

Finding and Chasing DX with FT8

**New England HamXposition
August 2026**

You have been using FT8 for a while.
You are interested in increasing your DX totals and wonder what this Fox/Hound and SuperFox stuff is all about.

Plus you want to be better at finding the DX!

I will review some FT8 and DX basics, discuss FT8 DX modes like Fox/Hound and SuperFox, and then some methods to find and track the DX you seek.



Larry Banks, W1DYJ

Licensed: 1961 (KN1VFX)
W1DYJ since 1966
Chasing DX since 1998

As of 3 August 2026:

10B DXCC (inc. 60m)

DXCC Conf: 301 / 160m: 96

DXCC Trident 200 PH:243 CW:250 DIG:276

DX Challenge: 1977

8B WAS 160m: 47 / 60m: 49 / 6m: 48

6M VUCC 757 grids conf

***All Low Power, from a small
suburban lot***

W1DYJ ~ Larry Banks



INDEXA

Agenda

- **Important FT8 Basics**
 - Review of some important FT8 stuff
 - DX Code of Conduct & FT8
- **FT8 DX Modes**
 - WSJT-X Normal, Fox/Hound, SuperFox,
 - Clones: WSJT-X Improved, MSHV, JTDX, WSJTZ
- **Finding & Tracking the DX**
 - Passive Methods / When Planning
 - Active Methods / While Operating
 - Confirming / Tracking
- **Some Final Thoughts**



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Review of some important FT8 stuff

- A *Weak Signal* *Weak Signal* ≠ QRP
semi-automated digital mode
*riding on an **USB** RF signal*
*designed for **brief** “DX QSOs”*
- I usually run 80w (I am a low power shack)

Typical S/N (BW = 2500 Hz.):

SSB	+10 dB
CW	+ 0 → - 10 dB [→ - 15 dB good radio/ears]
FT8	- 21 dB (I often see -24 dB)
WSPR	- 31 dB

RTFM! → Read the Fine Manual



Review of some important FT8 stuff

Time Accuracy

Not an issue
with
Linux or macOS

Band Activity				
UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
165200	-1	0.1	1722	~ PY2RIO EA3NE R-13
165200	-5	0.1	1728	~ LU6EEG IZ3KVD 73
165200	-1	0.1	1739	~ EC3A EA2DR R-11
165200	-4	0.7	1767	~ CQ S53EO JN65
165200	-9	0.2	1738	~ N3AZ IK2SYK JN45
165200		0.1	1780	~ DO1PH W5XO -06
165200	0	0.1	17429	~ IK4LZH K4QAL 73
165200	-3	0.0	17995	~ CO WF67 CM98

 Windows Clock

→ Meinberg NTP

[or GPS Dongle if no Internet]

Check your computer with: ["time.is"](https://time.is)

You should be within 1 sec – <0.2s is better.

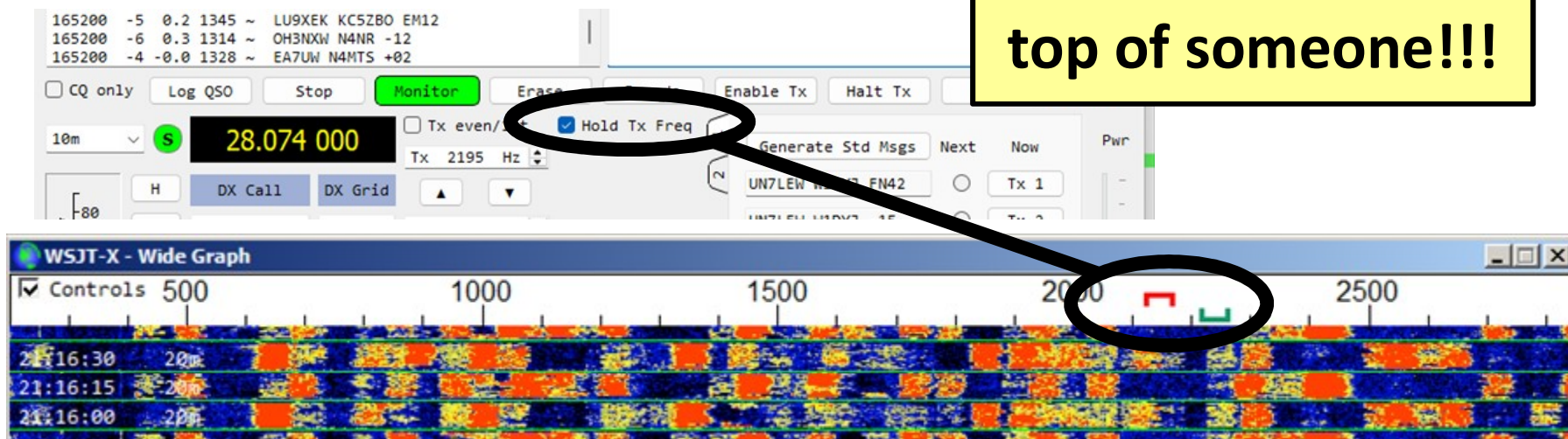
RTFM! → Read the Fine Manual



Review of some important FT8 stuff

Hold TX Freq

DO NOT CALL on top of someone!!!



“To avoid QRM from competing callers, it is best to answer a CQ on a different frequency from that of the CQing station. The same is true when you tail-end another QSO.

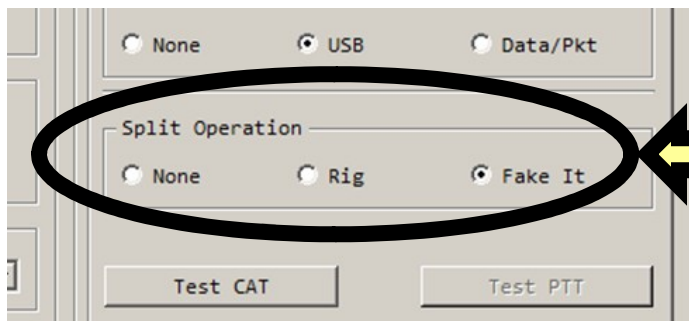
Choose a Tx frequency that appears to be not in use.”

RTFM! → Read the Fine Manual



Review of some important FT8 stuff

SPLIT: *Fake-It*



Moves the RF and Audio frequencies in opposite directions, resulting in a cleaner transmitted signal. It keeps the Tx audio always in the range **1500 to 2000 Hz**, where the audio pass band is flat, and puts audio harmonics above the audio pass band.

IMPORTANT
Even if your audio is
“*PERFECT*”

20M – audio @ 1120 Hz:

$14074.00 + 620 \text{ Hz} \Rightarrow \text{RF@ } 14074.62$

*Harmonics of 1240, 1860 & 2480 Hz
will be in audio passband*

With Fake It:

$14073.00 + 1.620 \Rightarrow \text{RF@ } 14074.62$

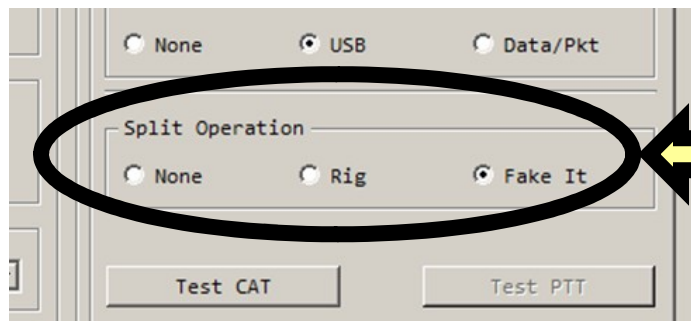
*Harmonics of 1620 Hz WILL NOT be in
audio passband*

RTFM! → Read the Fine Manual



Review of some important FT8 stuff

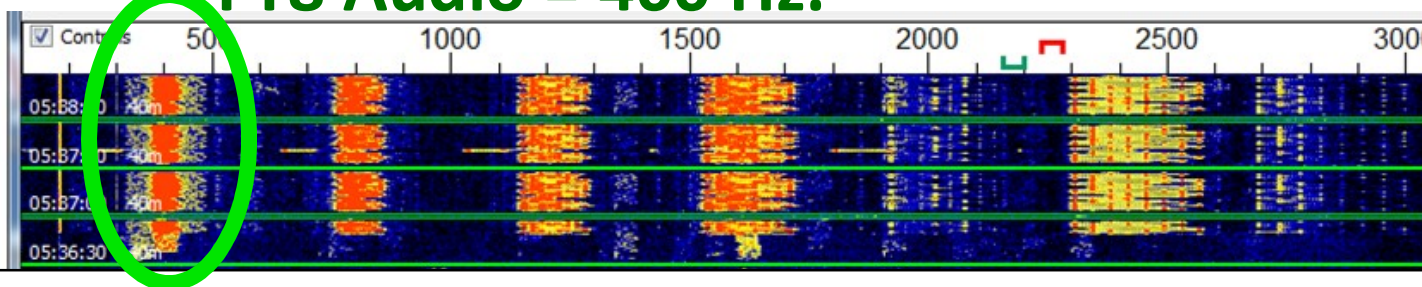
SPLIT: *Fake-It*



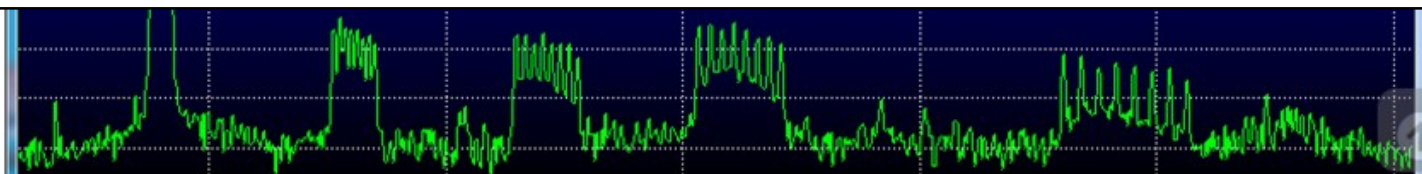
Moves the RF and Audio in opposite directions in a cleaner transmission signal. It keeps the Tx audio in the range 1500 to 2500 Hz, where the audio pass band is wider, and puts audio harmonics above the audio pass band.

This ham WAS NOT using FAKE IT!

FT8 Audio = 400 Hz.



An Example of VASTLY over modulated audio and bad harmonics



RTFM! → Read the Fine Manual



Review of some important FT8 stuff

Use Full Audio Bandwidth
with no DSP, Noise Reduction, etc.

The WSJT-X Algorithms assume a flat audio
response: ~200 → 3000 Hz.

Anything else can introduce phase
distortion that effects decoding.

RTFM! → Read the Fine Manual



Review of some important FT8 stuff

CPU Audio & USB I/O

Most issues with your computer interface are from *not understanding* how your audio and USB interfaces work!

I am on Win11 Pro64

I accept ALL Windows updates

I never seem to have problems.....

I wait a bit before installing new versions of SW to allow virus checkers to update

I have renamed my USB ports

I have turn off ALL USB power management



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DX Code of Conduct and FT8

- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSY slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
- I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.



