

HD8R



Fundación
Charles Darwin
Foundation
GALAPAGOS

Galapagos Is.

Foto: Nicolás Moity

ARRL CW CONTEST 2026

by Thomas SM0CXU
& Pekka OH2TA



The house: Ground Floor, kitchen and 2 bedrooms.
2nd floor, 3 bedrooms. 3rd floor, the shack

Where is Galapagos?

A National Park 1,100 km from the Continent

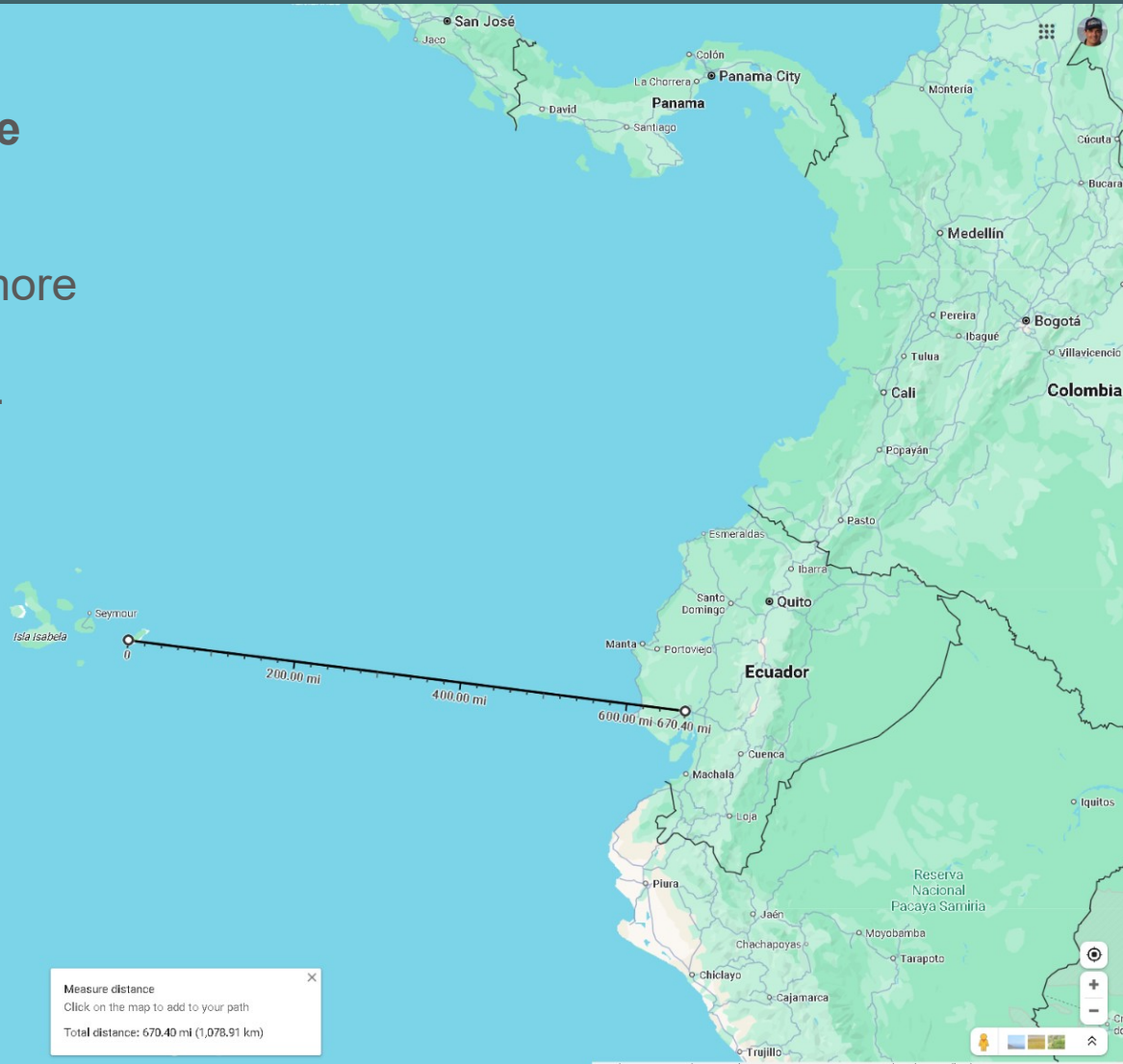
13 major islands, 6 minor islands, more than 100 islets and rocks

4 of the major islands are inhabited.

