The LongPath

Contents:

Contributors:
AC4G
KG4TEI
N4NM
NG3K
WA4HR

- .... .

.-.. --- -. --. .--. .- -

....

--- -.-. - --- -... . .-.

..-- ----- ..-- ...--

...- --- .-.. ..- -- .

....- --...

.. ..- .

.---- -----

From the President
By Bruce Smith, AC4G

I cannot believe how this year has flown by. Fall season has finally arrived and many DXpeditions have become activated. Swains Island will be activated by the time you read this article as W8S from October 4 through October 17. Swains Island is ranked #27 on Clublog's Most Wanted List and is indeed rare, to say the least. Many of the NADXC membership will be chasing this one. Steve Werner, AG4W will soon be using the callsign TJ9MD as a member of the Mediterranean DX Group as they activate Cameroon, Africa. Cameroon has not been active for the past seven years and is ranked #89 on Clublog's Most Wanted List. As a club, we donated funds to support this DXpedition. You'll also want to keep this one in your crosshairs coming up November 2 through November 15.

In early September, I tweaked an old PowerPoint slide presentation and presented a program to the Ozaukee Radio Club in Wisconsin via ZOOM. If you recall, earlier in the year and via ZOOM we listened to Gary Sutcliff, W9XT present a program on "Receive Antennas" to the NADXC club. To reciprocate, I agreed to provide a program about the Marshall Islands on behalf of the NADXC membership. I titled my program, "How I Operated from the Marshall Islands." After presenting my program the evening of September 10th, I received and addressed several questions from the Ozaukee Radio club via ZOOM. The next day I received the following note, "That sure was a nice program – very well presented. Thank you." I also noticed the club published my presentation the following day on their website. I appreciate them asking me to present a program. I enjoy sharing my experiences with other ham radio operators.

The annual NADXC Picnic was held on September 30th at my QTH. We all enjoyed good food, fellowship, great weather, and discussed a little DXing with each other. We toured my ham shack & antenna farm and also participated in an activity comparing antenna analyzers that we each own. This live comparison resulted in us discovering a potential issue with the SO239 jack on one analyzer. This activity was not only educational, but also entertaining and fun. Thank you to all who attended and participated in a fun-filled day.

Topics of discussion for the October meeting are to analyze the DXpedition budget, election of officers, vote on DXer of the year, and plan our annual Christmas Party in December. Our

next club meeting will be on October 10th at the Signals Museum of Information Explosion at 1806 University Drive with the meeting to begin at 6:30 P.M. The October Program will be a YouTube video by Robert Wilson, N6TV, on "Everything you Need to Know About USB and Serial Interfaces." We will also have ZOOM setup for those not able to make it in person. I look forward to seeing you in person at the October club meeting.

QSLing From a QSL Manger's Perspective
By Bruce Smith, AC4G

Many of you may not know, but I am QSL manager for several callsigns which include my DXpedition to the Marshall Islands and Wake Island back in the late 1990's and early 2000's. I am also QSL manager for Ken Wells (V73C, V7A, V73CT, V7MHZ, V63KW, etc.) who lived in the Marshall Islands as well as traveled to Pompei Micronesia. Some of the callsigns I am QSL manager for Ken's callsigns shown above, but also my own such as V73CW, V7G, AC4G/KH9; N4GAK/KL7, AC4G/KH6, etc.

I wanted to cover a few topics in this article to help our newest and seasoned North Alabama DX Club (NADXC) members with QSL information with recommendations from the standpoint of a QSL Manager and issues that prevent expeditious receipt of QSL cards. We will discuss some QSL basics that include your QSL card, DXpedition operator instructions, and sources of QSL routes. Next, we will dig deeper into the ARRL QSL Bureau System, QSLing direct (the envelope(s), IRCs, green stamps, etc.), special tips for QSLing a manager, and alternative QSL methods, not in any particular order.

THE QSL CARD

Successful QSLing starts with the QSO and good logging practices. As hams, one of the first basics we all need to do is verify our clocks regularly for accurate dates and times. This includes UTC and local time offset in logging programs, but also to make sure the date is correct and corresponds to the correct UTC time. Always carefully log your QSO completely. This requires you to promptly log each QSO immediately after the QSO.

