

The DX Bulletin

• America's Oldest Weekly Amateur Radio Publication •

ISSUE 294 JULY 12, 1985

PROPAGATION: Jul 11, High/Above Normal; Jul 12-14, High Normal; Jul 15,16, Low Normal; Jul 17, High/Low Normal; Jul 18, 19, High Normal; Jul 20, High/Low Normal; Jul 21, High Normal; Jul 22, Low Normal. TNX N4XX.

Flux (80)	Flux (81)	Flux (82)	Flux (83)	Flux (84)	Date	Flux ----1985----	A	K
196	191	119	133	98	6/28	68	18	4
183	183	108	129	96	6/29	70	19	2
177	173	105	125	97	6/30	97	11	3
157	170	103	123	98	7/1	74	14	3
150	163	103	117	98	7/2	82	5	2
143	157	106	121	100	7/3	79	8	3
142	160	108	127	101	7/4	78	25	4

• ARRL's DX Advisory Committee has voted, 9-to-7, to recommend the Pribilof Islands for DXCC country status. This recommendation will now go to the ARRL Awards Committee in Newington.

An operation was conducted from the Pribilofs two years ago, shortly after the current application for country status was made. If DXCC status is granted, it is not clear whether contacts made during that operation (which produced thousands of contacts) will be credited.

The Pribilofs will be added to the list of DXCC entities immediately, if approved at ARRL headquarters. It will not be a matter of waiting for an operation to take place, such as is now the case with Peter I Island, because the Pribilofs are inhabited and actually have licensed amateurs in residence.

• DL7FT/SV/A left Mt. Athos Saturday, June 29, after one day of operating. He claimed, on the air, that he had only verbal permission but that that was as good as anyone has had for Mt. Athos since 1975. Unfortunately, that is not good enough for DXCC credit. This incident will probably further irritate the monks and lessen the chances of anyone getting permission, written or otherwise, to operate from the hill.

IOSNY gave up trying to get Mt. Athos permission, and went to Gibraltar instead; it is apparently a multi-operator affair and IOSNY/ZB2 continues until July 16.

• Conflicting reports coming in on S92LB...it is generally agreed that the pile-ups and list operations have been lacking in discipline. Holland's DX Press referred to the operation as "tremendous chaos." One reporter stated that Luis tried to work split frequency and only got one callsign in 53 minutes; another person said he heard S92LB doing better by himself than during the list operations.

Jim Smith, P29JS, speculates that the S92LB frequency is almost always a shambles because he has nearly round the clock propagation to Europe. "I have listened now for several mornings and it is enough to make you go home and beat the wife and kids," Jim says.

Most of the list masters have been Portuguese stations, who are able to converse with Luis in a common language. The ubiquitous KALDE had been in there, too.

Finally, Luis appeared on CW, saying his microphone was broken; first he called CQ in the 'phone band, then moved to 14.005, where several worked him.

• Latest operator at BY1QH has been VE3OMC, with the Canadian embassy, who likes 20 SSB around 1100-1200Z. Rumor has it he will be there for three months. Karl Renz, K4YT, now assigned to Manila, will be in China this month and hopes to get to operate one or more of the stations.

The DX Family newsletter lists stations BY1PK, BY1QH, BY4AA, BY0AA, and BT5RA all active and being worked. Other stations which are set up but apparently don't as yet have trained operators include BY8AA (inactive for over a year now), BY8AC, and BY5RF.

P29JS notes that BY5RA still appears on his 14.220 net around 0400Z on Thursdays, and that some Caribbean and other North American stations have been getting through.

• From Japan comes news that the rumored XZ2HN isn't being heard. The DX Family newsletter (JH1KRC, editor), says that back in December a Burmese official appeared at one of the radio shops in Akihabara, inquiring about radio kits such as those available in the 1960's. When he was told that such kits are no longer available, the official Telex'ed Rangoon and got the go-ahead to buy a TS930.

A short time later, the TS930 was shipped back to Japan from Burma, with a note saying that the government wanted kits for training operators and engineers, not a ready-made transceiver. Thus ended, for the time being, chances for a legitimate Burmese operation.

