

Northwest Indiana DX CLUB

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President's Corner

Don't know about you, but I have been very upset with the intentional QRMing on top of DX frequencies lately.

It seems that more and more immature Hams are causing all this trouble. One person said, he knew it would happen when the incentive licensing came to be.

Guess he was right, after witnessing it these past two weeks.

Were you able to work Myanmar?

They were ill-prepared in my mind with no amplifiers to make it where more could hear them.

I worked them as witnessed by K9CIV and still do not show up in their log. Another lost log event by a DXpedition. This, too, is becoming more prevalent.

73
John, W3ML

DXCC CARD CHECKING

Doctor Richard Lochner, K9CIV has been appointed an Official ARRL DXCC Card Checker. Contact Rich to schedule an appointment for card checking.

You may email him at k9civ@arrl.net for details on how to mail your cards to him, if you desire to go that route.



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Member News

If you have any news to tell, please send it to me so I can send it to the group.

Kosovo (Z6) as a New DX Entity?

Under current DXCC rules (as of November 13, 2013), Kosovo does not qualify as a DXCC entity. For that to happen, Kosovo must become a UN member or be assigned an official ITU prefix. Kosovo's telecommunications regulatory authority is issuing Z6-prefix call signs to visiting radio amateurs for a fee. Kosovo also counts as a "country multiplier" for the CQ World Wide DX contests.

An excerpt from a IZ7KHR blog in WWW.DXCoffee.Com

"Kosovo has never been recognized as independent from Serbia, which identifies Kosovo in its legislation, as a Special Administrative Region, thus granted a particular form of autonomy. However, 17 February 2008, the Government of Kosovo unilaterally assigned itself its independence, thus demonstrating its own sovereignty. The first recognition of this authority came from the State of Costa Rica and then 91 other UN member states recognizing Kosovo as a new independent state, including the United States, Britain, France, and 22 European countries including that of Italy; with the exception of Russia and China, nations with veto power in the Security Council of the United Nations, and for these Kosovo can not currently be accepted among the countries of the UN.

In 2008, the UN decided to place the territory under the jurisdiction of a controlling body and rather than from a military base, but that of a civilian authority, moving the population towards a defined international solution. The EULEX mission, as it's called, ended September 10 of last year, the ISG (International Steering Group) has ceased its activities stating that Kosovo has acquired full sovereignty. However, we are somehow in the presence of a unilateral decision on the part of those countries that originally recognized, as early as 2008, the sovereignty of the Kosovo. Remaining still, however, are vetoes of other countries and the opposition of Serbia which would rather include Kosovo as a territorial region of its own with special status.

Having explained the historical events, we can now discuss those aspects of amateur radio that interest us most. Before September 10, to operate from the region of Kosovo was in all respects comparable to operating from Serbia and prefixes used under existing regulations were precisely those as in Serbia. Following the declaration of independence, a team of amateur radio operators under the supervision of the IARU, traveled to Pristina, capital of Kosovo, to encourage and promote the establishment of a regulatory amateur body to facilitate the development of new hams. These individuals are: Hans, PB2T; Nikola, 9A5W and Emil, 9A9A, accompanied by G3TXF, N2BB, MD0CCE, OH2TA and OH2BH as instructors. At this point things continue to move at a slow pace. So, the government in Pristina, Kosovo, has approved a new regulation. The Amateur Radio Association was founded, SHRAK, with President Ali Sabit, Z61DD and other personal licenses issued. As you've already surmised, calls were issued with the Z6 prefix. These days you can now hear on the air the first team ever assigned a call, Z60K.

Well, so far the facts, now a little something to munch on! Kosovo is not one of countries under the UN umbrella, since, as has been said, it has not yet been recognized by all countries with veto authority. To make a comparison with the recent history of South Sudan, the latter declared its self entirely independent the day after final approval by the Assembly of the United Nations. The procedure for assigning a prefix for amateur radio goes hand in hand with the Civil Aviation Authority, with this duty of the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) in tandem agreement with the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization). The assignment of a prefix goes hand in hand with the recognition of the sovereignty of a new state by the United Nations. Also in comparing with South Sudan, the ST0 prefix was used as a temporary one, but with the quiet blessing of the ITU which needed more time to assign a new prefix, something which then occurred a few months later.

