



Week 4 - Session 8

CW Academy

- Go over h/w and on air activities
- On the air:
 - CQ WPX RTTY
- Chasing DX
 - We are near or at the peak of the solar cycle
 - Look for increased activity in the fall & winter, especially in the days surrounding the major International contests
- No drills tonight!



Chasing (Rare) DX

CW Academy

- This is quintessential ham radio and, for many, its most exciting aspect
- CW is the best mode for working weak stations rapidly
 - For better or worse, much DX activity has migrated to FT8
 - Most major DXpeditions will include CW as part of their efforts
 - Often, smaller DXpeditioners might not use CW so you need to be flexible
- Your QRQ and contesting skills will serve you well!
- The Internet and SDR have changed the landscape
 - Instant pile-ups once a rare station is spotted
 - A Panadapter gives you “situational awareness”
 - Can do this to some extent with dual VFOs or XIT/RIT
 - Radios with dual receivers are an advantage
 - Consider using a WebSDR, be creative!
 - Embrace it and use it to your advantage!



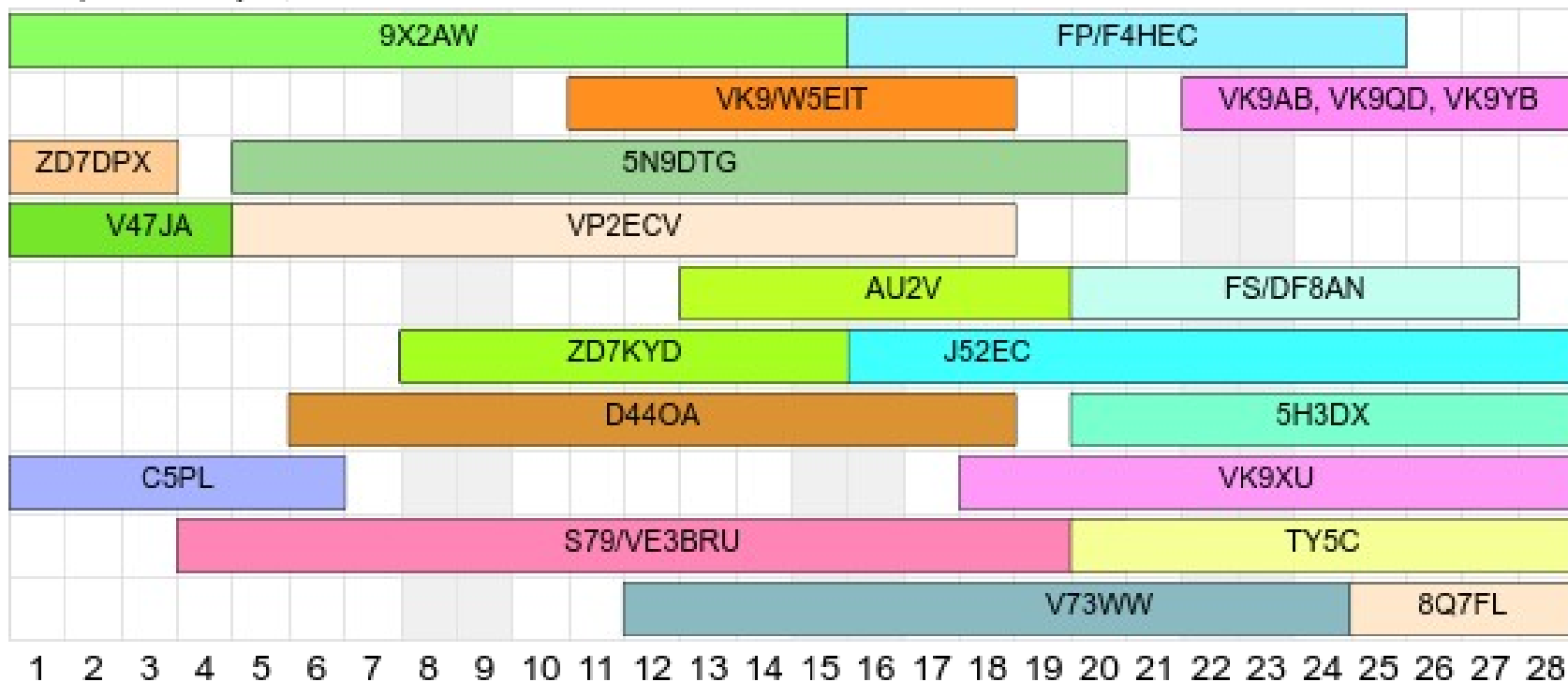
Up-coming DXpeditions

CW Academy



FEATURED DXPEDITIONS TIMELINE

Last update: January 31, 2025



Edited by MM0NDX

FEBRUARY



IK8LOV Max Laconca



Chasing DX – Good Ops

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- **Do:**
 - **Listen Listen Listen and Listen** some more !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 - Make sure you can hear him and verify his call!
 - Figure out his timing and where he is listening – and then transmit accordingly
 - Often listening UP 1-KHz or more, depending on demand
 - Use full QSX (break-in) and “Split”
 - Learn how to rapidly use dual VFOs and/or XIT/RIT functions on your rig
 - Be courteous and concise (TU 5NN)
 - Understand Propagation and Be Patient
 - Take a look at QRZ.com and/or the DXpedition website for operating plans and QSL info
 - Verify that you are “in the log” via Clublog Expeditions and Live Streams



Chasing DX – Lids

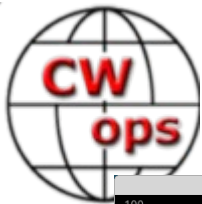
- **Don't** be the lid who:
 - Tunes up and/or transmits on top of the DX!!!
 - Continues to operate simplex when the DX is running split (TX5S **UP**)
 - Continues to call when the DX is clearly calling someone else
 - Thinks he's the "DX Police" (These guys are the worst lids and cause more QRM than the errant simplex op!)



