

The DX Bulletin

September 25, 1979
Vol. 1 Issue 7

PROPAGATION FORECAST: September 30: High Normal; October 1, 2, 3: High Normal; October 4: High/Low Normal; October 5: Below Normal; October 6: Low/Below Normal. Thanks N4XX.

SPECIAL TO THE DX BULLETIN

The Spratly slide show is making the convention rounds and will continue until at least next April, the first anniversary of the 1979 1S1DX expedition. Many who have seen the presentation have heard the participants minimize the dangers which they encountered; namely, the presence of military fortifications on Spratly and the eventual landing and operation on unoccupied Barque Canada Reef, which is still unsettlingly close to the concrete buildings, cannon, and personnel on Spratly.

Presented below is recent information regarding Spratly heretofore undisclosed. The source is official but shall remain unidentified. The story stands on its own. Remember you saw it first in The DX Bulletin.

September 7, 1979. "The Philippines has very quietly annexed a large part of the disputed Spratly Islands, thus risking renewed tension in the area and at least a diplomatic blast from the other claimants — Vietnam, Taiwan and China, on a potentially explosive issue. A government gazette published on February 19, laying down the claim on the potentially oil-rich islands the Philippines called the Kalayaan Island group, went unnoticed.

"The Philippines thus had gone ahead with the legal claim in spite of earlier agreements with Vietnam's premier Phan Van Dong and Chinese Vice Premier Li Xiannian during their visits here last year to settle the dispute through peaceful negotiations. Although the pledge to peaceful talks may not preclude the Philippines' legal move, it may have strong political repercussions.

"The US State Department is viewing Manila's latest move as just a reiteration of an old claim rather than a full-fledged annexation, a department spokesman said. US officials denied a Philippine

claim that America is bound to come to Manila's aid over the Spratly Island issue under the mutual defense pact signed between the two nations. The US has tried to avoid entanglement in Asian territorial disputes (since Vietnam - Ed.)

"Just why the Philippines have chosen to stress their claim again is somewhat of a puzzle, US officials said. One expert speculated that the recent action may be a legal tactic in connection with current multilateral talks on the Law of the Sea.

"A presidential decree signed by President Ferdinand Marcos and dated June 11, 1978, stipulates that the area within the boundary of the Kalayaan group 'shall belong and be subject to the sovereignty of the Philippines.' The Philippines had fortified seven islands but the decree does not name those islands nor stipulate the number. The decree merely refers to the Kalayaan (Freedom) Island group.

"The decree annexing the Spratlys was made public only after the signing of the revised bases treaty with the US in January (1979). The Philippines seems to have taken opportunity also of Vietnam's preoccupation with Cambodia at that time. According to Decree No. 1596, control of the area is under the minister for national defense. The decree states the claimed area to be within certain longitudes and latitudes, which when a line is drawn accordingly seems to cordon off a hexagon-shaped boundary, enclosing many of the 57 islands in the Spratlys.

"Within this hexagon are the Reed Bank, the Taiwanese-occupied island of Ito Aba, and some of the Vietnamese-held islands. It barely skirts the main Spratly island, *occupied by Vietnamese troops*. Vietnam has occupied six islands in the Spratlys, Taiwan three and the Philippines has, since 1971, been fortifying the seven islands. But China, which has no troops there, claims all of them, calling the group 'Nansha.' China also claims two other groups in the vicinity — the Paracels (Hshisha) and Chunssha.

"Apparently aware of its strategic importance, the Philippines this year acquired a squadron of F-3 Crusader jets, some of which are to be based in Palawa to beef up its western defenses. Airstrips for

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light planes have been built on two of the (Spratly) islands.

"The Spratlys is a group of barren uninhabited coral atolls lying in the South China Sea between the Philippines and the Asian mainland. It has been a bone of contention for many years. The late Chinese premier Chou Enlai as early as 1951 stated that all three groups of islands historically belong to China. During World War II, Japan built naval bases on Ito Aba and some of the Spratly islands.

