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# The DX Bulletin

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JUNE, 1984 DXPEDITION TO TAIWAN

By Mike Watanabe, JH1KRC

Editor, The DX Family News Letter

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In February 1983, Taiwan announced that it would begin licensing foreigners for amateur radio. Members of Japan's DX Family Foundation (see sidebar, page three) immediately began making plans for a major operation. Although Tim Chen, BV2A/BV2B, has been licensed in Taiwan for years, BV has always shown up in the TDXB Countries-Needed Survey; in 1983 it was #28. The first operation under the new licensing opportunities was by the "Italian DX Blue Team," in September 1983; I2MQP, I2BVS, and I2NYN made 5300 contacts, of which 800 were with the U.S.A., signing I2MQP/BVØ. The following April, OH2BH and PAØGAM made 12,500 contacts as BVØAA; they were the first foreigners to be assigned a BV callsign. This operation came as a surprise to the DX Family Foundation, who had planned an operation to begin at the end of April, 1983; they postponed it until June. We think you will find JH1KRC's story of that operation interesting, and it has been edited only as absolutely necessary.

OUR TAIWAN OPERATION was planned to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the DX Family Foundation, in 1984. Ken, JA1YDJ, went to Taiwan on business in February and submitted the license application to the Taiwan P and T. We decided to recruit the expeditioners from Foundation members, and by the end of January eleven had been listed, including one XYL operator and the XYL of another. We applied for almost everything: not only the common HF bands 14-28 MHz, but also the low bands, 10 MHz, 50, 144, and 430 MHz, including CW, SSB, FM, RTTY, and mobile operation. All of these things look interesting and useful to the DX Family DX-bugs to liberate themselves from the daily restraint in common DXing, by using some other different parts of their brains.

We at first planned our DXpedition for our so-called "Golden Week," Apr 28 to May 5; this week and the Christmas week are the most popular for vacations in Japan. In April, we supplied a letter listing our operators and equipment, and explained our interests in the operation and the characteristics of the bands and modes, as well as how our operation on the bands would be remarkable and contributory to the amateur radio activity in the Republic of China.

As a result of the BVØAA operation in April, we received permission for an operation in June, and authorization to use 14-28 MHz as usual, plus 7 MHz SSB and CW, and 144 MHz and 430 MHz. We rearranged our vacations for June, explaining to our colleagues about Taiwan, that it's one of the richest countries in East Asia, after Japan and Singapore, and that its foreign trade is much larger than that of Mainland China. All was set!

Our first group arrived in Taiwan Jun 8, seven of us, including Toshi, JH1FMW and his wife Toshiko, who were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. Tim Chen and two other Chinese Radio Association members met us at the airport. Only Ken, JA1YDJ, had met Tim before; we felt as if we were meeting a famous movie actor, as Tim is the most famous man of the Rep. of China among hams in the world. Tim is too busy to come on the air now, as he is busy with the CRA processing license applications from England, the U.S., Japan, and other countries. All these require exhaustive documentation and take about six months to approve (or deny).

Although it was almost dark outside, we were anxious to put BVØJA and BVØYL on the air. We put up our TA-33 Jr on top of a huge apartment building on the southwest side of Taipei, in the same building where the two previous BV guest operations had taken place. Sylvie, JP1LAB, made the first contact as BVØYL at 1255Z on Jun 8, the first-ever YL operation from Taiwan. After a few contacts to make sure the antennas worked, we checked into a hotel, then returned for more operating about midnight the first day.



SYLVIE, JP1LAB, XYL of the author, and KX6DS.

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BVØJA began with JAIYDJ at the key at 1641Z Jun 8, on 14 MHz CW. He operated while JA1MRM, JA1QER, and JH1KRC went up to the top floor to put up a 40 Meter inverted Vee. We found a lightning rod on the edge of the building. Mike climbed the thin, swinging rod, about 8 meters tall, on the tip of the elevator tower, to put the inverted Vee on it. Sooner, Mike was on 40 Meter SSB from Taiwan, for the first time ever.

40 Meter SSB operation was sometimes quite a hard job because of the JA boys' bad manners. Their signals were very strong, and most of them had no information about our operation, nor about any BV station being allowed on 40 Meters. They thought we were a pirate! Especially when Sylvie's BVØYL call came on the band was the situation bad. You may know that 90 per cent of JA amateurs are novice-phone class and they can use the HF bands except for 20 Meters, and 50 per cent of them are in their teens and twenties. If you spare a whip, you spoil the boys.

