

# The DX Bulletin

December 19, 1979

Vol. 1, Issue 18

PROPAGATION FORECAST: Dec. 21, Low Normal; Dec. 22, High Normal; Dec. 23, Above Normal; Dec. 24, 25, High Normal; Dec. 26, High/Low Normal; Dec. 27, Low Normal; Dec. 28, High Normal; Dec. 29, High/Low Normal. Tnx N4XX.

FROM THE YASME FOUNDATION: "Déar Friends: This is a report on our just-completed operation as VP2SAX; operating all bands, SSB and CW, we made 9,000 QSOs with amateurs in 141 countries. We entered the ARRL 160 Meter Contest and won for the country of St. Vincent. We placed second in the CQ WW CW Contest. K1XA and K1TO, operating as VP2SX, took first place. Both during and after the contest, many stations were somewhat confused over the similarity of the two calls. We hope not many hams crossed us off their logs as a suspected duplicate!

Both in Grenada, as J3ABV, and here, as VP2SAX, we operated from QTHs located on the very top of high mountains, with clear shots to everywhere. It is not always that we can find such ideal spots from which to operate. Most of the Caribbean countries are very mountainous, and it seems as if most of the places available for rent have a big mountain between them and the north, which is the direction for QSOs with North America and Europe.

Our next operation will be from St. Lucia, signing J6 something (J6LOO-Ed.); we anticipate being active from J6 from Dec. 12 to about Jan. 12, 1980. Please spread the word of our operation. 73, Iris Colvin and Lloyd Colvin.

TLØBQ by KA1BQ, KA1BOH and I8MPO was very successful; they were unable to procure a license for the Congo. However, TN8AJ is more active again. According to all reports, QSLs for TLØBQ go to I8KDB, Giampaolo Nucciotti, V. Fracanzano 31, 80127 Napoli ITALY.

4Ø1UN can usually be found Thursday night/Friday morning, 2200-0600, on 160, 75 SSB, 40 and 20.

A7XD'S OPERATOR says he will be getting his 2Ø4BA higher in a few weeks; he prefers not to work CW, but another operator will be on soon and will be using code. Contacts with A7XD are available in the US General class bands occasionally. Don't panic; A7XD says he will be there in Qatar for years. A7XD was EP2LI before; QSLs to WA4PYF.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL FROM THE DX BULLETIN, Send us a present...use the enclosed report form to contribute tidbits you may have.

The DX Bulletin is a weekly publication devoted to news of interest to DXers worldwide. The DX Bulletin is affiliated with no other publication or organization and is independently published by DXers, for DXers. Commercial advertising is accepted as a service to readers. Yearly subscription rates are \$22 US and VE and XE, \$30 all others (air mail). Address all correspondence to The DX Bulletin, 306 Vernon Avenue, Vernon, CT 06066 USA.

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contests; the other is the possibility of an 80-Meter contest, which would undoubtedly be a worldwide affair...New officers of the Red Stick DX Association in Baton Rouge, LA are WA5IGD, K5EOA and AA50...Official word from CQ Magazine: effective March 1, 1980, the two-plateau system for 5-Band WAZ has been reinstated. First plateau is 150 zones, and the applicant must hold or be applying at the same time for regular or single-band WAZ. Anyone who applied for the old 100 zone certificate (toward 5-Band) and has not received a refund will automatically receive credit for the 150 zone certificate. Complete details will be in the DX column of CQ for March...Several have pointed out that the rules for the new ARRL International DX Contest do not specify what happens, if anything, when US stations work Canadians. That's not critical for W's, but for VE's it makes quite a difference...

The following letter was received by the FCC recently:

"It soon will be the time to start sending out the QSLs for the 824A expedition. To date they have been only on the lower parts of the band (reserved for advanced and Extra Class licensees). We have a problem!!! It is your problem as well as is that of every legitimate ham. Let's start at the beginning. By the way, this letter was conceived by 16 hams in western Pa. who range in age from 165 to 65 and class from tech to extra. Similar letters have been sent to the ARRL and other prominent QSL managers.

