

425MAGAZINE

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The Italian Bulletin for Serious DXers

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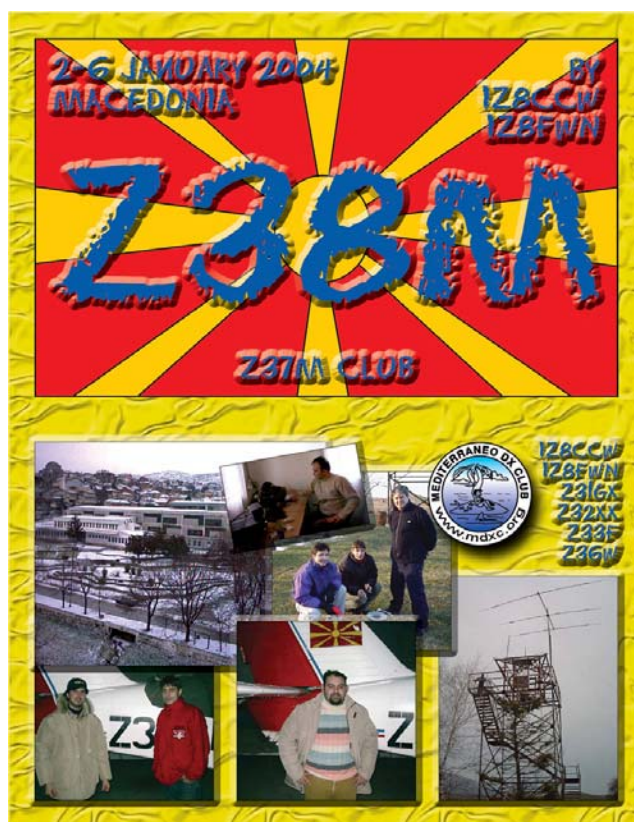
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XK1K (NA-166)



UA4WHX touring Pacific Ocean

NEWS

3B8 - Walter, DL3LBP (<http://www.dl3lbp.de>) will operate as 3B8/DL3LBP from Mauritius (AF-049) on 1-21 May. Look for activity on 40-10 metres SSB, CW and RTTY. QSL via homecall. [TNX DL3LBP]

5H - Hans-Peter, HB9BXE will be active as 5H1BP from Zanzibar (AF-032), Tanzania on 1-6 March. He plans to operate on 10-80 metres CW, SSB and PSK31. QSL via home call. [TNX NG3K]

5V - Franck/F5TVG and John/F5VHQ will arrive in Togo on 4 March to pick up the licence and start setting up the stations. 5V7C might hit the airwaves earlier than 6 March, when the rest of the team [425DXN 661] will join the first two operators for a 7-day all band all mode activity. QRT time is expected to be not earlier than 12 UTC on 13 March. The pilot stations will be Bruno/F5AGB (Europe and French speaking countries) and Floyd/N5FG (North America), plus other two pilots TBA from Australia and Japan. The web site for the operation is at http://5v7c.free.fr/le_togo.htm . QSL via F5TVG. [TNX F5NQL]

5W - After their operation from Tokelau (see ZK3 below), Silvano/I2YSB, Flaviano/I2MOV, Carlo/IK1AOD and Marcello/IK2DIA will be active on all bands and modes from Samoa (OC-097) from 29 February to 8 March. They will collect their licence upon arrival. QSL direct only to I2YSB. [TNX I2YSB]

5Z - Sigi, DL3DF will be vacationing in Kenya from 16 February to 1 March and will operate as 5Z4HW on all bands (except 160, 30 and 6 metres) and modes. He will be running 100 watts into a ground plane or wire antennas. QSL via home call. [TNX NG3K]

6Y - RZS Amateur Radio Club's (W2RZS) members Bob/WB2NVR, Mike/WA2VQW, Adam/N2DHH and Bob/N2DVO will be operating from Jamaica (NA-097) on 24-30 March, including an entry in the CQ WPX SSB Contest as 6Y2RZ. Before and after the contest they will be active as either W2RZS/6Y5 and/or homecall/6Y5. [TNX K1XN and The Golist]

6Y - Look for WN9O, WO9Z and W9IU to operate as 6Y5/homecall from Jamaica from 28 February to 14 March. They will participate in the ARRL DX SSB Contest as 6Y8Z (QSL via W9IU). [TNX The Daily DX]

8P - Peter, W0SA will be active as 8P9NX from Barbados (NA-021) from 11 February to 11 March. QSL direct to home call. [TNX K1XN and The Golist]

8Q - Two activities from the Maldives (AS-013) are due to start on 23 February. Giancarlo, I3SGR will operate as 8Q7SG from Kuredu Island until 1 March. Look for him on 10-40 metres SSB around 15-17 UTC and 20.30-23.30 UTC. QSL via home call, direct (Giancarlo Salvadori, P.O. Box 32, 31100 Treviso - TV, Italy) or bureau. Pierino, IV3YYK will be active on all bands SSB and CW as 8Q7YY until 7 March. QSL via IV3YYK. [TNX I3SGR and IV3OWC]

8Q - Hardy, DL5SBA will be active as 8Q7BA from Athuruga, Maldives (AS-013) on 4-20 March. He will operate RTTY and PSK only on 20 metres (possibly on 17 and 30 metres as well) with 50 watts. QSL via home call, preferably through the DARC bureau. [TNX DL5SBA]

9K - Special event call 9K43NLD will be aired on 25-29 February from Kuwait to celebrate the National Liberation Day. QSL via 9K2RR. [TNX 9K2HN]

9M2 - Mirek, VK6DXI reports he will be on a business trip to West Malaysia on 8-14 February and plans to operate (mostly on 20 metres CW) as 9M8DX/2 from Kuala Lumpur. QSL via VK6DXI.

9M2 - Ian, 9M2/G3TMA will be active from Pulau Ketam (AS-074) on 6-7 and 13-14 March. Operation will be

mostly on CW. QSL to Ian Buffham, Bekay Court, Lorong Enau, 55000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. [TNX 9M2/G3TMA]

9U - Michael, PA5M has been active as 9U5M since 17 February and will leave Bujumbura, Burundi on 17 March. He operates in his spare time (typically after 16 UTC) on 10-40 metres CW and SSB, with 100 watts into a vertical antenna. Logs will be available at <http://www.pa7fm.nl/> as soon as possible. QSL via PA7FM (Dennis Robbmond, Loggerhof 11, 3181NS Rozenburg, The Netherlands). [TNX PA7FM and ON5NT]

A6 - Robert, S53R will participate in this weekend's CQ 160-Meter SSB Contest as A61AJ from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. QSL via K2UO (Americas) and DJ2MX (rest of the world). [TNX NG3K]

BV - BV8BC, BV8BM, BV8BO, BV8CM, BX8AAA and BM8BTM will operate as BV9O from Orchid Island (AS-155) on 11-15 March. QSL direct to BV8BC (Bill-Chen, P.O. Box 222, Taitung 950, Taiwan). [TNX BV8BC]

C6 - Ivars, KC4PX will be active (on 40, 20, 17, 15 and 6 metres) as C6APX from the Bahamas on 7-13 February. QSL via home call. [TNX OPDX Bulletin]

C6 - Brian/K7RE (C6ALK), Bob/N4BP (C6AKQ) and Kevin/K4PG (C6APG) will be active from Freeport, Grand Bahama (NA-080) on 17-23 February. They will participate in the ARRL DX CW Contest on 160m (C6ALK), 80m (C6AKQ) and 10m (C6APG). QSL direct via home calls, direct or bureau. [TNX OPDX Bulletin]

C6 - Bill, NE1B (C6AWB) and Tom, C6ANM will be active from the islands of Eleuthera (NA-001) and New Providence (NA-001) between 24 February and 8 March, CQ WW 160 Meter SSB and ARRL DX SSB Contests included. On 2-4 March will make a side trip to the Berry Islands (NA-054). QSLs via WA2IYO. [TNX The Daily DX]

CN - Jim, W7EJ will be in Morocco from 24 February until about the end of March. He plans to be active as CN2R in the CQ 160-Meter SSB (28-29 February), ARRL DX SSB (6-7 March) and CQ WPX SSB (27-28 March) contests. QSL via home call. [TNX OPDX Bulletin]

CO - Nicola, I0SNY reports he will be active from Caibarien, Cuba on 9-27 March. He plans to concentrate on 17, 12 and 6 metres. QSL via home call.

CO - Don, VE3ESE and members of the Santiago de Cuba University and City Club will operate as T48RAC from Santiago de Cuba during the ARRL DX SSB Contest (6-7 March). Look for activity on 40 and 20 metres. QSL direct to VE3ESE (Don Fisher, 48 Lucerne Dr., Kitchener, Ontario N2E 1B3, Canada). [TNX VE3RGG]

CT - Owing to bad weather, the operation from Ilha de Cabanas (not IOTA, DIP AL-07) [425DXN 665] has been rescheduled to take place on 8 February. Look for CT1GFK/p, CT1GPQ/p and CT2IUA/p to be active on 40, 20, 17 and 15 metres SSB and CW between 7 and 12 UTC. QSL via home calls. [TNX CT1END]

CT3 - Look for Rosel, CT3/DL3KWR and Hardy, CT3/DL3KWF to be active from Madeira (AF-014) on 4-18 March. They will operate CW mainly on the WARC bands, typically in their late afternoon and evening hours. QSL via home calls. E-mail requests for bureau cards will be welcome at dl3kwr@darc.de and dl3kwf@darc.de [TNX DL3KWF]

CU - Nigel, G3TXF will operate (CW only) as CU4/G3TXF from Graciosa Island (EU-175), Azores on 6-10 February. QSL via home call. [TNX The Daily DX]

CX - A group of operators from Uruguay will operate 160-6 metres from San Gabriel Island (SA-057) on 15-18 February. The call sign has not been given, but the QSL route will be via EA5KB. [TNX CX8FB]

CX - Rainer, CX8FB reports that the 15-18 February operation from San Gabriel Island (SA-057) [425DXN 666] has been postponed because of "health and transportation problems".

D4 - Simon, IZ7ATN will operate as D44/IZ7ATN from the following lighthouses between 7 and 13 February: Ponta do Lobo (ARLHS CAP-006) on Sao Tiago Island (AF-005), Ponta do Sino (ARLHS CAP-007) on Sal Island (AF-086) and Ponta Temerosa (ARLHS CAP-003) on Sao Tiago Island (AF-005). Look for activity on 10, 12, 15, 17, 20 and 40 metres SSB during local daylight hours. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. [TNX IZ7ATN]

DL - Gerhard, DL3NBL reports that his 7-14 March IOTA operation as TA/DL3NBL/P [425DXN 664] will take place from Ucadalar Island located in the Antalya Province group (AS-115), not from the Ucadalar which is part of AS-099. QSL via home call.

EA6 - Christian, DL6KAC will be active again (on 10-40 metres mainly SSB with some digital mode) as EA6/DL6KAC from Mallorca (DIE E-021), Balearic Islands (EU-004) from 25 February to 26 March. QSL via home call either direct or through the DARC bureau. [TNX DL6KAC]

EA8 - Piero, W1NA (I8CZW) reports he will participate in this weekend's CQ 160-Meter SSB Contest as EA8AK from the Canary Islands.

