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# Club News and Views

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## Editorial

**Martyn Phillips, G3RFX**

Even if you didn't get one of the new super rigs for Christmas, hopefully your existing set-up's still going strong. Indeed when I bought my all-singing-and-dancing TS-950SDX over 10 years ago I was told by the sales people that I'd never need to buy another transceiver: this one would last me for ever.

What they forgot to mention was that after a while things can start to go wrong with them. Often little things deep inside the beast which you can't possibly fix yourself. So off it goes again to your trusty repair emporium. I even got a Christmas card from them last year, which shows how much they value my custom. They'll be inviting me on their staff outings soon.

In this *Digest* we unfortunately have no 'Chairman's Chat'. Yes, Chairman John, currently G3LAS/MM and last heard of via e-mail, somewhat apprehensively looking forward to Christmas Day dinner on board his luxury cruise liner, tossing about in the Bass Strait off VK3. Clearly he's having a swell time. An epic journey, this, which has already taken him to D4, 'Round the Horn(e)' to CE3 and then off again across the Pacific to KH8, 3D2, FK and VK4. John says:

*We passed by a place called Tin Can Island, a remote southern offshoot of the A3 group. They get their mail chucked overboard from ships because there's no anchorage. How about that for an IOTA expedition?*

He added that he has a photograph of Adamstown in Pitcairn:

*It was taken from about a mile offshore as we sailed past and there is a house with a 3-element beam which I suspect belongs to Tom Christian, VP6TC. It might be good enough for the Digest.*

We also gather that John's 'memoirs' are coming along fine. Indeed:

*They may well end up challenging Messrs Darwin, Cook and Bligh in the bestseller stakes. When I get back I'll do you an abridged version of the memoirs with a radio slant, if there is any. As yet, though, I haven't got round to any activity.*

Did I say that this time we have no 'Chairman's Chat'? Well, we did after all.

Finally, those CDXC mugs. We had high hopes for these. Our original supplier then ran into a problem with the machine which makes them and told us that in future we would unfortunately have look elsewhere. We've since done everything we can to come up with an alternative supplier who can make them for us at a reasonable price, but got nowhere. It really was a 'mug's game'. So, very reluctantly, we decided to drop the idea. I'll leave the last word to John, G3LAS/MM:

*Now ploughing through the Pacific (!) swells about 30 miles offshore en route to Valparaiso, CE3. Pity about the mugs. We should make a fortune at Sotheby's in due course when the limited edition of 36 becomes a collector's item.*

Happy New Year!

73 Martyn, G3RFX

## President's Patter

**Neville Cheadle, G3NUG**

I missed the HF Convention in October as Trish and I returned to our old haunt, Rodrigues Island. This was the first HFC I have missed since 1990. I gather that it went very well - and congratulations to all involved.

Rodrigues is perfect in October: sunny and hot, but with a sea breeze. The staff at the Cotton Bay Hotel made us very welcome and really looked after us. "Welcome home, Mr Neville," they all said.

We stayed for just two weeks this time compared to a month previously. The island remains unspoilt, but the roads are improving. If any member wants to have a holiday and 'chill out', this is the ideal spot. A package to the Cotton Bay can now be booked in the UK. I can let members have details.

I expect to be back on the air soon as I now have planning permission for two Versatowers - and the building projects here are coming to an end at long last! Getting planning permission proved to be quite a challenge as the initial responses from Herefordshire Council were along the lines of "The mast you propose is substantial and its impact will be such that only a very limited number of siting options will exist". Clearly no one there knew about amateur radio or PPG8! One of the problems we had to overcome was that we live in an Area of Great Landscape Value.

My first application was refused after one of the neighbours objected and got the Council Landscape Officer involved. I had of course consulted all the neighbours (all three of them!), plus the Parish Council, prior to submitting my application and two neighbours were very supportive. However, at that time I was able to get permission to link the two

barns and to build a garage block on virgin land. This was an achievement in itself. 'Never give up' is my motto, so an alternative site was found on adjoining farmland. The neighbours were again consulted and were supportive, as were the Parish Council. There were no objections this time and the application was approved at officer level. I'm sure the new site will work well. It has an excellent take-off and the location itself is electrically very quiet.

Some of you have asked about plans for the next major FSDXA DXpedition. We think we should wait until conditions improve somewhat, but late 2007 is a possibility. As for the location, who knows! Perhaps somewhere to the South of the UK... and we do like islands!

Our marketing efforts continue. The ML & S initiative should produce over 100 new members - welcome to them all - and thanks to Martin Lynch for the outstanding support. We have also mailed 500 potential members during the past few weeks and have already had a positive response, although it's too early to say how many will join as a result of this initiative. I suspect we are now one of the largest DX clubs in the world in terms of member numbers, although NCDXF will have a somewhat larger income.

As I write this, the short Desecheo operation has come to an end. It's puzzling that they were asked to stop operating by one US government agency, having being granted permission by another. Let's hope that future operations are not prejudiced as Desecheo is wanted by so many, particularly in Europe and Asia.

Let's have a good turnout at the Annual Dinner on Saturday, 18 March.

Seasons Greetings to all our members and good DXing in 2006.

73



Neville, G3NUG

### **Digest and CDXC website ads**

Please note that ads can be placed both on the CDXC website and in the *Digest*. Contact Jim, G3RTE, in the case of the former and *Digest* Editor G3RFX in the case of the latter.

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### **New Members**

CDXC offers a warm welcome to the following new members:

<b>Call</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
G0EJQ	Jim Stevenson	Lincoln
G1AHM	Alan Martland	Chorley
G2HJT	Ted Wellman	Oldham
G3LWI	John Francis	Bembridge
G6WAS	David Carpenter	Wellingborough
G7VJR	Michael Wells	Cottenham
G8KVP	John Parkins	Taunton
GM3MZX	Mario Pedreschi	Newton Stewart
M0HDX	Jim Dexter	Derby
M0MSC	Mike Capper	Bury
M5AAV	Graham Ridgeway	Nelson
MM0DXH	Jim Hume	Selkirk

## CDXC Annual Dinner 2006

The CDXC Annual Dinner will be held this year at 7.30pm on Saturday, 18 March, at the Corus Hotel, Duke's Ride, Crowthorne, Bracknell, Berks RG45 6DW. We have used this venue successfully before in 1999, 2000 and 2001 when it was known as the Waterloo Hotel. The Dinner will be followed by a talk, the details of which are still being arranged. Full information will be given on the CDXC website as soon as they are available. We would like to encourage as many members as possible to come along, together with partners and friends, to what promises to be an excellent evening.

### Menu

*Mushroom and Tarragon Soup with Soured Cream*

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*Breast of Chicken filled with Stilton wrapped in Bacon served on a Julienne of Vegetables with a Cream Sauce*

-----

*Brandy Snap Basket with Vanilla Ice Cream and Fresh Fruits*

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*Coffee or Tea and chocolate mints*

Vegetarian and other dietary menus available on request.

The cost of the Dinner and evening's entertainment is £29 per ticket. You will find a booking form enclosed with this Digest which should be returned to Peter Hart, G3SJX.

For those of you who will be travelling some distance, you may wish to stay overnight. Room rates at the hotel are £31 for a single room or £62 for a double and include a Full English Breakfast. Make room bookings directly with the Corus Hotel quoting 'CDXC Dinner' on (0870) 609 6111.

### **Directions to the Corus Hotel, Crowthorne:**

**From the M4:** At Junction 10 follow the signs to Bracknell via A329. Then follow the signs to Sandhurst (A3095). Take a right turn at the roundabout for Crowthorne (B3348). At the mini-roundabout continue straight ahead. The hotel is situated on the left-hand side after the traffic lights.

**From the M3:** At Junction 4 take the A331 towards Camberley. Follow the signs to Sandhurst and Crowthorne (A3095). Take a left turn at the roundabout for Crowthorne (B3348). At the mini-roundabout continue straight ahead. The hotel is situated on the left-hand side after the traffic lights.

## The CDXC LF Challenge 2006

**Aim:** To work as many DXCC entities during the month of March 2006. Each DXCC entity is counted ONCE only.

**When:** 0001 UTC, 1 March 2006, to 2359 UTC, 31 March 2006.

**Bands:** Only the 1.8, 3.5 and 7 MHz bands maybe used.

**Modes:** No restrictions.

**Logs:** Send a list either by e-mail or post. The list must contain the headings in this order, please.

**DXCC entity, Date, Time, Band, Mode**

***Entries which are NOT submitted in this format will be disqualified***

QSL cards are not required, but in the event of a dispute the CDXC Committee may request a photocopy or print-out of the applicant's log.

Logs to be sent to [jkellaway@btinternet.com](mailto:jkellaway@btinternet.com) or by post to Jim Kellaway, 55 Ladbrooke Drive, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1QW. Logs to be received not later than 30 April 2006.

***Please note: do NOT send to any other e-mail address I have had in the past as it will not arrive here***

### **Awards – Multi-band:**

**Penallt Trophy** – Awarded to the first placed station. This trophy is returnable, but a small engraved plaque will also be presented to mark this achievement.

**Tindle Cup** – Awarded to the second placed station. This trophy is returnable, but a small engraved plaque will also be presented to mark this achievement.

The station in third place will receive a small engraved plaque to mark this achievement .

### **Awards – Single band:**

The leading station on each band (1.8, 3.5 and 7 MHz) will also receive a small engraved plaque which will be retained by the winner.

Entrants who work more than half the score of the Penallt Trophy winner will receive a certificate.

## DX an' all that

Don Field, G3XTT    [don@g3xtt.com](mailto:don@g3xtt.com)

A Happy New Year to one and all! So, did you receive that FT-9000 or IC-7800 for Christmas? Never mind if you didn't. You'll work more DX by improving your antenna system, so now may be a good time to put down lots of radials – nice soggy soil to dig them in, then when the grass starts to grow in the spring all those lines in the lawn will quickly disappear!

Anyway, the bands have been quite lively recently, at least in the context of being well down the sunspot cycle. I was at G5W (G3BJ) for the CW leg of CQ WW and astonished at the country totals being achieved on 40 and 80m. Even 20m was pretty lively too. Of course 40m got very crowded during the Phone leg, which generated lots of heated correspondence after the event. Fortunately we can look forward to being able to use more of the band over the next few years. At the moment only a few countries have access to those shiny new kilocycles, and we are still having to share them with a bunch of broadcasting stations.

Peter 1<sup>st</sup> still looks set for January, with some of the team members planning a warm-up exercise from Juan Fernandez. Both of these enjoy a relatively good path from the UK - or, at least, very much better than the one to Kure that we had to contend with back in September!

Maybe a few of you also caught Desecheo recently. I'm not quite sure what happened there. Apparently the operators had somehow achieved the necessary permissions, but then various stories surfaced about them being removed from the island by the authorities. Perhaps the full story will have surfaced by the time you read this. They are reported to have made 7,300 QSOs during roughly 48 hours of operation. Wayne Mills, N7NG, at

the DXCC desk says that he will wait to see the relevant documentation before pronouncing on the validity of the operation.

### K7C again

Owen, GØPHY, writes:

*I could follow DXA at work during the early days of the expedition - and the absence of many Gs did not encourage me to set up the station. However, for the last two days they were a good strength on 14 MHz in the morning and evenings, as the propagation forecast on the K7C website predicted, and I was able to spend three hours in total calling, with no luck. The frequency range they were listening over was typical of the range for the start of an expedition. Perhaps they should have had more confidence in their own propagation forecast. Still at least I heard them.*

Well, there has certainly been quite a debate going on since the operation, with the K7C team members concerned at the level of criticism they faced from some quarters, particularly western Europe. They feel that they achieved what they set out to do, and don't understand why some of the comments have been so harsh. I have been pondering this, and I rather suspect that one of the major problems lies with the various large-scale DXpeditions that have taken place during the last sunspot cycle. Big DXpeditions from VKØ, XZ, D6, 3B9, KH5 etc. workable around the world on most bands and modes have, I suspect, raised the bar to the point where expectations are starting to outpace what is actually feasible at sunspot minimum.

Are we now at the point where many DXers will feel dissatisfied unless they fill every possible slot? Some DXpeditioners have tried

to counter this by deliberately undertaking 'lite' expeditions, but is this really an answer? It's a conundrum!

## Machine QSOs

The solution that VHF and UHF DXers find when tropo, Sporadic E, etc. are absent is to use sophisticated weak-signal techniques to winkle out those rare ones. Modes like JT6M (designed specifically for 6m moonbounce) or JT44 (2m meteor scatter) allow contacts to take place when the bands might otherwise be considered useless for DX. And the Cluster system is used to schedule such contacts.

This is 180 degrees opposed to the way most HF DXing takes place. On HF, self-spotting is frowned upon and there is little or no use of software-based modes other than the various incarnations of RTTY (including PSK 31, etc.). There was a suggestion recently on the Top Band reflector that modern software could allow DX to be worked more easily and more regularly on Top Band, and this brought a tirade of comment to the effect that this very definitely wasn't cricket. But it's an everyday occurrence now not only on VHF, as mentioned above, but also on 136 kHz, where very few traditional CW QSOs now take place.

