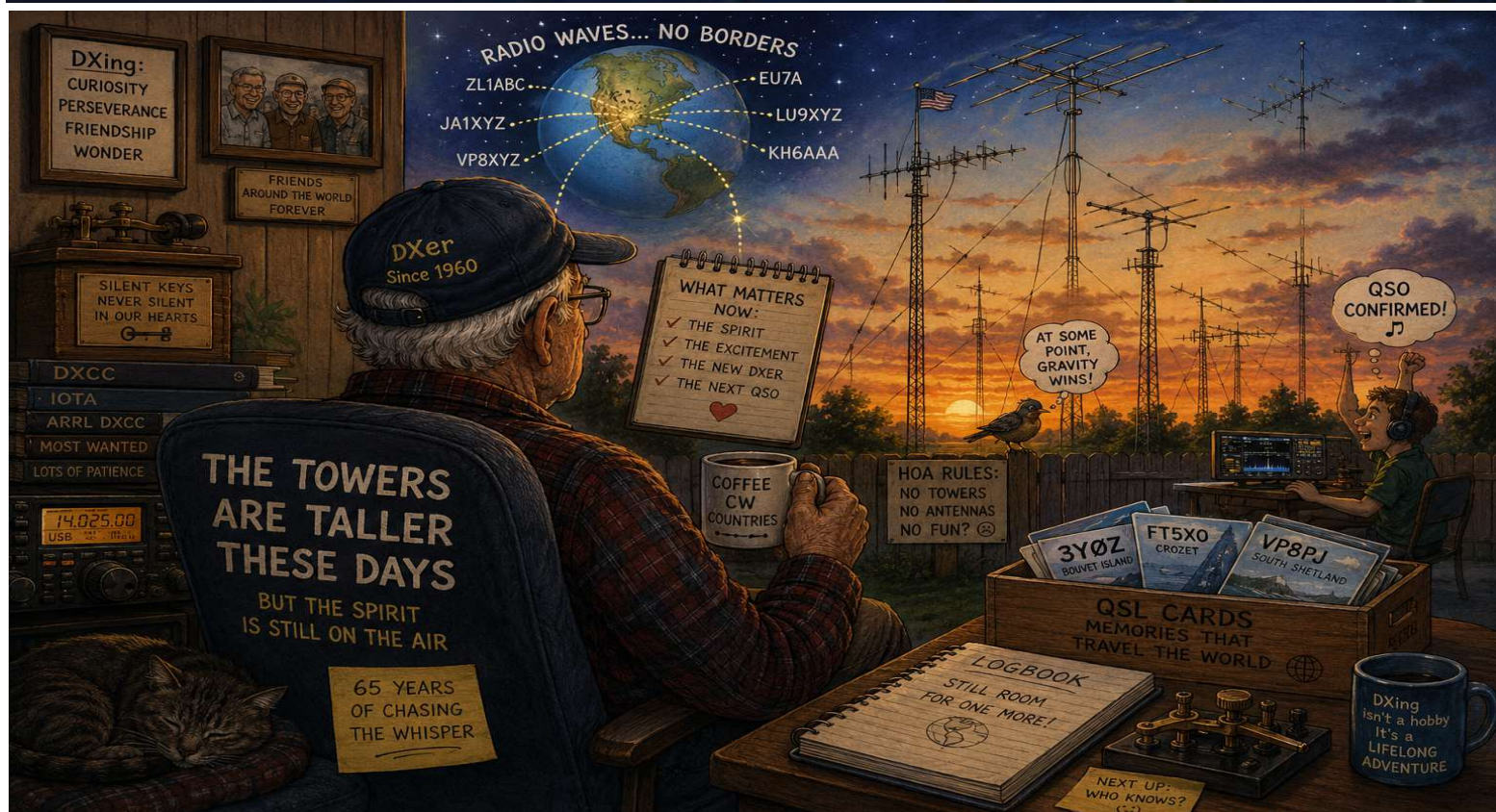


San Diego DX Club Bulletin

August 2026



MEETING PROGRAM

The August 2026 Meeting Program will be presented by Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP discussing the new Flex Radio Aurora transceiver.

