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# Club News and Views

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## Editorial

**Martyn Phillips, G3RFX**

Yes, it was the year of the CDXC AGM and Summer Social that wasn't. But, as you will see on page 6, we'll be making up for the lack of the former – although unfortunately not the lack of the latter [*You what? Ed.*] – at this year's HF Convention coming up at Wyboston, Bedfordshire, from the 12-14 October.

And 'Why Boston' it is indeed, in case you were wondering how to pronounce it. Seeing as nobody was answering the phone at the HF Convention venue itself the other day, I dialled the number of the local golf club to find out for sure. "Good morning," a friendly voice said, "Why Boston Golf Club?". Which kinda clinched it.

Anyway, welcome to this 52-page *Digest*, which started out as what I thought was only going to be a 44-pager. That was until a whole host of additional items started rolling in, for which I'm very grateful.

For starters from Nigel, G3TXF: 'PJ2G – Warming up the rocks on Curaçao'. I was in PJ2 myself a few years ago, so know exactly what Nigel means about the take-off to Europe from the Signal Point superstation there. Nor will I forget the 'iggies' down that way – the iguanas, poor things, many of which sadly end up forming an integral part of a well-known local stew.

Traditionally Martin, G3ZAY, on the other hand, tends to head for more northerly climes where the iguanas are relatively few and far between. In this issue he tells us all about a trip earlier this year to JW-land, Svalbard, where the Arctic foxes, reindeer

and bowler pairs [*He means polar bears. Ed.*] have the place largely to themselves. And by and large a fairly chirpy bunch, it would seem, the residents of JW-land at 78-80° N – something one cannot say about the locals in VYØ, the Hudson Bay area of Canada, at a mere 55-57° N. Ken Francom, G3OCA, was there earlier this year and tells us all about it in 'Almost NA-231 – A Cautionary Tale'.

All of which gives you a rough idea. I'm also delighted to be able to tell you that in this issue of the *Digest* we return to our full complement of regular columns and feature articles.

You'll also find the last in our series of CDXC 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary retrospectives – this time in the shape of Issue 31 of the then *Newsletter*, dated 5 December 1984. The Editor in those days was Bren, G4DYO. Indeed, as GJ4DYO/P tells us himself elsewhere in this *Digest*, he was 'seriously jolted back into amateur radio by a recent visit to Jim and Kirsti Smith on Norfolk Island'.

'Not the GB2RS News' is also back. I got a right old on-the-air rollocking from John, GIØHWO, for leaving that one out last time round. Well, at least it's good to know that somebody does notice when it's not there.

Meanwhile have fun chasing 3B7C. I don't know what it is, but somehow the HF bands always seem a much more interesting place when Neville & Co. are off on one of their truly excellent DXpeditions.

73 Martyn, G3RFX

## Chairman's Chat

**John Butcher, G3LAS**

In my last Chairman's Chat I commented on the weather. I think 'stair rods' was the expression I used. Well, the stair rods well and truly hammered our arrangements for the AGM and Summer Social. I had already set forth for Herefordshire when President Neville phoned to say that he was surrounded by water and the M5 and other local roads were either closed or soon would be. We agreed that postponing the event was the only sensible course of action and I'm glad to say that, thanks to the efforts of Neville and Nigel, we managed to contact most of those who had booked in, to save them a fruitless, and possibly hazardous journey. Two or three hardy souls did make it to Middleton on the Hill and enjoyed a good lunch – presumably disposing of large numbers of beefburgers and hot dogs.

We obviously need to re-schedule the AGM as soon as possible in order to conduct the essential Club business, so the Committee has agreed that we should hold the meeting at the RSGB HF Convention in Wyboston on Saturday, 13 October. There should be a fair number of members planning to attend the Convention, but if anyone desperately wants to attend the AGM, but not the HFC, I expect some arrangement can be found. NB: this is not a way of gaining free entrance to the HFC!

Talking of the RSGB reminds me of a little burst of comments on the CDXC reflector a while back. Not for the first time some people were expressing dissatisfaction with our national society in terms of what they see as its benefits - or otherwise in relation to their personal interests. My view is that it betrays a sad lack of thought and awareness if anyone is not a member of the RSGB simply because they (a) don't use the QSL Bureau, (b) don't like the format of RadCom, or (c) don't approve of the detailed provisions of the Foundation

Licence. I assume that most CDXC members (a) enjoy using the WARC bands, (b) approve of the extension to the 40m band and (c) would prefer that our frequency allocations remain at least what they are for the foreseeable future.

The point of a strong and representative national society is that, together with those of other countries, only these bodies have a voice in the corridors of power such as the ITU, Ofcom and the IARU. Perhaps it is not generally realised that there are many very powerful agencies - military, commercial and governmental - who would like nothing better than to take over all our spectrum allocations. Without the RSGB and other such bodies they most certainly would. I believe that every licensed radio amateur should be a member of the RSGB in order to demonstrate that the Society truly represents those who follow this hobby and thus can speak with the maximum authority in the various forums which control our facilities and privileges.

On a lighter note, I have just returned from a short trip to Sweden to visit my step-daughter and her family. This time I took the precaution of carrying along an IC-706 and enough wire for a 20m dipole, the thought being that I could avoid some of the child-minding chores while the other adults were painting the house. bWhen we arrived at their summer residence - a modest wooden house in the forest, I hasten to add – I discovered that it was on an island, and it was the weekend of the IOTA Contest! A hasty phone call to John, G3WKL – his was the only phone number I had with me – elicited the information that Fogdo Island was in EU-084. Minutes later I was in the thick of it.

Sadly I had only a couple of hours before the end of the contest, but I clocked up 79

QSOs on 20m SSB - not bad for 100W and a low dipole. The rest of the week was fun operating. Even with conditions varying from poor to diabolical, the IOTA tag kept the calls coming and one day I even managed a run of JAs, albeit down in the noise. Overall nearly 500 contacts in 37 countries over five days - and about 15 hours on the air, mostly in the afternoons. Next year I really must be more organised.

That's about it for another couple of months. By the time this issue hits the

streets the 3B7C expedition should be imminent. Get in there and work them on as many band/mode slots as possible. Then come along to the HFC and our AGM in October. Wyboston is very easy to find for most people. It's virtually on the A1 between Stevenage and Huntingdon.

73 es gud DX

John, G3LAS

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## President's Patter

**Neville Cheadle, G3NUG**

I was really disappointed that we had to cancel the AGM and Summer Social here at Lower Withers Barns in the depths of Herefordshire.

We had a very good number of acceptances and Trish and I were really looking forward to seeing many of our old friends. Nigel, G3TXF, and I managed to contact nearly everyone in time. Amazingly enough, Mark Mann, who does the catering, arrived at 8am from Devon having shopped in the middle of the night. Mike, G4IUF, and Sandy made it from Yorkshire and joined us for lunch. A little earlier Bob, MDØCCE, rang us from Abergavenny and said he'd like to call in to see us. He made it OK and I gather enjoyed Trish's spag bol! Getting out of the area later was more of a problem, but Bob made the ferry back to the Isle of Man in good time. We'll try again next year.

By the time you read this the 3B7C operation will be well under way. The container and six generators arrived in Mauritius on 15 August. The generators are to be shipped to Ile du Sud on 24 August together with the balance of 3,000 litres of

diesel fuel, water, drinks and other non-perishables. The food will travel with the team together with all the equipment on the Sainte Rita on 3 September, a 24-hour journey.

The team of 20 is all raring to go. It will be fun and very different from our past operations. I'd like to encourage everyone to have a look at our webpages at [www.3b7c.com](http://www.3b7c.com).

There are some very interesting innovations - and our thanks go to Marios, 5B4WN, for his development work.

Logs will be uploaded by satellite to John, G3WGV. A new log server will show band-mode slots worked and will also show a leader board of the 100 DXers with the highest number of band-mode slots worked.

There are a possible 38 band-mode slots - let's see some CDXC members at the top of the list! No prizes for this - just lots of fun.

The new innovation developed by Marios is the facility to find the best time to work

3B7C from your own country. This is done by analysing the uploaded logs and, we believe, is a first. So this, together with our propagation predictions on the web pages, should enable everyone to make a QSO with us over the 18 days that we will be active.

Our thanks yet again to our major UK sponsors – Martin Lynch & Sons, Nevada and Yaesu UK – without whose support we could not put on this DXpedition.

We will be selling the six generators and twelve IBM laptops at the end of the

DXpedition. See the details in a separate advertisement in this *Digest*.

We look forward to contacting many CDXC members from 3B7C. Come and hear the story at the RSGB HF Convention – slides or video – over the weekend of 12-14 October.

73



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## New Members

CDXC offers a warm welcome to the following new members:

<i>Call</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>
G4ELZ	Jeff Pascoe	Newton Abbot
G4ZZG	Charles Wells	Mansfield
MØEAS	Phillip Humphrey	High Wycombe

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## Annual General Meeting 2007

Regrettably the AGM and Summer Social planned for 21 July had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the severe flooding in the Hereford and Worcester area. The AGM has now been re-scheduled to take place on

**Saturday, 13 October**

at this year's HF Convention at the Wyboston Lakes Centre in Bedfordshire. The AGM will be held during the lunchtime break at **1300** and the room to be used will be advised at the event.

To give us some idea of how many will be attending, please e-mail our Secretary, Peter/G3SJX, with your intentions. If you wish to attend the AGM but are not attending the Convention, please contact Peter so that arrangements for entry can be made. Regrettably there will be no associated barbeque and social event this year.

## **Agenda**

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

Committee nominations and items for AOB must be given to the Secretary prior to the commencement of the AGM. The Treasurer's report and summary of accounts for 2006-07 were published in the July issue of the Digest.

Peter, G3SJX

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## **Results of the 2007 LF Challenge**

It was a very poor entry this year for the contest. Only two logs were received. The winner of the Penallt Trophy is Alan Jubb, 5B4AHJ. Runner up is Damian Kamm, MØBKV, who will receive the Tindle Cup.

5B4AHJ – Total DXCC entities 102. All achieved on 40m.

MØBKV – Total DXCC entities 44. Achieved on 40 and 80m.

Alan will also receive a small silver tray for the leading station on 40m. Damian will receive a small silver tray for his 80m score of 29 entities.

At the last Committee meeting we discussed the possibility of changing the rules for 2008, but it was agreed that we make no changes.

We hope that for the 2008 event the website will be up and running, enabling entrants to enter their scores as they go along.

Jim Kellaway, G3RTE

# The CDXC LF Challenge 2008

Following a small survey carried out during 2006, the results of which were discussed at the last Committee meeting, it was agreed to keep the rules the same for 2008. If the response is as poor as it was this year, ie 2007, then we will review the situation for 2009. It is planned that the website will be working for this contest, enabling entrants to update their scores.

## **Aim:**

The aim of the competition is to work as many DXCC entities during the month of March 2008. Each DXCC entity is counted ONCE only.

## **When:**

0001 UTC, 1 March 2008 to 2359 UTC, 31 March 2008.

## **Bands:**

**ONLY** the 1.8, 3.5 and 7 MHz bands

## **Modes:**

No restrictions.

## **Logs:**

Send a list either by e-mail to [jkellaway@btinternet.com](mailto:jkellaway@btinternet.com) or by post to Jim Kellaway, 55 Ladbroke Drive, Potters Bar EN6 1QW. Headings in the following order only will be accepted, otherwise logs will be disqualified.

## **DXCC Entity, Band, Call, Time and Mode.**

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

## **Awards – Multi-band**

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

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

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

**Single Band Awards** – The leading station on each band (1.8, 3.5 and 7 MHz) will also receive a small engraved plaque.

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

# CDXC

CHILTERN DX CLUB

# newsletter

England's foremost group of HF dxers —

Treasurer: G3LQP

Chairman: G3KMA

Secretary: G4DYO

Awards Manager: G3VIE

Newsletter Printing/Distribution: G4PEO

Wants List Compiler: G3YJI

Issue 31

5<sup>th</sup> December, 1984

Editor: G4DYO

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## CLUB NEWS

**NEWSLETTER** Because of the onset of the silly season this will be the last Newsletter for 1984. Next edition sometime in January - depending on how 'DYO gets on with DXNS!

**DAVE G4GED/ALAN T31AT** Dave reports that all direct QSLs for T31AT have been despatched and he is currently working on the vast pile of cards received via the bureau. Dave made sure that the CDXC logo appeared on all outgoing envelopes - several thousand to date. Don Field's *DX Diary* in the December edition of AMATEUR RADIO carries a photograph of Alan, T31AT, with his Chiltern DX Club Honorary Membership Certificate.

**IAN G4LJF/VK6GX** Is often QRV around 0900z on 14245khz looking for CDXC members. He is only running barefoot to a small vertical but has had a surprisingly good signal when cndx have been up. He has also appeared on ZL2AAG's net on 40m.

**Bill G3MCS** Is one of the latest holders of a 50mhz licence. Pity they waited until the good cndx on that band had dropped off before dishing out permits. Hi!

**DAVE G3YMC** Is QRV on RTTY using his BBC computer and a programme which he wrote himself.

## THE DX SCENE

Ø1-725-7374 USE THE DXNS VOICE-BANK Ø1-725-7373

**ANTARCTICA** Project Blizzard started on November 10th bound for Antarctica via Tasmania and Macquarie Island. The callsign should be VKØPB but, because of the special nature of the operation, the VK authorities have authorised the use of AXØPB for use during transit and whilst at base. There are two YL members of the group - Denise, who is active as VKØYL from Macquarie and Robyn, VKØAK at Mawson Base. The group returns at the end of March 1985 and QSLs will be answered *after that date* by:

Niel Penfold VK6NE, 2 Moss Crt., Kingsley 6026, West Australia.

**BHUTAN A5** Enlarging on the note in DXNS, Seiji Yokoi operated as JA1WXH/A5 on Oct.18<sup>th</sup> and as A51SY on Oct.20<sup>th</sup> with verbal permission only. Because of poor cndx he worked only ten stations - in VU and YB. Pradhan, A51PN, is rumoured to be getting an FT757GX transceiver and may be QRV from his new QTH in Phuntsholing in one or two months on CW and SSB. Yonten, A51TY, has been promoted to an administrative government post and is no longer with the Telecomms Dept. Pradhan says that several applications for DXpedition permits have been rejected but Seiji expects that a DXpedition will take place in about two years.

