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Club News and Views

Editorial

Martyn Phillips, G3RFX

I'm writing this at 30,000 ft aboard GB Airways Airbus 320 G-TTOH heading north at 500 mph over the Bay of Biscay en route from Gibraltar to London-Gatwick.

According to the airshow display, as I gather they call these things, my home QTH of Bristol is currently due north of us. So what a pity we can't keep going in that direction instead of turning east over the Isle of Wight, dammit. We'd be home a lot quicker. There again, Jane's just reminded me that this might not be such a good idea after all, seeing as we parked the car at Gatwick.

Anyway, the non-radio highlight of the past week without doubt: hardly seeing a single cloud in the sky the whole time we were there. That, and seeing an Iberia Airbus 319 land at GIB. A very strange feeling indeed.

And the radio highlights? Well, working an IK7, name of Luigi, who took my Worked All Remote Italian Villages [WARIV] score to 29,999. So only one more to go. I'm also most grateful to a UA4, name of Vlad, for upping my Worked All Russian Oblasts [WARO] tally to 49,998. So only two more to go there.

Seriously, though: surely you don't want to hear about the *real* radio highlights, do you?. No, I didn't think you did. I mean that way I could easily end up boring you to tears with long lists of stations worked on this band or that. Let's just say that as always I had a great time. Once again quite a few old friends and CDXC members found their way into the ZB2FX log too.

Be that as it may, I once again listened in sheer amazement to ongoing European operating practice – for example in the shape of a huge pile-up on 17 CW calling the recent OJØ expedition – with many stations continuing to call, no matter which of them he'd actually come back to.

I don't work much HF from Bristol due to RFI problems, so it was also a marvellous opportunity to catch up on the latest rather sorry antics on 20m, 14.195 MHz.

And the most unwieldy callsign heard? Well, DL4ØRRDXA on 17 SSB. Rather him than me with that one, as I said to him myself, especially on CW. But then I suppose it is good to know that the German authorities have relaxed their rather rigid guidelines on such things, jawoll!

Another interesting one was F/HB9xxx, happily operating /MM from the River Saône - just to the east of the city of Dijon and several hundred miles away from the nearest drop of navigable salt water.

One evening on 20 SSB I was also most amused to hear an HSØ, clearly ex-W4, somewhat optimistically asking Europe to stand by while he listened for "Anyone in Florida?". Mais oui, there were loads of them on frequency, with callsigns beginning 'Florida 4', 'Florida 5', 'Florida 6'...

But enough of all this. I hope you enjoy the *July Digest*.

73 Martyn, G3RFX

PS: Just landed at Gatwick, where it's pouring with rain. What a surprise!

Chairman's Chat

John Butcher, G3LAS

After the excitement of N8S and BS7H, everything seems a bit quiet at the moment. Everything apart, that is, from the weather. At the moment, it's lashing down in stair rods and I can hardly hear myself type. England in June! Anyway, the band conditions are far from bad, with 6 metres coughing up quite a bit of juicy DX when the atmospheric pressure manages to stay up for a few days at a time. Stations in the UK have done quite well to Eastern EU and the Caribbean, but as usual our friends across the Channel and down to the South-East seem to have had the best of it.

On the HF bands it does seem a bit of an anti-climax at the moment, but the expeditions to 9XØVB and 3B7SP have at least been keeping us going through the summer lull. Good old Vlad can be relied upon to generate the pile-ups when he's out on one of his odysseys - and the Polish ops have been doing very well from St Brandon. This after having a very nasty experience en route to Agalega when their boat was severely damaged by the aftermath of a volcanic eruption on Réunion Island. I suppose that if you have to be shipwrecked, you could do worse than ending up on a place like St Brandon with a load of radio gear. Anyway, they seem to have recovered from what must have been a very traumatic experience and have been putting themselves about on the bands to very good effect. No doubt the Five Star gang will say they are just warming up the audience for the real event which takes place in September.

CDXC members continue to illuminate the halls of glory in the amateur radio firmament. As noted elsewhere in this issue, Colin Thomas, G3PSM, is to be RSGB President for 2008 and 2009, while the terrible twins, Roger Western, G3SXW, and Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF, have been

elected to the CQ DX Hall of Fame. This is a signal honour which is rarely offered to anyone outside the USA. To be noticed over there you must really be someone! Congratulations to all three!

Our Secretary is getting a bit twitchy about the AGM and Summer Social, which, as you know, is on Saturday, 21 July. You lot out there are a bit slow at signing up for what is always the high spot of the CDXC year. We know that there is usually a late rush, but nevertheless it would be good to have a feel for numbers in advance, so that Mark can order the appropriate number of burgers and sausages. I think Peter is worried about having to eat most of them himself. Of course, this is a special year for the event, being the first time we have ventured outside the cosy surroundings of the South-East. I know that Herefordshire is hardly the remotest outpost of civilisation, but we hope it will encourage some members who have not enjoyed our Summer Social before to sign up and come along to the G3NUG's QTH.

Check the website for Neville's promotional screed and take a trip to what is a very attractive, accessible and interesting part of the country.

It won't be long before we start to think about the RSGB Convention again. This too is moving outwards and upwards, to Wyboston Lakes, near St Neots in Bedfordshire. The dates are October 12 to 14. Again, it's not exactly the frozen North - hopefully - but it will be closer than usual to the Midlands and North. Early indications are that it will be a great weekend again. More of that next time, no doubt.

We must apologise to all those who missed seeing us at the Elvaston Show last month. At the last minute it turned out that none of

the Committee members could make it and, although there were a couple of members who volunteered to help out, it was logistically impossible to set up and man the usual stand. I hope it was a great day - and we certainly intend to be there next year.

So that's it for now. See you on July 21 at the AGM. By the way, if anyone knows a

good secretary, please let me know, because as you know, Peter, G3SJX, is standing down after several years of yeomen service. Many thanks, Peter, and good luck with the gardening..

73 es gud DX

John, G3LAS

New Members

CDXC offers a warm welcome to the following new members:

<i>Call</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>
G3ZQH	Dave Barrett	Nottingham
G4DYO	Brendan McCartney	Wokingham

RSGB President-elect

Congratulations to Colin Thomas, G3PSM, on being voted in as RSGB President-elect for 2008 and 2009. Colin is a CDXC member of long standing and continues the tradition of our members who have been honoured in this way. In fact, four of the last six Presidents have come from our ranks.

G3PSM is well known, not only for his dx-ing, but also for the sterling work he has done for the RSGB. For many years he has been first the Society's HF Manager and more recently Spectrum Forum Chairman, with a brief which covers virtually the whole spectrum from dc to light. In these posts, Colin has been deeply involved in the many international negotiations which are held to decide key issues concerned with our spectrum allocations and regulation. Much of this work may be less than obvious to the rank and file membership, but without it there is little doubt that the numerous successes such as the gaining of the WARC bands, the establishment of the 5m frequency allocations and the extension of the 40m band would not have happened. All these achievements, and many others, are a result of our having a strong and internationally recognised national society. If you enjoy these privileges please support Colin and his colleagues by your membership of the RSGB. There will be many more battles to come if we are to maintain, never mind extend, our access to the radio spectrum. Do not be under any misapprehension – there are many very powerful agencies which would like nothing better than to take over what we currently enjoy. 73 John, G3LAS

CDXC AGM and Summer Social 2007

The Annual General Meeting of CDXC will be held on Saturday, 21 July, at 1200 at the QTH of Neville Cheadle, G3NUG, Lower Withers Barns, Middleton on the Hill, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0HY. Thank you to Neville and Trish for offering to host this year's event. Please note the additional agenda item (item 6.); further details from the Treasurer elsewhere in this *Digest*.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2006 AGM
3. Chairman's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Subscription rates from 2008
7. Election of New Committee
8. Election of Auditor
9. Any Other Business

Committee nominations and items for AOB must be given to the Secretary prior to the commencement of the AGM. Please note that we are looking for two new Committee members, including for the post of Secretary.

Our Summer Social follows the AGM in the garden and all members and families are most welcome to what is always a very enjoyable occasion. Come and meet your fellow members; there should be something of interest for everyone. As usual we will be providing food and a barbeque. Soft drinks will be included, but please bring your own wine and beer. Please also bring a folding chair as only a limited number of seats is available. As is traditional, we will also be holding our famous raffle and donations of prizes from members attending are most welcome. The Star Prize, kindly donated by Yaesu UK, is a fabulous FT-897 transceiver.

A charge of £8.00 per adult will be made to cover the cost of the food. Tea/coffee included. There will be no charge for children under 16 and of course there is no charge for members who will only be attending the AGM. Please let our Secretary, Peter G3SJX, know as soon as possible if you will be attending so that we can plan the catering requirements. A return slip is enclosed with this Digest - or alternatively, and preferably, send an e-mail.

Peter, G3SJX

Directions to Lower Withers Barns

From the Ludlow area

Take A49 south by-passing Ludlow in the Leominster direction. After about 5 miles pass

through Ashton village and immediately turn left signposted Middleton on the Hill and The Hundreds. (This turning is on a sharp right-hand bend just after Ashton.) Keep going (one mile) through the first hamlet, down the hill to cross-roads. Turn left signposted Middleton. Keep going another mile through the next hamlet. Down hill past new barriers on right-hand side of sharp left-hand bend. We are next on the right signed Lower Withers Barns. Take the entrance at the corner and follow the red drive to the rear of our barns.

From the Leominster area

Take A49 north by-passing Leominster in the Ludlow direction. After about 3 miles turn right signposted Middleton on the Hill and The Hundreds just after passing the Berrington Hall grounds on the left. (This turning is on a sharp left-hand bend just before the village of Ashton.) Keep going (one mile) through the first hamlet, down the hill to crossroads. Turn left signposted Middleton. Keep going another mile through the next hamlet. Down hill past new barriers on right-hand side of sharp left-hand bend. We are next on the right signed Lower Withers Barns. Take the entrance at the corner and follow the red drive to the rear of our barns.

From the M40

Take the M40 to its end. Here keep in the RH lane and join the M42 West (also signposted M5). Follow the M42 to its end, keep to the RH lane and join the M5 South. Turn off the M5 at Droitwich Junc. 5, the first junction after turning onto the M5. Follow the A38 signposted Worcester for around 2/3 miles and look for a signpost to "Ombersley". Take slip road left off the A38, up to roundabout, third exit to "Ombersley" and "Tenbury Wells". Then follow the A4133, A443 and A456 passing to the north of "Tenbury Wells". Eventually you will reach the A49, turn left. After about 4 miles pass through Ashton village and immediately turn left signposted Middleton on the Hill and The Hundreds. (This turning is on a sharp right-hand bend just after Ashton)

Directions from the M4 (London)

Leave M4 at Junc.15 (Swindon) and take the A419 north. This leads to the A417 and joins the M5 at Junc.11A. Go north on the M5 to Junc.7 (Worcester south).

By-pass Worcester by taking the A4440 (look for the left turn). Join the A44 and follow this road to Leominster. At the roundabout at the end of the A44 take third exit signposted A49 north (Shrewsbury/ Ludlow). Don't go into Leominster.

After about 4 miles on the A49 turn right signposted Middleton on the Hill and The Hundreds just after passing the Berrington Hall grounds on the left. (This turning is on a sharp left-hand bend just before the village of Ashton.) Keep going (one mile) through the first hamlet, down the hill to cross-roads. Turn left signposted Middleton. Keep going another mile through the next hamlet. Down hill past new barriers on right-hand side of sharp left-hand bend. We are next on the right signed Lower Withers Barns. Take the entrance at the corner and follow the red drive to the rear of our barns

If in difficulty telephone Neville on (01568) 750560.

CDXC Summary Accounts 2006-07

	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
Subscriptions	9,942	11,869	10,011	9,984	7,437
Dinner Ticket Sales	1,421	929	1,094	1,118	1,248
Advertising	1,015	855	708	808	100
Donations Received	846	788	340	586	1,981
Summer Social	182	341	463	688	443
Bank Interest	294	207	135	19	18
Misc Sales	0	103	91	191	172
Total Income	13,699	15,091	12,842	13,393	11,399
EXPENDITURE					
Newsletter	6,769	6,491	6,660	6,762	6,428
DXpedition Funding	2,900	1,257	2,431	2,600	1,961
Dinner	1,470	928	1,036	1,275	1,274
Marketing and Mailshots	59	799	1,102	1,518	534
Trophies and Badges	397	478	263	346	182
Website and Expenses	380	389	334	765	535
Secretarial Expenses	76	136	139	84	118
RSGB/Licence	44	58	58	15	15
Total Expenditure	12,095	10,535	12,022	13,365	11,047
Surplus in year	1,605	4,556	820	29	352

Capital + Reserves					
O-Bal	12,691	6,422	4,867	4,255	3,903
Surplus in Year	1,605	4,556	820	29	352
Reserves/Accruals	1,982	1,713	734	583	0
Capital + Reserves	16,278	12,691	6,422	4,867	4,255
Bank Balances at year end					
Current Account + Cash	793	701	-212	253	2,562
Deposit Account	15,485	11,990	6,634	4,614	1,693
Total Bank + Cash	16,278	12,691	6,422	4,867	4,255

Membership	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
O-Bal	797	685	661	598	540
New Members Joining	27	161	73	102	-
Members Leaving	144	49	49	39	-
C-Bal	680	797	685	661	598

DX-PEDITION FUNDING: 2006-07			
Operation	Location	Contact	£
VY0/G3OCA	Canadian IOTA	G3OCA	100
N8S	Swain's Island	YT1AD	300
3D2/Rotuma	Rotuma Solar Panels	FO5RT	150
9U0X - 9U9Z	Burundi	DJ9ZB	150
BS7H	Scarborough Reef	DL9RCF	400
VK9DNX	Norfolk Island	DL1MGB	100
3B7C	St Brandon	G3WGV	400
J20M - J20R	Djibouti	I2YSB	100
YW0DX	Aves Island	IT9DAA	200
S21XA	Bangladesh	EA3BT	150
XF4DL	Rivella Ggedo	DL8LE	200
VU7RG	Laccadives	DF4KQ	250
C94KF	Mozambique	G3OCA	200
IREF	Various IOTA operations	IREF HQ [\$400]	200
Total for Year 2006-07			2,900

FINANCIAL PERIOD

This financial statement covers the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF, Treasurer CDXC

AUDITOR STATEMENT

In my opinion this Summary is a true and fair view of the CDXC accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2007

Martin Atherton, G3ZAY, Elected Auditor CDXC

CDXC Treasury Notes

by Nigel, G3TXF

The CDXC subscription year runs from the beginning of July to the end of June. This July 2007 *Digest* is therefore the first issue for the year 2007-08. Thanks to all who have already renewed their subscription. If your subscription is still unpaid, you will find a reminder notice enclosed. Please pay promptly. Thanks for your continued support of CDXC.

Above you will find the accounts for the year to 31 March 2007. These accounts will be presented at the AGM later this month. Although CDXC is currently in good shape, financially it is always prudent to plan ahead. Although the number of Members was boosted by a very welcome marketing campaign by ML & S two years ago, the numbers at the end of this year have dropped back to the same level as in March 2005. Similarly there is a corresponding drop-off in subscription income during the year just ended.