Regarding your QSL card, every ham operator must have their callsign printed on both sides of their QSL card. Jim Smith, (SK) VK9NS, would return your QSL card if you did not have the callsign printed on each side. He once told me that by him having to find your callsign on a QSL card with the callsign printed once, causes him to lose lots of time. You have to remember, some stations like VK9NS receive thousands of QSL cards each month and time is of an essence. Anything to speed up the QSL process makes it easier on the QSL manager.

Don't use unusual fonts, especially on the QSO data side. I have received cards with unusual fonts that were not legible, and where I could not read the callsign letters. Avoid uncomplimentary color combinations that cause difficulty reading your QSL card. Print your QSO data/information legibly. I'd suggest DD/MMM/YY (03-Apr-08) date format, including a legend which prevents the manager from reading the date incorrectly. Sometimes I find that it takes me ten minutes to figure out which digit is the month because hams use a wide variety of date formats. Always use Universal Coordinated Time (UTC)

time. Never, ever send a card with QSO data in local time!!!!! You will get it returned. You would be surprised just how many QSL cards I receive with this inconsistency.

Use printed labels if possible. Neatness goes a long way. There is no misunderstanding the QSL information with labels versus sloppy hand writing. List multiple QSOs in chronological order. Don't cross out mistakes, start over with a new card. A card with a cross out or bad smudge is not valid for award credit in most cases and the ham on the receiving end will not be happy.

FOLLOW OPERATOR DIRECTIONS for QSLing

Let's say you work V73C. The operator says: "QSL via AC4G." The U.S. ham operator can send their card to AC4G direct with SASE (more on using managers later). However, if you are a foreign ham, you will need to include return postage for the QSL manager to return your card back to you. The current going-rate postage back to a foreign country is typically $2 to $3 US Dollars (USD) or two (three) green stamps as we call it.

Another method to get your QSL card to the QSL manager is via the Outgoing ARRL Bureau Service (More to be discussed later) identifying AC4G as the manager on the card ["V73C via AC4G"]. If you work AC4G/KH9 and the operator says: "QSL via home call or CBA (callbook address)", then you send your card to AC4G's home address listed on QRZ.COM, Buckmaster, genuine CALLBOOKs, Online lookup, etc.) with SAE + a few green stamps. Always follow directions from the QSL Manager in order to get your card promptly for that QSL with the DX station. See the section below on "ARRL QSL BUREAU SYSTEM."

METHODS OF FINDING A QSL ROUTE

The internet offers many sources of QSL routes for ham radio stations i.e., QRZ.COM – Pathfinder – Go List – and many, many others. Many of the DX Bulletins offer QSL routes. Among a few of the weekly bulletins are Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin; 425 DX News; ARRL DX Bulletin; The Daily DX; and the list continues with some internet research. Another good source is to ask a local ham operator or ask members of the local club. Alternatively, ask a BUNCH of DXers!!! They will usually know the address or know where to look it up very quickly.

ARRL QSL BUREAU SYSTEM

One of the best sources we have as hams is to send and receive QSL cards by using the ARRL Bureau System. The ARRL QSL Service cannot be used to exchange QSL cards within the 48 contiguous states, but DX stations with a U.S. QSL Manager is fine.

Typically, the **OUTGOING** Bureau system is used for hams in the U.S. to exchange QSL cards outside the Continental U.S. and it is a lot cheaper than sending cards around the world via the U.S. Postal Service. However, there are a few rules a ham needs to follow. Guidance is provided by the ARRL @www.arrl.org.

- Presort your DX QSL's alphabetically by parent call-sign prefix

- **DO NOT** separate the country prefixes by use of paper clips, rubber bands, slips of paper or envelopes

- Open to ARRL Members ONLY – Include proof of membership by including a photocopy the address from your recent QST

- Cards are bundled and bulk shipped to foreign bureaus by ARRL staff

QSLing From a QSL Manager's Perspective (continued)

- Fee Based – Check ARRL Web Site for current rates

- Recommended dimension of your card - Height = 2-3/4-inch to 4-1/4-inch, and Width = 4-3/4 to 6-1/4-inch

- Not all DXCC entities are served by the Outgoing bureau – Check the ARRL Outgoing Bureau page for a list and full details

I would suggest using the NADXC bulk outgoing service managed by Steve Smith, KY4G a member of our club. When you attend one of the NADXC's monthly meetings, bring your outgoing QSL cards to Steve who will box them up and send to the league routinely to help save each NADXC member some bucks.