**BOUVET 3Y** The source of the ZS2MI info also reports that an amateur awaits permission to accompany a South African scientific team which may be on Bouvet for a week or two this winter.

**CHINA BY** G4DYO recently received an unsolicited card from BY1PK via the buro for a 15m cw QSO! A number of JAs recently visited Chengdu where they participated in a special operation using the call BT5CD on 40m and 20m. BY8AA is believed to have been QRT lately because of the very poor HF conditions. A recent visitor to BY4AA was greeted with blank stares by the "professional amateur" operators there when he broached the idea of operating during CQ WW. The BY4AA operators had no idea of what contests are about and even less notion of why someone would want to fly half way around the world just to air BY4AA for a weekend! Recent photographs of BY5RA show a very professional layout with full coverage from 1.8-30mhz, 50mhz, 144mhz and 420mhz on all modes including RTTY, FAX and satellites. The station is QRV almost daily and the ops have racked up over 3000 QSOs since start of operations in August. The QSL card is a beautiful colour picture of a Panda. Phil, W0KEA, has reported 40m activity by a station signing "BR3YAL" and giving QTH as "Peiking" and QSL via JARL. Believed to be slightly dodgy! Expect to hear a BY7 station QRV shortly.

**CHRISTMAS ISLAND** VK6ATI/VK9 was QRV for a few days recently but very reluctant to work other than VKs. Dennis, VK9XZ, is now QRV for about 2 years, mostly 40/80m ssb. He hopes to be on HF soon!

**CLIPPERTON FO** The proposed operation in March/April should include most of the original team but several slots remain to be filled - dependent on licences arriving from Paris. Three 3kw generators are being purchased (NOT from Wokingham Tool Hire!) and these will be sold after the expedition. The aborted operation in March, 1984, cost \$14,000 (lost) and the proposed operation is being costed at about \$60,000, most of which is being paid by the ops with some help from NCDXF.

**EASTER ISLAND CE0** Father Dave, CE0AE, is back on the island and keeps daily skeds on 28495khz at 1900z. He is often QRV on 40m at our dawn.

**EGYPT SU** The Egyptian Amateur Radio Society has recently been formed with SU1AL as President and SU1ER as Secretary. QSL address is PO Box 33, Airport, CAIRO. Ezzat, SU1ER will be active each Saturday on all bands and says that all /SU and mobile operations are not legal! This raises an interesting question - why do the ARRL accept /SU for DXCC?? G4DYO had not worked a real "SU" until a week or so ago and yet he has Egypt confirmed on 10, 15 and 20 and has successfully submitted W\*\*\*/SU and VE\*\*\*/SU cards for 2 DXCCs, WAZ and 5BWAZ!

**KERGUELEN ISLAND FT** F6EUX should have commenced operation now but it is not certain yet whether his call will be FT8XA or FT4XA.

**MARION ISLAND ZS2MI** (JEQ, OFW, OZF, YJI, YMC, FXT, GED, LJF, PEO) Strong rumours that the next crew to be posted to the island will include an amateur. The crew is due to arrive in early 1985 for a six-month stint.

**OGASAWARA JD** Further to the notes in last issue, the expected callsign is KA2IJ from Iwo Jima. DXNS reports that KA2IJ should be active from Dec 7-14<sup>th</sup> emphasising LF. (Bob promised to look for EU on 20m around 0900z but nothing was heard of his planned KA2MI operation recently).

**PETER 1<sup>ST</sup>** It seems fairly certain that a JA group have received some form of authorisation from the Norwegian Govt. to operate but it is unlikely to be during 1985. Early 1986 is being talked about. (Your Ed was not aware that Norway had sovereign rights over the island?)

*[This concludes our look back at the early days of the CDXC Newsletter and Digest. Ed.]*

# DX an' all that

Don Field, G3XTT    *don@g3xtt.com*

We continue to rumble along the bottom of the sunspot cycle with no signs so far of an upturn, although the various forecasts all seem to be saying the next peak will be good to excellent. Let's hope they are right!

In the meantime it can certainly be very frustrating to see DX being spotted by stations in, say, Southern Europe while not hearing a peep here in the UK. Astonishing, then, that CDXC member Neil, GØJHC, reports working DXCC on 6m in just nine weeks, starting 13 May, and finished the summer season with 106 on the band. I suppose it goes to show that there is more to radio propagation than a simple matter of F2 MUF.

In any case, several of the forthcoming expeditions will be from 'down south', not least 3B7C, but also 9U, 3C, etc., so at least we shouldn't be struggling with those tough northerly paths. Unfortunately it won't be so easy to catch G4EDG and friends on their P29 IOTA expedition in October, although the ZL7 effort ought to be more straightforward – ZL7 really is about as close to our antipodes as you can get and seems to be quite an easy one to work when it is active.

## Yemen and related stuff

As I write this we have just enjoyed (if that is the right word!) a short operation from Yemen by Chris Lorek, 7O/G4HCL, probably best known to many readers as a regular contributor to various ham radio magazines over many years. Yemen ranks as one of the very rare ones nowadays because written operating permission is very difficult to get, but Chris apparently had some kind of written permit, albeit whether the paperwork will be accepted by ARRL is yet to be seen.

In days of yore the very fact that an amateur was able to operate from places like Yemen, Afghanistan, etc. would have been sufficient for it to count for DXCC – it was accepted that paperwork was hard to come by, but that if the amateur concerned hadn't been shut down by the authorities that was tantamount to tacit approval.

Nowadays we are much more legalistic, but Western views on documentation are often rather different to those prevailing in some countries, especially those where an official may well be prepared to say 'yes', but not put it on paper in case other departments decide to take a different view and, in the process, prejudice his career.

Sadly, in some instances, it is amateurs themselves who have used this to have operations discredited – one group of amateurs jealous that another has got some sort of paperwork, have then challenged that paperwork with DXCC. Not helpful!

But expectations have changed too. In the past a fleeting operation like that of 7O/G4HCL would be seen as exactly the sort of challenge to hone the DXing skills and separate the men from the boys, so to speak. Those who sat atop the Honor Roll in the 50s and 60s were those who had caught that rare AC4, CR8 or whatever station during his one appearance on the bands. The legendary W6AM missed just one country because he was working on one of his rhombic antennas and by the time he got back to ground level it was too late.

Nowadays, in contrast, we tend to expect large expeditions and big signals so that we all get a QSO. That's nice, of course, but I wonder if some of the magic and mystery has been lost in the process (says he, about to go off to 3B7 with a multi-station, 20-

operator effort!)? Maybe it's one of the reasons IOTA is proving so enduringly popular (or frustrating, depending on your point of view), because it really is necessary to work hard at catching some of those rare islands, such as the recent W5BOS effort from KL7, delayed by bad weather and with only the briefest of band openings to the UK.

Anyway, congratulations to those UK stations who did manage to catch the 7O for a new one. Even if it doesn't count towards DXCC, there is no doubt you worked a legitimate station in Yemen. After all, DXCC isn't the be all and end all (or is it – reading some of the comments about Logbook of the World, especially from the US side of the Pond, it would sometimes seem so – with apologies to our American friends).

### **DXCC Challenge**

Apropos of which Tony, G3CWW, says that he is pleased to have achieved 5BDXCC # 6086 plus DXCC on all three WARC bands, all on CW only, and has joined the Challenge Award listings with a score of 1117. All this with a maximum of 200W, using a succession of single vertical antennas, over 48 buried radials. Whatever our views on DXCC, it is certainly a handy benchmark of achievement - and congratulations to Tony and to others who have achieved similar goals.

### **Weak Signal Modes**

There is evidence of increasing use of weak signal modes, pioneered on VHF and VLF, on the HF bands. This is totally understandable given the atrocious band conditions we have been experiencing and it may indeed help our understanding of propagation – are there paths which we weren't aware of because signals were so weak? It may also help those with modest stations to work DX that would otherwise be beyond their grasp. But I expect, as a result, we will very soon be seeing the sort

of heated debates that have broken out among the VHF fraternity since software such as the WSJT suite of programs came along. To some extent the problem is DXCC again. The ARRL have accepted any contacts made without the use of intermediate repeaters (which includes satellites) as valid for DXCC awards. As a result, anyone who wants to be on top of the 6m listings, for example, needs to be equipped for digital modes including weak signal via EME (moonbounce).

At the G3WOS 6m barbecue I learned, for example, that a fortunate (dedicated!) few European stations had worked ZL8 on 6m via EME, something which is unlikely ever to happen via terrestrial, traditional modes. Equally, a modestly equipped station on, say, 2m can now work weak signal modes via meteor scatter to achieve results (measured, for example, by locator squares worked) in a relatively short time that would have taken a lifetime of effort in years gone by.

My point is that this debate may currently be confined to VHF (although I am told that digital modes have pretty much wiped out CW on 136 kHz these days too), but I can see the debate coming to the HF bands in the not-too-distant future as well. My personal view is that these new modes are to be welcomed as a new area of exploration for old hands and as an incentive for those with modest stations to get on bands which they would otherwise consider dead. The problem, it seems to me, comes when we start comparing achievement levels because it is no longer a case of comparing like with like.

Have DXCC made a blunder here by allowing all modes to count, rather than introducing a new set of awards for digital modes? Or was it inevitable in that digital modes are, arguably, nothing new but just an evolution from old-fashioned RTTY which has been with us since time immemorial?

## Remote Control

Similar arguments apply to remote control of stations. K6LA has been quite open about how he contests from California via the VY2TT contest station, but this is just an extreme example of something which is becoming increasingly common. Remote control is trivial with the ready availability of radios such as the TS-480 and, most recently, the K3, plus broadband Internet. And it has real benefits for apartment dwellers, those with planning problems or those with high local noise levels. But how should these developments be taken into account by award administrators and contest organisers?

The IOTA awards programme currently takes the stance that remote control from a boat to a shore-based transmitter is not valid for IOTA awards and also that all contacts made by the applicant for an award must be made from the same DXCC country (ie the applicant must have always been in that country, not just the station). DXCC rules state, '**All stations must be contacted** from the same DXCC Entity. The location of any station shall be defined as the location of the transmitter. For the purposes of this award, remote operating points must be located within the same DXCC Entity as the transmitter and receiver.' So it looks as though the main awards programmes are catching up.

In contrast, the CQ WW rules require that equipment and antennas are co-located, but currently say nothing about the location of the control operator(s). I am particularly sensitive to all this, as we are currently debating what changes, if any, need to be made to the rules of RSGB contests to reflect the evolving situation. For the IOTA contest, for example, we are now in a position to allow adjudicated contest QSOs to count for IOTA award credit, but that implies that the contest rules need to be aligned with the award programme rules or we will get ourselves into difficulties. I touched briefly on remote operation in a

couple of these columns just over a year ago, but it is clear that matters are moving quite quickly. As always, every technological advance brings a series of new 'challenges' in its wake!

## Wiki Site

Finally, my thanks to Bren, G4DYO, for drawing my attention to a new "Wiki" site that has appeared on the Internet, at the instigation of K4UJ. The concept is like the well-known Wikipedia in that material is contributed by anyone and everyone but, in this case, that material is specifically related to ham radio DX. It will be interesting to see how it develops. The URL is [http://dxreference.com/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://dxreference.com/index.php?title=Main_Page)

73 Don, G3XTT

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# Borneo Bulletin

Steve Telenius-Lowe, 9M6DXX

*teleniuslowe@gmail.com*

I am now the proud holder of the callsign V8FEO for use in Brunei, a 30-minute flight or six-hour drive from home here in Kota Kinabalu. V8FEO's first activity was in July, when I spent five nights in a self-catering hotel in 'BSB' (Bandar Seri Begawan), Brunei's capital.

The hotel has eight storeys and easy access to the flat roof, probably around 100ft above ground. On the roof I was pleased to find a 22ft length of discarded steel water pipe which, though rather bendy, made an ideal mast for my 40 and 80 metre dipoles. I was able to mount the pipe on top of a water tank on the roof, so the centres of the dipoles were around 130ft above ground level. I also put up my Butternut HF6V at 110ft and a dipole for 17m at around the same height.

Naturally, conditions were dreadful while I was in Brunei! I thought 14MHz was likely to be the best frequency but on that band there was an intermittent noise level of around S8 which wiped out all but the strongest signals. Fortunately the noise did not affect any of the other bands.

I was active during the IARU contest on 14/15 July, but conditions were such that I only worked one UK station: GB7HQ on 20m. The generally poor propagation caused by being at the bottom of the solar cycle coinciding with typical mid-summer propagation in the northern hemisphere and, coupled with the high levels of absorption associated with being so close to the equator, meant that even the JAs were few and far between on the high bands. The contest was very hard going with no beam and relatively low power, though I found the final two hours, from 1000 – 1200UTC, to be very good on 40m. I had a great run and was called by, among others, PJ2HQ,

YV5AMH, YV1DIG, PY2KC, FY1FL, XE2GG, XE2K and VE7RAC, as well as a lot more local stuff such as A52AM, T88EK, KHØ, VK, ZL, BY, DU and plenty of JAs. Northern South America is the antipodes of here, and working the Caribbean in particular is very difficult – like working into the central Pacific from the UK – so I was delighted with some of these QSOs. The XEs and FY1FL were 59+, a remarkable signal for the 18,000km distance.

This just goes to show what a good antenna a high dipole can be. Using the same antenna (indeed, the very same pieces of wire and feeder) from home, but only at 40ft AGL, I never even hear DX like this on 40m, let alone have it call me.

During my stay in Brunei I once again had the pleasure of meeting Aman, V8BDS; Rahman, V85RH, and Jeffery, V8ASV. Rahman and Jeffery also took me to meet Ambran, V85SS, and his family for the first time. Ambran is building a guest shack in the grounds of his garden on the outskirts of BSB and, when it is completed, I think it will be a fine venue for visiting DXpeditioners. The guest shack is in a self-contained air-conditioned building with separate bedroom, bathroom and kitchen and looks very smart, though it had yet to be fitted out when I was there in July. When it becomes available it would allow visitors the opportunity of operating from two DXCC entities – 9M6 and V8 – on a single trip and with only a half-hour flight between the two.

