1A - Currently signed up for the 2-7 January 1A0KM activity from SMOM are IK0FVC, I0JBL, IK0FTA, IK0PRG, IW0BYL, I0ZY, I0GOJ, I0HCJ, IK0DWN, IK0XFD, IK5HHA, IZ0IEN, IZ0NRG, DJ9E, OH1VR, S53R and VE7NY. QSL via IK0FTA and LoTW, logsearch on Club Log and website at www.1a0km.org. [TNX I0JBL]

9Q - The Daily DX reports that Pascal, 9Q1CFC (ON4CFC) expects to activate 9Q0AR, the Amateur Radio Association of the Democratic Republic of Congo's club station, "next week, probably around 23-27 December".

A6 - Members of the Emirates Amateur Radio Society (EARS) were expected to be active as A63RI (www.mdxc.org/a63ri/) from Dibba Rock (AS-124) on 19-23 December, with planned CW and SSB operations on all bands. However on 20 December, after a series of unsuccessful attempts (strong winds and rough seas), the team will still on the mainland and active as A62A/p from the shore of the Indian Ocean opposite Dibba Rock. Attempts at landing will continue on 21 December, A65BR reports, but due to the "extremely dangerous" nature of the rock, the "main goal is just to get small spot at the sea level". QSL via IZ8CLM.

DL - Stefan, DF8HS will be active from Fehmarn Island (EU-128) from 20 December to 16 January. QSL via home call, bureau preferred. [TNX rsgbiota.org]

J7 - John, AD8J will be active as J79JG from Dominica (NA-101) from 29 January to 7 February. He will operate mainly CW "when not scuba diving". QSL via home call and LoTW. [TNX AD8J]

OH - Once again OF9X (Old Father 9 Xmas) is active from the heart of Santa Claus Land, in the Lapland region of Finland. The main activity will be over this coming weekend (21-22 December) "to remind you of the fun period of Christmas and to create the right spirit for families with children throughout the world". QSL via OH2BH. Look for OF9X around 25kHz up the band edge (CW) and 14225 kHz or thereabout. In addition to SSB QSOs from a year ago or this year, you should now contact Santa also on CW to qualify for the 2013 Santa Cold Winter (CW) Award. You should track your two QSOs on Club Log and send your request by email to of9x[@]sral.fi. One of the QSOs should be from this year. Further information on the award and how to compensate for a missing QSO can be found at
Special event station 5P14EHC will be active on 1-31 January to bring attention to the European Men's Handball Championship, which will take place in Denmark between the 12th and the 26th. QSL via OZ0J (direct only; please use the OQRS on Club Log for bureau cards), LoTW and eQSL. Information on the relevant award can be found at www.5p14ehc.dk [TNX OZ4FF]

William, K9HZ will be active as PJ4/K9HZ from Bonaire (SA-006) from 20 December to 4 January. He will be QRV on 80-6 metres using portable beam antennas and wires. QSL via K9HZ (direct only), LoTW and eQSL. [TNX rsqbiota.org]

Raimundo, PT7CG and and Renner, PY7RP will be active as ZX8DX from Ilha Grande de Santa Isabel (SA-025) on 26-30 December [425DXN 1180]. They plan to operate SSB, CW and digital modes on 80-10 metres. QSL via PT7CG. [TNX PT7CG]

Special stations HF110RAEM (15-22 December, QSL via SP2FAP) and SO110RAEM (23-31 December, QSL via SP2FAP) are/will be active to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ernst T. Krenkel (RAEM). On 23-31 December HF110RAEM will be operated by SP3GVX, who will handle the QSL cards for contacts made during that time frame.