The cost (£6,770) of printing and distribution of the CDXC *Digest* accounts for 56% of the Club's costs. CDXC made funding contributions totalling £2,900 to some 14 DX operations during the year, representing just 24% of CDXC's total costs.

By the end of the current year in June 2008 the UK subscription will have been the same (£15) for five full years. During that time various costs have increased, in particular postage and to a lesser extent printing. CDXC's other miscellaneous costs have also gone up considerably over the past five years. Because of the time delay between the AGM and the beginning of the next subscription year, any subscription increase needs to be voted on well ahead of time. At the July 2007 AGM it will be proposed that the UK subscription be

increased to £18 with effect from July 2008. The overseas subscription would then be £24.

Many thanks to all the CDXC members who have taken the trouble to set up a Standing Order or those who pay by electronic transfer with their callsign as the reference. Both these methods save much time compared with the handling of paper cheques. Although the occasional electronic transfer which arrives with no reference other than the sender's sort code and account number (instead of a callsign as a reference) do cause your Treasurer some grief. If your bank code and account number look like 92860138743400, please let me know who you are so that I can correctly allocate your £15 subscription renewal payment – thanks!

Overseas members (only) are allowed to pay by credit card, and we are always grateful to Martin Lynch at ML & S for his assistance in processing these payments.

Also for the benefit of overseas members who do not have a UK bank account, CDXC is now able to receive subscription payments by PayPal. Although this method of payment is easy to use, it is far from cheap, particularly if you are transferring funds from one currency to another within a PayPal account.

Finally, there are a few overseas members who send their subscriptions by cash in the post, usually in US \$ bills or Euros. Touch wood we have never knowingly lost one of these 'cash through the post' payments so far.

73 de Nigel, G3TXF

Treasurer, CDXC

C H I L T E R N D X C L U B

CCC DD X X CCC
C D D X X C
N E W S L E T T E R
C D D X X C
CCC DD X X CCC

Issue 5

5th November, 1983

Editor: G4DYO

This edition will be published the day before the video presentation so those attending will save an SASE!! In future, when appropriate, a note will appear at the end of each newsletter to remind members whose SASE's need replenishing. Grateful thanks to all attending the video - all profits will be sent direct to Jim Smith for the HIDXA fund.

I had a brilliant idea — what about telephoning RSGB headline news service for info for the newsletter. Surprise surprise — it is 100% VHF today!!!

DX LADDER We are all familiar with the all time countries table which appears in RADCOM. It includes all countries worked, including deletions and those not acceptable to ARRL and obviously favours those who have been licenced for a long time. Would it be worth having our own 5-band ladder in Newsletter - say once per month - but to include only countries on the current DXCC list which are approved by ARRL? This would put us all at the same starting level and might give the more recently licenced members an opportunity to close up on the old hands. If enough info is sent to me either by phone, letter or radio I'll print a table in the next newsletter - around mid November. Remember, NO un-approved countries so you can forget IZ9A, IS1CK, YIIAS and the like.....!!!!!!

THE DX SCENE

JARVIS IS All looking good for starting about now. Ops are: George AD1S, Stu WA2MOE, Stu H44SH, Burt WØRLX and John AD8J. The 4Øm frequencies are reported to be 7Ø9Øtx and 7Ø8Ørx. Jarvis Island has been the site of several scientific studies recently but no amateur activity has taken place since about 1957. Prior to that Henry Lee, now KH6DE, was active from Jarvis as KG6JEG around 1940!!!! Palmyra was always the easier of the two for access but is nw privately owned and the owner refuses to grant landing permission — which is required by ARRL. There was a weather station and lighthouse on Jarvis but both have nw closed so all is quiet apart from the 1.5 million gulls, terns, boobies and other sea birds. Jarvis has been declared a national wildlife refuge and the US Dept. of the Interior is reluctant to grant permission for random groups to land there. Obviously those requiring it must pay special attention this week as the country is another one in the Heard Island league with operations possible about every ten years!

QSL to: George Adkins, AD1S, POB 32735, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, USA.

ZL/K KERMADEC ZLIAMO is also talking about an operation next spring.....

5U7 NIGER Chuck vry busy and trip may be delayed until December.

DL1VU PACIFIC EXP. Karl starts on Nov.17 with a loose itinerary & duration of stay at each island depends on cost & whether he likes it. Four weeks on C2 looks promising! Main freq will be 14Ø27khz & 27khz up on other HF bands except 1Ømhz which will be 1Ø1ØØ-1Ø1Ø5 and 1Ø12Økhz. Also 35ØØ-351Ø and 7ØØ1-7ØØ5khz. No linears and only wire antennas. QSL team awaits cards & will reply immediately. Karl will give info during operations.

KP5 DESECHEO The dpxpedition led by KI3RST/KP4 is looking good for the first week in January. Operation will include 10mhz cw but NO 160m. QSL will be via WB6WOD.

KH7 KURE N2EDQ/KH7 QRV for the next few months. WSL via KH6JEB.

USSR RS3A is QRV at the Satellite Centre and has been worked on 15 cw 0930z. Usual QSL route.

FB8W CROZET The ship carrying the new ops has left Marseilles and should be at Crozet within a week. FB8WK (ex 5T5AY) promises much CW.

KX6 MARSHALL IS KX6QC reported QRV. QSL POB 406, APO SFO, CA 96555. Recent independence will not affect DXCC status.

3B6CD was reported recently on 28541khz at 1738z. Any further info?

XU CAMBODIA Firstly a little bit of Japanese humour. The CBA for JA1HQG — the XUISS, etc., QSL Manager — is wrong.

Correct QSL info: Y. ARISAKA, JA1HQG, 4-3-9 YUIGAHAMA, KAMAKURA, KANAGAWA 48, JAPAN.

There is no word as to the fate of the thousands of dollars/IRCs presumably still residing on the doorstep at Mr. Arisaka's previous abode.....QRZDX for 24th Octobe carries a photo of a YL operator at XUISS...looks about 18 and I would definitely like to work her....The stations are still very QRV according to the DX bulletins with upwards of a dozen operators mainly using 14195khz Tcv. Hopefully the JAs will provide a remote VFO soon. The picture referred to above shows a single FT101 as the station.

BV TAIWAN The Italian DX Blue Team made 5300 QSOs — 3000 on SSB on 10, 15 and 20m.

BY CHINA Inspite of rumours that the JA boys would be particularly QRV for EU they have only been heard here working Japan. They did work many US stations on 20m during the night of 3rd Nov TX 14145 and RX 14245.

6W8 SENEGAL From Nov 1 cllsigns indicate districts. Also, until Dec 31 the prefix will be 6V1-8 with 6V9 being reserved for clubs and 6V0 for visitors. From Jan 1 1984 prefixes become 6W1-6W0. 4th Nov 0734z 7083khz 6V0DY wkd G4BYO 5x6.

FR7 REUNION FR0FLO, Herik, has a daily schedule on 1825khz at 0130 to 0145z and 3790khz at 0200z.

A35 TONGA Phil, K6ZM, who is presently in Fiji may operate as A35ZM from Nov 8 to No 23. Then he goes to Nauru. QSL K6ZM CBA.

KC6 EASTERN KC4DS nw QRV — op is Sharon (YL?) — QSL to POB 397, Ponape, ECI, 96941.

KH8 AM SAMOA AH8B has been QRV on 80m SSB around 0400z.

3B9 RODRIGUEZ 3B9FK is nw QRV 80m CW and has been on 40m CW almost nightly from 0100 — 0200z.

VK2LHI LORD HOWE QSL info VK2WU not in CB. QSL to: VK2WU, Box 31, WINMALEE, NSW 2777.

TN8AJ The proposed operation has been cancelled as Joerg cannot obtain permission to re-enter the country. He will shortly be going to Ethiopia and will try for permission to operate.

[continued. Ed.]

DX an' all that

Don Field, G3XTT *don@g3xtt.com*

These are seismic times in the world of DXing. No, I wasn't thinking about BS7H or the announcements at Dayton (more of that later). Much more significant than that. Bren, G4DYO, is back as a CDXC member and busy chasing the DX he has been missing for the past 10 years. And Laurie, G3UML, has been working DX on CW. This is all very troubling to those of us who like an element of constancy in our everyday existence!

Talking about Laurie, G3UML, I rather liked his comment after the dust had settled on N8S and BS7H: "N8S, BS7H, what a month, feels like two noisy, argumentative but likeable friends have just gone!". It's true that we (DXers) get a real stimulus from the chase, even when there are problems with deliberate QRM, iffy propagation and the like. But we UK DXers were well served by both those operations with some of the operators making a point of standing by specifically for UK stations, often to the frustration of others who were on frequency. The two operations presented somewhat different challenges. N8S was just a tough path, full stop. Almost due north through the auroral zone, we were very much at a disadvantage compared with most other parts of the world. BS7H was rather different. The openings were extended and signals were strong for hours at a time, certainly on 40 through to 17m. But the problem was one of breaking through the wall of Central and East European stations calling. I guess this must be similar to living in mid-western USA and having to call through either the East Coast or the West Coast to work anything.

Which takes me on nicely to two operations which were announced at Dayton. Both are scheduled for next spring. Both are large teams with highly experienced operators.

And both are on a westerly beam heading from the UK. They are, in case you don't already know, Ducie (VP6D) and Clipperton (FO/A). In both cases the challenge of mounting an expedition is actually getting there. Clipperton is a very tricky place to land, while Ducie is just a very long way from anywhere (other than its big brother, Pitcairn). But, assuming there are no hiccups with the logistics, both should be relatively easy from the UK on most bands. On LF we have the very great advantage that we should have propagation after most of Europe has lost it, so we should be in with more than a fighting chance of 40, 80 and even 160m.

Incidentally, at last year's HF Convention I was drooling over John/G3PQA's collection of 160m QSLs (John, who is the leading UK DXer on 160m, was finally applying for 160m DXCC), which included QSL cards for both the Ducie DXpeditions that have taken place so far. So Ducie is eminently workable on Top Band from the UK, especially this next time when there is a very strong LF contingent among the operators. Clipperton should be even more workable on LF.

As for the high bands, who can tell? Some forecasts are now placing the solar minimum back from this summer to as late as next Spring, so these operations could be taking place at the absolute nadir of the present cycle. That said, so what? I hadn't heard much from the Caribbean area on 10m for a while until Roger, G3SXW, and Nigel, G3TXF showed up recently from FY, and they were easy to work on both 12 and 10m. It just goes to show what is possible when a DXpedition shows with good equipment, great operators and, perhaps most important of all, a seafront location.

This reminds me of a talk by Jimmy, W6JKV, 6m DXpedition specialist, at a G3WOS 6m BBQ a couple of years ago. Jimmy was saying that he makes a point of choosing a cliff-top location with a good take-off to Europe when he makes his Caribbean expeditions around early July each year (Best time for multi-hop Sporadic E). Those who have worked him (and I know quite a few CDXC members are closet 6m operators) will testify to the huge difference in signal strength between him and local stations who may be QRV at the same time and who will no doubt be operating from their home QTHs (which are quite likely to be in some valley on the 'wrong' side of the island). Of course, this only goes to support what Roger, G3SXW, has also written in these very pages about 'location, location and location'.

While talking about Roger, G3SXW, and Nigel, G3TXF, I do want to add my own congratulations to them for the well-deserved honour they received at Dayton, being inducted into the DX Hall of Fame (the first G licensees to be so honoured – the only previous UK recipients were Danny Weil, who never held a G licence, and Geoff Watts, who was an SWL). Of course, 50% of DXers have never heard of either Roger or Nigel because they keep forgetting to take a microphone on their DXpeditions but, hey, maybe that's why Laurie, G3UML, has been wearing out his rusty old Morse key!

Recent DX

Even though the dust has settled on N8S and BS7H, there has been no shortage of lesser DX to work. Vlad, UA4WHX, continues his peregrinations around Africa, and is currently active as 9XØVB. He seems to have been able to get licences where others have failed and is extremely QRV, seemingly needing little time for sleeping or eating. The big question is whether and when QSLs will appear, especially as he asks for cards to go to Russia and there are serious concerns as to how many of them get through unscathed (postal theft is a

growing problem nowadays – even Steve, 9M6DXX, is suffering badly, although one would have thought Malaysians were pretty law-abiding). The Polish 3B6SP team suffered mechanical problems with their vessel en route to Agalega and, instead, were towed to St Brandon, where they seem to be making the best of a bad job, being quite active as 3B7SP. Nevertheless, some of my correspondents tell me they have been quite tough to work (I have made just one QSO, quite an easy one, on 17m RTTY, as I needed 3B7 on that mode). Of course, if you missed out, there is a modest effort coming up in September by way of 3B7C.

Incidentally, one or two folk have been circulating rumours that 3B6 and 3B7 would shortly start counting separately for DXCC. If you have heard this one, take it with a pinch of salt. I double-checked with Bernie, W3UR (publisher of *The Daily DX* and *DX Editor of QST*), and he tells me that these rumours re-surface every time there is a 3B6 or 3B7 operation, but that under current rules the two island groups are nowhere near far enough apart to count separately. They do, of course, count separately for the more important awards programme, IOTA!

Apropos of which, even within the 3B7 chain of islands there are quite a few separate islands (take a look on Google Earth, for example). Although they don't count separately for either IOTA or DXCC, we did think about instituting a 'Worked All 3B7 Islands' award to run concurrently with our September DXpedition. It's really related to the fact that, for the first time during an FSDXA expedition, the accommodation will be less than Five Star and we will be living in close proximity. So the thought was that anyone snoring loudly or failing in his personal hygiene (fresh water will be limited!) will be banished by pirogue (local fishing boat) to one of the other islands with a battery, an FT-817 and some wire, and told to do his own thing!

Between now and September there is a Botswana (A2) activity scheduled for July

and a big Rwanda (9X) effort is slated for 'later this summer'. For others, check the DX Calendar in this issue.

Malicious Interference

The recent big DXpeditions brought out even more malicious interference than we have seen for a while. This really is a problem nowadays. I'm not talking about accidentally transmitting on the wrong VFO, or even the lads who insist on asking on frequency for the callsign, QSL info, etc. Rather I'm talking about those who deliberately set out to disrupt the DXpedition, usually with a carrier, a recording or some such, and generally without giving a callsign. It's by no means obvious how to deal with these malcontents; certainly it's not a matter of education as they are perfectly well aware of what they are doing. The only answer seems to be to track them down and arrange for them to be shut down in some way, perhaps having their equipment confiscated by the relevant authorities in the country concerned. Most national regulators nowadays seem to follow the Ofcom line of a 'light touch', so it would appear that any initiatives need to come from within our own ranks. Some of those who are concerned about such matters are starting to brainstorm possible solutions, but I fear that it won't be straightforward and the answer may have to differ from country to country according to local politics and regulations.

IOTA Contest

I hope the Editor will allow me to mention the IOTA Contest here, simply because I have a proprietorial interest (having been managing it for the past five years – doesn't time fly?). This is a great opportunity to work IOTA counters – there are usually well over 200 active – but do please submit your log, however modest. They all add to the completeness of the adjudication process and, with the advent of NGIS (New Generation IOTA Software) verified QSOs can also be credited to your IOTA awards. The date is the last weekend of July – 28/29th (1200-1200).

