
The DX Bulletin

AMERICA'S OLDEST WEEKLY AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATION

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XU1SS IS OFF THE AIR

THE ARMY OF VIET NAM reportedly invaded Cambodia again last week, aiming to disrupt refugee camps near the Thailand border which have been housing as many as one million Cambodians. According to news sources in Hong Kong and other spots in the Far East, the "Tokyo Village" at Ampil, site of amateur radio stations XU1SS and XU1KC, was overrun by the Vietnamese. Although it is not known how many refugees escaped over the border into Thailand, word is that some of the Cambodians who had been manning the radio stations did escape.

Ironically, the shutdown of XU1SS came just as the May issue of CQ magazine was published, containing a major story on the efforts last year to establish the amateur stations. Word has also been filtering out (as reported in TDXB some four months ago) that visiting radio amateurs were welcome to participate in the activities from Ampil.

The CQ Magazine article was full of smiling Cambodian faces and the general tone was one of hope. Those who had fled the repressive Cambodian central government tended to be young, bright, and well educated. Many of them had prior communications experience and picked up on amateur radio very quickly.



Michiaki Watanabe, JH1KRC (right) trains Cambodian XU1SS operators, Aug 11, 1983.

Two groups of Japanese had visited Ampil last summer; the first, to "break ground," set up the station, and begin teaching. The second group spent more time operating and teaching once the station had been put on the air and classes were under way. Operations by the visiting Japanese were restricted only by the fact that they had to stay in Thailand at night, crossing the border each morning at 8 a.m. and back again each evening at 5 p.m.

In all, the JA operators made about 10,000 contacts during about two weeks of operating, then leaving the Cambodians to do the rest of the operating. The station had some difficulties over the subsequent six months (rig failures, etc), but the worldwide demand for a contact with XU was greatly diminished.

Perhaps even more important than the amateur radio activity, the stations' operations reminded many of the extreme

nature of the situation in that part of the world. In a number of ways, XU1SS and XZ5A/XZ9A, in the Karen State of Burma, became "sister stations," in that both were operated by "rebels" fleeing repression from within and outside their respective countries. We are optimistic that eventually the Cambodians will regain their ground and reactivate XU1SS.

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EACH SPRING, The DX Bulletin conducts a survey of its readers to determine what DXCC "countries" they still need in their quest to "Work them all." The results, compiled from about 700 respondents from around the world, dictate the editorial content of IDXB for the coming year, and are used by other publications and organizations, as well. In the next few weeks, all IDXB subscribers will receive and (hopefully) fill out their 1984 Survey questionnaires.

In the world of DXCC country-chasing, "DX" does not mean "distant" as much as it means "difficult." The last country you need out of 315 could be in your own backyard, within reach on 2 Meters, if only someone were on! Here's a rundown of the most-needed DXCC countries, per the 1983 IDXB Survey, and where they stand politically and amateur radio-wise.

After leading the Needed List for many years, China dropped to #9 in 1983, and Albania took over the most-needed slot. The last operation from this very paranoid, tiny country, took place in 1971. Efforts the past couple of years by amateurs in Finland have resulted in visits to Albania's capital, and reciprocal visits to Finland by Albanian officials. At least one complete station has been donated to the University of Tirana but so far there has been no activity.

DXers around the world rejoiced in December and January, as an operation from India's Laccadives Islands produced thousands of contacts (the first operation in almost a decade). The Laccadives will most certainly drop from their 1983 #2 spot. Another Indian island group, the Andamans, has not been on since the early 1970's, either, but there is hope that the Laccadives operation will help in operating permission for Andamans soon.

Cambodia was #3 in the 1983 Survey, before the XULSS operations (page 1) began...it will also probably drop from the "top Ten" in 1984, but may begin rising quickly once again.

A number of "Socialist Democratic Republics" appear in the Top Twenty most needed. South Yemen, Russian-dominated, has been inactive for many years. Burma, a country in turmoil for many years, has seen activity by rebels in its backwoods, but their QSLs are not accepted by the DXCC sponsor, the American Radio Relay League, for political reasons. Viet Nam has been silent on the amateur radio bands since the fall of Saigon in 1975. Similarly, Afghanistan left the air in early 1980, when the U.S.S.R. invaded. Laos has been quiet since 1975, also.