EA8 - Terry, MOCLH will be active as EA8/MOCLH/P from Tenerife (AF-004) between 23 February and 1 March. This holiday-style operation will be QRP with dipoles for 20, 17, 15 and 12 metres. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. [TNX MOCLH]

FG - Henri, F5DBC will be active from Marie Galante (DIFO FG-008), Guadeloupe (NA-102) on 6-18 February. Plans are to operate daily on +/- 10104, 14025, 14135 and 18075 kHz at least between 22 and 24 UTC. [TNX F5NQL]

FG - Patrick, F6IRF will operate on CW and RTTY as FG/F6IRF from Guadeloupe on 14-29 February. This will be a casual activity with low power and wire antennas. QSL via home call. Patrick will participate in the ARRL DX CW Contest as FG5BG (category to be decided on the spot). [TNX NG3K]

FM - The Radio club de Martinique organizers this year's Caribbean Hamboree (<http://www.caribbeanhamboree.org/>), and special event station TO7HAM will be active on all bands and modes on 3-18 April. QSL via FM5AN. [TNX FM5AN]

FOO_ci - The DXpedition to Clipperton Island that was due to start around 8 March [425DXN 665] has been cancelled for the time being because the team has run into a problem with the transportation. Plans are still in place to go to Clipperton as soon as new transportation can be arranged, but this may take a few months. [TNX K4SV]

FOO_ci - The DXpedition to Clipperton Island [425DXN 667] has been rescheduled for April. Transportation on another boat has been arranged, but 5-7 more operators are needed to join the original team to pay for the trip. The boat should be leaving on or about 10 April. The license and landing permission are in hand. There will be five full time stations and the team will place special emphasis on working Europe and the low bands. If you would like to join the team please contact Dave, K4SV (K4SV2@Charter.net) for more information. [TNX K4SV]

GJ - Ken, G3OCA and Peter, G6KUI will operate as GH8KGC from Les Minquiers Islands (EU-099) on 25-29 June. QSL via G3OCA, direct or bureau. [TNX G3OCA]

GM - Leo, W3LEO reports he will once again be active as MMOLEO from Portpatrick in southwest Scotland from about 29 February to 3 April. He plans to participate in the ARRL DX SSB and CQ WPX SSB contests. QSL via W3LEO.

GU - Rich, M5RIC (<http://www.qsl.net/m5ric>) will be active as MU5RIC/P from Guernsey (EU-114) on 25-29

March, including an entry in the CQ WPX SSB Contest as MU2Z. QSL via M5RIC. [TNX NG3K]

HC8 - Alfredo Caviedes, HC1HC will be active (on 160-10 metres mostly SSB with some CW) as HD8A from Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos (SA-004) on 2-9 March, ARRL DX SSB Contest included. He may also sign HC1HC/HC8 before and after the contest. QSLs via NE8Z (Rick Dorsch, P.O. Box 616, Hamburg, MI 48139, USA). [TNX NE8Z]

HI - Bill, N7OU will be active (on 160-10 metres CW only) as HI9/N7OU from the Dominican Republic on 17-26 February, including a SOAB Low Power entry in the ARRL DX CW Contest (21-22 February). QSL via home call. [TNX OPDX Bulletin]

HI - Bert, PA3GIO will be active as PA3GIO/HI9 from the Dominica Republic (Hispaniola, NA-096) on 11-18 March. He plans to operate on 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 metres SSB. The web site for the operation is at <http://www.pa3gio.nl/HI9/> [TNX PA3GIO]

HR - Tom, WOGLG will operate as HR3/WOGLG from Cayos Cochinos (NA-160) on 1-6 March. Look for him around 14260, 21260 and 28460 kHz. Tom will be in Honduras from 13 February, working as a radio operator for the International Health Service of Minnesota. [TNX N4AA and QRZ-DX]

HR - Rich, N0HJZ will be active as HR9/N0HJZ from Roatan Island (NA-057), Honduras on 3-9 March, including an entry in the ARRL DX SSB Contest. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. [TNX N0HJZ]

I - Club station IQ5RR will be operated by Franco, I5DOF on 8, 15 and 22 February. Look for activity on 40 metres between 8 and 14 UTC. A special "QSL Certificate" will be available direct only via I5DOF (Franco Donati, Via A. Fratti 205, 55049 Viareggio - LU, Italy: he asks to include 5 Euros, as proceeds beyond return postage will be donated to charity). [TNX I5LGN]

I - ARI Versilia club station IQ5VR will be activated until 29 February for the 131st Carnival of Viareggio. Details on the relevant award are available at <http://www.ariversilia.it> or from the Award Manager, IK5ZVW (ik5zvw@iol.it). [TNX IK5ZPZ & IK5ZVW]

I - Look for IR7LH (QSL via IK7JWX) and IZ7FMQ/p (QSL via home call) to be active from the lighthouse at Capo San Vito (WAIL PU-001, ARLHS ITA-040) on 14 February. [TNX IK7JWX]

I - Gaetano/I8IHG, Nello/IK8HVJ, Salvatore/IK8NTN, Achille/IZ8CKS, Luigi/IZ8ENR and Andrea/IK8GDA will operate (on 10-80 metres plus 6 metres SSB) as IC8/homecall from Vivara Island (EU-031, IIA NA-005) on 21 February. QSLs via I8IHG, direct or bureau.

I - ARI Pompei club station will be active as IQ8BI/P on 28-29 February. ARI Pompei (<http://www.aripompei.it>) sponsors the newly born Italian Towns Award (I.T.A.); information can be obtained from the Award Manager Tina Spano', IZ8DPN (tinaspano@iz8dpn.it).

I - Gaetano/I8IHG, Nello/IK8HVJ, Salvatore/IK8NTN, Achille/IZ8CKS, Luigi/IZ8ENR and Andrea/IK8GDA will operate (on 10-80 metres plus 6 metres SSB) as IC8/homecall from Vivara Island (EU-031, IIA NA-005) on 13 March. QSLs via home calls, direct or bureau.

J6 - Jack, K9JE will be in St. Lucia with the J6DX group for the ARRL DX CW Contest. Look for him to be active on all bands with his own call (J68AR, QSL via K9JE) before and after the contest, from 11 to 25 February. Also Gary, KI6T will be with the J6DX group; outside the contest he will be active as J68GS (QSL via KI6T), especially on the WARC bands. [TNX K9JE and KI6T]

J6 - Dale, G3VMK will be active (CW only on the higher bands) from St. Lucia during his family holiday on 14-27 February. [TNX QRZ-DX]

J7 - John/K3TEJ, George/K5KG and John/W4IX will operate as J79Z (QSL via K3TEJ), J75KG (QSL via KU9C) and J79JRC (QSL via W4IX) from Dominica (NA-101) on 14-24 February. They will participate in the ARRL DX CW Contest as J7A (Multi-2), QSL via KU9C. [TNX VA3RJ]

JA - Takeshi, JI3DST plans to operate as JI3DST/3 from O-Shima (AS-117) from 2 to 7 UTC on 22 February. QSL via bureau. [TNX The Daily DX]

JW - Francois, F8DVD will operate on 10-80 metres as JW/F8DVD from Longyearbyen (EU-026), Svalbard on 4-10 April. QSL via home call, direct (Francois Bergez, 6 rue de la Liberte, 71000 Macon, France) or bureau. [TNX F5NOD]

JW - Rag, LA5HE will be active again as JW5HE from Svalbard on 12-18 February. He plans to concentrate on the low bands and CW. QSL via home call. [TNX OPDX Bulletin]

KH6 - Witek, SP9MRO reports he will operate on all bands (except 30 metres) as KH6/SP9MRO from Hawaii on 8-17 February. QSL via home call. The QSL cards for his January activities as YN1/SP9MRO and T12/SP9MRO will be processed and mailed not earlier than March.

KH6 - Len, K1NU will be signing K1NU/KH6 from the SeaQMaui resort (www.seaqmaui.com), Hawaii on 4-9 March. Plans include a low-power entry in the ARRL DX Phone contest, some WARC band operation (mostly CW) before and after, and possibly some 60m operation if he can get an antenna up. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. Logs will be uploaded to LOTW. [TNX K1NU]

KP2 - John/W8LBY and Norm/K8NI are active as KP2/homecalls from St. Croix, US Virgin Islands (NA-106).

KP2 - Tony, N2TK will be active as N2TK/NP2 (QSL via home call) from St. Croix, Virgin Islands from 25 February to 10 March. He will participate in both the CQ 160-Meter SSB and ARRL DX SSB Contests as WP2Z (QSL KU9C). [TNX K1XN and The Golist]

KP2 - Harry, W6DXO will operate SSB and PSK as KP2/W6DXO from St. John, Virgin Islands (NA 106) on 14-19 March. Activity will be focused on 17, 12 and 10 metres. QSL via home call. [TNX NG3K]

LU - Look for L20H to participate in this week's CQ WPX RTTY Contest. This will be a new prefix on RTTY. QSL via EA7FTR. [TNX EA7FTR]

LU - Alberto, LU1DZ will be active as LU1DZ/X from Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego (SA-008) on 17-21 February. [TNX LU6EF]

LX - LX1AQ, LX1ER, LX1RQ and DK2OY will participate in this weekend's CQ 160-Meter SSB Contest as LX5A (Multi-Single). QSL via LX1RQ. [TNX NG3K]

OA - OA4BHY, OA4DJW, OA4SJ, OA4DM, OA4BHN and OA4AHW will be active as OC3I from Los Chimus Island (SA-074) on 11-16 February. They plan to operate on 10-80 metres SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via OA4DJW, direct or bureau. [TNX The Daily DX]

OE - Special call OE1W/IARU will be aired on all bands on 28-29 February for the interim meeting of the IARU VH/UHF/MW Committee in Vienna. QSL via bureau. [TNX OE1TKW]

ON - Look for ON6UM/L, ON4LO/L and ON4BAG/L to operate from three Belgian lighthouses (BEL 001, BEL 005 and BEL 006) on 6 March. QSL via home calls. [TNX ON6UM]

OX - Stellan, SM0LQB will operate (mainly on the higher bands, probably with low power) in his spare time as OX/SM0LQB from Greenland on 18-25 February. QSL via home call. [TNX SM1TDE]

P4 - John, W2GD will be active as P40W from Aruba (SA-036) starting on 18 February. He plans to participate in the ARRL DX CW and CQ 160-Meter SSB contests. Outside the contests there will be some operation on all bands SSB and CW, with an emphasis on 160m at night and 10m during the day. QSL via N2MM. [TNX OPDX and NG3K]

P4 - John, KK9A will be active (on 10-160 metres CW and SSB) as P40A from Aruba on 1-30 March, including entries in the ARRL DX SSB and CQ WPX SSB contests. QSL via WD9DZV. [TNX P40A]

PA - Bert, PA1K and other eight Dutch and German operators will participate in the PACC Contest in early February as PA6Z. QSL via PA1K. [TNX PA1K]

PJ5 - Jim, K1NA will be active as PJ5NA from St. Eustatius (NA-145) for about a month starting around 18 February. He will operate 160-10 metres CW only (ARRL DX CW Contest included), however expect some activity during the ARRL DX Phone Contest. QSL via home call. [TNX OPDX Bulletin]

PY - PP5VB, PY3CQ, PY3NZ, PY3MM and possibly others will be active from Santa Marta Lighthouse (DFB SC-012, ARLHS BRA-187) in the Brazilian State of Santa Catarina until 15 February. [TNX PY3CQ]

R1F - Moscow Contest Club members RD3AF, RN3AZ, RU3AV, RZ3DU, UA3DX and UA3AKO will operate as R1FJ from Franz Josef Land (EU-019) on 17-25 March. They will operate on all bands CW, SSB and RTTY, and will participate in the Russian DX Contest (20-21 March). QSL via DL6ZFG (Rolf Rahne, P.O. Box 15. 39241 Gommern, Germany) or, For Russia and CIS countries, via UA3AKO (Victor Slabodchikov, P.O. Box 867, Moscow, 119334, Russia). Financial support will be appreciated via either DL6ZFG (dl6zfg@dl6zfg.de) or UA3AKO (ua3ako@mail.ru). [TNX UA3AKO]

