

Local DXpedition

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Key questions

- Purpose: why are you going?
- Location: where do you plan to operate?
- Venue: Indoors or outdoors?
- Power: QRO, standard, or QRP

- Creature comforts depend on the foregoing

- Transportation

Why Go?

- Fun
 - What better reason?
- Experience
 - Improve operating skill
 - Test equipment
- Contest
- Opportunity

When to go?

- Operation must fit your personal, family, and work schedule
- Pick a time that fits your goals (such as a QSO Party)
- Season and propagation may factor in your plans

Contests and Events

- State QSO Parties
 - Rare counties (there are plenty around)
- Summits on the Air (SOTA)
 - <http://www.sota.org.uk/Associations/viewAssociation/prefix/W7>
- Islands on the Air (IOTA)
 - <http://www.rsgbiota.org/>
 - <http://www.usislands.org/directory/directory.html>

Contests and Events - 2

- Lighthouses on the Air
- Lookouts on the Air
- *Whatever* on the Air
- Local Commemorations
- “Just because...”

Location

- Pick a location for your operation
- Where you operate profoundly affects your other plans

Location

- Outdoors
 - Back yard
 - Local/county/state park
 - Campground
 - Outdoors somewhere
- Hotel
 - Negotiate before showing up
- DXPedition rental
 - Location usually equipped with everything but food



Next steps

- Now that you know the location, you can decide on the rest.
- Consider what you need, and don't leave home without it.
- Figure out transportation (low cost is good)

Planning Factors

- Radio equipment
 - How much power do you need?
- Power
 - Grid (120v)
 - Battery or other portable source
- Antenna
 - Vertical, wire, directional, simple, complex
- Creature comfort
 - Depends on where you go and how you operate
- Getting there

Radio

- High power (QRO)
 - High level radio, amplifier, high power requirement



Radio - 2

- Low power (~100 watts)
 - Moderate radio(many choices), moderate power (big battery or generator)



Radio - 3

- Really low power (QRP)
 - Yaesu 817, Elecraft K2/K3, modest battery, highly portable



Power

- Power needs dependent on radio/amplifier use
- Grid
 - Amplifier possible if you have one o the trip
- Portable
 - Battery
 - Generator

Power - 2

- Estimate duty cycle for power needs
 - Transmit percent * amps + Receive percent * amps
 - $0.3 * 20 + 0.7 * 2 = 7.4$ Amp Hours
- QRP offers many operating options but low output
 - Reasonable weight battery
 - Possible to use portable solar cell

Sample DXPeditions

- Lightweight QRP to a summit
- Mobile to nearby county
- Rare county away from home
- Hostelry
- Island

Lightweight QRP to a summit

- Radio: lightweight radio
- Power: tote-able battery, 7 AHr or so
- Antenna: something portable, probably wire, plus feedline, connectors, and a few extras
- Getting there
 - Auto to starting point, which may be operating point
 - Walk

QRP - 2

- Comforts:
 - Food, water, backpack or tote bag
 - Weather-appropriate clothing
 - Hat
 - Comfortable walking shoes
 - Tent or other shelter if needed
- Operate

Mobile to nearby county

- Radio: many options, probably limited by installed radio
- Power: mobile power unless you get creative
- Antenna: options galore unless you stick with the antenna on your vehicle
- Getting there: drive

Mobile - 2

- Comforts:
 - whatever your vehicle offers
 - With creativity you can operate from outside the vehicle
 - Remember food and water
- Operate
 - Remember a clipboard to help with logging

Rare county away from home

- Radio: portable type radio such as Icom 706MkIIIG, Icom 7000, or Yaesu 857D
- Power: battery, generator, or possibly grid if available
- Antenna: depends on support available. Plan accordingly for your site
- Getting there: probably car
- Comforts: consider some form of shelter such as a popup tent, water, food
- Operate based on goals

Hotel/motel

Get permission unless you are good at begging forgiveness. Management may even help...

- Radio: wide range of possibilities
- Power: probably ample
- Antenna: creativity probably required without management help
- Getting there: various, but probably car
- Comforts: how can you beat a nice hotel for accommodations?
- Operate: play radio until you drop if you want

Island via boat

- Radio: depends on power
- Power: some islands have power, some are BYOP
- Antenna: fit the environment
- Getting there: if by boat, remember life jackets for everyone
- Comforts: depends on accommodations. If remote, take shade, water, food just in case
- Operate

A few items to remember

- Connectors and tools
 - Adapters that fit your radio
 - Barrel connectors for coax to coax
 - Coax suitable for your purpose
 - Small tool kit
- Reference for your radio(s)
- Log book or computer depending on power needs
- Antenna reference?
 - Low profile amateur radio, by Al Brogdon, W1AB
- Appropriate antenna
- Remember that you don't have what you did not take

Other suggestions

- Know your radio
- Learn how to manage power for your radios
- Gain skill in your antennas
 - What works, how can you set them up at a portable site
- Gain experience operating portable
 - Portable differs some from home operation
 - Operate portable often enough to get comfortable

Recap

- Plan where you want to operate
- Set reasonable goals
 - Include fun in your plans
- Plan for comfort while operating
- Remember to have fun
- QSL when asked

