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**CDXC Reflector:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CDXC/>

# Club News and Views

## Editorial

Martyn Phillips, G3RFX

So it's that time of the year when we can look forward again to that highspot of the CDXC year now just around the corner: the AGM and Summer Social. I gather that this year we have a record number of attendees, so the big question will obviously be: "Will Neville be able to provide enough additional car parking space atop his Herefordshire hill to cope with them all?" That large grassy area next to his newly acquired helipad, maybe?

Which reminds me of one of my students who was telling me that she went to a well-known and rather exclusive ladies' school somewhere in the delightfully leafy Kent or East Sussex countryside. Serious parking problems here - so much so that after a while the headmistress had seen no alternative but to send round a letter to all parents, asking them to "kindly refrain from dropping off your daughter at school by helicopter". The mind boggles.

But I digress. Roger, G3SXW, e-mailed me after receiving his May 2009 *Digest* to say "Congrats on another blockbuster edition, all such high-quality articles, especially those by..." (no, perhaps I'd better leave that bit...).

He then goes on to say, "My only complaint (aka constructive criticism) is long articles with no subtitles. Pages 24-27 [*Article by G3SWH on his 'DXpedition to Mayotte'. Ed*] are hard to absorb because reading magazine articles is not the same as reading a book. Maybe as Editor you could exert some influence or even insert your own subtitles." Point taken, Roger. Also, contributors please note! That last bit assuming, of course, that people actually read this Editorial of mine. You do read it,

don't you? And if you don't, I suppose we'll never know.

Be that as it may, once again it's thanks to our regular team of columnists, who do a grand job. Occasionally, though, one of them decides that it's time to move on - and in this case it's Lee, GØMTN, who's said that he'll be happy to continue writing his 'Contest' column until a successor can be found. In other words he's very kindly giving us a bit of 'Leeway'... Either way, he'll be a hard act to follow. Meanwhile if any of you might be interested in taking over from Lee, then please let me know.

Incidentally, when e-mailing this month's 'Contest' copy, Lee added, "I hope you and the Mini-skirted Maidens are well. Perhaps we should have some photos of them in a forthcoming *Digest* photo section?" I'll see what I can do, Lee. Mind you, believe it or not, they're awfully camera-shy, y'know.

LAS, but by no means least, it's Chairman John. I never did find out whether John has a cat, although I presume that he has, seeing as each time his regular copy for the *Digest* turns up it's entitled Chairman's Chat (obviously it's a French cat...).

Anyway, as you will see on the next page, John has decided that the time has come to step down from the Chairmanship after eight years. Good lord, is it really as long as that? I shall certainly miss his undoubted wisdom (quite possibly he'll disagree with that bit...), also his delightfully subtle, tongue-in-cheek sense of humour. He's been pretty good at chairing meetings too. Thanks, John.

73 Martyn, G3RFX

# Chairman's Chat

**John Butcher, G3LAS**

It's beginning to seem that there may actually be a new solar cycle before too long. The SFI is nothing to get excited about – it's 67 as I type this: remember when 100 was considered low? – but there has been plenty of evidence that things are on the up. Even 12 and 10m are showing signs of life on occasions, while this summer there has been more DX activity on 6m than I can remember for several years. I haven't worked anything really exotic from East Herts, but there have been plenty of strong signals on the 'magic band' from all parts of Europe, Africa and the nearer parts of Asia and North America. Perhaps it won't be too long before we can wallow in DX on HF again.

I was pleased that Mark, MØDXR, again took over the 'LAS station for the WPX CW contest at the end of May. As tireless as usual, he made nearly 3000 QSOs in 36 hours and, with luck, may be able to claim another UK record score. It was interesting to see that his log shows a strong performance on the higher bands, with much less emphasis on 80 and 160m this time, compared with his experience in the CQ WW contest last October. Of course, the time of year makes a difference, but I think band conditions must be a factor.

I've just calculated that this is the 46<sup>th</sup> Chairman's Chat which I've written in my eight years as Chairman of CDXC (I've missed one or two when away from home). Sadly – at least for me – it will be my last, as I've decided to step down from the Chair at this year's AGM. Looking back at my first effort in September 2001 I'm struck by the way in which CDXC has changed while the major 'issues' which concern us all have stayed much the same. Then, as now, a great deal of attention was being given to the related problems of operating courtesies, deliberate QRM etc. The fact that things

don't seem to have moved on much in eight years is a matter of regret. This is clearly an issue which, like the global economic crisis, requires joint efforts and collaboration across national and even continental boundaries. The sad demise of the RSGB's recent initiative is an indicator of how difficult it is to achieve such cooperation, even when the objectives of a project are clearly shared by all concerned. Maybe one day a breakthrough will be achieved, but I'm not holding my breath.

The development of CDXC has been a much more pleasing story. In 2001 we were congratulating ourselves on achieving a membership of 485. Now it is over 700. Given that there must be a limit to growth in a restricted 'market', such a consistent increase is exceptional and is a testament to the huge efforts made by many people, but particularly by our President Neville, G3NUG. I don't think Neville will be satisfied until the CDXC numbers exceed those of the RSGB.

Much of the increase in numbers has resulted from a deliberate policy move away from our somewhat elitist approach in the early days and to target the less experienced DX operators in our membership drive. This is very much in line with one of our stated objectives, which is 'to encourage and support the younger and newer amateurs' in our field of interest. We are delighted to see the evidence that this policy is succeeding to the benefit of all members and to the development of the Club itself.

Mention of the RSGB reminds me of another of my long-standing gripes. Why don't all radio amateurs join their national society? This is our only representative body in the corridors of power such as Ofcom, ITU and IARU where decisions are taken which affect us all very severely. The

relaxation of some regulatory processes in recent years in fact weakens rather than strengthens our voice in such arenas and the other powerful players such as commercial spectrum users and defence organisations will probably feel less inclined to take account of the views of radio amateurs, unless the RSGB can be seen to speak with the authority of a mandate from a large proportion of UK licence holders, rather than about 50% as is currently the case.

You may not agree with everything the RSGB does (I certainly don't), but many non-members would probably be among the first to assign blame to the society if

something very detrimental to our hobby were to occur by default.

For the last time I wish the Club continued success and its members great success in the future DX chase. My thanks go to the numerous Committee members who have given me great support over the last eight years.

CU at the AGM and Summer Social.

73

John, G3LAS

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## President's Patter

**Neville Cheadle, G3NUG**

As I write my PP the CDXC AGM and Summer Social is just one month away. So far over 70 members and guests have booked. If you are planning to come and have not yet booked, please drop an e-mail to Chris, G3SVL, as soon as possible. We still have to hear from some of our regulars. Chris will be pleased to show apologies in the AGM Minutes.

The arrangements are as in previous years. We start the AGM promptly at noon and then start up the BBQ. Our butcher friend at the farm just up the lane will make the bangers and burgers the day before. Please remember to bring some folding chairs and a beer or two if you are that way inclined. There is plenty of room for parking and inside the barns should we have rain.

We are within easy reach of the Midlands and the South West and only two hours drive from Liverpool and Manchester, so do try to join in the fun if you live in these areas. We can guarantee good company and eats and the long-term forecast looks good.

Directions are on the CDXC website – just aim for the A49 then you cannot go wrong.

We have again some excellent raffle prizes:

- The star prize is an FT-450AT transceiver donated by **Yaesu UK**. Thanks to Paul, G3WYW.
- **ICOM** is donating some merchandise. Thanks to Ian Lockyer.
- **Kenwood** is donating an HS-5 deluxe set of headphones. Thanks to David, G5HY.
- **ML & S** are donating a MyDEL CG SB-2000 radio interface. Thanks to Martin, G4HKS.
- **Nevada** are donating an Alinco switch-mode 25 Amp power supply. Thanks to Mike, G3SED.
- The **RSGB** are donating some books. Thanks to Mark Allgar.
- Bernie, W3UR, is donating three subscriptions to **The Daily DX** for one year. Thanks to Bernie.

There will be further prizes on the day. Donations from members attending are particularly welcome – bottles go down well!

The three CDXC portable rigs are now ready for use. These are based at my home and each has been fitted into a waterproof Peli case. The rigs comprise a Yaesu FT-450AT transceiver and a MyDel switch-mode power supply. There is also a Vibroplex iambic paddle key, a Heil ProSet 4 headset, mike, footswitch, and all documentation. There is a fourth rig with a Yaesu FT-900 transceiver based in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. This is ideal for activating the beautiful Malaysian islands.

We have tried to keep the conditions of loan of the rigs as straightforward as possible:

1. The borrower is to return the rig in the same condition as that in which it is received (subject to fair wear and tear). It is to be returned promptly after use.
2. The borrower is to pay for carriage both outwards and on return to G3NUG.
3. The borrower is to insure the rig for £1,200 whilst it is in his or her possession.
4. Borrowers should follow the IARU operating procedures. These can be downloaded from the CDXC website. (A copy is enclosed with the rig.)
5. The borrower agrees to process all QSL cards promptly, including replying to all QSLs requested via the Bureau. The CDXC logo should be shown on QSL cards, on websites, in articles and in presentation materials.
6. Before taking the rig out of the UK, the borrower should be familiar with all appropriate import, export and customs regulations and follow them. We can supply copies of invoices.

7. The borrower should ensure that the rig is safely secured at times when it is not in use.

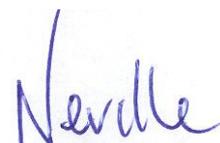
The rigs have been sponsored by CDXC, FSDXA, ML & S, the RSGB IOTA Committee, Vibroplex and Yours Truly. These rigs will be available to CDXC members and to others. Please e-mail me to book a rig. We may soon be able to announce the appointment of a QSL manager for those using the rig.

Our marketing continues. We have just mailed a further 300 potential members. This list comprises the most active spotters on the PacketCluster. We are now working on a further mailing to UK stations who worked K5D and other major DXpeditions. We get a hit rate of between 8 and 10% from our mailing activities and we need to recruit around 60 members each year just to replace lapses. At the time of writing we have 742 members, a record number and a net increase of 47 this year.

Elsewhere in this *Digest* there is an introduction to SEANET 2009 to be held in Seoul. This looks as though this will be an excellent event. I met the lady organiser at last year's SEANET, a most impressive person. There will be an excellent programme, visits to see the Korean autumn blossom in the mountains and to the DMZ.

That's all from me. Trish and I look forward to welcoming many members and their guests at the Summer Social here on Saturday, 18 July.

73



## New Members

CDXC offers a warm welcome to the following new members:

<i>Call</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>
2EØTAW	Terry Williamson	Chard
G3ZGC	Richard Joliffe	Newbury
GW4BKG	Steve Emlyn-Jones	Porthcawl
MØBCT	Martin Danfer	Woodbridge
MØCTR	Andrew Smith	Chippenham
MØDDT	Colin Potter	Headington
MØNPK	Nick Kerner	Reading
MØVTG	David Howlett	Peterborough
MMØNDX	Col McGowan	Larbert
RW3GA	Yuri Manukovsky	Lipetsk

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## CDXC AGM and Summer Social 2009

The Annual General Meeting of CDXC will be held on **Saturday, 18 July, 2009 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 us again this year.

### AGM AGENDA

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

Committee nominations and items for AOB must be given to the Secretary prior to the start of the AGM.

Our popular Summer Social follows the AGM in Neville's garden and all members and families are most welcome. At the time of writing we have 75 members and guests signed up, and there is space for double that number at LWB! Come and meet your fellow members. There should be something of interest for everyone. As usual, there will be food and a BBQ for which a charge of £8 per adult, payable on the day, will be made. There will be no charge for children under 16 and of course there is no charge for members who only attend the AGM. Soft drinks will be included, but bring your own wine and beer.

Please bring a folding chair as only a limited number of seats are available.

We will be holding our famous raffle during the Summer Social with a first prize of a Yaesu FT-450ATU kindly donated by Yaesu. Other fine prizes include: a MyDel CG-SB2000 radio interface donated by Martin Lynch, of ML & S, an Alinco Switch mode 25 Amp power supply from Nevada, HS-5 Deluxe headphones from Kenwood Electronics and three Daily DX subscriptions from Bernie, W3UR. Donations of prizes from members are always welcome. Raffle tickets are only available on the day, but members attending the Summer Social may buy tickets on behalf of members who are unable to attend, provided they agree to carry home any prizes for that member.

As it is now close to the date, you need to let me know as soon as possible if you will be attending, such that we can plan the catering requirements. Please e-mail me with your information [sec@CDXC.org.uk] or call me on (01424) 845384.

73 Chris, G3SVL, Secretary CDXC

### **Directions to G3NUG QTH - Lower Withers Barns**

Note for Sat Nav users: the postcode will lead you to a field! Please use the co-ordinates 52° 16' 24.32" N, 2° 40' 19.34" W or good old fashioned directions for the last mile!

