

The Nugget



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

When: Saturday, 26 January 2013 at 11:30AM.

Where The January meeting of the Mother Lode DX / Contest Club will be held at the Habanero Hots Restaurant located at 1024 E. Victor Rd. (Hwy 12), Lodi, CA. See the club's website at <http://www.mldxcc.org/> and click on "meetings" for a map and more information.

What: Our program will feature one of our own, Alan, AD6E. Alan was one of the operators on the recent 3D2C DXpedition and has a great

audio/visual presentation for us. DON'T MISS THIS MEETING!!

MLDXCC Meeting Dates:
26 January 2013

2013-Officers

President – Bob, W1RH
Vice President – Rich, WC6H
Secretary – Kay, K6KO
Treasurer – Carolyn, K6TKD
Director – Ray, ND6S
Director – Shirl, AA6K



**SOME OF OUR MEMBERS AT THE
NOVEMBER MEETING JAWING AS
USUAL**



NEW MEMBER: JOHN-WD6EIW

**General Registration is now open
for the International DX
Convention from April 19-21, 2013
in Visalia, CA.**

**Complete details can be found on
the IDXC website:**

**Convention Registration:
[http://www.dxconvention.com/
pages/registration.html](http://www.dxconvention.com/pages/registration.html)
Hope to see you in Visalia soon!**

**73,
John Miller, K6MM
Kevin Rowett, K6TD
2013 IDXC Co-Chairs**

Lewis Dickerson, ex-K6BPB, SK

The club has received word from his daughter Rita Stevens that Lew Dickerson, ex-K6BPB, became a Silent Key on 9 December 2012. Lew was a founding member of the MLDXCC, serving as its first Vice President. He was a Volunteer Examiner, coaching many a new ham or upgrade licensee through code exams. He was a strong club supporter and became an honorary member after moving into an assisted living facility several years ago. Lew was preceded in death by his wife Avis, also a ham. 73, 88 and GD DX, OM.

FROM THE PREZ

Happy New Year, MLDXCC'ers!

It's 2013 and I'm on my second term as the Prez.

Let's see, where was I the last time I wrote this column? I think I was going on and on about our terrific CQP effort. I'll give it a rest this month.

I will mention that MLDXCC has a good chance at breaking the top-ten in the Sweepstakes club competition.

We did this without really trying, but we have some great scores from our members and it shows. This may have been our one and only chance, as MLDXCC, to go for it, since I do believe we will see the big club focus again on this contest in 2013, and we will all work hard to support NCCC.

I hope the holidays were good for everyone. It looks like WX6V scored a K3 from his daughter. How great is that? Tell me how you did it, Jim. I need to start working on my daughter!

In other news (as we have been known to say at my place of employment), I was on the reflector lamenting that my long work hours had kept me from the good propagation times to work PTOS. St Peter and Paul Rocks was an all time new one for me and I absolutely HAD to work this dxpedition for number 321. Well, on Thanksgiving day, I finally got my chance in the last 24 hours of the dxpedition. I worked them on 20 SSB, 20 RTTY, 80 CW and 17 CW. All have been confirmed on LOTW, so I'm a happy camper.

As far as my station is concerned, 2013 is going to be the year I beef up the SO2R side of my station. I've been playing with SO2R on contests like NAQP for a couple of years now, and it makes a difference. By next contest season, I hope to be able to do it with the right antenna switching, mostly automatic, with the right filters for the right bands.

My second tower is up. That's the good news. The bad news is that, for

a few good reasons, the Pro-67B I had hoped to put on this tower will not be. It looks like this antenna is going to be surplus aluminum or I'll make someone a good deal on it. Instead, I'm completely rebuilding a Cushcraft A3 tribander that I got for free in return for taking down a tower for a ham who is scaling back. This antenna was in really bad shape. It was pre A3S, meaning that the hardware is all rusted, and not stainless (hence the reason for the "S" in the newer A3's. I bought a complete stainless upgrade kit from Cushcraft for about \$70, which is a steal compared to buying the hardware locally. In addition, I bought all new end caps for the rotted or missing caps on the A3 I took down. These, I purchased from Alan, N3BJ, who sells these for \$1 each. Total, including shipping, was \$26. You can't beat that with a stick! So, for about \$100 I have a virtually brand new A3S.

Well, almost.

The boom for this antenna was in really, really bad shape. The reflector had apparently been spinning for years and had carved a nice hole into the boom, almost cutting the end off of the boom. I've seen a lot of A3's, and I have never seen a boom as bad as this one. I had figured I'd sleeve the end of the boom but as I was unloading the antenna from my truck, I noticed that I just happen to have an A4 boom in my pile of surplus aluminum....and it's in good condition. Go figure. I have no idea where it came from, but all I need to do is to

shorten it just a bit. I should have the A3 up for the second radio prior to our January meeting.

Now, speaking of our January meeting, we really have a good one planned for you. Alan, AD6E, will have a bunch pictures to show from the 3D2C Dxpediton to Conway Reef. Alan was part of the team. To make it easy on Alan, we're holding our meeting at WC6H's office, in Lodi, which is located right next door to the Habanero Hots restaurant. Rich says the food is good and his office is just a short walk from the restaurant and well equipped for a MLDXCC meeting.

I hope to see you there! Pass the word on to your friends. It's rare that one of the members of a major dxpediton can give a talk at one of our meetings.

de Bob, W1RH

THE VP SEZ

Happy New Year to you and your families. I hope 2013 brings you good health and good DX/Contesting. Bob and I have been talking about putting together presentations that will interest our current members and help attract new membership. This will be a unique and fun challenge. The Mother Lode club has a membership that has a wealth of knowledge in all areas of radio, electronics, antennas, etc. I will be tapping into this information pool to help with our programs. Did your antennas survive the recent storms? I was fortunate everything managed to

say up at my QTH. I think a presentation about putting up antennas would be interesting and helpful. That's about it for now; I am looking forward to seeing everybody at the meeting on January 26th.

73 Rich, WC6H

December 2012 Treasurer's Report

Balance November 1, 2012: 1186.21

\$1186.21

Income:
Badges - W6VMT, WD6EIW 26.00
Dues - KG6WHH, WD6EIW,
AA6K 45.00
71.00

Expenses:
Badges - AG6EL, W6HFM, N6MCM **38.61**

Balance December 31, 2012 \$1218.60

**Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD,
Treasurer**

Tube of the Month de Norm, N6JV

Ion Gauges (Tubes that measure vacuums)

Early vacuum tubes did not have a high vacuum and would not stand very high plate voltages. Often getters were used to improve the vacuum. With the production of high power