There are some very real issues here. Would you feel the same way about your hard-earned Top Band DXCC if the guy down the road achieved it with a bit of wet string, relying on clever DSP software to drag signals out from well below the noise level? I'm not sure how I feel about it personally. On the one hand I value what I have achieved, but on the other hand I recognise that these new techniques are yet a further stage in a natural evolution of technology. There is an argument that a QSO should require the use of our ears, but even HF DXers accepted RTTY many years ago, long before home PCs came along. I suspect this one has some way to run and maybe the

next generation of amateurs will look askance at those of us who insist on being able to hear the stations we work, just as we look askance at those who insist on preserving AM, or still using straight keys.

## LoTW

Robert, HB9BZA, is collecting information on the ARRL's Logbook of the World programme and has a very interesting site at <http://rchalmas.users.ch/lotw/>. If you are using - or are thinking about using - LOTW, check this one out!

## DXing today

A group of Finns are building a multi-multi contest station in the Azores, with a view to taking on some of the European contest records. Being the westernmost location in Europe, this has got to be a good spot for them to work huge numbers of US stations on all bands. Take a look at their website at [www.cu2a.com](http://www.cu2a.com) to see the scale of what is being put together!

This is a reminder of how stations have changed over the past 20 to 30 years. When I was first licensed we were in awe of K1PBW, who had a full-size quarter-wave vertical on Top Band. Now four-squares are common on this band. Jeff, K1ZM, has built a super-station at VY2ZM (Prince Edward island), with the ability to generate clever directional patterns going well beyond the traditional four-square. He worked over 100 countries on 160m in the recent CQ WW CW contest. Even countries that were relatively rare just a few years back now boast super-stations - just look at HC8N, D4B and A61AJ, for example.

All this means that even the modestly equipped DXer can now amass lots of band-countries, especially if he is on during the major contests. On the other hand, working those really rare ones (Peter 1<sup>st</sup>, maybe?) has,

in some ways, got harder than ever because the demand is huge and the Cluster system makes it trivial for everyone to land on the DX station's frequency within minutes of it firing up.

It raises some interesting questions about DX strategy for anyone starting out today. If your goal is, for example, to achieve Honour Roll, it is crucial to catch those rare expeditions when they are on. By the time the next one appears the demand will probably be even greater! But don't worry about the 200 or so less rare entities – they will fall into your lap with relative ease because they will be activated on a regular basis from well-equipped stations.

It will be interesting to see how many DXCC entities were active during 2005. The total is usually around the 280 mark. This consists of probably 250 or so entities that one would expect to be active every year, and maybe 30 or so reasonably serious DXpeditions to spots that are active only occasionally. There are a few entities that look like being QRT for a while yet – the Laccadives, perhaps, along with North Korea and Scarborough Reef. But not enough to prevent the serious DX chaser from achieving Honour Roll (ie within ten of the possible maximum) in a few short years.

Anyway, the burning question that most of us start the year with is “What DX will 2006 bring?”. Apart from Peter 1<sup>st</sup>, Glorioso looks as though it's on for mid-March, and no doubt there will be plenty of others. That said, I suspect the K7C experience may give some would-be DXpeditioners pause for thought, leading them to delay until the sunspots start to return.

In the meantime you can chase those less rare ones on 160m, maybe fill in the missing slots on 80m for your 5BDXCC or 5BWAZ, or start building up your RTTY totals. You could

try making DXCC all over again, this time with QRP and no Cluster. Or maybe take up mobile operation. Despite the ways in which DXing has changed over the years, the underlying pleasure is still there for most of us and, all being well, will continue for many years to come. In the immortal words of the late Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD, “DX IS”.

### How many countries?

While on the subject of country chasing, I recently read Ben Fogle's fascinating book, 'The Teatime Islands', and this got me looking at the webpage of the Travelers' Century Club at

<http://www.travelerscenturyclub.org/>

These guys issue certificates to members who have travelled to 100 countries, and endorsements are available for higher totals. It is, therefore, necessary to have a list of qualifying countries. There are currently 315 countries on the list. Take a look, and you will see that the match with the DXCC list is quite remarkable. Several amateur radio expeditions have been able to take along TCC members to help offset the overall costs – some of these guys are prepared to pay serious amounts of money to get to out-of-the-way spots such as Heard Island or Bouvet, for example. It takes all sorts!

73 Don, G3XTT

**CDXC**  
CHILTERN DX CLUB  
The UK DX Foundation

# The Mali Experience

**John Warburton G4IRN, TZ6RN**

*johnwarburton@ntlworld.com*

Member of the TZ5A Voodoo CQWW CW team, November 2005

Visits to Third World or developing countries are always an adventure. As I was heading down to Casablanca, en route to Bamako in Mali for the November 2005 CQWW CW contest, I was sitting next to a young British lady who was flying out to Morocco to meet her 'prospective husband' after meeting him in an Internet chat room. Her adventure was somewhat different to mine; nonetheless she was embarking on a journey she would never forget. My journey was a little less nerve-racking than hers, but will certainly stick in my mind for a very long time.

I was invited to join the VooDoo Contest Group in late 2004 following their winning multi-multi exploits in Niger as 5U5Z. The final line-up was unknown at that time - a number of existing members were planning on going. However, it was during the earlier stages of 2005 that the final line-up of ten people became clear, four from the UK including myself and six from the States: AA7A, G3PJT, G3SXW, G4BWP, G4IRN, K5VT, K7WP, KC7V, KY7M and N7NG.

The VooDoo operation is well practised with various areas of responsibility discussed (planning, travel, operation etc.) and clearly defined from the early stages. The VooDude who had taken care of computing, networking, software etc. over the past few years, Andy, G4PIQ, was not able to make it this year, so I soon found myself being asked to look after that aspect of the operation. The assumption was that because I work in IT I know everything there is to know about computing! Nevertheless, I was quite happy to take on the responsibility and Andy was very helpful in

passing on his knowledge of networking CT contest logging software. Over the next few months I was able to mock up the network at home and gain familiarity with the idiosyncrasies of CT.

## Arrival in Bamako

I checked in at Heathrow with a fibreglass telescoping pole in a cardboard tube and two bags, one intended as carry-on and containing everything to get one station on the air: K2 transceiver, power supply and laptop - this was the 'must not lose' bag. More often than not these smaller cabin bags never get weighed and carrying them on is no problem. However, for some reason the lady weighed both my bags and decided that both should go as checked-in luggage. Not surprising, given the weight of the smaller bag. It did, though, remind me that the trick here is to leave the contents of your carry-on luggage with a friend whilst check-in is completed, then pick it up before boarding. Still, it didn't turn out to be a problem on this trip as it arrived in one piece.

Royal Air Maroc delivered me into Bamako, Mali, from Casablanca. I was travelling alone seeing as the rest of the team were on site; indeed they had already been over to Burkina Faso to collect the ton or so of antennas, amplifiers and hardware required to operate seven 1 KW contest stations. I always find that arriving in a new country whilst carrying radio gear, especially where the culture is unknown to me, can be a bit stressful. On this occasion the stress levels were raised due to my anticipation of higher than normal

security. I was arriving in Bamako only days before the 23<sup>rd</sup> France-Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government, with presidents and senior officials arriving there from 51 French-speaking nations. I was singled out from the crowd and my bags and the cardboard tube were put through the X-Ray machine: stress levels at maximum! I always carry copies of licences, receipts for equipment, e-mail audit trails and QSL cards to explain the equipment in case I need to. Fortunately the check went by with nothing more than a glance at baggage labels and I was free to leave the airport.

This was my first taste of Mali: warm air, lots of people mingling around waiting for arrivals or looking for unsuspecting white tourists. I fended off the crowds of good-humoured young men for ten minutes or so and after that was relieved to see Roger, G3SXW, and Vince, K5VT, arriving in the hotel bus to pick me up. Twenty minutes later on arrival at the hotel, Roger and I chatted over a couple of Scotches before we crashed out at around 3.30am.

## **Preparations**

Waking up on Tuesday morning I opened my curtains to get a fantastic view over the capital of Mali, Bamako. The main city-airport road was outside the hotel and over the road was a housing estate – about 10 acres of concrete and brick huts with corrugated iron roofs. The main road was busy with traffic, lots of Japanese jalopies, modern scooters often carrying two people plus a couple of cardboard boxes or other such cargo, old diesel buses. The one thing that they all seemed to have in common was the amount of smoke that they were spewing out. Bamako is a very dirty and polluted city.

Tuesday through Friday were days of contest preparation. Each member of the team knew his role. The team-spirit was high, previous experience shone through and it all went very

smoothly. I was pleased that everyone had brought the computers and connectors that I had asked them to; the boxes that Andy, G4PIQ, had packed the previous year contained all the networking gear that I had been promised.

The only thing I didn't have was an Internet connection for the packet cluster and personal e-mails. A few options existed: the hotel had an Internet café that was four floors below us, or we could subscribe to a local ISP and use a dial-up connection. On enquiry at the hotel reception we were told that there was an hourly charge for the Internet café of about £1.50. Over 48 hours and divided by the ten of us this didn't seem too bad.

However, the problem of the room being four floors away still existed. We got the hotel to call in their Internet contractor and I was able to ask him where the broadband facility came indoors. He showed me the incoming cable, a network router and the remains of a cable from the router to the hotel's second floor. The plan was made – the contractor, Roger and I took a taxi into town to a shop where we were able to purchase 50m of network cable. The shop itself was an oasis of high-value home entertainment hardware in a dusty, dirty shopping area selling low value bric-a-brac. Most odd.

On returning to the hotel, the contractor made a connection for us into the hotel's broadband network and bingo, we had high speed Internet. In addition to this, one of our many visits from other hams was from a couple of local TZ guys who ran an ISP company. They were kind enough to give us a phone number for a local dial-up Internet connection giving us some contingency to the situation. In the event it was much needed as the broadband fell over at frequent intervals.

The contest came and went. We all had our operating times and bands established before the contest so we could schedule our own

sleep and eating patterns. This worked to great effect, although some guys had fewer QSOs than others due to band conditions! I'm sure the details of the contest and operation will be written about elsewhere. However, one fact that caught my imagination came to light when TZ6JA visited us. He is a Japanese chap living in Bamako who came to look at our contest station. There was absolutely no Japanese equipment on the stations for him to see! An all-American line up of seven Elecraft K2s and Alpha amplifiers - that must be quite unusual these days. The January 2006 edition of '59' magazine in Japan carries the story and pictures of his TZ5A visit.

### Visiting Villages

For me the highlight of the trip had nothing to do with radio. Whilst the TZ licences were being arranged, the Licensing Officer, Mahamadou Keita, asked us if we would make a visit to the school in his home village and make a contribution to its development. Although we didn't jump at the opportunity to do this, we realised that we could pay the school a visit during a day trip that we had planned and we didn't mind each handing over a small financial contribution, which from ten of us added up to a reasonable amount.

The trip plan was for a minibus and guide to take us out to a remote village to see life outside the city. The bus departed from our hotel at 7am and once out of the hustle and bustle of Bamako we had a couple of hours driving down a pot-holed dirt track. During the journey, Mahamadou explained that his family name, Keita, comes from that village. Indeed some of our team, especially Lee/KY7M, knew of a world-renowned musician called Salif Keita who, it transpired, came from that village.

We arrived at the village of Badougou Djoliba (population about 2,000) and were met by one of the three headmasters at the school, the

mayor, the village Griot and a number of other village dignitaries. A Griot (pronounced Gree-oh) in Malian villages holds a hereditary position and is a storyteller who perpetuates traditions and history of the village and its families by word of mouth. He is also something of an arbitrator, matchmaker and dispute negotiator. A fascinating concept.

We were invited to look around each of the classrooms, where we met the teachers and school children. The kids we saw at first were reasonably well equipped with text books, exercise books and biros, although the younger classes had slates and chalk to perform their work. After about 50 minutes we were ushered into an area in the middle of the village under some trees where we were seated in a circle of about 25 men from the village of varying ages, but mainly the elders. Women were notable by their absence.

What then followed had us VooDoos looking at each other with a common sense of "What the hell is going on!?". One of the village elders would speak - the Griot was standing in the centre of the circle, shouting, chanting, repeating certain words at the top of his voice and with a look of real focus, almost rage, in his eyes. The locals would occasionally all gesture in agreement with a mutual hum, or one of them would shout something at the Griot and he would shout back. It was all most odd. I'm sure I wasn't the only one who was thinking of the Indiana Jones movie where the cannibals are heating up the large pot ready to eat him!