#### **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 crossroads. Turn left signposted Middleton. Keep going another mile through the next hamlet and down the hill past new barriers on the right-hand side of a 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 and down the hill past new barriers on the right-hand side of a 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**  
CHILTERN DX CLUB  
The UK DX Foundation

## In Committee

As I have reported before, the Committee always meets at one of the Committee member's houses and we tend to rotate which house that is. Your Secretary lives on the Sussex Coast and as such I am really a bit out of the way for the rest of the Committee. However, my 'other' hobby is river boating and my wife and I have had a boat of one sort or another on the middle Thames for 20 years now. So as it was my turn to host we agreed to meet on the river at Windsor. This must be a first, and the weather being kind to us in late June was a bonus.

This Committee meeting being the last before the AGM meant time was devoted to understanding and approving the Annual Accounts. As you will see elsewhere, they are in good shape and we approved them to be sent to our auditor, John, G3LZQ. Membership is growing strongly as is our support to DXpeditions. Other arrangements for the AGM and Summer Social, including the all-important raffle and BBQ arrangements, were reported to be in hand.

Michael, G7VJR, showed us the new poster for shows and rallies and President Neville described the newly procured transit cases

for the loan rigs and we approved the rules of engagement for those who want to borrow these fine rigs.

The new system of requesting a copy of the *Digest* via the webpage has produced five requests so far, all of whom we believe will become members. We agreed to attend the newly launched National Hamfest in October and will have our stand at the RSGB Convention later that same month. Don, G3XTT, was kindly providing CDXC attendance at the Newbury Rally on the very day we were meeting.

One of our ongoing challenges is keeping our material, and particularly our website, up to date and fresh. We discussed a number of initiatives and will be rolling these out over the coming months.

Following the buffet lunch that all hosts provide, it is customary to give a tour of the shack and antennas. As we were not at my home QTH, we instead took a few members for a cruise along the Windsor river front. Different!

73 Chris, G3SVL, Secretary CDXC

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## 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** £18.00 for UK members, £24.00 for overseas members (US\$48 or 40 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/>

# CDXC Annual Accounts to March 2009

Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF

	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2004-05</b>
Subscriptions	13,682	11,165	9,942	11,869	10,011
Dinner Ticket Sales	1,980	1,643	1,421	929	1,094
Badge Sales	1,487				
Advertising	1,404	1,147	1,015	855	708
Donations Received	1,063	709	846	788	340
Summer Social	792	-222	182	341	463
Bank Interest	295	450	294	207	135
Misc Sales	103	92	0	103	91
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>20,807</b>	<b>14,984</b>	<b>13,699</b>	<b>15,091</b>	<b>12,842</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Digest Printing/Postage	10,025	7,115	6,769	6,491	6,660
DX-pedition Funding	3,375	3,000	2,900	1,257	2,431
Dinner	2,082	1,743	1,470	928	1,036
Badges	1,001				
Marketing and Mailshots	739	44	59	799	1,102
Equipment Cases	475				
Trophies and Badges	219	192	397	478	263
Miscellaneous Expenses	159	480	455	525	472
RSGB/Licence	44	44	44	58	58
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>18,120</b>	<b>12,618</b>	<b>12,095</b>	<b>10,535</b>	<b>12,022</b>
General Reserve	2,000	2,000	0	0	0
<b>Surplus in year</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>4,556</b>	<b>820</b>

<b>Capital - Reserves</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2004-05</b>
O-Bal	17,542	16,278	12,691	6,422	4,867
Surplus in Year	687	366	1,605	4,556	820
Reserves / Accruals	3,158	898	1,982	1,713	734
<b>Capital - Reserves</b>	<b>21,387</b>	<b>17,542</b>	<b>16,278</b>	<b>12,691</b>	<b>6,422</b>

<b>Bank Balances at year-end</b>					
Current Account + Cash	76	692	793	701	-212
Deposit Account	21,311	16,850	15,485	11,990	6,634
<b>Total Bank + Cash</b>	<b>21,387</b>	<b>17,542</b>	<b>16,278</b>	<b>12,691</b>	<b>6,422</b>

<b>Membership</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2004-05</b>
O-Bal	695	680	797	685	661
New Members Joining	109	37	27	161	73
Members Leaving	-62	-22	-144	-49	-49
<b>C-Bal</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>685</b>

<b>DX-PEDITION FUNDING : 2008-09</b>			
<b>Operation</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>£</b>
4W6R	East Timor	Txema EA5BWR	150
9L0W	Sierra Leone	Karl-Heinz DK2WV	200
A2/DL7DF	Botswana	Frank DL7DF	100
A5100A	Bhutan	Alain F5LMJ	250
E44M	Palestine	Simone IZ0BTV	175
FH/G3SWH	Mayotte	Phil G3SWH	150
FW5RE	Wallis	Laszlo HA0NAR	200
IREF	IREF Donation (IREF)	Mike K9AJ	200
JX/G7VJR	Jan Mayen	Michael G7VJR	200
K5D	Desecheo	Mike NA5U	500
P29NI	Papua New Guinea	Derek G3KHZ	200
VK9DWX	Willis	Chris DL1MGB	400
ZD8UW	Ascension	Martin G3ZAY	200
ZK2V	Niue	Chris GM3WOJ	250
ZL7T	Chatham Island	Gary ZL2iFB	200
<b>Total for Year 2008-09</b>			<b>3,375</b>

#### **FINANCIAL PERIOD**

This financial statement covers the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

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 2009.

John Dunnington, G3LZQ, Elected Auditor CDXC

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

# DX an' all that

Don Field, G3XTT    *don@g3xtt.com*

It was interesting to see a number of comments on the Cluster over the past month or two to the effect that the new solar cycle must be getting under way because 10 and 12m were full of signals, some from distant parts. I would have thought the onset of summer Sporadic E, linking into TEP, would have been well recognised by now. Although I still can't get my mind round the fact that one morning recently G stations were working Japan on 6m (at least one of the Gs running just 100W) while the HF bands have been significantly less kind. It is hard to believe that Sporadic E clouds can line up in just the right manner to permit such propagation, but so far no plausible alternative explanation has been offered (well, more accurately, no explanation that has been proven – several theories have been postulated).

That said, there were also reports of one G amateur running a stacked pair of long-boom Yagis on 10m, on a very high tower, and managing to eke out some remarkable DX contacts such as G/VK. In this case the mechanism was probably F2 propagation, relying on plenty of gain and a very low take-off angle. At least, I assume the mechanism is F2, but the experts may disagree.

There's not much in the way of expeditions as I write this, although Chris, ZL1CT (GM3WOJ), seems to have done a good job under difficult circumstances during his ZK2 trip. It will be interesting to see whether the Glorioso effort makes a big impact on the bands – we are all waiting with bated breath as FR/G certainly needs a good work-out. There are a few southern hemisphere efforts scheduled for the summer period (7P8, VK9N, to name just two) then the autumn promises some treats such as the Australs and Marquesas.

Anyway, I have just received my K5D QSL card, which was very welcome, and am busy chasing a few other slots that I have worked, but don't have confirmed. It gets harder though, and will come down to a hard core that I just have to try and work again when the opportunity arises (fortunately there look like being no more than 10 of these).

## Newbury Rally

I am writing this just after the Newbury rally, which I hadn't previously attended, despite its being just 30 minutes from here. But CDXC were invited to have a display and as the event coincided with a CDXC Committee meeting, volunteers were sought to do the necessary. I wasn't sure what to expect, but was pleasantly surprised not only to have the opportunity to chat with a number of members (and to sign up a few new ones) but to find that even a few folk who were not DXers were fascinated to hear about the concept of DXpeditions to remote spots (the exotic photos on the various sample QSL cards were quite a draw). It seemed clear that, despite material such as my HF column in *RadCom*, many amateurs are blissfully unaware of the long-distance potential of the HF bands (maybe it's all those half-size G5RV antennas they insist on struggling with!). That said, I did meet one local who had a 4-element 5-band quad, which must be quite a monster (so much so that it's currently stuck pointing South-West because his rotator gave up the ghost). He didn't join CDXC on this occasion, but maybe another time.

## CQ WW Xtreme Category

I know this is not a contest column, but the introduction of the 'Xtreme' category in the CQ WW contests surely has significant

implications for DXers too. Xtreme stations are allowed remote receivers, located anywhere in the world. Now this means that, for example, K3LR or HC8N could use a receiver in the UK and, when called by Dave/G3YMC using his usual QRP, Dave will not know whether he really is being received in the US or Galapagos or simply being heard by a remote receiver a mile away in Bracknell.

The advocates of the new category say it doesn't matter because you don't have to take part in it, you can enter the contest as you have always done. But that's not true in the sense that you can easily, unwittingly, work one of these Xtreme stations, and never know that you have done so (especially if you are a casual DX chaser, and not a contester, so you may never see the list of Xtreme participants). So Dave (or whoever) is cock-a-hoop at a nice DX counter, whereas while he has actually heard the DX country, his own signal may not have gone much beyond the end of his street.

There are those who would argue that we should all 'get real' because remote receivers and similar technology are with us already. But I would say that, by giving this sort of formal recognition, CQ is moving the goalposts in a major way. What next? The next FSDXA expedition using remote receivers so that every CDXC member can 'work' us on Top Band, however modest your transmitting system? I think not, because surely this would provide no satisfaction whatsoever? There will always be those who take it upon themselves to cheat, but I am more concerned about those who want to do it the 'hard way' and, in fact, are themselves being 'cheated' by the DX station. Maybe the time will come when we require DXpeditions to sign up to some sort of 'traditional' format before we are prepared to go on the air and chase them. The chasing of 'Xtreme' DXpeditions can be left to those who find this amusing (probably the same folk who get excited

when they work a 'DX' station through their local 70cm repeater!).

Amateur radio is and always has been a technological hobby and, thank goodness, we have been happy to move on from spark transmitters, inefficient AM etc. and endorse (indeed, quite often pioneer) new technologies. Personally, I have no problem with some of these Internet-linked solutions for day-to-day ragchewing if they encourage more us of the bands, for example by folk who otherwise might be limited because of antenna or other restrictions. But for the competitive aspects of the hobby, namely DXing (largely in the pursuit of awards) and contesting, some clear lines surely need to be drawn? Award sponsors take note!

### **Awards Integrity**

Which brings me on to a related subject of awards integrity. Roger/G3KMA, Martin/G3ZAY, Angus/MM1CCR and I recently held a meeting to do with a number of IOTA-related issues, mainly about resourcing the IOTA programme for the future. IOTA requires substantial manual effort from the various checkpoints around the world and from IOTA galactic HQ (if I might be so bold) here in the UK. This resource is largely about maintaining the integrity of the programme, for example by checking that operations actually were from qualifying islands, or that contacts being claimed had the necessary information on the QSL card to be able to substantiate them for the appropriate island group. All of this effort is voluntary and volunteers, especially competent volunteers, are increasingly hard to find nowadays. The ARRL maintains integrity of the DXCC programme through its team at Newington, but this costs money; ARRL members end up subsidising the worldwide DXCC community. LoTW is there primarily to save money compared with the traditional QSL card-based system, but its development costs have been high. The SOTA (Summits on the Air) programme is in marked contrast, being totally web-based and an 'Honour' system

in that no checking takes place. It is popular, but would it work for DXCC and/or IOTA or would there be enough cheats, sloppy applicants and bad typists to rapidly bring the quality of the database and the general reputation of the programme(s) into disrepute? I don't know the answer, but I suspect some compromises are inevitable as resource constraints start to bite on both sides of the Pond. I'd be interested in any views, or maybe this is the basis for an interesting thread on the CDXC Reflector?

### **VE7CC Cluster Interface**

I am a late adopter of the VE7CC Cluster software and I daresay many of you are already using it to the full. But I must say that the ability to select spots originating only from a specific list of countries is a great boon. Yes, I know you can do this with direct Cluster commands, but VE7CC makes it so simple. No more those long lists of Pacific DX being spotted by Far Eastern stations which we have no hope of hearing here in the UK. At the moment I am limiting my spots to ones originating within Europe, but I may start to get even more selective and go for Northern/Western European spots only.

### **The Quiz**

Pete, G3ICH, sent me the following as a result of my little quiz in the last issue. Can anyone shed light on the questions he raises? Amateur radio is certainly a way of improving one's geography and history!

