



The Results of a Survey of CDXC Members
on the subject of:
**DXCC Credit within the Context of Remote
Station Operation**

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Approved by:	CDXC Committee	17 th December 2013

Introduction

CDXC: The UK DX Foundation is an established organisation with more than 850 active DX-chasing members. We believe the majority of UK DX'ers belong to our Club. We therefore believe we are ideally positioned to represent the views of DXing in the UK.

Triggered by Bernie McClenny W3UR's article in the November 2013 QST, CDXC Chairman Chris Duckling, G3SVL contacted, with the help of Bernie, the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) Chairman Arne Gjerner, N7KA. Resulting from that contact Arne asked that CDXC collate its members' opinions and submit a consolidated view. This report is the result of that request.

The methodology used was to ask our members to complete an on-line survey against questions that had been tested with a few of our Honour Role members. The response was an encouraging 42% of those asked and we thus consider the results to be statistically significant. The survey asked a number of specific questions which could be numerically analysed and also gave the opportunity for free text feedback.

The main conclusions are summarised below. The free text comments were used to identify particular points and then an assessment was made of how many people identified the same points, with greater emphasis in the summary being placed on those points raised by larger numbers of members. Account was also taken of comments on the CDXC Yahoo! Reflector.

The CDXC Committee is indebted to David Gould, G3UEG for designing, conducting and reporting on this survey.

Results Summary and Commentary

The full results are shown in Appendix 1. It can be concluded from the responses that CDXC members hold polarized views on the subject with strongly held opinions.

A general theme to emerge was that members saw remote operation as a positive technological progression with a growing demand by a population living with increasing suburban QRM, restrictive covenants etc. and for those who wanted to operate while away on business trips or visiting family.

However, members felt that the situation for awarding DXCC Credit was a very different case and needed rules to govern it. When asked whether QSOs with remotely operated station should count for DXCC credit there were as many in favour as there were against – an exact 50:50 split. When asked if the remote station could claim its QSOs for DXCC the opinion was marginally against – 54% said no and 46% said yes.

One factor affecting the views of our members was whether the licence issued was for the physical station or the human operator. Some members regard the physical station as the key factor and remote operation is effectively a set of extended mic/key/audio leads. Others regard the location of the person as the key factor and feel cheated if they work a station with a European callsign but discover the operator is in the USA.

We asked members to consider remoting the receiver from the transmitter and how that would affect their views for DXCC Credits. Generally it was accepted that should a receiver be remote from the transmitter it should be 'local' to the extent that no propagation advantage was gained. The response data in Q3a and Q3b might help to define 'local'. One member suggested a formula based on a distance which was inversely proportional to frequency.

A large majority (88%) expressed a view that public internet receivers should not be permitted for stations claiming DXCC Credits. A similar number were against more than one remote receiver being used.

We asked members to consider the location of the operator relative to the transmitter and how that would affect their views for DXCC credits. The general view was that if the location of the station was clearly understood and properly licensed, there was less concern over the location of the operator.

Enforcement was mentioned in much of the textual comments. CDXC members were of the view that any rule changes needed to be simple to understand and simple to enforce. The challenge of this is not without its difficulties but one suggestion to assist would be to enforce a suffix (e.g. /R) to denote on-air that the operator was not co-located with the transmitter. Perhaps a separate LoTW Certificate might be needed as well.

Conclusion

It is clear from the results and comments made by CDXC members that the DXAC will not be able to satisfy all of the DX community whatever it does. However, CDXC members request that if remote operation is to continue to be permitted then clear but strict rules should be applied and sanctions for misuse should be implemented.

