No 1738

*** 4 2 5 D X N E W S ***
**** DX INFORMATION ****

Edited by I1JQJ & IK1ADH
Direttore Responsabile I2VGW

9M6 - Celebrating the 61st Sabah Day (31 August) and Malaysia Day (16 September), special callsign 9M61S will be active from 23 August to 16 September. QSL direct to P.O. Box 20469, 88761 Luyang, Sabah, Malaysia.

9M6 - Team 9M1Z will be active from the "Semporna Islands", Sabah, East Malaysia during the first half of September. They will be QRV from four islands: Mabul (1-4 September), Timba-Timba (5-7 September), Mataking (8-11 September) and Pom-Pom (12-15 September). Look for activity on 80-6 metres SSB, CW, FT8/FT4 and RTTY. QSL via LoTW, Club Log's OQRS (see https://www.qrz.com/db/9M1Z for the links to the four logs, which will be uploaded separately), or direct to 9W8ZZK or 9M8WIN.

CY9 - Helicopter operations for the CY9C DXpedition (26 August-5 September) will begin at 12 UTC on 24 August: "the first flight to St Paul Island will be with several team members on board. The first priority will be sending the tents and other infrastructure gear to the island. The airlift of gear will take all day on the 24th. Please be patient as there is a lot of work that must be completed to build the camp. There is very little soil (ground) on the North-east Island as it is essentially a large rock. We may have to drill anchors into the rock to secure our tents and antenna masts. At this point, the weather looks favorable for the airlift of gear and team members". See https://www.facebook.com/groups/1455659374986029 for updates.
CY9C will run 6 stations on 160-10 metres, and one station for VHF/UHF/EME and satellite. At any given time, a minimum of 3 stations will be using the new SuperFox FT8 mode. Their planned operating frequencies: https://t-rexsoftware.com/cy9c/frequencies.htm. QSL via Club Log's OQRS (preferred for both direct and bureau cards), LoTW, or direct to WA4DAN.

E5_sc - Tom, N2WLG will be active as E51WLG from Rarotonga (OC-013), South Cook Islands on 1-8 September. He will operate CW and digital modes on 40-10 metres. QSL via LoTW, or via home call.

EA - Special event callsigns EG1SDC-EG9SDC (1-7 September) and EH1SDC-EH9SDC (8-15 September) will be activated to commemorate Day of Asturias and the principality's patron saint, popularly known as the Santina de Covadonga. This is the 40th edition of the 'SDC' special event. Also active will be EG40SDC (1-15 September) and ED3SDC (14-15 September). QSL for all callsigns via EA1AUM (direct or bureau), LoTW and eQSL. See https://santina.dxfun.com/ for more information, including online logs and downloadable certificates.

F - Members of the RadioPole Associatif REF-40 (F4KLM) will be active as TM40IPC from 28 August to 8 September during the Paris 2024

Paralympic Games. QSL via F6DZU and LoTW. Several other special callsigns are expected to be active during the event, including TM2024JPP, TM2024PG, TM24JPO, TM24JPP, TM42JP, TM51JP, TM63PARA, TM67PR, TM77PO, TM78OGP.

F - To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Wingles during WWII (2 September 1944), the local radio club (F4KLR) will be active as TM80LW on 31 August, 2 September and for another 13 days until 9 November. All SSB and CW QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau and eQSL; FT8 QSOs will be confirmed via eQSL. [TNX F6AJA]

IS0 - Giuseppe, IK5WWA will be active again as IM0C from San Pietro Island (EU-165) on 1-15 September. He will be QRV on 40-2 metres. QSL via home call. He is in the process of clearing the backlog of his past activities; requests for direct and bureau cards are being processed slowly but surely, so please be patient with him.

OH0 - Martti, OH2BH will operate CW as OH0B from the Aland Islands on 24-25 August. QSL via OH2BH. This will be the CW part of the OH0AM outing [425DXN 1736] that made nearly 4200 QSOs mostly on FT8 and SSB. The lottery is still open for contacts made with OH0AM and this weekend's OH0B operation. Just send a note of your QSOs to oh2am60@gmail.com to participate in the lottery. The prizes are 10 copies of "Atlas of QSL Cards" (https://atlasofqsl.com). The lottery draw will take place on 19 September.

