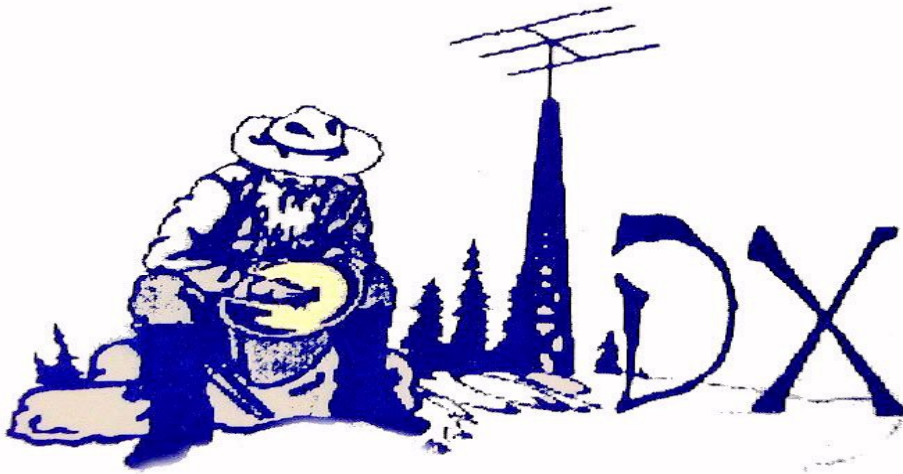


The Nugget



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

Banaba Island DXpedition

The Mother Lode DX & Contest Club is proud to announce that we will have **Alan, AD6E**, give his presentation on the **DXpedition to Banaba Island**, on **March 22, 2014** at **Max's Restaurant in Auburn, CA**. General club meeting starts at 11:30am with the presentation to follow.

The T33A team activated Banaba Island during November 2013. They had six stations at two sites operating CW/SSB/RTTY on 160m through 10m.

The team was comprised of W2IJ, N1EMC, N6HC, N9NS, W6KK, N7CQQ, KD6XH, AA4FL, **AD6E**, DL5EBE, WA1S, WA1F, DL6KVA, N6HD, DJ5IW, K3VN, WA6FGV, PY2PT and K4ZLE.

This will be a RSVP meeting, as the restaurant requires us to pre-order our lunches. Please contact: **Verne, W6VMT** w6vmt@arrl.net for **menu selections** as listed on the **MLDXCC web page**.

MLDXCC 2014 DUES ARE DUE!

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)

December (no meeting)

2014-Officers

President – Bob, W1RH

Vice President – Verne, W6VMT

Secretary – Dick, K6LRN

Treasurer – Carolyn, K6TKD

Director – Rick, W6RKC

Director – Shirl, AA6K

Below is a picture of some of us at the Jan 2014 meeting in Stockton, K6MM is describing the K9W DXpedition.



FROM THE PREZ

Hello MLDXCC'ers!

This newsletter is in advance of our March meeting, on March 22nd. Due to contest conflicts, we decided to forgo a February. After all, we are a contest club (and a DX club)!

It's been a crazy couple of months of contesting and DX'ing. I hope that everyone worked FT5ZM on at least one mode. I already had Amsterdam Island confirmed on 20 phone, but did try to work them on a few other band-modes. I managed to get them on 20 CW/phone/RTTY and on 80 CW. I never did hear them on 160, but I only listened on a couple of mornings. I tried to work them on 40 with 100 watts, but never got through.

As far as contests are concerned, I did a new personal high for ARRL RTTY Roundup. It was a lot of fun. Also worked the NAQP's, CQ WPX RTTY and played around a bit in the ARRL DX CW contest.

I'm writing this on the Tuesday following the President's Day holiday, which gave me a three day weekend. I dedicated Monday to fixing a couple of antenna problems. One of the problems was easy (40 meter sloper), and the other has been a real head scratcher. The head scratcher involves a Cushcraft A3S on my lower tower. Now, I've been putting up antennas since I was about 12 years, but this current problem proves that you're never too old to learn. The problem was high SWR. This particular antenna is 35 feet up the tower and used only with my mult. radio. It will eventually be part of a stack, but for now it's the only antenna on the tower. The SWR seemed to go high when I transmitted but when I used the MFJ analyzer, sometimes it would check out fine and sometimes it would show high SWR, around 5:1. It may have been temperature related, but I never was able to confirm that. When it checked good, I'd put the radio back on it, key the transmitter, and it went bad again. I'd put the analyzer back on it and it did, indeed, check bad. I'd go back to the antenna the next morning and it would check good. Key the radio again, and it would go bad.

The antenna system consists on a jumper inside the house to a patch panel on the wall. On the outside, a 100 foot run of 50 ohm coax goes to a 300 foot run of 7/8 inch Heliax that goes down the hill to tower #2. At tower #2, there is a 40 foot run of 50 ohm coax to the A3S. I checked all of the connectors and everything checked good. I even put a 50 ohm resistor across the ring terminals that went to the antenna (with the antenna disconnected) and SWR checked good on the MFJ analyzer. Then, I actually replaced the driven element with an identical element from an A3S I have in storage, applied power and had the same problem. I'll note here that I have never run more than 100 watts into this antenna. After that, put a dummy load at the end of the 100 foot run from the house and at the end of the 300 foot run of Heliax. Both times, and with 100 watts applied, the SWR was fine.

Yesterday, I took down the 35 foot run from the beam to the 7/8" line and brought it in the shop. I stressed the "N" connector and could not get it to fail. I examined the ring terminals on the other end and they looked fine. Then, with a continuity checker I checked for a short between the center conductor and the shield. Sure enough, it was shorted, or at least set off a tone with my continuity checker. I changed out the "N" connector, and it still showed a short. Finally, I just replaced the 35 foot run, and got the antenna working again. Now, what was wrong with that 35 foot run? The ring terminals were fine. The coax connector on the other end was fine. A close examination of the braid and foam dielectric between the braid and the center conductor, on the ring terminal end showed all was well. So, where was the problem? Well it's for sure the problem is the coax. Did I mention that nine turns of the RG-8 foam coax were used to form a RF choke at the point where the coax ended at the antenna? The RF choke was all part of the single piece of 40 feet or so of line from the antenna to the 7/8" Helix. I chopped off the ring terminal end and the connector end, and it was still shorted. Then, I cut off the coax close to the choke, and it's still shorted! At that point, I decided to Google RF Chokes and ran across this in the Cushcraft A3S manual (pure coincidence, that I'm using one of these antennas):

Important- Do not use foam dielectric coax for your RF Choke because when the coax is wound in a coil the center conductor may migrate away from the center and detune your choke.

The SWR never showed a direct short, but rather something around 5:1. I used an audible continuity checker between the braid and the center conductor so never did actually measure the resistance between the two. The only thing I can think of is that Cushcraft may be on to something here. Don't use coax with a foam dielectric for an RF choke. The new run, by the way, has a solid polyethylene dielectric, and not foam.

The moral of the story is NOT to use a foam dielectric coax in a RF choke. We all know how easy it is to melt the foam, when soldering a PL-259 connector (by the way, I switched to silver crimp connectors a few years ago and

will never go back) braid. I'm going to assume that in the heat of the summer, which is when I first noticed the problem, the dielectric heated up enough to actually chance the distance between the center connector and the braid, in the tight bend, and eventually just 100 watts was enough to break it down.

So, now that I have my mult.. antenna working again, the next project is to figure out how to do SO2R for NAQP RTTY, and that contest is in just a few days. I'll let you know if I figured it out when I see you at the next meeting.

