

Ham Basics Workshop Ham Radio Geographies

19 Nov 2011

Hams use many different geographies

- States (or equivalents in other nations)
- Counties
- DXCC Countries
- ITU Grids
- CQ DX Zones
- Maidenhead grid squares
- Islands
- Summits
- VHF barriers

States

- Objective: contact each state at least once and confirm contact via QSL card or Logbook of the World (LoTW). Once confirmed, apply for Worked All States (WAS) award
- For the serious, aim for the 5-band WAS
- Other countries have equivalent awards
- [WASmap_Color.pdf](#)

Counties

- Currently 3077 US Counties
- Many states have an award for working all counties within the state
- US-Counties Award (US-CA) sponsored by CQ Magazine
- Some take a lifetime, some earn the award in months

DXCC Countries

- DX (long distance) Century Club
 - Object: work 100 or more DXCC Countries
 - Currently 337 entities
- Separate political entities (United States, Canada)
- Land area separated from parent by 100 km or more over land (Alaska)
- Island separated from parent by 350 km or more (Hawaii)
- Special areas (Antarctica)

DXCC-2

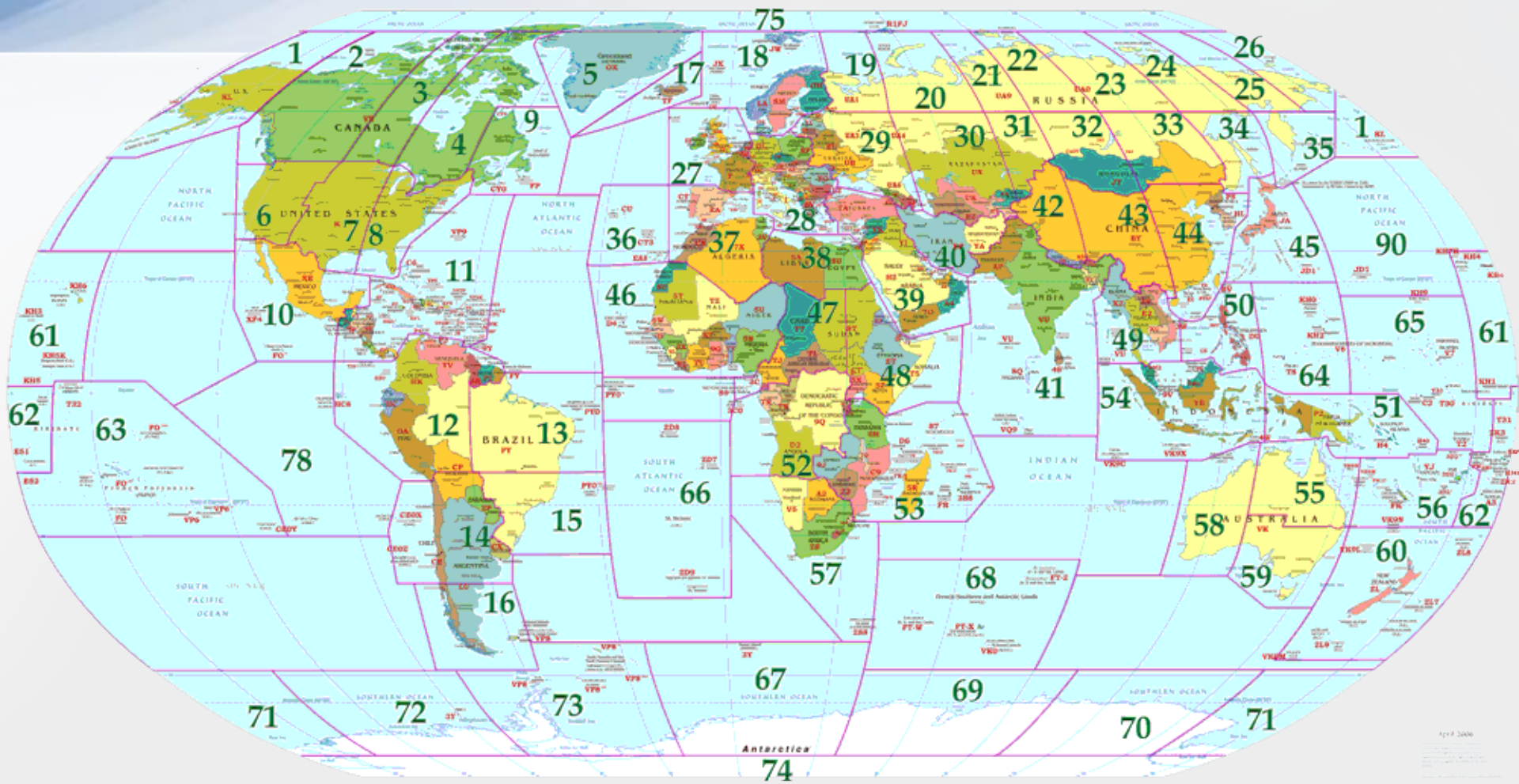
- Some countries are easy, some take years to work
- Easy countries
 - US, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, Japan, many European
 - Many hard entities, mostly islands and hostile countries