Using the ARRL **INCOMING** Bureau System allows the ham operator to receive QSL cards from foreign ham operators. The ARRL Incoming DX QSL Bureau System is made up of numerous call-area bureaus that act as central clearing houses for QSL cards arriving from foreign countries. Volunteer hams staff these "incoming" bureaus. The service is free and ARRL membership is **not** required. Your Incoming Bureau is determined by the number in your call. i.e. W2FU is served by the W2 Bureau no matter where he lives, AC4G is served by the W4 Bureau in Sterling, VA no matter where he lives.

In order to take advantage and use the incoming bureau, you must send a 5 x 7-1/2 or 6 x 9inch self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) or send cash money where applicable to the bureau serving your call-sign district. You must neatly print your call-sign in the upper left corner of the envelope. I typically have on-hand at the incoming bureau six or more SASE envelopes plus extra cash for postage in case I receive a lot of cards one month. I want to be able to have all QSL cards addressed to me from foreign hams come to me all at once, in as many envelopes as needed.

I regularly receive a message from my Bureau Manager stating he needs more envelopes, stamps, or has little cash on hand for extra postage for envelopes stuffed with QSL cards. The Bureau Sorter includes this message in my shipment of QSL cards when the envelopes are substantially packed from the bureau and then sent directly to me.

ADRESSING THE ENVELOPE

Believe it not, there are envelope Do's and Don'ts to follow from the QSL manager standpoint, maybe not formal steps, but steps that should be followed. As a ham operator requesting a QSL card from a QSL manager, you should print the recipient's address clearly and accurately on envelope. If an envelope filled with that coveted QSL card is going outside the U.S., print the country name in English at the bottom of the envelope I.E. UNITED KINGDOM or KUWAIT, etc. (See references for USPS guidelines on international mail addressing).

Use the return envelopes with "peel and stick" seal flap. This is faster for the QSL Manager and does not require extra sealing steps saving time. I buy these at our local general merchandising, variety chain store. Leave the small unsealed opening at each corner of envelope. Clearly, print a return address on your return envelope and the addressee's address preferably using a mailing label.

Avoid folding your return envelope in the sending envelope, if possible. If you must fold the

QSLing From a QSL Manager's Perspective
(continued)

return envelope, do **NOT** put the folded part facing the top. The QSL manger might cut your envelope into two pieces as they open your letter. I have done this many times costing me an envelope.

Do not place your card inside of your return envelope. Your QSL card should be placed alongside of your return envelope in the outgoing envelope.

For U.S. to U.S. mailings, place proper postage (in proper location) on your return envelope. Be wary of pending postage increases, include sufficient postage to cover. The advantage of today's "Forever Stamp" eliminates the worry for increasing postage returning from U.S based QSL managers.

RETURN POASTAGE (INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS (IRCs) and GREEN STAMPS)

IRCs are no longer accepted in the U.S. They used to be redeemed for international postage from any country to any country (maybe), while the cost from post office in US was $2.10. Many QSL managers used to sell IRCs at discounted prices, but since they are no longer available, this is a moot point today.

Currently in 2023, hams use green stamps ($1 USD) for return postage costs to obtain a QSL card from foreign managers or hams. It is illegal for hams in some countries to possess US currency better known as green stamps. Postal theft is a problem in some countries. Knowing this, it would behoove every ham to conceal green stamps by folding white paper around it or using a strategy to conceal the green stamp. I place my green stamps in the return envelope to help conceal the

green stamps. It is suggested not to put callsigns or other markings identifying as ham radio mail on the envelope. The address on the outside of your envelope should be written as you would a normal business mail envelope.

In 2023, many countries require more than $2 or more for return Air Mail postage to the U.S. As always, follow the directions of the QSL Manager or foreign ham operator when QSLing. The manager always provides return postage rates and suggested green stamps for all parts of the world. These rates are often found on the DXpedition website. Never affix stamps to the return envelope, just include them lose in the envelope if you decide to send foreign stamps to cover the cost to return your QSL from the DX back to your home QTH.

