3B7 - Two 3B7A team members will set sail from Mauritius for Saint Brandon on 3 April. They will be in charge "of all equipment transit operations, as well as identifying the location for all antennas, stations, generators, etc." The rest of the team will leave on 5 April. Plans are to be QRV as soon as possible, but "do not expect any QSO before the entire team is on the island". Five stations will be in use, with "priority given to the areas with the shortest and most difficult openings" (see the propagation predictions page on [http://www.saintbrandondx.com](http://www.saintbrandondx.com)). 3B7A will operate CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-10 metres (60m excluded). The team has decided "not to bring any antenna for 6m. Conditions are so bad that it would be a waste of time for just a few or no contact at all. No antenna for 6m also means no try for EME". QSL via Club Log's OQRS (direct or bureau) or via F5CWU (direct or bureau); LoTW for all contacts about six months after the end of the DXpedition.

3B8 - Nigel, G3TXF will be active as 3B8XF from Mauritius (AF-049) on for the RSGB Commonwealth (BERU) Contest (10-11 March). QSL via LoTW and Club Log's OQRS.

3C0 - Yuris YL2GM, Kaspars YL1ZF and Girts YL2KL have been active as 3C3W from Bioko Island (AF-010), Equatorial Guinea since 28 February and will remain there until 5 March. On 6 March they "will try to catch a flight" to Annobon Island (AF-039), where they will be QRV as 3C0W. "Further plans are not clear yet", they say, but their flight back home is scheduled on 27 March. They will operate CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-10 metres with three stations. Updates are posted to [http://www.lral.lv/3c0w_3c3w/](http://www.lral.lv/3c0w_3c3w/). QSL via Club Log's OQRS (direct or bureau), or via YL2GN.

4K - 4K100W is a special callsign used by Vlad, 4K9W from 1 March throughout the end of the year to celebrate the 100th anniversary since the founding of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. QSL via Club Log's OQRS, or via DL6KVA.

7Q - All preparations are now complete for the forthcoming 7Q7EI DXpedition to Malawi (24 March-2 April) [425DXN 1395]. Up to five stations will be QRV on 160-10 metres CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. The 7Q7EI team will also participate in the CQ WPX SSB Contest in the Multi-Multi category. Be sure to check out their VOACAP propagation prediction tool on the DXpedition's website ([http://7q7ei.com/](http://7q7ei.com/)). [TNX EI9FBB]

9Y - Arkady, UA4CC and Arunas, LY2IJ will be active as 9Y4/UA4CC and 9Y4/LY2IJ from Tobago (SA-009) for a couple of weeks starting on 28 February. They will operate CW, SSB and possibly RTTY with a focus on 160 and 80 metres for Europe and Asia. QSL via Club Log's OQRS,
or via home calls. [TNX qrz.ru]

C6 - Dom, M1KTA will be active as C6AKT from Eleuthera Island (NA-001) Bahamas on 8–17 March. He will operate QRP CW on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres, and will participate in the RSGB Commonwealth (BERU) Contest. QSL via Club Log's OQRS, LoTW or via home call. [TNX DX World]

D2 - The D2TI DXpedition to Tigres Island (AF-108) has been cancelled "due to a whole host of ongoing factors". A Russian team had already purchased their flights "with an aim to be active mid-March for about a week" [425DXN 1399], but the local airline company "is unreliable and seems to be going bankrupt. It does not appear that AF-108 will be activated anytime soon, as together with airline issues, there is a vast problem with local logistics and help". [TNX DX World]

H4 - H44R is the callsign for the 22–25 April IOTA DXpedition to Mbanika Island (OC-168, Solomon Islands for DXCC) [425DXN 1394]. Cezar, VE3LYC and Bernhard, DL2GAC will try to run two stations "for as long in the day as possible". QSL via Club Log's OQRS, or via VE3LYC. See https://h44r-h40d.weebly.com (new URL) for updates.

JD1_mt - Take, JG8NQJ expects to be back to the weather station on Minami Torishima (OC-073) for three months starting around 15 March. He operates CW and RTTY as JG8NQJ/JD1 in his spare time. QSL via JA8CJY (direct) or JG8NQJ (bureau).