Several special event stations are expected to be active to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the birth of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe (SP3RN) and the 75th anniversary of Radio Niepokalanow: 3Z120SMK will be QRV on 8-28 January 2014, while HF0RN, HF120MK, SN0MMK, SN0RN, SN120MK, SN120MMK and SN75RN will be active from 8 January to 14 August. In addition, II2SMK (operated by IZ2SOG) will also be active on 8-28 January. Further information can be found at http://stmaximiliansp3rn.blogspot.com [TNX SP9JPA]

The IOTA expedition to Pulau Kisar (OC-272, new one for IOTA) [425DXN 1179] has been delayed by bad weather, and the new flight schedule is for Budi, YF1AR and Imam, YB4IR to depart Ambon on 22 December at 10.30 local time (01.00 UTC). The return flight is still confirmed on 25 December at 13.00 local time (04.00 UTC). Look for YF1AR/8 and YB4IR/8 to be active on 40-10 metres SSB, CW and the digital modes with two transceivers running 100 watts. QSL YF1AR/8 via N2OO (logsearch on Club Log and OQRS on http://df3cb.com/oqrs/n2oo/), QSL YB4IR/8 via home call (OQRS on Club Log). [TNX YF1AR]

Roberto, YV5IAL will be active as CE2/YV5IAL from Chile on 2-30 January. He plans to operate PSK31 daily on 14070.15 and occasionally on 10, 15 and 40 metres PSK31 and SSB. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. [TNX YV5IAL]

Silvano, I2YSB and the Italian DXpedition Team (www.i2ysb.com/idt) announce that they will be active on all bands and modes as ZD9TT from Tristan da Cunha for three weeks in the period September-October 2015. Further information will be available in due course. [TNX IK7JWY]

CARIBBEAN TOUR ---> Ted SP3IPB, Mek SP7VC and Kate SQ7OYL will visit and operate CW and SSB on the HF bands and 6 metres from the Caribbean between 11 and 30 January:
11-12 January Martinique FM/SP7VC, FM/SP3IPB, FM/SQ7OYL
15-16 January Dominica J79VC, J79PB
17-18 January Guadeloupe FG/SP7VC, FG/SP3IPB, FG/SQ7OYL
18-22 January Montserrat VP2MPG, VP2MTK
21 January Antigua V26/SP7VC, V26/SP3IPB
23-29 January Dominica J79VC, J79PB

A beacon from Dominica (J79VC/B) and Montserrat (VP2MPG/B) will be active on 50095 kHz. QSL via home calls. Further information can be found at www.sp7vc.dxing.pl [TNX SP7VC]

CDXC DX MARATHON CHALLENGE ---> Starting in 2014, and running from 1 January to 31 December each year the Chiltern DX Club DX Marathon Challenge is an annual competition open to any licensed amateur world-wide. However, only fully paid up members of the Chiltern DX Club (www.cdxc.org.uk) are eligible to receive Awards. Its purposes are to promote DXing and recognize achievement in DXing over the year, and to promote the uploading of logs to Club Log (which leads to better statistical information for us all). Detailed information can be found on the Chiltern DX Club's website (navigate from Home page > CDXC Awards > DX Marathon).

CE9/UA4WHX ---> Vlad is currently active from Isla Navarino (SA-050), which DXCC wise counts for Chile (neither for South Shetlands nor for Antarctica). Length of stay unknown. See http://www.qrz.com/db/UA4WHX for QSLling instructions.

DXPEDITION OF THE YEAR POLL ---> The DX World.net 2013 DXpedition of the Year poll is now open at http://dx-world.net/. "What a great 2013 it's been for DXpeditions. The team at DX World found it incredibly difficult to agree and list the final 25 DXpeditions. Also, this year, unlike the last two years, we are limiting the votes to only two per person. We believe this to be fair considering it could be that you have an absolute favourite DXpedition, followed by a second, which perhaps helped fill those important band points". The outcome will be available immediately after the poll closes, i.e. at 21 UTC on 6 January 2014 - cast your votes!

HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION DEFINED ---> Following his visit to the Australian Antarctic Division offices in Hobart, Tasmania, Expedition Organizer Dr. Robert Schmieder (KK6EK) made the final decisions that will define the expedition. The expedition is scheduled for January 2015. It will use the Belgian vessel "Cdt. Fourcault", taking a team of 35 persons. The entire journey will take about 50 days, with one month at the island. The team will be made up of several sub-teams (mountaineering, cryptobiology, marine science, communications, documentation), each with its own goals. Their activities will be presented on separate real-time interactive websites. The communications team will use amateur radio to
make up to 150,000 individual contacts worldwide using the callsign VK0EK, and provide real-time reporting of data and images to the Internet, including automatically updating websites that display the activities of the team. For further information, please visit the expedition website (www.heardisland.org).