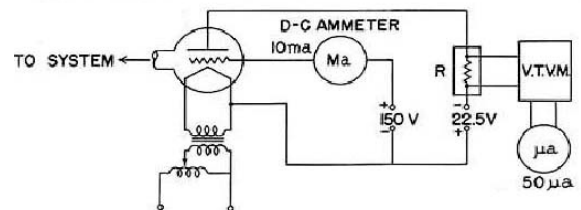
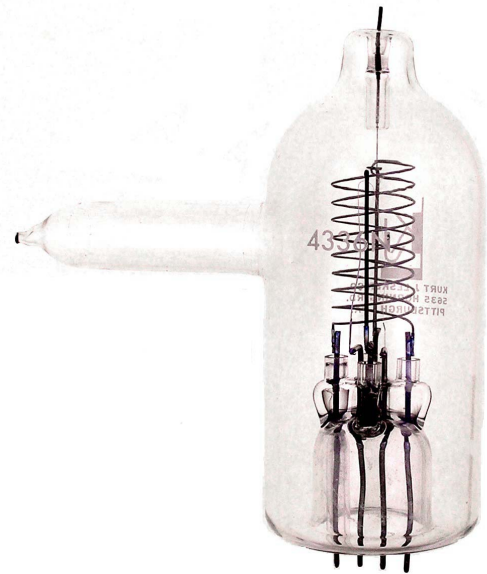
tubes, a means of measuring the vacuum was needed. Tube builders could see that when they tested a new tube, the current would vary with the amount of vacuum. If it was real bad, the tube turned blue. The first tubes that were designed to measure vacuums were existing types that were open to the atmosphere and could be plumbed into the vacuum pumping system.

Tubes like the 35T-IG are examples. With experimentation, they learned to make tubes that were more sensitive and that could be calibrated to measure even higher values of vacuum. The plate was replaced by a single wire and the grid grew into a large coil.



The blue color in a leaky tube is caused by electrons colliding with

ions. The filament of an ion gauge tube emits electrons that are drawn to the large positively charged grid. Any ions that are hit by the electrons and changed to a positive charge will be attracted to the negatively charged plate and causes the current to rise in the plate lead. A typical ion gauge tube would have +150 VDC on the grid and about -30 VDC on the plate. The filament voltage must be variable. A resistor is placed in the plate lead and a sensitive galvanometer measures the current thru the resistor. The current will be in the microampere range and can be calibrated to be proportional to the vacuum. A good ion gauge tube will measure vacuums down to 10^{-8} mm of mercury.



Visit the museum at N6JV.com

Norm N6JV

Editor's Notes de Rick, W6SR

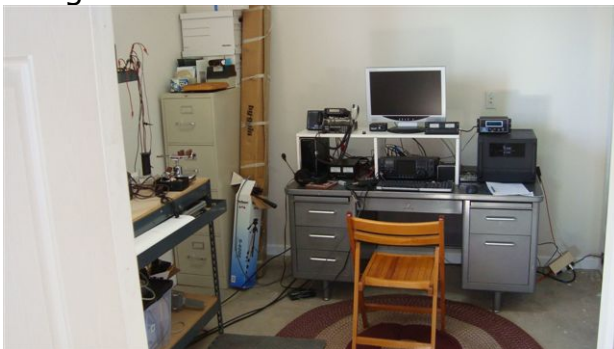
Hi All....

We have been really busy over the last few months; we are still working to completely empty all the boxes and finally settle in to the new QTH. It's been almost 3 months now and we still have boxes to be un-packed, and much stuff to be stored. But, we are making progress.

I was able to get an inverted "V" up 70' in one of the local friendly Pine trees with the help of Kirby, AF6OP and a tennis ball gun. Those guns are a fine piece of engineering. I don't think there is a tree around that it couldn't throw a line over.

With the new antenna, I managed to work the ZL9 DXpedition on 80M for a new country on that band.

The end of December, I was able to get a 10X10' radio room built in a portion of the 3 car garage, as well as 30A of 240V power in for the PA's. I still need the walls textured, paint, and lots of clean-up, but it's moving along.



George KI6CG helped me pick up the TX-455 tower that Dick, K6LRN was storing horizontally for me, and move it to the new QTH.



James, K6OK (a P.E.) is looking into the appropriate base size so I can submit it to the county for my permit. Thanks, James!

Enough for now, see you all in Lodi on the 26th.....**de Rick, W6SR**

Member News, Items For Sale & ARRL Announcements

Hi Guys, just wanted to mention that Santa came to my QTH a little early, (November) and left a pristine Yaesu FT-1000mp, with ALL the filters installed. This, by far, is the best radio I have ever had. It replaced a very nice Yaesu FT-990, that was sold within 6 hours of posting on QRZ classifieds.



The MLDXCC members are the main culprits in my decision to upgrade... IE So many members had a version of the FT-1000, I figured they must like it, and they know more about Ham radio than I ever will. Actually, I have been looking at the 1000 for about a year now, and when the right one came available, I jumped on it. My Boat Anchor station is feeling a little neglected!

**Jim Marshall,
k6oly**

I took the shack apart just before my late October departure to Connecticut to visit my newest grandson and to play in hurricane Sandy and the following snow storm. I missed CQWW PH & SS CW. When I got back, the shack was non existent and some other projects intervened and I

We literally tore down the previous shack this year (the "shack" was actually an entire unoccupied house). We then had a new shack built which was just a shack (10x12 feet). Managed to operate CQP with the field day setup from the barn. Barely

got the shack set up in time for CW SS. Then I spent several days putting up 2/3 of the 90 foot vertical for 160 meters and worked PT0S on 160 just 3 hours before they went QRT. Just worked ZL9HR last night on 17 for an all time new one.

Rick, N6RK

Jerry K6III, XYL (and their three adult kids) celebrating their 50th anniversary last December! _



Congrats de Ed.

A Hallicrafters story!

My friend with the really big S meter.

I spotted him on a card table at a yard sale as I drove by on my Harley for a short ride through the neighborhood. That big black box and those huge dials and S

meter called to me so I did a U turn to check him out. Being a ham radio operator, I was tuned into anything radio, but I never saw anything like him. At first I thought he was the ugliest radio I had ever seen, but that opinion would soon change. He was pretty rough looking, from his scratched and oxidized black paint, to his dirty knobs and switches. The asking price was \$75.00 and I was told he worked, yeah heard that before. I opened my wallet, \$42.00 was all I had. After some haggling and some prodding from his daughter the elderly gentleman agreed on the \$42.00. He even threw in a HA 26 VFO.

I had no idea how much my life would change that beautiful Spring Sunday morning.

Old radios have a fragrance all their own, maybe it's the dust on warm tubes, but it takes me back to when I was a kid in the '60's and would bring home old radios from the church rummage sales. With a good cleaning and tube wiggling, sometimes I could get them to work. After hooking up a long wire and a speaker and letting him warm up for a while, I found out he did in fact work but did have issues. So now I had a project and I knew nothing about him so I set to find out what I needed to do. I read about paper/wax caps, resistors losing their values, bandspread, Sky Buddy Club and on and on. The more I read the more I became immersed in anything Hallicrafters. I read anything I could find about the company and Mr. William Haligan. It's a great story, it's a beautiful story, and it's an American story of Depression Era determination and ingenuity. There are a few different versions but I won't get into that. What I do know is that he named the company Hallicrafters and with the motto "Hand Crafted Makes Perfect". Now, in the middle of watching

an old movie, I'll jump up and shout "that's a SX 28" or "nice S 40" or "that's a receiver not a transmitter" or "they have that mike plugged in the speaker jack". . . I have a very patient and understanding wife.

