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Club News and Views

Editorial

Martyn Phillips, G3RFX

Welcome to the March 2007 *Digest*. This time the colour pages have been kindly sponsored by Mark, G4AXX.

Mark, of course, is the moderator of the highly successful CDXC Reflector, up and running since 2 August 2006 and now with some 230 members on the books. I also suspect that the absence of 'E-mails to the Editor' this month might be due to this reflector now having largely taken over this function and obviously able to provide much faster response times to any comments or queries you might have, not only in connection with the *Digest*. The CDXC Reflector also features in 'Not the GB2RS News' on page 40.

In 'Out and About' this time round we first take you to Libya for a report on last November's 5A7A operation. If the English sounds slightly German in places, then that's because it is. As with many items by our overseas contributors, it seemed a pity to edit out all traces of the original language and lose a lot in the way of 'natural flavour'. Well, that's my excuse anyway.

And I'd say the same about Darek/SP6NVK's interesting new 'HamAtlas on the Web', referred to by Don, G3XTT, in this month's 'DX an' all that'. The English on this fascinating website has a distinct Polish feel to it, although for the life of me I can't think why.

But I digress. After the Land of Colonel Gaddafi and 5A7A we follow in the vapour trails of Nigel, G3TXF, as he flies some 5,000 miles further to the SE and the island of Rodrigues. Yes, 3B9/G3TXF in February

of this year. Two rather tempestuous characters by the name of Dora and Enok feature prominently in this report. Turn to page 21 to find out who they are.

Meanwhile around this time fellow globe-trotter Roger, G3SXW, was having to placate his equally itchy feet and make do with the palm trees and glorious sandy beaches of Chessington. With excellent results for the *Digest*. In this issue we have no fewer than five items from him on a dazzling variety of topics. I've included these under the general heading of 'SXW Corner' (Roger originally suggested the title 'SXW Soapbox'...). Mind you, the understanding here is that this is not to be regarded as a regular column. Items will be forthcoming if and when Roger has the time and also feels the creative urge – which, fortunately for us, he does frequently.

In this *Digest* you'll also find the third in our series of CDXC Newsletters of old, this time from 22 October 1983. It might bring back a few memories. One G3OZF features in it too [*Who he? Ed.*].

Finally, I'd just like to add a personal word of thanks to CDXC's 'Local Hero' of 2004, Victor Rivera, ZK1CG (now E51CG). Much to my surprise, when the postman turned up the other day he brought with him, all the way from Rarotonga, a beautiful 'Cook Islands 2007 Calendar' with a card inside from Victor saying, "Thanks for the CDXC *Digest*. I enjoy reading it very much". This made my day. Victor, you're a star!

73 Martyn, G3RFX

Chairman's Chat

John Butcher, G3LAS

By the time you read this, you should be girding your loins prior to discovering whether the gods are going to be on your side this year. With any luck we will be waiting eagerly for two major and, no doubt, frantic operations from Swain's Island, KH8/S, and from Scarborough Reef, BS7. These expeditions to the two most wanted DXCC 'entities' should be taking place in April.

I have to say that I am beginning to understand the ARRL's logic in calling these places entities rather than the traditional term 'countries'. I suppose that Swain's has a fair claim to separate status in the DXCC scenario, but it is more difficult to see the rationale for Scarborough. This is a collection of rocks sticking out of the sea about half way between China and the Philippines. They are connected by a largely submerged reef and pose significant problems for anyone attempting a landing, never mind staying above the waterline for any length of time. In all probability, before long global warming will see them subside beneath the waves for a few million years, thus ending the argument about whether they should 'count' or not.

It will also (possibly) end the argument between China and the Philippines about who they belong to. The last DXpedition to BS7 in 1997 ended when the Philippine navy turned up and chased the ops away. This year's group seems to have negotiated their permissions with China again, so could history repeat itself? If so, let's hope they all get home safely.

Of course, these two exotic spots are not the only entities which struggle for credibility. To suggest a few more, how about: 1AØ, 3D2/C, 4U1/I, 4U1/U, BQ9, FK/C, KG4/G, KH7/K, KP1, KP/5, OJØ, PYØ/P, SV/A, UA2, VK9/M, VP6/D, YVØ, ZC4 and ZS8?

I know they all meet some sort of criteria dreamed up by the ARRL, but have you read the rules lately? I rest my case, m'lud. They (the ARRL) seem much more concerned with politics than with simple geography and national boundaries, which was the way we used to define countries when I was a lad. I wonder if 'RFX could be persuaded to offer a small prize for the best and simplest new definition of an entity, so that we could all relax and enjoy a bit of peace and quiet.

Be that as it may, I expect to be in there in April, gales and power cuts permitting, slugging it out for Nos. 340 and 341.

Talking of expeditions, the first couple of months of 2007 seem to have been quite busy for DXers, in spite of the SFI still being very reluctant to creep up to the 100 threshold. Among many others I'm thinking of VU7RG, YWØDX, 9M4SDX, J2ØMM et al, ZK3RE, and of course the wandering Russian, UA4WHX, who has activated a few juicy African IOTAs to keep us amused in between the big shindigs.

There has also been also the usual crop of Americans bravely battling the hardships of the Caribbean winter - and our own G3TXF, whose itchy feet have taken him this week to 3B9, where he is knocking off anyone whom 3B9C may have missed from the idyllic Indian Ocean retreat of Rodrigues. I must be getting old, though, because my highlight of the month was the time I found KL1V calling CQ on an eerily quiet 7.015 MHz at 1854z. We had several minutes chat without another signal in sight - shades of the 1950s!

I usually try to end with a commercial for one outstanding future event or another. Our Annual Dinner on 31 March will be getting quite close, but I am sure that Peter, 'SJX,

will be able to squeeze a few more in. For full details, see the website. The speaker this year is Don Field, G3XTT, who needs no introduction. Don will be musing about DX old and new. Judging by the correspondence on the CDXC web forum, a lot of people are anxious to hear this presentation, so **book now to avoid disappointment!** At the time of writing, the date of the Summer Social is not quite confirmed, so keep an eye on the reflector and website - it will be a Saturday

in July. Finally, I should let you know that we expect to be flying the CDXC flag at two of our usual venues, Kempton Park on 15 April and Elvaston on 10 June. See you there – unless I'm still smashing up the rig, having failed with both KH8/S and BS7!

73 es gud DX John, G3LAS

New Members

CDXC offers a warm welcome to the following new members:

<i>Call</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>
EI9FBB	David Deane	Cork
GØAZS	Marc Tinkler	Aylesbury
MØXAT	Malcolm Harwood	Workington
MWØLAO	Andrew Powell	Pontlanfraith

CDXC AGM and Summer Social 2007

This is likely to be on Saturday, 21 July, although the exact date and venue still have to be confirmed. Further details will appear in the May 2007 *Digest*.

What we can tell you now is that in the Raffle the Star Prize will be an

FT-897

HF/6m/2m/70cm all-mode portable transceiver kindly donated by Yaesu.

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

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Issue 3

22th October, 1983

Editor: G4DYO

THE LAST EDITION of the newsletter was sent to 16 members, each of whom has SAEs lodged with G4DYO, so interest is growing! Remember, if any of you have info for publication please let me know. A list appears later of some of the more interesting DX likely to be active during next weekend's carnage. If anyone knows of any planned operations for the CW section please let me know so that a similar paragraph can be included in an edition nearer to the end of November.

MEMBERS NOTICES

WANTED Nick, G3PEC, is looking to beg, borrow or steal an FT290 or similar rig. If you have something for disposal please contact Nick direct.

BEEB COMPUTER Peter Barville, G3XJS, has limited access to a bulk order shortly to be placed with Acorn for BBC Model B Computers. anyone interested - or knowing of anyone interested - is urged to contact Peter PDQ for details of a generous discount on normal prices.

THE REAPPEARANCE of G4FXT and G4LJF is anticipated any time. Both have been busy moving QTH and both are threatening to erect huge antennas. Ian's new shack is well under way and he is active on 2m with a colinear at 20 feet. He takes delivery of a 90 ft tower towards the end of the month. Nigel expects to appear on 2m & 4m shortly and is rumoured to be digging a large hole..... for an underground Joystick.....?

VIDEO PRESENTATION The following have indicated that they will attend: GIQ, MCS, VIE, KMA, DMR, OZF, GIR, XJS, KPE, RUR, COJ, DOG, YMC, PEO, FXT. Laurie, G3UML, has been invited and hopes to come. Martin & Don, of DXNS, can't make it. Don't forget the 2 green stamps to Henry.

THE DX SCENE

JARVIS ISLAND Thanks to Roger G3LQP, Stu H44SH - who will be one of the operators - has the callsigns of all Club members needing it for a new one. Stu could not make any special skeds but will have those calls in mind when propo favours the UK. Let's hope that all those needing it are successful. Jack, G2DMR, is sweating on this one for Honor Roll. Operators include AD1S, H44SH, WA2MOE and DJ8NK. QSL to AD1S.

HKØTU There appears to be some confusion about the QSL address and whether HK3DDD's CBA is OK. Several operators gave the HK buro as the route and HK3DDD himself gave the address several times. However, more concrete info should appear soon.

XZ BURMA 18th October around 1600z found DF8MP/XZ with a monster signal on 21157 in QSO with Werner and other DLs. Apparently it has been suggested that he is not in XZ but his graphic description of life in Rangoon rather proves his residence there. How can somebody consistently and blatantly put out a huge signal from the capital city of a country where amateur radio is supposedly forbidden?

KERMADEC There are strong rumors circulating that Warwick, ZL3AFH, who is serving a tour of duty on the Island is now QRV. Further info would be gratefully received. Your editor has a few ZL contacts looking into the matter.....

CYØSPI ST. PAUL made 20,000+ QSOs of which 85% were outside N America. QSL to:

G. McLellan, 2316, Rothesay Road, E. Riverside, St. John NB E2H 2K5, CANADA

PITCAIRN A fascinating article on Pitcairn and Norfolk Islands appears in October National Geographic Magazine. The population of Pitcairn is dwindling and numbered 45 at the start of 1983. The loss of two or three of its able-bodied younger men could mean the end of the community. Many islanders have moved to Norfolk Island, which was given to the Pitcairners by Queen Victoria in 1856, but various attempts are being made to preserve the Islanders' way of life including package tours from California. For \$5000 one travels by air to Tahiti thence by boat to Pitcairn to spend two weeks living with the islanders. The organiser hopes that this will inject much needed finance into the Island's economy and the visits by the tour boats will provide much needed supplies on a regular basis. If such ventures fail VR6 could become uninhabited.

CANTON ISLAND T30DB had to postpone the trip to Canton because of a trip to UK but he has now returned to Tarawa. The Kiribati Govt is developing air services between the islands including Canton making future DXpeditions fairly straightforward transport-wise. T30DB and T30AT hope to go there in November taking a TH7DXX and linear and will also pay attention to the LF bands.

CROZET FB8W FB8WJ (FR0GGL) and FB8WK (F6EAY, ex-FL8BH, 5T5AY and FB8ZM) arrive 10th November.

TAIWAN Tim's /A QTH is KADHSIUNG.....now you know!

TRISTAN DA CUNHA ZD9BX is now QRT.

PACIFIC ZL1AXU plans to visit in the near future: 3D2, A35, 5W1, T2 and YJ8.

BENIN Luther. ex-9X5SL, goes to Benin next year. 5T5ZR is there now and hopes to be QRV soon.

QATAR Ever wondered about Mikes's big signal?? He runs a TS930s into an FL2100Z "buffer" into an Alpha 77SX into a TH7DXX.....

BY CHINA Strongly rumoured that Tim was asked to close down on SSB by the BY1PK officials following jamming and foul language on his TX frequency. F2SA is said to have permission to operate BY1PK using only a vertical on 20m.

MAURITIUS 3B8 Jacky, 3B8CF is very QRV on 7005mhz at his sunrise.

BOUVET TDXB rumours an operation for November.....which year??

[continued...]

25th Anniversary CDXC Annual Dinner 2007

Urgent! Please contact G3SJX immediately if you wish to attend.

The CDXC Annual Dinner will be held this year at 7.30pm on Saturday, 31 March, at the Waterloo Hotel, Duke's Ride, Crowthorne, Bracknell, Berks RG45 6DW. This is the same venue as last year, but under different management. The Dinner will be followed by a talk on 'DXing then and now' by Don Field, G3XTT. Don will look back over the last 25 years at how DXing has changed, the major expeditions and personalities involved and how techniques have evolved. We would like to encourage as many members as possible to come along together with partners and friends to what promises to be an excellent evening.

Menu

Caesar Salad with Smoked Chicken and Parmesan Cheese

Roast Beef served with a Peppercorn Sauce

Apple and Cinnamon Tart with a Vanilla Cream Sauce

Coffee or Tea and Chocolate Mints

Vegetarian and other dietary menus available on request.

