



## Special Edition – 2025 DXCC Year-end Review – by Bill Salyers, AJ8B – January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026



“Walk a Mile in My Shoes” – an old phrase used to indicate you really don’t know what it takes until you try. Well, I learned a great deal about how much Joe Reisert, W1JR, did to compile the DXCC Year in Review, each year. I am sure it was a labor of love for him. My hat is off to Joe!

When I first discussed this task with Bernie, W3UR, I really did think that if I just put some time in each day, it would be simple. WRONG! Until you are tracking it daily, you don’t realize how much DX information is out there, how much changes daily, and how much goes through Bernie!

I was honored when Bernie agreed to allow me to try to carry on the tradition. My goal is simple – not to let the Year-end Review fall off in quality! I am not sure that I was able to do that, but I did try. Let me know what you think. (thedxmentor@gmail.com)

### 2025 in Review

By my count, we had 276 entities activated in 2025. FT8 remains the dominant mode with 66.3% of all QSOs uploaded to Club Log. Several DXpeditions will have an impact on the Club Log DXCC Most Wanted List. 5K0UA – San Andreas Island, put 77,354 in the log, 6O3T – Somalia, put 81,121, and 9U1RU – Burundi, put 129,900 in the log.

I could go through the list of DXpeditions with comments about each, but I thought that a listing of those more prominent ones that were active would be better. I have sorted them by start date to give you an idea as to when they were active to allow for planning.

Call	Entity	Start	End	# QSOs
TX7N	Marquesas Islands	1/12/2025	1/27/2025	41,000+
V73WW	Marshall Islands	2/11/2025	2/25/2025	103,864
5N9DTG	Nigeria	2/17/2025	3/1/2025	141,103
VK9XU	Christmas Island	2/18/2025	3/4/2025	58,467
TI1RRC	Costa Rica	2/19/2025	2/25/2025	7,580
VK9CU	Cocos Keeling	2/24/2025	3/11/2025	34,914
4S7SPG	Sri Lanka	2/25/2025	4/30/2025	43,027
VU4AX	Andaman Islands	3/11/2025	3/20/2025	65,962
3B9DJ	Rodriguez Island	3/24/2025	4/5/2025	79,039
VP2VI	British VI	4/10/2025	4/27/2025	173,457
HD8G	Galapagos Islands	4/18/2025	4/26/2025	51,775
TX9A	Austral Islands	4/25/2025	5/7/2025	90,500+
ZS8W	Marion Islands	4/27/2025	5/13/2025	31,672
T30TTT	Western Kiribati	5/19/2025	9/13/2025	110,000+

PJ7K	Sint Maarten	9/12/2025	9/22/2025	93,073
FP8KE	St. Pierre & Miquelon	9/16/2025	9/26/2025	131,691
V6D	Micronesia	9/22/2025	10/6/2025	92,600+
VP2MAA	Montserrat	9/26/2025		92,104
E51MWA	North Cook Islands	10/9/2025	10/20/2025	20,290
PJ6Y	Saba Island	10/17/2025	10/29/2025	56,624
FW5K	Wallis & Futuna	10/18/2025	10/31/2025	37,487
5K0UA	San Andres Island	10/20/2025	10/30/2025	77,354
6O3T	Somalia	10/25/2025	11/4/2025	81,128
9U1RU	Burundi	10/31/2025	11/19/2025	129,900
5R8TT/5R8XX	Madagascar	10/29/2025	11/12/2025	56,732
9L8MD	Sierra Leone	10/30/2025	11/11/2025	101,904

As usual, many DX gatherings and conferences were held, including the International DX Convention in Visalia, CA; Hamvention® in Xenia, OH; The DX Dinner® during Hamvention, W9DXCC in Chicago and others by many DX clubs.

Congratulations to the 2025 CQ Hall of Fame inductees Professor Jim Breakall, WA3FET, Angel M. Vazquez, WP3R, and Wayne Overbeck, Ph.D., N6NB (SK). The Contest Hall of Fame Inductees were John Laney, K4BAI, Pat Barkey, N9RV, and Uli Weiss, DJ2YA. The DX Hall of Fame inductees were S53R, Robert Kasca and EY8MM, Nodir Tursun-Zade.