While waiting for the recap kit from my new best friend in Iowa, I decided to start on the exterior. After years of entering working truck shows I know a few tricks to bring back old paint and how to polish plated and alloy metal. He now looks incredible and I can see myself in the finish. After the parts arrived (and with the advice of many good people) I went to work. I now have a new appreciation for point-to-point construction and for what those employees at Hallicrafters went through on a daily basis building this fine equipment.

He's a few years older than me; his build date is stamped on his chassis JUN 25 1952.

He still has a few issues but don't we all? Like me he likes the power on and being warm, dry, and comfortable. He is my companion in the morning. I'm an early riser and while the beautiful love of my life slumbers and with the shack cat Salem curled up in my lap, he and I share the news of the world, both good and bad.



What once was the ugliest radio I had ever seen, my S 76 with his huge S meter, the largest on any production radio, is now the most beautiful part of my

shack.

73

Roy
AA6QQ

Westra

Meeting Minutes, .

**Kay Anderson, K6KO
Secretary**

Meeting Minutes, .10 November 2012.

President Bob, W1RH, called the meeting to order at 12:08 PM at Mountain Mike's Pizza in Martell, with 15 members and 1 guest present.

Introductions. Round-the-room introductions were made, including guest John, WD6EIW.

Officers' Roll Call. Present were Bob, President; Carolyn, K6TKD, Treasurer; Kay, K6KO, Secretary; Shirl, AA6K, Director; Ray, ND6S, Director; and Norm, N6JV, website administrator.

Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report. The 22 September and 20 October Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's reports were approved as published in the November Nugget newsletter.

Upcoming DXpeditions/DX News. The St. Peter and Paul Rocks (PY0) DXpedition was announced, and Campbell Island is expected to happen later this month.

Committee Reports.

Dick, K6LRN, stressed the importance of meaningful in-club awards. Membership awards within the Club for achievements such as Top Contester and Best Contester, Big Gun, Hired Gun, Little Pistols and DXpeditions were again discussed. Such awards could be determined by a committee, chaired by Dick, K6LRN, and nominations to the committee could be submitted with a one-two paragraph description, and then voted on by the membership. Awards could be created by Arnolds, our badge makers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Future Meetings Dates and Venues. There will be no December meeting. The January meeting will be held on the 26th, with a probable venue of Habenero Hots restaurant on Victor Road in Lodi for the lunch, with the meeting to be held at the office of Rich, WC6H, nearby. The February and March meetings will be held on the 9th and 16th respectively. Venues for February and March are yet to be determined and will be announced later. Future venues discussed were Galt, Auburn, Roseville, Cameron Park, and Martell. Possible presentations include Alan, AD6E's, DXpedition presentation; John, K6MM, on log checking; N6AA on DXing in all 40 zones; Alan, K6SRZ, as a Dxpediton doctor; Ron, NI6E, on

remote radio operation; Stu, K6TU, on software defined radios and remote station operation; and Rick, W6SR, on antenna modeling.

Changes to the Club By-laws

It was moved and seconded, voted and carried to change the by-laws to a vote of 2/3 of the members present. This change will be incorporated and the new by-laws will be posted on the website.

Membership.

An application for membership from John, WD6EIW, was received, reviewed and approved, and John was welcomed as a new member. The club currently shows 82 members on the current roster.

Club Focus and Upcoming Contests. Bob, W1RH, reviewed the NCCC/MLDXCC Club calendar, indicating future contest focus and support. The club will support the NCCC on the 13 February NAQP RTTY contest.

NEW BUSINESS.

CQP Wrap-up. Bob, W1RH, recapped the California QSO Party and the results reported so far. New members were thanked for their great showing. Shirl, AA6K, reported that not all logs have been submitted, so he issued a reminder to "get those logs in!" Nearly half a million points are currently unsubmitted.

Nomination/Election of New Officers.

It was moved and seconded that the Officers' Roster with exception of the Vice President/Contest Chairman, will stay the same for 2013. President Bob, W1RH, Carolyn, K6TKD, Treasurer, Kay, K6KO, Secretary, Shirl, AA6K, Director, Ray, ND6S, Director, and Norm, N6JV, website administrator, agreed to continue their roles during the coming year. Rich, WC6H, was elected Vice President/Contest Chairman, and Rick, W6SR, agreed to continue as newsletter editor.

Adjournment and Program Presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM. After a short break, Club Log was discussed.

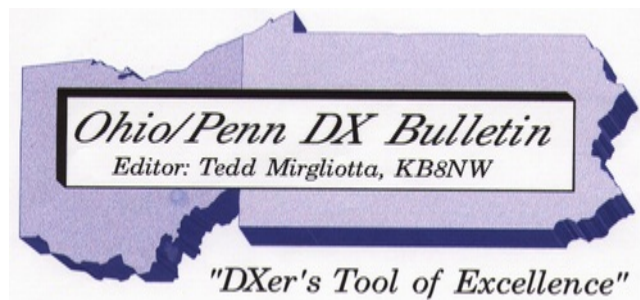
Click on the Hyperlink below to check-out the MLDXCC scores in the latest contests.

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

UP-COMING DX and Dxpeditions

Click the link below to display upcoming Announced DXpeditions:

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



OPDX Bulletin 1085 November 5, 2012

The Ohio/Penn Dx PacketCluster
DX Bulletin No. 1095
BID: \$OPDX.1095
January 14, 2013
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, AB5K &
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ARRL Letter, K1XN & GoList,
NC1L, NJ1Q & W1AW, W2VU, K3LR,
NG3K & ADXO, W3UR & The Daily
DX, N4AA & QRZ DX, N4JF, W4VQ,
KH6BZF, K8CX, K8GI, K8YSE, W8GEX
& 60m News, K9EL, W9ILY, 9M6DXX,
AT International, DK8JB & The DX
[News Letter](#), DK8UH, DL1SBF,
DxCoffee.com, DX-World.Net,
ES1CW, F5NQL, F6AJA & Les
Nouvelles DX, I1HYW,
I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News,
I2MQP & DX Italia News, OZ6OM &
50 MHz DX News, P29NO, Pete's
DX-Newsdesk, PS7DX, RSGB IOTA
Web Site, Sixitalia Weekly,
SV1DPI, VA3RJ & ICPO and the
VHF-DX-Portal (MMMonVHF) for the
following DX information.

