

The Islands on the Air Program:

Why Chase Islands?

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Islands On The Air (IOTA) Ltd

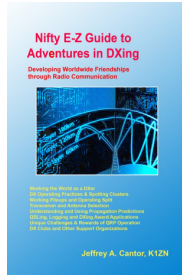


What Have You Done On The Bands Lately?

- We are at the mercy of a low in sunspot cycle.
- On a daily basis the bands seem awfully quiet.
- Those of us that do DXPeditions consider the band conditions and the likelihood of fewer QSOs when deciding on an expenditure of funds for such an outing.
- Many of us are at, over, or close to the magic number of DXCC 340.
- So, all-in-all, what do we do when in front of the radio?

What Have You Done On The Bands Lately?

- As I say in my book, “Adventures in Dxing,” there is more to DX life than just DXCC.



- Consider some of the other awards programs and the fun in chasing them!
- I was fortunate to discover IOTA early in my Dxing.

The IOTA Program

The IOTA (Islands On The Air) Program is an amateur radio HF / VHF band activity program, with awards administered by Islands On The Air (IOTA) Ltd in partnership with the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB). Initially established in 1964, it promotes radio contacts with stations located on islands around the world to encourage greater use of the amateur bands, and to do, this it draws on the widespread mystique surrounding islands.



A Transition

From RSGB Committee in early 2016

To

A registered UK Company

ISLANDS ON THE AIR (IOTA) LTD

Not for Profit

Limited by Guarantee

Partnered with the RSGB



IOTA Ltd Directors

- G3KMA, Roger Balister, Gen. Mgr.
- VE3LYC, Cezar Trifu, Ops. Mgr.
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 - PA3EXX, Johan Willemsen, IT Mgr.

IOTA Advisors Group

- G7VJR, Michael Wells
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 - JA9IFF, Jim Nakajima
 - MD0CCE, Bob Barden
- W9DC, Dr. Donald Chamberlain

Program Basics

- The IOTA program has grouped the world oceans' islands into some 1200 'IOTA groups,' with, for reasons of geography, varying numbers of 'counters', i.e. qualifying islands, in each group. The objective is to make two-way radio contact with one counter in each of the groups.
- Currently, the IOTA program is locked at 1200 island groups, worldwide.
- Presently there are 22 different award certificates available in the program.
- The basic award requires proof of contact with 100 IOTAs.

What Constitutes an IOTA Island

Every island must meet certain basic criteria for acceptance within the IOTA Program. Specifically, it must be:

- located in the open sea, not a lake or river, must be natural, - i.e., not man made;
- must be demonstrably above water at high tide; and
- must have a recognized island name!
- There is no minimum island size requirement; but
- an island needs to be shown and named on either Google Earth, or another officially recognized reference map.

What Constitutes an IOTA Island

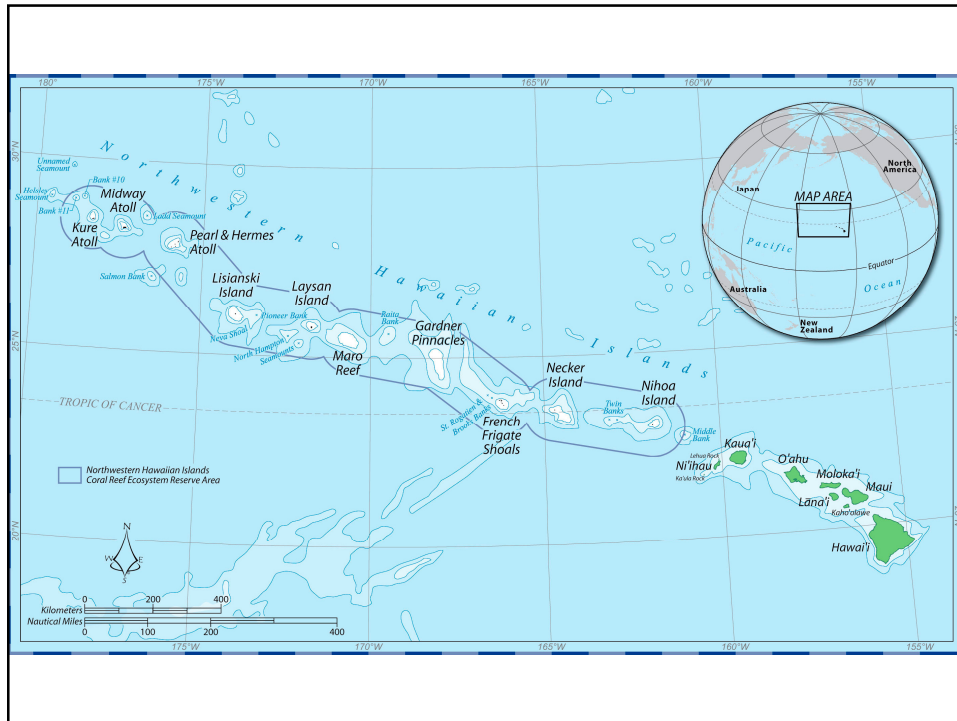
- The island must be separated from the mainland at low tide by a minimum 200 meters of sea measured at the narrowest point. Connection to the mainland by bridge does not in-validate an island so long as the minimum sea separation.
 - 200 Meters = 656 FT or 0.1242 miles.