SM - SM4XIH, SM4RGD and possibly others will participate in the CQ/RJ WW RTTY WPX Contest (14-15 February) as SJ9WL (Multi-Single) from the Morokulien station on the border between Sweden and Norway. QSL via SM5DJZ. [TNX NG3K]

SV - SV1QN, SV1AIN, SV1GYG, SV1EQU and SW1GYN will be active as SX8K from Kythira Island (EU-113) and Lighthouse on 20-28 March. QSL via SV1QN (all QSOs will be confirmed automatically via bureau). [TNX SV1QN]

SV - Look for SV1ELF to participate in this weekend's CQ 160-Meter SSB Contest as SX3Z. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. [TNX SV1ELF]

T33 - The all-band all-mode T33C DXpedition to Banaba [425DXN 663] remains on schedule for starting operations on 4 or 5 April and continuing for at least eleven days. The expeditioners extend their thanks to all the sponsors, organizations and individuals who have contributed to the expedition; however, as shipping costs have been very high, they still welcome any and all contributions. There is still room for another one or two operators to join the team, though arranging air transport to Tarawa at this late date may be difficult. Full details on the operation can be found at <http://www.dxpedition.de/banaba2004/> [TNX K6SRZ, doctore@well.com]

T7 - William/N2WB and Bill/W4WX will be in San Marino on 16-22 March. They will guest operate from the T70A club station using the club's call. Look for them on the HF bands on CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to T70A. [TNX W4WX]

T7 - IV3JVJ, IV3TDM and IV3OWC will participate in next week's CQ 160-Meter SSB Contest as a multioperator entry from T77C. QSL to T77C. [TNX IV3OWC]

TI - WJ7R, W7YAO, K7AR, K17Y and TI2WGO will operate as TI5/homecalls from Costa Rica on 17-26 February. They will participate in the ARRL CW DX Contest as TI5N (QSL via W3HNK), outside the contest they will be active on the WARC bands as well as on RTTY/FSK. [TNX The Daily DX]

TJ - Jack, F6BUM reports he has received permission to go and operate from the uninhabited island of Mondoleh (AF-???), Cameroon. He will be leaving France on 2 April, and plans are to be QRV from that IOTA new one on the 9-11th. Jack (<http://www.f6bum.fr.st>) is seeking contributions to help defray the costs of this operation (he will have to get a generator); he is also looking for someone who is willing to lend him an antenna, as his R7 "has got tired".

UA - Yuri, UA10NY plans to visit and operate from a few Novaya Zemlya's coastal islands (EU-035). His expedition started on 3 February. QSL via RZ3EC (Eugene

Shelkanovtcev, P.O. Box 70, Orel 302028, Russia). [TNX RZ3EC]

UA - Look for UE3SFF/4 to operate from the Natural Reserve of Mordovskij and the National Park of Smolnyj on 17-22 February. QSL via RU3SD, direct or bureau. Information on the Russian Flora-Fauna Award (RFFA), sponsored by the Russian Robinson Club, can be found at http://www.hamradio.ru/rrc/AWARDS/rffa_e.htm [TNX UA3FDX]

UA - Alex, RX3AJL plans to visit several White Sea islands for the Russian Robinson Award (possibly including islands qualifying for the EU-147 and EU-162 IOTA groups as well) between 23 February and 6 March. He expects to be active as RX3AJL/1 on 20 metres SSB (QRP). QSL via RX3AJL. [TNX RZ3EM]

V3 - Don/N5DD, Amy/KC5DJI, James/AG5TX and Renee/KD5YCG will operate as V31AD from Placencia, Belize on 13-20 March. Expect activity on SSB, RTTY and PSK, with special attention paid to 12, 17, 80 and 40 metres, and possibly 160 and 6 metres. Further information at <http://www.dxpileup.net/> [TNX N5DD]

V3 - Robin, K4VU and Lori, K0LAA will be active as V31RG from Belize on 7-24 April. They will operate on 160-6 metres CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via K4VU. [TNX K4VU]

V4 - Look for W2OX to participate in this weekend's CQ 160-Meter SSB Contest as V47KP from St. Kitts. QSL via K2SB. [TNX NG3K]

V5 - Felix, DL5XL (aka DP1POL) and Christine, DH3FBS will be active as V51/homecalls from Namibia while visiting that country until mid April. QSL via home calls. [TNX DX News Letter]

V5 - Klaus, DJ4SO will be active again as V51/DJ4SO from Namibia between 25 February and 15 March. He plans to operate on 160-6 metres, mainly CW and RTTY/PSK31 with some SSB. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. [TNX The Daily DX]

VK - Wally, VK6YS - of Browse Island (OC-234) and Breaksea Island (OC-243) fame - has announced that an operation from an IOTA new one in Western Australia (VK6) is schedule to begin on 22 April through 2 May. The trip will also include the reactivation of a pretty rare and most wanted group. The plan is to take a team of five members, but two have had to pull out due to other commitments. If you think you could participate in a "pretty rugged and rough outing to a rather difficult to get to and isolated place", please contact Wally at vk6ys@inet.net.au [TNX www.islandchaser.com]

VK9_xms - Charlie, W0YG (VK9XG) will return to Christmas Island from 22 November to 9 December, CQ WW DX CW Contest included. He plans to operate on as many bands as he can, with an emphasis on the lower bands and RTTY. QSL via W0YG (direct only). [TNX W0YG]

VP2V - Look for Tony, N3ME to operate on 10-20 metres SSB as VP2V/N3ME from the British Virgin Islands (NA-023) until 12 February. QSL via home call. [TNX The Daily DX]

VP5 - Bud, K4ISV and Donnie, K4CN will be active as VP5/K4ISV and VP5/K4CN from North Caicos (NA-002) from 24 February to 17 March. They will participate in both the CQ 160-Meter SSB and ARRL DX SSB Contests as VP5B. QSLs via N2AU. [TNX OPDX Bulletin]

VP5 - WE3C, N3FTI and KQ3V will participate in the ARRL DX SSB Contest (6-7 March) as VQ5A (Multi-Multi). QSL via KQ3V. This will be the first Victor Quebec Five prefix from the Turks & Caicos Islands. [TNX NG3K]

VP9 - David, M0CNP (<http://www.qsl.net/m0cnp>) will operate (on 10-80 metres SSB, CW and maybe RTTY and PSK31 as well) as M0CNP/VP9 from Bermuda (NA-005) on 10-22 March. QSL via home call. [TNX M0CNP]

W - John, WA9HMN will be active (20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 metres SSB) from Estero Island (NA-069) until 23 February. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. [TNX OPDX Bulletin]

W - Club call K5MDX will be aired from two rare counties (George and Greene) during the Mississippi QSO Party (http://www.arrlmiss.org/AFTERA_1/aftera_1.htm), which will be running from 15 UTC on 28 February through 3 UTC on the 29th. [TNX N5FG]

XF4 - The XF4IH team expects to start operations from Socorro, Revilla Gigedo (NA-030) [425DXN 665] around 18 UTC on 3 March. They will be active on all bands and modes through the 20th. The web page for the expedition is at <http://xf4ih.xedx.net/>. QSL via XE1IH (Enrique Garcia Munive, P.O. Box 118-481, 07051 Mexico - D.F., Mexico).

YI - Ramon Gomez de Salazar, YN1GSR (3C1GS) is active as YI9GS from Iraq for the next five months. QSL direct to EA5BYP. [TNX EA5YN]

YU - Michele, IN3IZT is active in his spare time on 10-40 metres as YU8/IN3IZT from Kosovo until mid May. [TNX IN3IZT]

ZD8 - Jim, N6TJ will be active again as ZD8Z from Ascension Island (AF-003) for ten days starting on 18 February, ARRL CW DX Contest included. QSL via VE3HO. [TNX The Daily DX]

ZF - Bruce, W8HW will be active as ZF2BC from the Cayman Islands (NA-016) on 14-21 February. He plans to operate on 10-80 metres mostly CW and RTTY with some SSB. QSL via home call. [TNX The Daily DX]

ZF - Bob, K3UL will be active as ZF2UL from Grand Cayman (NA-016) from 28 February to 4 March. He plans to operate as time permits on the low bands CW. QSL via home call. [TNX The Daily DX]

ZK3 - Silvano/I2YSB, Flaviano/I2MOV, Carlo/IK1AOD and Marcello/IK2DIA [425DXN 653] expect to be QRV from Nukunonu, Tokelau Islands (OC-048) starting on 14 February until the 25th. They will have two stations (one for CW and the other for SSB); the call issued to the group is ZK3SB. QSL via I2YSB (direct only) or M5AAV (bureau only). Further information and logs at <http://www.qsl.net/i2ysb> [TNX I2YSB]

ZK3 - Silvano, I2YSB reports from Tokelau that the current ZK3SB operation [425dxn 667] will close down on 29 February, not on the 25th as previously planned and announced. QSL via I2YSB (direct only) or M5AAV (bureau only).

ZS - Etienne Swart, ZS6Y reports he will be active with the special call ZS10RSA until mid-May "to celebrate ten years of democracy". QSL via KK3S, direct or bureau.

ARRL DX CW Contest (21-22 February) ---> The following stations have announced their participation in this year's event:

* AA4NC and K4MA as 8P9JA (Multi-Single) from Barbados. QSL via K4MA.

* Olli, EA4BQ/OH0XX as 8R1K from Guyana. QSL to Olli Rissanen, Calle Ciguela, 331, 28729 Venturada, Madrid, Spain.

* Saty, JE1JKL as 9M6NA (SOSB 80m) from Labuan Island, East Malaysia. QSL via home call.

* Robert, S53R as A61AJ (SOAB) from the United Arab Emirates. QSL via K2UO (Americas) or DJ2MX (others).

* Steve, AK0M as C6ASB (SOAB Low Power, QSL via home call) and Randy, W6SJ as C6AWS (SOAB Low Power, QSL via home call) from the Bahamas.

* DL3OI, DL4LQM, DL4WG, DL5AXX, DL5LYM and DL8WAA as CS6V (Multi-Multi) from Portugal. QSL via DL5AXX (dl5axx@qsl.net).

* The Gran Canaria DX Group as EA8ZS (Multi-Single, QSL via bureau) and Jim, ON5UM as EA8/ON5UM (SOAB LP, QSL via home call) from the Canary Islands

* Laurent, FM5BH as SOAB High Power from Martinique. QSL via W3HNK.

* K3LP, N7DD, N3SB, K3MM, N8II, W3ARS and N3KS as FS5UQ (Multi-Multi) from St. Martin. QSL via www.qrz.com

* Rich, K2WR as GJ2A (SOAB) from Jersey.

- * William, N7OU as N7OU/HI9 (SOAB Low Power) from the Dominican Republic. QSL via home call.
- * JY9QJ as a SOAB entry from Jordan. QSL via DL5MBY.
- * Rick, K6VVA as KP2CW (SOAB High Power) from the US Virgin Islands. QSL via home call.
- * George, KP2/K2ZZ as SOSB (15 metres) Low Power from the US Virgin Islands. QSL via W1QJ.
- * Javi, LU5FF as SOAB (Low Power). QSL via EA7JX.
- * Mat, F5SHQ as MJ0ASP (SOSB 20m) from Jersey, QSL via F5SHQ.
- * Paolo/I2UIY as P40G (QSL via I2EOW), John/W2GD as P40W (SOAB, QSL via N2MM) and Andy, AE6Y as P40Y (QSL via home call) from Aruba.
- * W8TK, W0NB, N1ZZ, W8AV, W0CG as PJ2T (Multi-Two) from Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. QSL via N9AG.
- * KU8E, W9RE, N5OT and N4GG possibly as PJ4R (Multi-Two) from Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles.
- * Jim, K1NA as PJ5NA (SOAB) from St. Eustatius. QSL via home call.
- * George, K2DM and Peter, K3ZM as V26DX (Multi-Single) from Antigua. QSL via KU9C.
- * W2OX as V47KP from St. Kitts. QSL via K2SB.
- * AG9A and K9RS as VP5K from North Caicos. QSL via K9QVB.
- * Jim, N6TJ as ZD8Z (SOAB) from Ascension Island. QSL via VE3HO.

