

Sable Island DXpedition March 2023



WA4DAN W4DKS K4ZLE N2TU WØGJ K9CT W2GD WW2DX

EUDXF NEWSLETTER 1 • 2024

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The EUDXF has sponsored quite a number of DXpedition that took place in 2023. We would like you to vote for your best DXpedition of the year. The results will be published in the next newsletter. By separate e-mail you will receive a link to the voting application.

change of address I would like to remind you that members who change their address or e-mail address inform our treasurer at

eudxf@eudxf.eu



Imprint

EUropean DX Foundation e.V. — **President:** Gerben A. Menting (PG5M) Leemdobbe 19, 9472 ZR Zuidlaren, The Netherlands, e-mail: president@eudxf.eu. **Boardmembers:** Ronald Stuy (PA3EWP), Prof. Dr. Achim Rogmann (DF3EC), Hans P. Blondeel Timmerman (PB2T), Istvan "Pista" Gaspar (HA5AO). **Advisor:** Jan B. C. Harders (DJ8NK), Dominik Weiel (DL5EBE).

Officemanager: Alex van Hengel, (PA1AW). Cashier/Office DL/ Printing Support: Robert F. Lörcks (DL1EBV), Webmaster: Alex van Hengel (PA1AW).

The annual *membership fee* is *25 Euro*. Please pay the amount to our *Bank Account:* Volksbank Kleverland, *IBAN:* DE65 3246 0422 0205 1830 19 BIC: GENO DE D1KL L.

I trust that members living in the Euro zone will use this account only, because this implies the least costs for our foundation. Those who do not live in the Euro zone may also use PayPal to **cashier@eudxf.eu**.

EUDXF NEWSLETTER 1 • 2024

Welcoming Words of the President

I like to wish all our members and their families a healthy and prosperous 2024.

In 2024 we will work on several improvements and offering a better service to our members. It is with great pleasure to announce that we have decided to release 6 newsletters per year, starting in January. With that we can inform you better and publish DXpedition stories sooner after the DXpeditions took place.

I would also like to thank all the members (60) that took the time to fill out the questionnaire. The questionnaire is the voice to the members. The results will help us to better understand what our members like, dislike, want to see improvements, etc. We will look at what we can do differently, what we can introduce, where we can improve, but I hope you understand we cannot always meet all individual requests or suggestions. In a next newsletter we will present a summary of the results.

But let's first have a look back to the vear that passed. The solar activity is gradually climbing to its maximum of the solar cycle and some predictions say the maximum would even arrive one year earlier, so 2024 may bring us a lot of good DX.

The past year has shown a lot of activities with major DXpeditions which all could enjoy and with the improved conditions, many people could add contacts on the higher bands. Since we have better conditions and no travel restrictions anymore (due to Covid), we, as EUDXF have received 26 requests which is a substantial increased compared to 2022. This is a great development as it shows that EUDXF is seen as one of the major foundations for supporting DXpeditions, but at the same time it is also putting pressure on the financial situation of the EUDXF as we need to spend more money to honor all these requests.

The EUDXF activity month was again a success and over 60,000 QSO were made. We certainly like to have the same participation later this year again, but even better to have more countries participating with a special call sign.

I'm wishing you a lot of fun reading the DXpedition stories where you will find very different stories of what happened behind the scenes.

Regards, Gerben



The 37EUDXF Activity Month - November 2023

BY ALEX VAN HENGEL, PA1AW

The title is actually quite a good summary, because that it was; an activity month. Although initially seemed that there was not much enthusiasm for "another activity month", we can look back on a November month where the EUDXF was active almost daily somewhere on a band somewhere in the world. With 17 Special **Event Stations active** from 9 different countries, the EUDXF community turned out to be an active community that made itself heard. It remains a pity that we cannot activate

EUDXF Opean DX Foundation **CELEBRATING 37 YEARS EUDXF 37EUDXF NOVEMBER** more countries, but who knows,

the result of 2023 may also inspire other EUDXF members to participate in this event from their country. Participating in this event is certainly satisfying

and it was a nice surprise to have a another non-European 37EUDXF station joining the party: DU37EUDXF. Together with AX37EUDXF they sure broadened the audience to Asia. Although some were quite surprised with this participation, it is actually only logical because EUDXF members can be found all over the world. After all, DX is an international activity and the EUDXF plays an active role here which is cross-border.

Not all stations are BIG GUNS, even with modest means you can already contribute to such an event where it is all about activity. The activated callsigns in 2023 were:

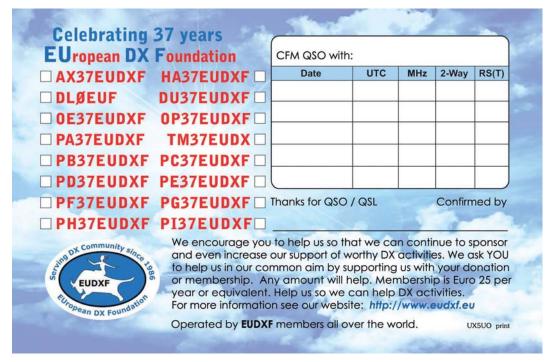
A BIG THANK YOU to all operators who have committed!! To make it clear that the activity month was actually an activity month with over 60.000 QSO's in the various logs.

Another aspect of this activity month is the 37EUDXF Award. Despite the somewhat higher difficulty for the gold and platinum award, I still received award requests from 105 different stations for a total of 210 awards.

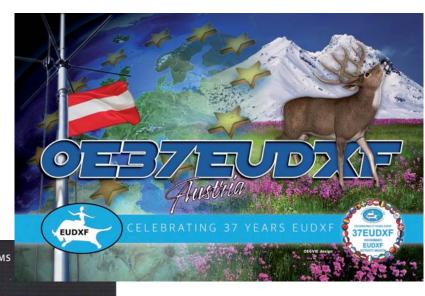
Thank you to all those who have worked and hope we will meet again at the 38th anniversary of the EUDXF in November 2024 during the 38EUDXF Activity Month.

