

The DX Bulletin

• America's Oldest Weekly Amateur Radio Publication •

ISSUE 275 FEBRUARY 15, 1985

PROPAGATION: Feb 13-18, High Normal; Feb 19-25, Low Normal (54-day forecasts). TNX N4XX.

Flux (81)	Flux (82)	Flux (83)	Flux (84)	Date	Flux (85)	Alpha (85)	K (85)
215	286	168	159	2/2	74	12	2
215	179	150	144	2/3	76	12	1
203	262	161	135	2/4	75	7	0
193	252	159	130	2/5	73	5	2
194	252	157	118	2/6	73	20	3
184	n/a	146	115	2/7	73	30	3
186	n/a	137	117	2/8	72	23	3

DODECANESE ON 160

K1MM, Bill, and K1MEM, Jim, and their respective wives (KA1ESR and N1CPC) will activate Rhodes Feb 16-25, almost exclusively on 160. They will probably sign K1MM/SV5. QSL route not yet decided. They are taking antennas for other bands but plan little if any operation anywhere but 160. Ironically, both K1MM and K1MEM have around 140 countries on 160, but both need SV5! Sunrise on Rhodes is 0515Z.

The original planned destination for this expedition was Madeira...the tickets had just been purchased when W2ZZ/CT3 showed on 160 last week. Fortunately, Rhodes had been planned as a back-up and the tickets were quickly exchanged.

LETTER FROM JIM SMITH, P29JS

VU7GV (John) and VU7MB (Victor) are both active from the Laccadives; they are working for a German concern and will be there about six weeks. QSL via HB9MVW for both...another Burma station is being heard on P.N.G., 129D, from Kawthoolei State near the Thai border. It will not count for DXCC. QSL W7PHO...in keeping with the restructuring of French callsigns, old timer FR7ZD is now FR4ZD...P29JS reports working 9N1RNK, at Radio Nepal in Katmandu...BY5RA continues to show on P29JS's gathering Thursdays at 0700 on 14.220; John, formerly C1TH, usually is operating, but one day recently he had William Tom, formerly XU8WM, there in the BY5RA shack...VK9XJ is a new resident on Christmas Island, using a TS430S and log periodic. He promises to be active but admits to liking to ragchew.

BRIEF NOTES

WB6FCR'S VP2V trip was cancelled; A1 will be in the Bahamas as WB6FCR/C6A for ARRL Phone Contest and on CW 160-10 outside of the Contest...a W2 group will sign VP5HPX and VP5SBX Feb 25 to Mar 5, 160-10; QSLs to KC2RS...if you still need a VU7WCY QSL, try sending another request directly to the operator (i.e., VU7WCY/TS to VU2TS, etc.)...LA4CG might land on the Bouvet ice floe around Feb 25, but any amateur operation is probably very unlikely...the reason more and more USSR stations are appearing on 160 is apparently that they have, as of Jan 1, more usable space on the band. ARRL reports they are allowed 1830-1860 CW only, 1860-1890 both CW and LSB, and 1900-1930 CW, LSB, and AM...don't forget that U.S. postal rates go up next week; no one knows if the overseas airmail rate is going to change...a prominent Turkish amateur reports he has just been issued TA1A, the first really official Turkish license in years; look for him Saturday mornings on 15 and 20 CW, QSL info to be announced.

CYPRUS BASES

Interest in ZC4 contacts and QSLs is high, following ARRL's announcement that those bases will be a new DXCC counter beginning July 1 (see TDXB Issue 271 for the press release). A number of readers have sent photocopies of QSLs from ZC4's and also from 5B4's which were operating from one of the two bases. Unfortunately, we have seen a number of cards which do not indicate a location.

