

The Nugget

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club.

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

When: Our next meeting is Saturday, January 15th at 12:00 noon.

Where: Mountain Mike's Pizza in Martel, CA. They are located in the shopping center with Save-Mart on Highway 88, just west of Highway 49. Our meeting room is reserved from 11AM-3PM. At our regular time (noon) (The room is reserved from 11AM-3PM.) See the club's website at <http://www.mldxcc.org/> and click on "meetings" for a map and more information.

What: Per Dick Wilson's suggestion, each member is to bring 3 memorable QSL cards and relate to the group the story that makes each card memorable. Like, your oldest card, the hardest to secure, or most memorable. Your choice. Tell the group a brief story about each. Now this sounds like it's gotta' be real lively meeting!

Yearly dues are due!

Please bring your \$15 to the meeting, or send your check to: K6TKD, Carolyn Wilson
P O Box 273, Somerset, Ca 95684

Below is a photo of a few members at the November 2010 meeting in Martel.



FROM THE PREZ:

Happy New Year to everyone, 2010 is now in the history books and 2011 is here. With the New Year upon us, and the bands are getting better. As a club we should have a wonderful year of winning contest and working a bunch of new DX. I am looking forward to our meeting and program on the 15th. I would like you to be thinking of what goal's the MLDXCC would like to accomplish this year.

I hope that no one sustained severe damage from the recent storms we have had. I have an anemometer on my tower at the 50 foot level, on one of the stormy days we had sustained winds of 25 MPH for over 2 hours. I am happy to report I managed to endure the storms with no damage.

Since our last meeting I have not spent much time on the radio, as work commitments have keep me busy. I did manage to put in 8 hours in the ARRL 160 contest. I had 505 Q's 74 sections and 7 countries for a score of 83,754. I enjoy operating 160, but I never seem be on at the same time the good DX is there. I am looking forward to seeing everybody on the 15th the first meeting of the New Year.

73, Rich, WC6H

VP's QRM

The January meeting of the Mother Lode DX / Contest Club will be at Mountain Mike's Pizza in Martell on Saturday the 15th at 11:30AM. Mountain Mike's is located in the Amador Plaza shopping center with SaveMart on Highway 88, just west of Highway 49.

For our program it is requested that each member bring 3 memorable QSL cards and relate to the group the story that makes each card memorable.

By the time you read this there will be an extremely large Dxpedition in the Spratley Islands

going strong. I doubt that any of our members need the Spratleys for a new one but many of us need to fill in the holes in our band-country chart so here is a great opportunity.

Still on the subject of DX yours truly managed to work VU2ELJ on 12 Dec to complete the requirements for the CQ 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee WAZ award. I received notification that I will get a certificate of Diamond Jubilee WAZ Award # 091. Either it was difficult due to the bottom of the solar cycle or perhaps not many were interested in applying for the award. I had to use my AL-80B amp to get him but the certificate does not mention power levels.

With the New Year the solar activity has been steadily increasing and the past few days have had a SFI in the 90s perhaps cycle 24 will bring us some joy. Now all we need is an increase in DXexpeditions to the southern Indian Ocean. I am in need of 8 entities from that region. .

An important reminder: For proper club credit in CW and ARRL sponsored contests your log must precisely identify your club as Mother Lode DX/Contest Club otherwise it will not be accepted as an entry for our club.

A reminder that we continue to need topics and presenters for our club meetings so if you have something please let us know.

73 de AA6K, Shirley

Tube of the Month de Norm, N6JV

15E

At the beginning of World War II, the need for RADAR equipment stimulated the development of many specialized tubes. The large ring oscillators used in ship and shore installations weren't usable on small aircraft. EIMAC had been making small

transmitting triodes like the 35T since 1935. About 1938 they made a few UH-15 tubes. No data on that tube has been found. It was very short and had the grid out the top and the plate out the side. The 15E looks like a baseless UH-15. The 20-watt 15E was produced in large numbers and were used in airborne RADARs like the ASB and in IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) units like the BP unit shown in the photo. These tubes could operate up to 600 MHz and in pulse service, operate on 15,000 volts as an oscillator or pulse modulator. Very small but powerful transmitters could be made like the BP that was a tuned filament, tuned grid and tuned plate oscillator. When the aircraft's receiver detected a RADAR search pulse, it would answer with a coded pulse basically saying, "don't shoot me". Pilots were highly motivated to make sure the IFF was properly serviced.

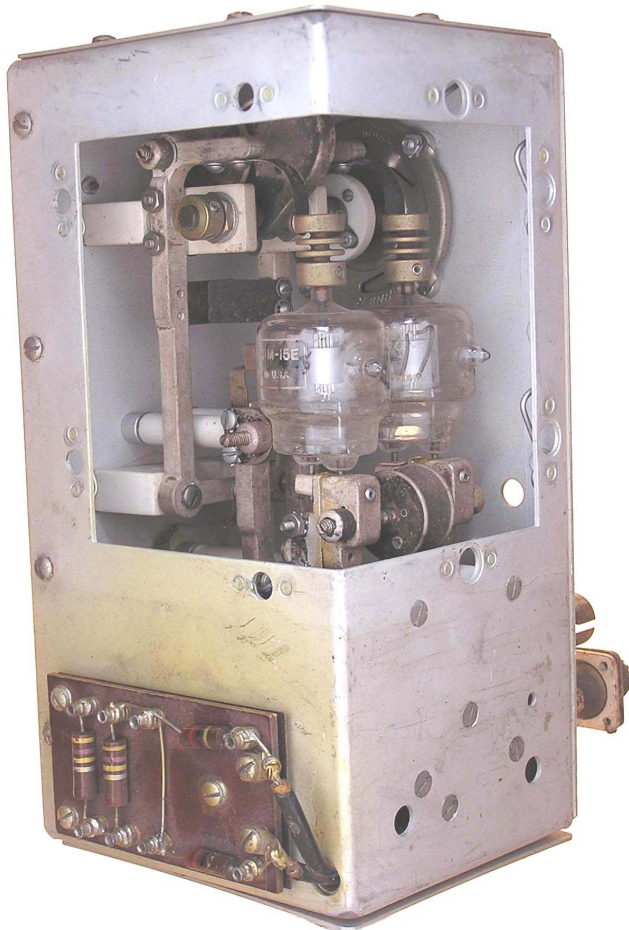
Small rectifiers were also made in this envelope and were designated the 15R and used in some of the same equipment as the 15E. After the War, hams could buy these tubes cheaply, but they were never widely used. Tubes with bases were easier to mount and replace. Recently I found an advertisement where someone was using 15E tubes to make "night-lights".