Sure you could then invoke exceptional circumstances to justify the auto assignment of the prefix Z6, examples such as Palestine (E4) or the SMOM (1A), but we need to be clear about that. Palestine, although not part of the UN, received the prefix E4 primarily to identify Arafat's aircraft, not to confuse them with the Israelis. So aeronautical motivation was essential for us amateurs, for the DXCC program. For 1A instead the story is different. The block 1A-1Z is part of a series of prefix to use in case of uncertainty about the status of a territory, 1A was established for the special status of the SMOM, 1B is used for the Turks territories in Cyprus, 1S for Spratly island, always disputes between various Asian powers, 1X for some transmissions by Chechen's separatists. That these activities are accepted by DXCC or not does not matter, it depends on the rules of the diploma, but at least they all fall into an unofficial block of prefixes repeatedly used for similar situations.

At this point one may ask what's going on in Kosovo now... a new country that indeed declared itself independent and, although not recognized by many countries, and still not part of the UN, can not be recognized by the ITU for the assignment of a regular prefix. So, what to do? One now transmits a prefix not yet assigned, specifically Z6, maybe a prefix of series 1A-1Z would be more correct to use, on a provisional basis.

One wonders at this point if the DXCC desk can accept this possible new country and therefore accredit QSOs with these calls for the famous diploma. Provided that with DXCC there are no shortcuts deferring to the previous discussion. However, having dealt with this in a roundabout way, perhaps it would be prudent to comply with the rules in place, whatever the case may be!"

With that explanation, there seems that at least one of the following two scenarios must happen:

1. Russia and China recognize Kosovo as an independent state.
2. Kosovo buys some airplanes and flies them on international routes necessitating assignment of a tail prefix from the ICAU. If that happens the ITU must authorize a radio prefix.

If one of those should occur the DX powers at the ARRL could add Kosovo to the list of DX entities.

Good DX de KD9HL

Steve Mollman

Note: Some minor grammatical and syntax corrections were made to accommodate the translation from the original Italian to American English. Thanks go to IZ7KHR – Francesco, for his thoughts. Francesco is the QSL manager for 1A0C, TY1KS and others.

The Vocabulary of DX

This lexicon is an attempt to explain some of the terms used in Amateur Radio DX. Some definitions are serious, some tongue in cheek and some satirical. Understanding this terminology will help one to understand the hobby and the people involved in it.

Black Hole – The geographical area that W9 DX'ers operate from. A significant Amateur population between the DX and W9 Land makes it difficult to make a contact. The entire US amateur population stands between us and the world overpowering and blocking our transmissions, hence the term “Black Hole”. The DX rarely hears a sound coming from our Black Hole! Science has yet to discover a cure for the “Black Hole” but the combination of some expensive treatments such as tall towers, big antennas and lots of power will sometimes help.

By the numbers – A technique used by a DX station to control and reduce a pileup by recognizing only the stations with a certain number in their call. This can work well. Sometimes a calling station will forget what his number is and call out of order, bringing the wrath of the DX Cops. The experience in the W9 Black Hole is that by the time the DX gets around to the nines, he has disappeared into the static! This is very frustrating because we had to wait a long time for the DX station to work through the W0 to W8 stations. We are the last to the feeding trough.

CB'er – See “Lid”.

CQ - CQ sounds like "Seek You" - get it

Dupe or you are already in the Log – A good DX station will do what he can to prevent single station multiple contacts on a single band. Each duplicate contact on a band deprives another ham a contact. With most Dxpeditions using Club Log or other similar services for logging contacts, insurance contacts are usually not necessary. Some unnamed operators are notorious for trying to make multiple single band contacts with a DXpedition. For them the punishment should be the removal of their contacts from the log.

DXer - A Ham Radio licensee suffering from an illness whose central feature is an obsession to make radio contacts with various entities throughout the world. The exact cause is unknown. The condition is usually permanent and symptoms can vary from mild to severe. Mostly adult males are affected but occasionally adult females also suffer though usually to a much lesser degree. A major symptom is the mindless sitting for hours while shouting into a microphone or sending call letters via CW. Hoarseness, carpal tunnel syndrome and tremors to the hand may result from this activity. Secondary behavioral symptoms include operating at odd hours of the night, skipping work, ignoring family and attempting to “work a new one” while eating meals. The inflicted report that when they do work a “new one”, there is a feeling of elation and self-gratification but that quickly subsides. There is no known cure for this condition but partial relief may

occur when the sufferer finally “works them all”. Most insurance (including ObamaCare) doesn’t cover this condition.