ON - Members of UBA's Groupement De Verviers will be active as OR80USA on 1-15 September and again on 16-31 December. The special callsign commemorates the 80th anniversary of the liberation from German occupation and the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, events in which the US military was heavily engaged. QSL via the bureau to ON4GDV.

W - Matt, AF2F has been active from Long Beach Island (NA-111) since 19 August and will remain there "for a few weeks". In his spare time he is QRV as AF2F/2 on 40-10 metres CW and FT8. QSL via LoTW, Club Log, or via home call. [TNX DX World]

YL - Special event callsign YL35WAY will be active on 23-31 August to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Baltic Way. On 23 August 1989 hundreds of thousands people formed a human chain spanning across Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, demanding the reestablishment of the independence of the Baltic States. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW, eQSL, and QRZ Logbook; see https://qsl.services/event/YL35WAY for downloadable certificates and QSLs.

GQRP CLUB'S GOLDEN JUBILEE ---> Formed in 1974 by Rev. George Dobbs, G3RJV (1943-2019), the GQRP Club promotes Low Power Radio. Celebrating the club's 50th anniversary, G5LOW and all its regional variants (GD5LOW, GI5LOW, GJ5LOW, GM5LOW, GU5LOW and GW5LOW) will be QRV on 1-30 September. In addition, seven special callsigns will join the celebrations from Austria (OE50LOW), Finland (OH50LOW), France (TM50LOW), Germany (DM50LOW), Italy (IR3QRP), Romania (YP50QRP) and Spain (EG5LOW). Commemorative certificates will be available for chasers: https://www.gqrp.com/50years.htm.

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**** GOOD TO KNOW ... ****

Edited by I1JQJ & IK1ADH

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Access to the main functions of www.425dxn.org is provided by the 425DXN App for Android. It is available on Google Play - free of charge, no ads. Enjoy!

ARRL IT SECURITY INCIDENT: REPORT TO MEMBERS ---> Sometime in early May 2024, ARRL's systems network was compromised by threat actors (TAs) using information they had purchased on the dark web. The TAs accessed headquarters on-site systems and most cloud-based systems. They used a wide variety of payloads affecting everything from desktops and laptops to Windows-based and Linux-based servers. Despite the wide variety of target configurations, the TAs seemed to have a payload that would host and execute encryption or deletion of network-based IT assets, as well as launch demands for a ransom payment, for every system.

This serious incident was an act of organized crime. The highly coordinated and executed attack took place during the early morning hours of May 15. That morning, as staff arrived, it was immediately apparent that ARRL had become the victim of an extensive and sophisticated ransomware attack. The FBI categorized the attack as "unique" as they had not seen this level of sophistication among the many other attacks, they have experience with. Within 3 hours a crisis management team had been constructed of ARRL management, an outside vendor with extensive resources and experience in the ransomware recovery space, attorneys experienced with managing the legal aspects of the attack including interfacing with the authorities, and our insurance carrier. The authorities were contacted immediately as was the ARRL President.

The ransom demands by the TAs, in exchange for access to their decryption tools, were exorbitant. It was clear they didn't know, and didn't care, that they had attacked a small 501(c)(3) organization with limited resources. Their ransom demands were dramatically weakened by the fact that they did not have access to any compromising data. It was also clear that they believed ARRL had extensive insurance coverage that would cover a multi-million-dollar ransom payment. After days of tense negotiation and brinkmanship, ARRL agreed to pay a $1 million ransom. That payment, along with the cost of restoration, has been largely covered by our insurance policy.

From the start of the incident, the ARRL board met weekly using a continuing special board meeting for full progress reports and to offer assistance. In the first few meetings there were significant details to cover, and the board was thoughtfully engaged, asked important questions, and was fully supportive of the team at HQ to keep the restoration efforts moving. Member updates were posted to a single page on the website and were posted across the internet in many forums and groups. ARRL worked closely with professionals deeply experienced in ransomware matters on every post. It is important to understand that the TAs had ARRL under a magnifying glass while we were negotiating. Based on the expert advice we were being given, we could not publicly communicate anything informative, useful, or potentially antagonistic to the TAs during this time frame.

Today, most systems have been restored or are waiting for interfaces to come back online to interconnect them. While we have been in restoration mode, we have also been working to simplify the infrastructure to the extent

possible. We anticipate that it may take another month or two to complete restoration under the new infrastructure guidelines and new standards.

