

The Nugget



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

Our next meeting is May 17th, Jim, K6OK, (P.E.) give us two presentations

1)“How one no-code ham survives in CW contests” & 2)“How to get a permit for and old tower using modern methods”_ General club meeting starts at 11:30am with the presentation to follow.

The meeting location and menu will be announced shortly by e-mail. This will be a RSVP meeting.. Please contact: Verne, W6VMT w6vmt@arrl.net for more info.

MLDXCC 2014 DUES

Our dues are voluntary; however you must pay dues, \$15/yr, to be eligible for any club awards. Dues can be paid at our meetings, or send them to me at the following address:

Ms. Carolyn Wilson
P.O. Box 273

Somerset, CA 95684

Thank you. 73, Carolyn, K6TKD – Treasurer.

-MLDXCC Meeting Dates:

April (no meeting Visalia)
May 17th- Jim, K6OK
June 21-Awards Meeting
July 26-CW for the no-code SSB Operator
August 23-TBD
September 20-HAM Radio Propagation
October 18-TBD
November 22-SO2R RTTY
December (no meeting)

2014-Officers

President – Bob, W1RH
Vice President – Verne, W6VMT
Secretary – Dick, K6LRN
Treasurer – Carolyn, K6TKD
Director – Rick, W6RKC
Director – Shirl, AA6K

Alan, AD6E at our March meeting in Auburn, describing the recent T33A DXpedition to Banaba Island.



Below is group shot while we are dining.



Bob, W6RGG, Pacific Division Director addressing the group. (All photos by Norm N6JV)



FROM THE PREZ

Hello MLDXCC'ers!

Imagine, if you will, that we're in a club meeting with everyone who entered a log in CQP in attendance.

I say:

"Everyone who worked a VE3 or VA3 stand up"
And, everyone in the room stands up.

Then, I say:

"Everyone who worked two or more VE3's or VA3's keep standing"

And, no one sits down.

I ask:

"Everyone who worked a VE3 or VA3 in both modes keep standing"



And most of those in attendance are still standing. Next year, after our guys here K6OK's "Working CW without knowing how to copy CW" all will still be standing!

And, lastly, I ask that everyone who worked a VE3 or VA3 on all bands, keep standing.



And, there's still a few standing up.

My point here is that our fellow Ontario contesters just love to work CQP. In fact, their club won the Non-California club competition for each year from 2004-2011. They

came in 2nd place in 2012 and got the first place plaque again in 2013. In 2010, they set a new record, that still stands, for the highest score in the Non-California club competition. [You do know that MLDXCC set a new record high in 2013, right?]

I took a look at our 2013 CQP log. In our M/S operation, from my QTH with AA1ON, we worked 99 VE3's/VA3's. Of those 99, 46 were uniques. We worked VE3KP and VE3RZ on all bands.



Since the guys up north are such good supporters of CQP, Dick, K6LRN, made the suggestion that MLDXCC say thanks to our fellow contesters in Ontario by supporting the Ontario QSO Party this year.

I think it's a great idea. After all, these guys kind of helped us win the CQP club competition again, just by working us.

Dick went one step further and suggested we challenge other Northern California contest clubs to a competition to see which club can make the highest score in the Ontario QSO Party. The Ontario contest does not have a club completion, but that doesn't mean we can't set up our own competition.

More on the competition in a bit, but first a little review of the Ontario QSO Party.

It's a small QSO party and not like CQP, so activity is limited. Last year, 77 Ontario hams submitted logs, but I'm sure many more were active.

Only two California hams submitted logs. KG6YPH won California with one (1) Q and a total score of 10 points. AE6YB made a whopping 2 Q's but only scored 4 points. Now, I KNOW everyone in our club can beat those scores! The highest USA score was 5,772, from KI0I, who made 47 CW Q's and 5 Phone Q's. That's a beatable score.

The Ontario QSO Party is held on the third full weekend of April each year. This year, that would be April 19-20. Operating times are 1800Z, April 19 to 0500Z, April 20 and 1200Z-1800Z on the 20th.

Ontario hams work everyone. We work Ontario.

For the exchange, Ontario hams send their county abbreviation and we send the signal report and state.

Phone Q's count for 1 point. CW Q's count for 2 points (see why I want you phone-only guys to hear K6OK's talk?). You can work stations on both phone and CW on each band. If you work VA3CCO, VE3ODX, or VA3RAC, you get 10 points. These are key club stations and that's why KG6YPH beat AE6YB with his 1 Q / 10 point score. There are 50 counties, and each Ontario county counts as a mult. I noticed that there were a few rovers in last year's contest.

Now, back to the club competition.

I mentioned the idea to Stu, K6TU, who runs the Contest Club of the California Peninsula, and to Fred, N6YEU, who is the President of REDXA and it looks like both clubs are up for a little challenge. Since CCCP is a small club that enters in the ARRL's Small Club category (limit of 10 entries), Stu suggested that each club take the top 10 entries for the competition. What this means is that only the top ten scores will count towards the competition, but everyone submits a score. Since this is a small and casual contest, don't expect huge scores. The guys with 100 watts and wire antennas can certainly make the top ten.

Stu has also offered to build a real-time score reporting server for this challenge. This means that everyone using either N1MM or Writelog or any other contest program that supports real-time scoring can see at any time just where they stand against everyone else in the competition.

So, what do you think, MLDXCC'ers? I hope we can get plenty of our members to get on and support the VE3's/VA3's, even if it means one or two contacts. And, I REALLY hope that at least 10 of us are active in the contest. We can beat those other clubs, right? No problem! We've got to show these guys that we can win in something besides CQP.

On to other stuff...

We had 37 in attendance at last month's meeting in Auburn. Thanks to Alan, AD6E, for a really interesting talk and thanks to Verne, W6VMT, for arranging the talk and the meeting location. It was really nice to see some of the guys from across the canyon for a change.

I haven't done a lot of operating lately. The station was silent for WPX Phone. I was just too busy with the vineyard and some repeater activities. This was supposed to be a NCCC focus contest, but so far I haven't seen a lot of entries. If NCCC doesn't take on the CW contest, we will for sure.

73, Bob, W1RH

THE VP SEZ

I'm writing this the day after the CQ WW WPX and from the scores I see coming in it was an epic (that's from my surfing days) event. I was only able to operate 10 hours as we had the "Prince", commonly known as The Grandson, for the weekend, however we were able to add three new countries, 30 new slots and see "Mr. Peabody and Sherman".

I hope everyone enjoyed the March meeting; we had 38 attendees, with around 15 of those non-members. We did receive one membership application from Bob, KR6N, who lives in El Dorado Hills, and he was voted in at the end of the meeting. Make sure you welcome Bob at our May meeting.

Speaking of the May meeting, we will have Jim, K6OK, give a "twofer" presentation. The first part he is calling: "How One No Code Ham Survives in CW Contests" and the second part is: "Getting a Permit for an Old Tower with Modern Methods". The location is yet to be determined, however it will be in the Cameron Park / El Dorado Hills area.

I recently added a Yaesu FL 7000 amp to the shack, which gives me the incentive to build some shelves to organize everything to be able to operate without turning aside to

operate the radio then back to the logging program. The other alternative is ball bearings in my chair.

You are probably reading this after Visalia, so I hope those able to attend had a great time. I would love to put this on my calendar, however it's on at the same time that I have a shooting competition; maybe next year.

Signing off for now...

73, Verne, W6VMT

Treasurer's Report

Balance March 1, 2014: \$1697.73

Income:

Donation W6DE	5.00
Dues W6DE	15.00
	<u>20.00</u>

Expenses: 00.00

Balance March 31, 2014: \$1717.73

Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD – Treasurer

THE 2014 AMSTERDAM ISLAND DXPEDITION – a most memorable experience.