And speaking of our next meeting, Alan (AD6E) will be giving his T33A talk. This is going to be another good one, following on the footsteps of John's (K6MM) terrific Wake Island talk at our January meeting, in Stockton. Alan's talk will be in Auburn, so I hope to see some of you MLDX-CC'ers who live in the northern reaches of our club there. The location is right at the intersection of I-80 and Highway 49, so it's easy to get to. See you there!

73, Bob, W1RH

THE VP SEZ

Thanks to everyone who made the January meeting and K9W presentation a success! John, K6MM, gave a great presentation blending history with modern radio DXing...Great Job John! With no meeting in February we can instead do a few more rain dances to bring some moisture to our area. In today's mail I received my first wallpaper...ARRL Sweepstakes 2012 1st Place Sacramento Valley, SOLP...Not sure I even remember 2012!! Looking ahead, March 22nd we will have Alan, AD6E, returning to give us his presentation on the Banaba Island DXpedition (T33A), May will bring Jim, K6OK, talking about CW for the CW challenged (that would be me) and in September we will have Stu, K6TU, talk about Propagation. If there is a topic or interest that you would like to hear, let me know as we do pay big bucks to bring these speakers in. Signing off for now...

73, Verne, W6VMT

Treasurer's Report

Balance January 1, 2014:	\$1346.48
Income: Dues – KI6CG, WD6EIW, W6DR, K6KO, K6TA, K6LRN, K6TKD, W6INP, AD6E, W6FI, W6SR, WC6H, W6VMT, W1RH, W6RFF, AA6K, K6MM, W6RD, K6YK, W1SRD, K0BEE, K6GT, N6JV, ND6S, K6BEW	375.00
Lunches, 1/25/2014 meeting	<u>460.00</u>
	835.00
Expenses: Lunches, 1/25/2014 meeting (Speaker & XYL included)	483.75
Balance January 31, 2014	\$1697.73

\$1697.73

\$1346.48

Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD – Treasurer

WHY WAS IT SO EASY TO WORK THE FT5 ON 80 & 160M?

Unless you live under a rock, I'm sure you were amazed at the low-band conditions that existed between the FT5ZM DXpedition and the west-coast. WOW! They were easily worked by almost all on 80M and anyone that had a low-noise location and the most basic of an antenna system on 160M.

In an attempt to get a better understanding of what was going on, I solicited the opinions of several noteworthy low-band operators. I would like to say that I received a response from everyone, but I did not. However, those that replied are well qualified to answer the question.

I have included a copy of my e-mail message below:

Hi guys

I'm sending you this e-mail in an attempt to understand the great 80 and 160M propagation that the west-coast experienced during the FT5ZM operation. I am NOT looking to make this a science project, I just want your thoughts on what was going-on

during this period. Was it because propagation favored the sunrise-sunset path? Was it because the path favored high-angle signals? Or what other factors were involved? Speaking for myself, and I suspect most others, I can't explain why we had it all our way on the low bands, but I'll bet most would like to know. How is it possible to work 11K miles with a low dipole, short vertical and/or low power, while many of us had trouble working Caribbean and pacific stations during the same period? If you reply, I will publish your response in the next MLDXCC newsletter and share your thoughts with our readers. Thanks in advance for your participation, de Rick, W6SR

Sincere thanks the folks that responded and are willing to share their expertise with the rest of us. I found it enlightening, and hope you do as well. Below are the responses I received, in order of receipt:

From: Garry Shapiro

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 8:25 PM

Subject: Re: FT5ZM 80 & 160 Conditions

1. Not a polar path (for a change).
2. Low K index for most of the DXpedition
3. Ducting --Bob Brown NM7M (SK) taught that paths >10000 km are ducted; ducts peak on eastern end of path at local sunrise
4. Lower band noise to west...and of course
5. Great operators
6. Good stations

Garry, NI6T

From K9YC

I don't claim to be an expert in these matters. but from my observations at a distance of 11,500 miles, the FT5ZM crew seem to have done everything right. They put out a good signal on every band, had good ears (and thus serious RX antennas for the lower bands), and studied propagation so thoroughly that they always seemed to be on the right bands at the right times to work the most difficult paths (in this case, North America). For example, they were on 80 and 160 at Zone 5 sunset, and at Zone 3 sunrise to take advantage of grey line propagation. They took advantage of the propagation from that part of the world to NA that always seems to be present on 40M in the two hours after our sunrise. They played

30M in the hours before our sunrise. They found both LP and SP on 20M at opposite ends of our daylight. And so on.

In other words, the same sort of excellent ENGINEERING that AA7JV brings to his operations, most recently PT0S. Add to that, of course, that this was a first rate group of operators, as are George and Tomi. **73, Jim K9YC**

From Tom, K5RC

I can work ZS1EL on 80 when nothing else is coming in. He is not quite antipodal, but why that is such a good path has always been a mystery. Vidi has modest antennas.

160 is MF, not HF. It requires an entire different mindset on why we can work the southern hemisphere more reliably than Europe.

Tom Taormina, K5RC

From Rick, N6RK

My theory is that this is an East West transequatorial path that avoids polar attenuation. It is also mostly over water. Another factor is antipodal focusing. The "spreading loss" AKA "free space path loss" AKA "inverse square law" on 160 meters for 1000 miles is 96 dB. With 3 dB isotropic gain verticals at each end, this means that 1.5 kW returns -34 dBm at the receiver, which is about 40 dB over S9. Many people at such distances have told me I am 40 dB over S9 and I have heard other signals at that level. When the signal gets half way to the antipode, it stops spreading and starts compressing, such that by the time it gets to 1000 miles away from the antipode at FT5ZM, the spreading loss is the same as on a 1000 mile path. What I was seeing at my QTH was S9 on the transmit vertical. That is an additional 40 dB loss over the spreading loss.

It is not unusual for big JA stations like JA3YBK to be 20 dB over S9, indicating not much loss besides the spreading loss (about 15 dB more than at 1000 miles). We know, JA is duck soup from W6, at least for the beacon stations, especially at our SR.

Additionally, we have their SS peak and our SR peak, and the signal can skew along the gray line. They should be able to hear very well if they play

their cards right as there is no RFI other than what they generate. .

Rick, N6RK

The following is the fourth 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 4

By the time World War I ended in November, 1918, almost 5000 amateurs had served in uniform, with many giving their lives overseas. Amateurs had proven themselves to be invaluable to the war effort. The Army and Navy were faced with an absolute lack of trained radio officers, instructors, operators, and even state of the art equipment. Amateurs stepped in and provided the knowledge, men and sometimes even the equipment necessary to help win the war. An interesting example of this was the case of Alessandro Fabbri, a wealthy yachtsman and radio amateur, who had top notch stations on board his yacht and on Mount Desert Island, Maine. The Navy commandeered the stations (and the yacht), made Fabbri an ensign, and placed him in command. Largely with his own money, he expanded his operation and improved his equipment. Fabbri's station was used to pass most of the official communications between the battlefronts in Europe and Washington. The traffic often amounted to 20,000 words a day, most of them in cipher. Captain (later Major) Edwin Armstrong, whose regenerative receiver was being used worldwide, was in charge of the Signal Corps' Radio Laboratory in Paris, where he developed the superheterodyne receiver. Thousands of amateurs served as Navy radiomen and Signal Corps operators. It would seem from the information above that amateurs had conclusively proven their worth and that the Navy would return the amateurs' frequencies back to them once the war had ended. Sadly, this was not the case.

A string of events conspired against the amateur, and almost eliminated all privately owned stations.

The villain in this play was the Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels, a puritanical landlubber and teetotaler, whose opinions often got him into trouble. He was the type of individual that H. L. Mencken and Sinclair Lewis satirized as "one who is terrified that somewhere, someone is having fun". For years, he had demanded that the Navy have exclusive control of the radio spectrum. Now, it appeared, he had his chance.