*"Hallo Don, Interesting little quiz, took me back a year or 60 odd! I failed completely on No. 12. For PK4 I just said Dutch East Indies. However, I was taken aback to see AR8 given as Lebanon. I'm sure it would have been listed as Syria then. I just checked in my 1947 CQ Magazine DX Handbook and it listed Syria, AR8. There is no trace of Lebanon at all. Now I know things were in a state of flux at that time; was Lebanon born out of a division from Syria? When did Lebanon become OD prefix. I don't remember much from that time as I was out in VU2 land from December 1944 to June 1947, from where PK6s could be worked by the bucket load.*

*73 de Pete G3ICH/DL2SU/ZC4PN/V56FO*

That's it for another column.

73 & Good DX Don G3XTT

### **Vacancy for CDXC Webmaster**

John, G3LAS, wishes to stand down as CDXC Webmaster, thus creating a vacancy. The role requires a working knowledge of running a website, although support can be given if necessary. Activities centre on keeping the CDXC website 'fresh' and ensuring news items, pictures and other matters of interest are promptly posted and remain current. In addition to managing the website, we would like to improve our news feeds to other agencies (eg GB2RS News, RadCom etc.) and will be part of this role. A proactive approach is required.

As with all posts this is a voluntary position, but no travel or meetings are envisaged. If you think you can help our web presence and news exposure, please contact Chris, G3SVL, at sec@cdxc.org.uk.

# Borneo Bulletin

**Steve Telenius-Lowe, 9M6DXX**

*teleniuslowe@gmail.com*

The last couple of months have been the quietest, radio-wise, since I became active from 9M6 in 2006. After the improvement in conditions around the spring equinox, HF propagation has been as poor as I can ever recall. It's at times like this that I ought to have 6m: John, 9M6XRO, reports working over 300 Japanese, Korean and Chinese stations on 6m over one weekend in June, as well as around 25 Europeans, including UT7IL on SSB. What is peculiar is that the Sporadic E conditions have not been more consistent on 10m – they seem to have been better on 6m than on 10. I did have a couple of good runs on 10m, mainly to Japan, and was called out of the blue by JD1BMM in Minami Torishima for a new band slot.

The only other DX worked that is worth reporting was Chris, TLØA, first on 20m and then just over 24 hours later on 17m. On both occasions Chris's signal was only fractionally above my noise level, but he came back to the first or second call: what good ears!

## **FK/G4JVG**

Eva and I were away for nearly a month in May / June, travelling to Queensland and New Caledonia for our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We arrived in Coolangatta on the Gold Coast (150km south of Brisbane, the airport Air Asia uses from Kuala Lumpur) just as an unseasonal cyclone passed by, dumping two months' worth of rain on the area in three days and causing widespread flooding. Wind speeds were in excess of 130km/h and this coupled with the cool temperatures (about 14–18°C) and horizontal driving rain kept us stuck in the hotel for three days. This was not the weather you associate with 'The Sunshine State', as the Aussies optimistically call Queensland!

On the fourth day we travelled by train up to Brisbane and took a flight to Noumea. The flight was delayed, arriving at 1.30am in more torrential driving rain as we waded ankle deep in flood waters out of the Noumea's airport building. We were very unlucky with the weather in New Caledonia: in the two weeks there we had a few sunny and warm days, but most days were grey and overcast and with a constant strong wind blowing off the sea. Nevertheless, we celebrated our Silver Wedding anniversary in style with an excellent lunch in a 19<sup>th</sup> floor revolving restaurant overlooking the famous Anse Vata beach.

I took my Yaesu FT-857D and made a few contacts as FK/G4JVG, the first time the G4JVG callsign has been used in nearly four years. I took two 22ft fibre-glass fishing rods and put up a 20m quarter-wave ground plane on our top-floor balcony. One fishing rod was used vertically to support the radiating element and the other horizontally to support one of the radials. Two other radials were put up along the floor of the balcony, around 30 or 35ft above the ground. The antenna was pretty much in the clear, but the hotel was perhaps 150 or 200m back from the sea and this is definitely too far away to get the low-angle gain of verticals close to the ocean. The ground plane worked as well as I would have expected and indeed I received reports as good or better than I was giving, but propagation was such that most of the day 20m was dead, only coming to life for three or four hours in the afternoon, then dying again shortly after sunset.

I did try 40m one night, changing the 20m ground plane into a 40m quarter-wave inverted-L (22ft vertical and 10ft horizontal), with a couple of quarter-wave radials, but I only heard a handful of VK stations operating below 7.100 MHz (I

believe that 7.100–7.200 is not yet available in FK) and did not make a single QSO on the band, so went back to the 20m antenna the next day.

Best DX was VKØBP in Antarctica and a K3 on the East Coast of the USA, but I did not work any Europeans and, perhaps surprisingly, not even any Asian stations at all.

The trip to New Caledonia was primarily a holiday for our anniversary, and not a DXpedition, but this experience confirmed once again the importance of location, location, location, especially at this stage of the solar cycle. Unless you are lucky enough to run a large beam and / or high power (or preferably both), for a DXpedition when there are no sunspots, it is not just advisable but *essential* to have a location right by the sea.

We did visit the Kuendu Beach Resort, the location used by Nigel, FK/G3TXF, and Dennis, FK/G3MXJ, a few weeks earlier and I could immediately see why they did as well as they did. The location is superb, with the over-water bungalows surrounded by sea in all directions. However, we had been told that this hotel is poorly run, an opinion confirmed by Nigel (see May 2009 *CDXC Digest*) and the resort itself looked very run down and neglected, despite the exorbitant prices charged. It is also at the end of a long peninsula, with absolutely nothing else for many kilometres. It is an excellent location for a DXpedition, but not for a sightseeing holiday and I am glad we stayed where we did, despite the abysmal radio conditions.

### Visitors to Sabah

In early May I spent a very pleasant evening with Christian (Chris), EA3NT, who was transiting through Kota Kinabalu between visits to Brunei and Macau. Chris and I had a lot to talk about as it transpired we had both operated from several of the same

places, including Samoa, Market Reef and even precisely the same location in Malawi.

I believe Chris set a new record time for getting a licence in Macau: he arrived in the country in the morning and was issued with XX9TET by the same afternoon. Since the procedure involves submitting several application forms and arranging a station inspection before the licence is issued, this was impressive!

Previously Chris had created some interest on the bands by operating from Brunei as V88/EA3NT, rather than the more usual V8F – callsigns issued to foreigners.

### Licensing in Brunei

When Brunei gained independence from the UK 25 years ago, amateurs there simply changed their VS5 prefixes to V85, eg VS5AA became V85AA. However, after some years new licensees were granted not V85 two-letter calls, but V8 followed by three letters, such as V8ABC, while the earlier V85 two-letter calls remained in force. For the last few years foreigners were granted callsigns in the series V8F (F for ‘Foreigner’), followed by two more letters (eg I was issued V8FEO).

Apparently some of the newer licensees considered the V8 three-letter calls to be ‘second-class’ callsigns, and lobbied to be given a V85 call. In a way this is logical, because V8 three-letter calls are indistinguishable from the call letters allocated to aircraft!

The licensing authority must have taken note of this, but took it a step further and decided that *everyone* should have V88 (not V85) calls. When some of the older V85 licensees went to renew their licences they were told they needed to change their callsigns to V88. Worse than this, *all* callsigns would now be three letters, even those of the old V85 two-letter licensees so that, for example, Tamat, V85TT, is now V88HTL.

Chris, EA3NT, was the first foreign amateur to apply for a reciprocal licence in Brunei under the new licensing system, and was issued with V88/EA3NT. I am likely to be going back to Brunei later in the year and need to renew my Bruneian licence, so presumably I will be issued with

V88/G4JVG, although I may request V88/9M8Z which is both more 'exotic' and a shorter callsign to send (although V8FEO was better than both alternatives).

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## ZL7T – Chatham Island DXpedition 2009

### Lee Jennings, ZL2AL and the ZL7T team

New Zealand is lucky to have five DXCC entities which include mainland New Zealand (ZL1 to ZL4), Antarctica - ZL5, Raoul Island in the Kermadec chain of islands – ZL8 and Auckland / Campbell Islands – ZL9. With the exception of the mainland these DXCC entities are extremely difficult to activate except for Chatham Island. Chatham is easy to get to and has no restrictions. Although not rare, the island is keenly sought after by the DX community.

At the outset this was a 'Kiwi' operation which grew out of a few interested DXers from the Kiwi DX Group. Eventually the team grew to nine with Mike, ZL2CC; Phil, ZL2RVW; Wayne, ZL2WG; Mark, ZL3AB; John, ZL1BYZ; John, ZL1ALZ; Leonie, ZL2LE and the two team leaders Morrie, ZL2AAA, and Lee, ZL2AL. Accommodation is scarce on Chatham Island and we were not able to activate the planned DXpedition in 2008, so the decision was made to go in March 2009. Morrie,

ZL2AAA, arranged lodgings at the farm run by Ken Worthington known as the 'Chathams Fishing Experience' located at Kaiangaroa on the NE tip of the island. We originally planned to activate two stations,

but as the team grew in numbers we doubled the number to four stations.

The Chatham Air Convair 580 only flies to Chatham from Napier on Thursday, so it had to be a 7-day operation, with one day at each end for travel - which left us with only five operating days. There are no border controls or formalities on arrival. Flights to Chatham usually arrive from Christchurch, Auckland or Wellington. The Chatham Islands are a group of 10 islands about 800 kilometers east of New Zealand. The island was a volcano many thousands of years ago and time has eroded the surroundings, leaving a lagoon crater in the centre of the island. Even though the land is fairly flat, it does have a few conical hills and basalt rocky outcrops on the northern coast. Most of the land is fern or pasture covered; although there are some areas of forest and plenty of shrubs and bushes throughout the island. The most famous species of the islands are the Magenta Petrel and the Black Robin, both of which came perilously close to extinction before being saved through conservation efforts.

Chatham Island's main industry is fishing and the shellfish is harvested in the inshore waters of the Chatham Island and exported fresh and frozen to many countries. Over the past decade a developing tourism industry is

helping Chatham Islanders to continue living there. Accommodation is less primitive and tourism is becoming a major source of income for the residents. The main settlements are at Waitangi, Kaingaroa, Te One, Port Hutt and Owenga. Forty per cent of Islanders are of Moriori decent or Maori decent. The Moriori were the first settlers on the Chathams around 1500 AD who named it Rekohu. The Maori name of the Island is Wharekauri. Chatham and Pitt are the only inhabited islands, with the remaining smaller islands being conservation reserves. They are the first inhabited islands in the world to see the dawn of the new day. The international dateline lies to the east of the Chathams, which are 45 minutes ahead of New Zealand time.

The last few weeks before departure became increasingly hectic with the checking and testing of all the gear plus arranging publicity and keeping in touch with the team members by e-mail, seeing as most of the equipment was sourced from the team members. Morrie, ZL2AAA, and I were in touch daily for months testing and packing the equipment. The team met at Napier Airport a few days later on March 5 and boarded for the short flight to Chatham. The flight was easy and the weather fine. An hour and half later saw us loading the same gear onto a truck at Chatham Airport ready for the drive to the farm and fishing camp. The trip is pleasant, with the Chatham tundra-like scenery to look at. We followed the truck with all the equipment and the ensuing 100m trailing cloud of dust on the gravelly road up the middle of the island past the ancient lagoon to the farm near Kaiangaroa, where we were confronted by several hectares strewn with old and new farm equipment of all types.

It was immediately obvious that the very tall surrounding pine trees would double as excellent LF wire antenna supports the next day. Several diesel generators power all the buildings and the house. A quick walk around the farm and we made the decision to use the farm implement shed as the main

operating shack and another old storage shed as the 160m shack. The equipment was unpacked from the plastic fish boxes, operating tables set in place and everything was made ready to connect the antennas the next morning. In addition to the high wire loops we had to assemble and erect the Hi-Gain TH3 tri-band yagi and the 17m monobander by noon the next day. By 10am the next day one station was working and we decided to put ZL7T on 17m immediately and follow with more stations as the yagi antennas were put in place. The afternoon was devoted to installing the 80m and 40m loops plus the 30m vertical and finally the inverted 'L' for 160m. Although the trees were around 30m high we had no problem shooting a line over them with our air-operated 'spud gun'. Chris, ZL2DX, constructed and loaned the gun to us and it proved invaluable. Within half an hour we had rope lines over the tops of the trees ready to pull up the wire loops and by evening all three stations were on the air, followed by the 160m station later in the day.

### **On the Air**

From the moment we hit the air the pile-ups started in earnest. Even though ZL7 is not in the Top 100 most wanted, there are thousands who need it for a new one or a band filler. Business was brisk to say the least. A few opening QSOs on any band and then the DX clusters unleashed the snarling pile-ups. It became apparent that 17m was going to be a very worthwhile band. As we progressed into the Friday evening the big 40m and 80m loops started paying dividends. The noise level was generally very low and 80m sounded like 40m and 20m at times with so many EUs calling us. As with most DXpeditions, CW is a far more effective mode to work pile-ups and our CW to SSB ratio showed how effective it was. ZL1BYZ and ZL1ALZ worked long shifts during the five-day operation to give many hams around the world a new one on CW. From the beginning the SFI of 69 plagued us with poor propagation. We were

able to catch a few band openings on 15m, while 12m and 10m propagation was non-existent in our part of the world. At times 20m was quite dead with no signals being heard from anywhere.