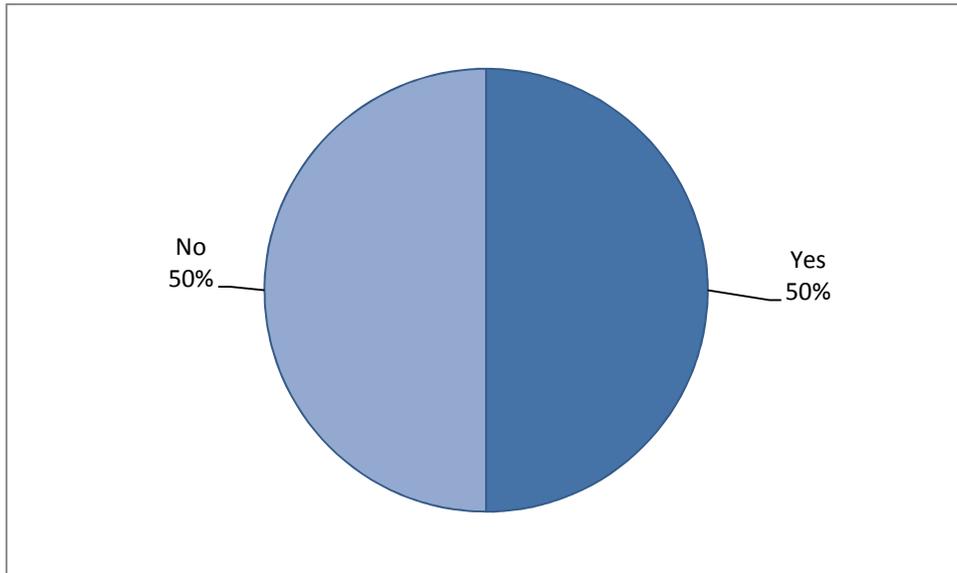
Our members do not wish to limit technological progress, but do wish to see fairness in DXing. Perhaps an identifier on the air, on QSL cards and LoTW could be considered for remote operations.

We sincerely hope that the data obtained from this survey provides some guidance to DXAC in their deliberations.

APPENDIX 1 - Survey Results

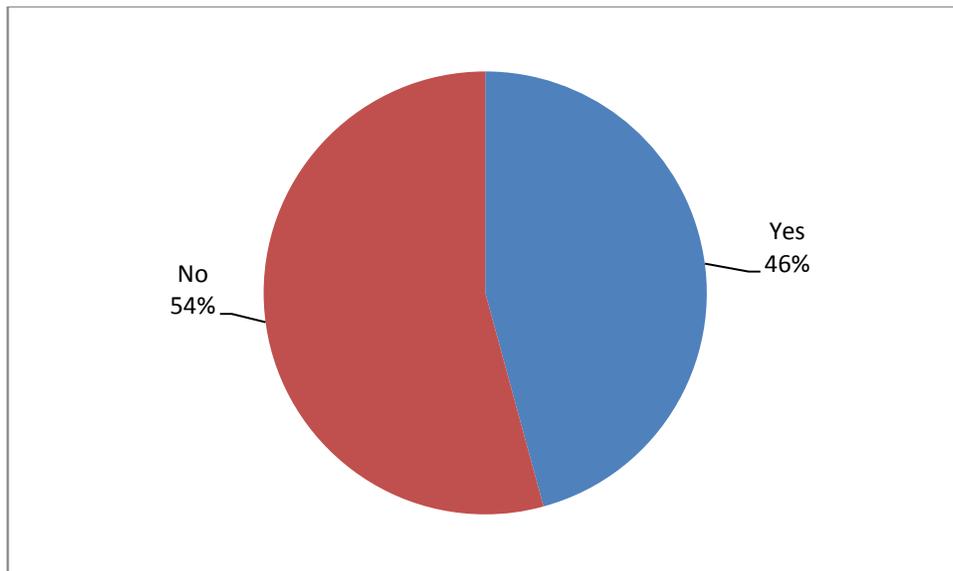
Q1: This question was mandatory so all 354 people responded.

Should QSOs ****WITH**** remote stations count for DXCC credit at all?



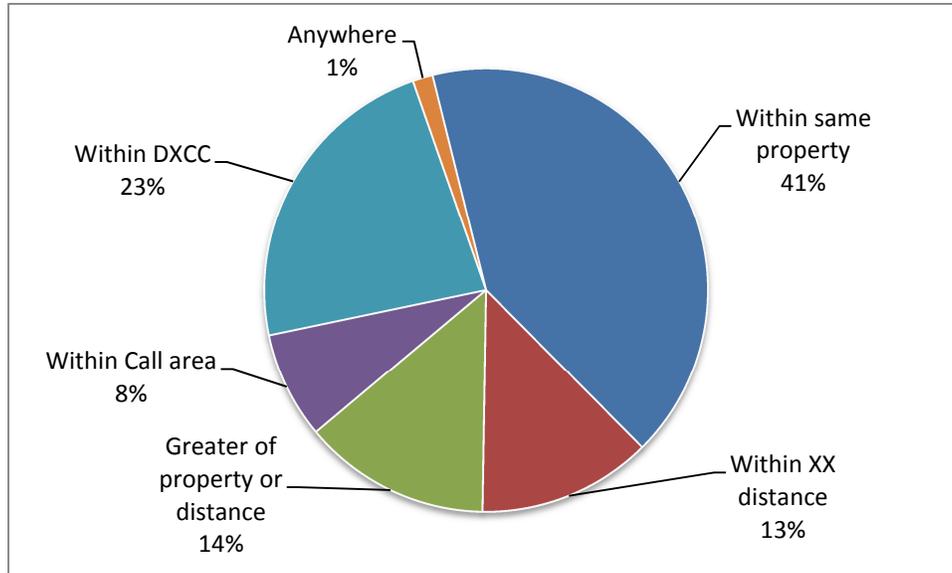
Q2: This question was mandatory so all 354 people responded.