UH-15



15E



Member news/feedback/Announcements/and Items F/S.

I have a few radios I need to move to make room for the FT-5000.

For sale, Kenwood TS-950SDX with two additional CW filters nice shape no box, manual copy and cd manual. No issues, no smoke one light scuff on top should rub out \$1750

Yaesu FT-1000MP with TCXO-6 and 2x 2.0khz 1x Collins 500z and 1x250hz as new 10 of 10 with original box, manual, power cord there are about \$800 in options inside this radio. \$1450

Yaesu FT-2000 with additional CW filter in second receiver, excellent condition with MTU 80/40 boxes and manuals both 12V and 117vac cords. \$1850

Best way to ship cost wise is FedEx Ground I will pay any shipping cost above \$60.

BTW: I am planning on being in town May 30 for a week maybe we can all get together?

Happy new year to all Aloha, Fred KH7Y 808-557-9022

I have For Sale: Yaesu FT-736R includes installed 220 MHz and 1.2 GHz modules and installed 500 Hz filter, \$1600, OBO. Dave, W6DE in Placerville, 530-626-8910.

My depression during the five or six days without sunspots was relieved by the arrival of the 330 DXCC sticker from the ARRL. All low power. Now for the PJS via Lotw. 73, Ray ND6S

In the Stew Perry, my score was down considerably compared to last year. Propagation was poor and activity seemed to be down.

However, in the preliminary results, I finished 11th overall in low power, and it looks like I am on track for a 4th consecutive plaque for best W6 low power score.

The ARRL 160 meter contest was similarly disappointing.

Rick N6RK

SAGA OF ELECRAFT K3 #4951

After much thought and agony I decided to purchase a K3, with Sub RX, 400 Hz filters for both, ATU and voice recorder, on Friday November 19. On Monday they called as Master Card needed an OK. Because I was leaving Tuesday for San Jose and Thanksgiving I ask them not to ship before Wednesday as I would be gone. Friday when I got home the K2 was on the porch, since Wednesday.

I opened up the box the next day but had come down with the flu and an extremely swollen left hand so until Dec. 18 I only looked at it and studied the Manual. That day I took off the top cover to see what it looked like. There was filter listing for both RXs, but no 400 Hz listed for the sub RX. I removed the sub cover to check for filters and no 400 Hz. I sent an email to Elecraft and they called me the 20th. I decided to return it to the factory and they had UPS pick it up on 22nd. Got it back on the 27th. Made 8 Qs on the 29th and 11 Qs on the afternoon of the 30th. That evening I was going to try 40 meters, but it would not transmit and "HI SIG" warning appeared on the screen. I tried all kinds of things but could not get it to work, and finally a lot of functions would not work and those that did too several second before activating.

Another email sent off to Elecraft. Next day's response said return to factory to replace R66, Q8, Q9 in the post mixer amp (this without seeing the rig). That afternoon I hauled it to UPS in Rocklin. Next morning I received an email confirming arrival of the K3 and it would be checked into the service process within 24 hours. Currently the turn around time to perform service and completely test your K3 is approximately 2 weeks.

The fact they quoted a list of parts to be replaced, without seeing the K3 bothers me in that this may be a common problem and could occur

again. I am beginning to regret spending 4K for the K3 that so far I have had on the air less than 3 hours!! Also the fact they failed to install one filter. (The K3 was built the same day my order was entered, they evidently have caught up with their backlog).

So I will hook the TS-870 back into the operating table for a couple of weeks anyway. I had signed up for the Elecraft reflector, but I got tired of the 50 or more emails a day going over and over the same old crap. Guess I am getting too old for this.

Update, 1/10/11: This morning I received a call from Rene, a tech at Elecraft, that my K3 was repaired and was on the burn-in rack: They want to run it over the week end. I asked him to check the optical encoder as it had been erratic. He will e-mail me Monday morning, and if the radio checks ok it will be shipped on Monday and I should have it Tuesday. **See you in Martell on the 15th. 73, Jettie W6RFF**

Editor's Notes de Rick, W6SR

I hope all had a very joyous holiday season, and that you weren't overwhelmed by the almost non-stop rain.

I haven't been on the radio much in the last month, and needless to say haven't done ANY antenna work. I played a bit in the ARRL 160M contest but conditions were poor compared to last year, so I put in very little time. I hosted NU6T during the ARRL 10M contest, but again, poor condition cut-down his score. Rich said he had a good time, and that's a good thing, and really is the bottom line.

The last part of my antenna make-over still need to be completed. In the next month (or so) I will focus my attention on that, and hope that the weather will give me a break.

All the PJ2-PJ7 cards are starting to come through the mail. And, with a little luck, I will have both modes, and all 36 band-countries confirmed by the time Visalia rolls around. Yeah, I'm a bit of a DXhog. HI HI

Speaking of QSL cards, I finally received my V51AS, 160M card, via the buro, even though I sent a couple of bucks, twice! I also received SV2DX for

a 160M QSO in late November 2010, a 3 week turn-around. I'm now pushing, 165 confirmations on the 160M band, which is lot more than I had hoped for, just 5 short years ago.

Enough for now, see ya' all 15 January. de Rick, W6SR

How to QSL, Again! de Charlie Harpole Courtesy of the NJDXA <http://njdx.org>

Yes, the vast majority of DX hams who bother to write info in qrz.com do so with accuracy and are mostly up to date, too. The vast majority of DX hams in rather rare locations get thousands of cards per year, so sending to them is an art.