By Arnie Shatz, N6HC, Team Physician

On January 14, 2014 a team of 14 very experienced DXpeditioners departed Fremantle, Western Australia on the RV Braveheart for a nine day 1900 nautical mile passage to Amsterdam Island in the southern Indian Ocean. The team consisted of ten North Americans, one South American and three Europeans. The countries represented were the United States (New Jersey, Ohio, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, California), Canada, Martinique, Colombia, Norway, Russia and Tajikistan. We planned to activate Amsterdam Island for the first time since 1998. The island ranked in the top five of most wanted entities for DXCC. Ralph Fedor, K0IR, had spent over two years organizing this trip to make it one of the most successful DXpeditions in recent memory.

The Northern Corridor Radio Group consisting of members from Perth and the surrounding areas proved to be an invaluable resource to the project. They provided transportation from the airport, hosted two BBQs and

loaned us multiple aluminum tower sections for our Yagi antennas.

The crew of five plus our ship Captain, Matt Jolly, worked tirelessly to ready the boat for our journey. It quickly became clear that our team was really twenty strong as the crew was completely committed to making our endeavor a successful one. They did a lot of the heavy lifting and made sure that we were comfortable and safe for our passage. The Indian Ocean was not so thoughtful and made our journey somewhat uncomfortable for several days. We passed the time operating maritime mobile as VK6FZM, read books, did crossword and Sudoku puzzles, watched DVDs and clung tightly to our bunks during heavy seas. We came to know each other very well over those nine days.

We arrived at the island on January 23, 2014 and the following day began transferring our equipment to the island by Zodiac. The French inhabitants were extremely helpful with this task and efficiently allocated the offloaded equipment to the appropriate station sites using a fork-lift, tractor and trailer. We didn't know what to expect from the twenty resident islanders but our trepidation was quickly allayed. We saw nothing but smiles and a can-do attitude that made it clear that our team had grown again this time to forty strong. After a brief orientation, we split up into two radio teams and went to our respective work sites...either the lower Mataf site about 76 feet above sea level and a half mile from the Martin de Vivies base or the upper Antonelli site about 650 feet above sea level with a two mile hike from the base and uphill through very rough terrain. It took us a couple of days to assemble the antennas and stations, erect the antennas, establish generator power and network our computers.

At both sites we used three element monoband Yagis on 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20 meters, single element vertical antennas for 30, 40 and 80 meters and an EY8MM "special" 160 meter top loaded vertical only at the Antonelli site. The Yagis were rotated manually by the "Armstrong" method. The transceivers were Elecraft K3s driving either OM Power OM-2000 or Elecraft KPA-500 amplifiers. Several of the transceivers had auxiliary Elecraft panadapters. The interfaces were by W3YY, the band pass filters were individual ICE models in the shack and 4O3A high power models at the tower base. We used N1MM logging software and the MMTTY engine for radio teletype. There were three 6000 watt generators at each

site and the Braveheart crew maintained the generators throughout the operation. Corporate sponsorship was generous and without their support this operation would have been impossible. FT5ZM hit the airwaves on January 26, 2014 to humongous pile-ups. Those pile-ups never abated. When we closed the operation on February 12, 2014 the pile-ups were still humongous. In spite of meticulous planning, several obstacles were encountered. The terrain between Antonelli and Mataf made networking of both sites problematic. Some of the computer power supplies were RF noisy making it difficult to operate on some bands. After one week of operation, we found that our 40 and 80 meter operation from Mataf was interfering with the geomagnetic monitoring that the resident scientists were carrying out; we had to shut down 40 and 80 meter operation from Mataf.

During the day, we were serenaded by the island seals and their calves who clamored for their next meal. There were thousands of seals that called Amsterdam their home. At night they came out of the ocean to nestle in the thick clumps of grass which were interspersed with large lava rocks. They had no fear of humans and, if approached, could become very aggressive. Our French host required us to agree not to travel at dark from our operating shacks. It was dangerous at Mataf because we might find a family of seals in the brush around our towers; seal bites can be very nasty. It was dangerous at Antonelli because the two mile hike to base was over uneven and perilous terrain. The only way to abide with this constraint was to have 12 or 24 hour shifts. There were three bunk beds at each site so it was possible to catch a quick nap if one was necessary. Small "kitchens" were set up at each site so a meal could be enjoyed if anyone needed a snack or drink.

We were treated royally at Martin de Vivies base. We were housed in a dormitory with two to a room. We had flush toilets, warm showers and comfortable bunk beds. We had use of the local laundry facilities and internet, although our connection rate was painfully slow and we had to use French keyboards! The biggest surprise was the gourmet food that we enjoyed. Breakfast was from 6:30 AM to 9:00 AM and was continental with a choice of fruit, fruit juices, hot chocolate, coffee or tea, cold cereal and warm baguettes with butter, margarine or jam. Lunch and dinner were a different matter altogether. We were treated to fresh fish, lobster, sausage, beef or chicken, salads, vegetables, rice, French fries (frites), pasta and

delicious sauces to dress up the already yummy feast. Dessert consisted of various choices of cheeses, cakes and pastries and even ice cream sundaes with chocolate and whipped cream toppings. With each meal there was a choice of beverage which included French wine. No one suffered malnutrition on Amsterdam Island! There was also a small bar which served soft drinks, beer, wine and various liquors. No one suffered from thirst on Amsterdam Island, either! It was not unusual for the team to give Francis, the chef, a round of applause in appreciation of his delicious creations.

Our radio team was integrated into the French team at the Skua restaurant. We each performed at least once as "petit Marie" helping "grande Marie" clean the restaurant floor once daily and set and bus the tables for lunch and dinner.

The eight K3 transceivers hummed for seventeen days churning out 170,000 QSOs. The breakdown by continent was 50% Europe, 25% North America, 22% Asia, and 3% Africa/South America and Oceania. The statistics by mode were 95,000 CW, 63,000 SSB and 12,000 RTTY. Our most productive bands were 10 meters (30,834), followed closely by 15 meters (28,237) and 20 meters (27,816). We worked DXCC on every band except 80 meters (96) and 160 meters (85). There were over 36,000 unique calls in the log.

Unfortunately, we had to cease operation one day earlier than scheduled due to an approaching unfavorable weather front causing rough surf. Heavy seas would make it impossible to load the RV Braveheart. With a heavy heart, we departed the island and waved goodbye to our friends at the pier. The nine day transit back to Fremantle blessed us with six days of calm weather and only three more days of tossing and rolling. We were all glad to finally place our feet on solid ground on February 22. With our sea legs still under us and the ground "moving," we were graciously treated to another BBQ by the Northern Corridor Radio Group at their club station. The following evening our radio team started leaving the continent down under.

We will fondly remember the generosity of our Australian hosts, the graciousness of our French hosts and the comradeship of the Braveheart crew. We gratefully thank our support team who helped at every step of the DXpedition. Lastly, we will never forget our radio team

mates and what we accomplished together on this DXpedition. We hope you made it into the log and that you enjoyed our adventure as much as we did.

DXpedition web site: <http://www.amsterdamdix.org>

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Editor's Notes de Rick, W6SR

Hi all.....

If you missed Alan's, AD6E T33A presentation last month you missed a great program. The last couple of months have seen some outstanding presentations. Next time you see our VP, Verne, be sure to thank him for his hard work on our behalf.

The DX Convention in Visalia was fun, as always, chatted with old friends, meet some new folks, and kept my 35+ year record intact of never winning a prize at the dinner or breakfast drawing. However, the MLDXCC was a winner this year, as Steve, K6SCA won a major prize at the Saturday Banquet.

