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Please note the changes of e-mail addresses!

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Club News and Views

Editorial

Martyn Phillips, G3RFX

One or two of you simply didn't believe my description of the highly strenuous and time-consuming *Digest* production process, as outlined in my Editorial last time round. Peter, G3RZP, e-mailed me to say as much. Logically enough you'll find his delightful contribution on the subject in 'E-mails to the Editor'. Those kick off on page 37.

In this *Digest* you'll find many a reference to the AGM & Summer Social on 15 July at the country estate of Chairman John, G3LAS, in Hertfordshire. By all accounts a superb time was had by all. Jane and I were also hoping to be there and join in the fun, but our car broke down en route. John immediately suspected sabotage – and said that there was no need for me to go to such lengths to avoid the relatively small amount of work the AGM & Summer Social would entail. Yes, I do remember Jane saying she had an awful job cutting through the exhaust pipe on the Friday night.

Seriously though, the 'back box' suddenly came adrift on the M4, as an emergency stop at Membury Services duly confirmed, so we had to load the car (and us...) onto a breakdown truck for the trip back to a garage in that roundabout capital of the West, Swindon. By the time a new 'back box' had been fitted, Neville would have already been planning the sale of his 500th raffle ticket - so very reluctantly we decided to call it an afternoon and head back to Bristol instead. It had been an exhausting day, in more ways than one.

But I digress. Have you tried out the new CDXC Yahoo! Group Reflector yet? As confirmed elsewhere in this *Digest*, that's

been going great guns right from the start, with fascinating contributions on a large variety of topics including the wonderful new Reflector itself, antennas of all shapes and sizes, IRCs, ISPs, American blues music – not forgetting the ARRL, Swain's Island and Montenegro. See the bottom of page 2 (opposite) for our Yahoo! Groups URL. Also, a big welcome and thanks to Mark, G4AXX, for agreeing to act as Moderator – of this Reflector, I mean, and not the Church of Scotland, aye.

You'll also see that in the *Digest* I'm no longer underlining website links. Hopefully this way they'll be easier to read. Also, in line with common practice, any long URLs now appear under 'Website Links' at the end of the article which they relate to - and no longer in the text as you go along. Things are a lot tidier this way. In fact I had an interesting exchange with Don, G3XTT, about these lengthy website links. He was keen to point out that although there might well be a fair sprinkling of them in his 'DX an' all that', he didn't create them!

Any other changes? No, not really. And you'll find most of your regular columns in this *Digest*, although I'm afraid we have no 'IOTA News' this month. Mind you, rest assured that the IOTA programme itself is still very much alive and kicking. Those stalwart contributors Roger, G3SXW, and Nigel, G3TXF, feature once again. Roger reports on WRTC 2006 and 'Deleting Uniques', whereas Nigel fills us in on 4O3T. Turn to page 25 for the Full Monty (sorry, Montynegro...) on that one.

73 Martyn, G3RFX

Chairman's Chat

John Butcher, G3LAS

In the July issue I excused the lack of relevant 'Chat' by citing the need to prepare my garden for the AGM and Summer Social on 15 July. In the event the work proved to be well worthwhile, because it seems that a good time was had by all, as they say. The turnout wasn't huge – I suspect that some members may still be roaming the leafy lanes of East Herts, looking for Westland Green. Nevertheless, it was a very enjoyable event and the weather was, as usual, superb. Our President has always had a direct line to the meteorological gods.

Since 15 July we have had the proverbial 'scorcher', which has not only reduced the garden to something resembling the Gobi Desert, but has also sapped my energy such that most of the aerial projects I had envisaged in preparation for the coming DX season have been put on hold. To make matters worse, I have suffered a series of irritating computer disasters which have resulted in my taking the big decision to change to a different logging programme. This was something I thought (hoped) I'd never have to do, because I couldn't face the prospect of transferring about 25,000 QSO records from one database format to another. It seemed inevitable that some of the fields would prove difficult or impossible to match to the data I had accumulated over the years.

Anyway, my old favourite, Prolog, had disgraced itself once too often. I should say in fairness to Prolog that the problem may well be in my own computer, because I don't think other users have had similar experiences. However, encouraged by a conversation with John, G8MM, I decided to have a go at Logger32. I was very impressed with its flexibility and comprehensiveness (and the fact that it's free), so I tackled the job of transferring my log. It was a doddle! I exported the log from

Prolog as an ADIF file and imported that into Logger – job done! One record was rejected, but only because it was a duplicate, and my DXCC and IOTA scores came out correctly, which is extraordinary. I interpret the success as a triumph for ADIF and also for the amazing flexibility built into Logger. Now all I have to do is learn to use the new system. No doubt the 497-page manual will be a help.

If I win the battle I may well attempt a review for the *Digest* in due course, because, as I said, I'm very impressed so far. In spite of having a huge list of features, Logger seems to be relatively easy to use and the 'engine' appears to be quite remarkable. I wonder how long it will take me to break it.

Members will (should) know by now that we have introduced the promised CDXC Reflector. It's flying under the Yahoo! Groups banner and is moderated by Mark, G4AXX. He is obviously doing a great job, because it has already attracted over 170 members in its first month of operation. Judging from the topics which have been raised and the complimentary remarks received, it is proving to be a very valuable forum for members to express their views, ask questions and generally interact on the issues of the day. If you haven't tried it yet, you'll find the URL at the bottom of page 2, the 'CDXC Committee' page.

I guess that the next major event is the RSGB HF Convention from 6-8 October. CDXC will be there in force at the Worth Hotel, Gatwick, so if you haven't booked yet, why not? All the usual attractions should be on offer, together with an attractive programme of talks on a wide variety of subjects. For the IOTA enthusiasts we're hoping to have a demonstration of the new on-line software

system which is expected to revolutionise the way island chasers can enter their update claims and check the details of island activations, scores and expedition validations. LoTW, eat your heart out.

Before the Convention we expect to visit the Leicester Show at Castle Donington on 8 September. This is another well-supported annual event where you can pick up all

those odds and ends which you couldn't find anywhere else. Many of the main equipment and component suppliers should be there and, of course, so will CDXC. Come along to our exclusive stand and have a chat. You can even pay your overdue sub.

73 es gud DX John, G3LAS

President's Patter

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

The 2006 AGM and Summer Social went well. This year it was at the QTH of Chairman John, G3LAS, deep in the Hertfordshire countryside. We were again blessed by good weather and it was good to meet Rachael, John's fiancée. John and Rachael get married in September and we wish them every success in the future.

Thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes. The Star Prize, the TA-33 JR + WARC beam was won by Chris, G1VDP. He is a keen DXpeditioner and this beam will be ideal for these trips. The raffle raised £309, a most valuable addition to our funds.

The two new DXCC entities have given a welcome boost to the DXCC programme. These are Montenegro and Swain's Island. The case for Montenegro, a new nation state, is clear, but the DXCC rules had to be tweaked to bring in Swain's Island.

Don, G3XTT, has written about this change elsewhere in this *Digest*. It's all to do with American Samoa becoming a Class 1 rather than a Class 2 country. Most of you will have worked 4O3T from Montenegro or one of the other stations active from YU6. The 4O3T operation was called an 'International

DX Festival' and their website indicated that they hoped to make 200,000 QSOs. They certainly should have done so with numerous operators flying in and out, a new DXCC country, a permanent station with large beams on the top of a mountain in the centre of Europe. A birdie told me that they were, in any case, trying to beat our 168,000 D68C record, but I wonder if they did? And D68C was a proper DXpedition, of course!

Swain's Island was activated by a small team who made just 16,390 QSOs in the short time they were active. There are rumours of a large DXpedition soon. Let's hope they stay for a decent period and have a good number of stations.

The 3B9C QSL manager team have now QSL'd over 90,000 QSOs - that is over 60% of the total. John, G3WGV, produced some busted call statistics from StarLog by comparing the calls logged with the calls claimed through QSLs. The results are interesting and are summarised overleaf. We have concentrated on the basic call and ignored prefixes and suffixes, as quite a few seem to add these when they send in their QSLs.

Band	Total	Conf'med	Busted	%
1.8	2288	1407	12	0.85
3.5	7510	4607	43	0.93
7	18367	10463	75	0.72
10.1	11375	6924	64	0.92
14	21588	12489	92	0.74
18	20157	12582	85	0.68
21	29920	17628	106	0.60
24.9	16858	11204	77	0.69
28	23580	14540	87	0.60
50	1448	873	11	1.26

Mode	Total	Conf'med	Busted	%
CW	77608	47106	390	0.83
SSB	66829	39260	240	0.61
FM	1160	766	6	0.78
RTTY	5279	3922	8	0.20
PSK31	2173	1631	7	0.43

The busted call percentages by operator ranged 0.30% to 1.29% with a median of 0.64%. These figures seem good to me, although it is difficult to get comparative data. I understand that a high-quality contesting team will achieve a busted call rate of around 1%, but, of course, a contest exchange is longer. Also DXpeditions can only really be compared to contests in terms of activity levels for the first week or so of operation.

We circulated details of every busted call on a personal basis to each operator and the overwhelming reaction was "Excellent data, I'll try to do better next time". The future target is for everyone to better the 3B9C median of 0.64%. Does anyone have comparative statistics?

The QRMing of major DXpeditions seems to be getting worse than ever. Whereas this used to be an SSB problem, it now seems to be just as prevalent on CW. Two of my great friends, both very keen and active DXers with excellent stations, are starting to think about their future participation in the hobby because of this. This is extremely

worrying to me, as the hobby will rapidly decline if the top players pull out.

There may be several reasons for this QRMing problem. Deregulation, poor conditions, availability of relatively inexpensive but powerful transmitters, poor DXpedition operators - or perhaps it's simply a reflection of the general malaise in our society. But whatever the reason, the problem is international and it needs to be tackled at an international level.

Finally, a reminder that the next RSGB HF Convention takes place over the weekend of 6-8 October. Stand by for an announcement about the next FSDXA DXpedition in September 2007. Planning is already well underway.

73

Neville

New Members

CDXC offers a warm welcome to the following new members:

Call	Name	Location
G1JKE	Nigel Knapton	Easingwold
G3DDA	Ken Dyson	Margate
G3SVD	Andy Hewitt	Newbury
G4LPD	Richard Mills	Nottingham
G7USC	Gary McKelvie	Chester
GM3OFT	Peter Bower	Moffat
MØMCX	Callum McCormick	Solihull
M5ITE	Peter Hayler	Heathfield
M5JON	John Edmunds	Bristol

CDXC Annual Dinner, 17 March 2007

Further details in due course.

This Annual Dinner will also form part of

CDXC's 25th Anniversary Celebrations

More on that in the special November 2006 *Digest!*

SEANET 2006

SEANET 2006 Osaka will be held from 14-17 September 2006. For the first ever SEANET Convention in Japan we have been developing a plan of the Convention which will allow for as many people as possible to join.

The venue for this wonderful occasion will be International House, Osaka, conveniently located near the city centre. Accommodation will be at the Hotel International House and other nearby hotels.

We look forward to sharing with you a happy time at some of the many historical and interesting sites in and around Osaka. Through our gathering it is our hope that old friendships will be rekindled, new friendships will be made and the result of it all will be a truly wonderful, most memorable time for all. We look forward to seeing you.

The URL for the SEANET Convention 2006 is www.qsl.net/seanet2006/index.htm.

73 from Taizo, JA3AER

Minutes of CDXC AGM, 15 July 2006 at 1200

Venue: G3LAS, Westlands, Westland Green, Little Hadham, Herts SG11 2AJ

John, G3LAS, CDXC Chairman, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

Present (26 members): EI5DI, GØOPB, GØPHY, G1VDP, G3KMA, G3LAS, G3NHL, G3NKQ, G3NUG, G3OCA, G3PJT, G3RTE, G3SJX, G3TXF, G3UAS, G3ZAY, G4AXX, G4FKA, G4IUF, G4KIU, G4TSH, G4VXT, GM4FDM, MØCCE, M3SDE, VK4BUI.

Apologies (24 members): GØCZB, GØFYX, GØMTN, G3BJ, G3KOZ, G3LDL, G3PEM, G3PSM, G3RFX, G3SXW, G3TTJ, G3UEG, G3WGV, G3XTT, G4JKS, GIØTJJ, GI4TSK, GMØHWB, GUØSUP, GU4EON, MØAXP, MØNJW, M5GUS, VP8NO.

Previous Minutes

The Minutes from the 2005 AGM had been printed in the September 2005 *Digest* and were available to all members present as part of the 2006 AGM handout. There were no questions or corrections and the approval of the Minutes was proposed by G3KMA, seconded by G4IUF, and carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

John, G3LAS, reported on a flourishing year with an increase in membership and a healthy financial situation. Membership has risen from 686 to 797 thanks primarily to the Martin Lynch & Sons initiative supported by Kenwood, Yaesu and Icom. This means that CDXC is probably the second largest DX Club in the world. We hope to repeat a similar membership recruitment scheme in the future.

The past year had been relatively quiet from the radio point of view and with noticeably fewer DXpeditions. As a consequence, the demand for sponsorship had been less (7 DXpeditions as opposed to 11 in the previous year) and an increase in subscriptions was not considered necessary.