The effects of the first modern global war, along with the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, had temporarily turned the country extremely conservative. It was in this mindset that the Espionage Act of 1918 and Prohibition were passed. Hundreds of suspected communists and anarchists were deported in the "Red Scare".

Even the great Socialist Eugene V. Debs was imprisoned for disagreeing with the government. Seizing the opportunity, Secretary Daniels urged the passage of legislation giving the Navy a monopoly on radio communications. As a result, the Poindexter Bill was introduced in the Senate, and the Alexander Bill in the House. Political observers gave both bills an excellent chance of passing.

Back at the ARRL, things looked bleak. All memberships had lapsed (along with all amateur licenses), 80% of the amateurs were still overseas, QST had ceased publication, the unpaid printing bill was \$4700, and there was \$33 in the treasury.

However, action was needed immediately to defeat these bills. Hiram Percy Maxim and the other board members dug into their own personal funds and sent out a "blue card appeal" to all known amateurs or their families asking them to write their Congressman and urge defeat of these bills. It worked. Thousands of letters poured into Washington from amateurs or (more often than not) their family members asking that amateur radio be saved. Congressmen who opposed a military monopoly of the airwaves also joined in, lending their support to amateur radio. Overwhelmed by this grassroots opposition to Naval control of the radio spectrum, Congress killed the bills in committee. This 1919 letter writing campaign had a profound historical impact on all of radio, for, had these bills passed, not only would amateur radio have disappeared forever, but all private communication

activities (such as broadcasting, business radio, CB, GMRS, Cellular etc.) either never would have evolved, or would have been delayed by years or even decades.

With the bills defeated, Maxim and the ARRL Board of Directors issued \$7500 worth of bonds to League members to get QST going again. At the same time, pressure was brought on Washington to lift the radio ban and allow amateurs back on the air. Partial success was achieved on April 12, 1919, when the Navy removed the ban on receiving, but not transmitting. Thousands of amateurs and other listeners removed the seals from their receivers (which had been placed there by Government Radio Inspectors), strung up their antennas and warmed

their filaments with the sounds of the government stations. But they wanted more. Their fingers fondled their telegraph keys as they waited for the lifting of the transmitting ban. Finally, in November 1919, after a Joint Resolution had been introduced in Congress demanding that the Secretary of the Navy remove the restrictions on amateur radio, the transmitting ban was lifted, licenses were reissued, and amateurs were back on the air.

Now began the "second war", Spark vs. CW. Remember that amateurs were allowed, in effect, just one frequency - 200 Meters. A spark station on 200 meters actually generated a signal from 150 to 250 meters. With the sensitive regenerative receivers now in use, the practical range was several hundred miles. Transcontinental relays now took less than five minutes. The number of licensed amateur operators stood at 5719 in 1920, 10,809 in 1921, and 14,179 in 1922. And all were operating on 200 meters! To quote Arthur Lyle Budlong in "The Story of the American Radio Relay League", it was "Interference, Lord, what interference! Bedlam!". Something had to be done.

And it was. Various transatlantic tests were conducted from 1921 to 1923. The results overwhelmingly showed CW was far superior to spark. Postwar vacuum tube production was at its peak. In 1921, an RCA 5 watt tube cost \$8, and, as a single tube CW transmitter, could outperform a 500 watt spark station. A 50 watt tube cost \$30, and was five times more effective than the best 1kw spark station. Since CW took only a fraction of the bandwidth that spark did, over 50 CW

stations in the same area could occupy the 150 to 250 meter range, vs. one spark station.

The transatlantic tests also revealed some other interesting facts. Due to the excessive interference on 200 meters, some stations had dropped down to 100 meters where, to their surprise, they found conditions much better. Throughout the 1922-24 period, hundreds of tests and casual contacts were made on the 100 meter wavelength which conclusively showed not only CW's superiority over spark, but increased range on the shorter wavelengths. Once again, the scientists came forward and said that long distances on 100 meters were mathematically impossible, and once again, the amateurs proved them wrong.

During 1924, several CW contacts were made at distances exceeding 6000 miles. On October 19, 1924, a station in England worked New Zealand, a distance of almost 12,000 miles. Amateur communications had now reached halfway around the world. Although it would take a few years to discover the role that the ionosphere played in shortwave communications, there is no doubt that amateurs pioneered the practical uses of shortwave.

The phenomenal success of CW convinced the vast majority of amateurs to buy that vacuum tube. A few still clung to their spark sets, screaming "spark forever", but by 1924, spark was almost extinct. The 150 to 250 meter region was now orderly, filled with thousands of CW stations living in peaceful coexistence with each other (and the occasional spark renegade). Legally, however, amateurs could not go below 150 meters. True, many were already on 100 meters without a problem, but amateurs wanted a slice of the shortwave spectrum allocated to them. After all, it was amateurs who discovered the short waves, now, with world wide interest being shown here, they wanted protection. Negotiations were ongoing with the Department of Commerce to give the amateurs specific frequencies.

On July 24, 1924, the Department of Commerce authorized new amateur frequency bands. They were 150 to 200 meters (1500 to 2000 kc), 75 to 80 meters (3500 to 4000 kc), 40 to 43 meters (7000 to 7500 kc), 20 to 22 meters (13,600 to 15,000 kc), and 4 to 5

meters (60,000 to 75,000 kc). Except for a portion of the 150 to 200 meter band, spark was prohibited. Spark would survive in the hands of a few rebels until 1927 when it was banned altogether. CW was here to stay. By January, 1925, the 80, 40, and 20 meter bands were filling up with amateurs, drawn by the promise of transcontinental, daylight DX.

The Wayback Machine is going to hover over the 1920's for one more month checking out an amateur with the call 8XK, and his activities on the night of November 2, 1920. In the meantime, take a sip of that Prohibition bootleg gin, check out those new SW bands, and join us next month on board the Wayback Machine.

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Editor's Notes de Rick, W6SR

Hi all.....

John, K6MM did a great job presenting the K9W DXpedition at our Stockton meeting. Thanks to Verne, our VP, for lining-up these wonderful programs for us.

Well we did it again; the MLDXCC has won the CQP Club Completion, and posted the highest CQP score ever. Our nearest competitor was 700K below us. Maybe we should back-off this year and let someone else win? Or they might just re-name this the "MLDXCC CQP Perpetual Trophy"

For me, the past month, has been all about working the DXpeditions and adding new RTTY countries. I caught V63DX on 160M the end of January, and of course worked FT5ZM on 160 thru 12M and RTTY. So I'm now over 180 countries worked on 160M and 270 countries on 80M. I also worked the CE0Z/UA4WHX for new ones on 30 and 12M.

As I said in an earlier post, I'm not an RTTY fan it's just too much machine, and not enough human interface for my liking. But I will still pursue an RTTY DXCC, just to have more DX to chase, and to add another sticker on my 5BDXCC plaque.

BTW: My new 80M vertically polarized (corner-fed) delta loop works so much better than my 55' high "Inverted V" on DX that it will be here for a long while. Next antenna project is to replace my low full-size 160M "V" with a good 160M vertically polarized

antenna that will fit in the space available and not electrically upset my existing antennas.

Also I still need to integrate the Icom 765 - Alpha 91B combo thru a station control unit so I can switch between it, and the Icom 756 Pro III and PW-1. I have chosen an inexpensive MFJ SO2R box, and hoped to have it functional in the next month. However it was just back-ordered. Grrrrrrr..... ENF fer now, see you all the at our next meeting in Auburn.....**de Rick, W6SR**

Meeting Minutes, January 2014.

Minutes are supposed to reflect business transacted at a meeting. As this was not a business meeting, none was done.

Meeting was called to order by Pres. Bob Hess. Introductions were made.

Officer roll call found W1RH, W6VMT, K6LRN, K6TKD & AA6K present.

