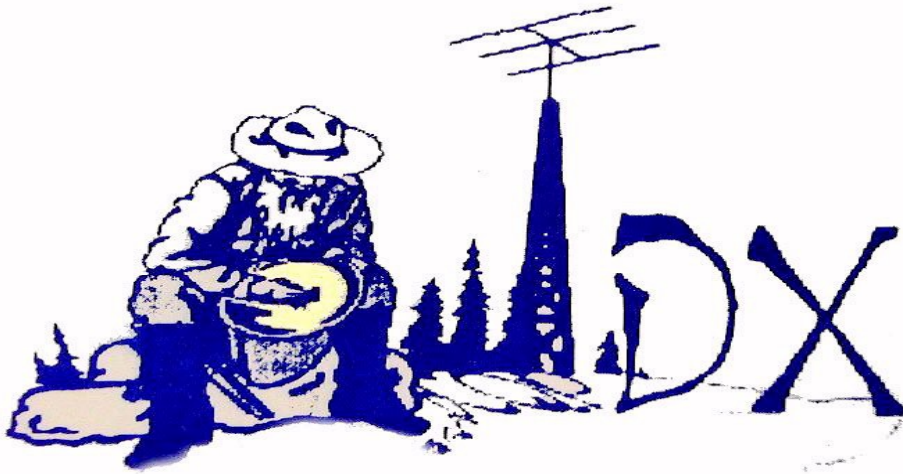


The Nugget



Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

MEETING DATE, LOCATION & PROGRAM

The Mother Lode DX / Contest Club is proud to have [John Miller, K6MM](#), present an overview of the recent Commemorative DXpedition to Wake Atoll at [our January 25th meeting](#) to be held at [The Old Spagetthi Factory in Stockton](#). Lunch meeting starts at [11:30AM](#), presentation to follow.

"K9W Commemorative DXpedition To Wake Atoll"



This DXpedition was dedicated to preserving the memory of the "Forgotten 98" a group of civilian contractors who lost their lives on Wake Island on October 7, 1943 during World War II.

[John Miller](#)

John was first licensed as WV2BQJ in 1958 while living in Syracuse, NY. In 1976, John's career took him to Silicon Valley, where he reconnected with amateur radio in the late 90s. In addition to his own website, he has created websites for a number of amateur radio organizations:
<http://www.qrz.com/db/K6MM>

For the last decade, John has focused heavily on DXing, contesting, and recruiting new operators into the hobby. His current DXCC total stands at 327 confirmed. He holds 8BDXCC, working on completing 160M for the 9th band. His article entitled "*The No Excuses 160M Vertical*" won the cover plaque award for the June 2009 issue of QST.

He was an operator in the [PJ7E DXpedition](#) to Sint Maarten, as they celebrated their special day of independence on 10-10-10.

John is a member of ARRL, INDEXA, MLDXCC, and PAARA. He is Past-President of the Northern California Contest Club, a Director of the Northern California DX Club, a founding member of the CW Operators' Club, a member of the editorial staff of the National Contest Journal, and a Director of the Northern California DX Foundation. He is also the co-chair for the 2013 International DX Convention in Visalia, CA.

As an operator and webmaster for the DXpedition, he looked forward to the pileups from Wake Island!

MLDXCC 2014 DUES ARE DUE!

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

Ms. Carolyn Wilson

P.O. Box 273

Somerset, CA 95684

Thank you. 73, Carolyn, K6TKD – Treasurer.

MLDXCC Meeting Dates:

April (no meeting)

December (no meeting)

2014-Officers

President – Bob, W1RH

Vice President – Verne, W6VMT

Secretary – Dick, K6LRN

Treasurer – Carolyn, K6TKD

Director – Rick, W6RKC

Director – Shirl, AA6K

Below is a picture of some of us at the November 2013 meeting.



FROM THE PREZ

Happy New Year, MLDXCC'ers!

As I write this, it's New Year's Eve, or to some, Straight Key Night. Not sure if I'll drag out the J38. We'll see.

We're in the middle of contest season and propagation has been good to us. We tried to do a serious club effort, for the first time, in the 10 meter contest and we may just break the top-ten, which was my goal. In looking at the 3830 scores, we're right up there with the clubs who were around 10th place last year. Thanks to everyone who contributed their score on behalf of MLDXCC. Thanks to Shirl (AA6K) for doing the log flog, and thanks to Norm (N6JV) for posting the scores on the web page.

I recently did my once-a-year upload to LOTW and saw a few new band-entities come back as a result. I also got one all-time new one confirmed. I uploaded everything to Club Log. While I was pleased to see the new band-entities, it reminded me that my numbers on the WARC bands are just pathetic. I really do need to at least work the USA on 17 this coming year! Upping the numbers on the WARC bands is my Ham Radio New Years resolution.

Speaking of Club Log, MLDXCC and REDXA always seem to leap frog each other. I took a look at the rankings (DXCC worked) this morning and it looks like MLDXCC is in 29th place and REDXA is in 36th.

The last few weeks of 2013 were good to me in the DX department. I worked three all-time new ones, which are getting harder and harder to come by at this point in my DXCC career. The three new ones were VU7AG, EP3PK, and XZ1J. The VU7 and XZ were worked long path. Both had absolutely huge signals at my place. I've got to thank Rick (W6NHC), one of our members, for cluing me in on a "secret" sked arranged by the NCDXC with EP3PK. All were worked on 20CW but I also got the VU7 on 20 phone. My current DXCC stats show 323 worked and 313 confirmed.

2014 will be my third and final year as MLDXCC President. This is a terrific club, with a lot of energy. I have enjoyed my two terms as President and am looking forward to the final term. I want to thank all of our 2013 officers for their outstanding service to the club, and this includes our outgoing VP, Rich (W6GH), our outgoing Secretary, Kay (K6KO), and Ray (ND6S) outgoing Board member. Verne (W6VMT) is our new VP, as well as new blood to the club, Dick (K6LRN) is our new Secretary, and Rick (W6RKC) has joined the Board. I also want to thank Rick (W6SR), and Norm (N6JV), for their outstanding work on the Nugget (Rick) and the website (Norm). Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank all of you – our members – for your outstanding contributions to the club in CQP, ARRL 10, and log submissions to Club Log. I really, really, have been thrilled to see many new contesters this year join the club. In our contest efforts, we have really proven that it takes every score to make us a winner. We can't do it with just the big stations. We

need all of you to do what you can....and you did it this year!

Verne (W6VMT) has already jumped right in and taken the bull by the horns! He has "roped" in a good one for our January meeting. John (K6MM), will be our guest speaker, talking about the Wake Island Dxpediton. The meeting will be in Stockton, at The Old Spaghetti Factory, on Saturday, January 25th. Please pass the word on to your friends from the local clubs. Encourage car pooling. Let's give John a great audience!