W3PHL

I can't finish without passing on the report associated with the passing away of Fred W3PHL, just in case some of you haven't seen it. Apparently he had quite a signal on 40m and the following web page gives some clue as to why that might be:

<http://tinyurl.com/22fep2>

And I thought 'California Kilowatts' were only to be found on the West Coast!

73 Don, G3XTT

Operation from the Summer Isles, IOSA SC10, IOTA EU-092

21 July – 04 August and 15 – 22 September 2007

As this is the Centenary of Scouting, the Summer Isles will be celebrating with their own stamps. I will be operating GB5SI from the Summer Isles Post Office during these visits. During the IOTA Contest I will operate as MMØQ. 01-03 September operation from the Treshnish Isles, IOSA NH17, IOTA EU-108, callsign MMØBQI/P. QSL via home call, bureau or direct and LoTW.

73 Jim, MMØBQI

Borneo Bulletin

Steve Telenius-Lowe, 9M6DXX

teleniuslowe@gmail.com

In May, Eva and I travelled to Miri in Sarawak (9M8) for the annual jazz festival. We decided to drive there, travelling through Brunei (V8), thus adding a new country to our DXFC totals. The journey is an 'interesting' one, as there are no fewer than 20 immigration and customs posts to clear on the return journey. This is because Sabah (9M6) and Sarawak (9M8), although both parts of Malaysia, have their own immigration regulations, and also because Brunei is divided into two, with Malaysian territory in between. The border controls are: 9M6 out, 9M8 in, 9M8 out, V8 in, V8 out, 9M8 in, 9M8 out, V8 in, V8 out and finally 9M8 in - and then the same in reverse on the return leg. The complete journey filled up over two pages in our passports. The trip also entails making two jungle river crossings by car ferry in each direction, making for a lengthy, but also fascinating journey.

Brunei

Miri and the jazz festival were great, and we decided to stop for three nights in Brunei on the way back. Fortunately I had previously contacted Rahman, V85RH, whose wife Ernie was a school friend of someone and who works in the reservations department of the famous Empire Hotel and Country Club, and who was able to book us in at an extremely advantageous rate. To say that this hotel is like a palace is not overstating the matter, and even the cheapest rooms (that we had) are way more luxurious than any other hotel I have ever stayed at.

It was while staying at the Empire that I realised that this column shares its name with Brunei's English-language daily newspaper, the *Borneo Bulletin*. I hope we're not guilty of any copyright infringement.

We met Rahman and Ernie, along with Jeffery, V8ASV, and took them out for dinner to thank them for making such fantastic arrangements for our stay. Jeffery is probably the most active amateur in Brunei and is a keen DXer, most likely to be found on 15m SSB, with occasional forays on to 20 and 40m. Jeffery kindly took us for a late-night sightseeing tour of the capital, Bandar Seri Bagawan (known as 'Bandar' or just 'BSB'), before dropping us back at the Empire.

Rahman also took me to meet Aman, V8BDS. Aman's daughter married the Crown Prince of Brunei a few years ago and she had recently given birth to their first son, making Aman the grandfather of a future Sultan, who is now second in line to the throne. In accordance with his elevated position he has been given a 'VIP house' to live in, with several acres of beautifully tended gardens, a large swimming pool, and - naturally - a 100ft tower with a Cushcraft X7 beam on top. I spent a couple of hours with Aman talking amateur radio but, sadly, on a couple of occasions he said he was thinking of giving up radio as it was no longer a challenge to him. He is not a DXer, but does enjoy chatting to his friends around the world. I suggested to him that he had a great station and should take up DXing, but I don't think I convinced him! Later, Rahman said I had said the right things in trying to encourage Aman's activity: having a VIP as an active radio amateur does no harm at all in a small country like Brunei, where most people know each other.

Unfortunately our stay in Brunei coincided with a period when CDXC member Greg, V85GD, was out of the country, so we were unable to meet. However, I plan to go back to Brunei to do some operating in July, so perhaps we will be able to meet up then.

Rahman provided me with the paperwork required to get a visitor's licence and kindly said he would apply on my behalf before I returned to the country. Apparently visitors' callsigns are in the series V8F (for 'Foreigner') followed by two letters. I've therefore requested V8FEO, as my first licence, way back in 1970, was G8FEO.

I plan to be on the air from Brunei between 11 and 16 July, including a single-op all-band entry in the IARU Contest, so hope to work as many CDXC members as possible then. I'll be using simple antennas (no beam), but they should be high up on the flat roof of a 100ft-high hotel, so with luck I will have a reasonable signal.

By the way, if you are wondering what the difference is between V8 three-letter callsigns and V85 callsigns followed by just two letters, as I was – well, there is no difference. V8 three-letter calls are simply newer than V85 calls; they just dropped the '5' in the prefix when they went from two-letter to three-letter callsigns. Locals are now given callsigns beginning with V8A or V8B or, in the case of VHF-only Class B licensees, V8M or V8N.

Visitors to Sabah

I said last time that 'Visitors to Sabah' might become a regular part of this column and it looks like I was right. I was hoping to meet top DXer and contester Nodir, EY8MM, in Sabah as he was scheduled to make a business trip to Singapore for a telecoms conference and planned to make a side-trip to 9M6 to do a bit of operating (and increase *his* DXFC total!). Unfortunately he e-mailed me to say that he had decided not to attend the conference and so would not be coming to Sabah after all.

One who did make it was CDXC member Bob, 5B4AGN, aka. G3ZEM. I had met Bob several times at HF Conventions in the past, but it was good to have a bit more time to chat about DXing – and the world in general - over lunch and a few beers. Bob

stayed at the Langkah Syabas Beach Resort and put in an entry in the CQ WPX CW contest at the end of May, which sadly was marred both by equipment problems and truly abysmal propagation conditions. Getting a Malaysian visitor's licence is now very quick and easy – in Sabah in particular – *providing you have all the correct paperwork*, and I was able to get Bob's 9M6/G3ZEM licence for him in under 30 minutes.

I am looking forward to meeting another CDXC member, Roger, MWØIDX, who is coming to Sabah in July - not for operating, but for his honeymoon. Sabah is an excellent choice for a honeymoon or indeed any family holiday, as there are several four- and five-star resorts on the coast, the climate is great, and if you get bored in the resort you can always go orang utan watching, snorkelling, diving, mountain climbing etc.

9M8Z QSLs

In the last 'Borneo Bulletin' I described how I came to get the 9M8Z callsign and the March CQ WPX SSB contest when 9M8Z was used for the first (and so far only) time. Immediately after the contest I ordered some QSLs from Tony, LZ1JZ, who confirmed they had been despatched from Bulgaria on 29 April. Sending them airmail would obviously have been prohibitively expensive, even from Bulgaria, so Tony naturally enough sent them by surface mail. Unfortunately this means that the cards have still not arrived (as of 14 June) and I apologise for the delay in replying to those who have sent cards for 9M8Z.

I have around 150 direct cards to reply to, all of which have already been checked in the log, and will reply immediately the blank cards are received.

VU7RG – VU7 January 2007 DXpedition

This is a condensed version of a longer article by Frank, DL4KQ, Glenn, WØGJ, Ellen, WA6UVF and Jose, VU2JOS on the highly successful VU7RG and VU7MY Laccadive (Lakshadweep) operation in early 2007. [*Condensed re-drafting by Nigel, G3TXF*]

The background

Following the successful VU4 Andaman operation in April 2006 the NIAR (National Institute of Amateur Radio) made strenuous efforts to mount a similar combined Hamfest and DXpedition event from the Laccadives (Lakshadweep), VU7 - the world's No. 2 Most Wanted Entity. In early 2006 the NIAR set up an International Advisory Committee (IAC) with representatives from each of the three ITU regions: Frank, DL4KQ, Mio, JR3MVF and Glenn, WØGJ. The IAC met for a week in New Delhi in August 2006 during which time contacts were made with numerous Indian government agencies and officials.

A major challenge at the start was that of squaring the circle between the Indian authorities' insistence that there be a team with 50 foreign participants (and that all benefits from the project should go to India and the NIAR), with the need to sign up and get financial commitments from the overseas operators when so much of the planning and detail of the project was still up in the air. The entire VU7 operation was saved by a combination of the financial backup provided by both Mio, JR3MVF, (with her JA supporters) and the German DX Foundation (GDXF), who had been working on the project for two years. All foreign participants were required to get reciprocal Indian licences, which itself involved massive quantities of that well-known Indian product called red tape.

NIAR Chairman Suri, VU2MY, together with Bharathi, VU2RBI, successfully battled on behalf of the VU7 team members to get through the huge administrative barriers in general and the reciprocal licences in particular.

The challenges of VU bureaucracy

The staging of the Hamfest in VU7 was central to the whole project. After much effort, in November 2006 permission was granted to operate from three different islands: Agatti, Bangaram and Kadmat. As well as these much sought after permissions, work was going on in the background to achieve two more important goals. The first was NIAR's successful application for a hard-to-obtain 30m permit. Even better to come was the permission to operate from Minicoy, Asia's most sought-after IOTA (AS-106), which had not been on the air for 47 years. Two distinctive callsigns identified the different parts of the project: VU7RG (in honour of Rajiv Gandhi, VU2RG) for the three main islands with the overseas operators and VU7MY (in honour of the NIAR's Suri, VU2MY) for the all-Indian Minicoy IOTA operation.

After many months of endless frustration with things moving backwards as much as forwards and with mountains of Indian bureaucracy to negotiate, numerous changes of operator lists, countless highs and lows, 29 operators finally assembled in early January 2007 in the port of Kochin on the south-west coast of India, the main hopping-off point for VU7.

Frank, DL4KQ, had been working tirelessly throughout this period trying to maintain a balance between the not unreasonable demands of the potential overseas operators and the realities of planning a major international project within the constraints of the Indian way of doing things. Right up

until setting sail from Kochin, the operators had no firm idea of whether the ferry tickets would be issued. In the event all four teams sailed to their islands on different ships.

The VU7 Hamfest

The two-day Hamfest took place on Kadmat during the main operation. It was officially opened by the local MP. The original plan was that delegates would attend from all the islands, but in the event this proved impractical given the great distances involved, particularly to Minicoy. However, the Hamfest was attended by all the overseas operators on Kadmat plus some 50 Indian hams. Mio, JR3MVF, was present from the Bangaram team. Steve, VE7CT, made a heroic eight-hour, 80km-long journey each way in a small open fishing boat from Agatti just to attend the Hamfest on Kadmat. The Hamfest was a talkfest with official receptions for all the ministry officials who had sent delegates. Although there were many official gatherings and ceremonies, the Hamfest definitely provided positive PR for amateur radio in India. The official delegates were also able to visit the different stations on Kadmat island during the second day of the Hamfest.

The Agatti story

The small size of the runway and the limitations of the light aircraft used meant that the 11 operators (from seven countries) and their 450kg of equipment and antennas had to use the ferry from Kochin. There were difficulties with the Indian customs right up to the last minute before sailing for Agatti. The ferry crossing took 24 hours. The Agatti Island Beach Resort was an excellent location on the south-western tip of the island with unobstructed shots to EU and NA. Even towards Asia and Japan there were only a few palm trees. The resort staff were helpful and even changed meal times to match the operating shifts. Five stations were set up. Operating shifts were three hours. Yagis at 10m high were used on the HF bands as well as vertical dipole arrays.

All worked flawlessly. One station was dedicated to 30m, which was open for up to 20 hrs a day. A highly directional four-square was used on 40m, two phased top-loaded verticals on 80m and a single top-loaded vertical on 160m. The Agatti team made 40,846 QSOs with emphasis on the difficult areas of NA and SA.

Agatti ops: A61M, DK5WL, DL9GFB, JH4RHF, K4UEE, OE9AMJ, WØGJ, W5MJ, W8AEF, VA7DX, VE7CT.

The Bangaram story

Bangaram is located close to Agatti, but has no local inhabitants. The Bangaram team was originally planned to have up to one dozen operators. However, in the event this decreased to just four, mostly JA, operators. Interference problems meant that only one station could be used at a time. The station focussed on JA and Asia. The four operators were Mio, JR3MVF, who was part of the original planning team, her husband Jiro, JA3UB (who showed amazing DX spirit despite suffering a severe medical condition), Tak, JA3NHL, and YL Ellen, WA6UVF. The Bangaram team made 4,183 QSOs.

The Kadmat story

Two resorts are located 3.5km apart on the southern part of Kadmat. One would be used for CW and the other for SSB/Digital operations. The 14-operator team departed Kochin in three batches. The first batch arrived on January 9 and immediately made a site survey. A gym at one resort was to be the SSB site and a gazebo at the other resort the CW site. Although these locations were quickly chosen by the team on arrival, it took several wasted hours for the resort management to agree to the plan. In order to keep baggage light, it had been arranged to purchase as much as possible locally, including coax and bamboos. The locally purchased stuff did not work out as planned. The coax arrived late, unterminated. It had been ordered terminated. And the strong

12m bamboos specially ordered in order to support yagis turned out, when they finally arrived, to be thin 6m bamboos which could only be used for vertical arrays.

The second batch of Kadmat operators which was due to arrive at dawn on January 13 did not show up until after sunset. At dawn on the following day, work started on the setting up, only some 18 hrs before the operation was due to start. In addition we were expecting the third batch of Kadmat operators to arrive within about three hours. The 160m and 80m antennas were erected and a yagi was put onto a metal pipe at 7m high using a locally borrowed ladder. This same ladder together with a bamboo pole extension was later used for a third CW yagi at just 6m high. Necessity is the mother of invention on such operations.

Time passed and the day finished. The last of the Kadmat team members as well as all the Indian Hamfest participants arrived just six hours before the operation was due to start. What pandemonium! We all worked flat out trying to get the stations set up in time for the start. But in amongst all this we had to take breaks because of the first of the official gatherings of the Hamfest. However, some of the operators were able to sneak away from the official proceedings to get back to the all-important antenna and station work. 80m and 40m verticals and two low yagis were up at the SSB site. The remaining station installation was carried out during the next few days despite the compulsory attendance at the Hamfest functions and the presence of many Indian 'radioholics'. The operators on Kadmat felt that they had drawn the short straw!

A four-hour operator shift was used. No sooner had we started than we realised that there were serious noise problems on the LF bands from 160m up to 30m. The resort lights were the source of the problem. Even switching off as many lights as possible did not solve the problem on 80m and 160m. Various RX antennas were tried, but nothing seemed to solve the LF noise

problem. The resort management's insistence that we roll up the wire receive antennas on the days that the regular cruise ships, packed with 1,200 tourists, descended on the island did not help matters either.

Some things worked well, but there were many surprises. The 40m SSB 4-square about 100m from the waterfront had excellent F/B and F/S ratios, whereas the performance of the two-element phased arrays built right at the waterfront and with twice as many radials did not have such high ratios. However, the low take-off angles of these arrays really helped on long-haul DX. The Kadmat team claimed a 27% better performance into the US West Coast than Agatti. However, operators on both Agatti and Kadmat, which were just 80km apart, noticed that conditions could appear to be quite different at both locations, with one running pile-ups into an area that the other could hardly hear.