73 Alex PA1AW

AX37EUDXF	VK2WN			
DLØEUF	DJ8NK	DL5EBE	DL1PAN	DL7AFS
DU37EUDXF	DV1K			
HA37EUDXF	HA5TM		wing DV	
OE37EUDXF	OE6VIE	, rs 56	Pring DX	com.
OP37EUDXF	ON6CC	Jean	erving DX	mu.
PA37EUDXF	PA1AW	A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR		12:
PB37EUDXF	PB5X	"		2
PC37EUDXF	PC4E	E	UDXF /	
PD37EUDXF	PD4RD	W.	UDXF • 19	
PE37EUDXF	PA3GDG	Pear		20
PF37EUDXF	PB7Z	A, S E	UDXF • 19	86
PG37EUDXF	PG5M			
PH37EUDXF	PA2TMS			
PI37EUDXF	PA3EWP &	members PI4	COM	
TM37EUDXF	F6EXV	F2VX		
UE37UEF	Miller DX G	iroup		











W8S - DXpedition to Swains Island

BY RONALD STUY, PA3EWP

Swains Island is an atoll located in the South Pacific Ocean, roughly in between Tokelau and Samoa. After Captain Swains discovered the coral island, it was sold to Eli Hutchinson Jennings in 1856 for a handful of dollars and a bottle of gin. Although Swains Island is politically part of American Samoa, the descendants of the Jennings family own this atoll to this day.



At a great distance from the neighboring archipelagos of Tokelau and Samoa, this small atoll was granted its DXCC status in July 2006 and became a soughtafter country for the global DX community. It was first activated by the KH8SI DXpedition in 2006 and afterwards by



two large scale DXpeditions in 2007 by N8S and in 2012 by NH8S. In 2016 Hans DL6JGN and Ronald PA3EWP took the lead to prepare for a new DXpedition to Swains Island, and the first contact with Alex Jennings was made. In 2019, the plan took shape, and an international team of 10 operators was put together. The challenges were enormous. An uninhabited island... Everything had to be thought through for the journey, how

do we get there, food, water, generators, fuel, medical facilities, but above all the technical implementations. Antennas were built and equipment was tested. 4 wooden boxes containing 300 Kgs of masts and other equipment were ready to be shipped from Europe when disaster struck. Due to a defective ship, we initially had to postpone the planned DXpedition in 2020 and ultimately cancel it due to the worldwide corona epidemic and the travel restrictions it entailed.

In the following years, contacts were maintained, and preparations continued slowly behind the scenes. At the beginning of 2023, a contract was drawn up with the owner and his team and it included, among other things, that an American Samoan support team would organize the boat trip from Pago Pago (American Samoa) to Swains Island. The support Team would provide food, water, generators, fuel, and everything necessary for a stay of 10 operators for 14 days on the island.

A lot of preparation work was already done during our first attempt. But due to changing propagation during the new activation window, there were a lot of changes especially in the antenna setup. The propagation on the higher bands were now predicted to be much better than in 2020, so we changed our antenna setup. For the higher bands we made more VDA antennas. We also added 6 meter to our list. We wanted to make also the first EME contact from Swains. The demand for 6 meters was very high for Swains, especially from Japan.

3 months before our scheduled de-



The W8S Team was finally completed and consisted of 10 Ham radio operators, all Team members had their own special responsibility: DJ9RR Heye (Antenna specialist), DL2AMD Rainer (Medical Doctor), DL6JGN Hans (Team-Leader/ Treasurer), KO8SCA Adrian (Licenses and communications), NG7M Max (IT-Specialist), PA2KW Evert (Equipment manager), PA3EWP Ronald (Co-team leader / PR and sponsoring), PA4WM Martin (Antenna manager), PA5X Johannes (Operation manager), PG5M Gerben (Antenna and Camp manager). We had a good mix of operators for a multi-mode DXpedition.

parture we had weekly conference calls with the team. During these meetings each member gave a short status update about their scope. We made a complete DXpedition manual and all plans were described in detail, enabling all Team members to know exactly what was going on.

We had also some antenna workshops where we came together and built up the antennas planned for the DXpedition. This to avoid surprises when we would install the antennas on the Island. Martin (PA4WM) made a propagation overview for all bands for both SP and LP and these overviews were printed and laminated available on each table in the DXpedition camps and published on our website. Evert (PA2KW) made all the cables for connecting the laptops to the radios and amplifiers. Johannes (PA5X) made the operating schedules and arrangements with the Pilot stations. Gerben (PG5M) and Hans (DL6JGN) had weekly contact with Alex Jennings (the owner of Swains Island) about all kind of subjects that had to be arranged. These are just some points what had to be arranged for this kind of operation. Luckily, we had no concerns about all the items related to our stay on Swains Island. All things like, food, drinks, tents, tables, chairs, beds, generators, fuel and so on, were all arranged by Alex Jennings Team.

In 2023 we had in total approximately 50 KG more equipment compared to the first attempt in 2020. In advance we had sent 6 transport boxes within total 330 KG of equipment to American Samoa.

All equipment in the boxes was listed and marked piece by piece to identify per item for which camp it was. 3 boxes for Camp Red and 3 boxes for Camp Blue. 1 ½ week before our arrival the boxes arrived on American Samoa, at Alex Jennings his place.

From the beginning we made the decision that one of the operators must be a person with medical background. Rainer

(DL2AMD) is a retired surgeon. We were on a remote island, if something would happen, it would take at least 30 hours before someone is in the hospital. Therefore, we also brought a lot of medical supplies with us, which we luckily didn't have to use at all.

When travelling to Swains Island, we started our journey all from different countries, but our meeting point was Honolulu Hawaii. 2 times a week there is a flight from Hawaii to American Samoa. After arriving on American Samoa, we still had a few more days before our departure by boat to Swains Island.

During this preparation phase on American Samoa there was still a lot of work to do like: configuring all laptops and radios, so everything was the configured in the same way, buying some additional materials, fixing 4 boxes which were damaged due the transportation, finding a company to ship all equipment back to the Netherlands after the DX pedition was finished. We got a message from the government body controlling the vessel movements that our departure for Swains Island was postponed by a few days due bad weather incurred during the previous days. We were able to negotiate with the Government body to try to reduce the delay. We managed to join the vessel on a combined transport and managed to reduce the delay to only 2 days. Our sailing trip to Swains was extended by 8 hours, since we first had to pass by the Islands of Tau and Ofu, to deliver supplies before setting sail towards Swains.

The almost 30-hour journey across the Pacific Ocean went via the Manu'a Islands and the measures against seasickness were thoroughly tested, especially at the beginning of the journey the ship was rolling on the mighty Ocean swell. At dawn Swains appeared in front of us. A landing craft with a loading ramp and a small boat were hoisted overboard, and then the first team members were able to set foot on land after an exciting passage



over the reef. An incredibly special experience. Swains is a beautiful small atoll, uninhabited and remote from any continent. As a scientific research team once called it, "The last jewel of the planet".