MEETING NOTICE

The August 2026 SDDXC meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 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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President:

Rob Reichman, WA3IHV

Vice President/Pgm Chair:

Bud Hennessy, AE6BH

Secretary:

Bob LaRose, W6ACU

larose@shortwaves.com

Treasurer:

Jim Wellington K6SMT

jimwellington@gmail.com

Past President:

Miguel Rivera, KJ6YXI

Board of Directors:

Steve Handrop, K6RSH

Jerry Stafford, W6KIN

Ray Waldemar, WA6NVL

Contest Results:

John Barcroft, K6AM

k6am@arri.net

"TOP 10":

Glen Christensen, AI6RR

iam.gchrist@gmail.com

Webmaster:

Jim Shryne, N6DHZ

Historian:

Glenn Rattmann, K6NA

(760) 447-3104

k6na59@gmail.com

Bulletin Editor:

Bob Farkaly, K9RHY

(619) 602-2653

bob@farkaly.com

From the Prez . . .

Rob, WA3IHV

With the advent of V-J day in August 1945, World War II was officially over. Over the next several months the FCC allowed hams to resume transmitting on HF frequencies. In 1946 a group of San Diego hams interested in DX met at the home of Dick Shanks, W6BZE (SK). This is the year local DX'ers began meeting to share their DX'ing experiences. Initially, the Club Charter included 10 hams, all of whom are SKs (the last remaining charter member was Don, W6PBI who passed away in 2013). From our records it is unclear as to exactly when the Club was formally chartered? As your elected President, I am declaring 1946, when the group first started holding monthly meetings, as the beginning of the San Diego DX Club. 2026 is our 80th Anniversary as a Club!

SDDXC has officially become a nonprofit public benefit corporation for charitable or educational purposes in California. It is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for public and charitable purposes. We have established our tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Code. We will be voting at this month's meeting to amend Article 1, Section 1 of our Constitution to reflect this change. Please make every effort to attend either in person or via Zoom for the vote.

As Cycle 25 continues to wane, conditions on 10 and 15 M weaken with less frequent, shorter, or non-existent band openings. The nadir for Cycle 26 (signifying beginning of the new cycle) is predicted to occur in 2030-2031.

Our BASH was a great success this year! You can access photos for the 2026 San Diego DX Club Picnic-Ray Waldemar provided by our de facto photographer Ray, WA6NVL. See link elsewhere in the Newsletter. Thank you Ray!

Our upcoming meeting is August 26 At Elijah's Restaurant presented by Tony Brock, K1KP speaking about the Polar Explorer Project (500 watt transceiver with tuner and PS in an 18lb package)

Let's all look forward to 80 more years and beyond of GOOD DXing with the SDDXC!

73 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



Board Meeting Minutes

Bob, W6ACU



SDDXC Board Meeting July 13th 2026

In attendance: Rob (WA3IHV) , Jim (K6SMT), Ray (WA6NVL), Steve (K6RSH), and Jerry (W6KIN)

Bash – Last minute discussions of details of the summer BASH, Sunday the 19th. 47 people have RSVPed. Phil's will cater. Ray will take pictures and will provide CAMBRO cooling station for salads. Bob L to advise Elijah's that we will not have a meeting there this month.

Club Historian – So far Rob has been unable to get anyone to commit to take over this role. He has arranged to get someone to have the documents and pictures scanned. The role of the Historian will only be to hold the original material. He is looking for a volunteer!

Treasurer's Report – Was reviewed and accepted.

Web Site – Bob LaRose has reviewed the published web site and made two suggestions on updating – (1) Take off the reference of the 2m talk-in and cluster channel, which is not being used due to newer technology and (2) Update the membership page to follow the new By-Laws. The suggested changes were voted and accepted.

Bob, W6ACU



Secretary's Report

Bob, W6ACU



SDDXC Meeting Minutes June 2026

The meeting was brought to order at 6:30 PM by our President, Rob Reichman, WA3IHV.