73, Bob, W1RH

The Outgoing VP SEZ

Happy New Year to all!

Congratulations to all that participated in the ARRL 10 Meter contest. As a total club entry I think we did a great job. BIG congratulations to Steve, W1SRD for taking the top spot for the club. I was not able to put much time into the 10 meter contest. We had our company Christmas party on the same weekend.

This is the end of my term as Vice President; I would like to thank the club for entrusting me with that position. Verne, W6VMT is the new Vice President and I wish him all the success in his new role.

At the home station I am finally sending my radio in for repair. I can't send it to Byron WA4GEG until February due to his busy schedule. It will be nice to have it back working at 100% again. My receiver's S meter will not go past S8. I started the contest season with the radio not working at 100%. It will be good to have it back in the shack and see signals that are 20 over again. I would like to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Have your new year filled with lots of DX and high contest scores. See you at the meeting in January.

73, Rich, WC6H

The Incoming VP's message

THE VP SEZ

Happy New Year to all!! Looking forward to 2014, hoping it brings everyone good health plus great DX

and Contesting. The January meeting, in Stockton, will have John, K6MM, giving us his presentation on the K9W DXpedition to Wake Atoll. Please invite a non-member interested in DX to the meeting. This will be a great presentation. If anyone has an interest or the ability to give a presentation in a particular area please don't hesitate to contact me. I put up a hexbeam antenna last year that has proved to work fine for my current situation. As a new Ham most contacts provide me with new entities or slots, so I'm fat, dumb and happy! Hope to see everyone on January 25th.

73, Verne, W6VMT

Treasurer's Report

Balance November 1, 2013:		1326.48
		\$1326.48
Income:		
Donation: W6RKC	5.00	
Dues: W6RKC	15.00	
	20.00	
		20.00
Expenses:	00.00	
Balance December 31, 2013:		1346.48
		\$1346.48

Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD - Treasurer

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

The History Of Amateur Radio Chapter 3

Amateurs entered the summer of 1912 with a new Radio Act in place. Thanks to the Titanic disaster and the fear that commercial interests would try to monopolize the radio spectrum, the government stepped in and set up a licensing structure administered by the Secretary of Commerce. In the new law, amateurs (actually "private stations") were limited to a wavelength of 200 meters and a maximum power of 1kw. Since the known usable spectrum at that time ran from about 300 to 3000 meters (1000 khz to 100 khz), it was widely believed that amateur radio would fade away, without expensive government enforcement. At first, it appeared that the bureaucrats were correct. Before the Radio Act, there were an estimated 10,000 stations. Now, there were only 1200 licenses issued by the end of 1912. Amateurs were finding it difficult to get their spark stations going on 200 meters, and, when they did, they discovered their maximum range was 25-50 miles, instead of the 250-500 mile range they had on the longer wavelengths. Amateur radio was slowly heading for oblivion. The big stumbling block to effective communications on 200 meters (or indeed any wavelength) was the spark transmitter and unamplified detector, both of which were extremely inefficient. On the transmitting end, no method, other than spark, was known. As for the receiver, there had been two developments in the vacuum tube area. J.A. Fleming had developed the diode detector in 1904. It cost a lot of money, provided no amplification, and used expensive batteries. It was not practical at the time, but it was covered by a patent. In 1906, Lee deForest took Fleming's valve, added a third element, called a grid, and named the result the Audion. In the right circuit, the Audion could amplify by a factor of 5x. Still, because of the cost, battery requirement, and the ever popular patent fights of the time, it went unnoticed and unused until 1912, when a 22 year old amateur made an important discovery. Edwin H. Armstrong was an experimenter and almost militant individualist. He had obtained an Audion for use in his station. Dissatisfied with the poor amplification, he tried different circuits. At one point, he "fed back" a portion of the output back to the input to be re-amplified. Instead of just a 5x amplification, the output was now 100x stronger than the input. He also discovered that if too much feedback was used,

the tube began to oscillate. This regenerative circuit was the most important discovery in radio in years. One tube could amplify more than 100x, two tubes in series could give a gain of 2000+. In addition, an alternative to spark was now available. Instead of a raspy, broad inefficient signal that took up hundreds of khz, the Audion could be made to oscillate a stable, pure signal on one frequency. In fact, that's where the phrase c.w. comes from, (a continuous wave on one frequency rather than a broad, intermittent wave on many). Although it would take 10+ years to develop the stability in transmitters and receivers to fully utilize c.w., King Spark was doomed.

Realizing the importance of his regenerative design in both transmitting and receiving, but lacking the money to develop it, in January 1913 Armstrong had the diagrams of his circuit notarized. This was only the first of many spectacular inventions Armstrong would come up with. Within 10 years, he would also develop the superheterodyne (now used in ALL receivers), and the superregenerative (the basis of all VHF and UHF receivers from the 20's to the 50's, and still used today in children's walkie-talkies). Even his first design, the regenerative circuit, is used by Ten-Tec and MFJ in their receiver kits. The crowning achievement in Armstrong's career came in the 30's, when he developed Frequency Modulation. With all due respect for those who flock to Loomis, Tesla, or Marconi as the father of radio, my vote goes to Armstrong, for without him, wireless would be stuck at the 1912 level. Armstrong had a tempestuous life, full of public and private battles, advancements, setbacks and lawsuits, before his tragic death in 1954. The final legal battles didn't end until 1967. The Wayback Machine will devote an entire column to Armstrong this fall. Meanwhile, back in 1913, word of the regenerative circuit spread quickly throughout the amateur world. Experimenters who added the Audion to their receivers discovered that distances of up to 350 miles were now possible on 200 meters. The Audion, already scarce and expensive, became even more so under the laws of supply and demand. The search for an Audion to the amateur was like the Quest for the Holy Grail. In fact, it was this search which led to the

second pivotal event in amateur radio history.

