



**News and Events, February 2025 Edition**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

February is upon us, and contesting season is in full-tilt. TCG generated a whopping number of QSOs in 2024. Check out the Most Radio Active report later in this issue. Thanks to Ted W4NZ for tabulating the data and generating the statistics. Thanks also to everyone involved in creating and distributing the awards.

Extra thanks goes to K0EJ, our plaque crafter and manager of all things financial for TCG. This club would not exist without the contributions that Mark has brought to TCG. That's not meant to sound dramatic; it's a simple fact. Mark was instrumental in the formation of TCG, and has carried real weight for this club ever since, for over three decades.

It's time now to think about future leadership for the the TCG. Your current officers have enjoyed serving you for the past two years, but it's time to turn the page once again and look towards the future. Some contest clubs choose to retain the same leadership year after year. That can provide a sense of continuity and stability. Other clubs periodically change leadership. Change can be painful sometimes, but it can also bring fresh ideas to help to fight stagnation, the insidious enemy of many organizations.

TCG has chosen the latter path of electing new officers periodically. While we have frequently "recycled" officers from the past, we are always looking for new ideas and fresh blood to keep this club active and viable.

Quoting directly from our constitution:

- A. The officers of this club shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary
- B. The officers shall be nominated during the first 22 days of March by all members in good standing. Voting occurs the final week of March, after which officers will be announced. Elected officers serve for a term of one year — March 31 through April 1.

We hope that you will give some thought to TCG leadership for the next year. If you are looking for a way to give back to contesting, serving as a club officer is a great way to do it. If you or someone you know might be interested in help TCG, please give it some serious consideration.

73, —Kirk K4RO      TCG President



## TCG Most Radio Active Final Report for 2024

Greetings and Happy New Year Fellow Contesters,

For our newer members, here is a bit of background about the Most Radio Active competition. The MRA has its real beginnings in 2003 when the first TCG Radio Active Reports (RAR) were published and distributed via the TCG reflector on mostly a monthly basis by Chuck KE4OAR and picked up later by Greg K4KO. The objectives then were much the same as now, to have fun while recognizing and rewarding the contesting efforts of our members. The reports were well received as it gave everyone a much clearer picture of our club's activities when compared to the previous random comments and conversations on the reflector. It also stimulated friendly competition among our members for the coveted annual Most Radio Active Amateur plaque. The RAR continued to be published until around January, 2012. In 2019 there were discussions on the reflector about trying to revive the RAR. I volunteered to develop a new set of guidelines for this activity that we now call the Most Radio Active competition. Along with the help of Mark K0EJ, a TCG Founding Member as well as the primary author of our constitution, and other ad hoc advisors, the guidelines were developed and published with the first running of the competition to begin on January 1, 2020 and run the entire calendar year. The guidelines are reviewed and revised as necessary on an annual basis. The 2025 revision of the guidelines were published on the reflector in December 2024 and will soon be made available on the TCG website.

Here we are, putting the final touches on 2024, our 5th year of the MRA competition. "Competition" is a bit of a misnomer as the intent is to have FUN playing on our radios. There are only winners in doing this. Still, there is joy in competing and seeing the published results of our efforts. That is why it is very important to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of our members and reward the most outstanding performances.

Here are a few facts about our 2024 contesting efforts:

- TCG Members accounted for 379,561 contest QSO's this year!
- TCG members participated in and submitted scores for 125 different contests
- We spent a total of 8,121 hours playing on the radio, but it's "just a hobby"!
- Our most active month was March with 968 hours on the radio.
- Our least active month was June at 151 hours, as you might expect. Field Day takes a toll on operating time.
- 79% of this year's membership participated in the MRA competition by submitting at least one contest score.

Some individual highlights:

- AD4EB made the most QSO's, 43,854. K0EJ was second with 31,581.
- AD4EB also spent the most time on the radio, 553 hours. AC6ZM was next with 499.
- Time on the radio also means more contests as Jim AD4EB worked the most at 78
- Juan AC6ZM was next on the most contests list at 65
- Ron WV4P, through his multi-op efforts, has stimulated a significant amount of participation from West Tennessee
- There is increased participation from our out of state members: K3FH, K4EA, W5MX, WF4I, N6NT, KA4OTB, WV4AM and W4UX

One more bit of trivia – MRA member participation through the years:

- 2020 – 70 members
- 2021 – 76 members
- 2022 – 77 members
- 2023 – 85 members
- 2024 – 99 members

And now I am pleased to report ...

**The Tennessee Contest Group's \*MOST RADIO ACTIVE\* member for 2024 is: .... Jim Hall AD4EB ....**

This is a FOURTH award for Jim! He once again has proven himself to be a high performer in a variety of contests. Having the highest number of QSO's and contests is a winning combination. But more than that, Jim and Melody KI4HVY have become the Gold Standard in mobile contesting. Congratulations, Jim (and Melody), very well deserved!!

**Here are the 2024 MOST RADIO ACTIVE Regional High Scorers:**

	<b>East Tennessee</b>	<b>Middle Tennessee</b>	<b>West Tennessee</b>	<b>Out of State Members</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Juan Lopez, Jr., AC6ZM	Jim Hall, AD4EB	Ron Koenig, Jr., WV4P	Neal Sultmeyer, K4EA
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Ted Bryant, W4NZ	Hunter Mills, K3IE	Bart Campbell, NS4X	Mike Furfari, K3FH
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Mark Speck, K0EJ	Kirk Pickering, K4RO	Trina Koenig, NR4L	Bryan Bydal, W5MX

Lady and Gentlemen, congratulations on your top performances in 2024!

Congratulations to all of you who participated in this year's MRA competition. We are looking forward to 2025.

Thank you for keeping TCG Radio Active!

