The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

The Carolina DX Association

2018 FT8 Challenge

By John Forbus, NV4A

AA4ZZ	Paul Trotter	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec./Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
NV4A	John Forbus	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	4th Call Area Bureau Mgr.
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

Below are our results to date for the FT8 Challenge. The usual suspects are staying at the top of the Challenge heap. Some folks just work longer, harder, and *better* than others. It looks like W3OA and W4LK actually hit a 6m opening!

If you need a refresher on the rules, procedures, or hints and tips, check the rules and the presentation by Bill, W4WNT on the website, or refer to the FT8 Challenge in last month's Pileup. (http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1803.pdf). Going forward, we'll just publish the table with the results to date. Don't forget, FT8 is a "fun" mode, and it's not too late at all to get in on the fun. Unless you already have worked everything on every mode, it's pretty much guaranteed to help with your Digital DXCC score, and gives you an opportunity to earn the new FT8 Worked All States Award. And did I mention that it's just sorta fun, or that I'm operating FT8 remote to my basement "shack" while I'm writing this?

Call	Grid Square	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	6m	Total
K5EK	FM03	363	392	364	580	376	102	9	11	0	2197
AA4R	FM05	62	237	293	418	483	280	56	37	0	1866
W3GQ	EM95	306	375	297	402	337	108	9	2	1	1837
N4GBK	FM16	173	415	231	405	279	127	33	20	1	1684
K4GHS	EM96	130	141	284	190	326	187	9	4	0	1271
W3OA	EM95	186	314	207	386	75	72	10	7	5	1262
W4JHU	EM85	43	134	0	67	73	29	4	13	0	363
NV4A	EM95	94	55	96	74	7	0	3	0	0	329
WW4DD	EM94	99	92	28	50	1	0	0	0	0	270
W4GEH	EM95	30	115	25	45	27	10	0	0	0	252
W4LK	EM93	3	37	25	80	30	14	2	2	8	201
N4APR	EM95	0	63	5	40	0	2	0	0	0	110
W4GHV	EM95	3	23	10	22	5	1	0	0	1	65

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

The Future of Contesting—As Seen in 2007

A "time capsule" of predictions about contesting was prepared in 2007 by ES5TV. Below are a few snippets taken from the predictions. The full text of these looks into the future can be read on the CDXA website. (See Future of Contesting) Thanks to Lou Dietrich, N2TU, for sending this item along to us.

On Radios:

Transceivers will continue to develop more and more software-updatable functionality, but will continue to have user interfaces similar to what operators like today. Almost nobody will be contesting with radios that require a computer keyboard and mouse to operate. (WM5R)

SDR—Software Defined Radio will make us do new things on the contesting scene. You may have software to automatically populate your bandmap. It will be much better than the old and steamy DX Cluster. SDR will enable us to record domestic contests and to have post-software that calculates the result. You don't have to send in your log. The result will be ready the next minute after the contest has finished. SDR will make antennas a more active part of your Super Contest Station. Adaptable receiving antennas, multiple beams from your stack, switchable antenna patterns—all done by software. SDR will make radio performance much better. No more key clicks, sharper filters, etc. (SM5AJV)

On Antennas:

More use of better antenna systems. The trap tribander will disappear replaced by the DJ2UT and Steppir styles, but monobanders will still rule supreme. (VK4TI)

The Pileup
Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association

Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are $25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for $5.00 for a total family price of $30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only $35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
218 Ohenry Avenue
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

On Robot Operating:

There will be a continued evolution of use of various sources of real-time outside information (spotting), and databases by logging software. Attempts will be made by contest rule-makers to define the acceptable limits of computer assistance to "unassisted" operators, particularly regarding real-time deciphering of CW and voice signals. (N4ZR)

Someone is going to come up with an automated superstation that uses some form of voting technology in real-time to select optimal antennas based on signal arrival angle/strength. (W4PA)

On Remote Operating:

Virtual DXpeditions. Many rare islands will be inhabited with equipment and antennas tied to the Internet that can be rented by the hour or day or by contest. In fact, contest superstations will be for rent without anyone having to be there to operate them. (K5AF)

Another virtual contest could be an Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) contest where some lucky DXpeditioners try to virtually work the contest FROM THE MOON! (K6GEP)

Logging Programs:

Contest log programs will have more decision logic in them. The log program will advise what to do next according to your goal and current situation. The log program will interact with Internet in a much more extensive way than today. You will be able to predict openings and changes in band conditions using ionospheric resources on the Internet. (SM5AJV)