6 active volcanoes on Isabela and Fernandina islands

Total population ca 27.000

San Cristóbal 9.200



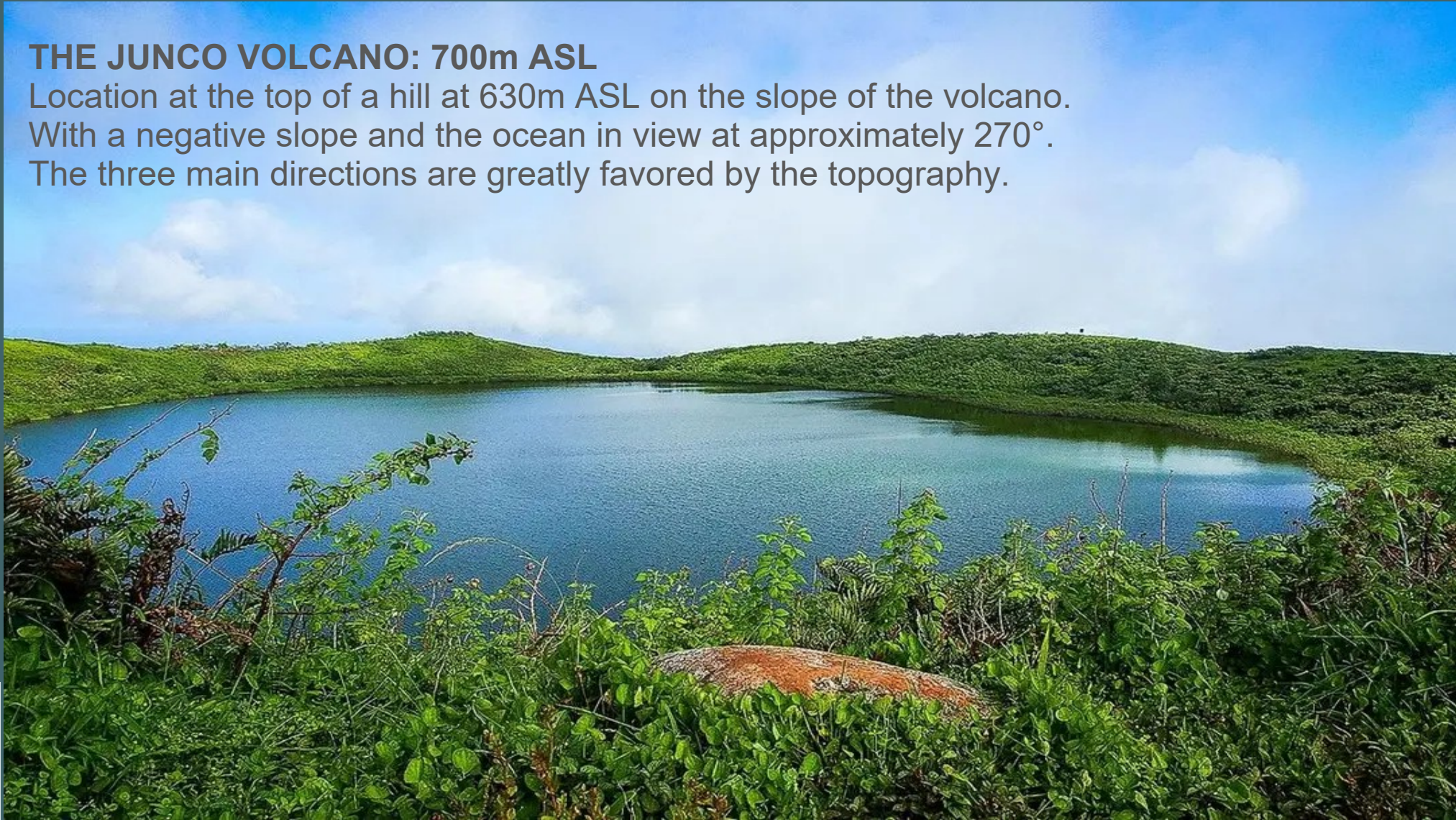
Where is HD8R?



Where is HD8R?