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- I see hams calling on the wrong time slice
- I see hams calling when the DX is no longer calling
- *If you can't decode the DX's "CQ," how will you decode the DX's "R-s/n?"*



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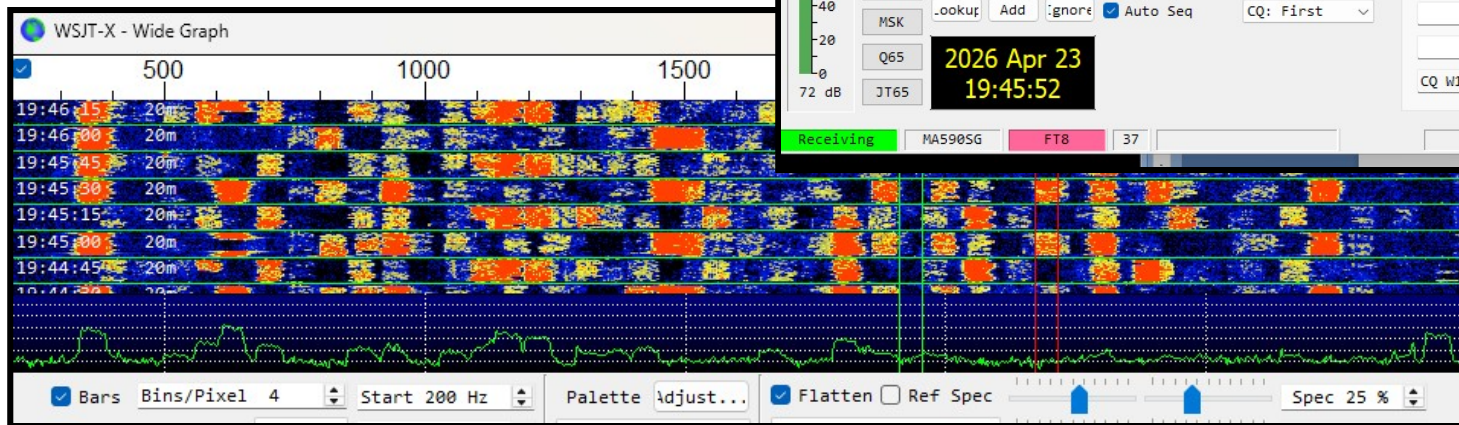
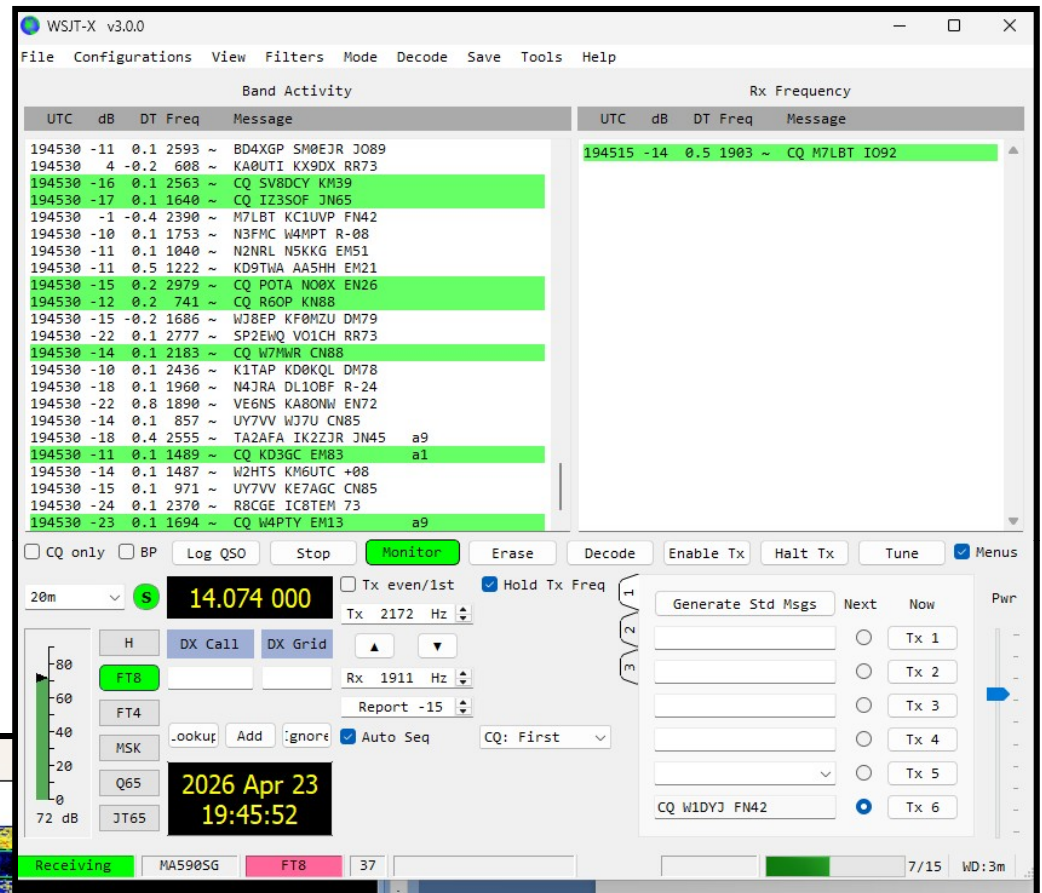
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FT8 DX Mode — Normal

Normal Mode

Most “casual” DX
will use the
normal mode



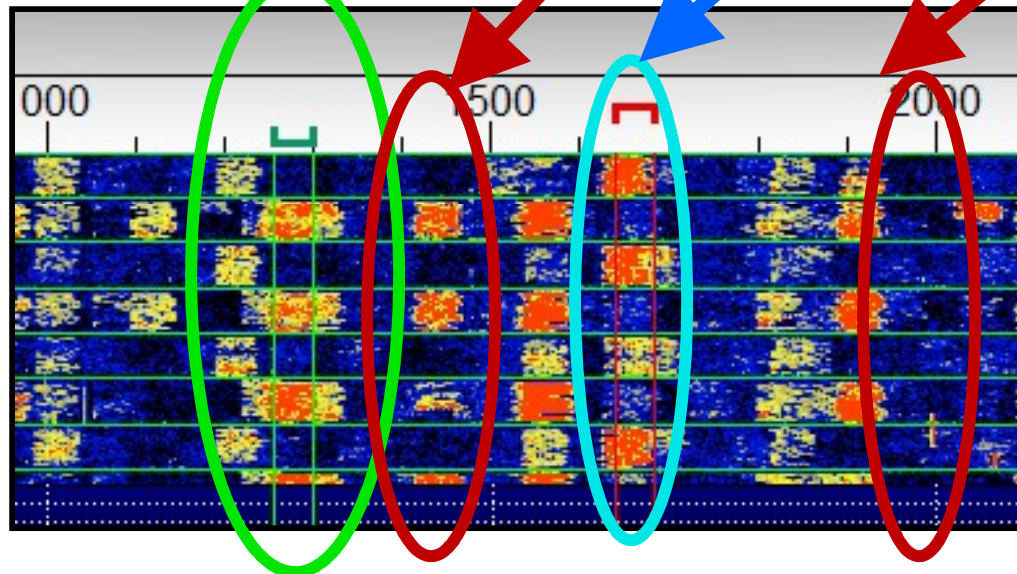
FT8 DX Mode — Normal

Normal Mode

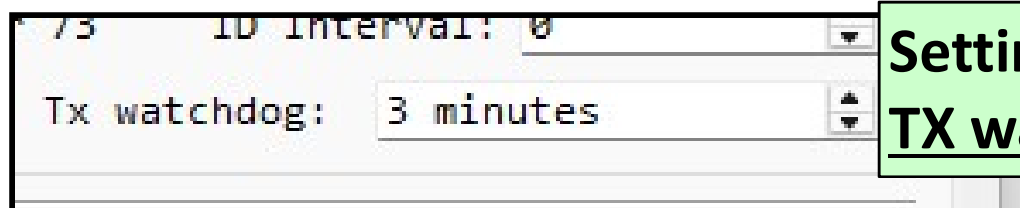
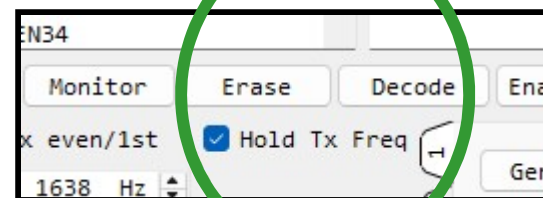
Find an Empty Slot

Not Empty

Station calling CQ



Turn on
Hold TX Freq



Settings >> General >>
TX watchdog



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FT8 DX Mode — Fox/Hound

- Many DXpeditions will use F/H
- The original concurrent-TX-stream mode

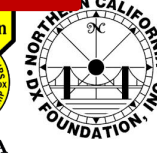
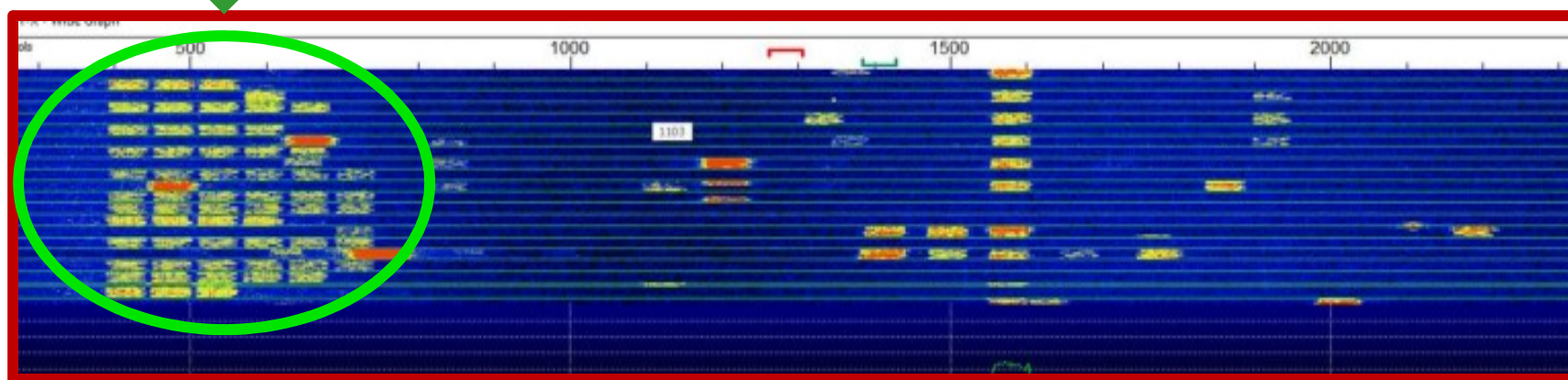
*I will deal with
CLONES later*

FILE >> Settings [F2] >> Advanced >> Special Operating Activity >> Hound

Up to 5 concurrent streams, but often 2 or 3

Sound is quite harsh

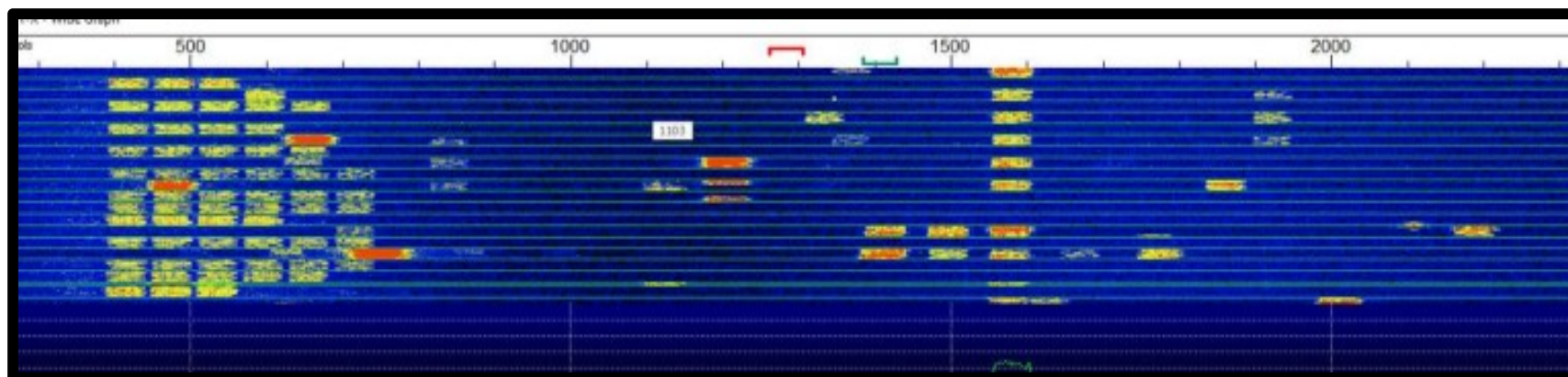
Note that F/H splits the DX's transmit power among streams and is therefore not as good as normal FT8



FT8 DX Mode — Fox/Hound

*I will deal with
CLONES later*

- Intended for RARE DXpeditions
- Not used in conventional FT8 sub-bands



RX Frequency

7	-0.3	599	~	VK9LAA	MM0S3H	R-13
4	0.2	661	~	VK9LAA	CU3EQ	R-05
Tx		600	@	CU3EQ	RR73; F5MYH	<VK9LAA> -01
Tx		660	@	MM0S3H	RR73; EASHH	<VK9LAA> +08
8	0.0	1861	~	VK9LAA	EASHH	R-12
7	0.0	1487	~	VK9LAA	F5MYH	R-14

VK9LAA is calling on
two frequencies

VK9LAA is confirming
those two hams and is
calling two more



FT8 DX Mode — Fox/Hound

• Fox / Hound Rules

- Use SPLIT operation – either RIG or FAKE IT
- FOX (DX) transmits up to 5 streams between 300 & 900 Hz.
- FOX will always be on “TX even/1st” time slot
- HOUND (you) call between 1000 & 4000 Hz.
- IF called by FOX, your F_{TX} will move to *that* FOX frequency
- IF another response needed, your F_{TX} will move ± 300 Hz.