Contesting Achievements, operating practices:

A single-operator will break the 12000 QSO mark in CQWW CW or phone. (WM5R)

The peak all-time scores—forever—for some DX contest categories may be reached in this coming sunspot cycle because of the aging of contesters. Ten years from now, we may know who the all-time high scorers in our lifetime—in the life of the hobby—will be. (W4PA)

If ham radio exists after 10 years we'll do mainly contesting (not DXing, experiments, etc.). That is . . . . contesting is the future of Ham Radio. (SV1DPI)

Contest Rules:

Most contest sponsors will shorten submission time for logs dramatically, with exceptions for paper logs. (N4ZR).

Some contests, at least, will institute an "anything goes" category with respect to computer assistance and external data. (N4ZR)

Roving Reporter Visits W4TJE

With temperatures warming on the Piedmont, the Roving Reporter ventured atop the Blue Ridge to visit Jack Emerson, W4TJE, hoping the snow had melted at 3000 feet elevation. It had, but the weatherman says that more snow is yet to come.

Jack Emerson (W4TJE) playing with his "toys".

Roving Reporter (RR): Jack, to set the stage for our readers, let them know where we're sitting right now.

W4TJE: I tell those looking for me to drive up I-77 to Fancy Gap (About Virginia Milemarker 7) and drive eastward on the Blue Ridge Parkway about 5 miles and take the driveway on the left, because I am one of only a few residences whose address is Blue Ridge Parkway!

RR: Let's get right to finding out about how you came to be an amateur radio operator. Fill us in.

W4TJE: My adult cousin (W4GXT, SK) used to come to visit my grandfather in my hometown of Siler City, NC almost weekly. On one of his visits in late 1973 or early 1974, he brought a radio to demonstrate to "grandpa" what ham radio was all about. He made contact with some of his buddies in Germany on that visit and grandpa listened intently. I was present, and I listened even more intently. I was fascinated that my cousin could talk to people so far away. I guess my cousin noticed, because he invited me for a weekend visit in Raleigh where he lived to learn more about ham radio. I spent the whole weekend listening to him talk to hams everywhere. He also let me talk to U.S. hams with him as control operator—and, yes, I did learn early about third party communications! I was "hooked". For a while, my fascination was satisfied by Citizen's Band radio, but I really wanted to make those long haul contacts. In 1977, I arranged for a local church member, who was a ham, to administer my FCC Novice exam. I sent in the exam papers, and then there was what seemed like an interminable wait. I went to the mailbox every day for about six weeks looking for my license. Then, finally it came! I was in heaven. But, I still needed a radio. I didn't have a lot of money, so I got a job with a goal to save the $200 I needed to pay for a Heathkit. I was 13 years of age. I managed to earn and pay for my hobby. And, you know what? I've worked and earned in every year of my life since then, and I am proud of that.

RR: Where have your interests been in ham radio?

W4TJE: My primary interest has been in HF communications. As you might have guessed, I love DXing, but my primary thrust has been in meeting people the world over and getting to know them. I guess that makes me a "ragchewer" rather than a contester, builder, or VHFer. Isn't it great that there are niches for all interests in ham radio? In my earlier days, I used to be primarily a phone operator, but my habits have slowly changed to be primarily a CW operator. I can't say for sure, but maybe that's because CW can almost always get through for a long distance contact.

RR: Along the way, I've come to know that you really like the 15m band. Is that where you spend most of your time?

W4TJE: It's sort of funny how each band has a "personality" of its own. I'm not sure what it is, but I really like the people I meet and the kind of operators I run into on the 15m band. You probably surmised my interest on 15m from my older QRZ.COM entry.

RR: Well, Jack, that's part of it. I got a good chuckle out of your checklist for sunspot minima on your present entry. That surely indicates you spend a lot of time on the higher frequencies. I'll leave it to our readers to visit it and discover that you have a wonderful sense of humor! I also found your list of "published articles" probably gives an indication of what you find annoying about some of the other bands. HI HI It looks like you've taken some recent steps to overcome the doldrums of the higher frequencies in your antenna farm, however.

