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*** 4 2 5 D X N E W S ***
**** DX INFORMATION ****
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Edited by I1JQJ & IK1ADH
Direttore Responsabile I2VGW

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*           TO ALL OUR READERS           *
* WARMEST THOUGHTS AND BEST WISHES *
*           FOR A BETTER NEW YEAR         *
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Owing to the ongoing and fluid nature of the COVID-19 situation globally, announced activities might be postponed or cancelled at any time and without notice.

- 5U - Adrien, F4IHM expects to be back in Niger and be active as 5UAIHM (not 5U4IHM as initially announced) early next year, possibly Between 7 January and 11 February, The Daily DX reports. He will operate CW using a straight key on 40 and 20 metres. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.
- CN - A team from the Association Royale des Radio-Amateurs du Maroc (ARRAM) will be active as CN1M between 24 and 31 December while travelling from the city Casablanca to the outpost of Guerguerat through Moroccan Sahara. QSL direct to RW6HS.
- DL - Members of DARC Ortsverband Mainz (DL0MZ) will be active as DR165TESLA throughout 2021 to commemorate the 165th anniversary of the birth of Nikola Tesla (10 July 1856). QSL via DK8ZZ.
- DL - Celebrating DARC Ortsverband Traunstein's 70th anniversary, special callsign DL70TRS will be active from 1 January to 31 December. QSL via the bureau.
- DL - Celebrating DARC Ortsverband Salzgitter-Lebenstedt's 60th anniversary, special callsign DR60SZL will be active from 1 January to 31 December. QSL via the bureau, or direct to DJ9PH.
- F - Special callsign TM8AA will be active during the first weekends of January, February, March, April, May and June to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first officially assigned amateur radio callsign in France (8AA, issued to Andre Riss from Boulogne-sur-Mer). QSL via eQSL, or direct to F5SLD.
- G - GB100H (Golf Bravo One Oscar Oscar Hotel) is a special callsign for the Hull and District Amateur Radio Society to celebrate its centenary throughout 2021. QSL via M0GPN.
- HB9 - In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the International Police Association Radio Club's Swiss Section, special event station HB40POLICE will be active from 1 January to 31 December. QSL via the bureau or eQSL.
- I - II0MMI, II1MMI, II2MMI, II7MMI, II9MMI, IO0MMI (Sardinia), IO9MMI, IR0MMI, IR5MMI, IR7MMI, IR8MMI and IR9MMI will be active from 1 January to 31 December to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the

Italian Navy (Marina Militare Italiana). QSL via operator's instructions. See <http://www.assoradiomarinai.it/> for more information.

- I - Defined by Gabriele D'Annunzio as "the white ship that sails through miracles and animates the ethereal silences of the world", the "Elettra" was Guglielmo Marconi's steam yacht, from which he conducted many experiments with wireless telegraphy, wireless telephony and other communication and direction-finding techniques. ARI Fidenza will use a series of special callsigns throughout 2021 to commemorate twelve major events related to the ship: II4BLD (January), II4BLY (February), II4RDF (March), II4DNZ (April), II4REG (May), II4SWE (June), II4DXS (July), II4MWS (August), II4SML (September), II4RDP (October), II4BLN (November) and II4DTH (December). See <http://www.arifidenza.it/> for detailed information about the "Elettra. The Miracle Ship" award. QSLs via IQ4FE, bureau or direct.
- OH - Special callsign OH100SRAL will be in use throughout 2021 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Finnish Amateur Radio League (SRAL), Finland's IARU member. QSL via LoTW; bureau cards will be sent in early 2022.
- SM - The Boras Radioamatorer Club (SK6LK) will be active as SF400B from 1 January to 31 December to celebrate the 400th anniversary since Boras received its city privileges (29 June 1621). QSL via LoTW and the bureau. Realtime logbook and map to keep track of the countries they work can be found at <https://www.sf400b.se/>.
- SM - 7S60BQ is the special callsign for the Kristianstad Radioamateur Club (SK7BQ) to celebrate its 60th anniversary throughout 2021. QSL via SM7BHM and LoTW.
- TI - David, KM3A and Scott, N00I will be active from Costa Rica on 3-9 January. Plans are to climb and be QRV as TI2/AB3G, TI3/AB3G and TI5/AB3G from several different summits. They will operate mainly CW on 40, 30, 20, 17 and 15 metres. QSL via LoTW and Club Log's OQRS (preferred), or direct to KM3A.
- UA - Special callsigns R2021NY, R21HNY, RA21NY, RC21NY, RD21NY, RG21NY, RJ21NY, RK21NY, RL21NY, RM21NY, RN21NY, RO21NY, RQ21NY, RT21NY, RU21NY, RV21NY, RW21NY, RX21NY, RY21NY and RZ21NY will be active from 25 December to 14 January for the "Russian New Year 2021" radio marathon organized by the Miller DX Club (<https://mdxc.ru/>). QSL via RQ7L. A number of certificates will be available, see <https://hamlog.online/club/mdxc>.
- UR - EN50WZA is the special callsign for club station UT7WZA (ex UK5WBG and UB4WZA) to celebrate its 50th anniversary on 1-31 January. QSL via UT7WZA and LoTW.
- W - The Straight Key Century Club's annual on-air event, commemorating the club's founding in 2006, will run on 2-31 January. Look for K3Y to be aired from the ten US call areas (K3Y/0 through K3Y/9), plus /KH6, /KL7 and /KP4. Information on the event and QSLing instructions can be found on <https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y.php>.
- YB - Members of ORARI Nusa Tenggara Barat (<https://ordantb.or.id/>) are active as 7C9N until 31 December from the Ampenan lighthouse in the neighborhoods of Mataram on Lombok Island (OC-150). QSL direct to HA3JB. Recent activities conducted by the same regional branch of ORARI include 7C9B from Kolo Beach, Sumbawa Island (OC-150, QSL via

DL3KZA), and 7C9T from Gili Maringkik, a small satellite of Lombok (OC-150, QSL via HA3JB).