Reports were deferred.

There was a moment of silence for Jack Troster W6ISQ & Bruce Butler W6OSP.

After comments by Bob, meeting was turned over to Verne who in turned introduced our guest speaker John K6MM.

John was one of the operators with the recent K9W-Wake Is Memorial DXpedition. He covered all aspects of the operation; logistics, operating, history of Wake Island and memorial to the "Forgotten 98".

List of attendees

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 1. Carolyn Wilson | K6TKD |
| 2. Dick Wilson | K6LRN |
| 3. Kay Anderson | K6KO |
| 4. Ken Anderson | K6TA |
| 5. Al Maenchen | AD6E |
| 6. Norm Wilson | N6JV |
| 7. Mary Wilson-XYL | " |
| 8. Verne Terwilliger | W6VMT |
| 9. Jim Venneman | WX6V |
| 10. George Daughters | K6GT |
| 11. Pat Daughters-XYL | " |
| 12. John Miller | K6MM |
| 13. Pat Miller-XYL | " |
| 14. Shirley Rose | AA6K |
| 15. Chuck Tiff | W6RD |

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 16. Jim Seiferling | WB6BET |
| Guest | |
| 17. Emilia Seiferling | K16YYT |
| Guest | |
| 18. Rick Prather | K6LE |
| 19. Pat Patterson | K6OQ |
| 20. Dennis King | N6KD |
| 21. Ray Parker | ND6S |
| 22. Rick Karlquist | N6RK |
| 23. Jettie Hill | W6RFF |
| 24. Rich Cutler | WC6H |
| 25. Rick Samoian | W6SR |
| 26. Brant Woodward | K6BEW |
| 27. Steve Allred | K6SCA |
| 28. John Lee | K6YK |
| 29. Eric Chapa | W6INP |
| 30. Bob Hess | W1RH |
| 31. Sue Allred | K6SZQ |
| 32. Guest whose signature I could not decipher from Sacramento | |

Meeting concluded about 2:30 P

Dick Wilson, K6LRN, Secretary

Member News, Items For Sale & ARRL Announcements & Feedback

Radios 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.

Yaseu FT-736R for sale, 144, 220, 432, and 1296 MHz bands.

This is a VHF/UHF desktop radio. The basic ft-736 includes 144 MHz and 430MHz bands. This radio includes modules to enable operation on 220 MHz and 1.2 GHz bands and it is equipped with the Yaseu 500 Hz CW filter. Includes original manual, box and Hand Mic. It is capable of AM, FM, SSB, CW and (split band operation for) satellite communications. Radio is fully functional and it is in excellent condition except for minor head phone scratches on the top. \$1150 picked up in Placerville.

Contact Dave, at 530-409-7877.

I was fortunate to work three new DX entities: FT5ZM (long path), FW5 and ZS4 all 20M Phone. As I have said before, everything is new for me.

73, **Verne, W6VMT**

For Sale.

From the station of KF6T-----Jack's HB 3CX1200A7 amplifier-in-a-file-cabinet. This amplifier was pictured and described briefly on page 65 of the January, 2010 issue of QST. The RF Deck is in the top drawer of this 4-drawer cabinet and the power supply is in the bottom drawer. This is a quality piece of gear!

I have a lot of pictures available, as well as an extensive paper-work trail of the amp and its parts. Please contact me off-reflector if you are interested or have any questions.

Also selling a Hy-Gain TH-7 with a BN-86 balun for \$400. The beam looks like it is brand new.

73, **Jim-WX6V**

OK Guys, You asked for it. Picture #1 is the famous (infamous) WOODPECKER transmitter building/antenna in Russia. I'll bet a lot of folks remember what a pain in the neck that was!



And the second picture is my "B" desk in the shack.



This is where I have FUN operating in the afternoons on the DX bands. I remember when a Viking Ranger was out of reach for a high-school kid like me. And now I have one and get on the air almost every day with it and the little Heathkit HA-14 amp, and one or other of the old receivers. In the picture are a Drake 2B and Collins 51-S1. The black unit partially shown on the left is a TCS14 receiver. Want to exercise your "CW filter between your ears", use the TCS with 8 KHZ selectivity on CW!

Anybody recognize the third picture?



That is Frank Quement Electronics on San Fernando St. in San Jose, where I bought my first ham gear and parts. Before they moved to Bascom Avenue and became the "Bascom Bandit"!

73
John, K6YK

Tube of the Month de Norm, N6JV

WE 101(*)

Western Electric was very interested in the new triode that DeForest had invented. They needed something to replace the mechanical repeaters they were using. By 1914 they were making a small triode called the 101A for use as a repeater amplifier. They knew that "long distance" telephone service was going to be the ultimate money making application. In 1914 telephone service began from New York to San Francisco. This only required the erection of 130,000 telephone poles and stringing 2500 tons of #8 copper wire. The 101A tubes were used in eight repeaters on the line. The 101A had a filament that used 4 volts at 1.45 amps. The maintenance on the tubes and the batteries must have kept them busy.

As improvements were made, the 101A was replaced by the 101B, 101D and finally the 101F. The 101F had a 4 volt, half amp filament and had a life of 40,000 hours or 50 times longer than the older 101A. In the late 1920's, over 50,000 tubes were in use in the Bell system. The shape of the bulb was changed in the late 1930's and it was

continuously produced until about 1984. This family of tubes was the first to use the bayonet base with its side pin that is still used today.

The first example shown is an early 101D with the plate in two pieces so you could see the guts from the side. The second example is a 101F with the early patent dates marked on the glass and the closed sided plate. These tubes are known as "tennis ball" tubes.



Visit the museum at N6JV.com.....

Jeunesse et la Culture" in Tunis, during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) as a Single-Op entry. QSL via LoTW or to LX1NO. Read about Ashraf on the following Web page at:

<http://www.kf5eyy.info>

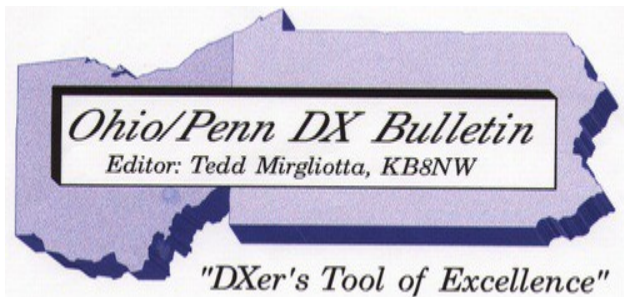
Click on the Hyperlink below to check-out the MLDXCC scores in the latest contests.

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

UP-COMING DX and Dxpeditions

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

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



OPDX Bulletin 1150 February 17, 2014

The Ohio/Penn Dx PacketCluster
DX Bulletin No. 1150
BID: \$OPDX.1150
February 17, 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,

3D2, FIJI

Wes, ZL3TE, will be active as 3D2SE from Viti Levu (OC-016) between April 11-14th. His main activity will be in the Japan International DX CW Contest (April 12-13th). Operations outside the contest will mainly be on CW, with some Digital modes. QSI via LoTW or ZL3TE.

3V, TUNISIA

SWL Ashraf "Ash", 3V4-002 (KF5EYY), will be active as 3V8BB from the "Institute Supérieur de L'Animation Pour la

3W2/XV7, VIETNAM (Update to OPDX.1143/Reminder)

By the time you read this, Toshi, JA8BMK, who was active as XW8BM from Laos, should be active as 3W2DX from Ho Chi Minh City until February 17th. His next stop will be to one of the Nha Trang Resorts (on the east coast of the South China Sea) where he will be active as XV7BM between February 18th and March 28th. Activity here will be focused on the 160/80m using CW and SSB. He is not sure about the Digital modes but will be using a K2 with a 500w amp. QSL both callsigns via JA8BMK, by the Bureau or direct (see QRZ.com).