By sailing up and down between the supply vessel and the Island, the beach was quickly filled with all the things we brought with us and the boxes and suitcases were arranged into the two camps. Martin (PA4WM) and Gerben (PG5M) were coordinating the setup of each camp. As soon as the tents were ready, the radio equipment was installed, and the generators were running, we started with making the first QSO's at the end of the afternoon. We still needed a full day to setup all the other antennas and equipment in the simmering heat.

We had approx. 1,200 meter of coaxcables. All the coax cables were assembled, made to length, and marked with labels to indicate the camp and band/ antenna.

Band	Antennas camp Red	Antennas camp Blue
160 meter	Top loaded vertical	
80 meter		Vertical
60 meter	Invered L on 160 m mast	
40 meter	Phased vertical	Vertical
30 meter	VDA	
20 meter	Hexbeam	VDA
17 meter	VDA	VDA
15 meter	Hexbeam	VDA
12 meter	VDA	VDA
10 meter	Hexbeam	VDA
6 meter	8 elements Yagi (M²)	

We planned our antenna setup in advance via Google Maps. The sequence of antennas as well as the spacing between the antennas were all considered in advance, to minimize the interference between the antennas and stations.

This operating schedule involved each operator to alternate between shifts of 3 to 5 hours in different camps with several hours of rest in between. During these rest periods we stayed in the main camp where the sleeping tents and the kitchen area were set up under a tarpaulin. Showering was a luxury that did not exist at Swains, but we kept ourselves clean with rainwater collected in a barrel. Adventurous splashing, we had no complaints about the care of the support Team. The support team consisted of Alex Jennings, his wife, a few family members consisting of ladies who operated the field kitchen and a team of sturdy and handy guys for all other work. They were fishing every day on the reef, so we ate regularly fresh fish. The famous coconut crab residing on Swains Island was also occasionally on the menu. The island was used as a coconut plantation during the last century. The jungle of coconut trees provided us with delicious coconut milk in abundance.

Each operator could choose the band or mode he wanted. The operator had only to be aware of the propagation forecast and planning to reach difficult areas at certain times that we had made in advance. The most difficult area to reach from Swains was Western Europe. The third station in each camp could be used by any operator that was available and wanted to operate a little bit more or one of the other operators could use the third station running FT8 in parallel with CW or SSB on the main station. A few operators did use this combination of operating two stations in parallel, which worked surprisingly well. From the beginning the Team decided not run any automatic station on FT8, there was always an operator at the keyboard/mouse. That was the reason why we used WSJT-X in Fox Hound mode to make the FT8 OSO's.

We were operating from 2 different camps (Red and Blue), which were separated by approx. 400 meters in between them. In total we would have 17 antennas installed, both camps had all bands available except for 6, 60, 80 and 160 meters. Camp Blue had the 80 meter antenna and camp red the 6, 60 and 160 meter antennas. Each camps had 3x Elecraft K3/K3S radios and 3x SPE 1.3 or 1.5 amplifiers and 2 RF-KIT RF2K-S amplifiers, bandpass filters between radio and am-

















plifier and a complete set of 403A high power band pass filters were installed on a dedicated switch board. The logging was done with N1MM+ and WSJT-X, the laptops were connected with each other using a network.

We were all very happily surprised that we had no interference at all from the other stations. Many times, we were active with 2 stations on the same band (CW and SSB) without any QRM from the other camp. It was also great to notice during the same time period the VDA performed better than the Hex-beam for Europe. On the Hexbeam in SSB we didn't work any EU and on the VDA in CW mainly EU, with good signals.

Adrian (KO8SCA) had prepared the 6 meter EME station at home. Everything worked fine, so he was prepared for Swains. There was only a window of a few days that it was possible to work EME. Due to our 2 days delay, we had only 2 days left for our EME attempts. Adrian managed to work 3 stations via the moon on 6 meter, NØTB, K9RX and KJ9I were the lucky stations. Many stations have heard us, but unfortunately, we were unable to hear them. After this EME attempt we also worked 387 stations via F2 propagation using FT8.

Europe was the most difficult path from Swains, on 160 m we worked only some East Europeans. On the other bands we focussed during the openings on Europe. For Western Europe, Swains was number 17 on the most wanted list. If we look at the figures by continent, we did a very good job. Asia: 28.6% Europe 35.9% and North America 30.4%. The most QSOs we made were in FT8 (44.718), in CW (34.594) and 12.135 QSOs in SSB. On this DX pedition we had this time more operators interested in CW than in the other



















modes. But after all we all were very satisfied with a total of 91.847 QSO's in 9 days of operating.

At the end of our radio adventure, we were all exhausted. We had a very intensive schedule, sleeping during daytime was more or less impossible due the heath 40C degrees Celsius and don't forget the humidity, 90% or higher. These adverse conditions cost a lot of energy.

We had several pilot stations across the world who informed the Chief Pilot Alex (PA1AW) about the conditions, openings and so on. We had daily contact with Alex for the latest info.

One day before our departure we took down the Blue camp and the last day camp Red. We had a few hours sleep before it was high tide, and the crew of the ship could start loading all the stuff on the Manu'atele vessel for our return trip to Pago Pago. The return trip was a journey of 22 hours.

Arriving early morning at Pago Pago, we had 1½ day on American Samoa and there was still a lot of work to do. We had to do the final packing of the equipment and to prepare packing-lists. Finding the best route to ship the equipment back to the Netherlands. We requested some additional quotes to find the best way. After our last dinner with Alex Jennings, his family, and some of his crew members we went to the airport for our return flight via Hawaii. 2 days later, all the team members were back home.

This was a great Ham radio adventure, one that we will never forget! We made many operators happy with an all time new one. We would like to thank the many people that make this DXpedition a great success. Especially Alex Jennings and his crew, they did a fantastic job, everything was perfectly well organized. And off course all the DX clubs and individual sponsors for the financial support. The pilot stations for their efforts, and our corporate sponsors for their contribution of some of the equipment. And at last, our QSL manager Charles, MØOXO and out multimedia manager Alex PA1AW.



For more information look at our website http://swains2023.com, via Facebook swains 2023 or Twitter (X) swains2023.