The *Digest* continued to maintain a very high standard and is frequently praised by the readers (thanks to Editor Martyn, G3RFX, and Picture Editors Simon, MØCLW, and Mike, GU4EON).

CDXC had again taken stands at a number of rallies and shows, which were well supported by visitors. Volunteers willing to help out with these events would be most welcome, particularly for the areas outside of London and the South East.

We are planning to set up a reflector for members to exchange messages, info etc. as an extension to the services offered via the website. Please give this your support.

We continue to administer and support a number of awards largely through the efforts of Jim, G3RTE. The LF Challenge is popular, but it would be good to see a higher number of entries.

Finally, John thanked the Committee for their work, the membership for their support - and looked forward to another successful year. There were no questions arising from the Chairman's report.

Secretary's Report

Peter, G3SJX, reported on the Secretarial tasks. Membership continued to grow, most significantly this year as a result of the initiative from Martin Lynch & Sons in association with

Kenwood, Yaesu and Icom. New member information packs were sent to 156 new members joining during the year since the last AGM, more than twice as many as in the previous year. 118 of these were to Martin Lynch recruits.

Although much of the day-to-day business of the Club is handled by e-mail, three Committee meetings were held during the last year at different Committee members' houses. General enquiries are relatively few and usually directed to the website address and this remains the preferred means of contact.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Corus Hotel, Crowthorne, on 18 March. This venue, which we have used before when it was the Waterloo Hotel, seemed a popular choice and at a lower cost than the previous venue, Pendley Manor Hotel. Although only 32 attended, it was a successful and enjoyable event. We hope to use the same venue for 2007, with a provisional date of 17 March. The other major social event is the AGM and Summer Social. Thank you to John, G3LAS, for hosting it this year. There were no questions arising from the Secretary's report.

Treasurer's Report

The full accounts for the year prepared by Nigel, G3TXF, were published in the July 2006 *Digest* and copies were available for all at the meeting. This showed that the Club overall is in a healthy financial state. Nigel expanded upon some of the main financial aspects. The subscription income has been greater and the demand for DXpedition sponsorship lower - and as a result the surplus for the year amounted to £4,556.

Election of Committee

David, G3UEG, and Simon, MØCLW, retired from the Committee, but the remaining members were standing for re-election. At this point the entire Committee resigned, as required by the Constitution. Roger, G3KMA, took the chair for the election of a new Committee and thanked the retiring Committee on behalf of the members. No additional nominations had been received. G3OCA proposed and GØOPB seconded that they should be re-elected en bloc. This was passed unanimously. The new Committee is therefore:

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

Following the election of the Committee for 2006-7, the re-elected Chairman, G3LAS, re-took the Chair.

Election of Auditor

Martin, G3ZAY, was thanked for auditing the accounts this year and was happy to continue in this role. MØCCE proposed and G4IUF seconded that G3ZAY should audit the accounts for 2006-7 and this was accepted unanimously.

AOB

There were no other items of business.

Peter Hart, G3SJX
CDXC Secretary

DX an' all that

Don Field, G3XTT don@g3xtt.com

Quite a lot of DXCC news this time, starting with KH8SI, which was worked in the UK by quite a few of the usual gang on 20 SSB and CW (did anyone work them on 17m?), despite relatively few European QSOs (see the data below). Quite why they needed to spread stations over 50 kHz during the IOTA Contest must remain one of life's little mysteries!

KH8SI

The KH8SI DXpedition team has announced their QSO numbers. A total of 16,390 QSOs were made, of which 25 were on RTTY, 3750 on CW and 12,615 on SSB. The band and continental breakdowns are as follows:

Band	QSOs	Continent	QSOs
160	227	Africa	53
80	266	Asia	5132
40	1595	Europe	1655
30	2426	N. America	8810
20	7096	Oceania	603
17	3657	S. America	137
15	800		
12	323		

KH8SI worked 4,723 Japanese QSOs and 8,268 US QSOs. Several rumours have already begun to surface about another DXpedition to Swain's Island. Nothing firm at this point. Our President asked me to explain how the DXCC rule changes which I covered in the last column resulted in the addition of Swain's Island to the DXCC list. How could I refuse? The simple answer is that Swain's Island has qualified under the new Rule 1(c) as a (Point 1) Political Entity under the new criteria, as a result of appearing in the US Dept of State list of Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty as well as in the UN list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, along with being more than 800 km from its parent.

This then allows any sub-territories (I'm not sure if that's the correct terminology!) to count if they are more than 350km from that entity (which Swain's is). Previously such non-self-governing bodies as American Samoa themselves counted as dependencies, so Rule 1(c) elevates them in status. Here is the relevant DXCC release:

“With the addition of Section II, Criteria Rule 1c) to the Political Entity criteria, certain former separation entities may now qualify as Political Entities. One such entity has been determined to be American Samoa. American Samoa is now a Political Entity for DXCC purposes. As a result of the reclassification of American Samoa, and upon the filing of a request and substantiating evidence, and with the concurrence of the DXAC and the Awards Committee, Swain's Island has been added to the DXCC List. Swain's Island entity number 337 qualifies as the first separation entity from American Samoa, now a Political Entity. The distance between American Samoa and Swain's Island has been determined to be in excess of 350 km as required by DXCC Rules Section II, Paragraph 2, Section b). QSOs made with Swain's Island on or after 0001z, July 22, 2006 will count for DXCC credit.”

Swain's brings the number of entities on the DXCC list to 337. For those running logging software, here are the details you may want to put into your database:

Prefix: KH8/S
DXCC Entity Name: Swains Island
DXCC Start Date: July 21, 2006
CQ Zone: 32
ITU Zone: 62
Continent: Oceania
IOTA: OC-200
GMT Offset: 11:00 behind GMT

Lat/Long: 171° 05' West, 11° 05' South

DXCC Dialog (ARRL News Release)

The ARRL DXCC Desk has inaugurated the 'DXCC Dialog Weblog', containing news and notes about the ARRL DXCC programme. This page will have up-to-date information about the DXCC programme. It does not provide for users to post responses, but authors and e-mail addresses are listed. The blog will be updated as needed to inform and update the DXing community regarding news of interest. For this and other web links, see the end of this article.

Addition to the DXCC Accreditation Criteria (ARRL News Release)

"For a number of years, it has been accepted practice to post DXpedition QSO information on a DXpedition Web site. Although this information is generally limited to callsign, band and mode, it has been useful in reducing the number of duplicate contacts in the DXpedition log. Publishing complete QSO information, or information from which full QSO information can be derived, on the other hand, threatens the integrity of the QSLing process, and is unacceptable. There must be some information that the station claiming the QSO provides based solely on actually being there when the QSO was made. If complete QSO information can be derived from information based on the DXpedition log, the QSL manager's job can be much more difficult if busted calls are involved. To help minimize potential difficulties, therefore, the following restriction has been approved by the Programs and Services Committee, and added to the DXCC Accreditation Criteria, Section III.

"The presentation in any public forum of logs or other representations of station operation showing details of station activity or other information from which all essential QSO elements (time, date, band, mode and callsign) for individual contacts can be derived creates a question as to the

integrity of the claimed QSOs with that station during the period encompassed by the log. Presentation of such information in any public forum by the station operator, operators or associated parties is not allowed and may be considered sufficient reason to deny ARRL award credit for contacts with any station for which such presentations have been made. Persistent violation of this provision may result in disqualification from the DXCC program."

This is an interesting one and has already generated quite a bit of correspondence on the CQ Contest and new CDXC Reflector. It goes totally in the face of pressure in the contesting community to make contest logs available to allcomers for purposes of transparency in submission and adjudication. Obviously, if a DXpedition log is published showing a QSO with G3XTT which I hadn't made (maybe they heard my call, but I didn't hear them respond to me, or maybe they miscopied a QSO with G3VTT), there might be a temptation for me to send off for a card or to submit an update to my LoTW log with a 'matching' QSO in the G3XTT log. So I guess it's appropriate that a rare one should be discouraged from publishing its log in detail. Although Bob, KK6EK, took a rather different viewpoint when I spoke with him at Friedrichshafen – he believes tools like DXA (used by the K7C expedition) are inevitable and we should learn to appreciate and live with them. But, frankly, a catch-all rule that applies equally to contest logs from the likes of W3LPL or MØC seems a bit over-the-top. Your comments would be welcome.

DXCC Honor Roll

The August issue of QST carried a listing of those amateurs on top of the Honor Roll listings.

Here are the UK amateurs who appeared (figure after callsign is the total including deleted entities):

Mixed (335 confirmed; the total is now 337 with the addition of Montenengro and Swain's)

GØDBE 340
GØDQS 341

G3AEZ 352
G3GIQ 368
G3HCT 379
G3HTA 363
G3JAG 363
G3KHZ 359
G3KMA 370
G3LQP 360
G3MXJ 360
G3NDC 350
G3NLY 367
G3OCA 340
G3PJT 339
G3PLP 344
G3RTE 347
G3RUV 357
G3SJX 344
G3SNN 346
G3UML 366
G3VXJ 342
G3XTT 344

G4BUE 351
G4BWP 344
G4ELZ 342
G4IUF 343
G4ZCG 341

GJ3LFJ 341

GMØAXY 342

GM3BQA 365
GM3ITN 375
GM3WIL 344
GM3YTS 342

GW3CDP 347

GW4BLE 348

Phone (335 confirmed)

GØDBE 339
GØDQS 341

G3KMA 360
G3NDC 348

G3NLY 367
G3SNN 344
G3UML 366

G4BWP 344
G4IUF 342

GM3BQA 365
GM3WIL 344

GW3CDP 347

CW (334 confirmed; no UK stations sit at 335 confirmed on CW)

G3GIQ 343
G3KMA 345
G3MXJ 342
G3RTE 340
G3VMW 341

G4BWP 342
G4EDG 341

GM3YTS 341

RTTY

The highest-placed UK station is G4BWP at 326/331.

Top Band

While no UK DXers are near the top of the list on 160m and probably never will be (the Pacific is tough from here, whereas W4ZV, for example, has had two bites at the cherry, from WØ-land and W4-land), it's remarkable to consider the results that UK amateurs have achieved on the band in recent years (I speak as one who recalls W1BB making the first ever DXCC on 160m, while UK DXers struggled with somewhat lower scores).

I was talking recently with the UK's leading 160m DXer (not currently a CDXC member) who has 275 on the band and, this season alone, has worked FO/DL5AWI, VU4AN, etc. What's really irritating is that he lives less than 10 miles from me and I never seem to get a look in on this stuff!

Desecheo Reprised (from the Daily DX)

Most DXers around the world will remember the December 2005 KP5 operation from Desecheo Island by N3KS, Kamal Sirageldin, and K3LP, David Collingham. Many will want to forget why the activity was cut short. The following report appeared on the United States House of Representatives Committee on Resources Democrats Web page on June 20, 2006:

"CLUB FED: CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

An Investigative Report Revealing the Cronyism and Deception of Federal Officials to Evade the Rules to Allow Special Access to the Desecheo Island National Wildlife Refuge

WASHINGTON, D.C, June 20, 2006

Resources Committee Ranking Democrat U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall today released a Democratic staff investigative report relating to the Desecheo Island National Wildlife Refuge off the coast of Puerto Rico. Despite the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's stated policy of prohibiting U.S. citizens from visiting the island, even under the most rigorous terms of a Special Use Permit, this report reveals how Federal officials allowed two Federal vendors free access to Desecheo Island in order to conduct amateur radio broadcasts. Meanwhile, the Service continues to refuse to issue Special Use Permits to responsible, law-abiding American citizens who are willing to cover all costs and assume all liability for the privilege of accessing the island under the most strict terms the Federal government may impose."

Propagation

After what seems a long period of dull propagation, we are all eagerly awaiting the start of the next cycle. So this announcement (which appeared in the Daily DX) will have been read with interest by many:

"Yesterday several of our readers pointed out a new article about a strange little sunspot noticed by astronomers on July 31st which may herald the coming of an unusually stormy solar cycle. This new sunspot is probably not the beginning of Cycle 24. The beginning of a new sunspot cycle starts out with two conclusive traits. One is to have an 'opposite magnetic polarity compared to current sunspot cycle spots', which this one has. The second characteristic is for a high solar latitude (some where around 30 degrees). This recent sunspot, which will be short-lived, was only at 13 degrees."

DJ6SI

A QSL collection from Baldur's past operations (from 1964 - 2005) can be found on his new website at www.pileup.de.com.

20m Intruder

A few people have asked me about the Chinese 'Firedrake' intruder that has been causing quite a nuisance on 14.260 MHz of late. I gather it is located in China and jamming a transmission from Taiwan on the same frequency. It would seem unlikely that the Chinese will close it down until the Taiwanese transmission ceases. Meanwhile, the frequency seems to have changed in recent days.

Silent Key

I can't finish this column without mentioning the passing of Stanley Ingram, EA6ZY. Stanley appears to have had a fascinating history, training SOE operatives in the war, and founding a chain of opticians (which still bears his family name, despite having been sold some years ago) in later years. I first worked him as G6ZY, then in the early 70s on several occasions as G6ZY/CN/M, before he moved to Ibiza as G6ZY/EA6 and eventually as EA6ZY, from where he continued to be very active. The FOC reflector (he was a long-time member) generated many tributes and anecdotes but, I

feel sure quite a few CDXC members will have come across him too.

