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Club News and Views

Editorial

Martyn Phillips, G3RFX

Compared to July's 68-pager it's a fairly slimline Digest this time round. But then we're always being told that it's good to lose a bit of weight occasionally. Anyway, you'll find all your regular columns in this issue with the exception of 'Not the GB2RS News', which is on holiday this month.

And, with the heaven's just opening up again with a vengeance on a typical UK summer's day, it's time to reflect on one or two things, starting with a question in the direction of our SWL members. We used to have an *SWL News* column. In fact the last one I can find dates back to the May 2003 *Digest*. Would you like this column to be reinstated? If the answer is 'yes', then even more importantly, would you be prepared to write it? It need not be more than a page. Either way, do let me know.

It's also been suggested that we might consider a new 'Hints & Kinks' column – how to do some radio-type things which might be second nature to the old hands, but can be a challenge for others. I dunno, how to get on 136 kHz, maybe? How to get on 5 MHz? Or maybe even that old favourite, how *not* to solder a PL-259? Who knows, we might even get a circuit diagram somewhere along the line; I can't remember when we last had one of those in the *Digest*. So what do you think? Any input or contributions along these lines gratefully received.

It's the RSGB HF & IOTA Convention coming up towards the end of October, so I thought I'd include a small (non-PL-259) plug for it on this page as well. As always, it's gonna be great! This year there's also a

change of MC for the DX/Gala Dinner on the Saturday evening. I've done it for the last four years and very much enjoyed it – but what a thankless task it is too! So I'd just like to wish my 'offshore island' successor, Bob Beebe, GU4YOX, all the very best for this one. I'm sure he'll do a grand job!

Yes, at least this year you won't have to put up with my lousy jokes, but you might have to put up with some of Bob's instead. By all accounts his drumming is pretty memorable as well.

73 Martyn, G3RFX

www.btinternet.com/~g3rfx

RSGB HF & IOTA Convention 2004

Friday 22nd – Sunday 24th October

at the

**Gatwick Worth Hotel
(Best Western)**

Crabbet Park, Turners Hill Road,
Crawley, West Sussex RH10 4ST

An unavoidable change of venue, but an
excellent alternative!

See www.rsgb-hfc.org.uk

Chairman's Chat

John Butcher, G3LAS

It's September already and another summer will soon be over – if indeed it isn't already, judging by the amount of rain which has been falling in the days before I started writing this piece. Perhaps we can look forward to some enhanced DX activity to take our minds off the weather around the equinox.

The next excitement should be the appearance of the Kure Island expedition next month. At this time of the solar cycle, contacts with the middle of the North Pacific basin will present a significant challenge to UK operators, so let's hope all goes well and the team manage to put out a respectable signal. The high and low bands will be very problematic for us, so I guess we will have to hope for some reasonable conditions 'in between'. Perhaps 30 and 17m will be the best bets. It is surprising what these bands can offer. Only this morning in the middle of August, T2ØDX and VKØDX were very steady signals on 17m for an hour or two, so next month things might well work out well for Kure.

Perhaps even more mouth-watering will be the proposed Peter 1 operation next January. This is one of the really exotic locations, combining high cost, difficult access and no small risk for the expeditioners. We will have to hope that nothing goes wrong for them in the next three or four months.

The recent Aves Island trip was a good example of how plans often have to be flexible when an expedition team is at the mercy of 'authorities' and/or the elements. The YVØD team were late starting as a result of the 'flexibility' of the naval timetable and then they had to curtail their operations due to the equally unpredictable Caribbean weather. Fortunately, they did manage a few days of

fairly steady operating to give us something to liven up the summer doldrums.

Talking of weather, those of you who braved the elements and the perils of navigation to Shiplake Bottom were rewarded with a very successful AGM and Summer Social. Over 50 members and families were at the G3XTT QTH and a good time was had by all as usual. Somewhat surprisingly, the weather was fine – no doubt following the tradition of recent years - the food was excellent and the hospitality warm. This year, the major raffle prize of an FT-817, generously donated by Yaesu UK, was won by Dave Gould, G3UEG, a fitting reward for his having just joined the Committee.

No doubt most members will be aware that our new Secretary was duly elected at the AGM. Peter Hart, G3SJJ, is well known from his excellent equipment reviews in RadCom and I'm sure he will do an equally good job for CDXC. Our thanks are due to Shaun, MØBJL, for his efforts as Secretary over the past few years.

This is the time of year for the decision on our Local Heroes Award. This year it has gone to Victor Rivera, ZK1CG, who has for many years provided sterling service for DXers from Rarotonga in the South Cook Islands and on several occasions has undertaken forays to the North Cooks. Victor has expressed his thanks to CDXC for the recognition of his efforts and has promised to buy a few beers for his 'other half' Jim, ZK1JD, the only other operator resident in the islands [*see also page 45. Ed.*]

No doubt most members will have heard that we have been forced to change the location of next month's HF Convention. Fortunately, the

new hotel looks very suitable and is close to the original one, so no-one should be inconvenienced. For those who hadn't heard, it will now be at the Best Western Worth Hotel in Crawley. Anyone who has booked already will be automatically transferred, so there should be no need to do anything. If you haven't yet booked, why not? The Convention promises to be as good as always, with an excellent programme and plenty of opportunity for DX chat with most of the country's top ops and a number of well-known overseas visitors. The beer should be OK as well. See you there!

73 es gud DX John, G3LAS



President's Patter

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

Thanks to all the members who joined us at the AGM and Summer Social. We had a great turnout and a great day and were again blessed by excellent weather.

Particular thanks to Don and Janet Field for stepping in at the last moment and hosting the Social. Trish and I were going to host it at Further Felden but we sold the house last May and had to move. We still aren't in our new home but, after a few hiccups, we're back on programme and should be in around late September. In the meantime, we have been very fortunate in finding a super 'holiday let' in the wilds of Herefordshire.

Thanks to all those who donated gifts for the raffle and particular thanks to Yaesu for the FT-817 and to Kenwood, ML & S, Nevada and the RSGB for their contributions.

Welcome to the new committee members and our thanks to Shaun, MØBJL, who has finally retired after several years as Secretary.

Next year we need to announce the location of the AGM and Summer Social much earlier. It will be on the third Saturday of July between the weekends of the IARU and IOTA Contests. Do we have a volunteer please amongst our members in the South-east to host the 2005 AGM and Summer Social? David Mann/GØHXN's son Mark has again offered to organise the food and barbeque. Mark has done a great job for quite a few years – not to mention the extremely good job that he and his friend did this year. Many thanks, Mark. Hosting the Summer Social is not unduly onerous and we will find volunteers to help the host.

We are looking for a number of further volunteers to support the club. First of all, we need a picture editor to produce the centre pages of the Digest. These have been prepared by our Hemel Hempstead, Herts, printers in the past, but this is no longer practical as we have moved west. We need someone to work with Martyn as Digest Editor and to produce a PDF file of pictures and titles for the centre pages. There is usually no shortage of material; in fact rather the opposite. The job will probably only take 2 to 3 hours every two months. It is important, though, as the Digest is seen by many as our major asset. Can someone help us please?

We also need further volunteers to help us at the RSGB HF Convention and generally at rallies around the country. At the HF Convention we need to make sure that the CDXC stand is manned at peak periods. If you can help, please contact Chairman John, G3LAS, or Peter, G3SJX, our new Secretary.

For the past two years we have attended a number of the major rallies around the country including the Elvaston, Castle Donington and Reading McMichael rallies. It's been great to meet members at these rallies and we have done well in recruiting new members too. Both John and I try to get to these rallies, but it would be very helpful if local members could help out on occasions so that we can both have a look around the shows.

The RSGB HF Convention is on the weekend of 22-24 October and there will be a great deal of participation by CDXC members in the programme including:

- Malawi 7Q7MM Malawi DXpedition - we believe the whole team will be there!
- Cameroon TJ3C DXpedition by the well known team of Roger Western, G3SXW, and Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF.

- Summits on the Air (SOTA) for the more energetic amateur by John Linford, G3WGV.
- Project Goodwill Albania by Roger Brown, G3LQP.
- Spectrum Forum by Colin Thomas, G3PSM.
- And, of course, the Rodrigues Island 3B9C DXpedition general overview (Neville Cheadle, G3NUG, and Don Beattie, G3BJ), Nevada Trophy presentations, as well as talks on the 160m operation (Mike Devereux, G3SED, and Don Field, G3XTT) and the novel and highly successful StarSoftware (John Linford, G3WGV).

The programme is excellent and can be found at www.rsgb-hfc.org.uk. Well done John, G3WKL, as Chairman of the Organising Committee. Do come along to Gatwick as this is always a very good and social weekend. And we have a new MC for the Gala Dinner! Martyn, G3RFX, has retired and 'Guess Who' from our offshore islands takes over!

Activity on the 3B9C QSLing has continued apace and, as I write this, nearly 56,000 QSOs have been confirmed, of which 40,000 went direct. The QSL team and the StarQSL system have worked very well indeed and, in my view, the new Logbook of the World (LOTW) has had almost no effect on direct requests. This was a worry to DXpeditioners as direct requests often include very useful donations. The 3B9C direct requests are really falling off now, although there was a bit of a surge a couple of weeks ago; perhaps this was because some were trying to get their 3B9C cards in time for the September DXCC update. We collect the cards from PO Box 73, Church Stretton, at least every two weeks and process them within a week, so the turnaround is pretty good.

Very few bureau cards have been received to date – perhaps the usual volumes will be

reduced because of our on-line E-QSL request system. Some 26,000 E-QSL requests were received; these were shared out amongst the team and have mostly been cleared with many of the cards already in the bureau system. My guess is that we will eventually confirm around 115,000 QSOs, ie 75% of the 153,000 total QSOs made, so we must be about half-way through our task. Whatever one thinks of the QSLing business, the demand from the 'customers' is enormous.

Members may have noticed that we have ceased circulating our membership list. With so many members this two-yearly circulation is very expensive and the Committee believes that the money is better spent on DXpedition sponsorship. In fact the savings achieved will enable us to support an additional DXpedition. Should any member want a membership list then please download it from the website.

Finally, a reminder that our club contest call MØC is available for use by CDXC members for major contests. Please contact me if you would like to use it. The rules are very straightforward:

1. Advise Ofcom as to the location of the operation.
2. Process all QSL cards received. (All records show G3NUG as QSL manager, who will forward the cards to individual operators.)
3. Show the CDXC logo on the card.
4. Send G3NUG a copy of the log in TXT format by e-mail asap after the contest.

I hope to see many CDXC members at the HF Convention. Please do sign the visitors book on the CDXC stand.



73 Neville, G3NUG

For Sale

We have received a note from CDXC member Phil Weaver, 9M6CT, VR2CT etc. to say that his Sabah home is for sale.

It is extensively ham-equipped and an interesting proposition for someone who might want a rare DX location at a 'snip' price.

You'll find full details on Phil's website at <http://phil.weaver.org/>.

He can be contacted via e-mail at the address on QRZ.com.

New Members

CDXC offers a warm welcome to the following new members:

Call	Name	Location
GØLHZ	Jim Carter	Reading
GØSVN	Neil Savin	Maidenhead
GØWFK	Max Bamford	Droitwich
G4FON	Ray Goff	Oxford
MØCLW	Simon Pearson	Dunstable

Results of the 2004 Penallt Trophy

1	G3TBK	Penallt Trophy
2	GW3KDB	Tindle Trophy
3	G3XTT	
4=	GØMTN	
4=	MUØFAL	
6	GØVOK	
7	GØVJG	
8	G4OBK	
9	G4FVK	

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>

Annual General Meeting

17th July 2004 at 1200

Venue: Peppard Memorial Hall, Peppard Common, nr Henley-on-Thames (G3XTT)

Minutes

John, G3LAS, CDXC Chairman, welcomed everyone to the AGM. There was a reasonable turnout and a significant number of members had taken the trouble to send their apologies, indicating their interest in the club.

Present: (34 members)

GØMRH, GØOPB, GØPHY, GØVQR, GØWFK, G3BJ, G3JNB, G3KMA, G3KWK, G3LAS, G3NHL, G3NUG, G3RFX, G3RLF, G3RTE, G3SJK, G3TQD, G3TXF, G3UAS, G3UEG, G3VKW, G3XTT, G3ZAY, G4HZV, G4IUF, G4JKS, G4OWT, G4PLY, G4VXT, MØBLF, MØDXR, MØFXX, M3CVN, M3RCV

Apologies: (54 members)

GØCZB, GØLGJ, GØMGX, GØMSM, GØTDV, GØTOC, GØUKX, GØVYS, G2ART, G2CZS, G3HQB, G3KZR, G3NFV, G3PJT, G3RZP, G3SVL, G3SWH, G3TBK, G3URA, G3WGV, G3WKL, G3WNI, G3ZBE, G4IDL, G4IFB, G4KHM, G4KLF, G4LWB, G5MY, G13FJX, G14TSK, GJ3LFJ, GMØHWP, GM4UZY, GUØSUP, GWØIWD, GWØVSW, GW3KFA, GW3KJN, GW4AYJ, GW4HAT, HSØ/G4JMB, HSØZDZ, MØADG, MØAFJ, MØAXP, MØBBB, MØBJL, MØCNP, MØMRW, M3SDE, M5FUN, M5GUS, OZ7SM

Previous Minutes:

John, G3LAS, reviewed the minutes from the 2003 AGM. There were no questions or

corrections and the approval of the minutes was proposed by G3BJ, seconded and carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report:

John, G3LAS, reported on another successful year for the Club.

Membership

Membership continues to grow and this last year had been particularly successful with some 70 to 80 new members bringing the current membership total to 661. This means that we are probably the second largest DX Club in the world now. We are now regularly visiting rallies, eg Kempton Park, Elvaston and Donington and this is proving fruitful in recruiting new members. We are looking for volunteers to represent CDXC at events in different parts of the country as the Committee is largely based in the South. We shall also be targeting recruitment at G non-members who worked 3B9C.

DXpedition Funding

During the last year, the Club supported 14 expeditions with donations totalling £2,600. This represents an average level of £186 per expedition.

Social Events

This year's Annual Dinner was held at the Pendley Manor, a new venue for us near Tring. Although the numbers were down a little, it was a successful event and it is planned to return there next year.

Digest

The Club's Digest continues to flourish under the editorship of G3RFX. The most recent edition runs to 68 pages, which is about as much as can be satisfactorily stapled into an issue.