W4TJE: I can tell you've been reading my QRZ.COM page carefully. I still have my 5 over 5 over 5 fifteen meter stack, but as you noticed, I've added a well-constructed 40m and 30m, dual band yagi made by JK

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Antennas of late. It works wonders for me, and having a WARC band antenna gives me something to do on contest weekends when 15m is crowded with contesters. One thing people don't realize is that when the wind blows on the Blue Ridge, it REALLY BLOWS. It is not unusual to have winds in excess of 80 miles per hour in the winter up here. Antennas have to be strong to survive that kind of wind, or else you're always rebuilding your antenna farm. So far the JK antenna has stood the test. Much of the survival success of my JK installation is due to Don Daso's (K4ZA) long experience in tower erection and with antennas. Don did some creative engineering in mating an AN Wireless tower with a Rohn 45G "stinger" at the top to ensure the structure could withstand the wind atop the Blue Ridge. You can see it on my QRZ.COM entry. The 5/5/5 stack has survived all these years, too, because of Don's care and feeding of my antenna farm.

The other reason for having antennas on 30m and 40m is that things can get pretty dreary in the lows of the sunspot cycle if you're a 15m aficionado. I've documented about 20 indicators of what happens to operators on the high bands when the sunspot minima occur—it's worth reading and it's also on my QRS.COM entry.

RR: With your primary attention on 15m, how has that affected your award chasing?

W4TJE: I have to admit, I'm still a paper logger. The thought of digging through all that paper and putting the details on another piece of paper for a DXCC submission always deterred me from applying for the DXCC award. When I found out that there is an on-line method to enter confirmations for a DXCC award, I finally dove into the process. Last year, I gave my entry of over 400 QSOs to Gary Dixon to have them checked. Then I enrolled in Logbook of the World, and I enter all new DX contacts into LoTW, but I still only maintain a paper log. My current DXCC count is about 317 entities, mostly on 15 meters, and I expect to soon have earned DXCC Honor Roll status on 15 meters.

RR: Have you ever done any contesting?

W4TJE: I'm not retired as yet, so the only time I really get to spend any serious time on the air is on weekends. When I turn on the rig on many weekends, I find I am faced with a contest somewhere in the world, and those don't always fit with my desire to chat with folks. Couple that with the fact that I am not a computer "junkie", and I haven't found a lot of joy in contesting. Yet, with my new 40m beam, I did enter CQWW on 40m and found it a pleasant experience—and I did use a contest logging program. If I enter another contest, I'll surely use a computer contest logging program.

RR: What rigs have you run, and which ones did you like?

W4TJE: When I outgrew my original Heathkits, I was a Kenwood guy for many years. I never was impressed with the appearance of Ten-Tec gear, but when I saw the Orion and experienced its performance, I bought an Orion and upgraded to an Orion II when it came on the market. When the future of Ten-Tec became somewhat problematic, I opted for an Icom-7851 partly because it outputs 200 watts on 30m. All have been fine rigs, but if I were to name my favorite, it would probably be the Orion II.

RR: Do you recall any particular moments that made you think you were happy with or proud of your amateur radio experience?

W4TJE: You probably know I am a U.S. Marine. I'm sure you know there is no such thing as an ex-Marine! I was in the Gulf War in 1991. We were in the Kuwait Desert, and we'd been in the "field" for several weeks. There was an Air Officer in our unit that had a military radio in a HumVee. The radio could be operated on ham bands. In a lull in the action, I was able to reach my cousin in Raleigh. He asked why I called, and I replied I just wanted to let everyone know I was okay. When he asked if there was anything he could do for me, I told him, "We've been in the field for several weeks and are getting low on our Skoal."

RR: Skoal?

W4TJE: I guess you've never been an "embedded" reporter, have you. The guys with boots on the ground get a little anxious when their supply of dipping tobacco grows short. As I recall, we had some Skoal waiting for us when we got back to base. HI HI

RR: Got it! That seems humorous from this side of the ocean, but was probably not funny considering your situation. Any other radio events that tickled you personally?

W4TJE: One event in particular caused me to suppress an out and out laugh. After getting out of the service, my cousin, the Elmer, and I were on a 20m contact one morning. We had a three or four way QSO going with several Europeans with the mic being passed between us all. For some reason that morning, my cousin did not seem to be in his usual upbeat mood. As the mic was about to pass to him, a very, very weak station from England was heard calling my cousin. He broke the

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)
round robin to respond to the caller. The caller's signal was so weak that it took my cousin about three repeats to get each element of the exchange, and it therefore took about five minutes to get all the details of the exchange worked out. At the conclusion of the breakin, the caller stated that he was working QRP with one watt. He went on to say that he was happy for the contact even though it took a lot of work. My cousin—still in his foul mood—then said, "Waddayou mean, I did all the work!" I felt a little bad for the Brit because it was unlike my cousin to do that, but the coffee I was drinking at the time still came out my nose!