There were 20 people in personal attendance at Elijah's Restaurant and seven people via Zoom.

The speaker was Cezar, VE3LYC, who gave an excellent and detailed account of the recent CY0K Bouvet DXpedition. A recording is available on the SDDXC Youtube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRAW-XFid9Y>

The presentation was followed by the usual Roundtable.

The meeting was adjourned about 8:30 PM.

Bob, W6ACU





Photo credit: K6GO TNX!

QST

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AMATEUR RADIO

Published by the American Radio Relay League



AUGUST
1926

25¢

SDDXC Treasurer's Report

Jim, K6SMT



July 2026 REPORT FIGURES (Full Month)

BEGINNING BALANCE 7-01-2026: \$3,400.38

INCOME:

\$120.00 (Member Dues)

\$0.01 (US Bank Interest)

EXPENSES:

\$0.00

CASH BALANCE 7-31-2026: \$3,520.39

Jim, K6SMT

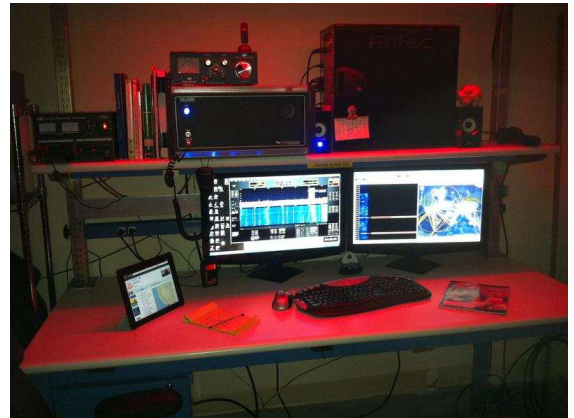
SDDXC Bulletin Archive

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

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

SDDXC Meeting August 26, 2026 Meeting Program

Bud, AE6BH



Abstract

Over the past 12 years, Tony, K1KP developed a high-efficiency HF transmitter that produces 500W output. The design was adopted by Flex Radio as the basis for their new Aurora transceiver. Hear the fascinating journey in Tony's own words.

Speaker Bio

Tony Brock-Fisher was originally licensed in 1967 as WA1IKP and upgraded to Extra, changing his call to K1KP in 1976. Tony has a B.S. in Physics and an M.S. in Ocean Engineering. He retired from Philips Electronics in 2013, following a 35 year career in Medical Ultrasound design. Tony started working on the Polar Explorer project in 2013 and partnered with FlexRadio, Inc. in 2019. Tony enjoys contesting, DX, and station construction projects.