The ARRL DX Contest was scheduled for the Saturday. We were aware of the test before we left and felt that it would help our totals. In fact the heavy demand for space in the 40m and 80m phone DX windows meant that our signals from the bottom of the planet were swamped by the rest of the world. Meanwhile 17 and 30m continued to provide some impressive long runs. Our makeshift inverted 'L' on 160m provided a few EU and USA contacts on Saturday night and good signals around the Pacific. Sunday night was better and our window openings to JA, EU and the USA became quite exciting. On Monday night 60m came alive and our inverted L worked very well. 160m was never intended as a major activity, but once the team experienced the fun of working other countries on Top Band they were into it, making adjustments, and changing hardware to reduce noise and interference. Their efforts were rewarded on Monday night when we worked into the USA and Europe along with a wall of JAs calling us. The pile-ups soon disappeared because the grey line and sunrise doesn't hang around waiting for us hams. We were astounded at the signal strengths of AAØRS and N8GZ when the opening occurred. It was interesting to listen to the grey line propagation hitting the West coast of the USA and rolling across the continent to the East coast with 10-minute windows.

My experience 10 years ago with 30m on ZL9 showed that a simple resonant quarter-wave vertical with above-ground radials would produce good results. That proved correct, with our homebrew vertical working extremely well. Mark, ZL3AB, wanted to work CW and RTTY on that band and with the IC-7000 and Writelog combination and no amplifier we were working everywhere in the world. The pile-ups just went on and on, to Mark's delight. 17m opened nicely most mornings an hour

or so after sunrise. 17 and 30m have become a feature of DXpeditions since the WARC bands have been introduced. Our decision to take Morrie's homebrew 3-ele 17m yagi paid off because 17m was our most useful and productive band. The pile-ups were always there.

The weather was generally good and the team settled into a routine of operating, sleeping and eating. Near the end of our time there it rained at night and the weather turned a bit colder. Occasionally we had to secure the antennas and gear when a cold front and winds from the south came though. The main operating shack was located inside an open shed housing farm implements and trucks. We placed a large tarpaulin over the opening, but that didn't seem to keep the cold out in the middle of the night. Chatham Island is the home of native birds such as the Weka and the Black Robin. A Weka is about the size of a chicken and is a motley light-brown in colour. It cannot fly. They are edible, if not a little on the tough side, and there must be thousands of them roaming wild everywhere on Chatham. If a door was left open you would soon be chasing a Weka out of the house. Our radio shack seemed to be a target and they roamed freely around our legs at times while we were operating. Occasionally two Wekas would turn on each other and let out a shrill high-powered screech, which was quite alarming in the middle of the night.

### **The Flying Boat Wreck**

Almost 50 years ago the RNZAF operated a fleet of 16 Short S-25 Sunderland flying boats for long-range maritime reconnaissance, ASW and SAR duties around the Pacific. This particular aircraft (NZ-4111) struck a reef in the bay near Kaiangaroa while taking off in November 1959. The aircraft was cut into sections and hauled ashore to the farm from where we operated ZL7T. Most of the wreck still remains under the trees a short walk away where it was left all those years ago. The

size of this giant four-engine aircraft was impressive when you stood on the ground looking up over 6m to the main cockpit section window. The wreck has been cannibalised over the years for spare parts and anything useable on the farm. The main wing spar was used in the construction of one of the farm buildings. Most of the aluminium sections are corroded and covered in lichen and moss, but a sense of history and a bygone age still prevails.

We seemed to have a pipeline into JA and the USA and the EUs found it very hard to break through the walls at times. During the initial planning we wanted to give the VKs and ZLs the experience of working a new country. To that end we took short windows out from running pile-ups and called for VKs and ZLs to work us. The plan was amazingly successful as so many of them took their hand keys out of the cupboard and made the effort. On the other hand the joy of some East Coast USA stations after working us on 160m was pretty hard to beat. At times the 160m and 80m bands sounded like 20m with the pileups that resulted.

The 30m shack was located in the corner of an abandoned wool shed about 50m away from the main shack and there was a pen full of young pigs half way in between. As we walked between the sheds the pigs were ever hopeful of being fed and created a squealing din as we walked by. The pigs became especially anxious as we manually turned the 17m yagi about 15m from their pen.

The eating was memorable as our host Ken is a very capable cook with an abundance of sea food on his doorstep. Several of us were invited out for a short fishing trip. One fishing trip of around three hours produced ten blue cod and ten trevalli, while another short trip harvesting paua, also known as black abalone, from around the rocks gave us some wonderful fresh seafood dinners. A short walk away into one of the nearby fields produced baskets full of fresh

mushrooms to accompany the seafood. Fine dining indeed!

## **Tear Down**

The weather was generally quite good during our stay, with temperatures ranging from 6°C to 15°C, but the overcast windy days often dominated the sunshine. Chatham Island at 44 degrees south of the equator is well known for its strong prevailing westerly winds shaping the tall one-sided pine trees. Huge trees which began growing vertical from the trunk base ended up with the tops being 90 degrees over horizontal years later. The good news is that the bent-over top branches make great supports for antennas! As we had to be at the airport loaded and ready to go early on the Thursday morning, the plan was to QRT on the Wednesday afternoon. The weather looked ominous and ready to change and a change of plan resulted in getting all the antennas down and the gear packed by noon before the weather turned nasty. We decided to leave the 6mm nylon ropes up over the high trees in the hopes that some DXpedition in the future will be able to use them to haul up high antennas easily.

The last night of most DXpeditions to Chatham usually results in a debriefing and wind-down dinner at the local eatery in Waitangi about an hour away. An enjoyable time was had by all the team. We would have liked to have stayed a few days longer, but the aircraft schedule doesn't permit it unless we stayed a second full week. Our objective was to concentrate on the lower bands and the WARC bands and have fun while doing it. Only one of the team had ever been on a DXpedition previously. It was a revelation to many team members that instead of being the hunter while working DX we were the hunted. It was a new experience for many of them to have to adopt strategies to cope with unruly pile-ups. The team members were very experienced DXers and rose to the challenge. The statistics of our operation are

on the ZL7T website at [www.zl7t.com](http://www.zl7t.com). CW dominated our operation, while 17 and 30m were the most productive bands. We made 10,580 QSOs during the five days and made a lot of low-band enthusiasts very happy. The abysmal SFI was not kind to us.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to those people and organisations who helped us with generous donations and logistics support. Our sponsors GDXF – The German DX Foundation, NDXA – Nippon DX Association, CDXC - Chiltern

DX Club, Noticebored – A Napier-based Internet security company, Icom New Zealand and the Kiwi DX Group – An informal group of ZL hams. Thanks to our Pilot Duncan, ZL3JT, for keeping us informed daily. Thanks to Gary, ZL2IFB, our webmaster, who designed the ZL7T.com website and kept it up to date with online log search facilities. Quite a few team members have expressed an interest in returning next year. The door is open.

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## A visit to Grenada in the Windward Islands

**Colin, G3VCQ (J38CW) and Sharon, M3VCQ (/J3)**

Back in December 2008 I decided that I would like to be a traveller in the 2009 BERU, otherwise known as the Commonwealth contest. This would be the 72<sup>nd</sup> contest and I had never entered before, not even from the UK. I spoke with Nick, G4FAL (V47CD), who pointed me towards Dave, G3TBK (J88DR), who suggested one or two islands in the Caribbean that would be worth considering. Despite Sharon having a licence, this needed to be a holiday where other activities would be available to us other than just radio! The hunt was on to find an island that would suit both radio and other activities such as sunbathing, swimming in the sea or pool or both, shopping, sightseeing, eating, drinking and dancing etc. For me I needed somewhere with a good take-off to the north (VE and G, with a good path to VK/ZL too). A few beers and some food would also be needed at some point. This was no easy task! The Grenadian by Rex Resorts on the island of Grenada seemed to fit all of our requirements and with a little further assistance from Dave I contacted the local authorities for a J3 licence and the flights and hotel were booked.

The local authorities were most helpful. My point of contact was Sean Francis of the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission who arranged a licence for Sharon and me. Sharon was given an equivalent M3 licence suffixed by /J3 and I was given the magical call of J38CW.

In the first week of January I was asked along to a team meeting for the 'Rest of the world team' at the UK country residence of Dave, G3TBK, near Grantham where I met other members of the team: Bob, 9H3JT; John, G3LZQ (J79WR) and Nick (G4FAL), whom I have known for a few years. After a few cups of tea, discussions around how things had gone in 2008 and how it could be improved on for 2009 a strategy was put in place and the team was set to go! Dave was our Team Captain and did a fantastic job, as did the rest of the team in making sure I had thought of everything that would be needed to be successful in my first attempt at BERU.

So here we were in January and getting very excited about our forthcoming DXpedition in March. I needed to start thinking about rigs and antennas. What should I take with

us to ensure we stay on air if for nothing else but BERU? I decided on dipoles for 80m and 40m, with one feed point, and the YP3 beam in a bag from 'Super Antennas'; if you have never seen one it all folds down into a bag that is only 3ft long and weighs only 12 lb in all. This beam would allow me a little gain on 20 and 15m and should I see any flying pigs: a 10m opening! The YP3 would also give me a 3-element beam on 17, 12 and 6m if I felt the need after the contest. The only problem was finding a mast, either one to take with me or one on the island that I could use from the chosen QTH.

Thoughts of getting through customs with a folding 30ft mast didn't bear thinking about, so I went for the 'lets find one when we get there' option, which turned out to be the right thing to do in the end. The rig of choice was the Yaesu FT-857D, a Watson 25F PSU and the SPE Expert 1K-FA solid-state amplifier with built-in ATU to take me up to my flight weight allowance! You can't take enough coax, I am always told, and having done a few portable events in my time I agree with this, so this was to be no exception. Thanks to Terry of Diode Communications in Barnsley I had no shortage of some nice low-loss Aircell 7. I did take the 'just in case' kit, which included my antenna analyser, wire cutters, thin-nosed pliers, a multi-optional screw driver, PVC tape, cable clips (lots of) a knife (ex-Boys Brigade!) and some string, (the same rule applies as with coax: take loads of string!).

Of course I needed my laptop for the contest. I used 'Wintest' for logging, which performed extremely well, and I also used this for logging all QSOs during my stay. For CW I took my mini-paddle by Palm Radio, which is an excellent little key for portable working and very lightweight too. A Heil HC4 headset went in the bag for SSB.

Carrying this little lot was not going to be an issue as we were flying with Virgin and

they have an extremely generous allowance, which meant we could even take a few clothes with us too! March the 12<sup>th</sup> arrived and off we headed to Gatwick at 3am for our 8.45 direct flight to Grenada. My first concern was finding out that it was not a direct flight but was via Tobago. OK, I'm thinking, I have packed my back-up ex-army all-band dipole in the suitcase, so if all else fails I will have an antenna to work with. The rig, PSU and laptop were all going as hand luggage anyway, so not all would be lost if things went missing en route. Fingers crossed all would go well and I'm pleased to report it did, Virgin took away the amp (it had its own suitcase) and the 3ft bag containing all my antennas, except my ex-army one as 'Fragile' luggage, which was great.

For the first time in my travelling with a rig there were no questions asked as I put my bags through the usual security systems and I was not even asked to remove the laptop. It is a 9-hour flight to Grenada from Gatwick and we slept most of the way in between movies, being fed, not forgetting duty-free sales and any other reasons they could think of to keep us awake. Not a real problem for us, though. We had not slept, seeing as we had driven down overnight from Sheffield, so we were ready for some shut eye almost immediately we left the ground.

## **Landing in Tobago**

Landing in Tobago, I was glued to the window watching every bag being removed from the hold of our Boeing 747-4Q8 (registration G-VTOP, named 'Virginia Plain'). The good news was that there was no sign of any luggage being off-loaded. We then spent an hour on the ground while the crew searched for 15 missing passengers who should still be on the aircraft. This turned out to be a miscount which they claimed was due to people going to the toilets and generally not standing or sitting still to be counted. We arrived in Grenada five minutes late, but it was 3.20pm local

time (7.20pm GMT) and the temperature was 28°C and it was sunny. To my amazement everything arrived intact and after collecting it all we proceeded to the hotel.