FT8 DX Mode — Fox/Hound

First: *Read The Fine Manual*

HELP >>
FT8 DXpedition Mode User Guide

FT8 DXpedition Mode User Guide
Joe Taylor, K1JT — May 16, 2018

WSJT-X Version 1.9 introduces special operating features that enable DXpeditions to make FT8 QSOs at very high rates. The following instructions explain how to use these new features. The instructions are intended for users already familiar with program WSJT-X and the FT8 protocol. If necessary, refer also to the [WSJT-X User Guide](#), accessible from the WSJT-X Help menu.

Basic Operation and Frequency Conventions

In FT8 DXpedition mode, QSOs between the DXpedition ("Fox") and calling stations ("Hounds") can be completed with as little as one Fox transmission per QSO. Moreover, authorized Foxes can transmit up to five signals simultaneously, thereby allowing QSO rates up to about 500 per hour in ideal conditions.

Please note these restrictions and prerequisites:

- FT8 DXpedition mode is intended for use by rare-entity DXpeditions and other unusual circumstances in which sustained QSO rates well above 100/hour are



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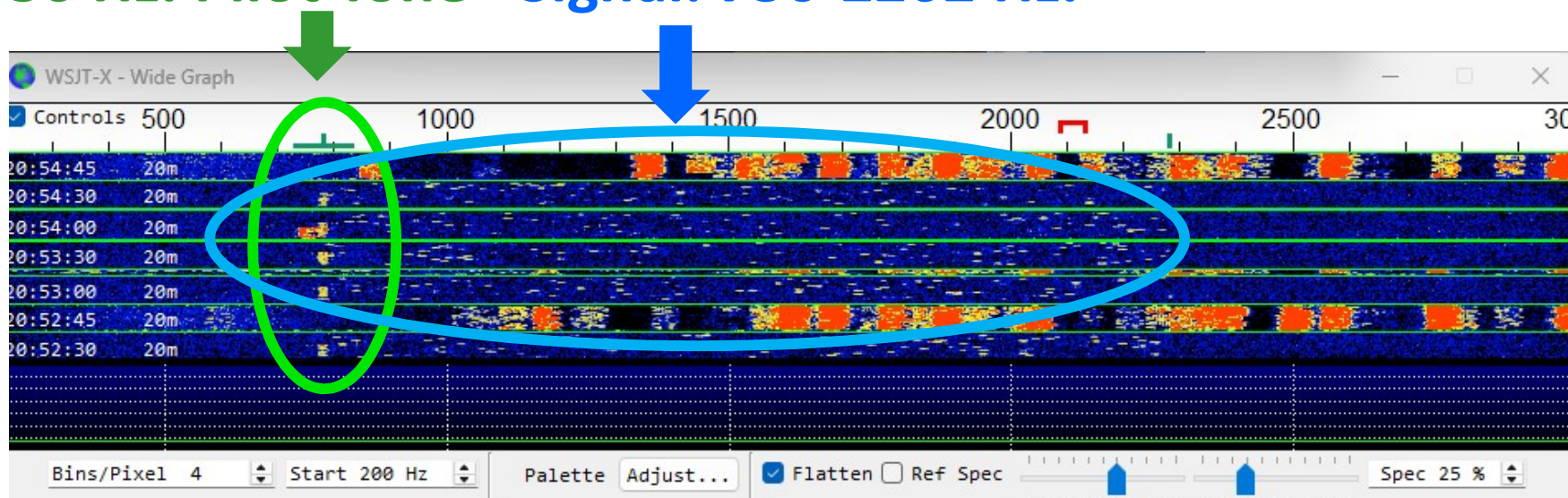
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FT8 DX Mode — SuperFox

Developed to solve the F/H power output issue
A full power constant envelope

750 Hz. Pilot Tone Signal: 750-2262 Hz.



Up to NINE streams: Up to 4 “CQs” Remainder: replies

FILE >> Settings >> [F2] Advanced >> Special Operating Activity

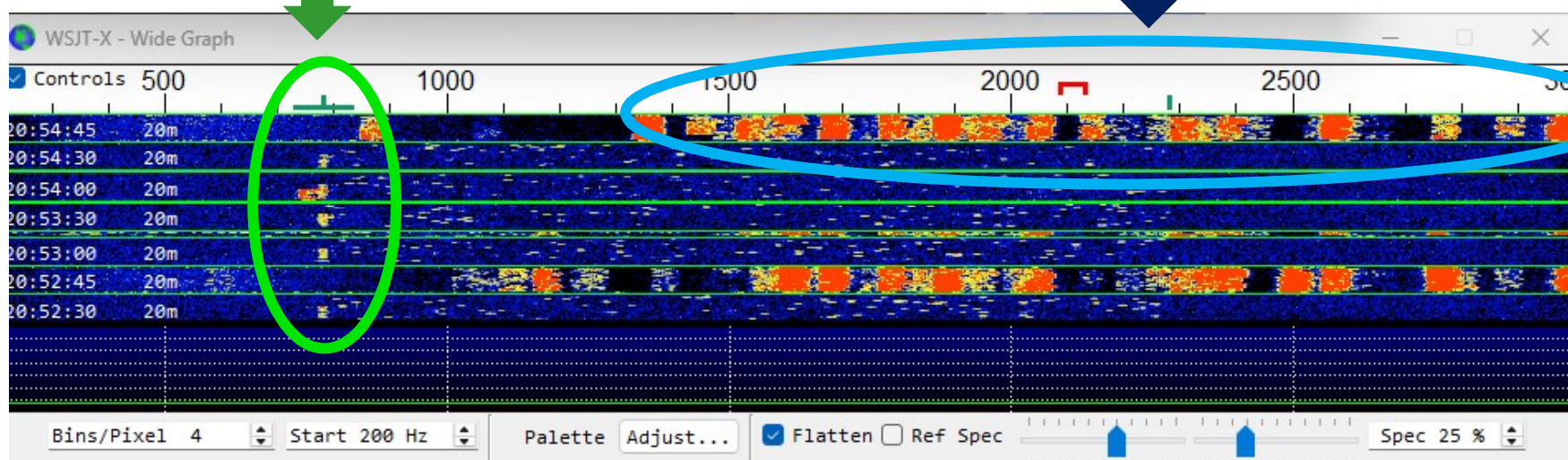
>> Hound + SuperFox Mode



FT8 DX Mode — SuperFox

You will hear DX on “even/1st” time slots and normal FT8 on odd

To decode, set F_{RX} on 750 Hz. pilot tone

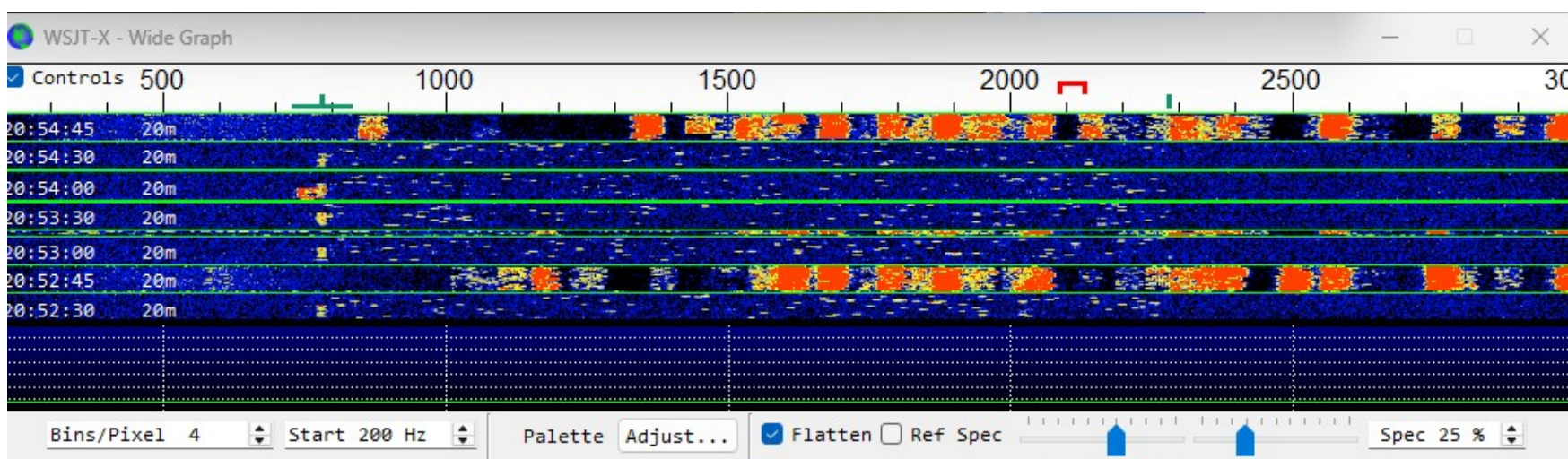


- You MUST decode the DX ONCE before you can transmit
- You can transmit on any frequency within the bandwidth
Pick a slot that is empty!
- Your F_{TX} does not shift



FT8 DX Mode — SuperFox

- SuperFox is about 3-4 dB worse than single-stream FT8
- SuperFox cannot be Robotic!



SuperFox also has an “anti-pirate” feature using a one-time password (OTP) for verification.



FT8 DX Mode — SuperFox

First: Read The Fine Manual

HELP >>
SuperFox User Guide

SuperFox User Guide

Joe Taylor, K1JT, Steve Franke, K9AN, and Charlie Suckling, DL3WDG
February 17, 2025

WSJT-X 2.7.0 includes **SuperFox** mode, a powerful new tool that helps DXpeditions make digital QSOs at very high rates. Rather than sending concurrent streams of up to five normal FT8 signals, each 50 Hz wide, the SuperFox station transmits a full power constant-envelope waveform, 1512 Hz wide, conveying signal reports or RR73 acknowledgments to as many as nine different Hounds simultaneously. There is no signal-strength penalty for simultaneously transmitting to the maximum number of Hounds. The transmissions also include a one-time password (OTP) that can be used by receiving software to verify SuperFox's legitimacy. Well-planned DXpeditions will use this facility to make sure that malicious pirate transmissions are recognized as such. Hounds chasing the DX station transmit normal FT8 signals, as in the original Fox-and-Hound mode. SuperFox will not make robotic QSOs.