ZD8 - Tev, TA1HZ will be on a working assignment on Ascension Island (AF-003) throughout 2021. He plans to be QRV as ZD8HZ on 80-10 metres in his spare time. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or direct to home call (please refrain from mailing before 2022); he will also upload his log to Club Log.

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*** 4 2 5 D X N E W S ***
**** GOOD TO KNOW ... ****
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BANDS ALIVE: THE 2021 CW/SSB ULTRA-MARATHON ---> The True Blue DXers Club announces "Bands Alive", a year-long "ultra-marathon" to be run from 1 January through 31 December 2021. "As the new solar cycle is now under way and conditions on the HF bands are expected to gradually improve throughout 2021, this unprecedented initiative is launched to give DXers a further motivation to get on the air and therefore support, improve and promote amateur activity using person-to-person modes of communication such as CW and SSB. This initiative, which we call 'ultra-marathon' for a reason, is indeed unprecedented - its aim, reflected in its format, is to get people on the air and make as many unique contacts as possible over the duration of a full year, and not simply to work as many countries as possible". Participation is open to all amateurs: you do not need to sign up for TBDXC membership, but you have to register for the marathon on the dedicated section of the TBDXC website: <https://www.tbdxc.net/marathon>. Official registration will be opened on 31 December, so that starting at 00.00 UTC on 1 January 2021 everybody can start entering their results.

CQ DX MARATHON ---> The CQ DX Marathon is a year-long DX hunt, with participants competing to see who can work the greatest number of countries ("entities") and CQ zones during the calendar year. The 2021 edition will start at 00.00 UTC on 1 January and will end at 23.59 UTC on 31 December. Complete details can be found at <http://www.dxmarathon.com/>.

KH6VV/KH4 ---> "Recently the US Fish & Wildlife Service became uncomfortable with our proposed expedition date [second half of February 2021, Ed.] due to the forecast of a second virus wave", Ron, KH6DV posted to KH6VV's qrz.com page on 20 December. "We are now in that second wave, and the latest news is that Europe is seeing a new strain of the virus that is 70% more contagious. We agreed to change the date to September 2021 and submit a new Supplemental Use Permit application. A new management team is expected on-island once the holidays are over. Once that team is in place, we will submit our revised application".

OH8X NODE ACTIVITY --> As part of the Yasme Foundation project to provide additional Reverse Beacon Network nodes in underserved areas, equipment has

been provided to a team in northern Finland. The latest node to become active is currently hosted by Radio Arcala (OH8X), very close to the Lapland (OH9) Region.

A mysterious propagation mode called Polar Path exists in Northern Europe during the winter season. At and above the Arctic Circle in the middle of the night this propagation offers a footprint covering the entire North American continent for many hours. This occurs in spite of the stations being within the Aurora Oval. Only 100 miles to the south, there is no such propagation at all.

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, has tentatively studied the Polar Path and expects that two independent propagation scenarios need to co-exist to create this interesting path. The OH8X RBN node would further help the study of the Polar Path in which Radio Arcala will be cooperating with the northern scientific community.

Launched on 22 December, the RBN node receiver is currently located at the Radio Arcala station, OH8X (65 11 03N - 26 14 53E), but may later move even farther north to be at the heart of this unique Auroral Region of the Arctic Circle. [TNX OH2BH]

QSL EP2HAM ---> Charles, M00X0 is the new QSL manager for Arash, EP2HAM. New, full colour QSL cards are being printed and will be available early next year. QSL via M00X0's OQRS: <https://www.m00xo.com/oqrs/logsearch.php>.

SILENT KEY ---> Franz Berndt, DL9GFB (ex Y25JA) passed away on 22 December, one day after his 68th birthday. The Chairman of DARC's Mecklenburg-Vorpommern District, over the past 25 years he participated in many DXpeditions, notably C56R & C53M (The Gambia 2002), 4S7FBG (Sri Lanka 2003), ZD7F (St. Helena 2004), VU4AN/VU3RYE (Andamans 2006), VU7RG (Lakshadweeps 2007), VU7SJ (Lakshadweeps 2008), VP2EFB (Anguilla 2008), 9N7AN (Nepal 2011), 5W0M (Samoa 2013), V73D (Marshall Islands 2015) and XX9D (Macao 2019). Most recently he was a team member of HU1DL (El Salvador, January-February 2020) and Z66DX (Kosovo, October 2020).

QSLs received direct or through managers: 4A2L (NA-135), 4J75DJ, 7H9H (OC-275), 8P9CA, 9X2AW, A61DL, AB5EB/p (NA-092), AD5A/p (NA-092), C31CT, CN8LI, E51WL, HK3W, HZ1DS, ID9OSC (EU-017), JS6UEA (AS-017), K0AP/4 (NA-052), P40W, PJ4/K5KG, PJ4KY, R207RRC (AS-207), TI7W, TK1KJ, TX0T (OC-298), TZ4AM, VK4DX/p (OC-137), VK9NC, VK9NE, YS1RR, ZD7BG, ZD7MY, ZS1DX.

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