KH1 - "While our movements and equipment may be regulated in order to protect the environment", the KH1/KH7Z Baker Island DXpedition team reported on 26 February, "luckily the hours we can be on the air are not. Therefore, we intend to be active as much as we can on all available bands. This project presents a great opportunity to prove to the US Fish and Wildlife Service that DXpeditioning is a highly compatible activity on an ecologically sensitive island". March will mark "a significant milestone for the team as our next payment on the ship is due. Though the operator team will contribute over 50% of the expected budget, we still need your support to make this trip happen. If you haven't contributed yet, please consider helping by visiting our website: http://www.baker2018.net". Plans are for KH1/KH7Z to be QRV from 26 June through 7 or 8 July, depending on weather and seas.

PJ2 - Ben, DL1RNT will be active holiday style as PJ2/DL1RNT from Curacao (SA-099) on 6–15 March. He will operate mainly CW on the HF bands. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

T8 - Kiyoshi, JA0EKI will be active as T88XH from Koror (OC-009), Palau on 8–14 March. He will operate CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 on 160–6 metres. QSL via LoTW, or via JA0EKI (direct or bureau). [TNX NG3K]

TJ - TJ3TT is the callsign issued to the Italian DXpedition Team for their forthcoming expedition to Cameroon [425DXN 1396]. The dates are 15–29 March. Six operators (I2YSB, IK2CIO, IK2KCR, IK2DIA, IK2HKT and JA3USA) will be QRV on 160–10 metres CW and SSB with three stations; RTTY will be used on 20 metres only. QSL via I2YSB and eventually LoTW. More information, including a band & mode survey, real-time logsearch and OQRS for direct cards, can be found at http://www.i2ysb.com/idt/. Updates will be posted to a dedicated forum on www.hamradioweb.net.

VK - Craig, VK5CE has added a fourth island to his Western Australia
IOTA Tour [425DXN 1393], and will be active as VK5CE/6 as follows:
05-07 June  East Lewis Island  OC-199
08-12 June  Direction Island   OC-140
16-19 June  Cheyne Island      OC-193
20-22 June  Woody Island       OC-170
"This operation involves four DXpeditions with 9600 km of driving", Craig says. "Each island is different and requires a different range of life support, power and antenna equipment. Therefore it is actually cheaper to drive my vehicle full of gear rather than fly". QSL via Club Log's OQRS (look for VK5CE/6_OC140, VK5CE/6_OC170, VK5CE/6_OC193 and VK5CE/6_OC199), or direct to VK5CE. See https://vkiota.wordpress.com/vk5ce-6/ for more information and updates.

Z6 - OG2M, OH2BH and OH3JR will be active again as Z60A from 28 February until 12 March on the low bands and in the ARRL DX (SSB) Contest. They were previously disappointed as they were not able to achieve clean receiving on the low bands, thus locals Z61DX, Z61AS and Z62FB have been working hard to find the noise sources. It now looks like both 80m and 40m are relatively clean, while 160m is still a challenge. The operators will try beverages located as far as possible from the noisy electricity lines, and they are also considering going to the middle of nowhere with their Spiderbeam radiator. It will be another Arctic mission though, as the temperatures are estimated to reach -17C (1F), and permanent snow is covering the scene as they are 700m ASL. QSL via Club Log’s OQRS or via OH2BH. [TNX N7NG]

XF4 - According to the updated qrz.com entry, XE1B now expects to be active as 4B4B from Socorro Island (NA-030), Revillagigedo [425DXN 1389] for the entire month of March. He departed the Mexican Navy Base at Manzanillo on 1 March, and expects to be QRV starting on 3 March. He will operate SSB on 160-6 metres. QSL via Club Log's OQRS or direct to home call.

Access to the main functions of www.425dxn.org is provided by the 425DXN App for Android. It is available on Google Play - free of charge, no ads. Enjoy!