Do not forget to give a look to the Announced Operation tables maintained by Bill Feidt, NG3K at <http://www.ng3k.com/>

CENTRAL AMERICA TOUR ---> Heikki "Henry" Tamminen, OH3JF will operate as TG7/OH3JF from Guatemala on 18-29 February and as HR5/OH3JF from Honduras on 2-10 March. He will run 800 watts and will concentrate on 30-160 metres. Suggested frequencies are 1827, 3507, 7007, 10103/10108, 14007, 18077, 21007, 24897 and 28007 kHz for CW; 1840, 3789, 7045, 14195, 18145, 21295, 24945 and 28495 kHz for SSB. QSL via OH3OJ. [TNX OH3OJ]

PACIFIC TOUR ---> Rolf, DK2ZF will be touring the Pacific between 27 February and 21 April. His trip will start from Fiji and end on Guam, "with four or five islands in between". He plans to operate 95% CW mainly on 40, 30 and 20 metres, plus 80 metres on his sunset/sunrise times. Rolf would like to receive real RST reports, not the standard 599. QSL direct via home call. [TNX DK2ZF]

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PACIFIC TRIP ---> DL1VKE and DF2SS will be active as 5W0SS & 5W0KE from Samoa and as KH8/homecall from American Samoa between 25 March and 10 April. They plan to operate SSB, CW and RTTY on all the HF bands. QSL via DL2MDZ. Logs will be available at <http://www.df2ss.wimo.com> [TNX DF2SS]

SOUTHEASTERN ASIA ---> Hiroo Yonezuka, JA2EZD/XW2A will be travelling to Vietnam and Cambodia from 10 February through the end of the month. He plans to operate as 3W2B and XU7AAA. QSL direct to P.O. Box 10003, Vientiane, Laos. [TNX The Daily DX]

>>> **ANTARCTIC OPERATIONS (*)** <<<

ANTARCTICA - Keii/JA6KTY and Sanae/JF6PMO have been active as EM1U from the club station at the

Ukrainian "Akademik Vernadsky" base on Galindez Island (AN-006). Information and pictures of this Antarctic station are available at <http://www.qsl.net/em1u/> <http://www.antarctida.kiev.ua/english/> <http://home.t-online.de/home/Purtz-Guestrow/stationen3a.html>

SOUTH ORKNEYS - Henry, LU4DXU is now active as AY1ZA from the "Orcadass" base on Laurie Island. His radio is interfering with the commercial HF station and when both are on the air Henry has to turn the amplifier off and run 10-15 watts only. QSL via LU4DXU. [TNX DL5EBE]

SOUTH ORKNEYS - Henry, LU4DXU is expected to go QRT as AY1ZA from the "Orcadass" base on Laurie Island on 21 February.

SOUTH SHETLANDS - Ricardo, CE9R will be at the Chilean Antarctic base "Escudero" on King George Island until 23 February. Those who still need a QSO with him can contact Dominik, DL5EBE at DWeiel@t-online.de [TNX DL5EBE]

(*) As far as base names, locations and accessory information are concerned, the reference source is the WABA Directory 2003 (which is also an acknowledged reference source for the RSGB IOTA Programme). The WABA Directory is downloadable at <http://www.425dxn.org>, but please note that 425 DX News is not and has never been involved in WABA management, so please refrain from contacting us on WABA matters.



VK6WIA QSO Party (thanks Mal VK6LC)

Good to know

3D2CC ---> "I can safely say my amateur radio days are over", Fred, 3D2CC reports. "For 4 years I pressed for a new 240V AC line but nothing has been done. The power on the island is not adequate to operate the rigs". Fred, IOTA's only representative for OC-121, has taken down all his antennas. Russ Wilson, VE6VK still has QSL cards for him (direct only with 1 USD for North American stations, 2 USD or 1 new IRC for overseas). [TNX VE6VK]

4U1UN ---> W3UR/Bernie, Christa/KB3JIU and Steve/KU9C made a total of 1062 QSOs during their one-day operation from the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Activity started at 14.30 UTC on 0 January and went until 2 UTC on the 31st. Pirate operations were reported on 31 January (between 06-07 UTC on 30m and 80m, and again at 20 UTC on 20m) and 1 February (at 11 UTC on 40m). [TNX The Daily DX]

CORRECTIONS ---> The correct QSL route for Nodir, EY8MM is via K1BV (not K1TT as mentioned in 425DXN #668). UA1RJ is the QSL manager for UE1SAP/3 (not UE3SAP/3 as reported in 425DXN #668). We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our readers.

DXCC NEWS ---> Bill Moore, NC1L reports that the following operations by UA4WHX/AC4LN (2002 and 2003) are approved for DXCC credit:

3D2VB Fiji November 6-7, 2003
3D2VB Fiji October 16-20, 2003
3D2VB Fiji October 4-6, 2003
3D2VB/R Rotuma October 8-14, 2003
5W0VB Samoa June 26-30, 2003
8R1/AC4LN Guyana August 9-14, 2002
9Y4/AC4LN Trinidad & Tobago August 2-7, 2002
A35VB Tonga July 10-18, 2003
FK/AC4LN New Caledonia September 21-October 3, 2003
FO/AC4LN Austral Islands December 11-13, 2003
FO/AC4LN French Polynesia December 16-25, 2003
FO/AC4LN Marquesas Islands December 2-7, 2003
FW/AC4LN Wallis & Futuna September 27-October 3, 2002
H40VB Temotu Province August 24-30, 2003
H44VV Solomon Islands August 18-23, 2003
HH2/AC4LN Haiti July 23-27, 2002
HP8/AC4LN Panama June 26-July 1, 2002
J3/AC4LN Grenada August 27-30, 2002
J6/AC4LN St Lucia July 17-20, 2002
J73/AC4LN Dominica August 20-23, 2002
KH0/AC4LN Mariana Islands May 27-31, 2003
P29VVB Papua New Guinea August 4-17, 2003
T20VB Tuvalu October 29-November 5, 2003
T30VB Western Kiribati October 21-28, 2003
T88VV Palau May 21-26, 2003
V31VB Belize May 25-30, 2002
V63MB Micronesia June 2-10, 2003
V63MB Micronesia May 13-20, 2003
V73VV Marshall Islands June 12-20, 2003
YJ0VB Vanuatu September 5-18, 2003
YS1/AC4LN Belize June 5-9, 2002
ZK1/AC4LN North Cook Islands November 9-15, 2003
ZK1/AC4LN South Cook Islands November 18-26, 2003
ZK2VB Niue July 1-4, 2003
ZL/UA4WHX New Zealand July 19-31, 2003

DX SPOTS ---> Rod Elliott, VE3IRF has collected the DX spots from the OH2AQ Web Cluster since January 1997. The collection - from January 1997 up to

January 2004 - is available at <http://www.425dxn.org/dxspots/>.

ECUADOR AWARDS ---> The DX-TA-SEA DX Club (WW8DX) issues two awards (available to either licenced amateurs and SWLs) for working/listening to HC stations. The "HC8/HD8 DX Diploma" is for contacts made with a minimum of 3 different HC8 or HD8 stations in the Galapagos Islands; the "Equatorial Line Diploma" is for contacts made with the different Ecuadorean HC & HD prefix areas. For further information please contact Rick Dorsch, NE8Z (ne8z@yahoo.com) or visit <http://www.octavia.com/QSL/awards.htm>

INDEXA ---> The International DX Association (INDEXA) has announced the appointment of Ron Wright, ZL1AMO, to the position of vice president. Ron succeeds Bill "Pick" Pickard, WA5PAE, who became a Silent Key in late November 2003. [TNX AA7UC]

OPERATORS NEEDED ---> Charles "Frosty" Frost, K5LBU is putting together a team to operate from Botswana (A2) in July, IARU contest (10-11 July) included. If interested, please contact Frosty at frosty1@pdq.net [TNX K5LBU]

PIRATE ---> The station spotted as YC3MM/P on 20 metres on 29 January was not the genuine YC3MM. Adi did not operate portable in January, and his amateur radio licence privileges do not include 20 metres. [TNX YC3MM]

PIRATE ---> Peter, VY0PW (formerly known as VE8PW) reports he is receiving a fair number of cards for contacts made with TA4/VE8PW on 40 and 80 metres CW. Please note that Peter's VE8PW call expired in April 1999 and has not been reassigned so far; TA4/VE8PW is a pirate.

QSL 4L1DA ---> David, 4L1DA (<http://www.qsl.net/4l1da/>) reports that is new QSL manager is W7LPF: Joseph Lutz, 5421 RTE 711, New Florence, PA 15944, USA.

QSL 4L1GW ---> Vladimir Radev, LZ1OT is the QSL manager for 4L1GW. Cards have been already printed and requests can be sent either direct or through the bureau. [TNX LZ1OT]

QSL BI3H ---> Mac, W3HC has finally received the BI3H logs for the year 2000 in order. Those who sent a request had it returned unverified are invited to resubmit. [TNX W3HC]

QSL CX4TO ---> Antonello, IK2DUW reports that all of the direct cards for CX4TO received so far have been processed and mailed.

QSL FM5WE ---> Tony, WF1N can confirm contacts made from October 1985 through 31 December 2001 only (cards for contacts from 1 January 2002 on should go to K3PD). Recently Tony returned many bureau cards for December 2001 contacts as "Not In Log" because the log he had ended on 23 December at 22.02 UTC. He has just received two additional log sheets for the rest of December 2001; please resubmit your QSL if your contact with FM5WE was from December 23 to December 31, 2001. [TNX WF1N]

QSL G4IUF/HC8 ---> Mike reports that all direct QSLs received so far for his recent activity from the Galapagos have now been cleared. Requests received

between now and his departure for 3B9C will be turned round daily. [TNX G4IUF]

QSL KL7DX ---> Ron Lago, AC7DX will be the QSL manager for KL7DX, which has been re-issued to the Alaska DX Club in memory of Robert L. Rapuzzi, former holder of the call. [TNX AC7DX]

QSL LW7DX --> Horacio "Race" Schvarzman, LW7DX reports that LU2DW is not his QSL manager. The correct QSL route can be found at www.qrz.com

QSL MANAGER SURVEY ---> Over 2600 DXers world wide participated in the Golist's survey [425DXN 661] and nominated a total of 98 managers. The Top 5 QSL Managers for the year 2003 are AC7DX, G3SWH, KU9C, N3SL and W3HNK. [TNX K1XN]

QSL PJ6/PA0VDV ---> Joeke expects the cards to be ready in a couple of weeks. He logged about 4400 CW only QSOs during his 4-week stay on Saba. QSL via PA0VDV, direct (Joeke van der Velde, Delleburen 1, 8421 RP Oldeberkoop, The Netherlands) or bureau. [TNX PA0VDV]

QSL VIA IK7JWX ---> Those who need a bureau card for ZA0IS (EU-169), ZA0/IK7JWX (EU-169) or ZA3/IK7JWX can send their QSO data to Alfredo at either ik7jwx2003@yahoo.it or ik7jwx@aliceposta.it [TNX IK7JWX]

QSL VIA PY1NEZ ---> Pete, PY1NEW became a Silent Key on 15 December 2003 and his QSLs are now handled by Lima, PY1NEZ (direct or bureau). Pete's operations under other calls include PR1W, PR500W, PT0Z, ZW0W, ZW1NEW, ZY2C and ZZ1Z (CW QSOs), as well as PY1NEW/2 and PY1NEW/PP1. [TNX K1XN and The Golist]