Hiram Percy Maxim was a 44 year old engineer and inventor who had a 1kw amateur station in Hartford, CT. He wanted an Audion for his receiver and was unable to locate one. Finally, he heard of an amateur in Springfield ,MA, who had one for sale. Hartford was (and still is) only 30 miles from Springfield, yet Maxim's station could not cover the distance. He found a station midway between the two cities that was willing to relay his purchase offer. Maxim thought about this and eventually realized that a national organization was needed to coordinate and standardize message relay procedures, as well as act as a national lobby for amateur radio interests. On April 6, 1914, Maxim proposed the formation of the American Radio Relay League. With the backing of the Radio Club of Hartford, who appropriated \$50, and some volunteers, Maxim developed an application form explaining the purpose of the ARRL and inviting membership. These were sent out to every known major station in the country. Maxim, like Armstrong, was a prolific inventor. Unlike Armstrong, however, Maxim was also an expert in publicity and public relations. By July, national magazines such as Popular Mechanics were writing favorable reports about the ARRL. Maxim also traveled to Washington, D.C., to explain the ARRL to the Department of Commerce and the Commissioner of Navigation. The P.R. blitz paid off. By September, 1914, there were 237 relay stations appointed, and traffic routes were established from Maine to Minneapolis, and Seattle to Idaho. Realizing that long distances on 200 meters were not possible at that time, even with a regenerative receiver, Maxim got the Department of Commerce to authorize special operations on 425 meters (706 khz) for relay stations in remote areas. Boosted by the publicity, the number of amateur stations, as well as the relay stations in the ARRL, continued to grow. By 1916, there were 6000 amateur licenses, (of which 1000 were ARRL relay stations) and 150,000 receivers in use. The emphasis in the ARRL was on the word RELAY; ARRL stations were expected to handle traffic on the 6 Main Trunk Lines (3 North/South and 3 East/West) that served more than 150 cities. And there was traffic. The general

population (to whom phones were a luxury, long distance an exotic concept, and telegrams expensive) flocked to the idea of coast to coast free messages. As a P.R. exercise to test the system nationwide, on Washington's Birthday, 1916, a test message was sent to the Governors of every State, and President Wilson in Washington, D.C.. The message was delivered to 34 States and the President within 60 minutes. By 1917, the system was so refined that a message sent from New York to California took only 45 minutes. To deal with the increasing number of relay stations, the ARRL started a little magazine, which they called QST. Other amateur activities in this period brought favorable publicity to the hobby. In March 1913, a severe windstorm had knocked out power, telegraph and telephone lines in the midwest. Battery powered amateur stations handled routine and emergency traffic until regular service was restored. This was the first documented emergency communications in amateur radio history. In 1915, amateur station 2MN determined that the powerful Telefunken station at Sayville, Long Island, was sending information concerning Allied and neutral shipping to submarines at sea. Thanks to the work of this amateur, the government took over the station. However, the war in Europe was getting closer. In April, 1917, based on continued violations of our neutrality and unrestricted submarine activity, Congress declared war against Germany.

With the U.S. now in World War I, a message went out from the Secretary of closed AND DISASSEMBLED, and all antennas taken down. Complete radio silence was to remain until the war ended. Commerce to all private stations. By order of the Chief Radio Inspector, all transmitting and the order was revoked. Amateurs by the thousands packed away their stations and marched off to war. The 200 meter band was silent. In September 1917, with no radio activity permitted and 80% of the amateurs at war, QST ceased publication.

Would amateur radio survive the war?

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Editor's Notes de Rick, W6SR

Hi all.....

Well, lots of stuff going on here over the last two months.

The driven element on C-3 came loose a few days before the 10M contest. The problem was most likely caused by the assembler, (me) who didn't tighten the nuts/lock-washers properly.



I called for help, and Kirby, AD6FP offered to be the "tower man" while I did the ground work and played monkey & go-fer.

This time all the "U" bolts on the C-3 elements were fitted with Ny-Lock nuts, so this problem shouldn't happen again. BTW: I did operate the last hour of the 10M contest just to check thing out and made 100+ QSO's. As you can see in the photo, the driven element on the C-3 is not 90 degrees to the boom, this is not a good thing. Thanks again Kirby for your help.

We were in the LA area for few days just before Xmas to see the kids, and Grandkids. As usual, we stayed with my daughter in Rolling Hills Estates. She lives

very close to my old friend Chip Angle, N6CA, so Chip spent a couple of hours jawing abt. Ham radio, fixing the worlds problems, and swapping lies. Hi Hi

For Christmas I bought my wife a new Dell laptop computer, to replace her net-book. However, getting rid of the bloat-ware that is included these days was a monster PIA. With the help of Dave, W6DE, it was accomplished, and her new computer had her e-mail and favorites setup when she first turned it on, it was turn-key. Yeah, she really liked that!

I picked-up a new radio toy for my Christmas present. I bought a used Alpha 91B power amplifier that I just couldn't pass-up. It is a 9.8 on a scale of 1-10, and if pushed, will output the full legal power + 70% (you do the math).



Last August and September I operated the 10GHz and up contest. I just checked the results and it turns out my 676 Km was the longest distance QSO, in the contest. Not bad for 4.5W into a 30" prime-focus dish, btw: Norm, N6JV fabricated the dish mount and feed. The contact was from Bald Mountain (N/W of Sacramento) to Mt. Potosi, Nevada (near the Nevada/California border and the I-5). If your interested, the complete results of the contest can be found on the ARRL website under "Contest Results".

Lastly, I finally setup WINWARBLER, an RTTY program, on my PC and worked K9W for my first RTTY DX country. Followed in quick secession by another 20+ new countries on the RTTY mode. My goal is small, at least 100 countries confirmed next year, on RTTY via LOTW. Let's see how that plays-out.....

ENF fer now, see you all the 25th at our meeting in Stockton.....**de Rick, W6SR**

Member News, Items For Sale & ARRL Announcements & Feedback

Below is picture of Steve, K6SCA at the controls his FB station.



When sunspots were good in Nov., I worked a few, then used Log Book of the World credits in two separate submissions to add about 60 band/mode countries... some CW, some RTTY + a couple of phone countries. Not quite to 200 RTTY countries. 319 phone countries, (have a few 'deleted' that don't count).

Looking forward to FT operation & maybe find So. Shetlands...but, not much hope for things like Navassa, Iran (altho that pops up from time to time), and a few others. 73, **Dick, K6LRN**

Radios For Sale

I have bought another radio and have my trusty Icom 765 PRO III for sale. This is a great radio! This a late production (high serial number) radio. It has the 7600 type

finals in the output stage. During the production run of the PRO III, the supplier discontinued the transistors used in the PRO III final amplifier. Icom re-engineered the finals and put in what was to become the same final circuitry used in the later model Icom 7600. The radio is in perfect condition, includes the original manual, hand mic and power cord. It is in the original Icom box. \$1850 picked up in Placerville California. **Contact Dave @ 530-409-7877.**

I'll send you the QST review if you would like, reply to me individually (off-list) and I'll send it.

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

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

Contact Dave, at 530-409-7877.

For Sale.

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

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

73s, Jim-WX6V

I won a MA-40 US tower at the 2013 IDXC, which I am offering up for sale. The tower is located at US Towers location in Woodlake and could be picked up from or shipped from there. I have spoken with Vicky Contreras at US Tower and she will honor a transfer of the certificate/tower to the new recipient provided I simply provide her with the name and contact information of the buyer. **Asking price is \$700.00.**

As stated on the certificate "Value \$1806.00, shipping not included." Thank you and 73,

Bradford S. Enockson – W6EA
25777 Harzburg Road
Menifee, CA 92584-8673
W6EA@verizon.net

George, KI6CG sent me a note that a good listing & explanation (complete with charts) of the massive 6M e-opening that occurred in June of 2013 is in the latest RF Concept (the old Alpha Power) newsletter (Dec 2013). If ur interested in 6M, go to their website and check it out. (I was lucky enough to catch S57RR for a new on 6M on this one ed.)