60M NEWS

The "W8GEX & 60m News" reports that the Cuban Regulatory Agency (ACS) has made a clarification on the new law allowing Cubans to use the 60m band. The ACS made it clear, the band is for emergencies and experimentation on the national territory, and only with Cubans hams, no contact is allowed with other countries "until further notice"...

7Q, MALAWI

A few sources are reporting that a multi-national team will be on a DXpedition to Malawi and will be active as 7Q7Q sometime late November which will include an entry in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 29-30th). It seems to be headed up by Roger, ZS6RJ, and the same group who was active as 3DA0ET last year. Look for more details to be forthcoming in a few weeks.

8Q, MALDIVES (Reminder)

By the time you read this, Kasimir, DL2SBY, will be active as 8Q7KB from one of two of Maldives' islands. Activity will be on 20-10 meters including 17/12 meters and possibly 30 meters using CW and SSB. His schedule is as follows:

Now until February 18th - Ziyaaraifushi Island (AS-013) February 18-24th - Fihahohi Island (AS-013)

His equipment will be a FT900AT with an ACOM 1010 amp (600w) into a triple-leg antenna for 20-10m. He will upload the log onto ClubLog. The QSL cards will be printed as soon as possible. QSL via DL2SBY, by the Bureau, direct and as well as through PayPal requests.

AY1, ARGENTINA

Operators Gabriel/LU3DAT, Fernando/LW2DX, Eduardo/LW3DG, Raul/LU6EF, Carlos/LU8DQ and Marcelino/LU7DSU will be active as AY1DZ (special memorial callsign for Alberto Urano Silva, LU1DZ/SK) during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL via LW3DG, direct or by the Bureau.

CR2/CU2, AZORES ISLANDS (Press Release)

Martti, OH2BH, sent out the following on February 10th [edited]:

"AZORES ISLANDS, NORTH ATLANTIC OUTPOST, REAL AND VIRTUAL www.vistazores.com

-- Finally snow has fallen in the Far North and it's time for the snowbirds to depart for warmer climates. This time around, the team of OH2BE, OH2BH, OH2PM, OH8NC and OH8NJ will join forces with the locals CU2CE and CU2DX and the Azores to hit the airwaves with a variety of callsigns such as CR2A and CR2X in contests, and CU2KG and CU2KH otherwise.

The activity will start on February 12th and run until March 3rd including the ARRL DX Contest, both CW and SSB, and the CQ 160M SSB Contest. CR2A/CR2X QSL manager is OH2BH.

Additionally, the Azores (CU2) will be activated in Virtual World for the first time along with Madeira (CT3). You can download a free trial version of your Virtual Radio and associated QSL and awards programs at www.hamsphere.com. The first Two World DXpedition (Real & Virtual) was OG0A --- for details, have a look at www.grz.com/db/OG0A.

With Real and Virtual Amateur Radio now coexisting on an experimental basis through these activities, the purpose is to allow interested young people to enjoy a realistic, instant experience of our great passion with structured communications and friends all over the world.

Having such a positive experience provides an important incentive for license studies and is meaningful prior to investment in personal radio equipment. This approach is worth testing as it may have great potential in terms of facilitating the intake of young people into Real Amateur Radio, an endeavor now pursued actively in many countries.

The weekend of February 22-23rd is slated for a special activity from CU2, CT3 and it will be a great opportunity to test the system. More details will follow shortly."

CY0, SABLE ISLAND (Press Release)

The following is an announcement from the CY0P DXpedition team [edited]:

"Sable Island, Parks Canada and the CY0P Project -- Aaron Carpenter, VA1AXC, is now active from Sable Island (CY0). Aaron is one of two 'Operations Coordinators for Parks Canada' at the new 'Sable Island National Park Reserve'. Aaron has been a licensed Ham Radio operator for about eight years, but is new to HF radio operating. He works a rotating schedule for 'Parks Canada', which consists of approximately two months on the island, then two months back in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with his family. His schedule on the island keeps him very busy, but when he is 'off duty', he does have some time for getting on the radio. Aaron was a tremendous asset to the CY0P DXpedition team during their October 2013 DXpedition to Sable. The CY0P team worked closely with him on flight scheduling, accommodations, placement of antennas, location of the three stations and other logistical matters.

As the DXpedition progressed, the team was able to instruct Aaron during his off times on some of the intricacies of DX operating. Even though HF operating was new to him, he seemed very interested and asked many questions. The CY0P team and Aaron became quick friends. We were so appreciative for the opportunity to visit Sable Island and conduct our DXpedition that we began to think how to contribute something back to this wonderful hobby and 'Parks Canada'.

After discussions with 'Parks Canada', and upon the successful completion of the CY0P DXpedition, the CY0P team donated all of the antennas, antenna masts, coaxial cables, etc. to 'Parks Canada' and the Sable Station. Weeks after the DXpedition, we also obtained and shipped a Yaesu FT-897 HF transceiver to 'Parks Canada'.

Since then, Aaron has been able to experience the thrill of being DX and the CY0P team has further agreed to provide Parks Canada with an Icom all band, all mode HF transceiver, Heil Pro Headset, a Tokyo 1.1 solid state amplifier and a new all band antenna (antennas corrode very quickly in the salt spray on Sable). All of this gear will be made available to future DXpeditions and guest operators who obtain permission to visit Sable Island. Please listen out for VA1AXC on the HF bands and congratulate him as

an up-and- coming DX'er! 73 from the CY0P DXpedition team,
Gary Bartlett VE1RGB
Richard Harris AI5P
Murray Adams WA4DAN"

DOWN-UNDER AND PACIFIC TOUR

Tim, NL8F, informs OPDX that "it's time for my March trip" and he is heading down-under to "OZ" -- Queensland, Australia, on March 6th. From there he will then head to **Frasier Island (OC-142)** for a few days (4-5) and be active as VK4/NL8F/p. He will then go to **Norfolk Island (OC-005)** to be active as VK9NF (if WIA gets paper work done on time, if not VK9N/NL8F) between March 15-22nd. He thinks his activity will be mostly on the Digital modes. Next, Tim will head back to **Christmas Island (OC-024)** and be active once again as T32TM, between March 25th and April 2nd, mostly for the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 29-30th). After his T32TM operation, Tim will travel to the Visalia, California, for the International DX Convention before heading back to Alaska on April 6th. As usual, QSL via K8NA his QSL manager for all his operations.

FG, GUADELOUPE

Oliver, F6ARC, will once again be active as FG/F6ARC from **Guadeloupe (NA-102)** between March 11-23rd. Activity will be holiday style with a focus on the 30/17/12m bands and the lower bands using 100 watts CW only. He informs/asks OPDX readers, "to not overload DX clusters with unnecessary spots. There is no need to repeat a spot with identical information every 5 minutes". QSL via FE11DX, by the Bureau or direct.

FK, NEW CALEDONIA

Kazu, JA1IST, will be active as FK/JA1IST from Noumea, **New Caledonia (OC-032)** between February 25th and March 1st. Activity will be holiday style on HF bands. QSL via his home callsign by the Bureau.