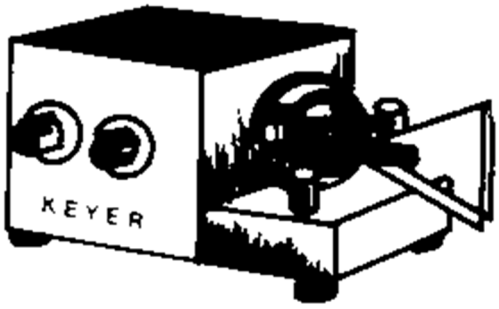
RR: I hope it didn't get your paper log wet! One last question before I head down the mountain. In what ways would you say amateur radio has affected your life, if at all?

W4TJE: I told you about getting a job at age 13 to earn enough money to buy a Heathkit. I have often reflected on that event. It was a great life lesson, because it taught me that if you want something enough, you can earn it through hard work. I've had some income from a job I worked every year of my life since that early age. I don't make that as a "poor me" statement but rather from pride in developing a work ethic that has benefitted me throughout my life.

Welcome New Members

Since the last issue of the Pileup, one all-time new member has joined us. He is **Greg Waits, K4OY** of Suwanee, Georgia. Welcome, Greg!

We also now have a permanent connection with the state of Oklahoma with the return of the **Hasson family** to our membership roll. **Eric (KJ4DLJ), Beverly (KJ4EDE)**, and their son **Cameron (KJ4EDF)** of Stillwell, Oklahoma left the Carolinas several years ago but have decided to reconnect with CDXA.



Gary Dixon, K4MQG, to Address Dayton DX Dinner

The SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) has announced that Gary Dixon, K4MQG, will be the keynote speaker at the 33rd annual DX Dinner®. The dinner, held in conjunction with the 2018 Dayton Hamvention®, will be on Friday, May 18th, at the Marriott Hotel in Dayton.

Gary Dixon has been licensed for over 61 years and has been a DXer from the start. He was born in Georgia on December 7, 1941 during the actual hour that Pearl Harbor was bombed. Gary is married to Carol, KA4WUR, and together they have two sons and one daughter-in-law that are also Hams. He has lived in SC most of his Ham life but did a ten year stretch from 1970-1980 in Charlotte, NC. Gary's current DXCC totals are 380 Mixed, 376 Phone, 353 CW with DXCC on 10 bands and DXCC Honor Roll on 8 bands. He was also the first USA station to work and confirm the 5 Band WAZ award. Currently he is the ARRL DXAC representative for the Roanoke Division. He has also been heavily involved in INDEXA for 35 years and until last year served as its President for the past 10 years. He has several very interesting human interest stories involving several DX stations that I think you will certainly enjoy. His "brag" tape includes:

- Managed the ARRL Single Letter QSL Bureau (W4/K4/N4 QSL Bureau) in Charlotte, NC from 1981-1988.
- Appointed as the ARRL Roanoke Division Member to the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) in 1988. Still serving in this position.
- Received the ARRL Roanoke Division Service Award in 2009.
- Appointed in the late 1980s as an ARRL QSL field checker for all ARRL Awards.
- Inducted into CQ DX Hall of Fame in 2013.
- Appointed in the early 1990s as a CQ Magazine QSL field checker for all CQ DX Awards.
- Charter member of the Carolina DX Association (CDXA) in 1981, an affiliated ARRL DX Club.
- Charter member, past President of 10 years duration, and current Director of the International DX Association (INDEXA). Served as Vice President and Director during the 1980s-2006.

A "Visual" View of Propagation

By John Scott, K8YC

Much has been written about radio propagation over the years. Yet is it easy to get mired in the details while reading about such a technical topic. There is an adage attributed to Confucius that says, "A picture is worth ten thousand words." A number of years ago, an Italian team populated their DXpedition website with some graphic images of what propagation was to "look like" during the period of their DXpedition. I thought the presentation of their propagation data was unequalled to any I had seen. I wrote the team asking how they produced their representation, and I was pleased to find that I could get the same tool for FREE from Alex Shovkoplyas' (VE3NEA) website. It was called HAMCAP.

Alex is a prolific writer of software for hams as his website at http://www.dxatlas.com will show. His most identifiable product is probably "CW Skimmer".