On behalf of the entire team Ronald PA3EWP











W8S - Continent by Mode

CONTINENT/Mode	SSB	CW	PSK	RTTY	FT8	Total	Total %
AFRICA	54	84	0	3	151	292	0.3 %
ANTARTICA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
ASIA	3,482	8,968	0	274	13,540	26,264	28.6 %
EUROPE	3,796	12,759	0	42	16,404	33,001	35.9 %
NORTH AMERIKA	4,039	11,460	2	75	12,378	27,954	30.4 %
OCEANIA	534	839	0	4	1,461	2,838	3.1 %
SOUTH AMERICA	230	484	0	0	784	1,498	1.6 %
Total QSO	12,135	34,594	2	398	44,718	91,847	100.0 %
Total %	13.2 %	37.7 %	0.0 %	0.4 %	48.7 %	100.0 %	

W8S - Band/Mode breakdown

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	RTTY	PSK	Total	Total %
160	228	1,090	0	0	0	1,318	1.4 %
80	747	1,681	0	0	0	2,428	2.6 %
60	0	330	0	0	0	330	0.4 %
40	2,203	4,729	457	51	0	7,440	8.1 %
30	2,633	5,674	0	0	0	8,307	9.0 %
20	4,351	8,961	1,957	135	0	15,404	16.8 %
17	6,625	7,036	2,179	0	0	15,840	17.2 %
15	6,196	5,358	3,532	0	0	15,086	16.4 %
12	6,070	4,258	728	137	2	11,195	12.2 %
10	5,541	5,214	3,282	75	0	14,112	15.4 %
6	0	387	0	0	0	387	0.4 %
Totals	34,594	44,718	12,135	398	2	91,847	100.0 %

W8S - DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	RTTY	PSK	Total
160	12	22	0	0	0	23
80	54	51	0	0	0	65
60	0	25	0	0	0	25
40	79	93	41	3	0	103
30	75	94	0	0	0	98
20	99	121	94	8	0	132
17	113	113	85	0	0	131
15	104	105	106	0	0	129
12	104	102	33	13	1	118
10	97	107	84	16	0	130
6	0	15	0	0	0	15
Totals	130	151	123	79	1	165



W8S - Continent by Band

CONTINENT/Band	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	Total	Total %
AFRICA	0	12	0	21	20	59	61	38	36	45	0	292	0.3 %
ANTARTICA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
ASIA	708	1,020	5	2,577	2,179	3,346	4,007	4,219	3,528	4,325	350	26,264	28.6 %
EUROPE	79	424	12	2,604	4,444	7,459	7,135	5,318	3,057	2,468	1	33,001	35.9 %
NORTH AMERIKA	471	824	284	1,885	1,456	3,886	4,012	4,646	4,046	6,440	4	27,954	30.4 %
OCEANIA	59	136	23	316	184	434	345	487	318	504	32	2,838	3.1 %
SOUTH AMERICA	1	12	6	37	24	220	280	378	210	330	0	1,498	1.6 %
Total QS0	1,318	2,428	330	7,440	8,307	15,404	15,840	15,086	11,195	14,112	387	91,847	100.0 %
Total %	1.4 %	2.6 %	0.4 %	8.1 %	9.0 %	16.8 %	17.2 %	16.4 %	12.2 %	15.4 %	0.4 %	100.0 %	

CYØS - Sable Island 2023

BY JOHN J. SLOUCH, K4ZLE

According to our team leader, Murray, WA4DAN, Sable Island is a very special place. After my participation in the 2023 CYØS operation, I must agree with him. To finally obtain permission to make this multi-operator, multi-day DXpedition a reality. it took multiple phone calls, several trips from his home in North

Carolina to Halifax. Nova Scotia, Canada. and additional short trips out to Sable Island itself. All of this was at his own expense.

Our on-island consisted team of the following: Murray, WA4DAN; Dan, W4DKS; John, W2GD: Lou, N2TU: WW2DX: 1 66 Craig, K9CT; Glenn, WØGJ and Jay, K4ZLE. The support team was Pat, N2EIN; Bill, K5DHY; Randy, NØTG; Bob,

K4UEE; Hal, N4GG; Chaz, W4GKF; San, K5YY and John N8AA. There were no rookies on either team. Two are officers of NCDXF. Two are directors of INDEXA. Three are CO DX Hall of Fame members. Two are CO Contest Hall of Fame members. Over half of the team had previously operated from 'top ten' entities. Our results bear witness to the quality of the team.

We operated 10 m - 160, 2 m EME, 6 m, and Satellite. Modes were CW / SSB / FT8 / FT4 / RTTY. Antennas used were as follows: Hy-Gain 20-15-10 monoband yagis, a Cushcraft 12/17 A3WS duobander with diplexer, verticals on 30 m - 160 m (using Spider Poles), and a 60 m dipole. The same Spider Pole supported both

the 160 and 80 m verticals. This limited us to having only one or the other band operational at a given time. On HF there were 4 K3's and, 3 KPA500 amps, The VHF station consisted of an IC-705 Transceiver and Italialabs 1KW SSPA amplifier; LNA:



Antennas-Amplifiers EME2-144; Antennas: 2 X 12 Element Antennas-Amplifiers PA144-12-7AGPL; 3 element yagi for 6 m, G5500 + RT21 AZ/EL Controller.

Originally, we had planned to have near real time ClubLog feeds, but the existing internet on Sable would not support that mode. True to the time proven adage, "Plan well but also plan to innovate", we had to change those plans. As a result, logs were pulled from the master at least twice per day and sent to K5DHY for ClubLog upload.

This was not a tent and generator operation, but that does not mean there were no other obstacles to overcome besides intermittent internet. While the weather on Sable was not as intense as some previous venues, it was not a summer stroll on a tropical beach. We experienced snow in some amount every day except one. Temperatures were generally in the 30's F. Wind was almost a constant 25 knots with gusts into the low 50's.

> Weather is also a limiting factor traveling to/from Sable, sometimes delaying plans for days. We were delayed by half a day traveling to Sable. Because Halifax was fogged in on our scheduled departure day, we were delayed a day in departing Sable. That extra day allowed us to push our total Q's over 80,000.

The island is a Canadian National

Park Reserve and access is normally limited. Because of its protective status, no intervention is permitted between wildlife and humanity. The island is as pristine as nature provides. Intervention is prohibited, but scientific research abounds. One scientist, Zoe Lucas, has over forty years of experience as a naturalist on Sable Island. She does continuous research and monitoring involving terrain restoration projects and biodiversity studies. While there, we were informed that more than 500 wild horses currently make their home on this island. In addition, it is estimated that 300 to 400 thousand seals come to the island during the winter



months to breed and pup. More than 350 species of birds have been recorded on the island.