73, Ted W4NZ

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## CONTEST ACTIVITY

Here is a selected list, as of this publication, of those who put up scores on [3830 Scores Summary](#) in December:

### ARRL RTTY Roundup 2025 Jan 4

#### M/2 HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K4EA		x	2098	60	68	30	268,544	TCG

#### M/S LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W9SN			1284	60	60	30	154,080	TCG

#### Single Op HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W4GKM	SO2R		1188	59	55	20:00	135,432	TCG
W3TB			412	54	20	9:26	30,488	TCG
AF4T			206	49	24	7:12	15,038	TCG
NK4I			215	43	14	3:58	12,255	TCG
K9QJS			104	38	8	3	4,784	TCG
K4VIG			25	15	2	.5	425	TCG

#### Single Op Limited-Ant HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W3TB			412	54	20	9:26	30,488	TCG
AF4T			206	49	24	7:12	15,038	TCG

#### Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AC6ZM			851	60	37	21:49	82,547	TCG
K9UC			746	57	40	21	72,362	TCG
N9TF			665	55	41	15:30	63,840	TCG
KE0L			506	56	22	11.5	39,468	TCG
N4MCC			233	46	23	12	16,077	TCG
K1GU			139	34	18	3.6	7,228	TCG
WN8Y			88	27	23	8	4,400	TCG
K0EJ			61	35	1	1	2,196	TCG
AC4G			34	10	7	1:18	578	TCG

#### Single Op Limited-Ant LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N9TF			665	55	41	15:30	63,840	TCG
KE0L			506	56	22	11.5	39,468	TCG
N4MCC			233	46	23	12	16,077	TCG

#### SO Unlimited HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W5MX			1356	60	61	22	164,076	TCG
AD4EB	SO2R		700	58	46	7	72,800	TCG
NS4X			503	51	27	7	39,234	TCG
K3FH			130	37	7	3.5	5,720	TCG
K4RO			47	20	13	1	1,551	TCG

#### SO Unlimited Limited-Ant HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
K3FH			130	37	7	3.5	5,720	TCG

#### SO Unlimited LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W4SSF			140	42	13	6.5	7,700	TCG

### ARRL January VHF Contest 2025 Jan 18

#### Single Op-All Modes HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
NS4X			4	3	1	12	TCG

#### Single Op-Analog LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AC4G			11	9	.5	99	TCG

#### SO3Band-All Modes LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AJ6T	SO2R		103	65	13:41	7,280	TCG

### Hungarian DX Contest 2025 Jan 18

#### SOABCW HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW Qs	SSB Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
AD4EB			524	0	196	8	547,624	TCG
K3IE	SO2R		447	0	168	8	433,776	TCG
W4NZ			65	0	49	1:27	20,776	TCG
W6UB			31	0	0	2.1	5,805	TCG
NS4X			23	0	20	1	2,860	TCG

#### SOABCW LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	CW Qs	SSB Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W4CMG			82	0	38	03:37	12,502	TCG

### North American QSO Party, SSB 2025 January

#### Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
K0EJ	SO2R		444	114	4.5	50,616	TCG
W4NZ	SO2R		238	129	4:40	30,702	TCG
AI4DB			100	62		6,200	TCG
KA40TB			60	39	4	2,340	TCG
WA4JA			61	35	2	2,135	TCG
AC4G			57	27	1:20	1,539	TCG
KE4CMA			45	31	6	1,395	TCG

#### Single Op Assisted LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
K4DXV			85	65	2:47	5,525	TCG
W4UT			76	57	2.5	4,332	TCG
NS4X			76	53	1.5	4,028	TCG
N4MCC			81	48	6	3,888	TCG

## North American QSO Party, CW 2025 January

### M/2 LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
N4SS(@W5MX)			1643	340	11.5	558,620	TCG

### Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
W9SN	S02R		959	219	10	210,021	TCG Team Cosmic
WK9M			646	169	9	109,174	TCG
K4AL		x	426	158	9.5	67,308	TCG Team Gamma
W9WI			406	161	7:32	65,366	TCG Team Cosmic
KØEJ			402	160	5	64,320	TCG Team Gamma
K1GU			381	141	5.4	53,721	TCG Team Beta
AA4DD			311	160	8	49,760	TCG Team Cosmic
W4UT			311	155	6:45	48,205	TCG Team Gamma
W3TB			312	118	5:34	36,816	TCG Team Beta
K3IE			280	96	4	26,880	TCG Team Gamma
KM9P(KØEJ)			151	87	2	13,137	TCG Team Cosmic
W6UB			102	52	3.9	5,304	TCG
K4DZR			81	59	3	4,779	TCG
K4VIG			90	42	1.5	3,780	TCG
AC4G			71	38	1.5	2,698	TCG
KA4OTB			50	32	3	1,600	TCG
WD8RYC			35	35	2.0	1,225	TCG

### Single Op Assisted LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
AD4EB	S02R		1185	324	10	383,940	TCG Team Alpha
AF4T			613	236	9.00	144,668	TCG Team Alpha
K4RO			538	185	5	99,530	TCG Team Alpha
W4NZ	S02R		337	151	5	50,887	TCG Team Beta
WV4AM			331	152	7.9	50,312	TCG Team Alpha
W4CMG			254	117	05:27	29,718	TCG Team Beta
W4SSF			210	129	5:30	27,090	TCG
K4DXV			130	97	3:52	12,610	TCG Team Gamma
NS4X			150	84	2	12,600	TCG
KQ4E			111	86	3	9,546	TCG
K4KO			108	63	2	6,804	TCG
K9QJS			103	64	2	6,592	TCG
WM4Q			80	64	1.5	5,120	TCG
K3FH			45	29	1.25	1,305	TCG Team Beta

### Single Op Assisted Youth LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
WV4AM			331	152	7.9	50,312	TCG Team Alpha

### Single Op Assisted QRP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
WD4CFN			216	109	4:40	23,544	TCG

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## N4MCC – T. Andrew McCluskey

My journey to becoming a Ham was not like many. My electronics knowledge is more along the lines of being able to understand and build a few things when needed. That developed during my undergraduate days at the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara. I graduated in 1980 with a BA in Industrial and Scientific Photography. During some of the assignments, I needed to build a few items that used LEDs and timers for motion study photos using light tracings. That led to an interest in electronic things, and I built a serious timer that tripped a strobe for photos that timed events to 10,000<sup>th</sup> of a second for photographing things like bullets in flight. That experience turned me into a Radio Shack rat.

While my quest to find a full-time job as a corporate photographer did not pan out in the economy of the 80s, I did end up working part-time at a Radio Shack in Lebanon after returning home from California. That part-time job eventually led me to manage my first Radio Shack in Franklin. That career spanned eight years and several stores, and finally, as a support engineer at the Radio Shack Area Training and

## CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2025 Jan 24

### Single Op HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
W5MX			887	56	52	18	362,944	TCG
AC4G			305	43	39	10	106,846	TCG
K1GU			441	47	26	8.7	86,870	TCG
AA4DD			292	51	23	9	64,306	TCG
W4NZ			203	42	27	4	46,092	TCG
KØEJ			212	33	4	3	17,781	TCG
W6UB			100	36	4	2.2	9,240	TCG

### Single Op LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AC6ZM(@W1/CHAPLAIN)		x	46	17	0	1	1,717	TCG
K4DXV			33	17	1	2:05	1,296	TCG

### Single Op Assisted HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
AD4EB			648	55	35	10	162,990	TCG
K3IE			401	50	38	7	118,096	TCG
K4RO			414	50	38	5	111,056	TCG
AF4T			300	48	25	8.00	63,729	TCG
NS4X			16	16	1	1	560	TCG

### Single Op Assisted LP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Op Time	Score	Club
N9TF			323	48	15	6.5	50,148	TCG

Didn't see your score listed? Next time, make sure to submit your score summary to [3830scores.com](http://3830scores.com), and use the pull-down menu under "Club" to select "Tennessee Contest Group." Of course, it's also important to make sure that the Cabrillo file that you submit to the contest sponsor also contains the following line: *CLUB: Tennessee Contest Group*. This will ensure that your score will contribute to the TCG club aggregate score.