There were no questions arising from the Chairman's report.

Secretary's Report

Shaun, MØBJL, was unable to be present, but the Chairman read his submitted report as follows:

As always the last year has seen a steady increase in numbers with new membership applications being received from all over the world. I would like to remind members that if they wish to send their annual subscriptions in cash or cheque, to do so via Nigel, G3TXF, our Treasurer, and not to the Secretary. This saves Nigel time, but more importantly ensures you get your Digest.

Numbers this year for the DX Dinner were a little down on previous years. I would like to thank John, G3LAS, who assisted me in organizing the Dinner as I was pre-occupied with various projects at work and consequently unable to attend the Dinner myself.

This will be my last report as Secretary as this year I will be standing down. I would like to finish by thanking both the Committee and the Membership for their assistance over the last four years.

I look forward to meeting you all at one of next year's functions.

Shaun Jarvis MØBJL

There were no questions arising from the Secretary's report.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Shaun for his efforts and work as Secretary over the last four years, which was duly acknowledged by those present.

Treasurer's Report

The full accounts for the year prepared by Nigel, G3TXF, were published in the July 2004 Digest and showed that the Club is in a healthy financial state. Members were directed to the Digest for the full details.

There were no questions arising from the Treasurer's report.

Election of Committee

The Chairman reviewed the current committee situation and explained that there were two vacancies to fill this year. Although not a Committee post, Tim, G4VXE, had stood down during the year as Contest Manager and this position had been filled by Lee, GØMTN.

At this point, the entire Committee resigned, as required by the Constitution. Don, G3XTT, took the chair for the election of a new Committee and thanked the retiring Committee on behalf of the members. With the exception of Shaun, MØBJL, who was retiring as Secretary, the remaining Committee members were willing to stand for re-election. G3BJ proposed and G3VKW seconded that they should be re-elected en bloc. This was passed unanimously.

Peter, G3SJX, was elected unanimously as Secretary, proposed G3LAS, seconded G4VXT.

Dave, G3UEG, was elected unanimously as Committee Member, proposed G3LAS, seconded G3RTE.

The new Committee is therefore:

President	G3NUG
Chairman	G3LAS
Secretary	G3SJX
Treasurer	G3TXF
Digest Editor	G3RFX
Committee Member	G3RTE
Committee Member	MØDXR
Committee Member	G3UEG

Following the election of the Committee for 2004/2005 the re-elected Chairman, G3LAS, took the Chair.

Election of Auditor

John, G3LAS, reported that John, G3WGV, was unwilling to continue as Auditor. There were no volunteers or suggestions from members present for someone to take on this role and it was agreed that the Committee should identify and appoint someone suitable to audit the Accounts for the coming year. GØOPB proposed and G3UEG seconded a vote of thanks to John, G3WGV, for auditing the Accounts over many years.

AOB

There were no items of business formally notified.

GØOPB enquired whether ways of saving Newsletter costs had been considered. These issues are under constant review by the Committee.

The Chairman listed candidates under consideration for the Local Heroes Award and asked for other suggestions or comments.

The Chairman concluded the meeting and thanked all for attending.

The meeting closed at 12:40

Peter Hart, G3SJX
CDXC Secretary

[After the AGM Martin, G3ZAY, kindly agreed to take over the role of Auditor from John, G3WGV]

DX an' all that

Don Field, G3XTT g3xtt@lineone.net

The bands have remained fairly dull and uneventful, and the one DXpedition that got many people's adrenaline flowing, YVØD, started later than expected and terminated earlier, due to events outside the control of the team. Hopefully you will have caught this one on at least some bands, this having been the first valid operation from Aves Island for 10 years (by my reckoning). I was fortunate enough to need it only on 30m, where I caught them quite early on.

What has been apparent is how, now that we are creeping down the sunspot cycle, the middle bands are really delivering the goods at times. When I worked T2ØDX on 17m he was a cracking signal, and some other recent

Pacific operations have been booming in on 20m for hours at a time. Enjoy!

Want to activate a rare one? Then start a Civil War!

Recently the ARRL DXCC Manager, NC1L, Bill Moore, released the following: "Effective immediately, the ARRL DXCC Branch will accept QSLs for operation taking place in the Somaliland (northwestern Somalia) and Puntland (northeastern Somalia) autonomous areas as well as the southern and central areas of Somalia. Operations possessing written permission from any recognized authority that is acknowledged to be in control of a particular region will be accredited. These QSLs will count for the Somali Democratic

Republic (Somalia). QSLs for past operations will be accepted where proper documentation has been submitted. This is subject to change based on future developments in Somalia."

This change in DXCC policy appears to have been made on the basis that there is no central government in Somalia. Bernie, W3UR, of The Daily DX spoke to N7NG, Wayne Mills, on the telephone to confirm the above. In addition Wayne mentioned that the 6OØX (1999 & 2002) and 6O1Z (1999) operations from Somaliland would count for Somalia for DXCC credit. Somaliland is just one of the provinces that make up Somalia. The thinking here is that Somaliland is a part of Somalia, as recognized by most governments and world wide agencies. Somaliland has been trying, for several years, to secede from Somalia.

Wayne was also able to confirm that at least one person has called the DXCC Desk asking about the current situation in Puntland, another province in Somalia. This is the area where Sam Voron, VK2BVS, has been operating from over the last few months. Apparently Sam is now the official licensing administrator for Puntland, Somalia. If an operation were to take place from the Puntland province it would most likely count for DXCC.

This is all rather curious. Firstly, the situation surrounding Sam VK2BVS/6OØA is rather fraught. In the past Sam operated from Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, at a time when Bougainville was trying to secede from the rest of Papua New Guinea. At the time, his operation was considered somewhat inappropriate, politicising amateur radio at a time when matters were very tense in that part of the world. His operation from Somalia is somewhat similar, in that he appears to have set himself up as the licensing authority in Puntland, where no central authority holds sway. As one of my recent correspondents comments, "The precedent means that if any

country has a civil war and part of it tries to secede, an operation from the breakaway part would be accepted by DXCC. In the past they have always insisted that documentation must be in place from the officially accepted and internationally recognised government of the country concerned. Logically, should 1B operations from the Turkish Federated State of Northern Cyprus now count as 5B4?" Such a rule would certainly have set the cat among the pigeons in the former Yugoslavia, before the dust had finally settled. To my mind it is taking amateur radio far too much into the political arena, with the possibility of some very unpleasant consequences downstream. Your thoughts would, as always, be welcome.

... or operate from somewhere else completely!

À propos of which, can anyone explain to me how it is that most of the accredited SØ (Western Sahara) operations have actually taken place from the UN refugee complex around Tindouf in Southern Algeria, rather than from RASD territory? Surely, for DXCC purposes, they should count as 7X? The ways of the DXCC desk truly are mysterious at times. Most of us probably keep quiet and submit our cards, hoping they will be accepted for that missing counter, but don't we sometimes get just a little bit irritated that, while we have the credit, we actually might never have worked the geographical 'country' we are claiming, after all?

Of course, this may happen for other reasons, too. Specifically, as a result of cheating. I recall a case where one non-ZS amateur, active from ZS6 over an extended period, would also show up from time to time from 3DAØ and 7P8. Nothing wrong with that, you may say, as he had licences for both countries. But on some of those occasions, he remained very loud in Johannesburg, and even appeared back on the air with his ZS6 call just minutes after closing down with the DX call. Maybe

the ZS amateurs who were aware of what was happening didn't feel like rocking the boat, but this sort of behaviour leaves a bad taste for the rest of us, who like to think that what we work really is what we are told it is.

Fortunately, most operations are exactly what they purport to be, and the burden of proof has become greater over the years as the result of some well-publicised occurrences in the past. Some of Don Miller's operations were the first to come under close scrutiny, and the P5RS7 operation, purportedly from North Korea, was probably the last big 'Dxpedition' to be disallowed. But should we always leave it to the ARRL to set and apply the standards, or do the rest of us have a role in the self-policing of DXing (and, indeed, Contesting, but that's one for our contest columnist, I guess)?

Autumn DX

Some big operations coming up this autumn, especially the October DXpedition to Kure Atoll (KH7). I certainly need that one on several bands – in fact, the KH islands represent a fair chunk of my missing Pacific band slots, curious given that these are US territories and therefore ought to be reasonably QRV. But the main problem nowadays seems to be getting permission to mount a sizable operation, given that many of them are nature reserves or otherwise out of bounds to anyone other than specially authorised personnel. The Chesterfield Islands (TXØ) also remain sufficiently rare that the forthcoming operation should generate a huge amount of interest, at least in Europe. Check out the Calendar for other announced operations.

CDXC Kenwood Challenge

I don't know if the Challenge will be covered elsewhere in this Digest, but I see that 28

members have posted their scores on the Webpage, and I guess there may be others chasing away in the background. June and July were crucial months in terms of increasing your score, with some good Sporadic E opportunities presenting themselves on 6m. Propagation was very localised at times, though, with stations in the south working DX that was inaudible in the north and east, those in the east working DX inaudible elsewhere, and so on. Anyway, as I write this, the highest scores are around the 300 mark, consisting of around 240 on the HF bands and 60 on 6m. In a good year, an HF DXer might expect to work 280 or so countries and we may yet have some transequatorial propagation on 6m, so expect those Challenge scores to creep up towards 350 as the year draws to a conclusion.

73 Don, G3XTT

GB2ØØCLB - Norfolk

It is hoped that GB2ØØCLB will be operational from the crew room of the Cromer lifeboat station, at the seaward end of Cromer pier, over the weekend of the **30 - 31 October 2004**.

HF, 6m, 2m, and 70cms, all modes. A special QSL card will be available.

More operators, loggers or helpers are needed. If you can help, send an e-mail to David, MØCNP:

david@m0cnp.fsnet.co.uk

Website at www.qsl.net/m0cnp

Project Star Reach (3B9C) – Bulletin No. 7

This bulletin is mainly to provide an update on 3B9C QSLing and the Nevada Rodrigues Trophies.

3B9C QSLing Status

All QSL requests, both direct and via the form on our Web page, have been dealt with as of end-July. Those with sufficient postage have been mailed direct, by air or surface as appropriate. Others, including the e-requests, will be sent through the bureau system.

Over 48,000 QSOs have been confirmed so far, of which almost 37,000 were direct. Very few incoming cards have been received via the bureau at this stage. We have made arrangements with the Mauritius bureau that any cards inadvertently sent there will be forwarded to us in due course to be answered.

Turning round over 48,000 QSL requests in just over 3 months has only been possible by using a team of QSL managers, managed

through an Internet-based server running StarQSL, a program developed specifically for the purpose by John Linford, G3WGV.

We expect to remain on top of QSLing, with fast turnaround of requests. If you are still waiting for a direct card, please allow a further two weeks before re-applying, to allow for possible delays in the postal system.

As promised, the 3B9C log will be uploaded to Logbook of the World in good time for the September DXCC update deadline.

A reminder of the QSL route. Direct cards should be sent to FSDXA, PO Box 73, Church Stretton, SY6 6WF, UK. Bureau cards go via the RSGB bureau. There is also a form on the Web page for requesting bureau cards.

Nevada Rodrigues Trophies

A number of people have been asking about the results of the Nevada Rodrigues Trophies. We have received lots of applications, about 400 to date, which are currently being checked. We expect to announce winners in the next four to six weeks. Watch our Web site for the full list in due course: www.fsdxa.com/3b9c

3B9C Video

We have been delighted at the level of interest shown in our video, which is available on tape or DVD. It has a 45-minute presentation of 3B9C, along with a bonus 39-minute video of our previous D68C Comoros expedition. Copies can be ordered via the internet at: www.fsdxa.com/3b9c/video.html. You can pay by credit card on this site. Alternatively, if you are in the US or the UK we can accept cheques on US or UK banks.

If you are resident in the UK

We can accept sterling cheques (drawn on a UK bank account) for the video. Please send your cheque to:

John Linford, Pennine View, Sleagill, Cumbria CA10 3HD

Please make cheques payable to 'FSDXA' and write '3B9C video' on the back of the cheque. The cost of a UK PAL video (both the 3B9C and D68C videos on one tape), including postage, is £14.95.

If you are resident in the US

Similarly we can accept payment by US check in US dollars. For a US NTSC video of 3B9C and D68C, please send your check for \$32.95

to Wes Lambolely. In this case make cheques payable to W. Lambolely' and write '3B9C video' on the reverse side. US cheques should be sent to:

Wesley R. Lambolely, W3WL
690 Hunterhill Way
Roswell GA 30075
USA



Don Field G3XTT, NK1G
g3xtt@lineone.net
1 August 2004
(3B9C Publicity Officer)

The Five Star DX Association (FSDXA) has a large number of US\$1 bills as a result of QSLing activities for 3B9C.

These are offered for sale to CDXC members in \$100 lots at an exchange rate (as of 04 August 2004) of \$1.85 = £1.00, which is better than the interbank rate and *a lot* better than you'd get from a foreign exchange place!

Insured next day delivery costs £3.75 for up to \$300. Above \$300, FSDXA will cover the cost of delivery.

\$100 in \$1 bills:	£54.00 + £3.75 delivery
\$200 in \$1 bills:	£108.00 + £3.75 delivery
\$300 in \$1 bills:	£162.00, free delivery

Each additional \$100: £54.00

Cheques payable to FSDXA, please. Send to

John Linford, G3WGV
Treasurer, FSDXA
Pennine View
Sleagill
Cumbria
CA10 3HD

Any questions: please e-mail me: john@g3wgv.com

RSGB Spectrum Forum Report

Colin Thomas, G3PSM

When, towards the end of 2003, it was announced that a RSGB Board decision had been made to stand down the existing spectrum committees it came as a shock to a number of people, especially those involved with the microwave frequencies. It was not, however, a spur of the moment decision but the culmination of a proposal that had first been mooted in the early 1990s at an RSGB strategy conference held at Warwick University. The decision was further helped along by a lack of ongoing feedback from both the VHF and Microwave Committees.

The call for a Chairman of the new Spectrum Committee was published in the October 2003 RadCom and as a result (and probably being the only volunteer) Yours Truly was appointed to the new post. A fact not mentioned at the time was that the post also carried a co-option to the RSGB Board, together with the portfolios of the Data Communications, Propagation Studies and Repeater Management Committees.