FP, ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON

Eric, KV1J, will once again be operating from the **Island of Miquelon (NA-032)**, DIFO FP-002 WLOTA 1417, Grid GN17) as FP/KV1J between July 5-15th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY (but primarily SSB and RTTY). He will generally be on the highest frequency band that is open, and he may try 6 meters if there are any indications of openings. Also, look for him on the satellites, weather permitting. Eric will also be in the the DL-DX RTTY Contest (July 5-6th) as a Single-Op entry, and the IARU HF Contest (July 12-13th) as a Single-Op/All-

Band/Mixed-Mode/High-Power entry. QSL via KV1J, direct or by the Bureau and also LoTW. For more details and updates, check out his Web page at:

<http://www.kv1j.com/fp/July14.html>

FR, REUNION ISLAND

Guy, F5MNV, will once again be active as FR/F5MNV from Saint Leu between March 16th and April 8th. Activity will be on the HF bands using only CW. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

FT5Z, AMSTERDAM ISLAND

FT5ZM team is now QRT with 170,010 QSOs in the log. According to the FT5ZM Web page on February 12th:

"They went QRT a little earlier than expected to try and beat out a storm. The seas are already very rough and the storm isn't due to arrive until this weekend. They were unable to finish loading the Braveheart and have to wait until morning to try again; 0100z."

Then on February 13th, pilot station Valerie, NV9L reported:

"I just got off the phone with WB9Z. All the team members are now safely aboard the Braveheart as of 05:20z. The Braveheart crew is currently securing the Zodiac as the French wave goodbye from the shores. There is a strong storm right behind them. This should make for rough seas but favorable winds pushing them to Perth."

As of press time and as per the FT5ZM log available on ClubLog

<http://www.clublog.org/charts/?c=FT5ZM>

the breakdown is as follows as of 0220z, February 12th, 170010/QSOs and 36302/Unique (Modes - 94972/CW, 62986/SSB and 12052/RTTY). By Continent: 1342/AF, 19/AN, 37781/AS, 84667/EU, 41983/NA, 2714/OC and 1504/SA.

Before you QSL, PLEASE remember that the FT5ZM's DXpedition was budgeted for 450,000 USDs and has NOT yet met that amount. QSL via N2OO. The FT5ZM QSL processing order is as follows:

a.OQRS DIRECT (via ClubLog) c.OQRS bureau
(via ClubLog)
b.DIRECT MAIL d.Regular incoming
BUREAU

For more details, see their Web page at:

<http://www.amsterdamdx.org>

Also, watch their media links at:

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/FT5ZM>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/FT5ZM>

HR, HONDURAS

Gerard, F2JD, will be back to Copan between March 6th and June 4th. He will be active, as usual, HR5/F2JD on the HF bands on CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via F6AJA, direct or by the REF Bureau. The logs will be uploaded on the <http://lesnouvellesdx.fr/voirlogs.php> Web page.

IOTA NEWS

AS-067. Taka, JA8COE, will be active as JA8COE/6 from **Uji Island** between April 11-15th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via his home callsign direct only. For updates, see: <http://takaja8-coe.de-blog.jp/blog>

AS-093. Kang, DS4DRE, is now active (as of February 12th) as DS4DRE/4 from **Taehuksan Island** until December 31st. Activity will be 80-10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

EU-099. Nobby, G0VJG, is planning to activate **Les Minquiers Island** for the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 26-27th).

EU-123. Members of the Tynemouth Amateur Radio Club's will be active as G5ONWM from **Isle of Arran** between March 26th and April 2nd. The group will be entering in the CQ WPX SSB Contest (March 29-30th) as Multi-Op entry and sign GM5N. Operators mentioned are Glenn/G0SBN, Tony/G8YFA and Bob/M0KLO. Activity outside of the contest will be on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via M0URX, OQRS is preferred. No incoming cards required through the Bureau. Please use the OQRS.

OC-204. Imam, YB4IR, will be active as YB4IR/P from **Enggano Island** between March 23-30th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via LoTW or ClubLog's OQRS.

J6, ST. LUCIA

Nobby, G0VJG, will be active as J6/G0VJG from **St. Lucia (NA-108)** between June 5-18th. Activity is usually 40-10 meters using SSB only. QSL via G4DFI.

KH6/KH7, HAWAII

Fred, NA2U, will be operating from the Volcano on the Big Island between February 27th and March 3rd. Activity prior to, and following, the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 1-

2nd), he will sign KH6/NA2U and will primarily operate on CW, concentrating on 30/17/12m bands as time allows. In the ARRL DX SSB Contest, he will operate as KH7M. QSLs for KH6/NA2U are via LoTW or direct with a SASE. QSLs for KH7M from USA/Canada are direct to KH6ZM. QSLs for KH7M from all other countries go to I0MWI direct. NO BUREAU CARDS.

MJ0, JERSEY

Mat, MJ0ASP (aka-F5SHQ), who was originally scheduled to be active as GJ2A for the contest, will now be active as MJ0ASP during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (15m) entry on Sunday only. QSL via LoTW. He reports that their club's aerials at GJ2A were damaged during a recent storm, so he had to adjust his plans for this contest. Also, he now has other commitments for Saturday, so he will be QRV Sunday only.

OM44, SLOVAK REPUBLIC (Special Event Station)

Roman, OM3TOW, is now active as OM44LTE until December 31st. This special event callsign is being used to celebrate the allocation of frequencies for the LTE - Long Term Evolution (800 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2600 MHz) in the Slovak Republic. Operator Roman is a spokesman of Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (ex name is Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic). The Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services is the independent regulatory authority and pricing authority in the sector of electronic communications and postal services. QSL only via eQSL. If someone needs a "paper QSL" for some award, please send direct only via his QSL Manager Patrik, OM3RP, with a SAE and sufficient postage.

P4, ARUBA (Update)

Andy, K2LE, will once again be active as P40LE during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (15m) entry. Andy will be there until February 28th. Activity outside of the contest will be on 20/17/15/12/10 meters on mostly CW. QSL via K2LE.

PJ6, SABA (Update)

Operators Jeff/KB1ZOJ, John/K5AC, George/N4GRN, YL Valerie/NV9L and Gregg/W6IZT will be active as PJ6A from **Saba Island (NA-145)**, WFF PAFF-027, WLOTA 2043) during the ARRL DX SSB contest (March 1-2nd) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL PJ6A via N4NX. Jeff, KB1ZOJ, (the QTH owner) plans to operate outside the contest between February 20th and March 12th, along with the

rest of the team between February 26th and March 4th, primarily on SSB with some PSK31, JT65 and CW. Operators outside of the contest (before/after) will sign PJ6/homecall. Listen for QSL instructions by the operators.

PROPAGATION FORECAST/REPORT (February 17-23rd)

Feb/17th HN Feb/20th AN Feb/22nd AN
 Feb/18th AN Feb/21st AN Feb/23rd AN
 Feb/19th AN

SOLAR REFERENCE KEYS/INDEXES AND GEOMAGNETIC REFERENCE

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NORMALITY      GEOMAG      K Values  Alpha
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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
DIS - Disturbed   Major Storm K=5      50-99
VRY DIS - Very Disturbed Severe Storm
                                     K=6-9    100-400
  
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QSL INFO AND NEWS

QSL-INFO from DB0SDX (February 14th)

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3G1B via HA1AG    EK3GM via IK2QPR (d/B)    R00000 via (L/e)
3Z51MOC via SP7MOC EM50JAA via UY7IQ    R7975TM via RN3QO
3Z51S via SP7SEW    FG/DJ2BC via DJ2BC    SF4J via SM4CJY
5B/IK2LTR via IK2LTR    HG3IPA via HA3JB    SV0XCA/5 via SV0XCA (d)
5B/IZ4AMS via IZ4AMS    IQ0OT via 9A8AOT    TC1DX via TA1DX
5B4AHL via M0URX    J38XX via DL5AAX    TF3IG via TF3MHN
8S0DX via SM0DSG (B)    JW/DL2JRM via DL2JRM    TI5/CT1ILT via CT1ILT (d/L)
C6ABB via N2RFA    JW/DL5CW via DL5CW    TO4YL via F5GN
CT9/DJ6QT via DJ6QT    JW/DL6JF via DL6JF    UE25AFG via RZ3QWW
CT9/DK7YY via DK7YY    JW2US via LA2US (B/L/e)    V51WH via DK2WH
CT9/DK9VZ via DK9VZ    LI80K via LA9K    VP2ETE via W3HNC
CT9/OE5IRO/P via OE5IRO    OM44LTE via (*)    XW0YJY via E21EIC or QQRS
CT9/OE5RTP/P via OE5RTP    OP7B via ON7BJ    XX9LT via XX9LT (B/d)
CT9/R9DX via R9DX    PA6R via PI4RTD    YJ0ZZ via NE7D
ED1A via ED1A    PE6SBW via PF5A    YM7XKA via YM7KK
EF8G via EA8TC    PJ2/WA9S via WA9S (d)    ZS1/DK3ID via DK3ID
EH5ANT via EA5FL    PJ4/PE1MAE via PA2NJC
(e) eQSL only (d) direct only (B) Bureau only (L) LoTW only
(*) eQSL preferred, direct via OM3RP
  