Support Office in Nashville. During that time, I met a man named Clarence Walley. He was one of the computer store salesmen. The interesting thing about Clarence was that he was totally blind. He spurred my first interest in Ham Radio. After Radio Shack I worked in technical support for a company in Nashville for three years that manufactured boards for computers. After that, I worked for the State of Tennessee in IT support before retiring in 2023 after 30 years.

But Clarence got me interested in the local 2-meter repeater in Nashville. I wanted to add a radio in my truck for access to the phone patch. I had tried to learn code years before for a technician license but had little luck. Clarence told me the code requirement had been dropped, and I earned my Technician license and held it for over twenty years as KD4EEE before upgrading. I had little interest in HF. But while recovering from several major surgeries in 2012 and being confined to home, I studied for my General, then Extra, with little else to do. I earned my General as one of the first things I could venture out of the house to do. Three weeks later, I took the Extra on my first travel venture out to the Huntsville Hamfest.

I decided to try out HF. Luckily, I ran across a man in Murfreesboro who was getting out of radio, and I loaded up with my first Radio, a Yaesu FTDX 3000, and other goodies. It sat for months without being set up. I went to my first Field Day in Columbia in 2013 and got hooked. I got a vanity call of N4MCC to go with my last name. From there, I started stringing dipoles in my trees. My wife Jenene tolerated my radio interest, and it grew. During COVID and working from home, it really grew. I got into HF more and finally got bitten by the contest bug. I am a member of TCG and the Maury County ARC, and I participate in as many contests as I can. I have started working in RTTY and other digital, and I am working on my code again.

I am on and off the radio most weekends if there is no contest, but I really like contesting. Unfortunately, shortly after I obtained my Extra in 2012, I was diagnosed with psoriatic arthritis. It developed probably after three major surgeries in 2012 and 2013. It is the curse from hell. I have decided it is either a nuisance for a person or it is terrible. I have the horrible kind, and none of the very expensive drugs have done much for me. I try and live with the 24/7 pain, but it has limited my abilities to get up, and down the five acres of hills I live on to put up and keep up my dipoles. But I try and push through it.

I am often asked how I managed to pass my General and Extra tests after only a few months of online studying with Hamtest Online. I am not that good at the technical questions on the test and have little understanding of most of them. I do not have a photographic memory, but I have an uncanny ability to remember specific patterns. Something the military discovered from the ASVAB test in high school. They worried the hell out of me about being crypto, which I did not pursue, but I did join the National Guard for six years and spent most of that as a helicopter crew chief. I was told there was no way to memorize over 500 questions for the test. I can't and couldn't, but I could remember the pattern of word pairs from the questions and answers. I got 100 on my General and near that on the Extra. I try to learn as much about electronics as I need, but most are still not well understood.

I enjoy being on the radio more now that I am retired. I have been busy this winter attempting to put up a dipole for each band and take down the OCFs—I have a few more to go! I now use a Flex 6300 and have a Kenwood TS-2000 for VHF/UHF. I am looking forward to more involvement in my hobby now that I am retired.

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## **DUES & MEMBERSHIP & NEW MEMBERS**

Gary AE4GS joined us in last month. Welcome Gary! If current members would like to nominate new members, please e-mail K0EJ (mark.speck.k0ej@gmail.com) so an invite can be sent out.

Remember that club dues are due NOW! Are you up-do-date with your dues? Do you need help navigating

the HamClubOnline (<https://secure.hamclubonline.com/>) ? Pop us a message via the TCG Google Group (<https://groups.google.com/u/1/g/tcg1>) and we can assist!

TCG membership is open to all with an interest in contesting. There are no geographical limitations. All you need is a sincere interest in contesting, and the willingness to get on the air and operate with us.



## UPCOMING CONTESTS

The following table is a list of the upcoming contests which qualify for the TCG Most Radioactive Award. For more information on the MRA, please refer to K4TCG.ORG under the TCG INFO section. Thanks to AD4EB for this list, and to Ted W4NZ for administering the TCG Most Radioactive Award.

February 1, 2025	British Columbia QSO Party
February 1, 2025	Mexico RTTY International Contest
February 1, 2025	European Union DX Contest (new)
February 1, 2025	Vermont QSO Party
February 1, 2025	Minnesota QSO Party
February 2, 2025	North American Sprint, CW Feb
February 8, 2025	CQ WW WPX Contest, RTTY
February 8, 2025	Dutch PACC Contest
February 15, 2025	ARRL International DX Contest, CW
February 21, 2025	CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB
February 22, 2025	North American QSO Party, RTTY Feb
February 22, 2025	South Carolina QSO Party
February 22, 2025	North Carolina QSO Party
March 1, 2025	ARRL International DX Contest, SSB
March 8, 2025	Idaho QSO Party
March 8, 2025	Oklahoma QSO Party
March 8, 2025	Stew Perry Topband Challenge-Mar
March 9, 2025	North American Sprint, RTTY Mar
March 9, 2025	Wisconsin QSO Party
March 15, 2025	BARTG HF RTTY Contest
March 15, 2025	Russian DX Contest
March 15, 2025	Virginia QSO Party
March 23, 2025	North American Sprint SSB Contest, Spring
March 30, 2025	CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB



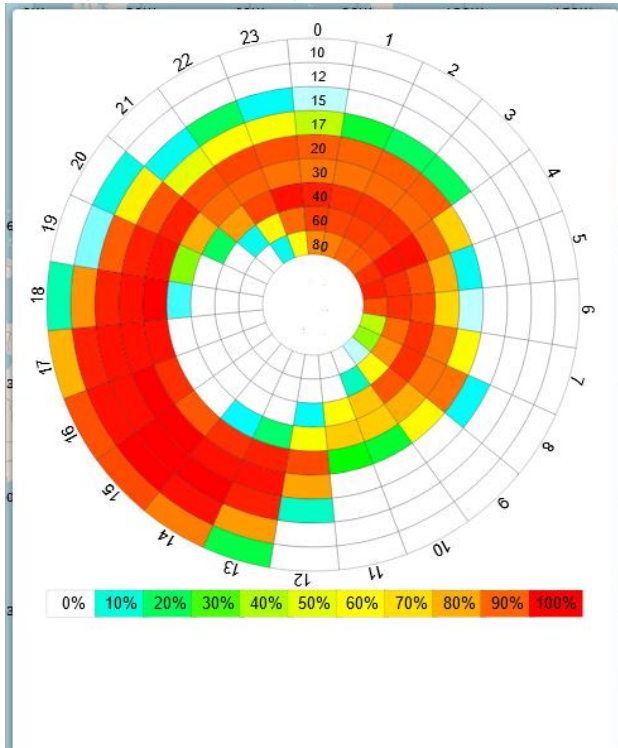
## VOACAP Online Prop Wheel

<https://www.voacap.com/hf/>

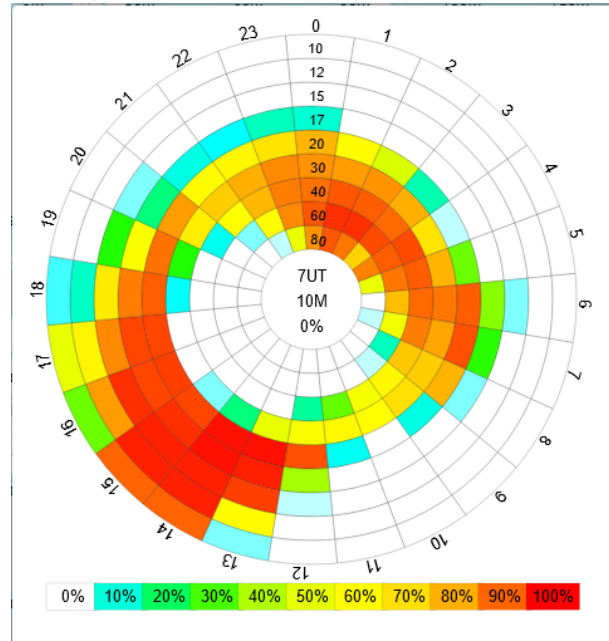
Predictions for ARRL DX CW to key areas. From EM66, using 3el Yagi up 66ft for 10-20M, 2el Yagi for 40M up 66ft, 1/4 wave vertical over good ground for 80M. Power is 1000W. Models assume the same config on the DX end. Go to the link above and put in your own antenna configs and power.

Germany and European Russia represent 20% of the Qs that might be made during the contest!