The cost of the Dinner and evening's entertainment is £29 per ticket and you will find a booking form enclosed with this *Digest* which should be returned to Peter Hart, G3SJX. For further information and to reserve places e-mail sec@cdxc.org.uk.

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

Directions to the Waterloo Hotel, Crowthorne:

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

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

The CDXC LF Challenge 2007

Aim: The aim of the competition is to work as many DXCC entities during the month of March 2007. Each DXCC entity is counted ONCE only.

When: 0001 UTC, 1 March 2007, to 2359 UTC, 31 March 2007.

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

Modes: No restrictions.

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

DXCC entity, Call, Date, Time and Mode.

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

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

Logs to be sent to jkellaway@btinternet.com or by post to Jim Kellaway, 55 Ladbrooke Drive, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1QW. Logs to be received not later than the 30 April 2007.

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

Awards – Multi-band.

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

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

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

Awards – Single band.

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

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



10TH Annual GMDX Convention and Dinner

Saturday, 21 April 2007, at the King Robert Hotel, Stirling

Once again the GMDX Committee is pleased to announce that the above convention will be held at the King Robert Hotel, Whins of Milton, Stirling, on Saturday, 21 April 2007, starting at 12.30 pm. Bar lunches will be available from 11.30 am.

The main Raffle prize is an FT-817 transceiver generously donated by Yaesu.

- 1230 Registration and Welcome
- 1300 FT-2000 demonstration by Paul Bigwood, G3WYW
- 1400 ZL8R Kermadec DXpedition by Declan Craig, EI6FR
- 1500 Software Defined Radio by Peter Waters, G3OJV
- 1545 Coffee/Tea Break
- 1615 VU7RG Lakshadweep DXpedition by Frank Rosenkranz, DL4KQ
- 1715 Convention wrap-up and Raffle draw
- 1930 DX Dinner – booking essential
- 2130 Hotel bar

Non-members are very welcome.

After the Convention and during the breaks the FT-2000 will be 'on-air', plus there will be a display of 'classic' radio gear by GM3WOJ. In addition to this, after the Convention GM3SEK, G3PJT and G3LZQ will give a 'live' demo on antenna impedance measurements (including some new kit).

The cost of the afternoon's convention is £7, which includes tea or coffee, whilst the dinner is priced at £18 per person. We would be grateful if you could pre-book to give us an idea of numbers. Booking your dinner tickets is particularly important as numbers are limited.

DXCC, WAZ, WAS, IOSA and RSGB awards: card checking will be available during the day.

The King Robert has given us a special rate for convention delegates. This is £50 B & B for a double room and £35 B & B for a single room. If you would like to stay at the hotel, please contact them direct and mention that you are attending the GMDX Convention to get the special rates. We suggest you arrange your accommodation as early as possible to avoid disappointment. The King Robert Hotel telephone number is (01786) 811666.

DX an' all that

Don Field, G3XTT don@g3xtt.com

We've had a few interesting expeditions recently, with VU7RG doing a great job on all bands, to be followed by DXØJP, various XU efforts, XT2C, J2ØRR, 3B9/G3TXF and others. Look at the VU7 locations on Google Earth and you will see why the multinational team had such a good signal into Europe on all bands. Location, location, location and all that, a subject I was discussing with Roger, G3SXW, just prior to writing this piece and one which I believe he will be expounding on at greater length in this very same *Digest*.

Band conditions have been variable, but 160m has been producing some nice openings. I read of one great JA opening from the UK, for example, and UK stations have worked BXØ, BA4DW, DXØJP, the XUs, 9M6, the VU7 of course, and other stuff off to the East. XT2C and J2ØRR were also much in evidence, as were a few other nice ones.

Not so good on the higher bands, although one of my RadCom correspondents tells me he has been working into VK regularly on 10m. Location again, almost certainly, plus a 4-element SteppIR which probably helps! Vlad, UA4WHX, has yet again managed to put on operations from some rare-ish African locations, including what must be the first D6 operation since D68C. Only a pity that his QSLs seem to be as rare as hens' teeth.

April looks like the month to be at home (a pity that I will be in the US for 10 days while Swain's is on!). Not only Swain's, but we now have what looks like being a fantastic expedition to Scarborough Reef. Just look at the roll call of operators. Mind you, how many of them will fit on the reef at any one time is another matter! Agalega is slated for 22 March to 2 April, although at

the time of writing there still seem to be some problems getting this one off the ground. And ZL3CW will be back on as ZM8CW around 24 March. Check the calendar for a more detailed listing of expected operations.

2006 Round-up

Many of you will have no doubt seen Joe/W1JR's annual round-up of what was on the bands, but it's worth summarising here for the record. Joe's report says, "The lower sunspot numbers caused the upper HF bands to be spotty, but some openings were caught by those who were vigilant. At the same time numerous ionospheric disturbances adversely effected propagation on both the upper and lower HF bands. The experts are telling us that this is normal just prior to the start of a new solar cycle. The experts are also predicting that the next solar cycle (24) will start in early 2007. Some are also predicting that the next solar cycle will be as good as the past one. That gives us some optimism! *[Actually, the latest 'expert' predictions seem to be suggesting that the solar minimum will probably be around this August - XTT]*

"2006 was a year of surprises. First off, although not a complete surprise, Montenegro joined the rank of nations and thus gave the DXCC its first new entity since Ducie Island in 2002. Shortly thereafter the DXCC rules for qualifying a new entity were changed. The definition of a Point 1 Political Entity was modified to add the US Department of State Dependencies 'Areas of Special Sovereignty' and the UN list of 'Non Self-Governing Territories'."

This immediately qualified Swain's Island as a new entity by Point 2 Geographic

Separation and the DXCC active current list expanded to 337 entities.

“The year 2006 also had a few DX surprises. With little or no fanfare, we saw a brief operation (only hours!) from Ducie Island (VP6UU) and Auckland Island (ZL2BSJ/9). Later in the year the ZL8R Microlite DXpedition caught many by surprise. Of course, there were numerous operations from the new nation of Montenegro as well as the first activation of Swain’s Island as a new entity. Notable other semi-rare entities activated in 2006 included (but are not limited to) 3CØ, 3YØP (at last!), 5A, 6O, CEØZ, E51/N, FH, FT/X, JX, KH5, PYØS, PYØT, R1F, VU4, VU7, XF4, XW, and YXØ. Solo DXpeditioner extraordinary Vlad, UA4WHX, activated at least nine (9) semi-rare entities in Southern Africa.

I personally worked 275 entities, three (3) more than in 2005. Over 250 of these entities were worked on CW, so that mode is not disappearing (yet)! I missed some entities that were either only briefly activated, active during a time when propagation was not optimum, operated only on a list (which I avoid) or active while I was out of state. Therefore I missed 13, so there were 288 entities activated during 2006, just slightly ahead of 2005. Those entities that were believed to not be active in 2006 may serve to show what is considered rare DX and are as follows:

AF (15): 3B6, 3C, 3Y/B, 9U, 9X, D6, E3, FR/E & J, FR/G, FR/T, FT/W, FT/Z, TN, VKØH and ZS8.

AS (6): 7O, BS, BV9P, E4, P5 and XZ.

EU (2): 1A and R1MV.

NA (6): CYØ, CY9, FO/C, KP1, KP5 and TI9.

OC (16): 3D2C, FK/C, H4Ø, KH1, KH3, KH4, KH5K, KH7, KH9, T2, T31, T33, VKØM, VK9M, VK9W and ZL7.

SA (4): CEØX, CEØY, HKØM and VP8/Sand.

2007 already promises activation of some rare entities such as 1A4A (formerly 1AØKM), 3B6, 9MØ, KH8/S, S2, TN, VU7, YWØ and hopefully the long awaited FR/G. Let's hope propagation improves as Solar Cycle 24 begins and that travel arrangements cooperate! I hope to see you in the pile-ups.

73 Joe, W1JR”

DX Magazine Most Wanted

Carl Smith, N4AA, has published his annual most wanted countries survey in ‘The DX Magazine’. Except that Swain’s Island, KH8/S, was omitted and would otherwise have been #1, the results are:

- 1) Scarborough Reef (BS7)
- 2) Lakshadweep (VU7)
- 3) North Korea (P5)
- 4) Yemen (7O)
- 5) Navassa (KP1)
- 6) Glorioso (FR/G)
- 7) Bouvet (3Y/B)
- 8) Desecheo (KP5)
- 9) Marion Island (ZS8)
- 10) Heard Island (VKØ/H)

The Top 100 listing appears at www.dxpub.com/. It is worth mentioning that the data analysis is done by Tim, G4VXE, and Roger, G3SXW. DX Magazine subscribers get a more detailed breakdown by mode and by major geographical area.

Roger kindly gave me an insider’s look at the database that he and Tim have compiled of historical ‘Most Wanted’ rankings going back to 1998. There is scope for a huge amount of interesting analysis there. What I found interesting was the effect that expeditions have on the ranking of an entity over the subsequent years. Our 1998 9MØC expedition, which made something like 65,000 QSOs and, at that time, was the

fourth largest expedition ever, took Spratly's ranking well down for a couple of years, but it then started to creep up again – it's at 36 in the 2006 survey, although DXØJP and the forthcoming Japanese operation from Layang-Layang will knock it back down again. Agalega/St Brandon was in 57th place in 2000, but dropped to below 100th place in 2001, and 84 the following year, following two successful DXpeditions, but has been back up at 45 for the past two years.

But neither D6 (2001 expedition) nor 3B9 (2004) have yet to reappear in the top 100 following our FSDXA expeditions. This suggests that a 'typical' large expedition making maybe 60,000-80,000 QSOs doesn't actually dig as deep into demand as might be thought, with plenty of folk still wanting a QSO. An expedition needs to make something like twice that number of contacts to have an impact lasting several years. 5A7A should have achieved that with its 100K+ QSO total – Libya ranked 50th in the 2006 survey. 3YØX (87,000 QSOs) took Peter 1 down from 4th to 92nd place. Maybe it's possible to calculate how many places are dropped for every 10K QSOs. Now that would be a handy rule of thumb for would-be expeditioners!

100 Pound DXpedition

What with all those comparisons between the Microlite guys on the one hand and the FSDXA approach on the other, I was interested to read about the 'Buddipole 100-pound expedition' to Montserrat, billed as an Ultralite DXpedition. Am I the only one to think this is actually a pretty substantial operation? 100 pounds per person for a 9-man team means almost half a ton of equipment - dramatically more, I would suggest, than carried by folk like SXW/TXF on their (invariably highly successful) expeditions. With airline baggage allowances decreasing by the day, and BA (the world's increasingly less favourite airline) charging up to £240 for a second bag, even if it's within your weight

allowance, expeditions really will have to become Ultralite over the next few years, or go by sea! Mind you, talk of weight allowances always reminds me of the flight from Kota Kinabalu out to Layang-Layang on our 1998 9MØC Spratly DXpedition. Not only equipment but passengers had to be weighed to ensure the small aircraft wasn't overloaded. With such substantial characters as N2QW (G4DQW), G3NUG and K5VT in the team, this proved quite illuminating! Maybe airlines should start doing the same, and charge accordingly?

Montenegro Update

The DXCC Desk is now accepting all QSOs dated 28 June, 2006 and after for operations by YU6AO. Anyone who has submitted cards for YU6AO, and had them rejected can send an e-mail to dxcc@arrl.org for corrective action.

Antenna Systems

Various folk have drawn attention to this fine antenna system. Eat your heart out at:

www.kkn.net/dayton2006/K9LTN.pdf

DX Cluster Resource Connection

There have been comments on the CDXC Reflector recently about the slow response from the OH2AQ Web Cluster, especially at weekends. The Japanese DXSCape web page (www.dxscape.com/) is an alternative but, frankly, the best solution is to connect directly to a live Cluster via Telnet. Most modern logging programs incorporate a suitable interface so that, for example, spots for 'new' ones generate an audio alert according to your settings. If you are looking for a list of suitable Telnet Clusters, the following announcement is relevant: (from AD1C):

'Thanks to the efforts of Jim Reisert, AD1C, Chuck Strobel, K6PBT and Scott Neader, KA9FOX, the DX Cluster Resource Connection has been relaunched at its old

URL, www.dxcluster.info/. This site contains a worldwide listing of both RF and Internet DX Cluster nodes. DXCluster.Info was a 10-year labour of love on the part of Chuck Strobel, K6PBT, who retired from site management in July 2006. He was kind enough to transfer the domain to me and I relaunched it in February 2007.

I'm currently trying to update the list of Telnet (Internet) nodes. The source data is in a format that can be used to create program-specific data files. If your program needs a list of DX Cluster nodes, send e-mail to the webmaster@dxcluster.info and we'll work something out.'

HamAtlas on the Web!

Darek, SP6NVK, has started a new ham atlas service on the Web. This contains the complete information on all 337 DXCC Entities, over 3,000 pictures and 1,100 maps. He hopes everyone will enjoy and be

satisfied in using his service. The HamAtlas website is at www.hamatlas.eu/.