For now, if your QSL clearly states that the location was Akrotori or Dhekelia, you have a "good one." If not, the DXCC desk will undoubtedly be coming out with some further guidelines. Here is our list so far:

ZC4AK - AKROTIRI	ZC4IK - AKROTIRI
ZC4ASG - AKROTIRI	ZC4JU - AKROTIRI
ZC4AVU - AKROTIRI	ZC4MO - MT OLYMPUS
ZC4BI - FAMAGUSTA	ZC4PC - DHEKELIA
ZC4BP - DHEKELIA	ZC4RAF - AKROTIRI
ZC4BX - FAMAGUSTA	ZC4RB - AKROTIRI
ZC4CB - AKROTIRI	ZC4RS - LIMASOL
ZC4CI - FAMAGUSTA	ZC4SS - NO QTH GIVEN
ZC4CN - FAMAGUSTA	ZC4TK - AKROTIRI
ZC4DA - DHEKELIA	ZC4TX - EPISCOPI
ZC4DS - LIMASSOL	ZC4UA - LIMASSOL
ZC4EPI - EPISCOPI	ZC4YC - LARNACA
ZC4GB - AKROTIRI	5B4AA - FAMAGUSTA
	5B4GT - "RAF ARC, FAMAGUSTA"



AND HERE IS THE GUY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS CYPRUS MADNESS: MARTIN ATHERTON, G3ZAY, UNTIL JUST RECENTLY EDITOR OF THE RSGB DX NEWS SHEET.

MARTIN DID THE RESEARCH AND MADE THE PRESENTATION TO NEWINGTON WHICH RESULTED IN THE BASES COUNTING FOR DXCC. WE SNAPPED HIM WHEN HE VISITED TDXB LAST SUMMER.

FIVE YEARS AGO IN THE DX BULLETIN

(February 18, 1980): VE3FXT/HS4AMI was going to be in Burma and hoped to operate. No word from ZL1ADI, who was scheduled to visit China. WA6YQW was hospitalized in California following the plane crash on Palmyra. S2BTF still showed on 15 SSB at 0100Z, weaned away from the list operations, but he was too weak to work many evenings.

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CAMBODIA

"Our aim is Phnom Penh!"

---KPNLAF President Son Sann

"In conformity with its guerilla strategy and tactics, the High Command of the Khmer People's Liberation Front Armed Forces had decided to instruct all KPNLAF military units fighting the Vietnamese aggressors at Banteay Ampil (site of XU1SS-ed) to make a tactical withdrawal from Banteay Ampil for a new location in order to carry on a more successful guerilla struggle against the Vietnamese occupation forces.

"Thus, on Tuesday morning, January 8, 1985, at 11 a.m., all KPNLAF fighting forces were ordered to move out of Banteay Ampil for an undisclosed area. Vice President General Dien Del of the KPNLAF issued the written order to move all combat units from Banteay Ampil. KPNLAF field commanders reacted to the decision with bitterness.

(In anticipation of renewed fighting) "KPNLAF military units from Banteay Ampil intensified their military activities against Vietnamese positions; in a period of 31 days, from Dec 1 to 31, 1984, 53 major actions were undertaken against the occupation forces and their communication and supply routes.

"On Monday, Jan 7, at 1 a.m., elements of the KPNLAF from Banteay Ampil struck fiercely at the Vietnamese armed concentration in an area opposite of Banteay Ampil. Armed fighting escalated into a major battle at about 5 a.m., and by 6:30 a.m. Vietnamese artillery shells rained furiously over the soil of Banteay Ampil in free Cambodia." The camp was abandoned when food and ammunition began running out.

Banteay Ampil was known to non-Cambodians as the capital of the non-Communist Resistance Khmer People's National Liberation front, and to radio amateurs worldwide as the location, for the past two years, of XU1SS.

The Front's top leadership knew that the Banteay Ampil battle would be bloody; the camp was defended by about 3,000 troops, against Vietnamese forces which included at least one whole division. KPNLAF estimates that 1151 Vietnamese were killed in the battle for Ampil.

(Source for this article was the 22 January 1985 issue of the KPNLAF newsletter--in care of Kok Sar, (PO BOX 22-25, Ramintra Post Office, Bangkok 10220 Thailand).

40-METER PROBLEM ATTRIBUTED TO MEXICO

"There exists a massive QRM problem on 40-Meter CW which originates from an SSB net of Mexican amateurs. It is a weather net that meets daily around 1300-1430Z on about 7003 KHz LSB. It is driving 40-Meter CW DXers in the western half of the USA nuts!

"I have written XE1SR, LMRE President, to request these hams take their SSB above 7050 where (it) belongs (LMRE guidelines say SSB above 7050). Bruce Kampe, WA1POL, at ARRL (headquarters) arranged a letter to also be sent to XE1SR which referred to their own guidelines.