Sable is a shifting crescent shaped sandbar. It gets its name from the French "I'île de Sable" which means island of sand. It is approximately 300 km (190 mi) southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and about 175 km (109 mi) southeast of the closest point of the mainland. It is not more than 1.6 km (1 mi.) across its widest location and about 42 km (23 mi.) long.

Because, Parks Canada does not recommend coming by boat, transport was via air. Normally that would entail a charter with Sable Aviation on their BN-2A Britten Norman Islander from Halifax, NS. Since there were eight of us on the team, we would have had to make two trips going and coming. Instead, we chose to also use Vision Air and their Sikorsky SK-76A++ helicopter. Otherwise, it would have taken two days each way. Our total weight allowance spread between the two aircraft was 3,000 pounds. We all committed to personal weight of no more than 240 pounds each, including personal items which included food for the entire island stay. Murray spent many hours (days) juggling equipment composition vs weight to meet the weight restrictions. There is no airstrip on the island, so fixed wing takeoffs and landings are on the sandy beach.

We arrived on the island on March 20th. And departed on March 31. Except during the WPX contest, we operated split. Even though ClubLog had rated CYØ at 49, the piles were generally massive. The team participated as a Multi-Multi entry in the WPX SSB contest with the plan to satisfy much of the phone demand during that time. We made nearly 7,900 QSOs during the contest in spite of a G-3 solar event. This resulted in a new Canadian Multi-Multi record. Overall Japan, Oceania, Africa, and South America were our priorities when there were openings. FT8 was exclusively Fox/ Hound mode. On EME & SAT operation, Lee, WW2DX focused on 2 m EME, 6 m, and satellite. As mentioned previously, we did make some RTTY and FT4 QSOs. Total Q's approached 85,000. As a result of this expedition Sable Is dropped from 49 to 73 as of Sep 2023 on the ClubLog needs list.

I have been on many DXpeditions, some at the top of the needs list, and while those were once in a lifetime experiences, I consider this operation from Sable Island another once in a lifetime event. There is much history of this island not herein covered and so much beauty



to be admired. I have been truly fortunate to visit this place. It is the team's hope that you made it into the log, if you wanted to and if you did not, I fear it could be another seven years plus before it is activated again. However, if Murray has anything to do about that, perhaps it shall not be so long. Time will tell.

As a representative of the team, we are thankful for the individuals and organizations that made this operation possible. We are especially appreciative of Parks Canada staff (Sarah Medill and Ken Wile), our aviation partners and Zoe Lucas for their participation. And, of course, without the financial support of organizations like yours, operations like this would possibly not happen. Thank you for your support.

As and aside and a teaser, many of the same team members are hoping to activate CY9, St Paul Island, in 2024.











CYØS - Band/Mode breakdown

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	RTTY	FT4	MFSK	MSK144	JT65	Total	Total %
160	1,609	585	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,194	2.6 %
80	2,031	1,057	536	0	0	0	0	0	3,624	4.3 %
60	0	1,425	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,425	1.7 %
40	3,338	1,087	1,287	110	266	0	0	0	6,088	7.2 %
30	2,594	7,478	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,072	11.9 %
20	3,293	8,518	2,365	842	0	0	0	0	15,018	17.7 %
17	3,533	8,917	2,813	4	0	0	0	0	15,267	18.0 %
15	5,704	4,637	2,958	0	171	0	0	0	13,470	15.9 %
12	3,402	4,296	1,037	500	0	0	0	0	9,235	10.9 %
10	2,055	3,557	2,041	179	0	0	0	0	7,832	9.2 %
6	12	1	0	0	0	1	80	0	94	0.1 %
2	0	0	231	0	0	177	9	2	419	0.5 %
70	0	0	40	0	0	6	0	0	46	0.1 %
Totals	27,571	41,558	13,308	1,635	437	184	89	2	84,784	100.0 %

CYØS - DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	RTTY	FT4	MFSK	MSK144	JT65	Total
160	62	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	62
80	63	48	37	0	0	0	0	0	70
60	0	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	61
40	78	64	59	16	37	0	0	0	98
30	79	101	0	0	0	0	0	0	109
20	86	103	33	49	0	0	0	0	122
17	85	98	76	1	0	0	0	0	115
15	97	89	87	0	33	0	0	0	112
12	83	99	62	44	0	0	0	0	111
10	71	71	77	10	0	0	0	0	120
6	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
2	0	0	13	0	0	31	2	1	35
70	0	0	9	0	0	5	0	0	12
Totals	119	128	118	58	48	31	2	1	155

CYØS – Continent by Mode

CONTINENT/Mode	CW	SSB	JT65	MFSK	RTTY	FT8	MSK144	FT4	Total	Total %
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
AFRICA	115	73	0	4	9	180	0	3	384	0.5 %
ANTARTICA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
ASIA	1,118	187	0	9	44	4,271	0	5	5,634	6.6 %
EUROPE	13,939	5,851	0	119	1,044	22,391	0	191	43,535	51.3 %
NORTH AMERIKA	11,925	6,901	2	48	521	13,340	89	229	33,055	39.0 %
OCEANIA	194	79	0	4	7	503	0	1	788	0.9 %
SOUTH AMERICA	279	217	0	0	10	873	0	8	1,387	1.6 %
Total QSO	27,571	13,308	2	184	1,635	41,558	89	437	84,784	100.0 %
Total %	32.5 %	15.7 %	0.0 %	0.2 %	1.9 %	49.0 %	0.1 %	0.5 %	100.0 %	

CYØS - Continent by Band

CONTINENT/Band	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2	70	Total	Total %
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0 %
AFRICA	6	19	7	24	30	49	60	49	59	73	0	7	1	384	0.5 %
ANTARTICA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
ASIA	6	10	3	88	978	383	2,465	1,005	565	122	0	9	0	5,634	6.6 %
EUROPE	746	1,213	782	2,452	4,755	8,516	7,801	7,942	4,980	4,146	0	180	22	43,535	51.3 %
NORTH AMERIKA	1,424	2,341	619	3,355	3,940	5,711	4,621	4,235	3,363	3,110	94	219	23	33,055	39.0 %
OCEANIA	3	22	3	93	194	130	134	60	54	91	0	4	0	788	0.9 %
SOUTH AMERICA	9	19	11	76	175	229	186	178	214	290	0	0	0	1,387	1.6 %
Total QS0	2,194	3,624	1,425	6,088	10,072	15,018	15,267	13,470	9,235	7,832	94	419	46	84,784	100.0 %
Total %	2.6 %	4.3 %	1.7 %	7.2 %	11.9 %	17.7 %	18.0 %	15.9 %	10.9 %	9.2 %	0.1 %	0.5 %	0.1 %	100.0 %	





VU7W - Lakshadweep Islands

BY YURIS PETERSONS, YL2GM



Hello friends! This year started with a plan to visit Lakshadweep Islands for one DXpedition from April 15 – April 29, 2023. However, this turned out to be double DXpedition with secondary visit from June 8 – June 19, 2023. Here is a short story summarizing both parts with some pictures and results.