73 Don G3XTT

Web Links

DXCC Dialog Weblog	www.arrl.org/blog/DXCC%20Dialog
Desecheo	http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/democrats/
Desecheo (13-page report)	http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/democrats/backgrounders/clubfedreport.pdf
Propagation (new sunspot)	http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/15aug_backwards.htm?list26478
Chinese 'Firedrake'/20m	www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/08/17/2/?nc=1

Sri Lanka update

From ham-news@mailman.qth.net:

Amateur Radio Newline Report 1513 - August 11, 2006

Sri Lanka: no guest ops and no ham gear into that country

If you are planning to visit Sri Lanka soon, you had best leave all of your ham gear at home. The WIA News reports that amateurs planning to travel to Sri Lanka need not bother putting in an application for a guest operator licence. None are being issued at this time. Also, ham radio equipment and even satellite phones are not being permitted to be brought into Sri Lanka for the foreseeable future. All of these restrictions are reportedly due to security concerns.

Forwarded with 73 by Maurice, F5NQL

Chiltern DX Club - Aims and Objectives

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

Membership Full details are available from the Secretary.

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

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

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

Borneo Bulletin

Steve Telenius-Lowe, 9M6DXX

teleniuslowe@gmail.com

Amateur radio activity from 9M6DXX has been almost non-existent during the last couple of months, following our move into permanent accommodation here. That is, with the exception of the 9M4SEB DXpedition to Sebatik Island, the first-ever IOTA operation from OC-295.

Godfrey Yin, 9M6GY, who runs his own boat construction business a few miles out of Kota Kinabalu, has kindly made a 50ft galvanised steel tower for me and, on the rare occasions when his workload is not too demanding, has sent over his workers to dig the hole for the base, and to do the concreting. At present, there is a 6ft x 6ft x 3ft hole in the garden, with the tower still lying horizontally next to it. By the time the next CDXC *Digest* appears I hope to be more active, in time for the autumn DX season.

Meanwhile, I have put up a simple 20m vertical with single elevated radial on a 7m long fishing pole. In effect this is an inverted-V dipole, but in a different plane. It allows the whole length of the fishing pole to be used to support the antenna, as the vertical section is simply a wire taped to the top of the pole - and by the time you get down to the feed point (5m from the top in the case of a 20m vertical) the pole is sturdy enough to support the horizontal weight of the radial as well as the coax. The top of the fishing pole is too flimsy to support a traditional horizontal dipole or inverted-V, so this is a useful alternative. The radial is about 2m above the bottom of the pole, but the pole is mounted on an upstairs balcony, so the antenna is reasonably high above ground. I first used this antenna in 2004 at 7Q7MM, following a suggestion from Steve, G4EDG, who had used them on a Pacific DXpedition.

I am looking forward to being able to use a beam, though, because tuning around 20m while using a simple vertical reminds me how far we are from all the major amateur radio population centres. Most days there is not a single signal on 20m. Occasionally a solitary YB, JA or VK is heard. My local, John, 9M6XRO (ex-9M6/G3OOK), is also complaining about how poor conditions are, although with his 2-element quad at about 70 or 80ft he is usually able to work into Europe most days.

9M4SEB Sebatik Island

John and I, along with seven other members of the Borneo Amateur Radio Club, operated as 9M4SEB for just over two days in July. This was the first time this island had been activated for IOTA and, despite the generally poor conditions, we had a ball.

We set up two stations separated as far apart as was practical (as we had no 'Dunestar' or similar bandpass filters). John's station, which was used almost exclusively on CW, was his FT-920 and IC-2KL amplifier to my trusty Butternut HF6V, as well as a 17m vertical on a bamboo with a single elevated radial, along the lines described above. What made this station really work was its location. John was on a 200m-long jetty which extended into the sea. The two antennas were mounted right at the end of the jetty, with the Butternut's radials actually in the salt water. There was a hut on the jetty which had electricity, but as it doubled as a petrol fuel store John was unable to use it as a shack. Instead, the power was taken from there and John operated from outdoors, albeit under cover and with a tarpaulin to shade the sun.

I operated about 300m away, some 100m inland from the jetty, using an IC-706 MkII

to a 'Loudenboomer' amplifier. The location was outside the island's school rest-house, again out of doors, but under cover. We used the school's tennis court as an antenna field and put up a 3-element Yagi at about 25ft as well as a Butternut HF2 for 40 and 80m.

In the event neither John nor I made any QSOs on 80m (or 10 and 12m). 40m SSB was hard going, although John was able to work many hundreds of stations on 40 and 30m CW. It is difficult to compare like with like, as the CW station had about twice as much power out as the SSB station (the Loudenooper never put out more than 300W and most of the time it was around 200 - 250W), but it certainly seemed as if the vertical surrounded by salt water was getting out very much better than the one inland, which I guess is what you would expect.

One of the local operators, Rahim, 9W6RHM, set up a third station in an unused classroom building at the school, using a low horizontal dipole and, much to my surprise, I found that we could both work on 40m SSB at the same time. This was a real surprise, as the stations were only about 100m or 150m apart physically, and never more than 50 kHz apart in frequency.

John had one excellent run to Europe on 20m CW, while I had a good run to Europe on 15m SSB and a not quite so good one on 20m SSB. It was great to work all the 'usual suspects', such familiar calls as G3KMA, G3LAS, G3ZAY, G3XTT, G4VXT, G3RTE, G3GIQ, G3TXF, G3MCS, G3SJX - plus a single Foundation licensee, Tim, M3SDE.

The cooperation of the local hams was great, and although John and I made 97% of the QSOs between us, the locals were really keen to learn about what we were doing. Several have asked to be included, if ever we do another DXpedition. The fact is, a number of islands that qualify as OC-133 lie just a couple of kilometres off Kota

Kinabalu and are very easy to reach. Two have resorts offering accommodation and food, although they are expensive. However, it is also possible to camp on some of the islands. It is great to see such enthusiasm among the local amateurs, who in fact are mainly VHF-only licensees, as there is still a 12 wpm Morse test here in Malaysia. John and I will probably organise a 'DXpedition training session' on OC-133 for those who want to go at some time in the future.

9M4SEB made over 3,600 QSOs, and the QSL manager is Graham, M5AAV. Sincere thanks to the Island Radio Expedition Foundation (IREF), www.IslandRadio.org, and the Sabah Tourism Board for their generous support; it was much appreciated.

Second 'DXFC' table

This 'DXFC' thing seems to be taking off! Thanks to G3VQO, G3LAS, G4BWP, G4AXX, GM4AFF and G3TXF (who also sent in the 'scores' for G3WVG and G3SXW) for their contributions to this table.

Nigel, G3TXF, said:

"I have maintained a spreadsheet tracking the DXCC Countries Visited and DXCC Countries Operated for G3SXW, G3TXF and G3WVG for many years. However, since the appearance of your new table in the *CDXC Digest*, we have added a further section to track IOTAs Operated. Our definition of a DXCC Operated is one for which QSLs are printed. If it's just a short operation as a guest op from someone's shack for which cards are not printed, that does not count for us. Last weekend I went to Montenegro and did some operating as 4O3T. I also visited Croatia and Bosnia on the same trip. This gave me three new DXFC points and one new DXCC-Op point! The combined number of DXFC countries between the three of us is currently 185. Roger, G3SXW, is actively working towards his 100 countries visited, whereas I

am now concentrating on trying to catch up with Ian, G3WVG, who has visited a huge number of countries together with his BBC TV camera!”

So here’s the second table below. I don’t plan to run this indefinitely, but if anyone else would like to send in their ‘scores’ to me by 10 October, I’ll compile another one.

Steve Telenius-Lowe, 9M6DXX

Callsign	‘DXFC’	DXCC Operated	IOTA Operated
G3WVG	129	13	12
G3TXF	126	45	34
G3SXW	84	44	19
GM4AFF	84*	17	9
9M6DXX	81**	34	32
G3XTT	78	?	?
G3LAS	76	4	4
G4BWP	70	24	7
2E1FHJ	59	1	1
G3VQO	37***	9	9
G4AXX	19	5	2

* Includes one deleted entity: Y2 (East Germany)

** Includes two deleted entities: Y2 (East Germany) and DL (Germany pre-1975)

*** Includes one deleted entity: DL (Germany pre-1975)

Silent Key Mr Anthony Hugh Brian Bower, G3COJ

It is with sadness that I must pass you the news of G3COJ’s death at the age of 77, following a period of illness.

G3COJ was licensed at the age of 17, sixty years ago, and, when we married, set up shack in a small bedroom. The big aerial could be rotated from inside the shack, much to the amusement and wonderment of boys of all ages. However, it must now be dismantled. It is all very sad. However, in all the years at our home he derived a lot of pleasure from talking to his many friends via the medium. To the best of my knowledge and as time went on, after operating Morse for many years, he tended to use shortwave and enjoyed the challenge of sunspot and aurora manifestation. His death is a great loss to the amateur radio world.

Perhaps you might like to give him a small mention in your list of Silent Keys. Also, please could I have a copy of any journal in which you mention him. Sadly, following this, I must ask you to cease sending your publication, which he enjoyed.

Yours sincerely

Margareta Bower, XYL G3COJ 5 July 2006

WRTC 2006

Roger Western, G3SXW

g3sxw@compuserve.com

The core of the World RadioSport Team Championship is, of course, contesting. It is our equivalent of the Olympics. Indeed, many of the world's best contesters take part to compete for the Gold Medal.

But those less interested in contesting should still read on to discover that WRTC also contributes to our wonderful hobby in several other ways. Especially in international friendship, but also in driving technological development. It is always a major life experience for those who attend WRTC. Seattle 1990, San Francisco 1996, Slovenia 2000, Finland 2002 and now WRTC 2006 in Brazil. The event has grown each time. Over 400 people attended WRTC 2006.

35 Countries

In all, we counted 35 nationalities at WRTC 2006. Of course, there were lots of Brazilians, Americans, Russians and Canadians, but they also came from Japan, South Africa, Estonia, China, Mexico, Poland, Cyprus, Croatia and many more countries. At the opening ceremony each national flag was paraded. What a fantastic spectacle – so many folks from literally all over the world. Upon arrival everyone was given a WRTC 2006 jacket, cap, shirt and T-shirt, each marked accordingly 'Competitor' or 'Referee' or 'Official'. These were in the Brazilian national colours of green and gold. Nearly everyone wore their shirts during the six days, further binding everyone together into one big family.

The 'lingua franca' was English, but of course not everyone spoke it fluently. This seemed not to hinder the making of new friendships, many times over. Universally everyone was welcoming with a tremendously warm spirit. This was

especially noticeable with the Brazilians: they all had a ready smile and all were genuinely thrilled to meet you. They clearly wanted us to feel at home and welcomed. And we most certainly did.

The Hotel

The event was held in Florianopolis, a beautiful seaside resort on the island of Santa Catarina, south of São Paulo, at 28° south of the equator. This was in Brazilian mid-winter and the locals were wrapped up, but we found the 70°F sunshine most pleasant! Upon arrival we were met and transported to the Hotel Costão do Santinho. There were a few problems because one of the major Brazilian airlines, Varig, went bankrupt just before our visit. This caused a lot of consternation, but in the end very few were affected. We lost one team, from the Czech Republic, which was really a shame. Also G3PJT and N6TR had to cancel at the last minute, for this reason.

We flew via São Paulo to Florianopolis. What we then encountered took our breath away: a five-star resort, with about 500 rooms, covering some 30 acres. It is hard to describe, but believe me it was spectacular with its multiple dining areas and conference rooms, some 20 swimming pools and everything immaculate.

The 'deal' for all official participants covered all meals, which were sumptuous, buffet-style. Only on the second night did we discover the limitless supply of free, cold beer. Most welcome!

The Contest

It is really impossible to describe all the intricate detail that went into setting up 46 equal stations. What a massive project! These were spread around Santa Catarina

island and on the mainland coast as far as 100 miles away. Every station had an identical antenna set-up: a 50 ft tower with a log periodic covering 20/15/10m, a 2-element 40m beam and a wire antenna for 80m. For the shack an Acom 1010 amplifier was also provided. The teams then provided everything else needed for their station.

Just imagine the absolutely HUGE project management needed to make this happen. Quite stunning! Yes, there were a few problems with local noise and with a couple of antennas that would not fully function. But only one team had to be moved to a back-up site and only one other team was significantly blocked by nearby hills.

Just imagine: the local electricity company were contacted on the Friday evening, just before the beginning of the contest, and came out to solve line-noise problems at two sites. This is testament to the local contacts and influence of the WRTC organisers. In UK I would guess that this would take three months, not three hours! The fact that our PY hosts had managed to have this event officially accredited as a 'cultural event' with the Brazilian government certainly helped them to pull some strings. This included customs clearance at Rio and São Paulo, which went without a hitch. It also enabled the issuing of special call signs: PT5A to Z and PW5A to Z, and agreement for all attendees to operate as PP5/homecall before the contest.

The selection of team leaders was with a quite complicated formula which scored individual performances in all the major world-wide contests during the past three years. A number of places were specified for each region (Europe, for example, was split into three areas) so that contesters from all over the world would take part. Once chosen, the team leader was then free to pick his own team mate. There were 47 teams.