DXCC COUNTRY/ENTITY REPORT

According to the AR-Cluster
Network for the week of Sunday,
6th-January, through Sunday,
13th-January there were 219
countries active. Countries
available: 3A, 3B8, 3B9, 3DA,
3V, 3W, 4J, 4L, 4O, 4S, 4X, 5B,
5R, 5T, 5U, 5W, 5X, 5Z, 6W, 6Y,
7P, 7Q, 7X, 8P, 8R, 9A, 9H, 9J,
9K, 9M2, 9M6, 9Q, 9V, 9X, 9Y,

A4, A6, A7, A9, AP, BV, BY, C3,
C5, C6, C9, CE, CE9, CM, CN, CP,
CT, CT3, CU, CX, D2, DL, DU,
E5/s, E7, EA, EA6, EA8, EA9, EI,
EK, EL, ER, ES, ET, EU, EX, EY,
EZ, F, FG, FK, FM, FO, FR, FY,
G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU, GW, H4,
H40, HA, HB, HB0, HC, HH, HI,
HK, HL, HP, HR, HS, HV, HZ, I,
IS, J2, J3, J6, J8, JA, JT, JX,
JY, K, KG4, KH0, KH2, KH6, KL,
KP2, KP4, LA, LU, LX, LY, LZ,
OA, OD, OE, OH, OH0, OK, OM, ON,
OX, OY, OZ, P2, P4, PA, PJ2,
PJ4, PJ7, PY, PZ, R1FJ, S2, S5,
S7, SM, SP, ST, SU, SV, SV5,
SV9, T7, T8, TA, TF, TG, TI, TJ,
TK, TL, TR, TT, TU, TY, UA, UA2,
UA9, UK, UN, UR, V2, V3, V4, V5,
V7, V8, VE, VK, VK9L, VK9N,
VP2E, VP2M, VP2V, VP8, VP8/h,
VP9, VQ9, VR, VU, XE, XU, XW,
XX9, YA, YB, YI, YL, YN, YO, YS,
YU, YV, Z2, Z3, Z8, ZA, ZB, ZC4,
ZD7, ZD8, ZF, ZL, ZP, ZS

*** PLEASE NOTE:** The report
"could" contain "Pirate/SLIM"
operations or more likely a
"BUSTED CALLSIGN". As always,
you never know - "Work First
Worry Later" (WFWL).

2012 DX SOUND BITES!

Tom, K8CX, has done it again. He
has provided DXers with 135
memorable DX sound clips from
2012. Visit Tom's famous "HAM
GALLERY" Web at:

<http://hamgallery.com/dx2012>

While there also check out some of his
other features on his Web page, such
as: 15 years of "Rare DX Sound Clips"
of the past (as well as some clips from
the 1960's and 1970's), QSL Card
Museum, Dayton Photo Galleries and
Tribute to Silent Key Ham Operators.
Tom states, "If anyone has any old HF
recordings, I would be interested in
hearing from them."

5B, CYPRUS

Roman, UR0MC, will be active as 5B/UW2M during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 16-17th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL via US0LW.

9M4, SPRATLY ISLANDS

Operators John/9M6XRO, Steve/9M6DXX, James/9V1YC, Ben/DJ0YI/N6MUF, Don/G3BJ, Christian/EA3NT and Tony/KM00 will be active as 9M4SL from [Layang-Layang Island \(AS-051\)](#) between March 10-18th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. They will have several stations on the air with amplifiers into vertical antennas all within a few meters of the ocean. QSL Manager for this operation is Tim, M0URX (OQRS, direct, by the Bureau, LoTW). Logs will be uploaded to LoTW as quickly as possible after the DXpedition. More details will be forth-coming.

AAW NEWS (How may I register my station for 10th AAW?)

Gianni, I1HYW, reports: "Next month, February, will start the 10th Antarctic Activity Week; here below there is a brief explanation on how to join the Antarctica Activity Week

(see www.waponline.it).

To enter the AAW, it's necessary to get a special callsign (not the home call) issued to celebrate the event, (just for example I have requested as every year, my IR1ANT call issued by the Ministry of Communication of my Country for the AAW event). In alternative, one can use his home callsign adding /AAW, or /ANT, or /WAP, or /A which stands for Antarctica to any special event callsign will be given a WAP reference number to be used during the event. I don't know the law/rules of foreign

countries, but the applicant should get in any case an authorization to eventually use his own callsign /ANT or /A etc.... , since just a pure own call is not a special event call, but a classic home call which could not be given a WAP reference number.

Participation is open and hunters can try to contact as many as AAW SES which WAP reference number can be used when applying for WAP Antarctic Awards according to the Award's rules. The list of participants already registered for the 10th AAW is available at WAP Web site at:

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

C6, BAHAMAS

Operators George/W4BUW (C6AGH), Joe/W8GEX (C6DX), Janet/ W8CAA and Joe/AA4NN will be active adjacent to the ocean on [Great Exuma Island \(NA-001\)](#), Bahamas, between January 20-27th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY, with three stations on the air. QSL C6AGH via W4BUW and C6DX via W8GEX.

C6, BAHAMAS

George, KQ8Z/GM0IIO, will once again be active as C6AZZ from [Grand Bahama Island \(NA-080\)](#), WLOTA 0527, WW Loc. FL06UO). This time it will be for the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 16-17th) and the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2-3rd) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (20m)/Low-Power entries. He states that he will be on other bands for a few days before and after the contests. If like last time, activity will focus on 6 meters (CW, SSB, FM) if there are any

band openings, other- wise on 80-10 meters, mainly CW with some SSB using his Icom 756 Pro3. George will use a 80m OCFD antenna at 40 feet. The 20m antenna will be a full sized 20m delta loop right on the beach vertically polarized with the apex at 40 feet. QSL via KQ8Z.

CQ NEWS (CQ Facebook "Fans" Top 10,000)

Richard, W2VU, Editor of CQ Amateur Radio, reports on January 9th:

"CQ Facebook 'Fans' Top 10,000 Mark - Nearly Half Under Age 45 -- As 2013 began, the number of 'likes' on the CQ Facebook page exceeded 10,000 for the first time. These fans of CQ continue to represent a considerably younger group of ham radio operators than organized ham radio has been reaching through traditional means. CQ has had a page on Facebook since 2010, and the demographics of its fans have remained consistent even at the numbers have grown.

'Over 46% of CQ's Facebook fans are under age 45,' said CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. 'In addition, fully three-quarters are under age 55 and 20% are under age 35. This is continued proof that there is a significantly higher number of younger hams 'out there' than we commonly see at club meetings and hamfests. It also shows that reaching these younger hams requires 'meeting them on their turf'.'

Facebook statistics show that CQ's fans are drawn from all over the world, with some 20 countries represented and members in the U.S. accounting for fewer than half of the

total. CQ's Facebook page may be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/CQMag>.

CQ Amateur Radio magazine < www.cq-amateur-radio.com > is the world's leading independent amateur radio publication, with print and digital edition readers in over 100 countries. CQ sponsors more than a dozen amateur radio contests and operating awards, including the world's most popular participation sport, the CQ World Wide DX Contest.

CQ is a publication of CQ Communications, Inc., which also publishes

Popular Communications www.popular-communications.com

CQ VHF www.cq-vhf.com and **WorldRadio Online** www.worldradiomagazine.com magazines. In addition, Spanish and Portuguese versions of CQ are published in Spain and Brazil, respectively."