"My goal is to completely embarrass XE hams over this and get them up above 7050. This blatant disregard for other amateurs is intolerable and any CW enthusiast who has heard this SSB near 7003 should complain." --W6YA in the So. Cal. DX Club Bulletin, Jan., 1985.

INDIAN EXPERIMENTS WITH TREE ANTENNAS

Shiv Prasad Kosta, a satellite expert at the Indian Space Research Organization in Bangalore, says that trees work as well as metal antennas. He reports "fair quality" reception 15 miles from a 1KW TV transmitter, with his set hooked up to a banana tree. Coconut, mango, eucalyptus, date palm, and other native trees with large leaf areas also make acceptable antennas, Kosta says.

John Kraus, director of the Radio Observatory at Ohio State University and author of the definitive antenna textbook, says "A tree antenna is probably better than nothing," but observes that 15 miles hardly constitutes fringe reception. He also notes that the haphazard construction of trees would also likely throw the received signal 'way out of phase, causing ghosting of the picture.

However, Mario Grossi, a physicist at the Ratheon Company, believes "That a tree can work as an antenna is a well-established fact. A tree is just an antenna with an inherently broad bandwidth." Grossi suggests moving the feedline up and down the tree trunk until a reasonably good match is found.

During WW I, Major General George O. Squier, then the U.S. Army's Chief Signal Officer, was using trees for antennas by nailing the feed wire into them...he called the systems "floraphones." "From the moment an acorn is planted in fertile soil, it becomes a 'detector' and a 'receiver' of electromagnetic waves," Squier believed. "The marvelous properties of this receiver, through agencies at present entirely hidden from us, are such as to vitalize the acorn and to produce in time the giant oak." (adapted from the March issue of Science 85 magazine).

TWENTY METERS: FALL 1984

*BY KEN WOLFF, K1EA

(NOTE: This article appeared in the Scuttlebutt, bulletin of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, and refers to K1EA's operation in the November 1984 CQ WW CW Contest; K1EA has a TH7 at 90 feet).

"With the solar flux down around 70, 20 Meters has become the meat and potatoes band for the DX contester. At the start of the contest JAs are still workable at relatively low rates. South America can be worked until far into the night. I worked an HR1 at 0630Z during the CW weekend. Propagation to the south is possible practically all night but nobody is on the band to enjoy it. It is best to sweep the band for multipliers every hour all night.

"European sunrise can provide a real treat, with deep Russians being workable around 0800Z. (However) I tried both nights of the CW weekend but did not hear anything. (This opening was productive in the October phone contest - ed). If you get the opening it can provide 5 multipliers you would not get otherwise.

"In the morning North Africa and South Europe may be audible as early as 0900Z, but we are not loud enough over there for us to hold a frequency until about 1100Z. Rates in the morning can be real good, but when 15 opens you MUST go there (if you are working all bands - ed).

I worked my first JA Saturday afternoon at 2145Z which is earlier than I expected, finishing up at 2345 with over 100 of them. This is a better than average run for me and shows that good, not great rates can be made on 20 into Japan. Even though it is Monday morning in Japan at contest's end, a surprising number stick around to work us. I worked 60 more on Sunday night between 2200 and 2300."

LETTERS

"I read your data (actually K1XM's - ed) on U.S. 40 Meter SSB expansion with interest - I agree 100% with you. We are losing hams yearly. Now that the sunspots have killed 10 and 15, the novices must stay on 40 and 80; they need more room on 40 due to Radio Moscow. With their low power limit, a few extra KHz would make it possible for novices to work some DX during the sunspot minimum." - W4ZFE

"The comments of K1XM re 40 Meter expansion are, how should I put it, the 'rantings' of a CW man. Nothing against CW folks, but I vote for expansion. Consider that we in Europe have only the 100 KHz (minus intruder broadcast stations) and we seem to get by with 60 KHz of phone and 40 KHz of CW, although the broadcasters seem to stay in the SSB portion, for the most part. We fight every day for the (perhaps) five clear frequencies.