Not much new at the old radio ranch, just adding new RTTY countries as I wander across them, no big effort. I am now at 97 worked and 51 confirmed all since mid-January, and all thru LOTW. I set a goal of 100 RTTY countries confirmed by the end of this year, but now I think that is way too easy. Maybe, 130-150 is a more realistic goal for 12 months. Does anyone remember when it took 2-3 years to get a Russian card? How things have changed in the last 48 years. Wow!

Summer is fast approaching, and that's always antenna improvement time here. And since I'm never satisfied with the station's performance, I will be looking for a more effective antenna mix. What does that mean? I'm not sure yet, but I will be doing a lot of EZNEC comparisons this spring to find better performance antennas that the tower will safely support.

FYI: A couple of months ago I ordered a MFJ 644, SO2R box, not to run SO2R, but just to easily switch audio, and keying between my two radios. Last week I sent MFJ a note to find out what the heck happened to my order. Well it seems this product is in engineering and they (MFJ) have no release date available. So back to the drawing board. BTW: If anyone has an old Top-Ten SO2R box laying-around e-mail me. OK? See you all at our May meeting.....**de Rick, W6SR**

The following is the latest installment of a multi-part series that was suggested by Dave, W6DE. It was compiled and written by W2XOY; I found it very interesting and hope our readers do as well. de Ed.

The History Of Amateur Radio Chapter 5

On November 2, 1920, Warren G. Harding was elected President of the United States. Millions read the election results in the newspapers the next day. In the Pittsburgh area, however, hundreds heard the election returns the moment they were wired in, thanks to Dr. Frank Conrad, a Westinghouse employee, who broadcast the results over 8XK, his amateur station. This station would evolve into KDKA, and the night of November 2, 1920 has been called the start of the multi billion dollar broadcast industry. But was it? This month the Wayback Machine looks at the evolution of broadcasting, and the amateur's role in it.

The idea of broadcasting was first considered by Lee deForest in May, 1902, when he wrote that "Ultimately, wireless telephony will be possible". He urged the financial backers of the deForest Wireless Telegraph Company to develop and patent the concept. The stockholders, however, were more interested in immediate profits (through massive stock sales) rather than genuine development, and refused to finance the necessary research.

Undaunted, deForest in 1907 formed the deForest Radio Telephone Company. In a statement that for 1907 must have appeared radical and even bizarre, but was amazingly prophetic, he wrote "I look forward to the day when opera may be brought into every home. Some day the news and even advertising will be sent out over the wireless telephone". Despite deForest's intense interest in this area, he was not the first to broadcast the human voice and music over the airwaves. That honor belongs to Reginald Aubrey Fessenden, a Canadian Professor. He was the first to recognize the inherent flaw in the concept of spark transmissions, and set out to find an alternative. His quest led him to Schenectady, N.Y. and the services of General Electric's most brilliant scientist, Charles Steinmetz. Fessenden explained his idea: an alternator capable of generating waves of 100,000 cycles per second (3000 meters). Steinmetz and his assistant, Ernst Alexanderson, worked for almost two years, and finally produced an alternator that met Fessenden's requirements.

The Alexanderson Alternator, as it was now known, was delivered to Fessenden's station in the fall of 1906. On the evening of December 24, 1906, ship and amateur operators heard something in their headphones they had

never heard before: someone speaking! A woman singing! Someone reading a poem!

Fessenden himself played the violin. (The Alexanderson Alternator would play a prominent role in early high power stations and will be fully covered in a column exploring Schenectady's contribution to the development of radio and television).

Not to be outdone, deForest continued his radio telephone experiments in the period 1907-1910, broadcasting from the Eiffel Tower, and live from the stage of the Metropolitan Opera, where Enrico Caruso was singing.

However, all of these transmissions had a major problem: without a pure, stable, direct current CW carrier to modulate, all the signals had a background whine and distortion.

Real development in the area of modulated carriers would have to wait until Armstrong discovered the oscillating properties of a regenerative circuit.

By 1916, both Armstrong's circuit and the Audion were widely circulating in the radio world, and broadcasting surfaced again. Lee deForest resumed his transmissions, with programs of "good music, culture and lectures". deForest can be credited with two "firsts" in 1916; the first advertisements (for his Audion and other products), and the broadcast of the first Presidential election, between Woodrow Wilson and Charles Evans Hughes. (Unfortunately, deForest signed off before the California results were in, so he declared Hughes the winner over Wilson).

Also, in 1916, amateur station 2ZK broadcast one hour of music each night. David Sarnoff, who had manned his station during the Titanic disaster, also got into the act. He wrote a memo to his employers at American Marconi suggesting a "Radio Music Box", which would become a "household utility". He went on to describe his vision of radio broadcasting, and then turned to finances. He predicted an income of \$75,000,000 or more each year from the sale of receivers. Marconi, still focusing on ship to shore telegraphy, took no action on the memo.

After amateurs had returned to the air in November 1919, hundreds of them began to explore the area of broadcasting. In May, 1920, amateur station 8XK joined many other hams in the transmission of music. Incidentally, it WAS LEGAL for amateurs to broadcast music, news, sports, lectures, advertisements or indeed just about anything else they wanted. The Radio Act of 1912, still in effect, did not mention "amateurs", rather, one paragraph made a general reference to individual private or commercial stations. The only real restriction was the 1 kw power limit and the 200 meter wavelength, after that, the government didn't care. Thus, those amateurs who had

built equipment to modulate their CW transmitters eventually played a phonograph record or two, sang (or tried to sing), or broadcast some form of entertainment.

With all of the above documented evidence, why is November 2, 1920 considered the start of broadcasting? The answer lies not at the transmitter, but at the receiver. Prior to that night, all broadcasts had, in effect, been from one amateur to another, or to a commercial station. The November broadcast, though, was designed and promoted by Westinghouse as a transmission to the general public. Starting in September, stores were selling basic receivers for \$10.00 to receive 8XK. Westinghouse, in effect, had seized deForest's and Sarnoff's idea, and was marketing it to the general public. Thus, it was the makeup of the listening audience that defined the start of broadcasting.

When the word of this successful transmission got out, more amateurs got into the act and set up their own little broadcast stations. By the end of 1921, it was estimated that about 1200 amateurs had made at least one broadcast. Some had a regular schedule of programs and would evolve into commercial stations, others did it just out of curiosity. But there were listeners. Over 400,000 people heard the Dempsey-Carpentier fight on July 2, 1921. Radio sales were approaching 100,000 per year, not counting crystal sets which were selling at the rate of 20,000 per month. However, with this explosive growth came two problems for the amateur. The first was an identity crisis; what should the role of the amateur be in broadcasting? Some thought we should stay out of it and just stick to traffic handling on CW. Others envisioned the amateur as a jack of all trades, expert CW operator and relay station, as well as community broadcaster. In fact, a new name evolved to describe this amateur/broadcast hybrid, "Citizen" radio or wireless. Even QST was confused; for a period of time in 1921, the word "Citizen" replaced "Amateur" on the front cover. The other problem was frequencies. Everyone, amateur, broadcaster and hybrid was on 200 meters. Tuning across the dial in 1921, one would mostly hear CW, a few spark holdouts and the new broadcasters. While the amateurs were used to the interference, the general listening public was not. They had purchased their radios to hear music, not CW. Complaints started to pour into the Secretary of Commerce. Legally he was powerless, as the Radio Act of 1912 offered no solutions. However, a conference was called for all interested parties, held in Washington in February 1922 to try to resolve the impending crisis.