In your envelop, put your card with no more than two contacts noted per card, include a self addressed envelop (that includes the "USA" on it; surprise how many forget that), and either one or two US Dollar bills (more if you feel generous or want to call particular attention to your desire for a return card). It is best to use a cover envelop that will allow the self addressed one not to be folded. Use of methods to hide the \$\$ are useless because if the mail is to be stolen somewhere, there are no hiding methods that work for determined thieves. Do not get cute and send a single two dollar bill due to the difficulty of cashing it in various places. Do not use the IRC for same reason.

Banks many places will not take single dollar bills under any circumstances, and there are countries where the dollar in private hands is illegal. However, the US Buck remains the coin of ham radio realm everywhere and guys seem to cope in their own ways where ever they are. The greatest sin is, however, not the money but the absence of an addressed return envelop. 73, HS0ZCW

DX Code of Conduct

- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.

- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
- I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

DX MAGAZINE PUBLISHES 2010 MOST WANTED RESULTS.

The DX Magazine's "2010 Most Wanted Survey" has been published in their latest Jan/Feb 2011 issue. The survey that most DXers go by should soon be available online at:

http://dxpub.com/dx_news.html

The survey was conducted between September and October of 2010. The listing shows the top 100 World-Wide. The "Top Ten Most Wanted" are as follows:

- | ----- | 2010 | PREFIX / | COUNTRY | ----- |
|-------|-------|----------|------------------|-------|
| 1 | P5 | - | North Korea | |
| 2 | KP1 | - | Navassa | |
| 3 | 3Y | - | Bouvet | |
| 4 | 7O | - | Yemen | |
| 5 | VK0/H | - | Heard Island | |
| 6 | FT5/Z | - | Amsterdam Island | |
| 7 | ZS8 | - | Marion Island | |
| 8 | VP8/S | - | South Sandwhich | |
| 9 | FT5/W | - | Crozet | |
| 10 | BS7 | - | Scarborough Reef | |

January 2011 Treasurer's Report

Balance November 1, 2010: \$1834.73

Income: Dues – K6TA, K6KO 30.00
WA6SJQ, K6BUD 30.00

Expenses: Intrepid DX Group
Afghanistan Expedition 200.00

Balance December 31, 2010: \$1694.73

Carolyn Wilson K6TKD, Treasurer

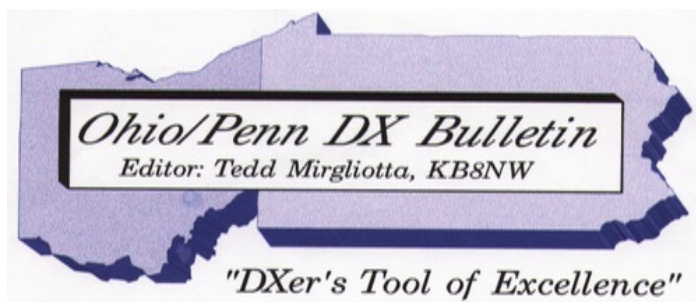
**Click on the Hyperlink below to check-out the
MLDXCC scores in the latest contests.**

<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 993
January 10, 2011

Provided by BARF80.ORG (Cleveland, Ohio)

3B8, MAURITIUS

Operators Joesp/EA3BT and XYL Nuria/EA3WL will be active as 3B8/EA3BT and 3B8/EA3WL from Mauritius between January 23-29th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters, mostly SSB and the Digital modes, with some CW. QSL both calls via EA3BT. Their Web site is currently under construction and can be found here at:

<http://ea3bt.ure.es>

4A, REVILLAGIGEDO

An international team of operators will activate Revillagigedo Archipelago (IOTA NA-030) as 4A4A sometime in March. Operators mentioned are Mark/XE1B (team leader), Javier/EA5KM, Elmo/EA5BYP, Javi/EC4DX, Fernando/EA5FX, Vicente/EA5AFP, Santos/EA4AK and John/N5NTP. QSL via EB7DX. The operation's Web page is:

<http://www.revillagigedo2011.com>

A 4A4A Twitter page is also available at:

<http://twitter.com/#!/4A4A2011>

4V1, HAITI

Look for members of the Radio Club d'Haiti (RCH) to activate the special callsign 4V1 between January 10-20th. Activity is in remembrance of those who lost their lives during the earthquake that struck Haiti (NA-096) on January 12th, 2010. Operations are expected to take place from different locations on the island at various times. Frequency and times will be announced on 14300 kHz (Inter-Con and MM Net Frequency) in recognition of the assistance the nets provided for months following the massive earthquake. It is suggested to check 14300 kHz for operation times and frequencies often. QSL via N3OS.

5C/CN, MOROCCO (IOTA/WFF Op)

Italian operators Leopoldo/I8LWL (5C2L), Alfredo/IK7JWX (5C2J), Ruggero/IK2PZC (5C2P), Simon/IZ7ATN (5C2SG) and Toufelaz/CN8QY will be active as CN2LWL from Herne Island (AF-068), located in the large bay of Dakhla, between February 1-5th. QSL Manager for CN2LWL is I8LWL. The team "may" also activate the WFF Natural Park of Dakhla (Ref. No. CNFF-007) using the callsign 5C2J, 5C2L and 5C2P. QSL via their home callsigns. For updates and an online log search after their DXpedition, visit the Web page at:

<http://www.i8lwl.it>

7P, LESOTHO

Operators Frosty/K5LBU (7P8CF) and Wayne/W5KDJ (7P8KDJ) will be active from the "Trading Post Lodge" in Roma between March 11-20th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. They plan to have 2 full time stations on the air for the entire period using a

Tennadyne T6 at about 40 feet, a R7 vertical along with a Tennadyne TD-160 which is a folded Dipole that is 126 feet overall in length. QSL 7P8CF via K5LBU, direct or LoTW. QSL 7P8KDJ via W5KDJ, only direct with SASE, LoTW and eQSL (No Bureau cards please). Visit their Web page at:

<http://www.tdxs.net/lesotho2011.html>

A log search Web page will be available after their return.