What I would suggest is 7075-7100 for SSB, perhaps Extras only. Indeed, in order to get around the inevitable moans and groans from the Canadians, I would further propose that Extras have phone/CW restrictions lifted entirely! Think of the incentive! We operate here in Europe (and in the rest of the world) with a "gentlemen's agreement" (re. phone/CW - ed). Are U.S. hams such that they wouldn't abide by such an agreement? I think not." - DA2ER/W9ER

"No firm news yet about VP8. We are hoping that the Operation Raleigh link will enable us to get a team to South Georgia next season, but are dependent on the Navy fancying a quick trip to South Sandwich if we are to operate from there. I am very skeptical about a Soviet base being able to operate from South Sandwich with a 4K callsign, and have asked a friend at the Scott Polar Research Institute here in Cambridge to make some enquiries about the Soviet plans. He did confirm that the Russians have been talking about installing an unmanned automatic weather station on one of the islands.

"Don't expect too much from the visit of RRS Discovery to Grytviken next month. I got the distinct impression from one of the potential ops that sight-seeing had greater priority than amateur radio, but they may make a few QSOs. - ENGLAND

IARU NEWS

In 1984 the International Amateur Radio Union adopted and implemented a new constitution and by-laws. The new constitution had been in the works since the 1979 WARC. Under the new constitution, the member-societies retain the ultimate authority for determining IARU policies; now, however, that authority is "much more meaningful because it can be exercised much more readily than in the past."

IARU approved three new members in 1984: Belize, China, and Vanuatu. There are now 121 members. The Kuwait Amateur Radio Society has applied for membership; KARS was established Nov 18, 1980, under a decree of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. The total membership of KARS is 170, of which 125 are licensed 9K amateurs. An application is also being considered from the Brunei Amateur Radio Transmitting Society, which has 17 licensed members and 23 additional members.

QSL HELP NEEDED

ZC4CN, TX, and GB (W4XQ); CR6SM (KA1XN); YA1FV (1967, WA6HAT); EP2DO (WB9HAD); VU2DIA Andamans (WA2SON), who says no luck trying to find VU2DL.

40 METERS: FALL, 1984

*by Paul Young, K1XM

(NOTE: the following article appeared in the January issue of Scuttlebutt, the bulletin of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club).

"The breakdowns (contacts and multipliers per band) of the multi-multi stations (in the CQ WW CW Contest) make it clear that 40 Meters was the band in this contest. This year was different from previous years, in that the best time for 40 was not during the evening. In fact, the times around 0200-0500Z were about the worst for Europe compared to daytime.

"We started on 40 Meters (at 0000Z) and worked 55 stations during the first hour. We had good conditions into Northern Europe, and worked our share of OH and OZ multipliers, which in previous years have been the morre difficult ones from here. The second hour was good for 40 more QSOs. A couple of Europeans were worked at 0200, and an HB9 at 0239. From then until 0500 we did not work any Europe.

"The next few hours (0500-0800Z) involved lots of swinging the beam. It's fun to have Europe, South America, and Oceania to pick from. Although we had pretty much worked out the Caribbean, there were still plenty of multipliers to work during these few hours. We worked our last European at 0743.

"At about 0915Z we picked up a couple of JAs and some more Oceania, then went to 20. We came back to 40 at about 2045Z - a bit late, I think. There was a long path JA opening at around 2115, but we didn't do much with it. The band stayed open to Europe a bit later on Saturday, and from about 2200 to 0230Z we were filling log pages with Europeans. We missed a few good ones during this time, including 5R8AL. At about 0630 we got another opening into Europe, and another, a big one, at 0730; we worked Europe from 0730 to 0930Z.

"At 1015Z we worked a few more JAs and found Zones 17, 18, and 19, coming long path from the southwest. We returned to 40 at 2015Z Sunday, too late to catch a long path opening to YB0, which others worked. We ended up with 474 QSOs, 33 zones, and 94 countries, using a 3-element beam at 90 feet." (Editor's note...this was at a multi-single station where full time was not devoted to 40)

CONTRIBUTORS

KA1BU, W4VQ, KA1XN, KA3DJ, K1JA, WA2SON, N4KG, K4BAI, K39A, KR1G, KA1SR, W1WAI, KQ1F, AE1H, KOCVD, AB8K, WB9HAD, W8UVZ, K1MEM, N1CWU, WB8ZRL, KA3R, K7WQD, K6IR, W4BAA, W1OD, P29JS, WA6HAT, WB6FCR, K1MM, K2OLG, W3GH, W8CT, W2GA, DA2ER, K7TTZ, W4ZFE.