Should QSOs ****BY**** remote stations count for DXCC credit at all?



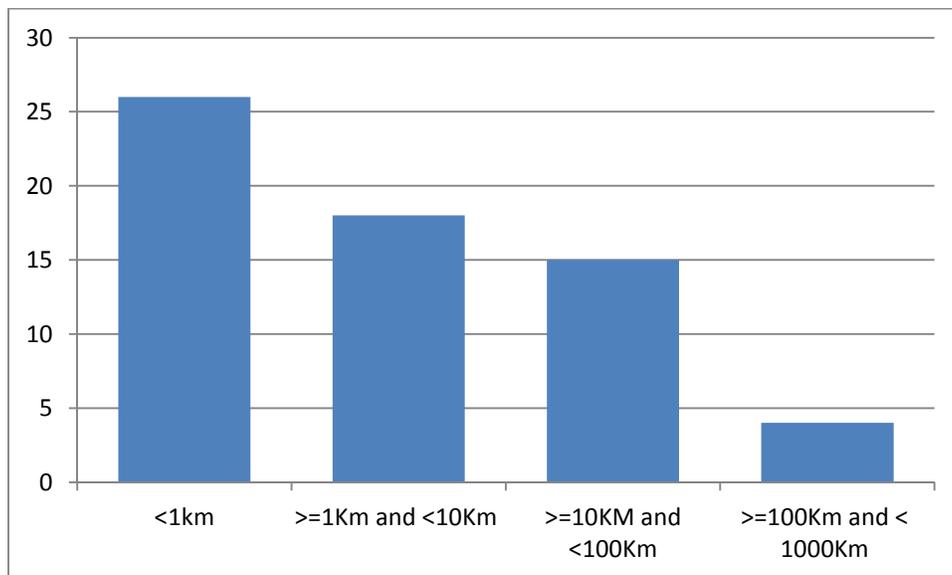
Q3a: This question was optional, 205 people (58%) answered this question.

What restriction should there be on the location of the RECEIVER relative to the transmitter for the QSOs to count for DXCC credit?



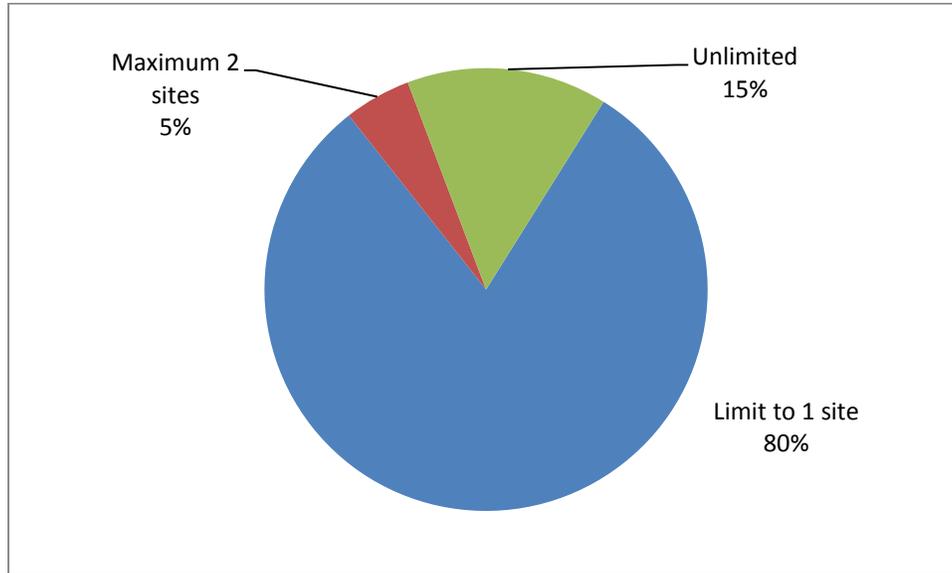
Q3b: This question was optional and answered by 63 people.