What was actually happening was that various village elders were thanking and congratulating Mr Keita for his support of the village - the Griot's role was to summarise and report to Mr Keita (what he had heard for himself already) in a ritualistic, transparent way - emphasising the main points, cementing consensus and 'recording' the main facts for posterity. After a period of about 20 minutes some sort of conclusion was reached amongst

the villagers and Keita asked Roger to present our gifts to the village. In an act of transparency, so everyone in the village knew exactly what was going on, our financial gift was counted out in public and Roger also handed over a bag of several hundred birros that he had acquired. It was really difficult to gauge the reaction of the villagers to our gifts, adding to the mystique of the situation and atmosphere.

But we were left in no doubt as to their gratitude and delight when the situation turned immediately from a serious air to that of a festival. More people turned up and circled our meeting, three drummers appeared belting out African rhythms and as the school bell went off, hundreds of kids suddenly appeared to join in the party. The locals were fairly oblivious to us, which gave me the sense of being an observer of their celebration rather than being a reason for it. The kids started dancing; even the school headmaster did the same! Various people took it in turn to come up and dance to the African rhythms and the whole crowd, which was several hundred by now, was rocking to the beat. Then a man appeared dressed in a traditional mask and started dancing too. He would occasionally break off from the dancing and chase the kids - the kids loved it! I'm still not sure what the character represented, some sort of bogey man, but it all added to this special occasion.

Before our departure, the villagers treated us to freshly cooked white fish (presented in wrapped paper; it only lacked the chips!), a Salif Keita CD each and a traditional carved mask each, a miniature of that worn by the character in the party. All in all, this was an astonishing morning. We felt almost drained from the enormity of the experience.

On leaving the village we continued for another couple of hours down the dirt track, stopping only for lunch en route in the small town of Kangaba. We learnt during this leg that Mr Keita had been responsible for

arranging the one and only phone box in his village and it dawned on us that much of the debate with the village elders and Griot was meant as a show of thanks to him for supporting his village. He was a popular man there; our arrival and gifts were another feather in his cap! This, remember, is the man who is responsible for issuing ham radio licences in Mali. Maybe our hobby has also benefited from the events of this day.

Our second port of call was a small village called Kela. We were asked to meet the village elders and seek their permission to look around the village and we all sat on the floor in a small round hut: the ten of us plus about a dozen others. Mr Keita was again the centre of attention. A woman turned up in the hut to sing a welcome to him, a guitar and another traditional string instrument were brought out and yet again a musical reception ensued. We thanked the villagers for their hospitality through our translator and guide before embarking on a tour of the village, although their gratification was really directed to our government friend, Mr Keita.

This was a much better opportunity than the previous stop-off to see how people live in Malian villages. The homes are very basic: clay-bricked buildings with thatched roofs. There is no electricity in these villages, although a few of the bigger huts had TV antennas, so maybe they have the odd generator. Cooking, washing, domestic chores etc. are pursued outside the homes in the open air; water is available from a communal well. The rainy season in Mali is July through September, so most of the year people live outside.

The kids in the village loved any attention that was given to them; each photograph was followed by a scramble to see the digital image on the rear of the camera. The small kids cried if they didn't get a look-in. It was serious stuff. A number of young kids were looking at and stroking my arms as if they

hadn't seen white skin or fair hair before. These kids were so happy, despite the fact they have such simple lives by our standards.

Within the team, we didn't speak much about our feelings after that visit except to acknowledge that the visits had been incredible experiences. We all knew that words would never convey our feelings, but I'm sure we had a common sense of honour to have been welcomed into those villages and made their guests for a few hours and to share their happiness. Moments like these make you reassess life and its priorities.

### Things to Remember

After the contest we ran pile-ups for a few days and started taking things down. We had a pleasant evening out in a French restaurant (I wish we'd found it earlier) and generally wound down in preparation for returning home.

Things I'll remember, in no particular order:

- Stinging and streaming eyes when we went out in the evening – the pollution is awful! Central Bamako is almost as bad as Cairo for smog, dirt and pollution.
- Taxis that only just hang together. Ned, AA7A, and I nearly had to get out and push our cab out of a parking spot at one stage since it couldn't reverse.
- Petrol is purchased in one litre bottles.
- The hotel was full to the brim with French Air Force comms personnel who wondered what on earth we were up to with those huge

antennas (they had really tiny ones).

- After the hotel had screwed us with our bills, it was satisfying to get a free Internet connection all week (although we had connected into their network, we were not physically sitting in the Internet café, so they didn't charge us!)
- We had a great laugh together as a team.
- The top 10' of the 87' Titanex falling off and landing in the spot where I had been standing only 30 seconds before.
- Seeing a brand new, red Mini Cooper on the outskirts of Bamako (everything else was at least 20 years old!).
- The trip out to the villages - and the simple lives they live there.
- The fact that men in Mali are allowed three wives, although they are limited by law to six children each (no, I don't know how they limit it!)

Finally, I will always wonder if the young lady I met on the outbound flight settled and married her Web lover. I wonder if she is now one of three wives?

**CDXC**  
CHILTERN DX CLUB  
The UK DX Foundation

# Amplifier Threat in Houston

Vince Thompson, K5VT

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After our TZ5A operation in CQWW CW, I left Bamako without a hitch. We landed in Houston and cleared customs without any problems. I found my gate and sat to wait for my final flight home to Phoenix.

About an hour before we were due to leave there was an overhead page for me to report to the ticket counter. It was outside the security checkpoint and a long walk. I went to the service counter across from my gate and asked them to call and see what they wanted. Of course they couldn't get through, so off I went out to the counter. When I got there a lady told me that there was a problem with my luggage. I told her the combinations to the locks on my suitcases, but then a Houston police officer started asking me questions and wanted my driver's license etc. Then he told me that I wouldn't be able to make my flight home because the TSA (Transportation Security Administration) people believed there was a bomb with a detonator, not in my suitcases, but in the big box (Alpha amplifier). They were considering evacuating the airport and the bomb squad was on the way!

They then took all my carry-on baggage from me and a policeman stayed with me for the next two hours. I was basically under house arrest until the bomb squad had finished with my box! I told them that they were over-reacting, that the box in question had been screened multiple times on the trip to and from Mali and if they evacuated the airport they were going to have egg on their face over it after I had written to my Senator McCain, the Mayor of Houston, the airport management and the Houston newspapers with my story. They decided not to evacuate until the bomb squad got there. They came in

an SUV with a trailer behind it with a huge vault that had walls about two feet thick! The TSA people had already taken the amplifier out of the box and looked at it. I told them they could clear the area and I'd take the cover off myself and if it blew up it would save the public money for my jail, and if it didn't blow up they could see for themselves that their machines were screwy! They didn't take that too well and had the police take me off to the outside of the building. A guy from Continental Airlines Security showed up, looked at it and told the TSA guy: "It's a f\*\*\*ing amplifier! I've seen them before!". But the TSA guy just looked at him and waited for the bomb squad. They took the amplifier in the big vault out to the far end of the runway and there the bomb guys got the top off the amplifier without it blowing up. I didn't get to go out there, so I don't know how they took the top off it - I haven't re-opened the box as yet! After a three-hour house arrest they finally brought my carry-on luggage back, told me it was a false alarm and that they were sorry that they had inconvenienced me, but they "had to do what we had to do"! I ran to get the last flight out to Phoenix or I would have had to spend the night there! I had three surgery cases the next morning and would have had to cancel them. But my box and my two suitcases didn't make the flight and didn't come in until the next morning.

Now I'm probably on the TSA list as a suspicious individual and every time I try to check in early it will deny me and I'll have to petition the TSA to take me off the list. I can just see the headlines in the Houston paper: 'Airport evacuated because of bomb in Phoenix physician's luggage'. I finally got home at 1am. God, what a day.

## Addendum from G3SXW

Someone recently asked whether increased security at airports was making life more difficult for DXpeditioners. I commented that this was not a problem, but that airlines are much stricter these days about charging for excess baggage. But we should bear in mind that this incident took place at a US airport. They do seem to be more paranoid over there. Other American pals upon reading this story have described the TSA as 'idiots' and 'bozos'. We do quite often these days find that our checked luggage has been opened and security-screened when transitting through

American airports. The TSA inserts an information slip which, by the by, advises that if the case was locked they may have had to break the locks and they are not responsible for repair costs - so they advise NOT locking checked bags. Just imagine how happy the terrorists are to see their impact on the American way of life and economy (how many thousands of people are now employed by the TSA?), how much extra pilfering goes on at airports?, how many people are having their lives disrupted? I doubt that the TSA have ever found a real bomb.

### Scientists discover new element

A major research institution has just announced the discovery of the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element has been named 'Governmentium'.

Governmentium has one neutron, 12 assistant neutrons, 75 deputy neutrons and 224 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons. Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected, as it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact.

A minute amount of Governmentium causes one reaction to take over four days to complete, when it would normally take less than a second. Governmentium has a normal half-life of four years; it does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganisation in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places. In fact Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganisation will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes.

This characteristic of moron-promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity in concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as 'Critical Morass'.

When catalysed with money Governmentium becomes Administratium, an element that radiates just as much energy, since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons.

# Papua New Guinea, P29NI

Derek Cox, G3KHZ

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## Where shall I go?

How do you choose a destination for your next IOTA DXpedition? Well, first list the rare ones and then, in my case, narrow it down to those that don't entail long sea trips! After researching many islands, including some in Central and South America, Africa and Australia, I finally decided on Normanby Island in the D'Entrecasteaux group (OC-116). This is the nearest island in the group to East Cape, the eastern tip of Papua New Guinea [PNG].

## Getting the details

Research on the Internet provided me with a few addresses and I wrote to each one. Months later I got my first reply (via e-mail) - not from any of the addressees I had written to, but from Gretta Kwasinicka. One of my letters had been passed to her. Gretta, along with a couple of other colleagues, owns and runs the Napatana Lodge, which is on the edge of Alotau, the most easterly town in PNG. They help organise tourism in the area. I soon learnt a lot from Gretta and discovered that the islands I was aiming for were generally only contactable via HF radio. Gretta put me in touch with Andy Saunders, who lives in Kent. He had been in this part of PNG for the last five years with the VSO. I now had two excellent sources of local information.

## The 'team'

To cut a long story short, the trip was arranged for October-November, which is the driest and calmest time of the year. Jack, F6HMJ, agreed to accompany me. Disaster followed a couple of months before the trip. Jack became ill and

a stay in hospital was arranged for October. Finally, not wishing me to go alone, my dear XYL, Joyce, said she would accompany me.

## Getting the licence

We flew via Singapore and Cairns to Port Moresby. A one-night stay would surely give us enough time to get the licence? As soon as we reached our 'hotel' I called PangTel. Yes, I could go that afternoon and pay for the licence. But there was a misunderstanding: they did not understand that what I needed was that vital piece of paper with the callsign on it. I went back the next morning and after about 30 mins someone arrived who understood what I needed. My application, which I had mailed some two months earlier, appeared and the PangTel man asked how long I would be in Port Moresby. "I'm leaving at 4pm today", I said. "Can you come back in the afternoon?" he replied. I thought quickly and said, "Well, as I have nothing else to do I am happy to wait here until the licence is ready". With that we were offered tea and biscuits. They were very helpful. I asked if I could choose the callsign. There was no problem and my request for P29NI (Normanby Island) was accepted. Thirty minutes later the licence together with schedule and covering letter were exchanged for a payment of 100 Kina (£20).

## Alotau

We were now set - and off we went to catch our Air Niugini Dash-8 aircraft for Alotau. Gretta met us at Gurney (Alotau) Airport. We were pleasantly surprised on seeing Napatana Lodge, a very picturesque and comfortable place. Napatana had promised to loan me a

650 VA two-stroke generator. It wouldn't start. It was taken to a local building contractor, who promised to try and fix it. No success, so I went on a tour of Alotau and tried to locate a generator to either rent or buy. I located a 900 VA four-stroke PowerMate at Alotau Hardware. "I am interested in this genset," I said, "but can you please demonstrate that it works before I buy it?" It wouldn't start either! After further fruitless searching we returned to the hardware store and found they had managed to get the Powermate running. We took it back to Napatana Lodge with one hour left before we were due to leave for East Cape.

### **Alotau to Normanby Island**

Gretta took us to East Cape in her 4 x 4. The first quarter of the journey was on comfortable tarmac road, but that deteriorated into a track over hills and across fords. An hour later we arrived at the extreme eastern tip of PNG, where boats and outrigger canoes were depositing and picking up passengers. Our two-dinghy crew appeared as if from nowhere and loaded our baggage. After a quick look around the market - and a cup of tea - we boarded the dinghy, tightly packed with a dozen other Normanby-bound passengers and set off. The outboard motor propelled us at great speed through the waves, creating a bumpy ride. Normanby is a hilly, even mountainous island and can be seen in the distance from East Cape. Our goal was in sight. The crossing took one hour. This got us to the passage through to Sewa Bay. Fifteen minutes later we approached the village of Saidawai. We could see the Saidawai village guesthouse, which was to be our home for the next 11 days.