Bud, AE6BH



SDDXC Contest Results

John, K6AM

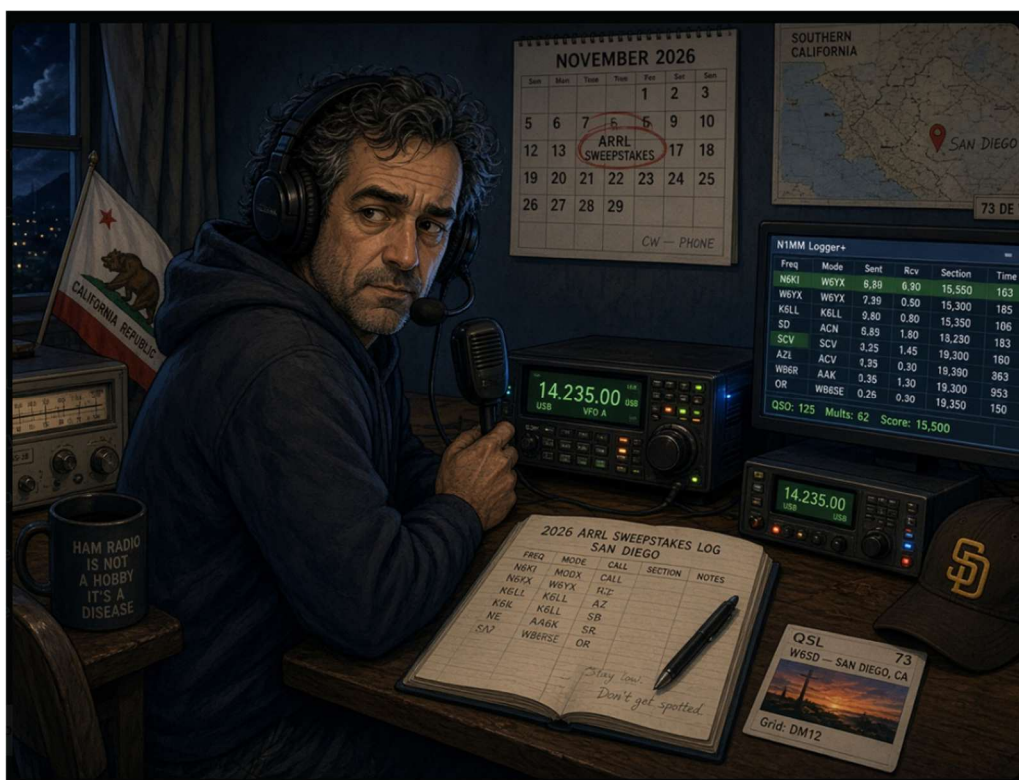


2025 ARRL SWEEPSTAKES SSB CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
SO - HP	KM7W (K6JO)	298,690	1,757	85	#1 US/VE
MS - LP	NX6T (ops K6RC N6CY N6KI WM6Y WQ6X @WA6TQT)	152,150	895	85	#1 US/VE
SO - LP	WA3IHV	17,446	143	61	
SO - HP	W6JBR	9,984	96	52	

Wow! What a showing for San Diegans. Our wonderkind, Levi, K6JO traveled up to KL9A's new superstation in Montana to finish first place SO-HP. Dennis, N6KI's seasoned team remoted into John, WA6TQT's superstation up in Anza and also finished first place US/VE in MS-LP from the comfort of their own homes. Congrats to all these fine champions.

John, K6AM



From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



The Towers Are Taller These Days



This month's San Diego DX Club Bulletin carries the voice of someone who has truly lived the evolution of DXing across generations. I wrote it as a reflective "From the Editor" narrative — nostalgic, honest, but still hopeful about the future.

For 65 years, DXing has been part of my identity.

I've watched the sun rise over countless mornings after all-night openings on 20 meters. I've sat in darkened shacks listening through static and fading signals, hoping to pull a whisper of a rare one out of the noise. I've heard the thrill in my headphones when a distant station finally came back with my call after an hour in the pileup. And I've known the quiet satisfaction that only another DXer can truly understand — the feeling that, for a few moments, the world became smaller because radio waves connected two people separated by oceans, politics, language, and time itself.

I've been fortunate. I worked the rare ones. I chased the new entities. I climbed towers. I built antennas that made neighbors stare and fellow hams smile. I experienced the golden age of DXing when propagation, persistence, and patience defined the game. Back then, every new country felt like a personal expedition.

And CW? CW was magic.

To this day, I believe there is no more elegant form of communication ever created for amateur radio. The rhythm of Morse code is more than information — it is personality, emotion, and humanity compressed into dots and dashes. A good CW operator could tell you who was at the key before the callsign was even complete. We learned each other's fists. We learned patience. We learned discipline.

Most of all, we learned friendship.

That may be what I miss the most now.

Over the decades I made friends around the world — men and women whose voices or code became familiar companions through different phases of life. We shared victories, equipment failures, propagation reports, illnesses, marriages, and losses. Some I met in person. Many I never did. Yet they were as real to me as neighbors across the street.

Now, one by one, many of those voices have gone silent.

The term "Silent Key" never meant much to me when I was young. It was simply a notation in a club bulletin or a short announcement on the air. But age changes the meaning of things. Today, I look through old logs and recognize callsigns that will never again appear in a pileup. Friends who once dominated CW contests with lightning speed are now memories attached to fading QSL cards.

Sometimes I miss them more than I can explain.

Age also changes the physical side of our hobby.