"Recently (a year ago) a bunch of local hams got interested in DX. The use of the local repeater to track stations also helped to promote the DX craze in this area. However, soon it became apparent to the lower class licensees that to work the "GOOD DX," one should at least have an Advanced license. Realizing that they were missing many good DX stations, they slowly slivered down onto the lower freqs and began operating out of band! Now they are very bold and openly admit that they will never be caught. They must feel comfortable on their new self-allocated freqs as they even ragchew there now!!! Disgusting!!! It is abhorrent to hear them brag of their country totals on the repeater. 70% of their totals is bogus. Their operation is now 95% exclusively OUT OF BAND. Does this happen all over???

"We urge you to reply to their QSL requests with a note telling them that they are not eligible to receive a card because of the illegality. Maybe this will help although all local efforts have failed. They will continue this until one gets fined or they are on the Honor Roll! The Honor Roll is no place for these culprits! You can check their class of license with the FCC. (They don't even use an interim identifier). Most of them have already worked the 824A station BOGUS and we implore you to help us and all hams who are above this garbage!!! Sincerely, 16 legal hams."

### RF Speech Processors for Drake TR-7, TR-4s, T-4Xs

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### NEW! RF CLIPPERS



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## Dx Activity Report Form

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VERNON, CT, U.S.A. 06066

DX Activity Report Form

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PLACE  
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HERE

The DX Bulletin

306 Vernon Avenue

Vernon, Conn. 06066

Please note any miscellaneous information on reverse  
Do you need more of these forms? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
Do you need more envelopes? ☐ YES ☐ NO

THANK YOU TO THE DX BULLETIN



# THE INTERNATIONAL DX FOUNDATION



NEWSLETTER

November 1979

## Bonnie demolished by Hurricane David

Hurricane David hit Dominica on Wednesday August 26th with sustained winds of 150 miles per hour and higher gusts which only the twisted steel girders can testify to. Although most of the houses lost their roofs and many were destroyed resulting in sixty thousand out of a nation of eighty-five thousand people being made homeless, only approximately forty deaths and less than two thousand injured were attributed to the hurricane. All electricity, telephones and water supply were also destroyed by the hurricane. All overseas communication was also destroyed except for one amateur radio station: our friend Fred White J7DAY who was the subject of our Number 2 Newsletter, February 1979.

I was in contact with Fred during and after the hurricane. He described how his antennas were blown down but we were still able to communicate with his wife lying on the bushes. Then his house was destroyed and he was off for a little while. He relocated in the basement of the house next door. It was awesome to hear him describe the effects of the hurricane as it occurred and made us all in contact with him feel so helpless. He kept saying over and over again that everything around him as far as he could see from his location on Kings Hill overlooking Roseau, the capital of Dominica, was flat. He sent a message to his government by an amateur operator in Montserrat that he was a broadcast station in Montserrat back to Dominica, that he was alive and well and that his radio was still working on emergency power. Within hours he was relocated to the disaster headquarters at police headquarters. For many hours Fred was the only means of communication for relief operations. I was talking to Fred during this period and asked him how I might help and he immediately put the microphone to the Prime Minister, who indicated that all sorts of help was needed including communications. I started packing immediately and got to Dominica as soon as possible but found that Bob Dennison VP2VJ (W4DX) had beaten me there by about 24 hours by walking part way through the jungle of fallen trees as the road between the airport and Roseau was closed. I waited in vain with my 500 pounds of equipment for a helicopter to lift me into Roseau. I finally succeeded in getting to town via one of the first trucks that was able to negotiate the roads. Upon reaching town, Fred was still engaged in Government communications and Bob was handling mostly communications to coordinate a massive U.S. relief operation and I set up at Red Cross Headquarters and handled relief coordination and health and welfare traffic.

The regular Red Cross building had been destroyed so the operation was in the Tropicraft's building which still had half a roof. The trunk of a palm tree was still standing nearby and served to support a long wire antenna.

The operation soon settled into a routine. Every two hours, we would check into the hurricane traffic net operated by W4PPC on twenty meters. Between this schedule we would be on forty or eighty meters for traffic within the Caribbean.

VP2ABC. Standley, set up his rig in village after village in Dominica and was able to answer many health and welfare inquiries. He used the calls VP2ABC/J7 and J73S.

a national identity prefix, a digit, and a suffix. Therefore, I suggested that they use 3 simply because "73" of course means "best regards". And the other calls could be simply changed to the conforming format by changing the redundant D which they inherited from their colonial era to the digit 3. Al (J7DD) said he had 5000 reasons why the change should not be made, having returned from the States with 5000 freshly printed QSL cards!