My Contact with D60AE (Comoros) Fall 2022

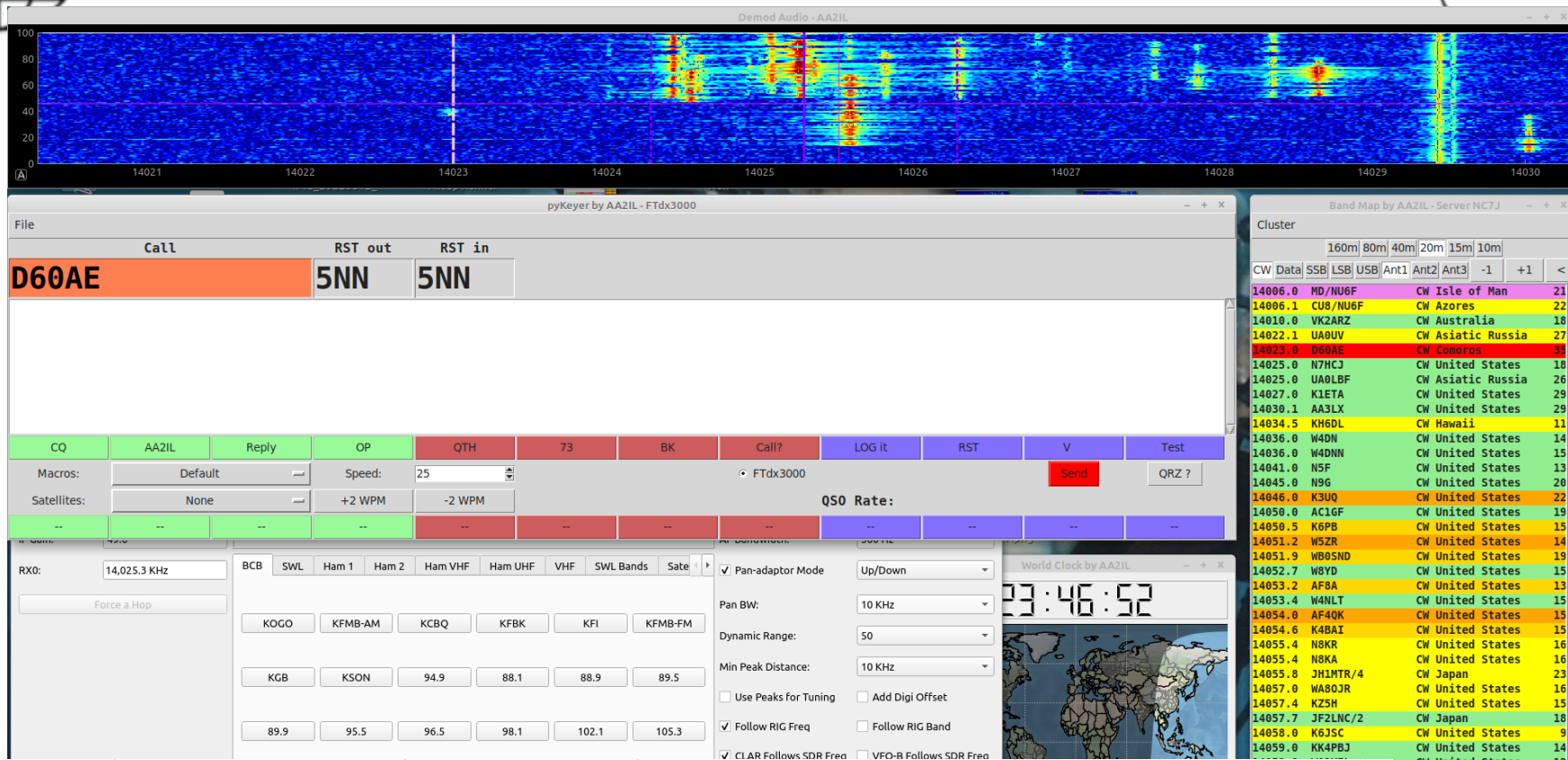
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- Turned on radio to participate in an SST
- Saw D60AE Spotted on 20m – clicked on it
- He was ~539 and a large pile-up extending up ~10 KHz
- Watched SDR waterfall to see who he was working and his patterns
 - About 7.5 KHz up, slowly moving down
- Set my rig to “split” while listening to a few more contacts
- Moved my XIT down a little more, threw out my call
 - After 4 or 5 tries, he came back with WW2IL
 - I sent AA2IL one more time, he responded correctly
 - Don't send him your exchange until he gets you call correct
 - Exchanged 5NNs and 73s
 - Confirmed “In the Log” the next day on Clublog
- Remember, my station is a “little pistol” - 100 W and wire antennas
 - ~10,500 miles distance



Contact with D60AE (Comoros)