DXCC Island Definition

- **Island:** A naturally formed area of land surrounded by water, the surface of which is above water at high tide. For the purposes of this award, it must consist of connected land, of which at least two surface points must be separated from each other by not less than 100 meters measured in a straight line from point to point. All of the connected land must be above the high tide mark, as demonstrated on a chart of sufficient scale. For the purposes of this award, any island, reef, or rocks of less than this size shall not be considered in the application of the water separation criteria described in Part 2 of the criteria.

DXCC and IOTA Co-exist

- KH6, 7: Hawaiian Islands
 - OC-019: Hawaiian Islands
Namely: Hawaii, Kahoolaw⁰⁶N 161^e, Kauai, Kuala, Lanai, Lehua, Manana, Maui, Mokuauia, Mokuhooniki, Mokulua Isls, Molokai, Molokini, Niihau, Oahu. 18⁵⁰ – 22²⁵N 154⁴⁵ – 160⁴⁵W
 - OC-055: French Frigate Shoals
Namely: Disappearing, LaPerouse Pinnacle, Tern. 23³⁵ – 24⁰⁰N 166⁰⁰ – 166³⁰W
 - OC-288P: Nihoa Island 23⁰⁰ - 23⁰⁶N 161⁵² - 162⁰⁰W
 - OC-289P: Necker Island 23³² - 23³⁸N 164³⁸ - 164⁴⁶W
 - OC-290P: Gardner Pinnacles 24⁵⁵ - 25⁰⁵N 167⁵⁶ - 168⁰⁶W
 - OC-291P: Laysan Island 25⁴³ - 25⁴⁹N 171⁴¹ - 171⁴⁹W
 - OC-292P: Lisianski Island 26⁰⁰ - 26⁰⁸N 173⁵⁴ - 174⁰²W
 - OC-293P: Pearl and Hermes Atoll 27⁴⁰ - 28⁰⁰N 175³⁵ - 176¹⁰W



DXCC and IOTA Coexist

- OC-020: Kure Island (KH7K)
- OC-023: Johnston Island (KH3)
- OC-026: Guam Island (KH2)
- OC-030: Midway Island (KH4)

DXCC and IOTA Coexist

- KP2 Virgin Islands
- PJ2 Curacao Island
- 9Y Trinidad & Tobago
- G Great Britain
- NA-106 Virgin Islands
- SA-099 Curacao Island
- SA-011 Trinidad Island
- SA-009 Tobago Island
- EU-005 Great Britain
(Main Island)
- EU-109 Farne Islands
- EU-011 Isles of Scilly
- EU-120 English
Coastal Islands

Operating Requirements

- For Island Chasers the main requirements for valid contacts are that they should be made:
- (LICENSE) in conformity with the operator's licensing conditions,
- (OPERATOR) by the operator personally,
- (LOCATION) from the same DXCC entity and from a land-based location,
- (DATES) since 15 November 1945,
- (BANDS) on any bands licensed to the operator that are specified in the rules for the category of application,
- (MODES) in Phone, CW and / or Data modes.

Where do I find IOTA Activity?

- Almost every day there are IOTA's on the air.
- Typically, 14.260 MHz is the 20M “cross-roads” for Island Dxing.
- DXSummit has an IOTA filter.
- Join the Blog: IOTA-Chasers @ Groups.IO.
- Visit the spotting filter on Iota-World.org.
- Bernie's (W3UR) Daily DX Newsletter lists IOTA activity.

Examples of Recent Activity

- One-Man DXPedition by VK5CE (Craig) – June 11-22, 2018
 - East Lewis Island, OC-199
 - Direction Island, OC-140
 - Cheyne Island, OC-193
 - Woody Island, OC-170
- Uvita Island DxPedition 2018 – EU-155 – June 15 (TI2JCC & TI2CDA)
- IW9HII, EU-025, Sicily
- The Island of Vela Palagruza, EU-090, Radio Club Croatian Flora Fauna, June 16
- Shodo Island – AS-200 by Take, JI3DST, June 22-24, 2018
- And yes, the KH1/KH7Z Baker Island DXPedition is also an IOTA event, OC-089!