8Q, MALDIVES

Andrew, G7COD, is once again active as 8Q7AK from the small island of Adaaran Select Hudhuranfushi, on the North Male Atoll, until January 16th. He states that his operating time is limited to his spare time because of work (he is not on holiday this time). According to his Web page (edited): "Working conditions are an Icom IC7000, 100 watts output to a 135 ft. multiband doublet and a 9m high Rybakov vertical. I will be QRV on 80 to 12 meters including the WARC bands using SSB and CW. I will be transmitting on the following times and frequencies +/- 10 kHz to allow for QRM: 0730-0830z, 0900-1030z, 1300-1500z and 1730-1800z. Suggested frequencies (+/- QRM) are:

CW - 3503, 7003, 10103, 14003, 18073, 21003
and 24893 kHz

SSB - 3795, 7063, 14190, 18133, 21253 and 24953 kHz"

QSL via his home callsign, direct (see Web page) or by the bureau. Andrew now has a dedicated Web page at:

<http://8q7ak.freewebspace.com>

IMPORTANT NOTE: Andrew, states, "I am completely up to date with the return of QSLs for those received direct from previous activations. If you have not received yours, please send your QSL again." [**8th AAW IN FEBRUARY**

Look for the 8th Antarctic Activity Week (AAW) to take place between February 21-27th. This event is promoted by Worldwide Antarctic Program (WAP)

<http://www.waonline.it>

each year to improve the world-wide attention about the Antarctic Continent and its related matters, with the aim of staying close to the researchers and personnel who are spending their time away from home and families, studying the

Antarctic life and its secrets in the so many remote scientific stations in this icy continent.

The WAP is also thankful for what the Nations and Research Foundations are doing to protect this still uncontaminated corner of the planet and to share a message of peace among the world. The AAW is a unique event world-wide where Hams (in any corners of the world) sign up and help promote the special attention given to the Antarctica. This year 2011, the AAW is at its 8th edition and as usual, is open to all radio amateur wishing to join them using a special callsign which help promote the Antarctica. All SES with a WAP reference number will qualify for WAP ASEA (Antarctic Special events Award). The WAP Ref. number for any special callsign requested/issued for this occurrence can be provided upon request by sending a E-mail to I1HYW (QRZ.com). The list of participants is still open and is available at:

<http://www.waonline.it/Default.aspx?tabid=113>

9H, MALTA

John, G8HWI, will once again be active as 9H3JS between January 18-30th. Activity will be holiday style mainly on 20 meters PSK31 using a "Small Wonder Labs" PSK-20 transceiver at 3 watts, or with an ICOM 703, usually at 8-10 watts. John states that almost all his operating will be either 6 feet above the sea, right at the edge, or about 20 feet above it, and 60 feet back from the edge. His antennas will be a wire dipole, an inverted Vee or a end fed half wave, strung vertically up a fiberglass fishing pole. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Gerry, VE6LB, will once again be active as A6/VE6LB from Dubai between January 12th and February 8th. Activity will be limited (holiday style) using 100 watts into a G5RV antenna (40-10m) and mainly on CW. QSL direct via his home callsign (QRZ.com address) or LoTW. Bureau QSLs can be requested via E-mail at: ve6lb@telus.net Visit his Web page at:

<http://www.telusplanet.net/public/telwest/ve6lb.htm>

He hopes to have an on-line log at:
<http://logsearch.de/index.php/online-logsearch>

AO1, SPAIN (AAW Op)

Operators Fernando/EA1GHT, Juanjo/EA1WX, Jose/EA1CUB, Javier/EC1KV, Daniel/EB1LA, Juan/EA1AUM and Jose/EA1CS will activate AO1AAW (WAP-203) during the 2011 Antarctic Activity Week (see 8th AAW above). Activity will be on 160-10 meters, including the 30/17/12 meters, using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via EA1GHT, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

CE, CHILE

Didier, F6DXE, is currently here traveling throughout Chile. He is expected to be active as CE(?)F6DXE using 100 watts into a vertical antenna. Didier is trying to be active at least one hour per day mostly when the propagation is good for Europe on CW (7025 or 14025 kHz) and SSB (7140, 14205, 21250 or 28450 kHz). He is travelling from CE7 to CE6, CE4, CE5 and CE3 until January 20th. QSL via his home callsign.

CQ3/CT9, MADEIRA ISLANDS

Helmut, DF7ZS, will be active as CT9/DF7ZS between March 22-29th. Activity will be holiday style and will focus on the WARC bands. QSL via DF7ZS. Also, he will be active as CQ3L during the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 26-27th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL CQ3L via DJ6QT and CT9/DF7ZS via DF7ZS.

CW5, URUGUAY (Special Event)

Members of the Centro Radio Aficionados Montevideo (CRAM) will use the special callsign CW5RV throughout the year 2011 in memory of Mr. Louis Varney (SK), ex-2ARV/G5RV/CX5RV, who invented the world-famous G5RV multi-band antenna. QSL via: P.O.BOX 6000, 11000 Montevideo, URUGUAY.

DXCC NEWS (PJ Certificates)

It has been reported that Kathy Allison, KA1RWY, LoTW Specialist, states, "At this time, there will be no new PJ certificates or credits being accepted for the new PJ DXCC entities by LoTW. This is due to the large backlog of DXCC applications that were received for the December 31, 2010 deadline. It is

anticipated that the backlog should be completed by mid to late February. We should be accepting new PJ certificates and credits for LoTW by March 1, 2011. We understand the anticipation for certificates and credits for the new PJ DXCC entities and are working hard to make this available as soon as possible."