Well, that's my 20th column since starting this little venture. I hope it's still fulfilling a role. Input is always welcome, of course. Meanwhile I hope to see many of you at the CDXC Annual Dinner.

73 Don, G3XTT



Chiltern DX Club - Aims and Objectives

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

Membership Full details are available from the Secretary.

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

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

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

Borneo Bulletin

Steve Telenius-Lowe, 9M6DXX

teleniuslowe@gmail.com

I am now back in Sabah, Borneo, after almost three weeks travelling around Cambodia. Eva and I first flew from Kota Kinabalu to Siem Reap, via Kuala Lumpur, using the very cheap flights of Air Asia, our regional low-cost carrier. We spent five days there, mainly to see the Angkor temples, which are just a short drive from Siem Reap.

Eva then returned to Sabah, while I took the high-speed boat from there to Phnom Penh, a journey of five and a half hours across the Tonle Sap lake (more like an inland sea, really) and then the river of the same name. This was an adventure in itself, and if anyone else is planning this journey here is a word of advice: get to the boat early so that you can get a seat inside. You do *not* want to be sitting on the roof when it is doing 35 knots across the choppy lake!

In Phnom Penh I met up with old friend Peter Arnings, SM5GMZ / XU7ADI, and John Plenderleith, GM3OOK, who is now my neighbour in Kota Kinabalu (9M6XRO). The three of us took a car the 250 km to Sihanoukville on the southern coast of Cambodia and operated as XU7ADI, XU7XRO and XU7DXX for nine days.

We rented the 'DX Shack' there, which is run by Hiroo, JA2EZD. The shack is in a very basic guest house, where rooms cost just \$5 per night. However, the shack costs \$38 per night, plus electricity, despite the 'modest' accommodation. Equipment provided includes two Kenwood TS-690 transceivers, one with CW filters and one without, and an elderly Yaesu FL-2100Z linear, as well as PSUs and a box-full of cables and wire. It is the antennas that you go to the DX Shack for, though: there is a high mast (we could not agree on its height, but it must be about 80ft) with a Cushcraft

A4S beam on top and, also at the top of the mast, inverted-V dipoles for 40, 80 and 160m. A separate 25ft or 30ft pole has inverted-V dipoles for 30 and 17m (there's no antenna for 12m). The location is good too – the guest house is on a small hill and has a good take-off over the sea.

Although the equipment looked pretty beat-up, it worked OK and the linear put out a cool 500W or so on all bands.

Because there were three of us, we wanted to operate two stations at the same time and so set up one station at another guest house about half a mile from the first. This guest house had previously been used as Hiroo's DX Shack before it was moved to the present location and it still sports two 10ft tower sections on top of the roof – ideal for supporting dipoles. We spent pretty much the whole of our first day in Sihanoukville moving equipment around and putting up a 40m dipole and making, erecting and pruning a 30m / 17m pair of dipoles on the same feeder (thank goodness for the MFJ-259B antenna analyser!)

A Belgian amateur, Wim, ON6TZ / XU7TZG, lives close to the DX Shack and he very kindly loaned us his 300W transistorised amplifier for the second station. Thanks, Wim! Incidentally, Wim had recently paid a local lad to climb one of two 330ft disused towers that stand adjacent to his house, and attach a pulley and halyard to the top. Wim was just pulling a 270ft long Windom with open-wire feeder up to the 300ft level when we arrived and so we were able to help him to complete his antenna installation. The towers can be seen for miles around and Wim is going to have an incredible signal on the low bands, I'm sure.

Our first full day on the air was 3 February, a Saturday, and much to my surprise I found conditions were actually pretty good. I sat down at the rig and did not get up again until more than 1,100 QSOs were in the log. Admittedly, the majority of these were JAs, because I had a day-time stint and the bands were not open to either Europe or North America. That evening, though, John had an equally good run to Europe on CW.

Conditions were less good on the Sunday, but because it was the weekend there were still plenty of stations to work. However, there then followed a few days of truly appalling conditions. On one day I made fewer than a dozen QSOs!

Towards the end of our stay, though, conditions improved again and all three of us were able to run some massive pile-ups into Europe, especially on 15 and 20m. It was good to work quite a few Foundation and Intermediate licensees (so DXing is *not* just the pursuit of the G3 old timer!) and many familiar CDXC callsigns. Thanks for all the QSOs! The behaviour of the European pile-up is as bad as ever and, sad to say, there were several Gs who were just as bad as the more southerly or easterly Europeans. I am glad to say, though, that I did not recognise the callsigns of the G offenders, so I doubt that they're CDXC members.

Working North America was difficult on the high bands, although there was a short duration long path opening on 20m in the morning (around 0100 GMT) and both John and Pete worked quite a few NA stations on 30 and 40m CW.

The low-band antennas worked well and I was pleased to work many Europeans on 40 and 80m SSB, while John and Pete both worked into Europe, including G, on 160m CW.

Although by no means as rare as it used to be, Cambodia still attracts big pile-ups and the European pile-up on 20m SSB during my final on-air session was still as fierce as ever, so the bands are definitely still not worked out.

The three of us made around 11,000 QSOs in total. QSL XU7XRO and XU7DXX via M5AAV (thanks Graham!), and XU7ADI via SM5GMZ (Pete will start to answer cards when he returns to Sweden in May).

Cambodia these days is safe, it's very cheap, and you can combine DXing with a world-class sightseeing/cultural holiday if you also go to Angkor Wat. There are extremely cheap flights from Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. If anyone is interested in visiting XU7, I can give you some tips and more detailed information by e-mail.

from Peter Casier, ON6TT

CDXC members might be interested in the following link, which are short stories on the backdrop to many of my expeditions and DX activities in the past years (AH1A, FOØCI, 3YØPI, VKØIR, D3T, 9Q5TT, YA5T, 5X1T, AP2ARS etc.):

<http://theroadtothehorizon.blogspot.com/>

vy 73 Peter, ON6TT

FSDXA St Brandon DXpedition – Bulletin No. 3



Two members of FSDXA recently visited Mauritius to set up the logistics for the September operation from St Brandon (see previous press releases). We are pleased to say that all the necessary permits and licences are in hand, and a suitable ship has been located to take the team members and something like 6 tonnes of equipment to the island. There is still a lot to be done, but we are all looking forward to putting another rare one on the air.

DX Magazine Most Wanted Survey

The latest DX Magazine 'Most Wanted' survey puts 3B6/7 at No. 45 overall, but at a high 18th place on the US West Coast. Other rankings are: Europe 55th; Asia 47th; North America overall 40th; US Eastern 40th; US Central 63rd; US Mountain: 66th; Rest of World: 26th. Clearly this means we will make a particular effort to work US West Coast as well as ensuring we don't forget those 'other' parts of the world (Africa, South America, VK/ZL, etc.).

Colvin Award

FSDXA are delighted to announce that we have been selected to receive a Colvin award in respect of 3B7C. In notifying us of this award, Wayne Mills, N7NG, (while still at ARRL) said, "We are confident that the Five Star group will fill a need by making this country available to many who might not be able to get into the log of a more focused operation. Certainly your past performances, particularly D68C, presage this result. And here's another thought. With the removal of the code requirement for all licensing in the US, coupled with earlier

changes around the world, 3B7C could be the first DXpedition to focus on those operators who are not as capable with Morse. Who can reject the new HF amateur who is trying to build on his desire to improve his CW capability? This is not a new phenomenon, but recent changes in licensing requirements certainly present an opportunity for major DXpeditions to spend (and promote spending) significant time, perhaps near the end of the operation, catering to those whose CW capabilities are less than we might like. Such a campaign would be another ground-breaking effort by the FSDXA."

Needless to say, the 3B7C team is only to happy to comply with this request, which is entirely in keeping with our philosophy of making new ones available to as wide a constituency of amateurs as possible. We will ensure, once we are on the island, that we publicise our operating schedules such that inexperienced CW operators can maximize their chances of a contact.

Sponsors

As well as the Colvin award, we are delighted to announce that NCDXF (Northern California DX Foundation) and the UK's CDXC (Chiltern DX Club, the UK DX Foundation) have recently come on board with sponsorship. But further sponsorship is still required to make this very large scale operation possible. Details appeared in previous press releases or can be obtained from the author.

Don Field G3XTT, NK1G

(FSDXA Publicity Officer)

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30 January 2007

5A7A - Libya 2006

Jürgen Borsdorf, DJ2VO, and Andy Lueer, DJ7IK

A large-scale expedition provided excitement on all bands in November 2006. Many of the deserving received the news about a special call sign from the DX Cluster. Many frequencies were served simultaneously, offering the radio amateurs of all continents the best possible chance to work a new country. Planned very well and executed on a high level, this activity offers itself formally for the title of 'DXpedition of the Year'. This article is an insight into the history of 28 radio amateurs who brought a country situated in the north of the black continent onto the amateur radio bands for 14 days.

After intensive preparation through Andy, DJ7IK, supported by Mustapha, DL1BDF, we finally flew to Libya on Wednesday, 15 November 2006. The participants of the 5A7A expedition met in the early morning in Frankfurt/Main to check in. Everyone had restricted his own luggage to 10 kg. In this manner we could be credited with the 1.1 tons of radio equipment. After the arrival in Tripoli, it was necessary first to wait. Mustapha, DL1BDF, born in Tunisia and a former Lufthansa pilot, took on the negotiations with the entry authorities in Arabic. Haytem, 5A1HA, who had picked us up directly at the airplane, stood with him on the side. Two hours later, however, it was done. After scanning of our luggage and without opening any piece of luggage, our group could leave the airport.

However, a small rented truck was not large enough for our luggage, so we had to put the rest into the bus. Then we departed the airport to drive 15 miles to Jazour.

The vacation center Jazour, directly at the Mediterranean Sea, proved ideal for our purposes. In the centrally situated main building, an unused restaurant on the first

floor was reserved for us. We were also allowed to use two further bungalows 200 and 300 meters away. We called the buildings 'Site 1' (main buildings), 'Site 2' and 'Site 3' (bungalows). The distance to the water was approximately 50 meters at all buildings used by us. One simply calls something similar an ideal DX QTH!

The next morning began like at every activity of this type: antenna construction. On the main building two Spiderbeams were erected; at the beach, two Four-Squares, one for 40 and one for 80m. Also, wire antennas were erected. The roof of the Site 2 bungalow got another Spiderbeam for 20 -10m and the place in front of the house sported a Butternut and a 20m-high vertical for 80m. Some distance away from it a 20-30-40m Spiderbeam was positioned. The roof of the Site 3 bungalow turned into the home of the Yagis for 6 and 2m for the 14 days. A Titanex vertical for 160m and the Pennant receiving antennas were set up in front of this house directly at the beach.

Because of the great accommodation and the restaurant in the main building, we could set up four complete stations here, with no interference caused by running SSB. These stations were each equipped with IC-746Pro transceivers and Acom 1000 amplifiers. Each station was operated both on CW and SSB. Mitch, VE6OH, called it 'The Pile-Up Eaters'. Site 2 also got two IC-746Pro transceivers with Acom 1000 amplifiers. For the CQ WW DX CW Contest these became the search and pounce stations. At Site 3 the 160m station and the 6 and 2m stations were installed.

Site 1 was the center of the expedition as well as switch and communication headquarters. Manfred, DK1BT, arranged the W-Lan access point together with

Mitch. All work and bandplans were displayed here; visitors were received here, and were taken around afterwards. Mustapha, DL1BDF, gave training for the 5A1A members and, most important, beverages and food were always available for the operators in the form of fruit and pastries.

With the first QSOs enormous pile-ups developed on all bands. Predominantly Europe, located at our front door, assailed us with power and extremely strong signals. But also Americans and Japanese called us during the band openings in similar quantity and intensity. We participated seriously in the CQ WW Contest. With many contacts and a high point average, we could submit a good result.

Our goal for the DXpedition was 50,000 QSOs, but we more than doubled that with 112,000 contacts in the log.

On 29 November the stations were dismantled and all materials packed in order to fly back to Germany the next day. Before our departure from Frankfurt/Main, all participants agreed: 'We will definitely make another big DXpedition!'

Thanks to all our sponsors and the hospitality of the ASSAKER club in Tripoli and the Libyan people!