If you chose an XX option in Q3a, what should the XX distance limit be?



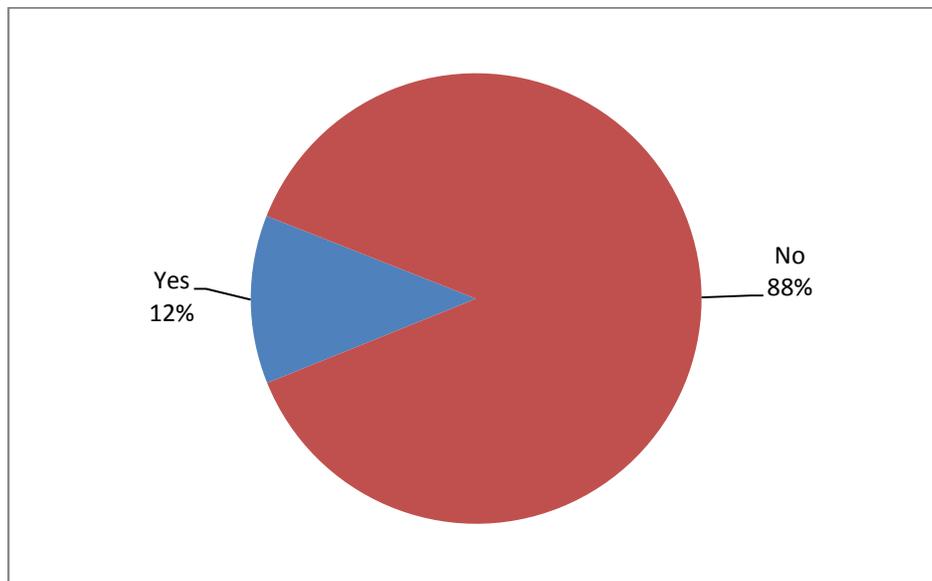
Q4: This question was optional, 205 people (58%) answered this question.

Should the use of multiple remote receivers at DIFFERENT locations be prohibited for DXCC credit?
(Diversity reception using 2 receivers at ONE location is OK)



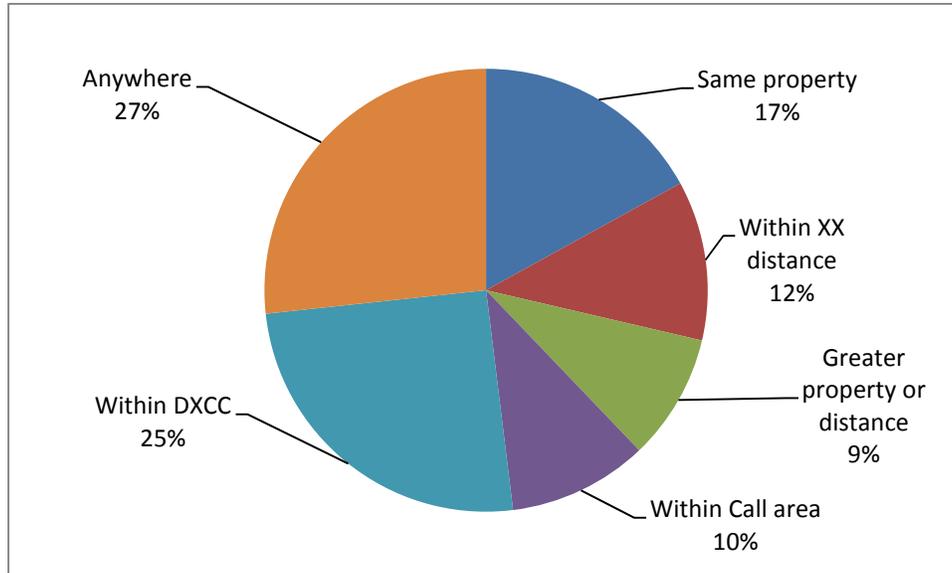
Q5: This question was optional. 207 people (58%) answered this question.