Folks,

I have a 4 or 5 ziplok bags containing ceramic insulators. I want to get rid of them. For Free.

So, if you are interested in this stuff, drop me a note and I can provide more info.

If you don't want this stuff but can cross post this to another club's list, please do so. Please contact me at na6br@blandranch.net

Chuck

What is the Centennial QSO Party?

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party is a year-long operating event that celebrates hams making contacts. In the end you will have accumulated points, worked new stations and made new friends all over the world.

The Centennial QSO Party is made-up of two main activities: (1) W1AW operating portable in each state and most territories; and (2) The Centennial Points Challenge which is the accumulation of points from qualifying contacts made throughout 2014. To have a score listed online in the Points Challenge competition, logs must be submitted through the [Logbook of the World \(LoTW\)](#) system.

W1AW will be on the air from every state and most territories, and it will be easy to work WAS working only [W1AW portable operations](#). This is the first ARRL-sponsored operating event where every member is worth at least one point, so work as many points as you can during 2014! Earn awards based upon points, working all states or working W1AW portable in every state and territory. This is an on-the-air event like no other.

For more info. See the website below.

<http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party>

Tube of the Month de Norm, N6JV THYRATRONS

The first triode tubes were made to be sensitive detectors. They had a low vacuum and were gassy. The best sensitivity was achieved when the operating parameters were set just before the tube went into conduction due to the gas. With the gas ions adding to the electron flow, the tube became a switch. In the future, this switching action was used for many applications and these tubes were called thyratrons. They were made as triodes, tetrodes and pentodes and used several gasses such as hydrogen, mercury, argon and neon.

Thyratrons are very fast, high current switches. They are used in electronic speed controllers for power machinery as they will operate with small control voltages. A simple DC power supply will work with a thyatron as a rectifier when the grid is positive and it can be turned off with a negative voltage. No need for heavy switches or relays. The famous proximity fuse used a miniature thyatron to fire its explosive.



RADAR is a common use for high current and voltage thyratrons. The grid voltage can be controlled by a timer to produce the required pulse duration. When the thyatron fires, a capacitor that is hooked to a pulse transformer discharges. The surge in the transformer secondary causes a pulse of voltage to a magnetron over the required time interval required to “see” its target. A tube such as the 5949 that was used in the AN/MPQ-21 RADAR, could handle 25,000 volts at 500 amps. These tubes are made much larger.

Modern thyratrons, like this CX2708, are being made with ceramic insulation.



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

Meeting Minutes, 9 November 2013.

President Bob, W1RH, called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon at Mountain Mike's Pizza in Martell, with 20 members and 1 guest present.

Introductions. Round-the-room introductions were made and guest Pete, W6OOL was welcomed.

Officers' Roll Call. Present were Bob, President; Rick, WC6H, Vice President; Carolyn, K6TKD, Treasurer; Kay, K6KO, Secretary; Ray, ND6S, Director; Norm, N6JV, website administrator; and Rick, W6SR, *Nugget* newsletter editor.

Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report. The 19 October 2013 Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved as published in the June *Nugget* newsletter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Future Meeting Dates, Venues and Presentations. There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be held on 25 January; since it falls so late in the month, it will be a combined January/February meeting, with no meeting during the month of February. The venue for January/February will be

announced later, with Stockton as a possibility. The March meeting will probably be held on the 15th, venue and program TBA. The history of building and operating superstation W7RN was raised as a possible program topic in the spring of 2014.

Dues Policy. Dues for the current calendar year have been optional; however, to be a "member in good standing" and eligible for awards, dues must be paid. The dues policy during the first year of membership will be discussed at the January/February meeting.

Club Contributions. The Club made no contribution to the NCDXF in 2013; the last contribution as a Club was in August 2012, at which time the policy was to donate as a Club and also individually at the member's discretion.

Club Contest Focus. The Club will enter the up-coming 10-meter contest, both CW and SSB, as a "Medium Club", not a "Local Club". Rules for a "Local Club" state 10 logs with a radius of 35 miles from the club center.

NEW BUSINESS.

Election of 2014 Officers and Board Members. The following were elected: Bob, W1RH will continue for a final year as President; Verne, W6VMT will step in as Vice President; Carolyn, K6TKD will continue as Treasurer; Dick, K6LRN agreed to be the Recording Secretary; and Shirl, AA6K will continue as Director while Rick, W6RKC will be the second Director.

Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Those present at the meeting were:

CALL	NAME	QTH	MLDXCC	NCCC
K6KO	KAY	PINE GROVE	X	X
K6TA	KEN	PINE GROVE	X	X
K6OLY	JIM	SHINGLE SPRINGS	X	
W6VMT	VERNE	PLEASANT VALLEY	X	X
K6LE	RICK	MODESTO	X	X
K6YK	JOHN	STOCKTON	X	
W6RFF	JETTIE	ROSEVILLE	X	X
ND6S	RAY	SUTTER CREEK GOLD	X	X
N6JV	NORM	SACRAMENTO	X	X
WC6H	RICH	VALLEY SPRINGS	X	X
W6OOL	PETE	SAN JOSE		
N6RC	RICHARD	CAMPBELL	X	X
K16CG	GEORGE	GRASS VALLEY	X	X
K6TKD	CAROLYN	OMO RANCH	X	X
K6LRN	DICK	OMO RANCH	X	X
W6RKC	RICK	PINE GROVE	X	X
W1RH	BOB	LOTUS	X	X
W6SR	RICK	PLACERVILLE	X	X
K6SCA	STEVE	FIDDLTOWN	X	
K6QG	LYLE	VALLEY SPRINGS	X	
K6BEW	BRANDT	JACKSON	X	X

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Anderson, K6KO

Secretary

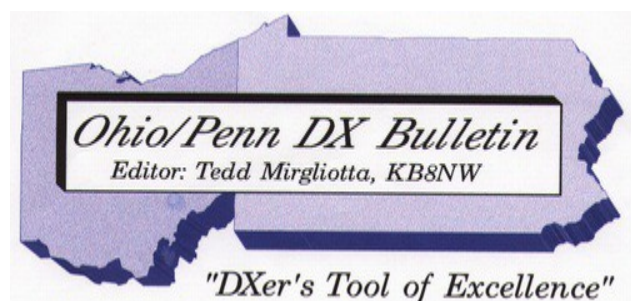
Click on the Hyperlink below to check-out the
MLDXCC scores in the latest contests.