Comfort at the two sites on Kadmat differed greatly. The majority of the team stayed at the more basic of the two resorts, which was the CW site. There was no aircon. Showers were basic and often there was no running water. No food was served and only bottled drinking water was available. At \$125 per day room rates were just incredible – they were five times the equivalent on the mainland. The SSB site had a bit more comfort with aircon, better furniture and showers. A small shop even sold cola and juice. All meals were at the SSB site. Transport between the two sites was difficult. The local buses never ran at the appropriate times. It was either too hot or too dark to walk between the sites. Bikes were rented, but the lack of both lights and brakes made these dangerous to use at night. Many sleeping goats on the road made biking at night particularly dangerous. There were three-wheeler taxis on the island, but they were on strike. However, the Kadmat operator team did finally find a driver who would shuttle them between the two sites at any time of day or night.

Murphy's island (Kadmat) finished with 41,102 QSOs in the log, despite all the troubles.

Kadmat ops: AA4NN, DF2IC, DL4KQ, DL5OAB, DL7DF, F4EGD, F5CWU, F6IIT, N6TQS, PA2R, PA3EWP, SP3CYY, SP3DOI, VU2NIS, WA9QJH.

The Minicoy story

Minicoy was much needed for its rare AS-106 IOTA number. There had been no operation for some 47 years. Access to the island is highly restricted. Foreigners are not allowed and even Indians need a special permit.

The all-Indian five operator team arrived on the island on 15 January. Three stations were set up at different locations. Each station used verticals and folded dipoles, but two also had yagis. The verticals were found to work best. Unfortunately Bharathi, VU2RBI, suffered a bad fall while adjusting radials out on the reef and required some medical treatment. Most QSOs were made on SSB. Jose, VU2JOS, was the only CW operator in the Minicoy team. Three of the five operators were YLs, with Mahathi, VU3DSM, Bharathi's 13-year-old daughter being the youngest of all. YL Bhanu, VU2BL, already had to leave Minicoy again on 19 January. The YLs operated all day,

while the OMs operated during the night. The Minicoy stations were on 40m and above only, with no digital mode QSOs apart from a few made by Madhu, VU2UWZ. 20m was the main band.

Minicoy ops: YL Bharathi, VU2RBI, YL Mahathi, VU3DSM, YL Bhanu, VU2BL, Jose, VU2JOS, Madhu, VU2UWZ.

Summary and thanks

With 110,203 QSOs logged in such a short time, the VU7 Hamfest operation can claim to be one of the most successful DX operations ever. A world-record number (11,714) of 30m contacts were made. The team thanks their pilots Klaus, DL1XX, Toshi, JA1ELY, Don, N1DG and Dr Bill, K6GNX, and the many individual DXers, DX clubs and commercial sponsors who supported the operation.

Finally, the 2007 VU7 operation was only possible because of the support of the Indian government (especially the DIT) and the tremendous efforts of NIAR, Suri, VU2MY, Bharathi, VU2RBI, Mohan, VU2MYH and Shri Ajeer Vidya.

VU7RG – VU7MY results table

VU7RG - VU7MY QSOs : Breakdown by Mode and Band						
Mode	Band	Agatti	Bangaram	Kadmat	Minicoy	Total
CW	10	709		315	10	1,034
	12	1,737		759		2,496
	15	2,543	171	4,412	228	7,354
	17	3,975	4	2,649	135	6,763
	20	4,573	359	4,336	1,457	10,725
	30	6,493		3,659	804	10,956
	40	5,358	450	7,677	1,387	14,872
	80	4,425		3,108		7,533
	160	2,151		89		2,240
CW Total		31,964	984	27,004	4,021	63,973

SSB	10	1	366	337	71	775
	12	264		1,386	1	1,651
	15	797	932	4,150	4,956	10,835
	17	3,421	52	3,381	11	6,865
	20	1,885	1,413	1,402	6,655	11,355
	40	633	435	4,209	1,392	6,669
	80		1	1,767		1,768
	160	1			2	3
SSB Total		7,002	3,199	16,632	13,088	39,921
DIGITAL	15			1		1
	17	1,183		563		1,746
	20	697		1,369	41	2,107
	30			518		518
	40			1,015		1,015
DIGITAL TOTAL		1,880		3,466	41	5,387
OVERALL TOTAL		40,846	4,183	47,102	17,150	109,281

For Lexophiles (lovers of words) continued

13. You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

14. Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under.

15. He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

16. A calendar's days are numbered.

17. A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.

18. A boiled egg is hard to beat.

19. He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

20. A plateau is a high form of flattery.

21. The short fortune teller who escaped from prison: a small medium at large.

22. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

23. When you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.

24. If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.

25. When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.

26. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

27. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

28. Acupuncture: a jab well done.

29. Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de feet.

[with thanks to G4IRN]

The Story of VK9DNX, Norfolk Island

Dieter Schuster, DL8OH

Situated on the SW rim of the Pacific Ocean, Norfolk Island, which is of volcanic origin and blessed by a mild subtropical climate, offers various landscapes and a lavish vegetation. The Island is not only popular with many tourists, but was also targetted by a Dxpedition organized and carried out by members of the Bavarian Contest Club (BCC). Although Norfolk Island does not belong to the rarest DXCC entities on earth, the demand for contacts was huge and we were very pleased to help many a DXer with a new entity, not only on the low bands but also on the higher frequencies and in different modes.

Why Norfolk Island and why this VK9DNX callsign?

Among our experienced contest operators we had two of them, DL3DXX and DL8WPX, who had been to the Pacific Islands several times before. Norfolk was missing on their list, so they were keen to go there. Chris, DL1MGB, took to the idea and within a short time Dietmar, DL3DXX, Tom, DL5LYM and Marc, DJ7EO, joined. Then the rumours spread and the rest of the crew like Jörg, DL8WPX; Heye, DJ9RR; Ben, DL6FBL and Dieter, DL8OH, materialized. All of them were members of the BCC, had excellent know-how and plenty of experience from many contests.

Our callsign VK9DNX caused a lot of confusion right from the beginning. Even Australian amateurs had problems understanding the logic of this call. The first letter of the suffix indicates the license class, 'D' means the 'highest' class, the second letter 'N' indicates the location, ie Norfolk Island and the third letter is just consecutive or random.

How to get to Norfolk Island

James Cook discovered the Island in 1774 on his second voyage and named it after the Duchess of Norfolk. The island is situated in the South-west Pacific at 1600 km east of Australia and 1000 km north of New Zealand. It is a relatively small spot, which is 5 by 8 km wide. A pleasant subtropical climate makes life easy. It never becomes really hot, because of its never-ending gentle breeze, which can sometimes build up to stormy winds.

You easily can reach Norfolk by plane these days. During WW II the Americans built a military airfield which has since been renovated and nowadays carries loads of tourists, mainly from Australia and New Zealand to the island. 'Newly Weds and nearly Deads', as the islanders say less respectfully in their own particular kind of humour, are the majority among all tourists. The customs officer in Sydney must have had this in mind when he scrutinised us with our piles of luggage und uttered: "You don't match the profile!". By the way, flying from Sydney to Norfolk Island officially means leaving Australia. You have to travel from the 'International' Airport, not from the domestic one.

Before landing on Norfolk we got a first impression from the air: much smaller than we had expected, lovely green and quite a number of houses scattered over the island. It was easy going at Norfolk Airport. After leaving the plane we walked to the Arrivals building and queued up. Customs had a lot of questions about why and what we intended to do during our stay on the island, and we told them something about ham radio, antennas, radios. Suddenly a smile appeared on his face and he said: "Oh yes, radio, like Jim Smith!" – and he quickly

finished his job while we assured him that we would take back every single piece of equipment when leaving the island. Jim Smith, VK9NS, was well known, of course, and he opened the door for us without knowing it.

Station Set-up

Ben, DL6FBL, and Jörg, DL8WPX, had traveled with a different airplane via Brisbane and had arrived a couple of hours earlier on the island than the rest of the crew. While the others were waiting in Sydney for the connecting flight, both Ben and Jörg had already installed an HF 6V-vertical and a monoband vertical for 30m and began operation. Jörg picked us up at the airport and took us to the 'Pacific Palms Lodge', our home for the next two weeks.

This place really turned out to be a gem in terms of ham radio. Situated only 200m away from the 80m-high steep coast, it promised that all antennas would 'see the water'! The joint efforts of our highly motivated team put up all antennas by the end of the next day, ie two separate verticals for 80m and 160m, a 5-Band Spiderbeam (10m to 20m), another Spiderbeam for 12m and 17m and a flagpole, of course, waving the flags of Norfolk Island, the Bavarian Contest Club and Germany. A 40m-tall Norfolk pine became the object of our desire because it was only 100m away from the coast. So we hung up a 20m inverted V in the top of the tree and believe it or not, because of its prominent location, this simple dipole turned out to be the real workhorse antenna for 20m.

With the kind permission of the neighbour, we were able to erect the 160m vertical on his premises, which gave us a favourable distance between the 80m and 160m vertical. Two dipoles for 30m and 40m gave us single-band aerials for 9 bands. With two Beverages, one into W and the other into JA and Europe, our antenna set-up was finished and more than 500m of coaxial cable was displayed over the landscape.

Our radios were two Icom 736s, two Elecraft K2/100s, one Kenwood TS-480 as well as three Acom 1000 linears. We logged with WinTest contest logging software in 'DXpedition mode'. We were continuously connected to the Internet (and the DX Cluster) via a DSL line.

Operation

Our main objective was to serve the low bands and concentrate on CW to give a chance to as many people as possible. Secondly, we would anticipate every high-band opening and react very quickly with band changes to follow propagation as closely as possible. RTTY and SSB was to have a decent part of our operating time. Considering the fact that Norfolk Island is not among the world's most wanted DXCC entities, we agreed 40.000 QSOs as a nice result to have. It was to be even better....

The Low Bands

It was a great surprise to see how well 160m was doing. More than 2,000 QSOs surpassed all our expectations. Even those of us who already had some experience of operating from the Pacific area, were overwhelmed. Each night brought us openings to Europe, we reached 681 Europeans in total, more than from Asia (599) and even more than from America (672). Unfortunately noone from South America was worked on 160m.

You can definitely notice a change in traffic. Not too long ago there were relatively few Top Band specialists who not only produced good signals but, thanks to sophisticated receiving antennas, were very capable of copying weak signals. Today it looks like the Internet and DX Clusters are bringing more and more casual DXers onto Top Band. Guys with linears, but little or no space for receiving antennas. So one can observe a trend to substitute bad ears with unlimited calling. We had a lot of callers who did not respond when we came back to them several times. They just kept calling

and calling instead! Then someone spotted our new frequency on a cluster and within seconds everybody followed.

This kind of traffic does not only disturb other stations considerably, but also it is not a proof of professionalism and very likely these stations will not make it into the log! This behavior was noted on 160m and sometimes also on 80m. Thanks to our two Beverages and favourable propagation our contest-proven operators could really hear very well.

80m (6,376 QSOs) and 40m (8,108 QSOs) gave us excellent results. Unfortunately some commercial jammers paralysed whole segments on 80m and 40m for hours, especially on SSB. A QSY to CW cured most of these problems and let us not miss any band openings. 30m was fascinating. You could hear signals around the clock from nearly all directions, but most signals were very weak and difficult to copy. In spite of this our more than modest antenna made more than 6,600 QSOs possible.

The High Bands

Surprisingly, the high bands were in a good shape in spite of the current sunspot minimum. On 10m and 12m our expectations were fairly low. Propagation was very capricious, but we had some very nice openings, which brought some 6,100 QSOs into our log, 70% were Asians – or, to be more exact, Japanese. Unfortunately the path to Europe was extremely volatile, so on 10 and 12m we only had 730 QSOs with Europe, of which 94% were in CW. Bread and butter business ran on 15m, 17m and 20m. With 33,000 QSOs these three bands covered more than 50% of all our QSOs.

20m was the ‘workhorse’ as usual, and we were fascinated by the constant pile-ups throughout the last day of our DXpedition. That 20m inverted V on top of the Norfolk Pine turned out to be a real pile-up booster. If we had had the luxury of an additional

separate 20m station, we definitely would have had an even better result.

On February 27th we keyed in QSO No. 50.000. There was a small ceremony with a couple of whiskies and the whole team was determined to crack the 60,000 QSO barrier now!

Contests

Two major contests took place while we were on Norfolk Island. As a matter of course a BCC member has to take part in them!

VK9N is not a good place for the 160m SSB Contest. Our remote location was too far away from contest activity to really play the game. We could copy dozens of stations, but were only able to put 12 stations into the contest log.

The ARRL DX CW contest turned out to be much better. We could operate all bands except 10m with nice openings from time to time. Our highlights were 15m, with 691 QSOs and 63 states/provinces and 80m, with 472 QSOs and 49 states/provinces. In total we achieved 1,878 QSOs and scored 1.3 million points.

Duty calls

It is well known among the amateur radio community that Norfolk Island houses two active DXers with worldwide reputations: Kirsti (VK9NL) and Jim (VK9NS) Smith. We sent a small delegation of four to make a visit and deliver our greetings. We presented our BCC pennant with a special inscription and had a really nice afternoon chatting about DXpeditions and telling little stories about ham radio life.

Jim, a native of Scotland, is in his late seventies now, still very active and fit. Kirsti, of Norwegian descent, came to Norfolk in her young years. Both met on the island many years ago. We very much enjoyed spending the afternoon with such

friendly and humorous hosts. Both have organized many DXpeditions themselves and have plenty of stories to tell. We visited Jim's substantial collection of vintage Collins equipment and had a glance at the office of the Heard Island DX Association.

Tower climbing becomes more and more troublesome for Jim, consequently he wanted to shorten his mast a couple of sections to make the beam easy to reach with a cherry picker. We were happy to jump in and a few days later we were able to take down Jim's homebrew log periodic antenna and three tower sections.

Norfolk Island

In spite of all our radio activities there was some time to explore Norfolk Island. There are two small towns on the island. Kingston is the main town and place of the first settlements. Today it is the residence of the government. Burnt Pine is somewhat larger and situated in the centre of the island quite close to the airport. It houses many shops (some of them duty free!), hotels, restaurants, supermarkets and even a brewery. There is a great variety of goods and you can buy all you need for living, but sometimes with relatively stiff prices. Vegetables and fruit is also on sale in some places on the road. Prices are displayed and you put the money into a wooden box, take out the change and carry the goods home.

The roads are in good condition. Because the streets and paths are somewhat small, there is a speed limit of 50 km/h. There are no traffic lights, no billboards, no honking horns. Driving is on the left-hand side of the road and drivers wave to another. Ducks and cows have right of way and they are everywhere on the island. We even spotted a red Porsche racer with the licence plate '911' (!) .I can't imagine that he will ever get out of second gear! Cars and houses are seldom or never locked and the crime rate is very low.