Look for more information at our homepage at

<http://5a7a.gmxhome.de>

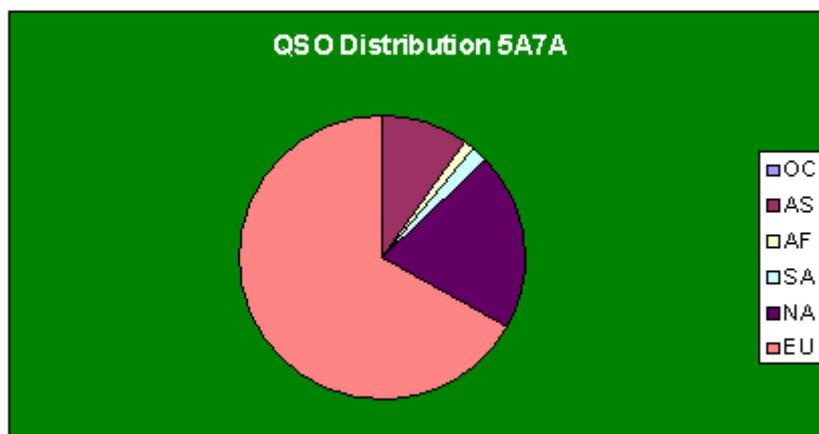
Our final results:

5A7A Band/Mode Breakdown										
	CW	SSB	RTTY	PSK	SSTV	FM	WSJT	FSK441	Band	
160	6344	928	283	98	0	0	0	0	7653	new record!
80	10397	7243	377	4	0	0	0	0	18021	new record!
40	13018	11984	1273	222	0	0	0	0	26497	new record?
30	7553	0	490	9	0	0	0	0	8052	
20	8351	9920	1490	11	71	0	0	0	19843	
17	4231	4598	802	55	0	0	0	0	9686	
15	6388	8846	205	0	0	0	0	0	15439	
12	1872	1616	0	0	0	0	0	0	3488	
10	1893	1318	0	0	0	0	0	0	3211	
6	41	8	0	0	0	1	2	0	52	
2	2	6	0	0	0	0	63	210	281	
70cm	1	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	9	
Mode	60091	46473	4920	399	71	1	67	210	112232	

1-Band QSOs: 14722
2-Band QSOs: 5269
3-Band QSOs: 3282
4-Band QSOs: 2368
5-Band QSOs: 1948
6-Band QSOs: 1444
7-Band QSOs: 984

8-Band QSOs: 638
9-Band QSOs: 539
10-Band QSOs: 16
11-Band QSOs: 2

112,000 QSOs in 312 hours of operation = 359 QSO/h



Comparison of DX spots:

Call	Year	DX spots
3YØX	2006	9689
5A7A	2006	8035
VU7RG	2007	7930
D68C	2001	7692
VU7LD	2006	7089
3B9C	2004	7073
4O3T	2006	5323

QSLs received directly until now: 5107 (as of Jan. 28th 2007)

Contest summary:

Class: Multi OP/Multi TRX

Band	QSOs	DXC	Zones	Points	AVG
160	1547	85	20	4620	2.99
80	3276	115	33	9795	2.99
40	4673	133	36	13973	2.99
20	3713	132	37	11061	2.98
15	2997	11061	34	8929	2.98
10	1448	94	28	4268	2.95
Total	17654	682	188	52646	2.98
Total score				45,802,020	

3B9/G3TXF operating CW from Rodrigues

Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF

nigel@G3TXF.com

Both Dora and Enok had an impact on the timing of the February 2007 CW-only operation as 3B9/G3TXF. Dora was the name of an Indian Ocean cyclone that went close by Rodrigues Island, 3B9 (which lies 300 miles to the east of Mauritius), on the day we were due to fly to Rodrigues from Mauritius. All flights to Rodrigues were cancelled for a day and a half.

A few days later, once 3B9/G3TXF was finally all set up and operating on Rodrigues, Enok came by. Enok was the second cyclone encountered on the trip. Enok came quite close to Rodrigues island, with the gusts of wind strong enough to virtually empty the Cotton Bay Hotel's swimming pool. The pool was then immediately filled up again by the torrents of rain water flooding across the ground. Everything had to be tied down, otherwise it was just blown away!

By the time cyclone Enok arrived 3B9/G3TXF already had a few thousand QSOs in the log, and had just put up a second vertical antenna at the water's edge. However, in order to avoid the newly installed HF2V being smashed in the wind, it was taken down just before Enok arrived. The peak of the cyclone storm was in the late evening after dinner. Operating during the passing of the cyclone was not possible both because of the intense lightning that was going on all around outside and because of the high level of noise within the shack from the heavy rain on the shack roof, which made it impossible to hear anything anyway! There was no option but to go QRT during the night that Enok passed.

However, it was a nice surprise when waking up just before dawn after cyclone Enok, to find that the 40m vertical was not only still in its original position but also that the matching had not changed. The

operating schedule that had been adopted over the previous few days (ie operating on the LF bands from an hour or so before dusk through until late in the night) could be continued.

Cotton Bay Hotel

The Cotton Bay Hotel on the east side of the island of Rodrigues was the location for the major 3B9C DXpedition in April 2004. This made my trip planning particularly easy. Not only did I know that the hotel was a good radio location, but the best room for operating (Room 902) could be identified beforehand.

Even though the major 153,000-QSO 3B9C operation had taken place less than three years ago and as a consequence 3B9 had fallen way below 100 on all the DX Magazine's Most Wanted Countries listings, there was still plenty of demand for 3B9 with many saying "tnx new one" on 30m, 40m or 80m. It does not take long for a rare country that has been activated intensively at one time by a major DX-pedition to creep back up the Most Wanted lists again.

There is just one resident operator on Rodrigues: CDXC Local Hero, Robert 3B9FR. Robert has been active on CW on the HF bands since 1985 and has provided many DX operators with their first 3B9 QSO. Robert's QTH in Citronelle has a superb take-off towards the north, which explains why 3B9FR is so easy to hear and work in Europe.

Sea take-off

On any DXpedition the direction of take-off is critical. As has been described in these pages many times before by Roger, G3SXW, the direction of the salt water take-off is all-important when looking for a DX-

trip location. For working most areas of the world, North is the all-important direction. If you haven't got a clear salt water take-off to the North, then look for somewhere else to stay!

The Cotton Bay Hotel is a superb location in many respects. It has a clear sea take-off from North through East to South-East. The Great Circle short path to Eastern Europe, UA9, JA and VK is perfect over the sea. It is also ideal for the USA on the long path. However, it was a surprise to find that there was a 250ft hill running straight up from the hotel to the North-West. This would be 'in the way' for the southern USA and the Caribbean on the short path, and also for the south-western tip of Europe. However, W6 and the northern USA on short path were fortunately still with a sea take-off (but only just!) from the Cotton Bay Hotel. The negative impact of ground rising away from the antenna should never be underestimated, even in an otherwise excellent location.

Tourism on Rodrigues is still relatively under-developed. There are only three or four major hotels. The Cotton Bay Hotel is by far the most suitable for Amateur Radio, as it has direct access to the beach and has a good take-off in nearly all the key directions.

Several of the hotel staff at the Cotton Bay Hotel remembered the April 2004 3B9C operation. One told me how there were funny-looking aerials all over the place and that the group even had a room set aside for storing their beer. I wonder what that was all about?

Languages

There are three main languages in Mauritius: Creole (which is based on French), French and English. Although English is the administrative language (eg all the road signs, my licence, school textbooks and legal texts are in English), the default language with foreigners is usually French. However, all Mauritians slip

effortlessly from French into English and back into French again.

Licence

Getting a Licence in Mauritius was not difficult - it just took some time. The ICTA is the body that issues all radio licences. They have offices in the capital of Mauritius: Port Louis. The ICTA even have a website showing pending licence applications. These include amateur radio visitor licences. It is important to keep the Mauritius Amateur Radio Society (MARS) informed of your application. Several helpful e-mails were received from Jacky, 3B8CF, during the application process. A copy of the original application was also sent to Jacky at the MARS. The ICTA licence itself is a comprehensive document covering many details of amateur radio. The time-consuming part of the application appears to be a mysterious 'security clearance' procedure.

In the age of the Internet and all the various goings-on there, getting 'security clearance' for an amateur radio station with its extremely limited communications capability seems slightly anachronistic. Hopefully the Mauritius licensing authorities can eventually be persuaded to sign up to the CEPT agreement. This would undoubtedly add significantly to the number of amateur radio tourists to both Mauritius (3B8) and Rodrigues (3B9).

Operating

As this was a combined family holiday and radio trip, the operating schedule was not quite as intense as it can be on a pure radio trip. Due to a problem with one of the antennas, operation was confined to 30m for the first few days. After cyclone Enok had passed operation was then on 40 and 80m. Operating started about an hour before sunset with a session on either 30m or 40m which took me up to apéritif time (yes, this WAS a holiday trip too!) at 1515z.

Rodrigues is four hours ahead of GMT. I usually got back to the shack from dinner by about 1730z. The nights were spent alternating between working on 40m and 80m, and snoozing. I was able to do the 80m dawn session on three days. The last QSOs on 80m were usually at about 0215z.

Antennas and station

For 80m a Butternut HF2V was mounted on one of the conveniently positioned wooden fence posts just by the beach. The HF2V was easily tuned onto 3.510 MHz. Four long radials were run out across the beach and into the sea. These radials certainly helped with generating a good signal on 80m. There were good runs into Europe and the USA, including the West Coast on 80m.

A fibreglass pole was used as a support for either a 40m or 30m vertical. There were two elevated tuned radials which ran along a wooden fence at about 4ft above ground level. The proximity to the sea certainly helped the signal on these two bands.

The station was a much-travelled Kenwood TS-570DG transceiver together with an Acom 1010 amplifier. The latter was run gently at about 400W out. The addition of even a small amplifier makes a huge difference to the ability to control pile-ups on LF. Notwithstanding this, 3B9/G3TXF was the subject of some considerable jamming on 80m, much of which I could easily hear. The best way to counter the deliberate jamming on 80m is to just keep going, but also for the DX station to move his TX frequency once in a while. Hopefully the pile-up cottons on to the slight change in TX frequency quicker than the jammers do!

QSO Summary

5,130 CW QSOs (no dupes) were made during the short trip to Rodrigues. The breakdown of QSOs with the Top Ten countries on 80m-40m-30m is shown in the following table:

Band	80m	40m	30m
W	315	441	426
JA	88	384	500
UA	97	170	232
UR	51	77	176
DL	49	74	166
UA9	29	74	92
SP	30	44	88
OK	33	32	83
G-ALL	19	45	68
I	18	33	77
VE	28	26	23
Others	143	320	469
Totals	900	1,720	2,400

The USA was the top country on 80m and 40m, whereas the JAs were just ahead on 30m. This reflects more my own band operating times rather than anything to do with propagation. The best opening times to JA on 80m unfortunately coincided with the evening apéritif and dinner times!

The return journey home from Rodrigues went to schedule and was not disturbed by any cyclones. There are two Air Mauritius flights per day in each direction between Mauritius and Rodrigues. 3B9/G3TXF continued operating throughout the last night on Rodrigues. The antennas were taken down and the station all packed up between the last QSO on 80m about 30 minutes after the 6am sunrise and the taxi coming to collect us from the hotel at 7.30am. It was quite a rush. The HF2V was given to 3B9FR – hopefully it will encourage Robert to brave the wild pile-ups on 40m and 80m!

The flight back to Mauritius got us there in the late morning. We stayed overnight near the airport in Mauritius. The BA flight back home left early the following morning and 11 hours later (daytime flight) we were back at Heathrow. Although Dora and Enok had messed things up a bit on the way out and during the stay on Rodrigues, once those two Indian Ocean cyclones had passed the 3B9/G3TXF CW-only operation from Rodrigues went according to plan.

SXW Corner

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After QRT

There are so many pitfalls for the modern DXer. Many of them have been discussed in these columns before, but one has not been covered. So here goes. We first noticed this nasty trick some years ago, but like many other cynical acts of nastiness on the bands this one is becoming more common. It is all the more nasty because it is almost hidden.

Not in Log

The only way this insidious trick becomes evident is when your card is returned 'Not in Log', or on LotW you are simply not in the DXpedition's log. This is potentially a very bitter pill and always something of a slap in the face.

Most times you are found not to be in the log for one of two reasons: a) the DXpedition station has copied and logged the call slightly incorrectly: G3SXM is logged at the same time on the same band. Case proved. QSL provided. The DXpedition operator made the error in copying and/or logging the caller's callsign, no problem. Or b) you are simply not in the log and no callsign similar either. A complete mystery.

Sometimes the DXpedition goes back to 'G3SXW 5NN' - and lo and behold not only does G3SXW come back with his exchange but you also hear AB1CD sending an exchange 100 Hz off frequency. Excuse me? Did I go back to anything like AB1CD? No, sir! Why he thought I had gone back to him is a mystery.

Even if he cannot copy CW very well or if he had a burst of QRM at that moment, what possible evidence was there for him to think that his was the call replied to? But I digress.

I am QRT

The nasty trick referred to here is when some third-rate, sick moron decides to take over the pile-up when I vacate the frequency. I have been running a pile-up on, say, 14.023 MHz for the past three hours, but then go QRT. This alternative station then immediately takes over the pile-up, pretending to be me. He does so quite often with consummate skill, on exactly the same TX frequency, with the same keying style and content. So some folks get fooled into believing that they have got into the DXpedition's log when they work him.

