



INDEXA

Helping to Make DX Happen Since 1983

Spring 2024

www.indexa.org

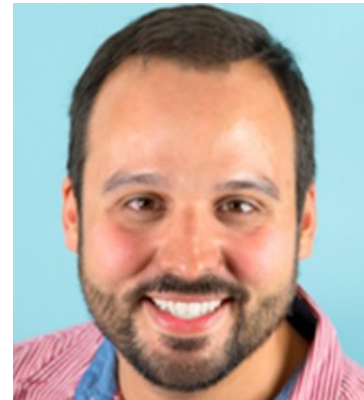
Issue 141

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for the enhancement of amateur radio, worldwide peace, and friendship

INDEXA

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Message from the President



Otis NP4G

Dear Fellow Members:

Embracing and Adapting Technology for DXpeditions

There was a time whenever you worked a rare DXpedition that you had to send in your card with some green stamps, wait a year and pray that you did not get your card back with a big "Not in Log" stamp on it. The times of waiting and getting confirmations now are far from those days of uncertainty.

Technology changes all aspects of life and Dxing is not the exception. Rather than wait for confirmation, now you can see within seconds real time logging and can see you callsign being worked, and sometimes you get you Logbook of the World QSL within hours of making the QSO. Imagine a world where you can literally do that... well, in reality that time has come.

Thanks to the availability of broadband internet everywhere in the world. Realtime logging can be a reality, there are services like Clublog that allow users to see their logs instantly. Not only that puts an operator at ease knowing that "they are in the log" but also prevents dupes and helps those little pistols get a better chance of making the log. It's a matter of being efficient.

Also there is now opportunity for remote operation. Recent technologies such as Rig in a Box (RiB) allows operators to be in the comfort of their home while dxing from remote and exotic locations. People may argue that this is not real dxing but that is a discussion for another day. What we can get from it is that this will allow more efficient operations. Imagine, not needing to take that many operators. Those are less resources spent on food, lodging, airfare, logistics that can be employed better into actually making QSO's. Not only that but operators at DX locations can take more rest and every time a new remote operator goes online, he is fresh and ready to take on the massive pileups.

(Continued on Page 4...)

Bob Allphin - K4UEE

An Epitaph - by Ralph Fedor - K0IR



On the morning of February 10, 2024 I lost a friend. Bob's family lost a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle. The amateur radio community lost an advocate, DXer, DXpeditioner, contester, and ambassador. The world lost a good and decent man.

I was privileged to know Bob as a teammate on DXpeditions and we served as coleaders on multiple trips. "Compadres", we used to call ourselves.

On these adventures, Bob excelled as a leader and was eternally optimistic. He exuded great faith and confidence in the others, and always had the team members, their skill sets, sensitivities, and goals in mind. I am reminded of one of those adventures.

K4UEE and K0IR. King George Island after 3Y0X

Our parkas were wet from a mix of rain and snow. With our backs to an icy wind that drove the cold into our body core, we contemplated how we would manage to repair the storm-damaged antennas on Heard Island. "We'll get it done," Bob said, "We got to." And we did. Such was the stamina and dedication of this man.

For more than two decades Bob served as an INDEXA officer or board member and was a part of the vetting of dozens of sponsored DXpeditions. He championed DXpedition fairness, equity, and ethics.

Bob and I stood on the shore of King George Island after the 3Y0X Peter I DXpedition. Together we watched a Russian supply ship sail away from the island. The vessel grew smaller as it distanced itself from us. Finally, the ship dipped below the horizon. "Now she's gone," I said. "No," Bob said, "She's not really gone, she's just in a place where we can't see her anymore."

So it is with Bob. We can't see him anymore. On that February morning he slipped away from us peacefully and with dignity befitting the man he was. But we can see the legacy he left us. It shines as a light to guide how we live and how to lead with a balance of sensitivity, optimism, and courage.

Bob Allphin - K4UEE SK

A good man, leader, example, mentor, friend, and now a legend.