THE JUNCO VOLCANO: 700m ASL

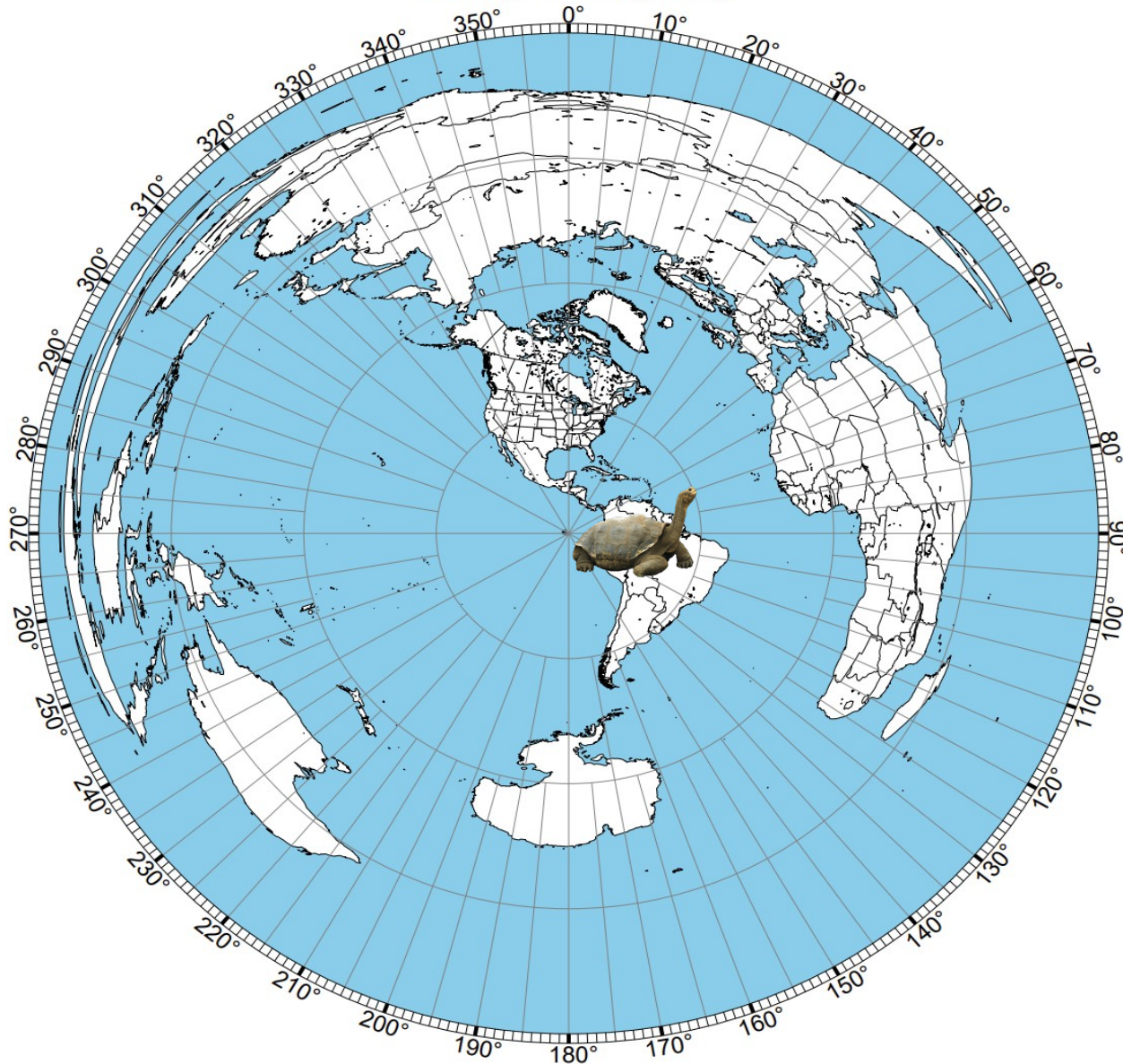
Location at the top of a hill at 630m ASL on the slope of the volcano.
With a negative slope and the ocean in view at approximately 270°.
The three main directions are greatly favored by the topography.



Azimuthal Map

Center: 0°51'15"S 89°27'29"W

Courtesy of Tom (NS6T)



Europa 40°: 11.100 KM

USA 350°: 4500 KM

Japón 315°: 13100 KM

LU 155°: 4500 KM

How to get there?

HC8 is a 2 h flight from the mainland Ecuador.

There are several flights per day from Guayaquil, which is the closet aeroport in mainland.