Even though he was exceeding his authority under the Radio Act, Secretary Hoover was able to get the following proposals accepted at the conference:

1) Henceforth, special broadcast licenses would be issued. Two frequencies would be available for broadcasters immediately, 360 meters (833 khz) for regular transmissions, and 485 meters (619 khz) for crop reports and weather forecasts.

2) After the marine interests had abandoned the 220 to 545 meter range (1363 to 550 khz), it would be turned over to broadcasting.

3) Broadcasting was forbidden by amateurs, who were defined for the first time by name as stations operating "without pay or commercial gain, merely for personal interest".

4) "Quiet Hours" were imposed on all amateur stations effective from 8:00 to 10:30 PM daily, and on Sunday morning.

The fact that the number of broadcast stations dropped from 1200 to 30 immediately after these regulations went into effect shows just how many amateurs were, in fact, pioneer broadcasters. This agreement, however, was built on a house of cards. Secretary Hoover has stretched his authority under the Radio Act of 1912 well past the breaking point. In 1926, the cards came tumbling down, and the "summer of anarchy" was ushered in. How would amateurs fare with no enforceable regulations in place?

Stay with us next month as the Wayback Machine explores the events leading up to the creation of the Federal Radio Commission.

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Member News, Items For Sale & ARRL Announcements & Feedback

Hi Guys,

How are things. Much going on here with work, it's amazing. I made a 1 week trip to Roseville, CA for a new product but had no time for anything else. Otherwise, waiting for it to warm up a bit. I need to get my wires back in the air. The 40m inverted delta loop was a good stealth antenna for me here, I miss having it up. This wallpaper is a kick isn't it. I was the only LP station in the contest. SS is so much fun. The good part is a beat a few guys who were running power (hi hi). Don't worry, my head won't get big over this one. I still want the 1,000 QSO for CQP plaque. I got close when working from your station.. I catch up reading the Nugget when I can but I know I'm missing lots.



Hope things are well there.

- 73 Ron NZ60

Radio For Sale

I have bought another radio and have my trusty Icom 765 PRO III for sale. This is a great radio!

This a late production (high serial number) radio. It has the 7600 type finals in the output stage. During the production run of the PRO III, the supplier discontinued the transistors used in the PRO III final amplifier. Icom re-engineered the finals and put in what was to become the same final circuitry used in the later model Icom 7600. The radio is in perfect condition, includes the original manual, hand mic and power cord. It is in the original Icom box. \$1850 picked up in Placerville California. **Contact Dave @ 530-409-7877.** I'll send you the QST review if you would like, reply to me individually (off-list) and I'll send it.

You are cordially invited to the ARRL sanctioned Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club's annual Hamfest which is to be held the first Saturday, in June. Please view and distribute the attached flyer for information. If you want to register in advance, you can send reservations along with vendor fees to: Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1169, Yuba City, CA 95992-9169. You may also view the information at our website by going to <http://www.ysarc.org>.

Well,

Let's see here. K6YK worked #300 on 10 meters this week (BEFORE the contest), and a couple more new ones in the WPX!



It's almost swap meet season again, so here's a photo some might remember! Here's a pic of some of the locals (K6QG, K6TA, N6JV and W6IZU) at the Jackson swapmeet in 2009.

What ever happened to that swap?

**73,
John, K6YK**

Hi Guys

I was playing around with clublog and found what I consider an interesting situation. I am 24th in the club competition with my little station on all modes. But, when I switch to data modes, I come up to 14th. And the next four above me are within easy reach. So It seems to me that a little work on the digital modes, would pay big dividends for the club.

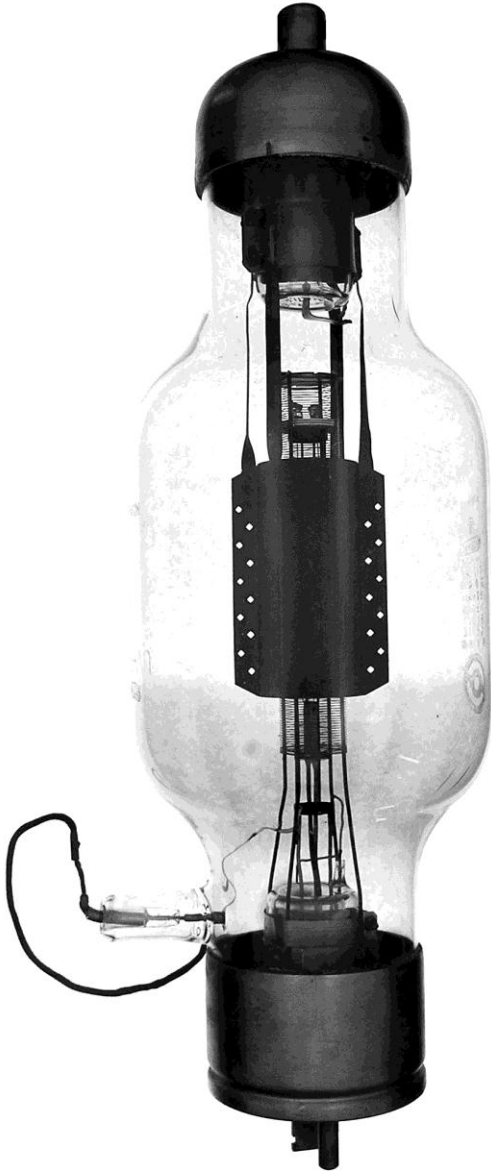
What say guys?

Doc, NM6K

**Tube of the Month
de Norm, N6JV**

UV815

The "UV" prefix on a tube was first used in the US to indicate that it had short pins. The "UX" tubes had long ones. The 815 was a common RCA tube from the 1940s, but used an octal socket. The UV815 was something different. In Japan before WWII, some tubes were clones of US types and others were all Japanese design.



They adopted the use of the UV prefix, but numbered their tubes independently.

During WWII, there were units in the field charged with collecting anything Japanese after a battle. There were intelligence units and all the things they found was shipped to the US for analysis. A book was published in 1944 describing this information including all the radio gear. From what I have been told, there was a large warehouse in Ohio containing all this captured radio gear. When the War ended, the place was abandoned. Local Hams were permitted to go shopping inside. More tubes and equipment were picked up all

over the Pacific. People are still finding things today.

When I saw an advertisement for a UV815, I had no idea what it was, but recognized that it had to be Japanese because of the UV. It was located in Hawaii and survived the shipping to California. A search of published lists and web sites in Japan were of no use. The Japanese seemed not to know its history. A tube collector, who works at a University, found a report in some old files that describes the use of a pair of UV815s in a Japanese Army, 1 KW transmitter in 1939. I have never found additional photos.

The UV815 is a tetrode and stands 18.25 inches high. I imagine very few of these tubes survived the war and would love to find out where it was found.

[Visit the museum at N6JV.com](http://N6JV.com)

Meeting Minutes, March 2014

The March meeting was held at Max's Restaurant in Auburn, California.

Meeting was called to order at 1205 PDST by President Bob Hess. Members and guests introduced themselves. Notable attendees included ARRL Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio.

After lunch Bob talked about club and urged support of local clubs.

Bob Vallio spoke about convention, RM-11708, Logbook of the World and the ARRL Centennial Celebration. He noted many of us have point value for a contact and that score was kept on the LotW.

Vern updated us on upcoming meetings...K6OK on CW in May, June meeting to be an award meeting in Martell, July N6RNO also CW and scheduled for September was Stu K6TU's presentation on propagation.

Meeting was called to order at 11:45 AM by President Bob Hess.

All officers were present. Also in attendance were Ken & Kay Anderson and Steve Allred.

Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$ 1697.73 as of February 1, 2014. Dues + donation brought balance on March 13, 2014 to 1717.73.