The journey started on 13th of April from hometown Valka located in NE of Latvia. Together with XYL Zigrida we drove to Riga international airport. As usual, the car was packed with antennas and equipment, this time with a total weight of 100 kg. With 4 connection flights starting from Riga to Istanbul, Delhi and Kochi we reached Agatii Island, from where we continued our trip to Kavaratti Island by passenger ferry.

We reached Kavaratti Island on April 15th late afternoon. During twilight time I managed to set up EFHW and made the first QSOs in FT8. The hotel we stayed in was a three-story building with a flat roof divided into segments with one of them being elevated. There was already an antenna mast placed on one of the segments, however, I could not use it for my antennas because it was bent. The other segment was covered with solar panels which made it difficult to place the Spiderbeam there. As well the panels made noise and interference on the bands.

The next day I continued and managed to set up the Spiderbeam by fixing it to the center point of the building between both segments. With the hotel staff I arranged to switch off solar panels that significantly reduced the noise levels. However, it was still pretty high because of a very densely populated area right next to us where no one seems to care about electricity saving because the lights are turned on 24/7.









On Monday 17th of April, we encountered our first electricity shortage for two hours and the staff told us it's due to construction works nearby. Later, while turning the antenna, I found out that two elements were tangled, and I had to climb up to fix this. During the day temperatures are +35 °C and working in the sun is quite extreme, so I planned all outside tasks for late afternoons or early mornings, but I still managed to get sunburns.



On Thursday 20th of April, I set up the FT-710 transceiver on FT8 as a secondary position. The main position is with Sun SDR + SPE Expert intended for CW and SSB. Unfortunately, SSB had very low activity, only ~ 80 QSOs with EU, 4X, BY and JA6. All attempts to reach JA3 were unsuccessful.

Later that day we were visited by Mr. Aboobacker VU3EBX who is the only radio amateur on the islands. He invited us to join for an excursion and to visit the islands' lighthouse and water desalination plant. At the end of the expedition, I gave the 6 m antenna to Mr. Aboobacker so he could make QSOs from the island in future. A couple of days before the end of the expedition I set up an LBS vertical and that resulted in new QSOs on 60 and 160 m.

At the end of part 1, our hotel administrator Jaffer told us that next week he was going to Minicoy Island, and he invited us there. As these dates aligned with our future plans that we did not know at that point, this came true, and we met again later in 2nd part of this same DXpedition.

While being on the way home I received from a Japanese amateur radio group proposed to visit the Island again. They supported this financially and with 6 m antenna from JA1BK. As I decided to do this, I left all my equipment in the hotel storage in Kochi city, and we continued our way home.

On 3rd of June, we started our 2nd trip from Riga international airport to Kochi with two connection flights through Dubai and Muscat. Until the ferry departure on 6th of June to Minicoy Island we had two days to spend in Kochi. Later, the travel agency informed us that the ferry was delayed for one more day till the morning of 7th of June. We passed all security checks and moved in to our cabin. The ferry was delayed once more, and we left the port only after midnight.

We arrived at Minicoy Island late afternoon the next day. Transfer from ferry to the island was carried out with small boats and boarding them was extreme because of high waves. From there we drove to Minicoy Island resort where in total we were staying just 6 guests. After 3 days me and Zigrida were the last 2 guests left in the whole resort and because of this the personnel called us king and queen. Catering was organized 3 times daily and the meals were fantastic.

The living apartment was situated on the first floor and on the second floor I set up my DX station. The first days went by as a routine with setting up antennas and regularly checking the 6 m band for Japan. The first successful day was on 10th of June when I managed to work 85 Japanese stations. The propagation window was very short for just about 30 minutes. There were no EU stations on this band. In total the propagation on 6 m was four days where I managed to work ~200 Japanese stations.

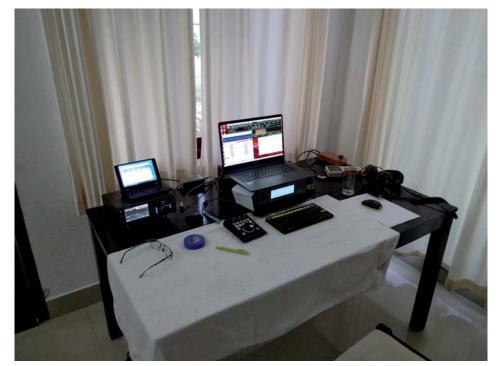


On the 16th of June, my XYL Zigrida had her birthday. With the help of hotel staff, we organized a surprise cake and a celebrational dinner in an outside tent on the beach. Staff were wearing colorful ceremonial dresses and greeted Zigrida. The next day we went for a swim in a lagoon to see the underwater world. Beautiful coral reefs with lots of colorful fishes were a fantastic sight ...











When the DXpedition time came to an end, staff informed us that the ferry departure from the island was postponed for 2 days. Because of this I had to cancel flight reservations and my plans to visit Hamfest in Friedrichshafen. Later those delays were cancelled so there still was some hope for Hamfest.

On 20th of June, we were brought to the port and the ferry left on time. The staff warmly welcomed us, and they organized a small excursion for us to visit the captain's bridge. This was new for me as I had never visited a captains' deck before. The next day around noon we arrived at Kochi port from where we took a taxi to the airport. We were lucky to get on the next flight to Dubai and from there to Riga. From airport Zigrida continued back home and I flew to Friedrichshafen. The DXpedition was over, and we were tired from the flights. As this all was a success, it brought new energy for me.

Thanks to everyone who supported us and followed us on this journey. Thanks to everyone who worked VU7W. Altogether in both parts 60 k QSOs were made.