As always with these freaks of nature, let us not even discuss why they are not locked up in a mental institution nor why they do this, inflicting nothing but disappointment on their fellow men. I guess it makes them feel good, but Lord knows how or why. Sad losers!

Commonly they run stations for a short while and then disappear. Mostly this is for just a few QSOs, but I have known (from tracking incoming QSL cards) that they have occasionally continued the pile-up for an hour or more. Upon checking incoming QSLs the trend becomes clear. On a typical one-week DXpedition there are one or possibly two occasions when going QRT or QSYing to another band that a pirate takes over. This may lead to a handful or even a couple of dozen QSL cards which have to be returned as 'Not in Log'.

Pirate

So, this is a common or garden pirate, stealing people's trust and helping to kill enthusiasm in the noble art of DXing whenever someone receives a 'not in log'. But it is a modern form of pirating which calls for some skill. Even when it is done

with little skill, a few callers will be still be fooled, ie those with less DXing experience.

Even if the pirate uses an identical frequency and keying style and content, surely in most cases the signal strength will give the game away, even if it is only an S point or two. Most of the old hands will detect the difference and realise what is happening very quickly. They will not be fooled. They instantly issue a warning on the Cluster. But come what may, quite a few DXers are fooled, maybe including newcomers to the game who are especially vulnerable to being tricked and to then being bitterly disappointed.

Solution?

As already hinted, I doubt that the solution resides in psychoanalysing and correcting the deviations of the permanently damaged individuals whose upbringing evidently included frequent bouts of child abuse or other cruelties. Instead, we have to look to our own actions to minimise the potential damage.

There is one powerful corrective action that can be taken on each side of the pile-up. The callers can replace fantasy with reality: they should believe that they have completed a two-way contact only with the genuine station, and should ignore the antics of pirates. This they can do by not believing that he is the pile-up station just because he sounds halfway genuine. Take note of any marginal differences in sending.

Much more importantly the pile-up operator can put an end to this aberration very simply and very completely. All he needs to do is to make an announcement that he is going QRT or QSY. To make this effective he needs to repeat the information several times. The pile-up takes up to 20 or 30 seconds to stop their non-stop ill-informed calling, so the announcement needs to be repeated (during one continuous transmission) many times for 20-30 seconds. Saying, for example: "QRT 30

minutes, QRT 30 minutes..." etc. (on CW at only 18 wpm), or: "QSY 14.023 now, QSY 14.023 now" etc., sent about five times. You get the idea.

If the DXpedition operator does this, then he entirely spikes the guns of those ill-intentioned pirates. By the way (another hobby horse of mine), it is also a courtesy to the hordes of callers to let them know that you are about to QRT or QSY. If you have been caught by a sudden power cut, then you are forgiven. But in ANY other circumstance you are NEVER forgiven for just disappearing in a puff of smoke. Even if the Prime Minister himself walks into the shack it takes only a few moments to make this sort of announcement. So, hey, let's just do it, OK? Don't ever leave a pile-up hanging. Have a care. Let them know that they have lost the chance, at least for the moment, of making the QSO. Just think: at the same time as being caring you are also spiking the guns of those intolerable pirates.

Close-in Topography

Several years ago Nigel/G3TXF and Ian/G3WVG visited 8Q7. I was due to join them, but had to pull out at the last minute, so I was waiting for them to show up on the bands with bated breath. I knew exactly on which frequency (14.023) to look for them and at what time, early on a Saturday afternoon my time. I left the receiver running on that frequency while pottering in the shack, but nothing happened. Finally, I put out a CQ DX on that frequency, beaming in their direction, and was instantly called by a very weak station. It was Nigel. He was RST 229, so I could barely copy him. But at least I knew that they had reached their hotel safely and were set up.

I checked for them again the following day, early afternoon. Their signal had magically increased to 579. Hmm, I couldn't believe that the bands had improved so dramatically, but had to await their return to

UK to hear the story. They were staying on a typical Maldives island resort: a tiny, circular island filled with palm trees, with guest chalets dotted all around the beach. Upon arrival they had been allocated rooms on the beach facing South-East. Finding that they could only work JA, and not Europe, they arranged to be re-housed the next morning on the North-facing beach. That made a truly massive difference to their signals in Europe, several S units. This was the first time, as I recall, that the importance of close-in topography really came home to me.

Important Criteria

We have since established which are the important criteria by dint of building experience operating in many different locations.

1. Target Areas: our overriding priority is to work Europe and the UK. Therefore the DXpedition site must favour that Great Circle heading. Typically most DXpedition locations are more southerly than Europe, North America and Japan (the three main population centres), so it is almost always the case that a location which favours a northerly take-off is to be preferred. Ideally the location must be good from West through North to East.

2. Good take-off: there should be no hills in the desired headings. It is rare to have literally NO hills, so it becomes a matter of the distance to those hills, and therefore the vertical angle of the blockage. When looking at the horizon you should hope for a maximum of 10 degrees, with hills in the distance. This could be a fairly close low hill, or a high hill further away. A good little trick to guesstimate the vertical angle of a blockage is to use the hands. Very roughly one hand-width is ten degrees, when the hand is held flat horizontally, from the top of the index finger to the bottom of the little finger. Face the palm towards you and place one hand on top of the other, stepping up

nine times you will reach a point roughly straight above your head, at 90 degrees.

3. Salt-Water: it seems very obvious, but the importance of salt water cannot be overstated. It can enhance radiation of RF immeasurably. However, as with all aspects, we are talking here of close-in topography. If the salt water is more than a few metres away it's effect will diminish. Our very best location for close-in salt water was in P29. We were on a spit of land sticking into the sea, to the north. Nigel planted his vertical at what we thought was high-tide mark, but when the gently lapping tide came in it completely surrounded the antenna, which was mounted on a support post. Wow! Magic! Conversely, our seaside location in Ghana, at the Oyster Bay Hotel, looks and sounds great, but most of the antennas were 200 metres or more from the sea, which was to the south. The sea might as well not have been there.

4. Ground Conductivity: this is pretty much the same as point 3. above: if you can locate antennas on clay rather than on sand, as we all know, your RF will radiate better. Again, this has to be really close in. A marsh 300 metres away will have little beneficial effect.

5. Trees: we do believe, simply from practical experience, that heavy foliage can block RF, especially a solid screen of palm trees. We know from the location on the Maldives with which we started this article that trees have a substantial attenuation effect. After all, they are filled with water. Water underneath the antenna is good, as RF may be reflected upwards, but a wall of water can act like a hill to block signals.

Postscript

The Effect of Trees

We suggested that trees can block radiation of RF, just like a hill. There is, of course, a second serious complication: trees (foliage) can affect resonance.

A friend recently told me that when he had to chop down a large copper beech tree in his garden the resonant frequency of his 80m dipole shifted from 3.650 to 3.600 MHz. That is logical. The tree was detuning the antenna somewhat, making it seem shorter than it really was, hence when the foliage was removed the resonant frequency came down, as the antenna now thought itself to be longer. This was a 1.4% frequency shift, equivalent to nearly one foot needing to be cut from each side of the dipole to regain the previous resonance, 50 kHz higher in the band.

For his 40m dipole the resonant frequency changed from 7.100 to 7.020 MHz. That is 1.1% longer, needing about 5 inches to be taken off each side.

This demonstrates the effect of foliage on antennas, the same as if the antenna is lowered closer to the ground. Now, if an antenna is detuned by ground (or by foliage) this tells me that some RF is being absorbed by the ground, and therefore the antenna is radiating less efficiently. It's not merely a matter of adjusting the antenna length to achieve resonance at the desired frequency, it is also loss of efficiency.

Perhaps some kind soul will tell us (without too much science and mathematics) how to assess the loss of efficiency. A nice rough and ready rule-of-thumb maybe: what proportion of RF is absorbed if the ground effect is to detune an antenna by one per cent? In fact, I do suggest that we as DXers are largely ignorant about RF radiating efficiency of antennas. We know all about SWR, but this is only one part of the story. We seem not to have a ready reckoner for determining how well an antenna radiates. Maybe some expert can give us a digestible explanation that doesn't blind us with too much science.

Everything is Relative

All of this is relative and rather subjective. I offer no science to support these theories,

nor statistics to quantify things. I just KNOW from operating in nearly fifty countries that these are the most important criteria when choosing an operating site.

And there is no cut-off. It is all relative. How close-in is close-in? One issue is the distance from the antenna when RF will bounce back up from the earth. The textbooks will tell you that this is quantifiable, measured in wavelengths of frequency. The most important area is within just a few feet of the antenna, but even up to 200 metres can have an affect (depending on frequency and height of antenna). In terms of blockages by rising ground (or enhancement from downward-sloping ground), clearly the distance is whatever it is: the higher the angle of blockage the more the signal will be degraded, especially with low-angle antennas like verticals.

And it is not just hills: even gently sloping ground can seriously affect radiation of RF. At 3DA/G3SXW (Piggs Peak, Swaziland) the ground sloped gently upwards to the north, towards Europe. The slope was so gentle that you might not even notice it at first, but were convinced that it attenuated European signals. The path to USA was magnificent, across a wide, deep valley and reports of our signals were much better.

I am certainly no expert in this field. What I have come to believe is based purely on empirical experience. You get a feel for how good or how bad a particular location is as a radio-QTH, notwithstanding propagation conditions on the day. Two examples of a 'good' radio QTH are ZD9SXW and ISØ/G3SXW. On Tristan da Cunha there was a clear sea horizon for 180 degrees and with a 2,000 foot vertical mountain about 300 metres behind. The ground was waterlogged. On Sardinia our little dipole was within five feet of the Mediterranean Sea (to the north). Of course in both cases the complete lack of man-made noise also helped a lot to make the bands feel lively.

DXpedition Planning

These comments about close-in topography apply to any location, including the home QTH. But when it comes to DXpedition planning these issues are especially important: we need to radiate the loudest possible signal.

When hearing that a DXpedition has a weak signal, we at first consider that it is poor propagation. But if other signals from that geographic area are much louder, we wonder if the DXpedition is operating with QRP. Having learned that he has 100W, we then wonder if he has a poorly matched antenna. What we almost never consider is whether his location is blocked or otherwise compromised. That's natural enough because we very seldom have any information about the topography, even after the event.

Advance planning to choose a good radio QTH is not easy. Telephoning the hotel and asking: "Are there any hills close by, to the north?" rarely elicits a valuable reply. In the ideal case a recce is conducted to pick the best location and/or to at least know what the limitations are.

Suffice to say that as a matter of priority these days we target good QTH locations rather than rare DXCC countries. To find an ideal location in a rare or at least semi-rare country is rather unusual. But there is a trade-off: to go to an awful radio QTH in a super-rare country or to an excellent radio QTH in an unrare country. An example of a good balance here was our trip to FP. That's certainly not rare, but the location (close-in topography) has to be one of the best in the world. So we put out loud signals, enough for hot pile-ups for several days, even though St Pierre & Miquelon is not needed by many DXCC chasers.

A worthwhile exercise would be to check which of the three recently activated VU7 islands was putting out the best signal. We know that their signal strength varied

greatly and we know which station was which from their TX frequency. I do know that the Agatti site was excellent, right on the beach, North- and West-facing. It would not surprise me to learn that the other two sites were to the south or east of their island and/or were surrounded by palm trees. Another good example was the VK9N DXpedition last year. They had cleverly selected the hotel closest to the NW corner of the island. But in fact it was about a mile from the north coast, a similar distance from the west coast and was surrounded by trees. They may as well have been on the South or East of the island.

A powerful new tool has come to our rescue recently, much improving the chances of picking a good radio QTH. That is Google Earth. It is magic. Vertical elevation is even provided if you tilt the picture - not accurate, but gives a good impression. Also, by moving the mouse and watching the elevation figures we can check the extent of blockage by hills in important directions. How did we live before Google Earth?!

Of course there are other criteria which affect RF performance and signal strength, like beam direction, power output, impedance matching, feeder losses etc. But these are rather well known. The impact of local topography is less well known, perhaps because for most of us we just have to get on with whichever location we live in.

Online Logs

Many DXpeditions nowadays promise that they will upload logs to the Internet the same day. The obvious advantages are barely worth repeating here: this should help to reduce the number of dupes in the log, once we know that we are safely logged, and it just adds to the fun for everyone.

But as with every technological development these days there are also down sides. It can change the very dynamics of

the situation. The main problem is expectation management. Very quickly in recent years we have come to assume that online logs will be provided by all DXpeditions and that they will be uploaded efficiently within the hour. For those with a broadband connection at home it is so easy to be lulled into assuming that this connectivity is available on all remote islands and sand spits across the globe and/or that satellites will come to the rescue. The reality is that very few DXpeditions manage to access the Internet well enough to upload their logs - even daily.