DAYTON HAMVENTION NEWS

*** Contest Dinner** - Tim, K3LR, Dayton Contest Dinner Chairman reports - [edited] "The North Coast Contesters are proud to announce: The 21st Annual Dayton Contest Dinner

The 2013 Contest Dinner tickets are on sale now exclusively via the Contest Dinner Web site. Thanks to Scott, KA9FOX, and QTH.com for designing, building and running the Contest Dinner Web site:

<http://contestdinner.com>

Master of Ceremonies for the Dayton Contest Dinner is CQ Contest Hall of Fame member and World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) Chairman, John Dorr, K1AR. Dr. Robert G. Cox, K3EST will be our featured speaker.

The Contest Dinner will be held on Saturday night, May 18th, at 6:30 PM. Cash bar opens at 5:30

PM. Located at the newly renovated Crowne Plaza Hotel (Official Contester Hotel) 5th and Jefferson Streets (Next to the Dayton Convention Center) Dayton (Downtown), Ohio in the PRESIDENTIAL BALLROOM on the second floor.

Seating is random. Tables are set in rounds of 10. You can purchase an entire table for your club or group (purchased group tables are set for 8).

Tickets are only available at:
<http://contestdinner.com>

There will be no tickets for sale at the door. Also remember to visit the 25th annual Contest Super Suite (all FOUR nights during Dayton) - details are here: <http://contestsupersuite.com>
We expect another sold out event for the Dayton Contest dinner. Get your tickets early!"

*** Dayton Contest University -**
Tim, K3LR, CTU Chairman, reports [edited]: "I am pleased to announce that early bird registration (lowest fee) is now open for 2013 Dayton ConTest University ('CTU') to be held all day on Thursday May 16, 2013, at the Crowne Plaza in Dayton, Ohio.

Six different countries have hosted CTUs. USA, Germany, Italy, England, Brazil and Finland. CTU Australia will be held in a few weeks. Nearly 2000 students have attended CTUs with more than 60 CTU Professors sharing their contesting experiences.

2013 will be the seventh year in a row for CTU Dayton. The 2013 suggested CTU topics are listed on the CTU web site at:

<http://contestuniversity.com>

The 2013 CTU Professor line up is outstanding. New 2013 CTU Professors are - K5GN, N0JK, K9YC, K3EST and K6MM. Also past CTU Professors - who will give new papers this year are W3LPL, K1DG, W0YK, N0CB, N6TV, K5ZD, M0DXR and K3LR.

Details and early bird discounted registration information is on the CTU web site at:

<http://contestuniversity.com>

Important - as we did last year - if you want to sign up for CTU 2013 Dayton and you have given (or will give by Dayton 2013) a talk about Amateur Radio Contesting to any club, hamfest or group since May 20, 2012 - you qualify for a 10.00 USDs registration fee discount. Please choose the 'Registration w/Discount' option to get the 10.00 USDs discount. Spreading the word about contesting is lots of fun and can save you money!

Early CTU student signups will have the opportunity to help select the 2013 Dayton CTU class outline topics. For a limited time, once you have registered, please help construct the CTU curriculum content by going to this survey link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8XZG5NS>

Thanks to all of the CTU sponsors Icom America, Superbertha.com, DX Engineering, CQ Magazine and INRAD for making CTU possible. Thanks to W9PA and K1SO for all of their help with CTU. Special thanks to Scott, KA9FOX from QTH.com for hosting and constructing the CTU web site."

DXCC NEWS

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager, is now accepting the following operation for DXCC credit:

3D2C Conway Reef; 2012 Operation

If you had cards previously rejected for this operation please send an E-mail to bmoore@arrrl.org to be put on the list for an update.

DX MARATHON (Update)

John, K9EL, CQ DX Marathon Manager, reports [edited]:

"The 2012 DX Marathon ended at 0000z January 1, 2013, and the 2013 Marathon began immediately! Yes, everyone's country and zone count reset to Zero and the race for the most countries and CQ zones for 2013 is underway.

Everyone can participate in the Marathon details and complete rules are available at:

<http://www.dxmarathon.com>

The deadline for submission of 2012 logs is January 31, 2013. We know an earlier date was published, so the date was extended to avoid any confusion. Next year's deadline will be January 10, 2014.

To submit your score, use the latest Marathon Score Sheet (2012.5) that can be downloaded from the DX Marathon website. If you use computer logging, see the website for links to tools that simplify the submission process. Please note if you are using the ADIF to DX Marathon tool created by Jim, AD1C, make sure you are using the latest version. The tool changes each year in response to DX Marathon changes.

Double-check your submission for errors, making sure all information is filled out at the top of the form, BAND data was used instead of frequencies and MODE is either CW, Phone or Digital. SSB is also accepted. If you are entering in Formula Class, be sure to include a detailed description of your antenna. And don't forget to add your comments on the Marathon at the end of the form.

The Marathon offers special awards for single mode and single band sub-missions. Simply enter only QSOs for a particular band or mode and the computer will classify your submission accordingly.

The DX Marathon website offers additional information on pirates and other helpful hints. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at:

john@dxmarathon.com

Once your submission has been computer validated for all required information and proper formatting, your call sign will be listed on the received logs page on the DX Marathon website.

High claimed scores will be published in February and the complete results of the 2012 Marathon will be in the June 2013 issue of CQ Magazine."

DX SURVEY RESULTS (DX Magazine's 2012 Most Wanted Countries Survey)

DX Magazine's has published their Most Wanted Countries. Here are the "Top 20" (in the World-Wide "Weighted" Rankings Mixed Modes) as per DX Magazine (Jan./Feb. issue):

2012	2011
2012	2011

Rank	Prefix	Country	Rank	Rank
Rank	Prefix	Country	Rank	Rank
1	P5	North Korea	1	11
PY0S	St. Peter and Paul		16	
2	KP1	Navassa Island	2	12
KH5K	Kingman Reef		18	
3	3Y/B	Bouvet	3	13
ZL9	Auckland/Campbell		15	
4	FT5Z	Amsterdam	6	14
KH5	Palmyra		17	
5	VK0/H	Heard Island	4	15
SV/A	Mount Athos		14	
6	FT5/W	Crozet	7	16
E3	Eritrea		24	
7	BS7H	Scarborough	8	17
BV9P	Pratas Island		21	
8	VP8/S	South Sandwich	9	18
FR/JE	Juan de Nova/Europa		20	
9	ZS8	Marion Island	10	19
VP8/G	South Georgia		22	
10	FT5T	Tromelin Island	13	20
KH3	Johnston Island		23	

The "Top 100" is on the DX Publishing, Inc. Web site at:

<http://www.dxpub.net/MOST-WANTED-SURVEY.html>

EY, TAJIKISTAN

Nodir, EY8MM, from Dushanbe, will be active during the CQ 160 Meter CW Contest (January 25-27th) as a Single-Op entry. QSL K1BV via direct, by the Bureau or LoTW. Check out his home page at:

<http://www.ey8mm.com>

FR, REUNION ISLAND

Operator Pierre/F8APV will once again return to Reunion Island (AF-016) this time with Stéphane/F8EOI and be active as FR/F8APV and FR/F8EOI between January 21st and February 8th. Activity will be active on 40-10 meters, using a Buddipole antenna system (longer than standard with telescopic long whip) and with a focus on 30 meters CW and 20 meters SSB. QSL via their home callsigns. ADDED

NOTE: Pierre will accept skeds at:

pierre.goasguen.f8apv@gmail.com

FY, FRENCH GUYANA

Marc, F1HAR, will be active as FY5KE in the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2-3rd) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (15m)/High-Power entry. QSL via LoTW, by the REF Bureau or direct to FY5KE.