DX0, SPRATLY ISLANDS

It seems that this operation has been delayed somewhat. As this was being typed, a report states that all the team members were still in Puerto Princesa (Palawan) Sunday morning and waiting in several hotels. The group is awaiting the last authorizations to leave DU-land to DX0DX and hope to receive it on Monday. It is recommended to watch their Web site for updates at:

<http://www.dx0dx.net>

Also, checkout their Twitter page at:

<http://twitter.com/DX0DX#>

H4, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Tom, VK4FTDX, will be on holiday in Vavaya Ridge, Honiara, on **Guadalcanal Island (OC-047)**, between now and January 18th. Tom states that "this is not a DXpedition will have radio equipment with me and will be active" sometime on the HF bands. He will use the callsign H44FT. QSL via VK4FTDX, by the Bureau or direct.

IOTA NEWS

OC-139. Andrey, VK5MAV, will be active as VK5MAV/5 from **Kangaroo Island** between February 15-21st. Activity will be holiday style and mainly on 40 and meters CW and some possible SSB. Suggested frequencies (if not in use or QRM) are 7012 kHz and 14012 kHz, listen up 1-2 kHz. SSB frequencies no idea at the moment. Suggested operating time: 0900z until propagation ends, starting on 20m with later migration to 40m. He will use an IC-7200 w/100 watts into 2 element vertical phased on 40m and a G5RV for the rest of bands. For direct QSLs, read details on QRZ.com. If you are not in a rush, all QSLs will be sent via the QSL Bureau 6-7 months later. Free of charge!

OC-165. Operators John/9M6XRO and Steve/9M6DXX will be active as 9M6XRO/8 (CW) and 9M8Z/P (SSB), respectively, from **Pulau**

Satang Besar, between February 25-28th. They plan to use two stations with amplifiers into a Hexbeam and verticals located on the beach. QSL both 9M6XRO/8 and 9M8Z/P via M0URX, by the Bureau, direct (w/SAE plus 1 IRC / 2 USDs) or LoTW. QSL requests can be made using M0URX's OQRS form at:

<http://www.m0urx.com/qs1-request-form>

SA-031. By the time you read this, operators Cezar/VE3LYC and Johan/ PA3EXX will be active as CE9/VE3LYC and CE9/PA3EXX from **Wollaston Islands**. Activity will be on 40/30/20/17/15 meters using CW and SSB. The length of their stay is unknown at this time, but the duo is expected to also activate **Diego Ramirez Islands (SA-097)**. It was announced earlier that they were expected to be active between approx. January 7-22nd. QSL via VE3LYC, by the Bureau or direct (mail or PAYPAL; see Web page for details). For updates, check the following Web page at:

<http://ce9iota.weebly.com/index.html>

LAST MINUTE UPDATE: Just before going to print, CE9/PA3EXX/p was spotted on 17 meters.

JW, SVALBARD

Jon, LA8HGA, and possibly others will be active as JW8HGA from the JW5E club station in Longyearbyen, **Spitsbergen Island (EU-026)** between February 48th. This will be a CW only operation on the HF bands. QSL via LA8HGA, by the Bureau or direct (see [ORZ.com](http://www.orz.com)). **PLEASE NOTE:** Jon states, "I will need 2 USDs for Europe and 3 USDs for outside Europe in return postage. (I have absolutely NO intention of making money on my hobby, but unfortunately, the postage rates in Norway is this high.) All direct cards without sufficient postage will be answered via the Bureau."

KH2, GUAM

Hisashi, JF2SKV/NH0S, will be active as NH0S/KH2 during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 19-20th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. JF2SKV accepts QSL cards via JARL (JA QSL Bureau). Please DO NOT send your cards

to his Saipan address or KH2(KH0) QSL Bureau. Visit his Web page at:

<http://homepage2.nifty.com/jg3vei>

KH6BZF PROPAGATION FORECAST/REPORT (For January 10-16th)

| | |
|--------|----|
| Jan 10 | AN |
| Jan 11 | AN |
| Jan 12 | AN |
| Jan 13 | AN |
| Jan 14 | AN |
| Jan 15 | AN |
| Jan 16 | AN |

LY13, LITHUANIA (Special Event)

Look for Lithuanian radio amateurs to activate the following LY13 special event stations between 2200z, January 12th and 2200z, January 27th. Activity is to mark the 20th anniversary of the "January 13th" event, where the Soviet army in 1991 attempted to occupy the independent Lithuania - all communications were blocked and only radio amateurs were the first who help to spread out the information about invasion around the world. There will be no awards issued for this event. This operation is "in memory". They hope some amateurs around the world can still remember this night... For more information, see:

<http://www.lrmd.lt/index.en.htm>

Special event stations mentioned are:

| | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| LY13A | op. | LY5A | LY13J | op. | LY3J |
| LY13V | op. | LY3V | LY13B | op. | LY3BY |
| LY13M | op. | LY3M | LY13W | op. | LY3W |
| LY13E | op. | LY3NX | LY13O | op. | LY8O |
| LY13X | op. | LY3X | LY13G | op. | LY1G |
| LY13Q | op. | LY4Q | LY13Z | op. | LY2GV |
| LY13H | op. | LY2H | LY13T | op. | LY2QT |

MJ, JERSEY

Kazu, JK3GAD, will be active as MJ0CFW from **Jersey (EA-013)** between March 18-21st. Activity will be on 160-10 meters including an entry in the Russian DX Contest. QSL via LoTW or via M0CFW.

NCDXF PRESS RELEASE (Northern California DX Foundation 2010 Report)

Glenn, W0GJ, Vice President of NCDXF, reports: "NCDXF sincerely appreciates all of the

contributions we receive annually from many Radio Amateurs and DXer's. Contributions may be designated to the General Fund, the W6EEN Memorial Scholarship Fund, and/or the NCDXF Beacon Fund.

We particularly want to recognize those major contributors who were extremely generous in 2010:

<http://www.ncdxf.org/pages/majorcontributors.html>

NCDXF supported many DXpeditions in 2010 and many more in 2011. NCDXF also supported WRTC 2010 in Russia and plans to support WRTC 2014 in New England. See

<http://www.ncdxf.org>

for more details. NCDXF is a 501 (c) 3 and as such, contributions may be tax deductible."