However, if all this is true, then the Burmese have linked amateur radio with advancing their technology, and it could be an indication that they might once again officially permit amateur radio there.

• Personalized engraved plates are now being shipped from ARRL to go with your Honor Roll plaque.

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A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON 12 METERS

by JOE REISERT, W1JR*

We were all treated to our new band, 24.890-24.990 MHz, on June 22 at 0001 UTC. For once the gods were with us as propagation was great. Lots of stations were heard, ranging in distance from 250 miles to transcontinental.

However, what many operators on 12 Meters may not have realized was that this was also a great night for VHF, since we were experiencing a sporadic E or E skip opening on 6 meters. This type of propagation was also evident most of the weekend with some transcontinental DX on Sunday afternoon, when the Field Day stations were having a ball on transcontinental 6 Meter openings.

DX was sparse on 12 Meters since the typical Es propagation is 250-1200 or so miles per hop. Therefore, two hops are good for, say, W1 to W6. Three hops are less common but available. Sometimes, transequatorial or TE paths (due to the higher ionization over the equator) can get linked with Es to give good DX when the sun is at a favorable angle, either directly overhead or to the far west. This is especially likely after a solar disturbance.

Hence, LU stations worked at noon and during the early evening hours. Central American and Caribbean stations during the late morning are probably double hop Es.

Unlike the long DX on 10 and 15 Meters during the height of the F2 years (1978-82), we will experience little real DX propagation on 12 Meters for the next few years (until 1989) except for the fall season, when the F2 propagation (MUF) can get as high as 30 MHz. The rest of the openings are going to be mostly the Es or TE (or link-ups between them) type, which happen most often between early May and early August, for about a month in late December, and during solar disturbances.

Finally, Es is particularly vulnerable to short duration openings between stations, especially on short or long hops. 600-1000 mile openings are usually steady but shorter or longer paths, and especially multiple hop paths, will often have very high QSB.

The gear being heard used on 24 MHz is a hodge-podge. Amplifiers with 1500 watts are legal, although few seem to be using them. Antennas mostly seem to be wires for 40, 80, and 160, or quads for other bands, with antenna tuners. Few beams are evident yet. Naturally, when linears are more prevalent and beams appear, signals will be much stronger.

Many stations are not hearing well on 12 Meters due to local noise sources. Directional antennas will greatly decrease this phenomena, also.

My suggestion for populating the new band and for catching openings is to use the "calling frequency" concept, which is so popular on the higher (VHF) bands. For starters, I'd suggest 24.900 for CW and 24.950 for SSB. Use these spots for calling CQ, and move off of them when contact is established.

EDITOR'S NOTE: another technique is to watch 10 and 15 Meters, where more stations are active, with power and beams. If 10 is open, it is almost guaranteed that 12 is, too. If 15 is open, the chances are just about as good for 12.

On Jul 6, we heard F6FVT solid for about 20 minutes on 24.951, using a general-coverage receiver, a 200-foot piece of wire, and an AMECO preamp. Neither 15 nor 10 appeared to be open to Europe at that time.

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*W1JR writes a monthly VHF/UHF column for Ham Radio magazine. He has worked all 50 States on ten different bands.

CONTRIBUTORS

KA1BU, K1KTB, K0CVD, W1JR, SM5DQC, P29JS, WD5AAM, K1NEM, K1MM, W8CT, K6IR, W0IJR, W4VQ, K3ZO, JH1KRC, WB2CVL, KA1XN, W0JRN, W6CNA, K8GG, DK1RV, WB9HAD.

QSL INFO

• W2KF advises that he has not received logs from 7X5AB since Dec, 1983, and he has ceased being manager for him.

• YA1AH (early 1970s) cards available from Arne Hammer, Astrakanvagen 4, 26200 Angelholm, Sweden.

• W6CNA has not received, as of Jun 28, any logs from J5WAD. Dick has about 300 requests for QSLs, and the cards are printed, but he can do nothing until Vlad sends logs. W6CNA's new address is 10772 Avenida Roberta, Spring Valley CA 92078.