**Robert (Bob) Clark Allphin, Jr., 79, passed away
on February 10, 2024.**

Bob was born in Planview, Tx on June 28, 1944, to the late Robert Clark Allphin and Patricia Geyer Allphin. As part of an Air Force family, Bob's childhood included many moves, leading him to complete high school in Okinawa, Japan. From there he attended Auburn University where he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. In 1963, while at Auburn, Bob met and fell in love with Mary Russell. Bob graduated from Auburn in 1966 with a Bachelor's in Industrial Management and then was commissioned into the Air Force as an officer. After being married in July 1967, Bob and Mary lived in Sacramento, CA, where Bob was stationed at Mather Air Force Base for six years. While in the Air Force he earned his Master's in Business Administration from Golden Gate University. In 1972, they moved to Atlanta, GA for Bob to begin his career in the financial services industry. After starting out as a stockbroker, Bob went on to have a successful career with Wood Logan Associates as a Regional Sales Director, retiring in 1999. Bob was a renowned Amateur Radio operator setting many radio contest world records and traveling to some of the most remote places in the world on DXpeditions.



Bob and Mary were married for 56 years during which they enjoyed sailing, traveling, being with their children and grandchildren, and serving their community and Mt. Bethel Church.

Bob is survived by his wife, Mary Russell Allphin; children Merideth (David) Pehler and Mark (Pam) Allphin; grandchildren Jack Pehler, Luke Pehler, Natalie Allphin, and Cooper Allphin; siblings Barry (Melissa) Allphin and Cindy Lockwood; nephews Matthew (Christin) Allphin, Bobby (Kelly) Lockwood, and Jay (Lori) Lockwood; and other extended family members. He is preceded in death by his brother-in-law, James Lockwood and his nephew, Michael Allphin.

A Celebration of Life Service will be on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 1:00 pm at Mt. Bethel Church on Lower Roswell Road in Marietta, GA. The family will receive guests at 12:00 pm. A reception with refreshments will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Bob's name to Mt. Bethel Missions at <https://mtbethel.org/give> (choose Fund = Missions and enter "In Memory of Bob Allphin" in the Note field) or to the International DX Association by PayPal at treasurer@indexa.org or by check at 2309 Lincoln Avenue, St Albans, WV 25177.

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No technology is perfect, but as long as it goes into the right direction, there will be a time when it will become mainstream. Imagine a DXpedition that includes a real time camera so that you can see who is out there putting their hearts and effort to providing you those contacts from far away. Or even have the opportunity for great operators that can't travel because of physical impairments but can take part as a team member of a DXpedition to a rare one.

The future is bright. Those technologies will make Dxing more interactive and it will be just a matter of time before it becomes a reality. It is up to us Dxers to put our talents to work and figure out what's next to come. Our imagination is the limit.

Thanks for being part of INDEXA and thanks for supporting us make those very hard ones a reality.

Best 73!

Otis, NP4G INDEXA President



Stamps for the Wounded

Stamps for the Wounded (SFTW) is a service organization dedicated to providing comfort and stimulating activity to U.S. veterans through stamp collecting. SFTW sends stamps, covers, supplies and literature to enable veterans to begin, or continue to collect stamps. Stamp collecting is an activity that provides comfort, meaningful activity and social connections ... it is not physically challenging and very stimulating.

SFTW has been helping veterans since 1942. We welcome any U.S. veteran who would like to begin, or continue collecting stamps, to join our program to receive stamps and philatelic materials. Please see the section "[For Veterans](#)" for more information about how to get started.

To serve our veterans, we rely on donations : postage stamps saved from the mail, philatelic materials from stamp collections, unused stamps purchased from the post office, collector supplies and cash donations. Please see our [Donate](#) page for more information about how you can help veterans.

For more information: <https://www.stampsforthewounded.org/>

T2C - Tuvalu 2023 Trip Report by Werner DJ9KH



Team Members: DK5WL, DL7VEE, DH5FS, DJ7TO, DL6KVA, DG2RON, DL8LAS, DL1KWK, DL6KAC, DL7JOM, DL4SVA, DJ9KH

With the successful activation of Papua New Guinea (P29RO) in mind we were thinking about another destination in the South Pacific . A short discussion led us to the decision for Tuvalu. Our proven team-leader DL7VEE listed arguments for this decision:

- Tuvalu has a quite prominent place on the most wanted lists : # 61 world-wide
- The sun-spot situation promised us good condition on the higher bands (pileups)
- The logistical challenges should be controllable
- There were no informations about regularly activities from there

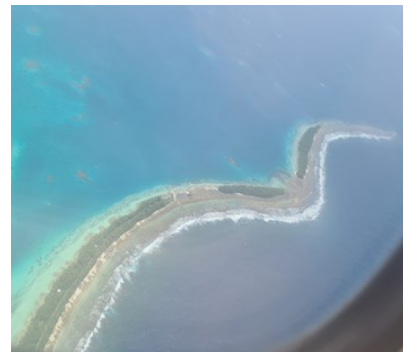
Teambuilding was no problems, we even had a waiting-list this time. With Johns, KK7L, help we were good informed about the island, the authorities and all things around our needs during the expedition. So preparations were made easier with that. was our prominent With helpful informations of John KK7L preparations about for our new trip preparations were made easy. We had good assistance ...