C A L E N D A R

ISSUE 275

DODECANESE/160	K1MM/SV5 and friends Feb 16-25; 1275	GUINEA-BISSAU	J5WAD (UB5WAD) very scarce; try 40 CW
AGALEGA (3B6)	Rumor 3B9CD might go there next	MAYOTTE (FH)	FH4AA occasionally on 40, 20, 15 CW
LACCADIVES	VU7GV, MB, active 20 SSB; 1275		FH8CR, too; no reports this week
HONOR ROLL	Deadline Mar 31; plaques available NOW	COCOS (T19)	T19TTY Feb 11-17, RTTY
TURKS (VP5)	VP5 by W2 bunch; 1275	MACQUARIE	VK0GC there; likes 75 SSB
		MALAGASY (5R)	5R8AL on 15 SSB and 40 CW; 1267 now has 80 M permission
MADEIRA (CT3)	W2ZZ/CT3 2 more weeks; active 160	CONTEST	ARRL DX CW Feb 16/17
CHRISTMAS (VK9)	VK9XJ a new ragchewer; 1275	MALDIVES (8Q)	Rumored by W9GW after Feb 17, CW
TURKEY (TA)	New TA1A w/license; Issue 275	ST KITTS (V4)	KU2C/V4 Feb 13-20
BAHAMAS (C6)	WB6FCR/C6A end of Feb thru ARRL Phone	ANGUILLA (VP2E)	By W8 group Feb 13-Mar 5; 1274
USSR	Expeditions to UI, UJ, UM now; 1274	MONTSEERRAT	By W2GD for ARRL CW Contest in Feb
CYPRUS (ZC4)	ZC4MR likes 14.225 net at 1600; 1274 send us copies of your old QSLs	DOMINICA (J7)	K4LTA/J7 Feb 15-Mar 5
MOZAMBIQUE (C9)	C90A and SM0DQE/C9 Issue 271, 272	CONTEST	ARRL Phone DX Mar 2/3
MALDIVES (8Q)	Rumored by JAs Feb 12-16; 1274	ST VINCENT (J8)	IllWind Contesters Feb 20-Mar 5
MARION ISLAND	ZR6AOJ starts this month; 1265, 270	BONAIRE	HB9TL/PJ4 Mar 5-22; 1274
CHINA	BYs 1PK, 5RA, 4AA active, need reports	MONTSEERRAT	By VP2MO (WB2CHO) for ARRL Phone
U.A.E. (A61)	A61AA (G3LQP returns, maybe; 1270, 271	S GEORGIA	Possible Mar 7-9 by British "Discovery" crew; 1266
GRENADA (J3)	VE3LRU/J3 rumored Feb 22-Mar 3		
BOUVET (3Y)	3Y4CG could start Feb 26; Issue 273	DESECHEO	Tex DX Society Mar 7-12; 1272
KERGUELEN	FT8XB/XA there; Issue 272.	REVILLAGIGEDO	XF4MDX Mar 7-9; 1274
MONTSEERRAT	VP2MDB by W2WSE now to Mar 17	CONTEST	CQ WPX SSB Mar 30/31
UGANDA (5X)	5X5GK don't submit QSLs yet; 5X5WR soon	NAVASSA	Apr 4-9 by 6Y5NR group; 1274
BURUNDI (9U)	9U5JB on 3775 at 0330Z weekdays	CLIPPERTON	First of April; Issue 274
RODRIGUES	3B9CD staying to mid-Feb	FISHING	World Contest Apr 20/21; 1272
GUINEA (3X)	3X4EX (LA2EX) no reports this week	CONVENTION	Visalia, Apr 19-21; 1 271
TOGO (5V)	DJ6SI/5V leaves about Feb 15	SO SANDWICH	Y39XO reports 4K1I possible next Nov but not likely; 1275
TRINDADE	PYOTE still active?		
FR JOSEF LAND	RZ1OWA and UA1OT both active		
IVORY COAST	K1CTK/TU there		

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