GB6, ENGLAND (Special Event)

Operator Herbie/G6XOU and friends will be operating as GB6WLB between January 19-27th, as part of the RNLi SOS Radio week. They will operate on most HF bands from Walton on the Naze, in **Essex, England. (EU-005, WAB TM22, Loc. JO01PU)**. Herbie is a keen PSK operator, and this call has been registered as EPC #19125. QSL via G6XOU - please see QRZ.com for details. All logs will be uploaded to eQSL.cc. Event details are on the Web site at

www.sosradioweek.org.uk

IOTA NEWS

EU-145. Operators Colin/G3VCQ, Andy/M0GAV and Sharon/M3VCQ will be active as CT7ACG (callsign pending) from **Culatra Island** (DIA Ai-01, DIP AL-001, PIP ST-019, WLOTA 0144) between July 26-29th. Activity will include an entry in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 27-28th). Outside of the contest, look for the team members to be active on all bands and modes. QSL direct or by the Bureau to CT7ACG. Look for updates at:

<http://www.sheffield-live.co.uk>

NA-143. Joe, K5KUA, will once again activate **Galveston Island**

(USI TX001S, Galveston county, Texas) between January 18-21st. Activity will be CW only on 40-10 meters, mainly 40/20m as conditions and time permits. QSL via K5KUA, direct or by the Bureau.

SA-050. Jose, CE8DMT, is now active from Puerto Williams on Navarino Island. His length of stay is unknown at this time. Activity has been on 40 and 15 meters SSB. QSL via his home callsign. **SA-096.** (A CALL FOR HELP/Donations) Lutz, DK8UH, Secretary & QSL Manager of GDXF, informs OPDX readers [edited]: "The GDXF has supported the LU6W DXpedition, which a short time ago activated the South American IOTA group SA-096 for the first time ever. The experienced crew with Cezar/VE3LYC, Johan/PA3EXX, as well as members of the Radio Club Puerto Madryn, experienced considerable difficulties on the **island of Escondida**. Both a team and a boat crew member were so severely injured, that an immediate return was required for medical attention. Items already off-loaded had to be immediately secured and left on the island, but were then lost to the heavy seas. This loss of several radios, antennas, a laptop and other equipment has hit the team hard financially. Further details can be read at:

<http://lu8w.yosalite.com>

The GDXF requests anyone who wishes to help to please donate to the LU6W team. All received donations will be forwarded and a list for accountability purposes will be published. For donations from outside of Germany: [PayPal - schmadel@ari.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:schmadel@ari.uni-heidelberg.de) Or for direct transfer:

Account holder: GDXF c/o Schmadel
Bank: Volksbank Neckartal eG
BIC: GENODE61NGD
IBAN: DE116729170000262036 00 "

J3, GRENADA

Bob, G3PJT, will be active as J34G from **Grenada (NA-024, WLOTA 0718)** between March 5-20th. Activity will probably be holiday style using a K2 w/100 watts and vertical antennas. He plans to also be in the RSGB's 75th Commonwealth Contest (March 9-10th). Look for him outside of the contest, especially on 80 and 30 meters. QSL via his home callsign.

J7, DOMINICA

Operators Bernie/W3UR (Editor of "The Daily DX") and his father Tony/N3ME will be active from Dominica (NA-101) between the end of January and early February. Their schedule and callsigns are as follows:

J77A - Operator Bernie; between January 22nd-February 1st

J76A - Operator Tony; between January 22nd-February 11th

ADDED NOTE: Their special prefixes represent the year they received their amateur radio license (1976 and 1977).

Activity will be during their spare time and on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via their home callsigns, direct or by the Bureau or LoTW.

JD1, MINAMI TORISHIMA

Take, JG8NQJ, will once again be active as JG8NQJ/JD1 from Marcus Island in the **Minami Torishima (OC-073)** group starting January 15th. He is there to work on the island's weather station and will stay until mid-April.

Activity will be mainly on 17/15/12/10 meters CW. QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau or direct to JA8CJY: Susumu 'Sin' Sanada, 5-17, 5-4, Shin-Ei, Toyohira, Sapporo 004, Japan. Online log is available at:

<http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?jd1-jg8nqj>

KH6BZF PROPAGATION FORECAST/REPORT (January 14-20th)

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

SOLAR REFERENCE KEYS/INDEXES AND GEOMAGNETIC REFERENCE

=====		
=====		
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	

OH0, ALAND ISLAND

Operators Juha/OH1JT, Ari/OH5DX and Tomi/OH6EI will be active as OH0Z during the CQ 160 Meter CW Contest (January 25-27th) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL via W0MM.

P2, PAPUA NEW GUINEA (Update)

Nao, JA2VQP, who has been in PNG since September 26, 2012, and will be there for the next two years, informs OPDX of the

following update. He is a volunteer of JICA (Japanese ODA) teaching mathematics at the Divine Word University in Wewak, East Sepic Province (north coast of PNG main land). He states that he has received a full PNG license, P29NO, thanks to some advice by Renzo, P29FR.

Nao, states,

"Recently, I brought my FT-857 and a antenna tuner from Japan. There is wide space to build up antennas, but I have no materials. I would like to start with a long wire. I would appreciate if anyone could send me materials to make antennas. Blacking out is very frequent, and the internet condition is really bad. I've not decided the QSL Manager yet. I have applied for the LoTW. I'll be in Port Moresby, the capital city of PNG, starting Jan. 19th, and stay for a week. Then I'll be able to get other things there. I will try to be active at Wewak by the end of this month, maybe. I can operate CW, SSB and RTTY. I am thinking of other modes."

So begin looking for P29NO in the coming months. Watch [QRZ.com](http://www.qrz.com) for updates.

PW7, BRAZIL (Special Event)

Look for members of the Natal Digital Group

<http://natal-digital-group.blogspot.com.br>

to [activate](#) special event station PW7F between January 18-20th. Activity is to celebrate the 413th anniversary of "Fortaleza dos Reis Magos" or also known as "Forte dos Reis Magos", located in the city of Natal, state of Rio Grande do Norte, BRAZIL. See [QRZ.com](http://www.qrz.com) for some pictures. Operations will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. Operators mentioned are Ed/PS7DX, Nazareno/PS7NN, Mac/PS7GL, Carlos/PS7KC and Nat/PS7HD. QSL Manager is PS7HD.