Hound Operation: To copy and work a SuperFox station, go to **File | Settings | Advanced**, check the boxes **Special operating activity**, **SuperFox mode**, and **OTP**, and select **Hound**:



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FT8 DX Mode — Clones

WSJT-X Improved

I have not used this

- “Sand-box” for future release with additional features
- Uwe Risse, DG2YCB — part of WSJT-X team
- Frequent updates, faster bug fixes, latest HamLib
- Three versions
 - Standard GUI
 - Wide screen version
 - Small screen version



FT8 DX Mode — Clones

MSHV

You have no choice to use it

The multi-stream clone you will see most often
Will be in normal frequency watering holes → *QRM?*
Does not require you to be a *Hound*
Can be robotic!!! [*FCC illegal*]

JTDX

I know nothing about this

Claims: superior decoding, optimized for DX
Claims: Improved beyond WSJT-X Improved

WSJT-Z

I know nothing about this

Auto CQ / Auto Response [*FCC illegal*]
Other changes and “improvements”



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Lots of stuff out there -- this is what I use



Finding & Tracking the DX

Passive Methods / When Planning

Web Sites

NG3X DXpeditions

NG3K Home [AD XO](#) [Contest](#) [DXCC](#) [CIS-Ph](#)

Announced DX Operations: 2026

[\[About AD XO\]](#) [\[AD XO Text Version\]](#) [\[Abbreviations\]](#) [RSS](#)
[\[Submit a DXpedition\]](#)
 iCal DXCAL: <https://www.danplanet.com/dxcal.ics> (Txn to [KK7DS](#))

[Active/Upcoming](#) [Expired](#) [Previous Years](#)
[Expired Contest and Special Operations \(1996+\)](#)

Last updated: Friday, 15-May-2026 10:19:23 EDT
[\[Currently Active Operations\]](#) [\[Spots provided courtesy of DX Watch\]](#)

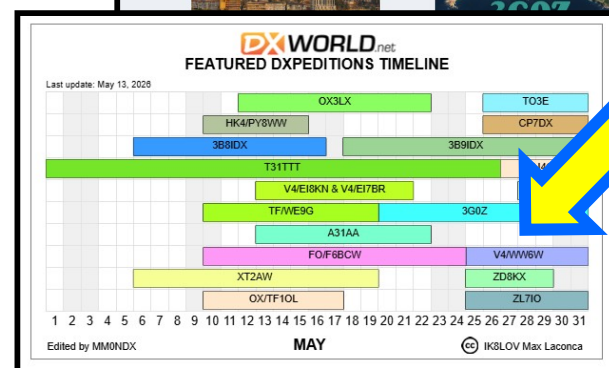
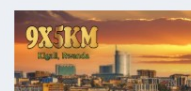
Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by	Info
2026 Feb	2026 May15	Minami Torishima	JD1 (spots)	JABCYJ	OPDX 20260210	By JG8NQJ as JG8NQJ/JD1 fm IOTA OC-073 (QL64kg); 17 15 12m; mainly CW, some FT8, 50w, spare time operation; exact end date uncertain
2026 Mar25	2026 May31	Galapagos	HD8R (spots)	M0OXO	TDDX 20260327	By LU5DX; HF, QRV for CQ WPX SSB
2026 Mar26	2026 May31	Western Sahara	S09S (spots)	LoTW	TDDX 20260327	By S01A S01AH fm Tifariti, Sahrawi Republic; HF; SSB CW EME QO-100+ digital; 100w; QRV for CQ WPX SSB and CW; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2026 Apr16	2026 May22	Rodrigues I	3B9G (spots)	VU3OPT	OPDX 20260221	By VU3OPT; 20 15 10m; CW; 400w
2026 May14	2026 May22	Tonga	A31AA (spots)	LoTW	TDDX 20250325	By JH3QSL via
2026 May17	2026 May19	Wales	MW	LoTW	OPDX 20250415	By HB9HB9EM
2026	2026	Juan				

DX World

DX WORLD.net

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Finding & Tracking the DX Passive Methods / When Planning Weekly email

425 DX News

ARRL DX News

From: I1JQJ <i1j@mauro@gmail.com>
To: 425eng@googlegroups.com
Subject: [425ENG] 425 DX News #1828
List-ID: <425eng.googlegroups.com>
16 May 2026

No 1828

4 2 5 D X N E W S

DX INFORMATION *****
Edited by I1JQJ & IK1ADH
Direttore Responsabile I2VGV

EA

FM

JA

LY

- EH100AG is the special call sign for members of URE Baix Camp, URE Tarragones and Radio Club EA3RCY to commemorate the centenary of the passing of Antoni Gaudí, the famous Catalan architect and designer whose main and widely known work is the Sagrada Família in Barcelona. Look for activity to take place between 11 May and 7 June on various bands and modes, and on place between 11 May and 7 June. QSOs will be uploaded to eQSL, LoTW and Club Log. [TNX EA3AKY]

- Darrell, AB2E will be active as T03E from Martinique (NA-107) from 26 May to 2 June. Main activity will be during the CQ WW WPX CW Contest; outside the contest he will operate CW, RTTY and FT8 with a focus on the low and WARC bands. QSL via LoTW, or direct to home call. [TNX NG3K]

- Owing to bad weather conditions, the 313DST/6 and JA4GXS/6 postponed from the 22-23 Danjo Islands (AS-056) [425DXN 1826] has been postponed to 22-23 May, between 08:00 UTC on Friday and 22:00 UTC on Saturday. They plan to operate SSB, CW, FT8 and FT4 running battery power on 40, 30, 20, 17 and 6 metres.

- LY100RADIO is the official beginning of regular radio broadcasting service since the special call sign celebrating the 100th anniversary since the official beginning of regular radio broadcasting service in Lithuania (12 June 1926). Look for activity from 12

From: ARRL <members@arrl.org>
To: Larry B.
Subject: ARRLDX19 DX news

SB DX @ ARL \$ARLD019
ARLD019 DX News

ZCZC AE19
QST de WJAW
DX Bulletin 19 ARLD019
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington, CT, May 14, 2026
To all radio amateurs

SB DX ARL ARLD019
ARLD019 DX news

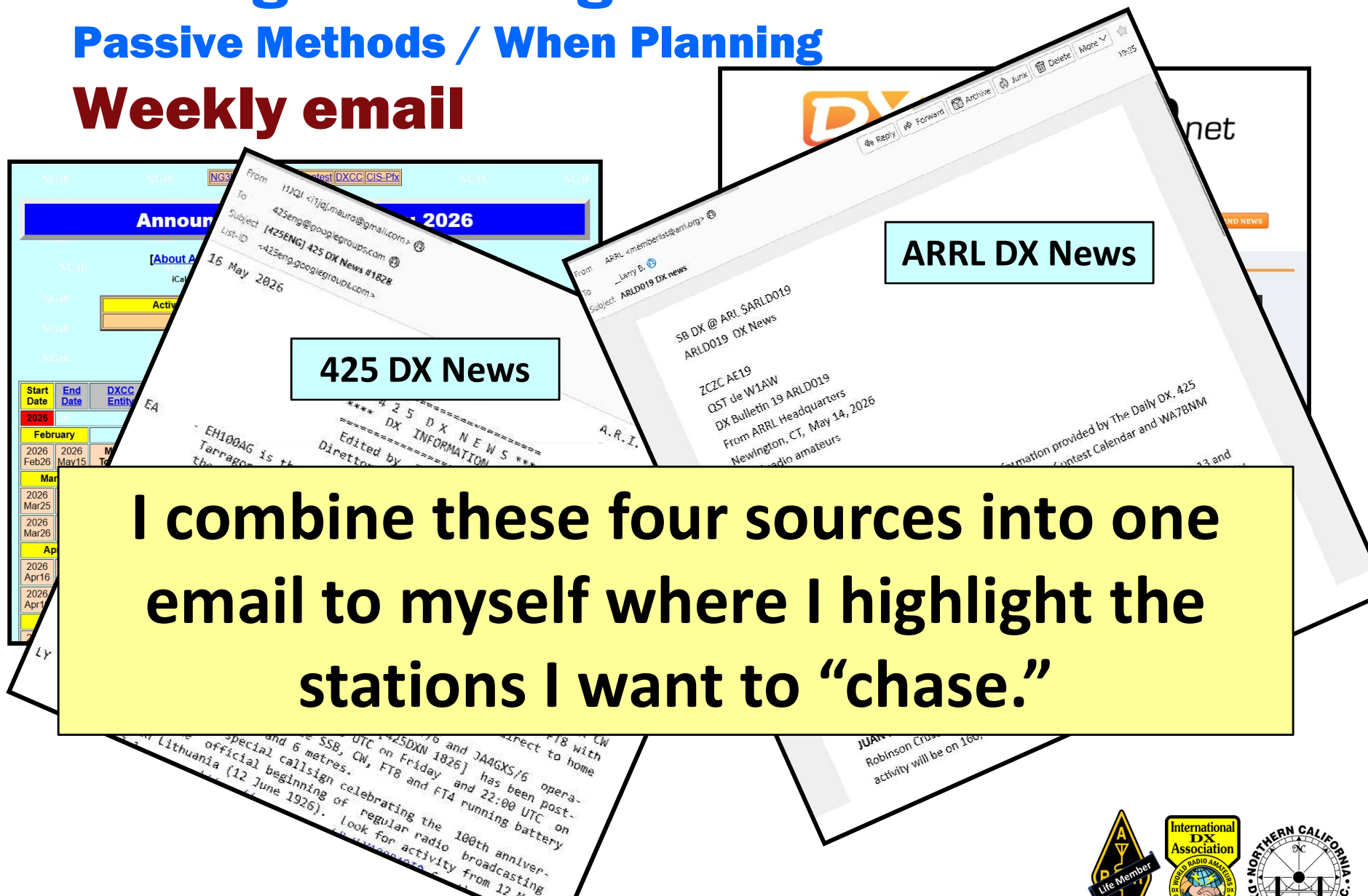
This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST, and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM websites. Thanks to all.

TONGA, A3. Takio, JH3QFL, will be QRV as A31AA from Nuku'alofa between May 13 and May 22. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using FT8. Additionally, Bob, Z11RS, will be QRV as A35RS from Tongatapu, IOTA OC-049, from May 14 to May 26. Activity will be focused on 6-meter EME using Q65 mode. He will also monitor 50313 kHz for FT8 and may include limited 10-meter FT8 operation.

JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLANDS, CE0Z. Felipe, XQ7IR, expects to be QRV as 3G0Z from Robinson Crusoe Island, IOTA SA-005, starting May 19 at approximately 2100 UTC. Initial activity will be on 160, 80, and 40 meters.



Finding & Tracking the DX Passive Methods / When Planning Weekly email



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Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

WSJT-X Alerts

I don't use these → JTAlert

6.9. Audible Alerts

WSJT-X can be configured to issue audible alerts when messages with specific features are received. One feature is the Audio Alerts menu. The Audio Alerts menu contains the desired boxes on the Alerts menu and click the button Enable Audio Alerts

Audible Alerts

Settings

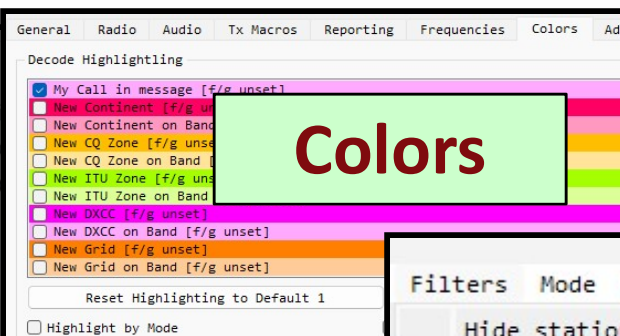
General Radio Audio Tx Macros Reporting Frequencies Colors Adv

Use of alerts requires a computer with access to at least two audio output devices.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ New Continent | ☐ New Continent on Band |
| ☐ New DXCC | ☐ New DXCC on Band |
| ☐ New CQ Zone | ☐ New CQ Zone on Band |
| ☐ New ITU Zone | ☐ New ITU Zone on Band |
| ☐ New Grid | ☐ New Grid on Band |
|
 | |
| ☐ My Call | |
| ☐ CQ in message | |
| ☐ DX Call or DX Grid in | |
| ☐ Message received | |
- Enable Audio Alerts

New...

Continent
DXCC
CQ
Zone
Grid
My Call
CQ



Colors

Filters Mode Decode Save Tools Help

Hide stations
Hide stations
Hide stations

Filters

Ignore stations worked before on band

10.4. Wait Features

Wait Features

Additional features

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☒ Map Grid locator to U.S. State | ☐ Erase decodes after band change | ☒ Alternate Erase |
| ☒ Show U.S. States in messages with grid | ☐ Set Rx frequency to Tx frequency after QSO | ☒ Enable Wait fe |
| ☐ Clear DX Call after QSO | ☐ Clear DX Grid after QSO | ☐ Less button co |
| ☐ Show distance in messages with grid | ☐ Show azimuth in messages with grid | ☒ Align DXCC/dis |

Wait and Reply

If a callsign is present in the DX Call field, Wait and Reply will attempt to continue y sends you a message. For example, you may have called station K1APC, received



Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

DX Clusters *I don't use these by themselves*

Real Time versions of those web sites and emails

A DX cluster is a network of computers, each running a software package dedicated to gathering, and disseminating, information on amateur radio DX (long-distance contact) activities. The computers comprising the network are called nodes, the network itself being termed a cluster of nodes. The nodes may be connected either via radio links or through the internet. Internet nodes generally connect using the telnet protocol. The

system acts as an **aggregator** of information, accepting input from various sources, then making that data available to any user who is connected to the network.