We could have walked from the airport, as it was less than a half a mile to our hotel. The Grenadian Rex Resort gave us all a very warm welcome. The hotel reception team allocated us an excellent room on the top floor and just 20m from the sea. The next day things just got better: the General Manager of our hotel, Ken Flockhart, who met us on arrival, gave me access to the roof above our room and one of his excellent maintenance team assisted me with getting my antennas in the air. Our room was three floors up directly below the flat roof. My kind assistant found a 20ft pole which he attached with some rope to the balcony railings outside the room. Excited by this latest addition to the antenna system, I headed to the roof with Les – a Canadian chap I had been speaking with in reception earlier. Les had never heard of our hobby and probably wishes he never did! Les took a great interest in our activity and being an engineer back home in Vancouver stated that putting the beam together would be a doddle for him. As it turned out, it was too. It was as it said it would on the box and took us about 20 minutes to construct the finished article ready for use on 20m. One problem and the one thing I hadn't thought of: the U-bolts on the clamp would not fit the mast!

Having an engineer to hand was a big help at this point, Les managed to work out the stresses involved in supporting the YP3 on the mast after Sharon popped up with some light refreshment for us from the bar on the beach - and while I got the 40m and 80m dipoles ready to add to the mast Les worked out a method of attaching the beam to the mast.

The solution was simple: cable clips, lots of them, an absolutely brilliant idea and the result of having a trained engineer on the

team! It took a dozen or so large cable clips to attach the beam to the mast and a little muscle to pull them tight, but it worked. On went the dipoles just below the beam so that they were supported in the centre and then spread out across the roof. The feeders dropped off nicely onto the balcony and fed into the room via a slatted window which could be closed to trap the cables securely, but not tight enough to damage them. We could not have asked for better. Being located on the very south of the island the take-off was to the north straight up the west coast of the island, ideal for VE and USA. G-working and EU would mean turning the beam to the east across the island, but it cleared the mountains in the north of the island, so we were in business. I checked all the antennas with the analyser once back in the room and all were OK and within the limits of where I wanted them for CW. The low SWR showing on all the antennas meant the auto ATU in the Expert would have no problem in tuning any of them. In fact, if it was possible I would have switched the ATU out as the SWR was 1.2:1 on the dipoles and 1.3:1 on the beam. Meanwhile Sharon had recruited a further addition to the team who had volunteered to climb up the palm tree on the beach just opposite our room for the back up 20m dipole should anything happen to the beam during the contest.

### **On the air at last**

It was now Friday afternoon and J38CW was ready to go on air. The first CQ call on 20m CW would be the only call for about 2 hours. The pile-up was never-ending, but great fun! The FT-857D (with CW filter) was not a match for the FT-2000 sat idle at home and sometimes it was hard to pull out complete call signs first time. I got better at it, as did the callers in the pile-up who learned my listening habits. I tried to keep it tight, which didn't help my limited selectivity! SSB operation was easier, but with no fewer callers. Reports in and out were excellent and mostly exceeded S9 both ways on all bands.

BERU started at 0600 local time on the Saturday morning, so it was going to be an early night with an early morning (getting up at 5.30am was helped by the fact that our body clocks were still working in GMT!). 0600 on Saturday and we were off - 40m was buzzing with VEs and G stations. Finding a clear frequency to call CQ was going to be tricky and I could hear some of the team already with pile-ups and then I found one. QRL? Nothing heard, so it was CQ CQ CQ de J38CW TEST K and then the pile-up started. It was amazing and was going to be hard work but great fun!

Its now getting on for lunchtime and conditions on 20m seem to favour the USA and VE. Despite everything and being told time and time again not to, US stations call and call, making it harder to hear the weaker G stations and other DX somewhere in the pile-ups. To make matters worse the air conditioning starts to make some strange noises and the room starts meeting the temperature of 30°C outside very quickly. Then over the next 12 hours came the mosquito bites - about 31 in total, mostly round my feet and ankles.

Just when you think things could not get much worse 40m seemed to drop out. Not really much of a surprise, seeing as the time was getting on and I really should be on 80m. The trouble was, there was very little I could hear on 80m. High noise levels and weak signals are not a good combination when it comes to trying to make QSOs! 80m was hopeless, although I managed a few contacts before it died completely and QSYed back to 40m to hear Nigel bashing away working one after another, so I gave it another go, but nothing doing: I was not being heard and to be honest I could hear very little anyway. Things did start to pick up again in the last hour or so as we got near dawn, but of course by then it was too late as it was all over and done with at 0600 Sunday morning and I was in bed and asleep dreaming of CW QSOs by about 0602! It's strange how CW can carry on in your head hours after you stop operating. Maybe

not everyone suffers with this - perhaps it's just me! Normal holiday hours and activities begin on day 4 and everyone I meet in the hotel wants to know how it's gone. "Who told them?" I keep asking myself. I only told two people - now the whole hotel seems to know what I have been doing in my room for the past 24 hours! It's all good, I remember thinking to myself, anything that heightens awareness of our hobby has to be good.

Operating became less intense now for the remainder of the holiday, with us having the odd hour in the early evening and a couple of hours before bed on air most days. We worked around 1,500 QSOs during our stay, which was not as many as we would have liked, but we will return next year to work some more.

Returning home was fun, the security staff at the airport in Grenada wanted to know what everything was and I had to empty all the equipment in my hand luggage - and they also took me behind the scenes to open up the suitcase containing the linear amp and explain to the them what it was. Unfortunately it was then damaged somewhere between Grenada and Gatwick Airport.

QSL cards are now available for anyone who worked us, but if you missed us we will be back next year.

73 Colin, J38CW

Dear All,

I regret to inform you that Angie, GØHGA, also known as 'Morse Lady', is now a Silent Key. She passed away early on 9 May 2009.

Kind regards

Rob, G2BKZ

# An Alternative View of ZD8

Steve White, G3ZVW

*g3zvw@talktalk.net*

When the Cambridge Wireless Society team (ZD8UW) departed Ascension Island on 9 January and flew back to Britain, I got on the same plane for its next flight out to Ascension on 11 January. It was to be my fourth (and final) work-related trip to Ascension in short succession – and each time I had taken a rig.

Unlike the CUWS team who operated from Garden Cottage on Green Mountain, I was always accommodated in the Obsidian Hotel in the capital, Georgetown. Close to sea level, but not right on the shore, the hotel is not as well suited to amateur radio as the mountain QTH, but the proprietors are antenna-friendly and beggars can't be choosers. There is a significant hill just north-east of the town, but it didn't seem to impede QSOs in that direction. I was on Ascension as part of my job, so generally I could only operate evenings and weekends. Moreover, with limited space, antennas for the low bands were always going to be a non-starter.

For equipment I used a Yaesu FT-897 with a Power Mite power supply. The antenna was an inverted-V dipole for 40m and upward in frequency, supported on an 8m telescopic fibreglass pole. To select the band of operation I had made a dipole with links that could be inserted or removed as appropriate. It worked a treat, with very little reflected power indicated on any band. Moreover, being resonant, I could feed it direct with coax and a choke balun at the feedpoint. The things you have to be careful of in Georgetown are cables being trampled and/or nibbled by the feral donkeys that roam the town, and the wind that blows briskly practically all the time. At times the wind made my telescopic fibreglass mast bow alarmingly. It never broke, but I was frequently concerned.

My first trip and operating period as ZD8N was in October 2007 - and let me say up front that I planned my trip to coincide with the CQ WW SSB contest. In a rather half-hearted single-band operation on 21 MHz, I made 665 QSOs and came third in Africa. It would have been difficult to come first, but I reckon I could have come second if I had operated more hours. Maybe that's the penalty I paid for taking my XYL on the trip! The CQ WW QSOs form part of the total 805 QSOs I had, all but one of the non-contest QSOs being CW on 18 MHz.

In May 2008 I found myself back at RAF Brize Norton for the overnight flight down to Ascension. As ever it was a comfortable flight on a commercial airliner, spoilt by the in-flight catering (which is something to be endured rather than enjoyed). At 12 days in length, this was a slightly shorter trip in duration and extremely busy in terms of work, so I didn't manage to get on the bands as much as I would have liked. I made 709 QSOs; 497 on CW, 108 on RTTY and 104 on SSB

I didn't specifically plan it, but my third trip (in August-September 2008) turned out to be almost 90% CW. Out of 1,735 QSOs, 1,551 were CW, 183 were RTTY and a measly one was SSB. The paucity of SSB contacts was for a good reason. I had been keeping an ear to the ground before I went, and whilst doing so I discovered that Bob, VP8LP, was also going to be on the island at the same time as me and operating as ZD8LP. Bob wasn't on Ascension to work, so he spent practically all day every day on the bands. His accommodation was only about 200m from the Obsidian Hotel and he is a phone operator, so we found it mutually beneficial to stay at opposite ends of the bands. Even so there was some interference, so where possible we operated on different bands.

It was on my final trip in January 2009 that I went all-out to hammer the bands. From the outset I sought to make more QSOs than I had on any previous trip, and that's exactly what I did. By the time I finished I had made more QSOs than the three previous trips combined! 3,934 QSOs went in the log, comprising 2,416 CW, 293 SSB and 1,225 RTTY. HF conditions were not good in January 2009, so QSOs were restricted to 7-18 MHz. Having said that, by going with the flow there was never a shortage of callers.

From my experience the most amazing band to operate on from Ascension is 7 MHz. During the evenings it is wide open to Europe, North America and Japan, and seems like they all call at the same time. The CW pile-ups would routinely block-off several kilohertz at the bottom end of the band and I know I disappointed many people by not making QSOs with them.

Even so, I know that I managed to winkle-out some G operators who have very modest stations (the barefoot rig and half-size G5RV types) and even some QRP ops (even in JA).

With a total of 122 countries and nearly 7,200 QSOs in the log, my trips to Ascension are now at an end – for the time being, anyway. During the time I spent there I really got a taste for DXpedition operating, so now I'm keen to do some more. It's not so different to the kind of operating I normally do (ie contesting), so I would like to conclude this report with an appeal. If others are planning DXpeditions and have room for an operator who is useful on all modes, I would very much appreciate the chance of going, so please get in touch.

73

Steve, G3ZVW, ZD8N

## HF DX Challenge September 2009

CDXC member Gary, ZL2IFB, has come up with an idea for stimulating HF operation during September and is modelling it on the successful format of the CDXC LF Challenge. This year is a trial run by Gary and if it is successful then maybe we will make it an official annual CDXC event.

The Challenge runs from 0000 UTC on 1 September to 2359 UTC on 30 September. Bands are 15m to 4m inclusive and any mode is permitted. Full rules are on Gary's website at

[www.g4ifb.com/html/hf\\_dx\\_challenge.html](http://www.g4ifb.com/html/hf_dx_challenge.html)

The CDXC Committee welcomes Gary's initiative and Michael, G7VJR, has offered to make Clublog available to support this event. So get on and light up the HF bands!

For further information contact Gary, ZL2IFB, at [Gary@g4ifb.com](mailto:Gary@g4ifb.com).

# Rockall 2009 Wrap-up

May 6, 2009

**Theo Vanderyt, ON4ATW**

As you know we did not make it onto the Rock this time. You also know why and I have nothing to add, except that we like to share some inside information from this very tiring and exhausting week.

Of course we are disappointed at not being able to give you a new one, but this trip has not been a total waste of time as we learned so many new things to implement into our next mission to Rockall. Yes, we will be going back and we will again try to get EU-189 on the air, but we don't know when. Probably not this year anyway.

We circled the Rock several times, so we were able to shoot many photos and get plenty of video footage too. All this material will be studied very closely during the coming months to gain even more knowledge and try to understand the unpredictable wave pattern around the Rock.

Besides the photographs and video footage we've made some new friends in Scotland. We were overwhelmed with the friendship and hospitality we got from these people and I can say we now have 'Rock solid' connections that we'll put to use on our return to Rockall. The thing that amazed us most was the big media attention we got from the newspapers, radio stations and both local and national television! Apparently we turned Rockall into a hot news item this week and I'm sure it will not be different when we go back next time.

The first thing to do now is look for serious sponsoring. Expeditions like these are costing hands full of money and since the

team members paid for all costs this time we are not looking forward to doing this again (apart from personal costs, of course).

The support we received from our individual sponsors has been put aside already and will be used next time. So if you think you can help us in any way, no matter how small, we will be more than happy to welcome you on board.

We will keep our website [www.rockall.be](http://www.rockall.be) online, so please keep an eye on it to stay updated with the latest news. The log is online for all QSOs we made as ON4ATWMM on board the Elinca. I'll have a nice QSL card printed for this operation and send them automatically through the Bureau so that you have at least a small souvenir from the 2009 Rockall expedition.

For me and the rest of the team members this adventure has come to a temporary end and we will let it rest now for a while and pick up our regular lives again.