Heard Island, near
Australia and
Antarctica

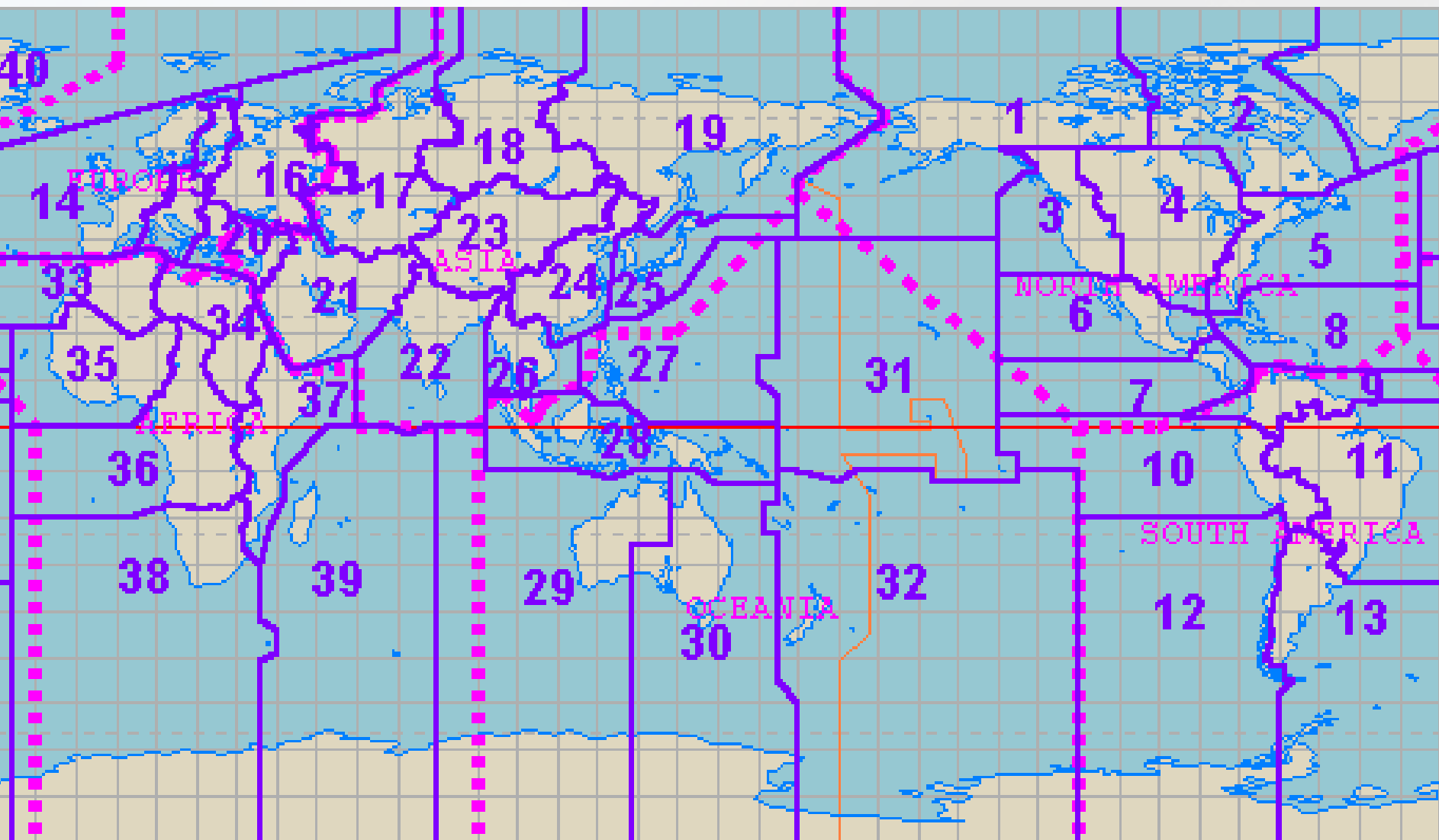
ITU Grids

- Defined by International Telecommunications Union
- Used in some worldwide contests



