

The DX Bulletin

• America's Oldest Weekly Amateur Radio Publication •

ISSUE 305 SEPTEMBER 27, 1985

PROPAGATION: Sept 26-29, High Normal; Sept 30, Above Normal; Oct 1-4, High Normal; Oct 5, Below Normal; Oct 6, Disturbed; Oct 7, Below Normal (54-day forecasts). TNX N4XX.

Flux (80)	Flux (81)	Flux (82)	Flux (83)	Flux (84)	Date	Flux -----1985-----	A	K
170	227	149	104	76	9/13	70	10	2
160	227	147	104	74	9/14	70	23	3
152	228	143	104	74	9/15	70	8	3
158	225	146	105	73	9/16	70	24	3
157	219	150	107	73	9/17	69	15	2
153	218	137	104	74	9/18	70	8	1
161	214	137	102	73	9/19	73	7	2

COLVINS ANNOUNCE 6-MONTH AFRICAN TRIP

Iris Colvin, W6QL, and Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, will soon leave for Southern Africa, where they will stay until April 1986. They will operate from the Republic of So. Africa, ZS, during the CQ WW Phone Contest at the end of October, then travel to nearby countries to operate for about three weeks from each.

Although there is no guarantee, countries on their list include ZS3 SW Africa, A2 Botswana, 7P Lesotho, 3D6 Swaziland, S8 (a South African "homeland"), ZE Zimbabwe, 7Q Malawi, 9J Zambia, and CR8 (Goa, a deleted country). As always, QSLs will be via YASME, PO Box 2025, Castro Valley CA 94546.

DETAILS OF GALAPAGOS EXPEDITION ANNOUNCED

Here is the schedule and operator lineup for the International DX Foundation's expedition to the Galapagos: they will sign HC8X Oct 21-29, including the CQ WW Phone DX Contest.

19 operators will represent the following radio clubs: Cuenca RC, L'Anse Cruse ARC, Mile-Hi DX Assn., Northern Illinois DXA, Northern Ohio DXA, Southeast Michigan DXA, Southwest Ohio DXA, Quito RC, and the Yankee Clipper Contest Club.

The operators will concentrate on CW before the contest; their "dead band" frequencies will be 21.310 and 28.510. Operation is planned on 50.110 as well as on 30 and 12 Meters. All HC8X QSLs to K8CW; individual operators will use their home calls/HC8 before the contest and should be QSLed to their home addresses.

JUAN FERNANDEZ CONTEST OPERATION SCHEDULED

CE3BFZ and EA4LH will operate from Robinson Crusoe Island in the Juan Fernandez group during the CQ WW Phone Contest, signing XQ0ZFZ. Outside the contest, EA4LH will sign EA4LH/XQ0Z.

They will operate 160-10 Meters for the Contest, and outside the contest will work 2, 6 and Oscar 10.

ARRL AWARDS COMMITTEE VOTES UNANIMOUSLY

AGAINST DXCC STATUS FOR PRIBILOF ISLANDS

The ARRL Awards Committee met on September 17 to consider the country status of the Pribilof Islands. The matter was referred to the Awards Committee by the DX Advisory Committee, which had recommended addition to the list by a 9-to-7 vote.

After many hours of studying the voluminous documentation and two hours of in-person deliberation, the Awards Committee unanimously VOTED 7-0 that the Pribilof Islands NOT be added to the DXCC Countries list.

In reviewing Rule 2(a) of the Countries List Criteria, the Awards Committee concluded that the first sentence was operative in making measurements: "Islands situated off shore from their governing area must be geographically separated by a minimum of 225 miles of open water."

Since the Aleutian Islands are indeed a part of the "governing area" of Alaska, and since the Pribilofs are less than 225 miles from the Aleutians, the Committee failed to see how they would qualify for separate status.

The Committee further determined, through examination of precedent and evolution of the wording of the criteria over some 40 years of the DXCC, that the "mainland" reference in 2(a) only pertains to what situations the rule applies.

The Awards Committee meeting was chaired by Technical Department Manager Charles Hutchinson, K8CH, upon the request of Committee Chairman (and Communications Manager) John Lindholm, W1XX.

Lindholm had authored the staff white paper requested by the DXAC as to the history of DXCC Countries List Criteria 2(a) interpretations. This 26-page document had concluded that the Pribilofs do not qualify under the existing criteria.

So as not to prejudice the Pribilofs from being given every consideration, Lindholm also excused himself from voting, in favor of an alternate. DXCC Manager Donald Search, W3AZD, did not vote, as prescribed by Committee rules.

(From an ARRL press release, Sept. 18, 1985).