Should QSOs made using publically available internet receivers be allowed for DXCC credit



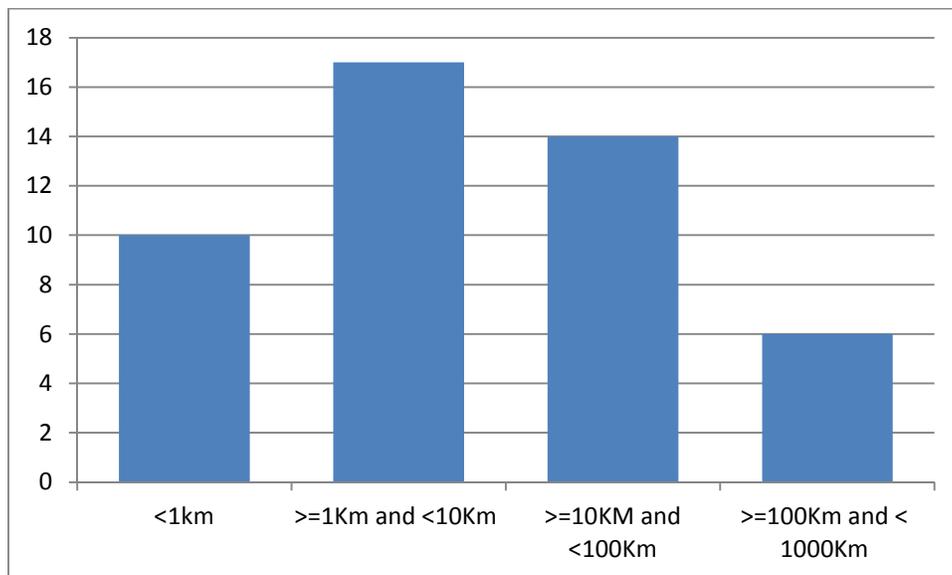
Q6a: This question was optional. 206 people (58%) answered this question.

Should there be restrictions on the location of the OPERATOR relative to the transmitter location for QSOS to count for DXCC credit?



Q6b: This question was optional, 47 people answered this question

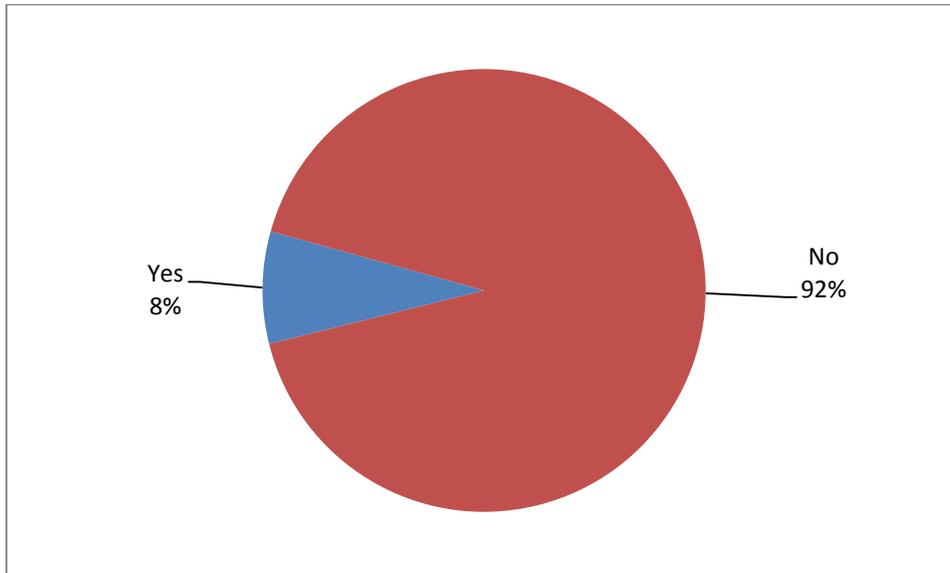
If you chose an XX option in Q6a, what should the XX distance limit be?



Q7: This question has been discarded as CEPT rules do not allow a remote station operating under CEPT rules to be operated from outside the country in which the station is located.