The SWODXA DXpeditioner of the Year was FH4VVK, Marek, for his activation of FT4GL, Glorioso Island. The DXpedition of the Year was awarded to N5J for their activation of Jarvis Island, N5J.

**Podcasts/YouTube:** YouTube channels and Podcasts focused on DX are increasing. Examples of YouTube channels are The DX Mentor, Ham Radio Concepts, KM4ACK, The Denver Radio club, K5YVY, Madison DX Club, DXEngineering, Ham Radio DX, and Q5 Worldwide Ham.

Podcasts include This Week in Amateur Radio, the Ham Radio Workbench, QSO Today, The DX Mentor, 100 Watts and a Wire, and Solder Smoke.

There are many other YouTube channels and podcasts, and they are great sources of information.



**T11RRC - Russian Robinson Club Central American DXpedition**

**Smart Phones/Apps:** Cell phones have become ubiquitous, and hams have wasted no time in developing apps and finding ways to use them. I was able to work remotely via my cell phone while on a business trip with very little latency. There are many apps that I use weekly including SmartSDR, QRZ Call Search, ARRL Mags, a compass app., Repeater Book, and my favorite,

HamAlert. There are other specialized apps for tasks such as learning Morse code, taking tests, and other methods of communication such as Slack and WhatsApp.

All of these bands will show increased activity during contests and DXpeditions. That information can always be found in the DailyDX and the WeeklyDX.

## Band-by-band Activity in 2025 (Frequencies in MHz)

**160 Meters:** As we are in the top half of Solar Cycle 25, DX has suffered on 160M. As a result, there was low to moderate activity, especially on CW, except when DXpeditions were active. There is quite a bit of activity between 1.830 and 1.840. I tried to work all the 160M contests and thoroughly enjoyed my time spent on “The Gentleman’s Band”. Time to get on 160 now to be ready for better conditions coming over the next couple of years.

**75/80 Meters:** DX activity has been low to moderate on these bands except during DXpeditions. CW is mostly on the low end and SSB near 3.795. On the other hand, FT8 activity has really increased around 3.573.

USA operation on 60 meters is limited to 100 watts output power and a dipole antenna. Use of gain antennas requires reducing transmitter output power.

**60 Meters:** The band had good activity most of the year from Europe, North, South and Central Americas, and the Pacific. W8GEX indicated that DX worked on 60 M included ZL4OL and ZL2CC who are both regulars on the band, BG2CX, BG2EFX, BG8ATH, VK2LAW, VK2SG, D68Z, 6W/ON4AVT, AP5ARS, DP0GVN, 7Q6UJ, 4U1UN, and C5YX: over 200 entities in all.

**40 Meters:** 40M continues to provide good DX opportunities during local nighttime. Most DX activity has shifted to the FT8 mode. 40 was the most productive band for me during Greyline.

**30 Meters:** 30M continues to be my favorite band as it is still very popular for DXing. It is usually open a few hours before sunset until after sunrise, but it can remain open most of the day during local winter. There is quite a bit of FT8 activity between 10.130 and 10.140. There continues to be good DX opportunities on 30 during contest weekends where DX stations want to log QSOs, but not huge pileups. I have also found great success on the WARC bands the week before and after a major contest.

**20 Meters:** 20M is still the go-to DX band especially during local daylight hours. Much of the DX activity on CW has decreased except for DXpeditions but SSB activity is still OK. It is still a smart move to call CQ, even when 20 CW seems dead. FT8 and FT4 modes are very active.

**17 Meters:** This band is often open shortly after 20 meters opens. All modes seem to be doing well. For most of the year, I found 17M open to Europe, moving to South America in the afternoon.

**15 meters:** 15M was solid in January with many reports of T8, KH8, and TX7N coming into the states with true 58 and 59 signal reports. From March to July, I found regular, but short,

openings to Asia, often working VR, JA, and VK, while working Europe. As fall approached, 15 became a much more reliable DX band. I worked more African stations in October and November than any other band.