There was a time when climbing a tower felt as natural as climbing stairs. Bigger antennas meant bigger dreams, and every additional foot of height seemed to promise another rare entity in the logbook. I loved all of it — the construction, the experimentation, the risk, and yes, even the scraped knuckles and frozen fingers.

Today, the towers seem taller.

Restrictive covenants have changed the landscape for many of us. Neighborhood rules, HOA restrictions, and changing attitudes toward visible antennas have slowly reshaped amateur radio. Many newer hams will never know the sight of giant monobanders turning against a sunset in an ordinary suburban backyard. And even if the restrictions disappeared tomorrow, many of us who once climbed without hesitation now understand our limitations.

At some point, gravity wins.

I'll admit something honestly: there are days when I feel some of the joy slipping away. Not the love of DXing itself — that never disappears — but the physical experience of it that once defined so much of my life. The chase becomes different when your knees hurt more than the pileup does.

Yet somehow, despite all of that, the spark remains.

I still feel it when conditions suddenly open to some distant corner of the world. I still feel it when a weak CW signal rises just above the noise floor. I still feel it when I hear genuine excitement in the voice of a newer DXer working an all-time new one. And maybe that is what matters most now.

Not what I have accomplished.

Not how many entities are confirmed.

Not how many towers I climbed.

What matters is whether the spirit of DXing survives.

I want new DXers to know what it feels like to stay awake far too late because propagation to the Pacific just improved unexpectedly. I want them to understand the nervous excitement of breaking a pileup through skill and persistence instead of automation. I want them to experience the wonder of hearing a signal arrive from a place they may never visit in person.

Most of all, I want them to discover that DXing is not really about countries.

It is about curiosity.

It is about perseverance.

It is about reaching outward.

For over a century, amateur radio has allowed ordinary people to touch the world with nothing more than wire, radios, and determination. Technologies will change. Modes will evolve. Some will debate whether modern DXing is easier or harder than it used to be. Those conversations will continue long after my own key falls silent.

But the essential magic remains unchanged.

Somewhere tonight, a young ham will hear a weak distant signal and feel the same excitement I felt decades ago. Somewhere, someone will log their very first rare DX contact and immediately want another one. Somewhere, the spark that first ignited this hobby generations ago will continue burning.

And knowing that gives me hope.

Because even as the years pass, even as old friends fade into memory, and even as the towers become impossible to climb, the spirit of DXing still lives on the air.

Bob, K9RHY

Building a Better On-Ramp to DXCC

Why the DXAC Proposed a Participation and Progressive Engagement Framework Through LoTW

By Bill Shell, N6WS

DXCC remains one of amateur radio's most respected operating achievements, but the path into the program is not always obvious to a newer operator. Today, many amateurs build substantial totals in Logbook of The World through FT8, contesting, POTA, SOTA, and ordinary HF operating without deliberately pursuing DXCC. Some may already have 100 confirmed entities and not realize that they qualify. Others may know they are close, but have little understanding of the application process, the next steps, or the DX community that can help them continue.

That was the problem the DX Advisory Committee attempted to address in June 2026. The proposed DXCC Participation and Progressive Engagement Framework Through LoTW was intended to make the first step into DXCC easier and then provide a visible path for continued participation. The concept began with an automatic notification when an operator reached 100 confirmed current DXCC entities in LoTW. However, the notification was only the on-ramp, not the entire proposal.

The broader framework would have used that moment of qualification to introduce the operator to DXCC, explain the available awards and endorsements, and offer optional information about nearby DX clubs, experienced mentors, contest groups, and other DX-oriented communities. It also proposed recognizing continued progress at additional milestones so that operators would see DXCC not simply as a single certificate at 100 entities, but as a continuing operating pursuit that could lead toward band and mode endorsements, DXCC Challenge, and eventually Honor Roll.

The reasoning was straightforward. Long-term DXers are rarely created by an award application alone. They are usually drawn further into the activity through encouragement, shared operating experience, club involvement, and mentoring. An automated LoTW message could identify an operator at exactly the point when that encouragement would be most useful. It could convert an unnoticed database total into an invitation to become part of the wider DXing community.