KOSOVO ---> On 14 December 52 young Kosovars aged between 18-21 years took the first ever Amateur Radio exam under the new laws of the Republic of Kosovo. Fifty of them walked away as new Amateur Radio operators qualifying for a U.S. General level license (procedures are now in place only to take the equivalent of U.S. General or CEPT Novice exams). As the exam/license cost is 50 EUR (70 USD) per person, a major expense for today's youth in Kosovo, radio amateurs worldwide are invited to help the new hams with this entry level cost. See www.qrz.com/db/260A for further information - "you have the option of giving a personal gift to catch the Christmas spirit and to become a godfather in Amateur Radio". Please inform Hans, PB2T (president[@]eudxf.eu) or Martti, OH2BH (oh2bh[@]sral.fi) of your desire to help.

QSL ZS2DL ---> As of 1 January 2014, NI5DX will no longer be the QSL manager for ZS2DL, as Donovan has decided that he will handle his own QSLing. NI5DX will continue to answer any QSL requests for contacts prior to 1 January 2014 until 1 March. At that time, ALL requests for a ZS2DL card must go direct to ZS2DL. All bureau cards must go to ZS2DL as NI5DX will no longer reply to bureau cards after 1 January. [TNX Golist]

QSL VIA RN3RQ ---> Sergey "Jack", RN3RQ is the new QSL manager for RA2FDX, N4AF and NY4A. QSL direct (Sergey B. Yatskiv, P.O. Box 87, Krasnogorsk, 143406, Russia) or bureau and LoTW; OQRS on Club Log. Jack will also be the QSL manager for RJ22DX (Kaliningrad) and RG22RQ (European Russia), which will be active from 1 March to 31 March 2014 to celebrate the Sochi Winter Olympics.

T32: STARBUCK AND FLINT ISLANDS 2014 ---> DX World (http://dx-world.net/) reports that "a group of three operators plan to be active from Starbuck Island (OC-280) and Flint Island (OC-282) next March 2014. The cost of the ship is $50,000 for a journey of about 20 days including 1-2 days activation in Starbuck and 3 days in Flint. In order to reduce costs the team are looking for two more hams who are willing to join them". If interested in participating in this IOTA adventure, please contact DX World.

WRTC2014: ONSITE REFEREES ANNOUNCED ---> WRTC2014, Inc., host of the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC), is pleased to announce the fifty-nine referees that will be monitoring the competing teams during the competition (12-13 July 2014):

9A4M        Mate Botica              OH1RX       Jouko Hayrynen
CX7TT       Tom Morton               PA3AAV      Gert Meinen
DL2OBF      Heinrich Langkopf        PY8AZT      Luc Moreira
EA5RS       Juan M. Chazarra         RA3AUU      Igor "Harry" Booklan
ES5RY       Toomas Soomets           RA90SU      Dmitry Zhikharev
F6BEE       Jacques Saget            RW4WR       Alex Orlov
G3SXW       Roger Western            S50XX      Kristjan Kodermac
G4BUO       Dave Lawley              S53R       Robert Kasca
See www.wrtc2014.org/qualifying/referee-selection/ for an explanation of the referee qualifications and application process.

YASME EXCELLENCE AWARDS ---> In 2008 The Yasme Foundation (www.yasme.org) established the Yasme Excellence Awards, to be awarded to individuals who, through their own service, creativity, effort and dedication, have made a significant contribution to amateur radio. The contribution may be in recognition of technical, operating or organizational achievement, as all three are necessary for amateur radio to grow and prosper. The Yasme Excellence Award is in the form of a cash grant and an individually-engraved crystal globe. The latest recipients, announced on 19 December, are:

* Tom Roscoe, K8CX: Tom is recognized for his dedication to collecting and publishing current and historical photos and other documents on his Hamgallery web site at www.hamgallery.com. Hamgallery is an excellent amateur radio resource provided free of charge to the online community. Tom is also the manager of the W3 QSL Bureau, contributing many hours to ensuring cards are delivered properly and promptly.