Meeting dates were set for remaining months of 2014 as follows;

April	No meeting due to Int'l DX Convention
May 17	CW Ops-WinKeyer by Jim, K6OK
June 21	Awards meeting or SDR by KE6GLA
July 26	CW Ops-K3 by N6RNO
Aug 23	TBD
Sept 20	K6TU
Oct 18	TBD
Nov 22	TBD

Consensus showed there should be a mix of presentation type meetings and non-presentation ones.

Due to a seeming lack of interest from NCCC leaders, MLDXCC will not schedule a joint meeting in 2014.

It was M/S/C to pay \$ 60.00 (Sixty USD) to Northern California Contest Club to continue MLDXCC sponsorship of CQP plaque.

Board agreed to research contest calendars for club competition events, such as Contest Club Ontario's VE3 event. K6LRN & others 'volunteered'.

Board suggested awarding a plaque for operating achievement if sponsored- i.e., someone to buy.

Board discussed w/o action a donation to the Northern California DX Foundation.

President Bob also talked about a possible club competition in the Ontario QSO Party later in April with REDXA and Contest Club Peninsula.

Alan AD6E gave out ARRL Sweepstakes participation awards in the form of glasses from the Northern California Contest Club.

Meeting wound to an end w/o formal action at about 1:00 PM.

Alan then segued into a very interesting and informative description of his trip with a group to activate T33A-Banaba Island.

List of attendees

1. Al AD6E
2. Bob KR6N
3. Bob WE6C
4. Bob W1RH
5. Bob K6UDA
6. Carolyn K6TKD
7. Dave K6KNS
8. Dennis N6KD
9. Dennis WU6X
10. Dick K6LRN
11. Fred K6DGW
12. Fred N6YEU
13. George KI6CG
14. Harry W6HFM
15. Jeremiah K6JRN
16. Jay KE6GLA
17. Jerry K6III
18. Jettie W6RFF
19. Jim K9JM
20. Jim K6OLY
21. Jim WX6V
22. John KD6VFA
23. Kay K6KO
24. Ken K6TA
25. Ken WO6H
26. Kirby AF6OP
27. Mary XYL
28. Mel N6MCM
29. Nancy KG6PNP
30. Norm N6JV
31. Ray ND6S
32. Richard NC6RJ
33. Rick W6SR
34. Robert W6RGG
35. Shirl AA6K
36. Steve K6SCA
37. Verne W6VMT

Note: Not all guests signed the attendee list.

Meeting ended about 3 PM.

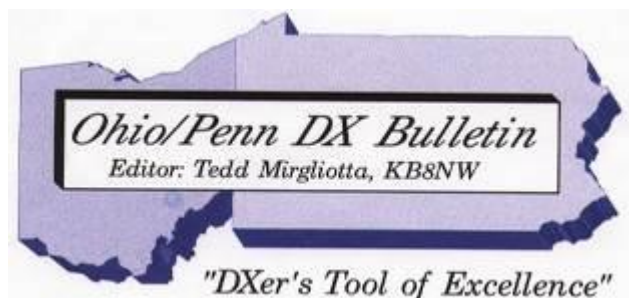
Respectfully submitted,

Dick Wilson K6LRN
Secretary MLDX/CC

UP-COMING DX and Dxpeditions

Click the link below to display up-coming Announced DXpeditions:

<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>



OPDX Bulletin 1158 April 14, 2014

The Ohio/Penn Dx PacketCluster

DX Bulletin No. 1158

BID: \$OPDX.1158

April 14, 2014

Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW

Provided by BARF80.ORG (Cleveland, Ohio)

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network,

2014 DXCOFFEE PARTY (Press Release)

The location chosen this year is the beautiful town of Milazzo, near Messina, Sicily. Milazzo is located on a peninsula of great natural beauty overlooking the archipelago of the Aeolian Islands. Below there is a video that shows the beauty of the "Peninsula of the Sun", where it is always summer! (See: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nI6213gK0I8>)

The arrival is scheduled for Friday afternoon, but who decides to arrive early in the morning will have a chance to go "on air" /IT9 by ARI Milazzo club station, who kindly make available your own radio station. Then you can then move to a local restaurant (lunch is not included in the packages).

On Friday afternoon, will be free the ladies who can enjoy shopping, going to the beach etc..

Friday dinner (set menu based on fish) will be at the restaurant La Casalinga.

Saturday, May 17: Early in the morning is scheduled to leave for a hydrofoil boat to the island of Vulcano, **Aeolian Archipelago, IOTA EU-017**, IIA E018.

Vulcano will be activated with a radio station at the restaurant that also will host us for lunch.

The activation of Vulcano is not mandatory and is not included in the packages, those who did not want to wake up early to catch the hydrofoil can spend the day as you prefer: beach, shopping or hiking around Milazzo.

The pizza on Saturday noon will be at the Ritrovo Diana, in the center of Milazzo, 2 minutes (walk) from the hotel.

Sunday, May 18: The final day, but also the main day of the party will take place at the Castello of Milazzo.

In this beautiful scenery the editors of DxCoffee have organized a series of discussions on topics that have always interest our pub- lications:

DXpedition, Contesting, IOTA. Soon we will publish the program of the morning.

Also on this occasion will be installed a radio station and you can do activities such as IQ9MY / P (Reference DCI-ME001)

Always at the castle, in a room adjacent to that which will host the convention will take place at the lunch a buffet of typical Sicilian dishes.

For more info:

<http://www.dxcffee.com/eng/dxcffee-party-2014>

5K0, SAN ANDRES ISLAND

A group of Colombian operators will activate the callsign 5K0M from **San Andres Island (NA-033)** between April 19-24th. The operators mentioned are Luis/HK3LEC, Jilmer/HK3UAV, Will/HK4IKL, Julio/ HK5WUI, Ernesto/HK7IPT and Jorge/HK7JA.

Activity will be from the Colombian Red Cross facility on 40-6 meters. Their primary purpose is to encourage local amateur radio operators of the island to return to their activities within the hobby. QSL via HK7IPT. Details and updates have been posted on:

<http://www.qrz.com/db/5K0M>

ARRL INTERNET SERVICES TO BE DOWN!

Press Release from the ARRL Web page:

"The ARRL Website, E-Mail, LoTW, Online Store Will Be Down Monday Evening, April 14th! The Internet service at ARRL Headquarters will go dark on Monday, April 14th, from around 5 PM ET (2100 UTC) until around 10 PM ET (0200 April 15) in order to complete necessary maintenance. Services affected will include e-mail to and from ARRL Headquarters (all incoming e-mail will be queued), access to the ARRL website, reflector traffic to and from ARRL Headquarters (all incoming reflector mail will be queued), Logbook of The World (LoTW), and the ARRL Online Store. We apologize for any inconvenience."

CARIBBEAN TOUR

Jose, EA3GUO, is planning to activate several islands in the Caribbean between May 16th and June 7th. Activity will be on 20/15/12/10 meters. QSL via his home callsign direct. His tentative activations are as follows:

Montserrat Island as VP2MSP

Dominica Island as J7/EA3GUO

Anguilla Island as VP2E/EA3GUO

Saint Barthelemy Island as FJ/EA3GUO

Saint Martin Island as FS/EA3GUO

Saint Maarten Island as PJ7/EA3GUO

Saint Vincent Island as J8/EA3GUO

Stay tuned for more details.....

CE0Y, EASTER ISLAND

As this was being written, World-Traveler Vladimir, UA4WHX, is now active as CE0Y/UA4WHX from Easter Island. As always, his length of stay is unknown. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign (see QRZ.com).