OTHER QSLing METHODS SUCH AS A QSL SERVICE

A ham operator can pay a fee to a QSL service to handle your QSL requests. I have fulfilled requests from services located in the U.S. as well as foreign service providers. The way these service providers work is that the ham sends their QSL requests directly to the service provider. The service then sends multiple requests to QSL Managers and some DX stations. Others go to foreign bureaus. Many QSLs are returned via the ARRL Incoming bureau. This can be quicker and more reliable than regular bureau and it is cheaper than the direct method.

Next is Log Book of The World (LoTW) handled by the ARRL. The ARRL's LoTW system is a repository of log records submitted by users from around the world. When two participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit. It is free to upload your log, and the ham can see what DXCC credits are available. However, if ap-

plying for award credits (DXCC/WAS), there is a fee levied by the ARRL. Registration is necessary. All logs are digitally signed to ensure authenticity.

Finally, eQSL is another online method of exchanging electronic QSLs. eQSL is recognized for award credit by some, but not everyone. CQ Magazine recognizes award credit, but the ARRL does not. Even though I have an eQSL account, I need to be more prudent to keep my logs uploaded. These alternative QSL methods are many methods used by ham operator all over the world.

SATISFYING QSL MANAGERS

Always follow the QSL manager's directions. A happy QSL manager works hard to return your card in a prompt manner. Be patient - a busy QSL manager can handle hundreds, if not thousands of direct requests per week (or month). QSL manages often have to wait days, weeks, or months to receive logs. Many times, QSL cards have to be designed, ordered, printed, and received from the printing shop and this takes a lot of time.

Always send an SASE to stateside managers and perhaps a tip (not required). I typically include a small tip to help QSL managers with QSL card printing when I make my QSL requests from managers of DX stations. Simply sending a card without any postage will almost always result in no QSL card returned. At best, you might get a return of a QSL card via the bureau if the QSL manager is in a good mood.

QSL Managers are not mind readers. QSL managers can fill special requests if you provide them information as to what you want. Some-

times, I receive QSL requests from QSL Service providers. When sending requests for multiple stations to one manager, be prepared to wait until the manager has logs, cards, etc. from ALL stations before receiving your cards.

CONTACTING QSL MANAGERS via EMAIL

There are times for emailing the QSL Manager. I like it if a ham sends an email checking on their cards, but DO NOT send an email a few weeks after sending your request to find out the status of your QSL cards. You will not get a response. If you receive a card in error, most times the manager will resend without another SASE if the QSL manager overlooked some information. If an extended time period (months) has elapsed, since sending your request with no response (mail does get lost), then send an email.

Watch the "tone" of the email. It's easy to sound rude and demanding. I have returned the return postage green stamps back to several U.S. and foreign hams for mistakes I have made and paid the return postage myself. QSL managers have things they pay for, usually not covered by the DX station, and any donations are graciously accepted but not required

CONCLUSION

I hope the reader can see from the QSL Manager's perspective, some of the issues, concerns, and work QSL managers deal with on a daily basis, from the well know managers to the smaller managers. I appreciate everything the QSL managers do for amateur radio. It can be a big ordeal for each QSL manager. Many QSL managers belong to the QSL Manager Society to promote fair and uniform guidelines and never close a log. This helps to maintain quality QSL managers around the world.

In recent years, I have heard of elder QSL

managers passing, while another ham or QSL manager may request and receive the logs of the deceased QSL manager to pick up their QSL duties. This is a humbling move that keeps the QSL cycle alive. One tidbit a QSL Manager lives by is to "never close a log."

I hope this article helps the reader to appreciate QSL managers and the issues that QSL managers deal with on a constant basis and the work & hours put-in as managers to provide QSL cards to the deserving in an expedited manner following a DXpedition or when QSL requests come years later. Again, I encourage our NADXC membership to review the information in this article in hopes that your QSLing will be successful in the future.

This Old Key
by Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI

Note from the Publisher: This month we are introducing a new serial column titled "This Old Key", conceived by Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI. Each installment will highlight a different key from a member's collection or a key with historical significance. We hope you enjoy this new series. Thank you, Kevin, for taking on this new effort.

When we consider all the things ham radio operators buy for their station, few things are more personal than the key that sits on our desk. Keys, be it straight keys, bugs, or paddles are little more than simple switches that, when closed, cause that radio to transmit a simple carrier. But, to the ham they can be so much more. They can be the origin of a first contact with a friend or some rare DX. The key can give us an opportunity to communicate around the globe when voice simply won't work.