QSL VIA US0ZZ ---> Oleg has started processing direct requests for the June and July 2003 operations from Battery Island (US0ZZ/p, UT4ZG/p, UT5ZA/p, UR5ZGR/p and UR4ZWL/p) and the Kalanchakskiye Islands, EU-179 (US0ZZ/p, UT4ZG/p, UR5ZJL/p, UR5GHK/p, UR6GWJ/p). The rest of the contacts will be confirmed automatically via bureau. [TNX ER5OK]

QSL Y11FLY ---> Koos, KK3S is no longer the QSL manager for Y11FLY, who has decided to do his own QSLing. [TNX K1XN and The Golist]

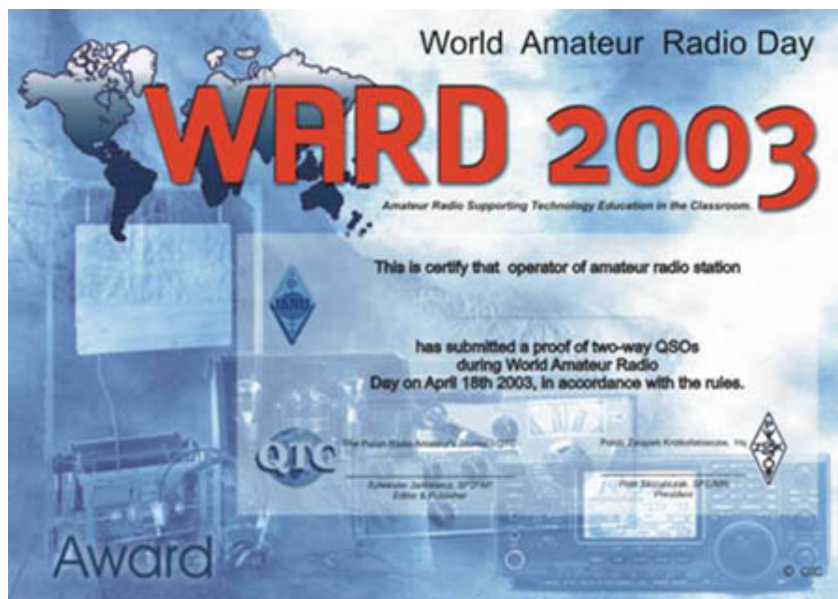
SFDXA ---> The newly elected officers of the South Florida DX Association for 2004-05 are Steve/W4DTA (President), Bill/W2CQ (Vice-President), Brian/NY4PD (Secretary), Bruce/W4OV (Treasurer), Ron/W4BP, Don/W3AZD and Norm/W4QN (Directors). [TNX W4DTA]

STRAIGHT KEY PARTY ---> The Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League sponsors the Puerto Rico Straight Key Party, to be held from 18 UTC on 11 April through 2 UTC on the 12th (8 hours). For further information on this event, as well as on the relevant awards, please visit <http://www.prarl.org> or e-mail prarl@prarl.org [TNX WP4F]

TOP QSL MANAGER OFFERED ---> Kim Larson - Steve's (N3SL) daughter and one of the five Top QSL Managers for the year 2003 [425DXN 667] - is currently looking to do more work. If anyone is interested, please e-mail n3sl@arrl.net for more information.

WARD AWARD ---> The WARD (World Amateur Radio Day) Award commemorates the World Amateur Radio Day celebrated by IARU on 18 April each year. The award is sponsored by MK QTC (the Polish Amateur Radio Journal) with the Polish Amateur Radio Union's support, and it is issued to licenced amateurs and SWLs for contacts made/heard between 00.00 and 23.59 UTC on 18 April. For further information please e-mail Sylwester Jarkiewicz, SP2FAP at qtc@post.pl or visit <http://qtc.radio.org.pl/ward2004/> [TNX SP2FAP]

+ **SILENT KEY** + We are sad to report the passing of Percy Raurich, CE7ZK (14 February) and Edilberto "Beto" Rojas, HK3DDD (18 February). [TNX CO2QQ and The Daily DX]



WARD AWARD (here is the 2003 version)

News from the WEB



F6BUM <http://www.f6bum.fr.st>



TO4E <http://cdxc.free.fr/index-f.htm>



5V7C: Propagation forecast, band plan schedule and world Azimuthal map for the 6-13 March 5V7C operation from Togo [425DXN 661] can be found at <http://5v7c.free.fr/Infopropag.htm> . Queries can be st to 5v7c@free.fr [TNX F5NQL]

F6BUM: Pictures and information on Jack's recent vist to Peru can be found at <http://www.f6bum.fr.st>

IIA SURVEY: The Mediterraneo DX Club, with the support of 425 DX News, has launched a survey concerning the Italian Islands Award (IIA). Details can be found at www.mdx.org/iiasurvey.asp [TNX IZ8CCW]

IIORAI: Pictures of IIOrai and II9RAI [425DXN 660], as well as information on the relevant award, are now available at <http://www.raiway.it> (under "news"). [TNX IKOZRR]

ITALIAN AWARDS: An up-to-date collection of amateur radio awards issued in Italy, including the relevant rules, is maintained by Alessandro Scandelli, IW1FGZ (suggestions are welcome at iw1fgz@email.it) at <http://www.425dxn.org/awards>

JA6WFM/HI8: Information on the JA6WFM/HI8 operation can be found at <http://www.h7.dion.ne.jp/~ja6wfm/> [TNX JI6KVR]

LOGS: On-line logs for CE6TBN/8 (SA-032 and SA-091) are now available at <http://www.mdx.org/logsearch.asp>

LOGS: On line logs for Kas, YI9ZF are available at <http://www.gsl.net> (they include QSOs made through 5 February). QSL via SM1TDE. [TNX SM1TDE]

M.I.A.: The Mediterranean Islands Award (MIA), sponsored by the Mediterraneo DX Club, is available to either licensed amateur radio operators and SWLs for working stations from islands located in the Mediterranean Sea. For full information please visit <http://www.mdx.org/mia> or e-mail mdxc@mdxc.org.

TO4E: The final report with pictures on the TO4E/TO4WW DXpedition to Europa (November-December 2003) is now available on the Clipperton DX Club's web site at <http://cdxc.free.fr/index-f.htm> [TNX La Gazette du DX]

XF1K: Information and pictures of the recent operation from NA-166 are now available at <http://www.islandradio.org> . Other pictures can be found at <http://www.425dxn.org>



QSL INFO

QSLs received direct or through managers (1): 1A0KM, 3A2MD, 3A2MW, 3B8/PA0VHA, 3B9FR, 3C0V, 3D2BT, 3DA0LJ, 4K9W, 4S7KJG, 4U1ITU, 5B4OG, 5J0X, 5N0W, 5N34NDP, 5U5Z, 5U7MF, 5V7BR, 5W1SA, 5X1Z, 6W/ON5TN, 6W1RD, 7W4HI (AF-094), 8P6EZ, 8Q7KT, 8R1Z, 9H1AL,

9H1ZA, 9H3MR, 9J2BO, 9M2/G4ZFE, 9M2AX, 9M6OO, 9V1GO, 9V1WW, A61AJ, A61AR, A61X, A92GE, AH2R, BD4JV, BQ9P, C5Z, CE0Y/SP9PT, CY9A, D2BB, D88S, E4/DF6EC, EG9IC, EL2WW, ES5TV, EW6AF, EY9/RA30O, FG5FR, FO/DF6IC, FO/DL3GA, FO/G35WH, FO5FS, FW/G3TXF, GD0IFU, HC2RG, HC4/NP3D, HF0POL, HK0/K4QD, HK0/N2WB, HP1LR, HU1M/3, IH9P, J2ORM, J69MV, J75A, J79JRC, J79WW, JR8XXQ/JD1, JT1CO, JT1CS, JX2IJ, K4E (NA-034), K9AJ/VY0 (NA-007), KH7X, KM9D/KH8 (OC-200), KP2/AB2RF, LX5A, LY2ZZ, LY5A, MU0FAL, N3KQU/ZD8, OA4O, OA5/F6BUM, OD5/OK1MU, OJ0LA, OX3DB, OY9JD, PZ5A, R1ANC, S05X, S79MX, S9SS, SU9NC, T21MY, T2YL, T31MY (OC-043), T88RN, TG0AA, TG9/N0AT, TG9NX, T15U, TO2FG, TO6M, TR8IG, TT8ZZ, TX0AT, TY5ZR, TZ6RD, UK9AA, V25A, V51BG, V63PF, V63SXW (OC-012), V63WC, V73MJ, V73NS, V73T, V8AAP, VK9CD, VK9CJ, VK9XY, VP2E, VP2EJF, VP2ETG, VP2MX, VP2V/WQ7X, VP5/K9DX, VP6DB, VQ9LA, VR2BG, VR2UW, WHOEWX, XQ3/IZ6BRN, XQ8ABF (SA-008), XT2MF, Y19ZF, YJ0AJU, YJ0AMY, YJ0ATU, YL2GN, YN4SU, YS2ZKK, Z32ZM, ZA1B, ZK2SA, ZM8CW, ZP6CW, ZW0S, ZW8M.

QSLs received direct or through managers (2): 1A0KM, 3B8/PA0VHA, 3B9FR, 3C0V, 3XY1L, 4L0G, 4U1ITU, 5R8FU, 5U5Z, 5W1SA, 5X1X, 6Y5WJ, 7X4AN, 8Q7JE, 9A5W, 9G5ZZ, 9J2KC, 9K2YM, 9Y4/DL7DF, A52CQ, A61AJ, A71MA, C31LJ, C6APX (NA-001), CE0Y/SQ9BOP, CQ9K, CY9A, D88S (AN-010), DP1POL, FG/YL2KL, FO/G35WH, FOOPT, FS/W3ARS, H40V, HK0/N2WB, HK7AAG, HR1RMG, J41YM, J5UCW, J6/LA4LN, J88DR, J8DX, JT1CO, JW0HU, JW4LN, JW5RIA, JX7DFA, KP2/N6DE, OY9JD, P29TL, PJ2T, PJ7D, PZ5A, R1ANF, RA1QQ/1 (EU-119), RK3DZJ/1 (EU-066 and EU-147), T32YL, TG9NX, UA0ZAL/P (AS-039), UK9AA, UN6G, V47ZM, V51BG, V73MJ, VK4WWI (OC-265), VK9CD, VP2MDY, VP2MX, VP2V/N3ME, VP2VE, VP6DIA, VP8DGA, VP8DHI, VQ9LA, VR2MY, W4WX/C6A, XT2DX, YA0J, YA1BV, YI/KCOLEK, Y19ZF, YJ0AMY (OC-110), ZA1B, ZF2DS, ZG2FX, ZK2SA, ZV0SW, ZW0S.