Copyright The DX Bulletin. The DX Bulletin (ISSN 0279-8077) is published fifty times per year. Subscription rates available upon request. The DX Bulletin is published at Burnap Brook Road, Andover, CT 06232: Second-class postage paid at Andover, CT. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The DX Bulletin, Andover, CT 06232.

- The Northern California Contest Club will have a number of members active during the two weekends of the CQ Contest as follows: PJ2FR (N6KT), single operator phone; WB6FCR/KH6 single op phone; K6XN and W6REC /VP2M, multi-single phone; WA6VEF, AI6V, N6BT multi-multi VP2M phone; K6ZM and AK6T multi-single phone 8P6; AJ6V/VP2M single op CW; and N6AUV/FS7 single op CW.

- PAOGAM, Gerben Menting, editor of Holland's DX Press, will operate from Zaire, from the station of 9Q5MA, Oct 2-10, on 80-10 Meters, with 160 a possibility. Most operation will be CW. Sunrise there will be at 0414Z, sunset at 1614Z.

Effective immediately, PAOGAM (don't confuse with PAOGMM!) is taking over QSL manager duties for 9Q5MA, and he will return to the Netherlands with all logs from 1978 on.

- Another Sable Island operation is on tap by AK4L and friends, for either the end of October or end of November. Permission has been given for a "low frequency propagation study" while on the island, so most operating will be on 160, 80 and 40 Meters. The group will sign CYOSAB and includes VE1AI, VE1RM (AK4L), VE1YX, VE1SH, and K2GHV. QSLs to VE1ASJ.

- DJ6SI was reportedly going to be in 9G Ghana about now, and was trying for operating permission; this would be the first government-sanctioned operation in several years.

- SV0DV (W0PU) will operate from Rhodes (SV0DV/5) for a week beginning Oct 3, CW only. He will concentrate on 160, 80, and 40; QSLs to WB4TDB.

- N7DF/TT has been very active from Chad on 40 Meters CW and was scheduled to be at a new location and on 80 and 160 starting September 24, for about two weeks.

Ham radio relay provides quake information

NEWINGTON, Conn. (AP) — A mother of a newlywed son and daughter-in-law on a honeymoon in Mexico, needed to know if the couple was safe following Thursday's earthquake.

Unable to get information because communication lines were damaged along with scores of building in the quake centered off the western coast, she turned to the American Radio Relay League based in Newington.

Jeff Bauer, station operator at the relay, said he didn't have any information about the city where the couple was staying. However, he knew that Guadalajara, which is south of the city where the couple is vacationing, was all right.

"We knew Guadalajara was all right, and the two were quite a bit north of there, so they are probably OK," Bauer said.

That call was only one of dozens the league has been received since it was notified of the earthquake Thursday morning by an Associated Press reporter looking for information on the disaster. Since then the league has been feeding information to news organization as well as distraught people worried about family members.

"The phones have been ringing off the hook with people asking about friends and relatives," Bauer said.

He said the league has learned the airport at Acapulco, dangerously close to the center of the earthquake, is virtually unscathed. The information about the airport came from Eastern Airlines operators and represents the first news out of Acapulco, he said.

The station has received information that elsewhere in Mexico hospitals and other buildings that may have not have been evacuated have collapsed.

A single radio operator, Victor Keller, sent signals from his position 18 miles north of Mexico City to the Newington operators.

Bauer said Keller reports there is no air traffic through the Mexico City airport, although the airport is operational and a single communication center in Mexico City is down after being damaged by the quake and a fire that followed. Keller also reported that the fire is out and Guadalajara City is unscathed.

The amateur operator reported that the quake began at 7:19 in the morning Mexico City time, lasted about four minutes, measured 7.5 on the Richter scale and was centered along the southwest Pacific Coast of Mexico near Acapulco.

The Newington radio network has been unable to determine the numbers of dead or injured people, Bauer said.

The radio station is preparing to set up nation-wide message handling network Friday, Bauer said. The preparations include bulletin requests that radio operators reserve certain frequencies for emergency communications.

Bauer said the radio group is not working with either the U.S or Mexican governments, but is operating for citizens' information.

According to Michael R. Riley, league public service manager, the league has 140,000 members nationwide and 25,000 of the members participate in disaster and emergency communications.

The league has served as an information source for national television networks, newspapers and the Red Cross. In the past, the league has been important to getting information about other natural disasters, plane crashes and even the Grenada invasion that was covered by a lone operator who hid beneath a table.

"When you're the only game in town, any message you get through and back (is) great," Bauer said. "If they get a message back, ham radio is the best thing in the world."

NOTE: This was the exact text of the Associated Press story about the amateur radio's part in the Mexico earthquakes. The story originated in a page-one story in the Hartford (Connecticut) Courant, and was picked up by AP for distribution. We thought you would like to read the entire story, unedited.