## Tax Free Status Confirmed

The Internal Revenue Service has ruled favorably on the tax-free status of the Foundation. Contributions are deductible from gross income for U.S. tax purposes. A copy of the termination letter will be supplied upon request (s.a.s.p. please).

## KV4KV receives new call: KP2A

The new calls went unclaimed for almost a year in the Virgin Islands as no one seemed to want them. However considering that there are KB4's and other similar sounding prefixes now on the mainland, the KV4 prefix was becoming less distinctive so I decided to go for the shorter call in anticipation of some contest work.

## KP4AM/D DXpedition

During the month of March, KP2A (then KV4KV) participated in the KP4AM DXpedition to Descheo, a small island off the coast of the main island of Puerto Rico. This island was ceded to the U.S. by the Peace Treaty of 1899 with Spain. It is now a Wildlife Conservancy administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The ARRL has recognized it as a new counter for the DXCC award. Approximately 20,000 contacts were made on 160 through 10 meters by the team of KP4's AM, Q and OSD plus N4EA and N4CZ from the mainland and KP2A (then KV4KV) from the Virgin Islands. The NCDXF provided QSL cards and funding for helicopter transportation. Two transceivers and other logistic support was supplied by the IDXF. Other equipment was supplied by the team members and Alas Radio, Wilson Electronics and Newtronics.

Returning home to St. Thomas for a day, I repacked and set out for the South China Sea—see story below.

## Spratty Island Group DXpedition

An international group consisting of K1MM, K4SMX, VK2BIL, N2OO, N4WW and KV4KV (now KP2A) organized a trip to the South China Sea during April.

The Spratty group of islands have been ignored up until recent history because they are of little value as they are very small and very low. Some only uncover at low tide. Spratty itself, the largest, is only a few feet out of the water.

However, the possibility of oil in the area has increased the activity of the claimants: China, Indonesia, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

We knew that Spratty was occupied by a military group from Vietnam. Our first target was Ambony which we thought unoccupied. On hearing the island we noticed about 100 soldiers who appeared to be Vietnamese.

After four warning shots from one of many cannons we could see, we made a hasty retreat.

Back in Brunei, we prepared for a "hit and run" operation with

about half the crew, half the equipment and half the fuel. Under leadership of K4SMX who would not give up K1MM and VK2BIL carried out a successful operation on Barque Canada Reef which, due to a bit of good luck, stayed dry even though only a few inches above high water.

K200 and myself stayed in Brunei and made thousands of contacts as VS500 and VS5KV.

We were also guest operators at VS5AK and made many thousand contacts from Hong Kong.

The NCDXF made a major contribution for the expensive charter boat (what do you pay a captain to get shot at?). HyGain and Yaesu supplied antennas and FT901DM transceivers chosen because they have split operation and keyer built in. The IDXF supplied some equipment and logistic support. Contributions covered most of the other costs except for travel and living costs of the team members.

## VP2DAY has New Call

VP2DAY (see IDXF Newsletter Number 2) changed his call to J7DAY as Dominica received a new prefix after its independence. Fred has been very active with equipment loaned by the IDXF which was the only means of communications for Dominica after Hurricane David (see story this issue). As Fred's house was destroyed in the storm, he is now located at Red Cross Headquarters in Roseau and amateurs from 8Y and YV have sent him a generator and beam antenna. You will hear him daily under the nearest pile up on 80 through 10 meters.

## VP2LFT relocates

Al, VP2LFT (see IDXF Newsletter Number 1) whose call was changed to J6LFT after St. Lucia's independence has moved back to his native Trinidad and is back as 9Y4DX working the pile ups. Al is flying with one of the local airlines and we all wish him well in his new job and hope to talk to him soon on the air. Al's XYL, Pam received 9Y4YL but is busy with their harmonic Chantelle.

## QSL Managers

The South Jersey DX Association has come to the rescue of KP2A and the International DX Foundation.