Often that simple switch has a lot of meaning to a ham. Sometimes there is a story behind why that key is on the desk or in the collection of keys. For many, I'm sure their first keys are special, but it could also be because it belonged to an Elmer, was a gift from someone, how smooth the action is, or something that we saved up for to get

the best that we could afford. Whatever the reason, keys are a personal choice.

This month I am showcasing my first key. By all standards there is nothing special about this key. It is a simple J-37, with no production marks on it. Is it the best hand key I have ever used? Hardly! The leaf spring return action is weak, and being a straight key, it doesn't see a lot of use except for tuning up the antenna. However, this is the first key I purchased when I was a newly licensed ham. The price was right at $16 from eBay for a ham still in college. It will forever hold a special place in my heart because it has been with me for over 20 years. I have practiced with this key and seen my kids become fascinated by it. I doubt I will ever get rid of it, even though it

KG4TEI's first key, a J-37 picked up from eBay for only $16.

This Old Key
(continued)

rarely sees much use.

For the next few months, I would like for you to write in with a short article about your favorite key and how you acquired it. Tell us what is special about it and include a picture. Following these articles, early next year we want to have a key night program for the club. This will be the opportunity for you to bring out your key and let other try it. You might even convince someone they need to go buy your brand of key and put it on their desk. I look forward to seeing what you send in next month.

AC4G's CT599MB Key
By Bruce Smith, AC4G

I have used many HF transceivers over the years. Being a CW enthusiast, I have also used many keys in conjunction with the built-in iambic keyer feature included as a standard tool on many of my later HF rigs. My current rig is a Yaesu FT101MP. The key weighting and many other settings can be adjusted via the rig's menu. The CW speed is also adjustable via a button on my HF rig. The rig also allows for QSK, full break-in capability. However, in order to activate these functions and make these features work, it requires a morse code key.

The key of choice for my current Yaesu FT101MP is my CT599MB polished brass, mirror-finished, and heavy duty iambic level paddle keyer designed by Yuri, UR5CDX and shipped from the Ukraine about five years ago.
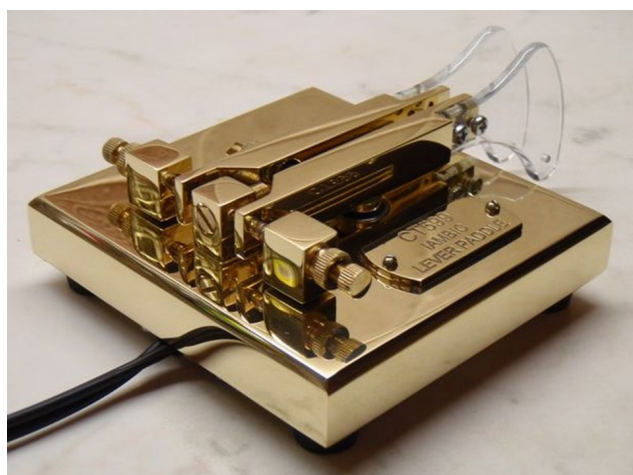
CT599 key, made in Ukraine

The CT599 keyer has quad ball bearings. It has a square base with dimensions 96X90 mm. The keyer provides the ability to adjust the weight and contact gap. It also has magnetic tension and solid silver double contacts. Included is a 4.5 ft shielded cable with a universal ¼" connector. It weighs 1.3kg with a full warranty. It comes with carbon fiber paddles and the option to have a plate engraved with your callsign which is attached to the base with brass screws. Below is a picture of my key. The cost when I bought it several years ago was approximately $150.00.

The first thing I noticed about this key was the exceptional craftsmanship and quality demonstrated by Yuri and the mirror finish on the brass components. Yuri's machine work is far above any I have seen on other keys of this type. This key also allows the ham operator to adjust the gaps between the contacts. I adjusted the gaps to a very close, precise distance and it continues to remain at close tolerance, since my initial adjustment. The action is smooth, having little play in the bearings. After always having used a Bencher BY-1 key, I noticed a true difference in both keys as the BY-1 always had a "spongy" feel. I recently polished the key to bring its finish back to a shining luster. This key allows me to send from 32 to 35 WPM flawlessly during contests. It is quite smooth and with the heavy brass base, never

AC4G's CT599MB Key
(continued)

slides around. This key is comfortable and really feels good when sending morse code.