**10 and 12 Meters:** Both bands were supporting propagation most of the year. In January, W0VTT reported that signals from TX7N and multiple WWA were “surprisingly loud” in the RF hole of MN. JD1/M and T8 were loud on 12M. This slowed down, but there were regular openings during the spring and early summer months. As fall arrived, both picked up and I had particularly good openings on 12 M in October

**6 Meters and Above:** I made almost 100 QSOs on 6 in 2025 – just a few watts and a dipole. However, all were stateside. Most activity centers around FT8. This is an intriguing band and one that I will spend more time on in 2026.

## 2025 Monthly DX Activity Sample

Here are just some of the medium-rare to rare DX stations that were active during each month.

**January :** 6W1RD, 8Q7XF, 8R1TM, C5RK, JG8NQJ/JD1, KH7AL/KH9, TX7N, Z81Z, and ZD7DPX.

**February :** 4S7SPG, 5H3DX, 5N9DTG, 5R8RH, 6W7/ON4AVT, 8Q7BG, 8Q7FL, 8Q7VA, 9L/VK3HEX, C5DX, C5PWL, C5SP, FO/F6BCW (Marquesas), HD8CW, J52EC, JG8NQJ/JD1, KH7AL/KH9, TR8CR, TU5MZ, V73WW, VU4AX (Andaman & Nicobar)

**March :** 3B9DJ, 3D2TWO, 3V8SF, 4K0T, 5W0UO, 8Q7NI, 8Q7PR, 8R1TM, C5YX, D68Z, FO/F4LYI, HK0A, TZ1CE, TZ4AM, VK9CU, VK9XU, VP8CIW, VP8TXF, VU4X, YJ0CA

**April :** 3D2BP, 5H1KB, 8Q7EF, 8R1TM, C5LT, EP100IARU, HD8G, J5BGW, JA1YVT/JD1, JD1BOI, JD1BON, JG8NQJ/JD1 - Minami Torishima, P29CW, T88PB, T88UW, TX7XG - French Polynesia, TY5FR, TZ4AM, ZD7PG

**May :** 3A100A, 3DA0GY, 5R8TD, 9M4PA, C37JPE, TX4TWO, HB0/DL2SBY, OJ0L, T88SG, TO3E (FM), TZ4AM, V5/ZS4TX, VU7T, Z68OM, Z68YL, Z68TT, Z68ZZ, ZD8GB, ZL7IO, ZS8W

**June :** 3A100A, 3V8LL, 5R8TD, 7Q6M, 7Q7WW, EZ/DL7ZM, FO/G0VJG, MJ/OP2D, OY6FRA, T88PB, T88TJ, XX9TG, YJ0RS, ZC4GW, ZC4RH

**July :** 3B9SP, SV5/S55DX, TY5FR



*Members of the SV1GA/A DXpedition to Mt. Athos*

**August :** E51KEE, GM4S, H40GJ, JW/SP9HGN. T88GF, TO3K (Mayotte), TY5FR, VK2/SP9FIH (Lord Howe), VP2V/KK4LWR

**September :** 3C3W, 5X2I, 9X2AW, A35JK, E44OM, ER/DF8AN, EX/DK3RN, H44MS, OH0/DL4APJ, OJ0W, OJ0YL, WE9G/KH2, S79/DL2SBY, SV5/HB9OAU, T88DF, TZ4AM, VI8POL, VK2/SP9FIH (Lord Howe), VK9NT (Norfolk)

**October :** 3B9KW, 5H3MB, 5K0UA, 5R8IC, 5R8TT, 5R8XX, 5X2I, 6O3T, 9U1RU, A52G, C5R, C5Y, D2A, E51MWA, EX9A, FW5K, H44MS, JD1IHD/JD1/O, S79/DL2SBY, TZ4AM, V6D, V85RH, VP2MPN, WH0RU, XT2AW, YJ0RS

**November :** 3B9KW, 3G0YR, 4J8N, 4K8N, 5H3MB, 5J0EA, 5R8IC, 5R8TT, 5R8XX, 5V7RU, 7P8EA, 8R1TM, 9L8MD, 9U1RU, A52AA, C5R, EK8A, H44MS, LZ1GC/ZL7, S21PL, S79/OK6RA, T2JK, T88AR, TL8GD, TO9W, TY5FR, TZ4AM, VP8THW, ZC4RH