However, undaunted, feelers were put out to a number of spectrum users and special interest groups enquiring whether they had interest in serving on the new Spectrum Forum. Fortunately almost 100% of those approached agreed, with the result that a fully functional Spectrum Forum started work early in January 2004.

The core membership consists of the VHF and Microwave Managers together with myself as HF Manager. In addition AMSAT-UK, the British Amateur Television Club, FOC, G-QRP, the Radio Communications Voluntary

Services, the UK Six Metre Group, 5 MHz Working Group, the HF Convention Committee, Data Communications Committee, Propagation Studies Committee, Repeater Management Committee, the UK Microwave Group and of course CDXC are all represented.

A meeting of the spectrum managers took place in mid-January and six months into the formation a full membership meeting took place at RSGB Headquarters with encouraging involvement and feedback. A lively discussion took place especially on the thorny subject of band planning and spectrum matters covering from 500 kHz through to 76 GHz was covered. Topics of interest to CDXC members included spectrum abuse, the extension of 7 MHz and PLT. CDXC was requested to prepare a paper addressing the subject of spectrum abuse for submission to the next IARU Region 1 Conference.

A continual interaction between Forum membership takes place by e-mail and this has proven to be successful. In addition, a Spectrum Forum web presence has been set up by CDXC member John Gould, G3WKL, and this can be found at

www.rsgb-spectrumforum.org.uk

Any input to the Forum should be submitted via Chairman John, G3LAS.

Colin Thomas, G3PSM

RSGB Spectrum Forum Chairman
and HF Manager

Out and About

Tokelau now! - ZK3SB and 5WØSB

Silvano Borsa, I2YSB *i2ysb@i2ysb.com*

Once again we travel to the South Pacific, after the Australs and the Marquesas. Tokelau is now our target.

Tokelau is a place that people not involved in DX have never heard of. It lies just north of Samoa in the central South Pacific and consists of three small, low coral atolls: Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofu.

As a territory of New Zealand, the islanders are New Zealand citizens. One of the less visited countries in the South Pacific, only a few yachts make their way to this isolated group of atolls, which lack natural harbours and for most of the year are completely cut off from the outside world. Some formalities have to be complied with before sailing for the islands, but any difficulties are justified, as they give us an opportunity to visit one of the most isolated communities in the Pacific.

The facilities are extremely limited and there are no airports on the islands. There is one cooperative store on each island selling some staple foodstuffs, mostly imported. It is possible to buy some locally grown produce. Water is scarce everywhere. There are hospitals on all three islands.

From May to September the islands are under the influence of the SE trade winds. The weather is cooler than the rest of the year when it is hot, particularly from December to March, which is the cyclone season. Tokelau is on the edge of the cyclone belt, but it is only rarely affected by tropical storms.

The crew is composed of veterans of the South Pacific: I2YSB, Silvano; IK2DIA, Marcello; IK1AOD, Carlo, and I2MOV Flaviano. They were all on the Marquesas in 2003 as TX4PG. Silvano also went to the Austral Islands in 2002.

On 10 February 2004 about 190 kg of equipment in seven boxes is ready in front of the check-in counter at Milan Malpensa airport. The four ZK3 DXpeditioners, each of them with 7 kg of hand luggage containing radios and laptops are also ready for the long trip to the antipodes.

After the first short flight to London, the flight to Los Angeles takes 11 hours. The security check in London Heathrow is very strict - they also check our shoes!

Once we are at Los Angeles airport we collect all our luggage, but the two large antenna boxes are missing. After a long wait near the conveyor belt we realise that it is time to approach the check-in counter for the next flight to Apia Samoa. We are secretly hoping that the two missing boxes will be transferred to the next flight via different route, but as soon we reach the counter we are told that oversized luggage is delivered to a different airport area for collection on arrival. Unfortunately we've already gone through immigration control, so access to that area is no longer allowed.

After lengthy negotiations with the security agents, Flaviano succeeds in convincing one of them, a guy of Mexican origin, to allow us to go into the forbidden area to collect our

luggage. Again a very strict inspection, all our luggage is checked, all our boxes are opened and the inside checked very carefully too.

The check is so meticulous that our hand-luggage handles, zippers and insides are rubbed with a cotton cloth soaked in a special liquid and, after being touched with tweezers only, is analysed with a special equipment. We never knew which analysis they did, but it is not so important - and we passed through this checkpoint without any problems.

Because of the lengthy security check our flight takes off late and finally, after another 11-hour flight, the Air New Zealand 747 lands at Apia.

As soon we are at Faleolo we immediately take off our winter clothing since the temperature and humidity is very high. Slippers, T-shirt and shorts is more than enough!

Our white skin seems to be an irresistible attraction for the insects and, while waiting for a taxi outside the building, a drop of blood appears on one of Flaviano's legs a blood drop appears. We think nothing about it.

The local currency here is the New Zealand Dollar and the Tala - we need that to pay for our boat tickets. Apia itself is 35 km away from the airport and we have to rush to the shipping agent, collect the tickets and Tokelau Visa, since it is 6.30 am and the ship to Tokelau leaves at 8.30 am. The ship goes to Tokelau once every two weeks, so catching the boat is a must as we do not want to stay two weeks in Samoa waiting for the next departure.

Before our departure from Europe we had some e-mail correspondence with Mr Maka, the shipping agent, and we agreed he would book two berths on the boat and provide us with the Tokelau visas.

When we arrive at his office, we are told he is not in, but he should arrive soon. Time is running out. At 8.00am he has still not arrived and the employees suggest that they rush us to the harbour.

We arrive at the ship and the passengers are already embarking. We ask for information and we discover that we are not on the passenger list!

We show them the e-mail correspondence, but are told to wait until Mr Maka arrives. Finally he does and we realise, by listening to his conversation with the captain, that he simply forgot to make the bookings. We are astonished!

The captain then asks us to wait – maybe he can somehow manage to add our names to the passenger list. Meanwhile our friend Atsu, 5W1SA/ZK3SA, arrives and tells us about the trip. We agree to meet up with him again when we are back from Tokelau.

The ship leaves Apia harbour one hour late, but we are on board at least! The ship is not big enough to have cabins; maybe they were only in Mr Maka's dreams! The only place where we can lie down is on the floor, which is used for the same purpose by all the other 50 passengers.

We realize that all the other passengers are carrying rubber blankets or mats. Very soon we understand the reason for this, seeing as the ship suddenly starts pitching and rolling and the only way to avoid being sick is to lie on the floor, close your eyes and try to sleep.

Finally, 30 hours after our departure, we approach the first of the three atolls which Tokelau consists of. There are no harbour facilities whatsoever - only channels for small boats through the reefs, but these are too shallow for most yachts. Normally a yacht must anchor on a shelf outside the reef, in the lee of the atoll.

The ship will be stopping for two hours and we must land here to collect our licence at the local PTT office. We know that our licence is ready, but we must collect it in person at Fenuafala island, which is 20 minutes by boat from where we are. Rushing to the PTT, we then finally have the ZK3SB licence in our hands – and, rushing again, we are back on the ship again, just in time!

Another 4½ hours of sailing and the ship nears Nukunonu. Even here there is no harbour, so our 35m-long ship must anchor outside the reef. A small shallow boat is used to take passengers and luggage to the island. It is now 8.30pm - and we are resigned to staying one more night on board - when the captain tells us that passengers who wish to do so can disembark immediately. The luggage will follow the next morning. We decide not to stay on board a minute longer. We need a solid rock floor under our feet!

The small boat from Nukunonu arrives and approaches the ship. We jump in. It is dark and lights are used to guide the boat towards the coral reef. We are worried, seeing as this is a dangerous manoeuvre, but we have faith in this sailor.

Close to the reef the sea is very rough and it is necessary to find a channel where the water is deep enough for the boat - and to wait for the wave passing over the reef. At exactly the right time the sailor turns the engine up to maximum and we jump on the top of the wave on the opposite side of the reef. We are safe in Nukunonu. We hope our luggage will have the same safe journey the following day.

Mr Luciano Perez, the owner of the Hotel Luana Liki, is waiting for us - and finally we can sleep on a normal bed. We've had no sleep at all for the last three nights.

During the night a hefty storm wakes us up. We will soon discover that almost every night

there is a storm, seeing as we are in the rainy season.

As soon as the sun rises, Silvano, Marcello and Carlo begin to prepare the radios which are in the hand luggage. Flaviano goes off to wait for the boat and our seven large pieces of luggage containing the rest of the equipment.

The arrival of passengers is an event for the inhabitants of the island. The magistrate, Mr Pio Tuia, comes to welcome the important guests - and as soon they disembark on the island, he puts a crown of flowers on their heads. Then, after a speech of welcome, a traditional hot drink, 'coconut milk soup', is served.

People say that this drink is a superb remedy for stress after a long trip. Flaviano is then also invited to take part in the ceremony and there is a drink for him too. Mr Pio Tuia is told about our problems on departure from Samoa and suggests invites we pay the Chief of Police, Mr Lafele, to get our visas. Our passports are quickly stamped and after paying him for the return boat tickets, we go back to the hotel to erect our antennas.

The walls in the hotel are so thin that operating SSB in our room means annoying all the hotel guests, so we decide to operate CW from there using the SteppIR vertical. SSB is operated mainly by Marcello, IK2DIA, and Carlo, IK1AOD, from a bungalow close to the sea, 30m away. Here the 2-element SteppIR, the 80m vertical and the 160m dipole are installed. The CW and RTTY station is operated by Flaviano, I2MOV, and Silvano, I2YSB.

Our original plan was to use the linear amplifier for one week at one station and the following week at the other. Since there are some problems with the T/R switching, as we'll explain later, the amplifier will be moved from one station to the other depending on the local conditions and propagation.

Finally, on the evening of Friday the 13th, Saturday morning in Europe, we begin our operations.

The electric power on the island is produced by a diesel power station which is switched off for approx. one hour every day approx. for servicing. Sometimes this lasts for two or three hours, but it always restarts at 5.00 pm.

If you remember, Flaviano got stung by an insect when we arrived in Samoa and now his leg is red, his foot is swollen, he feels giddy and is wet through. Luciano tries to cure him with some coconut oil.

The following day, Saturday, we discover that the natives are not used to working at weekends and preparing food is also regarded as working. Everybody goes to Mass, so there's no breakfast for us. We must learn to be self-sufficient the following weekend!

We understand that there is a hospital in the island, the St Joseph Hospital, where a German doctor, Manfred Bednarzik, examines Flaviano and says that it's serious: a infection by staphylococcus. He says that the insects prefers white people. They picked on him as well and it took three weeks to heal. Flaviano's temperature is very high and the doctor's prediction is that it will last for the next five days. After an antibiotic injection, tablets to be taken every six hours and some ointment for his leg, Flaviano is back at the hotel. Manfred will visit him every day - a nice way of building a friendship.

Manfred and his family have been in Tokelau since December 2003 and will be stay until July 2004, when he will go back to Dresden.

The infection problem also affects other people. Marcello, Luciano, the hotel owner and Ula, a hotel maid, all have infection problems with their legs - but not as serious as Flaviano's.

Nevertheless the radio operation goes ahead with both stations. During the day there's almost no propagation at all, so during this time we monitor the beacons on the various bands to exploit any possible band openings.

At night we stay awake most of the time. The temperature and the humidity is very high, we are completely wet through and it is very uncomfortable!

It is very hard to contact Europe sometimes. Also, signals from Japan and the USA are very weak on some days. The solar cycle is rapidly going downhill.

From Samoa we brought with us all the available bottles of drinking water we could find in the Apia supermarket, seeing as we knew that on Tokelau there is no fresh water. Nevertheless, after a few days all the bottles are empty and we are forced to drink the rain water collected into the reservoir, not without some concern for our health.

On the island there are a number of geckos which are everywhere - often they drop onto our beds and onto the radios!

Despite our on-air activity, which leaves us very little time for public relations, four foreigners on this island is a very rare happening. It is easy to meet up with the locals - 300 inhabitants live on the main island, which is 200m wide and 1 km long. 125 children attend the primary school and we give them pencils and other things, a CD-ROM and some QSL cards from our last operation in the Marquesas the previous year. Their teachers Deborah, from New Zealand, and Kosema, a local guy, thank us on behalf of the children.

Kids are the same everywhere. As soon as they see us, they greet us with 'Ciao', a very international way to say hallo!

There is no TV and there are no newspapers in Nukunonu. There is a local FM radio station which is managed by three girls - Litia, Mena and Lupe – playing mainly music, with some religious programmes.

The social life is very intense, with the people playing a game similar to rugby, but with no scrum, and volleyball. They also sing and dance.

We attended a ceremony close to the harbour, with people sitting on the floor with their legs crossed. Flaviano was invited by Litia to sing with them, reading the words from a book. Reading the Polynesian language is not difficult for us – it's pronounced the same as it's written - but no way do we understand the meaning! At the end of the ceremony they wanted to dance and sing for us; everyone wanted to embrace us and we were very touched.

On Nukunonu the main food is fish. There are also plenty of coconuts, although all the fruit trees such as banana and papaya were destroyed in the typhoon of 6 January. In fact almost every day there is a storm, but normally it is not too bad; only once were we forced to lower the vertical antenna three times because of the wind.

One night Luciano and Manfred went fishing and came back with three small sharks, which were offered to us for lunch. The meat is stringy and the curry sauce covers up any taste. We are not enthusiastic!

Once we were invited for a picnic on an island in the atoll, together with all the hotel guests and Manfred and his family. We were warned that there would be many insects, so it would be necessary to protect ourselves wearing 'lavalava'.

Somebody must stay on the radio. Silvano is chosen to sacrifice himself and run the pile-up while the rest of us go for the picnic.

It takes 30 minutes to cross the Nukunonu lagoon in a shallow boat. The sea is up to 300m deep and the various shades of blue are fantastic. It is very much the realm of the diving enthusiasts! Nobody lives on the atoll, but there are a number of hermit crabs, which are delicious when cooked with coconut

When we return from the picnic the bad news is that you can no longer switch the linear amplifier off and it stays in TX. In this part of the world it is a real problem working barefoot. In fact it almost defeats the object of our operation.

After several tests we realise that there is no way of fixing the problem. The only way not to abandon the linear amplifier is to adopt the cure suggested by Silvano, ie putting in a coax jumper across the amplifier connected to an antenna switch to be operated manually on reception. This works properly with the 2-element antenna, but it introduces a high SWR with the other antennas. This means working barefoot on 160, 80, 40 and 30m. 9,000 QSOs have already been made in this way. By the end of the operation all of us will have blisters on our fingers!