HAMCAP is a graphical user interface to view propagation predictions created by Voice of America's VOACAP program. The NTIA/ITS unit of the U.S. Government produced a Windows version of VOACAP in the mid-1990s, but the reporting was character based. Alex's contribution was to allow you to SEE how the propagation was affected by changing time of day, changing month of the year, by changing bands, by changing antennas, or by changing K-factor.

One of the neat features of HAMCAP is that it allows the user to alter all of the factors cited above, one by one, and actually see the effect on the propagation on a map of the world as well as on the usual "MUF chart". That "picture" of changing propagation will give you a better understanding of the factors affecting propagation than reading hundreds of pages of text. But if you're already a "pro" at propagation prediction, you set the software for your location, the location of the DX, and the "K-factor" you see at the moment, and you'll get a picture of the propagation to your targeted DX for whatever band you want by a click of the mouse.

A download of two software modules—both free—and following the well written instructions and reading a short, well-written user guide will set you on your way.

What I'll show you here will be a few of the visual elements available in HamCap. The rest is up to you. Note: the visual element on your PC screen is a single small window about 3-1/2" wide and 3" tall, but the amount of understanding you'll get from it is unequalled.

Five selectable "screens" can be chosen in the HamCap window:

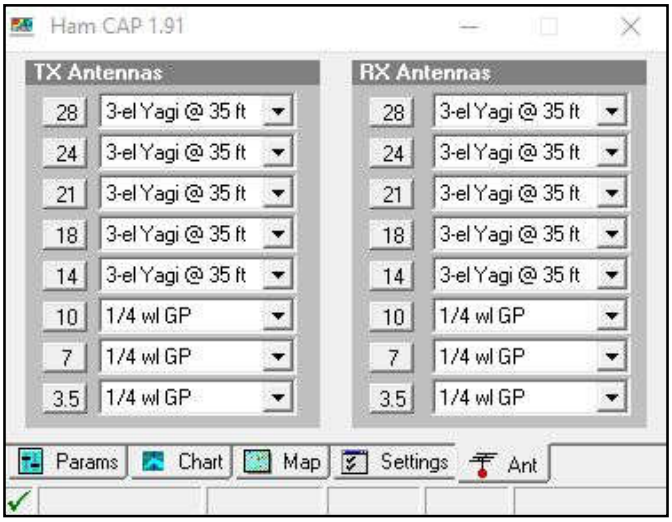
Ant (Antenna) Choose one of a number of antennas closest to yours.

Settings Set the latitude and longitude of your station and pick viewing options for displaying the propagation map.

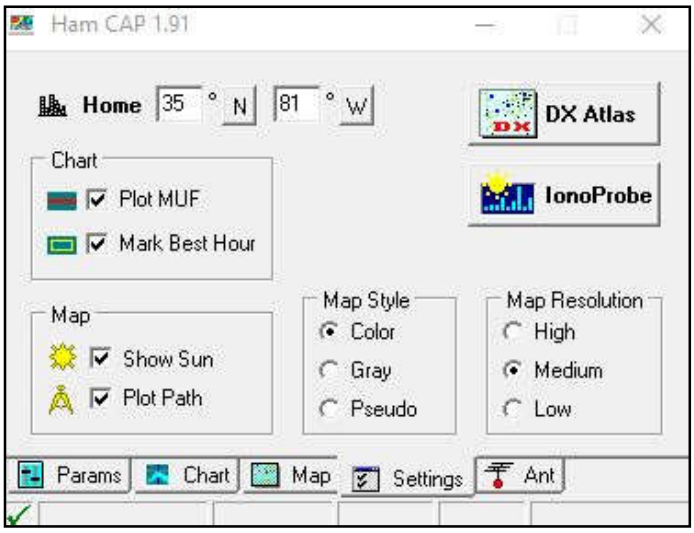
Params (Parameters) Set DX coordinates or callsign, time, K-index, power level, and whether you want short path or long path predictions

Chart ---Here you get the familiar MUF chart for the DX station you defined in the "Params" window with indicators for the best time of day by band to work your chosen DX.