<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 1143 December 30, 2013

The Ohio/Penn Dx PacketCluster
DX Bulletin No. 1143
December 30, 2013
Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW
Provided by BARF80.ORG (Cleveland, Ohio)

1A, SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA (Reminder)

An "international team" of operators led by Francesco, IK0FVC, will be active as 1A0KM from the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) between January 2-7th (2014). At present time, operators will be Francesco/IK0FVC, Luciano/I0JBL, Sergio/IK0FTA, Roberto/IK0PRG, Michele/IW0BYL, Gianfranco/I0ZY, Antonio/I0GOJ, Fabrizio/I0HCJ, Marco/IK0DWN, Giordano/IK0XFD, Gianluca/IK5HHA, Cristiano/IZ0IEN, Andrea/IZ0NRG, Rudi/DK7PE, Franz/DJ9ZB, Seppo/OH1VR, Robert/S53R and Sandro/VE7NY. QSL via Sergio, IK0FTA, and also LoTW. 1A0KM operation supports the DX-Code of conduct. Online log facility will be also available. Look for more details to be forthcoming. Also, a Web page is now up and running, but with limited info at:

<http://www.1a0km.org>

5C, MOROCCO

Ruggero, IK2PZC, will once again be active as 5C2P between February 6-9th. Activity will be on HF bands using SSB and RTTY. He will also be in the CQ WPX RTTY Contest (February 8-9th). QSL via IK2PZC.

5Z, KENYA

"DX-World.net" reports that Scott, WA5A, will be active as 5Z4/WA5A from Ruaka starting around the first week of January 2014, until about January 28th. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands. QSL via his home callsign.

6W, SENEGAL

Just a reminder that Francis, F6BLP, will once again be active as 6W7SK from Saly Portudal, 80 kms south of Dakar on the coast, between January 3-31st, 2014. Activity will be holiday style using the same station as last time (IC-7000 into G5RV antenna) operating mainly CW on 80-10 meters. If possible, he also hopes to be active on 160m with an Inverted L. QSL via F6BLP, direct or by the Bureau. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW and eQSL. For more details, logs and pictures of his last operation, visit:

<http://www.f6blp.org>

7Q, MALAWI

Ken, IA7GIA, is expected to be active as 7Q7GIA for one week in May/June of 2014. QSL via his home callsign.

8Q, MALDIVES

By the time you read this, Mike, OE1SSS, will be in the Maldives and plans to be active as 8Q7SM. On his QRZ.com page, Mike states from December 28th to January 4th, he and his XYL will stay on the boat "SCUBASPA" for diving. After this trip, they will go to the Kandooma Resort and stay on the island until January 11th. Activity will be on 40/30/20/10 meters (depending on the conditions and his XYL). QSL via his home callsign.

C5, THE GAMBIA

Pedro, ON7WP/C5WP, announced on QRZ.com that he and Andre, ON7YK/C5YK, are or will be the only two permanent licensed hams in The Gambia for 2014 (as of now). Pedro will be active between January 11-15th, from the village Buntu (where he does charity care), and has set up his permanent base station (Kenwood TRC-80 Bush Radio and a brand new 5 band Spiderbeam). He also states [edited],

"Additionally, I will put up some traveling wave V-beam antennas to USA and EU. We will also try some low band activity, but due to poor soil conductivity I expect not too much apart from extremely low noise levels

(closest electricity wall outlet is 80 km away). Between January 16-22nd, we will move to the Kololi area where we will try some serious Low Band stuff based on a sea mounted vertical, together with dipoles and the V-beam for the high bands." See QRZ.com for QSL info.

C6, BAHAMAS

John, 9H5G, will once again be active as 9H5G/C6A from Stocking Island, [Great Bahama Bank \(NA-001\)](#), between January 1-31st, 2014. Activity is usually on 160-10 meters, using SSB and the Digital modes (PSK/RTTY/JT65/JT9). He announced on QRZ.com,

"I intend to travel throughout the Bahamas during the winter and spring of 2014 activating the following groups: NA-001 [Great Bahama Bank group, NA-113](#) 36.6% [South Bahamas group, NA-054](#) [Berry Islands and NA-048](#) [Bimini Islands](#). Some of these are rarer than others, but since I will be traveling by boat, I am required to validate [NA-054](#) and [NA-048](#) through the IOTA Committee. I also hope to activate some islands that are not on the list, even although they seem to qualify (Hogsty Reef, Melita Cay). I hope to have more information on this soon." Watch QRZ.com for updates. QSL via LoTW, eQSL or direct to Buzz, NI5DX.

C9, MOZAMBIQUE (Update)

Karel, ZS6ALB, informs OPDX that he is now permanently based in Mozambique and is active as C91KHN (C91C during contest) from Matola, Mozambique (Grid locator KG64fa). He has been busy upgrading his station, changing the current Hygain tri-bander for a Mosley 67B 6-bander. However, Karel informed OPDX on Christmas Eve that he "will be away for the festive season and will be back in C9 country on 13 January 2014." After the upgrades, he states that he will be active on the following bands and modes:

Band Operations: 6m - 5 element Yagi
40/20/17/15/12/10m - Mosley 67B
Modes: SSB and Digital modes PSK31, RTTY and JT65A (using Rigblaster Advantage)
QSL via his home callsign direct (preferred). Log will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog.

C9, MOZAMBIQUE (Update)

By the time you read this, operators John/ZS5J and YL Beth/2W0VOW will once again be in Ponta de Ouro and be active as C91J and C91B, respectively. John informs OPDX that their "ten day C91J and C91B DXpedition (earlier this month) was such a success (and really enjoyable) that we have negotiated with the owner of the sea-view cabin we stayed in, to go back for another

ten days. We will be in Mozambique tomorrow 28th December through 6th January. We will be taking more antennas this time, specifically...resonant antennas on 40/17/12, so we will be able to use the amplifier on these bands, which we were not able to do on our last trip. So, 40 - 6 meters, SSB, CW and we will attempt the digital modes and RTTY also." Remember, you can see pictures from Beth on QRZ.com under C91B. QSL only direct to PO Box 102303, Meerensee, 3901 SOUTH AFRICA (with 3 USDs and your QSL card, and you will get a QSL card back direct via air mail).

CE, CHILE

Bob, YV5IAL, will be active as CE2/homecall from Valparaiso between January 2-30th, 2014. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using PSK-31 with some SSB. QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau or direct.

DL60, GERMANY (Special Event)

OV Mainz, DLOMZ, will be celebrating 60 years of activity and will be active between January 1st and December 31st, 2014, as DL60JMZ from the special DOK 60K07. QSL via the Bureau.

EA, SPAIN (via 60m News)

Javier, EA7OP, is reporting that SETSI is allowing EA stations to operate on 60m band between January-July 2014 on a channel basis. Allowed channels [kHz]: 5268, 5295, 5313, 5382, 5430 and 5439. The bandwidth to be used is 3 kHz. Power output 100W. Modes CW/SSB.