I went online to read the reviews for this key. Most ratings were 5 plus. However, there were a few hams who found issues with their CT599 key. But the negative reviews that I read were things that could be adjusted or things that hams were just being picky about, while others were partial to keys they had used in the past.

I would rate the CT599 as a great value and top-notch product and I would definitely recommend this key to anyone desiring to purchase a good CW key for their ham radio station. I truly love my CT599 and am thinking about purchasing another for my backup HF transceiver.

Club Business and Announcements

September 2023 Financial Report
by Barry Barton, WA4HR

The club picnic was held in lieu of a September meeting, therefore, there are no meeting minutes this month. Pictures from the picnic are on the following pages.
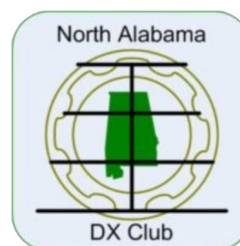
2023 NADXC Financial Status	09/30/23	August
Budget Category	Targets	Year Totals	Subtotal
Year Start	8,365.65	8,365.65	10,002.50
Dues In	1,000	1,143.87	20.00
Huntsville Hamfest Donation		500.00	500.00
Recurring Exp	-683.00		
repeater elect	-160	-160 `	
web hosting/domain service	-73	-16.88	
repeater maintenance	-100		
to HARC for Zoom	-50		
use of museum	-300	-300	
Bank checks		-22.5	
Donation of equipment to sell		1,535.00	
Dxpeditions	-1,000	-1,059.99	-754.99
Picnic	-160		
DX Banquet	380.00		
venue	-600	-600.00	
food	-2,350	-2,305.97	
speaker	-400	-400.00	
tickets	3,800	3,559.41	
raffle	700	270.00	
grand prize	-390	-400.00	
beer/wine	-250	-157.39	
soft dirinks/glasses		-78.69	
insurance	-130	-105.00	
EOY Bank Delta	-463		
Year End Bank Balance	7,903	9,767.51	9,767.51

On cake:

North Alabama
DX Club
2023

AC4G   N8AU
K8KI   WA4HR
NN4NT   K3FRK
N4BCD   N4CNZ
KB0DLS   K2LAT
AG4W   N5DF
WA4ZXV   N4NM
            K4NTEI

Upcoming NADXC meeting:
Tuesday, October 10th, 2023
5:45 PM Doors Open / 6:30 PM
Meeting
Location: Signals Museum of Information Explosion, 1806 University
Drive NW, Huntsville, AL 35801 and
via Zoom

UBA ON Contest, (SSB), 80 Meters

Oct. 1, 0600Z to 0900Z
Exchange: RST, serial No., ON section (if any)
See page 71, Oct. QST and www.uba.ba/en/hf/contest-rules/contest

OceaniaDXcontest

Oceania DX Contest, (SSB) 160-10 meters

Oct. 7, 0600Z to Oct. 8, 0600Z
Exchange: RS & serial No.
See page 71, Oct. QST and
www.oceaniadxcontest.com

Scandinavian Activity Contest, (SSB) 80-10 meters

Oct. 14, 1200Z to Oct. 15, 1200Z
Exchange: RS & Serial No.
See http://www.sactest.net

Russian WW Digital Contest, (DIG), 160-10 meters

Oct. 7, 1200Z to Oct. 8, 1159Z
Exchange: RST(Q) plus Serisl No. (or Oblast)
See page, 71, Oct. QST and
www.rdrclub.ru

UBA ON Contest, CW, (CW), 80 Meters

Oct. 8, 0600Z to 0900Z
Exchange: RST, serial No., ON section (if any)
See page 71, Oct. QST and www.uba.ba/en/hf/contest-rules/contest

DARC RTTY Sprint, (RTTY), 80 & 40 meters

Oct. 10, 1800Z to 1929Z
Exchange: RST, Serial No. or DOK code
See page 71, Oct. QST and www.darc.de

Makrothen RTTY Contest, 80-10 meters

Oct. 14, 0000Z to Oct. 15, 0600Z
Exchange: 4-char. grid
See page 71, Oct. QST and https://www.pl259.org/makrothen/makrothen-rules/