We enjoyed the few but beautiful beaches with their fine, clean sand and refreshing surf. The sun was burning, the sea was warm and comfortable with a permanent gentle breeze, the typical late summer weather in the South Pacific. We saw breathtakingly steep coasts with picturesque Norfolk pines which reached 50 or 60m high into the sky, a green-blue ocean with snow-white surf which rolled against the jagged rocks again and again. Above us high in the sky were the yelling cries of exotic seabirds.

In Kingston you can still find several ruins from the first settlement. In 1788 European occupation began with the establishment of a colonial penal colony which soon became a place of infamy and dread. Some convicts even murdered their guards in order to 'escape' being hanged. The penal compound is now the peaceful Kingston Historic Area, described as the Southern Hemisphere's oldest and best preserved collection of Georgian buildings. The convict settlement was abandoned in 1855. The following year the island began its return to paradise with the arrival of descendants of the Bounty mutineers, whose home on Pitcairn Island had become overcrowded. The families (names like Fletcher and Christian are very common) of those early settlers make up a third of the population today, retaining the culture that resulted from the mutineers marrying Tahitian women. Many islanders still use the Norfolk language, a mixture of Tahitian and 18th-century seafaring English. Besides the Pitcairners you find 35% Australians and 30 % New Zealanders.

On our last day, just half an hour after sunrise, the electricity collapsed and shut the station down. We had more than 61,500 QSOs in the log. So we decided to call it a day, take the antennas down and dismantle the operating positions. In a few hours the job was done and we were ready to go.

Jim and Kirsti joined our farewell dinner and we had a perfect nice evening with cool

drinks, nice conversation, delicious food and a lot of fun.

Although we departed very early the next morning at 7 o'clock local time, Jim, VK9NS showed up at the airport to say farewell to us. Later in Sydney we met our friend and BCC member Bernd, VK2IA. He picked us up at the airport and showed us some touristic highlights. We savoured a beautiful sunny day in Sydney harbour between Harbour Bridge and the stunning Opera House.

Summary

Salient success factors were a team which worked well together - and perfect preparation. All VK9DNX operators are BCC members and active contesters. They know each other in person from several contests and previous DXpeditions.

There were specialists but no egoists. All antenna work was done in a smooth, effective and nearly silent way. All equipment had been tested at home, we had enough material to experiment and plenty of coax cable. The whole set-up was working after only a few hours.

Our motivation was excellent and was also strengthened by the positive feedback which we received day after day in our webpage guestbook at www.df3cb.com/VK9DNX/. We got used to the Australian beer very quickly and soon became the best customers

of Norfolk's only liquor store. They will miss these funny Germans who only bought beer in quantities of four crates at a time!

Mario, DJ2MX, is our very dedicated QSL manager and very busy now. Once you are reading this, many of the claimed QSL cards will have already been answered, thanks to the quick delivery of Knut Theurich's printing office QSL Shop.

We also appreciate the support we received from X clubs like The Chiltern DX Club, Clipperton DX Club, Danish DX Group, European DX Foundation, German DX Foundation, Mediterraneo DX Club, Northern DX Foundation, OH DX Foundation and Passau DX Club, and from many individuals who contributed to our DXpedition. Material donations (ie Spiderbeam) were extremely useful and very welcome.

Last but not least we want to say thank you to all of our operators' XYLs and YLs who unselfishly allowed their husbands and boyfriends to go to a remote island for three weeks.

It was great fun for all of us and we happily borrow these last words: "Where do we go next?".

QSO statistics below:

BAND	SSB	CW	RTTY	
160	16		1993	0
80	1119		5257	0
40	1060		6969	79
30	0		6258	373
20	2673		7880	1604
17	3425		5599	908
15	3899		5759	603
12	1179		2229	280
10	894		1463	71

Total	14265		43407	3918
=====				
Total QSOs 61590				

French Guiana – Seeking out the DOMs

Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF, and Roger Western, G3SXW

Having operated from several French overseas territories (including FP, St Pierre & Miquelon, as FP/G3SXW and FP/G3TXF last September) French Guiana (FY) seemed the obvious choice for the next trip. French Guiana is an overseas department of France (DOM) perched on the north coast of South America. Its main claim to fame is as the location of the European Space Agency's Ariane launch site. French Guiana is by no measure 'rare' DX, but that doesn't mean that enjoyable pile-ups can't be generated handing out many new band-points during a short visit.

The FY/G3SXW and FY/G3TXF operation from Kourou was one of our shortest ever. We were on the air for just under three days. However this was still time enough for us to log some 6,200 CW QSOs.

The route

There are two main ways of getting to French Guiana from the UK. The first and most obvious is via Paris, from where there are daily flights to Cayenne, the capital of French Guiana. The alternative is to go direct from the UK to the Caribbean and then take a local flight to French Guiana.

The departure time of the daily flight to Cayenne from Paris Orly is too early for any connecting flight from London. An overnight stay in Paris is therefore the only option on this route. The alternative we chose also required an overnight stay, but in possibly slightly more agreeable surroundings than a characterless Paris airport hotel! On the way out we stayed one night in Barbados (8P) at a small seaside hotel close to the airport and on the way back we stayed at a nice beach resort in Martinique (FM).

Hotel des Roches – Kourou

Choosing the location for the operation is, as ever, the most important thing. Fortunately in FY this was simple. The Hotel des Roches in Kourou had been used by several visiting DXpeditioners in the past (including Bal, DJ6SI). One glance at the map and the hotel's website showed that it would be ideal. The hotel is situated on the beach with a clear sea water take-off to Europe. The headland on which the hotel sits is also where the River Kourou joined the Atlantic. The hotel is therefore surrounded by water on two sides.

The Hotel des Roches has over 100 rooms, but gets heavily booked whenever there is an Ariane launch from the nearby Kourou space centre. Fortunately there was no Ariane launch imminent during our stay and the hotel was virtually empty. The hotel is an hour's taxi ride from the airport in Cayenne.

Setting up antennas

Unusually for our trips, we arrived at the hotel late in the evening. Not only was it too late to do anything about setting up the antennas, but a heavy tropical storm was blowing outside. Only in the morning did we take a first look at the site. Although the hotel has a long roof, which could possibly be used for a more lengthy operation, we chose to put our two vertical antennas directly on the beach right outside the hotel rooms. As in many places, beaches are 'public areas'. During our short stay in Kourou over the weekend there was plenty of local activity on the beach and idle curiosity about our antennas, but there were no problems, other than the occasional radial getting accidentally pulled out of place.

The stations

The original plan had been to use three rooms, with a common room being used for the station. However, given the relative shortness of our stay and the huge size of the hotel, we decided to have separate stations in two rooms as far apart as possible. Even though a full set of Dunestar filters were taken along on the trip, none of them was needed. We never experienced any of the usual cross-band interference between the stations because both the stations and the antennas were positioned well apart. The antennas on the beach were separated by over 100ft. Given the easy path into Europe, this was also a barefoot 100W operation. No inter-station-QRM-generating linears were taken on this trip.

The operating

Once the stations were set up on the first morning, we quickly settled into the operating routine for the three brief days we were on the air as FY/G3SXW and FY/G3TXF. The two-station CW-only formula appears to work well, providing hopefully easy contacts in parallel across different parts of the HF spectrum at the same time.

The traditional HF bands

FY/G3SXW operated the traditional HF bands: 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m and 10m. It goes without saying that with only three days QRV we did not attempt the specialist bands of 160m, nor 6m. Even 80m was not given prime operating time as June conditions would be unfavourable and 40m would yield greater volumes. All contacts were on CW, naturally!

Every trip produces surprises. The absence of sunspots for so long suggested that we might hear no signals above 17m, or above 15m at least. In the event we had big openings on 15m and even a good opening to Europe late one evening on 10m. Very welcome! The flux suddenly increased from

70-75 to around 85 and this seemed to be just enough to allow those high bands to open.

20m and 40m were the money bands with predictable propagation, 15m was the bonus band and those 10m QSOs were a BIG bonus! Conditions on 80m were far better than expected, with little equatorial static. We suffered, as far as we could tell, very little Deliberate Jamming - no doubt because FY is not so rare and because we kept the pile-ups to within just a few KHz, not polluting the band.

However, the lack of sunspots did prevent many long-haul DX stations from getting into the log. On 20m we worked 23 JAs, VK4OQ and VK4TT. On 40 metres only ZL2IFB broke through. Aside from a few UAØs, nothing else was worked in the Far East, and those were the ONLY three Oceania stations. On the other hand it was a great pleasure to work so many Far West European stations with good signal strengths: the EA, F and UK stations were indeed numerous. So often this area is disadvantaged and we struggle to work back home, so the 'all sea' path was enjoyed to the full.

The WARC bands : 12m – 17m – 30m

Prior to arriving in FY, we had both expected there to be nothing much 'apart from the odd W4' on either 12m or 10m. This was not the case. 12m provided 673 QSOs, most of which were in Europe. Many Gs were worked on 12m. The good 12m openings were on the first two days. They lasted until nearly 21z, which is quite late in the evening in Europe. By the third day the solar index had dropped and 12m returned to pretty much how we had expected it to be – ie closed!

The other two WARC bands provided just over 1,100 QSOs each. On 17m most of the operation was on 18.084, which is probably a bit higher up the band than most expeditions. Evening operations started on

17m at about 21z until dinner, which was at about 23z. During the daytime there was a continuous, but slow trickle of activity on 17m between 10z and lunchtime, which was typically at about 15z.

On 30m the main frequency was 10.121. Although this frequency had also been picked by 3B7SP, in the event their operation did not overlap with us and FY/G3TXF could bash away on 10.121 for hours on end. Again the main bulk of the QSOs were with Europe. 30m was worked through much of the night, although it usually got very slow by 03z. After a few hours sleep, operation would start on 30m again at about 06z, in time to catch a morning opening to Western Europe. There was hardly any DX on 30m beyond EU and the USA. Only three VKs (VK3EW, VK4OQ, VK6HD) made it into the log, and no JAs were heard on 30m. However, a number of QRP Gs did make it into the FY/G3TXF log on 30m.

The return journey

Many operations end in a mad scramble to take down the antennas, pack up the station and rush to the airport to get an early flight after operating a last hectic all-night session. This was not the case in Kourou. Our flight to Martinique left at about 1pm. We

therefore had plenty of time to work the last of the QSOs during the post-dawn HF lift and then pack everything up and get back to Cayenne airport in plenty of time for the first of the flights on the journey home.

Whereas we had stayed overnight in Barbados on the way out, the airline connections dictated that we overnight in Martinique on the way back. The tourist office at Fort-de-France airport found us accommodation in an excellent beach resort where G3TXF was able to take advantage of the swimming facilities while G3SXW made a short midnight 20m CW 100-QSO operation as FM/G3SXW.

The final leg of the journey home took us from Martinique back to Barbados (where there was time for an excellent lunch by the turquoise ocean) and from there back on a BA night flight to Gatwick. In total we were away for seven nights. Three were spent on the air and four travelling.

Having just added FY-French Guiana to the list of activated French overseas territories, the choice of as yet unvisited French DOMs gets more limited. Many of these are further away and may need a few more sunspots before we try to run European CW pile-ups from there!

Band	Callsign	CW QSOs
80m	FY/G3SXW	118
40m	FY/G3SXW	782
30m	FY/G3TXF	1,294
20m	FY/G3SXW	1,131
17m	FY/G3TXF	1,148
15m	FY/G3SXW	792
12m	FY/G3TXF	673
10m	FY/G3SXW	278
Total		6,216

SXW Corner

Roger Western, G3SXW g3sxw@btinternet.com

Micro-DXpedition to HV

DXpeditions normally, on average, aim to make 1,000 QSOs per operator per day. The Mega DXpeditions make 100,000 QSOs either by staying a long time or by having several stations or both. As an alternative we have now entered the era of the Micro-DXpedition: QRV only for a couple of days or even for just an hour. This is made possible by ultra-cheap air-fares. Especially in Europe the low-cost airlines offer return trips for €50 as long as you book a long time in advance.

The 5NN Pile-Up

It is true: ANYone can generate a pile-up these days just by operating '5NN' (or 'Five Nine'), with any callsign. If you are a P5 or 7O your pile-up will last a year. If you are a GJ or HBØ it may only last a day or two. If you are an SP or LY with a slightly unusual callsign it may last only an hour or so. But it is all good fun!

In these days of zero sunspots it is risky to travel to the Pacific, invest so much time and money, and maybe make almost no QSOs with Europe. So we are waiting for conditions to improve before making any big plans like that. Instead we will take the opportunity to visit some closer locations. It is always very interesting to visit new places, to meet new friends and maybe to make some QSOs. During the last few months I have travelled to ISØ, 9H, OM, SP and LY just for day trips and I have met some very hospitable new friends and have got QRV, maybe just for an hour.

DXFC

Another new interest is to count the number of DXCC entities in which we have stepped foot. The F in DXFC means Foot. As an

extra incentive we also count the number of 'DXFC+QRV' countries. So far I have 94 DXFC points and 54 DXFC+QRV points. This may sound a little crazy, but it helps to keep up the enthusiasm when there are no sunspots!

The leader in this table is W6ZH with 176 DXFC points and K5VT with 69 DXFC+QRV points. You can see the whole list at www.dxfc.org/index.php. This is for DXers who like to travel (travel-o-holics) and for people who like entering ticks on tick-sheets! To mix travel with amateur radio is an exhilarating combination.

The Vatican

I had visited Italy several times but by chance had never been to the Vatican, so this would be an easy DXFC point. The Ryanair ticket is cheap and there are several flights from London each day, so this was easily booked. Having bought this airline ticket I then sent an e-mail to IKØFVC, QSL Manager of HVØA, just to let him know that I would be visiting.

Francesco immediately suggested that Roberto, IKØPRG, would be in touch with me. Imagine my surprise and great pleasure when Roberto then offered to pick me up from the airport and show me the tourist sites. And maybe I would like to operate from HVØA for a short time? I needed only two nano- seconds to decide to accept this wonderful offer of hospitality!

QRV HVØA

This was a busy day! On 18 April I awoke at 0500 to drive to the airport. Roberto met me at Ciampino and we had lunch with Marco, IKØDWN. It was a great honour to swap notes with two Honour Roll DXers. Then we walked in St Peter's Square (new

DXFC point!) and at 4pm we met Francesco, IKØFVC, at the NAC club station. This is located at the North American Pontifical College, just on the edge of St Peter's Square.

Their facilities are excellent. The location and antennas are world-class. The permanent room and station are wonderful, with an IC-756 Pro III and FT-1000MP plus a TL-922 amplifier. Outside there is a C4-XL beam for 40-10m, a vertical for the WARC bands and wires for 160/80m. These are all on a large flat roof on top of a six-storey building, on a hill! Fantastic! So then I was QRV for an hour or so, making 130 QSOs on 30m. This included about 15 JAs during the late afternoon (Rome time).

Then it was straight back to the airport and to London. A long, tiring but immensely enjoyable day. A big thank you to Francesco, Roberto and Marco for such marvellous hospitality. I was so delighted to make these new friends. Maybe I will have the opportunity to visit Rome and The Vatican again soon, hopefully for a slightly longer stay!