The proposal was discussed in detail within the DXAC before being forwarded to the ARRL Program Services Committee. No objections were raised within the committee during that discussion. The proposal was not presented as a finished or perfect system, but as a practical starting point that could be refined through implementation experience and additional input.

A separate-server implementation was also suggested. Existing application programming interfaces could allow a participation and notification service to query the necessary LoTW information without adding another major function directly to the aging LoTW software. Because LoTW itself is overdue for modernization and rehosting, an external service appeared to offer a lower-risk way to test and expand the concept while keeping the participation tools separate from the core confirmation system.

After considering the proposal, the Program Services Committee agreed to advance only one portion: automatic notification when an operator reaches 100 confirmed DXCC entities in LoTW. That is a useful improvement and should help operators who qualify without realizing it. ARRL has chosen to

implement the notification by modifying the LoTW software rather than through the proposed separate service.

The remaining portions of the framework - progressive milestone recognition, simplified follow-up guidance, connections to local DX clubs and mentors, and broader community engagement - were not advanced. No specific explanation for limiting the implementation was provided. The PSC did supply a new format for submitting future suggestions and requested that proposals include a DXAC vote count.

Because the PSC normally meets only twice each year, substantial follow-up proposals or revised implementation suggestions may not receive consideration until 2027. That delay makes it especially important for the DX community to continue discussing how the initial notification can become more than a congratulatory email. The greatest opportunity is not merely telling an operator that 100 entities have been confirmed; it is showing that operator where the DXCC journey can lead and introducing the people who can help along the way.

The original framework may not have answered every implementation question, but it identified a real participation gap and offered a constructive starting point. Automatic qualification notification is a worthwhile first step. The longer-term objective should remain a complete on-ramp that turns casual HF activity into sustained DXCC participation, strengthens local DX clubs, encourages mentoring, and brings a new generation of operators into the traditions and fellowship of DXing.

[Link to the complete June 2026 proposal.](#)



SDDXC Zoom Meeting Login

SDDXC's monthly meeting will be this Wednesday, August 26th at Elijah's Restaurant starting at 6:30PM

If you are unable to attend in person, join our Zoom Meeting starting about 6PM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81300286286?pwd=hkGO2Vxf39OaenterpaazpIVaHQ5n.1>

If that link doesn't work for you, go to Zoom.com and enter this information:

Meeting ID: 813 0028 6286

Passcode: 2gZpWn



Club Log DX Report for May, 2026

Most active bands

Band	QSOs	% DX	Graph
160M	1,788	7.21	
80M	27,076	16.23	
60M	6,820	17.11	
40M	147,117	21.50	
30M	71,778	46.23	
20M	263,013	39.55	
17M	100,568	55.61	
15M	150,812	56.68	
12M	38,199	58.71	
10M	44,043	39.29	
6M	21,041	5.22	

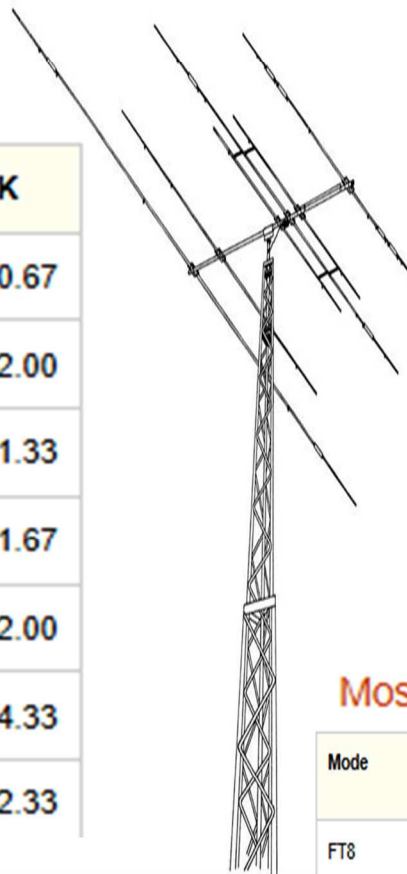
Rank	Prefix	Entity Name
1.	P5	DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
2.	BS7H	SCARBOROUGH REEF
3.	CE0X	SAN FELIX ISLANDS
4.	BV9P	PRATAS ISLAND
5.	KH7K	KURE ISLAND
6.	KH3	JOHNSTON ISLAND
7.	FT/G	GLORIOSO ISLAND
8.	3Y/P	PETER 1 ISLAND
9.	FT5/X	KERGUELEN ISLAND
10.	YV0	AVES ISLAND
11.	3Y/B	BOUVET ISLAND
12.	ZS8	PRINCE EDWARD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