CY0, SABLE ISLAND

The 60m News reports that as part of Canada's 60m permission, they are hopeful that Aaron, VA1AXC, the new island manager, will be on 60m soon. Gary, K4AVC, made, tested and shipped an Inverted Vee to Aaron who will be back on island in a few weeks. Joe, W8GEX, has been working on this for some time along with Murray/WA4DAN, Gary/VE1RGB and Gary/K4AVC. Stay tune for more updates.

D4, CAPE VERDE

Jorg, DL3LUM/PA1MUC, will be active as D44TXU from **Santa Maria, Sal Island**

(**AF-086**), between April 19-25th.

Activity will be holiday style on 20 meters mainly (possibly higher bands), and operating QRP CW only using a KX3 (max 12W from hotel) into a vertical (probably HF-P1 or larger). QSL via DL3LUM, direct (Dutch home address) or by the DARC QSL Bureau.

DXCC NEWS

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager, reports on the Crimea and DXCC situation: Upon request of the CEO, the ARRL Awards committee evaluated the situation at present in Crimea against the DXCC rules. As the interpreter of the rules, the following is the Awards Committee's decision on how to "count" QSOs with stations operating from Crimea.

Crimea is not a DXCC entity. Neither Russia nor Ukraine is a rare entity and the vast majority of confirmations used for DXCC credit for either entity do not involve Crimea.

DXCC Rule 4 reads:

"4. Confirmation data for two-way communications must include the call signs of both stations, the entity name as shown in the DXCC List, mode, date, time and band. Except as permitted in Rule 1, cross-mode contacts are not permitted for DXCC credits.

Confirmations not containing all required information may be rejected."

A QSL with a call sign issued by the administration of Ukraine and showing the entity name as Ukraine counts as Ukraine.

A QSL with a call sign issued by the administration of Russia and showing the entity name as Russia counts as Russia.

A QSL that satisfies neither condition does not count for either entity.

73 es DX!

FT4T, TROMELIN (Update)

The FT4TA DXpedition team to Tromelin Island, which takes place between October 30th and November 10th, have announced their pilots stations and posted a link on their Web site. The following pilots stations were named: Chief Pilot - Col, MMONDX; E-mail address: dxer59@gmail.com Asia/Japan - Harumi, JR4OZR; E-mail address: Jf1pjk@ybb.ne.jp Europe/Africa - Bjorn, ON9CFG; E-mail address:

on9cfg@telenet.be Oceania - Al, ZL2AL;

E-mail address: leez12al@gmail.com

North America (*East Coast) / South

America - Don, N1DG; don@aurumtel.com

North America (*West Coast) - Rich,

KY6R; E-mail address: ky6r@arrl.net

* To avoid confusion on the definition of East Coast and West Coast, they decided that the boundary is the Mississippi River. All that is in the West should be sent to the pilot West Coast and vice versa. Naturally, if an error occurs, your application will be all the same consideration. They recommend that you simply stick to detailed regional organization above. They also remind you that the drivers (pilots) will not have access to the logs. Any requests for QSO data are to be sent to QSL Manager only.

To read more detailed info on the pilots stations, see:

<http://www.tromelin2014.com/pilotes>

HG0, HUNGARY (HAFF Op)

Operators Laci/HA0HW, Sanyi/HG8LW/P, Geza/HA8DD/P and Zsolt/HA8FY/P will be active as HG0WFF from Hajdusagi TK (HAFF-019) located on East Hungary on Saturday, April 19th. Activity will start at 6:00 UTC until they use up all their batteries and gasoline for the generator. Operations will be on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via HA0HW.

HO100, PANAMA (Special Event)

This year Panama is celebrating its 100th anniversary of the Panama Canal. A special event station will be operating as HO100CANAL between April 19th and August 15th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB, PSK and RTTY. On August 15th, the Panamanians will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the inaugural transit through the Panama Canal. This activity is organized by amateurs of the Republic of Panama. The QSL Manager for the operation is HP1AVS, some of the operators are HP1AVS, HP1COO, HP1CPE, HP1DBK and possibly more stations from Radio Club de Panama. For more information, see:

<http://www.qrz.com/db/HO100CANAL> For more information on the 100th anniversary of Panama Canal, see:

<http://micanaldepanama.com/centennial>

IOTA NEWS

AS-049. Takeshi "TAKE", JI3DST, will once again be active as JI3DST/6 from **Kuchino Island (Tokara Island)** between 0600z, April 29th and 0000z, May 5th.

Activity will be on 40/30/20/17/15/12/10 meters (possibly 160/80/75m) using CW, SSB, FM, RTTY, PSK31 and JT65A. QSL via JI3DST (see QRZ.com for details). ADDED NOTE: In case of heavy rain or other conditions, the operation condition may vary.

AS-145. (Update) Choon/E20HHK will lead a group of operators which include Teerawat/HS3NBR, Prayong/HS4BPQ, Nuk/HS7BHK, Damrongsak/HS8GLR and Toshio/JA1WTI to activate **Nu Island** in the Southern part of Thailand as E20HHK/P between April 18-20th. AS-145 is a rare IOTA in Thailand and was last activated in 2000 (as E29DX). They will go QRT on April 20th in the morning. QSL via E21EIC.

EU-032. Fred, F4EIH, will be active as F4EIH/P from **Oleron Island** between April 12-20th. He will use 100 watts and a dipole on 40/20/10m SSB.

EU-070. Operators Fred/F5OZK, Paul/F4DVT and Christian/F8HJV (who is a resident) will be active as F5KKD/P from **Ile du Levant** (DIFM ME012) between May 1-4th. QSL via F5KKD.

SA-028. Operators Leo/PU2LGU, Paulo/PU2WZR and Agostinho/PY2DMC will activate **Vitoria Island** between April 13-14th. Callsign was not announced before going to print. QSL via PU2WZR only direct.

SA-086. (Update OPDX.1145) The Chilean team, who was expected to be active as XR2T from **Damas Island** between April 16-20th, has postponed their operation until October.

KH8, AMERICAN SAMOA (Reminder/Update)

By the time you read this, operators Günter/DL2AWG, Hans/DL6JGN and Ron/PA3EWP will be active as KH8/homecall from **Ofu Island (OC-077)** between April 9-20th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Günter informs OPDX that their rigs are 2x K3 with 600w solid state amps. They plan to have one station on 24 hours and the second on sometimes. The antennas they will be using are monoband GPs (40-10m). Subject to a reliable Internet connection, they will

upload their logs to ClubLog on a daily basis. Otherwise the complete logs will be uploaded upon their return. QSL via DL2AWG (OQRS, direct, by the Bureau). For more details and updates, see:

<http://www.ofu2014.de>

MJ, JERSEY

Kazunori, M0CFW/JK3GAD, will be active as MJ5Z during the CQ WPX CW Contest (May 24-25th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via LoTW or via M0CFW. Look for activity before and after the contest using the callsign MJ0CFW.

MJ, JERSEY

A group of Czech operators will be active as MJ0ICD from the **Island of Jersey (EU-013)** between July 21-27th. Their main activity will be an entry in the RGSB IOTA Contest. The operators will also use their own callsigns/MJ during the daily operations. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. They are also taking equipment for 6m and 2m. QSL MJ0ICD via OK1BIL. Operators mentioned are Marek/OK1BIL, David/OK1DBS, Libor/OK1DOL, Vladislav/OK1FIK, Jan/OK1NP and Josef/OK1XC. The group does have a Web page at:

<http://jersey-2014.eu>

NCDXF NEWS

The Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) sent out the following Press Release on April 7th: The following officers were elected at the annual board meeting of the NCDXF in Visalia, California, on April 5, 2014.