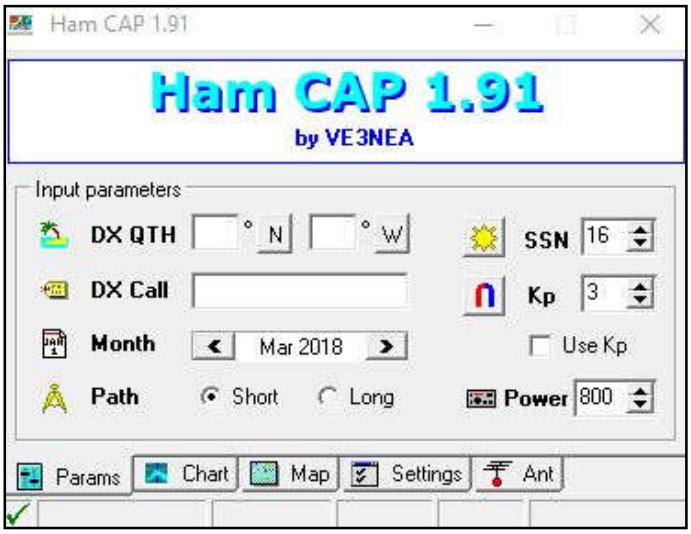
Map Here is a map of the world showing what propagation LOOKS LIKE for the time chosen in the Params window. "Hovering" your mouse over anywhere on the world will show you the Signal to Noise ratio for that location.



"Antenna" screen. You can set an antenna representative for each antenna in your "farm". Note the antenna for transmission would be the DX's antenna, but we seldom know what that is, so just use your antenna, or assume the worst for your contact partner. Want to see what happens as you change antenna characteristics? Substitute a different antenna on your band of interest, and look at how it changes propagation on the "Map" screen for the same band.

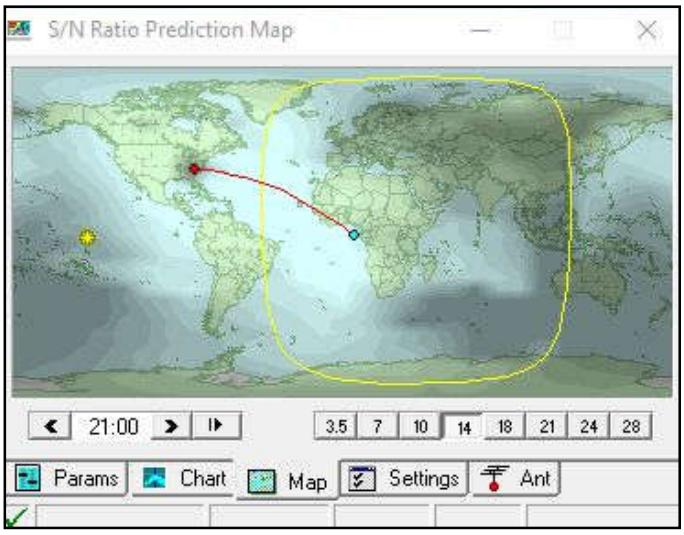


"Settings" screen. Input your latitude and longitude and experiment with the other settings. Higher map resolution will increase computation time. "Map Style" of Pseudo will show the propagation in pseudo-colors while Color will show a thin white "cloud"—thicker clouds mean better propagation.

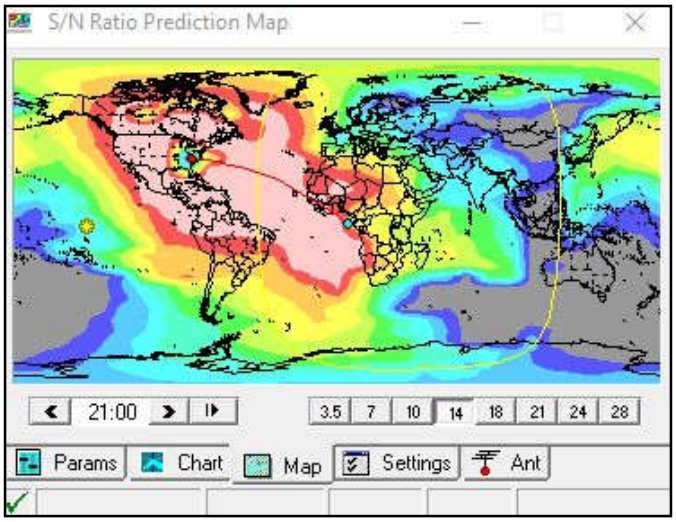


"Params" screen. Entering the callsign of the DX will set the Lat/Long of the target station, or you can enter any Lat/Long. Want to see how propagation will change month by month throughout the year? Just change the Month and check out the "Map" screen in successive views. Want to see the effect of changing power? Change the power and check out the "Map screen. See the effect of a change "K" factor by changing it and checking out the map. Very instructive!!!