• W0JRN is now manager for HI3RST/KP5 (June 1984).

MORE 12 METERS

by JACK BOCK, K7ZR*

"On Field Day weekend, while the back-to-nature fanatics were up to their antenna tuners in nettles, Nightmare Alex couldn't resist trying the new 12 Meter band. Expecting nothing, the Natty Necromancer was pleasantly surprised to hear the slot loaded with sigs. Most of them were from the land of the quiche eaters, but there were a few midwest and east coasters audible as well.

"By the end of the following week, reports were drifting in of 12 Meter contacts with VK, ZL, KH6 and LU (from Washington state -ed). As heartening as this seems, it did coincide with a rare (for this time in the Cycle) period of high MUF. But another factor was: lots of activity. Few sigs were noticed on 15 or 10 while 12 Meters was jumping.

"The 12 Meter VSWR was ohly 1.6/1 on Alex's tri-band, 2 element quad...not bad at all! But he noticed that signals appeared strongest off the BACK! A little finagling with a pocket calculator reveals that a 28 MHz quad reflector has a circumference of 37 feet, while a 12 Meter director would run about 39 feet. So, if the VSWR isn't too bad, tri-band quad users luck out with a bonus 12 Meter quad (driven element plus slightly short director).

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*K7ZR is editor of Totem Tabloid, newsletter of the Western Washington DX Club, in which this article first appeared.