President, Tom Berson, ND2T
Vice President, Glenn Johnson, W0GJ
Secretary, Kip Edwards, W6SZN
Treasurer, Don Greenbaum, N1DG
Directors: Steve Merchant, K6AW
John Miller, K6MM
Glenn Rattmann, K6NA
Ned Stearns, AA7A
Glenn Vinson, W6OTC
In the past year we were saddened with the loss of three previous directors of NCDXF: Lee Shaklee/W6BH, Jack Troster/W6ISQ, (both founders of NCDXF) & Bruce Butler/W6OSP.
Rusty Epps/W6OAT and Ken Anderson/K6TA retired from the board this year and were thanked for their many years of service.

Our scholarship funds will be directed toward supporting new DXers (age 25 or less) at CT University sessions over the next two years.

Over the last year NCDXF provided approximately \$99,000 to support DXpeditions to the rare and most difficult entities.

At the International DX Convention banquet, we were presented a generous check of \$12,000 from the Southern California DX Club.

The board is grateful for the generous contributions from the DX community, without such support, DXpeditions to the Most Wanted and hard to get to entities would not happen. Have you donated yet? You can make your contribution on the website:

<http://www.ncdxf.org>

Glenn Johnson, W0GJ
Vice President

NP2, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Yuriy, N2TTA, will once again be active from here as NP2P during the CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 24-25th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via LoTW.

PROPAGATION FORECAST/REPORT (April 14-20th)

Apr/14th AN Apr/15th AN
Apr/16th AN Apr/17th AN
Apr/18th AN Apr/19th AN
Apr/20th AN

SOLAR REFERENCE KEYS/INDEXES AND GEOMAGNETIC REFERENCE

=====	
=====	
NORMALITY	GEOMAG
K Values	Alpha

AN- Above Normal Quiet	K=0-1 0-7
HN- High Normal Unsettled	K=2 8-15
LN- Low Normal Active	K=3 16-29
BN-Below Normal Minor Storm	K=4 30-49
DI-Disturbed Major Storm	K=5 50-99
VRY DI-Very Disturbed Severe Storm	K=6-9 100-400

QSL INFO AND NEWS

QSL-INFO from DB0SDX (April 13th)

3Z14EASTER via SP6IEQ
HG100ATOM via HA3KNA OL6R via OK2BQY

5P00 via OZ1GDI HG3M via HA3MY
 OM8A via OM2VL 7X2BDX via IK2DUW
 K7M via N7ACS P29NO via EA5GL
 A35X via N3SL KH0/JH1BXH via JH1BXH
 PA530ROT via PA0ABM AH0J via JA1NVF
 KH7Y via EA5GL PJ4H via DL3KMS
 CE0Y/UA4WHX via UA4WHX
 KH8/DL2AWG via DL2AWG RG61PP via RZ3LC
 CN2CA via PA9M KH8/DL6JGN via DL2AWG
 SD2G via SA2AW DA0AD via DD1DD
 KH8/PA3EWP via DL2AWG
 SV8/DK3SJ via DK3SJ DA0WCA via DL7RAG
 (*) L27D via LW5ER T88QX via DF8DX
 DQ0HARZ via DF7AA LZ1808SNS via LZ1KCP
 TM29UFT via F6ICG EA5HCC/EA8 via EA5HCC
 OK1YA/VK4 via OK1YA UE80YG via RK3LO
 EI0PL via EI5JQ OK5T via OK1VSL
 YP10NATO via YP10NATO (e/L)
 EN0U via UT7UT OL1C via OK1ONA
 YT0PUPIN via YT7WA EV80KEDR via EW7WW
 OL1Z via OK2WZN YV4NN via EA5HRT
 HB0/PA2CHR via PA2CHR OL4A via OK1DSX
 ZA/DL7UCX via DL7UCX
 HB0/PA3CNO via PE1FLO OL4W via OK1IF
 ZL2/EA8EE via EA8E

(e) eQSL only (d) direct only (B) Bureau only (L) LoTW only (O) OQRS only(*) Don't send your card; all QSOs will be confirmed automatically.

QSL MANAGER. Alfredo, IK7JWX, states that he is the QSL Manager for the following (by the Bureau or direct): **5C2J, 5C2J/P, 5I0DX, TS8P, TS8TI and ZA0IS (Dec. 2002).** See QRZ.com for details.

QSL RECEIVED VIA LoTW: 5Q2J, BD4FFM, BG6IMK, CX1FU, DL1BI, F5RD, JA1FVS, JH7RTQ, MS00XE, TN2MS, V63XG, VK0TH, YB3MM/8, YB9WAN, YO3RU and YU5R

QSLs RECEIVED VIA MAIL: 5W8A, EA9/DL2RVL, E51CDW, FG/F6ARC, LA1CI, N8A, OF9X, OG0A, OH0B, T32TV, T33A, TY1TT, UK9AA, VK9X/K7CO, W8A, YF1AR/4, YN2NC, YW5X, Z81R, Z81X, ZV0FWA, ZS8A and ZS8C

QSLs RECEIVED VIA THE BUREAU: 5B/SV1JG, 8Q7SV, J47X, SV5DKL, SV5/SV1LK, SV9AHZ, SV0/XBN/9, SX1912K, SX5KL, SX9S and SX0HQ

T30, WESTERN KIRIBATI (Update)

A experienced German team is pleased to announce another DXpedition to the Pacific Ocean to Southern Tarawa Atoll, Western Kiribati. Their callsign will be T30D, and they will be active between October 2-15th. Operators mentioned are Uwe/DJ9HX, Rudolf/DK3CG,

Sid/DM2AYO, Dietmar/DL2HWA, Georg/DL4SVA, Bert/DL2RNS, Heiko/DL1RTL, Juergen/DF7TT, Olaf/DL7JOM, Guenter/DL2AWG, Hans/DL6JGN and Rolf/DL7VEE. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY, with at least four simultaneous stations with 500 watts amps around the clock. Suggested frequencies are:

CW - 1814.5, 3526, 7026, 10119, 14026, 18086, 21026, 24906 and 28026 kHz

SSB - 1849, 3805, 7095, 7182, 14210, 18120, 21255, 24955 and 28455 kHz

RTTY - 3595, 7046, 10137, 14090, 18099, 21090, 24918 and 28090 kHz

6m - 50120/CW and 50120/SSB

QSL Manager is DL4SVA. QSL via OQRS (see Web page), direct, by the Bureau and logs will be uploaded to LoTW at a later date. A Web page will be now available at:

<http://t30d.mydx.de>

T8, PALAU (Update)

Operators Fujio/JA1SVP and Takeo/JR1GSE will be active as T88FA and T88TH, respectively, from VIP Guest Hotel (Free Radio Room) on **Koror Island (OC-009)** between May 16-19th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters, including 30/17/12m, using CW, SSB and RTTY. T88TH (JR1GSE) will operate mainly SSB and some CW. While T88FA (JA1SVP) will operate mainly CW and RTTY. Main rig is an IC-756 with a TL-933 (possibly other rigs). Antennas are a 160m sloper, 80/75/40/30m Inverted-V and 20-6m Yagi. QSL T88FA via JA1SVP, and T88TH via JR1GSE. Both either direct or by the Bureau. For more details about the VIP Guest Hotel (Free Radio Room), see:

<http://www.palau-radio.com/index.php?page=rr2014>

T8, PALAU

Operators Kenji/JH1BGH and 7K1HLJ will be active as T88WI and T88WH, respectively, from VIP Guest Hotel (Free Radio Room) on Koror Island (OC-009) between May 20-28th. Specific bands and modes were not provided (Probably the same as the above operation). QSL T88WI via JH1BGH and T88WH via 7K1HLJ.