Time is running out. Our departure is scheduled for 26 February, but we are then informed that this ship will be coming with a fuel load and no passengers will be carried. The passenger ship should come to Nukunonu in time for us to leave on 1 March.

We were far-sighted enough to book our flight back from Samoa for 8 March. We were able to get in touch with our friend Atsum 5W1SA, asking him to postpone our hotel booking in Apia. Phoning from Tokelau is a real problem: you have to call New Zealand and then Italy via satellite, and very often it doesn't work out. Sending e-mail is also difficult. You have to wait for the employees in the post office, who are often not there. If it does work out, then the fee is for five satellite minutes, which means 45 Euros for two e-mails!

Our operation continues for the unexpected four extra days, with some more QSOs in our log and the chance for more people to get a new one, ZK3, in their log.

On Friday the 27th the Tokelau ship is back to unload the passengers, then leaves for the Atafu atoll. It's scheduled to be back on Sunday the 29th. Among the passengers is Udo, DL9HCU, who is not unfamiliar to us, seeing as a few days earlier he contacted Flaviano from Tuvalu with the callsign T2ØHC/QRP.

Udo is used to making a 6-month trip every year in the Pacific, carrying a small QRP station. He has eight licences, C21HC, T3ØHC, T2ØHC, 5W1VE, ZK3HC, 3D2HC, ZK1HCU, ZK1HCC - and he operates mainly CW using a Lilliput key, a 5W QRP rig and a wire antenna for 15, 20 and 30m.

He is staying at the same hotel as we are, is very friendly and knows a great deal about the Pacific area. He has plenty of anecdotes to tell us and some useful advice as well, for example to keep an eye on the ship's time of departure, seeing as sometimes it leaves a day in advance without warning! We are astonished to learn that he visited Tokelau six times – and that four times he missed his flight connection in Samoa because the ship was late! In his opinion 'normality' is the exception in the Pacific!

Bearing in mind Udo's advice, we decide to keep an eye on the ship as soon it returns to Tokelau, so as to make sure that we're ready in time. On the Monday morning we are ready to embark, and Juliana comes along to put crown of flowers on our heads. Just before going on board we discover that our seven pieces of luggage are not labelled, so we have to rush to the police station to pay three New Zealand Dollars each. We get back just in time to embark.

A warm embrace to Manfred and his wife Hella, also to Pio, Luciano, Ula, Udo and all our friends on the island. From the boat and from the mainland everybody waves goodbye. We are very touched. After a stop at Fakaofu we sail in the direction of Apia, where we arrive 32 hours later - four hours early, thanks to a tail-wind!

The customs authorities in Samoa are very meticulous. They open everything and everything is checked. We'll never know what they are looking for from people coming from a place where there is nothing to take away.

At the Hotel Seipepa we discover that the bungalows are very close to each other, with power line passing over the top and nowhere to erect our antennas. We are very disappointed. So we go to Apia. The people on reception suggest that we get a taxi back when it is dark, seeing as there are a number of aggressive dogs. In case we can't find a taxi and have to walk, they suggest we carry some stones in our pocket, to throw to the dogs.

At night it is impossible to sleep because of the dogs barking and howling, so we decide to move the following day to somewhere else. There is another hotel linked to the one in Apia, which is on Savaii island. This means we can move without having to pay any extra money for the days booked there.

Before moving to Savaii island we have to visit the PTT Ministry to get our 5WØSB licence. Then, in two taxis, we drive to the harbour. Unfortunately today the ferries are not running, so we have to take a small boat, the Lady Ursula.

The trip takes two hours, then we get taxis to Tanu Beach Fales, 45 kms away, where we are assigned to two bungalows. There is an electric lamp, but no power sockets – although there is enough room for our antenna. We eventually find a power socket, but the wiring

in the bungalow is so bad that we decide not to risk overloading it by using the linear amplifier.

We quickly put up the SteppIR vertical and start transmitting, mainly on CW, risking the curiosity of the other hotel guests. There are a lot of foreigners in the village - mainly from Australia, but also from Canada and Europe.

During our five-day stay we had a number of storms and power failures four or five times a day, sometimes lasting for few hours.

On the Saturday night we are invited to the Fiafia, a traditional dance and, since we are only staying for five days, we are the guests of honour! The women dance completely greased with coconut oil. They also perform the 'fire dance' and at the end of the ceremony they give us a gift of flowers. On our departure, when we ask for the bill, we discover that they charged us the equivalent of 85 Euros in five days for the electric power used for the radio. After lengthy negotiations we obtain a reduction to 34 Euros, which is still an exaggeration!

On Monday the 8th of March we finally drive to the harbour, and from there to Faleolo airport where our flight is scheduled for 10.45 pm. Atsu, 5W1SA joins us for the final farewells.

Our last unpleasant surprise is at the security check in departures. Here the customs official wants to confiscate the eight AAA-type batteries which Flaviano has with him. He says that two only are allowed, despite of the fact that the digital camera needs four to operate.

Flaviano shares the batteries with Carlo to overcome the problem but, even if it complies with the rules, this annoys the customs official, seeing as clearly he was aiming to get the extra battery for himself!

On boarding, the customs man gets his own back by stopping Carlo's hand luggage, which contains a small laptop and one of the transceivers. His excuse was that this stuff does not comply with 1955 Warsaw Treaty. Carlo will get his luggage back once he is in Los Angeles.

A whole month has passed since we left Italy. We finally arrive back at Milan-Malpensa airport at 12.25 on March the 10th. Our friend Carlos, IK2YRA, is waiting for us. It is very cold and it's snowing, but that's not important. We are still warm from our experiences on Tokelau island!

Some statistics

Total QSOs: 20,209 (ZK3 = 17037, 5W = 3,172)

Countries: 142

SSB: 7,463 EU = 933

CW: 12,042 EU = 2,240

RTTY: 704 EU = 155

160m: 81 EU = 2 (RA6AX, RN6BN)

80m: 849 EU = 117

40m: 3,446 EU = 267

30m: 2,850 EU = 689

20m: 4,785 EU = 1,847

17m: 2,903 EU = 385

15m: 3,032 EU = 19

12m: 1,524 EU = 0

10m: 739 EU = 2 (USØGA, RK3DH)

NA: 8,003

AS: 7,623

EU: 3,328

OC: 668

SA: 543

AF: 44

USA: 7,390

JA: 6,807

Russia/EU: 540

Italy: 521

Germany: 427

Ukraine: 271

Poland: 202
Sweden: 120

With grateful thanks to all our sponsors, who helped to make this DXpedition possible.

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IK2VIL, Beppe, IK2WXV, Carlos, IK2YRA, Bob, IZ2AEW, Paul, IZ2CPM, Paul, IW2NMX, J.Carlos, EA2RC, Carl, K9LA, Markus, DL9RCF, Piero, W1NA, Atsu, 5W1SA.

QSL manager:

ZK3SB direct via I2YSB

5W0SB direct only via I2YSB

M5AAV via bureau

Please do not send QSLs via the ARI bureau, seeing as I2YSB, IK2DIA and IK1AOD are no longer members.

<http://www.qsl.net/i2ysb>

Do I need a licence?

Roger Western, G3SXW g3sxw@compuserve.com

In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of radio amateurs operating abroad, whether on major DXpeditions or family holidays.

One of the crucial pre-trip preparations is to find out about transmitting licences in the destination country. In these enlightened times there are a lot of countries where NO formalities are needed. Yippee! Just go, switch on the rig and make QSOs! This has come about because of the hard work put in behind the scenes to develop the CEPT

arrangements. But are you confused about CEPT? Many thanks to Bob, G3PJT, for explaining it in RadCom (Jul 04), but it still seems unclear to me precisely which countries are covered. The crucial question is: 'In which DXCC countries can I operate without any licensing formalities?' I am no expert and certainly no authority on the subject, but this is what my researches have come up with.

There are several causes of confusion. The first is the difference between 'CEPT' countries and 'Non-CEPT T/R 61-01'

countries. The latter are countries which are not part of CEPT, but have signed up to the agreement to recognise each other's transmitting licences. This has no effect, as far as I can tell, on the fundamental question about operating without licensing formalities, so we just combine the two lists of countries.

Next comes licensing classes. To make this less complicated I think it is fair to assume that CDXC readers are almost all 'Full Class A' licence-holders (with Morse test). But you do need to check before travelling what are the operating privileges in the target country, for example output power restrictions, frequency allocations etc. These vary by licence class. Thirdly, there is the creeping implementation of WRC 2003 changes. This seems to mostly concern the Morse test, so again UK 'A Class' licensees (with Morse test) need not concern themselves with this. Besides, this will straighten itself out over time.

The final area of confusion - much more significant - is which DXCC entities are covered and which ones require some further approval? For example, Italy is listed as CEPT, but we DXers can include on the list Sicily (ISØ) as a separate 'country' even though it is not specifically mentioned on the countries list. Corsica (TK) is part of France and Hawaii (KH6) is part of USA, so we can take it that we are OK in those DXCC entities. But what about Navassa (KP1) or Sable (CYØ)? These belong to T/R 61-01 countries (USA and Canada respectively) but are they covered?

REMEMBER: we are discussing here ONLY transmitting licences, not any other permissions which may be required to visit.

But help is at hand. The European Radiocommunication Office has a website at www.ero.dk which provides a full listing of all countries AND their possessions which are covered by T/R 61-01. So, that's OK then.

Err, sorry – this is not the end of the story. Firstly, there are 'countries' (like Sicily) that count separately for DXCC purposes but are not listed separately by ERO. This is quite appropriate because it is only a quirk of DXCC rules which make this a separate entity – it is in all other respects a part of mainland Italy. So, firstly, we need to add any of these DXCC quirks.

Finally, there are the grey areas. Seldom is anything black & white, I'm afraid. On the ERO website you will see listed ALL the possessions of France and of USA (all the KPs, KHs, Fs etc.) but we know that some of these DO require separate licensing. So, they become queries. Fortunately, we are likely to visit these much rarer locations only as a proper DXpedition and will therefore be happy to take the trouble to check out the situation in detail as a part of the pre-trip planning. The maxim must be 'If in doubt – check!'

In an attempt to apply black and white thinking I have produced a list of all DXCC entities which are (or may be) covered by T/R 61-01. Where there is a question-mark in the attached list then I reckon that the situation is unclear. In these cases try www.qsl.net/oh2mcm/license.htm to see what advice there is and to discover who to ask at the licensing authority in the country concerned. Go to that site in any case, just to check licensing restrictions.

Anecdote: to conclude, this is what happened to us on Wallis Island (FW, May 2000). Before travelling we discovered that FW was NOT covered by T/R 61-01. The local PTT on the island is manned by French ex-patriates who replied to our enquiry that we should visit them on arrival and the licence would be issued – pas de problème (as they say). We did so. The officer was very polite and said that verbal permission is enough on Wallis. He knew about amateur radio licensing, had the rules and the forms but didn't want to be bothered to issue us a written licence. It took

some diplomatic persuasion and two further visits to his office to acquire the document. He never did quite appreciate why this was so important to us! Talk about grey areas: you need a local licence - you don't need a local licence!

To be on the safe side, start out assuming that any 'possessions' need to be investigated. Only the major countries can be assumed to be safe to operate with no further formalities.

73 and good DX. I look forward to meeting in (your) pile-ups.

DXCC Entities covered by T/R 61-01

Prefix	?	Country	Belongs To
3A		Monaco	Monaco
4X		Israel	Israel
5B		Cyprus	Cyprus
9A		Croatia	Croatia
9H		Malta	Malta
CT1		Portugal	Portugal
CT3		Madeira Islands	Portugal
CU		Azores	Portugal
CY0	?	Sable Island	Canada
CY9	?	St Paul Island	Canada
DL		Germany	Germany
EA		Spain	Spain
EA6		Balearic Islands	Spain
EA8		Canary Islands	Spain
EA9		Ceuta and Melilla	Spain
EI		Ireland	Ireland
ER		Moldova	Moldova
ES		Estonia	Estonia
F		France	France
FG		Guadeloupe	France
FH		Mayotte	France
FK	?	New Caledonia	France
FK/C	?	Chesterfield Island	France
FM		Martinique	France
FO	?	French Polynesia	France
FO/A	?	Austral Island	France
FO/C	?	Clipperton	France
FO/M	?	Marquesas Island	France
FP		St Pierre & Miquelon	France
FR		Reunion	France
FR/E	?	Europa	France
FR/G	?	Glorioso Island	France
FR/J	?	Juan de Nova	France
FR/T	?	Tromelin	France
FS		Saint Martin	France
FT/W	?	Crozet	France
FT/X	?	Kerguelen Islands	France

FT/Z	?	Amsterdam & St Paul	France
FW	?	Wallis & Futuna	France
FY		French Guiana	France
HA		Hungary	Hungary
HB0		Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein
HB9		Switzerland	Switzerland
HV		Vatican City	Vatican City
I		Italy	Italy
IS		Sardinia	Italy
JW		Svalbard	Norway
KG4	?	Guantanamo Bay	USA
KH0		Mariana Islands	USA
KH1	?	Baker, Howland Islands	USA
KH2		Guam	USA
KH3	?	Johnston Island	USA
KH4	?	Midway Island	USA
KH5	?	Palmyra, Jarvis	USA
KH5K	?	Kingman Reef	USA
KH6		Hawaii	USA
KH7K	?	Kure Island	USA
KH8		American Samoa	USA
KH9	?	Wake Island	USA
KL7		Alaska	USA
KP1	?	Navassa Island	USA
KP2		Virgin Islands	USA
KP4		Puerto Rico	USA
KP5	?	Desecheo Island	USA
LA		Norway	Norway
LX		Luxembourg	Luxembourg
LY		Lithuania	Lithuania
LZ		Bulgaria	Bulgaria
M		England	United Kingdom
MD		Isle of Man	United Kingdom
MI		Northern Ireland	United Kingdom
MJ		Jersey	United Kingdom
MM		Scotland	United Kingdom
MU		Guernsey	United Kingdom
MW		Wales	United Kingdom
OA		Peru	Peru
OE		Austria	Austria
OH		Finland	Finland
OH0		Aland Islands	Finland
OK		Czech Republic	Czech Republic
OM		Slovak Republic	Slovak Republic
ON		Belgium	Belgium
OX	?	Greenland	Denmark
OY		Faroe Islands	Denmark
OZ		Denmark	Denmark
PA		Netherlands	Netherlands
PJ		Netherlands Antilles	Netherlands Antilles
PJ		St Maarten	Netherlands Antilles
R	?	Russian Federation	Russian Federation

R1FJ	?	Franz Josef Land	Russian Federation
R1MV	?	Malyj Vysotskij	Russian Federation
R2	?	Kaliningrad	Russian Federation
R9	?	Asiatic Russia	Russian Federation
S5		Slovenia	Slovenia
SM		Sweden	Sweden
SP		Poland	Poland
SV		Greece	Greece
SV/a	?	Mount Athos	Greece
SV5		Dodecanese	Greece
SV9		Crete	Greece
T7		San Marino	San Marino
T9		Bosnia Herzegovina	Bosnia Herzegovina
TA		Turkey	Turkey
TF		Iceland	Iceland
TK		Corsica	France
UT		Ukraine	Ukraine
VE		Canada	Canada
W		USA	USA
YL		Latvia	Latvia
YO		Romania	Romania
YU		Serbia & Montenegro	Serbia & Montenegro
ZA		Albania	Albania
ZL		New Zealand	New Zealand
ZL7		Chatham Island	New Zealand
ZL8	?	Kermadec Island	New Zealand
ZL9		Auckland & Campbell	New Zealand
ZS		South Africa	South Africa
Total		117	
Query		34	

The Activation of the Holm of Grimbister Island (IOSA OR35) by the Orkney Amateur Radio Club, 9 – 11 April 2004

After weeks of planning and preparation, the Orkney Amateur Radio Club were finally ready to start their first island activation of 2004. It was decided that the best time to get on the air would be the Easter weekend, hoping that there would be a little more activity on the bands.