Most ARRL member benefits remained operational during the attack. One that wasn't was Logbook of The World (LoTW), which is one of our most popular member benefits. LoTW data was not impacted by the attack and once the environment was ready to again permit public access to ARRL network-based servers, we returned LoTW into service. The fact that LoTW took less than 4 days to get through a backlog that at times exceeded over 60,000 logs was outstanding.

The board at the ARRL Second Board Meeting in July voted to approve a new committee, the Information Technology Advisory Committee. This will be comprised of ARRL staff, board members with demonstrated experience in IT, and additional members from the IT industry who are currently employed as subject matter experts in a few areas. They will help analyze and advise on future steps to take with ARRL IT within the financial means available to the organization.

We thank you for your patience as we navigated our way through this. The emails of moral support and offers of IT expertise were well received by the team. Although we are not entirely out of the woods yet and are still working to restore minor servers that serve internal needs (such as various email services like bulk mail and some internal reflectors), we are happy with the progress that has been made and for the incredible dedication of staff and consultants who continue to work together to bring this incident to a successful conclusion.

[Ed: the above information was first shared with ARRL members via email on 21 August, and then made available to the public at large on the ARRL's website: https://www.arrl.org/news]

ARRL SYSTEMS SERVICE DISRUPTION: DXCC ---> While WAS and VUCC applications are being processed, and certificates and endorsement stickers are being mailed, "work is continuing to return the DXCC systems to service", the ARRL announced on 22 August. "DXCC award processing, including the Online DXCC application system, is unavailable at this time. While all DXCC user data is secure and unaffected, we have taken the precautionary measure of keeping the service offline until we can ensure the security and integrity of our networks".

N5J ---> Pulled the plug and went QRT at 17 UTC on 20 August, and the team departed Jarvis Island on 21 August at 02.30 UTC. According to Club Log, 106,883 QSOs were made with 21,296 unique calls. Complete statistics are on https://clublog.org/charts/?c=N5J#r.

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*** 4 2 5 D X N E W S ***
******* QSL ROUTES *******
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CALL	MANAGER	CALL	MANAGER	CALL	MANAGER
3B8HE	M0OXO	HH2K	N3BNA	SO80LNW	SP3PDO

3V8SS	LX1NO	HL79V	6K0MF	SP80LNW	SP3PDO
4X0A	4X1VF	II1PV	IQ1GE	SU1OK	VE1AYM
5E61PG	EA7FTR	J43LH	SV3QUP	T44IJ	RW6HS
7Z1AO	EC6DX	J88BTI	EA5GL	T45FM	RW6HS
A2NEW	EA7FTR	KP2B	EB7DX	T47C	IK2DUW
AT2SPACE	VU2UUU	LR8FTDMC	F1ULQ	TF/WT8P	EA5GL
AT78I	VU2JOS	LZ156DD	LZ2VP	TM1AEL	F1EOY
C21TS	M0OXO	LZ302IT	LZ1KCP	TM22LH	DL7BC
CB2FT	CE2LK	NL8F	N7RO	TM2LW	F4ELJ
CW5X	CX2ABC	OH0AM	OH2TA	TM3TDFF	F8GGZ
CX1T	IK2DUW	OJ0JR	OH3JR	TM80BLG	F6CQU
D4UM	SQ9UM	ON4PRA	ON8JJ	TM80CAL	F5BNJ
D93H	DS1TUW	OV7X	DL2JRM	TM80DP	F4GPB
DK100DDSR	DL2BJW	PA55NTA	PA1K	TO8FP	DJ4MX
DM60IOTA	DL2VFR	PD6AB	PD7URK	TU5JZ	F5MFV
DU3/F4EBK	F4EUO	PF24GP	PA3EFR	VP8KCA	G5KC
E51EME	ZL1RS	PV2K	EA5GL	WP3C	M0OXO
ED2FPA	EA2RCA	PW7T	PT7WA	YJ0VK	M0OXO
EI0CAR	EI4JR	RI0KA	RZ3EC	YP0TA	YO3GND
HB9ILLW	HB9FVR	S79VU	N4GNR	ZB2LGT	ZB2BU
HF65KJM	SP9KJM	SF6B	SA6OHM	ZD8GB	EA5GL
HF80KG890G	SQ9LFO	SN0WFF	SP5C	ZW8T	PS8HF
HH2AA	EB7DX	SO1944LIB	SQ9Z	ZX9X	PT9DX

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