A number of island "countries" make up much of the DXCC listing of 315 possible "countries," and many of them are uninhabited and rare on the bands. Most of them require an "expedition" to put them on the air. Bouvet, a Norwegian spot in the South Atlantic, is one, and it came in at #7 in our last Survey; there are rumors of a possible operation next January (DXers thrive on such rumors!). San Felix is a penal colony of Chile and is off-limits; it ranked #8 last year.

One of the most massive DXpeditions in history (actually two) occurred in early 1983, as two completely different groups put ashore on Australia's bleak Heard Island, at almost the same time. Why two groups went there together yet separately is a story in itself! That they were successful is indicated by Heard's drop in our Survey: from #2 in 1982 to #55 in '83. Another successful recent island operation was last October, to Colombia's Malpelo Island, by the national radio club; they go every five or six years, and in between HKOM creeps ever steadily back up our list!

In addition to the spots already mentioned, True Blue DXers these days could use some radio activity from N. Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Libya, Bangladesh, Sao Tome, Niger, and Mozambique; all are in the Top Thirty.

Each year, this newsletter publishes the results of not only the most recent Countries Needed Survey, but also, for comparison, previous results. The overall picture presented is a small lesson in world politics (not to mention geography). Droughts in Africa produce radio activity, as Europeans and others go there to aid in relief efforts. The thawing of relations between countries often results in the opening of amateur radio privileges once again.

An example: President Reagan, currently in China, is making news largely because the Chinese want to speed up their technological progress by purchasing American machine tools and the like. It is certainly no coincidence that China once again allowed amateur radio activity (now from three club stations) only about two years ago, after a 20-year hiatus! It is also typically Chinese that they are going about amateur radio very methodically, opening new stations only occasionally and restricting operations by visiting foreigners to a select few amateurs.

Another interesting item is that Iraq, which has only one legitimate amateur station, a club, has for years talked of opening the bands to many more licensees. Unfortunately their semi-permanent war with Iran has put these plans on hold. As for Iran, except for one Japanese who operated briefly a few years ago, there has been no amateur activity since the fall of the Shah; before that, it was mostly by Americans and Europeans in the country.

We hope this has whetted your appetite for DXing...DXers just do what all hams do... work as far away as possible and keep track of what they've worked. The DXCC "Honor Roll," of those who have worked over 305 of the possible 315 "Countries," has over a thousand callsigns on it now. If you'd like to join them, or just get more out of DXing, subscribe to The DX Bulletin. Do it now and you'll be able to participate in the 1984 Countries Needed Survey, too.

GOOD DXing!

AP2SQ 14165 12C 20
A4XJZ 14004 02C 19
A4XJV 14206 03C 19
A4XJP 14029 03E 19
BV0AA 14014 16W 18
BV0AA 14024 20W 18
BV0AA 14025 12E 19
BV0AA 7001 14M 20
BV0AA 14025 16E 21
BV0AA 7001 10E 22
BV0AA 7001 12E 22
BV0AA 21025 23E 22
CO2HS 14194 08W 19
CO2RG 14022 02E 20
CT3BM 21296 12C 19
CY0SAB 14220 06W 19
(Sable)
C21NI 14024 12C 16
(DL1VU Op)
C30LBE 7005 23E 22
C53EK 21270 15E 14
G4DUW/
DU1 14033 12E 17
G4DUW/
DU1 14025 12E 20
D44BS 7230 08C 14
D68WB 21255 21E 15
EA3WZ 1833 05E 21
EA6TS 14013 23E 18
EA8ALY 21256 12C 19
EA8AFB 14019 01E 21
EA9EI 21292 17E 15
EA9IE 14202 05C 17
FB8WJ 14225 04E 11
FB8WJ 21297 12C 17
FB8WJ 14177 14C 18
FB8WK 14024 14E 21
FC6BFJ 21265 14E 15
FG7AM 1832 05E 21
FK8EQ 14007 06W 19
FK8EJ 14028 06E 21
FL8PS 14007 00E 18
(Surely bogus)
FM7WD 28527 14C 15
FM7CW 14004 23E 18
FO8KP 7006 07W 14
FO8EW 21023 00E 15
FO8DF 14036 08W 18
FO8KW 14211 08W 19
FO8JR 14027 05E 21
FR7ZD 14196 13C 14
FR7ZC 14196 13C 15
FR7ZD 14199 14W 19
FY7AU 14004 01E 20
HI8OMB 14021 23E 19
HK0FBF 28595 22C 15
HK0HEU 14200 00E 16
HL1CX 21037 23M 16
HL9JT 14021 13E 17
HL9JT 14030 13E 18
HL9SV 14181 12E 19
HL9JT 21040 03E 19
HL1CG 14026 13E 20
HR1KMA 28562 00W 19
HV3SJ 21018 20E 15
HZ1AB 14329 18E 11
H44SA 14165 12C 12
H44DX 14205 11C 14
JT1BR 14024 14M 17
JT1BR 14024 14C 19
JT1AO 7009 11E 19
JT0APE 14013 01E 20
JY9AA 21302 13C 17
JY3ZH 14222 04C 18