160 METER PHONE/CW SUBBANDS PROPOSED

Jim Dionne, K1MEM, has sent the following letter to a number of active 160 operators:

"The August 1985 issue of QST contains a 4-page article with a sample 160 Meter band plan, and solicits input from members on the subject. The Membership Services Committee (of the Board -ed.) was instructed to do this by Minute 62 of the January Board of Directors meeting, as introduced by Tom Frenaye, K1KI, New England division director.

"The Membership Services Committee will next meet October 4. It is likely that their recommendations to the Board (who will meet in January, 1986) concerning a 160 Meter band plan will be drafted at this time. As of mid-August only 25 letters have been received at the ARRL concerning this issue, and less than five are from 160 DXCC holders.

I feel that it is important that those who have put in a lot of time and effort, along with lost sleep, to derive fun and countries on 160 Meters, have the greatest knowledge and appreciation for the band. We must also put in our two-cents worth before the October 4 meeting; the alternative is to live with the constraints imposed by others not as well acquainted with the band.

"We are all aware of the problems mentioned in QST: 'phone vs. CW; DXers vs. ragchewers; high power vs. QRP; higher power vs. everybody.' The plan presented as a guideline attempts to address these conflicts (but) it leaves the major problem in place.

"Narrow and wideband modes cannot coexist, especially under weak signal conditions. This conflict is recognized on the HF bands, and well known on UHF and VHF. Segments are allocated voluntarily or by regulation for specific modes and for weak signal work. I favor a regulated subband for CW on 160, and doubt that it would add to the regulatory burden of the FCC, as they stated in dismissing such petitions in 1984.

"The division of the 12 Meter band by the FCC supports my argument. Without the support of such regulation on 160 by the ARRL, a voluntary band plan appears to be the best we can hope for. Of course, any plan formulated at ARRL headquarters and presented in QST can only be voluntary, especially since only member input is solicited. I think that input should be accepted from all experienced 160 operators in the ARRL's area, as well as from those overseas.

"I would like to see:

(1) the continuation of the 1825-1830 DX window, CW and SSB, for the refuge of weak DX stations, who will work split frequency. The tradition of split operation on 160 is especially important with

the proliferation of poor signals and spurs from the newer transceivers.

(2) the creation of CW and SSB segments. I suggest 1800-1825 and 1830-1840 for CW only, 1840-2000 for SSB and other modes. This allows access to the common DX band (1830-1850) on both modes. Reference to band plans for most countries shows that very few will suffer. The West German SSB allocation and the JA band are anomalies best addressed at those locations. Split operation covers the other variations.

(3) I strongly object to the idea of a 'rubber band' that expands the SSB segment for SSB contests (same for CW??). Can you imagine trying to do that on 20 Meters?

Please take time to put your ideas on a quick note or QSL card to the Membership Services Committee of ARRL. It's better than grumbling to yourself or on the air, or turning off the rig in disgust. Also, send a copy to your director (whether he is on the MSC or not). And do it now!"

GM3WTA on 160 Meters

"Recent experiences on 160 Meters confirm that activity is much on the increase and this trend is good. However, when it comes to the traditionally-observed CW DX segment, I have observed that current practice is for European stations to work DX stations on their own frequency. This has two major disadvantages:

"1. Because of propagation discrepancies to different station locations, Europeans can often be in the position of continuing to call a DX station, apparently unaware that a QSO has already begun.

"2. Because of the inevitable pile-up created by the appearance of a rare station, the end result is that management of the net (sic) is nearly impossible, resulting in frustration for those trying to dig out the weaker signals.

"I should like to suggest that we all return to the procedure of calling DX above 1830 and listening (generally) below 1830. May I also request that European stations move further up the band for local QSOs - especially when using SSB. We have (at present) acres of space on 160 Meters and I do not think it is asking too much for operators to keep SSB above 1840. I missed working JA on three occasions (last year) because I had to try to explain to a group on 1911 KHz that the opening would only last 20 minutes or so."

Five years ago in The DX Bulletin

(September 22, 1980): K5VT came on the air unexpectedly from Burundi, signing 9U5AV; AA6AA and N6ZV returned from their 3B8, 3B9 and FR/Tromelin operations; the German crew on Juan de Nova ran into numerous difficulties but got on the air anyway; The China news service, Xinhua, had invited several amateurs to visit and several had accepted, although no amateur radio operating was on the schedule; VE1AI announced an operation from Sable Island for the 1980 CQ Phone contest; P29JS reported negotiations with the

CONTRIBUTORS

KA1BU, K1KTB, KA1XN, W4VQ, N4KG, WB8ZRL, KOCVD, K4BAI, W4ZFE, KA5SDN, KCOD, KB8KW, W4BAA, KD7SO, W0IJR, KA0CDN, W8CT, K3RR, K1MEM, NE8Z, P29JS, DK1RV.