TK, CORSICA (EU-014)

Alex, IW5ELA, will once again be active as TK/IW5ELA from Calvi between April 25th and May 1st. Activity will be

holiday style on 40/20/15/12 meters (maybe 6m) and mainly on CW. He will use a FT857 w/100w into a vertical antenna. QSL via his home callsign.

TM02/TM62, FRANCE (Special Event)

Look for the following special event stations to commemorate WWI (1914-1918):

TM02REF will be active April 13th from 8 to 18 local time

TM62PGM will be active from April 14-15th from 8 to 18 local time.

TM70, FRANCE (Special Event)

Members of the Loos DX Gang will be active using the special callsign TM70DD (D Day) between June 5-19th, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the allied landing in France. QSL via F5JYD, by the French REF Bureau (Only this Bureau will be used) or direct (w/SASE).

V6, MICRONESIA

Shu, JA1FMN, will be active as V63PSK from Weno Island (in the Chuuk State; also known as **Moen Island; IOTA OC-011**) between May 14-17th. Activity will be holiday style on 20-10 meters using PSK and JT65A. QSL via JA1FMN, by the Bureau, direct or eQSL.

Z3, MACEDONIA

The "60m News" reports that Macedonia has granted at least 16 stations permission to start operating on 60 meters on May 1st. The RSM (Radio Society of Macedonia) requested permission for a group of 16 dedicated radio amateurs with good experience, although the permission is given to RSM as an organization - not to individuals. The RSM is given discretion to modify the list so this list may be extended. The following are currently listed: Z31CZ, Z31MM, Z32ID, Z32M, Z33A, Z33F, Z34M, Z35B, Z35F, Z35G, Z35T, Z35W, Z36W, Z39A, Z39Z, and Z30A.

ZK3, TOKELAU (Update)

Operators Jacek/SP5EAQ and Marcin/SP5ES plan to be active from Nukunonu Atoll starting October 8th, for a period of three weeks. However, the dates may change due to the unpredictability of transport. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW and SSB. Jacek operates only SSB, while Marcin SSB and CW. They expect to receive the callsigns ZK3Q (SP5EAQ) and ZK3E (SP5ES) -- callsigns

to be confirmed. QSL route TBD. For more details and updates, see:

<http://zk3.sp5drh.com>

ADDED NOTE: There may be some activity from Apia, Samoa (5W) planned during their return back (early November).

Click on the Hyperlink below to check-out the MLDXCC scores in the latest contests.

<http://mldxcc.org/scores.html>

UP-COMING CONTESTS (complete)

For the latest contest info. click on the following link:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.htm>

April 2014	
+ Missouri QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 5 to 0200Z, Apr 6 and 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 6
+ Mississippi QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 5 to 0200Z, Apr 6
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 11
+ JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 12 to 1300Z, Apr 13
+ New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 12 to 0200Z, Apr 13
+ Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 12 to 2359Z, Apr 13
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 18
+ Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 19 to 0400Z, Apr 20
+ Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 19 to 1800Z, Apr 20
+ 432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 23
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 25
+ Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 26 to 2159Z, Apr 27
May 2014	
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 2
+ 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 3 to 2359Z, May 4
+ Microwave Spring Sprint	0600-1300 local, May 3
+ 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4
+ Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 3 to 0400Z, May 4
+ New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 3 to 2400Z, May 4
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 6
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 9
+ CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 10 to 1159Z, May 11

50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 10 to 0300Z, May 11
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 23
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 24 to 2400Z, May 25
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 30

June 2014

NCCC Sprint Ladder	230Z-0300Z, Jun 6
Alabama QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 7 to 0400Z, Jun 8
Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB	1100Z-1300Z, Jun 14
Portugal Day Contest	1200Z, Jun 14 to 1159Z, Jun 15
ARRL June VHF Contest	1800Z, Jun 14 to 0300Z, Jun 16
All Asian DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Jun 21 to 2400Z, Jun 22
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2359Z, Jun 21
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 28 to 2100Z, Jun 29

The K7RA Solar Update

04/11/2014 Average daily solar flux weakened over the past seven days, and so did the outlook for the near term, at least until Thursday, April 10. Average daily solar flux declined from 149 to 142.2, while average daily sunspot numbers remained about the same, moving from 130.4 to 129.3

From the NOAA/USAF 45 day forecast, predicted solar flux is 140 on April 11-12, 145 on April 13-15, 150 on April 16-18, 140 on April 19, 135 on April 20-23, 130 on April 24-27, 125 on April 28 through May 3, and 140 on May 4-6.

In yesterday's *ARRL Letter* we reported the prediction from Wednesday, April 9 showed an average daily solar flux of 133.3 over April 10-15. But just two days earlier, on Monday April 7 the predicted average for the same period was 142.5, and back on March 30 the prediction for April 10-15 showed an average solar flux of 145.8. The predicted solar flux for April 10 was 150 on March 30, 140 on April 7 and 130 on April 9, which indicated a progressively pessimistic outlook.

However, the April 10 prediction showed higher values. For April 11-18, average solar flux is predicted at 145.6, ten points higher than the prediction for the same eight days on April 9, which was 135.6.

Predicted planetary A index is 5 on April 11, 8 on April 12, then 12 on April 13, 8 on April 14-15, 5 on April 16-18, 8 on April 19, then 5 on April 20 through May 5, and 8 on May 6-7.

OK1HH predicts a quiet geomagnetic field on April 11-13, mostly quiet April 14, quiet to unsettled April 15-16, quiet to active April 17, quiet April 18, mostly quiet April 19-20, quiet to active April 21, quiet to unsettled April 22, mostly quiet April 23, quiet on April 24, mostly quiet April 25-26, quiet April 27, mostly quiet April 28, quiet on April 29, mostly quiet April 30, quiet May 1-2, mostly quiet May 3, quiet to unsettled May 4, quiet May 5, quiet to unsettled May 6, and back to quiet again on May 7-8.

A week ago (but too late for this bulletin) NASA released their monthly Solar Cycle prediction, little changed from the March version:

<http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>

The forecast begins, "The current prediction for Sunspot Cycle 24 gives a smoothed sunspot number maximum of about 70 in the late summer of 2013. The smoothed sunspot number reached 73.1 in September 2013) so the official maximum will be at least this high."

The March forecast said "The current prediction for Sunspot Cycle 24 gives a smoothed sunspot number maximum of about 69 in the late summer of 2013. The smoothed sunspot number reached 68.9 in August 2013) so the official maximum will be at least this high."

These are smoothed numbers, averaged over a year, so that is why the numbers from the end of last summer changed, because recent higher activity is now averaged in.

Here is an interesting article, "Small Groups, Big Flares" from Belgium's Solar Influences Data Center:

<http://sidc.oma.be/news/245/welcome.html>

Scott Craig's *Solar Data Plot* utility has an updated data file, useful if you are just starting out with the program. Otherwise you update it auto-magically

weekly with this bulletin. You can find it at <http://www.craigcentral.com/sol.asp>. This program runs on Microsoft *Windows*, but I've never been able to use it on *Windows 7* computers, so I've used a virtual *XP* mode or just my old *XP* machine. Now I see Microsoft has ended support for *XP*.

This weekend is the Japan International DX CW Contest. See details at <http://jidx.org/>.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrl.org/bulletins>.

Sunspot numbers for April 3 through 9 were 137, 174, 172, 127, 106, 94, and 95, with a mean of 129.3. 10.7 cm flux was 153, 156.9, 142.1, 140.9, 139.9, 132, and 130.6, with a mean of 142.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 6, 14, 5, 11, 5, and 5, with a mean of 7.4. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 7, 5, 11, 3, 10, 4, and 5, with a mean of 6.4.

The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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