BANDPASS Legend: Frequency/UTC (plus
West, Mountain, Central, East report)/
Day of the Month.

JY9AA 21296 14E 22
(WA3HUP Op.)
J37AH 21354 21C 15
KG4WB 7004 02E 16
KC6JA 14309 04C 16
KD7P/
NH2 14027 13E 13
WH2ACD 14309 04C 16
KX6DS 14218 05E 17
KX6DS 14217 12C 19
AH8A 21354 21C 15
VE7BBC/
KH8 14170 07W 19
KX6LA 14008 08W 18
AH9AB 14222 08W 19
AH9AB 14020 12C 21
LX/
DL5ZAB 21043 16E 21
OD5AO 14180 22E 14
OD5BP 21260 13C 17
OD5SH 14196 00E 21
OH0AM 7004 03E 19
OX3PH 21024 23E 16
OX3UD 14041 13E 18
OX3AR 14025 22E 19
OX3LK 21023 16E 21
OY1R 14021 12C 19
OY7ML 14029 15M 19
OY2J 14035 13M 19
PZ1DV 21019 23E 18
P29FG 14232 12C 16
P29MO 14175 12C 16
P29JM 21290 20W 20
SM2AGD/
SV2 14024 06E 21
(No Mt Athos)
SV5OX 21033 15E 15
SV5OX 21258 13C 17
KA0CYR/
SV9 14026 03E 19
TA1MN 14023 22E 21
KD5YG/
TF 14332 15C 14
TF3BS 14028 00E 18
TJ1AF 21354 21C 15
TN8EE 7003 22E 22
TU73 14155 01C 15
TU2JT 28536 13C 15
TZ6CY 21320 21E 9
TZ6CY 14224 07E 15
T30AC 14028 06M 13
T030AC 14037 05W 19
T30AT 21290 20W 20
T77C 21290 14E 14
T77C 21310 16E 16
UK1PAC 14016 00E 22
(Not F.J.L.)
UK2FAA 14026 20W 13
UO5KR 14022 23E 19
OU5OFN 7003 02E 20
UD6DJJ 14033 04W 19
UD6DEY 7003 23E 22
UF6FCZ 14001 04C 17
UL7PAP 14057 04M 15
UL7GM 14042 02M 16
UL7GK 14014 01E 16
UL7XE 14050 15W 18
UL7PBD 14004 03W 19
UL7PBM 14040 04M 19
UL7FBF 14037 03M 19

U9Z 14047 15M 18
(Oblast 100)
U9Z 14026 03M 19
UK8EAB 14057 12C 13
UK8EAB 14058 14M 13
UK8AAI 14015 01E 16
UK8EAB 14030 15M 16
UK8EAB 14030 12C 18
UK8EAB 14027 04W 19
UH8HCB 14180 03C 19
UI8ADF 14014 03C 16
IU8HBA 14029 04M 16
UI8LBA 14058 15M 17
UI8OAA 14019 03C 19
UI8AID 14011 04E 19
UI8ALE 14045 14M 19
UI8AHA 14044 12E 20
UI8ADF 14040 03M 20
UI8ADF 14020 00C 21
UI8AAD 14018 00E 21
UI8ZAA 14183 02C 22
UJ8AW 14010 15W 18
UJ8SAD 14198 02W 19
UJ8JCQ 14228 12C 20
UJ8JCQ 14005 12C 21
UM8FZ 14020 01C 16
UM8MBA 14011 02E 16
UM8MBA 14009 15W 18
UK8MFA 14211 03W 19
VE8NI 14019 01E 17
VE8RCS 14018 02E 21
VK9ND 21369 02W 20
VK9LL 7010 09W 18
(Lord Howe, W6REC
Op.)
VK9LL 14025 12E 20
VP8AUV 14004 01E 21
VS6JH 14016 13E 12
VS6BQ 14005 13E 12
VS6HI 14027 12C 16
VS6DX 14227 13C 16
VS6HI 14028 12C 17
VS6DX 14227 14W 18
VS6DO 7003 11E 19
VS6DX 14234 15W 21
VS6CT 14235 15C 21
VU2GI 21386 15E 14
VU2AJU 14050 13M 17
VU2AJU 14024 12E 20
VU2BX 14193 12C 20