FR/T, TROMELIN (Press Release) [edited]

"Hi friends -- Most of the DXers consider entities as check boxes to tick once the country is worked and confirmed. That's the game! However, we hope to bring you a lot more than just a simple check mark as you discover our next destination... Let's talk about the 9th most wanted DXCC entity according to the Clublog statistics, an empty box for 75% of the amateur radio community.

Tromelin, as well as Glorioso, Juan de Nova, Europa, belongs to the 'Eparses', a French word to name these small islands scattered around Madagascar. These French territories are administered by the TAAF (Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises). Their access is strictly controlled and regulated in particular for ecological reasons. Tromelin is the smallest one (1 square km) and the human impact is all the more sensitive. That's the only island where there are no French military troops and only 2 agents of the TAAF are posted there continuously.

The last operation took place in 2000. A 4 men team made 50,000 contacts with the callsign FR/F6KDF/T. No authorization has been given ever since.

2014 will be the 60th anniversary of the 1st hamradio activity from Tromelin. The operator was Marc, FB8BK/T.

Today, after some successful collaborative work with the TAAF authorities, we are proud to announce that we received our landing permission and got the green light to conduct an amateur radio operation on this remote island.

We'll be active on Tromelin from October 30th to November 10th, 2014. 6 operators have been allowed to stay of the island. They have been selected for their experience and all six are ready to face the challenge. The team is made up of Seb/F5UFX, Michel/FM5CD, Flo/F5CWU, Eric/F5SIH, Franck/F4AJQ, and Fred/F5ROP.

The request is huge and we are conscious of this. For this reason, we are working hard in order to prepare our operation in depth. Some places in the world will have short openings and we'll do our best to exploit these short moments with proper planning adjusted with the help of pilots.

The coming months will be devoted to the search of sponsors. We already have part of the equipment but partnership with equipment suppliers will be essential. On the other hand, we will contact foundations, clubs, organizations to request assistance to help us balance our budget, estimated at 90,000 USDs, most of which is devoted to logistic costs.

Our website is online. All details regarding the progress, plans of the DXpedition and sponsorship opportunities will be accessible through dedicated pages....

<http://www.tromelin2014.com>

We will regularly keep updating you until our departure.

Team Tromelin 2014

Seb F5ufx, leader@tromelin2014.com "

HI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Look for a Russian team to be active as HI8/homecall from the Dominican Republic between December 30th and January 7th. Operators mentioned are Andrey/RU4LG, Dmitry/RA4LB, Serge/UA4LGS and Pavel/UA4LL. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, PSK and RTTY. The group may participate in the ARRL RTTY Roundup Contest (January 4-5th). QSL via their home callsigns.

IOTA NEWS

AF-032. Vittorio, I2GPT, will be active as 5H1VC from **Zanzibar Island** (WLOTA 1080, WWFF 5HFF-003) between January 4-12th, 2014. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using CW and RTTY (20m only) for the first time (Please have patience). QSL via RW6HS, direct (see QRZ.com) or by the Bureau.

OC-042. Mike, W6QT, will be active as DU3/W6QT from Luzon Island until March 2014. Activity has been 40/20/15/10 meters, but he actually likes working the lower bands. QSL via his home callsign.

OC-139. Andy, VK5MAV, will once again be active as VK5MAV/p from **Kangaroo Island** (WLOTA 0869) between February 3-10th, 2014. Activity will be holiday style on 40-10 meters using mostly CW. 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! Logsearch and QSL requests are also via the ClubLog OQRS system.

SA-025. (Delayed) Operators Raimundo/PT7CG and Renner/PY7RP were expected to be active as ZX8DX from Pedra do Sal Beach on **Grande de Santa Isabel Island** between December 26-30th. However, the ZX8DX operation was delayed. PT7CG intends to activate the island in the first two weeks of January.

ISWL CALLSIGNS (For January)

The following ISWL club callsigns will be used throughout the month of January 2014:

GX4BJC/A - Operated from Great Sutton, in Cheshire, by Geof/MOBAU. (WAB Square SJ37 - England, IOTA **EU-005** and WLOTA LH-1841).

MX1SWL/A - Operated from Skegby, in Nottinghamshire, by Merv/GOUJD. (/A WAB Square SK56 - England, IOTA **EU-005** and WLOTA LH-1841).

ALL QSLs will be handled by Herbie, G6XOU, and NOT the individual operator. The I.S.W.L. is a member of the European PSK Club. All QSL info is on

www.iswl.org.uk or www.qrz.com or via www.eQSL.cc

. NO LoTW. I.S.W.L. Awards are available to all Hams and SWLs, see www.iswl.org.uk for full details. The eQSL.cc cards ARE welcomed for their awards.

J7, DOMINICA

John, AD8J, will be active as J79JG between January 29th and February 7th. Operation will be mostly CW, holiday style when not scuba diving. QSL to his home callsign or LoTW.

PJ4, BONAIRE (Update)

Bill, K9HZ, is now active as PJ4HZ (not PJ4/K9HZ as first reported) from **Bonaire (SA-006)** until January 4th, 2014. Activity

(e) eQSL only (d) direct only (B) Bureau only (L) LoTW only (*) With Donation for social service.

IRC REDEMPTION ETC... QSL Manager Phil, G3SWH, reports: "Hi gang -- Just a cautionary note for those of you who still use IRCs. With effect from 1st January 2014 and in common with most other UK based QSL managers, I will *NOT* be accepting IRCs for payment for return postage. They are just too much hassle. QRS and US dollars are much preferred and easier to handle. Please take a look at

<http://www.g3swh.org.uk/postage.html>

which has been in place for about six months. In that time, I have received probably less than 10 of the new, 2017 expiry IRCs.....

73 and Happy New Year to you all"

QSL RECEIVED VIA LoTW: 9H3TX, BG2AUE, F1RHS, F5MMB, G3YNN, HA1AD, JH7MQD, JW/PY2SEX, JW7XM, K4W, K9W, LA7HJA, M7X, OE6MDF, OK1WCF, OL7M, ON5GQ, PA0O, PJ4A, R7MA, RK9UAH, S21ZBB, S21ZBC, SP6GF, VE9DX, VU3WIJ, YT5EPP, YQ6A, XZ1J and Z81X