3Y0I --- Last week the organizers of the 3Y0I DXpedition to Bouvet Island [425DXN 1397] "publicly invited the members of the ill-fated 3Y0Z team to join forces as part of 'rebooted preparations' for the venture, but 3Y0Z team co-leader Bob Allphin, K4UEE, told ARRL that his group has other plans". The 3Y0I team says they expect to announce the expedition dates soon (see https://bouvetoya.org).

ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST (SSB) --- Object of the contest is for W/VE amateurs to work as many stations in as many DXCC Entities as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 metre bands, while DX stations (also including
KH6, KL7, CY9 and CY0) work as many W/VE amateurs in as many of the 48 contiguous states and provinces as possible (complete rules can be found at http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx). This year's event will run from from 00.00 UTC on 3 March through 23.59 UTC on the 4th. Do not forget to give a look at the Announced Operations listing maintained by Bill, NG3K at http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxs2018.html - good contest to you all!

FT8 DXPEDITION MODE: PUBLIC TEST ---> A "Release Candidate" version (WSJT-X v1.9.0-rc2) of the WSJT-X digimode software has been released. A primary purpose of this beta release is to allow field testing of the new FT8 DXpedition Mode, which facilitates high QSO rates in pileup situations. A public test run is scheduled for 6-7 March. The goal is to simulate a rare-DXpedition pileup by having many stations ("Hounds") calling and trying to work a designated pseudo-DXpedition station ("Fox"). Those participating in the test MUST use WSJT-X v1.9.0-rc2. Installation packages for Windows, Linux, Macintosh and Raspbian Jessie are available on http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjtx.html. Participants in the test MUST read and carefully follow the instructions: http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/FT8_DXpedition_Mode.pdf

The scheduled test will take place as follows:
6 March  23.00 UTC  14080 kHz
7 March  00.00 UTC  10141 kHz
7 March  01.00 UTC  7080 kHz
7 March  02.00 UTC  3585 kHz

The USB dial frequencies are subject to change, depending on other band usage at the time. If last-minute instructions are necessary, they will be posted on http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/DXpedition_Mode_Test.txt. Note that the dial frequencies are NOT the conventional FT8 operating frequencies for each band. DXpedition Mode should NOT be used on standard FT8 operating frequencies.

You may also choose to do your own testing of FT8 DXpedition Mode together with a group of colleagues. One station would act as Fox, the others as Hounds. In such tests the Fox will be limited to using a single TX "slot". Please report any anomalous behavior to wsjt-devel[@]lists.sourceforge.net (you must be a subscriber in order to post there).

FT8 DXPEDITION MODE: TY7C ---> The 7-18 March DXpedition to Benin [425DXN 1398] will operate FT8 in DXpedition mode. The use of WSJT-X v1.9.0-rc2 or higher is mandatory, otherwise TY7C will not be able to decode you in the waterfall. You need to be configured as "Hound", while TY7C will be the "Fox" and will not use the standard FT8 frequencies.


QSL G3MRC/9Q5 ---> The paper log for G3MRC's activity from Goma, Zaire as G3MRC/9Q5 (30 June–8 November 1994) has now been transferred to electronic format. It is fully searchable at http://www.g3swh.org.uk/9q5mrc.html and has been uploaded to both LoTW and Club Log. As with any such manual transfer, transcription errors are possible. If you have a QSO that does not appear in the on line log, please contact Phil, G3SWH and he will do a double check (and amend if necessary). Paper QSLs via G3SWH's OQRS (direct
QSL VIA KU9C ---> After more than a decade of handling the QSL chores for a handful of stations, Erik K5WW has decided to hand the baton to Steve KU9C. The callsigns involved are: C6AKU, CW5T (25-28 November 2005 only), CW7T, CX7TT, HP1XT, HQ9R, HR9/WQ7R, J68V, K4T (11-15 March 2010 operation from the Dry Tortugas, NA-079), NP2X, PJ6/K9VV, V31BD and VP2VVV. The QSL route change is effective immediately, as KU9C has already received the blank cards.

*** 4 2 5  D X  N E W S ***
******* QSL ROUTES *******

Edited by I1JQJ & IK1ADH
Direttore Responsabile I2VGW

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