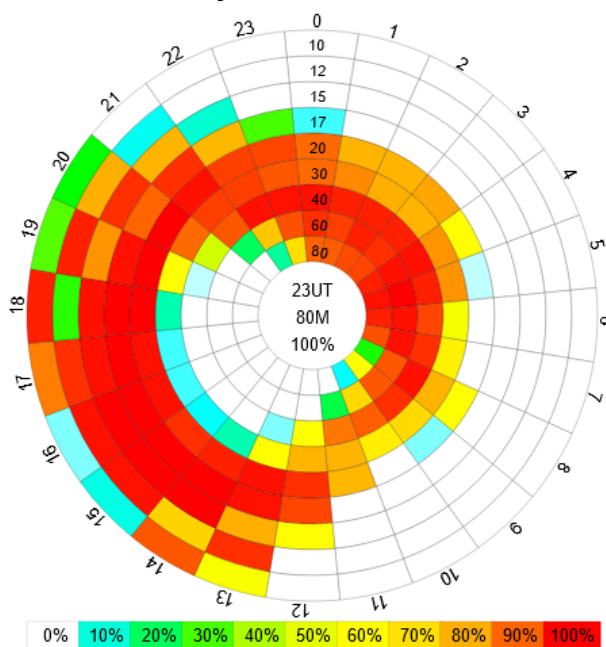
### Short path to Germany



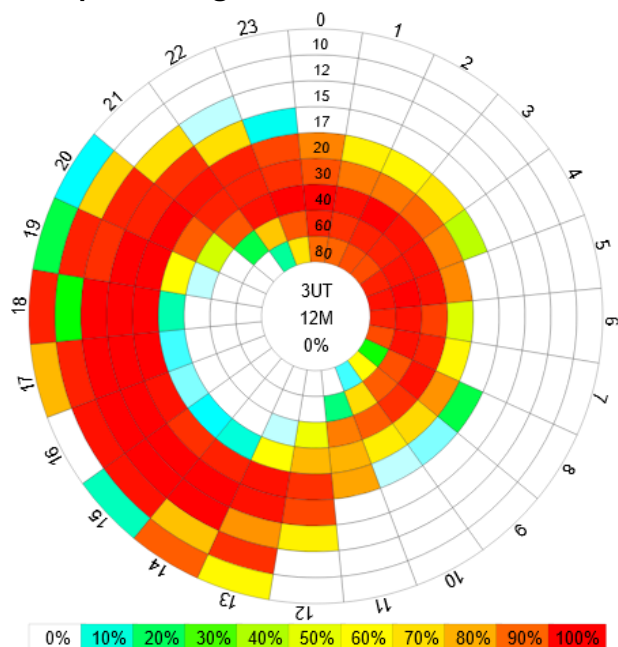
### Short path to EU Russia



### Short Path to Italy

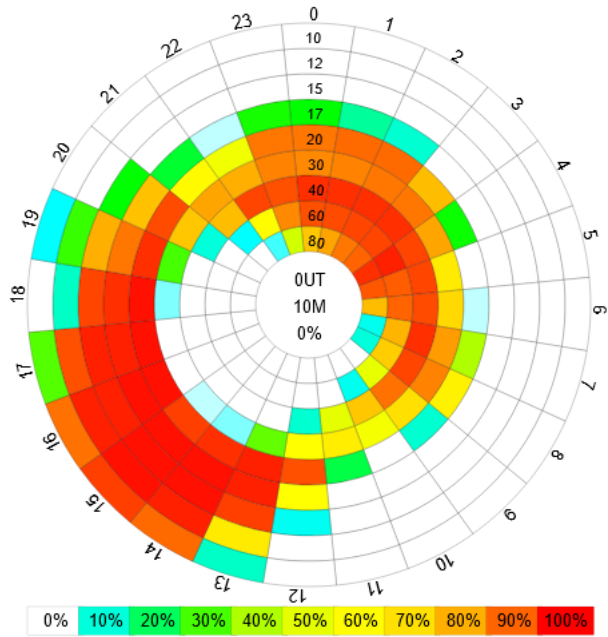


### Short path to England

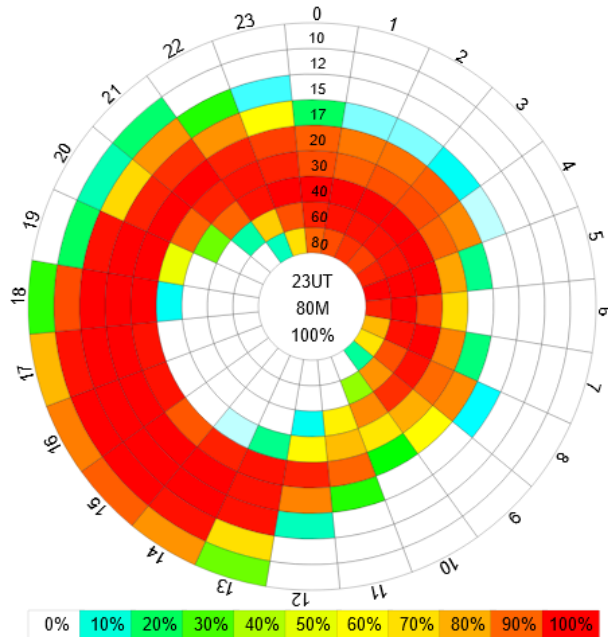




### Short path to Poland



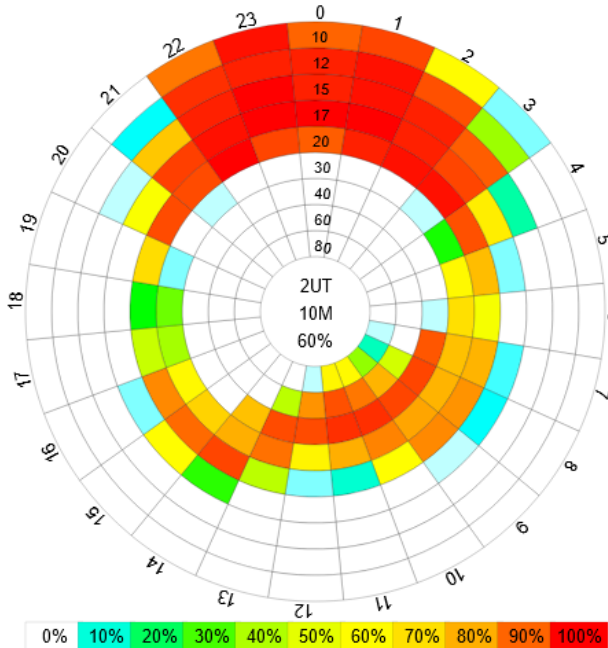
### Short path to France



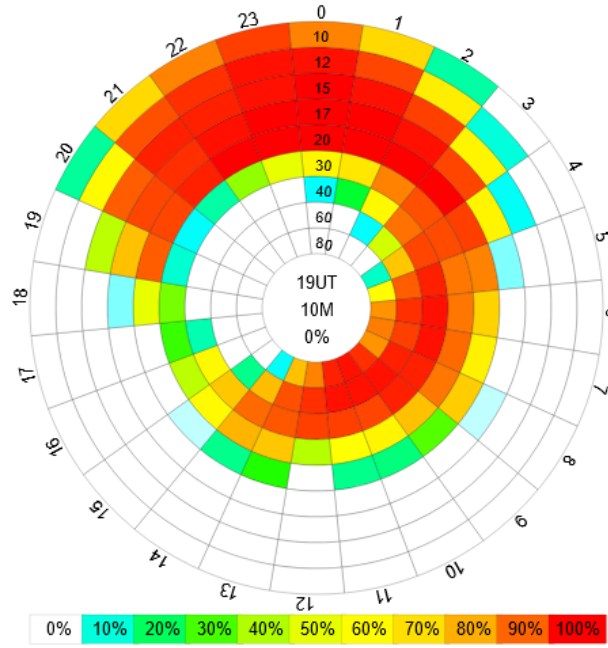
Italy, Poland, England, and France represent another 20% of the Qs you can expect. All told, about 75% of your contest Qs will come from EU.

Expect 15% of your Qs to come from Asia.