QSL INFO AND NEWS

QSL-INFO from DB0SDX (dated January 13th)

3Z21WOSP via SP5YOW DR13IGS
via DL9HCO OE2013U via OE3GCU
4L1HD via DL8KAC
EA8/DL8JJ/M via DL8JJ OP2A via
ON5CD
4O7CC via UA4CC EI8BLB via
EI3JB OX3LX via OZ1PIF
5Z4/DL7UCX via DL7UCX EM7AAA via
UT1AN OZ/F4BKV via F4BKV
5Z4/EA4ATI via EA4YK GB2GP via
GI4FUM PJ2/W1MJ via W1MJ
7X5NZ via EA7FTR GB4FE via
M1EDF SL7BT via SM7GUY
9X0PY via SM6CPY HB0/HB9LCW
via HB9LCW SQ0WOSP via SP7YLD
A61E via IZ8CLM HF5WOSP
via SP5PPK T88CP via JA6UBY
A71BO via A71A HF21WOSP
via SP9PDG UA2FL via RN3RQ
AE6XY/VK9L via JA1CJA HS0ZJS via
HB9PHJ UE75VV via RW0UM
CE2AWW via VE7WY (d) IZ0UIL via
M0OXO W7AVO/VK9L via JA3AVO
CN8KD via EA5XX KH7XS/W4
via K4XS (d) XR3Y via XQ7UP
CT8/EA5KA via EA5KA LU8EEM via
LU7DR XV9NPS via JA2NPS
CT9/MJ0ASP via MJ0ASP LZ20TRC
via LZ1YE YP10KQT via YO2KQT
DL/F4BKV via F4BKV LZ60RCP
via LZ1JZ Z320L via Z34M
DM0E via DL6UKW OE2013E
via OE4VIE
DN4SB via DG1EA OE2013LWV
via OE9LWV

(d) direct only (B)

Bureau only (L) LoTW only

CORRECT QSL ROUTE FOR V25A. Please take note that the current V25A QSL Manager is NOT W9NJB. The V25A callsign has been reassigned to KG2A in 2012, and he apparently only responds to direct QSL requests. W9NJB cannot handle these cards for 2012 and after.

POSTAL INCREASE (Italy). Gianni, I1HYW, informs OPDX that in 2013 an increase in Postal rate has reached a huge amount! He states, "Just to inform DXers of

the new postal rate in force since Jan. 1st, 2013, in Italy. Within Italy the rate goes from 0.60 to 0.70 cents, within Europe, from 0.75 to 0.85 cents. From Italy to North & South America, Africa & Asia, the rate goes from 1.60 Euro to 2.00 Euro. From Italy to Australia & Oceania from 2.00 Euro to 2.50 Euro. The USDs is trading in Italy to the value of 1 Euro = 1.3056 USD or 1 USD = 0.7659 Euro; that means it is necessary for 3 USDs to cover postal expense to deliver a letter to North & South America, Africa & Asia and 4 USDs to Australia & Oceania.

It's embarrassing to say that, but this is unfortunately, the situation that affects not only this country but I think, the entire globe. As QSL Manager of quite a few different foreign callsigns, I am therefore sorry to say that if there isn't a sufficient postal coverage, I can't deliver your QSL cards direct, nor put them in the bureau as for that, I should pay an extra costs (ARI asks about 35 USD/year for each different foreign callsign managed by the Italian bureau). I trust, in your understanding, and I suggest eventually to join your friends and send a cumulative requests in one envelope to share the costs (at least when you QSL through I1HYW)."

LOTW UPDATE. The ARRL's Web page and Letter report: "The processing queue for Logbook of The World (LoTW) -- the ARRL's online log processing system --

has been shrinking steadily since Monday, January 7th, when the system was brought back online after the completion of previously announced maintenance involving the installation of a new database server equipped with solid state drives (SSDs). Since then, the system has been stable and, as expected, the SSDs are proving to be much faster. As of January 9th, the delay between a file being uploaded and processed is about 8 days and is dropping by one day approximately every 10 hours."

TIME TO UPDATE YOUR GS-IRC

CHART. Bill, W9OL, states that this is the 15th year for his GS/IRC Chart and it's time to update the information/ data again. (U.S. Postage rates increase effective January 27, 2013)

Bill states, "Please take a look at the GS-IRC Chart and let me know of any changes in postage for the country YOU reside in. There is a lot of OLD data that I have NOT received updates on. If you live in or have a friend who resides in these missing countries, please elicit his help in obtaining the new information."

The current chart resides at:

http://www.qsl.net/w9ol/IRC_Chart.htm

If you wish to download the whole file, go to:

http://www.qsl.net/w9ol/IRC_Chart.xls

QSL RECEIVED VIA LoTW:

5T0SP, 5V7TH, 5W1SA, 7P8D, 8R1PY, C6AKQ, CT1JOP, FM/S35R, H7/AJ9C, HR2/NP3J, IQ3UD, J6/N7QT, JR1GMK, P40W, PJ2/K2PLF, PJ4D,

RI1ANF, T77C, TG9IDX, TO9R, V31MW, V31YK, V73CW, VE3RZ and WP3A

QSLs RECEIVED VIA MAIL: 3V8BB, 5V7TH, 7Z7AB, 9Y4LAS, A45XR, C5A, C50C, C6AUM, C6AZZ, E51AIU, EL2A, EL2DT, KH2/N2NL, LZ1ANA, P29NI, P29VPB, P29VCX, TF/VE3IKV, V63PR, VU3BPZ/mm and WA4DAN/CY0

QSLs RECEIVED VIA THE BUREAU:

5R8IC, 5R8X, 6O3A, 7X2ARA, 9K2/SP4R, 9M2/SQ9UM, 9M4SLL, 9M8DX/2, 9V1VV, 9V1WW, 9V40VV, 8R1PY, 9X0TL, BD1BYV, BV2WR, BW1/VR2RR, BX2AJ, BX2AN, CE0Y/LA5UF, DA2MORSE, E51MAN, EA9/G3TXF, FM/AI5P, HF36POL, HL5BLF, HR9/AI5P, J5NAR, KH8/AI5P, LZ20HR, LZ907SKB, LZ1363PTT, MU/F5CWU, PJ5/SP6EQZ, PJ5/SP6IXF, T2XG, T6MB, T8XO, TA2DA, TC4X, TO5T, TO8A, TX4T, TX6T/P, V5/DK1CE, VP2MXF, VP6T, XF3LH, XX9TTR, YB26SEAG, YB0DJ, YB0NDT, ZD8XF and ZX8C

ST, SUDAN

Lourens, ZS6AKB, is currently active as ST2/ZS6AKB when mobile in the Darfur region of Sudan. The length of his stay is not known, but he was heard on 20 meters January 10th - between 1600-1640z on 14181 kHz. He used a FT857 with a Tarrheel 11 antenna. Lourens normally lives in a small suburb (Eastvale) of a town called Springs approximately 70 Km east of Johannesburg.

SU, EGYPT

Gerd, DJ5IW, will once again be active as SU/DJ5IW from El Fardous between January 14th and February 8th. Activity will be

limited to his spare time and mainly on 40/20/17/15/12/10 meters CW only using a IC-756 PRO with 100 watts. There will be no 80m, 30m and RTTY because it is not allowed in Egypt. QSL via his home callsign.