We took also this route and to GYE we flew via Amsterdam and Panama.

In GYE we spent two nights in Holiday Inn hotel, which is conviniently located just few minutes from the airport.

There are restrictions in amount of tourists who can go to the islands and also some rules and regulations. You have to apply in advance a "Tarjeta de control de transito" (\$20) as well a "Declaration Jurada de Mercansias". These both documents can be applied in internet which worked very well.

On departure and arrival to HC8, they check carefully your luggage that you are not bringing in any organic Material or food in order to protect the islands. At arrival there is an entrance fee of \$200 and that's it.

Everything worked out very fluently all the way and no big ques anywhere along the journey.



Galapagos - Why and how

For ARRL CW we traditionally go to Cuba to do T48K together with Raúl CO8ZZ
- Problems now: mains power, many flights stopped, food shortages, etc.

We looked for alternative places to go and out of the blue came the invitation from Mark, LU8EOT offering to operate M2 with 2 Flex + K3 and 2 ACOM 2000A.

Operate from Galapagos (Thomas again after 40 years) and a short visit to Guayaquil
Meet with Mark and Martin LU5DX again.

Make some ecotourism

Darwin laid the basis for his theory on the "Origin of the species" here

Working in Guayaquil in the mid 80's I visited Galapagos 2 times Radio + Tourist with family

W3 N GG						u	u		
046 NG			18			579	579	Andy	
FY 4 EE						599	599		
T12 CCC						599	599		
048 NH			22			579	579	Kale	
KX2 H			39			599	599		114
JAI OH	TO RADIO: GALAPAGOS IS.								
JAI MD									

TO RADIO:

GALAPAGOS IS.

HC2EX/8

MEMBER OF:
GUAYAQUIL RADIO CLUB
GALAPAGOS DX RADIO CLUB
SSA, SWEDEN

ALSO: SMOCXU; EX: SM2CXU, VS6CU, 9M2CX, 9K2EX

OP:
Thomas Carlsson
Teléfonos Ericsson
Casilla 376
GUAYAQUIL

YR MO DAY

GMT

Mhz

RIG:
DRAKE R4C, T4X-C
LINEAR SB 220
INPUT 1 KW
ANT: GP, BEAM, DIPOLE

RST

73 de



HC8,HD8 operations

- 1986: HC8A CQ WW CW MS (K1XM, KQ1F, KD2HE)
- 1986: 15.-17.11. **HC8EX/8** (two weeks before CQ WW)
- 1990: HC8A CQ WW SSB SOAB (N6KT)
- 1992: HC8N CQ WW CW SOAB (N5KO)
- 2015-2018: Various LU operations at HC8N
- 2024: HD8CW CQ WW CW MS LP (K2IN, LU8EOT, LU5DX)
- 2025: HC8M ARRL CW M2 (K2IN/HC8M, LU8EOT, LU5DX9)
- 2025: HC8M ARRL SSB M2 (K1LZ, K2IN, LU8EOT, LU9ESD, LU5DX)
- 2025: HC8M CQ WPX SSB (LU9ESD)
- 2026: **HD8R** ARRL CW M2 (**OUR EVENT**)
- 2026: HD8R ARRL SSB SOAB (LU9ESD)



HC8A (N6KT op), #1 world Single Op, All Band.

N6KT / HC8A:

- 10,000 Q's (contacts) SOAB (Single Operator All Band)
- 3 CQ WW DX SSB SOAB victories
- 1 CQ WW SSB SOAB World Record
- 2 CQ WW CW SOSB (Single Operator Single Band) World Records
- Multiple ARRL SSB victories
- Current world record ARRL SSB SOAB
- 2 current world records CQ WW DX SSB 28 and 21 MHz



N5KO / HC8N

- CQ WW DX CW
 - 1st Place SOAB CQ
 - 1st Place Single Operator (SO)
 - 1st Place Multi-Multi (MM) x 5
 - 1st Place Multi-Two (M2) x 2
- CQ WW DX SSB
 - Several Top 2 finishes Multi-Single (MS)
 - CQ WW WPX SSB and CW
- Multiple 1st place finishes in MS, M2 and MM.