[Wikipedia]

DXSummit
VE7CC
DXHeat

*The various DX Clusters
all have essentially
the same info*



Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

DX Clusters *I don't use these by themselves*

Real Time

A DX cluster is a [network](#) gathering, and disseminating activities. The computer being termed a [cluster](#) through the [internet](#). In

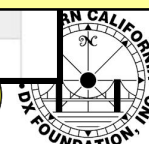
system acts as an **aggregator** of sources, then making them available [Wikipedia]

DXSummit
VE7CC
DXHeat

The screenshot shows the 'MY DX SUMMIT' website. At the top is a banner with the title 'MY DX SUMMIT' and a background image of a snowy mountain landscape. Below the banner are navigation links: 'Spots', 'Spot Search', 'Daily DX', 'News', and 'Radio Arcala'. A search bar with a 'Filters' button is present. To the right of the search bar are two toggle switches labeled 'dx' and 'inc', both of which are turned on. Below the search bar is a table of active DX spots.

Spotter	Freq.	DX	Time	Info	Country
LU9XJR-@	21075.1	DJ9MH	19:51 19 May	FT8	Fed. Rep. of Germany
JR6RRD	10140.0	TA1APU	19:51 19 May	FT4 CQ	
WW1L	50313.0	XE2KK	19:51 19 May	FT8 -11 dB 1344Hz 1st	
EA1DP	14017.0	HG333DEB	19:51 19 May	CW	
IU8NKW	7040.0	IQ8DO	19:51 19 May	RTTY Umberto Nobile Centenary	
EA9PB	18100.0	JY4CI	19:51 19 May	FT8	
EA4AWF	7085.0	AO4RKB	19:51 19 May	25th ACRACB SSB	
PY1EF	14240.0	DM3MM	19:51 19 May	tk's alex	
ND4X	50313.0	N1MRE	19:51 19 May	FT8 EM57 W KY <--> FN44 ME	
ON4EC	3736.0	PA/OR5R	19:51 19 May	DXpedition to Ameland,	Netherlands

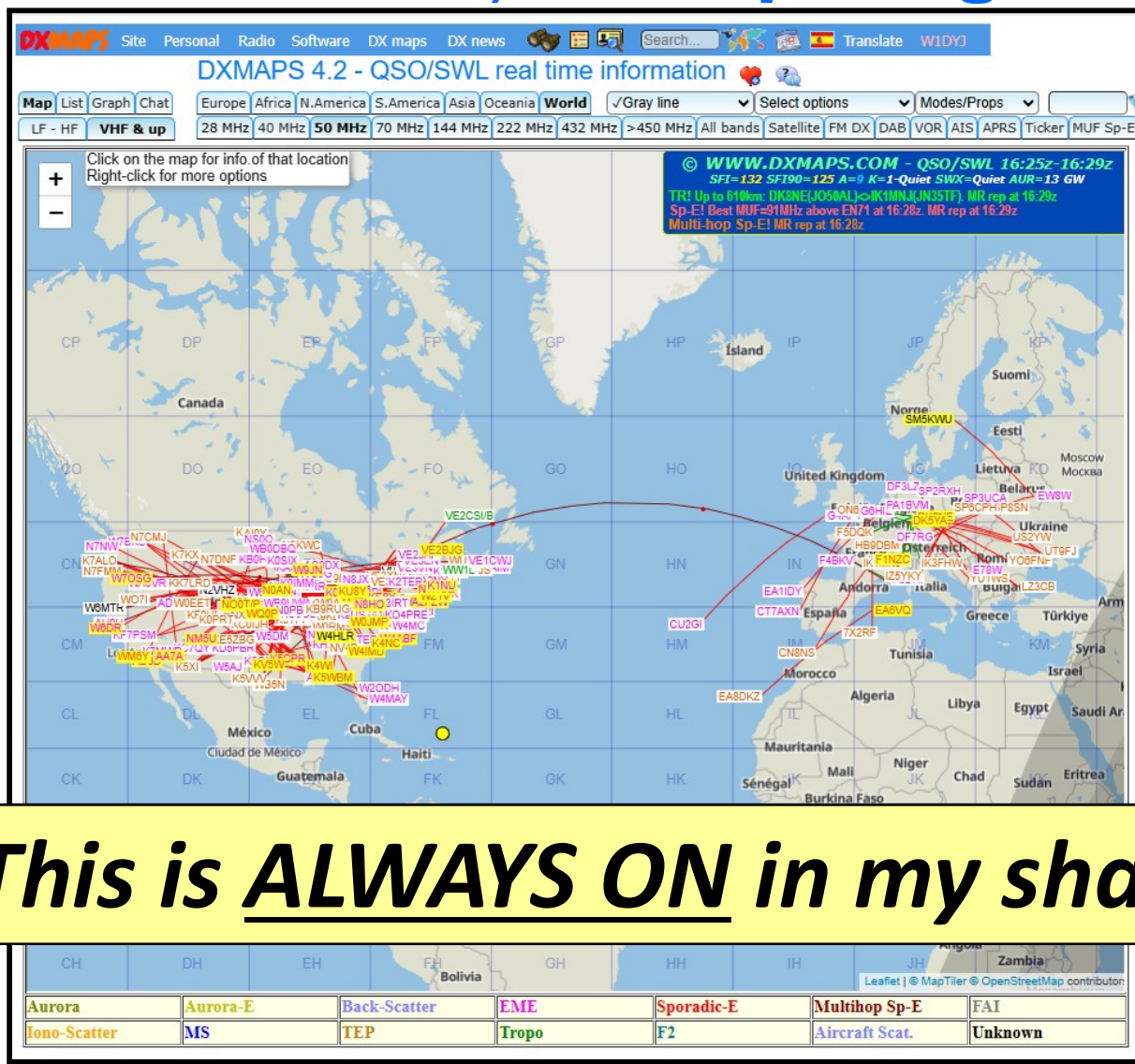
*I do use my
logger's
DXCluster
features*



Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

DX Maps



Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

DX Maps

The image shows a screenshot of the DXMAPS 4.2 web application interface. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Top Navigation:** Includes buttons for "Map", "List", "Graph", and "Chat". Below these are buttons for "Europe", "Africa", "N.America", "S.America", "Asia", and "Oceania".
- Band Selection:** Buttons for "28 MHz", "40 MHz", "50 MHz", and "70 MHz".
- Map View:** A map of North America with various call signs and locations marked. A yellow dot is visible in the Pacific Ocean.
- List View:** A table titled "LIST of selected band" showing a list of call signs and their corresponding frequencies. The table has columns for "Call Sign", "Frequency", and "Band".
- Graph View:** A frequency spectrum graph showing signal strength across a range of frequencies from 50.000 to 50.400 MHz. The graph has a vertical axis for frequency and a horizontal axis for signal strength.

Annotations on the image highlight key features:

- Band / Location:** A yellow box highlights the "N.America" button and the "50 MHz" button.
- Three Views:** A green box highlights the "Map", "List", and "Graph" buttons.
- MAP:** A green box highlights the map view.
- LIST of selected band:** A green box highlights the list view.
- GRAPH:** A green box highlights the graph view.

At the bottom of the image, there is a black bar with the following text:

DX via FT8 -- Aug 2026 Page 42 W1DYJ ~ Larry Banks

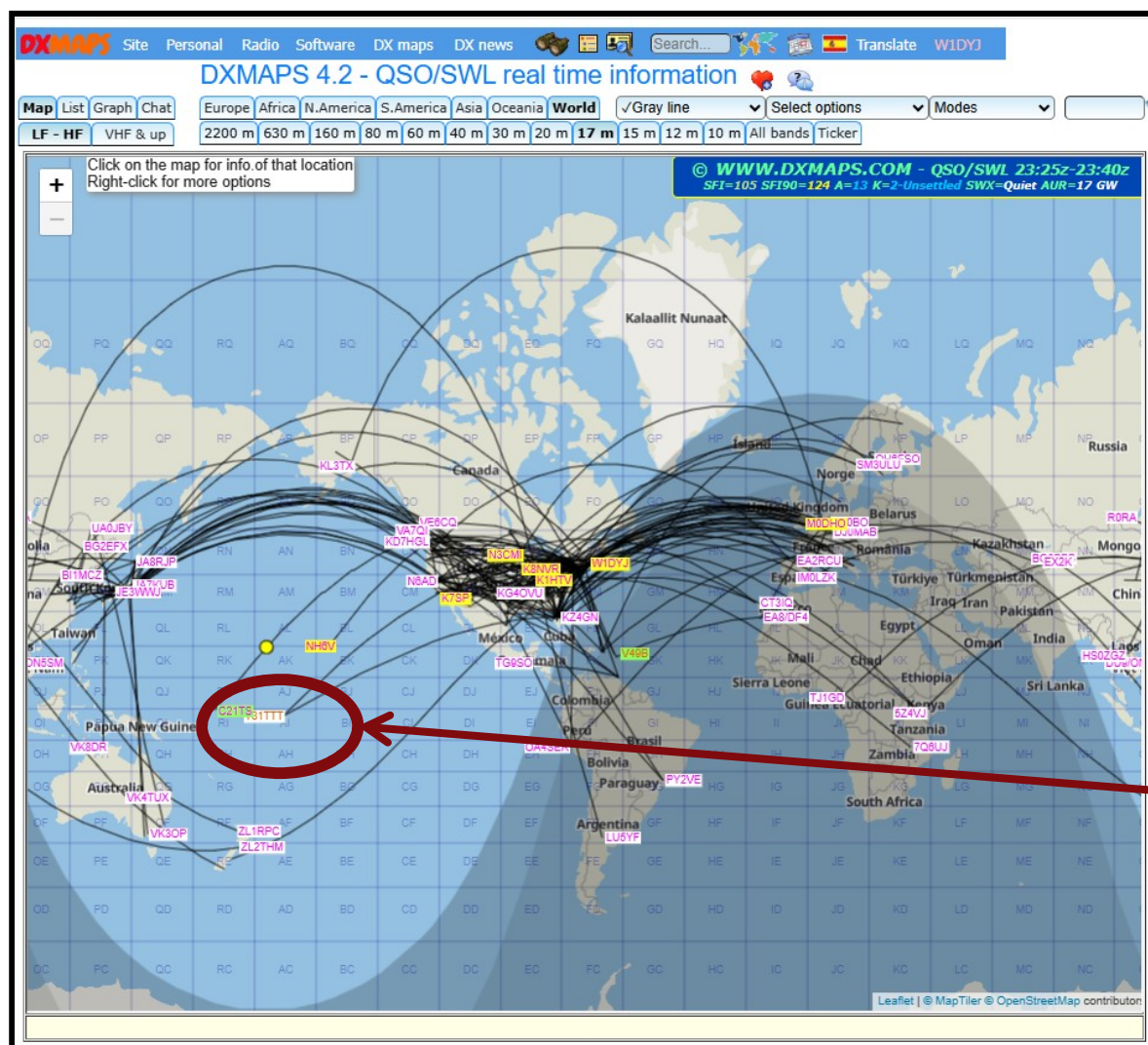
Logos for "Life Member", "N.D.X. FOUNDATION, INC.", and "INDEXA" are visible in the bottom right corner.

Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

DX Maps

Chasing a DXpedition



17m
18 May 2026
2343 UTC

T31TTT
Central Kiribati

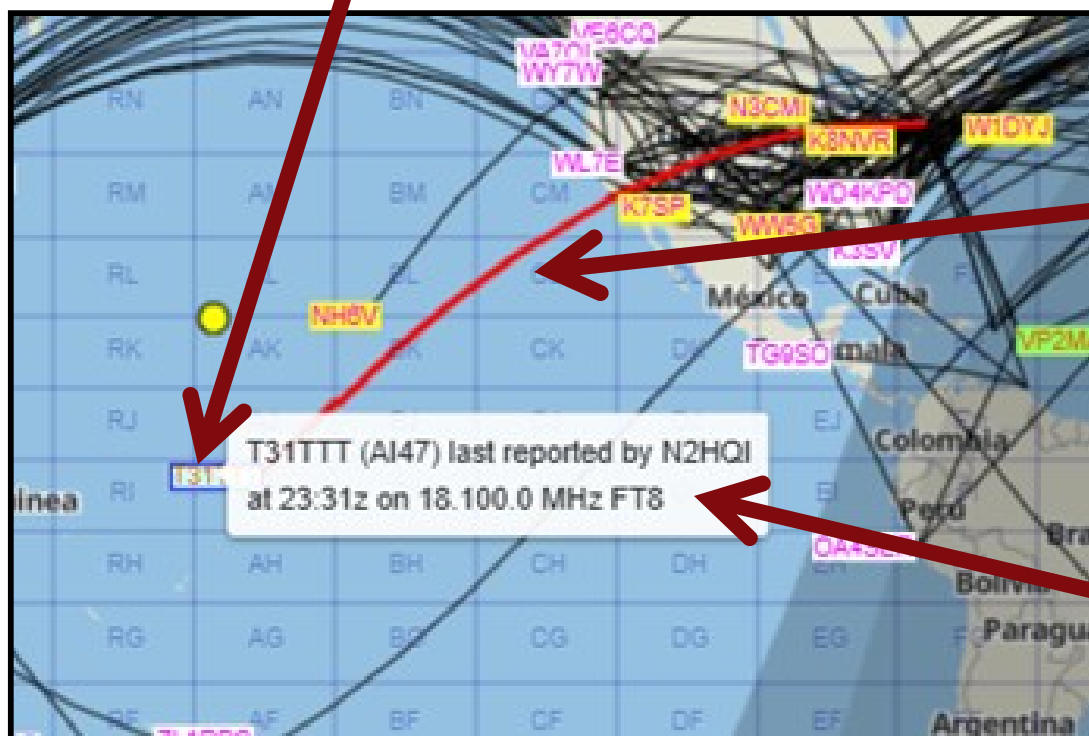


Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

DX Maps

Hover on Call



Path

Information
pop-up



Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

DX Maps

Click on Call

Popup

Azimuth

Recent Spots

Calculate HF Propagation to "call"

Clicked on GD48UO 74EE
10,627 km away from FN42KL QTF=167° LPO=347° (Next SR: 11:03z / SS: 19:31z)

VP8AWU info: [Callbook & DX-Calendar](#)
[Calculate HF propagation to VP8AWU](#)
[Recent spots](#) [Tracking & Statistics \(HF+6m\)](#)

T31TTT (AI47) last reported by N2HQI at 23:31z on 18.100.0 MHz FT8



Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

DX Maps

PT2FHC (GH64CG)

Recent Spots

QSL info:

About me

Details

Map

Spots

Log

Statistics

Propagation to PT2FHC

Latest QSO/SWL reported online in the last 6 months

Date & time	Spotter	QRG	Mode	DX	km	Prop	Comments	SFIA	kE	MUF
2026-05-18 23:50:10	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	14.021	CW	TISIN (EJ79XW)	4904	CW 4 dB 32 WPM CQ	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 23:48:12	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	3.575	FT8	PUSIKE (GG53NQ)	1181	GH64cg->GG53 FT8 -13	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 23:47:57	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	10.139	FT8	OK1VAW (JO70FB)	9495	GH64cg->JO70 FT8 -20	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 23:43:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	28.076	FT8	KJ0I (DM79KP)	8545	TEP GH64cg->DM79 FT8 -06	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 23:43:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	28.076	FT8	KJ0I (DM79KP)	8545	TEP GH64cg->DM79 FT8 -06	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 23:39:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	14.075	FT8	W5JCC (EM22)	7341	GH64cg->EM22 FT8 -16	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 23:36:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	7.075	FT8	LU2JE (GF08XO)	2027	GH64cg->GF08 FT8 -06	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 23:36:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	7.076	FT8	LW6EQG (FF95XC)	2455	GH64cg->FF95 FT8 -13	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 23:35:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	7.075	FT8	LU5FPJ (FF97PC)	2309	GH64cg->FF97 FT8 -06	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 23:35:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	7.074	FT8	AI4UC (FM19EC)	6837	GH64cg->FM19 FT8 -20	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 23:33:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	7.075	FT8	LU1XPR (FD55UE)	4688	GH64cg->FD55 FT8 -18	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 23:33:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	7.077	FT8	CX2SA (GF18AO)	2023	GH64cg->GF18 FT8 +01	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 23:32:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	14.075	FT8	VE9JMC (FN65XG)	7026	GH64cg->FN65 FT8 -15	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 23:27:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	7.075	FT8	CX8FB (GF06UU)	2205	GH64cg->GF06 FT8 -11	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 23:25:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	7.076	FT8	EA2FMO (IN91OT)	8006	GH64cg->IN91 FT8 -19	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 22:53:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	7.075	FT8	LU6UBM (FF84DH)	2723	GH64cg->FF84 FT8 -12	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 22:51:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	18.102	FT8	EA2RCU (IN83MD)	7979	GH64cg->IN83 FT8 -11	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 22:44:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	28.076	FT8	WP4TWS (FK68)	4346	F2 GH64cg->FK68 FT8 -18	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 22:44:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	28.076	FT8	WP4TWS (FK68)	4346	F2 GH64cg->FK68 FT8 -18	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 22:37:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	7.007	CW	PP5WX (GG52RF)	1340	CW 35 dB 27 WPM CQ	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 22:37:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	7.076	FT8	PP5AX (GG53NR)	1177	GH64cg->GG53 FT8 -02	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 22:36:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	28.076	FT8	KO4DKI (EM55NP)	7162	TEP GH64cg->EM55 FT8 -18	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 22:36:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	28.076	FT8	KO4DKI (EM55NP)	7162	TEP GH64cg->EM55 FT8 -18	105 132 -			
2026-05-18 22:34:00	PT2FHC (GH64CG)	18.078	CW	NP4L (FK68VG)	4283	CW 9 dB 26 WPM CQ	105 132 -			

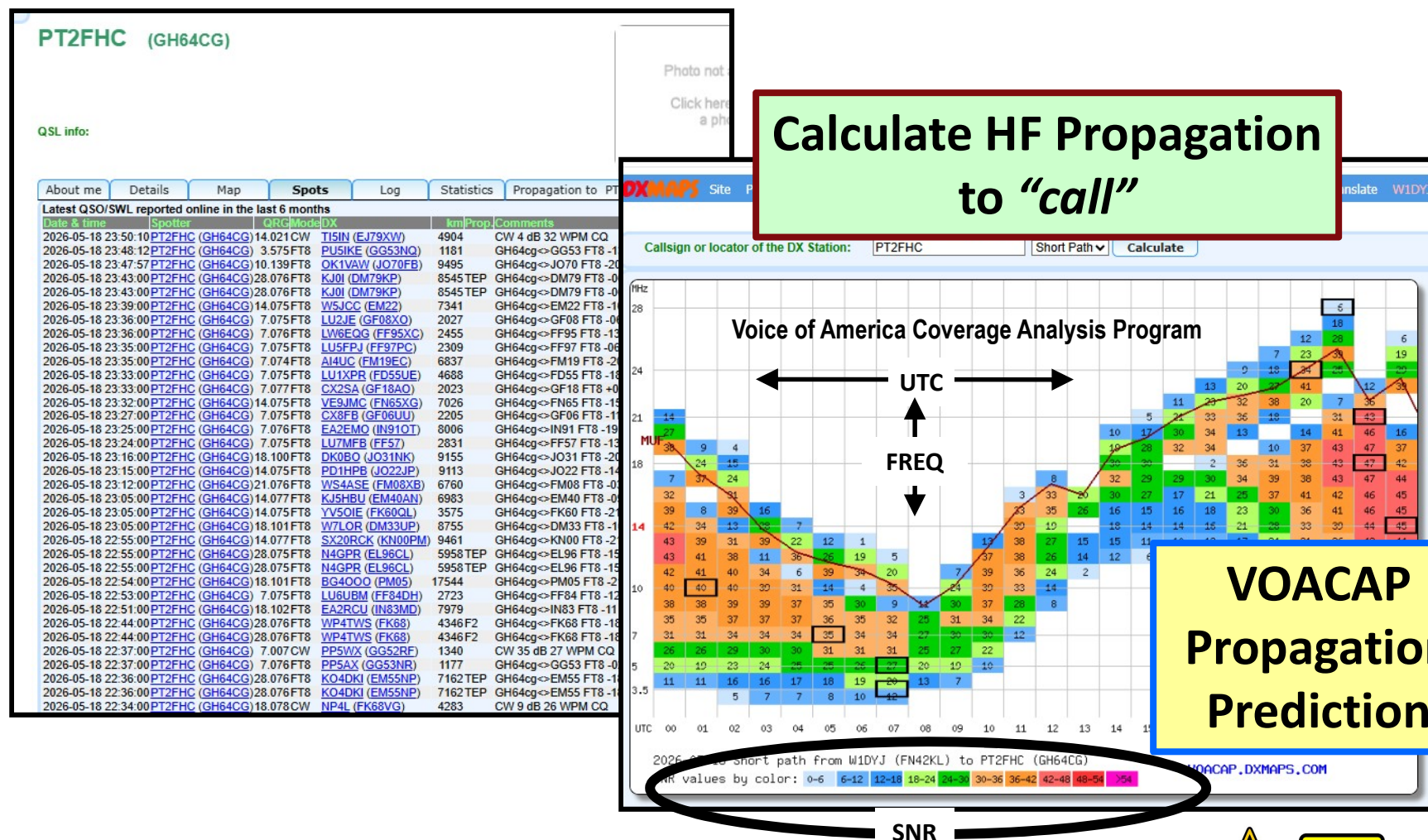
Essentially a cluster for just that call



Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

DX Maps



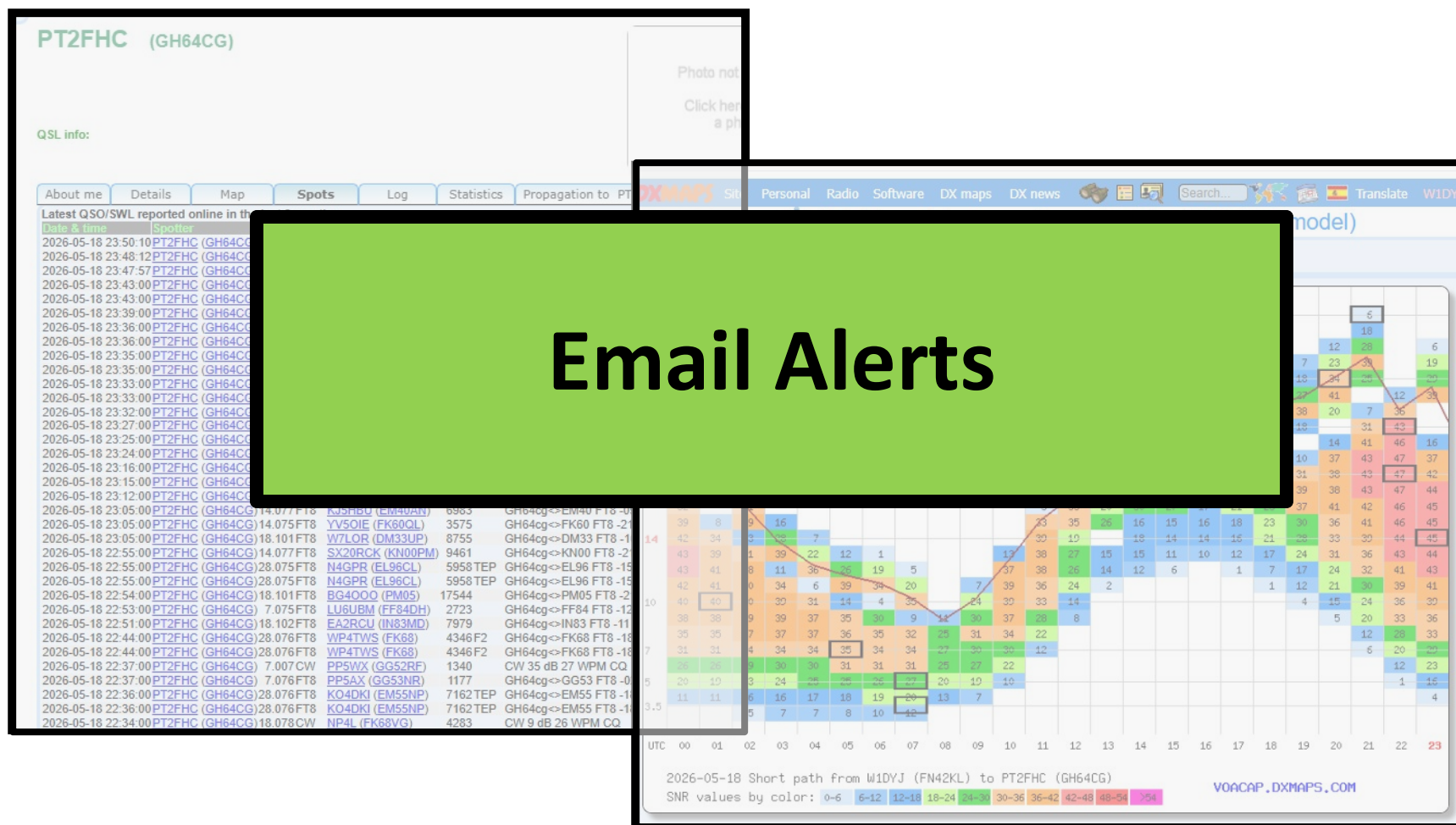
VOACAP = Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program



Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

DX Maps



Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

Your Logger's DX Tools

I use ALog from N3FJP
I assume ALL loggers have these tools

N3FJP's Amateur Contact Log 7.0.12 www.n3fjp.com

File Edit Settings Clear CallBook List Search Awards eLogs Recall Net View Help

Find

Recent Contacts 68,985 Listed QSOs

Rec#	Date /	Time	Mode	P...	Frequency	Bnd	Call	Snt	Rec	Off	Country	ST	Grid	S...	R...	Comments
68986	5/24/2026	01:11	FT8	80	18.101	17	EX7CQ	-13	-14	01:12	Kyrgyzstan		MN72gu	L		Q:PP -- Yu
68984	5/22/2026	00:51	FT8	80	10.146	30	3G0Z	-10	-16	00:52	Juan Ferna...		FF06	L		Q:MOURX --
68983	5/21/2026	20:02	FT8	80	50.315	6	WA4Q	+02	+14	20:03	USA	KY	EM57	L	L	Q:dn -- HA
68982	5/19/2026	18:46	FT8	80	50.315	6	K5SWS	+05	-09	18:48	USA	TX	EL28	L	L	Q:L -- SWS
68981	5/19/2026	18:42	FT8	80	50.314	6	W5DM	-06	-10	18:43	USA	AR	EM26	L	L	Q:dn -- DE
68980	5/17/2026	01:09	FT8	80	7.075	40	PE1NPS	-13	-17	01:10	Netherlands		J022	L	L	Q:dn -- Lu
68979	5/17/2026	01:05	FT8	80	7.075	40	Z6ZNS	-07	-14	01:08	Republic o...		KN02	L		Q:CL -- Na
68978	5/17/2026	00:32	FT8	80	10.137	30	KE8ESJ	-10	-02	00:33	USA	OH	EM79up	L	L	Q:dn -- Ma
68977	5/17/2026	00:31	FT8	80	10.137	30	2E0BTX	-07	-16	00:32	England		I083qm	L		Q:dn -- Pe
68976	5/17/2026	00:30	FT8	80	10.137	30	UR5QW	-12	-16	00:31	Ukraine		KN59rb	L	L	Q:dn -- Vo
68975	5/17/2026	00:28	FT8	80	10.137	30	OM0RX	-06	-09	00:29	Slovak Rep...		JN88	L	L	Q:dn -- OI
68974	5/17/2026	00:27	FT8	80	10.137	30	OZ5BD	-08	-12	00:28	Denmark		J055	L		Q:dn -- BJ
68973	5/17/2026	00:26	FT8	80	10.137	30	9A3AUH	-07	-15	00:27	Croatia		JN75	L	L	Q:dn -- Zv
68972	5/17/2026	00:25	FT8	80	10.137	30	D2UY	-08	-15	00:26	Angola		J164ck	L		Q:L -- Mik

Watch List Spot!: 3G0Z 28.4850 SSB JUAN FERNANDEZ | de: OE3JTB 1954Z W1DYJ LogData.mdb

Call	Date	Location	Power	Sent	Time On	Rec	Grid	Name	State

Country	Band	Frequency	Mode	CQz
	17	18.07046		

Log Contact Spot Last

Bearing: Cont: cm:

Comments

4:10:03 PM
20:10:03 UTC

☒ Current time if blank

Time Off



Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

Your Logger's DX Tools

Configurable DX Spotting
using a DX Cluster

I have Rodriguez on 15m, but NOT on CW

I have FILTERS set to show
spots only from stations in
NA 1,2,3,4

I don't have GUAM on 17m

I have this set to alert if
New on Current Band



Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

Your Logger's DX Tools

The screenshot shows the N3FJP's Amateur Contact Log 7.0.12 interface. The 'Watch List' is visible, containing the following entries:

Call	Description
3G0Z	JUAN FERNANDEZ
A31AA	Tonga 5 23
K1KP	Tony
KA3SEQ	KA3SEQ, Kimberly, helped write this software! Please say hi!
N3FJP	N3FJP, Scott, wrote this software! Please say hi!
T31TTT	Kiribati 5 27

The 'T31TTT' entry is circled in red. A red arrow points from this entry to the 'Watch List Match!' dialog box below. A yellow box with the text 'Will ALERT on ANY spot of target call' is positioned over the 'T31TTT' entry. A light blue box with the text 'WATCH List' is positioned over the 'Watch List' header.

The 'Watch List Match!' dialog box shows the following information:

T31TTT Watch List Spot!: T31TTT 10.1120 CW Kiribati 5 27 | de: YO6DDF 1837Z

To edit your Watch List, click File > Watch List.

Buttons: Delete Call from Watch List, Alert will clear in 5 seconds., OK

Alert settings at the bottom of the Watch List window:

- ☒ Show Alert Form on DX Spot
- ☐ Show Alert Form on Call Tab
- Alert Duration (seconds): 10
- ☐ None ☐ Beep ☒ Speech
- ☒ None ☐ Beep ☐ Speech

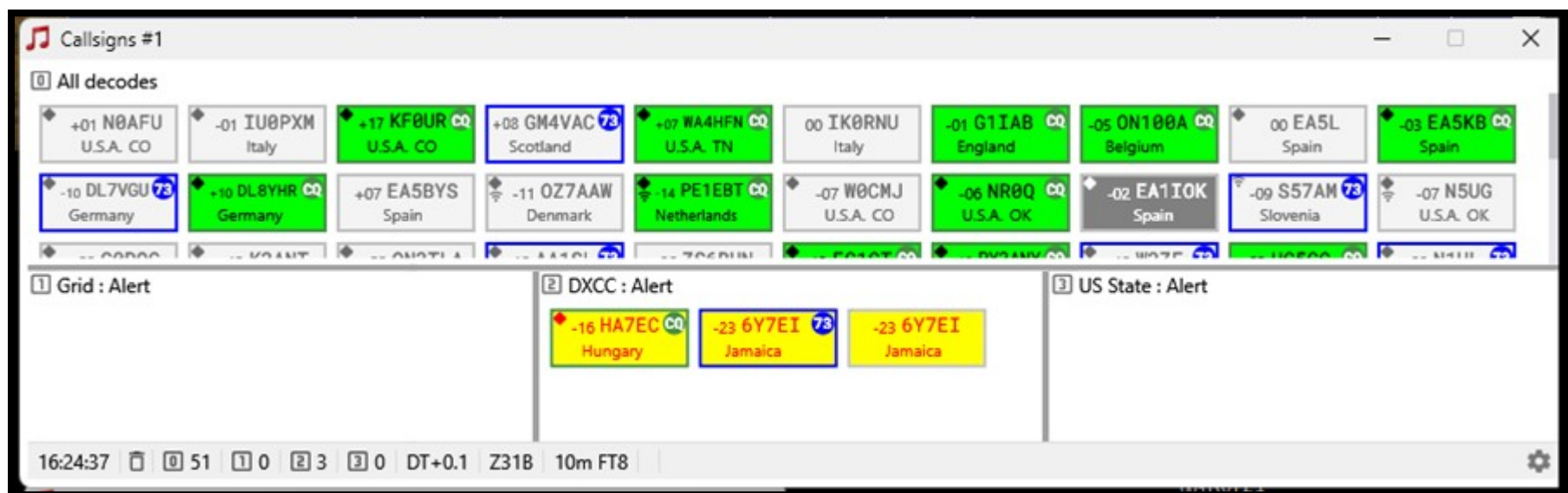


Finding & Tracking the DX

Active Methods / While Operating

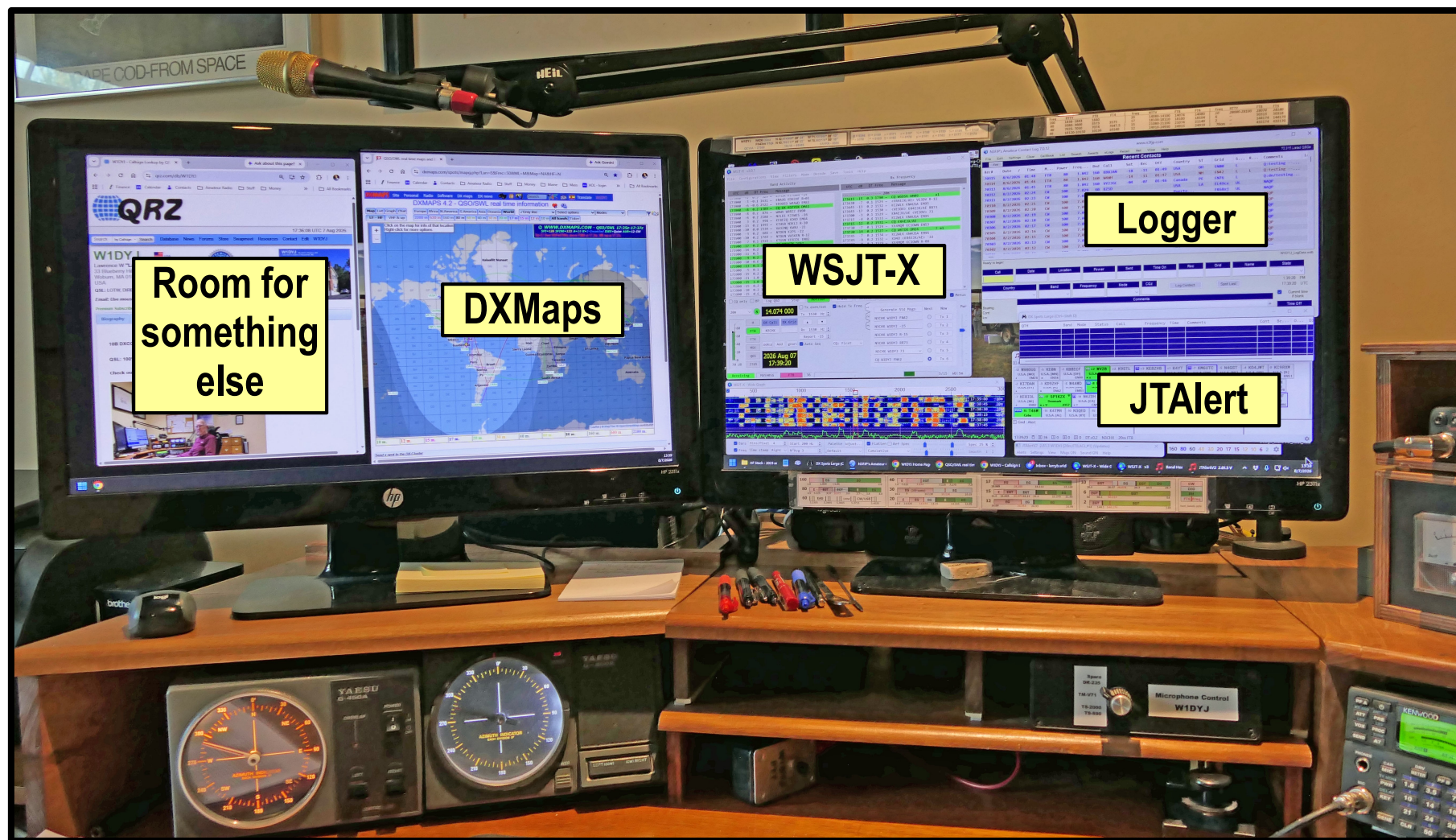
JTAlert (A similar app is GridTracker)

- Integrates with WSJT-X and your logger
- Provides Real Time Audio & Visual Alerts



Finding & Tracking the DX

My 23' Monitors during FT8 Operation



Agenda

- Important DXing Basics
- FT8 DX Modes
- **Finding & Tracking the DX**
 - Passive Methods / When Planning
 - Active Methods / While Operating
 - **Confirming / Tracking**
- Some Final Thoughts



Finding & Tracking the DX

Confirming / Tracking

Stuff I find personally useful:

- QRZ
- ClubLog
- LoTW
- General Logger
- Personal Spreadsheet



Finding & Tracking the DX

Confirming / Tracking

Stuff I find personally useful:

- **QRZ** – for general information about a DX station, how to QSL, links to DX web site, antenna azimuth
- ClubLog
- LoTW
- General Logger
- Personal Spreadsheet



Finding & Tracking the DX

Confirming / Tracking

Stuff I find personally useful:

- QRZ
- **ClubLog** – for searching for (and paying for) confirmations, host for [Active Live Streams](#)
(There are other sites too)
- LoTW
- General Logger
- Personal Spreadsheet

See your call in real-time
shortly after you work
them!



