BARC August 2012
Updated April 2022
Dxing, Contesting and other matters

RSGB Low Power Contest
Longhill Park July 2012

G3YMC/P 3 Watts

Cleeve Hill SOTA G/CE-001
September 2010

160m – Top Band

CW 1810-1838kHz, Data 1838-1840kHz, SSB 1840-2000kHz

Traditionally the lowest band available to radio amateurs, though now 136kHz, the former 73kHz experimental band, and the incoming 500kHz band are lower.

In the daytime local QSOs to 100 miles or so by ground wave because of D layer absorption. At night world wide DX is possible but it needs good antennas. Used to be very popular for AM and mobile, these days mainly a DX and contest band with very low activity at other times.

80m

CW 3500-3580kHz, Data 3580-3600kHz, SSB 3600-3800kHz

Like 80m, in daytime largely a local traffic band due to D layer absorption. Though even then it is possible to work some of the nearer EU countries. At night long distance DX is possible even with modest antennas. The dawn period is excellent for working the longer DX.

Traditional band for inter-G chats, but activity is much lower than it used to be. Also home of the RSGB club challenge contests!

40m

CW 7000-7040kHz, Data 7040-7050kHz, SSB 7050-7200kHz

Excellent band for DX for those with modest setups. In the daytime it is possible to work most of Europe, inter-G is good at times of high solar activity but the critical frequency is often too low to allow this at solar minimum.

Because it is only 200kHz wide in most of the world it becomes very congested at times and SSB operation below 7050 causes ill feeling during contest times – has eased after 2009 when the extra 100kHz became worldwide.

30m

CW 10110-10130kHz, Data 10130-10150kHz NO SSB

One of the WARC bands added in 1979 and since it is only 50kHz wide and shared with other services CW and data modes only are allowed. No contests on this band.

A somewhat neglected band which offers good conditions to Europe round the clock and worldwide DX at many times.

20m

CW 14000-14070, Data 14070-14100, SSB 14100-14350kHz

Traditional band for DX working and at the peak of the sunspot cycle a truly worldwide band. Propagation largely by the F layer, not easy to work G or the nearer parts of Europe because of skip distance. Best time for VK/ZL is just after dawn and late afternoon. Those with smaller setups sometimes find it a disappointing band as in the UK it is Italian and Eastern Europe stations who are by far the strongest.

17m or 18MHz

CW 18068-18095kHz, Data 18095-18109kHz, SSB 18111-18168kHz

One of the WARC bands and excellent for DX with those with modest setups. Largely a daytime band, though excellent paths to JA and the USA.

15m

CW 21000-21070kHz, Data 21070-2149kHz, SSB 21151-21450kHz

Another excellent band for DX which can get very busy at times. At solar minimum though the MUF does not rise high enough and paths are difficult. Another daytime only band.

12m or 24MHz

CW 24890-24915kHz, Data 24915-24940kHz, SSB 24940-24990kHz

A WARC band which offers good potential for DX at times of high solar activity. At other times very little activity in the winter months. From May to September it is an excellent band for sporadic E to mainland Europe.

10m

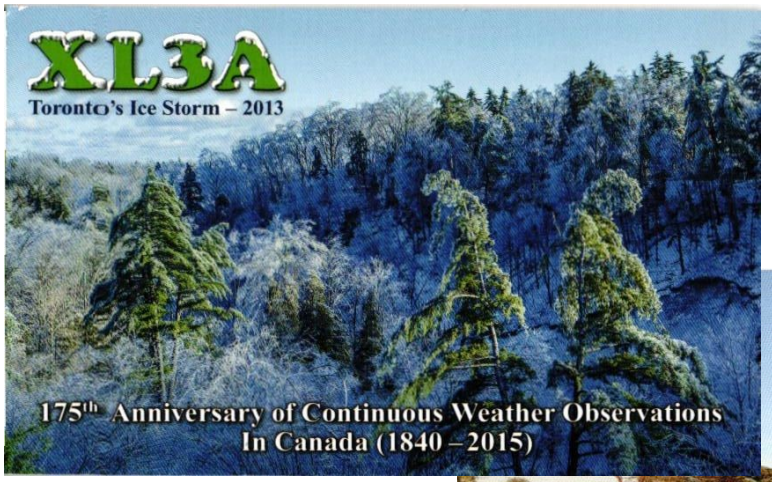
CW 28000-28070kHz, Data 28070-28190kHz, SSB 28320-29100kHz