OceaniaDXcontest

Oceania DX Contest, (CW) 160-10 meters

Oct. 14, 0600Z to Oct. 15, 0600Z
Exchange: RS & serial No.
See page 71, Oct. QST and
www.oceaniadxcontest.com

Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, (CW), 15 & 20 meters

Oct. 15, 0000Z-0200Z,
Exchange: RST plus serial number
See page 71, Oct QST and
www.jsfc.org/apsprint

JARTS WW RTTY Contest, (DIG), 80-10 meters
Oct. 21, 0000Z to Oct. 22, 24359Z
Exchange: RS(T) & Op's age
See page 71, Oct. QST and www.jarts.jp/rules2022.html

Worked All Germany Contest, (SSB & CW), 20-10 meters
Oct 21 1500Z to Oct 22, 1459Z
Exchange: RS(T) plus serial number or DOK code
See page 71 Oct. QST and www.darc.de

Argentina National 7 MHz contest, (SSB), 40 meters
Oct. 21, 2130z to 2230Z
Exchange: RS, 2-digit year first licensed
See page 71, Oct. QST and www.lu4aa.org

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW), 160 meters
Oct. 21, 1500Z to Oct. 22, 1500Z
Exchange: 4-character grid square
See page 71, Oct. QST and www.kkn.net/stew

YB8DXPI FT8 Contest, (FT8), 160-10 meters
Oct. 21, 0000z to Oct. 22, 2359Z
Exchange: 4-Char. grid square
See page 71, Oct. QST and www.contest.ybdxpi.net/rules

ARRL EME Contest, (CW. SSB. DIG), 50-1296 MHz
Oct. 15, 0000z to Oct. 16, 2359Z
Exchange: Signal report
See page 71, Oct. QST and www.arrl.org/eme-contest

CQ WW SSB, (SSB), 160-10 meters
Oct. 28, 0000Z to Oct 29, 2359Z
Exchange: RS & CQ zone
See page 71 Oct. QST and www.cqww.com/rules.htm

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware. Also, check the cluster: "sh/contest". Have fun!

