

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KLAUS GRAEF, DK1AX, #5213



My name is Klaus, my call is DK1AX and I am 56 years old. I live in Germany and I am an enthusiastic DX-er. Made my license long time ago - in 1982 - when I was in Munich for my studies.

My first goal in HAM radio was the DXCC – in CW. Today I am working hard on the magic band for my 10-band-DXCC! Ok, I often use QRO - because in Europe you have less chance to make it to the DX station with 100 watt or with QRP.

But DXing with QRO every day is not all..... I am the owner of an K1 and of an KX3. Travelling a lot, I take my QRP station with me. So I was QRV from different countries. But most of the time, it was frustrating. Calling CQ less stations answered to such a "poor" signal. And answering a CQ-call - using QSK - you can hear after giving 2 letters the other station calling further CQ... by the way, I am doing CW most time.

So I had to reorient myself - searching for a new goal.... I found SOTA! Summit on The Air.... And that is great. Having two possibilities – hunting stations being on summits or going on a summit and making QSO's from up there. And that makes fun! So my best QSOs from a summit in Austria where QSOs with a station in Canada and also a station in US! With 5 watts and a simple dipole.

Being a member of the Bavarian Contest Club, I make a lot of contests – I love CW contests but making SSB and RTTY too.

Another dream of mine since I am a HAM was to be part of a “big” DXpedition. So I got the opportunity to join the DXpedition to Sao Tome – S9DX. That was a big thrill to be for a couple of days on the other end of the pileup. In the next years I was also member of the DXpeditions to ZK2C – Niue - and this year 5W0M - Samoa. I love such experiences. Plans for new, rare places in the world are in my mind..... We will see...

I am an award hunter too. Looking for “hard” to reach awards like “Tripple Play Award” (reached), 10-Band DXCC (9-band reached), USA-CA-Award (looking for last QSOs for CA500), Japan Century Cities

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(looking for last QSOs) and so on.

I love my hobby – HAM radio. But I have other interests too. One is: USA! I was several times in America, visiting a lot of beautiful places there. One of my favourite trips was a two-weeks trip by tent through the deserts in south-west, having the opportunity to see the desert in blossom – and to get a special permit for a night with the tent in the dunes of the White Sand NM. In the rest of my free time, I ride my BMW motorcycle.... having much fun with.

Ok, that's it for now: when you hear me on the frequency, give me a call – I will answer and say: "Hi from Germany"

73
Klaus
dk1ax