THE NEW DXER'S HANDBOOK (Free!)

Curt, K7CU, President of the Utah DX Association (UDXA), informs OPDX that a free small document (44 pages) is available online at:

<http://www.udxa.org>

You will see it listed along the left side of the page, in the box labeled "About UDXA". At the bottom of the list you will see a link to the handbook (in PDF format). The handbook was put together by one of UDXA members who recently completed his stint as Immediate Past President (Bryce Anderson, K7UA) and is accomplished DXer.

OK, CZECH REPUBLIC (60m)

According to the "W8GEX 60m News", operators OK1RP, OK1HAS, OK1IF, OK1KT, OK1FBH, OK1DOH and OK1DSS have been issued a license to operate on 60 meters. Their current license states it is valid until the end of 2011. Their 60m band is limited to: 5258.5 - 5261.5 MHz. They request that the U.S. hams please listen on 5258.5- 5261.5 only, as there is some low activity from other countries working in that range. They will be listening on Channel 5.

P29, PAPUA NEW GUINEA (IOTA DXpedition/Update)

Operators Luis/CT1AGF, Derek/G3KHZ, Mike/G3JKX, Martyn/G3UKV, Hans/SM6CVX, and non-ham Stig, will be going on another P29

DXpedition during the month of April. This is the tentative schedule for the following IOTA islands:

April 2-7th - **Feni Island (OC-101)**; callsign P29VCX; QSL via SM6CVX.

April 8-14th - **Nuguria Island (OC-257)**; callsign P29NI; QSL via G3KHZ.

April 15-18th - **Green Island (OC-231)**; callsign P29VLR; QSL via SM6CVX.

Hans, SM6CVX, will activate the following himself:

April 22-25th - **Misima Island (OC-117)**; callsign P29VCX; QSL via SM6CVX.

April 25-27th - **Loloata Island (OC-240)**; callsign P29VCX; QSL via SM6CVX.

The team will use the M/V Barbarian to travel between the islands. Activity from all locations will be on all HF bands, including 6 meters, using CW, SSB and RTTY. They plan to have at least 4 stations on the air at all the time. For updates and more details, watch the Web page at:

<http://p29ni.weebly.com>

PJ2,

CURACAO

YL Gayle, K6GO, will be active as PJ2/K6GO from Signal Point Station on **Curacao Island (SA-099, WLOTA LH-0942)** between March 18-21st. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via her home callsign.

PJ2, CURACAO

Members of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium (CCC) will once again activate Signal Point Station on **Curacao (SA-099, WLOTA LH-0942)** between March 22nd and April 6th. Operators mentioned are: Geoff/W0CG (PJ2DX), Jack/N4RV, Marty/K2PLF and possibly others. Look for them to sign PJ2T during the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 26-27th) as a Multi-Single or Multi-2 entry. Outside the contest, operators will use PJ2/homecall or their personal PJ2 callsigns. QSL via their home callsigns. QSL PJ2T via N9AG or LoTW.

QSL INFO AND NEWS

QSL-INFO from DB0SDX (dated January 9th)

3Z5WOSP via SP5PMD EA8/DL3KVR via DL3KVR
P4/WA2CAM via WA2CAM 5N5K via LZ1CL
EN1QFF via US3QQ PD30GWF via PD1GWF
5T0JL via ON8RA HI9/IZ4AFW via IZ4AFW
T88AQ via JH6WDG 8Q7AK via G7COD
HZ1FS via EA7FTR UN9GD via DL8KAC
D2AM via OM5AM IO7DAI via IK7JWX
V85TX via W3HKN DR1050EB via DL2VM
IQ9MK via IT9AKB VK5CP/VK9L via VK5CP
DU1/K3LP via K3LP OE1KIDS via OE1XIC
W6KNH/KH0 via JQ1KNH EA6/OE6MBG via NR1R
OM3R via OM3CFR ZL3FRI via JA3FRI

ZL50VK via ZL1VK

QSLs VIA LoTW: 4B2S, 5I3A, 5X1NH, 9X0TL, 9X0TL, A25HQ, C91DL, DL3YA, DL4NAC, DL4NN, DL9RDM, E51NOU, EA3AIZ, EA3AJW, EA6UP, EN220FI, FM5CD, GJ6YB, GM4YXI, IS0GQX, JS1IFK, MOBZH, MD0CCE, MU0ASP, OG4X, OK1DG, ON4WW, OP4K, OR2M, PU8TEP, RA6LW, RN0SS, RU3UR, S50PTUJ, SE6Y, SN7Q, SV1EBV, TO5DX, TO7ZG, UA3KW, UU7JM, YV5OIE and ZL8X

QSLs RECEIVED VIA MAIL: 3DA0TM, 8R1RPN, 9U0A, 9X0SP, AH0BT, C6ATA, ER1DA, ER650M, JY5HX, LU/F5AHO/p, LU1ZA, PJ2/N2ME, PJ4D, PJ5/SP6EQZ, PJ6A, PJ7E, PX8J, PX8L, TO7ZG, XX9TLX, YE0A and YI9PSE

QSLs RECEIVED VIA THE BUREAU: A07AJR, D68BT, IM0/IK0FMB, JW/CT1BWW and OL7R

SI9, SWEDEN (Special Event)

Special event station SI9AM from the King Chulalongkorn Memorial in Ragunda, Sweden, the largest Thai Pavilion in the world outside Thailand, will be active between January 26-31st. Operators will be Raf/ON5RZ, Dirk/ON7DS and Fons/ON4AWT. The trio plan to be an entry in the UBA DX Contest (January 29-30th). Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and FM. Suggested frequencies are:

CW - 1817, 3517, 7017, 10117, 14017, 18077, 21017, 24897 and 28017 kHz
SSB - 1840, 3760, 7060, 14210, 18160, 21310, 24960 and 28510 kHz
FM - 145.550 MHz and repeater RV49 - 145.612.