The WRTC contest takes place in parallel with the IARU HF Championship, a 24-

hour multi-mode event in July. Brazil is three hours behind GMT, so it starts at 9 am local time on Saturday.

15m carried the bulk of the traffic, a third of the winner's total QSOs. Some 70% were on CW and 30% on SSB. Of course, most of the QSOs were with Europe and North America, including a few on 80 and 10m. The decision to add a 2-element 40m beam and an amplifier was very wise: southern Brazil is a lot further away from the main centres of population than previous WRTC events.

The Results

Another technological leap forward was in the log checking of WRTC 2006. Tree, N6TR, was Chief Log Checker and he did the whole thing from his home in Oregon. Liaison at Florianopolis was Phil, N6ZZ – they had great Internet bandwidth. They were feeding files to each other for many hours, just as if they were networked in the same room, and talking often with gmail. Their 4,000 miles separation made no difference at all. Indeed Tree commented that it was a better solution, as he was at home with all his hardware and software tools around him. The Chief Judge was Dave, K1ZZ, whose razor-sharp brain homes in instantly on problems, analyses options and uncovers solutions. I played the role of Assistant Judge, general buffoon and occasional MC at the meetings: they must have liked my British accent, doan-choo-know.

After some 24 hours of hard work the final contest results were available. With more time the final scores could have been made a little more accurate, for example by uncovering more busted calls or by unbusting some correct calls, but we fully believe that such changes would have been very marginal and that the finishing order was absolutely correct. The winners were:

Gold Medal PT5M VE3EJ + VE7ZO
2.44m points

Silver Medal	PW5C	N6MJ	+	N2NL
	2.32m			
Bronze Medal	PT5Y	K1DG	+	N2NT
	2.10m			

The winners made 2,369 QSOs in the 24 hours, an average of almost exactly 100 per hour. With 230 multipliers their winning score was over 2.4 million points. At the awards ceremony a plaque was also presented to the team with the most accurate log, PW5K (ES5TV + ES2RR), and to the highest-scoring young team.

A salutary lesson for all contest adjudicators around the world is that such a large event CAN be processed within 24 hours. We had over 1,300 logs e-mailed to us from all over the world, along with the 46 WRTC logs. WRTC is extremely grateful to all those who sent in their logs to us: this really made a big difference to the accuracy of the results. They were all processed through the database - and clever software then defined 'not in logs' and 'busted calls'. In fact the first edition of the 46 UBN reports were available within TEN hours after the end of the contest. Gone are the days of contest results taking many months to publish.

MO1R

We know about SO2R (Single-Op Two Radio). Well this is more like Multi-Op One Radio. Each two-man team is allowed a transceiver plus a second rig, only for RX. The range of station designs submitted varied enormously, but some of them had quite intricate switching and filtering.

All the logs, adjudication reports, station designs and some of the 24-hour recordings are available on the web at wrtc2006.com. Have a look at the station design of PT5L (YT6A/YT6T), for example. If you have the time, there is a lot to be learned from these files.

Both operators were in the chair continuously for the 24 hours, one as Operator A, the other as Operator B, and

occasionally swapping chairs. The rigs were nominated before the contest as Radio A and Radio B. Not to mention Computer A and Computer B. With networking Operator B could TX through Radio A. Most rigs had sub-receivers (there was even one FT-9000), so there was plenty of flexibility for both Operators to be gainfully occupied for the whole contest, one working the Run frequency and the other finding new stations or multipliers.

Referees

We must also mention that every team was observed by a full-time, dedicated referee. They had access to the rig's audio and had to monitor operations for the full 24 hours, without sleeping. This was to ensure that all rules were observed, for example no self-identifying, using only the English language, operating in band, no cross-mode QSOs etc. While no UK contesters had enough points to qualify as a team leader, a number were chosen as referees: G3LZQ, G3XTT, G4BWP, G5LP and GM4AFF. In addition Stewart, GM4AFF, did a sterling job as coordinator of the recording referees: fourteen of the 46 teams were audio-recorded on computer for the whole 24 hours. We also enjoyed the company of Bill, G3JYP, who came along as a visitor.

So, the core attendees were the two-man teams and referees. For 46 teams this makes 138 people. In addition every team had a host (nearly all teams were housed at the stations of local PYs). When adding the various committee officials there were well over 200 people playing a formal role in WRTC 2006. Not to mention the many visitors and family members who joined in the fun. Over 400 people attended the awards ceremony.

Live Scoreboard

An innovation at WRTC 2002 in Finland was the live scoreboard. Every referee sent a SMS text message to HQ on the hour, every hour, giving their team's score, as displayed

on the logging computer screen. This project was repeated at WRTC 2006 and worked really well. We had our two in-house experts, OH6KN and OH3UU, to run this complex software and the server never crashed.

This turns radio contesting into a spectator sport as well. Throughout the world folks could access the website and see LIVE who was in the lead, hour by hour. The leading team changed hands a number of times. The large screen displaying the leader board at HQ had an audience almost around the clock, especially once hourly when most of the scores were being updated.

WRTC believes that contesting can and should be brought into the 21st century. These days the world expects instant results and this can be provided. Long delays in publishing the results of contests should surely be a thing of the past. Real-time reporting is also possible with modern technology.

What We Learned

Every WRTC produces many learning lessons and WRTC 2006 was no exception. As always, there is the problem of making the QTH's as equal as possible with regard to RF take-off, local noise etc. This is not a new problem. In the case of the 2006 event there were only 1-2 stations disadvantaged by nearby hills and only a couple who suffered local QRN. Our Brazilian hosts did a fantastic job at providing extremely similar QTHs.

We did learn that we can have the courage to employ new tools. This time the team selection criteria were changed radically, based on individuals not on nations. There were also changes to the categories, including for the first time 'Multi-National Multi-Single' with a combination of PY and foreign operators at already established PY stations. These were not a part of the main WRTC competition, but they did serve to add considerable interest to the proceedings

and many new friendships were formed. There were also three WRTC teams reserved for 'Young Contesters' and one for a 'Young Lady Team'.

The log-checking systems were also advanced. For the first time all Unique QSOs were deleted (zero points, but with no penalty). Certain European teams had a large number of Uniques from their home country and it was decided that this damaged the level playing field: the identity of these teams had been discovered, against the WRTC philosophy. This is not, after all, an exercise in finding out who has the most friends back home, and teams from small countries would have been severely disadvantaged. This problem of 'log-padding' (many QSOs being fed by one station using different callsigns) is a serious flaw with the IARU HF Championship these days, and to some extent with other contests.

Next WRTC?

The next WRTC should be held in 2010 or earlier. One offer of hosting has already been received, from Russia, and we now wait to see if any others are in the pipeline. The Russians would like to host a WRTC event in 2009, near Moscow. Whether it is to be in Russia or elsewhere, WRTC has become a solidly established institution – the tradition will continue long into the future.

It is hard to summarise in a few sentences the meaning of WRTC. It is far more than a contest and awarding medals to the world's best contesters. It evokes its own aura of camaraderie and genuine world friendship. Long may it continue!

To close, let me again sing the praises of Brazil: such lovely people, so warm and welcoming; such scenic beauty. Brazil is definitely worth a visit one day. If anyone wants more information that is not already on the wrtc2006.com website, please do not hesitate to ask.

Deleting Uniques

Roger Western, G3SXW

g3sxw@compuserve.com

Question

Should all Unique callsigns be deleted from contest logs?

General Rules for RSGB HF Contests:

4. Contacts

b) ... Contacts with stations which have no other contest contacts may be disallowed.

Background

A pure Unique is a callsign which appears only in one submitted contest log. This definition may be relaxed to include callsigns appearing only in two, three or more logs.

Those who log-check big contests have long believed that nearly all Uniques are in fact 'undetected busted'. Research has never been done, to my knowledge, to quantify this. Twice I have done a cross-check of received QSL cards for our contest efforts and found 90+% of our Uniques are indeed busted, but this is a small sample. This is for logs from a rare country (XT2, 5U) where a higher proportion of callers might be DXCC band-slot chasers who may not call any other testers. So the 'undetected busted' rate is probably even higher for the big majority of stations in less rare countries. I tend to agree, therefore, that most (almost all?) Uniques are undetected busted.

The problem has been to *prove* that they are busted. By using electronic callbooks some Uniques are converted to busted and penalised. Others can be proved as busted by reverse log-checking (finding the entrant's callsign in the log of another entrant whose call is similar to that logged,

at the same time). We might pick up a quarter of busted (my wild guess) and have lived with this over the years. The penalty of losing three additional QSOs for each busted (in CQ WW) in a way makes up for the busted which are not detected, although this is not the intention of the penalty.

This whole process is labour-intensive, log-checkers picking through logs to check individual calls. We need to develop more automated and more complete ways of checking logs.

Meantime we all, surely, take on board the philosophy that log checking can never be 100% accurate, so long as QSOs are being made with stations who do not send in a contest entry. We occasionally delete a good contact, whilst much more often we delete a real busted, and even more often we leave an undetected busted in the log. In conceptual terms, just to help explain myself, I would suggest that 70% of busted are never detected, 30% are penalised, whereas less than 1% of good QSOs are penalised wrongly.

An extremely important consideration is that ALL logs be checked in exactly the same way: if a call is deemed to be busted it must be deducted from all entrants who claim it (most commonly only one).

Note: 'Not in log' is a different issue. This is covered by reverse-log checking where logs are available for both sides of the QSO. Also, smaller contests where nearly all active stations send in an entry may present a different profile.

The WRTC Story

After the rules were finalised for WRTC 2006 and the judging and log checking

committees were known, e-mails were exchanged discussing the suggestion that we zero out (without penalty) all Uniques. At first I was fairly opposed to this, because some good QSOs would be incorrectly deleted. After following the arguments I was less strongly opposed, but still quite worried about doing this and about negative reactions from WRTC contesters.

During log checking we found that 42 of the teams had between 1 and 30 Uniques, but four logs had between 150 and 300. There was clearly something wrong with those four logs.

Problem Logs

There were two categories. ‘National Loyalty’, as we called it, was more easily identified. Three logs had a large number of Uniques from the same country as the team: DL, SP and 9A. DL6FBL has subsequently provided full details of where his team’s DL Uniques came from. One half of all his Uniques were DLs and one half of these (37 QSOs out of 75) were provided by one station in Germany who used ten different callsigns. For the majority of these problem-Uniques (all those that we were able to check) we accept that a two-way QSO did actually take place on-air.

We felt in these three cases that the WRTC team had done nothing wrong. It was the operators in the home country who had found out the nationality of the team (a separate issue) and probably spread the word (mostly privately, not on the DX cluster). We agreed unanimously, however, that the extent of the advantage to these four teams was so great that this phenomenon damaged the level playing field, which is at the heart of WRTC (and *should* be close to the heart of all contests).

The fourth case was YT6A/YT6T and was more complicated, but with the same outcome. We discovered by close study that they had the MOST Uniques of any team (15% of their log compared to around 1%

for most other teams) and these were NOT from just one country, but from a wide range of Central/East European countries. The same callsign would often appear in this log on three band/modes or more and yet was not found in the logs of any other teams.

We picked a segment of the log which was particularly heavy on Uniques, a session on 40m CW where nine out of eleven QSOs were Unique, and listened to the recording. We came to the conclusion that there were two stations feeding callsigns, ie two different signals each with its own strength, frequency and CW sending. With more time to study these recordings we could perhaps determine whether this was actually one station amending his output power, or indeed find that there were more than two stations carrying out this log padding. But we concluded that there were two, and that this was definitely a case of log padding: a station feeding QSOs with multiple callsigns. It’s also fair to add that the five experienced CW contesters in the room at the time found nearly all of these calls to be unusual – eyeballing the full Unique file we recognised almost none of them as known CW contesters. In the old days of paper logs and eyeball checking I would have disqualified this log for a high busted rate.

We concluded the same in all four cases, even though there were two separate causes. The Unique QSOs had taken place, but they had given unfair advantage to these four teams. For example, in the ‘National Loyalty’ category teams from countries with much smaller populations could never hope to win. The fact that the YT6A/YT6T score reduction demoted them from 3rd to 11th place in the final results describes just how powerful this log padding was.

The decision to zero out all Uniques (without penalties) was quite easily taken based on this solid evidence, and unanimously. Of course, this was implemented across all 46 logs, but had almost no impact on the 42 ‘clean’ logs. The

pre-WRTC proposal had been implemented for entirely different reasons: we expected it to solve the problem of Uniques being undetected busted. Instead we resolved the problem of log padding.

An Extreme Case?

Could it be that these were four extreme cases which only happen in WRTC? Maybe. But we must surely accept that this log padding goes on to some extent in all contests. We have all experienced the odd case, or even participated in handing out our club call to help a particular entrant. I hold my hand up.

Where it only happens a few times it has little or no impact on the results (rank order) of a contest, and could be said to merely add to the fun. But in the case of WRTC it had a substantial influence on the final results. We know of one other clear case where 'National Loyalty' helps a station to win a contest: DAØHQ would not win the IARU HF Championship without the 10,000 QSOs provided by other German stations, each of whom may be feeding many different DL calls on several bands. One half of their loggings are from their own country compared to one quarter for GB5HQ.