I want to end this message by saying thanks to all the people whom supported us and gave us their sympathy in many different ways. In particular: Eugene, Erwin, Eddy and Dr Van Keer Luc. Special thanks to our wives, partners, girlfriends. My buddies: Patrick, Luc, Marc, Karel, Rudi, Marleen, Jan, Anton, Dirk, Henk and Carlo.

Thank you.

Theo, ON4AT

# IOTA News

## Update of data in IOTA Directory (2009 edition)

### New IOTA reference numbers issued

AS-177      VU      Goa State group (India)  
AS-192      HZ      Red Sea Coast South (Jizan Province) group (Saudi Arabia)

### Provisional IOTA reference number activated as at 20 June 2009

NA-233P    KL      Delarof Islands, Aleutian Islands (Alaska)

### Operations which have provided acceptable validation material

AS-075      XX9TET      Coloane Island (May 2009)  
EU-078      EG3FI      Hormiga Grande Island, Hormigas Islands (June 2009)  
NA-186      VYØA      Fox Island (April 2009)  
NA-191      TI7KK      San Jose Island, Murcielago Islands (April 2009)  
OC-167      V63TO      Turuaimu Island, Kapingamarangi Atoll (March/April 2009)  
OC-259      V63MY      Nukuoro Atoll (February 2009)  
OC-268      YE7M      Payongpayongan Island, Laut Kecil Islands (May 2009)  
SA-021      L21D      Ariadne Island (April/May 2009)  
SA-098      4T6I      La Leona Island (April 2009)

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

Roger Balister, G3KMA  
RSGB IOTA Manager

20 June 2009

E-mail: [IOTA.HQ@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:IOTA.HQ@rsgb.org.uk)  
Personal website: [www.g3kma.dsl.pipex.com](http://www.g3kma.dsl.pipex.com)  
RSGB IOTA website: [www.rsgbiota.org](http://www.rsgbiota.org)

# The RTTY Column

Phil Cooper, GUØSUP *pcooper@guernsey.net*

2009 is the Golden Jubilee of BARTG. There is an accompanying item about this on page 37 written by Roger, G3LDI, so please read that too.

Once again, by the time you get to read this, the Friedrichshafen HamRadio event will be over for yet another year. As usual I am going and I hope I will have met some of you there too.

For anyone that hasn't yet visited this radio exhibition, I suggest you seriously consider it for next year. It really is an eye-opener, and there are some superb sights to behold, not least on the Optibeam stand.

I see quite a few CDXC members had a go in the very last ANARTS contest this year. It really is a shame that this contest has come to an end, but Pat Leeper, VK2JPA (YL), is unable to continue due to ill health and failing eyesight. When I saw the email message from her announcing the immediate end of the contest, I suggested to the BARTG Committee that it would be great opportunity for us to help out and administer the contest for this year only. Fortunately John Barber, GW4SKA, the BARTG contest manager, agreed and after some discussion with Pat it was agreed that BARTG, and John in particular, would adjudicate this final contest.

Conditions were very strange, with 20m suffering from very short skip, and lots of inter-G working. The solar figures weren't very encouraging either, with the SFI at 68, an A of 6 and K of 2! Not the best when distance is the basis of the points. At least W6/W7 were workable, just, but from my QTH it was only the upper half of the USA that was workable, with the notable exception of W9. It was also good to see the higher bands open, and 15m was quite lively, and even I managed a few W call

areas, and LTØH for my only SA contact. 10m was open quite early on Sunday morning, albeit only to EU, but it was great fun. Sadly, I missed out on a 6<sup>th</sup> continent, so there were no VKs or ZLs in my log. I did hear John, 9M6XRO, but he was suffering great QRN, and had severe trouble working through the unruly pile-up.

One thing that struck me in this contest was the number of folk responding to a CQ call with 3 X 3 calls, for example:

GUØSUP GUØSUP GUØSUP DE AB1CD  
AB1CD AB1CD PSE KN,

All too often their call would fade into the noise, and when I asked for their call, all I got was the same macro sent again. I also saw one station calling CQ, and when called, he simply sent GUØSUP DE F1ABC BK (not the real call!). Folk then sent him a report and he responded with a report, and eventually he lost his run frequency to some DX station, who immediately got a pile-up. I wonder how many of you noticed entrants sending serial numbers instead of the time and CQ Zone? I had more than a few, and only one responded with the correct report. The rest simply failed to reply to my request for the time and zone, so weren't logged.

Coming up in August are the SARTG (August 15/16) and SCC (August 29/30) contests. The SARTG is always a favourite, with the 3 8-hour slots, making it almost a family-friendly affair. The SCC is only a 24-hour contest, from midday to midday UTC. Both are very popular, and always good fun, and nowhere near as serious as CQWW or the WAE RTTY contests.

Meanwhile enjoy the DX!

73 de Phil GUØSUP

# Contest

Lee Volante, GØMTN

## On the air

Perhaps the above should be more accurately entitled as ‘off the air’, as I’m still finding less time for contesting at the moment. Still, I did make it on for some of the CQ WPX CW contest at the end of May, where some great single and double-hop Es propagation livened up 10m and 15m enormously. I distinctly remember thinking “When was the last time that happened?” as I logged a couple of USA stations on 10m CW. It was also pleasing to see a number of competitive entries from various single op and multi op operations around the UK, many of which are CDXC members (naturally!).

Next on the calendar was NFD, where the annual tradition of nervously looking at the weather forecast in the days before the contest continued unabated. Traditionally post-NFD reports circulated after the weekend would be filled with tales of near escapes manhandling poles, setting up tents, keeping stubborn generators running and the occasional altercation with nearby wildlife.

It was interesting therefore to hear of more than a few stories revolving around struggling with PC connectivity and software problems hampering radio control and automatic CW keying, or interference generated from computer power supplies and the like.

In the run up to VHF NFD, I’ve been checking over the antennas and masts for my own radio club, but by far the most time has been spent trying to interface radios to laptops for voice and PTT keying. I guess it’s just part and parcel of modern contest operating that software issues can now be as important as hardware ones. Field Days will be particularly liable for causing headaches, as it’s a common situation for individuals to

each bring along parts of a station which may have never have been connected together before. Solving problems like “The coax is too short” or “How do I mount this antenna to the mast?” in a field environment probably has far more DIY work-around solutions than when a group discover some software driver issues. Before a field day contest, as much as possible try to check that the various components of your station, both inside the shack and out, will work properly together.

## CQ Contest Hall of Fame

This year’s inductee into the prestigious CQ Contest Hall of Fame is the Rev. Paul Bittner, WØAIH, from Wisconsin. Paul has assembled a legendary Multi/Multi contest station over many years, although it has been his warm welcome inviting and training lots of up-and-coming contesters as much as his engineering prowess that secured his place in the Hall of Fame.

‘The Farm’, as it is known to many contesters in the USA Midwest, is still growing new towers and antennas, despite Paul reaching 75 years of age. Researching this piece, I found several fascinating biographies of Paul on the Internet, some detailing how his substantial station was put together. Having boundless energy, and being affectionately termed ‘the ultimate scrounger’ will give you some idea of how it was done.

A belated congratulations from me to our own Neville, G3NUG, for being inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame too. Our other *Digest* correspondents were quicker off the mark than I was in the last issue, or perhaps I need to keep a closer eye on the news feeds.

## **GB7HQ in the IARU HF Championship**

If this copy of the *Digest* reaches you in time, don't forget to have a dabble in the IARU HF Championship over the 11-12 July weekend. The GB7HQ team will be in action again, hoping to improve upon last year's 4<sup>th</sup> place in the HQ category. As I write this, with a month to go until the contest, the Starlog server is operational and operators are testing connections and improving their familiarity with the contest software. Antenna works parties have been occurring too at the various sites – there's a lot more going on behind the scenes than a casual observer might realise. Don't forget to keep an eye on [www.gb7hq.com](http://www.gb7hq.com), which is maintained by Nigel, G3TXF, for news and information on the run-up to the contest weekend. The contest is mixed mode on all the usual bands from 160m to 10m, and the exchange for UK stations is 59(9) 27, which is the ITU zone. Expect to receive zones, or HQ station abbreviations in return.

## **WRTC 2010 update**

The website for the World RadioSport Team Championship 2010 in Russia has now been launched. Have a look at [www.wrtc2010.ru](http://www.wrtc2010.ru) for the rules, playing area and many other details. Of real interest was the confirmation that for the first time the contest will be completely 'field day' style, operating from tents in open fields in the same area. This should help equalise the performance of the stations, which has been an unavoidable area of concern in all prior WRTCs.

Photos and a video are also available from the annual Russian Radiosport Team Championship. This is an existing event that will mirror next year's WRTC very closely, as many of the sites used will be exactly the same, and the field-day type antennas / tents will be very similar. It's interesting to see from the photos that several stations in previous RRTCs appear to have constructed very narrow filter boxes allowing both operators to listen to portions of the same

band. I wasn't really aware of their existence until Ranko, 4O3A, used one to great effect in WRTC 2006. Now they would appear to be more commonplace. Will everyone soon need one in WRTC as the ante is upped? Will we see them on a more local level, for example at NFD?

Roger, G3SXW, has been invited to attend this year's RRTC in July, so no doubt will be able to report on his experiences and what the WRTC entrants will contend with next year. Although there are still a few results to come in, Andy/G4PIQ is in a strong position to claim one of the Team Leader slots for EU Region 1. If all goes to plan, this will be great news, as there was no UK team at the last WRTC in 2006 in Brazil.

## **New Category in CQ WW**

The June edition of CQ magazine carried the news of the introduction of a new entry category for the CQ WW DX Contests – the 'Xtreme' category – which will be introduced for this coming autumn's contests. CQ WW Contest Director Bob Cox, K3EST, said "this new category has been established to allow amateurs to participate in the CQ WW Contest while experimenting creatively with Internet-linked stations and other new technologies that currently are not permitted in any of the contest categories."

Many commentators on the UK-Contest e-mail reflector were not welcoming of the news, which then sparked a debate of what technology should be allowed in amateur radio contesting at all. All, of course, is very similar to the CW Skimmer debate which stirred up some controversy last year. Personally I see the new category as a welcome move. The new category kills two birds with one stone. Firstly, it preserves the traditional categories like 'single operator' so that they may continue relatively unchanged, but also acknowledges that there are facets of contesting and amateur radio in general that are evolving, and the new

category is a way to include them in the contest. All transmitters need to be located within the same country and zone, and all QSOs will still be made using RF. Don't think that CQ WW is being reduced to an Internet-only event. Also the vast majority of entrants are very likely to enter the traditional categories as normal, so there shouldn't be a cause for concern.

Looking more closely at the rules, it's noted that new technologies like software-defined radios, remote stations, Internet-connected remote receiving sites, multi-channel CW decoders, fully-automated 'robot' stations, etc. are now a reality in amateur radio. Some of these technologies currently are not permitted under the rules for existing CQ WW entry categories. Perhaps more importantly, some of these new technologies *would* be permitted under the rules, but perhaps are not within the spirit of the contest if they may give 'an unfair advantage'. So this new category lets entrants pull out the stops in terms of innovation, without needing to worry about it if their entry should be ranked alongside stations without any similar technological assistance. Xtreme entries will be evaluated on two dimensions: the normal contest score, and also innovation, which will be evaluated by the CQ WW Contest Committee. It will be fascinating to see how many entrants compete in the new Xtreme category this autumn, and what innovations result.

As a postscript to this, I was amused to read that the CW Skimmer application took part in the annual Kansas City DX Club pile-up competition held at the Dayton Hamvention this year, and beat all of the human competition.

### **'Club Contesting' in CQ WW / CQ WPX**

There have been several mentions of adding your club affiliation to logs for the CQ WW and CQ WPX contests on the CDXC Reflector in the last couple of months. It's a

simple yet effective way to raise CDXC's public presence, and whilst we may never reach the club scores of the PVRC or FRC in the US, or the likes of the Bavarian Contest Club in Europe, it's still good to take part and climb the tables.

The tricky part comes in that the rules state that an entering club must be a local group and not a national organisation. However, some groups that would appear to be national (or indeed international) are listed in previous results. A 275 km radius is also mentioned in the rules for regular club entries (excluding DXpeditions, where each operator may nominate their share of the points for a particular club.). Whilst I've seen a number of defined areas on USA contest club websites, I very much doubt that *everyone* worldwide who submits a log with a club affiliation has checked the geographic validity of their entry, or is perhaps aware of the distance rule at all! Without a pre-defined playing area set for a local club with a scattered membership, a well-meaning club entrant from, say, Lands End might have a valid entry, as would someone else from John O'Groats, but if both submit logs for the same club score, one of them should not count for the club score.