* Lee Sawkins, VE7CC: Lee's software is widely used to manage and filter DX cluster spotting output. Without such filters, the output of the spotting network would be overwhelming and unusable. Lee's filtering software enables logging programs to integrate with the spotting network for contesting and general-purpose operation around the world. Lee supports the local DX and contesting community in British Columbia and will be representing Canada in WRTC 2014 as the Team Leader from the NA-12 region.

* John Devoldere, ON4UN: Along with building one of the premier amateur stations in the world, John's contributions to the DXing community have been extensive. Beginning with "80 Meter DXing," published in 1978, his book expanded to "Low-Band DXing," which in its fifth edition has become the most widely used handbook for operating and building antenna systems on the bands at 7 MHz and lower frequencies. The book contains important
advances in HF amateur technology and encourages operation on these bands.

* Michael Carroll, N4MC; Eldon Lewis, K7LS; Dean Gibson, AE7Q; and Joseph Speroni, AH0A: these gentlemen have been instrumental in providing convenient access by amateurs to information maintained in FCC databases. In the case of N4MC, his Vanity HQ site became the single most popular resource for U.S. amateurs seeking to obtain a desired call sign, on-the-air identity being a fundamental element of amateur radio. He continues to maintain the National Silent Key Archive at www.silentkeyhq.com. K7LS and AE7Q have created similar online services that can be found at www.radioqth.net and www.ae7q.com. AH0A was a pioneer in accessing the FCC databases and providing useful summaries of licensing information. The services made freely available by these four individuals have greatly enriched and educated U.S. amateurs.

* Ken Claerbout, K4ZW: Ken is recognized for his work in support of the series of video seminars and lectures produced in association with the Potomac Valley Radio Club. Initially focused on contesting, the scope has broadened to include a variety of operating and technical topics. More importantly, the videos have encouraged others to publish similar "webinars" and archive them for viewing at any time.

* Ashraf Chaabane, 3V/KF5EYY: Ashraf has become an energetic representative on all fronts of amateur radio in Northern Africa and globally. He presents a positive role model for amateur radio across the entire Arab world with his enthusiasm and competitive spirit. His mission is to see the day when the administration in Tunisia issues him the first personal license in that country. Ashraf will also be representing Africa as the Team Leader for the African team in WRTC 2014.

QSLs received direct or through managers: 3B9FR, 3DA0PW, 5A1AL, 5B4AJC, 5H1DX, 5H3EE, 5J0R, 5X8EW, 6Y5/G3SWH, 7X2RD, 8R1A, 9L1BTB, A92HK, BY7RA/7 (AS-139)CM5FZ, CN8IG, CP1/UA4WHX, CY0P, D44AC, D44TS, D44TXT, E44PM, EG3INT/7 (EU-152), EK7DX, EX8M, FO/KH0PR (OC-094, OC-131, OC-238, and OC-114), FR4NT, FS/AA4VK, FS/NOTG, FW5JJ, G100C, GB75FOC, GC4FOC/p, GJ100C, GN4FOC, GS4FOC, GT4FOC, GU4CHY, H44KW, HP0INT/1 (NA-072), HP0INT/2 (NA-170 and NA-202), HP0INT/3 (NA-071), HP0INT/4 (NA-088), HP0INT/9 (NA-203), HP1/AI5P, HS0ZXK, IA0MZ, J87GU, JA7SGV/6V, KG4HF, KL7KY, KL7RRC/p (NA-019), OA4/UA4WHX, ODS5N/p (AS-108), OW7SFOC, OX5YL, P29VNX, PJ2/DL2EVB, PJ2/K5JP, PJ2/NT5V, PJ4/K4BAI, PJ4A, SU9VB, T32AU, T6T, T77C, TF4X, TM0SM (EU-081), TO2TT, TU5NK, TU5XY, TX5MV, V31MA, V31ZM, V47T, V51YJ, VK0GB, VK9LL, VP2MMM, VP8DMN, XV2V40J, YB3MM/2 (OC-186), YB3MM/4 (OC-262), YB3MM/p (OC-197), YD1NA/5, YE30P (OC-034), YE3J, YN2PX, YS1/AI5P, ZA/UA4WHX, ZC4LI, ZD8JR, ZD8O, ZM90DX.

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