QSLs RECEIVED VIA MAIL: 3D2GC, 5A1AL, 5J0R, CR5CW, EF3EGB, HP0INT/2, HP0INT/3, HP0INT/9, J87GU and Z81X

QSLs RECEIVED VIA THE BUREAU: 7Z1HL, 9Q6AL, AA5AT, DJ3FS, DK2CH, DL2HWH, DL4FCH, DL8GP, DO5MCL/LH, DP1POL, EA1HNV, F-10828, HZ1EA, I0NUM, IKORCY, IW3SGT, IZ5HNI, JA1NUX, JA3CG/1, JA3EGY, JF3SUL, KA1ERL, LX2LA, NI0B, NJ1H, OK1NZJ, OM5MF, OZ1GEJ, OZ8SW, PE1GUR, RA0FD, RV9DD, S53F, SP1DMD, SP3RBG, SQ3LLJ, SQ6MIP, SQ8KEZ, SV1GYG, SV2FLQ, T5TC, V21ZG, V31YN, VE3KI, VK1WJ, VU-0020, W5FK, W9II, YW5F and YZ1V

SOUTHEAST ASIAN TOUR

Toshi, JA8BMK, will activate two DXCC entities during the first two months of the new year. Activity will be holiday style using a HEX beam/wire antennas/Inv.Vee. Operations will be on 160-10 meters. Toshi informs OPDX that the modes will be CW and SSB, not sure about the Digital (says may be not). He will use a K2 with a 500w amp. QSL via JA8BMK, by the Bureau or direct (see QRZ.com). His tentative schedule (Starting/Ending dates are flexible) and callsigns are as follows:

January 15-30th - Callsign is XW8BM; from Vientiane, Laos.

February 15th-March 2nd (possibly 25th) - Callsign is XV2BM; from Nha Trang (eastcost of South China Sea), Vietnam.

MORE INFO FROM JA8BMK (Just before going to print!)[edited]:

"I will leave Japan for Vientiane via China on Jan. 11, 2014, and I am scheduled to

receive the license at PTT office. The thing is the location to operate. Vientiane is not a exceptional, noisy city and it seems very difficult to put up a vertical antennas for low bands. I will spend a few days to find a good location for antenna installation. Also, I must explain to the hotel people about what amateur radio is. Sometime, they do not give the permission to visitors as they have no knowledge on amateur radio. However, I succeeded in 3D (Fiji) land by explaining about BBC which I like to listen to.

Regarding my antennas, I left them in Nepal. They are KIO Hex beam and wire/vertical and coax cable for the next operation. This time I bought another Hex beam from DX Engineering. This is a very good antenna and seems strong. But the problem is that it takes a long time and I modified it so that Airline company (China Eastern) will accept the size which is only 158cm total dimension X+Y+Z as maximum. They will accept two of 23kg per person, I got 92kg for the luggage with two persons, my wife and I. The 158cm as a total dimension is now popular. The longest length is 96cm after modifying and I made a wooden box for them(28x30x100cm O.D.).

KIO Hex beam seems cheaper and lighter, and simpler to assemble compared with DX Eng. Hex beam. For DXpedition, I like to recommend KIO.

The license fee is not cheap in XW (may be, in XV, too) as well as 9N. The fee should be calculated according to how many bands, how much power, what frequency, what mode and how many days. These factors can be multi-plied. I heard in XW PTT office that one Russian guy payed over 2,500 US dollar before!

My schedule is not sure after XW operation. But I will be in Indo-China until Mar. 28th, 2014, and will try to visit some other entity if I have time. Anyway, I am traveling with my wife, I will not be so free as I must take care of her."

T6, AFGHANISTAN

T6EUPOL is the official ham radio station of the "European Union Police" (EUPOL) Mission in Afghanistan. The station is operated by Janusz, home callsign: AK4JK (aka T6/ZS5ADU). No QSNs have been listed yet on the DXCluster networks. QSL only direct to the AK4JK postal address together with the SAE plus 2 USDs for postage.

T8, PALAU

Masa, JN3MXT, will be active as T88MX from "VIP Guest Hotel" (Free Radio Room) on [Koro Island \(OC-009\)](#) between January 25-30th.

Activity will be on the HF bands using mainly SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign.

TM11, FRANCE (Special Event)

Look for special event station TM11AAW to be on air February 1-2nd, 7-10th and 14-23rd. Activity is to celebrate the 11th Antarctic Activity Week. Operation will be made by François, F8DVD, from his QTH of Mâcon in the east part of France, 60 km, North of Lyon. The new reference for WAP program is 245. Activity will be on 40-10 meters, mostly SSB. QSL via F8DVD, by the Bureau or direct (SAE + 1 new IRC or 2 USDs) to: François Bergez 6, rue de la Liberté F- 71000 MACON FRANCE. E-mail: a.pole@laposte.net a.pole@40laposte.net For more details, visit:

<http://tm11aaw.monsite-orange.fr>

--or--

<http://www.qrz.com/db/TM11AAW>

TY, BENIN (Update)

Wim, ON6DX (ex-ON4CIT), who was active as 5V7TH recently from Togo, announced this past week he finally received his Benin callsign TY1TT from the telecom authorities. He states, "Was not easy, took me the longest time and most expensive ever to get a callsign. Now I can plan flights and lodging beginning 2014 in Benin." No specific dates were mentioned yet. Activity will be from Grand PoPo and operations will be on 20/17/15/12/10/6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Wim did mention, "Clublog is a fine tool, but this year: OQRS QSL: Yes, but... But no more clublog leaderboards." Read his reason and look for updates at:

<http://www.dxpedition.be/Benin.html>

VQ9, CHAGOS (Update)

Last week we reported that Jim, ND9M, is once again active as VQ9JC from Diego Garcia. Jim informed OPDX that he arrived on the island a month ago, but he had to get his license renewed; it expired a couple days before he landed. Jim states, "Normally, I get it renewed within one business day, but this time there was an administrative hiccup that led to a month-long delay. The British military officer in charge of the island called the 'Brit Rep' was new to his post here. He read all the can's and cannot's of the job, and the legal info about issuing ham licenses says that tickets are signed by the Territorial Commissioner who's back in the U.K. The Brit Rep finally got the official word last week that issuing authority was delegated to the local office, and my license was signed the next day. This was the first time in the 15 years I've been coming here that anything like that had happened.

In fact, licensing had been so smooth here that in 2008, I walked in to the Brit Rep's office without an appointment and left 45 minutes later with not only a signed renewal for my regular VQ9JC license but also a special temporary license for my VQ98JC operation. I wonder if anyone else can claim receiving two licenses fully authorized without previous notice that fast!

Anyway, I'm still operating Field Day style from the covered picnic table at the park which has AC power and dozens of gecko lizards chasing the bugs. The table is about 30 feet from the wall of the jungle, and this weekend I'll try to thread a 135-foot OCF dipole through all the trees in the jungle so that I can not only leave the antenna up but also have multi-band capability. If I hoist the antenna where it can be seen, I would stand a very good chance of it being quickly removed as the 150 pound fishing line that I use to secure the antenna and the copper wire are both precious commodities here. The OCF dipole doesn't work on 15m, 30m, or 60m, even with a matchbox, so I'll put up separate dipoles for 15 and 30 and feed those two and the OCF to a switch. I don't know yet if I'll put up a 60m dipole.