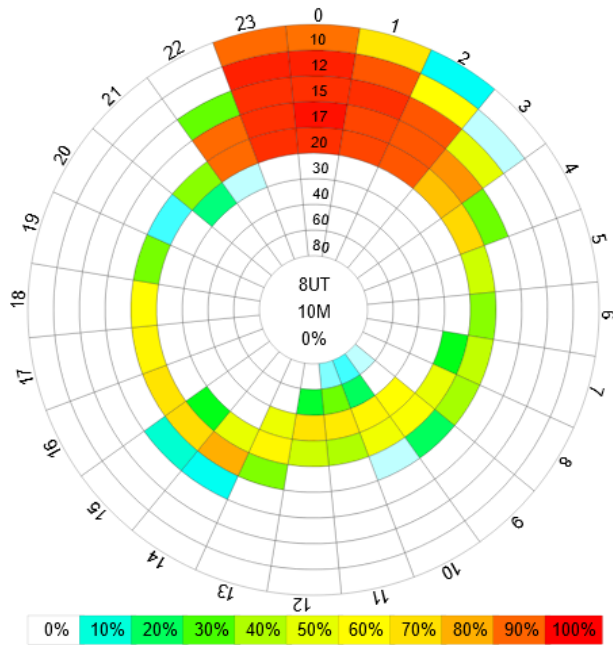
### Short path to Japan



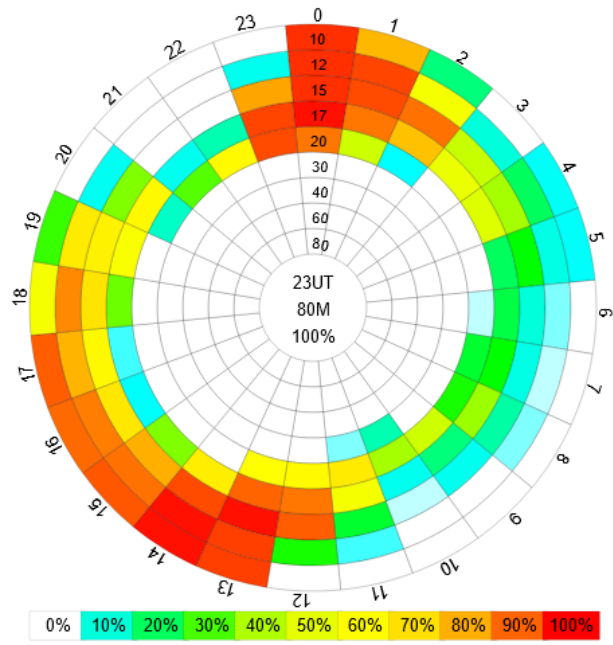
### Short path to Asian Russia



### Short path to China

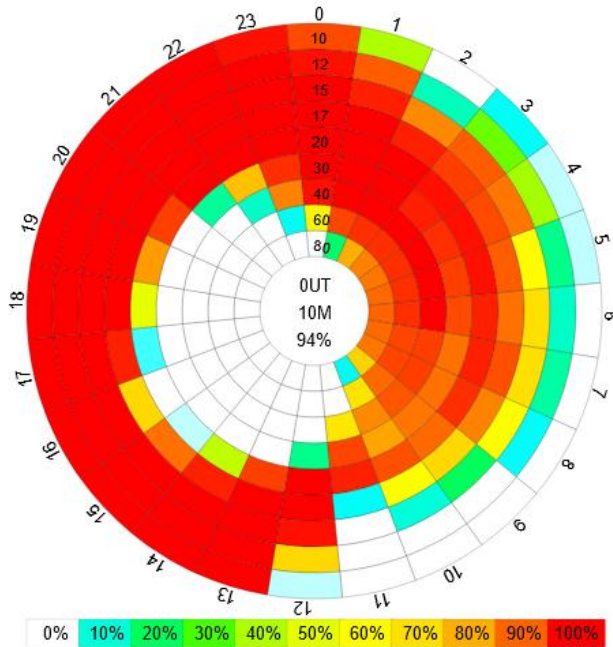


### Long path to China

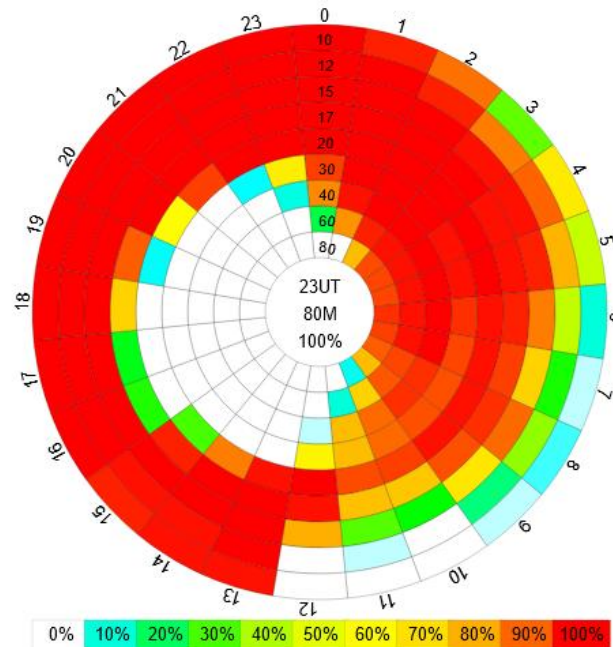


South American stations, especially on the high bands, are very important after EU closes, and JA is not yet strong. Run 'em, dude.