## **7O/G4HCL**

Nothing to do with Borneo, but in mid-August I received an e-mail out of the blue from my old friend Chris Lorek, G4HCL,

saying that he was about to return to Sana'a, Yemen, in a couple of days for a short business trip. The interesting thing was that he had "written authorisation" to operate as 7O/G4HCL. Knowing that 7O is now number 2 on the 'Most Wanted' list, behind only North Korea, I asked Chris if he wanted me to publicise this. Chris is not really a DXpedition operator and might not have appreciated massive pile-ups if he was attempting just to demonstrate amateur radio to Yemeni officials!

However, Chris was quite happy for me to put the word out, so I sent an e-mail to Bernie at 'The Daily DX', and put a note on the CDXC reflector. His operation would be SSB only, as he would be supervised and those supervising him wanted to hear and understand what was being sent. He would also only operate on 20m, although his authorisation was for all HF amateur bands. When Chris came on the air on 13 August I was surprised to find him calling at about S6 and getting no replies. I called and we exchanged 56 / 57 reports. I spotted Chris on the CDXC 'private cluster' in order hopefully to alert other CDXC members before the rest of the world descended on him but unfortunately, although Chris had a pretty good signal here, it was apparent that in the UK he was either completely inaudible or just barely readable.

On 14 August I worked Chris again to give him feedback from the e-mails on the reflector. This time signals were S9 each way, much stronger than the day before. Eva, 9M6EVA, had a quick contact (continuing her habit of only working Top 10 rarest countries!) and a quick text message to John, 9M6XRO, meant that Chris had three 9M6s in his log. But still very few UK stations.

Chris was active sporadically (between his work projects) for three days but on no occasion did propagation improve to the UK. He worked many central, southern and eastern European and Middle East stations at 59+ each way, but propagation stubbornly

refused to open to western Europe. As far as I know, only six or seven UK stations made it, although there may have been a few more.

Will this operation count for DXCC? Frankly, I doubt it. Chris's authorisation was from a senior government employee, but not a minister nor a civil servant at the telecommunications department. Chris will certainly be sending his authorisation to the DXCC desk at ARRL HQ and it remains to be seen whether it will be accepted or not.

### **Visitors to Sabah**

It was a pleasure to meet CDXC member Roger Dallimore, MWØIDX, and his new bride Sue in July, when they spent their honeymoon in Sabah. Being his honeymoon, Roger did not do any operating, though he did get the opportunity to have a very quick tune around the bands from the 9M6DXX QTH (which revealed the almost total lack of activity during our early evening hours at solar minimum in the summer).

Later in the year I am expecting visits from at least three different groups who are coming to Borneo either for a DXpedition, a contest operation, or just for a visit. More next time!

### **3B7C and SEANET**

As this is being written, it is under two weeks to the date when I leave Kota Kinabalu for the long trip to St Brandon. I spend one night in Kuala Lumpur and then (because there are only two flights a week from Malaysia or Singapore to Mauritius) two nights in Port Louis before meeting up with the bulk of the team members who arrive on a flight from the UK. Then we spend another night on the ship taking us to the island.

But what has 3B7C got to do with a long-established net operation, I hear you ask? The answer is 'not a lot': 3B7C *won't* be

calling in to SEANET, which operates in S E Asia more-or-less daily at 1200UTC on 14320kHz. However, in November the SEANET Convention will take place in Lampang, northern Thailand, and I have been asked to give a presentation on the 3B7C DXpedition there.

The annual SEANET get-togethers are not DX conventions, but are almost exclusively social events, lasting about three days, with just half a day devoted to amateur radio presentations. (Last year there was a presentation on the 9M4SEB Sebatik Island DXpedition, the first-ever IOTA operation from OC-295, so for two years running there will be at least one DX-type presentation.) For more details on this year's event, see

[www.sabah.net.my/seanet/seanet\\_2007.htm](http://www.sabah.net.my/seanet/seanet_2007.htm)

Although not strictly a DXers' event, DXers will recognise the names or callsigns of many of the delegates. The following are just some of those who have registered for the 2007 event: CDXC member Tony, G4UZN; Don, HSØZEE (ex-A92BE); Finn,

OZ1HET (HSØAC); S21RJ and S21BR from Bangladesh; and CDXC's old friend Taizo, JA3AER (ex-GWØRTA). I also spoke to Fred, K3ZO, on 20m not so long ago and he said he'd be there too.

Next year the 2008 Convention will be taking place here in Sabah, from 21 to 23 November. This is the weekend before the CQWW CW contest, so why not plan to come to Sabah to socialise at the convention, then take part in the contest from one of the guest shacks? The inaugural meeting of SEANET 2008 takes place next week and I have a sneaky feeling that I will be volunteered on to the organising committee. If that's the case, I'll try to arrange for at least one DX presentation next year too. Hey, the SEANET Convention is turning into a DX Convention (don't tell the delegates!)

Put the dates in your diary now: 21 November to 1 December 2008: Sabah is where it's all happening!

---

## DXCC Honour Roll – March 2007

Taken from the September 2007 QST by Jim Kellaway, G3RTE

<b>Mixed</b>	<b>336</b>	GØDBE	G4OBK	G3VMW
		GØJHC	G4PTJ	G4DDS
<b>337</b>	G3LQP	G3HCT	G4ZCG	G4EDG
	G3RTE	G3JAG	GM3ITN	G4SQA
GØDQS	G3RUV	G3KHZ	GM3WIL	GM4KLO
G3GIQ	G3UML	G3MXJ	GM4YMM	GM4UZY
G3HTA	G4BUE	G3OCA		
G3KMA	G4BWP	G3PJT	<b>334</b>	<b>333</b>
G3NDC	GJ3LFJ	G3PLP		
G3NLY	GMØAXY	G3SJX	GØCGL	GØOIL
G4IUF	GW4BLE	G3SNN	G3KWK	G3COJ
G4SOZ	G4DXW	G3VKW	G3NSY	G3GAF
GM3YTS		G3VXJ	G3OAG	G3IFB
GW3CDP	<b>335</b>	G3XTT	G3RZP	G3KYF
GM3AWW		G4ELZ	G3TXF	G3OHN

G3ZBA	G4YVV	GØCGL	G3TJW	G3TXF
G4GED		G3VKW	G3TXF	G4ELZ
G4LVQ	<b>328</b>	G3XTT	G4YRR	
GW3ARS		G4OBK		<b>332</b>
GW3JXN	G3NKC	G4PTJ	<b>328</b>	
	G3PMR	G4SQA		G3SNN
<b>332</b>	G3ZAY		G3KLL	G3VXJ
	G4AFJ	<b>333</b>	G3MCN	
G3BJ	G4CJY		G3UAS	<b>331</b>
G3LZQ	GM3PPE	G4GED		
G3SJH		G4NXG	<b>CW</b>	G4OBK
G3TMA	<b>Phone</b>	GM4UZY		
G4OWT			<b>337</b>	<b>330</b>
G4SOF	<b>337</b>	<b>332</b>	None	None
GM3CIX	GØDQS	G3SJH		
GM4FDM	G3NLY	G3VOF	<b>336</b>	<b>329</b>
		G3ZBA		
<b>331</b>	<b>336</b>	G4LVQ	GM3YTS	G3NOH
		GW3ARS		G4SQZ
G3LAS	G3KMA		<b>335</b>	
G3MIR	G3NDC	<b>331</b>		<b>328</b>
G4YRR	G3UML		G3GIQ	
G5LP	G4BWP	GMØAXY	G3KMA	G3MIR
GMØVRP	G4IUF		G3RTE	
	G4SOZ	<b>330</b>	G4BUE	
<b>330</b>	GW3CDP		G4BWP	
		GØOIL		
G3AAE	<b>335</b>	G3KYF	<b>334</b>	
G3KMQ		G4DXW		
G3TJW	GØDBE	GM3CIX	G3MXJ	
	G3LQP		G3VMW	
<b>329</b>	G3SNN	<b>329</b>	G3XTT	
	GM3WIL		G4EDG	
GØWRE		GØKXL		
G3KLL	<b>334</b>	GØWRE	<b>333</b>	
G3PJK		G3PJK		
G3SBP				

### Suspending CDXC Reflector e-mails if you go away on holiday

If you want to temporarily suspend e-mails to the CDXC Reflector while you're away, do this:

Sign in to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CDXC/> and click on 'My Groups' on the right.

Then click on 'Edit My Groups' on the left.

For CDXC under 'Message Delivery' select 'No email'.

When you return home, go back and select your 'Individual Emails' or 'Daily Digest'.

73

Mark Marsden G4AXX

# FSDXA St Brandon DXpedition 3B7C

## Bulletin No. 6

The 3B7C St Brandon Island expedition is getting close, with the advance party of Neville, G3NUG, Don, G3BJ and Don, G3XTT, flying out on 31 August. On arrival they will supervise the unloading of the shipping container (6 tons of gear) onto the Sainte Rita, a converted trawler which will take equipment and team the 24 hour crossing to Isle du Sud. The generators (six of 5kW capacity each) have already been taken out to the island by the regular supply vessel.

The remainder of the team arrives on 3 September and will board the ship immediately, ready for sailing. We expect to arrive on Isle du Sud on 4 September, but operations are not expected to commence until midnight UTC on 7 September, by which time all stations and antennas will have been assembled. However, the 6m beacon on 50.090 MHz will be activated at the earliest opportunity so that 6m DXers can start to monitor for possible openings.

### Team members

We are delighted that Michel, FM5CD, has joined the 3B7C team, bringing us up to full strength with 20 operators, enough to man all operating positions whenever the bands are open.

### QSLing

Bureau cards can be requested via the webpage. The QSL Manager is Neville, G3NUG, (qrz.com for address) but please note that we don't need cards for individual contacts - a listing in log order is best.

### Online logs and contact with 3B7C

Other than our radio gear, contact with the outside world is limited to an Iridium

satphone which will be used primarily for uploading logs on a daily basis. The online log look-up, reached via the 3b7c.com website, breaks new ground because it will feature a look-up for your zone, showing what times you, or others in your zone, have made contact with 3B7C on each band. If you have not worked 3B7C at all, just enter your country prefix for the data to show both country data (if available) and zone data. If you have worked 3B7C on one or more bands, put your call into the search engine for confirmation that you are in the log, and also for the data on best times to work 3B7C on the other bands. Note that this information is not 'predicted' but rather derived by analysing all the QSOs in 3B7C's current log. To make it more fun, the search facility also shows you which operator you have worked on each band. Ahead of this real-time data, team member Eric, K3NA, has prepared some detailed propagation forecasts which can be found on the webpage.

If you have any feedback for the team, it can be emailed to 3b7c@g3wgv.com. Messages will be read by John, G3WGV, in the UK and a daily digest of key information sent by him to the island to help with the planning of operating schedules etc. Please do not expect John to engage in detailed correspondence - his task is merely to pass information on to the team. Any significant news from the island will be mailed to John who will upload it to the 3B7C website as required.

### 3B7C webpage at <http://3b7c.com>

The website also features a leader board which shows the top 100 band/mode slot DXers. There are 38 potential slots. No prizes this time, just have fun.

We look forward to working you from 3B7, on many bands and modes! We will, as promised previously, ensure that towards the end of the expedition we spend time operating CW at lower speeds for the benefit of those who are new to the mode.

## Sponsorship

Thanks again to our many sponsors, all of whom are shown on the 3B7C website. Our

top sponsors have been: Yaesu (Principal Sponsor), ARRL Colvin Award, Continent 8 Technologies, Martin Lynch & Sons, Milemark LLC, NCDXF and Nevada.

Don Field G3XTT, NK1G  
(g3xtt@lineone.net)  
27 August 2007  
(FSDXA Publicity Officer)

### **Reference: Insurance Claim** [*with thanks to GW4HAT, Swansea*]

Résumé: this man was in a work-related accident, so he completes the appropriate insurance claim form. The insurance company duly contacts him and requests more information to process his claim. The following was his response.

I am writing in response to your request for additional information on my insurance claim. I put 'poor planning' as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully, and I trust the following detail will be sufficient for your needs.

I am an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my new 80ft tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300lbs of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel, using a pulley, which was fortunately attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools/equipment into the barrel. Then I climbed down to ground level and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow decent of the 300lbs of tools. You will have noted that I weigh only 155lbs. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40ft level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collar bone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope, despite the intense pain. At approximately the same time however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20lbs. I refer you again to my weight (above).

As you might imagine, I began a rapid decent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40ft level I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools, and fortunately only 3 vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in much pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80ft above me, I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope and...

## PJ2G - Warming up the rocks on Curaçao

Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF

*Digest* readers will have read many times in these pages that the three most important elements for a successful DX trip operation are 'location, location and location'. This is a short tale of how to get it totally wrong as regards the location!

In recent years a number of (more or less) fully equipped contest or DXpedition stations in nice places have become available for hire to visiting DXers or contesters. One such is the PJ2T Caribbean Contest Consortium (CCC) station on Curaçao. The PJ2T location has a long history as an amateur radio location. John, W1BIH, operated as PJ9JT from his home on this cliff-top site for many years. However, for the past eight years the site has been owned by the CCC, who have invested heavily in new towers and numerous monoband fixed beam antennas, as well as in the station equipment. PJ2T is active in many contests. Geoff, WØCG, is the leading light at the CCC.

The photos of the site on the Web show three towers right by the sea. It looks great. G3TXF was looking for somewhere to operate the WAE CW Contest (you know, the contest with those pesky QTCs – the log extract exchanges). After checking availability on the PJ2T website and after a few quick e-mail exchanges, not only were we all set for a brief contest visit to Curaçao, but Geoff, WØCG, had been able to arrange for the callsign PJ2G for use during the contest. As PJ2 is a CEPT country, the callsign PJ2/G3TXF was used outside the contest.

The journey to Curaçao was simple enough. Just one change of plane in Miami. As it was my first visit to the PJ2T site and I was scheduled to arrive in Curaçao well after dark, the CCC arranged for a local contact to meet me at the airport and show me the

way to the site. This worked out well. The station is housed in a large bungalow right on the top of a small cliff some 50 ft above the sea. As it was about 4am London time when I finally arrived at the station, it was time to go straight to bed. I was to be the only person at the station during my WAE CW contest visit.

