

THE PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Communicator

March 2018

“Awesome” Activity for the 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase

(ARRL 02/20/2018) “On-the-air activity for the 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase (IGC) has been awesome!” ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, said this week. “The year also began with DXpeditions, as well as several contests at both HF and VHF, to boost numbers. Facebook and social media (Facebook, Twitter #ICG) are abuzz with chatter about the event, the excitement, the grids worked.”

Jahnke said the statistics show the highest overall activity on 40 and 20 meters — not surprising in the winter — and especially strong digital activity. He expects phone and CW activity to perk up this month and next, with the ARRL International DX Contest CW weekend February 17 - 18, and the phone weekend March 3 - 4. He also anticipates that February’s statistics will come on strong as participants re-work January grid squares to boost their February scores. As of the January activity upload deadline of February 10 at 2359 UTC, some 23,300 station sites were active in the IGC.

“The leader board reporting system continues to evolve, with much helpful participant feedback,” Jahnke said. That user input is improving how ARRL reports participation.

“From the statistics, it’s clear that during this period of low sunspots and low winter E-skip and F2, most of the activity on the mid-to-lower bands is digital modes,” Jahnke said. “As we get into the summer E-skip season, we expect to see activity above 15 meters begin its ascent in the totals.”

Jahnke said it’s apparent that participants are taking advantage of CW (and FT8 and other digital modes) on HF to overcome some of the weakened propagation on the low- to medium-frequency bands, and of FT8, JT65, and FSK144/MSK144 on 6 meters and above to rack up impressive totals. “Not to be outdone, in comparison to overall band totals, phone contacts on 80, 40, 20, and 17 meters are strong, and 2-meter and 70-centimeter contacts were strong in January as well,” Jahnke added. Several contests in January, including the ARRL RTTY Roundup and ARRL January VHF Contest contributed to these strong phone and digital numbers.

During January, IGC-eligible contacts matched in Logbook of The World (LoTW) topped 22,000 on 40 meters and 23,000 on 20 meters — the two bands with the greatest activity — with nearly half the contacts being made on digital modes in both bands. On the new 630-meter band, 31 IGC-eligible contacts turned up in LoTW.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/awesome-activity-for-the-2018-arrl-international-grid-chase>

ARRL Announces Mobile DXCC Operating Award

(ARRL 02/09/2018) ARRL this week announced a Mobile DXCC Operating Award, available to radio amateurs who have contacted at least 100 DXCC entities from a working vehicle, with antennas and power source capable of operating while in motion. ARRL Radiosport Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, advised those pursuing the award to put safety first.

“Distracted driving is a serious concern, so we hope all mobile operators exercise care when operating from a moving vehicle,” he said.

Full, official details are on the Mobile DXCC Operating Award page.

The Mobile DXCC is a one-time award and is non-endorsable. Contacts made any time in the past do count toward the award. QSLs are required but you do not need to submit them.

Mobile stations may use any legal power for the entity from which they are operating. This award specifically excludes contacts made by aeronautical or maritime mobile stations.

You do not have to be an ARRL member to qualify for this award.

Because this award is similar to the QRP DXCC Operating Award, ARRL has redesigned the QRP DXCC Certificate so that the two awards complement one another. Operators who hold the QRP DXCC award may apply for the new-style certificate with the original date of issue printed on the certificate, but you do not have to re-submit QSL cards or a log. All certificates are \$16.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-announces-mobile-dxcc-operating-award>

<http://www.arrl.org/mobile-DXCC>

Meeting Calendar
8am, February 24, 2018
8am, March 31, 2018
8am, April 28, 2018
at Mom's Café

**2018
PAID MEMBERSHIP**

- AGØL.....Steve Loyd [E]
- AIØN.....Chuck Engberg* [E]
- K3CRFDave Smith [E]
- K5LBS.....Jerry Gault [E]
- KA0IJY Keith Keene [E]
- KBØFSIPat McCollum [T]
- KBØOGO Roger Behrns* [E]
- KBØZZT..... George Bellairs [T]
- KCØDTK..... Joan Bellairs [T]
- KCØHYD.....John Titsworth [G]
- KCØHYE.....Shirley Titsworth [T]
- KDØNMD.....Dudley Allen [G]
- KEØBXB Kim Allen [T]
- KEØXQ..... Bill McCollum [E]
- KGØKR Beth Engberg* [E]
- KIØPYKevin Faris [E]
- N5SEZ Ray McNally[E]
- NØLZHJohn Harrington[T]
- WØDBW.....Derek Winterstien [G]
- WØZYDave McLaughlin[E]
- WØZYD Debbie McLaughlin[G]
- W3DCQ.....Bill Pulsifer [G]

*Charter Members #New Ham

Note: Thanks to all who have paid their dues and many who have given additional donations. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please let me know of any corrections.

Members paid for 2018 are in bold, others Gray.

Meetings are 8am the last Saturday of most months at Mom's Café in Plattsmouth.

Tuesday night get-togethers at Plattsmouth Burger King at 7 PM

**PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB**

KBØSMX

P.A.R.C. Officers

President

**KBØOGORoger Behrns
rb55930@windstream.net**

Vice President

KCØHYDJohn Titsworth

Secretary

N5SEZ.....Ray McNally

Treasurer

KIØPY Kevin Faris

Newsletter Editor

**KBØOGORoger Behrns
rb55930@windstream.net**

513 Vine St.

Louisville, NE 68037

(402) 234-6775

Repeaters:

443.45⁺ is located in downtown Omaha

443.225⁺ is located in Murray.

147.48 Simplex is also in Murray.

Web Site

www.kb0smx.com

Maintained by Derek (W0DBW)

Contents copyright ©PARC 2017

Some contents may be copyrighted by the referenced source or author. Unsigned articles may be used for noncommercial use with notification and attribution.