Juris /Yuris /YL2GM

Expedition website: https://lral.lv/vu7w/





VU7W - Continent By Band

Band	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	Total	Total %
AF	0	10	1	24	24	38	50	41	53	57	0	298	0.5 %
AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
AS	12	330	1	1,060	1,862	2,206	3,036	3,910	1,837	3,392	373	18,019	30.0 %
EU	157	1,913	167	2,246	3,754	4,852	5,270	5,101	4,365	5,165	25	33,015	55.0 %
NA	0	44	0	516	832	1,193	1,116	1,353	521	277	0	5,852	9.8 %
OC	0	50	0	195	101	251	191	647	156	475	3	2,069	3.4 %
SA	1	6	0	129	94	85	97	97	96	143	0	748	1.2 %
Totals	170	2,353	169	4,170	6,667	8,625	9,760	11,149	7,028	9,509	401	60,001	100.0 %

VU7W- by Band/Mode breakdown

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	Total	
160	0	170	0	170	0.28%
80	102	2,251	0	2,353	3.92%
60	5	164	0	169	0.28%
40	173	3,997	0	4,170	6.95%
30	192	6,475	0	6,667	11.11%
20	927	7,356	342	8,625	14.37%
17	1,199	8,275	286	9,760	16.27%
15	1,211	9,778	160	11,149	18.58%
12	759	6,269	0	7,028	11.71%
10	1,610	7,899	0	9,509	15.85%
6	0	401	0	401	0.67%
Totals	6,178	53,035	788	60,001	100.00%

VU7W - Continent by Mode

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	Total	Total %
AF	26	267	5	298	0.5 %
AN	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
AS	1,098	16,826	95	18,019	30.0 %
EU	4,273	28,190	552	33,015	55.0 %
NA	687	5,051	114	5,852	9.8 %
OC	77	1,978	14	2,069	3.4 %
SA	17	723	8	748	1.2 %
Totals	6,178	53,035	788	60,001	100.0 %

DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	Total
160	0	33	0	33
80	31	74	0	74
60	5	30	0	30
40	30	101	0	102
30	46	110	0	110
20	72	116	50	122
17	70	120	50	129
15	65	131	22	138
12	62	112	0	115
10	74	123	0	127
6	0	26	0	26
Totals	102	158	77	165















J28MD Djibouti - DXpedition to the Horn of Africa

BY THE MEDITERRANEO DX CLUB

As I write these lines (November 6, 2022), the 2022 Mediterraneo DX Club DXpedition to Djibouti with the callsign J28MD is coming to an end. The team effort and the good propagation produced a good number of QSOs (over 90k) and so everyone in the team is in good spirits and preparing for the long way home.

Diibouti:

Djibouti is a country about the size of the state of New Jersey and has a predominantly Muslim population. Formerly known as French Somaliland, the country took its name as Djibouti when it gained independence from France in 1977. The country is located in the Horn of Africa and it is bordered by Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea and the Red Sea. The Port of Djibouti is a maritime port strategically positioned near the world's busiest shipping lanes.



Our location:

The team leaders have found an excellent operating location about 1 hour drive from the Djibouti's capital, in Arta province, a site located in the top of a hill, 700 m (~2000 feet) above the sea level.

The location is a hotel but also a training center for the young people hopping to learn the skills for working in the hospitability industry.

The hotel manager was very flexible with our requests and that insured our operating success.

We have received approval to install our numerous antennas in top of the buildings, on the hotel grounds, next to the buildings, on the fence, even with the risk of inconveniencing the other guests of the hotel.

The hotel manager was also instrumental in dealing with the local military administration as he was worried that our radio operation might interfere with the military activity in the compounds nearby.

I should mention here that the Arta location was not our initial location



choice. Our initial chosen location was near the city of Obok but that location turned out to be too close to the "hot" border with Eritrea and too close to the

current conflict areas. So the Djibouti Security Agency "suggested" that we avoid that area and search for a safer location closer to the capital city.





128MD team meeting in Milano at the Busto Arsizio Radio Club

Organizing a 15-men DXpedition with the required radios, antennas, amplifiers, computers and all other related equipment in a faraway location is a challenge in itself but organizing it in an unstable area of the globe such as the Horn of Africa, adds significantly to the challenge. To ensure team safety the Italian team leaders have worked closely with the Italian Consulate in Djibouti who in turn established a direct communication channel with the Djibouti Security Agency providing the team leaders with the details needed to secure a safe location for the team.

Of course, not everything worked out as planned. It never does. The Djibouti Airport Customs Office is just one such an example.

It is always a challenge for many DXpeditions to convince the customs officers that all the radio equipment being carried into the country will have no commercial usage but it is just hobby related. Djibouti customs was no exception. But the vast experience in organizing many prior DXpeditions came in handy for the team leaders and after long negotiations they were able to lower the customs fees significantly and that allowed us to start the DXpedition without wasting precious time.

Radio Equipment:

The radio equipment consisted of 5 Kenwood TS-590 radios (a small, light, performant radio with an RX input) and

- 4 ACOM 1011 light, portable, 600 W amplifier) were used for the following
- 4 operating positions:

CW only

DIGITAL: RTTY & FT8

MIX: CW & SSB

SSB only

For EME operation an FT857 radio was used, with a 1 KW amplifier (PHOENIX 1000 50/70/144 MHz) There was also a sixth TS-590 radio, dedicated to the 6 m FT8 operation position.

All QSO logging laptops run Windows 10 with the WinTest logging software.

One interesting aspect is the fact that our DXpedition provided almost real time logging online via the Internet, using HRDlog (http://www.hrdlog.net/), allowing hams to see their QSOs posted a few minutes after working our DXpedition.

Unfortunately the Internet connection at our hotel was not reliable and so, sometimes the live update feature would stop working temporarily causing hams to doubt their QSO was in the log and thus making dupe QSOs.

After two days the team leaders were able to discuss this issue with the hotel management and we were granted permission to patch directly into the main facility Internet router, improving significantly the reliability of our Internet connection

The Team:

The J28MD team is made up of 15 international ham operators from Italy, France, Germany, Romania and USA. The team members have met at the start of the DXpedition on October 27, 2022 at the Busto Arsizio radio club. The Italian hosts at the radio club outside Milano have done an incredible job so that all of us feel welcome. Italian pasta prepared at the club and wine were of course the staples of the served lunch. The club house was the stage for gathering of all the equipment and team members before the journey to Djibouti. This has been a tradition for all the Mediterraneo DX Club past DXpeditions.