But take note: permits to enter NAC are extremely limited. I was so lucky to be issued one. Other people may not be so lucky!

Update on Deliberate Jammers

Firstly, let's define our terms. We are not referring to folks who transmit on the wrong VFO or to those who call continuously or out of turn, nor even to the self-appointed policemen. We are talking about those sick individuals who set out to Deliberately Jam the DXpedition frequency and make life as difficult as possible for everyone, with continuous, unidentified transmissions on the DXpedition TX frequency of various types over long periods's.

We began to realise that this was a growing problem just a few years ago and dire

predictions are now fast coming true. The amount of Deliberate Jamming on BS7H, in May 2007, hit all-time highs and it does seem that it increases with each major new DXpedition. This certainly reduces the enjoyment for thousands of DXers and a few are throwing in the towel. Perhaps that's what the Jammers want? Of course, they will never win that battle. So it is time to revisit this topic and to see if we can come up with any conclusions or even solutions.

Who Are They?

Of course, they are anonymous. Like a terrorist hiding his face because he knows he is doing wrong and will be severely punished if identified. This is almost exclusively a European problem. It is at its worst when propagation favours intra-European signals, therefore especially on 40, 30 and 20m. On the higher bands the problem is somewhat less because the Jammers are mostly in the dead zone.

I feel fairly sure that most of the problem comes from Central and Eastern Europe. Perhaps that is why we suffer badly in the UK because they are first hop away. When running pile-ups as P29SX there were two distinct openings to Europe with an East-West divide: the 'Far West Europe' area was CT, EA, F, EI, the UK and ON. The cut-off was sharp: rarely did I hear even a PA or DL during these openings. The longer openings were to the rest of Europe and then (you've guessed it) the Jammers were out in force. This one experience (repeated over several days) a couple of years ago, told me that a big majority of them are located in zones 15, 16 and 20. We do not hear more than a couple of Jammers at any one time. I'd guess that the whole population of them numbers a couple of dozen individuals. Or thereabouts.

Why Do They Do It?

If only these Jammers would explain *why* they do it. They would have to do it

anonymously, of course, because they need to hide their guilt.

Do they object to the use of our spectrum for Dxpeditions - rag-chewers who cannot tolerate 'their' frequency being invaded? Maybe they have a real hatred of 'Five Nine' and '5NN' contacts, like the Anti-Contest Brigade. It cannot be frustration at failing to break the pile-ups themselves because they often have big signals.

The answer may not be rational. It is probably to be found in psychology. Motives may be the same as the mindless vandals who smash up our bus shelters simply to give themselves a thrill, to fleetingly banish their boredom. But let's not waste too much time speculating. If they will not explain themselves then we can simply ignore their motives. What they are doing is plainly wrong in any dimension and it needs to be stamped out. Let's for the moment just put it down to some sort of warped ego trip.

Self-Policing

Since the licence regulators have abrogated responsibility for abuse of the radio spectrum, it falls to radio amateurs themselves to self-police. Who should do that and how? It could only be national societies who would have the authority. Maybe we need to start a debate about how the IARU and national societies might develop ways to self-police the hobby. Whilst they presumably would not have the authority of OfCom to shut down transgressors, at least they could withdraw membership and publicise proven cases, so that peer pressure may be mounted and/or impose some other penalties.

The trouble is that peer pressure may not be enough these days. Some extremists don't care what their peers think. So what other penalties could there be? Some teeth would be needed. These actions by IARU/RSGB would cater for all types of abuse, not just Jamming DXpedition pile-ups.

There would seem to be two issues: firstly to identify them (see below), then to take action to stop their Jamming. But first perhaps our community needs to adopt a new attitude: we need to wake up to the fact that this form of terrorism has become a serious threat to the hobby and that something really has to be done about it. If our national societies do not develop ideas soon then the risk is that individuals may become vigilantes and start chopping down antennas. We also need to wake up to the fact that the hobby needs policing more than in years gone by because of rising anti-social behaviour. Regulatory authorities are not going to do it, so it is down to us.

Is Jamming of DXpeditions important enough an issue for RSGB to pay attention? Our hobby is made up of sub-groups and DXers are one of the largest minorities.

Name & Shame

It might deter some (many?) of them if they knew that getting caught would lead to public exposure and dishonour. Then again some of them perhaps might take it as a 'badge of honour' like tearaway teenagers boasting about being arrested.

Firstly, we'd need some system for identifying them and establishing sufficient evidence to make a formal approach, asking them to desist. But then we'd need the teeth to impose sanctions if they do not comply. A kind of ASBO? What form would that take?

It is clear that licence conditions are being broken. In every country surely radio amateurs are supposed to identify themselves by transmitting their call sign and we are not supposed to broadcast. This, if no other, would be the grounds for establishing their guilt.

Identifying Them

A while ago I suggested that we could set up a DF network to identify these

individuals by triangulating beam headings. But some, quite rightly, felt that this might turn us all into vigilantes. So, whatever action is taken must have authority behind it, ie IARU and national societies.

John, G3WKL, in his capacity as RSGB HF Manager, has started the ball rolling at IARU by proposing the establishment of a DF system, which could be used to identify the Jammers. There are a few ways of doing this, for example by measuring time delays for the signal to reach the Direction Finding operators, which might prove more accurate than reliance on beam headings. With Internet connectivity we could imagine a large number of DFers feeding into a system that we might term a DF Cluster, like the DXCluster that we love and hate, to pin-point the transgressors. They would then rely on local DXers to precisely identify the culprit and name him. It might only take a couple of successful 'convictions' to deter the rest.

Given the incentive it is certainly not beyond us to develop the technology to identify these individuals. Surely there is enough incentive these days?

Put Up or Shut Up

So, we all suffer in the pile-ups these days. We get frustrated, even angry. So what are we going to *do* about it? As we know IARU, albeit well-intentioned, is really rather slow to move. We should gather a head of steam by supporting IARU initiatives, but DXers might also move forward ourselves.

This really has now reached the stage of being a major problem, so we all need to act. Let's get lobbying. And let us support any new ideas, rather than just waiting for 'the powers that be' to sort it out for us. Let us get on the bandwagon. As I write this, John is pulling together some of the usual culprits to think through the issues. It's a bit early to say how long this brainstorming will take, or what set of steps will follow. However, we should offer our support, both moral and practical, to this effort to *do*

something. We may need volunteers to try out technical concepts as the DF system is developed? We may need people with specific skills to join a Working Party to devise suitable sanctions, to solve this problem, or perhaps to work with others to develop the proposed technical solution. What other ideas do you have?

It is very much in the interests of CDXC to take this issue on board and try to do something about it, in order to support its members. Perhaps after our initial navel contemplation, and we have some more concrete thoughts about a DFing solution, it will be appropriate to seek collaboration with other DX clubs in Europe specifically to tackle this issue? Surely the other CDXC (Clipperton, French) and German DX Club would join in. This is a Europe-wide issue which can only be solved by Europeans.

Operating Tactics

In the meantime maybe we can alleviate the problem by the way we operate. Perhaps it is time for us to learn some new tricks. Here are a few suggestions to think about, just thinking out loud:

-a) The DXpedition constantly changes his TX frequency when Jamming appears. It would only need to be by 1 kHz or less (on CW). Callers would simply have one more interesting challenge to cope with, trying to keep track of that frequency and this means the more skilled improve their chance of making the QSO. Callers should get used to the idea of checking nearby frequencies if the DXpedition seems to disappear after Jamming has started up. I have often tried this, but almost no-one follows my frequency hops.

-b) DXpedition gives the 'TU' message on his TX frequency as normal but gives the 'Your Call + Report' on the Callers own frequency. Lots of switching VFOs unless you have two receivers. This could be open to abuse by pranksters pretending to give you the QSO.

-c) Block DXpedition Cluster spots. Hmm, controversial! And this may only slow down the appearance of Jammers. What about partial spots, band and mode only?

-d) Everyone installs better filters

There is no doubt that the Jammers actually improve the chance of skilled DXers to get the QSO because they can cope better with the QRM than inexperienced operators or those with sub-standard gear. Often the Jamming is partial, but it seems to prevent many Callers from hearing, so the pile-up rapidly diminishes and the remaining few who can still copy through the QRM get the QSO more easily! We could treat it simply as an extra challenge, and an opportunity.

These are just some ideas to get us thinking! Believe me, if you feel frustrated on the Caller end when Jamming appears it is doubly frustrating for the DXpedition operator when his pile-up suddenly stops for no apparent reason. Checking my own TX frequency reveals the reason soon enough! At VK9CXW I was called on 40m by my old mate Bob, GU4YOX. I sent his call + report 2-3 times, but no reply. Sure enough the Jammers and accompanying policemen were suddenly hard at work. I tried sliding down 500 Hz but no-one heard me, so I moved another 500 Hz down, still nothing. So what could I do? I went back to my original TX frequency and just kept sending 'GU4YOX 5NN' every few moments for several minutes. Suddenly the QRM cleared and Bob came right back to me. Amazing! Thanks, mate! The pile-up was re-established.

Operating Practice

Much has been said/written recently which falls under this heading. I have been hitting on this subject for a long time myself. Let me offer another approach from Mark, ON4WW. You can find this on his website at www.on4ww.be/op.html. Mark has written an outstanding 'manual' and it is

now translated into 15 languages. From Mark's website, he tells us: "The article was originally written with the prime focus on DXing and pile-up behavior. Suggestions by proofreaders have been implemented; the document is not as narrowly focused any more. It contains hints, tips and tricks for newcomers as well as old-timers. Additionally there are VHF/UHF operational matters, DX Cluster ethics, COPS, Conflict Situations and much more.

"Ten years ago I suggested to our National Radio Society (UBA, member of IARU) to have some form of 'Operating Practice' included in the ham courses and to try and implement it in the examinations. Today a first step has been taken and the article is being published as an annex to the ham radio courses of the UBA. At a later stage 'Operating Practice' will be implemented in the examination.

This article is far from being perfect and the author doesn't claim he holds all wisdom. However, should you feel parts of it are meaningful, please feel free to use them for publication in your magazines and/or radio courses. Kindly inform me when you do so and please give credit where credit is due, thanks. In Belgium, the rights for publication (in any form or shape) have been granted exclusively to the UBA, in Italy to ARI."

Call Only Once

In a hot CW pile-up I *beg* you to please send your callsign only once and then listen for a response. In my estimation roughly one half of callers do this, but the other half seem to find it necessary to send their callsign twice, without pausing in between. There are a very few who send it three or four times, but they are a rarity (thank goodness).

Send it once, pause, listen for a brief moment. If the DX station is not heard transmitting then immediately send it again.

Continue like this until he is heard, without changing your TX frequency.

Depending on the size and spread of the pile-up I will often pick up the full callsign of a caller the first time and immediately respond to him. This happens, I would guess, about every other time. So what then happens is:

Caller: G9AAA

Me: G9 (stop, having just caught the beginning of his callsign being sent the second time)

Caller: G9AAA (the second time without having paused)

Me: G9AAA 5NN

The first time that I heard G9AAA I typed the callsign into the log and hit 'Ins' (maybe not having even completed typing it in) to send the exchange, but at just that moment I hear him start sending his call a second time, so I hit Esc to stop transmitting and wait for his call to be sent a second time (redundant), and then give the exchange.

I must assume that he will give his callsign only once before pausing to listen. The alternative doesn't bear thinking about: assuming that he will give his call twice, so I must pause slightly longer before giving the exchange just to check for that. No way! I must assume that he will give his call only once, and so hit the 'Ins' to send my exchange right away.

If the DX station is not heard, then keep sending your call (just once at a time), pausing to listen for a moment between each call. It could be that I have heard you, but only copied 'G9' and need to hear you again to get the complete call before responding. This is why it is important not to change your TX frequency: maybe I am waiting for your call to be sent the second (or

subsequent) time to copy the full callsign before responding. I will go back to 'G9A?' if I have not copied your call fully on the second or third attempt.

Apologies for Teaching Grannies to Suck Eggs, but by my reckoning only one half are indeed Grannies, and the other half need to learn to react to circumstance. If the DX station is running at umpteen QSOs per minute, then call only once. Maybe if the DX station is having great difficulty in picking out callsigns from the pile-up, with long pauses between transmissions, then this plea to send your callsign only once is less relevant.

When realising that the DX station is coming back to a caller most times within 3-4 seconds, it is clear that he is picking up the Caller's callsign first time. You will know this when, having sent your callsign twice without pausing, all you hear when you stop TXing is '... 5NN'. It should then be clear that he has already responded to someone and given his callsign while you were sending your call for the second time.

So, tune into the situation. If this is happening often or always, then there is no need to send your call for the second time. If he picked you out of the pile-up he will have done so the first time that you sent your call.

Spread the word. This is the modern way of doing it! I guess that exactly the same applies in SSB pile-ups. Thanks for listening to this plea. It benefits everyone: the rate at which QSOs enter the log increases, so more stations make the QSO and I enjoy the pile-up more: win-win!

73 de Roger, G3SXW

The RTTY Column

Phil Cooper, GUØSUP *pcooper@guernsey.net*

Last month I mentioned my quest for RTTY DXCC on 40m. I now have 118 worked, with 109 confirmed, so I am hoping that my 40m DXCC will be achieved by the time I visit Friedrichshafen this year! I have had a few nice ones on 40m, and I have already mentioned HVØA. At the time of writing, I have also managed 3B7SP on 40m. I have also worked them on 30m, 20m and 17m. 30m continues to be active sporadically, and it is worth trying the band, and even calling CQ for a while, even if no one else is around. It is surprising what can turn up.

Last time I mentioned the increased use of JT65A on 20m. Since then, I have found that there is an updated version of the software which handles two sound cards correctly. The previous version somehow selected the 'other' card, even though it has no direct connection to the radio, so although I could receive, I wasn't able to transmit. If I did, it came out of the speakers used for the Windows sounds. The newer version lets you choose the mapping of the cards, which has now solved the problem. There is a DOS window that opens, showing the mapping, and you then choose the correct input/output ports in the set-up, and away you go.

As I mentioned before, I am not quite sure why European stations would want to use JT65A to converse (if that is the right word!) with each other, as the JT65A tones are fully audible, and signals generally quite strong. RTTY (or PSK) would be perfectly workable in almost all instances and provide a far better QSO. I have since seen some QSOs between JA and EU where the JA station is all but inaudible. This looks as though it could be fun, although JT65A contacts take 6 minutes or more to complete, and you still don't know the other guys name or QTH, so I still prefer RTTY. Also, many JT65A contacts seem to get

'completed' via the packet cluster, which makes you question the validity of the contact in real terms. The one use of JT65A that I have yet to see is on 10m, where conditions are not quite so good, apart from the odd Sporadic E opening. This could be quite a good test for the mode and a chance to see how well it really performs in poor conditions.