"Chart" screen. The red line is the MUF—Maximum Usable Frequency—for the DX defined in the Params screen and the yellow boxes show the "best time" to work the DX.



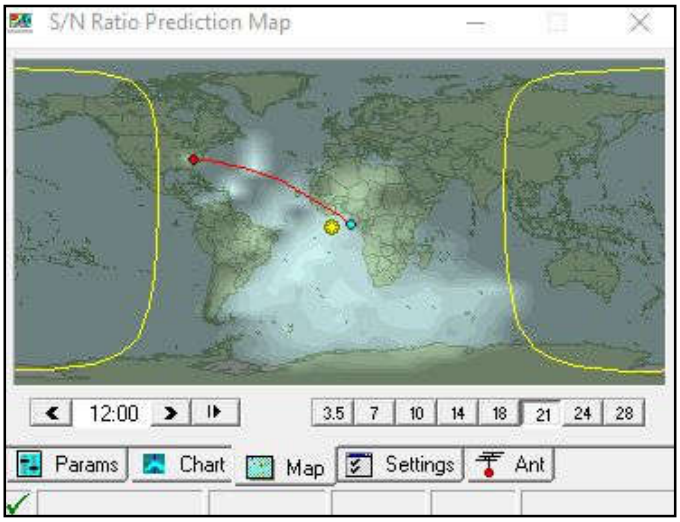
"Map" screen. This is the "Color" view of the map showing the 20m path to Annobon Island at 2100Z on March 2018. Hovering the cursor over any point on the map shows the following: 1) coordinates of the point, 2) S/N ratio of a signal to that point, 3) elevation of the incoming signal, 4) mode of propagation, and 5) the MUF at the point. As a learning aid, change through all the bands, one at a time, to see how propagation is affected for a given time. Likewise, alter the time throughout a day or year to see how propagation changes hour by hour. You'll get a real feel for propagation in this manner.

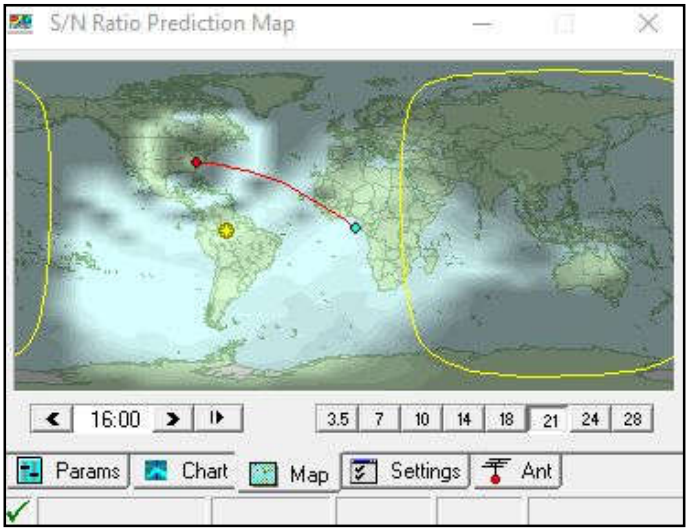


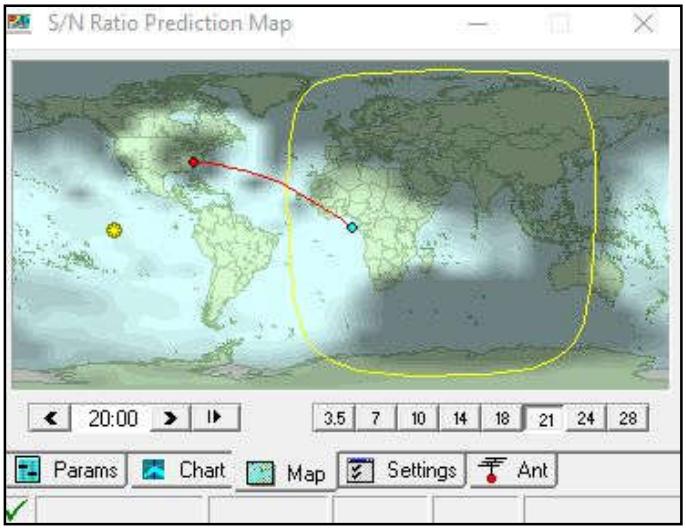
Map screen shown in pseudo colors. (Same time, same band as shown in the map above.) Here you'll note that the pseudo colors move to the "red" portion of the spectrum for "hotter" signals and to the "blue" portion of the spectrum for declining signal strength. Some may find that these colors give a better representation of the changes in propagation from point to point than does the whispy white coloring of the previous map view.