GI3OQR 1834 0230 26 MA	FK8EJ 14018 0425 27 CO	UZ2FWC 14034 2155 30 FL
KH6AT 1830 0540 31 MA	FK8FF 14009 0345 29 CO	V2ACW 14018 0138 26 FL
SVOAA 1832 0250 30 MA	FK8FF 14013 0705 30 CO	VE8RCS 14035 2250 1 FL
SV0AA 1834 0240 26 MA	FK8FL 14097 0300 30 MA	VK0GC 14309 0341 1 MN
VP8ALJ 1838 0215 28 MA	FM4DR 14005 0115 27 CO	VK9NL 14031 1240 1 MA
CN2AQ 3799 0520 28 MA	FM5BJ 14026 0340 29 CO	VP9DR 14010 2340 25 FL
T31AT 3797 09630 29 MA	FM5BZ 14006 2147 27 FL	VP9DR 14011 2320 27 CO
VR6JR 3796 0545 1 MA	FM5WD 14006 2306 27 FL	VR6JR 14180 0313 22 MD
VR6JR 3802 0630 30 MA	F00FB 14227 0338 27 CO	VR6JR 14180 0300 22 MN
XT2BR 3513 0128 30 MA	F08AG 14024 0223 27 FL	VR6JR 14217 0300 2 CO
XT2BR 3791 0040 29 MA	F08AG 14020 0630 30 CO	VR6JR 14217 0247 2 MN
ZF2IQ 3797 0330 27 CO	F08FO 14018 0220 24 MN	VU2CK 14187 0147 3 MA
ZK1DD 3792 0615 1 MA	FY5AU 14003 0315 28 CO	VU2CK 14187 0151 3 MN
ZS5AB 3791 0430 30 MA	FY7AN 14013 2152 1 FL	VU2GI 14168 0227 3 MA
4K1ZZ 7005 1052 22 MN	GU4WRP 14035 2205 25 FL	VU2JDQ 14011 0202 3 MN
CE0ZIG 7002 0300 28 CO	H44MA 14189 0245 3 CO	XT2BR 14051 2319 27 FL
FM5BW 7003 0515 29 MN	HB0/OE1GAS 14009 2223 25 FL	XT2BR 14212 0112 30 MA
FR4ZD 7007 0400 30 CO	HC1AM 14040 2317 27 FL	YB0BRT 14015 1220 22 MN
HB9ATA 7006 0330 30 CO	HC1VU 14001 2143 30 FL	YB3CEV 14195 1200 3 MA
OA4JR 7006 0332 30 CO	HC2BL 14032 2202 30 FL	YJ8FB 14199 0440 28 MN
SV0AH/5 7005 2200 27 MA	HI3PC 14030 2346 25 FL	YJ8FB 14203 0400 26 MA
SV1JG 7005 0355 29 CO	HI8DDC 14015 0141 30 FL	YJ8RG 14309 0312 22 MN
SVOAH 7002 2130 28 MA	HI8LC 14036 1203 29 FL	YN1CC 14005 0157 1 FL
TK5EL 7005 0500 27 MA	HL1AIC 14196 1220 3 MA	YN1CC 14015 1205 29 MA
VR6JR 7073 0540 28 MA	HL1CG 14017 1230 30 MN	YN1CC 14025 2313 27 CO
ZB2/IOSNY 7010 0415 2 CO	HL4XM 14020 1245 30 MN	ZB2/IOSNY 14195 0101 4 MA
ZK1CY 7005 0920 26 MA	HP1AC 14022 2320 29 FL	ZB2/IOSNY 14025 0250 3 CO
ZV2ACZ 7004 0325 30 CO	ISOHQO 14016 2140 27 FL	ZB2/IOSNY 14025 0123 3 MN
EL2AK 21284 1510 30 CO	J28CI 14003 2115 28 FL	ZC4CZ 14027 2020 27 MA
S92LB 21299 2140 25 MA	J37AJ 14012 2151 1 FL	ZC4WW 14007 2303 30 MI
F6FVT 24951 1805 6 CT	J88AQ 14210 2325 27 CO	ZF2IQ 14016 2255 26 FL
HP3FL 24973 227 23 MA	KX6/N6HR 14027 0327 22 MN	ZF2IQ 14011 0340 28 CO
J6LNT 24949 2248 26 MA	KX6BE 14211 0640 30 CO	ZK1RE 14309 0226 30 MN
KP2J 24900 1309 24 MA	KX6DS 14205 0520 29 CO	ZK1RE 14309 0308 3 MN
LULIDOW 24898 1529 22 MA	OA6BQ 14010 2341 25 FL	ZL1SE 14020 0233 20 MI
NP4AT 24905 2353 27 MA	OH0XX 14176 2008 2 MA	ZP5LOY 14031 2140 27 MA
	ON6FT 14004 0700 30 CO	ZV2ACZ 14019 0152 2 FL
	OY7ML 14005 2353 1 MN	
	P29FS 14202 1146 25 TX	
	P29JS 14028 1250 30 MN	
	P29JS 14029 0510 30 MA	
	P29JS 14220 0410 29 CO	
	P29JS 14220 0445 29 MN	
	P21DT 14006 0410 1 CO	
	P21DV 14003 0242 27 FL	
	P22AC 14015 0420 26 MA	
	S92LB 14185 2020 25 MA	
	S92LB 14183 2115 26 MA	
	SV/A/DL7FT 14195 2250 29 MA	
	SV/DL7FT 14196 2305 1 CO	
	SV0DH/5 14209 0050 26 MA	
	SV1NA 14280 2105 30 CO	
	SV1RP 14017 2139 30 FL	
	SV5/K7VAY 14024 1815 29 MA	
	SV5/K7VAY 14028 1810 27 MA	
	T31AT 14019 0643 1 MN	
	T31AT 14010 0230 26 MN	
	T31AT 14080 0512 29 MA	
	T31AT 14175 0312 22 MD	
	T31AT 14211 0500 29 CO	
	T31AT 14211 0450 29 MN	
	T31AT 14211 0440 29 MA	
	T31AT 14275 0302 22 MN	
	T32AB 14162 0550 30 MA	
	T32AB 14180 0345 27 CO	
	TA1A 14025 2136 27 FL	
	TR8DR 14186 2100 30 CO	
	U8IZAA 14193 0150 3 MA	
	UB3IWA 14032 2156 30 FL	
	UH8EWW 14010 0314 3 MN	
	UL7LFL 14028 0150 2 FL	
	UL8GWB 14020 1110 3 MN	
	UM9MWO 14212 0145 3 MN	
	UQ1GXN 14176 0231 3 MA	

KEY TO BANDPASS:
 Callsign;
 Frequency;
 UTC;
 day of month;
 state.