With that background we applied for our T2C – license, which at least was no problem to get. That time the Tuvalu-officials had no informations about other planned amateur-radio activations from Tuvalu. A few weeks later we had to hear about the planned T22T-activation just in front of our : 10 stations simultaneously...

Astonished, but not shocked we continued our preparations... it was on us to make the best of it. Another light-weight-expedition went on, flights and hotel were booked and off we flew. From Berlin and Frankfurt via Los Angeles to Nadi on Fiji. Here we took a domestic flight to Suva from where had a 3 hours flight to Funafuti.



Welcome to Fiji !!



The Funafuti-atoll from above

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The airstrip here is used 3 times the week for regular flights from and to Fiji. Between the flights the airstrip is used as a normal street, as playground.



Our hotel was just across the street, no taxi or bus necessary. Some discussions with the hotel-management were necessary to explain our special wishes for our activities. At least the very sympathetic staff fulfilled us all our wishes: 4 bungalows in one row with some space between for the antennas. Not that what we had planned before, but the best they could offer us..



Our plan was to set up the antennas close to the beach and far away from the electric-infrastructure of the hotel. The actual situation faced us with unforeseen problems: we had no access to the beach, big machines crossing the area which we intended to use for antennas and feedlines and hundreds of

LEDs around the shack-bungalow.

The restricted area for antennas resulted in small distances between our antennas and the hotel-infrastructure. Man-made noise from the hotel and coupling between the antennas was challenging but most times controllable. The proven double filtering system in the shack helped us to keep out the most. Changing the bands or modes was another method to keep 5 stations working with more or less problems.

As announced, we had 4 to 5 stations simultaneously active 24 hours each day and were using K3s transceivers with 500 watt amplifiers and bandpass-filters connected in a local network system. Internet-connection was stable, so communication with the Club-log-system (log update) and the rest of the world was never a problem. As we all know, updating the log is essential to prevent dupes. But we also know, that some individuals need at least 3 QSOs to be satisfied.

Our 'antenna-park' : The 2-element-LZ-beam together with the Pentaplexer was again our working-horse for 20 / 17/ 15/ 12 and 10 meters : 1 antenna , 1 cable, 5 bands.

On 160 / 80/ 60 / 40 and 30 m we were using vertical-antennas with single-radials. On 6 meters we used a simple loop-antenna. Around 80m mast-material was used and had to be transported. All antennas were proven in expeditions before, so almost no alignment-works were necessary and enabled us to have the first QSO 4 hours later.(VK4XY)

From earlier expeditions into the South Pacific we knew that the ionospheric and the atmospheric situation on a place like this near the equator would be challenging on the lower bands.

To improve our receiving situation we laid out two BOG-antennas for the favourite directions. That helped us quite something to meet the demand on 30 to 160 meters. Unfortunately we had to remove the BOGs every morning before the big machines began their work in the neighbourhood.



LZ-Beam



View of Antennas closer

Some of the Verticals



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Nevertheless, after 3 weeks we ended up with almost 20.000 QSOs on those bands.

We expected much on 10 to 20 meters and were not disappointed. Huge pileups in CW and SSB, the operators had to give all, most times well after midnight with temperatures around 30°C and 100% humidity. 6 meters:

Fortunately the shifts lasted only 4,5 hours there was time enough to recreate and to learn about the people, the culture and the problems of Tuvalu. Motorbikes are popular vehicles, we found not more than 20 lorries or passenger cars on Funafuti.



Some facts about Tuvalu :

The republic of Tuvalu, formerly a part of the British Gilbert and Ellice Islands colony (VR8) is situated just half way between Hawaii and New Zealand. Since its independence in 1978 Tuvalu is a constitutional monarchy and a member of the Commonwealth of Nations with King Charles III as the king of this second smallest nation worldwide.