We're almost done, but to the right is an example of using HamCap as a learning tool. These three images are of the same propagation using the 15m band to Annabon on the same day taken at 1200Z, 1600Z, and 2000Z.

Note in the view at 1200Z, it is mid morning in North Carolina, and you beginning to see the formation of the "skip" bands as the sun does its magic on the ionosphere. By 1600Z, it is almost noon in North Carolina and nearing sunset in Annobon. Some well defined skip zones are appearing in the transequatorial path and South American should be "booming in". At 2000Z, it is after sunset in Annobon, but the signal on 15m still seems to support propagation there, but it is getting really strong now in the South Pacific. Try some of these for yourself after you have your copy of HamCap. Oh, and send your thanks to Alex for this fine product!







DX King 2018

By John Forbus, NV4A

K5EK continues to lead. There's a tie for second place, and VE3UTT leads W1AJT by 8 points. Curious, that. *(For those that don't know, Art Tolda owns both the VE3UTT callsign and the W1AJT callsign. Art has a remotely operable station north of Toronto where he resides about half of his time. Therefore, he has TWICE the fun! --The Editor)*

There's still plenty of time to add your score to the monthly synopsis before year end.

Call	Class	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlim'd	226	40	266
W3GQ	Unlim'd	143	36	179
W4HG	Unlim'd	147	32	179
VE3UTT	Unlim'd	136	33	169
W1AJT	Unlim'd	131	30	161
AA4SC	Unlim'd	122	30	152
W3OA	Unlim'd	118	33	151
K8YC	Unlim'd	115	28	143
W3ZL	Formula	81	21	102

Political Quick Wit

When Champ Clark was Speaker of the House (April 1911 to March 1919), Congressman Johnson of Indiana interrupted the speech of an Ohio Representative, calling him a jackass. The expression was ruled to be unparliamentary and Johnson apologized.

"I withdraw the unfortunate word, Mr. Speaker, but I insist that the gentleman from Ohio is out of order."

"How am I out of order?" angrily shouted the other.

"Probably a veterinarian could tell you," answered Johnson. And this was allowed to enter the record.

WAZ Credits now Available on LoTW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 2, 2018

Newington, CT and Hicksville, NY—April 2, 2018 Officials from CQ magazine and ARRL, The national association for Amateur Radio®, are excited to announce the launch of support for CQ magazine's Worked All Zones (WAZ) award program on ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) system, effective Monday, April 2, at 10:00 a.m. EDT (14:00 UTC).

The goal of the project was to create the proper technical support system to enable amateur radio operators to submit LoTW confirmations for WAZ credit and that has been accomplished, say CQ and ARRL officials.

Standard LoTW credit fees and separate CQ award fees will apply.

(Editor's Note: CQ's Editor Rich Moseson confirmed that all recordkeeping for CQ Awards will still be performed by CQ's award managers. Award managers will have access to the LoTW records which will serve as an additional source for validating confirmations. It does not appear at this time that data consisting of accepted and confirmed QSOs by CQ awards managers will be available for display on the "Awards" pages found on LoTW.)

K4KAY Gets a Nice Surprise from ARRL

Earl, K4KAY, sent me this photo of the certificate he just got from ARRL for his performance in last year's ARRL DX Phone Contest

Congrats Earl! --NV4A, John Forbus

The Back Page

CDXA **FT8 Challenge** is in full swing with lots of FT8 contacts in our logs. Check out Page 1.

What did contesters in 2007 think contesting would look **"Back to the Future"**? Revisit their thoughts on Page 2.

The **Roving Reporter** was on the loose again. This time it was to visit Jack Emerson, W4TJE atop the Blue Ridge. See Page 3.

Meet our New Members on Page 5.

Gary Dixon to address the DX Dinner at Dayton. Page 5.

Did you ever wish you could **SEE propagation**? There is a way, but you'll have to turn to Page 6 to find it.

DX King participants on Page 9 continue to perk along despite propagation. Maybe those in the hunt need to look at page 6 of this newsletter??!!!????

ARRL and CQ Magazine jointly announce that **WAZ will be supported on LoTW**. Page 9 has the news release.

Earl Fortner, K4KAY has a fine new frame hanging from his wall. Page 9.