We had kind permission from the landowner to bring our camping and radio equipment on

to his island on the morning tide of Friday the 9th till the morning tide on Sunday the 11th, so all systems were go!

As the time came closer, a phone call from the landowner put a smile on every club members face, "You are welcome to set up your radio equipment in my house as I won't be on the island this weekend!" Bingo! No need for heavy generators and tents. So the extra space

in the 4x4s was filled up with more beer!! Now it could even rain and it wouldn't bother us inside the only house on the island.

Thursday morning came and everything had fallen into place nicely. All three 4x4s were packed and ready to take the equipment over the causeway early on Friday morning. Then came the bad news: due to fog on the mainland the landowner who had been in Edinburgh was stuck at the airport and couldn't get to Orkney until Friday afternoon at the earliest. So it was decided that rather than rush to pack up the generators and tents etc. we would cross our fingers and hope that the fog would clear, enabling us to go over on the evening tide.

A phone call on Friday afternoon confirmed that the plane had landed and we were good to go. So the team set off on the first leg of Grimbister 2004. As Dave, MMØEAX, lives across the bay from the island, everyone met there for a beer and game of pool, while at the same time watching the tide for the first sign of the causeway coming into view.

As this was the first activation of the year the team were very eager to get started and as the tide window wasn't for very long we were at least half an hour early on the beach, poised and ready to go.

Once across the causeway we began to set up the antennae. On 10m, 15m, 20m was a dipole at 40'. On 17m a home-made vertical. On 30m and 40m a marine band HF antenna (with a GM3POI conversion to work on either band by adjusting a tap on the coil). This antenna was very much an experiment, but we were soon to discover a very successful one as it went like a bomb on both bands.

Once all the antennas were assembled it was all in to the house to set up the stations. The cottage had two rooms, so this was a bonus as we were able to set up one station in each room:

Station 1 was used on the 10m, 15m and 20m bands and consisted of a Yaesu FT1000-MP with an Ameritron amplifier.

Station 2 was used on 17m, 30m and 40m and consisted of a Kenwood TS-950SDX and a Kenwood amplifier.

Heil headsets were used on both stations and SDX logging on both laptops.

Station 2 was ready first and at 1945z on 40m US3LX was the first ever callsign logged from Grimbister Island. There soon followed a tremendous European pile-up which was to last all the way through the night and into the next day.

Station 1 was ready shortly afterwards and at 2006z on 20m IZ6FZS was logged. We were now underway.

Conditions soon dropped off on 20m, so by 2100, after a good run of North and South Americans, there wasn't a signal to be heard above 7 MHz. Typical: it's pitch dark and the 80m dipole is still in the back of a 4x4! Thankfully Station 2 was still in big demand on 40m, so all was not lost. It was also decided that at first light we would erect the 80m dipole so that we would have a fall back if 20m closed early again the following evening.

As the evening wore on the Europeans started getting lower on 40m, and the occasional South American would manage to bust through. Even the VK6s were making it through without too much trouble, so the experimental antenna was a success. Great! ZD8I also managed to break the pile-up at 2240z (now you know your antenna's working!). By 0000z the CW operators were getting itchy fingers. "Wonder if we could get a run of Americans on CW?" was mentioned on more than one occasion. So the SSB

operators sprung a few tinnies and sat back while the CW guys got to work. The first call at 0040z was UA9CKN.

Whilst the SSB operators were taking a well-earned break, Colin (GMØIFM), Clive (GM3POI) and Ken (MMØGKB) started into a CW pile-up. Mostly Asiatic Russians and North and South Americans were worked between 0040 and 0300z, although some rarer Caribbean and Central Americans popped up from time to time, with EM1HO (Antarctica) at 0055z.

With 40m still wide open at 0300 the CW guys decided to switch to Station 1 and wait for 20m to open up, while Station 2 switched to 40m SSB. The first call back on SSB found P43E, followed by a string of South Americans. ZS6TDF made it through at 0408 and TR8CA at 0509z. By this time the European pile-up was S9+ and we were just saying to ourselves the chances of hearing a VK or ZL amongst this lot were 3/10 of b***** all! Negative! At 0526 ZL3GS came through like a freight train, followed by ZL3NW at 0610!

Station 1 started 20m CW at around 0645. The first call found 4Z4DX, then mostly Eastern Europeans and VKs, whilst on 40m the requests still came from the pile-up: "When will you do CW?". So it was decided that Station 2 would keep them happy on 40m CW and Station 1 would start on 20m SSB.

Over the weekend 20m proved to be a bottomless pit during daylight hours and it wasn't unusual to be working a run of Jas, VKs and North Americans all at the same time. Conditions above 14 MHz were on the whole very poor. No contacts were made on 10m at all and just a handful on 15m, although it is worth mentioning that 9V1RH, 5R8FU

and a lot of South Africans and Indonesians made it through.

Our 17m antenna also seemed to work well. Although only a vertical, it performed very well and comments from the pile-ups were very complimentary: "nice signal", "very loud", "you're the only station I can hear on the band" - to mention but a few. OK, we had an island QTH and a roll-off to the sea in all directions, but we have to stress the importance of a good radial system under the vertical antenna which we had. This can be time-consuming when you are setting up, but proves a winner in the long run, especially on 30/40m.

The Holm of Grimbister activation proved to be a big success. Although over the weekend the conditions weren't great, there was a big demand for the island. Thanks to all who called in and sorry to those who didn't make it. A big thanks to the landowner, who kindly let us invade his house with our radio equipment and antennas. MMØMWW's final QSO count was 5,866 into 121 DXCCs, which has proved to be the our most successful island activation to date.

One more thing worth mentioning was the standard of discipline on the bands, which was generally good (above 7 Mhz!), but still the Japanese stations take the gold medal for proving to be the most disciplined operators in the world and a pleasure to work. It also has to be said that a considerable amount of lower powered stations eg, the UK M3 series call signs, made it through the pile-ups without too much trouble due to timing and generally good operating technique - which is nice to see. We hope to hear you all again from our next island - or? Keep an eye on our website at www.eu009.com/grimbister2004.htm for further information.

Member Profile

T. George Main-Baillie, Z24S *bailliedxer@zol.co.zw*

G3FZN, ZE4JS, Z24JS, Z24S – callsigns used over 48 years in amateur radio. All 95% CW.

- 1938 Boy Scout's Signaller's badge.
- 1942-3 Wartime temporary aeronautical licence, Durban, South Africa.
- 1944 Radio officer on C-Class flying boats, Durban to Calcutta. All CW using forerunner of the 1155/1154.
- 1945-6 Purchased National straight receiver and listened to amateurs for the first time.
- 1947 Posted to flying boat base at Hythe, UK, and routes to Sydney/Hong Kong/South Africa. Second Class aeronautical PMG licence. 100% CW.
- 1949 Posted to Hurn on land planes Far East and Africa. All CW.
- 1951 Posted to Comet fleet in London.

The Comet 1 and the world's first commercial jet passenger aircraft had a very short range and a radio officer really earned his pay. In fact this applied to all the flight deck crews. Then the Comets started dropping out of the sky and I was grounded for almost a year. During this time I applied for a Radio Amateur licence. I now had a First Class PMG licence, so G3FZN came through the post quite quickly, followed by a station check which consisted of a crystal for Top Band and a BC348 receiver ex-US Air Force. I still have both the crystal and the receiver in a cupboard waiting for me to get around to it! The TX consisted of a 6J5 oscillator into a 6L6 output. With a wire strung around the garden and enough RF to receive 559 from a chap in Hull. A much bigger thrill than working Ducie Island today.

During this grounding I had time to go dancing and met the girl who became my XYL and we have been together now for 40 years. Now I strongly advise all men who are contemplating matrimony that amateur radio is built in to the marriage agreement. Love me love, ham radio is the only way to go and I have memories of budding hams who were never heard of again after the sort walk to the altar.

The airline had bought Constellations to replace the Comets and I found myself on the Far East and Australia routes again. However, with a stable home life progress was made in the DX world with a quad antenna for 15 ad 10m. An HRO5T on loan from the RAF monitoring group and a 6146 TX constructed from Geloso parts purchased in Rome – having lived on soup for days to pay for them. Anyway, DXCC and WAZ came up quite quickly and I sold my V8 Ford and bought a KW Vanguard. I joined the RSGB and the Southampton group and had fun on field days etc.

There had been rumours of redundancy of R/Os and our union advised cooperation with the airline. We trained the pilot in the use of HF/RT and earned a golden handshake and a deferred pension. My last trip was from London to Beirut monitoring the pilots on VHF. The transition from 'C' Class flying boats with the pre-war radio used for communication and DF to the Britannias with 2 HF rigs, storm radar, DME etc. was quite a jump in 15 years. After a short course in air traffic control at the London School of Navigation I applied for air traffic control in Rhodesia and started work in December 1959. This was shift work and I had lots of time for DXing, building quads and improving my

system of raising beams vertically against gravity. The latter was the subject of an article in the RSGB Bulletin and used by many amateurs in this country and ZS. My amateur ambition has been to have Rhodesia/Zimbabwe at the top of the DXCC Honor Roll and I am still working on it. It has been slow progress because we bought a plot in the Eastern mountains and built up a holiday home. I had hoped to have a rhombic firing NW-SE, but too much time was used on plumbing and apple-tree planting etc. Then there was a period of home-brew SSB construction using parts smuggled from Lisle Street in London. It did work, but was never very good. A Collins S-Line was brought in under the bed in a caravan. I had been transferred to a department where my CW skills were of more use and DXing time was limited to weekends.

Peter 1 is top of my most wanted and sundry islands which have been activated once and left for years. I need 4U1UN on CW – never a card from the visiting firemen! At this time the station rig is an FT-100D which I bought from a farmer who had been evicted from his farm. An IC-738 acts as a back-up rig and there is the Ameritron 1200 if the pile-up is too dense. Antennas are the TH6DXX at 50' and slopers for 160 to 30m. Zimbabwe has one of the finest climates on this planet and while I am allowed to keep DXing and can live on the above-mentioned pension I will help to keep Z2 on the bands.

Good DXes 73

George, Z24S

330/361 Mixed, 320/327 CW post-1975

Mike Whitaker, G3IGW SK

In June, shortly before he became a Silent Key, Mike sent me an 11-page 'Outline of some of my Ham Activities' for possible publication in the Digest. This extract is by way of small tribute to him. Ed.

A call from the King

In 1950 I was summoned by His Majesty to serve 18 months as a national serviceman. He must have liked what I was doing, seeing as on the day I completed the 18 months I was asked if I would mind doing a further six months. I had to agree!

I was very fortunate. Compulsory Cadet Force at school meant blanking one's face, wearing puttees and gaiters and climbing lichen-

covered country walls. I hated it and cannot really believe that it had anything to do with character-building. I needed a change and happily managed to get into the RAF. And joy of joys I was sent to RAF Yatesbury in Wiltshire and completed a 5-month radio course. I qualified as an Air Wireless Mechanic.

In fact my luck held. I was to have a cushy number based at RAF Ouston, near Heddon-on-the-Wall, even wearing mufti much of the time. This was 607 Auxiliary Squadron – weekend flyers – and the last squadron to fly Spitfires. It is hard to believe now that I once serviced 1154 TXs and 1155 RXs. Later we had Vampire jets. Still valve equipment, but much lighter in weight. I was exempt from the City & Guilds exam and after years as an

SWL the CW test was no problem. I got my call, G3IGW, in 1951 ahead of demobilisation in 1952.

The 'Short Wave Listener'

The 'SWL' was a sister publication to the 'Short Wave Magazine' in the 1940s and 50s. Being a reasonably competitive animal I avidly competed in the various ladders, contests and SLPs – Set Listening Periods. Many old timers will remember this magazine. Most went on to become G3+3s and many are amongst today's most competent DXers.

My logs show scores of VX and ZL S9+ AM stations on 10m in 1947 – a vintage DX year. It was almost too good to be true and eventually became too commonplace. I moved LF and for a while sent SWL reports to USA hams heard on 160m AM. There were some surprised recipients! This magazine had more influence on me than I probably first realised.

The First QSO

The first home-brew TX was a simple 6V6 co on 1.775 MHz. A torch bulb in the antenna wire glowed dimly and there were minor scorch marks on the skin of my thumb. I knew I was generating RF! Nevertheless, to hear a ham reply to my first CQ bewildered me beyond all comprehension. I dashed downstairs and screamed to Dad that I was airborne – which was more than he had ever been! The ham was G3HUP in Keighley, only a dozen miles away and obscured by a large hill. The QSO could not have been made on 2m. Crystals for 1.814 and 1.860 MHz were added before I was able to build my first VFO.