**MINUTES of
the
MEETING**

The January 28, 2018 meeting was held at the Annual Dinner at Famous Dave's in Bellevue. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by President Roger Behrns

Those in attendance were Roger (KB0OGO) and Linda, Kevin (KIOPY) and Sandy, Ray (N5SEZ), Derek (W0DBW) and Lisa, Stanley and Lexie, John(KC0HYD) and Shirley(KC0HYE), Keith (KA0IJY), Bill (KEOXQ) and Pat(KB0FSI), George(KB0ZZT) and Joan (KC0DTK) and Bill (W3DCQ).

The Minutes of the November meeting were approved on a motion by John and second by Kevin.

The treasurer reported no income or expenses which leaves \$260 in the repeater fund and \$720.35 in the general fund for a balance of \$980.35.

No business needed to be transacted. The president thanked everyone for attending and noted that advance ballots for the officer election were available to all dues-paid members.

The meeting adjourned on a motion by John and second by George at 6:08.



**Field Day 2018
is June 23-24**

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

2018 Information should be posted on the web site by March 1.

PLATTSMOUTH ARC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Name		Call Sign		Class	
Address		City		State Zip	
E-Mail			Phone #		
Spouse Name			Call Sign		Class
Membership Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Additional donations are gratefully accepted. ● New Hams are free during the year they receive their first license. ● Please give this form and dues to the club treasurer or any club officer. 		Donation for:		Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Primary(\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> New Ham			<input type="checkbox"/> Repeater fund <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> General		<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer my donation to be anonymous.
Any additional e-mail or cell phone #s?					

Medium Wave DXing? Check out these maps.

DXing on the AM broadcast band isn't as popular as it once was, when many a late night was spent listening to powerhouse stations from several states away, but these US Mediumwave Pattern References are available on the web.

I found them on NF8M's web site:

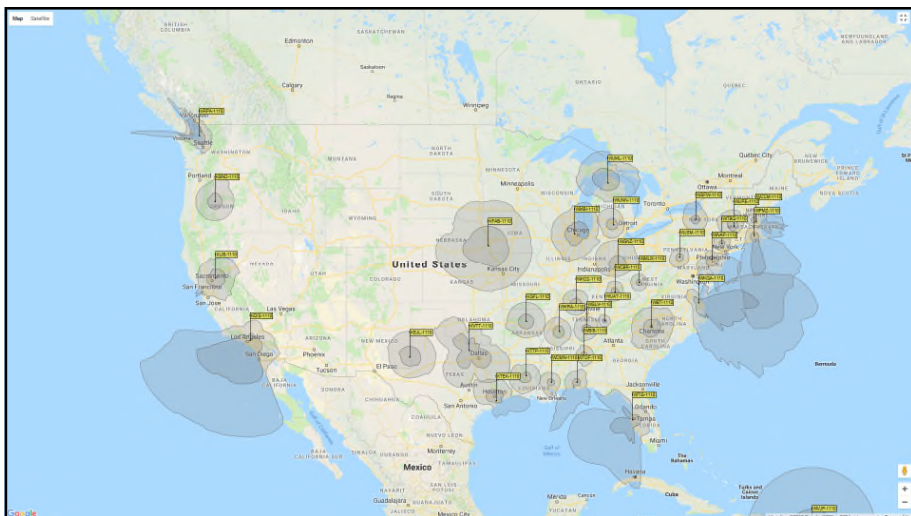
<https://www.nf8m.com/nf8m/us-medium-wave-pattern-references/>

but he gives credit to Bill Scott:

<http://radio-timetraveller.blogspot.com/>

Both Sites have a lot of information about the maps and how they are produced as well as other interesting info.

Included is a complete set (daytime and nighttime) of GoogleMap-based, HTML-driven maps which show the most current pattern plots of all licensed US and Canadian mediumwave broadcast stations from 530 – 1700 KHz. The set includes all frequencies for the indicated services: Unlimited, Daytime, Nighttime, and Critical Hours. Individual maps are grouped by channel frequency: 540, 550, 560 KHz, etc. Data for the plots in this offering is based on the current FCC and Industry Canada databases available at the time of its creation (January 22, 2015).



The maps above are the nighttime (top) and daytime (bottom) plots for 1110 kHz. Ever wonder why KFAB is hard to hear in Plattsmouth at night when its towers are visible from the hilltops? Just take a look at that big null in their pattern.

Link to the nighttime map:

http://nf8m.com/pattern_maps/2016/NIGHTTIME-UNLIMITED/NIGHTTIME-UNLIMITED_map_1110KHz-1.html

Link to the daytime map:

http://nf8m.com/pattern_maps/2016/DAYTIME-UNLIMITED/DAYTIME-UNLIMITED_map_1110KHz-1.html

The maps are interactive and contain information from the FCC database. You can also enter your Lat-Lon and it will give you plots and distance to the stations.

The map page uses Google Maps so it is interactive and can be switched to satellite view so you can zoom into the map to see the transmitter site.

It isn't necessary to turn off the lights and crawl under the covers to listen to some night time DX and you certainly won't find the same programming as when we were kids, but it's certainly some interesting information.

Nebraska QSO Party

Chapter 25 of the QCWA will again host the 2018 Nebraska QSO Party on the weekend of April 21/22, 2018.

The QSO Party will begin at 1300z (0800 CDT) on Saturday the 21st.

Check out the following website for the rules and more information: <http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm>

Lincoln Hamfest

ARRL Nebraska State Convention

Lancaster Event Center

84th and Havelock Ave., Lincoln, NE

Saturday, March 10, 2018

9:00am – 2:30pm

Check out the website for information on forums and presentations, vendors and VE sessions.

<http://www.lincolnhamfest.org/>