**December :** 5R8IC, 6W/DO5RQ, A25LS, C5YK, D4NT, KH0/AJ6VJ, LU1WGB/Z (South Orkney) LZ0A (South Shetland), S21DX, TL8BNW, TO2FY, TO9W, TT1GD, XU7O, Z81D

**Unauthorized Operations:** As usual many unlicensed or pirate stations were active during the year. 5V7ST, 5T5DC, KH7AL/KH9 (January), ZL7PX, CE0XF, V26K, HV7AID (February), 9L1X, ZL7DX (March), ZS8W (April), 3A/IK4FXX (June), ZB/I1YRL, P29SX, C21RK (August), JX7DFA, AP2FLY (September), RI1FJ (November), JW0RZ, 3A/IK1OOG, 3D2/SP8S, (December) A50A, 3Y0PI

## **DXpeditions:**

Costs are skyrocketing and this is affecting DXpeditions. The Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF), the International DX Association (INDEXA), the German DX Foundation (GDXF), the European DX Foundation (EUDXF), The UK DX Foundation (CDXC), and the YASME foundation have all stepped up their support, but that is not all that is needed. These foundations do a great job of vetting and funding requests. Remember to stay tuned and check [www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html](http://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html) for future operations.



*Russian DX Team members at 9U1RU*

## Potential DXpeditions in 2026

**This winter, 3G9S, Isla Navarino** - The friends of Juncal DX from the Aconcagua Valley announced that CB9N, XR9N, and 3G9S will be the special call signs that will be part of the expedition to the Chilean Antarctic Province (CE9 on Isla Navarino), taking place during the first half of January 2026.

**S9 - Sao Tome and Principe** - S9BV is planned between February 5-20, 2026. Planned is 60, 40, 30 and 15M CW and SSB. A casual operation, he will have verticals for 60, 40 and 30, dipole for 40 and 15, and an IC-7000 radio.

**CY0 - Sable Island - CY0S Sable DXpedition** - The CY0S DXpedition team is very pleased to announce the official dates for the Sable Island DXpedition are March 19-30/31, 2026.

**3G0XQ San Ambrosio Island** - I am pleased to report that the San Ambrosio (CE0X) project continues with important progress in the mission to put this exciting and rare entity "ON AIR".

The targeted dates for this Dx-Activity will be between January 12, 2026, and February 15, 2026, which represents at least 25 days of operation on the island.

**C8K, MOZAMBIQUE** - The Czech DX Team will be active as C8K during September/October 2026.

**VP8, SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND** - Amateur Radio DXpeditions (ARD) is proud to announce plans for a groundbreaking DXpedition to South Georgia Island, set to take place in March 2027, as VP0SG.

**TY - Benin** - TY5GG by F5NVF, Gerard, will be QRV from January 6 to April 6, 2026, in "vacation mode" he says. He notes there is no QSL bureau in Benin, so go direct to the F5RAV QTH, or "Logbook of the World via M0NP."

**FO/M - Marquesas Islands** - A team consisting of six operators will be part of a DXpedition as TX9W, operating from the Marquesas Islands. Their activity is scheduled from 19 April to 30 April 2026. All bands from 160 to 6 meters will be used, including CW, FT8, FT4, SSB, and RTTY modes.

**VU4, ANDAMAN ISLAND** - The World DXpedition team will be operating between October 25 and November 7, 2027, from 3 POTA locations. The Team priority will be to make as many QSOs as possible and offer the highest exposure as possible for sponsors.

**TL - Central African Republic** - CR7BNW is about to begin a six-month journey and is currently finalizing plans to stay in Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR). He should be QRV as TL8BNW until June 2026. He plans to have a dipole and will be active on 40, 20, 10 and 6 meters SSB and FT8.

**XX9 - Macao** - DX Friends will run a DXpedition in Macao from March 19-31, 2026, with 14 operators active on HF and 6m.

**8Q - Maldives** - DS1TUW, Ji, and his soon-to-be XYL, DS1ULP, Suhyun, will be honeymooning at Dhaalu Atoll, Maldives from January 18-24. Ji will be QRV mostly on FT8 with some CW and SSB as 8Q7JI on 3.5 through 28 MHz and may try 160 with a loading coil.