CALL	MANAGER	CALL	MANAGER	CALL	MANAGER
3DA0DX	ZS5WI	EW6AC	DL8KAC	T9/KG6KZK	T98U (d)
3W2B	XW2A	EW6AF	DL8KAC	T9/YT3AA	T98T (e)
3Z2EFU	SP2EFU	EX2M	W3HNK	T94OM	K2PF
4J4AF	EA7FTR	EX8QB	IK2QPR	T98DXA	YU1FW
4K0GNY	GM0GNY	EY7AF	RW6HS	T98FKN	CT1FKN
4L1BR	DL2RMG	EY8MM	K1TT	T98GTH	IV3GTH
4L1DA	W7LPF	FG5FC	F6DZU	TA2ZF	UT2UB
4L1QX	RW6HS	FK8GX	W3HNK	TP7CE	F5LGF
4L8A	OZ1HPS	FS5UQ	W3HNK	UA0AZ	W3HNK
4N200A	4N1A	H40XX	VE3EXY	UA1OJL/A	RZ3EC
4S7CWG	DK7PE	H44MS	DL2GAC	UA1ONY	RZ3EC
4S7DLG	DK7TF	H44XX	VE3EXY	UE1QAP	UA1RJ
4S7FPG	DL4PG	HC1AJQ	EA7FTR	UE1QAP/1	UA1RJ
4S7LHG	DJ3FK	HC1MD	K8LJG	UE1QAP/3	UA1RJ
4V200YH	DL7CM	HR1FJC	EA7FTR	UE1QSK	UA1RJ
5B4/RA3CQ	RA3AMG	HS0ZDZ	GM4FDM	UE1RAP	UA1RJ
5R8FU	SM5DJZ	I12V	IK2LNL	UE1SAP	UA1RJ
5U7JB	ON5NT	IK7JGQ/mm	IK8OZZ	UE3FKW	RZ3DYG
5VZBB	W2FUI	IQ5RR	I5DOF	UE3IAP	UA1RJ
5W1SA	JH7OHF	J28XX	DL2JRM	UE3SAP/3	UA1RJ
5Z4HW	DL3DF	J43BSF	SV1CIB	UE3SFF/4	RU3SD
5Z4PV	PA3CBH	J43BSF	SV1CIB	UE9SDG	RZ9SWP
7Q7HB	GOIAS	J68AR	K9JE	UN7EG	DL8KAC
7X0AD	EA4URE	J68AS	N9AG	UU7J	W1TE
7X5JF	DJ8QP	J68GS	K16T	V25VY	G4BVY
8P9JA	K4MA	J6DX	N9AG	V26G	N2ED
8P9NX	W0SA	J73CCM	SM0CCM	V26OY	KF8OY
8Q7RK	JA1BRK	J75KG	KU9C	V31YN/P	DJ4KW
8Q7VV	A16V	J79Z	K3TEJ	V51KC	WD4AWO
8R1RPN	EA4BQ	J7A	KU9C	V73MJ	JF1NZW
8S7A	W3HNK	JA6WFM/H18	JA6VU	VK1AA/2	VE3EXY
9G5XA	G3XAQ	JT1FDD	RW6HS	VK1AA/4	VE3EXY
9J2BO	G3TEV	JW5HE	LA5HE	VK9LB	DL7AFS
9M6NA	JE1JKL	K9Y	N9TN	VK9LX	VE3EXY
9VOA	VK4AAR	KC4/IK7JGQ	IK8OZZ	VK9LX/9	VE3EXY
9Y4/DF6QP	DF6QP	KG4AS	N4SIA	VP2E	N5AU
9Y4/DJ8OT	DJ8OT	KHOA	JF1MIA	VP5/AG9A	K9QVB
9Y4/DJ8VC	DJ8VC	KHOU	JA1QNV	VP5/HA5JI	HA8FW
9Y4/DL8JS	DL8JS	KL7DX	AC7DX	VP5/K7BV	KU9C
9Y4SF	WA4JTK	KP2CW	K6VVA	VP5/K9RS	K9QVB
A22TL	ZS6TFB	L20H	EA7FTR	VP5/VE3NE	HA8FW
A61AJ	DJ2MX (g)	LU1DZ/L	EA3RE	VP5/VE3NZ	HA8FW
A61AJ	K2UO (h)	LU1DZ/X	EA3RE	VP5JI	HA8FW
A71EM	LZ1YE	LX5A	LX1RQ	VU3VLH	OK1TN
AY1ZA	LU4DXU	LX7I	LX2AJ	VY2ZM	K1ZM
BW0PSK	BV2KI	M0SDX	UT2UB	W2GD	W2CG (f)
BW0RTY	BV2KI	MD4K	G3NKC	W2NDP/4	W2NDP
BW3/JD1BKQ	JR3PZW	OC3I	OA4DJW	WP2Z	KU9C
C31LJ	VE3GEJ	OHOCO	SM6CCO	XE1YYD	EA5KB
C56/GOVUH	GOVUH	OH0I	OH3BHL	XF1K	N6AWD
C6AGN	W1DIG	OY3QN	OZ1ACB	XQ3WTR	W3HC
C6AKQ	N4BP	P29KPH	N5FTR	XQ6ET	W8UVZ

CALL	MANAGER	CALL	MANAGER	CALL	MANAGER
C6ALK	K7RE	P40G	I2EOW	XU7AAA	XW2A
C6AMM	K1CN	P40LE	K2LE	XU7ACY	K2NJ
C6APG	K4PG	P40W	N2MM	XV2J	JR1TAG
C6APX	KC4PX	P40Y	AE6Y	YA1BV	JA1PBV
C6AOX	WA8SQX	P49MR	VE3MR	YA1RS	ZL1RS
C6AWW	K1CN	PA6Z	PA1K	YB0ECT	K5ZE
CE3WTR	W3HC	PJ2L	K2LE	YI3DX	W3ICM
CM8WAL	EA5KB	PJ2S	G0CKP	YI3Q	W3HNC
CN8KD	EA5XX	PROF	W5SJ	YI9LEK	KCOLEK
CN8NK	EA5XX	PS8NF/PR8	PS8NF	YI9YMA	K7YMA
CO2CI	WD4OIN	PT5T	W3HC	YI9ZF	SM1TDE
CO8LY	EA7ADH	PY2OMS	W3HC	YM2ZF	UT2UB
CT3AS	DJ8FW	RA1OZ/A	RZ3EC	YS1EJ	W4GJ
CU3DJ	K3PD	RT0Q	UA3DX	YU0HST	YU1AST
D44TT	K1BV	RW0BB/9	UA4RC	YV1/K3UOC	W1AF
DU9/NONM	W4DR	SJ9WL	SM5DJZ	YV5ANF	EA7FTR
EA6UN	EC6TK	SNOPCK	SP1EG	Z33F	I28FWN
EA8/OH4NL	OH2BYS	SO1VAF	DL7VAF	Z36A	DJ0LZ
EA8BH	OH2BH	ST2NH	EA7FTR	ZD8A	N6CW
ED3TCG	EA3DQU	ST2YL	EA7FTR	ZF2BC	W8HW
ED3VGC	EA3NI	SVOXAI/9	LA4XFA	ZF2DS	W3WKP
EM0U	UT3UZ (a)	SX1A	SV1DPI	ZK3SB	I2YSB (i)
EM0U	UT7UW b)	T20HC	DL9HCU	ZK3SB	M5AAV (j)
EM5U	UT2UB	T32Z	K3PD	ZS4PB	W3HNC
EO12ID	US7IGF	T88AQ	JH6WDG	ZY1AA	PY1AA
EO58IS	US7IGF	T9/9A3GZ	T98U (c)		

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4U1UN Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 3873, New York, NY 10163, USA
9L1MS P.O. Box 15312, 00143 Roma - RM, Italy
BD1ES Hsinyu Mu, 10#19D Dist. 4 Yuanda Garden Century Town, Beijing 100089, China
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DL7AFS Baerbel Linde, Eichwaldstrasse 86, 34123 Kassel, Germany
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I5DOF Franco Donati, Via A. Fratti 205, 55049 Viareggio - LU, Italy
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JA6VU Kano Masaaki, 712 Kagami-Machi, Yatsushirogun, Kumamoto 869-4203, Japan
K11ED Larry F. Skilton, 72 Brook Street, South Windsor, CT-06074, USA
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KG4WW Bill Walker, USNH GTMO, Box 4, FPO AE 09589, USA
LU3MAM Osvaldo Peralta, P.O. Box 232, 5500 Mendoza, Argentina
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LU6UO Hector Ombroni, Calle 18 n. 275, 6360 General Pico - La Pampa, Argentina
LW2DX Fernando Fernandez, Granville 685, 1846 Jose Marmol - Buenos Aires, Argentina
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ON5NT Ghis Penny, P.O.Box 93, BE-9700 Oudenaarde, Belgium
OX2KAN P.O. Box 551, 3955 Kangaatsiaq, Greenland
PAORRS Richard Smeets, Schoorveken 100, 5121 NM Rijen, The Netherlands
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PS8ET Jose de Jesus Moura Costa, Q-25 C-17 Parque Piaui, Teresina, PI 64025-100, Brazil
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UT2UB Andrej Lyakin, P.O. Box 99, Kyiv-10, 01010 Ukraine
UT3UZ Alex I. Arbuzov, P.O. Box 240, Kiev-232, 02232 Ukraine
UT7UW Yuri Zaskaleta, P.O. Box B-32, Kiev-1, 01001 Ukraine
UY5XE George A. Chlijanc, P.O. Box 19, Lviv 79000 Ukraine
VE3EXY Nenad Stevanovic, P.O. Box 65046, Nepean, Ontario K2G 5Y3, Canada
VK4AAR Alan Rookcroft, P.O. Box 421, Gatton 4343, Australia
W7LPF Joseph Lutz, 5421 RTE 711, New Florence, PA 15944, USA
XW2A P.O. Box 10003, Vientiane, Laos
YF1AR Budi Santoso, P.O. Box 3, BNKA-TNG 15821, Indonesia