It was not until the next morning that the surprises started. In the shack there are four operating positions. Outside there are three towers. One has fixed beams for the USA/Japan, one has antennas for Europe. The third tower has a WARC beam. As the USA/Japan and Europe towers are 80ft and 100ft high respectively, the whole installation is most impressive. Particularly so as it is all crammed into a relatively small plot. And yes, it is right by the ocean, but facing, of all directions, directly south.

I couldn't believe it! From the Caribbean the USA (and Japan) are to the North-West and Europe is to the North-East. Both these key directions were across the hilly island of Curaçao and not, as I had expected but foolishly had not checked, out across the ocean. The sea take-off was to South America (in fact Venezuela can just be seen from the PJ2T site on clear days).

The take-off to the USA was into gently rising ground in the near distance. However, the PJ2T station has done very well in the ARRL contests. There are numerous plaques on the shack wall. But the take-off to Europe was a real disappointment. Although the multi-element fixed beams for Europe were on a rugged 100ft tower, there was a rock escarpment of a similar height at about 250ft from the antenna tower slap-bang in the direction of Europe. Beyond the wall of rock, the land just continued to climb upwards into the distance.

Having seen the close-in terrain of the antennas, instinctively I just knew that I was not going to be loud into Europe despite there being a 2-el 40m, a 4-el 20m, a 4-el 15m and a 5-el 10m monobander on the tower and a reasonable sized linear in the shack. And so it proved to be. Yes, there were some good short runs on 20m, but only when the band was wide open. The strength and depth of the pile-ups did not correspond to the size of the station and its antennas. To put it simply the station is, regrettably, facing the wrong way for Europe!

The WAE CW Contest is a 48-hour event, but single-ops can do only 36 hours. Planning the 'off' hours was not a problem. With the SFI down to a mere 68, Europe was unworkable on any band for several hours either side of midday local time. Being four hours behind GMT, the contest started at 8pm on Friday evening. Somehow this is a more civilised time to start a contest than the usual midnight or 1 am at home. The first two hours of the contest were spent on 40m, where the 2-el beam at 100ft facing straight into the rock face did its best to put a reasonable signal into Europe.

After a couple of hours the rate slowed, and it was time for the first of several short snooze breaks. Knowing that from home the period around dawn is usually good for working the Caribbean on 40m, PJ2G was back in the shack by 0500z and spent the next two hours working whoever could hear me in Europe on 40m. Once 40m had closed it was time for another three-hour snooze until 20m started showing some signs of life at 1000z. After a couple of hours on 20m, a handful of QSOs were made on 15m before closing again at 1230z, some 3½ hours before midday local time. The next QSO was not until 1845z, some three hours after local noon. The operating patterns were similar on both days of the contest, except for a short session on 80m on the second night during which a surprisingly good number (70) of Europeans were worked. Even at the start of the contest it was obvious that this was not going to be a

'winning location', because of the difficulty of being heard in Europe from the wrong side of Curaçao. However, it was early on Sunday morning while hearing Joop, P43JB, on Aruba (a stone's throw from PJ2) calmly running a good pile-up of Europeans on 20m that I just could not hear at all, when it finally came home how poor the PJ2G location was for working Europe competitively. The same phenomenon was also experienced with several WAE CW entrants from Brazil who could be heard running QSOs, while I could hear no trace of the Europeans.

Twenty-nine hours operating produced just under 1,000 QSOs in the WAE CW Contest. This was somewhat less than had been hoped for. However, QTCs are the aspect of the WAE CW Contest which makes it distinctive from all other contests. This was the first time that G3TXF had been sending QTCs rather than just receiving them. Fortunately all but three of the maximum possible QTCs were successfully transmitted.

The last couple of hours of the contest were spent on 40m. Conditions were poor and Europeans were having a hard time hearing me. Many CQs just resulted in stony silence. With the contest ending at 8pm local time, there was time enough to close up the station and leave the keys with the neighbour before heading back to the airport. As the departing flight was scheduled to leave at 7am the following morning, a room had been booked at the airport hotel, so as to avoid any last-minute rush in the early hours of Monday morning.

The WAE CW Contest weekend finished, with my arriving back at Heathrow early on Tuesday morning. The trip had once again been a useful reminder of how important it is that a DXpedition or contest location has to be well chosen. Operating the WAE CW Contest from PJ2G had been fun, but with the constantly nagging thought: "if only this magnificent station were facing out over the sea in the opposite direction!"

## Svalbard 2007

**Martin Atherton, G3ZAY**

*g3zay@btinternet.com*

Having found the Faroe Islands to their liking in 2006, Mike, G7VJR, and Martin, G3ZAY, decided to head further north in 2007 and operate from the Norwegian territory of Svalbard. At 78-80° N this is about the most northerly land mass on the planet – but thanks to the last eddies of the Gulf Stream is surprisingly warm and accessible. The south-west corner of the main island is largely free of glaciers and the valleys are thinly covered with grass for a few months in the summer. The capital, Longyearbyen (named after an American prospector John Munroe Longyear), has a population of around 2,000 people and an airport which takes two or three daily Boeing 737 flights from Oslo and Tromsø.

Mathias Bjerrang, JW5NM, has lived on Svalbard for many years and has recently retired from his job as air traffic controller at the airport. He has built up a club station, JW5E, which is well equipped with HF transceivers and linears and even has a living area and bunk beds – although the lack of water and toilet facilities means many visiting ops still prefer to stay at one of the local guest houses. The antennas are based around a 100 ft steel tower which has a 5-el Fritzel yagi for 10-15-20m, a 4-el 6m beam fixed to the south, and various wires for 160-80-40m. During the winter verticals are mounted on the sea ice behind the hut, but we were able to mount a fibreglass mast on an old wooden post in the same area and create a 10 MHz vertical. The club station/hut can be rented for €50 per day and Mathias keeps a booking list on the web.

The history of Svalbard is fascinating (for more details see [www.svalbardarchaeology.org/reports/Sval\\_Report\\_2004\\_web.pdf](http://www.svalbardarchaeology.org/reports/Sval_Report_2004_web.pdf)). It was discovered by the Dutch explorer Willem Barents in 1596, then exploited in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries by Russian

hunters as well as by European whalers. Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century attention turned to minerals, particularly coal, and by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century there were seven coal mines operating in the valley around Longyearbyen. The wooden gantries for the cable ropeways used to convey coal from the mines to the coast can still be seen today, stretching many kilometres out from the town. For much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century there were Soviet mines operating at Barentsburg and Grumant, and a new model settlement was created at Pyramiden complete with indoor swimming pool, cinema, farm, theatre, school, apartment buildings, hotel, restaurant etc. Today Barentsburg is a shadow of its former self with around 500 inhabitants and Grumant and Pyramiden lie abandoned and boarded up. The last mine in Longyear produces just enough coal for the local power station and Barentsburg produces little more. The only commercial mining left in the islands is at the Norwegian settlement of Svea, from where several million tons are exported each year.

Control of Svalbard is based on the Svalbard Treaty first signed in 1920 – until when it had been a legal ‘no-mans land’. The Treaty assigns sovereignty to Norway, but allows nationals of all signatory nations the same rights as Norwegians. Military activity is prohibited and Norway is only allowed to impose taxes in the islands to cover the local administration costs. A surprising result of this is that petrol costs around half of what it does on the Norwegian mainland.

Svalbard today is about tourism and science. Summer sees a fleet of cruise ships heading around the islands, while the spring is time for snowmobile or dog sledging expeditions to the various historical sites. The only

downside is that polar bears are found all over the archipelago, so you should never leave the town of Longyearbyen without a rifle that you know how to use.

On the scientific side there are a range of ionospheric physics experiments running. These include:

- the University of Leicester SPEAR system, which has a massive array of 5 MHz dipoles fed with multiple kW linear amplifiers,
- the EISCAT 42m dish,
- an ionosonde,
- various optical aurora observatories,
- and a 53 MHz Mesosphere-Stratosphere-Troposphere wind profiler.

The geologists are also roaming around the island – and they seem to have gone hi-tech and traded in their hammers for 50 MHz high-power ground-penetrating radars.

Back at the JW5E shack, Mike and I soon found that conditions were not going to be as good as we had hoped. With 24-hour sunlight there was clearly no chance of QSOs on 80 or 160m, and 40m was going to be difficult even with the club linears, but we hoped for good things on the HF bands even at sunspot minimum. In the event, and with one exception, 18 MHz and above were dead the whole time. So almost all our QSOs were made on 10 and 14 MHz, where there could be a great opening to Europe, Japan, or North America at almost any time – and equally there could be nothing at all if the aurora was playing up. For much of the time signals were audible but very weak and might go from S9 to S1 in a few seconds.

We tried to run two stations simultaneously, but this was generally not possible. There were a few band/antenna/radio combinations that worked if we ran 100W, but any linear and most band/antenna/radio combinations made it impossible. Next time we'll take the Dunestar filters.

The one exception to the dead bands above 18 MHz was 6m. Sporadic-E is not limited to mid-latitudes and we received a number of e-mails before our trip saying that QSOs had been made with JW in the past and asking us to look at 6m while we were there. The Internet reports suggested that Longyearbyen is not a great QTH for propagation to the south as the land rises steeply to about 3,000 ft. This proved to be the case – but Sporadic-E does not usually arrive at a low angle, so I hoped to hear something. The first day of listening produced nothing. We were out at the peak time for the next couple of days, so may have missed a short opening, and the next two days also produced nothing. Finally, at around 1800z on our last day I heard a couple of beacons (LY and OH9) and immediately started Cqing, expecting the usual 6m pile-up. But strangely it wasn't to be – there were clearly no active amateurs in whatever part of Europe the Sporadic-E was getting to. Mike spotted me on the cluster using his Treo phone and very slowly the QSOs came in. In about 90 minutes of Cqing I worked 9 stations from OH, SP, LY and DL before the opening finished at around 1930.

We made a number of 'local' QSOs: with a research ship near Jan Mayen Island, R1FJT from Franz Josef Land on 10 MHz, an S9 KL7 at a time when the band was otherwise dead, and a tourist on a cruise ship on the north coast of Svalbard. And we were visited several times by Slava, RA3SS, who was skipper of a yacht anchored in the bay off Longyearbyen providing transport for various scientific activities.

In the end we made around 2,500 QSOs between us. Best DX on 10 MHz was LU, VK4 and VK6; on 14 MHz it was VK and KH2. Apart from the radio we had a great time visiting the outlying settlements and doing a short trip on a husky-towed cart. We'd like to thank Mathias, JW5NM, for the use of the JW5E shack and the guided tour of the Longyearbyen area.

# GJ4DYO/P

**a first portable effort by a real novice**

**Brendan McCartney, G4DYO** *G4DYO@aol.com*

Although I'd been QRT for many years, my interest in radio had never waned and I'd spent much time SWLing, both at home and in the car. Ruth and I have always been enthusiastic aircraft spotters since before we were married - and in recent years we've developed an interest in 'vessels marine'. In pursuing these interests we are often to be found visiting airfields and we also spend a lot of time at the coast, especially when big liners are to be seen at Southampton. In connection with these hobbies we have scanner radios and my very old Trio 2m mobile rig has been adapted to tune the marine band to provide us with entertainment on our travels.

Having been seriously jolted back into amateur radio by a recent visit to Jim and Kirsti Smith on Norfolk Island - and with a holiday in Jersey approaching - I decided that it was time to a) try some 'portable' amateur radio operating from another DXCC entity, b) give 6m a whirl, as I had often listened but never transmitted on that band, and c) to upgrade our 'hobby' radios. With the way technology is leaping ahead it was possible to do this in one go with one of the new mini-rigs which tune from DC to light. I am extremely fortunate in having an XYL who supports my hobby 100% and the merest suggestion that a new piece of ultra-expensive gear is being considered results in her running to put shoes on and asking, "When are we going to buy it?". Being a pensioner I mulled over the idea for some time, but with the trip to Jersey only days away I finally decided to give up eating for a while - and Ruth and I headed down to Nevada and bought an FT-857D at an excellent price. I also bought a 6m mobile whip for the car.

The visit to Jersey was to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, as we had spent our honeymoon and silver wedding there. It's a magical place but, like so many small islands, it is becoming choked with traffic. The weather was the worst we had seen - with heavy rain for several hours on most of the days we were there. However, that didn't worry us seeing as we are most definitely not beach freaks: on our honeymoon we sunbathed all day and ended up unable to do anything except stand quite still as our skin fell off! That taught us a lesson which we have heeded all our years.

There had been no time to teach Ruth the ins and out of Turbogol, but she was very keen to do the logging despite her health problem which makes writing extremely difficult. I had only had a very short time to learn how to use the FT-857, which is immensely complicated compared to larger rigs as virtually all the controls are of the menu variety. However, nothing ventured, nothing gained, and on the evening of our first full day on Jersey (23 June) we headed off and found a quiet spot near Corbiere Coastguard Station on the south-west tip of the island. I'd never transmitted on the rarefied ether of 6m before, so at 1735z, after donning a pair of lead socks and in a state of extreme anxiety, I called CQ on 6m SSB - and was amazed to work 10 stations around Europe: I, OH, 9H, F, GU, etc. We then dashed off to find our evening meal.

The following day we headed north to a different location - high on the cliffs at Grosnez Point in the far north-western part of the island. This time conditions seemed better and 6m contacts included TF/G4ODA, LA, 9A, ES, HA and Gary, MJ1GRY/P, who happened to be on the island doing a recce for the Bristol Group's

forthcoming visit for the IOTA Contest. We worked Gary several times during our stay and finally met up with him on our last evening at Sorel Point, where he was working CW on 6m using a straight key fixed to a piece of wood on his knee! By the end of the second day's operating I'd worked 13 countries on 6m. Unfortunately that seemed to be the end of 6m openings and we heard nothing else on the band during our stay. However, it stimulated my interest in 6m and when conditions improve I might put up a 6-el yagi or quad at home to make a bit of noise on the band.