Whilst quite a lot of the UK will fit in to a 275 km radius circle, certainly not all of it does. To police accidental or otherwise rule breaking, the adjudicators would need to plot all entrants' logs on a map, and for a 'just for fun' category there may not be the resources to permit this. Muddying the waters further is the thought that the Cabrillo log address information is for correspondence, and is not necessarily the operating location, which from the log only accurately identifies a country and a zone. So the adjudicators may be unable to check the validity of club entries for the distance rule. And this is meant to be a fun listing after all, so all of this thinking of spatial adjudication requirements is likely to be too heavy handed!

A solution for CDXC would be for me to define a 275 km radius and politely advise members outside of this area not to represent CDXC in the club competition, but I can't enforce this in entrants' logs. I also have doubts whether every other club listed would be so rigorous, despite it being the rules. My query to the CQ contests

committee to provide some guidance has not yet been answered, but I'm sure there will be an update I can give you before the autumn CQ WW contests arrive.

73

Lee GØMTN

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## E-mails to the Editor

### From G3SXW

Wow! Yet another great CDXC *Digest*, May 2009. The only complaint is that I always read it cover-to-cover right away, so it doesn't last! And congrats to Mark for the ever-improving photograph middle-section. Magic!

We note one constant theme this time: each of the DXpedition stories demonstrates many difficulties, unexpected crises and discomforts. These stories from 3C, FH, J7 and YJ simply demonstrate how challenging it can be to mount successful DXpeditions, notwithstanding meticulous advance planning. The likes of LZQ, MXJ, SWH and TXF know how to put together complicated projects!

So, by chance my timing was quite appropriate with the article 'Criticising DXpeditions' in the same edition of the *Digest*. Perhaps now those self-centred armchair DXers will refrain from putting down intrepid DXpeditioners.

73 de Roger/G3SXW.

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### From MØBWY

I would like to champion a young man who is a member of my local club. Josh, a young man with a passion for the hobby, took his Foundation Licence in April 2008 and became M3XIK. He then upgraded to

Intermediate in September of the same year as 2EØXIK - and took his Full licence on April 1st to get MØXIK. With his 2EØ call he worked over 60 DXCC entities and is clocking up the totals with his new call. He follows his father and grandfather into the hobby and from his photo on QRZ.com his son will follow along as well. A keen operator and DX hunter, the hobby is alive and well in his and his fellow newcomers. Once his 100 DXCC entities are up he'll be applying to join CDXC and I look forward to proposing him.

David MØBWY

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### From G3RZP

Dear Martyn,

Having just got back from Dayton, I found the latest CDXC *Digest* and a copy of the IARU 'Operating procedures for the Radio Amateur'. About the first thing I found in that was something that I profoundly disagree with, ie that you should only use the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), Sect III.1.4. Let's look at why I disagree.

The IPA originally started as the ICAO (International Civil Air Organisation) alphabet. In that service, in general, signal to noise ratios (SNR) are high, QRM relatively low - at least by our standards - and the bigger problem is heavy accents from non-native English speakers. To that end, the use of words which were easy for

the non-native English speaker was a prime parameter.

The amateur situation is another case. Frequently the channel is one that is either SNR- or QRM-limited - often both. In communication engineering, one follows Shannon's communication theory in such a case and uses Forward Error Correction (FEC) with ARQ (Automatic Repeat request). Now the problem with IPA is that many of the words are not only too short (lacking in syllabic redundancy, ie FEC) or in poor SNR conditions are not readily distinguishable from other words in the alphabet. Back in the 1980s, there was extensive correspondence in *RadCom* about this from such celebrated 2m DXers as GW4FRX. Surprisingly, under poor SNR conditions, 'Sierra' and 'X-ray' sound the same; many of the other words lack hard, high-energy syllables which get through in such conditions. The 2m DXers found the IPA severely lacking because it was being used in an environment for which it was never really intended.

The IPA has advantages in that many people know it. It has major disadvantages in the amateur service in that under poor conditions, from a communications engineering viewpoint and from an information theory standpoint, it is far less than ideal, because it lacks a significant amount of syllabic redundancy. The 1936 GPO 'Handbook for Wireless Operators' in some way groped towards a recognition of Shannon's 1947 Communications Theory with an alphabet of Amsterdam, Baltimore, Casablanca etc. Although Xanthippe for X could cause some problems... she was the shrewish wife of Socrates!

So to say that amateurs should always use the IPA is, to my mind, unnecessary and counter-productive advice. It flies in the face of science. Its only advantage is familiarity, and under many amateur conditions is far from ideal. To this end I sincerely deplore the advice that the IARU 'Operating procedures for the Radio

Amateur' contains on this subject. It should be more on the lines of 'preferably use the IPA, but be prepared to use much longer but well-known words if there's a problem.'

So that's why I rarely use anything other than 'Germany Three Radio Zanzibar Pacific.' Note the use of the hard (high-energy) 'Radio' rather than the much softer (low-energy) 'Romeo'.

As (amongst other things) a professional standards as well as a radio and communications engineer, I say we should use applicable standards. The IPA is not easily and comfortably applicable to all of amateur radio, especially DXing. If, however, we're talking emergency comms on the 2m repeater with good SNRs, then there's no problem. But that isn't DXing... and I leave it to others to argue if it's really amateur radio! So I do deplore what I consider to be very bad technical advice on operating from the IARU.

Peter G3RZP

### **Congratulations to MØDXR!**

CDXC member Mark Haynes, MØDXR, has just heard that in the CQ WW CW Contest 2008, he broke the All-Time UK record for the Single-Op, All-Band, Assisted category, with a score of 3,308,800 points from 3,615 QSOs. His score was only 13.404 points higher than the previous record holder M8Z (G3VHB) and Mark believes that he lost quite a number of points as a result of a bad cluster spot which showed his call as GJ1A. Mark was using the call G1A from the QTH of G3LAS. It shows how careful we should be to put correct information on clusters and other such information systems. It also suggests that many operators do not actually listen to a call being transmitted in such a situation. *[With thanks to G3LAS]*

## Invitation to 2009 SEANET Convention Seoul, Korea

We welcome you to Korea, Land of the Morning Calm.

I am honoured to welcome you to our country for the 37<sup>th</sup> annual SEANET Convention, hosted for the first time in Korea.

Our Convention is truly a worthwhile endeavour as it affords us the opportunity to meet face to face and strengthen our bonds of friendship and learn from each other through sharing and discussion of our mutual interests.

Because I have had the opportunity to attend and participate in a number of our conferences, I have visited many countries and gained greater understanding for various peoples and cultures that I may not otherwise have known. Further, I have deepened some of my SEANET friendships to consider many to be a part of my extended family.

Understandably, some travellers may have concerns when visiting Korea with the current political climate as well as its proximity to other nations who have had SARS outbreaks in the past. However, everyone who travels to Korea comes to see it is a safe, warm, and welcoming country where tourists can comfortably enjoy sightseeing and walking throughout its cities.

Korea is rich in history and culture. Her history is 5,000 years long and we have preserved historical sites and monuments in hopes of sharing them with her future generations and visitors. Korean culture is one of kindness, warmth and open-mindedness. Our cuisine is popular around the world for its savoury and spicy flavors as well as its healthy nature.

Korea enjoys four distinct seasons, each of them with their own beauty and delights.

October, however, is often seen as the prime month for leisure travel to Korea.

We're sure your visit to Korea for SEANET will inspire you to return with family and friends to explore her history, natural wonders, and come to know here people and culture.

Dear SEANET friends, I and all Korean ham radio operators await your arrival and look forward to welcoming you to Korea.

Hope to see all here in October.

73 & 88

Chae, Do Sook, HL1KDW  
Organizing Chairperson  
2009 SEANET Convention in Seoul, Korea

### 37<sup>th</sup> SEANET Convention in Seoul

\* Date: 23 Oct 2009 (Friday) – 27 Oct 2009 (Monday)

\* Location: Seoul, Korea

\* Organisation: Korea Amateur Radio League, Korea Ladies Amateur Radio Club

\* Supported by Ministry of Korea Communication Commission, Korea Tourism Cooperation. City of Seoul

\* Organising Chairperson: HL1KDW, Chae, Do Sook

\* Chief of Advisor: HL1BX, Dr. Jung, Uck, Seo

[www.sabah.net.my/seanet/seanet\\_2009.htm](http://www.sabah.net.my/seanet/seanet_2009.htm)

## **DX Delights**

**A new book by Roger Western, G3SXW**

**A review by Don Field, G3XTT**

Read most hobby or sport magazines and you will find human interest stories as well as the more technical articles. For reasons which have always escaped me, this has never really caught on in amateur radio, although I do remember reading with interest the 'Other Man's Station' features which used to appear in *Short Wave Magazine*.

Roger Western, G3SXW, has done more than most to fill the gap, with his various books and articles, and has now added another title, with the recent publication of 'DX Delights'. This one eschews the radio aspects almost completely, being a series of anecdotes of memorable events which have occurred during his travels. Yes, those travels have had a radio element, but the tales here are about vehicles breaking down, bone-headed officialdom, extremes of weather and a wide variety of other experiences which are inevitable when you are a confirmed globetrotter with a particular penchant for the less-developed corners of our planet.

DX Delights is an easy bedside read (or maybe for those times when you are sitting by the radio waiting for a DX station to appear). Each anecdote is just two pages, usually including a photograph, the whole book running to 133 pages in all. You can dip in and out at will as each is completely self-contained. DXers will no doubt enjoy hearing a little more about what goes on behind the scenes and will probably recall some of the trips that Roger refers to. DXpeditioners will doubtless be reminded of their own experiences in similar circumstances. And non-amateur friends and family may also enjoy and relate to the various tales; after all, we are all travellers nowadays and have to put up with the increasingly petty rules and regulations that seem to be imposed on us by airlines, airport security and the like.

'DX Delights' is available direct from Roger at a price of £12, \$20 or €15. Send cash or a sterling cheque to Roger Western G3SXW, 7 Field Close, Chessington, KT9 2QD, England. Or bank transfer to: Sort code 20-90-69, A/C 80953636, IBAN GB06 BARC 2090 6980 9536 36, SWIFTBIC: BARCGB22. Mention 'DX Delights' and your callsign as the reference. Or by PayPal to [g3sxw@btinternet.com](mailto:g3sxw@btinternet.com) - price GBP £12, USD \$20 or €15.

# **BARTG – The British Amateur Radio Teledata Group's Golden Jubilee 2009**

## **Roger Cooke, G3LDI, Chairman BARTG**

In 1959 Arthur 'Doc' Gee, G2UK, and Bill Brennan, G3CQE – the first two UK amateurs to use RTTY on the HF bands - formed BARTG. In those days it was known as the British Amateur Radio Teletype Group, but the name later had to change to Teledata because of a copyright problem. The mode exploded and this year we are celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a record which we are very proud to publicise and commemorate with a special award. Unfortunately the two founder members are both SK now, but their original efforts are much appreciated by thousands of amateurs.

BARTG now encompasses all data modes and long gone are the nostalgic days of oily machinery, paper spewed out all over the

shack and noise, sometimes unbearable after a 24-hour contest. These have been replaced with computer-based equipment. However, the distinctive sound of 'jingle bells' will never change and is now more popular than ever, and still the most prevalent of the data modes.

To commemorate this occasion BARTG will be using a special call, GB5ØATG. This call will be on the air for one year, starting July 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 and finishing on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010. It will be operated by four of the BARTG Committee on a rota basis. We will be as active as we can in order to supply as many QSOs as possible. The QSL manager will be Andrew, M5AEX, who is QTHR and is also on QRZ.com.

## **Station details for GB5ØATG**

### **G3LDI**

Roger J. Cooke Swardeston, Norfolk **July 2009, Nov 2009, Mar 2010**

### **GW4SKA**

John Barber Bryncethin, Bridgend **Sep 2009, Feb 2010, April 2010**

### **G1XKZ**

Arthur Bard Cullompton, Devon **Aug 2009, May 2010, June 2010**

### **G8GNI, M5AEX**

Andrew Thomas Stony Stratford, Buckinghamshire **Oct 2009, Dec 2009, Jan 2010**

There will be an award scheme, with wall plaques, certificates and special QSL cards to be won and we look forward to as many amateurs and SWLs as possible taking part.

## Not the GB2RS News

- HAM RADIO 2009 a huge success
- CDXC *Digest* Editor holiday trip with the Mini-skirted Maidens
- ‘Spot the Reg’
- French amateurs under fire again

The famous HAM RADIO exhibition in Fred’s Harbour was once again a huge success, with many amateurs from the UK making the trip down to Lake Constance. As usual Fred’s Harbour freelance Franziska Frohmacher, again to be seen propping up the bar at the Friedrichshafen railway station buffet, also notched up a record number of customers, all keen to learn that extra bit of German and home in on one or two other strategic areas besides.