Only contestants from countries with large amateur populations can benefit in this way, and only countries with national fervour, and only countries whose contesting philosophy allows this. This broadly restricts it to certain countries in Europe. They are gaining an advantage which is not available to the big majority of contestants. So they have UNFAIR advantage, especially in WRTC (supposedly a level playing field), but also in IARU and to some as yet unknown extent in all contests: it must be fair to assume that this log padding affects all contests, to varying degrees.

Action?

The WRTC 2006 judges recommended that all Unique QSOs be deleted from logs at

future WRTCs, without penalty. (But the definition of 'Unique' should be left open)

We could go further. This problem of log padding also severely affects the IARU HF Championship. The ARRL General Contest Rules apply to the IARU HF Championship. Rules 3.3 and 3.5 demand that only one callsign be used from one station (except for family members) and that only one station can be used by any one operator. These rules are being flagrantly broken. Even if there were some way to check and enforce this rule it would only apply to contest entrants, not to non-entrants. So the log padders could simply not send in a log. This could have the deleterious affect of reducing the number of submitted logs.

At very least we should start to spread the word that these actions are not acceptable practice in contesting, so as to begin to change commonly held beliefs. Most contesters around the world are honest and keen to adhere to the published rules – but they may be unaware of these ARRL Rules. Awareness of these rules needs to be increased.

A more aggressive approach, but which would have the desired affect of stopping 'National Loyalty', would be to change the IARU scoring system. At present it is 5 points for QSOs in another continent, 3 points for the same continent but different ITU zone, and 1 point for the same zone. This could be left as it is, but a new level added: zero points for QSOs within the same country. But this would disadvantage large countries (especially USA, due to propagation) so this could be applied only to HQ stations. The least penal of all suggestions for most entrants is to delete all Uniques. This might solve both problems at once: undetected busted and log padding.

Conclusion

This is not a new problem in contesting, but it became very visible and quantifiable at WRTC 2006. Artificial QSOs (log padding)

must be discouraged for the long-term health of contesting, not just for WRTC.

The SP DX Contest already discounts all Uniques. Maybe other contests also do so, of which I am unaware. The IARU HF Championship has already been severely discredited by log padding of certain European HQ stations. It is time that the IARU Rules be carefully re-examined, and time that the ARRL General Rules be publicised far more widely. We should also be considering the merits of deleting Uniques in all other contests.

Let's adhere to the principle of genuine two-way contacts. Otherwise in these extreme cases we may as well use RUFZ or Morse Runner off-air as our playing field.

73 de Roger, G3SXW

WEB LINK

RSGB Rules

<http://www.contesting.co.uk/hfcc/information/info.shtml>

Montenegro Adventure - 4O3T

Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF

nigel@G3TXF.com

Montenegro became a new DXCC entity in July. There has been a flurry of activity from Europe's newest country. One major operation (4O3T) centred around Ranko/YT6A's magnificent hill-top contest QTH on the coast.

As well as the hill-top location, which included multiple-stacked HF beams, there were also 4O3T operations from two other locations. One was a coast station which provided excellent facilities for the 80 and 160m operators. Another was at an old army camp with fine views over the sea.

Over thirty operators were involved in 4O3T. The first wave, led by Martti, OH2BH, arrived in mid-July and the operation continued until mid-August. Operators stayed for between several days and a few weeks.

G3TXF visited Montenegro for four days in early August. There were parallel objectives. One was to operate as 4O3T from a major contest station. However,

another was simply to visit some new countries.

The journey to Montenegro was via Dubrovnik (9A). Rich, K2WR (who had operated as GJ2A during the IOTA Contest the previous weekend), and G3TXF met up at Gatwick and flew together to Dubrovnik. We hired a car and drove the short distance to the border with Montenegro and on to the Villa Briv, which was being used to house the visiting operators.

As we arrived Dave, K1ZZ, who had been at 4O3T in his official IARU capacity (but also to run CW pile-ups on the LF bands!), was just leaving after his two-week stay.

Villa Briv was at sea level. However, the journey up to the YT6A contest site included a 40-minute bone-shaking journey in a worn-out Land Rover. This exceedingly bumpy and uncomfortable journey has to be made each time anyone wants to visit the mountain-top YT6A contest site. As well as having several towers, and a large shack

with room for several operating positions, the station also provides accommodation for visiting hams.

Ranko YT6A, had organised everything to make the visiting operators welcome. Meals were cooked at the contest site by supporting local operators. G3TXF operated 4O3T during a 24-hour period on 40m CW and 15m CW. The 4-over-4 stack on 15m made running JAs the sort of experience that a G operator at home would not have had since the peak of the last sunspot cycle!

The 4O3T operators were an international mix. Rich, K2WR, and Nigel, G3TXF, arrived at the main station just as Karel, ON5TN, was leaving. Toma, YU1AB, and Darko, T95A, were also at the station during our stay. Several others had already come and gone home before we arrived. As we were leaving Theo, ON4ATW, and Luc, ON4IA, were arriving for a week's operating. Two Finns (Pertti, OH2RF, and Pekka, OH2TA) had been doing all-night 80m and 160m sessions at the coast station site. Bob, N6OX, was coordinating

operations during our visit. The 4O3T logs were tracked and uploaded onto a webserver by Ranko, YT6A. Some 116,800 QSOs were made by 4O3T.

Bosnia was nearby. That made three new countries visited (9A, T9 and Montenegro) and one operated (Montenegro) by G3TXF on this short trip.

As well as the 4O3T operation there was also another major operation at YU6AO. These two operations have certainly put Montenegro on the map.

The only downside was that Montenegro had not yet been issued a new ITU prefix. The use of the 4O3 and YU6 prefixes, which both have a distinctive 'Yugoslav' flavour, meant that the pile-ups were probably not as large as they would have been had Montenegro already had its own new prefix. Whatever that will be!

Nigel, G3TXF

Sands Contest Group

The Sands Contest Group, MØSCG, will be activating the Island of Mull (EU-008) during the week 23-29 September. All HF bands will be activated at some time and modes will hopefully include SSB, RTTY and PSK31. We also hope to operate some CW.

Operators will include Ian, GØVGS, Kev, G6FKE, Mark, MØDGK, Chris, MØDWK, Bex, 2EØBEX, and Andrew, GØLWU.

We also hope to activate Iona, weather permitting. A couple of the members will be attempting to activate Ben More (SI-003) for SOTA - and WAB information will be available.

Information on the Sands Contest Group can be found at <http://www.gb7mbc.net/sands/>.

Linda Maude, GØYLM

The RTTY Column

Phil Cooper, GUØSUP *pcooper@guernsey.net*

This month the column is a little shorter than usual (“Great!”, I hear you say!). This isn’t laziness on my part - well, not totally - but simply because there hasn’t been much to note over the past few months.

The bands have been fairly quiet, except for everyone trying to work Montenegro as quickly as possible. I am not quite sure why there is such a rush to work this new one. That part of Europe isn’t exactly DX, and should be workable on most bands/modes on any day, whether at the high or low of the cycle. I’ve seen QRP stations in the pile-ups trying to get through the kilowatt merchants. Why? I guess it is the thrill of the chase.

Having said which, at the time of writing I have 10 contacts with them on CW/RTTY, but most of these were just from being in the shack and being there when they were around.

I’ve seen spots from IK, DL, SP etc., boasting of the number of bands/modes they now have for YU6. Check the DX cluster and do a search on YU6 and you will see loads of spots, just minutes apart, for the same band/mode slot. It appears that, for example, G3xxx has seen a spot from a DL for YU6 on 20m CW, joined the queue, worked it a few minutes later, and then spotted it himself. What a waste of resources! Ah well, such is the cluster!

Swain’s Island also became a new entity, but they only made about 25 contacts on RTTY, and of those there was only one EU station who worked them on RTTY who was not a G station. I did look, but never heard them. Besides, it wouldn’t be fun if you were able to work each and every country on the first attempt. I will bide my time, and it will come.

Although the bands have been in poor shape lately, they aren’t necessarily dead, and it is well worth trying the higher bands. 10m has been subject to some Sporadic E. Even 12m has been open to most of EU and a little further at times.

At the beginning of August I saw a lone station on 12m calling CQ. I decided to give him a call and we had a short chat, but as soon as I had said goodbye, I had others calling me and asking me to move up a little and call. I did just that and had a good run for about 90 minutes. What surprised me afterwards was that I logged 25 new countries on that band! And most asked me to QSL via LotW, which was also good, as they are now confirmed as well. Next time you tune around 10 or 12m and hear nobody, don’t just give up: try calling CQ.

Over the past months, the number of Gs on RTTY has increased greatly. I know many of you are having great fun with RTTY, and possibly even ‘enjoying’ the experience. Many of you are now contest ‘regulars’, as well as working the bands outside the contests. With software-controlled RTTY all you have to do is download the software, install it, run a lead from the PC to the radio and get on air.

Well, maybe. If you are using FSK, then no, you have probably bought or made an interface - and with FSK you can indeed get going straight away. But, if you are using AFSK, ie feeding audio from the PC into the mic socket, then no, you can’t just get going quite as easily.

If you use AFSK, then there are audio levels to set, possibly the use of a voltage divider between the rig and PC to wire up, and then a little fine tuning to ensure you aren’t transmitting a bad signal. The problem is that unless someone tells you, you are

unlikely to be aware of any problems. And these days there is a high possibility that nobody will tell you unless you specifically ask. The meter might give you a clue, if you are set to ALC, in that the meter will move when you transmit, but with today's multi-function meters, that isn't a given.

There are numerous sites on the web to assist you with setting up your rig for AFSK and all will tell you to use a 100:1 voltage divider to give you a little more control over the mixer sliders in your sound card software. For example, if your sliders are almost as low as they can go, and even the slightest movement causes large differences in output power, then yes, you will indeed need a divider.

Some websites will tell you a little ALC showing is OK. Personally I would suggest backing off the gain a little more so that no ALC reading shows. If your settings are way off, you could end up with multiple signals being transmitted on the band. I have seen this on many occasions where someone is trying to work one of your spurs!

With PSK, try using one of the programs with a panoramic display, allowing you to watch multiple QSOs. You will quite frequently see the same QSO in progress on several different frequencies.

Another possibility is that your rig may have audio filtering on the TX side, which could make it much harder to get the levels set correctly. You also need to beware of AFC on AFSK RTTY. While you may think it is helpful to be able to click on the twin peaks, and then have the software do the fine tuning for you, you could just end up wandering out of the passband of the radio, thus transmitting a very poor quality signal.

If you have NET on as well, you could end up wandering all over the band. Try getting used to tuning the signal in via the dial, and

turning NET and AFC off. This will cause you fewer problems.

Most software comes with a help file, and most of those will contain ideas for connections, and I would urge you to consider using them if you are opting for AFSK.

If you want to work some new ones, then consider having a go in CQ WW RTTY at the end of September. There is always some good DX to work, and if you can't get them on the first day, wait until the Sunday. Most will be pleased to work anyone after the initial rush and you will find it much easier to work them, and make sure they don't bust your call.

That's it for another edition, and I hope to see you on the bands!

73 de Phil, GUØSUP

RSGB HF & IOTA Convention 2006

Friday 6th – Sunday 8th October

at the

Gatwick Worth Hotel

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

See www.rsgb-hfc.org.uk

Enquiries to hfc@rsgb.org.uk

Contest

Lee Volante, GØMTN

WRTC 2006 Brazil

After a lot of planning and discussion, the 4-year wait since the last World Radiosport Team Championships in Finland was finally over. WRTC moved to southern Brazil, under the leadership of PY5EG and his support team. As at previous events, the games were set to evolve. One area of change was that of team selection. This time the primary way to qualify was based on your previous contest scores over the last couple of years. This should be applauded as a good idea, and one to be developed even further in the future. Some controversy surrounded this approach because of the geographical split made in the qualifying regions, and the choice of which contests could be counted.

Previous WRTCs had been 100W contests. This time, at sunspot minimum, and away from the amateur population centres of North America, Europe and Japan, it was decided to provide amplifiers for the teams (courtesy of Acom) and a gain antenna for 40m. This added complexity to the station design in terms of filtering, considering two receivers would be connected to antennas with very little physical separation. Station set-up was another testing time for the entrants, as there was relatively little time available to resolve any filtering and/or RFI issues with just what had been packed in your suitcase.

In addition to the 46 traditional 2-operator teams using short PT5x / PW5x callsigns, a number of multi-national multi-operator stations were activated. The inclusion of sponsored teams, bi-national teams with young operators, and an all-YL team added to the camaraderie and fun.

A last-minute hurdle was the financial difficulties of the Varig airline in the final

few weeks before the contest. Until recently Varig was Brazil's leading international airline and the choice of many WRTC visitors and competitors for some or all of their travel to Florianopolis. The Czech team sadly got caught up with these problems and was unable to travel.

As I mentioned back in the March *Digest*, whilst we had no team UK competitors this time, John, G3LZQ, Don, G3XTT, Fred, G4BWP, Lionel, G5LP, Stewart, GM4AFF, and of course Roger, G3SXW, were present as organisers and referees. I did forget to mention previously that Marios GØWWW/5B4WN was a competitor, operating for team Cyprus. I see that a presentation on the WRTC will be given by Roger, Don and Marios at the RSGB HF Convention near Gatwick in October. Don't miss it!