On 26 June we again headed north, this time to Sorel Point, which is the northernmost part of the island - again with high cliffs - this time to try HF. Before leaving home I had made up a multiband dipole using a brand-new balun centrepiece and lengths of wire cut for 10, 12, 17, 20 and 40m joined together with chocolate block connectors. We had driven for miles looking for somewhere to hang up an inverted-V without success, so in a last-ditch effort to get on the real bands (HF) I hung the 17m dipole between the car and a bench seat on an elevated piece of ground. The antenna was horizontal, with a mean height above ground of about 1 metre, although the clifftop was about 250 feet asl with a clear take-off in every direction. I had no ATU and was pleasantly surprised to find that the FT-857 loaded up fine and put out 100W with the car engine running.

A CQ call on 17m SSB resulted in a mini pile-up and I worked 33 stations in a dozen or so countries around Europe - mostly LA, OH and other northerly stations including MMØXAU on Shetland and, amazingly, GM6WRW/M in the Orkneys! Carolyn had a big signal from her FT-857 and ATAS mobile antenna - and even after a lifetime in

communications this car-to-car contact blew me away. Of course it didn't match the car-to-car contact which I heard G3VLW/M make one morning many years ago with a ZL/M in Auckland, but it still excited Ruth and me. After the spell on 17m I added two pieces of wire to the antenna and got a 1:1 SWR on 20m. Another pile-up resulted, again mainly north European stations, but the star contact of the whole trip was a call from HZ1GW, who nearly blew us out of the car with an S9+40 signal way over the rest of the pile-up. I also worked several Asiatic Russians, EA and CT, but nothing from the USA or Africa - which was a bit disappointing.

On our last evening we again drove to Sorel Point and hung up the 20m dipole. Despite calling CQ for ages I only made 5 contacts with EU stations. I even tried calling CQ near 14.260 in the hope of attracting some IOTA interest, but without success. Out of 105 stations worked, only one of them asked me for my IOTA number and only one asked for my WAB square. I guess GJ is not as rare as I'd thought, although I only heard one Jersey local station during the week we were there.

The whole experience was great and Ruth and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I wondered why I'd never tried it before but, now I have a tiny transceiver covering just about all the amateur bands, I will certainly try to operate from wherever we find ourselves on holiday. In the next days we are going to the Isle of Wight to see if we can find a suitable location from which to operate in the IOTA Contest.

We ended up with 105 contacts on three bands (20, 17 and 6m) in 31 countries. The only dreadful part about all this is that I now have to start QSLing!

# Almost NA-231 – a Cautionary Tale

by Ken Francom, G3OCA

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At the beginning of January 2007 Cezar, VE3LYC, contacted George, a resident of the First Nation settlement at Fort Severn on the north coast of Hudson Bay in Ontario, Canada. The purpose of this was to plan an IOTA expedition to NA-231, East Pen Island, a previously unactivated group for the IOTA programme.

There followed some six months of regular e-mail discussion on how such an expedition could be arranged. The support of local guides and hunters would be essential; without their expertise any venture would be impossible. The second part of July was suggested as the safest time to visit the island due to the presence of polar bears later in the year; earlier than this would mean camping in the snow, with temperatures as low as -20°C and the possibility of blizzards. Everything had apparently been organised for a period of up to four days on the island with fuel, water and a 2.5 KW generator, the sound of which would discourage the bears, which are nervous of unusual noises. We would be travelling with one guide.

The journey, once I had met up with Cezar, was a flight to Thunder Bay on Air Canada, followed by a flight to Sioux Lookout in a twin-engined aircraft belonging to Bearskin Airlines. We had to stay there overnight before finally flying to Fort Severn in a single-engined aircraft of Wasaya Airline. We were met on arrival by the usual pick-up truck and taken to a 'hotel'. Our first view of Fort Severn gave us the impression of an oversized building site. There are no roads as such, just rough tracks, and the single-storey houses are set at odd angles to each other without any plan or order. The hotel provided, at a cost of £100 per night, a bed, shower, fridge, microwave and coffeemaker, but no plates, cups or cutlery. This was a problem as there was nowhere to

get a meal, so TV microwaved dinners were the order of the day and about our only highlight!

We met George the following morning, only to be told that the friend he was relying on had either left the settlement or had just dropped out of the plans. We never found out which. This had resulted in George handing over the organisation of the expedition to the Settlement Council members who we met next. The chief councillor was away and was expected back two days later but the remaining four members of the council informed us that they would provide no support, not only because of the danger from polar bears, but because of the danger from walruses and their pups which might attack the boat on its twenty minute journey to the island. No mention had ever previously been made of walruses, so we were absolutely flabbergasted at this development.

During the long discussion that followed it was suggested that we could get a float plane to land near the island, the nearest available plane being some 450 miles to the south. We would have no guide with us. So, we asked ourselves, where had all the danger from bears gone? Finally we suggested that we have a much shorter stay on the island - and we discussed this possibility with them for about two days. The chief of the council eventually returned and we explained our problem. He agreed that the expedition could go ahead, but with four guides/hunters - so the cost would be 3,200 Canadian dollars. So it was going to be much more expensive, but as we were there we agreed to go ahead, even though now there was no generator available and only two 120 Ah batteries could be found, which would have reduced our operating options. That was at about two o'clock. We met the chief guide, who seemed quite

happy with the proposed arrangements, and certainly looked as if he could cope with any problems. At four o'clock the chief came to our hotel and announced that the whole thing was cancelled and that there would be no further discussion. He gave no reasons and offered no apology.

The whole time we were there we found that the people, other than members of the council, would not talk to us, even to pass the time of day. Nobody smiled when we went to the store to buy food - we just did not exist. We watched a baseball game, but nobody cheered - even when a home run was hit. Four of the five council members came from the same family and they seemed to control the entire population of 400. The whole place seemed to be afraid of doing anything other than what was sanctioned by them.

Food was extremely expensive, some 300-400% more expensive than normal Canadian prices, due to the fact that there are no roads to the area, so everything has to be flown in by light aircraft. 98% of all living costs are paid for by the government,

so there is little incentive to work. Everyone seems to have a quad bike and a pick-up truck, courtesy of state money. Mechanics are even flown in to service equipment on site - when surely local people could be trained. There is Internet access and a local TV channel, but no work except for a little hunting.

We were very pleased when the time came to leave. We were driven to the airport by the chief. He seemed quite friendly, but as we were about to board the little aircraft he rushed forward and almost attacked Cezar, only to be restrained by the pilot and co-pilot. We have no idea what caused that outburst. It was almost as if he was putting on a show for the few local people watching!

So no QSOs in the log, lots of disappointed people and about £2,250 down the drain. We hope to mount another expedition in 2008, but will try to avoid relying so heavily on local people who seem to have different values and attitudes, probably brought on by their isolated lifestyle.

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## Antigua - A Gentleman's DXpedition

**Peter Doughty, G3TKK/V25TK**

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Over the years I have taken a rig on holiday to the usual locations: mainland Spain, the Canary Islands, Madeira, Crete and the like. This year presented a different option. I had just retired and both the XYL and myself were celebrating a significant milestone either side of June. We decided on a more significant holiday to take place in June itself. We had never been to the Caribbean, so when this was suggested it passed on all fronts: interesting callsign, IOTA status and direct flight from Manchester. We were on, so long as I could gain local permissions to operate. This had previously been refused

on trips to Malaysia, Singapore and other ports east on various pretexts such as risk of arrest - and contracting malaria from midnight operating on the balcony. This time I had to win. Negotiations were protracted, but ultimately successful, so all there was to do was get a licence and pack the bags.

### Acquiring the Licence

A first for G3TKK outside the realm of CEPT, so a new experience. The obvious place to start: the RSGB Yearbook. A quick

e-mail to the stated contact in the Antiguan Radio Club and I will get all the info I need. No such luck. No reply, so after some weeks I scan the Internet and find the appropriate form courtesy of the inevitable Finnish database, fill it in with all the necessary documentation and post it off to the relevant Antiguan authority. Job done. But no, not so easy. No reply again, so I post a note on the CDXC Reflector and back comes G3SXW, who puts me on to G3TXF who had, of course, just returned from Antigua. No problem this time. Nigel furnishes me with all the facts, including most importantly the name and e-mail address of the government official in charge of licensing.

I e-mailed Antigua directly and got a reply within hours. No sign of my letter ever getting to the correct office - but yes, send documents back as attachments and choose my callsign. A very helpful man! All sorted in a couple of days, except that I have to send cash in US Dollars to the Antiguan Commissioner of Inland Revenue at a bank in Manhattan. Off to get the global bank to do their very best. This was necessary as I was arriving late afternoon on Friday, so no time to get to the government building before close of business, so no licence for operating over our first weekend. The XYL would not agree to us going straight from the airport to this office on our way to the hotel. Negotiations remained difficult. So, money sent and received and scanned licence in hand via e-mail and I had permission to get on the air.

### **Gentleman or Player?**

If the above tale does not show that this was to be an 'amateur' activity, the next sections surely will! There was no need to anguish over weight limits or airline excess baggage rates. Again, negotiations around permission to operate meant there could be no excess baggage, nor more than two suitcases and one piece of hand luggage to be taken. In practice this meant the DX-70TH travelled in the cabin and the rest in the hold. The rest was only a PSU, an MFJ-Tiny Travel Tuner

and a very old Econo-keyer. The antennas were dipoles cut for 30, 20, 18 and 15m made from hook-up wire with spade terminals to clip onto the coax cable. A pack of Blu Tack made it, but no laptop - so no Cluster access, only manual sending and paper logging.

To show some semblance of good practice I had set up a V25TK page on QRZ.com to alert interested parties as to QSLing matters, looked up the Antigua IOTA number (only joking!) and finally got myself up and running on LoTW so I could upload the contacts asap on return. All this necessary activity gleaned from absorbing the lessons within the *Digest*.

### **Station set-up**

This began with a gentle stroll around the resort, carefully discussing the finer points of which of the several beaches and pools seemed most appropriate to our wellbeing. In fact this was the best opportunity to seek out the relevant palm trees that would support the dipole, ensuring height, but cutting visibility to a minimum. This was important to ensure that any TVI problems could not be linked to our balcony in the eyes of the XYL; again crucial to ensure no risk of renegotiation of regulations affecting operational practice.

Having accomplished my needs as to the best aerial supports, I successfully manoeuvred a session at the beach bar so that nerves would be calmed ahead of the potentially alarming situation when 'unpacking' produced in full view the extent of the cabling etc. that would emerge from one of the two suitcases. A far distant set-up from that whereby the experienced professional would have had scouts out at the selected hotel weeks in advance and acquired the ocean front room and beach access for the vertical and all its radials. You will see that after reading 'DXpeditioning Behind the Scenes' I took the view that too much inappropriate preparation can ruin performance just as

did, I suspect, Sir Viv Richards during his career on Antigua! Having secreted the kit into 'my side' of the wardrobe, it was important to leave it to settle whilst enjoying a quiet night over dinner and a bottle or so of fine wine.

After a night's sleep there would be enough time to rise early (pre-dawn, of course), throw the first dipole into the trees and fire up the transmitter. Lumps of Blu Tack caught safely in the fronds ensured the aerials withstood the gales that followed. I had of course identified the most appropriate three (square-) pinned 240V socket before going down to dinner the night before - to ensure minimum fumbling around the next day. The room was geared up for operators from many countries as there were three sorts of socket with either 115 or 240V.

The dipoles were up at about 35 ft above the sea, which was only about 20 paces away from the building. Take-off was to the NNW and the resort was on the northernmost tip of the island.

### **Operational Activity**

Further distress. I had hoped that signals would be strong and clear and that there would be 24-hour propagation from Europe, Africa and beyond. Nigel had intimated things would be good and indeed he had set out for FP-land just a day or so before we departed ourselves. It augured well. I hoped there would be DX beyond the local South Florida W4s.

In fact things were difficult. Over several days' experimentation it transpired there was a lot of tropical storm activity around. Not much rain, but QRN at S9 for hours. As if that was not bad enough, the hotel generated extraordinary high levels of additional noise that came on regularly at 0715 hours local and stayed on till mid-afternoon.

This limited activity to very early hours each morning when most activity was from the USA on 30m - and before and after dinner, when 20m was in great shape to Europe. Thus operations were handicapped by the expectation that I would be sociable and remain on the beach before dinner and after dinner - when I had to work out callsigns clearly sent, but only once, having had my fair share of champagne before, wine with and brandy after indulging in fabulous cuisine. More like what we are led to believe were the stresses on Sir Ian Botham than on the serious-minded professional DXpeditioner. This was definitely a 'Gentleman's' affair.

### **Results**

Fantastic from my perspective! Operations were carried out over a total of 30 hours on 12 days of our two-week away. This netted over 500 QSOs from all continents and 49 DXCC entities. It involved coping with lengthy power outages and even a room change when the A/C unit failed terminally. It was suggested at one point (XYL again) that this was because of my transmissions, but the fluid pouring out of the wall was accepted as not a consequence of my mistuning the rig.

I came home blissfully ignorant of when - or if - I had been 'spotted' or how many times I was reported on the Cluster as a 'bad op'. Who cares any way when you are forced by circumstances of both a human and atmospheric nature to operate when well over the limit! Remember this was a CW-only activity and the keyer in no way copies my usual fist when active with an aged but much loved 'bug' from the home call. Try proving I was 'driving' the keyer.

And the high spots? Well, JAs coming through out of the blue mid-afternoon on 20m, several QSOs giving thanks for a 'new one' and working KHØ on 30m before the Antigua dawn. Low spot: working KHØ from V2 when it is missing in the home log.

It was amazing to come home to find that almost a dozen direct QSL requests had arrived back into Lancashire before we did. Not so pleasing that two of those showed I had a busted call in my log. Hopefully they reflect attempts to get the call corrected early on rather than the true rate of error across the whole log. Only time will tell. Certainly I will remain clear of the grape when chasing 3B7 in the coming weeks.

Inevitably (though sadly) I did get some deliberate jamming. Ridiculous for such a low-power, short-term operation from not exactly a most wanted location. No really bad operating - the consistent discipline of the wall of USA stations in letting me through to European stations was greatly

appreciated. I was surprised that the strongest signals I heard from Europe included Gs, OZs and OKs rather than the I or DJ signals that always seem to beat me through the pile-ups. It was personally pleasing to work over 350 European stations and I was amazed at the overall signal strengths considering the time in the cycle and my relatively poor receiving set-up.