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VK0TH QSLs (Update to OPDX.1146). Trevor, VK8TH (ex-VK0TH), has reconsidered his decision on not QSLing VK0TH QSOs from 2 years ago. See:

<http://forums.grz.com/showthread.php?420933-VK0TH-NO-MORE&p=3091282#post3091282>

XR0ZR QSL STATUS. It was reported on the XR0ZR Twitter page: "We have received QSL cards from printer service. Next week we start sending OQRS direct."

QSL RECEIVED VIA LoTW: 2M0ONW, 4K6FO, 7P8DJ, 8Q7BM, 9A2NA, A25DJ, BA4RF, BA4TB, CU7MD, EW8CY, FP/G3ZAY, HL2DYS, HZ1TT, J79JG, J8/K8EAB, JD1BHA, K7AR, LY1G, MA5DWW, N8A, OD5ZZ, OE8SKQ, OM2VL, OQ4B, P49X, PI4FRG, SV0XCC/9, T8CC, TO7CC, UU2JQ, W1AW/0, W1AW/4, W8A, WW4LL, XW1B and ZF2PG

QSLs RECEIVED VIA MAIL: 1A0KM, 3B8CF, A52JK, CR9X, HK1/EA7ATX, OA4DX, OH2BH, S21ZBB, S21ZBC, T33A, TU5AX, V63XG, XR0YY, XV2RZ, YB8EL, Z68BH and Z81X

QSLs RECEIVED VIA THE BUREAU: 4W6A, 5B4AHL, 9M6XRO, 9M8Z, 9U4U, BO100, BQ100, BU2AW, BV1EL, BV7GC, DV1UD, GO2HQ, HF550, IK2ECC, JG1ILF, JH1EAQ, JJ1RZG, JM1LPN, JX9JKA, KH0/G3ZEM, MS0RSD, OJ0UR, OY3JE, OY4TN, R100RW, R3BB, RN3DMU, RP67GE, RU3ZL, RV4CT, SW5CC, UA2FL, UN7PIX, V31ZM, V85/9M6XRO, VE10P, VE6AO, XL3A, XM3AT, XU7XRO, ZC4VJ and ZD8X

S0, WESTERN SAHARA

The "DX-World.net" is reporting that Dom, 3Z9DX (ex-SQ9KWW), is planning activity from the Western Sahara territory as S0/3Z9DX sometime in mid-March for one week (exact dates TBA). Activity will be on 40-10 meters SSB only. QSL via his home callsign.

T8, PALAU

Bodo, DF8DX, will be active as T88QX from **Palau (OC-009)** between April 8-15th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using CW, with some SSB also possible. QSL via DF8DX, by the Bureau or direct. Upload on the LoTW will be after the DXpedition. No eQSL.

TI, COSTA RICA

Filipe, CT11LT, will be active as TI5W from Alajuela during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. Outside of the contest, Filipe will be active as TI5/CT11LT and be there until February 18th. QSL TI5W via N3YIM and TI5/CT11LT via LoTW or direct to CT11LT.

V2, ANTIGUA

Bjorn, SM0MDG, informs OPDX that he is not active as

V26BM from Antigua. With QSNs reported on the DX-Cluster, he states, "That's not me, I am in SM just home from 8Q. My license in Antigua expired just before Xmas, it might have been reassigned to someone else."

V2, ANTIGUA

Operators Babs/DL7AFS and Lot/DJ7ZG will once again be active from the Villa Sundowners near Pottery Village this time as V21ZG starting February 26th for 4 weeks. This is their fourth time there, so activity will be holiday style, and they will concentrate specifically on the higher bands on the modes PSK, RTTY and SSB. They plan to do some SSTV activities too. QSL via DL7AFS, direct or by the Bureau (DARC). Log will be uploaded to ClubLog. Visit their Web site at:

<http://www.qsl.net/dl7afs>

V3, BELIZE

Operators Robert/K5PI (V31AT), Mark/AG9A and John/WCOW (V31TP) will once again compete in the ARRL International DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) as a Multi-Single entry from Cahal Pech in Western Belize. They will use V31TP for the contest callsign. The trio will be in Belize between February 11-18th. Robert told OPDX that they will taking the antennas down immediately after the contest. QSL to their home callsigns or LoTW.

V7, MARSHALL ISLANDS (Update to OPDX.1148)

Bill, N6MW, who announced two weeks ago that he was going to postpone his V73MW earlier in the month, has now announced that he has rescheduled his operation for February 26th through March 4th. Activity will be from the Long Island Hotel on [Majuro Atoll \(OC-029\)](#), Marshall Islands. For more operating details, see OPDX.1145. QSL via M0URX ONLY; by QQRS preferred (Direct or Bureau). For more details and updates, see:

<http://n6mw.jimdo.com/v7-dxpedition>

VP2V, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS (Update)

Janusz, SP9FIH, who is part of the Polish team going to Anegada Island (NA-023) between March 19th and April 1st (see [OPDX.1147](#)), will be active only as VP2VAK during the CQ WPX SSB Contest (March 29-30th). QSL via SP9FIH. For more details on the Polish VP2V operation, also see:

<http://www.vp2v.dxpeditons.org>

XW, LAOS (Update/Reminder)

Remember to look for Champ, E21EIC, to be as XW0YJY in the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. Also, look for him to be in the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 29-30th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. Activity outside of the contests will be on 160-6 meters, with the focus on 17m, using modes CW, SSB and RTTY. He prefers QSL requests via ClubLog's OQRS, as well as direct or by the Bureau via E21EIC. Champ will upload the log to LoTW after his trip. Visit his Web page at:

<http://www.e21eic.net>

XX9, MACAO

A couple of sources are reporting that a Spanish/Ukrainian team will be active from Praia de Cheoc Van, at the Pousada of Coloane Hotel between October 22th and November 1st. Operators mentioned are Eugene/EA5HPX, Fran/EA7FTR, Oleg/US7UX, David/EB7DX, Jose/EB5BBM and their respective XYs, (also one YL operator Veronica/EA7JQS). Activity will be holiday style with possibly two stations running simultaneously on CW, SSB and RTTY. They also plan to be an entry in the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th). QSL via EB7DX. Look for more details to be forthcoming.

YN, NICARAGUA

Will, AA4NC, is now active as YN2NC from Granada until February 19th. His activity will include the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via AI4U or the LoTW.

YS, EL SALVADOR

Hiro, JA6WFM, will be active as YS1YS, the Club de Radio Aficionados de El Salvador (CRAS) station, during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via YS1GMV or the info on [QRZ.com](#) only.