The 80m OCF is going to be a big enough project just to get it hoisted to only 25 feet; the jungle's pretty thick! I'll also be putting up a 20m dipole and maybe a 30m dipole as well on the ship. Obviously, I sign /MM during any contacts made from the ship as I did earlier this year. Contacts with me as /MM aren't valid for DXCC of course, but SKCC ops can count them if my ship's QTH is near the island. The rig is an FT-857D. I'll be running 100 watts most of the time, but I'm expecting to do some QRP work from here too. Most of my operating will be CW as usual (with a cootie most times), but I'll be on SSB occasionally.

Also, I'm a rookie when it comes to digital comms, but I'm hoping to get my Rigblaster and FLDigi software configured to do some PSK and RTTY work. While on board the ship, I use an Icom IC-760 that I have set up in my service shop. I feed the coax through a helicopter control center that's directly above my shop. My shipboard antennas are about 115 feet above the water line. I don't have internet connectivity when I'm at my operating QTH on the island, so I obviously can't help with real-time QSY requests or the ever present 'EU PSE' when I'm calling for NA & SA stations."

OPDX asked Jim about the status of the club station, possibly using a special VQ prefix for 2014, activity on the satellites and if he would attend the 2014 Dayton HamVention, and he replied, "Yeah, the ham club station is gone forever unfortunately. The log periodic has been grounded and dismantled, and everything in the shack has been turned back over to the Navy. I'm here six months out of the year of course, but once Larry, VQ9LA left three years ago, there was no one reliably present during my off times. When the Navy's MWR office personnel made a routine visit, they found nobody there since I was Stateside, so they decided that the club was no longer in use and took what they thought were appropriate steps. By the time I got back to the island and worked my way up the chain of command, the deal had been sealed.

And yes, I'm working the satellites out here although there aren't many ops to work. I'll be on the birds when I get home again next year. I don't know yet if my XYL Cori (KK4CGA) and I will be at Dayton this coming May or not. We're hoping to go to New England for the ARRL Centennial in July, and we'll likely do only one trip. My assignment schedule has me returning to the ship a few days before the national convention, and I'm trying to work things out with the guy that's here when I'm off ship for him to stay a little longer so that I can attend. He hasn't given me a firm answer yet though.....

My plan for 2014 is to get VQ94JC issued for sometime during the second half of the year. The local licensing office has no requirements toward my getting a ticket other than having one already issued by the FCC. My US license expires in April, and the FCC won't enable the renewing process until 90 days before the expiration date, so I have to wait until early January to do that. If I can get the renewed license here - actually just a scanned copy will do and my XYL will send that - I can turn that over to the local office, and they should issue me the short-term ticket. Emphasis on special. It's all legal of course, but the folks in that office are all British military who typically do one-year tours here before being re-assigned, so I can never assume that the next person will cooperate. I'm optimistic though as I've already had 7 VQ9xJC licenses plus the VQ975FOC ticket earlier this year, so the precedent's pretty well established.

When I started doing the VQ9xJC bit in 2007, I did it just for fun and I thought the WPX chasers would like it. I really didn't expect to still be doing it after so

many years. Now I'm looking ahead at rounding out the decade of annual special call signs and thinking about what special prefix variation to initiate after the 10th one!" QSL via ND9M.

UP-COMING CONTESTS (complete)

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

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

January 2014

NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 3
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 4 to 2400Z, Jan 5
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2359Z, Jan 5
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 10
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 11 to 0559Z, Jan 12
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 17
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 18 to 0559Z, Jan 19
ARRL January VHF Contest	1900Z, Jan 18 to 0359Z, Jan 20
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 24
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 24 to 2159Z, Jan 26
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 25 to 1200Z, Jan 26
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 31

February 2014

Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 1 to 2400Z, Feb 2
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 1 to 2359Z, Feb 2
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 1
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 1 to 0100Z, Feb 3
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 2
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 7
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 8 to 2400Z, Feb 9
New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 8 to 2200Z, Feb 9
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 14
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 15 to 2400Z, Feb 16
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 21
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 21 to 2159Z, Feb 23
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 22 to 0559Z, Feb 23
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1700Z, Feb 23
North Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 23 to 0059Z, Feb 24

March 2014

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 1 to 2400Z, Mar 2
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 8 to 1900Z, Mar 9
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 9
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 9 to 0100Z, Mar 10
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 15 to 0200Z, Mar 17

Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 15 to 1200Z, Mar 16
+ Virginia QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 15 to 0200Z, Mar 16 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 16
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 16
- FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 22
Oklahoma QSO Party	1300Z, Mar 22 to 0100Z, Mar 23 and 1300Z-1900Z, Mar 23
- Louisiana QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 22 to 0300Z, Mar 23
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 29 to 2400Z, Mar 30

April 2014

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

The K7RA Solar Update

12/27/2013

This is the last bulletin of 2013. In the first bulletin of 2014 we will review the previous year, and look at some averages to give us perspective on the current solar cycle 24.

Solar activity declined somewhat this week. The average of daily sunspot numbers retreated nearly twenty points from 134.4 to 114.6, and average solar flux was off nearly 21 points to 138.8. Geomagnetic indices were quiet.

These comparisons are between the recent seven day reporting period and the previous week, December 12-18, 2013.

Predicted solar flux according to the most recent forecast on Thursday, December 26 from NOAA/USAF is 125 on December 27-28, then 130, 135 and 140 on December 29-31, then 145, 150, 155, 165, 170, 175 and 170 on January 1-7, 165 on January 8-10, 155 on January 11-15, and 150 on January 16-17. Solar flux is predicted to drop to a low of 125 on January 22-25, and peak at 175 on February 2.

Predicted planetary A index is 7 on December 27, 5 on December 28 through January 2, then 10 and 20 on January 3-4, then 5 on January 5-9, then 15 on January 10, and 5 on January 11-20, then 10 and 8 on January 21-22.

F.K. Janda, OK1HH, shares his geomagnetic predictions this week, and sees quiet to active conditions December 27, mostly quiet December 28, quiet to unsettled December 29, active to disturbed December 30, quiet December 31 and January 1,

mostly quiet January 2-3, active to disturbed January 4, quiet to unsettled January 5, quiet January 6-9, quiet to unsettled January 10, quiet to active January 11, quiet to unsettled January 12, and mostly quiet January 13-17.

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

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

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

Sunspot numbers for December 19 through 25 were 138, 137, 131, 111, 108, 96, and 81, with a mean of 114.6. 10.7 cm flux was 153.4, 149.2, 144.2, 137.9, 136.1, 128.3, and 122.7, with a mean of 138.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 6, 4, 3, 3, 2, and 7, with a mean of 4.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 6, 4, 2, 2, 2, and 6, with a mean of 3.7.

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