

Temp AG to DXCC

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Congratulations on your upgrade. You are probably anxious to work some DX, so let's get started. Here are some "DX entities" that are relatively easy to work from "nine land" under current conditions.

10, 12, 15 and 17 meters should be good for the next year or two. 20 meters is usually open to some part of the world at any given time. Check WWV at exactly 18 minutes after the hour. If the Solar flux is above 175 and the K index is 2 or below, as happens often lately, you should have good DXing conditions. Local weather can also be a factor. The subject of propagation is complex. There are many articles and books devoted to the topic. Just take my word for it for now. Just be on the right band at the right time. Most of them can be worked on both SSB and CW, Look for DX activity in the lower 25 kHz of the General CW and phone sub-bands. Prefixes vary. Consult the ARRL Operating Manual or the ARRL DXCC list.

Early daytime action generally starts with Eastern Europe and moves west. Look for; UA Russia, UB Ukraine, OK Czech Republic, OM Slovak Rep. HA Hungary,, and SP Poland. As the morning progresses, look for ON Belgium, PA The Netherlands, YU Yugoslavia, 9A Croatia, S5 Slovenia, HB9 Switzerland, OZ Denmark, SM Sweden , OH Finland, LA Norway, DL Germany, F France, I Italy, EA Spain, CT Portugal, G England, GM Scotland, and GW Wales. The Canary Islands EA8, might be your best bet for Africa due to the number of European hams who go there for vacation. The North Africans, if present, should be audible at the same time as the Southwest Europeans.

By late morning, Western Europe should be fairly strong, continuing to mid afternoon especially on 15 meters. This is also a time for the Caribbean and Central American stations to show up on 10 Puerto Rico KP4 and Cuba CO are safe bets. Also Mexico XE, Late afternoons on 10 to 15 should produce some South African (ZS) and South American Action. Look for Brazil (PY), Columbia HK (especially on SSB), and Venezuela YV, As the band lengthens out and all of the local signals fade, Listen for Argentina LU and Chile CE in the Southern hemisphere On either side of local sunset on the higher bands, listen for Alaska KL7 and Hawaii KH6 (U.S. states but also separate DXCC entities). The presence of Alaskan signals usually heralds the impending arrival of Japanese signals (JA) and if the higher bands stay open just a bit longer, Look for Asian Russia UA8/9/0, Korea HL, Australia VK and New Zealand ZL to put a cap on your busy DX Day. When you make your tally of "DX entities," Don't forget to include Canada and the good ole US of A. It's more than likely that your first 100 "DX entities" will include all or most of the 43 listed here. Next month we will cover some other "easy ones". That's it for now.

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Metro Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.qsl.net/mac>

Part 2

Some "entities" only show up at certain times of the year but are very easy to work when they do appear. Vacationing US Hams may show up from some exotic spots during holiday periods. Also, many of the worlds top DXers operate from special locations during the major DX contests. Generally, this activity happens from September through March. Check CQ and QST magazines for various contest information.. Activity runs from about a week before to a week after the contest. Lastly there are a few of them that only get "activated" once or twice a year due to seasonal conditions or other circumstances. But like the others, they are easy to get.

From North America, Saint Pierre and Miquelon Islands FP, which is up near the Canadian Maritime Provinces and Bermuda VP9. Antigua V2, St.Kitts/Nevis V4, Anguilla VP2E, British Virgin Islands VP2V, Turks and Caicos Islands VP5, The U.S. Naval base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba KG4, Cayman Islands ZF, Jamaica 6Y, The Bahama Islands C6, Guadeloupe FG, Martinique FM, Barbados 8P and San Andres Island HK0 in the Caribbean. Also Belize V3, El Salvador YS, Costa Rica TI, Panama HP and Nicaragua YN in Central America. South Americans include Aruba P4 Curacao PJ2, Suriname PZ, Trinidad and Tobago 9Y, French Guyana FY, Guyana 8R (Formerly British Guyana), Ecuador HC, Fernando De Naronja Island PY0F and the Galapagos Islands HC8. Paraguay ZP, Uruguay CX, Peru OA

Some Europeans include Moldova ER, Estonia ES, Lithuania LY, Kaliningrad UA2, Latvia, YL, Romania YO, Bulgaria LZ, Greece SV, Corsica TK, Malta 9H The Azores CU2, Luxembourg LX, The Aland Islands OH0 The Irish Republic EI , Northern Ireland GI, Guernsey GU, Isle of Man GD, and Jersey GJ.

You might not encounter these countries on a normal DX day because of the smaller ham population in some of them. But then again, Maybe you will. Your chances for them are more than good.

Madiera CT3 and Cueta/Melilia EA9, Morocco CN, and Algeria 7X Are four Northwest African countries that can be worked at this time as well. You might look for them when you hear some of the Southern European and Mediterranean countries. Israel 4X might be audible in the early evenings on 15 and 17 meters.

ITU HQ in Switzerland 4U1ITU and UN HQ in New York City 4U1UN are two very easy to work entities whenever they are activated. This usually happens during the IARU, CQ, or ARRL DX contests. St. Paul Island CY9 and Sable Island CY0 are two Canadian possessions that only appear in the midsummer months to avoid treacherous weather.

Revilla Gigedo XF4, a Mexican possession off the Baja California coast, another easy one that shows up once or twice yearly.

In closing, remember that good DXing conditions are purely a whim of nature. You might have tuned through the QRN on a day when the solar flux is low and the K index is high and asked "What in the world is that guy talking about?" But with a lot of patience, and a little help from the sun, the answer will be made clear, and you will progress happily from "Temp AG" to DXCC.