CALENDAR

ISSUE 305

AFRICA	W6KG/W6QL begin in October, through April 1986, to include: ZS, A2, 7P, 3D6, S8, ZE, 7Q, 9J, and CR8 as possibilities. QSL to YASME.	KERGUELEN	FT8XB likes 20 SSB 0400-0600; worked from Colo. on 40, 80 CW at 1300Z
ANDAMAN ISLANDS	Rumored (in Holland's <u>DXPress</u>) that a station will be active this month and next, rumors from VU2RBI...	KERMADEC	ZL40Y arrives this month; he will sign ZM80Y Oct 1-Dec 31
AUCKLAND	ZL9AA there now, 160-40 Meters	MALAWI	7Q7LW active on 20 SSB
BELIZE	V3CQ by WA6VNR rumored Oct 1-7	MAURITANIA	5T5SL (9X5SL) reported in EU 14.277 at 1700
CAMBODIA	XU1SS rumored Thursdays, 12Z, 14.198	MAYOTTE	FH/PA0GMM Sept 26-Oct 1; I304
CAPE VERDE	D44BC by N6TJ for <u>CQWW</u> CW in Nov	MELLILA	W9GW/EA9 rumored Oct 17-22
CHAD	N7DF/TT8 expects to be on 80, 160, beginning Sept 25, about 2 weeks	MONGOLIA	JT0APE, JT0EC, JT1KAI, in EU, 1000Z
CHATHAM	ZL7AA there on 10, 80 Meters	MONTSERRAT	By K6XN, W6REC, CQ Phone; by another W6 group, CQ Phone; AJ6V/VP2M CW
CHINA	Active stations run-down I294	MOZAMBIQUE	No current stations count for DXCC
CHRISTMAS	VK9XJ info Issue 301	NIGERIA	5N8AMA is KC7UU's new callsign
COMOROS	D68DX (PA0GMM) Sep 17-24 and Oct 1,2; I304	NORTH COOKS	ZK1WL by ZL3AFH may stay until Dec.
CONGO	TN8EE reported Sept 7;	PACIFIC	Rumored 3D2, YJ8, by W0JEE late Oct
CONTESTS	<u>CQ</u> PHONE, last weekend of October; <u>CQ</u> CW, last weekend of November	PETER I ISLAND	Possible December by JF1IST; I300
CONVENTION	DXPO ATLANTA Sept 27-29	PITCAIRN	VR6JR on through Sept, mostly 20
CURACAO	PJ2FR by N6KT for CQ Phone; P40GP Oct 6-13, QSL K8JRK.	QATAR	A71AD says he will be on 160 late Oct
DINNER	NEDXCC, Boston, Oct 12; info soon	RHODES	SV0DV/5 Oct 3-10, low band CW
E KIRIBATI	T32AB on; need reports	SABLE	CY0SAB either last week of Oct or of Nov; Issue 305
FR SAINT MARTIN	N6AUV/FS7, CQ CW	SAO TOME	S92LB on 14.183 2030-2330Z4 his QSLs are good for DXCC
GALAPAGOS	Group for <u>CQ</u> WW Phone, signing HC8X, end of October; I305	ST MARTIN	Both FS and PJ7 by W3HNK rumored Sept 26-Oct 2
GHANA	DJ6SI there, trying; Issue 305	SYRIA	OE7RKH/YK on 20, 40 CW
GUERNSEY	GU0/PA2FAS By Dutch group Oct 23-30	TOKELAUS	ZK3 (formerly ZM7) by ZL1AMO begins Oct 16
GUINEA-BISSAU	J5WAD on 20 SSB and CW	TRISTAN	ZD9BV active occasionally on 15, 40
GUYANA	NQ4I/8R1 for <u>CQ</u> WW SSB	U.A.E.	G4CAQ said to be in A6; I302
HAWAII	WB6FCR/KH6, CQ Phone	WALLIS	FW8AF there, need reports. Leaves in "a few months"
HEARD ISLAND	VK0CC end of Sept; I303	WEST SAMOA	5W1CW by ZL1AMO Oct 10-12
IRAN	EP2MMK reported in EU, 14.236, 0700Z	WILLIS	VK9ZB on P29JS 14.220 net at 07Z also active on 40, 80
IRAQ	Operators reportedly getting own personal callsigns to use from the YI1BGD station	ZAIRE	9Q5MA by PA0GAM, Oct 2-10; I305
JUAN FERNANDEZ	By CE3BFZ and EA4LH, CQ Phone; I305		

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