October Program

"Everything you Need to Know About USB and Serial Interfaces" - video by Robert Wilson, N6TV followed by discussion
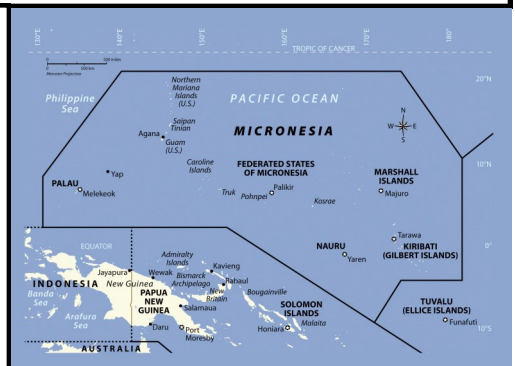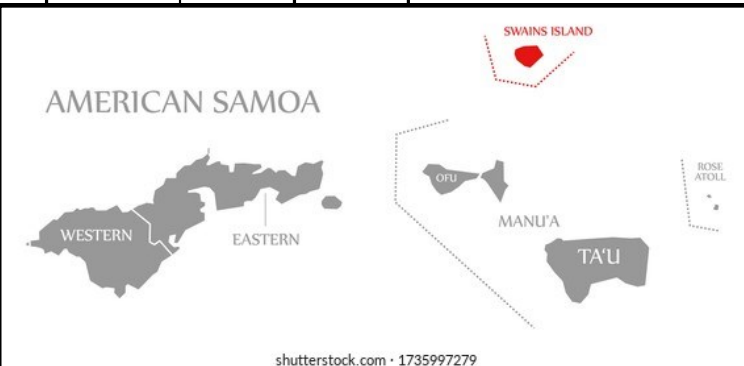
Start	End	Entity	Call	QSL	Info
2023 Oct01	2023 Oct09	Belize	V31DN	KM4DYR Direct	By KM4DYR fm Ambergris Cay (IOTA NA-073); 40 20 10m; SSB; Parks on the Air activation
2023 Oct01	2023 Oct14	Samoa	5W0LM	9A3MR	By 9A7Y 9A2NA S50B 9A3MR fm Apia; 160-6m; focus on CW, also SSB FT8; Hexbeam, verticals
2023 Oct01	2023 Oct31	Vanuatu	YJ0TT	TBA	By NC7M N7JI K6VHF W6UC NG7E fm Port Vila; 160-6m + 23cm EME; CW SSB + digital; exact dates TBA; all ops will have personal call signs
2023 Oct02	2023 Oct10	St Vincent	J88PI	GW4DVB Direct	By GW4DVB fm Palm I; 40 20 17 15 10m; SSB SSTV FT8
2023 Oct02	2023 Oct06	French Polynesia	FO	LoTW	By K6VVK fm Rangiroa I (IOTA OC-066); HF + 6m; SSB CW FT8 FT4; holiday style operation
2023 Oct02	2023 Oct15	French Polynesia	TX6D	LoTW	By DK1BT DL4WK DL6SAK DL7BO DL7UFR fm IOTA OC-046 (BH52gm); 160-10m; CW SSB + digital; QSL via TX6D OQRS or DL7DF (B/d)
2023 Oct04	2023 Oct11	East Kiribati	T32AN	EB7DX	By K3AAN CX3AN fm Kiritimati I (IOTA OC-024); 40-6m; SSB CW; holiday style operation
2023 Oct04	2023 Oct15	Marshall Is	V73AH	LoTW	By DL2AH; 80-6m; SSB FT8; Windom, TripleLeg; QSL via Club Log OQRS or DL2AH direct
2023 Oct04	2023 Oct17	Swains I	W8S	M0OXO OQRS	By DJ9RR DL2AMD DL6JGN KO8SCA NG7M PA2KW PA3EWP PA4WM PA5X PG5M ; HF; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; 6 stations
2023 Oct10	2023 Oct22	Mayotte	TO8FH	LoTW	By F1DHX F1ULQ F2DX F4AZF F4DLM F5NTZ F5UOW F8AVK F8EFU DL3GA HB9GWJ ON7RN; 160-6m; CW SSB + digital; QSL via Club Log OQRS or F5GSJ
2023 Oct10	2023 Oct23	Niue	E6AM	LoTW	By LZ1GC; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS or LZ1GC (B/d)
2023 Oct10	2023 Oct30	Tuvalu	T2C	LoTW	By DL7VEE + team fm Funfuti (IOTA OC-015); 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; 4 stations; QSL via DL4SVA
2023 Oct12	2023 Nov06	North Cook Is	E51JAN	Club Log OQRS	By SP9FIH fm Manikiki Atoll (IOTA OC-014, AH99lo); HF
2023 Oct18	2023 Oct30	Micronesia	V63AH	LoTW	By DL2AH fm Kosrae (IOTA OC-059); 80-6m; SSB FT8; Windom, TripleLeg; QSL via Club Log OQRS or DL2AH direct
2023 Oct20	2023 Nov04	Chatham I	ZL7	LoTW	By SP5EAQ as ZL7/SP5EAQ; 80-10m; SSB; QRV for CQ DX CW
2023 Oct22	2023 Dec05	Vanuatu	YJ0CA	See Info	By VK2YUS fm Port Vila; 40-10m; SSB; wires, verticals; see qrz.com for QSL details
2023 Oct25	2023 Oct31	Micronesia	V6SZ	LoTW	By JA1WWO JJ1LIB JN1RVS AH7C A1CCH JH1ECG JH1EPI JF1UOX JA2FIA fm Chuuk (IOTA OC-011); 80-6m; CW SSB FT8 FT4; as time permits; QSL via Club Log OQRS; QRV for CQWW DX SSB
2023 Oct25	2023 Oct31	Saba & St Eustatius	PJ5	LoTW	By W5JON fm St Eustatius; 60-6m; SSB FT8; yagi, verticals; QSL also OK via W5JON direct
2023 Oct26	2023 Nov09	Temotu	H40WA	LoTW	By N7QT N6PSE VE7NY OE1JUN DJ9RR HA0NAR W7XU N6XG fm IOTA OC-065 (RH29vg); 160-10; CW SSB FT8 (f/h); QSL via M0URX; QRV for CQWW SSB
2023 Oct27	2023 Oct31	Micronesia	V63CB	LoTW	By JJ2CJB fm Pohnpei I (IOTA OC-010); 40-10m; SSB, some CW FT8; 500w; QSL via JJ2CJB direct