### **Arrival and setting up**

Mombi Onesimo stepped forward from the gathering on the beach and introduced himself. He and Gretta had made all the arrangements for our visit. A crowd had

gathered and everyone was smiling and greeting us. We quickly looked round our guesthouse. One room with a pandanas mat to sleep on. The roof extended on one side where two tables were provided. One became the radio table and the other was used for meals. Full board for us both was 70 Kina per day (£14).

It was late in the afternoon and we hurried to set up the station. The multi-band vertical was assembled and quickly erected and secured with plenty of local help. The IC-706Mk2G, laptop and keyer were connected. Our friends built a lean-to for the generator and just before nightfall on 22 October we opened the log with UAØSAS as the first entry.

### **Generator problems**

After a successful first day, a random check on the generator revealed fuel pouring from it. With the help of my local friend Winston Toginitu we took the covers off and found that the plastic fuel filter had cracked. Fortunately the rubber feed pipe was sufficiently long and we bypassed the filter and connected the fuel line directly from the tank to the carb.

### **Conditions**

Propagation was good at the start, but deteriorated - and during the daytime very little was audible. Long sessions of calling CQ produced nothing. This gave us an excellent opportunity to observe village life. The Normanby islanders live a hard but happy life. They walk over half a mile to fetch water. They light their fires by rubbing sticks together. They are almost completely self-sufficient. We lived on yams, sweet potatoes, pit-pit, fish, crab and plenty of fruit such as pineapple, paw paw, bananas and mango.

There is a local school and children from nearby paddle across Sewa bay each morning in their outrigger canoes to attend school. The general language of the D'Entrecasteaux

islands is Dobu and the local language of Sewa Bay is Eyagu. The children learn English at school and the older children and most adults speak English. We were treated to a visit to their school, where there are 70 pupils in four classes. We took many pictures and when locals found we could download them to the laptop, it became a magnet each evening for both kids and adults. The slide show sessions ate into useful evening operating time!

### More generator problems

On the morning of the fifth day of operations we took a walk along the beach and passed a small timber company run by Owen Chalmers, an Australian. We talked and were invited to dinner one evening. I returned to our guesthouse and started the generator, but the output voltage was non-existent. After removing the brushes I found that they were not centrally aligned on the slip rings and had worn down on one side. My old friend Fred Toginitu produced a file and I filed the brushes flat. Still no output - and the brushes were making good contact. The potted control circuit supplying the field current was the likely culprit. No chance of fixing that. Winston Toginitu took the generator back to the store (a two-day round trip) with a note from me requesting a quick repair, replacement or alternatively the loan of another. None was possible. They would refund my money! I went back to Owen and thanked him for the dinner invitation, but we were going back to Alotau due to generator problems. After further discussion Owen invited me to bring the gear along to his place and said I could use his 5 kVA diesel generator. Great! A quick QSY 300 yards along the beach and I was in business again. Eventually our friends found a very battered Yamaha generator from another village in Sewa Bay and I returned to Saidawai. This was reliable, but had very poor voltage regulation. Sorry if you heard something less than T9 from me towards the end.

### The family evening

I planned to have a good last session on the air before packing up and leaving on Wednesday morning, 2 November. However, my last QSO was already in the log. Our village friends had arranged a special evening for us. We sat down to a lavish meal, Normanby-style. A large group of children and adults sang to us throughout the meal. The evening culminated in speeches and the exchange of gifts on both sides.

### Departure

We took the dinghy back to East Cape and were taken by the most battered truck I have ever seen to Natapana Lodge. We enjoyed our first shower in 11 days and savoured a dinner like those we had been used to at home. What a change from the yams! Our return to Alotau was nicely timed to coincide with the spectacular Milne Bay canoe festival, but that's another story.

### Lasting impressions

At the family evening I said we felt like members of their family. We were so impressed with their kindness and happiness and we want to help them. They are desperate for a few simple things like clothes, pen friends, school twinning, books, sewing needles, fishing line etc. We will maintain contact with them.

#### QSO data (all CW)

Band	QSOs
40m	24
30m	345
20m	704
15m	269
12m	1
Total	2193

Plus 63 dupes...why?!

## Alderney Lite Expedition, 12-19 October 2005

**Tim Beaumont, M3SDE**

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The team manager for this Alderney Lite DXpedition was Dave, G1OCN. At the time the idea came about Dave was Chairman of the Portland Amateur Radio Club. Russell, G5XW (he's only 38), was the first to join the team, along with Dave's wife Carol, 2E1DQZ. Dave asked Russell if he knew of two more people who would like to join them. This is where Anthony, MWØJZE, and myself Tim, M3SDE, stepped in. Dave outlined the purpose of the trip, to operate from the Alderney lighthouse, but despite having reserved our dates we found that the lighthouse had been double-booked and so we had to rethink our accommodation. A friend of Dave's on Alderney had just built a new house and said that we could use his old farmhouse as our base for the duration of our expedition.

I have a fear of boats after several previous journeys to the Channel Islands by catamaran and had been quite ill, so I was relieved to hear that we were due to fly with Rockhopper Airlines direct to Alderney, although Russell has a fear of flying. The return flights were £104 per person from Bournemouth airport. The Rockhopper plane is very small and only holds eight passengers, with a baggage allowance of 15 kgs. With such a small luggage allowance the team would have to post all antennas, co-ax, masts and clothes ahead of our arrival. Parcel Force was the carrier used to carry our equipment. The plan was to set up to four stations operating simultaneously on all bands and as many modes as possible.

The time soon came round for us all to meet up at G5XW's home to prepare for our trip to Alderney. We had an early start on 12 October, with Dave, G1OCN, arriving at 0600 with his wife Carol. We had a short drive to

Bournemouth International Airport, where our adventure began. A wet and windy autumn morning was not the start we had hoped for, but a gap in the weather allowed our flight to leave on time. Jane from Rockhopper Airlines ensured that all of our 130 kgs of luggage was squeezed into what I can only describe as a coffin with wings. The eight-seater aircraft with no aisle was cramped and noisy - and certainly not quite what we had expected.

We arrived safely at Alderney Airport and were met by Richard, our host on the island. We were to stay at Richard's home, a farm on the highest part of Alderney at 288' above sea level. We started erecting the antenna systems in the pouring rain and a howling gale that hardly stopped all afternoon. Soaked and quite tired, we had to change out of our wet weather gear and set up the radio equipment to get the four stations active simultaneously. After about four hours of operating we retreated to the local bar for some welcome food and beer. Conditions that evening were very poor, although contacts to Thailand and Alberta, Canada, were in the log on 20m.

13 October 2005: once again the rain continued and the wind got stronger. Contacts were made on 20 and 40m to New Zealand, Thailand and North America. We continued to work on four stations for as many hours as possible with Dave, GU1OCN, concentrating on the data modes and GU5XW on the LF bands. With five acres of land to put up our antenna systems, we were able to install all the wires well away from each other and keep cross-station breakthrough to a minimum. On the Friday one of our friends from Weymouth, Mike, M3VWK, flew over for a visit with 15 kgs of food - which was most welcome as the food on Alderney is expensive in the shops.

Mike enjoyed his visit and also spent some time transmitting on the bands.

Saturday morning arrived and with it a chance to log many of the weekend-only operators. At last we had a short opening to Japan on 20m, but we needed better conditions to log the many IOTA hunters from JA.

Then the German WAG contest started and, no matter what frequency we were on, a German started calling without checking the frequency. This virtually shut down our IOTA as our logging rate slowed to one QSO every five minutes. A break in the weather allowed for some antenna maintenance and a chance to take some photographs of our antenna farm. It was brought to our attention that the last time Alderney had been active with any substantial contacts was some two to five years ago. So this really was a chance to put Alderney on the DX map.

Sunday, 16 October: thankfully the German WAG contest finished at 1500z. Our contact rate had been virtually reduced to zero - but what a contrast after 1500z, when the bands exploded with very courteous operators waiting to call us. Sunday was by far the best day for the Alderney DX team, with about 1,000 contacts logged. The operating in the pile-ups was excellent. For part of the team Monday was a day off the radio and a time to take in the Alderney way of life, explore this beautiful island and learn about its rich history. We also had a visit from Derek, GU4GG, who had some interesting stories to tell. Just look at his biography on QRZ.com and you will see what I mean. Ant and Russell took him to the local pub for an afternoon drink and a chance to chat about radio. The islanders were very welcoming and friendly, a complete contrast to what I am used to back home in the city.

While Ant and Russell were out, I took the opportunity to work 20 and 40m for the day

and another 550 QSOs were added to my log, with Australia logged on 40m and some short-hop Sporadic E getting Alderney into some difficult areas of France and the UK.

If you visit Alderney Island, the team can highly recommend the Belle Vue Hotel. Their home-cooked food is superb and was our stop every evening for a meal and a few beers.

Tuesday was our last full day of transmissions from Alderney, with good pile-ups on both 20 and 40m for much of the day. This gave us a team total of 5,000 QSOs, all continents worked and 100 DXCCs – with QSOs into Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines, to name but a few.

Wednesday morning came and it was time to pack away all the gear. 130 kgs of equipment was sent by post and 130 kgs carried in the aircraft. With the job now done: a final chance to drive around the island so that Dave, G1OCN, could take some more photographs. As we were due to leave Alderney, a thunderstorm delayed our departure, but we were soon in the air and on our way home.

I must add a few words about our host, Richard. We invaded his house for a week as people he had never met before. He not only welcomed us, but also allowed to take over the house and grounds with all our equipment. 'Thank you' simply does not reflect our gratitude to him.

Thanks too to the Shortwave Shop in Christchurch, Dorset, for their support throughout. Also to Nevada and Kenwood UK for their sponsorship. You'll find more information on the Alderney DX Team at:

<http://www.pmt.inkinkink.net/alderney.htm>.

# IOTA News

**Roger Balister, G3KMA**

I start this month's column with the sad news that Ray, G3ALI, one of our two UK-based checkpoints, passed away suddenly from a heart attack on 26 October. This came as a great shock to his family and friends as he had shown no signs of being seriously ill. Ray was 81 and by profession a retired bank manager. Both Martin, G3ZAY, IOTA Committee Chairman, and I knew him well during his many years service as an IOTA Checkpoint. He had been a checkpoint since early 1992. We will certainly miss his cheery voice and the meticulous way with which he carried through his checkpoint duties. We know that his many friends, both inside and outside the IOTA Programme, will share our sorrow at the loss of someone who gave so much in friendship and service. Our deep condolences go to his son Robert, BRS 8841, his daughter Sue and his four grandchildren.

I am happy to be able to announce that Robert Small has agreed to take over Ray's checkpoint with immediate effect. He is also moving into Ray's house in mid-January with his family. So, those of you who are his customers should send your updates to Robert at the same address as before. The only change is that we have split off Ray's Portuguese and BeNeLux customers by appointing new checkpoints in Portugal and Belgium.

## **Annual update**

Yes, it has come round again. The last date for mailing applications or updates to checkpoints for inclusion in the 2006 Honour Roll and other performance tables is 1 February 2006. If postmarked after that date, they will be processed in the normal way but the scores will be held over to the following year. Listing

in the tables is restricted to those members who have updated their scores at least once in the previous five years. In the case of the 2006 tables this means since the 2001 annual listings. If you wish to remain listed, check to see that you qualify and, if not, make a submission on or before 1 February 2006. The tables will appear on the RSGB IOTA website in the spring.

Shortly after compiling the 2005 tables the IOTA Committee implemented the second part of the Conversion Exercise schedule drawn up at the time of the major island listings revision in year 2000 and withdrew credit for contacts with a small number of islands that had been found not to meet IOTA qualification criteria. If you have not done so already, check to see if you need to resubmit, or send replacement, cards to your checkpoint. Tables showing the effect of deletions on members' 2005 scores are shown on the RSGB IOTA website (click Honour Roll).

## **Update of data in IOTA Directory – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition**

### **New IOTA reference number issued**

NA-228      YN      Caribbean Sea Coast  
North group (Nicaragua)

### **Operations which have provided acceptable validation material**

AF-016	TO5R	Reunion Island (September/October 2005)
AF-025	S79EC/A	Aldabra Islands (September/October 2005)
AF-025	S79NAN/A	Aldabra Islands (September/October 2005)

AF-025 S79RRC/A Aldabra Islands  
(September/October 2005)  
AF-026 S79RRC/C Cosmoledo  
Islands (September 2005)  
AF-027 TX5M Mayotte Island  
(October 2005)  
AF-033 S79EC Alphonse Island,  
Amirante Islands (October 2005)  
AF-033 S79NAN Alphonse Island,  
Amirante Islands (October 2005)  
AF-033 S79RRC Alphonse Island,  
Amirante Islands (October 2005)  
AF-035 S79EC/F Farquhar Islands  
(October 2005)  
AF-035 S79NAN/F Farquhar Islands  
(October 2005)  
AF-035 S79RRC/F Farquhar Islands  
(October 2005)

NA-064 WLØ/K4XS Attu Island, Near  
Islands (July/August 2005)  
NA-228 H79W/YN4 Miskitos Cays  
(November 2005)

OC-084 T32S Tabuaeran (Fanning)  
Island (October 2005)

OC-084 T32SNW Tabuaeran  
(Fanning) Island (October 2005)  
OC-116 P29NI Normanby Island,  
D'Entrecasteaux Islands (October 2005)  
OC-175 DXØST Sarangani Island,  
Sarangani Islands (November 2005)  
OC-207 DXØTIC Cagayan Island,  
Cagayan Islands (November 2005)

SA-092 PZ5C/P Papegaaen Island  
(December 2005)

Note: This list includes operations where validation material was volunteered, ie not specifically required for credit to be given. In all cases, cards now submitted will be accepted by Checkpoints if they meet normal standards. This means that the island name should be printed on the card.