Off to Bonnie Scotland

In March 1952 I left home and became GM3IGW in Alloa, Clackmannanshire. There I was to complete a Brewers Guild Apprenticeship. In fact once again I was to fall lucky. My arrival in GM coincided with the

'SWM' introducing their 160m WABC – Worked All British Counties – award. Clackmannanshire is known as Scotland's 'wee county', akin to the English Rutland. And I was the only Top Band ham in the county. I was DX and fame had come at last!

In fact it was a while before I got Clackmannanshire for myself, when I was rescued by fellow sassenach GM3JNW, who came to live in the county. I lived and breathed Top Band, partly for the love of this challenging band and partly because there was little spare cash from a weekly wage of £4 5s 0d! At least being a brewer, the beer was free.

I was in friendly competition with TP – GI6YW – to see who could get WABC No. 1. TP got there first, just 10 days before my own No.2.

In fact although the long term has been to collect one card from each band/country, band/state, WAZ and so on, I've just never got round to actually claiming any other certificate! I might have claimed for confirming every original Russian oblast before world events took over. As I write I need only about a dozen cards and I will then have 1,000 capital USA counties confirmed, all on CW. That certainly would be a certificate well worth claiming.

Whilst in GM I met up with Jimmy, a keen SWL from Stirling. He built a small, neat 160m TX and owned a Bradford Jowett van. We had access to a main supply in a farmhouse near the village of Crook of Devon. This was about 50 yards from the Perthshire-Kinross-shire county border. We would give out Kinross on one visit, followed by Perthshire on the next trip. We made many visits before Jimmy emigrated to Canada. He left the small rig behind. Because he never actually gave it to me, 50 years on it is still in my possession.

Rigs

For many years we used separate TXs and RXs. The transmitters and associated ATUs were all home-brew. Little telephony was used, but a small clamper tube modulator sufficed, a form of screen-grid modulation. QRO could be used on the HF bands and there a pair of KT88s in Class B zero bias got us through the QRM.

Commercial receivers, used in chronological order, were a Radiovision Hambander, Eddystones 640, 750, EA12, then a Drake R7A used in conjunction with a TR5. Later I went transceive with a TenTec Omni 6, then Kenwood TS-440s right through to today's Kenwood 870s. This is an excellent rig and not many come on the second-hand market. The unmodified keying on the TR5 was poor and I never did tame the spurii on the Omni!

IOTA News

Roger Balister, G3KMA

Update of data in IOTA Directory, 40th Anniversary Edition

New IOTA reference numbers issued

AF-095/Pr TJ Cameroon group
(Cameroon)
AS-170/Pr RØI Shelikhova Bay group
(Russian Federation - Asia)
AS-171 4S Sri Lanka's Coastal
Islands (Sri Lanka)
AS-172/Pr RØC Sea of Okhotsk Coast
North group (Russian Federation - Asia)

Operations which have provided acceptable validation material

AF-060 C5ØI Bijol Island
(July/August 2004)
AS-149 RAØFU/P Moneron Island
(July 2004)
AS-149 RAØFW/P Moneron Island
(July 2004)
AS-149 RKØFWL/P Moneron Island
(July 2004)
AS-149 RV3ACA/Ø Moneron Island
(July 2004)

AS-171 4S7PAG Beruwala Island
(aka Barberyne or Welmaduwa) (July 2004)
EU-159 TM7BDX Cordouan Island
(June 2004)
NA-132 HK3JJH/ØA Serranilla Bank
Cay (July 2004)
NA-133 HK3JJH/ØB Serrana Bank
and Roncador Cays (July 2004)
SA-074 OC3I Los Chimus
Island (February 2004)
SA-089 YV5ANF/1 Sal Key
(April/May 2003)

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

Operations from which validation material is awaited as at 20 August 2004

AF-095/Pr TJ3MC/P Mondoleh
Island (April 2004)

AS-170/Pr RIØIMA Matykil' Island
(June/July 2004)
AS-172/Pr RIØCM Malminskiye
Islands (July 2004)

73

Roger Balister, G3KMA
RSGB IOTA Manager

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Note: Checkpoints are not authorised to credit QSL cards for an operation where validation is required.

Visit the website for the latest IOTA information!

The RTTY Column

Phil Cooper, GUØSUP *pcooper@guernsey.net*

Summer's here! Well, what passes for a British summer in most years! I don't think the southerly aspect of Guernsey has been quite as badly hit as some central parts of the UK, but we have still had our share of the lousy weather. The major difference this year is the high level of heat and humidity. Instead of being cold and wet, it is hot and wet.

Maybe that aspect of our summer helped the RSGB 80m Club Championships in some way? Despite ending in July, there seemed to be quite a high level of activity for the last three sessions, which must be very pleasing for those who organised such a contest.

Well done to the organisers, and to those who spent so much time checking logs. I do hope it is repeated, although I wonder whether it would be better run from, say, November to May? I would like to thank those behind this contest, and to the log-checkers for all the work they put in.

The Friedrichshafen HamRadio event is now just a distant, but very happy, memory. My trip started as a casual remark to a fellow RTTY contester, and from there it turned into a rather major trip involving 11 others from Guernsey, plus Paul, GØVEP, a regular visitor to Guernsey, who would join us from the UK.

At one of our club meetings, I happened to mention that I was considering the trip, and that prompted a few others to say they would like to join me. That didn't seem to be a problem at the time, but I hadn't realised it would mean me making all the reservations, and paying up front!

Waldemar, DK3VN, was the man responsible for my decision in the first place, and he suggested that we stay at the Hotel Goldenes Rad in Friedrichshafen, which is close to the rail, bus and coach terminal. The rooms were booked and confirmed in January of this year, as were flights from Stansted direct to Friedrichshafen. Getting from Guernsey to Stanstead was more expensive, and also involved an overnight stay due to flight times.

On Thursday 24 June, Dick, GU4CHY, Koos, GUØGUX, Dave, GU8ITE, Brian, GU1HTY, Dave, GUØHRY, Nathan, MU3GSY, Keith GU6EFB, with his wife and two daughters, plus myself, all gathered at the airport for a late afternoon flight to Stansted. To keep costs down we stayed at a small hotel not too far away, and then made the trip back to Stansted on the Friday morning. At the airport, we met up with Paul, GØVEP, who had had a long drive up from the West Country that morning.

The journey from Guernsey to Friedrichshafen was simple and trouble-free, and once we had arrived at the German airport, the train ride to the lake area was just as easy.

To help us find the hotel, Waldemar had e-mailed me a picture of the main station and indicated the road we needed to walk along. This really helped at the time, so we didn't waste time wandering around. Once we had checked in, we simply unpacked quickly, and then all of us met in the foyer for a stroll around the town.

The town itself was rather picturesque, and somehow, we ended up down by the lakefront, and close to a small café/bar which was serving wonderfully cold beer. This was most welcome on a very warm Friday afternoon, although it was a little stronger than I am used to! After just one beer I started to feel the effects of drinking on an empty stomach, and the fact that we were hot meant it got poured down parched throats! Sometime around 5pm I left the rest of the GUs and returned to the hotel to shower and change, and be ready for 6pm in the foyer area, where I was to meet up with Waldemar. He and Peter, DL2YCA, had arranged a RTTY dinner at the Gasthaus Heuschober.

On the way down to the foyer, I recognised Waldemar walking towards me, and we went off to the Messe (exhibition halls) to meet Peter and some others, and then walk to the café to meet up with all the other RTTY people.

This was an amazing experience, as there were some well-known, top-notch RTTY DXers in attendance! Among those attending (including Peter, Waldemar and myself) were Alex, YO9HP/A45WD, Doug, N6TQS, Andreas, DH8WR, Bert, IV3ARJ, Flavio, IV3TMV, Gerd, DL7VOG, Paul, 4X6UU, Andrea, IK1PMR, Ekki, DF4OR, Götz, DJ3IW, Walter, DL4RCK, Jan, SM5FUG and Wolf, DL6JZ.

It was a real pleasure to meet Doug, N6TQS, as he has probably been responsible for giving me more 'new ones' on RTTY than any other single person, although Gerd comes a close second in that respect!

We had managed to get an outside table for the meal and it was a wonderful, warm evening, so the beer was flowing nicely, and there was plenty of discussion about RTTY.

Somewhere around 9.30, I realised I had not yet ordered any food (although I had managed to order several jugs of beer!), so Sandra came to my rescue and helped translate the menu. Steak with croquette potatoes and a cognac with cream sauce seemed a good choice. The steak was a very nice filet, and surprisingly large too. The fun and chatter went on quite late into the evening, and I got a taxi back to the hotel around 11.30pm.

The plan the next morning was for all of us GUs to meet for breakfast at about 0700 so that we could get the courtesy bus to the Messe at about 0900. I guess it must have been due to the heat, and not being able to sleep properly, but I didn't quite make the 7am breakfast! Some thought it may have been due to something else, but I was insistent that it was lack of sleep.

Once inside the Messe, we each went our separate ways, and I started in the main hall. The size of this was rather overwhelming for someone who hasn't attended such a major event before. There was something like 18,000 square metres of floor area in this one hall. Each of the flea-market halls was around 10,000 square metres.

There were just so many stands in the main hall, featuring all sorts of equipment, so I wandered up and down the aisles, looking at various exhibits, with my mouth wide open! Before long, I had bumped into Chris, Z31GX, Dov, 4Z4DX, Ari, 4X6UO, Mike,

9A3JB, and even Mario, S56A. I also met Tom, GM4FDM, wandering around.

Jose, CT1AOZ, was there and he told me he had driven some 2500 km to the event, which had taken him 23 hours of solid driving! Dave, NN1N, was on the ARRL stand, as was Rob, GM3YTS, and Fred, G4BWP, all checking DXCC applications under the supervision of Wayne, N7NG.

I don't quite know how many kilometres I walked on the Saturday, but it was quite some distance. There always seemed to be someone who recognised my call and shouted, "Ah, Phil, the RTTY man!", which resulted in a chat about contests and the like, so I seemed to spend most of my time talking.

By 2pm I was very hot and very thirsty, so I found a sandwich and cold drink – No! not more beer! – and a place to sit. Although this was very pleasant, I did wonder whether it was a good decision, as I found it very difficult to get moving again afterwards.

As we all went our separate ways inside the exhibition, we had arranged to meet up at the entrance at around 4.30pm, so we could catch the bus back to the hotel and get ready for the evening IOTA boat cruise.

This turned out to be a bit of reunion with loads of people who had operated in Guernsey! I was surprised at just how many of those present had visited Guernsey, some of whom had operated from the GARS shack.

There was another boat cruise going on at the same time, which drew a lot more attention than ours! Now, if you thought a boatload of hams was an odd gathering, the other boat was a bit of an 'eye-opener'! If you weren't there, ask someone who was. Did any of you get any photographs?

So, back to things RTTY.

During the middle of August I seemed to have a nice session of being in the shack at the right time for once. I first managed to work Dave, 7P8DA, on 20m for an all-time new one and then managed to find him the following day on 15m. I also got them on 17m CW, but missed out on the 12m and 17m RTTY, though.

A few days later, I found VQ9LA on 20m for a new band-country, which was followed by V73V on 15m for yet another new band-country.

After getting home from work one night, I went to the shack, turned on the rig and found Robert, 3B9FR, on 20m, which was especially pleasing as I had missed out on 3B9C on that band. Getting the card may be more difficult, though!

KH2/JEØFPH would be a new one on 15m for me, but he seems to be on that band when I am at work.

After I had worked 7P8DA on 20m, I sat and watched the pile-up for a while and saw one G get called. Instead of the simple 7P8DA TU UR 599 599 DE G3XYZ K, this G sent a macro giving his working details! I am sure this may have been a case of the wrong key pressed, but I have seen instances where it has been deliberate. DX stations are not interested in your working details and what size hard drive you have!

I would have to suggest that you consider a separate buffer just for working DX stations, along the lines of the example above. I appreciate you may not use it that often, but it is worthwhile.

Most DX stations will be operating split, even if you see a cluster spot suggesting he has been worked simplex. If you see this, don't just jump in, try and see what he is working, and where. If they say Up 1 – 2, try calling up 3 or 4, as they will not confine themselves to

just 1 or 2 up. Try and see if they work more than one station on the same frequency. Some will, and some will specifically not do that. A few minutes spent watching for a pattern will often pay dividends.

There has been a lot of RTTY activity on the WARC bands of late, some of it good DX too. You will usually find RTTY between 10.135 and 10.141, 18.100 and 18.108, and also between 24.920 and 24.925.

I am sure most of you are aware of MMTTY by Mako, JE3HHT. You may not be aware that he has also written a program called MMVari. This program decodes PSK, MFSK, and AFSK RTTY (FSK is not supported). At present this is an experimental program, originally conceived to work with the Eastern Asian languages, and until very recently it wouldn't even run under 'Western' Windows.

I have it up and running, and it works very well, including rig control. This is quite simple, as you can just copy the settings from MMTTY to MMVari.

There are a vast number of buffers, which gives you a lot more scope than in MMTTY, but I tend to prefer FSK, so will stick with MMTTY for RTTY.

If you run AFSK, then I think you will find MMVari a little more pleasing, especially as you can quickly change to one of the other modes.

To download the program, and to read a little more about it, check out:

<http://mmhamsoft.ham-radio.ch/MMvari/MMvari.html>

You should also note that the MMTTY home pages are in the process of moving from the qsl.net site to <http://mmhamsoft.ham-radio.ch/>.

Simon, HB9DRV, has kindly offered the domain, so you ought to find that downloads are now a little quicker than they were from the qsl.net site.

QSL Routes:

7P8DA (and 7P8NK)	via K4YL.
VQ9LA	via QRZ.Com.
V73V	via JA1KAJ.
KH2/JEØFPH	via home call.

There isn't much DX forecast to be operating on RTTY in the next weeks, although I am sure the contests will bring a few out of the woodwork.

Looking ahead a little, Willi, DJ7RJ, and Klaus, DJ4SO, will be on the air from the Seychelles beginning 3 October, for two or three weeks. They will be operating as S79RJ (DJ7RJ) and S79SO (DJ4SO) on 40 – 6m, CW/SSB/RTTY/PSK31.

Use of the 80m band has not been authorised, but they will be requesting permission to operate on 80m during the weekends (3.505 MHz +/-). QSL via their home callsigns.