The following stations are expected to be active in the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 15-16th, 2014)

Thanks to Bill, NG3K, for providing OPDX readers with the following consolidated listing of the participants in the 2014 ARRL DX CW Contest. For a more detailed listing (and up-to-date changes/corrections) in HTML

format, please visit Bill's Web page at:

<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxc2014.html> (By call-sign)

<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxcd2014.html> (By entity)

Contest Callsign	DXCC Entity	Class	QSL Route
3V8BB LX1NO	Tunisia	SO	LoTW; QSL via
6W/G3TXF	Senegal		Club Log
6Y2T	Jamaica	SOAB HP	VE3DZ
AY1DZ	Argentina	M/S	LW3DG
C6AZZ	Bahamas	SOSB 20M	KQ8Z
CN2AA	Morocco	M/2	LoTW; QSL via
UA2FM			
EA8RM	Canary Islands	SOAB	LoTW
ED7P	Spain	M/?	EA7PP
EF8USA	Canary Islands	SOAB	W2GR
FP/W6HGF	St. Pierre & Miquelon		W6HGF; QSL via Club Log
H27A	Cyprus	SO	RT9T
IR1Y	Italy	M/?	IK1YDB Direct
J38XX	Grenada	SOAB	DL5AXX
JW/DL2JRM	Svalbard		Home Call
JW/DL5CW	Svalbard		Home Call
JW/DL6JF	Svalbard		Home Call
KP2B	U.S. Virgin Islands	SOAB LP	NP3O
KH2/N2NL	Guam	SOAB HP	LoTW; QSL via
W2YC			
MJ0ASP	Jersey	SOSB 15M	LoTW
NH0S/KH2	Guam	SOAB HP	JF2SKV
NP2N	U.S. Virgin Islands	M/S	LoTW; QSL via
W1EQ			
NP2P	U.S. Virgin Islands	SOAB	LoTW
NP4Z	Puerto Rico	SO HP	N4AO
OH5Z	Finland	M/2	LoTW
P40LE	Aruba	SOSB 15M	K2LE
P40W	Aruba		LoTW; QSL via N2MM
(no B)			
PJ4X	Bonaire	M/2	LoTW; QSL via W1MD direct
PJ5W	Saba & St Eustatius		K5WE
TI5W	Costa Rica	SOAB	N3YIM
V31TP	Belize	M/S	WC0W
VP9/W6PH	Bermuda	SOAB LP	W6PH Direct
XW0YJY	Laos	SOAB LP	E21EIC
YJ0OU	Vanuatu	M/S	LoTW
YN2NC	Nicaragua	SOAB	LoTW; QSL via
AI4U direct			

YS1YS El Salvador SOAB LP YS1GMV
 ZF2DF Cayman Islands SOAB LP N2ZN
 ZM90DX New Zealand M/? LoTW; QSL via
 M0OXO

(d) direct only (B) Bureau only (L) LoTW only (e) eQSL
 (C) ClubLog

UP-COMING CONTESTS (complete)

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

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

February 2014

NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 21
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 21 to 2159Z, Feb 23
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 22 to 0559Z, Feb 23
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1700Z, Feb 23
North Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 23 to 0059Z, Feb 24

March 2014

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 1 to 2400Z, Mar 2
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 8 to 1900Z, Mar 9
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 9
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 9 to 0100Z, Mar 10
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 15 to 0200Z, Mar 17
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 15 to 1200Z, Mar 16
Virginia QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 15 to 0200Z, Mar 16 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 16
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 16
FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 22
Oklahoma QSO Party	1300Z, Mar 22 to 0100Z, Mar 23 and 1300Z-1900Z, Mar 23
Louisiana QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 22 to 0300Z, Mar 23
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 29 to 2400Z, Mar 30

April 2014

Mississippi QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 5 to 0200Z, Apr 6
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 12 to 2359Z, Apr 13
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 19 to 0400Z, Apr 20
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 26 to 2159Z, Apr 27

The K7RA Solar Update

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 7
ARLP007 From Tad Cook, K7RA
Seattle, WA February 14, 2014
To all radio amateurs

There seemed to be a disconnect between daily sunspot numbers and solar flux over the past reporting week (February 6-12), with the average daily sunspot number rising 28 points to 184.3, and average daily solar flux declining 8.5 points to 171.9. Perhaps this reflects the general weakness in the energy and magnetic complexity of recent sunspots. Many days we see a substantial number of sunspots, but they don't produce much activity.

We did see unsettled geomagnetic conditions though on February 8 when the planetary A index reached 23, caused by a CME the day before.

At 2351 UTC on February 12, the Australian Space Forecast Centre released this geomagnetic warning: "INCREASED GEOMAGNETIC ACTIVITY EXPECTED DUE TO CORONAL MASS EJECTION FROM 13-15 FEBRUARY 2014."

They predict a minor geomagnetic storm on Saturday, February 15. Too bad that is the first day of the ARRL International CW DX Contest.

The latest forecast from NOAA/USAF has planetary A index at 25 on February 14, 40 on February 15, 18 on February 16, 12 on February 17, 5 on February 18-24, 8 on February 25, 5 on February 26 through March 1, 12 on March 2, 5 on March 3-6, and 8 on March 7-9, before dropping back to 5 until March 16, when it rises to 8 on March 17-18.

Predicted solar flux values are 165 on February 14, 160 on February 15-17, then 155, 145 and 140 on February 18-20, 145 on February 20-21, then 150, 160, 170, 180, 185, 190 and 200 on February 23 through March 1, then 195, 200, 205 and 210 on March 2-5, before declining to a low of 130 on March 14, then rising to 200 on March 28.

OK1HH sees quiet to active geomagnetic conditions February 14, active to disturbed February 15, quiet to unsettled February 16-18, quiet February 19-20, quiet to unsettled February 21, quiet February 22, quiet to unsettled February 23, mostly quiet February 24, quiet to active February 25, mostly quiet February 26, quiet February 27 through March 1, mostly quiet March 2, quiet to unsettled March 3, quiet March 4-6, mostly quiet March 7, quiet to unsettled March 8-10, mostly quiet March 11, and quiet on March 12.

Lew Wallach, N9WL in New Mexico sent a question about the numbers in parenthesis after the predicted value in smoothed sunspot number predictions. His example was from ftp://ftp.ngdc.noaa.gov/STP/space-weather/solar-data/solar-indices/sunspotnumbers/table_international-sunspot-numbers_monthly_predicted.txt

The one I am accustomed to seeing is the prediction in the Weekly Preliminary Report and Forecast, such as the one on page 21 of a recent issue at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf2005.pdf>.

The numbers in parenthesis represent uncertainty, or the range of the prediction. Since these are numbers smoothed from data over a year, the numbers for July 2013 and earlier are known, so there is no uncertainty. The predicted value for August 2013 of 68 has a one in the parenthesis, so it could be from 67-69. There is very little uncertainty, because there is only one month of data that would figure into the smoothed value that is unknown at the time of publication, presumably February 2014. As months progress, the uncertainty becomes larger. You can see that with the prediction method used in the Weekly report, the maximum range is plus or minus ten. The forecast method used here is a combination of several

methods, decided on by the Cycle 24 Prediction Panel.

The results are the same as in the table at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/weekly/Predict.txt> but resolved to whole numbers.

This consensus method is described on page 14 of the user guide at http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/Usr_guide.pdf.

The reason the numbers are different in the table that N9WL asked about is the prediction method is one developed in 1949, the McNish-Lincoln technique. You can see that the bounds, or uncertainty a few years into the future varies widely from the method used by the Cycle 24 panel, which go no higher than 10.

The McNish-Lincoln technique is described at ftp://ftp.ngdc.noaa.gov/STP/space-weather/solardata/solarindices/sunspotnumbers/predicted/documentation/Hildner-Greer_SolarTerrestrialPredictions-1989.pdf.

In future years you will notice that the number in parenthesis exceeds the predicted value. In these cases, the low end of the range is 0.

The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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