"After the War, the scramble for the Spratlys began. The Taiwanese moved into Ito Aba in 1946. In 1965 Filipino lawyer Thomas Cloma led an expedition to the Spratlys and discovered nine uninhabited islands around the Reed Bank. The Philippines then staked its claim. In 1971 a (Filipino) congressman, Ramon Mitra, told the House he was fired upon when he visited Ito Aba. When the national security council demanded that Taiwan withdraw from the island, Taiwan rejected the Philippine claim. When the Philippines started oil exploration in the Reed Bank in 1976, China vigorously protested."

COCOS-KEELING operation by VQ9s JJ, KK and MR on September 18 and 19 was reasonably successful despite dismal propagation to most of the world from Cocos. The group got off to a less than ideal start by finding their flight would be delayed 24 hours; thus, they did not leave Diego Garcia until the 17th . . . they arrived at Cocos, about 1500 miles from D.G., about 0830Z on September 18th.

Setting up in a "hotel" room with a vertical, the group was greeted by the "band's dead, what's wrong with my receiver?" syndrome. Investigation showed their antenna and radio were fine, just the ionosphere had collapsed. Finally some of the bands began to produce. During their 30-hour stay the trio made about 2300 contacts, with about fifty on 7 MHz, the rest on 20 and 15 Meters. 15 was good to Japan while most US and other North America were worked on 20. Few Europeans and Pacific stations were worked.

All who worked the group are advised to hold off a few weeks on sending QSLs, although if you have already sent yours don't worry. And finally, here's good news: VQ9JJ and VQ9TR are considering going back to Cocos between January and March of next year. They are working on getting a Yagi beam to take this time, also.

Another hoax? September QST's article by UL7GW entitled "Ionospheric Ducting at HF" claims long distance propagation by a "new" mode which is really, according to an acknowledged expert on propagation matters, greyline propagation. An article on grey-line DXing, which appeared in CQ several year ago, dealt with the same phenomena as "ducting" and was much more plausible.

Former EP2LI, now in Qatar, should have been issued an A7X license by the time you read this. Mike and his wife were evacuated from Tehran and had to leave the radio gear behind. They are making arrangements now for equipment. Mike wants to try for 5BDXCC from Qatar, and intends to keep regular, predetermined operating times and frequencies for those needing a contact with Qatar. QSLs will be handled by WA4PYF, who took care of EP2LI confirmations.

WA8ZDF and WD8AKU/WB8CPL have appealed the FCC's July 19 action denying review of the decision revoking their amateur operator licenses. The appeal was filed in the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Final report from K0SVW on the August Manihiki expedition: Operators K0SVW, W0WP, K0EVE and ZK1DR made 15,000 contacts on 80-10 meters, using the callsign ZK1AM. QSLs should be sent to W0WP (formerly WA0WCR); cards are now being printed courtesy of Collins Radio Company. The group operated August 10-25; they made it to Manihiki on a 54-foot sailboat, the trip taking six days each way! The equipment included a pair of IC701s, an FTDX 400, and donated TH3 beams and Dentron linear amplifiers. The group's expenses totalled twelve thousand dollars. If you are interested in having one of the group present the slide show and talk on this highly successful expedition, contact Dr. Steve Towle, K0SVW, 214 N. 34th Ave E, Duluth, MN 55804.

Remember SV0WEE? That was Leslie Dale, WB5WRY, who operated from Athens November 1974 to July 1976. He has been assigned to CRETE and expects to appear on the bands sometime in October. Dale expects a 2-4 year stay, with much CW operation, including the Novice bands where permitted.

"I love being a writer. What I can't stand is the paperwork." — Peter De Vries

Here's a letter from KP2A, in the Virgin Islands:

"Hurricane David wiped out all communications in Dominica (VP2D, now J7) except for amateur radio. J7DAY, who was all alone for the first few days, provided all government-to-government communications for relief operations, etc.

"I packed right away to join my friend Fred but I was beat there by a day by Bob Denniston, W0DX, who walked through the jungle to get to the capital city. I awaited a helicopter and set up at Red Cross headquarters first as KP2A/J7, then as J73A. As traffic died down I worked a few pileups. A special QSL will be printed, and will be available from K2TJ (SASE). As of September 15, J7DAY, now J73FW and J73A (with relief op W4UY) were still providing a major share of the communications required for the

massive relief effort and for health and welfare inquiries."