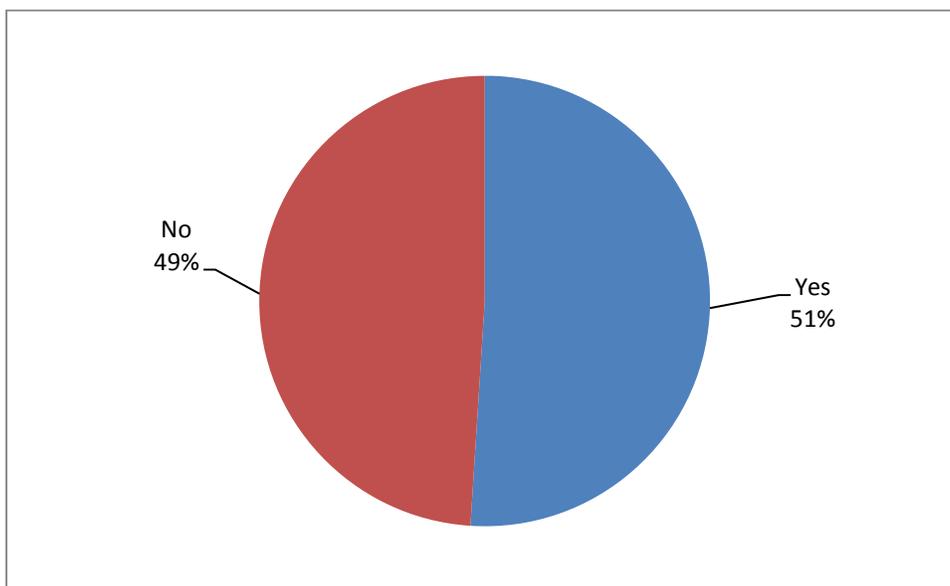
Q8: This question was optional, 195 people answered this question.

If a person has a full licence in, say, 2 different countries and operates in one country from the other in which they are properly licensed, should this be treated differently for DXCC credit with regard to the separation of operator from the transmitter?



Q9: This question was optional, 196 people answered this question.

Should stations operated remotely be required to be identified by having a separate LoTW certificate?



Textual Comment Highlights

1. Many people stated that remote QSOs should not count for DXCC credit simply because rules would be difficult to enforce.
2. There was strong support that remote operation was a good thing. It continues the history of technological development for which the hobby is well known. It allows people who travel to be active when the travel necessitated by modern life requires people to be away from home much more than in the past. It also allows people who are constrained by home location, covenants (CC&Rs) or the noise in a modern urban environment, to continue to enjoy the hobby. There was, however, a strong qualification that while remote operation was acceptable for everyday operating that is very different from remote operation qualifying for DXCC credits.
3. Members expressed an opinion that if remote operation were to be valid for DXCC credit then the rules must be simple and fair and hence would be much more likely to be adhered to by the honour system. Much of the heat would be taken out of the discussion if remote stations had to identify themselves as such (eg***** /R).
4. Members suggested ARRL might consider a separate DXCC category for remote stations.
5. A number commented that DXCC credit should continue to be based on the location of the transmitter. The station must be properly licensed for that location.
6. Any separation of the receiver from the transmitter should be limited such that the receiver location had no PROPAGATION advantage over the transmitter location.
7. If the location of the TX and RX are clearly understood then it seems there is less concern over the location of the control operator.

The conclusions of Points 6) and 7) are rather different to the conclusions of the DXAC Special report on remote operation in May 2008, (scenarios 2,3 and 4) although the report did say more investigation was needed. CDXC members are indicating that the aim should be to minimize any propagation advantage between the TX and RX, rather than between the station and the operator.

8. There was a strong consensus (91%) that if the control location was allowed to be in a different country from the transmitter, it would not matter whether the operator has a licence for that country or not and if they did there would be no special privileges.
9. A number of members commented that the use of PRIVATE shared remote receivers should be treated in the same way as public internet receivers and should not be allowed.

Comments on Enforcement

1. Enforcement must inevitably be largely honour based.
2. The rules are more likely to be accepted and adhered to if they are simple, fair and credible.

3. There should be sanctions for people found breaking the rules. The suggested sanctions ranged from naming and shaming to being banned from the DXCC program.
4. There were two suggestions on LoTW certificates. One was that the application for (or renewal of) an LoTW certificate should require people to confirm their agreement to the rules regarding remote operation. The second suggestion was that stations operating remotely should be required to have a separate LoTW certificate for the QSOs made by remote operation.
5. A suggestion was put forward whether skimmers and/or the RBN could assist with enforcement.

Appendix 2

Current DXCC Rules regarding remote operation.

DXCC credit is based on the location of the transmitter.

The control location must be within the same DXCC as the transmitter.

If a station moves location, as long as the moves are within the same DXCC entity, credits can continue to be accrued for that callsign.