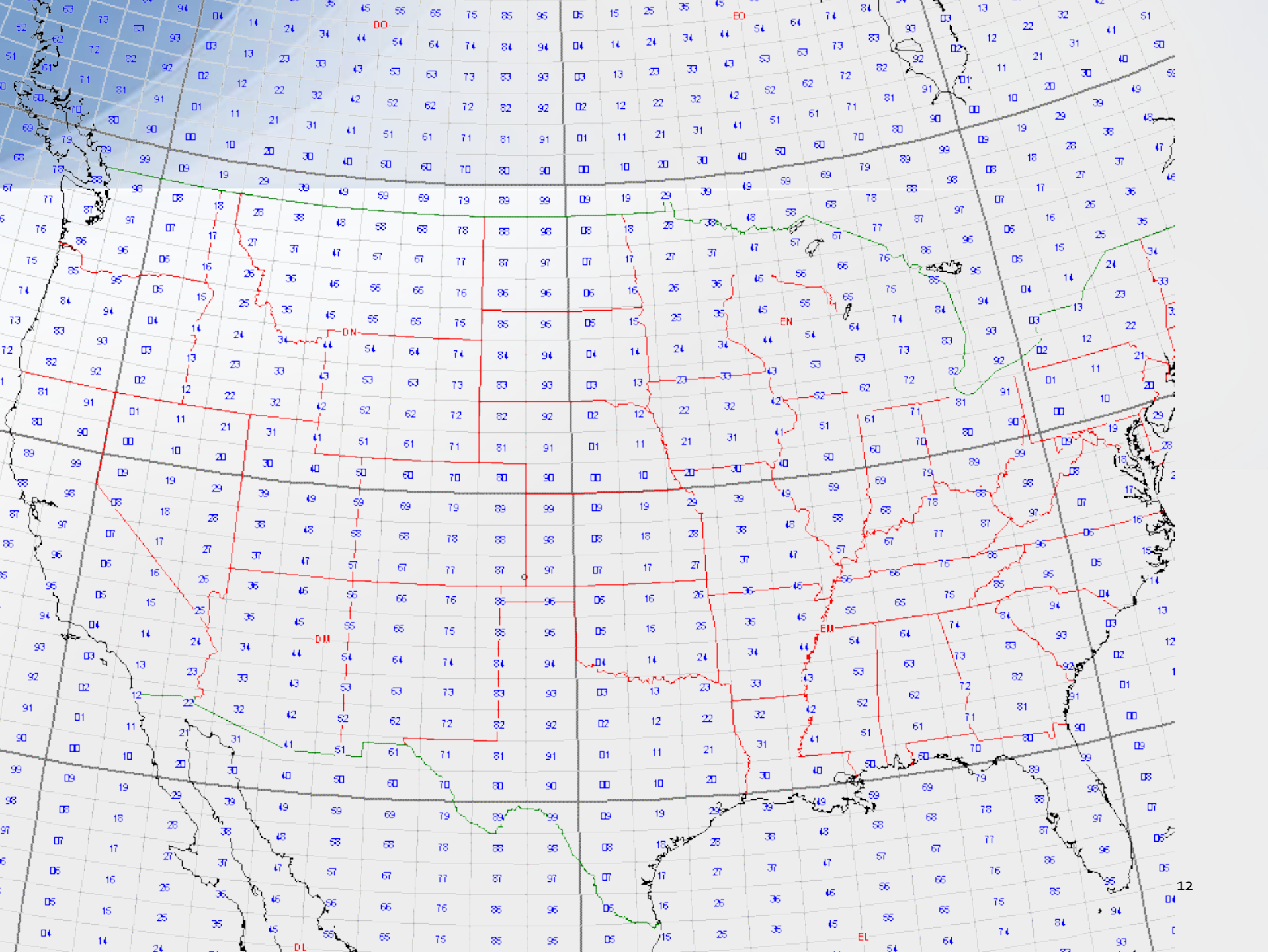
CQ DX Zones

- Defined by CQ Magazine
- Used in CQ and other worldwide contests



Maidenhead grid squares

- 1° latitude x 2° longitude. Each grid identified by two letters and two numbers.
- Letters define 18 latitude zones (10°) and 18 longitude zones (20°). Numbers denote 1° x 2° grids
- Objective: contact hams in other grids
- 488 land grids in CONUS
- [Am_GridSquareMap.pdf](#)



Islands on the Air

- IOTA based in Great Britain lists islands throughout the world.
 - Islands must not be in enclosed bays, rivers, or inlets
 - Must be separated from mainland by minimum distance
- <http://www.rsgbiota.org/>
- US-IOTA includes islands in lakes, rivers, and bays when separated by minimum distance from shore
- <http://www.usislands.org>

Summits on the Air

- Summits on the Air USA is fairly new and becoming popular, especially with the QRP enthusiasts
- <http://www.sotausa.com/>

N6VDR Mt Eddy
Photo by N6GIG





WGoAT heading for another summit

VHF barriers