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(24 hours).

• Burma has had the longest amateur radio drought of any country, followed by S. Yemen (Democratic People's Republic of Yemen). SM5DQC reminds us of some of the history...first, that until 1967 there was plenty of activity from S. Yemen, in the person of British military personnel operating from Aden and Socotra. Getting QSLs from these stations after the fact has been difficult (see note below).

When the British departed in 1967, it was not long before oil-poor S. Yemen became affiliated with the Soviet Union, which needed a buffer between it and other Arabian countries and a spot for its naval bases. Although there are many Soviet "advisors" there, none have operated amateur radio. There has never been a legitimate "70" station on.

SM5DQC goes on to say that OE6EEG, who often travels in the area, met with officials of S. Yemen during the WARC back in November, 1979, and was told that when the time comes, he will be the first person to operate with a 70 callsign.

SM5DQC has compiled a two-page list of QSL routes for VS9 stations in the 1960s. If you need assistance in getting a QSL, please send an SASE and TDXB will send you a copy of the list.

CALENDAR

<u>TDXB SURVEY</u>	Last call to return form.
SAO TOME	S92LB on, I291, 293, 294
NEW BAND	24 MHz opened for U.S. Jun 22; I294
CONTEST	IARU Radiosport Jul 13,14
SHUTTLE	WOORE/space starts July 15
GIBRALTAR	IOSNY/ZB2 ends about Jul 16
CHINA	Many stations active, some special callsigns possible; Issues 293, 294
UGANDA	5X5GK good for DXCC; I293
MT ATHOS	DL7FT/SV/A gone and forgotten; I294
HONG KONG	K5KG/VS6 Jul 7-16; I293
WILLIS	New op VK9ZB; need reports. QSL VK6YL
PITCAIRN	VR6JR now; 20 SSB only
CENT. KIRIBATI	T31AT could run to Jul 30; I292
BURMA	Rumors only; I292, 294
WAKE	AH9AC now, need reports
N COOKS	ZK1XK by WB2CVL Jul 21-27
TAHITI	FOORWP Jul 28 - Aug 2
ANNOBON	Rumors of a Jul operation; I292
CONVENTION	Northwest DX, sponsored by the British Columbia DX Club, Jul 26-28, Vancouver. Details I291
JOHNSTON	Rumored later this month; I293
TRINDADE	By PY1SL rumored soon; I291
MIDWAY	By WH6O now; on and off through July, also occasionally WH6O/KH7 Kure
CHAD	G3KQL/TT8 on now; Issue 291 KA4JRY returns end of July
WALLIS	FW8AF leaving soon; I291
TAHITI	FOOFB by WB6GFJ now; I291
N COOKS	ZK1XE by WB6GFJ early July
W CAROLINES	By KC6JC starts Jul 30; I293
PREFIX	G0/KOVV from England Jun 15-Jul 14
FRANZ JOSEF	UA1OT, UW3HY/1, and E01AOK all active
ST BRANDON	Rumors of a 3B7CD operation soon by 3B8CD.

Five years ago in The DX Bulletin

(July 14, 1980): VE1AI came on from Sable for one of his many operations; unfortunately, there was never any advance warning of them. VK9ZG (VK4AGM) was newly arrived on Willis. The S. Orkneys were represented by both LU1ZA and VP8PL. P29JS was spreading word that the Heard Island callsign would be VK0JS, and Jim was hoping the operation would come off in January, 1981.

U.S. phone band expansion was a hot topic in the club newsletters and on the air. Of greatest interest was, of course, 20 Meters. It was expected to be discussed at the ARRL National Convention later in July.

SMOAGD sent a report on his spring 1980 operations from Africa, which produced 9500 contacts, 90 per cent CW, from J5AG, SMOAGD/3D6, A22GD, and 9X5LE. Erik said that his job was changing and would no longer involve as much world travel, so his DXpeditioning days were over, for the time being.

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