The Russian contest has changed dates, and is now to be run on 4 September for 24 hours only. CQWW is on the last weekend in September, and is probably the major contest of the year.

For all contest rules, records and results check out www.rttycontesting.com.

That's it for another issue, so good hunting, and see you in the contests.

73 de Phil GUØSUP

The BARTG Awards

Phil Cooper, GUØSUP

As many of you will know, I am now the BARTG Awards manager, but I thought it might be useful if I give you an idea of what you can claim, and how you go about submitting an application.

The awards we offer are the QCA, or Quarter Century Award which, as the name suggests, is an award for working 25 countries. This is one certificate, to which you can add stickers in increments of 25, currently up to 300. The award can be endorsed for band and for mode.

The PSK31-40 award is for working 40 countries using PSK31. The continental awards are for working varying numbers of countries on each continent, endorseable for Class, depending on the number of countries worked. They can also be endorsed for band and mode.

Currently, we have awards for Europe, Africa, North America, South America and Asia. By the time this issue is out, we should have the Oceania award to complete the set.

There are currently three ways to submit a claim. The first and most obvious way is to submit the cards, but we do appreciate you may not be comfortable with sending cards.

The second is to submit a certified list of contacts that has also been signed by two

officials of a recognised radio club. This could be CDXC, the RSGB, or just your own local, but affiliated, club.

The final way is to make a claim based on contacts made in one of the two BARTG contests. For this, you would submit a list of countries claimed to me, and John Barber,

GW4SKA, the contest organiser, will then verify this.

In each case, send a list of the countries claimed, along with the date, time, band and mode, as this enables me to check the claim a little more easily.

If you wish, you can send this list to me via e-mail in advance of your postal claim. The best way to compile the list is in Excel or Word format.

The cost for each award is £6.00, \$10 or 10 Euros, and additional stickers for the QCA are 50p, \$1 or 1 Euro.

Once you have submitted your award, then you can track the progress on the BARTG website at

www.bartg.demon.co.uk

and follow the links to the awards pages.

Phil Cooper GUØSUP

BARTG Awards Manager

CDXC
CHILTERN DX CLUB
The UK DX Foundation

Contest

Lee Volante, GØMTN

Hello, and welcome to the September edition of Contest. This time I've got some items of news to pass on, there is a look at last year's CQ WW DX SSB contest from a UK perspective, some musings on contest strategy, and a report of a rather unusual DX and Contest meeting.

Software under Windows XP

It is a well known fact that the most recent versions of the Windows operating system which the majority of us use on our home PCs is not backwards compatible with old DOS software. Whilst contesters are now becoming well served with Windows programs such as Writelog, N1MM Logger and MMTTY, many people still wish to use tried and tested DOS programs that have served them well through many years of contesting.

A common solution is to create a separate disk partition on a modern PC, and run DOS from there. Another popular choice is to have a separate 'radio PC' that may be a few years old, but still runs DOS applications very happily. Hence I was very pleased to learn about a new alternative recently. Some software called DOSbox has been written for Windows XP that emulates DOS. It requires a fair amount of computing power to run, in fact at least a 1 GHz processor is recommended. The main reason for its creation was to allow people to play PC games from yesteryear, but it didn't take amateurs long to think of a few additional uses.

The upshot of this is that I've been able to install and run RUFZ, PED etc. on my normal XP home PC. It's probably meant I've had a bit more Morse practice recently than normal because I can start the software simply and

don't need to restart my PC or boot up another machine. My winning appearance at the IARU High Speed Telegraphy championships is still a long way off, though. DOSbox is free and available at:

<http://dosbox.sourceforge.net/>

Another new program I have been using recently is Pilemania by Yasushi JA1DYB, which is a pile-up simulation program that runs directly on Windows XP. You can find the latest version here at:

<http://www.jg1vgx.net/etc/pilemania0.09.zip>

CQ WW DX SSB Results 2003

Thanks to Roger, G3SXW, who sent on the following information on high-placed finishers in the CQ WW DX SSB Contest for 2003.

(High-power)

Single-Op, All-band

M6T (G4PIQ) 1st Europe, Trophy winner
GW4BLE 2nd EU
GM7V (GM4YXI) 4th EU

14 MHz

GIØKOW 2nd World, 1st Europe, Trophy winner
M7Z (G3VHB) 5th EU

21 MHz

G3TXF 6th EU

28 MHz

GØAEV 3rd EU

Multi-Two

MD4K 5th EU

(Low Power)

Single-Op All-band

G4BUO 9th World, 3rd Europe

Congratulations to you all. It's especially pleasing to see that the UK takes 1st, 2nd and 4th place in Europe in the Single Operator All Band section, and particular mention must be made of GIØKOW's World 2nd place on 14 MHz.

If you remember, the radio conditions surrounding the event were very mixed due to a large solar flare just before the contest weekend. Fortunately during the contest itself

there was some enhanced high band propagation, although LF was not as good at times. It could have been a lot worse!

Both Steve, GW4BLE, and Andy, G4PIQ, are CDXC members, so I hope they won't mind us peeking at their scores as they battled it out for the top spot. It's interesting to examine the difference in the breakdown of the claimed scores, QSOs and multipliers on each band. The other key metric not directly shown is the number of points per QSO. Although Steve is a little way behind Andy on multipliers and QSOs, the overall score is very close due to the fact that Steve managed more DX QSOs, presumably to the USA, from his excellent Newport QTH. Andy said at times that Steve was running lots of stations he couldn't even hear from M6T. This is a good example of showing you need to maximise QSOs, mults, and points/QSO otherwise you won't be likely to net a top place. Coincidentally Andy and Steve both operated for about 44 hours, and used two radios.

M6T Claimed Summary:				GW4BLE Claimed Summary:			
Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
160:	194	10	53	160:	112	7	44
80:	681	16	72	80:	562	15	65
40:	517	21	88	40:	400	24	82
20:	615	26	85	20:	557	26	92
15:	1781	34	109	15:	1379	26	91
10:	845	25	103	10:	1116	27	94
-----				-----			
Total:	4633	132	510	Total:	4126	125	468
Total Score = 5,999,490				Total Score = 5,634,093			

As a comparison, I had the chance to meet up recently with Timo, OH1NOA, at the recent WWYC meeting in Croatia (see later for more details.). Timo is the current European champion in the CW contest, operating as CT8T. From Portugal the rates were so high

that a SO2R setup was not needed to win, and perhaps would not have been as useful as it obviously is from the UK. Timo recommended operating for the full 48 hours as well, adding only that a lot of sleep before

the contest is all you need to survive the weekend.

As well as the podium finishers, it's just as important to acknowledge the casual entrants. Most people have other commitments that prevent them from operating for the full duration, and so are never in contention of winning or a Top 10 finish. Where we seem to differ in the UK from other equally populous countries is that although UK amateurs will appear on the bands and generate QSOs, not that many of them will send in an entry afterwards. With the opportunities available to prepare and submit a log in a few minutes, with much contest software available free, and an ever-increasing connectivity to the Internet, this left me puzzled. After speaking at some local radio clubs earlier in the year, and just at the moment looking at some VHF NFD logs from radio clubs that are not 'regular' contesters, perhaps computer logging is not as easy and ubiquitous as I had started to think.

The Club Championship concept of getting a radio club's members on air, and helping each other out with operating and logging problems, has been a good success this year – but there are still many UK clubs not represented. I would hope that there is an untapped source of contesters out there that just need a little encouragement and guidance. Are you the only contester at your local club, or have you any stories of successes (or otherwise!) at introducing people to contests? Let me know.

Contest Strategy options

I wonder how many of us spend time after a contest reviewing how they operated, looking at what went well, and what didn't go so well? If we're going to spend 24 hours or more at the radio, perhaps with many weeks of planning undertaken before the first CQ call, it only seems natural to spend at least a little time reviewing the contest to get a better understanding of what happened. If you're

running at a high rate, and moving multipliers like there's no tomorrow, it could be difficult to get a full appreciation of what's going on during the event itself.

The only obvious exceptions that come to mind are the guys that take on the role of 'station managers' at multi-operator events. They watch the QSOs go into the log and check that each station is performing as expected, and that multipliers are being passed and worked. Some good examples from my experience are Bob, G4BAH, during the M6T Multi-Multi operations for CQ WW SSB, and Dave, G4BUO, at GB5HQ during the IARU HF Championship. This can be a full-time job, even without making any QSOs or spotting any multipliers. Having someone free from the distractions of operating activities to analyse the contest 'live' means that remedial action can be taken during the event itself – rather than at the radio club the following week when the team realises that they didn't spend enough time on a certain band or mode, spotted multipliers are not being worked, or from the band scores discover that there was something horribly wrong with the 15m antenna. I'm sure we've all been there at one time or another!

Not many of us have the luxury of this, with the majority of contesters operating as single operators, and so need to do their evaluation by themselves after the dust has settled when the contest ends. Comparing results with your own entries from previous years is a good start – this removes the effect of different stations and locations. If you avoid any short term dramatic propagation events, scores should be close year on year, with an adjustment being necessary each time to cater for the longer term effects of the solar cycle.

Of course, we also want to see how we've done in comparison to everyone else. The use of an automated web-form has meant an increase in the number of people posting claimed scores very soon after the contest on

the Internet '3830' Claimed Score reflector. There is no guarantee that all the leading players will post their score, of course – and occasionally the 'expected winner' gets an unwelcome surprise when the final results are published! A small number of entrants will also post their hourly breakdown on the 3830 reflector. Now we can see where our competitors operated, what decisions they made about band strategy, what were their best hours, if/when they took any time off, and when they picked up their multipliers. Contests such as the European Sprint post the complete logs of all of the entrants on their website at www.qsl.net/eusprint, so it's possible to find out at exactly what times the winners changed bands, or if they were interlacing QSOs between bands, and hence be likely to be running Single Op 2 Radio. Some operators will share their logs with you after the event if you ask them politely. Others will prefer not to – their strategy may have been learnt over many years, and giving it away might be considered to be giving up a small advantage.

This sort of information is of most use if you are in the same part of the world, of course, if we are considering a DX contest, and also have a similarly equipped station. For example, I would not try to mimic a successful session of running on 40m SSB during CQ WW SSB if I had 100W and my trusty dipole at 20' at my disposal. If your station favours the high bands or the low bands, this will probably affect your score and operating style.

Similarly, the decision on the trade-off between the time spent calling CQ and the time spent tuning around will also be affected by how loud you are. Both techniques are needed for success, but to get the highest score possible from a particular station the best ratio will have to be discovered. The vagaries of the ionosphere and the sun can ruin the best-laid plans, of course – but understanding and reacting to changing propagation is all part of the fun. Over time I've discovered that there's

a peculiar quirk of nature whereby short 28 MHz Sporadic E openings always occur just five minutes after I've checked the band for activity, and then gone elsewhere.

As I was talking about last time, many HF contests follow a similar plan whereby everyone works everyone, with DXCC multipliers. It is fairly easy to find a good overall strategy for this type of event. Other contests certainly require a bit more thinking, such as CQ WPX, the WAE contests, and certainly our own IOTA contest.

A classic example of this was in WPX CW this year, where in the back of my mind was the ongoing conflict of which band to operate on. I could be running (at a reasonable speed) on HF, with a reasonable chance of DX QSOs (more points) and new multipliers, or trying 40m or 80m, where at my station the rate would most likely be slower, the chance of DX QSOs and multipliers far less, but each European QSO would still be worth more points than it would be on HF. Being restricted to operating a 36 hours contest, physical stamina is not so much of an issue, and after the event, although I had a similar number of QSOs to several other G operators, a completely different approach to off-periods and the HF/LF split left me trailing by a large margin.

The huge point variation in IOTA is an equally wicked invention. Each year's results, especially in the single operator categories, show very diverse strategies. Hunting purely for IOTA multipliers, giving a tally of just a few hundred QSOs, has a good possibility of beating a station that ran all-comers, even if the second station worked two or three times the number of stations. The benefits of two-radio operation here become obvious as you get the opportunity of the best of both worlds – running and finding multipliers at the same time. During the latter parts of the contest, entrants have worked out that running non-island stations for an hour at a steady rate

could give fewer points than just two multipliers. As has been famously said elsewhere, the rate meter is not always your friend.

WWYC Meeting + IOTA Contest

For several years I've been a member of the WorldWide Young Contesters club, which has just celebrated its 5th anniversary. The club is Internet-based, with its 400 or so members spread all over the world. The main aim of the club is to get young people enthusiastic about contesting and have as much fun in the process. This July around 40 WWYC members and their friends from all over Europe descended upon the town of Pazin in beautiful Istria, Croatia. As expected at DX meetings, it was a great opportunity to meet and chat with contesters I've had QSOs with for years, but never met. The meeting programme included several presentations on DXpeditions and contests, and also a great social programme including boat trips, time on the beach, quizzes, games, and even a disco. The whole event was superbly organised by the Pazin Radio Club, 9A7P. More details can be found at:

<http://www.wwyc.net/meeting2004>

The meeting co-incided with the IOTA Contest, I was lucky enough to be able to take part from Sv. Andrija in the EU-110 IOTA group with a group of nine operators. In the past I've mostly operated from home or my local club station, so it made a refreshing change to be standing on the sunny dockside at Rovinj on the Saturday morning, armed with just an overnight bag, and between us, two radios, two laptops, and some vertical and windom antennas, which were all easily carried between us. The 100W DXpedition class is to be commended as very good fun, and a lot less stressful to organise and set up than you might think. The setup itself took little over an hour, after we'd found a suitable place to site the antennas in the gardens of the

Hotel Istra where we were staying. With a clear take-off out to sea, even the relatively simple antennas worked well. UK stations were extremely loud on 20m and certainly made the band sound quite different to normal.

Conditions during the contest were difficult following a recent event on the sun, with only 20m being reasonable for us during the daylight hours. For us as a low power station using simple antennas, this meant that the contest was largely centred around Europe, fortunately with some choice DX multipliers appearing too. Despite using the fairly lengthy 9A2ØØ4YC callsign, and a short power cut on the island, we achieved a very reasonable 1100 QSOs, and almost 2 million points in the 100W DXpedition category. We were pleased with the result, considering the team had never operated together before, and the station equipment was literally thrown together and put on air.