V2AJI 14101 13E 18
(CW)
XPLAB 14226 22C 15
(Greenland)
XT2BM 14232 03W 20
YB5ASO 7008 11E 16
YB3DC 14199 12C 17
YB2BNJ 14181 12C 19
YB4FN 14027 17W 19
YB0XV 14037 17W 19
YI1BGD 14221 13C 16
YI1BGD 14212 04C 17
YI1BGD 14213 04C 18
YJ8TT 28519 23W 20
YK1AO 14197 14E 11
YN1JCC 14025 00E 17
ZD8RC 21345 22E 11
ZD8RC 21345 22E 12
ZD8TM 7003 22E 22
ZK1XL 14030 04M 16
ZK1DA 21318 02W 20
ZK2IK 28519 23W 20
ZL7OY 28520 20M 19
(Chatham)
ZL7PO 28519 23W 20
ZL8AFH 28520 20M 19
(Kermadec)
Z22JE 14180 14E 14
Z21GC 14161 14W 18
ZB8FG 14023 12C 16
ZB8DB 14025 12C 17
ZB8CF 14045 03M 19
ZB8CD 14197 14W 19
ZD2ER 14189 12C 13
ZD2MP 14207 08W 18
ZD2AJ 14193 14W 21
4S7EA 14189 12C 16
4S7NE 14023 12E 20
4S7NS 14024 12C 20
5B4MD 14221 03W 20
5Z4DJ 21339 17E 12
5Z4DJ 28561 17M 16
5Z4DE 14204 13C 20
7Q7LW 21292 19E 10
7X2LS 14175 02E 11
7X2LS 14165 02C 19
9J2BO 14038 12E 20
9M2KN 14200 16W 21
9V1VP 14227 15E 15
9V1VP 21321 17E 16
9V1VZ 14017 15W 18
9V1VP 14190 16W 21
9V1VP 21291 17W 21

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CALENDAR

ETHIOPIA Try 14.220 @ 0430 w/JY3ZH for ET3PS
 CHINA Reported BY1PK QRT through end of May
 CAMBODIA XU1SS QRT; Issue 236
 NAURU C21NI by DL1VU on NOW
 FAROES OY7A by LA9PCA on NOW after delay

MAYOTTE F6ECS rumored at FH8 soon; I 234
 CHAD Waiting for F6AJB to show
 TUNISIA German group there Apr 6-May 8; I 235
 TAIWAN JA group there Apr 28-May 6; I 232
 BONAIRE K3UOC/PJ4 Apr 30/May 1

GENEVA 4U1ITU by W1RR Apr 25-May 17
 MONACO DL1BA/3A May 1-30
 CRETE DF4RD/SV9 Apr 29-May 13
 USSR New callsigns May 1; I 233
 ST MAARTEN K2KTT/PJ7 May 17-29

SPRATLY 1S2CK by DU1CK group delayed to mid-May
 CONTEST CQ WPX CW May 26/27
 GUERNSEY By N5RM May 26/27
 Rumored Desecheo in May; Bouvet in Jan (I234)

CONTRIBUTORS

KA1BU, K1KTB, KB1BE, K1XM,
 KA1XN, W1DEO, KE7X, W7HRD,
 KR1G, KØCVD, WD5AAM, KA1KD,
 W4VQ, N6JM, KM9J, WA9AEA,
 K8EM, W1DOH, KA3R, AB8K,
 WA8CZS, K4BAI, N4NO, K8GG,
 W5YH, W7YF, WØJRN, K6IR,
 KM1E, KE4UC.

PROPAGATION

Apr 30, Disturbed; May 1, 2,
 Below Normal; May 3, High
 Normal; May 4, 5, Low Normal;
 May 6, Low/Below Normal; May
 7, High Normal; May 8, Low
 Normal; May 9, High Normal;
 May 10, Low Normal; May 11,
 High Normal; May 12, Low Nor-
 mal; May 13, 14, Above Normal;
 May 15, High Normal. TNX N4XX.

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