

DX Advisory Committee Semi-Annual Report

June 30, 2008

**To the American Radio Relay League
Board of Directors**

**Submitted by
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Chairman, DX Advisory Committee
Southeastern Division Representative**

Introduction

I would like to update the Board on the overall DXing environment in the first six months of 2008. Sunspot activity continues to remain at unusually low levels despite the fact that most observers believe the new Cycle 24 should have begun by now. This has become an extended bottom lasting longer than any bottom in recent cycles. Some are speculating the new cycle will be a big disappointment when it finally arrives. We shall see!

Despite this, DXers have been busy with lots of DX to work and many DXpeditions to make the bands interesting. Here is a partial list of the more high profile, rare DXpeditions that have delighted deserving DXers: 3Y0E-Bouvet, FJ-St. Bartholomew (new entity in Dec. 2007), VP6DX-Ducie Island broke all existing total QSO records with an amazing 183,686 QSOs, TI9KK-Cocos Island, J5C-Guinea Bissau, TX5C-Clipperton Island, and two operations from 9X- Rwanda, YK9G-Syria, 4W6R-Timor Leste.

At the Dayton Hamvention, ON4UN, XE1CI (SK on 6/16/2008) and N2OO were inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame. And the 2007 DX Challenge/Desoto Cup was awarded to I4EAT with 3,129 points, 2nd place was perennial winner W4DR with 3,124 points and OZ1LO was third with 3,119 points. Currently there are sixteen DXers that have over 3,000 points. Points are DXCC entities confirmed on 160-6meters. Wow!

Issues/Concerns/feedback from the DX community

I reported in my last semi-annual report that there was widespread concern and complaints about the average 15 week backlog at the DXCC desk. It is apparent that the corrective action that was taken has eased the problem, as many DXers are now reporting 7-8 week turnaround times. Good Job!

Update on the “Impact on DXing and the DXCC program of Remote Operations” Assignment

On January 2, 2008, I received an email from Cliff Ahrens, K0CA, ARRL-DXAC liaison. I was notified that the ARRL Programs & Services Committee had approved an assignment to the DXAC to study and report the impact on DXing and DXCC of remote operations.

On January 7, 2008, I held a conference call with Dave Patton, NN1N and Cliff Ahrens, K0CA to discuss the DXAC assignment and clarify the specific questions and scenarios being considered as well as other related issues. On January 10, 2008, the DXAC was notified of the assignment using the DXAC email reflector. All members of the Committee received a copy of the original assignment and a list of discussion questions I had prepared. My objective was to use general discussion questions to flesh out the various issues involved in the overall concept of remote station operations. The strategy being that after general discussions, the individual scenarios given us in the assignment would be clearer and easier to respond to.

Throughout the two and half months of discussion via the DXAC email reflector, all the Committee members participated, although some members devoted more time and thought to the assignment than others. Approximately half of the Committee polled DX clubs and individual DXers in an effort to gain additional insights and perspectives about remote radio operations. The results of these discussions with DXers in their respective divisions helped shape the opinions and recommendations of many of the individual Committee members.

The discussions culminated in a conference call on April 2, 2008 in which all members of the DXAC participated. We discussed the individual scenarios in the original assignment and came to a consensus on each. I prepared these responses taking into account the Committees discussions and members of the Committee reviewed them. I believe they represent a fair and accurate consensus of the DXAC members.

The DXAC report was submitted to Dave Patton on May 13, 2008.

Other comments

None

Respectfully submitted,

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Southeastern Division Representative

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