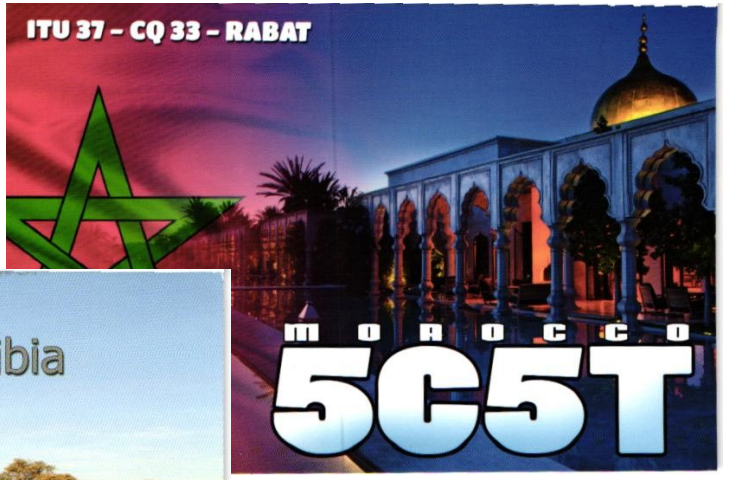
At solar maximum this band is a hive of activity and it is very easy to work worldwide DX in the daytime from very modest setups. At solar minimum weeks can go by without hearing a squeak. Good for sporadic E in the summer months.

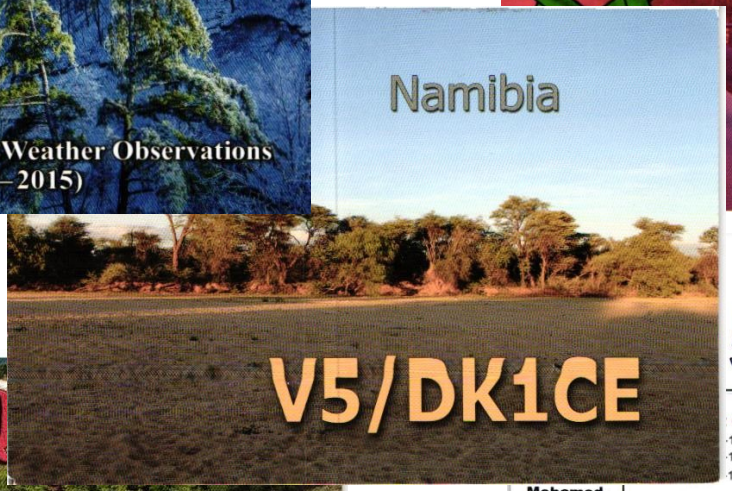
Probably the worst band for causing TVI which has kept some away. Also has big problems with illegal CB operators drifting into the CW end of the band.