Year	Contest	Call	Op(s)	Ranking
2024	CQ WW CW	HD8CW	K2IN, LU5DX, LU8EOT, HC2AP	7th World
2025	ARRL CW	HC8M	K2IN, LU5DX, LU8EOT	3rd World, M2
2025	ARRL SSB	HC8M	K2IN, K1LZ, LU5DX, LU5HM, LU8EOT, LU9ESD	3rd World, M2
2025	WPX SSB	HC8M	LU9ESD	2nd World
2025	CQ WW SSB	HD8R	LU9ESD	3rd World
2026	ARRL CW	HD8R	OH2TA, SM0CXU, LU5DX, LU8EOT, K2IN	2nd World, M2
2026	ARRL Phone	HD8R	LU9ESD	1st World, SOAB
2026	WPX SSB	HD8R	LU5DX	2nd World

History of HC8A/HC8N station

The QTH of Guido HC8GR - N6KT Trey Garlough & Co



HC8A/HC8N station ca 1990



HC8N station ca 2000



HD8R station 2026



HD8R station 2026



HD8R team

LU9ESD-LU8EOT-LU5DX

HC8M-SM0CXU-OH2TA



**CW ARRL
2026**

HD8R station, antennas

160m: Top hat with elevated radials.
(SpiderBeam fiberglass mast, 26 m)

80m: Quarter-wave vertical w radials on ground.
(SpiderBeam mast, 22 m)

40m: Quarter-wave vertical with elevated radials.
(Native cane pole, 14 m)

40m: 4-el array of 4 inverted-V's to NA.
Supported by native cane poles between 14 and 18 m.

20/15/10m: SpiderBeam HD tribander.
(On SpiderBeam aluminum mast, 15.5 m).
Located at the corner of the operating room.

20/15/10m: SpiderBeam HD tribander.
(On SpiderBeam aluminum mast, 15.5 m).
Located 30 m from the operating shack.



HD8R station, equipment

- Rig 1: Flex 6600
- Rig 2: Flex 6600
- AMP 1: Acom 2000A
- AMP 2: Acom 2000A
- High-power Band Pass filters from 20/15/10 meters
- 20/15/10 Triplexer
- 4O3A Antenna Genius 8x2
- ICE Low Power BP filters (between radios and amplifiers)

HD8R station, equipment



Manu, LU9ESD was the maestro behind the technical set up and IT support during the contest. He worked the ARRL SSB part SOAB, #1 World!