RTTY contests seem to be attracting more and more Gs, and this is good to see. Some well-known calls are now getting very active in contests, although there are still more who participate without submitting a log. I think there were a dozen or more Gs in ANARTS this year, and even a couple of EI stations. Some of you could end up with a very creditable placing if you entered your log! For ANARTS the new e-mail address for logs is patleeper@optusnet.com.au. I suspect one of the problems is that MMTTY is being used, and it won't output a workable Cabrillo file afterwards. One solution to this would be to check out the SP7DQR site, which has loads of free utilities for log converting. See <http://sp7dqr.waw.pl>. It is also time to keep an eye on 10m for those Es openings. I have had several sessions calling CQ on 10m and had some nice pile-ups. It is mostly European signals, but there has been the odd station from further afield, such as TR8CA and a few UN stations. Even 12m has yielded some new band-slots for me, such as SV9 and SV5.

Coming RTTY contests:

SARTG	Aug 18 – 19. In three sessions of 8 hours.
SCC	Aug 25 – 26
Russian	Sep 01. 24 hours only
CQ WW	Sep 29 – 30

73 de Phil, GUØSUP

Contest

Lee Volante, GØMTN

It's been reassuring to know that I've not been completely out of touch with the contesting public. Just a little while after I'd sent off the May Contest article to CDXC *Digest* Towers in sunny Bristol, a couple of the topics I'd written about were discussed on some Internet e-mail reflectors. One concerned the Russian DX Contest booklet and marketing, and the other was the benefit of accurately measuring the time. The immediacy of the Internet contrasts with the printed word you're reading now – the Internet discussions were long finished by the time the *Digest* appeared in your letter box, but I'm glad we reached the same conclusions.

Also pleasing has been a veritable flurry of correspondence recently. My persistent wailing must be starting to be pay off. Derrick, G3LHJ, was in touch, also sending a copy of the 'HF Contest News' he produces for the Torbay ARS. What immediately struck me is that it's almost identical in format to a similar report produced for my local club. Firstly, a mini-editorial highlighting any recent success for the club, a quick summary of the (recently very mixed) band conditions, and a plea for support in ongoing events like the 80m Club Championships, or advert for a forthcoming event that might whet the appetites of the club membership. After that, listings of recent entries by club members, any results featuring the same, and finally a full diary of other contests.

I guess there will be many more local reports produced for clubs around the UK and beyond. It's really useful to keep up enthusiasm within a local club this way, keep track of results, and remind people when the next club contest is. Locally, I've found that despite a monthly newsletter, the existence of websites with contest calendars, to ensure a full house of participation from

your club, it really helps to give '24 hours notice' of a contest via e-mail. Personal organisers, and e-mail client calendar functions have now also been populated by several club members who have been struggling to fit in contesting with their busy social lives.

My Contesting Story, by G3VPS

At the beginning I followed advice I had been given/read etc. and came on towards the end of contests when things were less hectic. I gave away a few points and, as I had hoped, worked a few new ones, countries, band slots, mode slots etc. I enjoyed it immensely - I was hooked!

Except for an excursion into the 1967 CQ WW CW – more about that a little later - things changed little until my copy of the long deceased magazine HRT arrived, complete with a floppy disk containing SD. At about the same time I acquired an old 386 PC and was spending more time operating in each chosen contest. I was in heaven, no piles of paper to plough through to check for dupes etc. Other than the ease of logging, it was also a thrill to watch my QSO numbers and overall points score rise.

Since these days the only real changes to the G3VPS contest machine have been the amount of time devoted to a particular contest, the rig, antenna, computer and perhaps a small increase in operator skill. I started with an FT-101B and dipoles. I now run an Icom and full-sized G5RV in an inverted Vee shape, with ends at 8ft and centre at 32ft, laptop and good old faithful SD. At this point may I say many thanks to Paul, EI5DI, for making SD so readily available.

My overall tactics and battle plan for a contest? No, let's rephrase that. My method

of contest operating is, and always has been almost 100% Search and Pounce. At the outset I adopted this method because I did not consider that I had a good enough signal to call CQ and then hold onto a frequency - and to be honest a lack of faith in my own ability to sort out a pile-up (I should be so lucky). Whilst I have much more faith in my own ability, the station remains quite modest. The last and only time I have put out a serious number of CQ calls was in the CQ WW CW 2001, but more about that in a moment.

Over the years I have sent off very, very few contest entries. Initially, I guess, because I did not consider my score worthy. I did and still do realise it doesn't matter if you end up bottom of the pile; you can always aim to do better next time and always set yourself a target of some sort or another. One of mine was to exceed the 1,000 QSOs in a contest. When eventually I did, in one of the CQ WWs, that gave me a thrill.

Coming back to the 2001 CQ WW CW: I have a certificate for that one as leading G high power (200W actually) on 80m. I see I also finished as third-highest G, again in the high power section of the 2006 SAC CW, although I believe there were only four entries for that section. So if recognition in the form of certificates etc. is your wish, say no more. I must admit to having one other certificate. This one is as leading GW in the 1967 CQ WW CW, when I was part of a team, comprising Alan, G3MOJ, and his brother Brian, G8AFH. GW3VPS/P operating from a Dormobile in the Brecon Beacons scored 40,880 points, which wouldn't get you very far these days. I think you could say my team spirit was found wanting and I became known as 'Mr There goes another one'. When going from TX to RX, stability was at times a bit of a problem and stations tended to disappear up the band. In such a confined space when trying to sleep, VPS's bellowings weren't exactly welcome. Alan must have been greatly disappointed in his pupil.

Finally to many my operating methods must seem a bit odd, perhaps even silly. But I enjoy myself and after all that must surely be one of the aims of all testers.

Peter, G3VPS

Thanks, Peter – I think your story, operating preferences and station are typical of very many. It's great to read you're enjoying yourself – just remember to send in more of those entries that are now so easy to log using SD!

Three Contests in a Weekend, by MUØFAL

I always like to take part in the smaller contests at weekends, partly for the fun of the pile ups and partly for PR purposes. It is surprising how testers have long memories and can pull you out of the pile-up from some rare spot in a major contest after you work them ten times in the Wet Sahara Sprint series! On 19-20 May I noticed that the King of Spain Contest was taking place as a 24-hour event and the Spanish regional bonuses were this year enhanced by Country multipliers. In other words you can work everybody, but think about tactics.

At 1200 on the Saturday the contest began. The bands were poor and my planned runs were more like a hobble. 20m was not properly open and I discovered that the UA2 Sprint was taking place, so I got plenty of UA2 callers sending 599 and UA2 area code. Should I send 001 as a serial? Well, I hope it worked.

Constant checks on 10m showed no Sporadic E, which was what I was hoping for, although I did find EA9 on 15m for a mult. Finally I gave up and tried to find a run on 40m, but there was still no major activity. I decided that I would take a break and try a bit later in the evening on the lower bands. 40m was the band of choice, as I knew that the Baltic contest was in progress on 80m. I managed a few small

runs, but eventually the activity dried up. So I moved to 80m - and as expected I got a whole new contest mixed in with the Spanish contest. At least this time the exchange was in serial numbers. The big problem on 80m were the huge static crashes.

Eventually I decided that a good night's sleep was a sensible option and a few hours Sporadic E on 10m would give me some band mults on Sunday morning. In the words of B.A. Baracus (from the A-team), "I like it when a plan comes together". On Sunday morning there was some 10m Sporadic E to Spain. As 1200 approached and the end of the contest, I was quite content with my 190 QSOs, but 200 would sound better. I finished up with 199, which was reasonable given the poor band conditions.

At this stage of the solar cycle springtime HF Contests are a gamble, but a 24-hour contest at a weekend can be fun, even as a part time operator.

73 Colin, MUØFAL

Well done, Colin – I did similar to you on that weekend, with some part-time activity in the daytime in the Spanish contest, followed by the Baltic contest in the evening. My Baltic CW QSOs should be valid for the Spanish event. I've done similarly in a few other events in the past too.

It's easy to copy QSO lines from one Cabrillo log into another if we log events separately, but later wish to combine some elements of them. As Cabrillo logs don't require a claimed score, this should be fine, although there's a risk that as we will likely not be following a continuous serial number sequence for your QSOs this way, technically we're likely to be breaking the rules for contests which can have some obvious penalties. To date I've not had any negative feedback, though.

Contest Participation Statistics

Whilst not busy entering the CQ DX Hall of Fame, or jetting off for a successful expedition to FY with Nigel, G3TXF, Roger G3SXW, sent me a fascinating Excel spreadsheet where the number of log entries have been tabulated for some of the world's most popular contests.

There are 10 years of entries listed, from 1996 to 2005, for the following 18 contests: CW and Phone:

ARRL DX, CQ WW CW, CQ WW WPX, WAEDC, and All Asian RTTY: ARRL RTTY Roundup, CQ WW, CQ WW WPX, WAEDC.

Mixed mode: CQM, IARU HF Championship, IOTA, Russian DX Contest.

Obviously it takes time for the results, and hence the number of submitted logs to reach the public domain. 2006 and later results will be available in time. Whilst the odd contest may see a small reduction, or a slow in growth in the sunspot minimum years, essentially all events have seen a substantial, continued rise.

In 1996 the event with the smallest number of entries was the Russian DX Contest, with 352 logs. By 2005 this had risen to 2,435, which is a 591% rise.

But even the more well established events see significant rises – CQ WW Phone has risen from 3,154 logs to 4,430 (a 40% rise), CQ WW CW similarly from 2,935 to 4,100 logs (another 40% rise). The five CW events combined rose by 57%, and the Phone ones rose by 43% (who said CW is dying?).

As expected, most of the biggest increases are to be found in datamodes contesting, with the most popular contest being the CQ WW DX RTTY contest, now with 1,361 logs in 2005. This is up from 529 in 1996, a rise of 157%. There is still some way to go

before the RTTY contests equal the CW and Datamodes in terms of participants. Cumulatively all of the RTTY contests measured had a rise of 207% in their entries.

Flying the flag for the UK and the RSGB for a moment, the IOTA contest has risen 99%, from 678 to 1349 entries in the period. The mixed mode events overall rose by 166%.

Looking at the ten CW and Phone events, the rise is 50.1%. Finally, combining all 18 events together, we can see a rise from 17,847 entries to 32,125 (80%). I think we get some ideas now why we see more contest records broken each year, especially so in recent years when we're at sunspot minimum. Of course some entrants will enter several of these events (as well as others throughout the year) and many contest participants don't actually send off an entry. CQ WW is often quoted as having ten times as many participants than the entry figures show us above. As has been discussed before, more PC logging and e-mail submission will be boosting the entry figures to an extent, but actual on-air activity must be rising significantly too, otherwise the winning scores would not increase as they have.

These figures have also been used by Colin, G3PSM, in a recent RadCom article following recent complaints of contest QRM to non-contesters. Contesters are becoming a more significant occupier of bandwidth, although should still be tolerant of other users. (Slightly tongue in cheek, it paid to stay well clear of the 3B7SP pile-up during the June 80m CC contest!)

We can get another view by looking at the callsigns incorporated into the latest SuperCheck Partial files which are generated for your logging software. These days it is Randy, K5ZD, who collects log files to create a master database. In the last batch 3,056,115 QSOs were processed from 2,794 logs. There were 113,281 unique callsigns listed – that's an awful lot of

contesters, even allowing for all of the weird and wonderful callsigns that appear like magic during the WPX contests. Following log analysis of the most recent FSDXA expeditions, and trending how many new unique callers appeared as the expeditions progressed, there have been some estimates made of the number of active DXers in the hobby. The number of active contesters must be similar – and a number will be in both lists of course!

Quick Résumé

Whilst there have been a few well supported events like the ARI and CQM mixed mode events in the last couple of months, most people focussed on WPX CW, and domestically NFD. Both events were successful – with WPX seeing some strong 10m Es signals on the Saturday, and NFD enjoying good conditions and (in most places) pleasant enough weather conditions. WPX CW perhaps didn't see that many serious UK entrants, considering the overall popularity of the event, but with NFD a week later being a firm favourite, it's understandable that many people won't have the luxury of being able to take part in both.

Actually, I didn't participate in NFD this year from the field, but had a chance to give away some points from home. In this more relaxed environment, it was a rare chance to stop and listen to some other stations for a change. Normally I'm either always calling CQ, or always in manic Search and Pounce mode.

End Piece

That's about all for now. I'm just about to sample the delights of the Friedrichshafen Hamradio exhibition again to see what is new in mainland Europe, and will report back next time.

Speaking of large exhibitions, it was great to see that the Dayton Hamfest 'Contest University', featuring our own professor

Mark MØDXR, received positive feedback and will be back next year. For those of you on the waiting list, here's a contest tip from a less prestigious contesting school: a friend said he would be taking part in a recent 80m CC event and would be making up the numbers for the club. This is not recommended – please copy the serial numbers down off the air else you risk losing points. Maybe I misunderstood what he meant.

If this *Digest* reaches you before 14-15 July, please take a little time to try the IARU HF Championship. This year the RSGB HQ station will be GB7HQ. There should be more details elsewhere in this *Digest*, or you can have a look at www.gb7hq.com for information.

Oh, and please send in some more articles!

73 Lee, GØMTN

IARU World HF Championship 2007

John Warburton, G4IRN

This year's IARU World HF Championship takes place on the weekend of July 14th – 15th and there is good news and bad news for those who normally look out for the RSGB's annual entrant, GB5HQ. The bad news is that this year GB5HQ won't be on air; the good news is that this year it has morphed into GB7HQ, a decision that was taken by the team after last year's contest. If you have ever tried sending GB5HQ on CW, you will sympathise that it's one of those calls that often gets misinterpreted due to all the dots, so there was a sound reason behind the idea to change!

This contest, however, is not just a CW contest; it's a 24-hour SSB and CW contest with entrants from around the globe. Indeed it's a good DXing opportunity; although not on a par with CQWW for DX, it's certainly worth getting on the radio that weekend to hunt down a new band slot or two... and to hunt down the GB7HQ stations!

The contest is on all the normal contest bands 10m through 160m and GB7HQ (pending a few logistical problems!) will have two stations on each band – one SSB and one CW. The stations are being hosted

at the homes of some of the UK's top DXers and contesters. After all, the aim is to get big signals out, so the use of these QTHs is very much appreciated by the team members.

In between the DX, do you want to have some fun? Why not try to contact GB7HQ on as many band/mode slots as possible? The team value your contacts, so much so that John/G3LZQ has kindly volunteered again to run an awards programme for those reaching specific targets (see weblink):

Bronze award - contact GB7HQ on **three band/modes**

Silver award - contact GB7HQ on **six band/modes**

Gold award - contact GB7HQ on **nine band/modes**

Platinum award - contact GB7HQ on all **twelve band/modes**

Which one are you up to? Depending on where you're located, you may not be able to hear all the stations at all times. But listen carefully and you may get lucky. All

stations will be linked over the Internet, so if someone needs a QSO on a particular band/mode slot, they ask the GB7HQ operator on another band and you should be directed to the needed run frequency. Twelve stations were lucky last year with

the platinum award; this year it could be you!

Weblinks:

www.gb7hq.com

www.gb7hq.com/Award-Info.html

E-mails to the Editor

from G7VJR

Hi Martyn,

In your closing remarks in the May 2007 *Digest*, you mentioned how little feedback you get - how galling for your tireless writers!