TO1, FRENCH GUYANA

Herve, F5HRY, will be active as TO1A in the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2-3rd) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (10m)/High-Power entry. QSL via LoTW.

TRIATHLON DX CONTEST

Kostas, SV1DPI, Triathlon DX Contest's Manager, is inviting everyone to participate in the "1st Triathlon DX Contest". The Triathlon will take place the first full weekend of February every year. This year it will be on Saturday, February 2nd.

Kostas states,

"We are trying to simulate the original Triathlon athletic event. So we involved 3 major ham radio modes, RTTY, SSB and CW. It will be a 24 hour non-stop event divided in 3 sections, each one devoted to a different mode.

We start at 0000z on Saturday, February 2nd, with RTTY until 0759z. After that we continue from 0800z with SSB until 1559z, and finally there is the CW part starting at 1600z until 2359z. The exchange is simple; just 59(9) and serial number... Multipliers are the DXCC entities in every mode and band plus the number of different Greek stations you will work during the entire contest. There are simple mode categories and mixed mode as well. Also you can make your own teams and participate in team contesting

also. The best of all is that the winner will get a wonderful prize: 10 days all paid for 2 persons in **Zakynthos Island (EU-052)** in Greece, offer of Xenos Hotels Group. You can find more info as well as the complete rules in several languages at:

<http://www.triathlon-dx-contest.gr>

We are looking for your participation...

73... de Triathlon-DX-Contest team
dxtriathlon@gmail.com"

VK9C, LORD HOWE ISLAND

Tomas, VK2CCC (aka LY1F), will once again be active as VK9LL between September 22-29th. Activity will be limited to his spare time with a focus on 160/80 meters. QSL via LoTW, and by the Bureau or direct via VK2CCC. For updates and possibly more details, watch the following Web pages:

<http://www.qrz.com/db/VK9LL>

(Web page from his 2010 operation)

<http://www.qrz.lt/ly1df/vk9clh.htm>

XV, VIETNAM (IOTA Op!)

Just a reminder that operators Sei/JA7LU and Hiroo/JA2VWG will be active as XV4LU and XV4DDD, respectively, from Phu **Quoc Island (AS-128)** between January 12-16th (2013). Activity will be on 40/20/17/15/12/10 meters using SSB and RTTY. See <http://www.qrz.com> for details on QSL information.

YN, NICARAGUA

Scott, K7ZO, will once again be active as YN5ZO during the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2-3rd) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. He usually operates "Field Day Style" using a 5 band Spiderbeam and 40m dipole on a push up mast. The radio is a TS-590 driving a KPA-500 amp. QSL via LoTW and K7ZO, direct or by the Bureau. Look for Scott to be

active before the contest as well.

Z8, SOUTH SUDAN

Ken, K4ZW, is currently active as Z81Z from Juba. His length of stay is unknown at this time, but some reports say a month. Activity will be 80-10 meters CW. He was heard this past week on 40/20/15 meters. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by LoTW.

ZF, CAYMAN ISLANDS

Dick, WN3R, will be once again active as ZF2RW from **Grand Cayman Island (NA-016**, WLOTA 1042) between February 20-26th. Activity will be on all HF bands and modes. QSL via his home callsign direct (see QRZ.com).

ZK3, TOKELAU (Update)

Operators Hans/DL6JGN and Guenter/DL2AWG will be active as ZK3N from **Nukunonu Atoll (OC-048)** between April 23rd and May 8th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. They will be using a TS590 with a Tokyo Hy-Power solid state amp; K3 with a 500 watt solid state amp; AV640 and Tripod Leg for 40-10 and GP for 80m. QSL via DL2AWG. Subject to a reliable Internet connection, they will upload their log to ClubLog on a daily basis. Otherwise, the complete log will be uploaded upon their return. There is a ZK3N Web page available at:

<http://www.tokelau2013.de>

UP-COMING CONTESTS (complete)

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

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

+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 25
CQ 160-Meter Contest,	2200Z, Jan 25 to
CW	2200Z, Jan 27
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 26 to
	1200Z, Jan 27

February 2013

+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 1
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 2 to
	2400Z, Feb 3
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 2
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 2 to
	0100Z, Feb 4
North American	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 3
Sprint, CW	
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 8
YL-ISSB QSO Party,	0000Z, Feb 9 to
CW	2359Z, Feb 10
+ CQ WW RTTY WPX	0000Z, Feb 9 to
Contest	2400Z, Feb 10
+ New Hampshire QSO	1600Z, Feb 9 to
Party	2200Z, Feb 10
North American	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 17
Sprint, SSB	
ARRL School Club	1300Z, Feb 11 to
Roundup	2400Z, Feb 15
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 15
ARRL Inter. DX Con-	0000Z, Feb 16 to
test, CW	2400Z, Feb 17
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 22
+ CQ 160-Meter Contest,	2200Z, Feb 22 to
SSB	2159Z, Feb 24
North American QSO	1800Z, Feb 23 to
Party, RTTY	0559Z, Feb 24
North Carolina QSO	1500Z, Feb 24 to
Party	0059Z, Feb 25

The K7RA Solar Update

01/11/2013

After last week's somewhat downbeat look at sunspot cycles -- current, past and

future -- we sure have some great activity to report this week: The average daily sunspot number more than doubled in the past week, rising nearly 93 points to 163.3, while the average daily [solar](#) flux was up more than 37 points to 147.7. On top of that, the geomagnetic conditions were very quiet, which is a wonderful combination not often seen in more active solar cycles.

Sunspot numbers for January 3-9 were 116, 167, 181, 186, 196, 144 and 153, with a mean of 163.3. The 10.7 centimeter flux was 128.8, 143.1, 145.1, 142.2, 149.7, 155.6 and 169.3, with a mean of 147.7. The estimated planetary A indices were 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3 and 3, with a mean of 2.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 2, 1, 6, 3, 3 and 3, with a mean of 2.9.

There is a bit of uncertainty regarding the mid-latitude A-index for January 5-6. A 24 hour outage somehow blocked the data (from Fredericksburg, Virginia) on eight consecutive 3 hour readings from late January 5 (UTC) through early January 6. The mid-latitude K index tracked closely with the planetary K index from January 3-9, so if the data were not missing, the January 5 mid-latitude A index would probably have been a little higher, while the January 6 mid-latitude A index would be a little lower than reported. The daily A index is based solely upon the eight K index readings throughout the day.

Currently, NOAA and USAF predict solar flux values of 175 on January 11-12, 170 on January 13-14, 165, 150 and 125 on January 15-17, 105 on January 18-19, 110 and 120 on January 20-21, 125 on January 22-24, 130 on January 25-28, 135 on January 29, 140 on January 30-February 1, then 135, 140, 135 and 130 on February 2-5, and back down to 125 on February 6-7. The predicted planetary A index is 5 on January 11, 8 on January 12-13, 5 on January 14-19, 8 on January

20-21, 5 in January 22-25, 10 on January 26, 5 on January 27-February 2, 8 on February 3-5, 5 on February 6-8, and rising to 10 on February 9.

For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#).

The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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