The team had lots of operators, so we were all able to spend time relaxing enjoying the island, and telling old contest stories. On the boat ride home another tiny island was pointed out to me, just home to a lighthouse. 'That will be a superb location for CQ 160m, I was told, but that'll be another story for next year. I must say thanks to team leader Mario S56A for inviting me onto the team, and the whole 9A2ØØ4YC team (from OE, S5, SP, DL and Yorkshire!) for a fun weekend in the true spirit of the IOTA contest.

That wraps things up for this issue. I'd really like to see some reports for next time, so if you're planning on entering any upcoming contest, please let me know how you got on – be it with a stacked yagi or a Miracle Whip. You can send any reports or items of news to myself at contests@cdxc.org.uk, or via the postal address given at the front of the Digest. Right, now back to those QTCs...

73 Lee, GØMTN

E-mail from 'Local Hero 2004', ZK1CG

Kia Orana, Nigel [G3TXF],

The cheque arrived yesterday and I took it to the bank to deposit. They say it will take 20 days for it to clear, so will have to put off lunch with Jim, ZK1JD, till then. You can find Jim on most nights on 14.224 MHz talking to a German ham.

I listen a lot, but will now call any G stations when I hear them. Will be listening on 80m this year starting in December when we should have good conditions on 80m to your area.

Last year we had great contacts on 80m into your area. Some signals were 59+20 on my dipole up at 40'. Need to get a small amp for my Icom 751A so I can work more stations on 40m. I hear G stations on 40m, but with only 100W it's not easy making a contact with them.

Been making some contacts on 160m with my dipole up at 50' and the 100W out from the IC-751A.

If anyone there hears the digital signal from New Zealand on 1.820 MHz +, have them send me an e-mail to let me know what time they hear this signal on 160m. I have made some contacts on 160m with G stations many years ago.

I also have an Icom 726 with 6m on it and will start monitoring 6m when an antenna arrives from the States, donated by hams in Texas who I worked on 160m.

Have not been on much because my computer that I use in the shack is down at the moment,

waiting for a motherboard to arrive, so I can get back to my computer logging program.

Any new contacts I make with CDXC members will get some extra stamps with the card I return to them. Make sure you mention this and make sure if they are members to note it on their QSL cards they send me for contacts made.

Please thank the members for me and hope to hear you on the air soon so we can chat.

Really nice to see a DX club show appreciation for a DX station's activities over 27 years in the Cook Islands. Not many Clubs do this - and to see this happen to me!

Will be using the ZK1USA callsign next month. I used this call sign during the month of July and was surprised how many hams wanted to work me with the special ZK1USA call. I got this call after September 11 to show support for the USA. Guess being an American made sense to me - and thanks to the Cook Islands Ham License Dept for giving me the call.

73s and Regards

Victor Rivera

ZK1CG and ZK1USA

PO Box 618
Raratonga
Cook Islands
Via New Zealand

e-mail: sales@computers.co.ck

Letters to the Editor

from G3UML

Dear Martyn,

Just to let you know that I am off on a little jaunt in October.

Been wanting to do some proper DXpeditioning for a long time - to somewhere rare, but not too intrepid - but nothing came up. I inquired after the German TXØ effort in October, but it was pretty expensive and involved three days there and back on a rather small-looking catamaran, plus very basic living on Chesterfield. Also the possibility that the thing might get knocked of course by weather or transport problems. So not quite Moi.

Then the perfect thing turned up - a place with an airport, hotels and restaurants, a well-advanced expedition plan, a pretty rare country, especially in Europe, the opportunity to bolt a holiday on the end - and a vacancy. So in early October I'm off to Sydney, meeting up with the Oceania DX Group, and going to Lord Howe Island for two weeks.

Full operational details to come, but this is a well-equipped operation, mostly Aussie operators plus two Italians and me.

Callsigns VK9LA and VK9LW, QRV from 9-23 October 2004, allowing for set-up and de-rig, from what seems like a good location.

I am especially interested in 40 and 80m SSB DX working, and hopefully the higher bands will twitch enough to be useful.

And since I've never been to Australia, I will have a short holiday there afterwards, hopefully joined by my wife, who still has to negotiate work commitments.

Of course I'll been keen to work CDXC members on as many bands as possible (I will be only SSB, but we will cover all the slots and modes).

Regards and 73

Laurie Margolis, G3UML

ARRL publications at discount prices

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Solution to Digest Prize Crossword 5

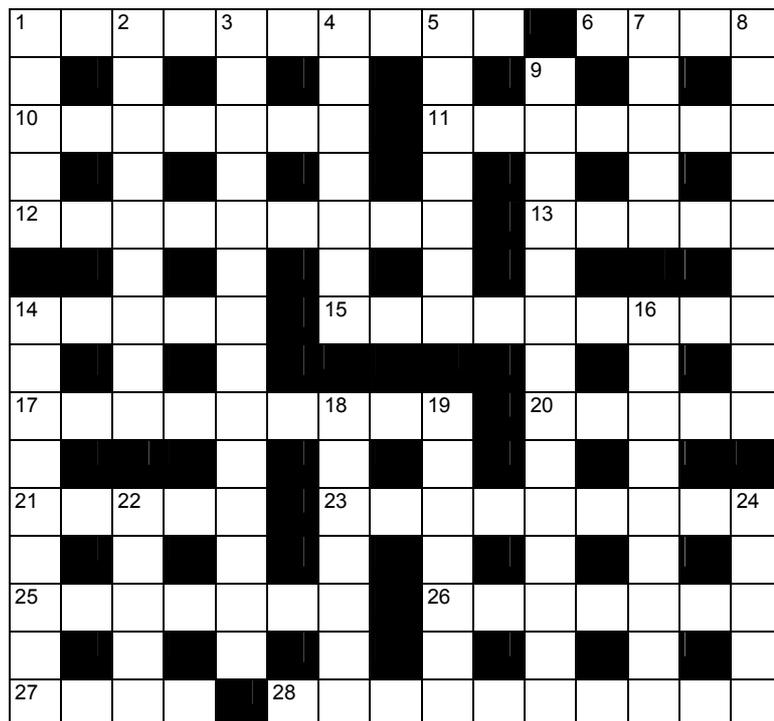
R	A	C	K	O	F	L	A	M	B		L	A	O	S
I		A		B		I		U		C		M		P
C	A	M	U	S		F	E	T	T	U	C	I	N	I
H		C		E		T		A		R		G		N
	F	O	U	R	L	E	T	T	E	R	W	O	R	D
S		R		V		R		E		E				O
P	E	D	L	A	R	S		S	Y	N	O	D	I	C
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L	U	R	G	I	E	S		A	J	A	C	C	I	O
L				O		H		V		F		K		R
C	O	L	O	N	I	A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

Digest Prize Crossword 6 by RFX

I must be getting soft in my old age, seeing as there were two fairly straight definition-type clues in Crossword 5: 12 across and 22 down. Admittedly a smattering of German (or Norwegian...) did help with the latter, although you could still solve it without.

The Rev. Spooner also made his first appearance in a *Digest* Crossword. In fact he turned up twice. He's on holiday this month on the Mile of Anne, EU-116, but could well be back in November.

The winner of Prize Crossword 5, July 2004, and that legendary £10 note: Martin Atherton, G3ZAY, Cambridge.



ACROSS

- 1 Translation of Dante's a bit unseemly (2,3,5)
- 6 City sweetheart almost claims victory (4)
- 10 Instrument the French found in non-U part of EA (7)
- 11 One from Exeter or Hertford, say? (7)
- 12 Sees spell working, tossing and turning (9)
- 13 German physicist beheaded in Swiss high-rise (5)
- 14 Horny beast sailors love touring Hawaii (5)
- 15 Old Eastender's triple success for the Germans, by the sound of it (9)
- 17 Snag with diode wrongly identified (9)
- 20 A lot of people took the car (5)
- 21 Man entertaining policeman in characteristic style (5)
- 23 Leading divisions of security staff? (9)
- 25 Arrives by plane after riding in areas of higher ground (7)
- 26 Beamed NE in routine surroundings (7)
- 27 Filthy dwellings found in the Sudan and El Salvador (4)
- 28 Fruit-bearers given web program and *Observer* backing (5-5)

DOWN

- 1 Old people seen in Darwin, cash in hand (5)
- 2 Dancer in 'Bare All' aberration (9)
- 3 Girl's selection causes frustration (14)
- 4 Not a good person, giving one a sinful urge! (1,3,3)
- 5 Appropriate singular garment (7)
- 7 Struggling with negative force in case of vomiting (5)
- 8 Unusual relic found after opening chamber (9)
- 9 Lovers following Quebec and India on the radio (5,3,6)
- 14 Island doctor, one captured by villains (9)
- 16 Carnival site with unusual garden flower (3,6)
- 18 Regularly puts money aside taken from society birds at university (5,2)
- 19 Girl finished first in part of EI (7)
- 22 Temporarily lose heading off GM island (5)
- 24 Everton and Liverpool, say, second on Caesar's fateful day (5)

Deadline for entries: 20 October

DX and Events Calendar

Compiled by G3XTT

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

01/01-31/12	IOTA 2004
till 31/10	SVØXAN/5: Dodecanese (EU-001) by IK2WZD
till 04/11	II3T: Special event call by ARI Trieste
till 15/11	SX2ØØ4 and SY2ØØ4: special prefixes
till November	EL/EI5IF: Liberia
till 31/12	9A8ØADE, 9A8ØZ, 9A8ØABD: special event stations
till 31/12	HA2ØØ4EU: Special event call
till 31/12	HB75A: Switzerland (USKA 75th Anniversary)
till 31/12	HS72B: special call and licence (Thailand)
till 31/12	NL7AU: Upper Matecombe Key (NA-062)
till 31/12	OE8ØXRW: special event station
till 31/12	SG1RK: special event call (EU-020)
till 31/12	W1AW/9Ø: ARRL's 90th anniversary
till December	HFØQF and HFØPOL: "Arctowski" Base (So. Shetlands)
till December	OX2KAN: Special event station
till December	VKØDX: Davis Station (Antarctica) by VK4LL
till December	VQ9LA: Diego Garcia (AF-006)
till December	WL7CPA: Unalaska Island (NA-059)
till December	YI9KT: Iraq by SP8HKT
till December	YI9MC: Iraq by KC4MC
till January	HA2ØØCVM: special station (Hungary)
till March 2006	5H3HK: Tanzania by JE3MAS
till March 2006	ZD8I: Ascension Island by G8WVW
25/08-22/09	GB6LOP: special station (Liberation of Paris)
08/09-18/09	SV8/ON4BB, SV8/ON5JE, SV8/ON5KH: Naxos (EU-067)
09/09-23/09	7Q7CE: Malawi by IN3VZE
09/10-23/10	VK9L: Lord Howe (OC-004) by Oceania DX Group
10/09-18/09	FP/NN9K: Miquelon Island (NA-032)
18/09-20/09	FO/IT9YRE, FO/I1SNW, FO/IT9EJW: Hereheretue (OC-052)
18/09-21/09	LX/ON6QX, LX/ON4LO, LX/ON6UM: Luxemburg
18/09-19/09	MIA Contest (www.mdxc.org)
18/09-19/09	Scandinavian Activity Contest CW
19/09-21/09	SV8/ON4BB, SV8/ON5JE, SV8/ON5KH: Mykonos (EU-067)
19/09	PSK31 Contest
20/09-30/09	CT9R: Madeira (AF-014) by EAs

21/09-28/09	GB2LI: Lundy Island (EU-120)
22/09-29/09	PJ4/K9MDO, PJ4/N2WB, PJ4/W9ILY: Bonaire (SA-006)
23/09-26/09	OJØYC: Market Reef (EU-053)
23/09-02/10	VP5/AH6HY: Turks Islands (NA-003)
24/09-27/09	W4D: Dauphin Island (NA-213)
25/09-26/09	Scandinavian Activity Contest SSB
25/09-26/09	XX Italian HF-DX Convention (Bologna)
22/10-24/10	RSGB International HF & IOTA Convention
23/10-02/11	FP/VE7SV: St. Pierre et Miquelon (NA-032)
25/10-26/10	CQ World Wide DX Contest RTTY
26/10-02/11	J75WX, J79AA, J79LR, J79CM, J79VL, J75J: Dominica (NA-101)
30/10-31/10	VK4WWI/8: Elcho Island (OC-185) by PA3EXX
October-November	3B8MM: Mauritius (AF-049) by DL6UAA
October	KH7K: Kure Atoll (OC-020)
October	TXØ: Chesterfield Is. (OC-176) by DL5NAM and others
01/11-02/11	VK4WWI/8: North Island (OC-198) by PA3EXX
03/11-04/11	VK4WWI: Sweers Island (OC-227) by PA3EXX
08/11-12/11	VK4WWI/P: Marion Reef (OC-???) by PA3EXX
22/11-09/12	VK9XG: Christmas Isl. (OC-002) by W0YG
28/11	3D2FI: Viti Levu (OC-016), Fiji by GØUIH
29/11-05/12	3D2FI: Nacula Island (OC-156), Fiji by GØUIH
November	PT2GTI: "Comandante Ferraz" Station, South Shetlands
06/12	3D2FI: Viti Levu (OC-016), Fiji by GØUIH
07/12-10/12	3D2FI: Beachcomber Island (OC-121) , Fiji by GØUIH
11/12	3D2FI: Viti Levu (OC-016), Fiji by GØUIH
21/01-04/02	3YØX: Peter I Island (AN-004)

The SEANET Convention 2004 Bangkok, Thailand

CDXC Members and friends are cordially invited to this year's convention, which will be held at the Arnoma Hotel, in the city centre of Bangkok from Friday 19th to Sunday 21st November 2004. The hotel is close to most of the city's attractions and is within short walking distance of the new Sky Train which links with most important destinations in the City. Some major shopping destinations are within walking distance, such as the World Trade Centre, Pratunam Market, Prantip Plaza, Naripan Plaza, Central Stores, Sogo etc. We will arrange all the usual popular SEANET social and sightseeing events plus

something new, and of course the SEANET special event radio station, HS72B (all bands). We will also organise a CQ WW CW Contest team entry the following weekend from the HSØAC (HS72B) club station and suitably licensed members are welcome to join in.

More details, including a registration form, are available soon from the Convention website at www.seanet2004.com or contact Ray Gerrard, HSØZDZ, PO Box 69, Bangkok Airport Post Office, Bangkok 10212, Thailand. E-mail seanet@RAST.or.th for brochures and information. I hope to see you there!

Sawadee Khrap 73 Ray, HSØZDZ