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CDXC *Digest* Editor G3RFX was in the area that weekend, having flown to Zurich together with the Mini-skirted Maidens, who said they hadn’t had a holiday for years. In the event, though, they reluctantly gave the HAM RADIO a miss and headed south, first to Lugano and then to Grindelwald, under the famous North Face of the Eiger.

A superb weekend, with many a scenic trip on the excellent Swiss Railways, where the trains actually run on time and the staff clearly take a pride in doing their job well. A trip which also cost an arm and a leg and one which, at the insistence of the Mini-skirted Maidens, was paid for on the CDXC credit card. Will heads roll as a result? Watch this space.

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CDXC has announced a new game, ‘Spot the Reg’, designed to help while away those boring car journeys and motorway trips. Vaguely reminiscent of pub cricket, the aim of the game is to spot as many UK car registrations which could also be an amateur

radio callsign, for example G3 ABC or M6 DEF. Extra points are gained for confirming that the owner of the car is indeed the radio amateur whose callsign appears on the numberplate, eg G3 SXW or G3 TXF – although in some cases this might involve stopping the car in question and encouraging the driver to divulge such information - a potentially difficult if not highly dangerous proposition, especially on a motorway.

And it’s not just possible UK amateur radio callsigns which count. Equally valid are overseas ones such as F4 ABC, P5 BCD and W6 CDE – although here, of course, it’s less likely that the owner of the car will indeed be a licensed amateur from France, North Korea and California respectively.

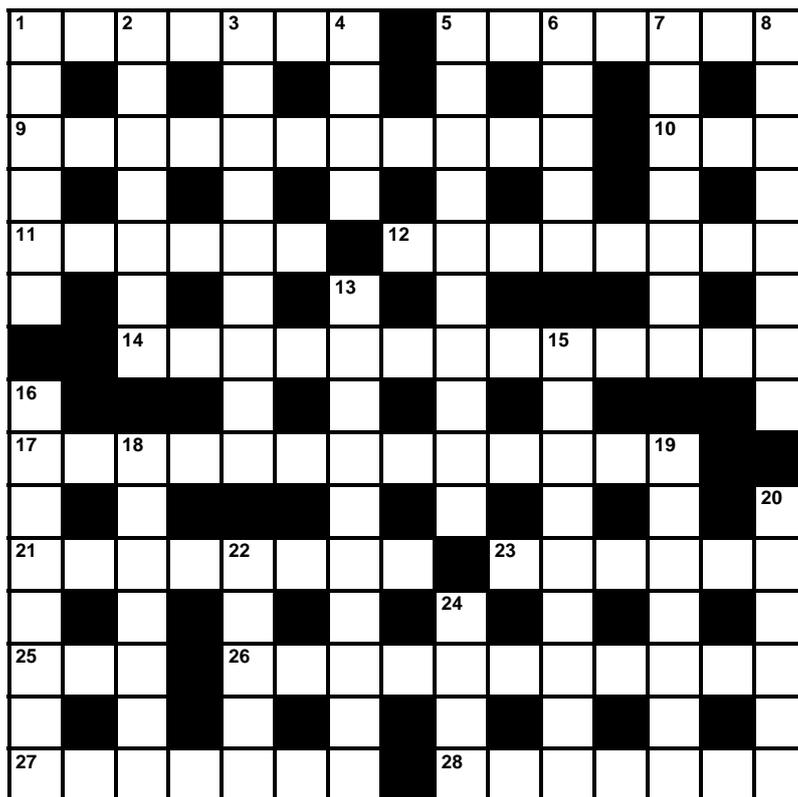
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Efforts are under way in an attempt to deal with one of the many menaces of the HF bands: stations who fail to make sure that the frequency isn’t already occupied before putting out a call. They just go ahead and call CQ. Some French ‘TM’ special event stations, who clearly think they’re the bee’s knees, can be particularly good at this.

### Solution to Prize Crossword 34

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

## Digest Prize Crossword 35 *by RFX*



The winner of Prize Crossword 34, May 2009, and that brand-new £10 note: John Hughes, G4KGT, Great Missenden.

### ACROSS

- 1 Prunes in the middle of week leads to black-out (7)
- 5 Inferior products lasting only as long as this? (7)
- 9 Chance to combine work and drink - and no disagreements! (11)
- 10 US city not fashionable in days gone by (3)
- 11 Shells found in two states - and Thailand (6)
- 12 Predict Nottingham players will be shown around California (8)
- 14 Labour supporters? (13)
- 17 Monorail obsessives? (3-5,5)
- 21 Sex tape one somehow atones for (8)
- 23 Drinker's meal? (6)
- 25 Ate out for an evening meal (3)
- 26 Tom's rough guide? (4,2,5)
- 27 They precede the Zulus on the radio (7)
- 28 Forces undergoing training in Hurst St (7)

### DOWN

- 1 Symphony rewritten in E. Cairo (6)
- 2 Battle in which the French criticise the Ottomans initially (7)
- 3 Buyer of tea impounded by ship's officer (9)
- 4 Birds exhibited in Science Museum (4)
- 5 Revolutionary ISS program providing records of respiratory movements (10)
- 6 8 banker starts to criticise lazy young Democrats' expenses (5)
- 7 Drops of water in North America (7)
- 8 Drunk usually outside clubs, like a Glaswegian? (8)
- 13 Always moderately strong signals from this country? (10)
- 15 Rattle, say, once seen on the buses (9)
- 16 Weird sisters attempt to find cathedral city (8)
- 18 Solve what used to be simple (7)
- 19 Belonging to a highly moral person on the Central Line (2,5)
- 20 Races to have kid admitted to short exam (6)
- 22 Unusually eager to be of one voice (5)
- 24 Drink Marsala or Bordeaux, say (4)

Deadline for entries: 20 August

# DX and Events Calendar

Compiled by G3XTT

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

till 20/07	8J040M-8J940M: special event stations
till 20/07	IY0GM: special callsign
till 20/07	IY0NGM: special callsign
till 24/07	5N0OCH and 5N0EME: Nigeria
till 30/07	SV/K4KTG: Thira Island (EU-067)
till 31/07	EM15DIG: special callsign (Ukraine)
till 31/07	HG160FNY and HA160: special event station and prefixes
till 31/08	LY1000: special prefix
till 31/08	VR2/F4BKV: Hong Kong Island (AS-006)
till September	LZ8WHST and LZ17ARDF: special event stations
till 30/11	FT5WO: Crozet Islands (AF-008)
till November	OD5/W5YFN: Lebanon
till 31/12	9A09P: special event station
till 31/12	9A48IFATCA: special event station
till 31/12	9A800VZ: special event callsign
till 31/12	GB250RB: special event call (Scotland)
till 31/12	GB40WAB: special callsign
till 31/12	HE8 and HB8: special prefixes (Switzerland)
till 31/12	IA3GM: special callsign
till 31/12	II2RAI: special callsign
till 31/12	IY7GM: special callsign
till 31/12	IY7NGM: special callsign
till 31/12	LZ50BNT: special event station
till 31/12	Z30MCWG: special callsign
09/07-28/07	FT5GA: Glorioso Islands (AF-011)
15/07-27/07	VE3ZZ/VY2, VE2BR/VY2, VY2Z: Prince Edward Isl (NA-029)
18/07-25/07	IF9/IQ8PP: Favignana Island (EU-054)
19/07-31/07	F5SGI/P: Belle-Ile (EU-048)
22/07-29/07	VK9AAA: Norfolk Island (OC-005)
23/07-27/07	C6APR, C6AXD, C6AQO: Crooked Island (NA-113)
23/07-26/07	CG200I: Ile Verte (NA-128)
23/07-27/07	GS3RCM/P and MM3M: Isle of Arran (EU-123)
23/07-26/07	OZ0FR: Romo Island (EU-125)
23/07-26/07	W4T: Tangier Island (NA-083)
23/07-27/07	YW9A: Amazonas State
24/07-27/07	MM0NDX/P and GM5A: St. Kilda Islands (EU-059)
24/07-27/07	VC8B: Banks Island (NA-129)

25/07-01/08	OZ/PA1H and OZ/PA7PA: EU-172
25/07-16/08	PE25KP: special callsign
25/07-01/08	TK9X: Corsica (EU-014)
26-Jul	GB5LB: Isle of Man (EU-116)
26/07-06/08	OH0/CT1BWW: Aland Islands (EU-002)
27/07-29/07	OY/IW4BLZ: Faroe Islands
30/07-12/08?	7P8 (various ops including 9M6XRO/G3OOK)
31/07-03/08	K9AJ/VY0 and KD6WW/VY0: Thomson Island (NA-185)
31/07-03/08	SX5SYMI: Symi Island (EU-001)
31/07-11/08	TF/IW4BLZ: Iceland
July-December	4U30VIC: special callsign (Austria)
21/08-05/10	SV9/WB2GAI/P: Crete (EU-015)
26/09-02/10	MS0WRC: Island of Barra (EU-010)

## **DXpedition to Swaziland**

**by David, GI4FUM**

I am organising a DXpedition to Swaziland during August 2009. This DXpedition was as the result of a request for an amateur radio station at an international scout camp to run from 31<sup>st</sup> July until 11<sup>th</sup> August 2009. The scout camp is near to Manzini. I have operated from the Hawane Resort (near Mbabane) as 3DAØDJ on two previous occasions – in March 2007 (CQ WPX SSB) and in October 2008 (CQ WW SSB).

Hawane Resort is located in the mountains of Western Swaziland at over 4,000ft asl. It has been used for DXpeditions on quite a few occasions and is serviced by Daniel Hubbard, ZS6JR, of African DX Safaris. There are permanent antennas on site including a 60ft lattice steel tower with HF beams for 20/15/10m and the WARC bands. There is a Four Square array of 40m dipoles suspended from the tower. Daniel usually erects a vertical for 80/160m in addition to these antennas.

We plan to stay at and operate from Hawane Resort and also provide operators for the scout camp on a daily basis, using the callsign 3DAØSS, but each team member will have their own 3DAØ callsign. The camp site is about an hour's drive away. Unfortunately it is not as well situated for take-off to Europe and USA as Hawane Resort. The campsite is on a southerly facing hillside. We would like to provide as many modes and bands as possible on this DXpedition. The team members are David, GI4FUM; Tony, G4LDL; Gerry, MØMVB; Michael, NC4MM, and Yuri, UT5EL.

During our stay at Hawane there is another DXpedition to Lesotho also serviced by African DX Safaris and team members from that DXpedition may join us during our time there. John 9M6XRO will be transferring to Hawane during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of our stay.

Hawane web site – [www.hawane.co.sz](http://www.hawane.co.sz)  
 African DX Safaris – [www.africandxsafari.com](http://www.africandxsafari.com)

## 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 **£18.00** (eighteen pounds)

1. starting with an **initial payment on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009**
2. **annual payment on 1 July** thereafter 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, please send the signed form to the UK bank branch looking after your account and not to CDXC. If you are using ONLINE banking, then make the Standing Order request directly ONLINE.**

## 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
<b>Sweatshirt</b>	Polycotton raglan sleeve	S, M, L, XL	£21.00
		XXL, 3XL, 4XL	£22.00
<b>Children's sweatshirts</b>	Polycotton raglan sleeve	3, 5, 7, 9, 11 years	£16.00
<b>Rugby shirts FR1</b>	100% cotton	S, M, L	£25.00
		XL, XXL	£26.00
		3XL	£28.00
<b>Rugby shirts FR2</b>	Quartered 100% cotton	S, M, L	£29.00
		XL, XXL	£31.00
<b>Polo shirts</b>	100% cotton	S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL	£19.00
<b>Polo shirts</b>	Polycotton	S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL	£18.50
<b>Children's polo shirt</b>		3, 5, 7, 9, 11 years	£15.00
<b>T-shirts</b>	Heavyweight 100% cotton	S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL, 4XL	£16.00
<b>V-neck pullover</b>	Lambswool	36" to 50"	£31.00
<b>V-neck pullover</b>	50% wool / 50% acrylic	36" to 48"	£28.50
<b>Crew neck pullover</b>	Lambswool	36" to 50"	£31.00
<b>Fleece jacket</b>		XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL	£28.00
<b>Children's fleece jacket</b>		3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 years	£23.00
<b>Tie</b>			£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
<b>Additional text @ £3.00 per line</b>				
<b>Sub-Total</b>				
<b>P &amp; P: £1.75 for first<sup>t</sup> item, £1.50 additional items to a maximum of £10, £1 children's items, £3.00 fleece jackets</b>				
<b>Callsign</b>				<b>Total</b>
<b>Name/Address</b>				

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