HD8R station, equipment

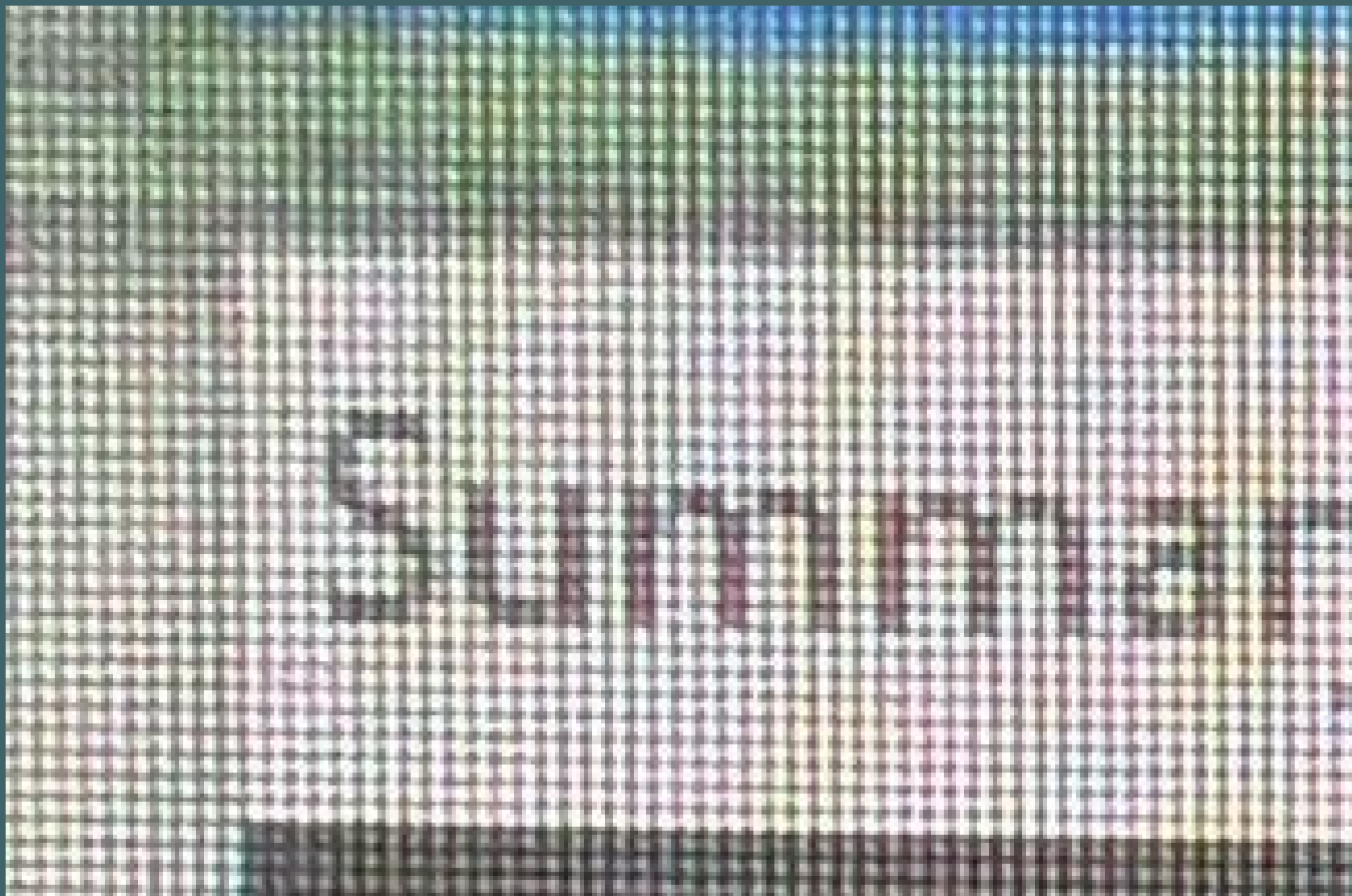


Pekka, OH2TA, wondering what the heck all these boxes are for??

Start of the contest



HD8R statistics



Final results DX M2

Rank	Category	Call Sign	QTH	Year	Score	QSOs	Mults	Hours
1	M2	ZF1A	ZF	2026	8,482,452	7,937	359	48.0
2	M2	HD8R	HC8	2026	8,061,768	7,751	351	46.1
3	M2	PJ4A	PJ4	2026	7,095,960	6,959	345	48.0
4	M2	PJ4K	PJ4	2026	6,850,821	6,631	347	41.2
5	M2	ED8X	EA8	2026	6,498,420	6,422	340	44.2
6	M2	CR3W	CT3	2026	6,376,032	6,336	338	45.5
7	M2	CR2N	CU	2026	6,292,701	6,374	333	42.8
8	M2	EI7M	EI	2026	5,170,671	5,473	319	46.3
9	M2	IO4X	I	2026	5,055,078	5,269	322	41.6
10	M2	OM7M	OM	2026	3,920,904	4,253	312	42.5

160	80	40	20	15	10
323/55	770/59	1,547/61	1,639/61	1,886/62	1,772/61
327/50	758/58	1,230/61	1,540/61	1,967/61	1,929/60
252/47	742/58	1,301/59	1,377/60	1,759/61	1,528/60
212/47	660/58	1,082/60	1,517/61	1,769/62	1,391/59
144/41	650/57	1,110/60	1,428/60	1,664/62	1,426/60
150/41	560/54	1,305/60	1,416/61	1,567/62	1,338/60
190/40	621/54	1,171/59	1,519/60	1,573/61	1,300/59
131/31	696/49	1,181/59	1,403/60	1,244/61	818/59
138/38	501/48	1,203/59	1,157/60	1,343/61	927/56
162/32	470/48	1,119/57	1,039/61	912/60	551/54

Rank	Category	Call Sign	QTH	Year	Score	QSOs	Mults	Hours
1	MM	PJ2T	PJ2	2026	8,335,548	8,104	351	48.0

Pictures of turtles, sealeijos, iguanas



Thomas with a local friend



Turtle on our path



Darwin institute

Founded in 1959 by a dedicated group of scientists, researchers and conservationists, the Charles Darwin Institute created to help to protect the fragile ecosystem of the Galapagos Islands.

Today it is the largest and oldest science and conservation organization in the archipelago, which its Research Station leading efforts to conserve this unique environment.



HD8R future plans

- Lease the property
- Install towers and stacked beams.
- Logistical issues to be improved
- Improve the shack, humidity and cooling
- etc.