Roger Balister, G3KMA  
RSGB IOTA Manager

20 December 2005

Email: [IOTA.HQ@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:IOTA.HQ@rsgb.org.uk)  
Web: <http://www.g3kma.dsl.pipex.com>

## Chiltern DX Club - Aims and Objectives

To promote HF operating, to encourage excellence, particularly in DX-ing and contest operating, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DX-peditions, the issue of achievement awards, or by whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate.

**Membership** Full details are available from the Secretary.

**Subscription** £15.00 for UK members, £20.00 for overseas members (US\$30 or 30 Euros). New members joining between 1 January and 30 June pay 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions are due on 1 July of each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer.

**Digest** Published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Editor by the published deadline. Please note that views expressed in the Digest are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee.

**Website** <http://www.cdxc.org.uk>

## New member

**Ted Wellman, G2HJT**    *ted@ewellman.freemove.co.uk*

Born 22 March 1922, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs, UK.

1936

Started work as an apprentice. My boss an electrician, a G3 two-letter ham, hence my introduction to amateur radio.

1938

Obtained AA (Artificial Aerial) licence 2HJT.

1939

War declared. All licences suspended.

1943

Enlisted in RAF to train as air crew flight engineer (Halifax).

1944

Met my wife, Ella, in Scone, Scotland (married now for 59 years).

1947

Demobbed and returned as an electrician in motor building factory.

1950

Changed job to be an electrician in a cotton mill. By coincidence my mechanic friend a ham, G3FTP, so it was back to ham radio.

1950

Obtained full call G2HJT. Built, like most, 7 MHz crystal oscillator. 6F6 with 6L6 PA, all of 12W and a wire antenna. Surplus R1155 and C100 RXs.

1952

Louis Varney, G5RV, designed the Elizabethan 10 to 80m switched TX. This was built over one year in a rack and panel unit. Power supply modulator RF Stages ATU. I also installed a W8JK beam on the USA. This was my first introduction to DX.

1955

Changed job to electrical draughtsman in an aircraft factory and later works electrical engineer. This where I met Bill Concannon, G4EDM, who brought me up to date with an FT-101 demo. This resulted in me buying a TS-520 and 12AVQ vertical and put me further on the road to DX.

1985

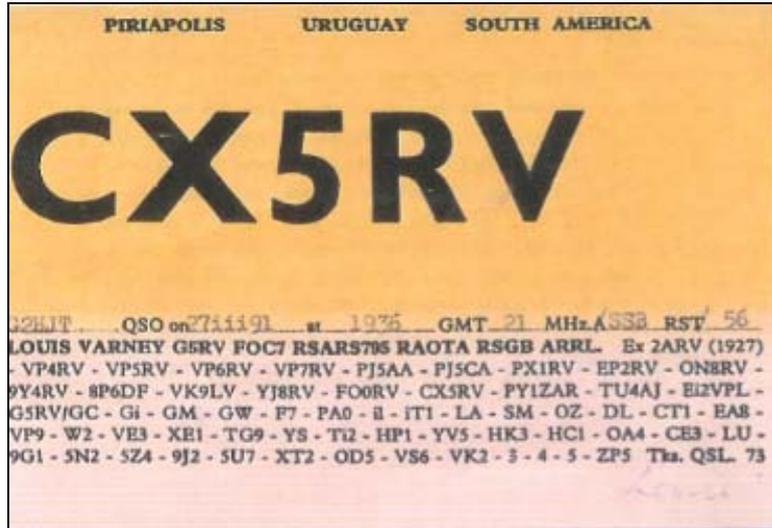
Moved QTH to country area with space for antennas. Replaced TS-520 with a TS-940 and set up phased verticals.

2005

Set up Yaesu FT-1000 MP MkV Field, Acom A1000 linear, Cushcraft A3WS 12/17 beam, TB3 3-element beam 10/15/20 and a sloping dipole for 40m.

So that's my story.

Ted, G2HJT (now aged 83 )



Dear Ted,

I was very happy to QSO from my CX QTH and thank you for your QSL card received on our return to England. I am very happy to hear that you succssfully built an Elizabethan transmitter and I thank you for your very kind remark about my contribution to amateur radio. Please call me on 3.730 kHz SSB after the '5YN net closes at 1100 BST one weekday. I would very much like to talk to you. Thank you for your good wishes for my recovery. I am making good progress and can now type and even write a few words, although that is harder.

73

Louis G5RV/CX5RV

### A document of the times

QSL card to Ted, G2HJT, from G5RV. Ted adds:

I think this would let some of the new hams know that G5RV was not *just* G5RV. A great chap too!

**CDXC**

CHILTERN DX CLUB  
The UK DX Foundation

# **National Institute of Amateur Radio**

Raj Bhavan Road, Hyderabad – 500 082, India

Tel/fax: 91 40 2331 0287, 91 40 5516 7388, [niarhamfest@gmail.com](mailto:niarhamfest@gmail.com)

## **Hamfest (VU4) India - 2006**

**Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

**18-20 April 2006**

### **First Information Circular**

Dear fellow hams,

We wish you a happy and prosperous New Year 2006

Congratulations! Foreign hams may get ready to operate from VU4

The National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), Hyderabad, had earlier organised a successful DXpedition (VU4NRO/VU4RBI) in Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands during December 2004. The team members prematurely stopped the DXpedition activity after the tsunami disaster struck the South Asian region on 26 December 2004 and mobilised their communications resources to provide humanitarian services to support essential rescue and relief operations. The services of these amateur radio operators were appreciated by several agencies in India and abroad.

Thereafter several requests were forwarded to the NIAR from international amateur radio organisations, DX forums and individual hams to organise a suitable event in a befitting manner to highlight the benefits of amateur radio technologies for social and scientific development.

The NIAR further made a proposal to the Government of India to organise an International Convention of Amateur Radio Operators, Hamfest (VU4) India - 2006, to be held at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, from 18-20 April 2006.

The purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for presentation and discussion on latest technology developments, antennas and propagation, DXpeditions, HF & VHF communications, digital amateur radio, emergency communications, the promotion of amateur radio and an open forum in the field of amateur radio communications. The conference will cover all interdisciplinary aspects of amateur radio in various sessions.

The other major attractions during the event include an arena for exhibitors to display and demonstrate amateur radio communication technologies, as well as allow foreign hams to operate from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Local tours to exotic locations are planned for participants and much more.

Hams are also requested to contribute articles for favour of publication. Audiovisual arrangements will also be made at the venue for presentations.

Initially we request amateur radio organisations and individual hams interested in operating from Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, to forward a letter of intent with the following details (e-mail only) to [niarhamfest@gmail.com](mailto:niarhamfest@gmail.com) to enable us to provide better facilities to participants.

Name of the club :  
Number of persons :  
Name of the individual :  
Callsign :  
Address :  
Country :  
Tel/Fax :  
Passport number :  
E-mail :

More details of the event will be circulated in due course. As the time is short and the number of participants may be limited, we request you to forward the above details immediately.

The format of application form for foreign hams interested in operating from VU4 – as per the guidelines of the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India - is also available (do not send these applications now, but please get ready).

Foreign visitors are requested to obtain visitors' permits to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands along with a valid Indian visa.

This event was made possible with untiring efforts of the amateur radio community in India and abroad, particularly the sponsors and supporters of the earlier VU4NRO/VU4RBI DXpedition.

We request you to make it convenient to participate and make this event a grand success.

Thanking you.

73

Yours sincerely



**(S. Suri, VU2MY)** Chairman, NIAR

30 December 2005

## The RTTY Column

Phil Cooper, GUØSUP *pcooper@guernsey.net*

By the time you read this, Christmas and the New Year will probably be but a faint memory, and you will be thinking about losing some weight, and maybe even giving some thought to the new contesting year.

One slight change to things is that the RSGB 80m Club Championships will start one month later than previously, in February. It also starts at 8pm local time! I am not sure about the reasoning behind starting in February, but starting at 8pm, rather than 2000 UTC, does seem to be better for many of us who like our beds! However, it remains to be seen what conditions will be like on 80m at 8pm in the summer months.

The ARRL RTTY Roundup is a well-attended affair, and produces some good DX, so this should be fun. At the end of the month is the BARTG Sprint, which is also great fun. Please do read the rules, as this one requires Serial Number ONLY! You do not need to send the RST.

One of the key things with this contest is to try and work as many W, VE, VK and JA call areas as possible. In real terms this probably means W and VE for most of us. And don't forget to work the six continents. These will have a great effect on your final score, so it is well worth chasing those. For the full rules, see [www.bartg.demon.co.uk](http://www.bartg.demon.co.uk) and follow the CONTEST links. With my 'other' hat on, you can also use contacts from this contest towards any of the BARTG awards (well, maybe not the PSK31-40!). If you wish to apply for an award based on your contest log, then send me your log, plus a list of the countries claimed, and for which award. That is all you need to do. Once all the logs are in, the BARTG

Contest Manager will validate your log and let me know.

The XE RTTY Contest is the first full weekend in February, but as yet there doesn't seem to be any rules on their website, and there haven't been any results published for the past couple of years, so I do wonder how many entrants it will attract.

Looking back over the year, I am fairly happy with my operating, and what I have worked. OK, I have missed a few nice ones, but that's life, and they will come around again at some point. I have received some very nice cards, worked some new ones, and filled in quite a few band-slots. Some of these were easy ones that I really hadn't given much thought to, such as OM on 80m, or LX on 40m. I guess one spends too much time trying to work the rarer DX on these bands, and you tend to ignore the closer stuff.

When I checked through my log, I was quite surprised at how many of these easier ones were missing on one or both of the lower bands.

One of my most pleasing contacts (and QSL cards) this year was from KH6ND on 40m. This contact was made at 0546 UTC on the Sunday morning of CQWW, so it was already light here, and I heard him calling CQ and just decided to go for it and got a reply first time! Just as well the neighbours were asleep, as they may have thought I had just found out I had won the lottery! I am not sure what surprised me most: hearing Mike calling CQ without a reply, or him coming straight back to me! There was no AGN AGN? or QRZ? from him, just an instant response.

And this was on my inverted L for 40 and 80m which is only about 15' above ground. Yes! Maybe I can do it on 80m next year! Now there's a challenge for me!

It has been interesting to read about the increasing number of entrants in the contests. Many contest managers are reporting such an increase, which is encouraging, and it is even better to note the additional number of Gs who are submitting logs. I wonder if this is because of the RSGB 80m CCs? What do you think?

Sigi, DJ3NG, has plotted the number of submitted logs over the past five years, and in 2000 there were 3,970 logs submitted, in 2001 it was 4,409, in 2002 it was 5,092, in 2003, 6,328 and in 2004 it was 7,524. This shows quite a definite increase over the years.

Despite conditions being quite poor, my own opinion is that the bands have been better during this low as compared to the previous low. During that last low, I see from my log that there was almost nothing on 10m, and very little on 15m. Yet this time I seem to have worked quite a few on 10m, and some of it is DX, not just EU on Sporadic E. I have also consistently worked VK and ZL on 15m and 20m in most contests throughout the past couple of years.

It may be that part of it is due to me spending more time in contests now, as opposed to my limited efforts then, but I am sure I would have been chasing VK/ZL even more keenly during that last low. For almost three years I worked nothing on 10m, and yet during this low there have been some contacts on 10m in most of the contests. OK, sometimes it was only a dozen or so, but I think that does indicate something!

I have just treated myself to a new antenna! I bought the MQ26 from TGM Communications, which is a 6-band antenna covering 20m to 6m. I have been using the MQ1, which is an older version, covering 20, 15, 10 and 6m, but

this new one also covers 17 and 12m. For such a small antenna it is very good and I have been very pleased with the MQ1 up to now. I had decided that I was missing out on too much DX on the WARC bands, as my half-size G5RV isn't very efficient on these bands. It does tune up OK, but I don't get heard that easily. The new MQ26 should solve that problem. At the time of writing, I still need to find two strong helpers to assist me in swapping it over, as I just can't manage it on my own. I will let you know how good it is next time round.