The contest is a 24-hour mixed-mode event, run in parallel with the IARU HF Championships. After 24 hours of battle, followed by the log adjudication process, the 2006 WRTC winners were declared as John, VE3EJ, and Jim, VE7ZO. They were followed closely by Dan, N6MJ, and Dave, N2NL, with Doug, K1DG, and Andy, N2NT coming in third.

An on-line scoreboard was again operational, giving everyone around the world – even those unable to contact any of the stations - a chance to see how the teams were faring. N6MJ and N2NL were in first place for most of the contest, with VE3EJ and VE7ZO gaining, and eventually just edging ahead in the closing hours. I was operating on 80m as part of the GB5HQ team during the contest, so the scoreboard was a great tool to check the progress of WRTC during breaks from the operating and multiplier spotting.

During the log checking process, it became apparent that the Serbian team had a very high percentage of unique callsigns in their log. Further scrutiny, including analysis of the recorded contest audio, revealed that it was likely that the team had been targeted and were being fed numerous callsigns from one or a small number of stations. As a result the judging committee decided to remove unique callsigns from all logs. This caused an 8-place drop for YT6A and YT6T, who were powerless to detect and prevent this action by others during the event.

Roger, G3SXW, has a detailed article elsewhere in the *Digest* about this particular incident. He also touches on a similar problem, whereby stations from a particular country identify, and then work only 'their team,' ostensibly in the name of national pride.

IARU HF Championship

Similar things happen during other contests, a notable example being the IARU Contest itself, mostly surrounding the very visible national HQ stations. The pre-contest build-up from the UK team only ever encouraged amateurs to get on the air, hopefully working the GB5HQ team, but also working other stations too.

There seems to be a real risk that the positions in the HQ section of the contest could be swayed by how many amateurs there are in a country - almost as much as any station design or operating prowess like multiplier hunting or running a high rate.

As it turned out, despite strong showings by GB5HQ, DAØHQ and SNØHQ, as expected, the Russian team upped their game, increasing their QSO and multiplier totals compared with the previous year. The Russian decision to place their station in the Urals, Asiatic Russia, meant that their average points per QSO score was far higher than their competitors operating from within Europe.

Another recommendation to entrants and casual operators following the 2006 Contest is to work a contest station with just your own callsign. Calling again with a club callsign, special contest call, or a friend or family member's callsign would increase the score of the station you are trying to help, but perhaps this is not in the spirit of contesting.

The GB5HQ team this year were pleased to include several new operators. There is an article by Callum, MØMCX, on his first GB5HQ experience in this *Digest* too, so I'll leave the story of the 2006 contest there and not steal any of Callum's thunder.

Sending off contest entries

Currently the vast majority of entries submitted to contest managers or organisers are sent via e-mail. The number of paper logs received, or logs sent in the post on floppy disk, has reduced year on year. Some events now accept only electronic entries, in order to speed up the adjudication process, and all organisers that I'm aware of prefer electronic entries and take what steps they can to make electronic log submission easier for the entrant.

Historically the postal service in many countries around the world, and also in the UK at times, has occasionally drawn criticism for losing contest logs, or delivering them too late. I'm sure there are similar tales of caution regarding QSL cards. To guard against problems, sometimes postcards were sent in return to confirm that the log had been received. The preference towards e-mail has reduced this particular risk that could happen to a precious submitted contest entry, but a similar fate can befall e-mail too.

For the majority of contests that you might enter, and certainly for all RSGB contests, you should receive an e-mail acknowledgement to confirm receipt of your e-mailed log entry. Despite advances in technology and the progression of the

Internet, it's a sad, but true, fact of life that e-mails do get lost. Hence these e-mail receipts from the contest organisers are vital!

Some contest organisers have an automated robot that should send back an almost instantaneous response. For a variety of reasons this isn't a solution for all organisers, who instead have the adjudicators themselves send a personal e-mail back to you. Sometimes the contest organiser or adjudicator may not respond to you for several days. Not everyone has the possibility, or the inclination, to be in front of their PC every day.

A simple solution would be to have a Post-It note or some other visible reminder somewhere in your shack that would record which contest logs are waiting for their receipt confirmation. You could have a similar list for the log entries themselves. Especially after a serious attempt at a 24-, 36- or 48-hour contest, most people will leave the production and initial e-mailing of a Cabrillo log for another day. There's a risk here too of forgetting to send off an entry at all!

If you use an e-mail program like Outlook or Outlook Express, you should be able to copy the tip below if you wish. I'd hope that similar is possible using other programs too.

What I do is have a separate mail folder for 'Contest Entries', and I copy the sent e-mail with the log in it to this folder. I then change that message to be unread. This highlights it in bold and whenever I read or send e-mail I'm reminded of the fact I have an unacknowledged entry. This also gives a handy reference point for finding contest scores and logs. When the log receipt is received, I copy that to the same folder too, and then mark the log e-mail as being read, so it doesn't require my attention. If there are any problems later, I know where to find the e-mailed log and the confirmation easily.

If you find that you've not had a response (and you were expecting one) after more than about four days, send your log off again a second time. I've seen examples where an entrant never realised that they hadn't received a log acknowledgement until the results were published and they found their callsign missing. Other times, entrants only realised a long time after their submission that they never received a confirmation e-mail. This may be after the contest log submission closing date, and the adjudicator may have started work checking the contest, and it is not then feasible to include the log in the results. This is especially so with a number of monthly events occurring in the RSGB calendar, and an expectation of a faster results turnaround due to the rise of e-mail logs against slow postal ones, and what is assumed to be a simplified electronic contest checking process.

Maybe you think that you would never forget to send a log or have one lost, but in my experience of being on the receiving end of contest log submissions, I've seen that this issue can cause a lot of frustration, so perhaps it's better to be safe than sorry. It's all too easy to press the send button and forget about the entry. Remember, the responsibility is on the entrant to be satisfied that their log has reached the adjudicator safely.

CQ WW SSB 2005

Thanks to Roger, G3SXW, who brought the following list of high UK finishers from the CQ WW DX SSB 2005 Contest to my attention.

Single-Op
All-Band: GW4BLE, 6th World, 2nd Europe
All-Band: M6T, 4th Europe
14 MHz: M7Z, 4th Europe
7 MHz: MIØLLL, 3rd Europe
3.7 MHz: GM7V, 6th World, 5th Europe
Multi-Single: G5W, 5th Europe
Multi-Multi: MD4K, 6th Europe

These are all very impressive results. Well done to all concerned. As well as these top scores, there will have been some causes for celebration further down the results table too. We'll probably not be aware of G3xxx's or M3xxx's personal contest to beat their own previous year's score, or perhaps their friends', in the 'Saturday daylight hours only 100W to a wire at 20 ft' category. If you are in this situation yourself, please let me know about it.

Last year at my own local club several of the club members had a go at single-band entries. Some of them didn't have antennas available for other bands. Others were time-limited over the weekend and others just didn't want to work on all bands. This gave them the chance to put in a relatively competitive effort, and hopefully be #1 in their country for their particular category.

Don't forget that you can see different country records at <http://www.cqww.com>. Whilst the All Band and Single Band High

Power scores may be difficult to beat, there are a number of other categories with seemingly 'easily reachable' scores. For some of the UK countries there have never been entries in many categories. Have a look and maybe give yourselves some ideas for this autumn. Your place in the records books beckons.

No IOTA contest stories came my way this time, but a number of stories (and some scores) have been posted on the Internet, with both big expeditions and casual holiday operations having a good mix of fun and adventure. Commiserations too to the Bristol Contest Group at EJ2MT, who had to deal with a hurricane and flying Versatower sections just before the contest.

73

Lee, GØMTN

Lost for Words

If you ask me, I mean, erm... to be honest with you, y'know, when all is said and done we do have, y'know, something of a problem these days. Basically, at this point in time the long and the short of it is that when it comes down to it we are kinda losing the plot, if y'know what I mean. To tell the honest truth, the fact is that at the end of the day - and let's not beat about the bush here - we're seeing no light at the end of the tunnel at this moment in time, so to speak. In all honesty, y'know what I mean, in the final analysis we're fast approaching, to all intents and purposes, the end of the road. To be fair - and take this with a pinch of salt if you will, in the cold grey light of dawn, as it were, we've simply failed to maintain as it were, any sort of, erm... articulateness in our modern world. Having said which, you must admit that, well, when all is said and done, it's totally beyond me how we manage to cope, y'know. Believe me, with a little bit of give and take we could, on the other hand, finish up at the end of the day, y'know, with us making some, erm... sense. In the final analysis that would be, y'know, to put it another way, something of a problem, wouldn't it? On the other hand, to be frank, y' know, the bottom line is that minor celebrities like football players, pop idols and erm... movie stars would, let's face it, be left, well, erm... totally speechless at this moment in time with, erm... nothing left to say, y'know. I mean, isn't it, erm... true? Y'know what I mean...

Anonymous

[It wasn't, erm... Hugh Grant, was it? Well, y'know what I mean. Ed.]

I operated GB5HQ

Callum McCormick, MØMCX *callum@mccormick.uk.com*

I am still pinching myself having operated the 'beacon' station, 80m SSB, as GB5HQ for my country along with Lee, GØMTN, and Fraser, G4BJM. Operating GB5HQ was the highest highlight of my hobby career yet. It inspired me to dig deeper and to discover more about myself and it certainly gave me the chance to stay awake for 24 hours!

GB5HQ is the callsign of the UK's IARU HQ Championship team. The first I knew anything about this was two years ago when Lee happened to mention that he was travelling to Milton Keynes for the weekend. He asked if everyone could dust their radios off and take part in the contest and, of course, work GB5HQ on as many bands and modes as they could find.

Twelve months later I remember getting a tinge of excitement again and I was keen to work as many HQ stations as I could. I heard Lee calling CQ on 80m SSB and I was really jealous. I worked him and a dozen other HQ stations on 40 and 80m and had lots of fun in the process, but it did dawn on me that there really was a contest going on between the HQ stations. There was an edge in their voice, a courtesy that balanced QSO speed versus politeness. Every QSO was vital and I could tell that they were all working hard to compete with their European cousins. I was intrigued. I shot an e-mail off to Lee saying that if there was a way of helping out or getting on the team, I would be keen to help, spot or operate. He said he would see what he could do. Ten months went by in silence before I had the 'tap on the shoulder' one evening via e-mail.

Accepting the 'post' was easy compared to what happened next. I was enrolled in the GB5HQ e-mail reflector and started the next phase of my education. Clearly GB5HQ was

not just about being a jolly outing. We were there to win. Each operator had to download, install and configure the special logging software (StarLog) before starting a programme of evening logging practice! This is no joke. The software is networked across the Internet to a central server. There is 'chat', instant announcements, spotting facilities, band maps – and of course regular logging too. Some nights as many as 15 operators were logging fictitious calls, spotting imaginary stations and generally trying to break the software so that not only did we become experts but if necessary, we could have a patch released in time for the 'real deal'. The humour was first class at times. I particularly remember one evening when a group of world-class operators were very happy on a certain drink of the red variety, issuing spots to the group - some of the most hilarious made-up callsigns you could ever imagine - all funny, most unprintable!

Nearer the day Dave, G4BUO, issued the team orders. We were there to win and to do everything in our power to beat the competition. Ten-point plans were distributed and a more sombre mood enveloped the e-mail reflector.

Lee picked me up on the Saturday. I had wrapped my FT-1000MP in an old equipment bag. Lee spotted it on the ground and loaded it into his boot, thinking it was some sort of gas cooker - which I still chuckle about! Once loaded with hampers of goodies, changes of clothes and lots of drinks, we set off to Milton Keynes on an uneventful motorway journey.

We got to the Open University club shack at 10.00 am and Fraser met us enthusiastically, immediately showing us his recently built transmit and receive antennas. There were four separate receiving antennas together

with all the switching, to be placed in a box on top of my FT-1000MP. I delighted at his workmanship and skill. He showed me the vertical antenna for 80m too and demonstrated the switch to use to flip transmit between a dipole at 100 ft or the vertical. Even the spotting station had its own selection of antennas, all selected by an automatic band switch. Very impressive.

We unloaded the car and had the shack built up within by 12 noon with working voice keyers, antenna switchers, the linear amplifier and the computer network running with the aid of Lee's Orange GPRS mobile network card. Some RF interference to a mouse was sorted with a liberal sprinkling of ferrite snap-ons. I was invited to make some test calls on 80m, signing /P with my own call. Apparently we were loud. Most excellent!

Lee started calmly CQ at 1.00 pm local time on the nail. We were on 3.777 MHz. A nice number for the boys to pass to. Let's go! It was slow and Lee checked his watch. Was it 1.00 pm? Keep going. Lee had his digital voice keyer that plugged into the back of the FT-1000MP. 'Plink' was the sound it made when you hit the button to call CQ.

On-the-fly improvements were made to the StarLog software during the contest which required a download and restart of the software client - and my heart was in my mouth as we calmly logged a couple of calls on a scrap of paper and quickly caught up when the StarLog client came back up. A great experience.