Thanks to those who shared QSOs with me and apologies to those who might have lost out in the chase. I hope to get back to do it all over again some day, and to get rather more hours at the key next time. It was so different to working from Europe and tremendous fun, even after so many years operating HF CW.

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## 3B7C – Equipment for Sale after the DXpedition

We will be selling the generators and the laptops that we have used on Saint Brandon.

### **Generators:**

We will have three generators for sale. A full specification can be found at: <http://genpoweruk.co.uk/product.php?productid=16191&cat=250&page=1>.

We think these generators are excellent value for money. They are very well built indeed. Clubs could well be interested.

The second-hand price is £495.00 each compared with the current new price of £762.58. Our price excludes transportation from Portsmouth.

See this month's photo pages for a picture.

### **Laptops:**

We will have up to 12 laptops for sale. These PCs were brand-new when shipped to

3B7C. They are IBM ThinkPad T42s with 512 MB RAM, 32 GB HD, 1.7 GHz Pentium 4 processor and CD R/W + DVD drives. Windows XP Pro is preloaded. 56k modem and 100 Mbit/s LAN are built in. WiFi networking is not included, but can easily be added via USB/PCMCIA. They are absolutely top quality and in immaculate condition, having only been used for a few weeks at 3B7C.

The second-hand price is £270 each, excluding shipping.

These offers apply to UK members only.

In both cases please write to John, G3WGV, with a copy to me.

john@g3wgv.com  
g3nug@btinternet.com

Thanks & 73  
Neville, G3NUG

# Operating as guest ops at 1AØKM

Roger Western, G3SXW [g3sxw@btinternet.com](mailto:g3sxw@btinternet.com)

## SMOM

The Sovereign Military Order of the Knights of Malta (SMOM) is located in Rome, Italy – nowhere near 9H-land! It has a thoroughly fascinating history, very much worth browsing with Google, see [www.smom.org/](http://www.smom.org/). It is entirely an independent ‘country’ as an enclave of Italy with two separate sites, each being a large property with gardens. Quoting from their website:

“The Order of Malta is a lay, religious order of the Catholic Church. It is a Hospitaller order, founded in Jerusalem during the eleventh century. Members of the Order seek to glorify God through his or her work with the sick and the poor and witness of the Catholic faith”.

For DXCC purposes this counts as a separate entity, with the prefix 1AØ. In recent years there have been several DXpeditions to 1AØ mounted by the local Italians

The July 2007 project was put together by IKØFVC, IKØPRG and IØJBL and included several guest operators from the USA, Germany and the UK. G3TXF and G3SXW operated the CW pile-ups for 2½ days, making some 6,000 QSOs.

## The Invitation

Earlier in 2007 Roger, G3SXW, had visited Rome and had been invited to operate from HVØA for one afternoon. The licence holder of HVØA and 1AØKM is Francesco, IKØFVC, so having got to know each other he kindly invited Nigel, G3TXF, and myself to participate in the upcoming 1AØKM operation, scheduled for July 2007.

This is a serious group of committed Roman DXers with all the skills needed to mount such an operation and to make large numbers of QSOs on a wide range of bands and modes, so as to satisfy the needs of DXers around the world. Travel was easy, flights to Rome being frequent. Roberto, IKØPRG, met us at the airport and took us to our hotel, just a few yards from the SMOM site on Aventino Hill.

## The Set-up

The Italians had already been operating 1AØKM for several days when we arrived, so for us this really was entirely a guest operation. It was also an unaccustomed luxury for us, as we normally have to provide our own stations and antennas on our trips. This time we just travelled with our own keyers and headphones.

Inside the SMOM Magistrale Villa was a small apartment, a room with bathroom and small kitchen, set aside for our use. This housed two stations: an IC-7400 plus the new Italian-made SPE Expert 1K-FA solid-state amplifier. On the roof was a 5-band Spider beam covering 20-17-15-12-10m and an R8 vertical. In the garden was a FD4 window antenna, with the centre at about 50 ft and a permanently parked comms vehicle which housed 6m and VHF/UHF stations.

All the equipment worked perfectly during our visit, including the new SPE amplifiers, which were very impressive.

## Logistics

The Hotel Anselmo has four facilities of varying levels of luxury, all within a short walk of SMOM. We were extremely well catered for, with excellent Italian pasta and

so forth. In the shack we had water, soft drinks and snacks.

What I have so far omitted to mention is that the SMOM site is on top of Aventino Hill. The operating apartment had no air-conditioning, but there was always a breeze. Although the temperature that week in Rome was over 90°F, it was actually very comfortable in the shack.

There was no operating roster as such, but we all just meshed together and made it happen. Nigel and I quickly got into a pattern of operating nights, from about 5pm local time until 7am (with a break for dinner). We quickly got used to the unfamiliar rigs and sent CW with our own ETM keyers. Logging was with CT, with which we are both familiar. Although it was not particularly planned that way, TXF stuck to his usual WARC bands (mainly 30m) while I concentrated on the traditional HF bands.

## **Pile-Ups**

The European CW pile-ups were constant and huge. We were surprised at their size, bearing in mind that several full-scale operations had taken place from 1AØ in recent years. Within the first few days over 30,000 QSOs had been logged and the July 2007 1AØKM operation finished with close to 40,000 QSOs.

I was pleasantly surprised at how orderly the Europeans were - not the normal zoo of continuous callers that we have come to expect. It seemed to me that the super-slick operating of callers, which is normally only demonstrated by American operators, was finally taking hold in Europe. Almost all callers sent their callsign only once before pausing to listen for a reply, and then just gave '5NN TU' as a response. Of course, our commanding 1KW signal must have

helped a lot to control the frequency, but whenever I asked for 'DX only' almost all the Europeans did stand by right away. Amazing!

Propagation for DX was less than favourable, as might be expected with the flux in the low 70s and in mid-summer, but there were occasional runs of QSOs into USA and into Japan, especially on 30 and 20m. We even worked a few VKs - and South American signals were loud. There were also surprisingly good EU openings on both 10m and 12m, with massive signals on both these bands.

## **Making Friends**

We enjoyed the pile-up operating enormously, but we also had the chance to get to know some very fine chaps, especially IKØFVC, IKØPRG, IKØFTA and K5AB. The whole team consisted of highly committed DXers, all of whom had a great sense of humour and clearly loved what they were doing. We were impressed with the skills and commitment of the whole team.

To operate pile-ups, to see new places, to make new friends - that's an ideal combination! Many thanks indeed to our Italian hosts. We enjoyed the visit enormously.

Please see a photo tour of 1AØKM at:

[www.g3txf.com/dxtrip/1A0KM/1A0.html](http://www.g3txf.com/dxtrip/1A0KM/1A0.html)

QSL is via IKØFTA.

73 de Roger, G3SXW

# IOTA News

Roger Balister, G3KMA

## Update of data in IOTA Directory (2007 Edition)

### New IOTA reference numbers issued (one not confirmed)

AF-104	7X	Mediterranean Sea Coast East group (Algeria)
AS-193	HZ	Farasan Islands (Saudi Arabia)
NA-243P	OX	Greenland's Coastal Islands North East (Greenland)
OC-277	V63	Sorol Atoll (Federated States of Micronesia)
SA-098	OA6	Arequipa/Moquegua/Tacna Department group (Peru)

### Operations which have provided acceptable validation material

AF-104	7U5CI	Grand Cavallo Island (June 2007)
AS-193	HZ1MD/M	Farasan Kebir Island, Farasan Islands (Jun/Jul 2007)
NA-004	KL7HBK	Endeavor (Endicott) Island (April & July 2007)
NA-170	HP2/CX2AM	Wichubhuala Island, San Blas Archipelago (Jun/Jul 2007)
NA-170	HP2/CX3AN	Wichubhuala Island, San Blas Archipelago (Jun/Jul 2007)
NA-170	HP2/CX4CR	Wichubhuala Island, San Blas Archipelago (Jun/Jul 2007)
NA-183	4A3IH	La Roqueta & Grande (Ixtapa) Islands (May 2007)
NA-206	KL1YY	Ushagat Island, Barren Islands (July 2007)
NA-206	NF7E/KL7	Ushagat Island, Barren Islands (July 2007)
NA-206	NN7A/NL7	Ushagat Island, Barren Islands (July 2007)
NA-238	W5BOS/ALØ	Unavikshak Island (August 2007)
OC-080	E51QMA	Suvarrow Atoll, North Cook Islands (May 2007)
OC-080	E51TUG	Suvarrow Atoll, North Cook Islands (May 2007)
OC-132	V63J	Woleai Island (April 2007)
OC-180	V63J	Ngulu Atoll (April 2007)
OC-180	V63RE	Ngulu Atoll (April 2007)
OC-180	V63WN	Ngulu Atoll (April 2007)
OC-189	3D2RI	Yanuca Island, Ringgold Isles (May 2007)
OC-277	V63J	Sorol Atoll (April 2007)
OC-277	V63RE	Sorol Atoll (April 2007)
OC-277	V63WN	Sorol Atoll (April 2007)
SA-098	OA6/IZ7ATN/P	Blanca Island (March 2007)

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

Roger Balister, G3KMA  
RSGB IOTA Manager

20 August 2007

E-mail: IOTA.HQ@rsgb.org.uk

www.g3kma.dsl.pipex.com

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## The RTTY Column

**Phil Cooper, GUØSUP**    *pcooper@guernsey.net*

The summer Sporadic-E season has made a difference to 10m, albeit only a small difference, and it has indeed been Sporadic! But, despite that, it is always worth calling CQ, even if you can't hear any other signals. Or you could put a spot on the Cluster to try to generate some interest. Not really ethical, but it may work for you.

I have made quite a few contacts on 10m, especially outside contests, and have also made quite a few on 12m. The 12m contacts have increased my country count on that band by quite a bit, which is good too. On most occasions we tried 12m. It was after a contact on another band and 12m was seemingly dead, with no signals at all anywhere, but the contacts were made with mostly good RSTs, some even being 599. I have also had a few sessions on 17m and had several good pile-ups lasting over an hour. After one such session, I uploaded the log to LoTW immediately afterwards and was quite surprised to find that around 70% of the contacts were confirmed!

Us RTTY types seem to have a good return rate on LoTW. I currently have almost a

21% confirmation on my log as a whole, which does appear to be higher than average. LoTW also saves me writing a whole load of QSL cards too, which is handy, not to mention the cost savings. However, there are occasions when I want a paper card, most likely for an award of some kind, and most contacts are more than willing to send one as well.

I am currently trying to get the class 1 European award, so paper cards are needed for that. I am quite close now, and just need a few more confirmations. Hopefully they will all arrive before Friedrichshafen next year.

Talking of Friedrichshafen, did you go this year? As always, it was an excellent experience, and I do enjoy meeting all those people we work on air. OK, so the weather wasn't as hot as in previous years, but I found that a bonus rather than a disappointment. It only rained when we were indoors, and the one day we set aside for touristy-type things was a day of unbroken sunshine and a most pleasant day out.

This year I went with Paul, GU4YBW, for whom this was a first experience, and our XYLs. The plan was to take the XYLs to the exhibition on the first day, expecting them to want to leave and go shopping around lunchtime. Wrong! It was Paul and I who were hurrying them up at the end of the day. And they wanted to come again on the Saturday morning, but this time they did leave at around lunchtime. The four of us had decided that we would play tourists on the Sunday, and I suggested a trip to Lindau Island. On the way out of the hotel the owner suggested taking the train there, and coming back by boat. This is what we did, and it really was an excellent day out.

The last few months have also been fairly good for DX. I have worked one new country with A25OOK on 20m RTTY, and also worked Jan, DJ8NK, as PJ2/DJ8NK on 17m for a new band-slot. R1FJT is another new one for me, now worked on two bands, but I do wonder whether I will ever see the QSL card! I have also had 1AØKM and HVØA confirmed on LoTW for 40m RTTY contacts, with the former uploading their logs within a week of the operation ending. Wouldn't it be great if this happened a bit more often! My N8S card also arrived in early August, and that was a good feeling!

During this summer there seems to have been an explosion of new digital modes. I am sure many are transient, and I wonder how many will be earmarked to take over from RTTY? Nowadays one rarely hears any MFSK contacts, and this was *the* mode that was going to make RTTY redundant.

PSK, especially PSK31, has remained a favourite, largely I guess because it suits QRP or low power station so nicely. PSK63 was due to take over from this, but it simply hasn't gained the support that was supposed to happen.

Now we have PSK125, and while it may be nice to try, it simply won't last, and it will be a rarity in a year or two. Not long ago MT63 was the 'new kid on the block' and is

now rarely ever heard on the bands. And if you look at the statistics for contests, the number of entries in RTTY contests is growing at a tremendous rate each year.

The emergence of new modes is always good, and some create more interest than others, but I do think that many are largely just technical inventions for the fun of it, with no real purpose. Despite its limitations, RTTY is still the most widely used mode, and with more and more DXpeditions catering for RTTY, it will continue to grow in use. Apart from that, it is simple to use and a very friendly mode.

## RTTY DX

September sees the much-awaited 3B7C, so that should provide a few band-slots for many of us.

I will be keen to try and work P29 during the second half of September and early October, with G4EDG and G3KHZ amongst the teams going to PNG. There are several different QSL routes, depending on which session you work them.

Burundi, 9U, will be activated by a group of DLs from 26 September to 06 October. QSL via DL7DF.

Equatorial Guinea will be activated by several EAs from 05 to 14 October. QSL via EA5BYP

Chatham Island will be activated twice during October. The first by a group of SPs from 05 to 18 October, and then by a group of DLs from 17 to 30 October. QSLs for the SP group go to the home call of the op (ZL7/home call). QSLs for the DL group go to DL2AH.

That's it for another issue, so see you on the bands, and good DX!

73 de Phil GUØSUP

# Contest

Lee Volante, GØMTN

## CQ WW Logs go public

A recent pleasant surprise was the announcement that the CQ WW DX SSB and CW Contest logs will be publicly available for the 2006 contest onwards. This is great news for those who want to improve their own scores by looking at the logs of fellow competitors. We can simply find the logs of the leading G, European, World station etc., and start to compare how long they operated for, how many breaks they took, and for how long. How long did they stay on a particular band? Are they using a second radio to good effect? Did they find some openings that you didn't? This is useful for newcomers to get an idea of where to start to be competitive, and for those more experienced contesters to learn something too. We can now set accurate band by band, or hour by hour, targets based on last year's leading score. Some of the log analysis programs I mentioned in the last *Digest* will do all of the hard work for you and give you the summaries you'd need.