DX Cop – A self appointed operator, usually running a lot of power who sits on the DX frequency monitoring everything. Should someone make a mistake such as inadvertently getting his split frequencies reversed or dropping his call letters at the wrong time, the DX Cop will be quick to jump on the miscreant increasing the QRM. Sometimes there are several DX Cops on the frequency, which can add to the turmoil as they compete to “enforce the law”. See: “Split”, “Up-Up-Up!” and “Up five”.

Europe Only, Asia Only, etc. –This is a request to calling stations from the DX that is intended to give locations with less than optimal propagation a chance to make a contact. For the unscrupulous it is a signal to slip their call in with the hope that the DX will answer. Sometimes the DX will answer for no other reason than to reduce the QRM this guy is generating. A smart DX station will answer the station but not put him in the log. For every crime there is a punishment!

Handle -The term is an old slang term for name that goes back to the cowboys of the Old West. Telegraphers picked it up and the ham radio operators got it from them. CB operators copied the hams. For Hams it usually is either the operator’s first name or a nickname such as Sparks or Rusty. CB'ers often use an alias such as "Dirty Modulator" or "Hound Dawg".

Lid - A lousy operator i.e. Put a “lid” on it. Maybe we should deal with Lids by paraphrasing the old Archie Bunker’s TV show comment- “Stifle Edith”!

Mobile – Most people think this a station with limited power and less than optimal conditions operating from a moving vehicle. Often, the reality is this is a base station trying to get an advantage over the competition in the pile up. By saying he is W4XXX/mobile he hopes that the DX will take pity on him and return his call.

Policeman - See “DX Cop”.

Portable –Many “Portable” stations are permanent setups with the most modern and powerful equipment available. Kilowatt amplifiers and tall towers with multi-element monobanders can be the norm at these “portable” locations. The operator justifies being called portable because he kept his W2 call when he retired to Florida. By being “Portable” a Dixer has two chances when the DX is operating by the numbers. Also see “Mobile”.

Propagation - A natural phenomenon of the atmosphere that governs how far our signals will travel. Good propagation seems to be rare in the “W9 Black Hole”.

QRP - See “Mobile” The same applies.

Rare DX- Any entity on the ARRL DX List that you have not contacted and confirmed with a QSL Card.

Split - When the DX Cops get excited, they will often yell “Split”. This is a city in Croatia situated on the eastern shores of the Adriatic Sea. (Croatian pronunciation: [splît]). One theory is that the outburst occurs because the DX Cops are so busy policing a DX frequency they have little time to actually work any DX. Even though they are not going to work the station, hearing the 9A makes their day. No one knows if that is true because a DX Cop never gives his call sign so we can’t ask.

Tuner-Upper – An operator whose amplifier can only be tuned and adjusted on a DX’s transmit frequency. No other type of frequency works. Manufacturers have made sure that dummy loads are not compatible with these amplifiers. Often the amplifier is overdriven causing a splatter type disruption of communications over a wide frequency range. Some Tuner-Upper’s equipment can be very sneaky and only tune when the DX is coming back to another station. Every once in a while, the long key down transmission will cause the expensive finals to fail, ending the QRM.

Up five! – A frequent cry from a DX Cop.

Up, Up, Up! – Another frequent cry from a DX Cop. They never say how far.

The Wall - See “Black Hole”.

Work a New One and Worked Them All- Making contact with an entity/country listed on the ARRL DX List for the first time which gives the operator an opportunity for a quick brag.. When every entity has been worked and confirmed, the operator can brag to anyone that will listen that he has “Worked Them All”.

Good DX and 73’s de KD9HL
Steve Mollman

DX NEWS

VU7AG LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS is still operating on various bands until December 10th.

MONACO - Members of the Monaco Ham Radio Society (ARM) will celebrate their 60th anniversary by signing 3A60ARM between now and December 31st.

FT5Z, AMSTERDAM ISLAND coming in January

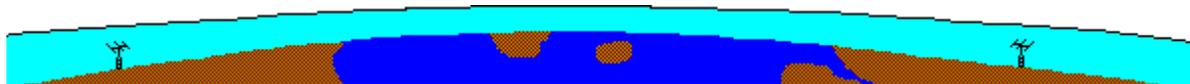
Mellish Reef DXpedition scheduled for March 28, 2014, to April 9, 2014.

CAMBODIA. John, KF0RQ, will once again be active as XU7ACQ from Phnom Penh between February 25th and March 21st.

(ED NOTE: John sent me an email requesting that I contact him to set up a schedule. Hope I can hear him when we do set a time.)

I want to thank those that have been sending in articles for the newsletter. All items are appreciated.

Don't forget to send in any information you would like to share with the Club members.



Until Next Time,

73

John

W3ML