**SOME**  
Fox DXpeditions, please QSL to:  
Erich Schmidt K2TJ

33 Shore Road  
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

For KP2A at home, please QSL to:  
Steve Sullivan WB2VFT

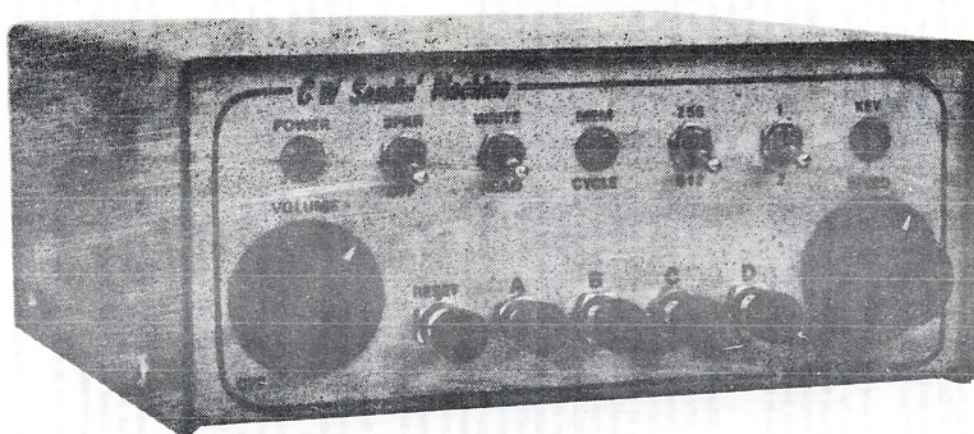
4-7 Oak Drive  
Tuckerton, NJ 08087

## HELP needed

Presently under study are a number of goodwill expeditions possibly to Africa, Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean areas. Help is needed for membership services, QSL managers, research and planning, and "ambassadors" in Washington D.C. and New York (U.N.). Also, if you would like to participate in goodwill missions, I would like to know. Suggestions for possible areas of need are welcome. Please write me a letter giving your personal background and interests



## *CW Sendin' Machine*



The CW Sendin' Machine is an electronic keyer with dot and dash memories and is equipped with random access memory that can store eight CW messages up to 25 characters long. The messages are accessible by push button four at a time.

Messages are stored by sending with a paddle while cycling the memory in the WRITE mode. Messages are sent from the memory by cycling the memory in the READ mode. It is possible to restart a message or interrupt one message with another by pressing the button during the memory cycle. Also operating the paddle during the READ mode will reset the memory making it possible to interrupt a message with the paddle.

The CW Sendin' Machine has no relays. It has two outputs. The positive keying output can key new solid state rigs such as the Icom 701, Drake TR-7 and others. The negative grid block keying output is for keying open key voltages of up to -150 volts and closed key currents of 10ma.

PRICE: Post Paid U.S.A. \$100.00

H. Alan Harp 718 Magnolia Dr. Lake Park FL 33403  
K4PB

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*"The Best in DX"*



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## CALENDAR

Monaco	3A2CX starting 23 Dec., primarily CW
Indonesia	YBØX/9 by YBs and JAs, 29 Dec.-5 Jan., 160-10
Gibraltar	ZB2 by CN8AK 24-25 Dec.
Palmyra and Kingman	Starting 4 January, simultaneously, all bands
Juan Fernandez	8-9 January, CE5CJA/CEØ or possibly CEØX...; transceive on 3700, 7095, 7200, 14210, 21210, 28610, 14080, 28480.
Cocos and Christmas	VK9Y and VK9X possible by P29JS, early 1980
DEADLINE	CQ CW Contest logs must be postmarked by 15 Jan.
CQ 160	Contest, 25-26 Jan.
Tropical Hamboree	26-27 Jan., Miami
Sint Martin	10-24 Jan., W2BBK/PJ7

## THANKS TO...

N200, K3MWV, WAIYTC, WAIWTP, K8GG, WØBW, AE6T, W2HAZ, AI1Q, WB9JOV, KP4EQF,  
WBØYUI, W1VV, K5BLV, K8IP, W6GO, K6HHD, WØJRN, N4NW, W5OSJ, W1WY, K5OVC,  
WA5IGD, WING, SVØAA, K7JVR, W4WJ, WA6CPP, IØDUD, WB6FBN, W6PT, W6EL, YASME

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