Going further, with all claimed scores effectively being made public, and the results eventually entering the public domain too, the points lost for each station can be calculated as well. As well as the traditional contest winners, it would be nice to see other token awards being made for 'most accurate log of over 1,000 QSOs' in the future.

Perhaps only for the very keen or the very curious, you can check up just what those monster Multi-Multi stations in the US are doing on 40m or 80m in the middle of the day. Or browse the entries from ZL, CE or KH6 to get a perspective of how the contest was from a different part of the planet.

Those with some IT wizardry skills have gone to the next level. Just days after the

logs were declared open to the public, we were treated to world map animations showing us how the volume of QSOs varied hour by hour from one zone around the world.

Other analyses showed how long entrants were operating for. I haven't forgotten that the number of entrants is not the same as the number of participants, of course, but we only have the data for those who sent in logs. Chris, DL8MBS, came up with the following results: CW contesters operate for longer! Their average on-air time was 14.5 hours, nearly 3½ hours more than SSB participants. 73 participants (2.75%) operated longer than 40 hours, compared to 35 (1.4%) in the SSB event. 19% of CW contesters operated for longer than 24 hours, compared with only 9.5% for SSB.

My own personal experience agrees with this – I find SSB to be more physically demanding, whereas both SSB and CW place their own different mental demands on an operator. As an aside, when talking with some EU contesters recently we admitted to what hallucinations we experienced near the end of a long contest. Several started to see things at the limit of their field of vision. One thought that he could see smoke coming from his amplifier – but fortunately this was just in his head and not occurring in reality!

With this in mind, in a way it's understandable that maybe only a small percentage of operators push themselves this hard. But at the same time, if the vast majority of entrants decide not to operate for the duration of the contest, there have been more calls for 'maximum 36-hour sections' in CQ WW, similar to what we have in the WPX contests, to make reaching the #1 spot a possibility for more contesters.

The open CQ WW log data also enables a better understanding of your UBN report. Instead of sighing, grimacing or scratching your head when looking at the list of precious QSOs (and occasionally multipliers) that have been removed from your final score following a 'Not in Log' adjudication, we can now be more proactive to understand what went wrong. Assuming the full frequency is recorded in the log, we can check if the other station was calling someone else on an adjacent channel, and the timing was just right for you to assume you were being called.

I hope this has given you some ideas. So please get stuck in and get prepared for this coming October and November's contests. Visit the following sites:

[www.cqww.com/ssblogs.htm](http://www.cqww.com/ssblogs.htm)  
[www.cqww.com/cwlogs.htm](http://www.cqww.com/cwlogs.htm)

However, it's been pointed out that the completely open nature of the logs, including all date / time / frequency information, would seem to potentially invalidate all QSOs from being eligible for DXCC Credit according to recent ARRL announcements. Similarly, there have been concerns whether certain personal information submitted in the Cabrillo headers, including e-mail addresses, should be so easily obtainable. Perhaps some of the log information will become hidden as a compromise, and I'm sure that by the time you read this a solution will be in place.

### **CQ WW DX SSB Results 2006**

Congratulations to the following for high placings in last year's CQ WW DX SSB Contest:

Europe

All Band:	GW4BLE 6th,GM7V 8th
28 MHz:	GØKPW 4th
21 MHz:	MIØLLL 6th

Low Power: 1.8 MHz GWØDCK 6th

Multi-Multi: MD4K 4th

Zone 14: GW4BLE 2nd, GM7V 4th, GMØF 7th, GW3NAS 10<sup>th</sup>

(Thanks to Roger, G3SXW, for the info)

### **Friedrichshafen**

My second visit to the Friedrichshafen HamRadio exhibition was very enjoyable. Once again the party started waiting to board the aircraft at Stansted airport, where a suspiciously high number of recognisable faces were seen. The greetings continued throughout the flight, whilst waiting for baggage at Friedrichshafen, and then at the taxi rank, and we'd not even arrived at the show yet.

The exhibition was celebrating its 32<sup>nd</sup> year. Over 18,000 visitors from all over Europe and beyond attended during the three days. The layout of the main exhibition hall and flea market looked pretty similar, but it was meeting people, rather than seeing or buying new toys, that was higher on my priority list.

The contest lecture stream had a presentation, including video, from the FY5KE team, who operate from the European Spaceport in Kourou. The noise from the low band pile-ups was really something – watching the operator calmly maintaining rate was very inspiring. The audience could watch the team operating from a site close to the equator, in a small room filled with amplifiers and computers, with no air conditioning except an open window. It's easy to forget some of the difficulties faced by operators when looking up and down scores listings on the 3830 reflector.

The FY5KE team are the authors of Win-Test, and during the presentation and afterwards we were told the story behind the program, which started life as software written for their own use. The team had previously used CT, but found its

development progress did not meet their own needs, and not being open source software, they couldn't adapt it themselves. So they wrote Win-Test from scratch, but retained the feel of CT. There was another presentation of a 'behind the scenes' look at the DAØHQ IARU operation, which I sadly missed due to sightseeing on the Bodensee!

I attended the Bavarian Contest Club (BCC) dinner on the Saturday evening, which was very enjoyable, and becoming increasingly popular judging by the numbers attending. The race to the buffet table was again a perfect analogy for what the bands are like 30 seconds after the start of a major contest. As well as some 'serious contest talk', one of the more humorous moments involved ES5TV, MØBBB, DJ1YFK and myself (and later an ever-increasing number of contesters) going through the alphabet trying to recall as many contest call signs as we could that had 2-letter suffix. A silly pastime, but it did show how many calls we do remember – important when your brain is trying to decipher one of them from under a lot of QRM. More serious talk was of strategy, new antenna systems, software and the long lost return of sunspots.

At the dinner it was great to be able to catch up with Nigel, G3TXF, and extend a conversation beyond the usual 599 contacts. As I type this, Nigel's away again operating PJ2G in the Worked All Europe CW contest and giving out QTCs to the deserving.

In the main exhibition hall the BCC team ran a pile-up competition from their booth over the Friday and Saturday, with prizes being awarded at the Saturday evening dinner. The recordings are available to download from their website for anyone who likes pile-up practice from the comfort of home.

### **WRTC 2010 – Game on**

The World Radiosport Team Championship 2010 selection criteria causing a considerable amount of response from

contesters around the world - and preliminary contest rules were published in late July. The event will coincide with the IARU HF Championship, with 50 two-person teams operating in tents all from one large site in Russia. This Field Day-style activity will hopefully make it the fairest WRTC yet in terms of equalling the locations provided to each team. Similar field events are held in Russia every year.

Each WRTC is different, building on the success of the last event, and also adding new facets to the competition itself, or the selection procedure. This adds some difficulties, as there is a finite limit to the number of teams which are able to participate, and of course it's not possible to please everyone. Some people asked for the Multi-Single teams, YL teams, and young persons teams that were in Brazil for the 2006 event. Should there be more teams for South America, or Oceania? Should the qualification events and scoring reflect previous WRTCs? The Russian organisers have done well to listen to the different viewpoints, and come up with revisions and explanations. There will be further discussions to come, of course, as there are still a few years to go before the event.

In the list of qualification contests, the Slovenian-run European HF Championship is included for the first time, as well as the expected Russian DX Contest. CQ WW SSB / CW, WAE SSB / CW, and the IARU contest will count for 2006, with most eligible contests being from 2007 and 2008. The only eligible event in 2009 is the Russian DX Contest.

UK stations will compete for a place with other contesters from West Europe: 3A-9H-C3-EA-EA6-CT-CU-F-G-GD-GI-GJ-GM-GU-GW-EI-HV-I-ISØ-T7-TK-ZB2. This is a big improvement over the 2006 area definition, where no UK station was able to qualify.

Each qualifying contest has a different maximum score, rated in terms of difficulty and activity. There are also weightings for

Assisted, Single Band, Low Power and Multi-Operator activities. The best eight scores will be counted from the eligible contests (28 for EU, 34 for US, 26 for everyone else). However, a point of contention is that there is a limit to the number of contests that can be submitted from DX QTHs, and also from multi-operator activities.

For some people the 2010 rules give an advantage compared with the 2006 ones, as it may suit their operating style better, or fit better with preferences for operating at home, with a team, or from a DX location. Equally, others may feel disadvantaged. However, the real 'best of the best' operators have a way of qualifying for WRTC each time regardless. Personally, I think it's a good thing that the qualification rules are slightly different each time and give a larger group of people the chance to take part in these unique events.

## **GB7HQ**

Thanks to everyone who took the time to work GB7HQ over the IARU HF Championship weekend. There were no major RF problems for any of the stations involved with the event, and the IT infrastructure and Starlog remained resilient and ensured the operators could keep in contact as well.

The HQ section competition was as fierce as ever, with the German DARC team claiming 19 million points from almost 24,000 QSOs. The Slovaks, Czechs and Poles also have high claimed scores, but hopefully GB7HQ's 15 million points will result in a strong Top 5 placing after log checking is complete.

## **On the air**

I didn't receive any reports or write-ups for this issue, but there seemed to be a good showing of UK activity in the events I tried over the last month or so. After IARU, the big event is the RSGB flagship IOTA,

which seems to have been as popular as ever. A record number of logs have been received, several weeks before the submission closing date. My activity was nearly 100% Search and Pounce, which caused a little frustration whilst trying to keep up the QSO rate. When searching for other stations, it's the IOTA stations that attract the most callers, of course. A pile-up, when combined with the long exchange including the IOTA reference, was causing quite a few stations to refrain from giving their callsign for long intervals between many QSOs. It's understandable, but annoying, and on a few occasions I had better places to put my receivers after no confirmation of a callsign after a few QSOs.

The 80m Club Championship season concluded, and the final sessions have been adjudicated. Congratulations not only to the winners, but to all those who have just started entering the contests this year, or maybe have ventured onto CW or Data for the first time. Some of the feedback surrounding the events has been really positive – let's hope this continues next year and beyond.

The European HF Championship seemed more of a struggle for me this year, although conditions gave us plenty of QSOs on 15m and 10m and spread the activity across the bands. Maybe now it's a WRTC qualification event, more of the big guns were active. Immediately after that was RoPoCo, where I suffered a Murphy strike, losing PC keying and having problems with manual keying thanks to RF getting into my keyer. Sending random dits and dahs didn't make me many friends during this test of sending and receiving accuracy! Why the problem manifested itself just seven hours after a twelve-hour contest is beyond me.

As a change from the higher-rate events, I tried the RSGB Low Power contest from home with my FT-817 running on batteries until they went flat. This was a very pleasant contest, with plenty of room on the bands, slower speeds, and steady activity

during the morning I operated. Even with QRP, there was only one signal that I'd class down at ESP level. It's to be recommended as a beginners' event, perhaps even more so than the 80m CC, which is a little more hectic. Maybe give it a try next year – I might even try it in the fresh air.

Most recently has been the Worked All Europe contest, which I was only able to dabble in, if only to collect a few QTCs.

Several popular RTTY contests loom, SSB Field Day will be here soon, and then we're into the EU Sprint Season, getting ready for the winter contest season and the likes of CQ WW once again. It seems a contester never need complain of having nothing to do at the weekends!

73 Lee, GØMTN

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## The CW Bird

**Martyn Phillips, G3RFX**

I can't quite remember where I picked up the amateur radio bug, but I succumbed to it at around the age of 13¾. It had probably been passed on to me unwittingly by my father, a highly talented practical man who'd turned his hand to most things technical – including, for a time, listening to shortwave broadcast stations on a large and shiny Grundig Satellite receiver.

My mother, on the other hand, wanted nothing whatsoever to do with any of this, especially amateur radio – even less so after I became the proud holder of the callsign G3RFX in August 1962.

A much-feared leading light at the local Women's Institute, she swore blind that for one thing my amateur radio transmissions were always coming through on her beloved television set downstairs. Perhaps more importantly my only antenna, a 132 ft long wire at 25 ft down the back garden, posed a serious health hazard to the birds.

Which is why she soon insisted that I string eminently visible corks along it at regular intervals as an early warning system for these poor creatures who, she insisted, were always flying into it and breaking their

necks, although there was never any forensic evidence of this on the neatly manicured lawn below.

But at least one of the birds was still very much alive and flying.

“Yes, an extremely rare species and one I've never heard before,” exclaimed veteran bird-watcher Mr Wilson, who lived in the next road beyond the fence at the bottom of our garden.

He told my mother that recently he'd heard this most unusual bird call several nights running – and it always seemed to be coming from the direction of our house.

“Which rare species could it be?”, asked an increasingly agitated Mr Wilson.

My mother didn't have a clue, but I knew exactly which rare species it was. It was none other than the CW Bird, which regularly flew off into the immediate neighbourhood whenever I was listening to Morse code in the middle of the night with the loudspeaker on and my bedroom window open.

“What sort of a hobby is this anyway?”, my mother would say. “On that bloomin’ radio all day and talking absolute drivel to like-minded layabouts across the length and breadth of South-west Essex? Not to mention increasing our dear neighbours’ blood pressure to danger level in the middle of the night with your stupid Morse code broadcasts. Quite apart from which, you ought to be concentrating on your O Levels!”

Admittedly she had a point here - as my less confrontational father tended to agree.

“Martyn,” he’d say, “if you don’t stop transmitting like this, 24 hours a day, I’ll switch off the electricity to your bedroom. That’ll teach you!”

But it never did. Each time I simply pulled up the appropriate floorboard in my bedroom, affectionately known as the Pig Sty, and re-connected my home-brew hotchpotch of a station directly to the bare mains wiring underneath. This way I was back on the air within seconds.

A highly controversial solution, this, and one which came firmly into the ‘Don’t try this at home’ category. But then at home was the very place I needed to try it most. After all, how could the world possibly be in order if G3RFX wasn’t on the air and talking absolute drivel on 160m?