If you are looking for TN0HL, a place to start is 21,300 at 2100, probably a list operation. The operator is from East Germany and says to QSL via DM2XLO. Indications are that he will be active until Summer 1980. But another source says only two months, so don't tarry.

From Scotty Meadows, K5CO, comes this updated info on a massive expedition which commences November 18, 1979:

This is a review and update of the Indian Ocean trip by Dave, N2KK. Scotty, K5CO, will also be there for part of the trip. Gordon, N5AU will join us for the Indian Ocean part. Gordon will be able to handle the CW pile ups.

We have decided to do the Indian Ocean first for several reasons. One is as of now we have everything cleared for operation from that part of the world. The first of this week we were informed that 3B7, 3B8 and 3B9 stops were all set. We understand that we will be one of the last foreign stations to operate from those QTH's. It seems there has been a rule change requiring one year of residence and a license will be very hard to obtain. We were able to get clearance before this new rule went into effect. Always wanted to go to those islands, Hi!

The greatest news of all is that FR7/G and FR7/J are on the schedule for sure! FR7/ZC, President of the radio society and a government official, has written and informed us of all details regarding operating from those two great QTH's. With this latest information we see nothing that could stop us. We don't have to swim after all. QRZ the pack!

Our plan at this time is to leave the USA on approximately November 18, 1979 to FR7 where we will do a little operating. While at FR7 we will file all the necessary papers, forms, etc. Then off to FR7/T for the big pile ups. From there to FH to operate while things are being arranged to fly to FR7/G and J. Returning from those two we will do some of the 3B's. Then off to 5R8 . . .

We have been in communication with the government of Malagasy, 5R8 regarding operation from there. Not enough time has passed for us to receive a reply, but there is still time enough before we leave on the trip. Guess we could always pop over and use 5R8AL's station that would solve the problem about the license. We have written him to help speed up our request.

At this point in time Gordon and I will return to the USA and home, time will have run out for us. We must say fairwell to Dave and let him continue on his journey . . . on to Somalia, 602.

We are leaving Somalia, 602, for after the Indian Ocean, as a license will only be granted on arrival. We have advanced as far as being able to get a visa to enter the country, and that is a hard job in itself. It

looks very very good and do think it will come off as planned. It still seems one must go there in person to ask for the license; Dave will do so. There is very solid on-going communication with the Somali government regarding this matter.

LIDXA has started a nationwide fund to help in the very large cost of such a trip as this. As all of you well know it would be almost impossible for such a trip as this without help. There has been a trust fund established for the support of our long trip. This is somewhat a different type of fund. The way this one is set up is as follows: The trustee is Mr. John C. Bacon, WB5WYE, Sr. Vice-president Commonwealth Bank, Dallas, Texas. All money will be held in trust by John with a record of each donor and amount donated. If we don't go on the trip all funds will be returned to each sender. That way we will have a record of each one who contributes to the trip. John's address is: John C. Bacon, Commonwealth Bank, P.O. Box 34349, Dallas, Texas, 75234. Or funds can be sent to Harvey, W2IYX of the LIDXA and they will get to the fund.

Frank Wolk, N5FW President of Spectra Sales has donated Ten-Tec equipment for the trip. Frank is the local distributor for Ten-Tec in the Dallas area. Darrell, N6DX, is doing many things out on the west coast to make the trip go. He has donated a 4BTV vertical and is modifying it for 160 — yes, we will give 160 a try. Bill, K5PUV of AGL Electronics in Dallas has been putting much time and effort into the planning of our trip and helping to get equipment.

With the help of good friends like LIDXA, Frank, Darrell, Jack and Bill, how can we miss?

David, N2KK who is a professional photographer and has traveled extensively throughout the world (more than 10C countries) will be there on assignment to do a series of pictures and articles for European travel magazines. He will be making many pictures on this trip and will have many to show on his return. What a nice slide presentation this will make at next year's conventions. Dave's favorite bands of operation are 80, 40 and 160 meters. He wants to do alot of operation on 80 meters and will have a good signal with a KW and phased verticals. Myself, I like 20, 15 and 10 meters. While Dave is taking care of the low bands. Gordon and I will run the pack on the upper ones. Gordon on CW and myself on SSB. We plan to be on with a TH2 and good power so we can be heard throughout the world.