After an hour it was my go. I couldn't hear anything through the static. I was terrified. Don't worry: there's nobody there, I told myself! Then I was called! But one of those quiet nasty ones. I get G2 but nothing else, just Lima or London or Lisbon or was it Monday or Guatemala or something? The back-end of his callsign is a mess. "Shout!", I want to say. But I stay cool, "Please say the suffix three letters at a time". Then I get the callsign. "Fifty Nine, RSGB, OK?"

The noise floor at the university is particularly bad, hence the amount of hard work that Fraser put in to the reception, so digging out callsigns was sometimes particularly tough. A string of loud calls did wonders for my confidence. Then heavy QRN again for five minutes. I had prepared a laminated sign for the shack wall that read GB5HQ and RSGB - in case we forgot our call or report. I took W3LPL's advice and had stuck on the bottom, "WE ARE LOUD". I looked at it. It didn't help. I felt like a 10W station in CQ WW on 40m with a G5RV at 10 ft. Where is everyone? Gradually the band started working and they came out of the woodwork. "Thank you for working us on 20m SSB", I would say, seeing them in StarLog's "IN THE LOG" window that would be presented to me as I entered their call, "We're also on 40m SSB on 7.054, please work us on 40m SSB, can you do this for me?". He replies positively. I hit the voice keyer, 'plink', and type in the Announce window, "40m SSB > DJ1ABC coming up from 80m".

I glare at Lee sometimes in worried horror. A callsign is deep in the hiss. He picks it out using the spare headphones. He stretches across the keyboard to correct the call. We debate. No, it was a Zulu, not a Bravo. He's right. It's not fair!

Fraser leaves us to attend to his family and Lee and I start a familiar activity of spotting or working and just having a good time, concentrating on our own thing. I start to relax. Fraser arrives back with a pizza for each of us. Lee and I eat, whilst Fraser works 80m on the dipole at 100 ft. We agree a format for the night. Lee takes an early sleep, while Fraser and I work the pile-up as a double act. I find myself pulling the calls out, like Lee did for me. This is rewarding. Lee woke up and started a 90-minute stint around 1.00 am, leaving me to start a long session from around 2.30 am. I was very keen to have the US calling me. So many times I've been the station doing the S & P on 100W. How would I do with the States calling me? Would they call?

“Whisky One America America” (I think) hits me. I draw my breath. Another ‘Whisky’ calls. They were coming in thick and fast as 80m opened to the US and South America. Novembers, Dubbyas and Kilos came across the Atlantic in a steady stream. I was hooked - and suddenly my hearing improved too. I was digging callsigns out of thin air, “Your suffix ends in Delta Kilo Lima, yes?”. To then hear, “QSL, yes!”. Unfortunately when the twilight crept up over the horizon, the US faded out.

Lee took the voice keyer at 5.00 am to do the really quiet hours. These are the dullest, nastiest hours on the planet. Most of EU is still asleep and the US can’t hear us. I crash on the floor of the shack, drifting off to the sound of the fans and an occasional “...thank you, Fifty Nine, RSGB”. ‘Plink’.

Humour keeps us going for the last few hours, with G3SJJ shouting in the Announce window, “Send me your hand-me-down Dubbyas!”, which had me in fits of giggles as he slogged the 80m CW end hunting for US stations. Lee worked hard on CW spotting, whilst I felt slightly guilty just hitting the ‘plink’ button. I was finally working those deaf callsigns too. I didn’t need to call Lee over. I didn’t panic, I’d found a different part of me.

1.00 pm finally arrived. We stopped on the dot, watching the second hand on the computer display ticking to the top of the hour. We packed silently, thankful that we would soon be home, the humour and the energy evaporating quickly. It was very quiet. I was still hearing callsigns in my

head. I was giving reports to passing cars, reading their number plates in phonetics.

Did I achieve my goal? Well, let’s clear one thing up. Contesting isn’t glamorous. It was hard work and during Sunday morning I really was falling asleep at the voice keyer. Sometimes my mind would go into a weird sort of melt-down. My eyes would close and I could hear the static. A trigger would go off, “Where had the CQ gone?”. It’s because I hadn’t hit the button! ‘Plink’.

More interesting, though, is that I also found out that you can hear two callsigns and act on them at the same time. This is a marvellous skill that I’m developing. It’s like listening to a pile-up with two minds. You tune one part of the mind into one voice - and in parallel time you can tune into another voice. I’m told it’s possible to do this with three callsigns at once – and remember them all without calling CQ again. Food for thought. On a more practical level, though, I discovered that by relaxing the mind, you can dig a callsign out of thin air and impress your mates. However, any slight hint of concern or worry and you’ll lose it. Unless you have complete confidence in your abilities the mind will play darts with phonetic letters and you’ll be running over too many of them. Confidence is therefore the key to success.

I hope I passed the test so that I can once again, call, “GB5HQ – Contest”!

Callum McCormick
MØMCX

GMDX Group AGM, 15 September 2006, 7.30pm

The AGM is followed by a talk on this year’s Benin DXpedition - TY4TW, TY5WP and TY5MR - by Tom, GM4FDM. The venue for both dates is as usual the King Robert Hotel, Glasgow Road, Stirling FK7 0LJ, Tel. (01786) 811666.

Rob, GM3YTS

Being British

Being British is about driving in a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then travelling home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV.

And the most British thing of all? Suspicion of anything foreign.

Oh and... Only in Britain can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

Only in Britain do supermarkets make sick people walk all the way to the back of the shop to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

Only in Britain do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries and a DIET coke.

Only in Britain do banks leave both doors open and chain the pens to the counters.

Only in Britain do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on the drive and lock our junk and cheap lawn mower in the garage.

Only in Britain do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

Only in Britain are there disabled parking places in front of a skating rink.

Not to mention...

3 Brits die each year testing if a 9V battery works on their tongue.

142 Brits were injured in 1999 by not removing all pins from new shirts.

58 Brits are injured each year by using sharp knives instead of screwdrivers.

31 Brits have died since 1996 by watering their Christmas tree while the fairy lights were plugged in.

19 Brits have died in the last 3 years believing that Christmas decorations were chocolate.

British hospitals reported 4 broken arms last year after cracker-pulling accidents.

101 people since 1999 have had broken parts of plastic toys pulled out of the soles of their feet.

18 Brits had serious burns in 2000 trying on a new jumper with a lit cigarette in their mouth.

A massive 543 Brits were admitted to Accident & Emergency in the last two years after opening bottles of beer with their teeth.

5 Brits were injured last year in accidents involving out of Control Scalextric cars.

And finally... in 2000 eight Brits cracked their skull whilst throwing up into the toilet.

CDXC
CHILTERN DX CLUB
The UK DX Foundation

E-mails to the Editor

from G3RZP

Dear Martyn,

Following on from your last Editorial [July *Digest*], what really happens:

The Editor reclines in the palatial Bristol CDXC penthouse, occasionally rousing himself to work some DX from a remotely controlled super station, while three beautiful, mini-skirted maidens slave away at the production of the *Digest*, stopping every so often to open another bottle of champagne and can of caviar for the Editor. Then, having done all the editorial work and fitted it into the necessary number of pages, they bashfully ask the Editor to approve, which he does, and they, in gratitude for his approbation...

Meanwhile the cat sleeps on.

73 Peter, G3RZP

[And there was me, hoping that nobody would discover the truth, dammit. Ed.]

from G3SWH

Martyn,

Just to bring you up to speed following my battle with Royal Mail regarding the older style 'yellow' IRCs.

On Friday last [28 July] Royal Mail acknowledged that the older International Reply Coupons are valid indefinitely. Royal Mail have agreed to update their internal system, to advise all staff that the smaller, yellow coupons will remain valid after the blue coupons expire. This information will also be conveyed via an internal memo. A small victory, but I shall continue to 'cash

in' any of the older-style IRCs that I receive and effectively take them out of the system.

73 Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH

from G3TXZ

Hi Martyn,

First of all, many thanks for producing such an interesting magazine. I must say that I do not agree with the sentiments expressed by Roy, DU9/G4UNL (Letters to Editor), but you cannot please everyone all of the time. The steady increase in CDXC membership over the years seems to suggest that, on average, the formula is correct.

Please find attached my answers for the July Prize Crossword. I can't say that I found it easy! Thanks again for all your efforts.

73 Eric, G3TXZ

[Turn to page 41, Eric! Ed.]

from G1VDP

Dear Martyn,

Having just arrived home from what I can only describe as a fantastic day at the home of John, G3LAS, and in the company of the CDXC members at the AGM and Summer Social, I would like to pass on my thanks to all for such a marvellous time, especially to John for opening up his beautiful home and garden.

I would also like to say a big thank you to Neville, our President, G3NUG, for the kind donation of the Mosley TA-33 JR antenna and for his salesmanship in encouraging me

to buy some more raffle tickets just before the raffle prizes were drawn. Without this I would not be the lucky owner of this antenna, which got its first outing over the weekend of 19-20 August during Lighthouse Weekend from Strumble Head (GBØSH). It will then be packed off to Alderney ready for the CQ WW Phone contest at the end of October, where it will be used for the contest by myself, Tim, M3SDE, and Anthony, MWØJZE - with maybe another two operators to be finalised - under the call of MU5W, the contest call for the Wythall Contest Group. I guess it will then be used on regular trips and mini expeditions that any of my friends are involved in, before making the journey to the Cook Islands (E51, ex-ZK1) ready for the trip which Tim and I are planning for October/November 2009 - again to take in the CQ WW phone contest, when we will also be looking for team members. This will more than likely become its final resting place, assuming we can establish a permanent installation at one of the island lodges for others to use when out there.

Anyway, a big thank you not only to Neville, but also to all who donated some fantastic prizes for the raffle. It was a little embarrassing, this being my first CDXC AGM and Summer Social, and it looked as if myself and Tim, M3SDE, won most of these prizes. All will be put to use by our Wythall Radio Club for the training of the new licensees (and some of the older ones too). As for that yearly subscription to the Weekly DX bulletin: that will primarily be used by myself to get to the lofty heights of Honor Roll (!), but I will also be passing on the information it contains via our club's e-mail reflector for all to read.

Again a big thank you to all involved and I look forward to next year's AGM and Summer Social and to meeting up again at the HF Convention. I also look forward to working you all with the new antenna when away on our expeditions.

Chris Colclough, G1VDP

from G8UOD

On 28 September the Shefford & District ARS will have the pleasure of Peter Hart giving a talk on

'High Performance Radios for Successful DXing'

I have been asked by the Shefford Committee to ask if some of your [CDXC] members would like to come along to offer support for Peter and enjoy an interesting and topical evening.

The event should prove to be worthwhile to budding DXers and there will be a prize draw of two of Peter's books.

That date again: 28 September, 2000 hrs, at the Shefford Club venue. Please see our website, www.sadars.org.uk, for details on how to find us.

73 David, G8UOD

from G4LPD

Hi Martyn,

Having read your Editorial in the May CDXC Digest, I decided to write to you on the same subject [planning permission for antennas].

At my location in Wilford, Nottingham, I put up a two-section mast with antennas. I first got planning permission for this. The planning drawings were drawn by myself and, as advised, I made them a bit vague to allow me some leeway.

About 11 years ago a slight incident occurred between me and one of my neighbour's kids. They lit a fire at the back of my garage, which I was not pleased about.

My property finishes at a service road and there is no pavement on my side of the road, just a kerb stone and a foot of concrete that I put there to stop the weeds. When my garage was built I removed the back fence and built the garage almost up to the boundary, leaving a 2-foot wide slope of concrete and a rather good looking brick wall as the boundary. This is where they lit the fire. I, as one would, put it out with my hosepipe.

By return of post I got a letter from the planning people, who duly came to see me. All was OK, but they handed out to this neighbour a copy of my planning agreement. This states that the tower must be wound down when not in use and no other structures are to be added to it.

Having not been too well for the last few years, the tower remained almost down. It is useable like this. I have been careful to make sure it goes up at least once a year, and always returns to this lower level.

A month or so ago I decided I was fit enough to do some maintenance on the tribander. I climbed the tower and took down the driven element, fixed the loose bits, cleaned it and painted it grey. I then spent four hours tweaking it to get it to resonate at the right point again.

By return of post I received another letter from the planning department. The man duly turned up to have a look, although my son had spotted him on the road a couple of times a few days earlier. The man was a planning investigator - and at first was not too willing to show off his paperwork. I produced my planning agreement and loads of photographs showing the changes through the years. I explained that from time to time the aerial failed and had to be replaced. His interest was only in the DX33 tribander. I explained it was the same aerial that had been there for 26 years, and is

really in need of repair, which I have been trying to do. It was too expensive to replace.

He then showed me his papers and photographs, said all was well – and that it was OK to leave it 5 foot up, as it's been like that for 10 years. He then confirmed it all in writing.

He said if I need to change the tribander I should inform him in writing first, just to get it covered correctly. He is not allowed to say who complained, but suggested it might be a new neighbour. Interestingly enough a house at the end of the service road had just been sold. The estate agents sent out an advert asking for similar properties for sale. I fished the advert out of the wheelie bin to check. Lo and behold, on the photograph of this house the view shows down the side of it, showing two fir trees and a gap. In reality this gap is filled by another G4's vertical, and by standing on the road in front of this house I can see my set-up. So I don't know who complained.