I often wondered whether my friend John, G3PQA, down the road in his Elizabethan cottage on Theydon Bois green, had similar problems with parental power cuts, veteran bird-watchers and allegations of talking absolute drivel. If so, he never mentioned it. Also, he had the considerable advantage that he much preferred to use CW most of the time, where any long-winded, controversial content would be less obvious to the casual listener.

For a time I liked to think that John and I were arch-rivals on the 160m scene. If I was honest, though, the main difference between

our two stations was that his was excellent and mine was crap. After all, he was always working stuff I could barely distinguish from the noise level, let alone work myself. Although I seem to remember a few very encouraging 559 reports from Czechoslovakia, which were OK in my book in more ways than one.

It was around this time that I discovered that there were clearly limits to what you could work in the way of DX on Top Band with only a 132 ft long wire at the dizzy height of 25 ft down the back garden.

Yet what this set-up lacked above ground, it more than made up for below it: a highly intricate earthing system consisting of all manner of copper rods and assorted metallica hammered into a corner of the parental flower bed.

I’m amazed my mother allowed it all in the first place – perilously close, as it was, to her beloved collection of prize-winning roses, ranunculus and runner beans. And to her additional dismay I could often be heard hammering yet more metal into the ground, convinced that this would add at least one S-point to my signal on 160m into down-town Prague.

But then maybe one day there would be a newly licensed Czech operator just as keen as myself - sitting in his bedroom late at night and with the window wide open, listening on 160m to the legendary CW Bird booming in at 59+9 all the way from Theydon Bois, Essex.

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

## Letters to the Editor

**[to G3NUG from VK5WO]**

25 Mill Street  
Laura  
South Australia 5480

10 July 2007

Dear Neville,

Trust you and Trish are both well and settling into the new QTH OK. By the description in the latest CDXC Digest very interesting and a good location. Trust you have a good roll-up for the AGM on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

I am forwarding a donation of \$100 for the September DXpedition to St Brandon, which I hope will be another very successful operation as the others have been in the past. Record number of QSOs and giving new bands to many DXers.

The CDXC *Digest* is certainly a very good publication for the DXer. The latest one (May 2007) contained a lot of interesting information, especially the first issue back in November 1983 and also the number on the ARRL Honor Roll for Phone, Mixed and CW. Never have seen these figures before and I found them very interesting. Also reports of the different Dxpeditions in recent times. My totals now are phoen 337/370, Mixed 337/373, CW 335/340. Only North Korea and South Orkney missing on CW.

My health and my wife Bet is reasonable for our age, 83/84 respectively, few problems which one must expect in the over-80 group.

Look forward to reading about the AGM in the next issue of CDXC *Digest* and the latest news on the September DXpedition.

Best regards

Austin Condon VK5WO

PS: I must remember to pay my sub for CDXC at the end of this month.

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### Chiltern DX Club - Aims and Objectives

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

**Membership** Full details are available from the Secretary.

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

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

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

## New Mensa Words

The *Washington Post's* Mensa Invitational once again asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are this year's winners. Read them carefully. Each is an artificial word with only one letter altered to form a real word. Some are terrifically innovative:

1. Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

2. Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

3. Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people, that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The Bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

4. Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.

5. Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

6. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

7. Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

8. Hipatitis: Terminal coolness.

9. Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)

10. Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.

11. Decafalon (n.): The grueling event of

getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

12. Glibido: All talk and no action.

13. Dopeler Effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

14. Arachnoleptic Fit (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

15. Beelzebug (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

16. Caterpallor (n.): The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

And, the pick of the lot...

17. Ignoranus: A person who's both stupid and an asshole.

*[With thanks to G3SVL]*

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

## Not the GB2RS News

- Ofcom to introduce advertising on the amateur bands
- Next CDXC AGM & Summer Social to be held on houseboat
- Food aid for 3B7C

In a controversial move designed to maximise revenue from the radio spectrum, Ofcom has announced plans to introduce advertising on the amateur radio bands. Advertising slots would be sold to the highest commercial bidder, with radio amateurs who agree to transmit the advertisements receiving a 25% cut of the proceeds. Typically this would entail broadcasting a minimum of four 5-minute advertising slots per hour during the day, even if this might lead to the serious disruption of many longer QSOs, especially those on 80m SSB on a Sunday morning.

Meanwhile an online consultation has been launched in which radio amateurs can have their say on the matter, even if there is no guarantee that anybody will actually listen to what they have to say. The success of this online consultation will also depend on whether or not you can get into it in the first place - without the Ofcom website causing your home computer to crash.

In July and August the Great British Summer continued apace. On some days the temperature outside the Digest Editorial Offices in Clifton, Bristol, reached a staggering 14° C. It was later suggested that 'Shack Swap' schemes be introduced with the help of radio amateurs in warmer countries. After all, surely the least they could do would be to put up with our ghastly weather for a change - while we enjoy theirs.

And in the wake of the atrocious summer weather which also caused severe flooding

in many parts of the UK, the Chiltern DX Club (CDXC) has announced that next year their AGM and Summer Social will be held on a houseboat, albeit one equipped with a helicopter landing pad. Regular helicopter flights will be laid on to ferry attendees from the nearest available heliport still on dry land.

Amidst serious concerns over the lack of adequate catering facilities on St Brandon, the 3B7C team have been promised much needed support in the form of regular humanitarian food drops. Kentucky Fried Chicken is to parachute in breakfast, Burger King will be responsible for lunch and McDonalds say they will parachute in dinner for the 20 or so team members, all of whom say they can't wait to tuck in.

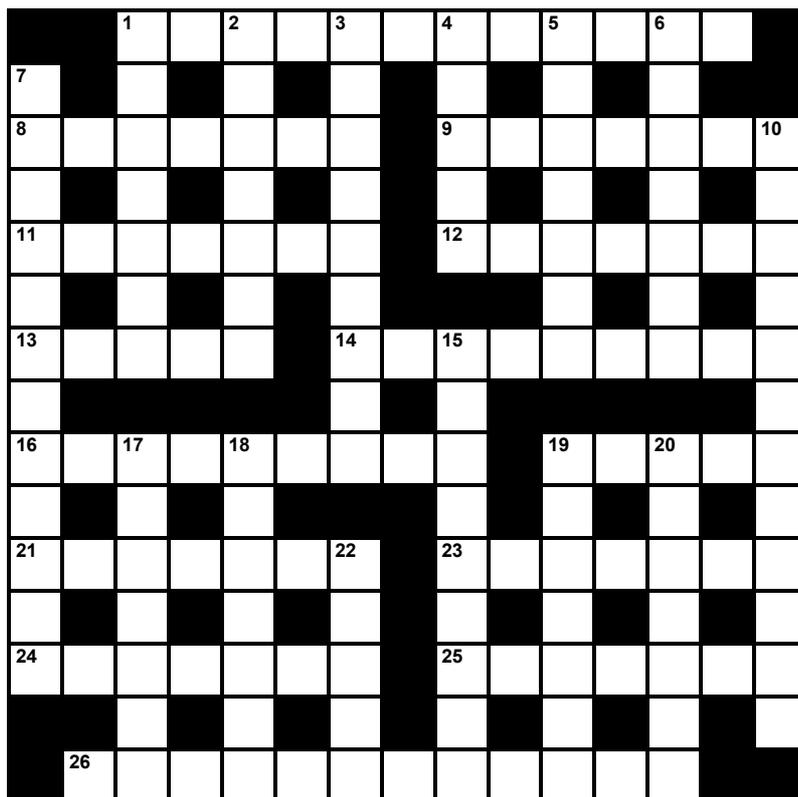
A Russian lady by the name of 'Madame Gum', based in the UK, has recently been found advertising her services in the pages of a well-known amateur radio magazine. It is generally agreed that if you ventured round to her place you could well come to a very sticky end.

### Solution to Prize Crossword 23

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

## Digest Prize Crossword 24 *by RFX*

The winner of Prize Crossword 23, July 2007, and that brand-new tenner: Pete Ball, EI7CC, Dun Laoghaire (via e-mail).



### ACROSS

- 1 Star, say, with a stunning figure? (8,4)
- 8 Country responsible for the wet weather in this country at the end of June? (7)
- 9 Old script identified by a Berlin criminal (6,1)
- 11 Young lady thrown, we hear, into the wrong role? (7)
- 12 Hawk swallows a gerbil's head for all to see. This bird? (7)
- 13 Lake featuring in many a satire (5)
- 14 Make a huge fuss, like Eve did? (5,4)
- 16 Sailors from near Bristol - they help one to relax (4,5)
- 19 Spooky-sounding high spot (5)
- 21 The way to tour Indiana as normal (7)
- 23 Found out about King Edward (7)
- 24 Clubs avoided by Glaswegian drunk usually (7)
- 25 Potentially difficult situation on which global warming is based? (4,3)
- 26 Not enough amps found beneath the surface? (12)

### DOWN

- 1 A rash is to be treated with hot sauce (7)
- 2 Poor woodcutter's back-street hairdresser, by the sound of it (3,4)
- 3 Sort of college to choose by word of mouth? (9)
- 4 Short breaks in beautiful Ullswater (5)
- 5 Spy on mature sexual practice? (7)
- 6 Count drivers in the Philippines and Norway (7)
- 7 Fliers so called because they can't remember the words? (7,5)
- 10 Enable addict to change food regime (8,4)
- 15 Porcelain, say, distributed to urinals (9)
- 17 Continue to poke fun at Somerset town (7)
- 18 Cause of death given by police in Egypt is excluded initially (7)
- 19 Former dictator found in River Test (7)
- 20 Manage the merrymaking and act without restraint (3,4)
- 22 Set of principles - and here in Rome! (5)

Deadline for entries: 20 October

# DX and Events Calendar

Compiled by G3XTT

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

till 30/09	HG5MISSION: special event call
till 30/09	IA3GM: special callsign
till 30/09	3Z9ØZIM: special scout station
till Sep	VP6TD: Pitcairn Island (OC-044)
till Sep	ZD9BCB: Gough Island (AF-030)
till 01/10	ON6ØAF, ON6ØAP, ON6ØBAF: special callsigns
till 30/11	EW9Ø5B: special callsign (Belarus)
till Nov	8Q7IM: Maldives (AS-013)
till 06/12	IU2IPY: special callsign
till 31/12	6H1, 6I2, 6J3, 6E4: special prefixes (Mexico)
till 31/12	9A6ØK: special callsign
till 31/12	9AØ7P: special event station
till 31/12	DL1ØØDAN: special callsign
till 31/12	EM5ØARDF: special event station
till 31/12	GB6OTR: special callsign (England)
till 31/12	LX2ØØ7L, LX2ØØ7G, LX2ØØ7D: special event stations
till 31/12	LZ17ØVL: special event callsign
till 31/12	LZ5ØDX: special callsign
till 31/12	ON5ØEU: special event callsign
till 31/12	SC3ØØVL: special callsign (Sweden)
till 31/12	SG6ØRK: Gotland Island (EU-020)
till 31/12	Z36ØM: special call
till 31/12	ZY51ØØSCOUT: special callsign
till Feb 2008	DPØGVN: Neumayer Base (DL-03, AN-016)
till Apr 2008	6W/EA4ATI and 6W1EA: Senegal
till 30/06/08	VR1Ø: special prefix (Hong Kong)
till 31/03/09	A52VE: Bhutan
26/08-24/09	YB9/PAØRRS: Bali Island (OC-022)
29/08-30/09	JA6GXX/JD1: Minami Torishima (OC-073)
from August	HSØZxx: Phuket island (AS-053) by SM1TDE
01/09-30/09	HF4ØPAZ: special callsign (Poland)
07/09-24/09	3B7C: St. Brandon Islands (AF-015)
07/09-09/09	K6VVA/KL7: Revilla Gigedo Island (NA-041)
14/09-27/09	C56YK: The Gambia
17/09-21/09	4O1AO and 4O1M: Montenegro
21/09-20/10	HC1/EA1APV: Ecuador
23/09-29/09	P29VCX: Nukumanu Island (OC-284)

23/09-26/09 YT5A: Serbia  
 26/09-09/10 9UØA: Burundi  
 27/09-14/10 8P6DR: Barbados (NA-021)  
 30/09-05/10 P29NI: Takuu Island (OC-283)  
 03/10-24/10 5L2MS: Liberia  
  
 05/10-14/10 3C7Y: Bioko Island (AF-010), Equatorial Guinea  
 05/10-18/10 ZL7/SP5EAQ, ZL7/SP9PT, ZL7/SP9BQJ: Chatham Is (OC-038)  
 06/10-09/10 P2: Tulun Is (OC-256) by G4EDG, CT1AGF, SM6CVX, G3KHZ  
 17/10-30/10 C52C: The Gambia  
 25/10-29/10 C6APR, C6AXD, C6AQO: Crooked Island (NA-113)  
  
 October T31XX: Central Kiribati (OC-043)  
 01/11-05/01 A7/GØMKT: Qatar

### 3X, Guinea

The VooDoo Contest Group plans to do CQ WW CW in November from 3X, Guinea. We will move our 1 tonne of equipment overland from Mali, where we have been TZ5A for the past two years.

The eight-man team this year is AA7A, G3SXW, G4BWP, G4IRN, GM3YTS, K4UEE, K5VT and KC7V. The contest callsign and personal callsigns will be announced later. QSL manager for the contest will be G3SXW. QSLs for personal callsigns go to the home call.

As usual we will enter the Multi-Multi category of the contest with monoband antennas for all six bands and kilowatt amplifiers. This time we will be immediately beside salt water, a real luxury! Immediately before and after the contest we expect to be on the bands with personal callsigns. Also, AA7A and KC7V will do EME for several days.

### G6UW 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This year sees the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of G6UW as the callsign of the Cambridge University Wireless Society. To celebrate this landmark occasion, members past and present are cordially invited to the 2007 Cambridge University Wireless Society Dinner, to be held in Gonville and Caius College on Saturday, 17 November. Last year's event was very successful and enjoyed by all. I hope that this year even more previous and current members will be able to attend to celebrate the achievements of the Society over so many years. Professor Sir Maurice Wilkes (formerly G5VF) will be attending as the Society's guest. For more details please contact Tom Heritage, MØTJH <tjh57@cam.ac.uk>.

73 Michael, G7VJR

## CDXC Clothing

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

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

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

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

### ORDER FORM:

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

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

# 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.**