On the other hand, 40 Meter CW was really enjoyable. Even if our 40 Meter antenna was a nice one in a good location, it was still a surprise that we could make more than 100 European contacts, and nearly 50 North Americans, in one night, in mid-June!

Of course, it required some technique and self-confidence to operate; if you like to work only JAs, you can do that from evening till morning, but if you like to try any DX, for example Europe, then you must work at it. You must continually emphasize "EU EU," or "NO JA." And of course you may not work USSR or BY. We really enjoyed the opportunity to get a pile-up from Europe on 40 Meters, which is almost impossible from our homes in Japan.

Unfortunately, our SSB frequency of 7075 was a bad one, with a Russian AM broadcast station on it, and also jamming. We wonder if the BV authorities know this situation well and intended to make any comparison in the signal strengths among the Russian BC, the jammer, and a poor BV DXpedition like BVØJA. We joked like this and were likely to give up serving a rare one on 40M SSB. Only a few lucky big guns got us.

20 Meters is the most useful for our DXing, because the propagation was better than we expected. Also, there is no special JA phone-only class on 20 Meters so we could spare more time for DX outside Japan. Each of BVØJA's operators is not too bad, we believe. There may not be any "world famous ones" on the team but each of the nine OMs has been a ham for about twenty years on average and has worked more or less 300 DXCC countries. They may be good at CW or SSB, or both, and what's more, they love DXing.

From 01-02 local time, a "Heaven and Hell" drama began with Europeans coming in. This was the most exciting and tiring time of our operations. The drama begins with some Russian actors as beggars and swindlers. No amateurs from Taiwan are allowed to contact the USSR, and most of the USSR hams know this. But why not try? An innocent one may call us and is always refused to make a QSO; he repeats it several times but no success. Then someone else will call you and ask "No contact OK, but who is the QSL manager?" Is this for an SWL card?--I don't think so. Another boy, a clever one, calls you several times with no success. Then he begins to call you again in a minute. "This is London Alabama Nine...." with the audio of a USSR transceiver and Russian accent. If he succeeded in being picked up as "LA9 something" he will send his QSL to the QSL manager with a note like: "BV operator made a mistake in my callsign...sorry, but it is U, and not L. So please QSL!" Should we give him a "sample," with sympathy?

In several minutes, the leading part of the drama comes in and the main plot begins. Some say European pile-ups are so terrible; it does not always necessarily mean they are bad operators. Just that their situation is terrible. Many DXpeditioners say JAs are the "best operators." That is because of their population density. JA hams, especially in urban areas, know their neighbors who come in the pile-ups and call individually. Very often they are in a relationship like school teacher and pupil, or shop owner and customer. How could they call a rare DX in the pile-up for three minutes, without hesitation or shame?

In Europe the situation may be far from this...one's next door neighbor is often in a different country, or they do not know each other even if they are the nearest hams, 50 KM away. They don't care who thinks how.

A European pile-up is really enjoyable, in a way. The stations differ in nationality, language, race, tones and audios, and politics. It is so romantic to imagine in the pile-up how they take in the old and crowded metro of Rome, how this guy talks from a house in a wheat field, or in the woods near a lake, or in the clear air near an orchard. Mike and Sylvie really enjoyed this chaos, reminding them of their long travels in Europe a few years back.

At 8 o'clock, Mr. Lin, the station master of a commercial radio in the next room of our shack, comes for his job. He used to serve us morning tea or coffee every morning. After this break, operators had to call "CQ JA" on 20 and 15 Meters. 40 Meters band keeps open to JA from evening till morning, but it is no use. We called CQ on 7075 SSB and got a sharp caution from JA guys: "Ah, station in Taiwan, the frequency is in use. Please QSY" They have no interest in DX, and we are on their rag-chew frequency!

#### MORE ABOUT TAIWAN

For Chinese residents, the first amateur radio license examinations will be given in September, 1984. Two expeditions are scheduled to come to Taiwan in October and November; one is led by Barry Goldwater, K7UGA. One will include twenty people, and will operate during the period of the American Exhibition in Taipei, in October.

These operations will be very important to the future of amateur radio in Taiwan; one high official says that the 80/75 Meter band will be released soon for BV use, among other things.