KN6ZZI and DF2WO QRV from D4 - Cape Verde Islands

**ZC4 - UK Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus** - G0KOM, Adrian, is in the early stages of planning his next trip to the UK Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus (ZC4KM). He intends to return in March.

**9N – Nepal** - DL4XT, Jan, is planning a two-week DXpedition to Nepal in the summer of 2026, staying near Kathmandu. The trip will feature operations on multiple bands (160-10m), using CW, SSB, and FT8. Various antennas will be used, including a 1/4 wave vertical with radials for 10-20m, a 40m delta loop, and an 80/160m EFHW.

**KP5 – Desecheo Island** - We are proud to announce a landmark DXpedition to Desecheo Island (KP5), currently ranked as the 14th most wanted DXCC entity worldwide. Located approximately 13 miles off the west coast of Puerto Rico, Desecheo Island has not been activated since 2009. This operation represents the first Puerto Rican-led DXpedition to Desecheo in 48 years, following the historic KP4AM/D activation in 1978.

## Operating techniques:

### Radio Propagation:

#### A Brief Review of Propagation in 2025

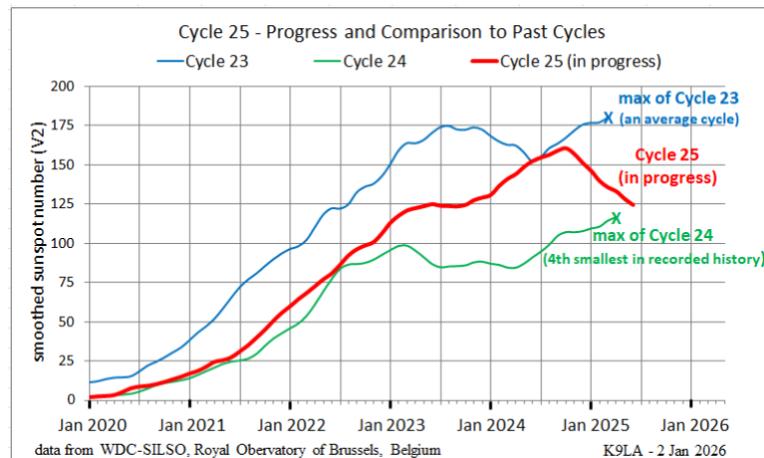
by Carl, K9LA

Cycle 25 offered worldwide propagation during the fall and winter months of 2025 on the higher HF bands (15m, 12m, 10m) and occasional F2 region openings on 6m. The lower bands (160m, 80m) picked up at the end of 2025 when absorption was lower and geomagnetic activity was minimal. The middle bands (40m through 17m) offered decent openings throughout 2025.

The weekday propagation column forecasts by Frank Donovan, W3LPL in *The Daily DX* by W3UR are a great source for current radio propagation. Frank always lists several sites such as SWPC/NOAA for further information. KC2G near-term maps are helpful as is [DX.QSL.net/propagation](http://DX.QSL.net/propagation).

#### What to Expect in 2026

Cycle 25 peaked in October 2024. Per historical data, the probability of Cycle 25 having a second peak is low. Only 8 of the previous 24 cycles have had two peaks, with Cycles 23 and 24 being good examples. A second peak has historically occurred around 5 years after solar minimum. Cycle 25 is 5.5 years past solar minimum, with no indication of a second peak yet.



KC2G's worldwide ionospheric maps at <https://prop.kc2g.com/> give an idea of what propagation may be like on the higher HF bands. If the MUFs are high in Europe when it's early morning in the US, it is likely that the MUFs will be similarly high later in the day for North America (assuming the K index remains low). Also check dxmaps.com or your favorite tools.

We're likely to see an increase in the use of AI for propagation conditions. An example is when Jim McDonald, N7US (in the Chicago area), asked for 160m conditions for the December 2025 Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge using the AI tool Perplexity. *Caveat emptor!*

The lower bands should improve as Cycle 25 declines. This may be tempered by coronal holes causing geomagnetic storms during the decline and the increased noise floor due to more electronic devices in our society. The middle bands should provide good propagation throughout 2026. The higher bands should be good in early 2026 but may have a problem later in 2026 due to solar radiation descending below what's necessary for propagation on the higher bands. The higher bands need a smoothed sunspot number of about 70 (V2 sunspot record), which is a smoothed 10.7 solar flux of 100. A smoothed (or long term) 10.7 cm solar flux of 200 is generally needed for 6m.