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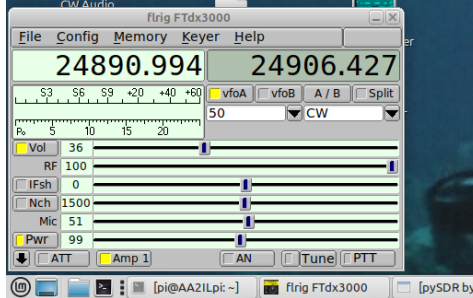
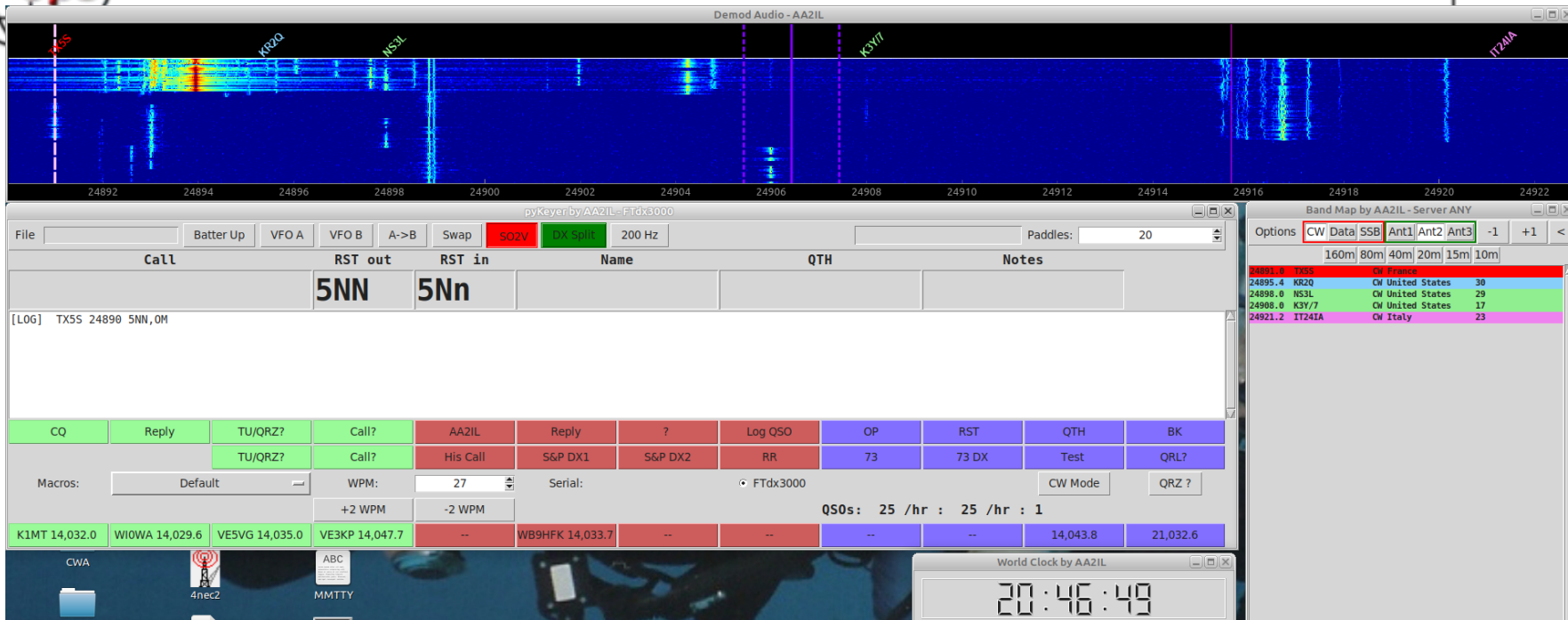


AA2IL/6	N2SO	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	2022-10-01 18:39:51	2022-10-10 13:08:59	15M CW	
AA2IL	D60AE	COMOROS	2022-10-09 23:31:57	2022-10-10 06:36:34	20M CW	20M CW 20M CW
AA2IL	AC2YD	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	2022-10-10 00:26:32	2022-10-10 03:21:46	20M CW	



Monday - TX5X (Clipperton Isl.)

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DX Call	Entity	QSO Date	Match Date	Band/Mode	Outcome
VP2ETE	ANGUILLA	2024-01-22 21:28:01	2024-01-22 21:55:52	12M Data	
TX5S	CLIPPERTON ISLAND	2024-01-22 21:12:45	2024-01-22 21:55:52	17M Data	17M Data 17M Data
TX5S	CLIPPERTON ISLAND	2024-01-22 20:39:55	2024-01-22 21:55:52	12M CW	12M 12M CW
TX5S	CLIPPERTON ISLAND	2024-01-22 20:08:22	2024-01-22 21:55:52	20M CW	DXCC 20M CW 20M CW
W0EJ	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	2024-01-22 19:31:34	2024-01-22 21:55:52	20M CW	



SDR Panadapters

CW Academy

- Some high-end radios (e.g. IC7610) have dual receivers so you can listen to DX and the pile-up simultaneously
 - Can approximate this with a single RX radio by rapidly toggling between VFOs
- Many current radios have built-in panadapters
 - Marginally useful at best
- Some radios (e.g. FTdx300, TS590,...) have “taps” into the RF and/or IF brought out to the rear panel
 - Easily add an SDR Dongle for under \$30
- Many radios (e.g. FT991, IC7300) do not have any such provisions so you’ll need to add an external antenna switch also
 - These can be rather expensive (\$200+) but decent-quality knock-offs can be found for under \$50



SDR Panadapter for FT991a

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