As their 9-star-flag shows, Tuvalu is composed of six atolls and 3 islands which earlier belonged to the Ellice group. The Republic of Kiribati consists of the former Gilbert group. 50% of the population is living on the Funafuti-atoll with the capital-city, the only runway and the government-buildings. We also find the hospital, two primary-schools and the only secondary-school on Funafuti.

With its 26km² low-lying land-area Tuvalu is active in the Alliance of Small Island States which re-presents their interests in climate change negotiations. The main consequences of the climate-change are the periods of drought, heavy storms, marine flooding causing damages to the coastal environments and drinking/waste-water infrastructure. In 2017 a 40 million-dollar project (Tuvalu Coastal Adaption Project) was started to strengthen the resilience of the Funafuti communities, that means to adapt them to the climate change. In the foreground stands the stabilisation of the coast-line, the filling of borrow-pits and the low-lying area around the center of the capital. The pits by the way were caused by the US Marine Corps in World War II. They used the material to build an airstrip. The result of this were long-during and serious damages to the ecosystem and the health of the Tuvaluans.

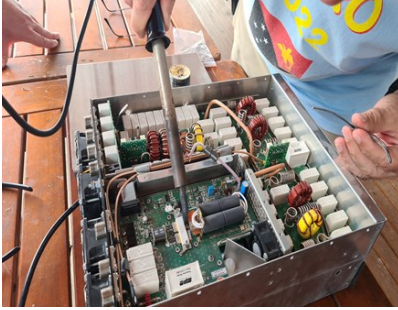


Heavy machines in action, the result of the works just behind our shack-bungalow.

The first week of our activities was very promising with 10.000 QSOs per day, the focus was laid on SSB and CW. Good signals from almost all directions on the higher bands presented us huge pile-ups. During the second week activities slowed down, specially during daylight-time when Europe was absent. The pile-ups to Europe started in the afternoons and were the daily highlights. As earlier mentioned, working on the low-bands was challenging and needed patience under the local QRM-situation, which we were able to improve by using the BOGs. Two of our power-amplifiers blew up in the second week, one after the other. We were able to repair one of them by resoldering the transistors. Untill the end of the expedition we used it with reduced power on the low bands. Nevertheless, with this handicap we managed to work 553 stations on 160m and 1666 stations on 80m. We surprised the community with our activities on 60m: 765 new bands points for stations world-wide were the result.

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Repairing the amplifier



Our BOGs for the low-bands

What about 6 meters ?

One of our K3s and a simple loop-antenna were used as a beacon-station on 6 meters as well as a FT8-station. Conditions on that band were quite astonishing : we worked 219 JA's, 8 South Americans, 17 Oceanian and 9 European stations.

Radio Tuvalu 621 kHz

One day Christian DL6KAC and Fred DH5FS were invited to be interview-guests with Radio Tuvalu. They took the opportunity to inform about amateur radio in general and the targets of our expedition. Our interview-partners were interested to know, why tenthsousands of hams worldwide are so much interested to have a contact with a station in Tuvalu.

Radio Tuvalu is transmitting on 621kHz and 100,1 Mhz since 2011 and is servicing all 9 islands of the widespread island group of Tuvalu. The transmission and studio equipment was sponsored by Japan.



Visiting the local primary-school

Beside our activities as T2C we were looking for chances to support a humanitarian project in Tuvalu. Insiders told us, the Nauti Primary School in Funafuti would be a good choice. We visited the school two times and had a very interesting and informative conversation with the headmaster Mrs. Palelei M. Tovia. She gave us an overlook over the school-system, their problems and their hopes for the future. The Nauti Primary School with more than 500 pupils from the 1st to 4th



grade is a bilingual public school. The personal situation seems to be quite good, the financial base however is critical in some aspects. Being asked

where we could help, which projects could be supported, she mentioned her plan to improve the water treatment system for the schoolchildren and raising the social support funds for disabled children. We were happy to agree in her plans and handed over a 500 AU\$ present. After that we were invited to visit the special class for disabled children who presented us some songs in english and their native language. A very impressive morning for all of us.



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Statistical Facts:

The T2C – team operated two weeks with 12 OMs and the last week with 6 OMs. After eliminating the dupes we had 112 914 QSOs in the log, a new record for a T2-expedition.