**Digital Operations:** The WSJT Development Team has announced WSJT-X 3.0. Enhancements include Band Buttons, Improved FT8 Decoding, Filters, and several other options to enhance communication under difficult propagation conditions.



*GU4YOX & XYL QRV from CR3B*

**QRZ.com:** QRZ.com continues to be a mainstay in almost every DXers shack. QRZ was founded in 1992 by Fred, AA7BQ, and continues to be an important component for every ham shack. They have accumulated over 1 BILLION QSOs with about half being confirmed. There are over 325,000 users.

**Club Log:** The Northern California DX Foundation issued an \$8,000 grant to Michael, G7VJR for a hardware upgrade to Club Log. Club Log is used by DXers and DXpeditioners all around the world. Club Log is a free service operating at a global

scale, supporting 130,000 callsigns and storing 1.25 billion QSOs. This is another must have site!

## ARRL and DXCC Matters:

**ARRL:** There was a major announcement of two new awards from the DXCC program, the DXCC Trident award, and the 10 Band DXCC Award. "The Programs & Services Committee and headquarters staff from the Radiosport Department are moving ahead with the creation of a new DXCC award — DXCC Trident — which will recognize those who achieve DXCC using

CW, phone and digital modes. Higher achievement endorsements can be earned at the 200, 300, and Honor Roll levels. The DXCC Trident award is intended to spur greater on-air operating and to inspire those using digital modes to also develop their skills in, and practice, CW and SSB.

The 10 Band DXCC Award will recognize those who achieve DXCC on all bands from 6 meters to 160 meters (excluding 60 meters). Higher achievement endorsements can be earned at the 200, 300, and Honor Roll levels, like the DXCC Trident. The 10-Band DXCC award challenges participants in the DXCC program to establish station capabilities and operator skills for dealing with myriad band conditions in pursuing DXCC across all 10 bands. `

**The Libyan Communications Amateur Society (LCAS)** : has been voted in and is the newest member of the IARU. The LCAS was founded May 12, 2024, and has seven amateur radio licensed members.

**DX India Foundation:** A new Indian organization, the DX India Foundation has been formed. The primary objective is to activate rare IOTAs, organize DXpeditions, and foster a vibrant DXing culture in the region.

**Chagos Islands** - On May 22nd, the United Kingdom began the process of transferring sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius. This change is unlikely to affect DXCC status, except for a new prefix, probably 3B#. This could lead to increased activity, as recent visitors to Diego Garcia struggled with licensing. The VQ9 tickets were not being issued or renewed, but this might change under the new administration.

**A Possible New One? – (Thanks DX-World.net)** The Bougainville independence process enters a crucial, final leg of the process to decide Bougainville's future political status. However, uncertainty remains over how it will play out.

Representatives of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville held talks this week in Port Moresby over the future of the autonomous region's political status and agreed that the issue will be taken to the PNG national parliament by June next year for deliberations on a final decision.

**Technology:** The Rig in a Box, or RIB, is having a major impact on DXpeditions. In an era where costs are ever increasing the RIB concept is an alternative. "The NCDXF is pleased to announce its financial support for a \$35,000 grant to fund the Next Gen RIB 2 systems. NCDXF will own the RIBs and keep them maintained for deployment. DXpeditions need to request these units with their NCDXF DXpedition grant applications. Many QSOs have been made successfully in several DXpeditions where the entity footprint was minimized, and the operators could be remote. These RIBs are still maintained and in use.