Finding & Tracking the DX

Confirming / Tracking

Stuff I find personally useful:

- QRZ
- ClubLog
- **LoTW** – for ARRL Award tracking & confirmations
- General Logger
- Personal Spreadsheet



Finding & Tracking the DX

Confirming / Tracking

Stuff I find personally useful:

- QRZ
- ClubLog
- LoTW
- **General Logger** – for centralizing all of this information, including rig control
- Personal Spreadsheet



Finding & Tracking the DX

Confirming / Tracking

Stuff I find personally useful:

- QRZ
- ClubLog
- LoTW
- General Logger
- **Personal Spreadsheet – great for tracking**



Finding & Tracking the DX

Confirming / Tracking

Personal Spreadsheet

Eight Tabs:

Summary, DXCC Detail, DXCC Log, QSL Status, WAS, 6m Grids, 2m Grids, 70cm Grids

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA	AB		
1	DXCC Log ~ W1DYJ																													
2	SSB: S = Worked Sq = QSL Conf. SI = LoTW Conf. (d=DXCC)																													
3	Digital: D = Worked Dq = QSL Conf DI = LoTW Conf. (d=DXCC)																													
4	CW: C = Worked Cq = QSL Conf CI = LoTW Conf. (d=DXCC)																													
5	Country	Prefix	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2	CONF not needed		Qsent Buro		OK / End Date		LoTW Rcv		Mq/MI = Conf							
6	Printed: 24-May-26																													
7	Mixed	Worked	97	148	108	203	215	269	239	254	223	243	96	2	deleted	2095		Qsent D/O/A		last LoTW		d=DXCC		Phone	Dig	CW	Mixed			
8		LoTW Conf:	96	148	105	201	211	268	235	250	222	239	95	2		2070		Worked - S/D/C								worked		303		
9		DXCC Conf:	96	148	0	200	209	268	233	249	222	239	95	2		1959		QSL Not Needed				LoTW Conf:		243	276	250	301			
10		Total Conf	96	148	106	201	211	268	235	250	222	239	96	2		2072		1964				DXCC Conf:		243	275	250	301			
11	All Confirmed 301																													
12																														
13	Phone	Worked	10	78	0	123	0	197	56	158	27	186	30	2	865									247			703			
14		Total Conf	7	75	0	120	0	192	53	155	26	179	27	2	834									243			691			
15																														
16	Digital	Worked	78	118	108	161	182	184	203	199	183	165	90	2	1671											278				
17		Total Conf	75	117	106	156	174	177	198	193	181	155	89	2	1621											276				
18																														
19	CW	Worked	63	101	0	158	101	186	41	164	36	153	13	1	1016											254				
20		Total Conf	60	99	0	150	94	177	40	156	36	146	13	1	971											250				
21																														
22	Country	Prefix	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2	Station	What/When	How	Sent	Phone	Dig	CW	Mixed								
23	Afghanistan	YA						q					s							S	Did						Mld			
24	Agalega & St. Brandon Is	3B6, 7						q																						
25									q																					
26	Aland Is.	OH0						Did																						
27									Did																					
28								Did																						
29								Did																						
30								Did																						
31								Did																						

Yes – I'm obsessive about this!



Agenda

- Important DXing Basics
- FT8 DX Modes
- Finding & Tracking the DX
- **Some Final Thoughts**



Some Final Thoughts

- Easy to do stuff...
 - Patience, Patience, Patience
 - Learn about Propagation
 - Know your Transceiver
 - Contesting



INDEXA



Some Final Thoughts

- Easy to do...
 - Patience, Patience, Patience
 - Learn about Propagation
 - Know your Receiver
 - Contesting
- Harder to do stuff...
 - Reasonable Antenna System
 - Co-locate your Office and Shack



Some Final Thoughts

- Easy to do...
 - Patience, Patience, Patience
 - Learn about Propagation
 - Know your Receiver
 - Contesting
- Harder to do...
 - Reasonable Antenna System
 - Co-locate your Office and Shack
- Perhaps Impossible right now...
 - Live on a hill



Some Final Thoughts

- Easy to do...
 - Patience, Patience, Patience
 - Learn about Propagation
 - Know your Receiver
 - Contesting
- Harder to do...
 - Reasonable Antenna System
 - Co-locate your Office and Shack
- Perhaps Impossible right now...
 - Live on a hill
 - *Retire*



Some Final Thoughts

- Easy to do...
 - Patience, Patience, Patience
 - Learn about Propagation

Thank You

- Reasonable Antenna System
- Co-locate your Office and Shack
- Perhaps Impossible right now...
 - Live on a hill
 - Retire



Appendix

- Abstract / Bio
- Assumptions for Talk
- My Antennas
- My History
- My Qs



Abstract

You have been using FT8 for a while. You are interested in increasing your DX totals and wonder what all of this Fox/Hound and SuperFox stuff is all about.

Plus you want to be better at finding the DX!

I will review some FT8 and DX basics, discuss FT8 DX modes like Fox/Hound and SuperFox, and end with some methods to find and track the DX you seek.

Licensed in 1961 as novice KN1VFX, Larry became W1DYJ in 1966. After acquiring three degrees in EE from MIT, Larry was hired in 1969 by Hewlett-Packard Medical's Cardiac R&D Lab in Waltham MA, later in Andover MA, first developing a modem for computerized Electrocardiography. He then was on the original team that developed the first successful Cardiac Ultrasound system. He moved to HP Medical Education in 1993, responsible for technical and project management training. When HP split apart, he became Agilent Technology's global program manager for their Learning Management System. "Retiring" in 2005, he consulted for Avago (now Broadcom) on eLearning technologies through 2012. He now spends his time chasing DX and contesting in Woburn, playing with antennas, traveling with his wife Maren, and attending jazz and classical concerts. He is the net manager and newsletter editor for the MMRA, publications editor for HamXposition, and a member of the YCCC.



My Assumptions

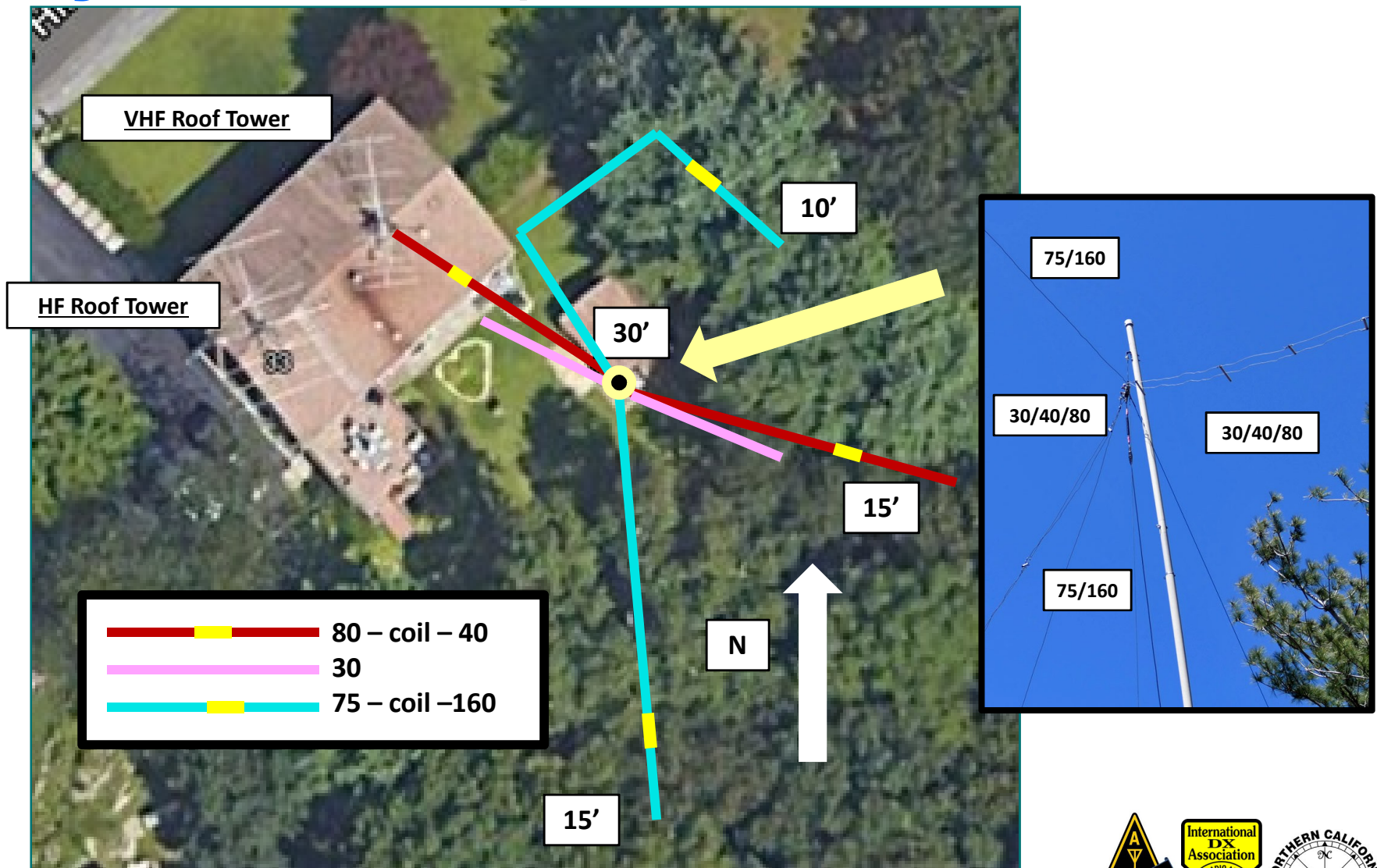
- You are comfortable with using FT8 for casual contacts
- You have started chasing DX, and have some FT8, CW or Phone DX entities to your credit
- You are using some kind of logging SW to capture these contacts
- You want to be more efficient and successful finding and confirming FT8 DX Qs



My Antennas 6/2025: 20m → 432



My Antennas 6/2025: 160m → 30m



My History

- Mom was a high School cafeteria worker. Dad was an electrician and had a dual workshop: woodworking and electronics , my two continuing favorite hobbies. They both highly valued education.
- As a kid: I “played” in his workshop, had an erector set, and read all the **Tom Swift** books...
- Built a **crystal radio** when I was 12 (1958) –the first station heard was the BBC and I was **hooked on radio**.
- Obtained my ham radio license at 15 in 1961 (a junior in HS).
- Went to MIT (SBEE’67, SMEE’69, EE’70)
in part because of my ham radio experience.
- Hired (1969) by HP Medical (Waltham/Andover) developing hospital cardiac instrumentation (electrocardiographs, then real-time cardiac ultrasound)
in part because of my practical experience with ham radio.
- Moved to HP/Agilent Corp Ed (project management experience) in 1993
- “Retired” in 2005 when Agilent split up; then part-time consulted for Avago (now Broadcom) as their eLearning platform WW Program Manager
- Finally retired (for real) in 2012 – **now play with ham radio**



My Logged Qs ...as of 6 August 2026

Mode	#	1st Q		BND	#Qs FT8
FT4	652	8/2019			
FT8	7288	8/2017	>>>>>>>>>>	160	443
JT65	97	6/2017		80	498
MSK144	1	5/2017		60	330
PSK31	63	5/2003		40	446
PSK63	1	3/2017		30	589
Q65	1	8/2024		20	407
RTTY	11741	1/2017		17	449
=====				15	482
Total digital	19849			12	423
				10	490
PH	29422	7/1994		6	2098
CW	21076	9/2014		2	557
FM	86	11/1993		0.7	76
Total Qs		70315			