Recently, people have been allowed to buy radios for listening. The China Radio Association has 4,000 members, including engineers, R/C hobbyists, etc. Their quarterly technical magazine, Radio Station, contains articles on most modern techniques. The Ham Radio column is, naturally, written by Tim Chen. The feature story in the most recent issue was on April's BVØAA operation.

Who will be BV2C? Maybe the headquarters club station will be. Foreign visitors will be able to operate from BV2C, from the location of the recent expeditions, and using equipment donated by BVØAA, BVØJA, and JARL.

Taiwan will be divided into eight call-areas, and some ten or twenty stations will come on the air, in the next year or so.

--- JH1KRC



Our VHF/UHF system was completed on 10 Jun (the third day) and BVØJA began sending a beacon on 144.110 and 430.110 MHz, alternatively, searching for propagation through radio ducting. This ducting is most likely in June and is useful for, for example, communications between Japan and Okinawa. In the daytime the beacon sent CQ toward Okinawa and Japan, and at night the beams were pointed to the AO-10 satellite.

There were no answers to our beacon, except from the dwellers of the same building (our 2 Meter transmitter gave them TVI). We abandoned the 2 Meter transmissions. We heard from an amateur on Okinawa, about 600 KM away, that our 2 Meter beacon had been heard for about one hour. This amateur did not know CW, and we regretted that we did not have an SSB beacon, for 2-way contacts.

Our AO-10 satellite operation was the first from BV, and the first time for satellite operation for any of our JA operators! We used an FT-726, and Kimio, JA9BOH of JAMSAT had prepared us with orbit tables for the DXpedition. Armstrong rotation/elevation worked well for us, and we began making satellite contacts on 10 June. The electrical noise from Taipei's motorbikes was terrible, especially when the satellite was low in the sky. JA1DFQ was the first contact ever via satellite to Taiwan. We made fifty contacts the first day, most with JA and the USA. Many on the satellite wanted to rag-chew, and operator Mike often fell asleep during his QSOs.

We had many guests here in the shack, and every one of them asked us about the satellite communication and our system. Sometimes their questions were too detailed and we had to ask them to explain the system to us! One of our visitors, a member of the China Radio Association, had already bought an FT-726 and was asking what antenna is good for 2 Meters. Just recently, importation of transceivers to Taiwan has been allowed for SWL use, and for future use in transmitting.

On 13 June, Eiji JA1HEH, and Hiromi, JA7FWR, joined the team and took over operating. These two had already worked BVØJA and BVØYL from their homes in Japan. That evening, we were invited to a dinner with CRA members and telecommunications officials. We exchanged certificates of award, and the DX Family Foundation presented a Yaesu FT757GX to the China Radio Association.

Our two new operators had brought a new preamp for the Oscar 2 Meter downlink, and our satellite work improved. This was the last night in Taiwan for three of the team, so they operated all night and worked North America, Europe, and Africa on 40 Meters until 6 a.m., and on 20 until 8:30 a.m., some of the best conditions of the entire operation.

Two young members of the C.R.A., Steven Liu and George Lu, took holidays from their jobs for the entire operation, and stayed next door to observe the operating. We awarded these two future amateurs with DXFF membership. Tim Chen came to the shack almost every evening, with gifts of food; his first words were always "How many stations did you work today?" Since BVØAA in April had made 12,500 contacts, it was implied that we would "have" to make more. Tim encouraged us to keep going.

#### THE DX FAMILY FOUNDATION

MEMBERSHIPS (Overseas) in the DXFF are available for ¥6000 (about \$25.00 U.S.) from PO Box 12, Shinjokukita-Ochiai, 161 Tokyo Japan. We suggest you write for further information, as several different classes of membership can be obtained.

Hiromi, JA7FWR, was the continental leader in the ARRL DX Competition in 1983, on CW. He became crazy for phone after a few days' operation from BV; we requested him to win the phone award from the next DX Contest, and he calmly replied "Isn't it a good idea? The knack may be the same..." Hiromi, a pharmacist, makes a special stamina-drink from Chinese medical herbs for the contests. Is such a dose out of the contest rules?

Team leader Ken, JA1YDJ, went back to Japan temporarily for a glee club concert, and to make QSOs with BVØJA and BVØYL, of course. He was very active about twenty years ago, mostly on 40 Meter CW DXing, but has seldom operated recently. We wondered whether or not he could still operate but were happy to see that he is still a great operator! He keeps this ability without coming on the air by listening to commercial CW stations every night. Great!