**NCDXF: Make DX happen** - To encourage the activation of a Top 20 entity listed on the Club Log DXCC Most Wanted List, the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) is offering a cash incentive for DXpeditions taking place on or after July 1, 2025, that meet the following conditions: Get permission and a license to operate from a Top 20 DXCC entity according to the Club Log DXCC Most Wanted List on the date the DXpedition operation begins. (Securing permission to operate and a license for the DXpedition operation must not violate any [law or regulation](#).) Check the NCDXF Website for more details. (<https://ncdxf.org/>)

**DX Marathon Program Summary & Highlights**

The DX Marathon continues to grow as one of the most accessible and rewarding year-long DX achievement programs in amateur radio. Unlike traditional contests, operators can enter at any point during the calendar year, and any DXCC entities and CQ zones worked and logged from January 1, 2025, are eligible—every QSO made throughout the year counts, from the first contact in January to the last minute of December 31.

### **2025 Milestone: The First-Ever DX Marathon Sprint**

In 2025, the program achieved an exciting milestone with the launch of the first DX Marathon Sprint, a 10-day high-energy operating event designed to encourage broader participation and offer newcomers an easy entry point into the Marathon.

The inaugural Sprint was an overwhelming success and marked a new chapter for the program:

- 100% of participants received personalized certificates, each highlighting their most significant accomplishments
- The Sprint attracted operators across all skill levels, validating the Marathon’s mission to be inclusive, flexible, and encouraging steady DX activity year-round.

### **2025 Certification Program Expanded**

Based on the positive response to the Sprint, the full certificate recognition program will now be rolled into the 2025 year-long DX Marathon.

This means:

- Every participant, whether casual operator, focused DXer, or newcomer—will have the opportunity to receive a certificate showcasing their individual achievements.
- Certificates will reflect accomplishments beyond just total score and will list how each has done with respect to their pier class group, how they did in their zone or country and other metrics. Participants can then use this as a measurement against self-improvement the following year.

**Safety:** Amateur Radio is still a hobby that demands careful consideration and caution. Below are two examples of this.

**N4NTO** - Investigators determined that Ambrose Lloyd “Tripp” Owens was attempting to raise a temporary amateur radio antenna in the Chicora Cemetery and the mast of the antenna accidentally came in contact with a Duke Progress Energy power line.

**K1DJ** - Members of the K1USN Radio Club received the sad news that Richard - K1DJ passed away following a fall from his tower. He had gone up the tower during some stormy weather to try to secure his SteppIR Yagi which had begun windmilling due to strong winds. Apparently, he must have slipped coming down the tower and fell to the rooftop below. Paramedics at the scene were unable to revive him.

### **Silent Keys (SK):**

The following is a partial list of SK DXers and others that contributed to our hobby. They are generally listed in the order as they have departed us during this past year: W6ZL, N9LB, HC1JP, K7VB, W8DX, W3EP, W5KNE, N5QJ, W5OV, DL3KWR, K1RI, KB6J, G4WHV, F5VCR, XE1J, GW0VSW, HA6PX, HS1JZT, N2EC, I6FLD, 4K9W, FK8FS, N6NB, W8KEN, K5NV, K7RA, WA6HXM, AA5BT, N9MR, W4NS, W5MQ, AA4NN, NA2M, Z21GC, DL9MH, AF3K, W8RLS, WG4R, WO9S, ZL2QT (ZL7QT), KC7DC, KA1DE(WA1YZO),

W6VX, W6NN, K2ZD, W7DO, UX2HO (EM1HO), SP3GVX (HF0POL), G4SOI, HB9AHD, DK2OM, W1ETV, N8EKG, N4NTO, W5LT, JA1DM, F3SG, VK4TT, V44KBP, PA5O, EI3IO, F5XL, W3HNC, W6RW, W9GIG, AG5Z, LU4DXU, W4RH, VK3FZ, W4RX, KS0M, K4MKX, W0NB, RD2DA, N2TU, TF2MSN, K1SIX, W0RT, AA4V, VK9NI, DL6YYM, WA8CDU, N8AA, HZ1NF, JA3IG, IK1SPR, KU2US, KE5PO, W1RFI, K1DJ, K9BO, K4VUD, KI0F, N6MM, JA1WSX, EP3HZM, JA1ELY, JA1MRM, N5PHT, K4ESE, K3TKJ, VE4EA, N5PHT, TG9ANF, G3PJT, W4BTZ, and PA3GIO.