Validating a Contact

QSL Cards submitted for credit should show:

- The callsign used on the air - The callsign used for the operation must be printed (not handwritten or part hand written)
- The island location at the time of the contact
- The name of the island from which the operation took place must be printed (not handwritten) on the QSL card, as the IOTA Reference Number alone is not sufficient
- The island name must be one that is recognized through its listing in the IOTA Directory

Validating a Contact

- Alternatively,
 - We now can use ClubLog to validate & confirm IOTA program operations!

Award Certificates



Award Certificates

- IOTA 100 ISLANDS OF THE WORLD
- IOTA 200 ISLANDS OF THE WORLD
- IOTA 300 ISLANDS OF THE WORLD
- IOTA 400 ISLANDS OF THE WORLD
- IOTA 500 ISLANDS OF THE WORLD
- IOTA 600 ISLANDS OF THE WORLD (75% of island groups on continent)
- IOTA 700 ISLANDS OF THE WORLD
- IOTA 800 ISLANDS OF THE WORLD
- IOTA 900 ISLANDS OF THE WORLD
- IOTA 1000 ISLANDS OF THE WORLD
- IOTA 1100 ISLANDS OF THE WORLD

Award Certificates

- IOTAAFRICA
- IOTAANTARCTICA
- IOTAASIA
- IOTA EUROPE
- IOTA NORTH AMERICA
- IOTA OCEANIA
- IOTA SOUTH AMERICA
- IOTA ARCTIC ISLANDS
- IOTA BRITISH ISLES
- IOTA WEST INDIES
- IOTA WORLD DIPLOMA

Trophies

- 750 ISLANDS PLAQUE OF EXCELLENCE
- IOTA 1000 ISLANDS TROPHY

IOTA Ltd
FIRST TWO YEARS' TARGETS

- To Survive as a Viable UK Company !
- To Maintain IOTA's High Integrity
- To Launch a New IOTA Website Attractive to the IOTA Community
- To Introduce QSO Matching as the Main Route to Award Credit
- To Achieve Minimum 30% Programme Growth in Credits Issued

Helped By



IOTA Supporters' Group
The Appeal has Raised £24,140 to Date

Helped By

- **Island Radio Expedition Foundation**

The IREF is an organization created to provide support to IOTA expeditions. The Foundation will depend on contributions from members on at least an annual basis. IREF has been born out of a grass roots desire to advance the sport of "Island Chasing" and has not received any endowments to help achieve these goals. IREF is a 501(c)(3) organization.

www.Islandradio.org

Launched New Website

Achieved: Launched on 18 September 2017

<https://www.iota-world.org>

- Replacing the Previous IT Software with a State of the Art Bespoke System
- Majoring on Confirmation of Contacts by Matching with Logs on Club Log
but
Paper Cards of course Still Accepted

Introduced QSO Matching as the Main Route to Award Credit

- Achieved
- QSO Matching was First Introduced on the Previous IT System in July 2016
- Its Introduction as the Main Route to Award Credit now Implemented on the New System
- Currently (April 2018) 48.5% of Total Credits are QSO Matches – it hit 60% last December

Features of the New System

Accepts
Club Log QSO Matching,
IOTA Contest QSO Matching and
Paper QSLs

Allows Payment Direct to IOTA Ltd via PayPal
as well as Remittances through Checkpoints

lotamaps Mapping Tools: Fantastic Addition

QSO Matching

- Requires the Name of the Log at Club Log to be Identical to the Callsign Employed.
- Between 01-01-2016 and 30-09-2017: **296 (50%)** of Tracked Operations have logs at Club Log.
- QSO Matching offered for **286** operations or **97%** of Tracked Operations, including **45** with non-standard log names.
- All times: QSO Matching offered for ~ **4,000** Operations, including **270** with non-standard log names, and **5,264** Contest Operations, from **855** different IOTA groups.

But

Club Log QSO Matching Depends on the
Other Log having been Uploaded

There is a Built-in Delay of 30 days before
Credit is Given –
this Allows Validation to be Sought
where Required

Getting Started in IOTA

- Visit IOTA webpage: www.iota-world.org
- Go to “My IOTA” tab, and to “Submit HF Application.”
- The Basic Award is for 100 IOTA's.
- However, you certainly can qualify for more than 100 if you have those cards or can download them later from ClubLog.
- Your Checkpoint will be Dan Sullivan, W4DKS.

So, Why Chase IOTAs

- It Makes You Think of Islands and What they Offer
- It Provides Opportunities to be the Wanted Station by Encouraging You to Set Off on Your Own DXpedition and Become that DX You Always Wanted to be
- It's a Program for All, the Big Guns and Small Pistols, QRO and QRP
- It's **THE NEXT CHALLENGE** for those who have taken DXCC as far as they can, or NOT

Read –
Adventures in DXing
by
Jeff Cantor, K1ZN

http://www.niftyaccessories.com/DX_book.php