Active expeditions

Callsign	DXCC	Last QSO	# QSOs
VP2MAA	MONTERRAT	2026-08-24 13:12	171,703
RI1FJL	FRANZ JOSEF LAND	2026-08-23 16:30	18,996
3D2USU	FIJI ISLANDS	2026-08-20 11:11	338,411
RI1ANC	ANTARCTICA	2026-08-10 04:49	65,241
TY5FR	BENIN	2026-08-03 21:28	33,448
3G0YM	EASTER ISLAND	2026-07-29 00:41	6,527
PJ6Y	SABA & ST EUSTATIUS	2026-06-28 11:54	56,634
FS/K9EL	SAINT MARTIN	2026-06-24 18:59	66,378
VJ2L	LORD HOWE ISLAND	2026-06-13 22:57	24,580
ZL7IO	CHATHAM ISLAND	2026-06-03 11:04	71,091
T31TTT	CENTRAL KIRIBATI	2026-06-03 07:23	183,624
TX9W	MARQUESAS ISLANDS	2026-04-30 17:22	26,681

Solar activity

Date	SFI	A	K
2026-08-24	128	6	0.67
2026-08-23	124	4	2.00
2026-08-22	126	8	1.33
2026-08-21	125	11	1.67
2026-08-20	126	20	2.00
2026-08-19	125	25	4.33
2026-08-18	124	11	2.33

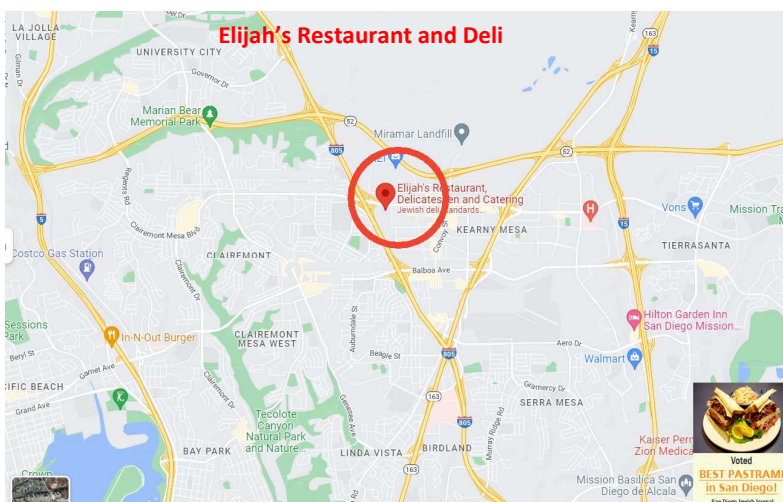
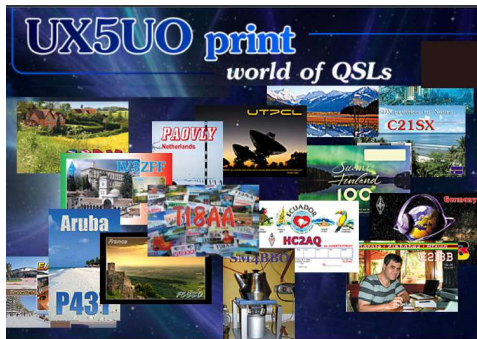


Most active modes

Mode	% Use	QSOs	Graph
FT8	71.59	635,990	
CW	12.07	107,217	
SSB	9.27	82,330	

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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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