Two-way QSOs

I suggest that it is time to go back to basics. Instead of checking the online log (and moaning when it is not available within a few hours) to see if our flaky QSO is in the log, it is time that we reverted to the tried and tested method of just making solid two-way contacts. The QSL will follow. Instead of relying on technology to establish whether we are safely in the log, we should hone our communication skills and make good contacts so that we are sure that we are in the log and have no need to worry.

The one circumstance in which online logs are REALLY useful is when a pirate has been active. This seems to be more frequent these days, for example when the DXpedition vacates the frequency and someone else adopts the pile-up. Callers seem not to notice when the DXpedition suddenly increases signal strength by three S-points, because they are so thrilled to finally get the QSO.

Technology AOK!

DXers should assume that a DXpedition does NOT have good Internet connectivity, so uploading logs will at best be slow and partial. If on the odd occasion a DXpedition can manage to confirm your QSO online (and has the manpower not to detract from the main objective of making QSOs), then

this is a bonus - it is NOT a fundamental aspect of the DXpedition.

Believe me, on almost every DXpedition (except maybe FSDXA trips with 40+ attendees) it takes every ounce of effort to keep the antennas in the air and the stations on the air and manned 24/7. Uploading logs to the Internet is NOT a high priority and merely detracts from the main purpose of making QSOs.

So which type of DXpedition do you think is the better?

a) the few with plenty of manpower and good internet connectivity who can upload logs every day so we all know that we are safely in the log

b) the majority of DXpeditions who promise to upload logs, but then fail to do so efficiently and cause chaos, worry and dupe QSOs

or

c) the old-fashioned DXpeditions who ignore all this nonsense, instead maximising their efforts on making QSOs from their rare location.

Answers on a postcard, if you insist!

Shorter Contests?

Here's my theory: roughly the same number of testers are entering contests and making roughly the same number of contacts, but are making them more quickly than a few years ago. So we all work each other in less time. To compensate for this contests need to be made shorter. This is especially evident in short domestic contests. Heck, I know I am generalising, but that doesn't make me wrong. Just think about it for a minute.

We have just done AFS CW, a four-hour event. The first hour is all go and the second hour goes fairly well too. But the third hour slows to a crawl and then the fourth hour is purgatory, trying to unearth any station that you have not already worked. You either CQ ten times to get one response or you tune the band, only finding stations that are already in the log. There's just not enough action. Exactly the same happens in NFD.

Only a few years ago it was wall-to-wall stations from the bottom to the top of the band. You couldn't find a spare frequency on which to call CQ. That is no longer the way it is. No-one even bothers to 'warm up' a frequency before the starting pistol these days, because it is only too easy to find an empty slot.

Yet the winners are making the same winning scores. Is this just my mistaken impression? How can this be? Overall, the same number of QSOs are being made but the band sounds half-empty. Hmm.

Technology + Operating Skill

Compared to only a few years ago, technology has improved dramatically. Everyone now has CW filters and receivers which reject close-in loud signals. We all have modern devices such as quick VOX and memory keyers - plus sending and logging and duping by computer. In addition we are all much snappier in our operating style than we used to be. Again with much generalisation we have all learned to exclude redundant information in our transmissions. And we understand that being brief is no longer rude. So any one contact now takes ten seconds, not the 30 or 40 that it used to take.

Finite Volume

If we assume that there is broadly a pre-determined maximum potential for QSOs, then all these QSOs may be made these days in less time. If there is a 25% increase in hourly QSO rates resulting from better

technology and improved operating skills, then a four-hour contest could become a three-hour contest and nothing else would change. The winners would still be the winners. Everyone would have the same amount of fun - but all in those first three hours, without the boring fourth hour.

The one big advantage would be that we would not all have to struggle through the last hour vainly trying to find a new station to work. This is a killer. Surely it deflates the excitement and makes us less likely, not more likely, to enter this same event next time.

Evidence

Hourly rates speak volumes. In AFS this year I made these hourly rates:

Hour	QSOs
1	76
2	50
3	38
4	26
Total	190

Frankly, 26 per hour is NOT fun! One CQ lasts about ten seconds. At, say, 30 QSOs per hour that is one every two minutes. So we make twelve CQs to make one QSO. Yukk! Boring!

Another piece of evidence I would offer is that the new 80m CC has taken off like a house on fire. These contests are only 90 minutes long. Yes, this suits busy folk with family commitments etc. But I suggest that it is also important to realise that during these 90 minutes the QSO rate holds up. It does not last long enough for the QSO rate to dry up. So we go away exhilarated, not desperately hoping for it to end.

Finally, check it out: the winning scores are by and large about the same as they used to be a few years ago. Maybe slightly increased. The average number of QSOs per entrant and the total number of QSOs made during the contest have not changed

materially. In NFD, for example, the winners aim for 1,200 QSOs or thereabouts in 24 hours, the same as twenty years ago. That is a trifling 50 per hour. The last few hours are really boring, maybe only fifteen per hour.

PS: this thinking does not apply to the really major events like CQ WW and WPX. It seems that in these 48-hour worldwide events the population is growing, the winning scores get ever bigger, hourly QSO rates expand and they hold up right through until the end of the event. It seems that these few major events have reached critical mass, have broken through the barrier and are set to just keep on expanding.

Action?

By far the best solution would be for us all to find new testers to join the fray. If we could expand the number of active testers, then our QSO rates could be kept above crawling pace during the closing stages of the contest. Everyone would enjoy it more and would be more likely to come back next year. But if we cannot entice new testers (or more new testers than those we are losing, ie a net gain), then surely we need to shorten contests to compensate for this increased QSO productivity.

Recommendation: all RSGB contests should be shortened. For example, AFS should be reduced from four to three hours, The 24-hour contests like NFD should be made 20 hours. It's win-win: we would enjoy it more, would be more likely to come back next year, the winners still win and the anti-contest brigade cheer.

New IRCs

For several decades there was a little IRC which had no expiry date. Then the bureaucrats needed something to keep them

occupied, so along came the new IRC which expired on 31/12/06. A third version was then published which expires on 31/12/09. These latter two are twice the size and four times the weight of the original one.

In recent times there have been dire warnings in the DX press about trading in your 31/12/06-expiring IRCs. It is still early days, but first signs are that the DXing community has been very efficient in doing so. Since the turn of the year I have not received a single outdated one with QSL requests (which are currently running at about a dozen per day). Whilst it might seem that modern DXers can be highly undisciplined in their operating practices, they do appear to be highly disciplined when it comes to money. Fancy that!

I have also noticed a distinct trend just recently away from IRCs and into dollar bills. It might appear that the confusion caused by the 'Union Postale Universelle' is reducing sales of their product. Perhaps this is their intention.

Confusion also reigns with different reactions at different post offices, some accepting one thing and some accepting another. My fully-trained local post office accepts all and every IRC, including the ones which expired last month. No questions asked. They would not do so unless the extra sales were being credited to them. If you get a refusal at one office, try elsewhere. If really stuck, try asking me to help.

Finally, and I am not a francophobe, but is it not really bizarre in the 21st century that IRCs are printed in French? There must be twenty other languages which are spoken more widely these days.

Ah well, it's all good fun, innit.

73 de Roger, G3SXW

Beijing Words

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For the past few years I have been living in the Far East and have been able to get licences for Malaysia (9M2FB) and Thailand (HSØZGL). In May of this year I joined a project in Beijing and so had to start all over again on the licensing process. Our project office is situated on the south side of Beijing and is quite a long way from the tourist areas. However, when I consulted the map I discovered that the office is only a 5-minute taxi ride from the Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA) headquarters. Fortunately I had brought my Malaysian licence.

So one lunch time I set off down there armed with this and several passport photographs. CRSA is home to BY1PK and there are an impressive array of antennas on the roof. The CRSA staff were friendly enough, but communication was a bit of a problem. However, I was able to make them understand what I wanted and was issued with an operating permit within about 20 minutes. It is valid until the end of 2008 and only cost me about £1.80! Please note that I used the term 'operating permit' and not licence. There is no call sign involved, but the permit allows me to guest operate from someone else's station.

The obvious choice was to operate from BY1PK, but there are certain limitations. The station is only available during normal office hours and it is closed at weekends. Unfortunately the project I am working on keeps me very busy and so weekday operation is pretty much precluded. I got a friend at work to phone CRSA and as a result was lucky enough to be introduced to a delightful young lady called Sun Ya Qin. She is a teacher at a high school in West Beijing and is licenced as BD1SUN. There is a club station at the school (BY1BZH) and it is possible to operate from there on Saturday mornings. This is obviously not a good time for working into Europe, but it is

better than nothing. The station is equipped with a brand-new IC-756 and there is a 3-element beam on the roof. So I have spent quite a few happy Saturday mornings there.

One initial problem was that the station did not have a CW key, so I imported a Bencher from Waters & Stanton. There were minimal problems in getting it cleared by customs. I told the clearing agent to describe it as an electrical switch. Any mention of radio would be fatal!

After several Saturday sessions it was coming up to the CQ WW CW weekend, so I asked Sun Ya Qin the inevitable question, "Can I stay all night long?". I was not entirely surprised when she said no. She had obviously anticipated the question because she had an alternative suggestion at the ready. She put me in touch with Professor Sun Yi Nan at Tsinghua University. He is in charge of the BY1QH club station there and extended me an invitation to CQ WW. The club was once very active, but membership has declined in recent years. The shack contains an impressive collection of elderly rigs and linears. Antennas include a 4-element monobander for 20m. For the contest I used a TS-450 and AL 811 amplifier. The TS-450 was a bit of a problem in that it did not have a CW filter. CQ WW is quite an interesting experience with a 2.4 kHz bandwidth.

Anyway, it was great fun and Su Ning, BD1FBV, acted as my 'minder' during the contest! The antennas seemed to work very well and the site is much quieter than at BY1BZH. Tsinghua University is the leading technical university in China and the campus is enormous, with 30,000 students! So operating from China is really quite easy, but some patience is required in finding a willing host!

G3TMA, guest operator at BY1BZH

The RTTY Column

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Over the last three months there has been some very nice DX about, and most have provided good levels of RTTY. Maybe not enough to satisfy some, but certainly most DXpeditions have made a good attempt at RTTY.

Some that operated are YWØDX, Aves Island; S21XA, Bangladesh; XT2C, Burkina Faso; XU7XRO, Cambodia; J2ØMM, Djibouti; VU7RG, Lakshadweep Islands - and currently there is Norfolk Island by a group of DLs.

I did manage VU7RG on 40m RTTY, but missed out on the higher bands, as I just wasn't around when they were on 20m and 17m. I also managed them on 30m and 40m CW!

I did miss Aves and couldn't hear them on several occasions when they were reported, but I did log XU7XRO on 30m and XT2C on 20m, both of which were new band slots for me.

I know quite a few of you had a go in the CQ WPX RTTY contest, and the rest of you can't have missed the level of activity for this contest. The number of active stations was amazing and could set a record for the number of received logs. 20m was extremely busy, with RTTY stretching from 14.050 all the way up to 14.150. During the late afternoons there were good openings to W6, W7 and WØ, plus VE6 and VE7. Some of the West Coast stations were as strong as European stations, with no flutter on the signals at all. A good time to work those rarer states too!

40m was also in fine shape and I had a seriously good couple of hours on that band on the Sunday afternoon. I started calling CQ tentatively, as this isn't the easiest band to work a pile-up without a decent antenna,

but I had a nice pile-up and worked at a rate of around 70+ per hour for almost the whole two hours. It only got cut short because some kind person decided to spot me elsewhere on the same band, which meant I suddenly had a lot of callers trying me again, and the rate dropped right down to around 20 per hour. At that point it was time to give up and move.

This false spotting seemed to be a phenomenon of WPX. I saw my own call being abused by some folk who thought that if they spotted me on their run frequency, I might go and work them! I didn't fall for that trick and feel it is not a good way to behave. I don't mind too much if a station asks me to spot them, although I am not sure it is quite in the spirit of things, but I am not happy to see my own call being abused in this way. After the contest, it would appear that there were quite a few stations who suffered by being spotted on someone else's frequency.

I did see many G stations being worked and bagged a few myself. I also saw several desperately calling CQ on 20m late in the evenings, and working the States. Great, but what a waste of points! A read of the rules would have shown that you get double points for contacts on the lower bands, and it would have made much more sense to make the most of these.

Later in the evening, 20m was still open, but 40m was also open to the States and allowed one to work the same stations for double points. My rates were also quite high, so there was no real reason to stay on 20m.

Post-WPX also saw a lot of comments about the form of the exchange. I think the important thing to remember is to use a CR/LF at the beginning and end of your macro, but some were just suggesting a

space at the end is all that is needed. This may depend on your approach to the contest. If you are a 'big gun', and plan on CQing for most of the contest, then every small advantage is worth it, but for most of us the extra time needed to send a CR/LF instead of a space is not going to make a huge difference!