I recently found a natty little utility to add to the shack PC. It is a bit of software that records what goes through the sound card, despite it being already in use. It can easily record your RTTY contest for you, although it would take up quite a bit of space if you wanted to record the whole contest. It is called Hi-Q Recorder, and you can find it at [www.roemersoftware.com/free-sound-recorder.html](http://www.roemersoftware.com/free-sound-recorder.html).

It is a very useful bit of software, as it can convert various audio formats, rip stuff to MP3 format, and can even be set to record from your TV tuner card! Check it out and see what you think!

### Contest Dates for 2006

ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800	UTC,	7
January to 2400 UTC,			8 January
BARTG Sprint	1200	UTC,	28
January to 1200 UTC,			29 January
XE RTTY	1800	UTC,	4
February to 1759 UTC,			5 February
CQ/RJ WPX	0000	UTC,	11
February to 0000 UTC,			12 February

For more rules, results etc, check out [www.rttycontesting.com](http://www.rttycontesting.com).

I will wish you all a very happy New Year, and good DX in 2006!

Phil GUØSUP

# Contest

Lee Volante, GØMTN

I'm putting fingers to keyboard today with the sounds of 28 MHz in the background. It's the ARRL 28MHz contest weekend. Conditions are pretty poor, but for those who are patient and can find and use meteor scatter and E's propagation there are still QSOs and multipliers to be found. The tactics required to win change considerably with the conditions year to year. I was working some east coast US stations on 28 MHz for a short time in CQWW SSB, but counted myself lucky to be working anything at all during CQWW CW a month later. Indeed, some UK contest stations didn't hear a thing all weekend on the band. But where we've been lamenting about runs of loud 3-point stations on the high bands recently, in return there have been some excellent conditions on 160 and 80m.

I've been very pleased to receive two contest reports from different sides of the globe, the first being a CQWW SSB account from Steve, G4JVG, who is now living in 9M6. It's good to hear that Steve and Eva are settling in, and we look forward to more good scores when better conditions return. Normally from the UK we complain about being in the middle of the European QRM. Although Steve is a long way from Europe, he still had much to contend with.

## CQWW Phone from 9M6DXX

### Steve Telenius-Lowe, 9M6DXX (G4JVG)

I operated CQWW phone in October as 9M6DXX from the Langkah Syabas Beach Resort, about 20 km south of Kota Kinabalu, where there is a Japanese-owned club station. They have two towers with a Force 12 C3 and a C4 beam on top, but no antennas for 80 or

160m (or WARC). I therefore did a single-band entry and chose 20m (with hindsight maybe 15m would have been a better choice).

The gear there is an FT-1000MP, an FT-1000MP Mk V and a Quadra amp. I had both antennas available, although the C3 was fixed on Europe short-path (the C4 rotatable). It was incredibly useful to have two beams on a switch.

It was hard going, mainly due to the difficulty of working Europe. What I was not expecting was that, other than for about four hours overnight, the band was open all the time. For most of the 20 or so hours that the band was open Europeans were coming through, but other than the short-path peak from around 1200–1500 it was almost impossible to work them. Literally hundreds of stations were called, but most of them didn't hear me at all. Having operated CQWW from Europe, I can understand why, of course: the QRM level in Europe. In contrast, here in 9M6 it was possible to find a clear frequency to call CQ on most of the time, although on most occasions without getting any reply! On numerous occasions my frequency was 'stolen' by Europeans who started CQing, oblivious of my presence (presumably, giving them the benefit of the doubt!).

The worst 'alligator' of all (all mouth, no ears), was ES5RH, who was S9+10 at times on both the long and short paths, but the best I could get was a 'QRZ?'. Most of the time he just did not respond at all. Given that I was running a Quadra amp to a beam at 50' right on the beach with a clear take-off of hundreds of miles across the South China Sea towards Europe on the short-path – I think he should look at improving his receive capability to

match his transmit! I worked several other ES stations who were much weaker with ease. Suffice to say that ES5RH did not get the 9M6 multiplier while a number of other ESs did.

What was also surprising is that, other than approximately 1200 to 1500, the Europeans were coming through on the LONG path. This was verified by having the two beams so it was possible to switch from long to short path instantly. Many Europeans, including G5W and MD4K, were worked short path at times when the long path was providing much stronger signals.

Generally it was only possible to work the very strongest Europeans on the long path, and CQing while beaming long path to Europe provided no response at all. On the other hand, the pile-ups on the short path were intense, although short-lived.

Much to my surprise, there was not a never-ending supply of JAs and I ended up working nearly as many Europeans as Asians. It is amazing how many Chinese, Taiwanese and Thai stations there are these days, though!

My claimed score was 650,242 points from 1,645 QSOs, 35 zones and 104 countries. I was disappointed by this score and could easily have made twice the number of QSOs if only people had responded to my CQ calls. I will have to look at getting a large monoband beam!

If anyone would like to operate from the Langkah Syabas Beach Resort, contact me for further info ([teleniuslowe@gmail.com](mailto:teleniuslowe@gmail.com)). Accommodation is in basic but comfortable chalets with air conditioning, and there is a good restaurant and bar on site.

9M6DXX/G4JVG

Thanks, Steve. The second report is from Brian, GMØEGI, for the CQWW CW contest in November. Brian and crew had to contend

with snow, which I would guess was not a factor in Steve's contest planning in 9M!

## **CQWW CW Contest 2005**

### **Brian Devlin, GMØEGI**

During the CQWW phone contest at the multi-multi operation of GMØB, Phil, GMØLIR, Douglas, GMØELP and I were discussing the possibility of putting in an entry as GMØB for the CW leg at the end of November. We had already participated in the RSGB National Field Day CW contest in June, where the three of us had operated as GM3PXX/P from a small dome tent, for 24 hours (see RadCom October 2005, page 35) from a viewpoint car park above the town of Kilsyth. We decided that we could enter the contest in the multi op single radio section, but where from? I offered the use of my shack, and after looking at one or two other options we decided that we would do the contest from my QTH.

I live in a small village which is about nine miles NW of the city of Stirling in Central Scotland. Although I do not have a great amount of space for antennas, I am lucky that I am surrounded on three sides by farm land and have a great take-off in most directions. The station would consist of an FT-1000MP Mk5 which was fully loaded with every conceivable filter possible, belonging to Douglas, GMØELP, and my Acom 1000 linear amp. We were going to use the logging program SD which was interfaced with a Winkey and we would also have access to the DX cluster for the duration of the contest. The antennas were my 9-element Optibeam at about 50' AGL, which basically works as a 2-element monobander on both 15 and 20m and a 3-element monobander on 10m. I had a home-made wire vertical and a windom for 40m, a home-made inverted L for 80m and yes, a home-made inverted L for Top Band. I am very impressed with the inverted L antennas and for my QTH with restricted

antenna space they seem to be a great option. I do not have enough space to put up any separate receiving antennas for the low bands, so we were going to be restricted in that respect. Another problem was that we REALLY were going to be single transmitter, seeing as I do not have the separation (or antenna system) to allow us to have a multiplier station.

As we were operating from my QTH, most of the infrastructure was in place. The Sunday before the contest Phil and Douglas came over to help me put up the Top Band antenna. I had borrowed the 30' mobile trailer which is owned by the GMØB group. This was parked in the lane at my back door. I had a 15' fibre glass pole on the top and we strung the antenna up from there across the back garden and around the side of the house. Douglas also brought over his FT-1000MP, laptop and Winkeyer to enable us to set the station up the weekend before the contest.

Friday, 25 November, dawned in central Scotland and I discovered that we had a covering of snow in the village. I had to go to work on the Friday, as did Phil and Douglas, and as I work about 40 miles away from where I live I was hoping that this was not going to cause problems for me getting home from work or for the others to get to my QTH.

At about 10.30am Phil phoned me to ask, "What is the weather like in Thornhill?". I told him that it was not too bad when I had left home at 7.30am and that the forecast said that the snow would turn to rain later on. The weather forecast for the weekend was not very good, but if Phil and Douglas could get to my house we would worry about them getting home on Monday later.

We had arranged for everyone to be at my house by about 8.00pm, to allow us to sort out any possible last-minute problems with the station. At 3.30pm my XYL phoned me at work "See that pole that you have at the front

of the house that holds up the wire antennas," she said. "Yes" I replied. "Well, it has broken in half," she said.

Seemingly there had been some very strong gusts of wind during the day and the top section of the mast had snapped. So there I was, at my work and not able to leave for home until 4.15pm. It would be dark by the time I got home, so I was going to have to either repair or replace that pole in the dark, and try and get the antennas back up. I arrived home about 5.00pm to discover my fibre glass mast which holds up the wire antennas lying in the back garden.

I got another pole, this one was aluminium, and took the pulleys and ropes off of the broken one, replaced the pulleys and ropes, put the new pole in place and got the wires back up. It took me until about 6.30pm, working in the dark and on my own to get everything sorted. Well I thought, 'Murphy' has visited. I hoped that this was his one and only visit of the weekend, but that turned out not to be the case!

I went in and had my dinner. At about 7.40pm the phone rang. It was Douglas, GMØELP. "Hi Brian," he said, "I just want to let you know that I am sitting on a bus half way between Edinburgh and Hamilton and I don't know when I will get home." The problem was of course the first snow of winter, and although it had been forecast for a week before, the transport infrastructure in Scotland basically closed down. Douglas normally gets the train home from work in Edinburgh, but today ALL the trains were off, so it was the bus tonight. Of course when the trains are off the buses are VERY popular, and it seems to me that the more popular the buses are the longer it takes to get home. Douglas did make it home and eventually picked up Phil, GMØLIR, and they did arrive at my house by 10.00pm, so only two hours late (Murphy again?). Everything seemed to be set for the

contest and we were just waiting now for the clock to reach 0000 GMT.

We had decided that we would run the contest in shifts of three hours on and six hours off over the 48-hour period. This would give us all a chance to get a good break. As it turned out, most of the time during the daylight hours there were two ops in the shack,.

The contest started with Douglas on the first shift from midnight until 3.00am, and Phil and I going to get some sleep. When Douglas wakened me for the 3.00am until 6.00am slot I felt really tired. I went onto Top Band and worked there for the next three hours. I was really surprised at how good the band was. I worked about 140 stations on that shift, not record breaking, but you may be surprised to know that 12 months ago I could not read any Morse. I was happy with my effort.

I had learned the Morse code as a means to an end, to give me access to the HF bands. When I passed my Morse test in January 1986 I had no intention of using the mode. Why then was I operating in the biggest CW contest in the world? Well, part of the credit has to go to VE3NEA. Phil and Douglas had discovered Morse Runner in late 2004 and Douglas had told me about it, so on 17 December 2004 I tried the program out. I was hooked!

Because I was using the program for fun I found that in quite a short time my speed increased and my errors decreased. I had spent a fair amount of time in the CW section of the band over the year. I had actually worked 174 DXCC countries since January and was getting more confident as the year went on. Phil had always worked CW and is a very good op and Douglas has used the mode for most of the time that he has been licensed.

Half way through my shift Phil appeared. Phil starts work every morning at 0545 and gets up at about 0430, so his body clock was working 'as normal!'. We both operated together and

when 0600 came Phil took over and I went back to bed until about 0830, when I woke Douglas for breakfast before he went on the bands.

Douglas started at 0900 and I was his second op. All was fine for the first hour or so and then all of a sudden the lights dimmed, the computers went off and came back on and the linear went into Auto Protection Mode. We had had a power surge in the mains to the village. The linear would not go back on to operate mode. Every time we transmitted it would switch to soft fault and flash the message 'hot switching'. Murphy again. I decided that I was going to take my dog out for a walk and left Douglas to run on the bands barefoot. I was away for about an hour and was happy (and relieved) to see that the linear was working fine when I returned.

Everything went smoothly for the next few hours. Murphy was lulling us into a false sense of security, and we were enjoying the contest, when at about 2130 my phone rang. It was from another ham who lives in the village. He is not interested in contests so was not on the bands. "Brian, are you running CW just now?" he asked. "Yes," I replied. "Well, I have just had a phone call from one of my neighbours complaining of me coming through on her TV."

Now I have lived in my present house for 12 years and have NEVER had any complaints of TVI before. We were running 400W into my wire vertical on 40m and this was causing the problem. I said that we would turn down the power and see if that helped. It solved the TVI problem, but meant that we were running with just 100W. We discussed the situation and decided that we could struggle with the lower power or take a break for a couple of hours and then get back on 40m when 'normal' people were in bed. So that is what we did. We went to the pub in the village for an hour, and at about 11.30pm we went back on the bands. We had decided to run with 100W until

0100 and then turn the linear back on. This was not really a problem to us. We were in the contest for the fun of it.

After that everything went like clockwork. We did our shifts and finished the contest without any more problems. How did we do? Well, here are the statistics.

Band	QSOs	DXCC	Zones
160	306	55	12
80	391	55	12
40	295	54	15
20	511	57	18
15	394	93	24
10	22	12	4

Total QSOs : **1919**. DXCC : **123**. Zones : **28**. Points : **1,257,249**.