Ken took the last team of JA1XGQ and JH1EDD to Taipei, on 15 June. Since Sylvie and Mike had been there for a full week, they were so sleepy and looked pallid. At this time Mike often fell asleep during his QSOs, and sometimes he gave "no answer" or sent continuous dots or dashes for a long period, only to alarm him to awaken. But Sylvie was so willing she often took over.

All of our operation finished at 2400Z 17 June, and the results were much better than we expected. We enjoyed ham radio, Chinese foods and wine (Mike's favorites), and talking to our new friends in Taiwan, whether young or old. Full of thanks to Tim Chen, Steven Liu, George Lu (to be BV2\_?), CRA, and the authorities in concern for their generous grant, the last of the BVØJA/YL team ran the final minutes to the waiting jet.

#### BVØJA/BVØYL OPERATORS

Ken Chang, JA1YDJ (leader)  
Eiji Kasuya, JA1HEH  
Sabro Asano, JA1MRM  
Tac Nakadachi, JA1QER  
Shigo Kitamura, JA1XGQ  
Tobby Nakajima, JH1EDD  
Toshi Kawai, JH1FMW  
Toshio Kawai  
Mike Watanabe, JH1KRC  
Sylvie Watanabe, JP1LAB  
Hiromi Hatazawa, JA7FWR



C A L E N D A R

CONTRIBUTORS

U.S. PHONE BAND  
EXPANSION

Sept 1; Issue 248

Neth Antilles  
Uganda  
S Shetlands  
Sable  
Willis

DF4GX/PJ4 ends Sept 30  
5X5GK still shows 20 SSB, 2000-2200Z  
4K1GAG on 40/80 CW  
CY0SAB by VE1CBK ends Aug 30; 80/160 SSB  
VK9ZA on now; need reports

KA1BU, KB1BE, W1WY,  
KA1XN, K1XM, K1KD,  
K6IR, N4NO, K0CVD,  
W0BW, I2MQP, KA1SR,  
W9LQ, W3HHG, WD5AAM,  
WB8ZRL, W7HRD, W0JRN,  
KR1G, W4ZFE, NP4KA,  
N6RJ, K4BAI.

P.N.G.  
Burundi  
Malawi  
Niger  
Tahiti

P29JS (VK9NS) on now; weak  
9U5JB (N4HX) returns end of Aug  
7Q7LW returns in Sept  
5U7LD active 20 SSB; no DXCC yet  
F00NM by DF7NM ends Sep 2

PROPAGATION--N4XX

Aug 27, Low Normal;  
Aug 28, Disturbed  
Aug 29-31, High Normal;  
Sep 1, High Normal  
Sep 2, Low Normal;  
Sep 3, High Normal;  
Sep 4, Low Normal;  
Sep 5, High/Low Normal;  
Sep 6, High Normal;  
Sep 7, 8, Low Normal;  
Sep 9, High Normal;  
Sep 10, Low Normal;  
Sep 11, Below Normal.

CHINA

BY5RA operation by JAs ended Aug 21;  
DU9RG skeds BY1PK Sats, 1200Z, 14.155,  
DU9RG skeds BY5RA Weds, 1200Z, 14.155;  
these skeds unsuccessful last week

CAMBODIA

VS6CT with XU1SS, Sundays, 1200Z, 14.245;  
this sked successful to East Coast 8/19

Crozet  
Kermadec  
Tahiti  
Monaco  
Kenya

FB8WJ and FB8WK leave in Nov  
ZL8AFH 14.220 at 0500Z; need reports  
F00GAD by KB2HZ and KB2TB starts Aug 27  
By F6ECS and F6HIX, Aug 31-Sep 8  
Rumored by K0BJ Now to Sep 4; no reports

Andamans  
Maldives  
Convention  
At Athos  
DXP0 84

Current petitions denied; Indians trying again  
8Q7 by PA3DEV Sep 27-Oct 16  
W9DXCC Sep 15, Glen Ellyn IL; K9KM for details  
SV1SQ trying for Sep 15-25  
Oct 13/14, Falls Church VA; W2GHK for details

Sao Tome  
Mellish Reef  
160 Meters

WB7RFA trying for Oct 23-Nov 6; I 250  
Oct 25-Nov 6; Deatils I 251  
DXCC endorsable starting Nov 1

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