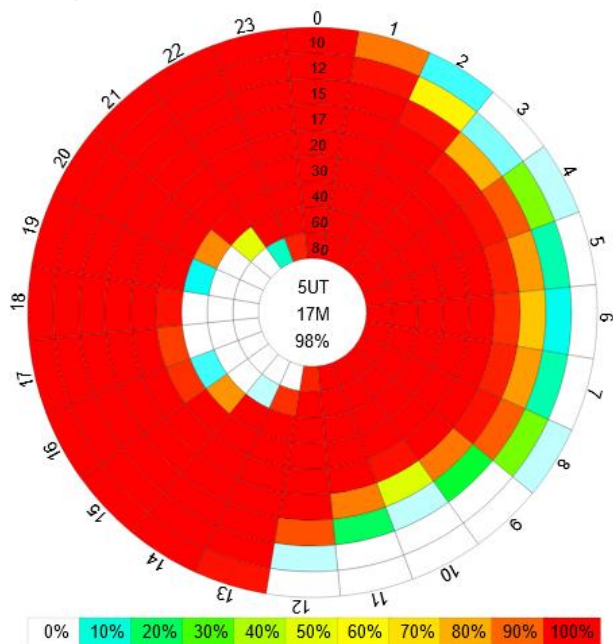
### Short path to Brazil



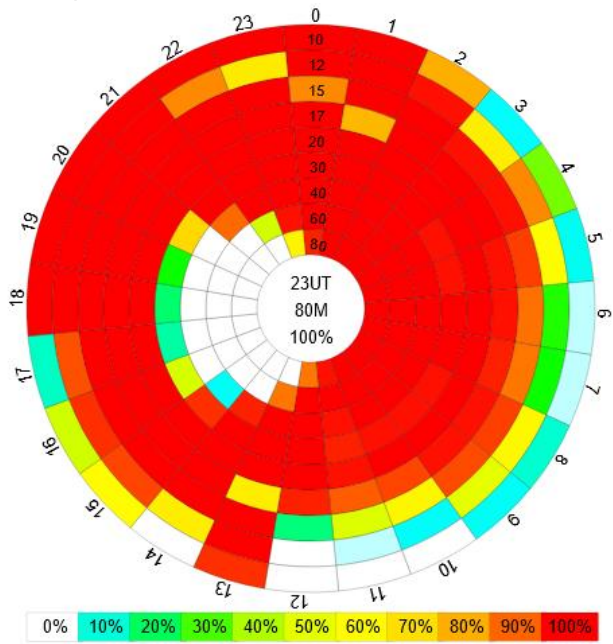
### Short path to Argentina



Short path to Caribbean

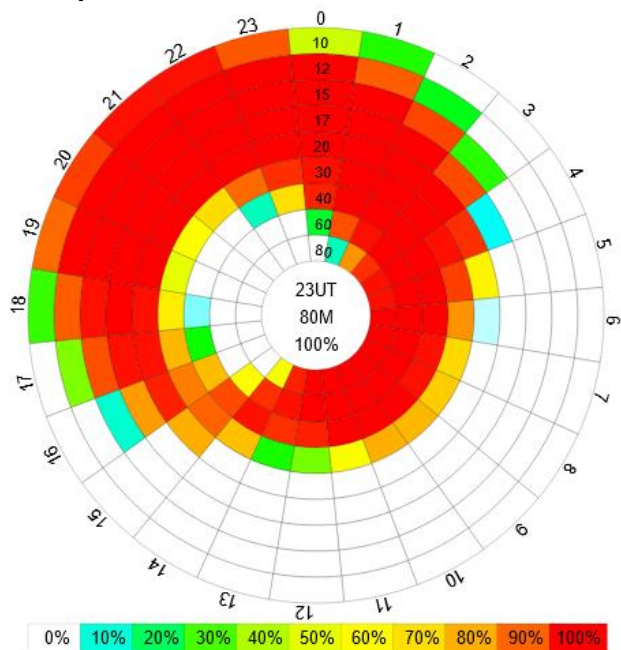


Short path to Central America

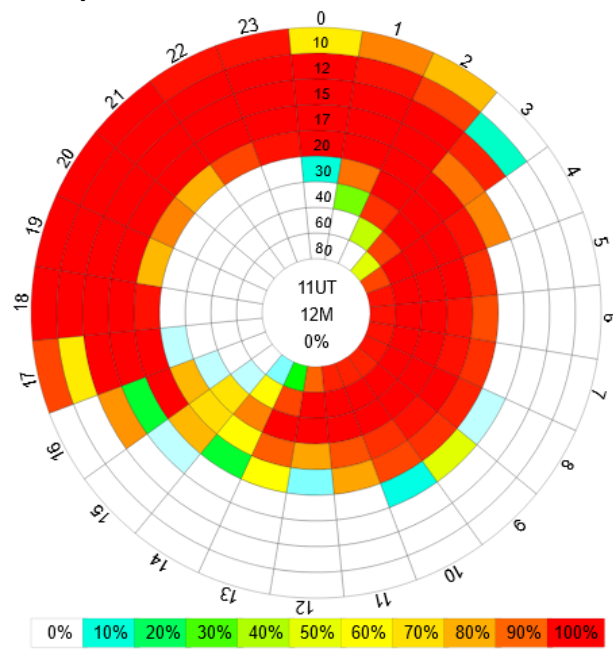


Pointing the yagi West of North...