Thanks to mostly excellent conditions on the higher bands we had almost 40% European contacts, 30% into Asia and 30% into North America. With the reduced team and without the dismantled 80 and 160m antennas we took part in the CQ WWDX-Contest (Multi-Single). With 4563 QSOs and 4.9 Million points we were proud about being #50 worldwide and #3 in Oceania. Regarding the modes we met our target with more than 60% in the traditional modes.

QSL-Service

Our QSL-cards were printed 4 weeks after returning to Germany, a few thousand QSLs are sent out direct or to the sponsoring DX-Clubs which asked us to do so. LoTW and OQRS-service will be as promised. DL4SVA, our qsl-manager will also answer bureau-cards.

Conclusion :

After HU1DL, P29RO, XX9D...this was another very successful expedition light-weight-expedition organized by Rolf, DL7VEE. Thanks to all our sponsors and the ham-radio-community which accompanied our expedition with positive comments. If You are looking for more informations have a look on our homepage t2c.mydx.de



Good Bye Tuvalu !!

Werner Hasemann DJ9KH



TX7 DXpedition Trip Report



First of all, a big thank you to the 25 Foundations and Large Amateur Radio Clubs, the 13 Private Sponsors and our 150 individual donors who strongly supported us. Thanks to the remote team for their unfailing support, Website, Club Log, help and monitoring of radio traffic, dissemination of information on networks, QSL Manager...

A thought to our families, XYL, who allowed 9 Operators to participate in TX7L. Thank you also to all Radio Amateurs for your "Ham spirit" always present on the air and which largely dominated during the traffic. Thank you for your emails of support and encouragement, it's good for morale. Thank you to the elders of the DX'p for having passed on with kindness, experience and know-how, to the youngest who have become successful DX'p Operators in Pile Up.

The Preparation

A DX'p under the equator, in the center of the South Pacific, far from everything, very far from Europe, requires high-performance LP/SP switchable antennas which favor an ionospheric path with the lowest possible attenuation. The particularly steep aspect of the Marquesas, very dense equatorial vegetation, and the easterly trade wind which blows constantly and sometimes strongly, complicate the choice, manufacture and installation of antennas. A fairly comprehensive study was carried out upstream, leading to the construction of specific antennas and a commercial antenna.

The team was made up of 60% experienced DX'p Operators and 40% "novices". This situation favors the transmission of knowledge and experience from the "elderly" to the "younger".

The team has 16 members: 9 Operators in the Marquesas and 7 in support.

See page <https://tx7l.com/lequipe-the-team/>



The Trip.

6 days of round trip travel are necessary between our home and the island of HIVA OA.

On November 2, the team was in full force in Tahiti, leaving for the Marquesas the next day, arriving at their destination at 2 p.m. Tired from the trip, from a 12-hour time difference, but happy to have arrived in Te Fenua Enata, the Land of Men, the team is ready!

The Freight.

600Kg of equipment was needed for the 4 stations, the 12 antennas and the 700m of cables. Arriving with us by plane, the materials were packaged in 27 hold suitcases. For the return, we had a crate made to hold 60% of our equipment which returned by sea freight. The other 40% flew back with us.

The Installation.

2 cumulative days of work were necessary to install 4 stations and 12 antennas. The 60 to 10m bands were activated on the evening of November 4, on November 5 the 80m was ready, on November 7 the 6m started and on November 8 it was the turn of the 160m. It was a lot of work to weed, clear brush and install our antennas on 2 hectares of land with a 45 meter drop. In the Marquesas, certain lianas grow 2m per month...

Radio Traffic.

Results: 55,000 QSOs were made including 44% in CW, 24% in SSB, 31% in Data and 1% in FM on Ten with USA.

Traffic is immediately in full swing with a high solar index allowing SP and LP traffic on all bands from 40 to 10m. Subsequently, the solar index will be lower and several solar flares significantly disrupted traffic for 72 hours.



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The Operators noted certain remarkable points of radio traffic with Europe and with the EAST coast of North America:

- The wealth of “piles up” which are always full as soon as the spread is there.
- Deep and fast QSB (2 to 3 seconds) which will dominate the 12 and 10m.
- QSB flickering for 30% of the time on the 15 to 30m bands.
- Rapid reversals of the propagation paths with Europe which go from SP to LP or from LP to SP in 3 minutes on the 20 to 10m bands.
- Signal strength that remains weak S5 or less for 80% of the opening time.
- The spread on the high bands which cuts in 2 minutes.
- Low 80m openings with only a thousand QSOs mainly in FT8



Some other notable points.