CALENDAR

PERIOD	CALL	REF
23/02-01/03	8Q7SG: Maldives (AS-013) * by I3SGR	667
23/02-07/03	8Q7YY: Maldives (AS-013) * by IV3YYK	667
23/02-01/03	EA8/MOCLH/P: Tenerife (AF-004) * by MOCLH	667
23/02-06/03	RX3AJL/1: White Sea Is. (EU-147 & EU-162)	668
24/02-08/03	C6AWB & C6ANM: Eleuthera & New Providence (NA-001)	668
24/02-31/03	CN: Marocco * by W7EJ	668
24/02-02/03	JA6PSE & JA6PSI: Tokara Islands (AS-049)	664
24/02-17/03	VP5/K4ISV and VP5/K4CN: North Caicos (NA-002)	667
25/02-29/02	9K43NLD: Special event station	668
25/02-10/03	N2TK/NP2: Virgin Islands (NA-106) * by N2TK	667
25/02-15/03	V51/DJ4SO: Namibia * by DJ4SO	668
27/02-21/04	3D2 - KH2 (Pacific tour) * by DK2ZF	668
28/02-14/03	6Y5/homecall: Jamaica * by WN9O, WO9Z, W9IU	668
28/02-29/02	K5MDX: George & Greene (Mississippi QSO Party)	668
28/02-29/02	T77C * by IV3s	668
28/02-04/03	ZF2UL: Grand Cayman (NA-016) * by K3UL	668
28/02-29/02	GACW Key Day	662
28/02-29/02	CQ 160 Meters Contest - SSB	***
28/02-29/02	REF Contest - SSB	***
28/02-29/02	UBA DX Contest - CW	***
29/02-08/03	5W: Samoa (OC-097) * by I2YSB, I2MOV, IK1AOD, IK2DIA	667
29/02-10/03	9Y4/WE9V & 9Y4ZC: Tobago Island (SA-009)	665
29/02-03/04	MM0LEO: Scotland * by W3LEO	668
01/03-06/03	5H1BP: Zanzibar (AF-032) * by HB9BXE	668
01/03-06/03	HR3/W0GLG: Cayos Cochinos (NA-160) * by W0GLG	667
01/03-30/03	P40A: Aruba (SA-036) * by KK9A	667
01/03-08/03	T32I and T32BI: East Kiribati * by KH6GMP and KH6DFW	657
01/03-15/03	VK9NB: Norfolk Isl. (OC-005) * by DL7AFS & DJ7ZG	665
01/03-12/03	XU7AJV & XU7TZG: Koh Poah (AS-133) * ON4AJT & ON6TZG	657
02/03-04/03	C6AWB & C6ANM: Berry Islands (NA-054)	668
02/03-10/03	HR5/OH3JF: Honduras * by OH3JF	667
03/03-09/03	HR9/N0HJZ: Roatan Island (NA-057) * by N0HJZ	667
from 03/03	XF4IH: Socorro (NA-030), Revillagigedo	660
06/03-12/03	5V7C: Togo * by F5CW, F4AJQ, F5TVG, F5JSD, F8BUI, F5VHQ	667
06/03-07/03	9M2/G3TMA: Pulau Ketam (AS-074)	666
06/03-07/03	ARRL International DX Contest - SSB	***
06/03-07/03	Open Ukraine RTTY Championship - RTTY	***
07/03-14/03	TA/DL3NBL/P: Ucadalar Isl. (AS-115)	668
07/03	DARC 10 m Digital Contest "Corona" - DIGI	***
08/03-15/03	V8JIM & V8NOM: Brunei (OC-088)	664
09/03-27/03	CO/I0SNY: Cuba * by I0SNY	666
13/03-14/03	9M2/G3TMA: Pulau Ketam (AS-074)	666
13/03-14/03	R5GB Commonwealth Contest - CW	***
13/03-20/03	V31AD: Belize * by N5DD, KC5DJI, AG5TX, KD5YCG	667
14/03-19/03	KP2/W6DXO: St. John, Virgin Isl. (NA-106) * by W6DXO	667
14/03	North American Sprint Contest - RTTY	***
14/03	UBA Spring Contest - CW	***
15/03-19/03	VK4FRI: Fraser Island (OC-142)	647
16/03-22/03	T70A: San Marino * by N2WB and W4WX	667
20/03-12/04	3B9C: Rodrigues Island (AF-017)	661
20/03-21/03	Russian DX Contest - CW/SSB	***
20/03-28/03	SX8K: Kythira Isl. (EU-113) * by SV Team	666
24/03-30/03	W2RZS/6Y5 & 6Y2RZ: Jamaica (NA-097) * by Ws	667
25/03-10/04	5W0SS & 5W0KE: Samoa * by DL1VKE and DF2SS	667
25/03-10/04	KH8/homecall: American Samoa * by DL1VKE and DF2SS	667
25/03-29/03	MU5RIC/P: Guernsey (EU-114) * by M5RIC	667
27/03-28/03	CQ WW WPX Contest - SSB	***
29/03-05/04	C56JJ: The Gambia * by PA9JJ	663
03/04-18/04	TO7HAM: Caribbean Hamboree (Martinique)	667
03/04-04/04	EA WW RTTY Contest - RTTY	***
03/04-04/04	IYLRC Elettra Marconi Contest - CW/SSB/RTTY	***
03/04-04/04	SP DX Contest - CW/SSB	***
04/04-11/04	T33C: Banaba Isl. (OC-018)	668
04/04-10/04	JW/F8DVD: Longyearbyen (EU-026) * by F8DVD	667
from 04/04	T33C: Banaba (OC-018)	663
09/04-11/04	TJ: Mondoleh Isl. (AF-???) * by F6BUM	668
10/04	EU Sprint Spring - SSB	***
11/04-18/04	TM6ILE: Groix Island (EU-048) * by F5SGI	663
11/04	UBA Spring Contest - SSB	***

XF1K

Parajos Island, Sonora State, Mexico, NA-166

The RSGB IOTA Directory indicates that the Sonora State South group of Mexico consists of Huivulia, La Raza, Lobos and San Pedro Nolasco Islands. The local administration of these islands has restricted travel to a point where the group became the most needed IOTA group in North America. While Hector, XE2K, was doing research on the possibility of activating one of these islands, he noticed that an island near the city of Guaymas should count for the group. Parajos or Bird Island was certainly large enough, it had no restrictions for access, it was not in the Bay of Guaymas and it was a sufficient distance off the mainland. When he collected all the maps and other documentation, he made a submission to the IOTA Committee and they agreed that it should be added to the NA-166 group.

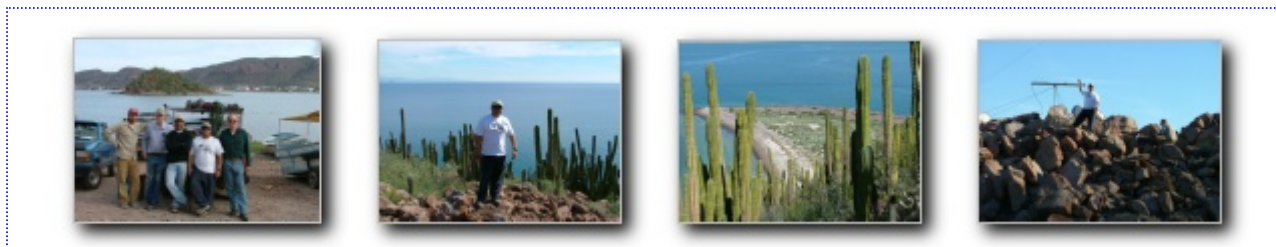
Hector had previously activated three other groups in Northern Mexico with the assistance of other hams from Mexico and California. Hector and Ray, N6VR, had the basic equipment and antennas that have been collected from past operations and could be used to activate NA-166. The expected demand for QSOs would require at least five operators to handle the traffic. Fred, N6AWD, would again be the QSL manager. The laws governing amateur radio operations from Mexican islands must be strictly followed. A special license must be obtained and a XF call authorized. All operators must have a current Mexican license and there must be more Mexican operators than foreigners. XE2TG - Marco, XE2Q - Gerardo and N6JV - Norm volunteered to fill out the crew. It took several weeks to get all the licensing in order. In this period, Fred kept busy obtaining contributions to help fund what would be the most ambitious operation attempted by Hector and the team.

The target date to start operations from Parajos was February 5, 2004. On February 3, Norm started from his QTH in Sacramento, California and headed south. Six hours and 300 miles later, he arrived at Ray's home near Ventura, California. Equipment was consolidated and loaded in Ray's truck for the trip to Mexico. Before 5 am, the Californians were on the freeways of Los Angeles on their way to Mexicali, Baja, Mexico. At noon, they arrived in Mexicali and after passing through customs, arrived at Hector's home. The combined cargo was loaded in a rental truck that was large enough for the equipment and operators. Hector had fabricated a pipe rack that would hold all the masts, yagis and verticals above the bed of the truck. With everything loaded and tied down, it was time to head further south. Guaymas, Sonora, the final destination would be 500 miles or 800 km away.

The highways of Northern Mexico are in good condition and there were no problems traveling through the State of Sonora. There were several customs and security checkpoints to pass through, but all the papers were in order. Hector was very concerned about customs and was relieved when we easily passed through. After midnight, the truck arrived in a small village near Hermosillo, Sonora. Marco, XE2TG, has a second operating and contesting location in a cottage away from the noise of the large city. Arrangements had been made to sleep there for the night. In the morning it was breakfast and then to Marco's home in the city. Marco's truck was loaded with additional gear and after picking up Gerardo, the convoy headed further south to Guaymas. A few hours later, the operators met with the local hams that would be the support team. XE2TNT, XE2UCT, XE2TVV and his son and Sr. Miguel Orozco, who provided the boat for the trip to Parajos, helped unload the trucks and get everything into the boat. By mid afternoon the boat was loaded and there was enough room for 3 passengers. Hector, Gerardo and Norm made the first trip to the island in the 18-foot outboard.



Careful loading of the boat resulted in everything getting to the island dry except for the passengers. Miguel maneuvered the boat through the shallow areas around the landing site and stopped in the sand 10 meters off shore. It was time to take off the shoes and get into the water. The water was a bit cold and the many sharp seashells made the unloading challenging. Once everything was on the beach, the boat returned for the rest of the party. Work started on the first of the beam antennas (TH3JR) that was to be installed near the beach. Once erected, it was connected to an IC706 Mk2 using a storage battery to let everyone know that XF1K was on the island. The first QSO from the beach was with Fred, N6AWD, in California. It was decided to keep on the air from the shore while the rest of the gear was moved off the beach and the tents set up. The boat had returned and there were more people to help with the tents and antennas. It was getting dark when the pile on 14260 was worked out. The wind was blowing strongly and the foot switch kept getting buried in the sand, but it was exciting to finally get on.



Parajos is a finger shaped island of volcanic origin. The volcanic rock forms a steep long hill that is covered by the large Cardon cactus. At one end of the island is the lighthouse and on the other is a 100-meter spit of level sand where the operation took place. The middle of the spit is about 1 meter above sea level. There is a small clearing in the grass there and this is where the main operating tent was placed with the sleeping tent nearby. To minimize interference, the tent that was to be used exclusively for CW was placed closer to the beach. It was also used for sleeping. The TH3JR yagi remained on the beach along with a DX88 all band vertical. These were used mainly by the CW station using an IC 706 Mk2. The A3S yagi, R7 vertical, 6-meter beam and the low band inverted "V" dipoles fed the main operating tent that had an IC 706, TS440S and a FT100 available. All rigs were used in conjunction with laptop computers for logging.

During the first attempt to operate 6 meters, the FT100 developed serious electrical problems. The Guaymas hams came to the rescue and Gerardo, XE2VGL, repaired the radio and had it back on the island the next day for the 6-meter opening. This rig was also used on 160 meters. Another problem occurred when we found that there was so much light coming through the sides of the CW tent that the computer screen could not be seen. Covering the computer and the operator's head with a black trash bag during daylight hours solved the problem. Ventilation and heat buildup were issues, but it was a source of amusement for visitors to the tent.

A total of six deep cycle storage batteries were available as well as two 1800-watt generators. Each station could choose whichever power source it could utilize best. Some of the computers could run on the 12-volt batteries. Power consumption was never a problem and one of the 1800-watt generators could run the entire camp. The generators consumed ten gallons of gasoline during the operation.

Parajos Island is a very beautiful place. Rough volcanic rock covered with giant cactus contrasted against the blue, clear water make it a vacation postcard scene. But like most beautiful places, there is always something nasty near by. On this island there is an evil plant called the cholla (cho-ya) cactus. It is found all over the Sonoran Desert in Mexico and the Southwestern United States. This is the cactus from Hell and is sometimes called the "jumping" cholla. If you walk anywhere near a cholla, it will attack you. Its spines will penetrate a leather shoe. It breaks off the mother plant like link sausages with long spines. If it has attached itself to your pants leg, it has nailed the pants to your leg. Once you painfully pull the pants away from the leg you must get a stick to flip the cactus off. The next time you walk in that area, you avoid the plant and find the link that you had flipped off has now become a land mine and will get you again. Everyone coming to the island met Señor Cholla. Marco won the "Golden Cholla Award" by actually sitting on one. Further details must be left to the imagination.

The weather during the operation was very good with the exception of a constant wind that threatened to blow the tents and antennas down for the first two days. Large rocks had to be placed over the tent pegs to keep them in the ground. Antenna guy points were made from long reinforcing rods that would hold in the sand. The wind made sleeping difficult and dust got into everything.

There was plenty of food available and some hot meals were prepared. These dishes were usually a mix of what was available, had no names, but were very welcome. Some operators supplemented their diet with clams dug from the beach. An adequate supply of soft drinks, water and beer was also available.

The first day netted several QSOs on 20, 40 and 75 meter SSB and 30 and 40 CW. Only a few Europeans were worked, but the pile of JAs on 40 meters lasted all night. With the dawn of the second day, good openings into Europe were worked on 20 and 15 meters. In the afternoon, the JA and North American pileups kept everyone busy. We were aware that few stations in Eastern Europe were in the log so we tried to concentrate on bands and times that would be best for that area. Conditions improved as the operation went on and by the third day, large pileups of stations from all over Europe were put into the log. Even 40 meters was a good band for working stations in Europe and the Middle East. One hundred watts is good power when people are looking for you. The initial count had 1286 European QSOs and 1318 with Japan.