I am now in the process now of making a website devoted to aerals of all kinds. All the photos will have to be edited so that only the aerals are visible and unable to be recognised. It will take a month or so to get the site up and running, but it should raise a good laugh with some of the material I have got.

I hope to be joining CDXC soon, now I am much more active on the air.

Best 73

Richard Mills, G4LPD

.
(Wife Norma, G8HUR, Daughter Liz, 2E1GHI)

[Richard has indeed since joined CDXC. Ed.]

Not the GB2RS News

This week's headlines:

- Record radio sales on Swain's Island
- Mammoth migration to Montenegro
- New PhD in DXCC Studies
- RSGB to follow CDXC's lead?

Sales of amateur radio equipment on Swain's Island have rocketed since the ARRL announced that it would become a separate entity for DXCC purposes. The local inhabitants, all 37 of them, are queuing up to get on the amateur radio bands. As one of them commented, "Before we were nobodies, now we are somebodies". [*You what? Ed.*]

In the Balkans the huge migration of radio amateurs continues to that other new DXCC entity, Montenegro. The customs and immigration posts on the border with Serbia, for example, recently had to call in reinforcements to cope with the unprecedented number of radio amateurs heading that way, Wild West covered wagon-style, with all their goods and chattels - accompanied by security guards riding shotgun to ensure that bandits do not steal their precious amateur radio equipment, typically including a 5KW amplifier.

Following on from the ever increasing complexity of the ARRL assessment and evaluation process in the context of possible new DXCC entities, the universities of West Ham, East Ham and Balham ('Gateway to the South') are now advertising their exciting new degree of PhD in Advanced DXCC Studies. Successful applicants will be required to submit a gruelling 100-page thesis, to be accompanied by a 10-page appendix containing all the relevant maps

and charts. Prospective PhD students are also advised that 'a knowledge of geography, amateur radio and United States bureaucracy would be an advantage, but not essential'.

In the wake of the huge success of the new Chiltern DX Club (CDXC) Yahoo! Group Reflector, the Radio Society of Great Britain is currently considering providing a similar service for its members. As soon as this new service has been approved by the RSGB Board, an announcement will be made on the CDXC Yahoo! Group Reflector.

Listen out for special event station GB5MOO, celebrating five years of red and silver milk bottle-tops in the South West, on the air from Joe's Dairy in Bristol until 31 December. Contacts with this station will also count for the new Dairies on the Air (DOTA) awards programme. QSL via M1LKY.

Solution to Prize Crossword 17

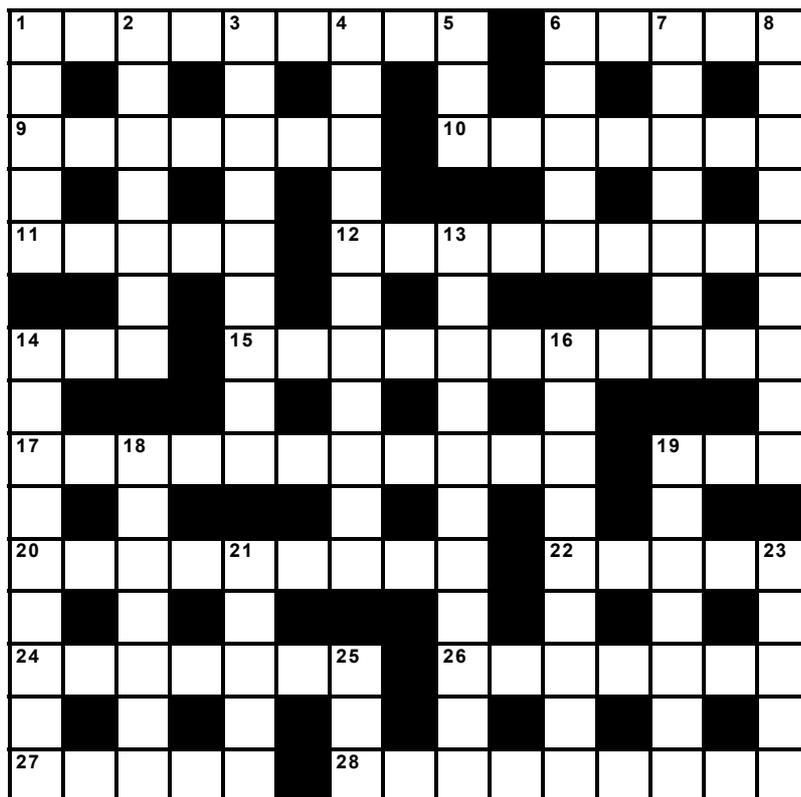
B	E	Q	U	E	S	T		U	N	A	R	M	E	D		
R		U		Y		R		N		N		E		A		
A	L	I	C	E	B	A	N	D		I	S	L	A	M		
V		T		S		D		E		M		O		A		
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			R		T			R		V		C		M		
G	O	O	N			P	O	L	E	S	A	P	A	R	T	
A		G		V		U		R		R					R	
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T	U	R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

Digest Prize Crossword 18 *by RFX*

Loads of entries for Prize Crossword 17. Well, something like that anyway. Comments included, "I can't say that I found it easy!", "I found this one tougher than usual. Must be old age further advancing!" and "Another enjoyable challenge!". As far as those advancing years go: if it's any consolation I sometimes look back at some of my crossword clues, scratch my head and say to myself, "Good lord, what on earth was I rabbiting on about there?".

Anyway, the winner of Prize Crossword 17, July 2006, and that brand-new tenner: Eric Tucker, G3TXZ, Crowborough, East Sussex (via e-mail).

Deadline for entries: 20 October >



ACROSS

- 1 Female forger found in South African city (9)
- 6 Indian takeaway, advertised mainly in Luton at first (5)
- 9 Very popular books about the Queen's wine merchant (7)
- 10 Scorer from Australia has endless capital to begin with (7)
- 11 Letter from Greece taken back to Turkey (5)
- 12 Coarse women such as Mrs Ray or Mrs Salmon? (9)
- 14 Dah-dah-dah animal! (3)
- 15 No overnight cases, these (3-8)
- 17 Part of a PC the directors fuss over first (11)
- 19 Danish island taking part in iffy nudism (3)
- 20 Clobber whoever shot leaders of Lesotho and Malawi (9)
- 22 Annoys those who give the game away (5)
- 24 Frail EU in disarray leads to disaster (7)
- 26 Opera not available in this part of Italia? (7)
- 27 A small person's a source of irritation after a short time (5)
- 28 Spanish port produced by girl entertaining another (3,6)

DOWN

- 1 Was Old Nick upset! (5)
- 2 A land we exchanged for part of England once (7)
- 3 Vocalist not good, we hear, in this part of Asia (9)
- 4 Somehow a fertile rub that's impossible to deny (11)
- 5 Centre of activity for all to see in Switzerland (3)
- 6 Light rug worth reconditioning? (5)
- 7 Vehicle guy talked of on the front (7)
- 8 Work-shy girl produces a revolver (4,5)
- 13 POW camp parasites found on floor of cave (11)
- 14 Abandon computers? You're mad! (4,3,2)
- 16 Country person originally seen in another (9)
- 18 Toilets refurbished for the poet (1,1,5)
- 19 Fast, gripping organ piece (7)
- 21 Battles reported by this novelist (5)
- 23 Celebrities with heavenly bodies? (5)
- 25 Slippery type given shelter, when upset (3)

DX and Events Calendar

Compiled by G3XTT

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

Period	Call
till 10/11	YM125ATA: special call by TA3J
till 25/11	HH/PS7EB: Haiti
till November	VQ9JC: Diego Garcia (AF-006) by ND9M
till 31/12	4N500CC, 4N500ZZ, YU500BW: special calls
till 31/12	8S30JC: special call (Sweden)
till 31/12	9A06P: special event station
till 31/12	9A15DX: special call
till 31/12	9A150NT: special event station
till 31/12	9A35Y: special call
till 31/12	9A650C: special event station
till 31/12	DS4DRE/4: Hong Island (AS-093)
till 31/12	EI60LRC: special call
till 31/12	GB60SWL: special call
till 31/12	GB6SWL: special call
till 31/12	HA50MHZ: special call by HA5X
till 31/12	JV800: special prefix (Mongolia)
till 31/12	LZ13ARDF: special event station
till 31/12	LZ50KSB: special call
till 31/12	LZ80R: special event station
till 31/12	ON40DST: special call
till 31/12	TF60: special prefix (Iceland)
till 31/12	YU500CM, YU500JDE, YZ500A: special calls
till December	TF/IW5DCE: Iceland
till December	VK0JLX: Davis Station (VK-03, AN-016) by VK2JLX
till Jan 2007	YI9KT: Iraq by SP8HKT
till Feb 2007	EM1UC & EM1U: Vernadsky Station (UR-01, AN-006)
till March 2007	VP8DJB: Rothera Station (G-07, AN-001)
till June 2007	OX3PG: Greenland (NA-018) by KD4POJ
02/09-16/09	TM8CDX: special event call (France)
03/09-15/09	DL7VOX/P: Usedom Island (EU-129)
08/09-14/09	OJ0LA: Market Reef (EU-053)
15/09-17/09	28th Clipperton DX Club DX Convention
16/09-21/09	GB2LI: Lundy Island (EU-120)
21/09-27/09	J79DL, J79MD, J7R: Dominica (NA-101) by N1DL and W4LFK
26/09-01/10	YX5IOTA: La Tortuga (SA-044)
30/09-07/10	LX/PA6Z: Luxembourg
02/10-10/10	P2: Trobriand Isls (OC-115) by G3KHZ, SM6CVX, G0LMX
05/10-17/10	TX6A: Mayotte (AF-027) by F6AML
11/10-14/10	P2: Daru Island (OC-153) by G3KHZ, SM6CVX, G0LMX
15/11-29/11	5A7A: Libya

Radio St Helena Day Revival

Here is the latest official information about the 'Radio Saint Helena Day Revival' broadcasts from Radio St Helena.

Radio Saint Helena (RSH) will transmit on 11.092.5 MHz in Upper Sideband mode on Saturday, 04 November 2006, at

1800 - 1930 UTC to New Zealand (via short path)

2000 - 2130 UTC to Japan (via short path)

2200 - 2330 UTC to Europe

2330 (Sat) - 0100 (Sun) UTC to North America

There will be a new and interesting QSL card for this 'Revival' broadcast. It will take several months to process the reception reports, so please be patient.

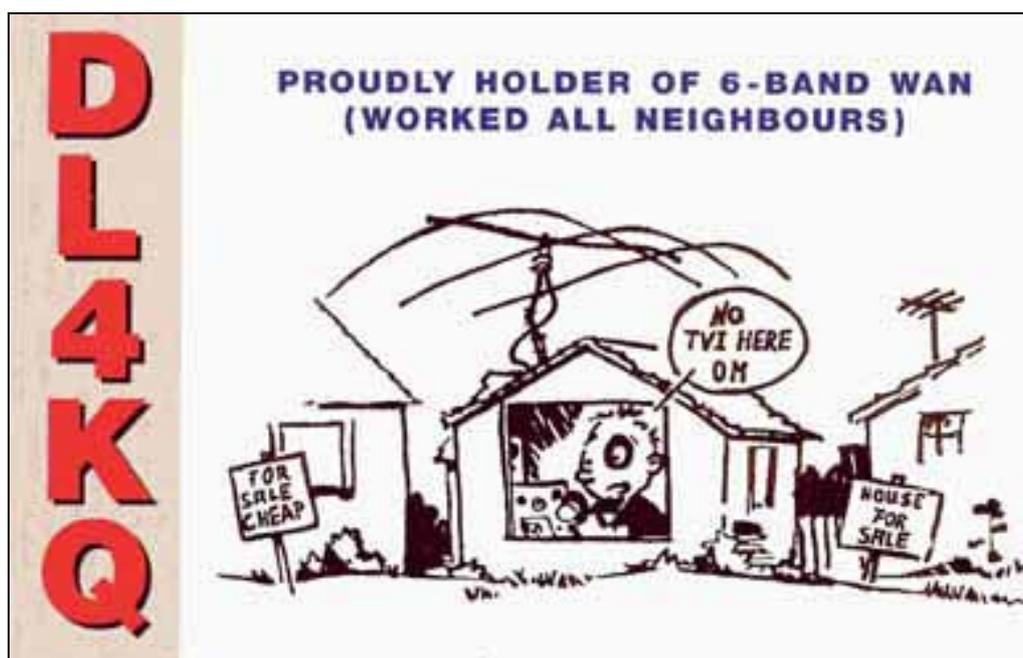
Only reception reports sent by regular mail will be accepted. E-mail reports will NOT be accepted. Return postage is required and is 'at least' three IRCs or 'green stamps'. 'At least' means that RSH welcomes donations at any time and in any amount.

All reports should be addressed to the RSH Station Manager, Ms. Laura Lawrence.

With very best greetings and good DX to everyone,

Robert Kipp, DJØPU

Project 'Revive Radio St Helena Day'



CDXC Clothing

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

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

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

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

ORDER FORM:

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

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

Standing Order Request Form

To: Bank

Branch :

Please pay:

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

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

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

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

Please debit my/our account accordingly.

Name of account to be debited :

Account number :

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

Name(s) :

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Signature :

Signature :

(For accounts where two signatures are required)

Date :

Address :

.....

Postcode :

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