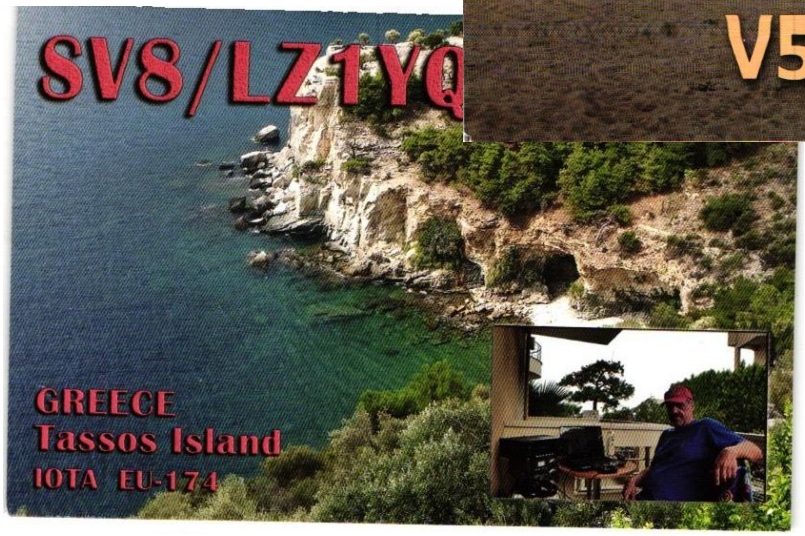
QSLing

The magic of paper cards

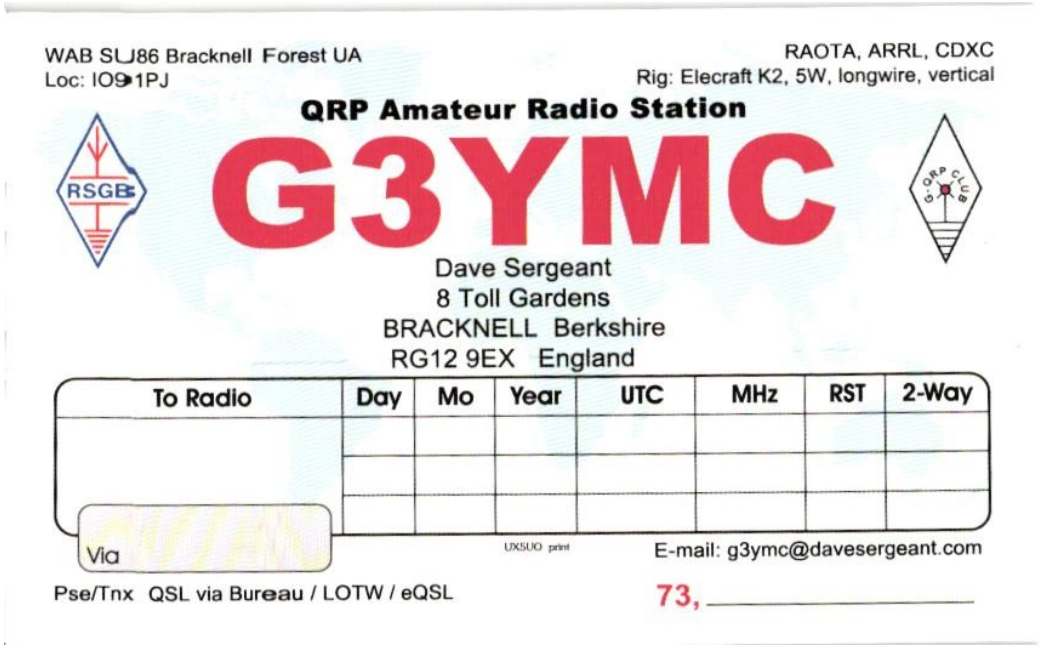








QSL Ideas



Various UK suppliers or your local print shop
UX5UO - http://www.ux5uoqsl.com
LZ1JZ - http://www.lz1jz.com
Or design and print your own

How to QSL

- Direct – dollar bills/IRC – may be slow
- RSGB Bureau – free to members, very slow
- OQRS via Club Log, mainly dxpeditions
- eQSL – Easy to use, stylised QSLs, not valid for awards or DXCC
- Log Book of the World – widely used for DXCC but you don't get an actual QSL

DXing topics

- What is a dxpedition
- Frequencies – split frequency working
- Bandplans
- DX Cluster, RBNs and Skimmer
- QSLing – funding and ethics
- Finding out about dxpeditions
- Non-dxpedition dxing

Contest topics

- Why contests
- Contests taking over the bands at weekends
- Doing well in contests
- Or just going on to have a few contacts
- Club contests – UKAC, CC, NFD etc