In every DXpedition each team member brings to the team skills which enhances the overall success of the DXpeditions. These skills which bring value to the team as a whole, are technical skills



acquired from participating in previous DXpeditions or as part of the daily-life job: antenna designers, IT consultants, engineers etc.



The Flag of Djibouti

The J28MD team members are:

- 1. IZ8CCW, Antonio, Team Leader
- 2. IZ4UEZ, Dario, Organizational

support & low bands

- 3. IZ2GNQ, Marco, Technical manager
- 4. IZ3GNG, Marco
- 5. YO8WW, Gabi
- 6. DL8JJ, Emil

- 7. DL6LZM, Peter
- 8. IK4QJF, Fabio
- 9. NG7M, Max
- 10. KO8SCA, Adrian
- 11. DJ5IW, Gerhard
- 12. DL8OBF, Uwe
- 13. IU8LMC, Martino
- 14. AG4W, Steve
- 15. F6IRA, Gilles







Antennas:

The main ingredient of any DXpedition are the antennas and so J28MD had a wide array of antennas raised in the air or laid on the ground to allow multiple modes operation simultaneously in the same band (in-band operation).

4 Spiderbeam wire beams for 10/15/20/40 m as well as the WARC bands which generated the bulk of the QSOs and took advantage of the incredible openings that we witnessed in 12 m and 10 m bands. 80 m vertical cu 16 ground radials

builton a fiberglass Spiderpole 160 m Spiderbeam Wire Vertical on a 18 m fiberglass pole with a capacitive hat

BOG (Beverage On the Ground)
RX antennas for NA/EU/AS that
were shared by multiple stations
and used for the 160/80/40 m operating

40 m and 60 m verticals 80 m dipole raised between 3 streetlight poles 6 m Hexbeam 2 m beam with 16 elements, designed by IØJXX







Although the hotel is fenced-in, some wild life would always find its way in. The large monkeys (Sacred Baboons) seemed to particularly enjoy chewing the 160 m antenna radial wires. There were also some camels on the premises that the staff attempted to ride and sometimes we had to make some minor antenna repair as a result.



But on Saturday evening, other skills were revealed when Martino, IU8LMC exercised his culinary skills in the hotel's kitchen to prepare an excellent Italian evening for the team with pasta, gnocchi and pizza.









Earth-Moon-Earth (EME):

Moonbounce is the technical pinnacle of ham radio and consists of sending amateur radio signals to the moon. A tiny fraction of those signals get then reflected back to Earth and received by another ham located somewhere else on our planet.

This was the first ever 2m EME operation from Djibouti and resulted in 131 QSOs.

Emil, DI8JJ was in charge of the EME operation and he was challenged by the local RF noise, a frequent occurrence everywhere in our modern society, and thus he needed to change the location of the 16 element portable EME antenna a few times during our stay here.

Operating:

After the antenna installation at the beginning of the DXpedition where everyone participates, each operator had 2 daily operating shifts of 3 hours each and a day off that the operators could use to relax or make excursions nearby.

The focus of the DXpedition has been the "human modes", a.i. CW and SSB and that clearly shows in the log statistics. The CW contacts are taking a whopping 35C % of the total log with 25 % in SBB while the rest are RTTY, FT8 and JT65 QSOs.

J28MD has also been active in RTTY, giving a chance to those die-heart RTTY operators to add J2 to their logs.

For more details, statistics and additional pictures from our DXpedition please visit the DXpedition homepage (https://mdxc.org/j28md/) and the J28MD Facebook page.

73, Adrian Ciuperca KO8SCA Arta, Djijout



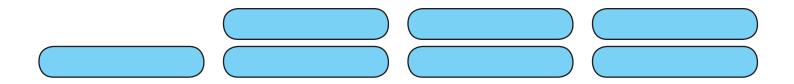






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Older issues have only been produced on paper. Enjoy reading! Enjoy your work.



EUROPEAN DX FOUNDATION E.V.

Data Protection Declaration

(Members)

Section 1

By joining of a member, the association records the name, first name, date of birth (optional), home address and e-mail address of the member. This information is stored in the computer systems of the executive committee. Each club member is assigned a membership number. The personal data are protected by appropriate technical and organizational measures against the knowledge of third parties. Other information about the members and information about non-members are only processed or used by the association if they are useful for the promotion of the purpose of the association and there are no indications that the data subject has a legitimate interest, which precludes the processing or use.

Section 2

The board announces special events of the association life, in particular the execution of events in the club magazine and/or on the club's own internet pages. Personal member data can be published at this juncture. The individual member may at any time object to the publication of such data by the board. In this case, there will be no further publication in relation to this member on the notice board and/or in the club magazine and/or the club's own websites.

Section 3

Only board members and other members who perform a special function in the association, which requires the knowledge of certain member data, receive a list of members with the required membership data.

Section 4

The association informs the amateur radio related media about special events. Such information is also published on the website of the association. The individual member may at any time object to the publication of his personal data or revoke his consent to publication on the Internet. In the case of an objection or revocation, further publications regarding his person are omitted. Personal data of the withdrawing member will be removed from the homepage of the association.

Section 5

Upon resignation, the data of the member named under section 1 will be deleted from the member list. Personal data of the withdrawing member concerning the cash management will be kept for up to ten years from the written confirmation of departure by the Board in accordance with the tax regulations.



EUROPEAN DX FOUNDATION E.V. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I herewith request membership in the European DX Foundation e.V. (EUDXF). Membership fees are a minimum of €25 per year and payable at the beginning of the year. Membership will be renewed automatically unless written notice is given not

First name:	Date of birth:
Surname:	
Call Sign:	
Address:	
Postal code:	
City:	
Country:	
E-mail:	
I would like to be	ecome a life member: (The price of a family life membership is still EUR 400)
First name:	Date of birth:
Surname:	Date of birth: Call Sign:
Surname: E-mail:	Call Sign: @ ecome a family life member: (The price of a family life membership is still EUR)
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Surname:	ecome a family life member: (The price of a family life membership is still EUR) ent: e contribution to the bank account of EUDXF: Volksbank Kleverland DE65 3246 0422 0205 1830 19 GENO DE D1KL L er the contribution via PayPal to cashier@eudxf.eu I have read the privacy policy and herewith accept it.

EUDXF e.V. Robert F. Lörcks, DL1EBV Sommerlandstraße 23 47551 BEDBURG-HAU **GERMANY**

You can e-mail your application to:

eudxf@eudxf.eu

Or get into contact with EUDXF via internet: http://www.eudxf.eu