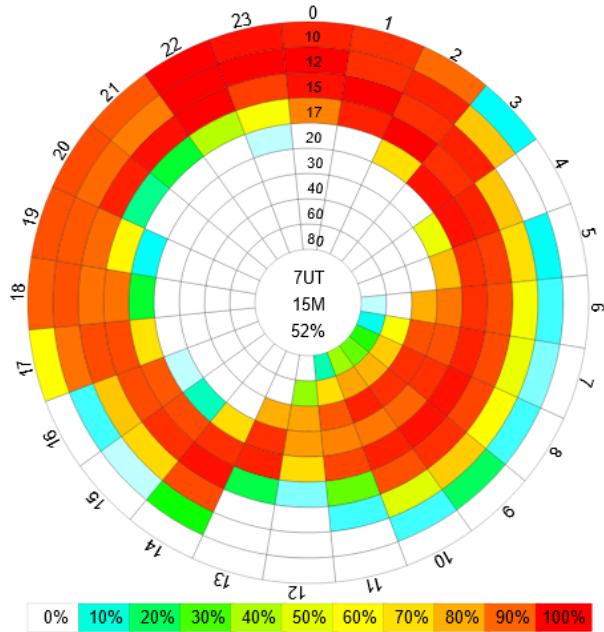
Short path to Alaska



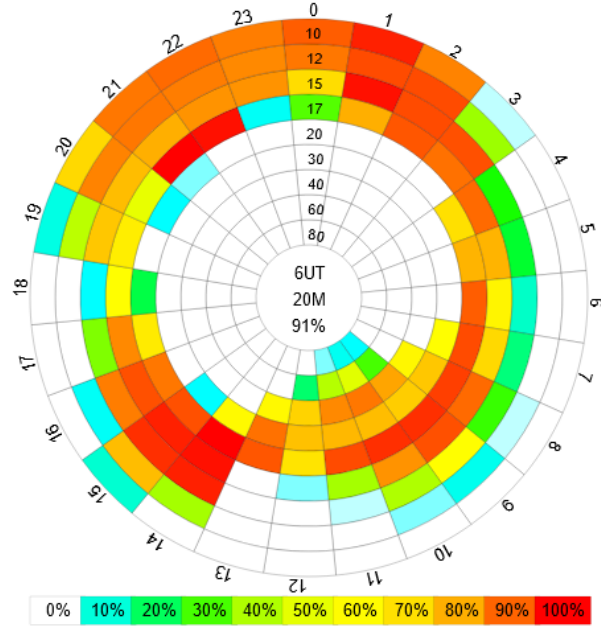
Short path to Hawaii



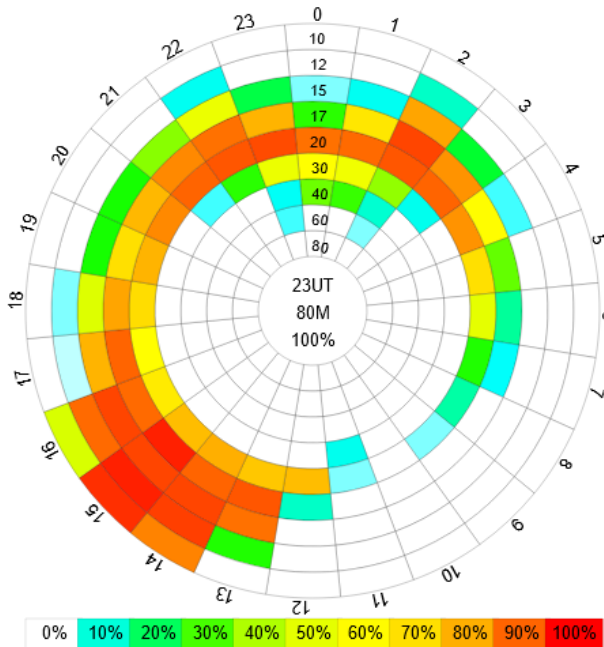
### Short path to New Zealand



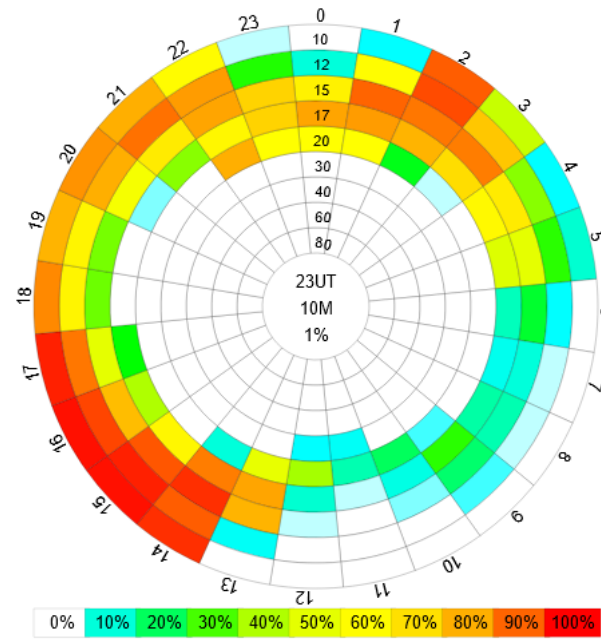
### Short path to Australia



### Short path to India



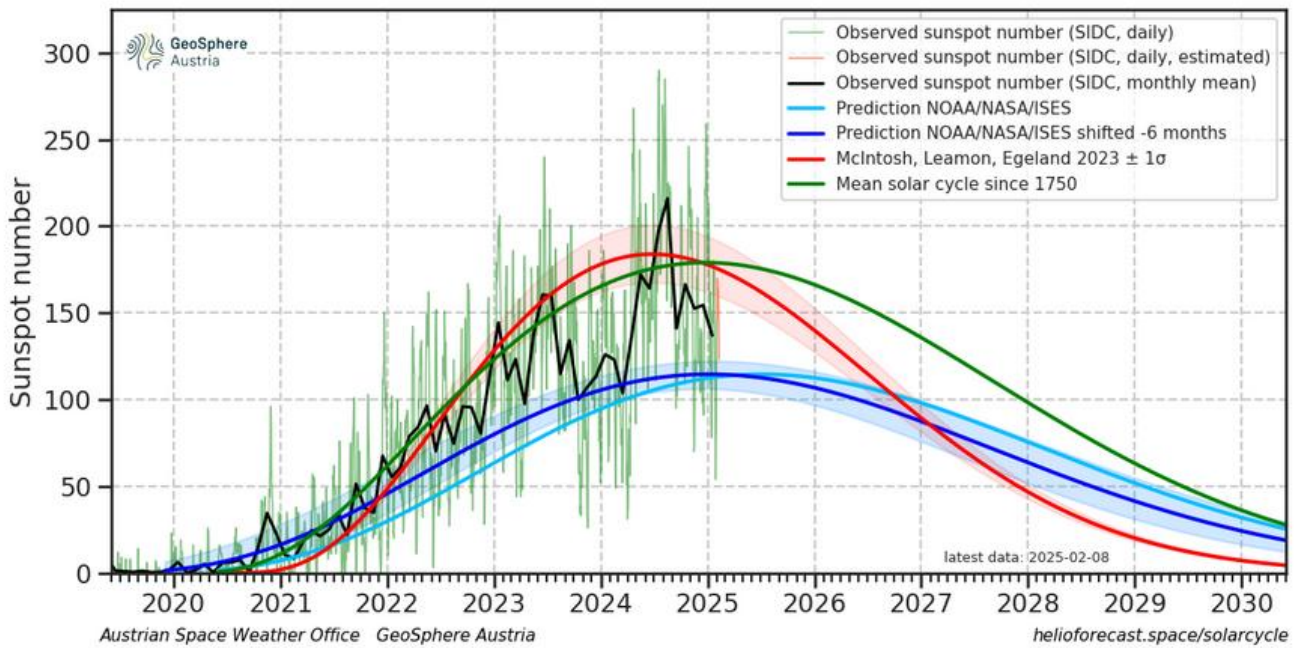
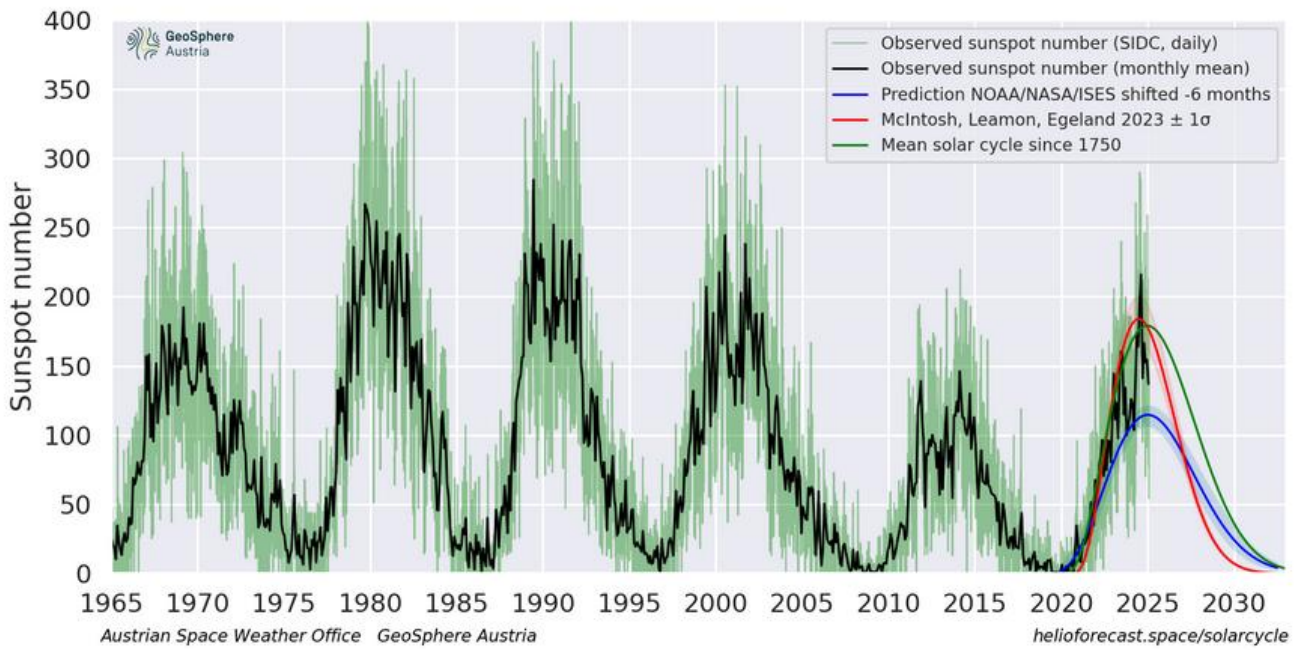
### Long path to India



These predications are all subject to actual propagation conditions. Smaller stations on either side of the path will have short openings and weaker signals.

Ignore the text in the center of the circles. The outer perimeter of the circle is time in UTC. The bands are in concentric rings, starting with 10M on the outside through 80M in the innermost ring. The redder, the better the chance of this path being HOT.





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