No hardware failure, excellent operation of our Intranet network.

The success of our website with more than 106,500 visits should be highlighted.

The “open house” day organized with the 2 Hiva Oa colleges was a success. 2 groups of students and their teachers spent several hours among the Operators delighted to talk about their passion and show radio traffic. Dozens of questions were asked by the young people who began very interesting dialogues with the team.

One of their teachers, also a journalist, Teama, produced a report which was broadcast on the evening news of the TV Polynésie Première channel.

Note the kindness and goodwill of the Marquesans, the remarkable welcome of Tania our hostess, of Pierrick her son who helped us whenever possible and of Victorine, Tania's mother, a retired nurse who cared for Jacques BREL.. .

Weaknesses of the Expedition:

No traffic on 160m, there was great silence on this band (3 QSOs), the 80m with rare openings allowed only low traffic (1000 QSOs). Difficult traffic over 60m only in Data. The 3 big solar flares which caused us to lose 3 days of traffic.

History:

Discovered and invested by the Maori between less than 150 years and more than 100 years AD, Te Fenua Enata received its first Western visit in 1595 by the Spanish. The archipelago remained isolated from Westerners for more than 150 years. After the passage of James COOK in 1774, they were under English domination until 1842. On this date, Admiral Dupetit-Thouars signed a protectorate with a Marquesan leader, the foundation of the French Marquesas.

The Spanish took advantage of their first visit to the archipelago to change the name of Te Fenua Enata to Marquesas. At that time more than 100,000 Maori populated the Archipelago, they paid a heavy price because of the destruction of their civilization and the diseases brought by Westerners. In 1920, only 2000 Marquesans remained, their disappearance was announced. Against all odds, these people rose again, there are today more than 11,000 on the archipelago.

Geography:

Located in the Equatorial South Pacific, these islands benefit from a temperate oceanic climate with nighttime temperatures between 21 and 25° and daily temperatures between 27 and 31°. Permanently lulled by the EAST trade winds which bring freshness and pure air, they are very green thanks to frequent precipitation, especially at night.

Sociology:

A very welcoming people to this day, their kindness is undoubtedly one of their primary qualities. They live with both Western modernism and their traditional culture which transcends generations, making the Marquesas islands of great dynamism. Mutual aid is second nature in the Marquesas, our group was able to fully appreciate this reality. The attachment to France of the Marquesans is unequivocal.

Conclusion :

An extraordinary adventure, the team is already ready for a new meeting in another DXCC in the South Pacific at the beginning of 2025. The team will favor low-band traffic without neglecting the high bands and 6m.














The whole team joins us in sending you our 73 QROs and see you soon for other adventures.

Didier F6BCW John F5VHQ

More information at: <https://tx7l.com/>











Club Log DX Report

Band	QSOs	% DX	Graph
160M	5,509	20.95	
80M	35,109	23.88	
60M	11,451	34.33	
40M	121,904	25.20	
30M	69,796	49.25	
20M	197,620	47.16	
17M	81,226	68.10	
15M	158,117	69.65	
12M	119,188	78.28	
10M	224,315	79.35	
6M	13,237	70.88	
4M	219	0.00	
2M	3,578	11.43	

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

Most active modes

This chart illustrates which modes are being used most heavily during the period of this report.

Mode	% Use	QSOs	Graph
FT8	65.75	689,188	
FT4	13.76	144,216	
CW	10.13	106,178	
SSB	8.93	93,601	
MFSK	0.44	4,663	
RTTY	0.30	3,108	
PKT	0.18	1,879	
FM	0.17	1,751	



This report is sent to the [Club Log Google Group](#) every 7 days.

It's also available daily at 14:30Z from <https://clublog.org/dxreport.html>

It contains a summary of band conditions and activity, based on the data that you and other Club Log users have uploaded. If you have any suggestions or feedback on this report, please email Michael G7VJR at michael@g7vjr.org



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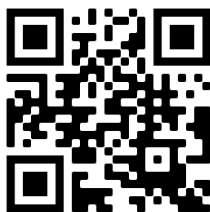
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INDEXA

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From the Editor:

If you have an article that you would like to share with INDEXA please pass along and I will get it in the Summer 2024 Issue.

73,
Steve KI4KWR
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