The QSOs by band:

<i>BAND</i>	<i>SSB</i>	<i>CW</i>
6	17	-
10	372	1
12	76	219
15	951	754
17	297	398
20	679	498
30	-	404
40	94	1691
80	505	82
160	-	-
TOTALS	2997	4047



The grand total including dupes was 7221. Not working us is a valid justification to buy a new rig and/or antenna. The last station to tear down on Sunday morning was the CW position where the last of the Europeans made it into the log. When the frequency could no longer be held because of testers, the rigs were packed and the tents all came down.

By the time the boat came back to the island, all the gear was ready to be loaded. Two trips were again required to move everything. Four bags of trash were the last things to be loaded and after a sightseeing trip around the island, it was back to Port to pack the trucks. The Guaymas crew was again there to help with the unloading and loading. After a few group pictures, we were on our way north to Hermosillo. At Marco QTH we took turns in the shower. Several days of dirt, dust and gasoline needed to be removed. Marco's wife made us a nice meal and then it was time to make the long trip back to Mexicali.

The trip south was very easy. The trip north was potentially a bigger problem. The "Free Trade" agreements with the United States and Mexico have encouraged considerable truck traffic heading north. The Mexican Army has the responsibility of controlling this traffic and stops any movement of contraband going north. There are several Army checkpoints between Hermosillo and Mexicali and the lines of trucks waiting for inspection may extend for a mile. All traffic is stopped for inspection. In Ireland they call it "blarney" or the gift of gab. In America we might use the expression B.S. but we found that Hector is a master of that art. Anyone who can show up after midnight at an Army checkpoint with a truck loaded with more communications gear than the Army had, be transporting two aging, dirty, bearded, semi-conscious Americanos and not get searched down to the truck frame, deserves recognition for his mastery of the fine points of the language.

At about 2 am, the truck arrived in Mexicali where Ray and Norm stayed in a motel for the night. In the morning, the gear was again sorted and Ray's truck loaded for the return trip across the border. Norm again spent the night at Ray's QTH and late the next afternoon, Norm made it home to Sacramento. About 2000 miles of total travel had been made.

We would like to thank the Island Radio Expedition Foundation (IREF), AD5A, G3ZAY, K6DT, K7SO, N5UR, N6KZ, N6PYN, N7RO, W1NG, W4DKS, W5BOS, W6ED, W9HA, WB9EEE and VE7QCR for their contributions which helped make the operation a success. A special thanks to the hams of Guaymas who helped make our trip much easier. We would also like to thank everyone participating in the pileups. Your courteous behavior insured that everyone should have made at least one good QSO. N6AWD will get the QSLs out in record time and then get ready for the next one.

More pictures here: <http://www.425dxn.org/dxped/na166/>



Ile d'Art's bay, my QTH was in the right corner



my host - Davy, will make my FK QSL with his picture on, probably



the family, the bay, and the guy who (they were saying) was operating from a boat all the time with no license, hi.

Touring the Pacific Ocean photos by Vladimir UA4WHX

FK/AC4LN

(Belep island OC-079)



the right side of the bay



my host family eating shells/oysters out of the fire they made on the beach in front of the house



my host and some neighbors' children



Davy's wife and their child, can not remember her name

V63MB

(Mog Mog island OC-078)



local boys



local community hall/church bulletin board



mine and the local CBers antennas

V63MB (cont.)



sharpening a spear for fishing



Sunday afternoon



my friends' family



copra time



V63MB etc.. needed for life



writing the address for me



a few minutes before I left

H44VV

(Nggela island OC-158)



a monk (Brother) that I met on the way to the Island and spent some time together while there



me, in front of the office of the village where I stayed



village house



John, the local electrician

H44VV (cont.)



more children



Brother frank in his village



Brothers' place



John's son



the village chief - Lamur Agimik

P29VVB
(Karkar island OC-258)



in front of the chief's house



the village life



a typical local house



Kurumtaur Village lady doing her washing



village life



some of the Kurumtaur Village people that I met



Project Star Reach (3B9C) – Bulletin No.3



This is the third bulletin concerning Project Star Reach, a project focused around a major expedition to Rodrigues Island, with the callsign 3B9C.

All preparations for 3B9C are on track, and everything is looking good. Our container should arrive in Rodrigues on 26 February. This bulletin brings news of the Nevada Rodrigues Trophies for working 3B9C, some information about QSLing, and other items of interest.

Most Wanted List

The DX Magazine's latest rankings show that Rodrigues has moved from 81st Most Wanted Worldwide in 2002 to 75 in 2003. For the US the change is even more marked, up from 79 to 53 in the Eastern time zone and from 49 to 33 on the West Coast. Incidentally, we note that since our 2001 expedition to the Comoros, D6 appears to have vanished completely from these lists!

Nevada Rodrigues Awards Programme

The objective of the Nevada Rodrigues Trophy Programme is to encourage individual stations of all types worldwide as well as local club stations to make contact with the 3B9C DXpedition during March/ April 2004. We are very keen to encourage all amateurs to participate, particularly those with low power, relatively poor antennas or who are new to HF. We also want to encourage members of local clubs to participate. Trophies will be awarded to stations who work 3B9C on the highest number of band-slots. There are also trophies for SWLs.

Only contacts made on the following bands and modes will qualify for the Nevada Rodrigues Trophies:

CW: 160m to 6m (10 bands)

FM: 10m only

PSK: 20m, 15m and 10m

RTTY: 20m, 15m and 10m

SSB: 160m to 6m excluding 30m (9 bands).

There are 26 band-slots available in total. (The 3B9C team plan to operate on further bands and modes such as SSTV and satellite but these contacts will not count towards these trophies.)

Details of the various trophies are set out below. Note that low power stations must have only single element antennas (e.g. a dipole or a vertical). We will adopt the CQ Worldwide Contest definition of low power i.e. 100 watts or less.

Club awards: In the case of a reasonably active club well over 100 contacts (and perhaps many more) could be made. Claims for individual trophies may be included with club applications providing they are clearly marked as such.

Certificates will be awarded for the third and fourth places (second and third for ROTW) providing there are at least 10 entries in the particular category.

Section 1: UK High Power (See note 1)

Trophies will be awarded to the two high power stations based in the UK who work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 2: UK Low Power (See note 1)

Trophies will be awarded to the two low power stations based in the UK who work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 3: UK Local Clubs (See note 1)

Trophies will be awarded to the two UK local clubs whose members work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 4: UK M3 Licencees (See note 1)

Trophies will be awarded to the two M3 licencees who work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Sections 5: UK Newly Licensed HF Stations (See notes 1 and 2)

Trophies will be awarded to the two stations licensed since 1 January 2003 to operate on HF and based in the UK who work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 6: Europe (excluding UK) High Power

Trophies will be awarded to the two high power stations based in Europe (excluding the UK) who work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 7: Europe (excluding UK) Low Power

Trophies will be awarded to the two low power stations based in Europe (excluding the UK) who work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 8: European (excluding UK) Local Clubs

Trophies will be awarded to the two local clubs based in Europe (excluding the UK) whose members work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 9: European (excluding UK) Newly Licensed HF Stations (See note 2)

Trophies will be awarded to the two stations licensed since 1 January 2003 to operate on HF and based in Europe (excluding the UK) who work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 10: Asia High Power

Trophies will be awarded to the two high power stations based in Asia who work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 11: Asia Low Power

Trophies will be awarded to the two low power stations based in Asia who work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 12: Asian Local Clubs

Trophies will be awarded to the two local clubs based in Asia whose members work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 13: Asian Newly Licensed HF Stations (See note 2)

Trophies will be awarded to the two stations licensed since 1 January 2003 to operate on HF and based in Asia who work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 14: North America High Power

Trophies will be awarded to the two high power stations based in North America who work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 15: North America Low Power

Trophies will be awarded to the two low power stations based in North America who work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 16: North American Local Clubs

Trophies will be awarded to the two local clubs based in North America whose members work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 17: North American Newly Licensed HF Stations (See note 2)

Trophies will be awarded to the two stations licensed since 1 January 2003 to operate on HF and based in North America who work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 18: Rest of the World (ROTW) High Power

A trophy will be awarded to the high power station based in ROTW who works 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 19: Rest of the World (ROTW) Low Power

A trophy will be awarded to the low power station based in ROTW who works 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 20: Rest of the World (ROTW) Local Clubs

A trophy will be awarded to the local club based in ROTW whose members work 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 21: Rest of the World (ROTW) Newly Licensed HF Stations (See note 2)

A trophy will be awarded to the station licensed since 1 January 2003 to operate on HF and based in ROTW who works 3B9C on the most band/mode slots.

Section 22: SWLs

SWLs worldwide may participate. Trophies will be awarded to the two SWL stations who log 3B9C on the most band/mode slots. Three consecutive QSOs must be logged for each band/mode slot.

Claims for the same number of band/mode slots

In cases where several stations claim the same number of band/mode slots the station(s) making the contacts in the shortest time from the start of the DXpedition will be the winner.

Applications:

Applications should be sent by e-mail to Chris G3NHL < g3nhl@tiscali.co.uk > by 31 May 2004. Award section name and number, name of operator (club), callsign, e-mail address and postal address are required together with log extract showing the following:

Date, Time (UTC), Band, Mode. The approved application form (available on the 3B9C Web page or from G3NHL) should be used.

For club applications send one form per member together with a summary.

No individual may apply for more than one award.

Charges

There are no charges for these awards. A picture of the very attractive Nevada Rodrigues Trophy can be found on our website at: www.fsdxa.com/3b9c

Note 1

For the purpose of this award the UK includes G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU and GW.

Note 2

Newly licensed HF stations are defined as:

1. Those amateurs whose licence conditions did not, prior to 1 January 2003, allow them to operate on the HF bands, or,
2. Complete newcomers to HF, licensed since 1 January 2003.

QSL Route

The callsign of the 3B9C QSL manager and PO Box will be announced in the next press release. Requests for bureau cards can also be made via the 3B9C Web page. Direct cards will be available shortly after the DXpedition members return home. Every effort will be made to ensure that cards are handled in a timely manner, with particular attention to the end-September deadline for DXCC updates. QSLing will be handled in a distributed manner, using StarQSL, a software management tool developed by John Linford G3WGV especially for this purpose. The 3B9C QSL card is being designed at the moment. It will be an attractive four-sided full colour card and a proof will be shown on our Web page.

Sponsorship

We are delighted to welcome a number of new corporate, club and individual sponsors. NCDXF in particular have made a generous contribution. Full details appear on the Web site. However, further funds are still required to make this expedition a success, and we look forward to welcoming additional sponsors in due course. Details were given in previous Press Releases and are also on the Web site. In every respect, we expect this to be the biggest single amateur radio operation of all time, giving everyone, not just the privileged few, the opportunity to work a rare one and to compete for a range of trophies and awards, but obviously the cost is high.

Web Site

The 3B9C, Project Star Reach, Web site is already recording well over 300 visitors a day, and that number is growing all the time. There is a huge amount of detail available on the site, as we very much want to make it an integral part of the whole Project. Do take a look! In particular, you might like to start thinking about how best to catch 3B9C on the bands you need. Several major publications will be carrying "How to" articles in March, but you can also find useful data on the Website, along with our early propagation predictions, focused on the main concentrations of amateur population. The URL, again, is www.fsdxa.com/3b9c

Don Field G3XTT, NK1G (g3xtt@lineone.net) 12 February 2004
(3B9C Publicity Officer)