arctic IOTA/RRA positions. All news in Telegram @rtgk_club.

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BEFORE THE START FROM ARKHANGELSK

85 DAYS
00 HOURS
14 MINUTES
22 SECONDS



Club Log DX Report for April, 2026

Most active bands

Band	QSOs	% DX	Graph
160M	6,520	18.11	
80M	47,031	13.81	
60M	10,281	26.59	
40M	177,675	22.88	
30M	82,310	46.05	
20M	289,268	44.40	
17M	113,047	69.55	
15M	147,416	73.84	
12M	31,361	81.40	
10M	42,305	78.22	

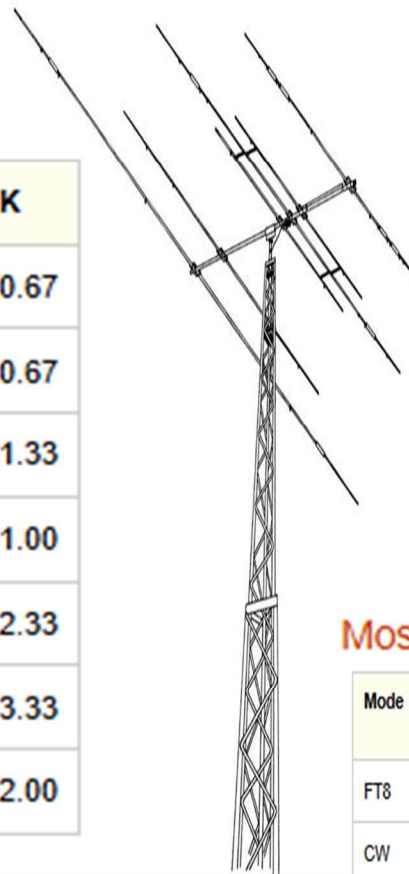
Rank	Prefix	Entity Name
1.	P5	DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
2.	BS7H	SCARBOROUGH REEF
3.	CE0X	SAN FELIX ISLANDS
4.	BV9P	PRATAS ISLAND
5.	KH7K	KURE ISLAND
6.	KH3	JOHNSTON ISLAND
7.	FT/G	GLORIOSO ISLAND
8.	3Y/P	PETER 1 ISLAND
9.	FT5/X	KERGUELEN ISLAND
10.	YV0	AVES ISLAND
11.	3Y/B	BOUVET ISLAND
12.	ZS8	PRINCE EDWARD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

Active expeditions

Callsign	DXCC	Last QSO	# QSOs
3X3A	GUINEA	2026-04-16 14:29	18,606
VP2MAA	MONTSEERRAT	2026-04-16 14:10	126,724
T31TTT	CENTRAL KIRIBATI	2026-04-15 09:33	108,897
RI1ANC	ANTARCTICA	2026-04-14 13:47	64,286
TY5FR	BENIN	2026-04-03 13:05	30,001
S21WD	BANGLADESH	2026-04-02 01:37	73,474
PJ7AA	SINT MAARTEN	2026-04-01 22:59	87,515
CY0S	SABLE ISLAND	2026-03-31 21:53	103,189
XX9W	MACAO	2026-03-31 00:00	71,947
3B8XF	MAURITIUS ISLAND	2026-03-26 07:51	31,331

Solar activity

Date	SFI	A	K
2026-04-16	105	4	0.67
2026-04-15	101	4	0.67
2026-04-14	99	3	1.33
2026-04-13	99	8	1.00
2026-04-12	93	12	2.33
2026-04-11	94	18	3.33
2026-04-10	98	7	2.00

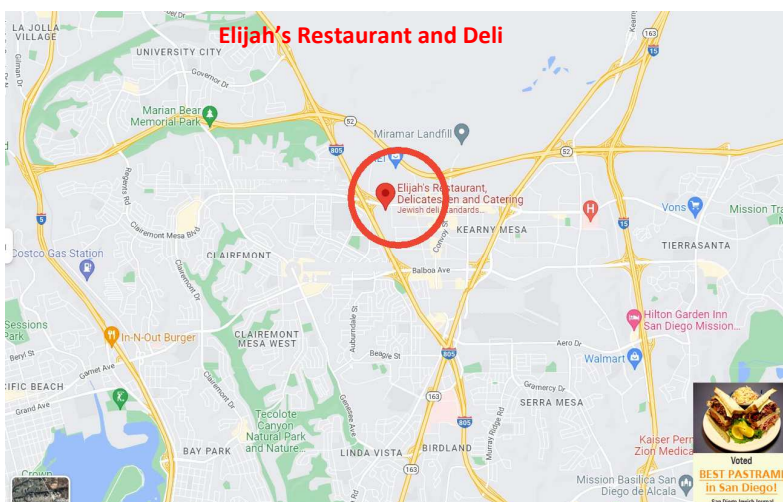
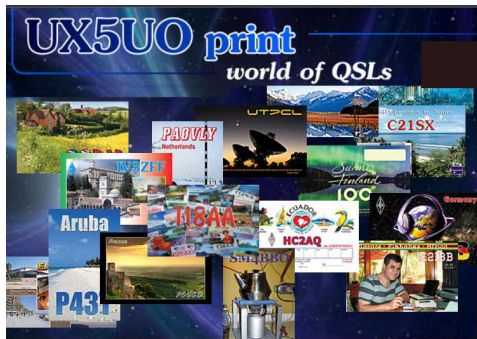


Most active modes

Mode	% Use	QSOs	Graph
FT8	67.54	651,599	
CW	12.01	115,861	
SSB	8.84	85,299	

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We are pleased to recognize the many businesses that help contribute to the success and vitality of the SDDXC



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