QSL via SM3CVM, direct or by the Bureau. For more information, visit the SI9AM Web page at:

<http://www.si9am.se>

T70, SAN MARION (Party/Special Event)

For its first year, "DxCoffee.com" is organizing a full weekend of radio and friendship in the San Marino Republic between February 11-13th. You can visit an amazing country, meet other Hams from around the world and operate the special event station T70DXC. The special event station will be on the air between February 1-13th. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 meters. QSL Manager for T70DXC is Pasquale La Gamba, IZ8IYX. QSL is available by the Bureau, LoTW or direct at: Pasquale La Gamba, Via Affaccio 68, Vibo Valentia 89900, Italy. For the complete details on "DxCoffee's 1st Birthday Party" and operating from T70DXC, visit:

<http://www.dxcffee.com/happybirthday>

T8, PALAU

Tsutomu, JA1VND, will be active as T88TF from **Palau Islands (OC-009)** between January 14-18th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via his home callsign.

TO2, MAYOTTE

Brazilian operators Jose/PT9ZE, Ric/PY2PT, Anderson/PY2TNT, Alex/PY2WAS and Fernando/PY4BZ depart from Brazil on April 15th, and head to Paris and then onwards to Mayotte on the 17th. The group will use the special callsign TO2FH between April 18-25th. Their plans are to have three stations active simultaneously on 160-10 meters using CW and SSB. More details and the QSL route is forthcoming.

V3, BELIZE

Gerd/DJ4KW and Gisela/DK9GG will once again be active as V31YN and V31GW, respectively, from Belize between January 6th and February 27th. They will also once again be active as V31YN/p and V31GW/p, respectively, from Blue Marlin Lodge on **Southwater Caye (NA-180)**, between February 2-8th. Operations will be on all bands and modes. Activities will also include the following contest: CQWW 160m CW, FOC Marathon, CQ

WPX RTTY, ARRL DX CW and CQ 160m SSB Contest. QSL via their home call signs, direct or by the Bureau or LoTW. For more details about their operation, see:

<http://www.qslnet.de/member/dj4kw/v31yn.htm>

V3, BELIZE

Ken, N2ZN, will be active as V31AM from Placencia (V31MD QTH) between March 2-8th. He plans to be in the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 5-6th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. Activity before and after the contest will be mainly on CW or possibly some Digital modes and on the 30/17/12 meter bands. QSL via N2ZN, direct or by the Bureau.

PLEASE NOTE: Ken states that Bureau cards could take a very very long time because the NJDXA Bureau has stopped forwarding cards to the "Z" hams in the second district. He mentions that he will also get the logs on LoTW sometime after the contest.

V4, ST. KITTS

Mike, W1USN, will be in St Kitts from February 12-24th. Callsign will probably be V4/W1USN like last time he was there. He will try to get on 60 meters while there. QSL via his home call sign.

V8, BRUNEI

Operators John/9M6XRO and Steve/9M6DXX, will be active from **Brunei (OC-088)** for 2 days between February 22nd and March 2nd, while travelling to and from IOTA **OC-165** (see above). Their call signs are yet to be confirmed, but they may be signing V85/GD3OOK and V85/G4JVG or V85/9M6XRO and V85/9M8Z. QSL both call signs via M0URX, direct (w/SAE plus 1 IRC/2 USDs), by the Bureau, or LoTW. Alternatively, QSLs may be requested using M0URX's OQRS form at:

<http://www.m0urx.com/qsl-request-form>

VP8/O, SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS

A "VP8ORK Press Release #4" was sent out this past week by James Brooks, 9V1YC, and states: "The VP8ORK DXpedition is fast approaching and all systems are go for an on-time sailing. Our container of cargo is already in Southern Argentina,

and the Braveheart is ahead of schedule to meet us when we all arrive in a few weeks. We expect to be on the air with 7 stations, including the 80m and 160m, no later than January 27. Our operating frequencies are now listed here:

<http://vp8o.com/vp8freqs.html>

As has been said before, major DXpeditions to remote Antarctic islands take an enormous amount of money to execute. Chartering a ship, obtaining environmental permits, food, provisions, heat, shelter, generators, life support... all of this adds up to an unbelievable expense just to hand out a 'new one' to the DXer at home. This means we need support from each and every one of you out there to make this happen. No amount is too small, so please consider donating. Details on how to make an easy contribution by PAYPAL can be found on our website at:

<http://www.vp8o.com>

We look forward to hearing you on the bands in a few weeks."

VQ5, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Operators Stan/AC8W, Jim/KB8TXZ and Lee/N8LJ will be active as VQ5D from the Turks and Caicos Islands during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 19-20th) as a Multi-Single entry. Activity is in remembrance of Hank, K8DD. QSL via AC8W.

YASME EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Wayne Mills, N7NG sent out the following press release on January 4th, to announce the "Yasme Excellence Awards": "The Yasme Excellence Awards are given to individuals who through their own service, creativity, effort and dedication have made a significant contribution to amateur radio.

<http://www.yasme.org/excellence.html>

The contribution may be in recognition of technical, operating or organizational achievement as all three are necessary for amateur radio to grow and prosper. The YASME Foundation recognizes the following individuals in order to inspire them and others on behalf of amateur radio now and in the future.

* **Ramón Santoyo V, XE1KK**, who is recognized for his work in advancing Mexican ham radio and representation within the international radio

community. In addition, Ramón serves as IARU Region 2 Secretary. He has been a tireless advocate of amateur radio in Central America and a strong proponent of radiosport and the World Radiosport Team Championships. Voices like Ramón's help the amateur community work together worldwide, strengthening our position and reputation as important members of the wireless community.

* **Makoto (Mako) Mori, JE3HHT**, who deserves much credit for popularizing RTTY by writing the MMTTY software modem and making it available for integration into logging software. He also wrote MMVARI, which implements other popular digital modes, and several other digital mode software products. MMTTY is a great product and Mako has exhibited great ham spirit with a huge effect as can be observed as RTTY operation continues to be the fastest growing mode of HF digital operation.