How you send the actual exchange *can* make a lot of difference, and I favour the 'HISCALL TU 599 001 001 001 GUØSUP' style. I always send the serial number three times, seeing as if you just send it twice there is always a chance it will look like 001 101 and then you have to ask for a repeat. Sending it three times seems to reduce the number of repeats needed during a contest, and, if you do get asked for a repeat, then it is worth having a macro with only the serial number once, and hitting that key as many times as may be needed.

I do not like the '599 001 001 TU' style of report, as it is just too ambiguous. I often get called by several stations at once, and it can be quite confusing if you come back to me with just a report. I need to know your call, and want it confirmed that the report I have just logged has come from you, and not some other station.

If you are in S & P mode, and you call someone, just send 'DE YOURCALL YOURCALL YOURCALL' without anything else. If you send 'GUØSUP DE YOURCALL YOURCALL' I often get to see my own call, but YOUR call gets lost in the garbage of several callers. Sending just the DE followed by your own call means there is a better than even chance I will get you before the clutter starts. Under no circumstances do you need 'GUØSUP GUØSUP DE MYCALL MYCALL'. This is a complete waste, and is one of those things that bugs me.

It can pay dividends to have YOURCALL programmed into a buffer just once - no DE,

no KN, nothing else! If you find someone going QRZ? or AGN?, then wait until all the noise has died and slip your callsign in. There is a fair chance that is what he will get, and what he will work. It really is about timing. This is where it becomes advantageous to get your call known amongst the RTTY fraternity. Callsign recognition counts for a lot and most will call me even if they just see part of my call.

If you entered WPX, even for a bit of fun, please do submit a log. You may not wish to have your score counted, but please consider sending it as a check-log. And it indeed looks as though WPX may exceed any previous records for log submission, possibly topping the 1,000 mark.

Always consider submitting a log, even if it is just for a few dozen QSOs. It must be quite disheartening for some contest sponsors to arrange a contest, see hundreds of participants, and then only get a few dozen logs submitted.

Submitting logs also help with callsign recognition, and any assistance you can make work for you will pay off in the end.

Don't forget to check

www.rttycontesting.com

for the latest contest dates.

73 for now, and see you in the contests

Phil, GUØSUP



CHILTERN DX CLUB
The UK DX Foundation

Contest

Lee Volante, GØMTN

AFS Contests 2007 and beyond

For my sins, I volunteered to adjudicate the AFS SSB contest for this year. It's been a little while since I looked after an HF contest and I was curious to see any changes in the logs submitted. I was pleased to note that correctly produced Cabrillo logs made up around 95% of the total. A few logs required a little editing to turn them into Cabrillo. Another couple appeared to have had manual edits made to them. One had headings for the columns added, and another appeared to have manually marked the duplicate QSOs. This isn't actually necessary – there's no added penalty for dupes, and contest sponsors accepting Cabrillo logs are not expecting entrants to modify the log their software produces.

A few other logs were originally submitted on paper, although appeared to be print-outs from a computer log. Fortunately they were able to be re-submitted as electronic logs, which meant they would not require typing up again. That left just one single handwritten paper log. It seems that the days of receiving a substantial proportion of handwritten logs are in the past. Whilst contest organisers have not wished to exclude those who don't own, or like to use computers in contesting, the reduction in paper logs, and the standardisation of Cabrillo, has meant the time taken to process logs is much reduced. It has taken quite a long time to reach this point, but it's pleasing to be here. I wonder how the evolution to an XML contest log format might occur, which would build upon the benefits of the Cabrillo standardisation.

For the SSB contest, from the logs I see once again QSO numbers from the leaders were very close to the 400 mark. I was a little concerned at the relative lack of interest prior to the contests for forming

CDXC teams for the CW and SSB events. However, it seems that many CDXC members were already committed by operating for their 'local clubs', which is even better. So domestic contesting is certainly alive and well – and it will be interesting to see if the AFS SSB event continues to generate more activity and entrants in future years compared with the CW event. The 80m Club Championship for 2007 has just started too, which is no doubt a catalyst for continued interest in AFS, although as in previous years the first months are a challenge with long skip and very poor intra-UK signals.

Whilst there has been some visible uplift in RTTY activity in non-domestic contests in the last year from UK stations, probably as a result of the 80m CC, it seems like the UK is still often under-represented in CW and SSB contests compared with similarly populated European countries. I just checked some old *Digests* for further inspiration for writing the rest of this column, and realised I've said exactly the same thing in a previous *Digest*. Should we be doing anything about this, and if so, what would be a possible solution? Maybe our RSGB contest programme is big enough to fulfil a lot of UK contesters' appetites completely (excepting maybe some CQ WW-type activity), whereas other European countries may only have one or two domestic events each year and so are more enthusiastic for other contests?

QSO statistics and LoTW

It's always interesting to see how contest activity can be compared. The numbers of events entered, the numbers of QSOs and DXCC worked, and the split by mode vary from person to person. The solar cycle can be mapped too – for consistent operators, DXers and contesters – the ratio of 10m

QSOs to 160m QSOs is an interesting statistic. From my own figures I can see how my overall SSB QSO numbers have reduced in the last few years, partly due to the lack of high band openings (I don't like SSB on the lower bands half as much!), and partly, I think, due to a change in preference in operating the different modes. Even very casual testers and DXers will be able to learn something from the various annual totals you can produce, and if you store all your QSOs, contest and otherwise, in a single electronic logbook, it's usually fairly easy to produce a set of statistics. It's also another great set of targets to set yourself if you're not going to be #1 in AFS, IOTA or CQ WW etc. and want a challenge.

There are some tools available to assist with analysis of individual logs. It is true that some of these could be used to manipulate logs, find errors and correct them before submitting them. This is a practice that I'm sure is seen to be outside the spirit of contesting, and to be clear, let me say I don't condone it in any way! But for pure analysis purposes, getting a better understanding of your last contest is a great way to prepare for the next one.

Use an Internet search engine to have a look at the following:

SH5 by UA4WLI
CBS by K5KA
CabrilloTools by WT4I
Logview by EI8IC

Logview is different, as it will allow graphical visualisation of USA and Canadian QSOs. Great if you're a tester from North America, or a fan of the ARRL DX contests.

There was a wry smile on my face while I browsed the article by Nigel, G3TXF, in the last CDXC *Digest*. Like everyone else I was impressed with Nigel's statistics on QSO totals. I managed to keep pace with Nigel's annual 'home QSO' total for 2006, although I still have a long way to go to match his all-

time number of domestic contacts, and I'm not even contemplating the DX trip QSOs made on top of this.

What was funny, though, was that like Nigel I'd also noticed last year that the ARRL Logbook of the World (LoTW) was about to record its 100 millionth QSO. I had visions of the 100 millionth QSO uploader being festooned with prizes and fame, akin to being a millionth visitor to a supermarket. ARRL life membership and a virtual trolley dash for DXCC credits beckoned. When the total approached 100 million, I even made a few stealthy visits to the LoTW site when at work to check on the climbing numbers.

Later, whilst maintaining the vigil at home, I thought I had enough time to mow the lawn before uploading my latest small batch of QSOs, but later discovered I had been beaten to the finishing line. At least now I know there was at least one other clock-watcher. Well done, Nigel.

IARU Region 1 meeting

There was a lot of input and discussion concerning papers submitted for the IARU Region 1 Interim Conference, held in Vienna in February 2007. A number of HF (and VHF) contest-related papers were proposed.

Some related to topics discussed in this column, on the UK-Contest reflector, and at the HF Conference in the past. These included items such as combined or European Field Days, use of the 7 MHz band, and general contest guidelines.

As might be expected, there was some strong sentiment expressed from those who dislike contesting, or to be more accurate, from those who dislike the number of contests that are run, and the perceived excessively high band occupancy that some contests generate.

The contest weekend at the end of January was a good example. Whilst an individual

event may be single mode, running popular CW, SSB and RTTY contests concurrently causes problems for contesters in all of those events, and certainly for non-contesters. This is exacerbated at the bottom of the solar cycle, as contest activity that would have been spread out on 21 and 28 MHz is now compressed into 7 and 14 MHz for more of the time. For the non-contesters, 10, 18, and 24 MHz can be non-viable options in the sunspot-challenged years. This should ease when the sunspots return, of course, but it seems like a very long time since we had consistent 10m propagation. The usual sticking point is 40m. Although in a lot of countries 200 kHz is now available, as this is not universal and the additional 100 kHz occupied for a lot of the time, it's still considered effectively to be a 100 kHz band.

It is proposed that certain contests could be merged to free up weekends. A problem here is that there is no authority to stop any individuals or groups 'seizing' those weekends with a new event. Casual activity favours 'everyone works everyone' contests, meaning that there is a risk to contests with a unique identity being squeezed out. What would happen to the Commonwealth Contest if an 'open to all' CW contest was held on the same weekend? It would be disappointing if effectively the same contest is run week after week, with diluted activity.

The growth in RTTY is another issue. It seems to me that this year, and last, were the first years we've had at the real bottom of the solar cycle since the significant increase in RTTY activity has occurred, most likely due to the availability and ease of use of software packages like MMTTY / N1MM / MixW. Existing bandplans, and operators using CW and SSB, are perhaps not acknowledging the more equal weighting the mode now seems to deserve due to activity levels. Whilst offered suggestions such as switching completely to PSK, or inventing a less bandwidth-intensive data mode are well meaning, so far it seems that

PSK does not work particularly well as a contesting mode where rate, and the ability to remain being heard next to adjacent signals, is key. In contesting, the 'loud is good' mentality may have trouble co-existing with the balance, sharing and reasonable IMD figures that effective PSK operation demands.

It's certainly not easy for our RSGB representatives to sift through the different viewpoints just from the UK, and that's before the conference itself even starts.

Worked All Europe

Anyone recently browsing the Worked All Europe DX Contest website (www.waedc.de) will have seen a change in the way the award certificates are handled. Previously the top one or two in each section per country would be sent a certificate in the post. Now all entrants can download and print their own certificate from the website.

The positives are that it's a lot cheaper for organisers, and every entrant can download and print a certificate if they want one. This is good for those entering in categories not determined in the rules eg '3 hours operation before taking the kids to the park' and maybe have never been eligible for any contest wallpaper before. Being slightly more serious, for contests with a large number of section permutations, eg IOTA, it would give the opportunity to highlight any personal success. Rather than being #43 on the overall single-operator list, your certificate could acknowledge your 1st place 12-hour CW QRP Island Unassisted list of entrants.

However, not everyone has easy access to a printer that can print to an adequate quality, or in colour. Some people do like to receive their certificates in the post. For the WAEDC in particular there is also the loss of the results booklet to consider. It is hoped to include the same commentary, analysis and photographs online along with the

results listings, which provides the same content as the booklet, at a massively reduced cost. Whilst the country and European ranking is shown on the WAE certificates, other people have commented that a certificate win itself is a mark of achievement. If everyone now gets one, does it diminish the incentive for those that aimed to win a certificate from trying harder in future?

Are there any other opinions about printing your own certificates?

And finally....

Contest QSO of the month: VU7RG calling CQ TEST in the HA DX contest on 40m CW with no takers. It's not very often I'm in the mythical 'right place at the right time'. The multiplier bell was given a 'ding' in celebration, before the next equally important multiplier, Ukraine (!), went in the log.

Contest callsigns of the month: EE5E, and adjacent to him OMØM. Certainly distinctive and memorable, although you do have a slight worry that perhaps their keyers

are broken and no-one's noticed yet. When I heard 4O1A calling "CQ USA USA USA TEST" in the ARRL DX CW contest, I guess he was getting a little fed up with people thinking he was VO1A.

The above has made me think that all this talk of operating strategy, rules policy and bandplan politics may be a little heavy-going for what is meant to be a fun hobby. I'd be happy to publish any items of contest related humour, favourite moments, or even those embarrassing ones. Forgetting to press the Split button doesn't count, though – we've all done that too many times...

Last word... Having suffered a recent PC crash, I was fortunate not to have lost very much in the way of valuable data. So just ask yourself, when exactly did you last back up your logbook files? And have you remembered to back up the right certificate files for LoTW etc.? It's amazing what you remember just *after* your hard disk has been reformatted.

73

Lee, GØMTN

The Status of Amateur Radio in Turkmenistan (EZ)

The Turkmenistan Radio Amateur League regrets to inform that starting from 2006 the Turkmenistan Ministry of Communications, without any official explanations, refuses to give radio amateur sportsmen of Turkmenistan permission to use amateur radio stations. With deep regret we inform that we have no further opportunity to work on air and to represent our country in different international competitions.

For information that is more detailed you can contact the Turkmenistan Radio Amateur League, POB 555, 744020 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

G3GMC retires as RSGB QSL Bureau Sub-Manager for the G3R-T series of callsigns

Pat McVey, G3GMC, a CDXC member, recently retired after over a decade as the RSGB QSL Bureau Sub-Manager for the G3R-S-T series of callsigns. This series is particularly busy because it includes several extremely active UK DXers. A 'thank you' lunch and presentation in honour of Pat was held at the QTH of G3RFX in Bristol on 28 January. Also present were G3SNN, G3SXW and G3TXF (see photo in the centre pages). Many G3R-S-Ts sent messages of thanks to Pat for the sterling work she has done on the mountains of QSLs over the many years.