We had great fun over the weekend. There were more high moments than low moments. We enjoyed working 15m and nearly got DXCC on that band alone. 10m was not much fun. Top Band was great fun, but I suppose that is the way of it at this stage of the solar cycle.

Two of the high moments were Douglas working VK9AA on 15m with his first call

and me working HC8N on Top Band early on Sunday morning. Not bad from a Top Band antenna that basically costs nothing to make and fits into a fairly small garden.

Thanks to everyone who worked us and apologies to those who tried and didn't get through. The QSL cards will be printed in due course.

We are looking forward to next year already. I suppose that about sums it up. We did enjoy it and we had a lot of fun.

73 de GMØEGI

Well done, guys! I didn't see any snow in the Midlands until the Monday after the contest when I was taking down my antennas, so I counted myself lucky.

I've just about run out of space for this column, so I'll hold over the item on contest software until next time. To date I've just had the one response from Ron, GØMRH, on his experiences with SD and N1MM, so a few more opinions would be welcomed.

73, Lee GØMTN

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## Easylog V5.0 (review)

Ian Sweatman, MØKCM

[iansweatman@btopenworld.com](mailto:iansweatman@btopenworld.com)

Following on from the words of Dick, G3URA, and Lee, GØMTN, I thought I might submit a brief review of Easylog V5.0.

When my licence expired for previous log software, I decided it was time to have another look around the market to see what was available. I wholeheartedly agree with Lee that not one piece of software will be perfect

for everyone. It took around six months of downloading demo versions and trialing them, but once I'd found Easylog I was converted instantly.

It's not really possible to list all of the features of such a complex suite of software in a short article. So if anybody wishes to find out exactly what the logbook offers, they can

download a fully functional 15-day trial version from <http://www.Easylog.com>.

The features that convinced me to choose Easylog were, firstly the DX cluster section. Mine is filtered to only the bands I'm active on, and every spot is checked against the contacts in my logbook to see if it is wanted. Each spot is also announced via the speaker on my PC, so even as I type this I'm being kept informed as to what's on the bands. Secondly, I'm an avid award chaser, DXCC, IOTA, WAS, WAZ - and although I'm still collecting the many QSL cards needed to be in a position to claim the awards, Easylog not only keeps track of my awards, but it can even print out the application forms for most of them. Finally, I like to 'play' contest every now and again. Never a serious entry, I don't have the time, but nevertheless I

did enjoy using the contest mode during the CQWW SSB leg this year.

I said that I was impressed with the software, so much so that I've become the sole distributor for Easylog in the UK and Ireland. When I told Franco at Easylog HQ in Italy that I would be writing a few words for the *Digest*, he most graciously made the following offer.

For CDXC members ordering before 31 March 2006, Easylog V5.0 can be purchased at a special discount rate. Instead of the normal 79.95 Euros (approx £55), CDXC members will pay just 60 Euros (£41). Also, if ten copies are purchased, Franco has offered a copy free of charge to be used (if required) by the club call MØC.

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## That Famous HF Convention Antenna Prize!

**Martin Lynch, G4HKS**     *[martin@mlands.co.uk](mailto:martin@mlands.co.uk)*

When ARNO Electronica, the manufacturers of the world famous 'EH Antennas', asked Martin Lynch & Sons to organise a raffle prize for the RSGB's 2005 HF Convention, little did they know how many twists and turns this request would encounter. The prize offered was an ARNO Venus-80 antenna covering the whole of the 80m band in a compact length of only 248cm.

However, this wasn't from ML & S's stock. It was originally loaned to the RSGB for review in early 2003 by H.R. Henly, G3IHR, who unfortunately passed away before completing the 80 and 160m write-ups. The antennas were installed at G3IHR's premises and it was almost two years before they were finally

retrieved by Mike, G3LHZ, who drove all the way from Surrey to Swindon to collect them from Mr Henly's local radio club. Mike used the antennas for tests to assist in an antenna forum held at the 2005 HF Convention.

ML & S were also approached by the Crawley ARC to see if they could borrow an 80m antenna for use during the Convention. Martin knew just the antenna!

On the Saturday Martin was talking to a customer on his stand when, in eyeshot, he saw the 80m ARNO suddenly dive down to the ground and land with an almighty thud. One of the back stay guy wires had come adrift and the vertical installation was very

definitely horizontal. (Ground wave was increased no end!) The Crawley Club quickly re-erected the antenna and the new Yaesu FTdx9000 was up and running again on 80m. To everyone's surprise the antenna still worked, if not a little marked after its ordeal.

On Sunday the final day had arrived and we were soon approaching 'Raffle Time' at the HF Convention. The EH antenna was still in use only 15 minutes before, but the Crawley Club managed to lower the pole (a little more controlled than the day before), stuck it back in the box for Martin to take with him to the room full of eager raffle ticket holders.

John Gould, G3WKL, was the Master of Ceremonies and had two announcements on the No. 1 (an FT-897 from Yaesu) and No. 2 prizes from ML & S and ARNO Electronica. Whoever would win the FT-897 first prize would actually have to wait. Because of the success of the radio from Yaesu, they had run out of stock and the box was in fact empty!

John then went on to describe the minor 'accident' with the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and suggested that whoever wins it may need to invest in a pot of glue.

Finally the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize was called out. The winner? Rich, K2WR, from New York! The photo says it all. Rich was very pleased he had won the EH Antenna, but wondered how was he going to get a 7' box onto the plane?

Rich announced that he was very kindly donating it to the Jersey Amateur Radio Society, of which he has been a member for over ten years. The Society President, Michael Turner, GJØPDJ, will receive the antenna on behalf of the JARS. Michael works for a shipping company in St Helier, Jersey. Fortunately they have an outlet in Dorset, so the antenna only has a few more journeys to make before it finally comes to rest.

The antenna is now on its way after being glued back together by the ML & S workshop. It may look a little battle-scarred, but it still works very well and at least has an interesting history. Let's just hope it makes it safely to its final destination!

Martin Lynch, ML & S Chertsey, Surrey

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## Letters and E-mails to the Editor

### **from W2LO**

Dear Martyn,

I noted the comments in the *CDXC Digest* (always eagerly awaited!) on the callsign of the recent K7C operation from Kure Island. Perhaps I can explain a bit about the allocation and use of callsigns from the US Territories, Hawaii, Alaska etc.

There are two separate issues here. Several years ago our Federal Communications

Commission, which licenses amateurs in the US and its territories, instituted a prohibition against the issuing of callsigns for areas for which there is no postal service. This was to correct an abuse by some hams in the continental US who had gotten DX callsigns from places like KH1, KH4 and KH7K while not actually operating from or living in such an entity. This situation had given rise to things like having a KH3 in New York, etc.

In addition, individuals applying for callsigns from places like KHØ, KH8, KH2 which, in

fact, do have a postal service, had to actually reside there. Several individuals here in the continental US then had to give up their KH2, AHØ etc. callsigns and trade them in for regular W/K/N calls reflecting their residence on the mainland. Individuals from these places as well as from the states of KH6 and KL7 who move to the mainland 48 states may continue to use their callsign until its renewal date.

1 x 1 callsigns like K7C and W3W occupy a special place in the regulations. They are temporary callsigns used to indicate special events such as the 1 x 1 callsigns used in the UK. Coordinators 'loan' these callsigns out to groups who apply for them and are granted their use for a limited time. They may be issued for any location over which our FCC has jurisdiction. After a time they can, and are, used again. K7C was used a number of years ago by a special event station in Utah.

The difficulty, of course, is that databases, logging programs etc. often want to indicate a special event callsign as still being at a former location, thus creating confusion. It is regrettable that our government will not issue KH7K, KH1 etc. callsigns even to legitimate expeditions operating from these entities.

However, one must realise that these 1 x 1 callsigns are not mandated. If I were to go to Midway, provided I can get permission, I can just operate as W2LO/KH4 as any US amateur may.

I hope this clarifies things a bit. Keep up the good work!

Mike Mattes, W2LO

### **from GØHSA**

I read the article by John, G3LAS, 'Reflections on Kure' [CDXC *Digest*, November 2005], with great interest.

I was one of the lucky ones in the UK to work the DXpedition, but required two doses of luck to crack the pile-up for an all-time first for my DXCC.

I made it into the log (20m SSB) on the last full Tuesday of operation (4 October) and here is where my first dose of good fortune came in. I normally have a badminton club night on Tuesdays, with a league match on this particular date. Due to a double booking of the school sports hall, my night of badminton was cancelled, so I decided to go fishing for the 'big one' on Kure.

Checking on the propagation forecast software I use, I found that the best time to try would be around 1800-1900 GMT. I also decided to give myself every chance of finding them by logging onto the DX Summit website as well.

On air at the allotted time and beaming over the Pole putting out a few CQ calls to see if they could hear me, I managed to work Andy in Swaziland off the back of the beam with a 59- report. I had either gone round the globe or, as I feel was the more likely, worked him with the rear lobe of the beam. With this happening I felt that this could be my night to bag K7C.

K7C then appeared on the spotting network working split and listening up to 200 kHz from his transmitting frequency of 14.190 MHz.

This is where my second dose of luck came in. I found him working into CT, waited till he had finished, then put out a call. Bingo! An excellent signal from the DXpedition to my QTH.

I now know what it must have been like for Marconi when he first heard the letter 'S' in Newfoundland.

Best Wishes Andrew, GØHSA

**from G4KGT**

Dear Martyn,

With reference to 'An Anniversary Operation' by Laurie Margolis, G3UML, in the November 2005 edition of the *Digest*: whilst I congratulate Laurie on passing the RAE at the age of 14, I feel I must take issue with him regarding the 'easy-peasy multiple choice' questions in more recent years.

As a former Acting Petty Officer Telegraphist RN (vintage 1950-60s) I was quite used to full essays and schematic diagrams in my qualifying examinations and would have happily sat the RAE under the same circumstances. In 1980, when I was in a position to do so and also had the time, the RAE had 'converted' to multiple choice.

The point is, by inference, that passes gained under multiple choice are somehow inferior to the previous system. Nothing could be further from the truth. All passes have to be earned through hard work and application, and whilst I admit I had a slight advantage over my fellow candidates, some of whom had never encountered Ohm's Law, we all had to apply ourselves diligently. I am bound to add that I am just as proud of my examination success, irrespective of the chosen mode of questioning.

73 John Hughes, G4KGT

**from G4UZN**

Hi Martyn,

I enjoyed reading Roger/G3SXW's piece [CDXC Digest, November 2005] headed 'Whisky Galore'. Although actually that was Compton Mackenzie, not Ian Fleming. And the James Bond girl in Goldfinger was Pussy Galore.

Probably I should keep my mouth shut about this, as I'm flying to Bangkok next week to for the CQWW CW. As a punishment for this lack of proof reading (referred to elsewhere in the same issue), I expect you both to break the pile-up and work me.

Look out for HSØZGH. SOLP. No computer in the shack. So if I get a winning score, you will have to type up my manual log for me to submit an entry.

73 to both of you Tony, G4UZN

*[Tony, point taken on the 'lack of proof reading'. You're quite right about Compton Mackenzie and Pussy Galore. In fact I did mention this to Roger, who left it entirely up to me to correct this slight use of 'poetic licence' or not. Rightly or wrongly I decided to leave things as they were, just to see if anybody would notice. Which, of course, you did! Ed.]*

**from HSØZDX**

I would have liked to have been able to pass along some good news about Ray Gerrard, G3NOM/HSØZDZ, who you probably recall suffered a massive heart attack almost a year ago now. Ray is still convalescing at his home in Nakhon Nayok, about 120 kilometres outside Bangkok, where he is being cared for by his wife, but he has not fully recovered his faculties and can only utter a few words, I am afraid.

If I learn of any positive developments, I will be most happy to pass them along to the CDXC and to his many other ham friends.

73 Tony, HSØZDX

## Not the GB2RS News

This week's headlines:

- UK amateur radio smoking ban
- New RadCom crossword
- Amateur radio and rambling

Main News:

The UK communications regulator, Ofcom, has announced that as of 1 March 2006, Ash Wednesday, it will be an offence to smoke while operating an amateur radio station, seeing as this could pollute the airwaves. Also, despite filter tips, the on-air smoke could easily wrap itself round other signals and considerably reduce their readability. The Federation of Amateurs Given to Smoking (FAGS) was said to be 'fuming' at this latest restriction on lighting-up times by the UK nanny state.

Making its eagerly awaited début in the new-look January 2006 edition of the RSGB's monthly magazine for members, RadCom: 'Crossword No. 001', clearly indicating a very long run. Designed to tax the brain power of even the most talented of cruciverbalists, extensive tests were carried out to ensure that this new series of crosswords is pitched at exactly the right level. Even a sloth hanging upside down in the Amazon rainforest managed to solve '001' in just under five minutes, although initially he did get stuck on 15 Across, 'What does DX stand for? (4,8)', seeing as he never goes very far. Meanwhile roll on February 2006 and the equally challenging 'Crossword No. 002'.