## And now the Drum Roll #

There were approximately 64 DXCC entities that were NOT believed to have been active during 2025\*

**Africa (18):** 3B6, 3CØ, 3Y/B, 5T, 5U, 9Q, E3, FT/E&J, FT/G, FT/T, FT/W, FT/X, FT/Z, J2, S9, ST, TN, and VKØH.

**Antarctica (1):** 3YØ/P.

**Asia (10):** 1S, 4W, 7O, BS7H, BV9P, EZ, P5, T6, XZ, and YK.

**Europe (2):** 1A, and R1F,

**North America (8):** CYØ, CY9, FO/C, KG4, KP1, KP5, TI9 and YV0.

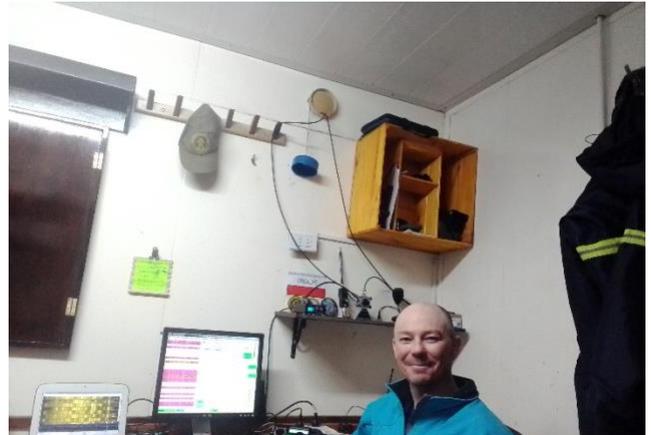
**Oceania (18):** 3D2C, 3D2/R, FK/C, KH1, KH3, KH4, KH5, KH7K, KH8/S, T31, T33, VKØM, VK9M, VK9W, VP6 (Ducie), ZK3, ZL8 and ZL9.

**South America (7):** CEØX, CE0Z, HKØ/M, PYØ/S, PY0/T, VPØ/G, and VPØ/S.

\*Please note that some rare entities may not be on this list for 2025 because operations were short, set up schedules, or were only on VHF, EME (Earth-Moon-Earth), etc.

DXCC entities that are not believed to have been activated in ten (10) or more years have increased and now include: 3Y/P, BQ9P, BS7H, CEØX, EZ, FK/C, FT/T, FT/Z, HKØM, KH3, KH7K, KP1, KP5, P5, PY0/S, YK, YV0 and ZL8. An avid DXer working hard at DXCC who worked every country over the past 15+ years could have made the DXCC Honor Roll. This list also serves as a guide to those planning DXpeditions to rare entities.

**Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond:** Cycle 25 is still active, but clearly on its' way down. However, there is no reason to despair! DX has really changed in the last few years with WSJT and Rig in a Box. Some DXers chase the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll, the ARRL DXCC Challenge, the DX Marathon, or all 3! There is still time to improve or repair, if necessary, your 6-, 10- and 15-meter antennas as well as keeping your 80- and 160-meter antennas in operation. Then there are the never-ending DX Contests and IOTA chasing. There are lots of things to do. Don't let the airways slow down for lack of activity.



*LU1WTB/Z QRV from the South Orkney Islands*

HF radio conditions on the higher bands are doing well. Try to stay active and join the fun. Don't forget to support the various DX Foundations around the world that help make DX happen.

**Finally:** As I mentioned, I was honored to be asked by Bernie, W3UR to write this 21<sup>st</sup> DXCC Year-end Review and for his valuable input and help. I have tried to organize this and add/remove subjects this year. Suggestions are always appreciated. We hope this review has been informative especially for historical purposes. Most prior DXCC Year-end Reviews can be viewed on the [K8CX Ham Gallery](#). They are listed in the Table of Contents on that site.

Happy New Year and best wishes for DX during 2026.

73,

Bill Salyers, AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net)

“The DX Mentor”

NOTE: All the opinions expressed etc. are solely mine as are any errors that I have made. This Year-end Review is copyrighted. Therefore, copies or use of this review MUST first be approved by Bernie, W3UR and then a courtesy copy of the reprint must be sent to [thedxmentor@gmail.com](mailto:thedxmentor@gmail.com)

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