

**DX Advisory Committee Semi-Annual Report**

**June 30, 2009**

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

**Submitted by  
Bob Allphin, K4UEE  
Chairman, DX Advisory Committee  
Southeastern Division Representative**

## **Introduction**

I would like to update the Board on the overall DXing environment the first six months of 2009. Sunspots continue to be virtually non-existent and the extended bottom of Cycle 23 continues to disappoint. Although, several Cycle 24 sunspots have appeared; they quickly disappear. We have experienced a slight bump in the SFI into the low 70's only to fall back into the 60's in a short time. So DXing on the higher bands continue to be extremely difficult with openings on 10 and 12 meters few and far between. However, the lower bands are still productive and a very good season was experienced on 160 and 80 meters.

Several DXpeditions occurred in the first half of 2009 with the activation of Desecheo Island being the highlight. It was the first US Fish and Wildlife approved DXpedition since 1992/93. The KP1-5 Project was selected to do the honors and they made 116,000 QSOs from the number six DXCC "most wanted" entity. I was pleased to have co-lead the DXpedition along with Dr. Glenn Johnson, WØGJ.

## **Issues/Concerns/Feedback from the DX community**

There continue to be many favorable comments about the reduced backlog at the DXCC desk. The ARRL BOD and DXCC desk deserve credit and thanks for successfully addressing that situation.

We continue to hear feedback on the Kosovo situation. Most DXers understand that it doesn't fit the DXCC criteria as currently established. Several have suggested that there should be another look at the criteria with the thought that there should be "new" criteria for entities such as Kosovo. This is not a widely-held opinion however.

There has been considerable discussion among contesters that the recent decision made by CQ magazine to introduce an "extreme" category in their DX contests may cause problems with the DXCC program. Because the use of remote stations will be allowed in this new category, this may cause difficulty at the DXCC desk if QSLs are submitted for credit for QSOs that may have been made using remote stations.

The subject of remote stations and the DXCC program was the subject of a DXAC study and a report was sent to the PSC on May 13, 2008.

## **Status report on the DXAC's current assignment**

The following assignment was received on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The DXAC members have been notified and most members are currently seeking input from DXers and Digital operators in their respective Divisions. It is my objective to have a recommendation for the BOD late in the Fall of 2009.

From Programs and Services Committee meeting, 4 April, 2009

Subject: RTTY and Digital DXCC Awards

Participants in the DXCC program occasionally ask about the existence of a separate award for the digital modes other than RTTY. The RTTY DXCC Award was created in July, 1976 as a non-endorsable award. QSOs could be used dated back to 1945. In July, 1984, the RTTY DXCC became endorsable. In December, 1993, the RTTY award became an Honor Roll award. Since the advent of newer digital modes after RTTY, ARRL has allowed any other digital modes to feed a RTTY DXCC record.

Today, with the seemingly ever-expanding use of new digital modes, we hear requests for a new DXCC award to recognize modes other than RTTY. In a recent survey of amateurs asking about their digital mode preferences with respect to what modes W1AW should use, it is apparent that RTTY and PSK31 are far and away the most popular modes. With the long history and high standings and still rising popularity of RTTY, it is not likely that we could do away with the RTTY DXCC as it stands now and have it replaced with a separate award.

The Programs and Services Committee asks the DX Advisory Committee to consider possibilities for accommodating all the digital modes within the DXCC program. Questions that could be considered (but not limited to) are: The addition of a new award, either endorsable or not, for additional modes; the addition of mode endorsements for the RTTY award; renaming the RTTY award to Digital and leaving the rest unchanged; start dates for any new awards; impact of present and future awards on band planning and use; and impacts upon DXpeditions. While there will be administrative impact at HQ, please do not base any recommendations on administrative conditions.

We also ask that the DX Advisory Committee consider the time required to respond to the PSC. Principally, this would be a choice between delivering its response either before the summer Board meeting in July, or for the Board meeting to occur in mid-January, 2010.

That concludes the DXAC report for the first half of 2009. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

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July 2009

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