* **Bruce Horn, WA7BNM**, who continues to generate useful and innovative web sites including a complete upgrade of his excellent contest calendar Web site. Bruce supports contesting with a web site that enables contesters to convert paper and other forms of contest logs to Cabrillo format. His 3830 score reporting and compilation service has changed the nature of radiosport. Bruce was also a key player in the initial efforts to develop methods of exchanging scoring information in the web-friendly XML format.

* **Rick Meuthing, KN6KB**, for developing the new WINMOR sound-card digital mode software now gaining wide use in the worldwide Winlink 2000 system. Many attempts at approaching the performance of the proprietary PACTOR III protocol and hardware failed before WINMOR, attesting to the difficulty of the problem. Rick also invented an improved 'channel busy' detector that senses many different types of modulation and will drastically reduce the inter mode QRM common from other semi-automated digital protocols.

* **Mikael Styrefors, SM2O**, who has developed the Remote Radio Interface. The ability to connect radios and operators transparently and robustly over the Internet is a key technological element of putting top-grade remote HF stations on the air -

something more common every day. Remote stations will undoubtedly be important and popular in making and keeping amateur radio available to urban and suburban amateurs as they deal with mounting antenna restrictions and an increasingly noise-filled and interference-prone electromagnetic environment.

* **Alex Shovkopyas, VE3NEA**, for developing DX Atlas, Morse Runner, HAM-CAP, CW Skimmer, Rocky and other innovative software. Alex's products are making a remarkable impact on the competitive HF operating environment. The quality of the software is remarkable, and having it available to the amateur community at little or no cost demonstrates excellent ham spirit. Programs like these are rapidly expanding the technological frontier of radio in general and are prime examples of how amateurs can continue to make contributions.

* **Pepe Ardid, EA5KB**, who makes it possible for many Latin American DXers, who are in many cases saddled with deficient postal services and QSL Bureaus, to confirm contacts with attractive and unique QSL cards. Confirmations are rapid and he confirms not only direct but via bureau as well. Pepe contributes countless hours of service in support of his fellow amateurs so they can continue to participate in one of amateur radio's most cherished traditions.

For additional information about the Yasme Foundation see:

<http://www.yasme.org>

ZS8, MARION ISLAND (Update)
Pierre, ZS1HF/ZS8M, is reportedly active from the new base on Marion Island. One reports that he is using the emergency antenna there to avoid the heavy QRN problems, and he sounded somewhat weaker than on the Stepper IR vertical. QSNs show this past week that Pierre has been on 40/20/17/15 meters.

**OPDX WORLD-WIDE WEB HOME (provided
by John, K8YSE (k8yse@papavs.com):
<http://www.papavs.com/opdx.html>**

**ALSO VISIT THE NORTERN OHIO DX
ASSOCIATION'S WEB HOME PAGE:
<http://www.papavs.com/nodxa.html>**

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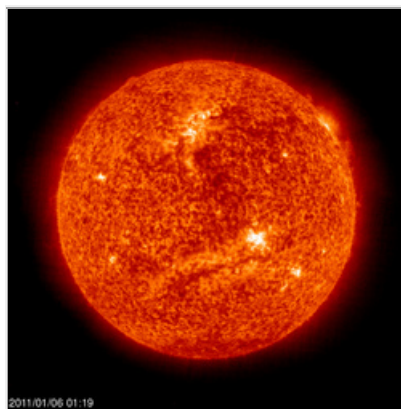
UP-COMING CONTESTS (complete)

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

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

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| North American QSO Party, SSB | 1800Z, Jan 15 to 0600Z, Jan 16 |
| ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes | 1900Z, Jan 22 to 0359Z, Jan 24 |
| NCCC Sprint Ladder | 0230Z-0300Z, Jan 28 |
| CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW | 2200Z, Jan 28 to 2200Z, Jan 30 |
| Delaware QSO Party | 1700Z, Feb 5 to 0100Z, Feb 7 |
| Vermont QSO Party | 0000Z, Feb 5 to 2400Z, Feb 6 |
| North American Sprint, CW | 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 6 |
| North American Sprint, SSB | 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 13 |
| ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW | 0000Z, Feb 19 to 2400Z, Feb 20 |
| CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB | 2200Z, Feb 25 to 2159Z, Feb 27 |
| North American QSO Party, RTTY | 1800Z, Feb 26 to 0600Z, Feb 27 |

The K7RA Solar Update



The Sun, as seen on Thursday, January 6, 2011 from [NASA's SOHO Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope](#). This image was taken at 304 Angstrom; the bright material is at 60,000 to 80,000 Kelvin.

Tad "[Shining snow crystals rainbowed by the Sun](#)" Cook, K7RA, reports: The average daily sunspot numbers were up nearly 24 points this week to 50, while the average daily solar flux rose more than 9 points to 89.5. The lagging three month average of daily sunspot numbers was down 3.5 points from last month's average

of the previous three months. The three month moving average of daily sunspot numbers --ending on June through December -- was 16.2, 20.4, 23.2, 28.9, 33, 35.6 and 32.1. The latest forecast from NOAA/USAF for the next 10 days has a solar flux of 88 on January 6-7, 86 on January 8-9, 84 on January 10, 82 on January 11 and 80 on January 12-15. Planetary A index is predicted at 7 on January 6-7, 10 on January 8-10, 7 on January 11 and 5 on January 12-15. There is a chance of a stiff solar wind and geomagnetic storms on January 7-8. Yekta Gursel, KJ6DRO, alerted us to an article in the February 2011 issue of *Sky & Telescope* titled "The Perfect Solar Superstorm." You can read most of it [here](#); click on "Preview" if you are not a subscriber. Your local library may also provide online access to the magazine. The article begins on page 28. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site on Friday, January 7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#). This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by Amy Lowell's [A Winter Ride](#).

The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

Information may be reproduced provided credit is given MLDXCC.

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