I find the *Digest* is an excellent blend of skillful commentary and DX news. The articles that look back on recent expedition experiences and mull over the future of contesting and the bands are more than just news and facts: they are articles by leading DXers. Being orientated towards DXing really hits the spot, and it's enjoyable that certain columnists often take a light-hearted tone, too. So, bravo! And thank you - every *Digest* I've read has been good fun and packed with interesting materials. Thank you to the sponsors of the colour supplements, which make such a difference.

To me, it seems the CDXC reflector has filled many other niches, one being real-time help with tricky expeditions like N8S. The amount of interest in this sort of expedition - and the immense skill on tap to help work out the propagation patterns - makes the reflector an excellent complement to the core publication. Both seem to fit together nicely, but I am occasionally conscious that debates are being thrashed out on the reflector creating an awkward problem - do they need to be reproduced in the *Digest*? The reflector

seems so lively that it is tempting to assume everyone knows about it. Perhaps more of a point should be made in the *Digest* about how to sign up?

Finally, I wanted to mention the recent emergence of a CDXC DX Cluster node, which I have been working on as a project since April. Here is a brief summary, should you wish to mention it.

CDXC Closed Cluster Project

During BS7H, many members agreed that posting DX on the cluster often seems to worsen the overall operating conditions, since so many hams rely solely on the cluster to find DX to work. Spotting a DX station causes QRM and general mayhem, and some non-expedition but rare DX operations are unable to hold QSOs with distant family and friends due to this effect. Additionally, a general deterioration of the cluster due to world-wide announcements or arguments (between locals in southern Europe, say) make it difficult to use effectively without filtering tools, some of which are not simple to master.

Using a modified version of DXSpider, I have established a special Internet node, G7VJR-5, which receives worldwide spots, but with the following particular differences from the norm:

1) Only CDXC members can use the node. A username and password is required.

2) Spots made locally - ie CDXC members' own spots - do not get sent to the rest of the world.

3) Spots made by registered CDXC callsigns (even on other nodes) are flagged with the word 'CDXC'.

4) Announcements from the rest of the world are suppressed, while announcements by CDXC members are shown, but kept strictly local.

This project has become known as the 'closed cluster' and so far over 100 members have accounts to use it. I am more than happy to continue developing the CDXC closed cluster to provide more features (eg sh/cdxc to find members' spots), and I hope more CDXC members will join, as a project of this type relies on a fairly high level of adoption to bring the necessary crowd together for everyone's benefit. So, to obtain a CDXC cluster account, drop me a note to michael@g7vjr.org and I will e-mail you back with details.

73 Michael, G7VJR Transmitting Secretary
Cambridge University Wireless Society

from G3RAU

Re that problem on 14.195 MHz with IT9RYH: get DXpeditions to listen 14.190-200. Simple. That will clobber the b***r.

73 Derek

Solution to Prize Crossword 22

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

Chiltern DX Club - Aims and Objectives

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

Membership Full details are available from the Secretary.

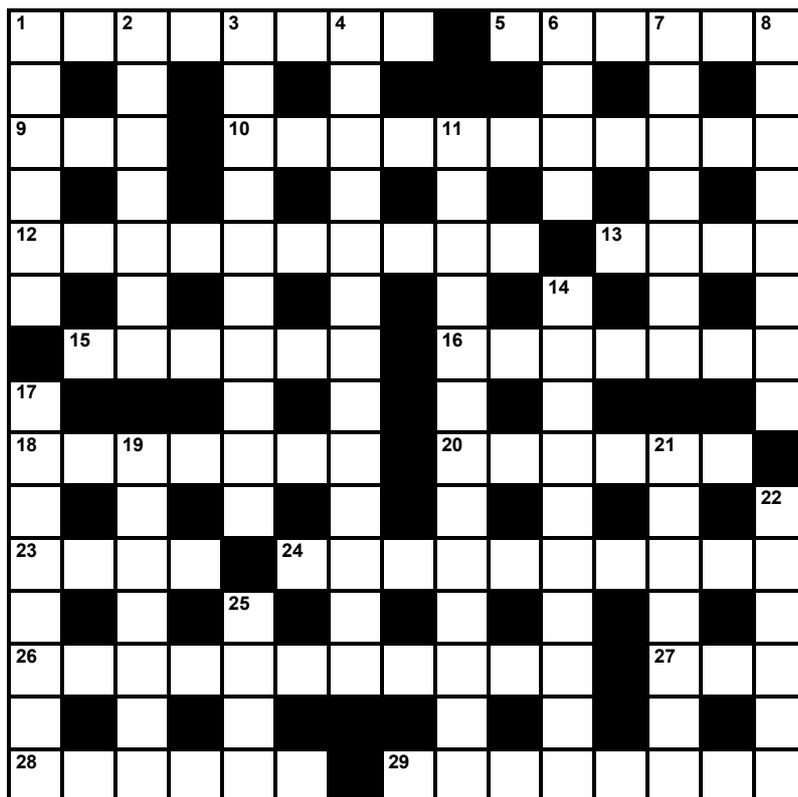
Subscription £15.00 for UK members, £20.00 for overseas members (US\$40 or 30 Euros). New members joining between 1 January and 30 June pay 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions are due on 1 July of each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer.

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>

Digest Prize Crossword 23 *by RFX*

The winner of Prize Crossword 22, May 2007, and that brand-new tenner: Alan Pickup, G3XLF, Knutsford.



ACROSS

- 1 Chancellor once seen in state capital (8)
- 5 Falls in grace, usually affecting corrupt union leaders (6)
- 9 Muslim ruler an old relation beheaded (3)
- 10 Railwaymen from HB working as security staff in HV? (5,6)
- 12 Clean motor re-designed for rally here? (5,5)
- 13 Island serving Indian food? Time to go (4)
- 15 Struggle to record, having injected heroin(6)
- 16 Crikey, that's asking for capital punishment in some countries! (5,2)
- 18 Ancient city to be rebuilt? Oh, I can't! (7)
- 20 Ignore troubled area (6)
- 23 Gloomy type of house set apart for widow, say? (4)
- 24 Where the pupils are? Drinking brandy and producing excellent results (2,4,4)
- 26 Plays the part of the buffoon? (4,3,4)
- 27 Very old Afghan leaders scrambled eggs (3)
- 28 Understanding young man written about in Cumbria town (6)
- 29 Which person is involved in a till transaction, generally speaking? (2,1,5)

DOWN

- 1 Queen hidden among underwear for the composer (6)
- 2 Tool used in bridge (7)
- 3 There's audible hostility after sailor's refusal to vote (10)
- 4 Chemical agent somehow responsible for global warming? (7,6)
- 6 Small caterpillar food (4)
- 7 The price you pay for haute cuisine? (7)
- 8 Not fit for the job, wearing casual dress? (8)
- 11 The only remaining fish? (4,9)
- 14 Clearly not a short chap, this poet (10)
- 17 The first animal to be recorded in the dictionary (8)
- 19 Continue to poke fun at Somerset town (7)
- 21 Sherry produced in a sorrowful manner when duke quits (7)
- 22 Spike a politician's drink (6)
- 25 Stake erected in Sicilian high-rise (4)

Deadline for entries: 20 August

DX and Events Calendar

Compiled by G3XTT

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

till 15/08	OD5/ON4JM: Lebanon
till 31/08	TU2/F5LDY: Ivory Coast
till 09/09	8N3IAAF: special event station
till Sep	VP6TD: Pitcairn Island (OC-044)
till Sep	ZD9BCB: Gough Island (AF-030)
till Nov	8Q7IM: Maldives (AS-013)
till 31/12	6H1, 6I2, 6J3, 6E4: special prefixes (Mexico)
till 31/12	DL1ØØDAN: special callsign
till 31/12	GB6OTR (England)
till 31/12	SG6ØRK: Gotland Island (EU-020)
till 31/12	SX1ØØVAR: special event station (Greece)
till 31/12	ZY51ØØSCOUT: special callsign
till Feb 2008	DPØGVN: Neumayer Base (DL-03, AN-016)
till Apr 2008	6W/EA4ATI and 6W1EA: Senegal
till 31/03/09	A52VE: Bhutan
16/06-05/09	9A/VE3ZIK: Croatia
19/06-21/07	RV3ATS/P: Russian Districts and Mountains
20/06-20/07	II2SFI: special event call
02/07-21/07	UE1RFF/1: EU-086 (Dolgiy and Bol'shoy Zelenets)
05/07-20/07	A25OOK, A25CF, A25KDJ: Botswana
05/07-20/07	A25SL, A25LT, A25BUN: Botswana
05/07-20/07	A25DW, A25OB, A25HL: Botswana
12/07-22/07	1AØKM: Sovereign Military Order of Malta
14/07-21/07	YJØCZE: Vanuatu
15/07-25/07	FS/CT1BWW & PJ7/CT1BWW: St. Martin & St. Maarten
15/07-25/07	FS/EA3GHZ & PJ7/EA3GHZ: St. Martin & St. Maarten
15/07-25/07	FS/EA5YH & PJ7/EA5YH: St. Martin & St. Maarten
16/07-22/07	CS26X: special event station (Portugal)
17/07-23/07	SV8/KG6ZWD/P: Andros Island (EU-067)
18/07-02/08	JA6GXX/JD1, Minami Torishima
20/07-22/07	VE3LYC/VYØ: East Pen Island (NA-231)
20/07-22/07	VYØ/G3OCA: East Pen Island (NA-231)
21/07-12/08	F/ON4XA and F/ON4BEA: France
21/07-22/07	GB1HI and GB5HI: Holy Island of Lindisfarne (EU-120)
22/07-29/07	ZF2DK: Cayman Islands (NA-016)
24/07-02/08	G3RCV/P and M8C: Isles of Scilly (EU-011)
24/07-25/07	SV1/KG6ZWD/P: Greece

24/07-30/07	UT3IB/P, UT9IO/P, UX2IQ/P: Zmeiny Island (EU-182)
25/07-30/07	OZ5JR, OZ7KDJ, OZ9V, OZ8MW/P: Anholt Island (EU-088)
25/07-30/07	VE3ZZ/VY2, VE2BR/VY2, VY2Z: Prince Edward Isl (NA-029)
26/07-30/07	C6AXD, C6AQO, C6APR: Crooked Island (NA-113)
26/07-02/08	GS3RCM and MM3M: Isle of Arran (EU-123)
26/07-31/07	J48IO and J48YL: Proti Island (EU-158)
26/07-01/08	VA7AQ: Quadra Island (NA-091)
27/07-05/08	CU2/EA1FCH: Sao Miguel (EU-003), Azores
27/07-29/07	MM0LSB/P: Outer Hebrides (EU-010)
27/07-29/07	VE2FK: Ile aux Coudres (NA-128)
27/07-29/07	W9IMS (Indianapolis Motor Speedway)
27/07-30/07	YW1DX: Cayo Sombrero (SA-089)
28/07-29/07	4X7AZ: Akhziv Island (AS-100)
28/07-29/07	5B4: Agios Georgios (AS-120)
28/07-29/07	CU8T: Flores Island (EU-089)
28/07-29/07	EE5KB: Tabarca Island (EU-093)
28/07-04/08	TM7BA: Batz Island (EU-105)
28/07-29/07	GMØB: Isle of Bute (EU-123)
28/07-29/07	OZ7BQ/P: Fur Island (EU-171)
28/07-29/07	N4AUG: Talbot Island (NA-138)
28/07-29/07	VY2Z: PEI (NA-029) by VE2BR & VE3ZZ
30/07-05/08	V6ØYAQ, V6ØDU, V6ØIL: Pohnpei (OC-010)
30/07-05/08	V6ØKL, V6ØTI, V6ØTX, V63JJ: Pohnpei (OC-010)
02/08-09/08	CU3F: Terceira Island (EU-175)
02/08-07/08	W5BOS/KL7: Semidi Islands (NA-235)
02/08-07/08	W5BOS/ALØ: Unavikshak Island (NA-238)
04/08-05/08	GI/W8HC/P: Ballycastle
06/08	GI/W8HC/P: Rathlin Island (EU-122)
09/08-10/08	EI/W8HC/P: Derrygimla
17/08-27/08	OX/HB9FMD
21/08-24/08	XP: Rathbone Island (NA-243) by PA3EXX
26/08-24/09	YB9/PAØRRS: Bali Island (OC-022)
29/08-30/09	JA6GXX/JD1, Minami Torishima
05/09-10/09	9A/VE3ZIK: Bosnia & Herzegovina
07/09-24/09	3B7C: St. Brandon Islands (AF-015)
08/09-14/09	CQ4IPY: special callsign
26/09-09/10	9UØA: Burundi
Sep-Oct	P2: Nukumanu Island (OC-284) by SM6CVX and G3KHZ
Sep-Oct	P2: Takuu Island (OC-283) by SM6CVX and G3KHZ
12/10	EH4EI: special event station
17/10-30/10	C52C: The Gambia
11/02-23/02/2008	VP6DX: Ducie Island (OC-182)
March 2008	FOØ: Clipperton Atoll (NA-011)

CDXC Clothing

We are able to offer a range of high quality CDXC clothing through suppliers Aquarian. All items are available in a choice of colours containing an embroidered CDXC logo and your callsign, also embroidered, with a red 'CDXC' and the remainder of the logo text in gold. Your callsign will be in red.

Please order direct from AQUARIAN. Prices include your callsign (except ties, which do not carry a callsign). Additional lines of text may be added at extra cost. Please note that postage charges listed are to UK addresses. Please contact Aquarian direct for postage charges to other countries.

ITEM		SIZE	PRICE
Sweatshirt	Polycotton raglan sleeve	S, M, L, XL	£21.00
		XXL, 3XL, 4XL	£22.00
Children's sweatshirts	Polycotton raglan sleeve	3, 5, 7, 9, 11 years	£16.00
Rugby shirts FR1	100% cotton	S, M, L	£25.00
		XL, XXL	£26.00
		3XL	£28.00
Rugby shirts FR2	Quartered 100% cotton	S, M, L	£29.00
		XL, XXL	£31.00
Polo shirts	100% cotton	S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL	£19.00
Polo shirts	Polycotton	S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL	£18.50
Children's polo shirt		3, 5, 7, 9, 11 years	£15.00
T-shirts	Heavyweight 100% cotton	S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL, 4XL	£16.00
V-neck pullover	Lambswool	36" to 50"	£31.00
V-neck pullover	50% wool / 50% acrylic	36" to 48"	£28.50
Crew neck pullover	Lambswool	36" to 50"	£31.00
Fleece jacket		XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL	£28.00
Children's fleece jacket		3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 years	£23.00
Tie			£14.25

Colours available: navy, black, royal, bottle green. Rugby shirts FR2 in navy/sky or navy/grey.

ORDER FORM:

ITEM(S)	QUANTITY	SIZE	COLOUR	PRICE
Additional text @ £3.00 per line				
Sub-Total				
P & P: £1.75 for first^t item, £1.50 additional items to a maximum of £10, £1 children's items, £3.00 fleece jackets				
Callsign				Total
Name/Address				

**AQUARIAN, Quarryhill Cottage, Justinhaugh, by Forfar, Angus, DD8 3TQ
Tel.: (01307) 860 350**

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 2007 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.**