Pat herself says:

Most of you will know by now that I have decided to discontinue sorting and posting your cards and I would like to express my thanks for your help and cooperation over the years which has enabled me to perform this task with a modicum of success.

*I was overwhelmed by the gifts presented to me and also by your kind comments. My sincere thanks to you all. There is no doubt that I will miss the contacts made, but there is also no doubt that you are in good hands for the future.**

73/88 and gud DX Pat

*That's G3RAU for the G3Rs, G3SXW for the G3Ss and G3TXF for the G3Ts. Ed.

Derek, G3RAU, adds:

Having ploughed through the G3R series boxes, I can now see just how big a job Pat has actually had on her hands. You might think that running a Sub-Bureau is straightforward: receive cards, sort 'em, put them into SAEs and post. The reality is that

only a small percentage of customers are that well organised to enable speedy processing.

The time-consuming task is sorting out the odds and ends. Many of my customers are either dead or inactive, some don't want cards, but you can't tell if they have just forgotten to send SAEs or deliberately not sent them. Some have envelopes with postage 10 years out of date, some want them in bulk, others as soon as any arrive. Some are so inactive that their envelopes have curled up at the edges, some have moved address and will be lucky to ever see their cards. It goes on and on. So please remember the rules:

- When you die, tell your Sub-Manager first! (otherwise your solicitor may charge your estate to return Sub-Bureau cards).
- When you move house, tell your Sub-Manager first! (problem is obvious: lost mail).
- If you give up operating, tell you Sub-Manager first! (otherwise you'll clutter up my shack for ever with three or four cards waiting to make up enough to post, and not enough postage to do it).
- When you become senile and/or forgetful, tell your Sub-Manager first! (tie a knot in your hanky to remember to send SAEs).
- When you go on a DXpedition, tell your Sub-Manager first! (you can only get about 12 cards for an ordinary stamp, so you may need special bulk arrangements).

And finally: please try to work more exotic DX. Lots of EU cards is just plain boring!

73 Derek, G3RAU

Not the GB2RS News

This week's headlines:

- Romania and Bulgaria now rare DX
- FSDXA announce their major DXpedition for 2008
- CDXC Reflector under scrutiny

Romania and Bulgaria have now become two of the rarest DXCC entities in Europe. On 1 January, following the eagerly awaited accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the European Union, most YO and LZ operators packed their bags and joined countless thousands of their compatriots straining at the leash to migrate to other countries in the EU, especially the UK. This follows a similar wave of immigrants from Poland, where the amateur radio population is now in serious decline - amidst fears that there could also be very few SPs left by the end of the year.

Following on from the above, the Five Star DXers Association (FSDXA) have announced that after 3B7C their next major DXpedition will be to either Poland, Romania or Bulgaria. This will be in 2008 and the callsign either SP5C, YO3C or LZ1C. It's expected that by then the on-air demand will be considerable. A short list of luxury 5-star hotels has already been drawn up for each country and the beer tasted in the respective hotel bars. All depending on which 5-star hotel wins the day: QSL via either SP3SWH, YO3SWH or LZ3SWH.

Ofref, the Internet reflector watchdog, is investigating allegations of trivial message threads on the Chiltern DX Club (CDXC) Reflector. This follows exchanges on such subjects such as 'Parlez-vous Froggy?', 'DXCC Status for the Isle of Wight' and 'What do I wear for the CDXC Annual Dinner?'. Also under investigation: a thread entitled 'Logging programmes'. This was

after some member or other in Bristol posted a message which read, "Canadian lumberjacks do a nice line in logging programs. Perhaps we ought to ask them for their advice. Or am I barking up the wrong tree here?". This prompted a long series of replies from members also keen to branch out into comedy and embark on a succession of equally awful tree jokes. However, off the record Ofref admitted to being highly envious of some CDXC Reflector users, saying that they are very fortunate indeed in being able to devote so much of their time during the working week to generating all these messages in the first place.

Contest News:

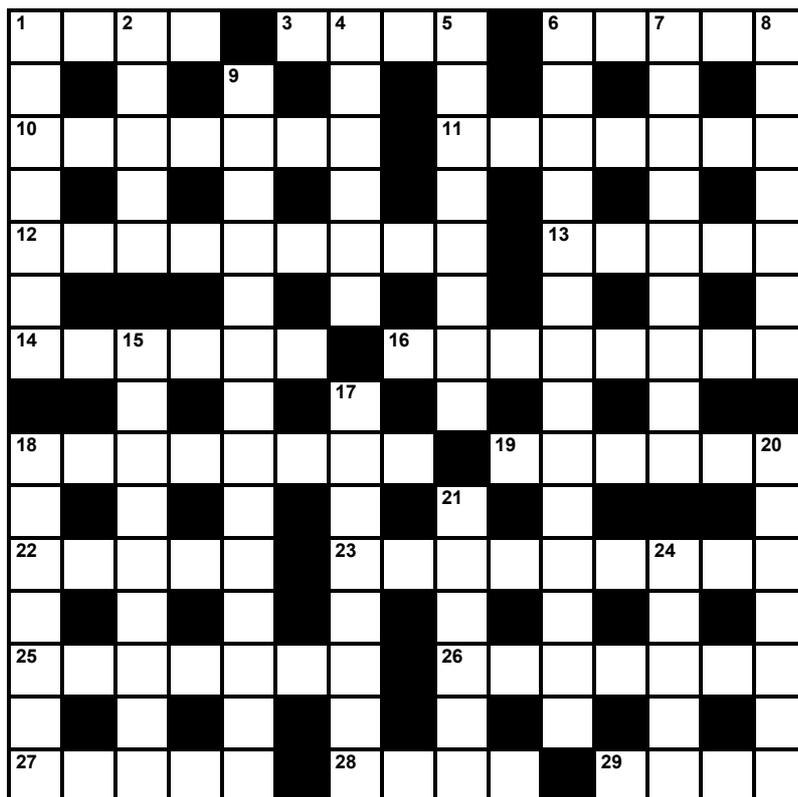
Coming up next Sunday: the RSGB's Worked All GB2RS Newsreaders Contest. The exchange is the usual 59 report, plus the number of live GB2RS News broadcasts you haven't listened to during the past year because most of the time you've chosen to read the News script off the bloomin' Internet instead.

Solution to Prize Crossword 20

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

Digest Prize Crossword 21 *by RFX*

The winner of Prize Crossword 20, January 2007, and that brand-new tenner: Mike Parker, G4IUF, Pannal, Harrogate.



ACROSS

- 1 Cable Peru to invade Uruguay (4)
- 3 Keen opera singer makes a comeback (4)
- 6 Transformer oddly unable to lose energy (5)
- 10 Museum the Spanish couple associated with trouble? (2,5)
- 11 Steed, say, seen in Cuxhaven, Germany (7)
- 12 Criminal I let Satan torture (9)
- 13 Gear you and I found in Zambian city (5)
- 14 Arab, say, replacing Bob with Bill the poet (6)
- 16 Wisdom found in place for the over-50s? (8)
- 18 Top person, but no leader, not in the habit of migrating (8)
- 19 Old vehicles new leader removed from one of the Isles of Scilly (6)
- 22 Inscription on grave in the outskirts of Tyneside? Rubbish! (5)
- 23 Long train crashed in American county (9)
- 25 Celebrity status? After leader is placed second, imperial status! (7)
- 26 Person touring Iran making warning sound (7)
- 27 Give guidance to farm animal (5)
- 28 Not happy to return, travelling round capital of Yemen for ages (4)
- 29 Test old radio, anode leaking at first glance (4)

DOWN

- 1 One that's spotted running at up to 70 mph (7)
- 2 Tree somewhere in Colorado (5)
- 4 Audibly disgusting pub fiddle (6)
- 5 Drug a Rhodesian amateur supplied to two women (8)
- 6 The keen gardener's favourite early morning treat? (9,2,3)
- 7 Strike action? (9)
- 8 Type of school where green-fingered types receive their education? (7)
- 9 The diet-conscious consumer's preferred transmission line? (8,6)
- 15 Girl who's out of practice, we hear, resulting in ban from college (9)
- 17 Person carrying weapon, like some bandits (3-5)
- 18 Takes it in turns to repair toaster (7)
- 20 African country California backed? (7)
- 21 Bloody awful type of network? (3,3)
- 24 Judge a city in Germany (5)

Deadline for entries: 20 April

DX and Events Calendar

Compiled by G3XTT

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

Period	Call
till 31/03	8J1ANT: special event station (Japan)
till 31/03	6W/RW3TN
till 30/04	LZ2ØØ7EU: special callsign
till April	ST2R: Sudan by S57DX
till April	V31JP: Belize by K8JP
till 26/06	SC5L: special event call (Sweden)
till 30/06	DS4DRE/4: Hong Island (AS-093)
till 30/06	HL22: special call by DS5SWL
till June	OX3PG: Greenland (NA-018) by KD4POJ
till 31/08	TU2/F5LDY: Ivory Coast
till September	ZD9BCB: Gough Island (AF-030)
till 01/10	ON6ØAF, ON6ØAP, ON6ØBAF: special calls
till November	8Q7IM: Maldives (AS-013) by IK5ZUI
till 31/12	6H1, 6I2, 6J3, 6E4: special prefixes (Mexico)
till 31/12	9A6ØK: special callsign
till 31/12	GB6OTR: special callsign (England)
till 31/12	LX2ØØ7L, LX2ØØ7G, LX2ØØ7D: special event stations
till 31/12	LZ17ØVL: special event call
till 31/12	LZ5ØDX: special callsign by LZ1AF
till 31/12	SX1ØØVAR: special event station (Greece)
till 31/12	YU6ØBCD and YT6ØW. special calls (Serbia)
till 31/12	ZY51ØØSCOUT: special callsign by PY5CA
till February 2008	DPØGVN: Neumayer Base (DL-03, AN-016)
till ??	FO5RH: Tuamotu Islands (OC-066) by F2HE
till ??	LU1ZAB: Matienzo Base (LU-16, AN-016), Antarctica
till ??	R1ANF/P: Eco Base (AA OK-01), South Shetlands (AN-010)
03/03-23/03	6W/DM2AYO, 6W/DL6CT, 6W/DL7CM: Senegal
04/03-22/03	J5UAR: Guinea Bissau by DLs
10/03-19/03	9M4SDX: Spratly Islands (AS-051) by JAs and 9Ms
14/03-27/03	J5BI: Bubaque Island (AF-020) by F6BUM
16/03-22/03	V73KN by JK1QLR
22/03-27/03	ZL8CW by ZL3CW
23/03-10/06	C6AGN by KM1E
24/03-25/03	5C5Z by W7ZR and other special prefixes in WPX SSB contest
02/04-07/04	TZ by ON group

04/04-15/04 N8S: Swain's Island (OC-200)
10/04-27/04 YK1BA by N5FF
14/04-03/05 JT1Y: Mongolia by IØSNY, I5NOC and I8YGZ
late April Scarborough Reef (BS7) for ten days
07/09-24/09 3B7C: St. Brandon Islands (AF-015)

3B7C

FSDXA is seeking two more UK-based operators to join the 3B7C team. Very briefly the criteria are as follows:

- Experienced multi-mode operator
- Team player
- Good health
- Available for the whole of September 2007
- Willing to help before and after the DXpedition with logistics (inventory checking etc.) and QSLing.
- Able to afford £2,700, including airfares to and from Heathrow/Mauritius.

Anyone interested should send a short amateur radio CV to Neville, G3NUG.

Webmaster

We are also seeking a webmaster. See www.3b9c.com for an example of what we need. In particular that is:

- A facility to request e-QSLs.
- A log look-up. Here we use the G4ZFE applet, which has almost become the industry standard.
- A facility to take sponsorship money via Paypal.

If you can help, please contact Don, G3BJ.

QSL managers

We use the very successful Internet-based StarQSL system and are seeking additions to our existing team. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Neville, G3NUG.

Don, G3BJ g3ozf@btinternet.com
Neville, G3NUG g3nug@btinternet.com

Joint Leaders

28 February 2007

CDXC Clothing

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

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

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

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

ORDER FORM:

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

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

Standing Order Request Form

To: Bank

Branch :

Please pay:

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

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

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

1. starting with an **initial payment TODAY**
2. followed by an **annual payment on 1 July** thereafter,
starting with 1 July 2007 and until further notice in writing.

Please debit my/our account accordingly.

Name of account to be debited :

Account number :

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

Name(s) :

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Signature :

Signature :

(For accounts where two signatures are required)

Date :

Address :

.....

Postcode :

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