Recently it was announced that the Summits on the Air (SOTA) management team has launched a new award, SOTA Uniques, for those who enjoy both amateur radio and rambling. We have since received countless letters and e-mails saying that 'rambling' is

what a lot of us do on the air anyway, especially on 80m SSB on a Sunday morning, so what's new about this one? SOTA has therefore asked us to point out that this new award of theirs is aimed at those who enjoy amateur radio and 'rambling' in the sense of 'walking for recreation or pleasure' - and not 'talking in a diffuse or disconnected way'.

Special event station news:

If you haven't worked Italy yet, listen out for IRØNIA, celebrating the first use of irony in Roman literature. Ironically enough, this station is actually located in Sardinia.

And if you still need a QSL card to confirm Poland, try calling SPØYNOT, celebrating the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary [*You what? Ed.*] of the... well, something or other in highly memorable Polish amateur radio history.

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### Solution to Digest Prize Crossword 13

F	O	N	T		O	S	C	A	R	W	I	L	D	E	
	N	A		L	A	E					I		D		
S	T	E	P	B	Y	S	T	E	P		S	N	A	G	
	H	D		M		H		O			E		E		
D	E	C	A	M	P		E	A	R	M	A	R	K	S	
	F		N		U		R		T				I		
D	I	S	C			S	W	I	S	S	F	R	A	N	C
	D		E			N					E		D		
A	D	D	R	E	S	S	E	E	S		P	E	E	P	
	L				I		W		T		U		R		
R	E	S	E	A	R	C	H			A	P	T	E	S	T
A		K			O		E		T		A		C		
P	L	U	G			C	H	E	Q	U	E	B	O	O	K
I		A				C		L		E		L		U	
D	O	S	S	H	O	U	S	E	S		E	A	T	S	

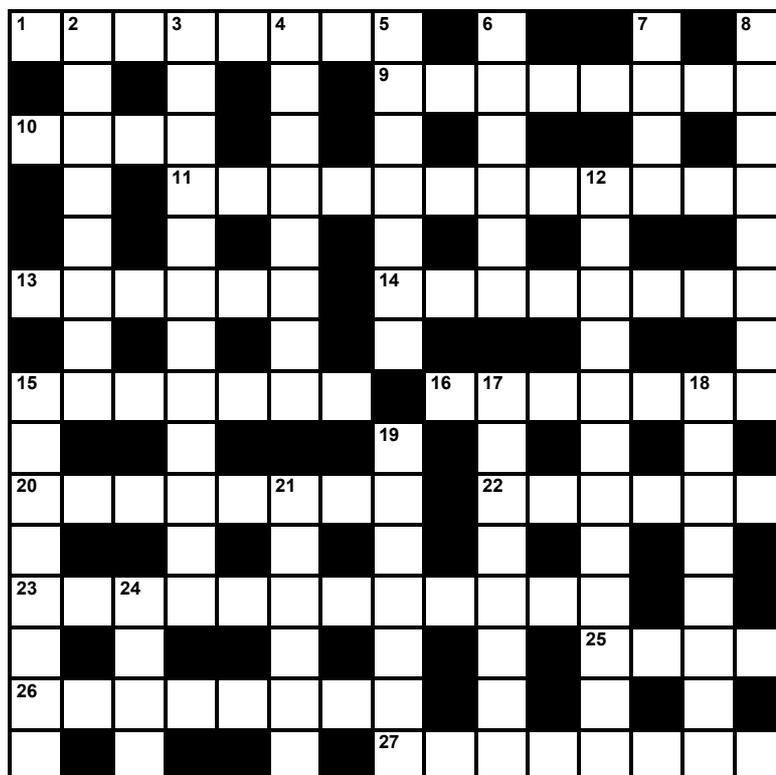
## Digest Prize Crossword 14 *by RFX*

I use a professional software programme to set up the Digest Crossword. This does virtually everything except make the coffee and think up the clues, both of which I very definitely have to do myself.

Either way, there shouldn't be any glitches on the formatting front such as 5 Down in Crossword 13, which should have been indicated as (9,6) and not (9,5). Not that this put any of you expert solvers off your stride, of course.

The winner of Prize Crossword 13, November 2005: Alan Pickup, G3XLF, Knutsford, Cheshire.

Deadline for entries: 20 February >



### ACROSS

- 1 Representative entrance to Indian city, we hear (8)
- 9 3 where head of zoo is involved in self-punishment (8)
- 10 Test rain drops after this drug? (4)
- 11 Monorail obsessive? (3-5,4)
- 13 Woman's part in 'Handbag a Thatcherite' (6)
- 14 Popular channel seen as disrespectful (8)
- 15 A believer? Yes and no (7)
- 16 Port in which recipient of Paul's letter goes Scot-free (7)
- 20 Two blokes seen together in Essex town (8)
- 22 Book (newish, fifty percent off) about CW (6)
- 23 Instruction to labourer to grab his tool and choose whatever he wants? (4,4,4)
- 25 Thought that's almost perfect (4)
- 26 Before tea, we hear, mention whipped cream (8)
- 27 One who extols soldiers in Brussels crowd? (8)

### DOWN

- 2 Slimy French character found on board (8)
- 3 Last in the queue at Grand Central Station, say? (3,2,3,4)
- 4 Stockpiles sulphur on the side (8)
- 5 Joseph's lad involved in map hire (7)
- 6 Fort reportedly providing us with bad experiences (6)
- 7 Opposed to Indian leader supporting hill worker (4)
- 8 Rare abandon seen in Worcestershire location (8)
- 12 Mutating silk - strangely, something men are said not to be very good at (12)
- 15 Cherished desire in the morning to have little one charged (8)
- 17 A drink in the exam? That's new! (8)
- 18 Comfortable shoes needed for coaches (8)
- 19 Thankless type runs into eating disorder (7)
- 21 Devices featured in radio designs (6)
- 24 Amiable sort (4)

# DX and Events Calendar

Compiled by G3XTT

(thanks to the 425 DX News for most of this)

Period	Call
till 28/02	XE1/DL6KAC: Mexico
till February	IØAMZS: Mario Zucchelli Station (I-01) by IK5DHM
till February	ZS1ØØRI: special station
till April	R1ANN and RU3HD/ANT: Novolazarevskaya (UA-08, AN-01)
till Dec 2006	VKØAG: Davis Station (VK-03, AN-016)
till Dec 2006	VKØJLX: Davis Station (VK-03, AN-016) by VK2JLX
till March 2007	T68G: Afghanistan by LA5IIA
till March 2007	VP8DJB: Rothera Station (G-07, AN-001)
till June	6W/EA4ATI and 6W1EA: Senegal
till June	JW4GHA: Bear Island (EU-027) by LA4GHA
21/12-24/01	KV4T and KS4YT: Dauphin Island (NA-213)
21/12-30/01	VP8PJ: Patriot Hills Camp (MN-01)
25/12-28/02	TT8PK: Chad by F4EGS
28/12-08/03	9M2/PAØRRS: Penang Island (AS-015)
05/01-22/01	T3ØDX: Tarawa (OC-017), West Kiribati by OHs
from 06/01	XU7ADI: Cambodia by SM5GMZ
18/01-01/02	V25G and V26VR: Antigua (NA-100) by G4RCG and KI7
from 20/01	6OØN: Somalia by I2YSB and others
20/01-28/01	CEØZ: Juan Fernandez (SA-005)
24/01-02/02	5H1C: Zanzibar Island (AF-032) by Fs
04/02-17/02	6W/G4WFQ: Senegal
<b>from 06/02</b>	<b>3YØX: Peter 1<sup>st</sup> Island</b>
14/02-22/02	VP2M: Montserrat by K3VX, W3WH, K7NM, W9UK, K9CS
19/02-28/02	JD1BLX: Ogasawara (AS-031) by JI5USJ
19/02-28/02	JD1BLY: Ogasawara (AS-031) by JI5RPT
<b>17/03-07/04/06</b>	<b>Glorioso Islands</b>
March	V55HB: Hollams Bird Island (AF-NEW)
April	SPØTPAX: special event station
May-July	TT8PK: Chad by F4EGS
07/07-10/07/06	World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC)

## Notice Board

### Jersey Expedition

MJ/PA3GIO/P from Jersey (EU-013), 10-15 January 2006. 160–10m SSB only. 100W and a doublet. <http://www.pa3gio.nl/MJ/>. For Bureau QSLs please use the easy QSL request form on my website. PA3GIO DXpeditions: <http://www.pa3gio.nl/> (also for all other operations). For direct QSLs please see the QSL info on my website.

Bert, PA3GIO

### Expedition to VP2V

Jim, G3RTE, and Phil, G3SWH, will be active as VP2V/G6AY from Anegada Island in the British Virgin Islands (NA-023) between 23 February and 1 March 2006. Operation will be mainly CW on 80 to 10m, but with some SSB and the possibility of some 160m CW operation. We will have two 100W stations and hope to be on the air as much as possible, propagation permitting. QSL via G3SWH (QTHR) with SAE and adequate return postage, via e-mail for a Bureau reply or via the RSGB Bureau.

Phil, G3SWH

### Expedition to 4<sup>th</sup> most wanted EU island

Korpo Island, OH1, EU-096 (18% confirmed so far), 22-29 March 2006. We will be taking some verticals (Butternut, Force 12 Sigma) and an amplifier with us to work CW (mostly) and SSB.

Ric, DL2VFR

### New US postage rates

New rates will be effective as of 8 January, 2006. First Class mail in the US will go from the current 37¢ to 39¢. One ounce letter mail to Canada and Mexico will go from the current 60¢ to 63¢. One ounce letter mail to all other countries will go from the current 80¢ to 84¢.

Neville, G3NUG

### Radio-equipped holiday home to let

Three-bedroomed town house available for holiday lets in Paphos, Cyprus. Located in a quiet area, yet close to the sea, beaches, shops, bars and restaurants. A roof-mounted Force 12 C3SS beam (10, 12, 15 and 20m) and Yaesu FT-900 (and possibly an amplifier) are available. For more info please contact Alan Jubb, 5B4AHJ, at [g3pmr@arrl.net](mailto:g3pmr@arrl.net).

### For Sale

DJ2UT Sommer XP-507 multiband beam. This is brand new and still in the boxes as delivered. The coverage is 40m to 10m, ie seven bands. The gain figures claimed are 0dB (on 40m) to 7dB (on 10m). Power capability 2 KW continuous. Boom 15', maximum element 36.8'. Turning radius 19'. Offers in the region of £500. Buyer collects. Call GW3JSV on (01686) 640 388.

**We regret to record the passing  
of the following CDXC member:**

Herb Asmussen OZ7SM (GØWAZ)

## Standing Order Request Form

To: ..... Bank

Branch : .....

**Please pay:**

Bank: **NatWest Bank**  
Branch: **Kingston-upon-Thames**  
Sort Code: **60-60-02**  
Account: **44532385**  
Account name: **CDXC**

Reference: ..... (Please write your **callsign** here)

The amount of £15.00 (fifteen pounds) / £20.00 (twenty pounds)  
(Delete as appropriate)

1. starting with an **initial payment TODAY**
2. followed by an **annual payment on 1 July** thereafter,  
starting with 1 July 2006 and until further notice in writing.

Please debit my/our account accordingly.

Name of account to be debited : .....

Account number : .....

THIS REPLACES ANY EXISTING STANDING ORDER PAYABLE TO  
'CDXC' or 'Chiltern DX Club' (Delete if this is a new Standing Order request)

Name(s) : .....

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Signature : .....

Signature : .....

(For accounts where two signatures are required)

Date : .....

Address : .....

.....

Postcode : .....

**After completion of this Standing Order Request Form,  
please send the signed form to the bank branch looking after your account.**

## How to fill in the CDXC Standing Order Request Form

1. The form should be addressed to your own Bank and branch.
2. Write your CALLSIGN after 'reference'. This is very important as it is the way your subscription is identified in the CDXC bank statements.
3. Delete one of the amounts (£15.00 is the 2005-06 subscription for UK members; the subscription is £20.00 for those living abroad.)
4. The form has been pre-filled with "today and on 1st July annually thereafter".
5. Enter your account details after 'Name of account to be debited' and your account number.
6. Complete the lower part of the form with your name, address, date and don't forget to sign it.
7. THE COMPLETED FORM SHOULD BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE BANK BRANCH WHICH LOOKS AFTER YOUR ACCOUNT.
8. It helps the CDXC Treasurer if you also tell him that you intend to pay by Standing Order in future.
9. Check your bank statements after the first payment should have been made to ensure that your bank is executing the order correctly.

Thank you for helping CDXC by paying your subscription by Standing Order!

### On-Line Banking

If you use **On-Line Banking** then you can make a transfer directly to:

Sort-Code : 60-60-02  
Account : 44532385  
Account Name : CDXC  
Reference : [your callsign]  
Bank : NatWest - Kingston-upon-Thames Branch