There is one very rare location we are looking into around the J2B and 602 area. One that is wanted by most of the hams everywhere, but it is still to early to say much about it. If it looks good we will let you know all about it. This would be after the 602 operation.

All of us would appreciate any help or advice anyone could give us. Feel free to write any comments you may have. If anyone would like to call by

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued from Page 3)

phone to ask any type of question, please do so. My number is 214-270-8125 and Dave's is 214-241-8415.

UB5UAT reports three callsigns indicate a QTH of Franz Josef Land: UK1PAA, UK1PGO and UA1PAL. Look for PGO and PAL on 14030 and 14005 after 2000.

The ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, labeled Com-vention, takes place in Houston, Texas, October 5, 6, and 7 at Dunfey's Houston Hotel, US Highway 59 at Bellaire Blvd. Featured attractions for DXers are: Spratly expedition slides by N2OO, 1978 African expedition program by DXAC member K5YY, and the 1979 XF4 operation by XE1FX. YASME will be represented by Iris and Lloyd Colvin. DXAC and CAC forums and a CQ Worldwide Contest presentation by CQ Contest Committee member K5RC will round out the weekend. Contact Tom Taormina, K5RC, at 713-481-4586 for assistance in making hotel reservations, etc.

CQ has responded to our note in Issue #5 about the 5-Band WAZ award plaques. As the magazine is being continued by a new group, independent of Cowan Publishing, we all surely need to be patient and understanding. The new group will be operating without backing from a large publishing house, and obviously awards will have to be on a pay-as-you-apply basis. It was felt that the cost of the plaques would be prohibitive, ie, most would not be willing to pay. They did not state the cost; a guess might be \$15-20. If you are willing to pay for your own plaque drop a note to that effect to John Attaway, DX Editor, P.O. Box 205, Winter Haven, FL 33880.

THANKS to the following DXers who contributed to this issue of the DX Bulletin: K3MWV, W2XQ, K7RDG, W9QWM, K6UFT, N4BDB, W5SP, WB9UUE, WD5DUD, WA4JTI, K9IHM, N5EA, WA6TLA, W4NG, AE6U, KB8KW, W1VV, W9XX, W9KQD, K9LHA, K4PI, KA5ACC, K5OVC, W4JTL, W7YR, K6IR, W0YK, W0BW, K9UIY, JA3IXL, W5OB, N4VA, W1FJ, WA2-JOC, W2HAZ, W1AB, N4MM, W4OUN, W8UVZ, K8RD, W5VX, N4NW, K4IBP, K1WJ, K5CO, N0TG, AA4A, W0WP, PY2GWF, N6CW, AB9E, KP2A, F9IE, K0SVW, VQ9JJ, HS1ABD, OY7ML, W1NG.

BANDPASS

BANDPASS: All reports for BANDPASS are invited, especially concerning QSOs with rare countries, rare CQ zones, unusual band openings and contacts on 160, 80, 40 and 6 meters. In the listings below, an asterisk (*) following the frequency indicates long

path. E, C, and W stand for Eastern, Central and Western North America. Reports from amateurs outside North American are welcome and will be listed separately.

160	18 ...	UTC	SEPT
GD4BEG	27	05E	16
G3SZA	26	06E	16
KZ5OJ	04	04E	16
VE1CR/1	06	05E	16
5W1CF	08	11W	15

80	3 ...	UTC	SEPT
TI4DOG	804	03E	16
8P6KY	804	02E	16

40	7 ...	UTC	SEPT
EA9GK	013	04C	16
FM7WQ	151	10C	19
HH2SD	175	03C	16
JA2BAY	086	10C	15
KG6SIQ	090	11E	17
QA4RE	241	10C	15
TG4GB	ssb	09C	10
VP8SB	012	00C	13
ZD8TC	007	00C	17
ZL1AYH	170	09C	14
3B9CF	002*	02W	15

20	14 ...	UTC	SEPT
AP2TN	205	02E	15
AP5HQ	267*	12E	19
AP5HQ	235	01E	16
A35EK	027	10C	18
A51PN	262	12E	16
BV2A	026	11W	19
CN8AQ	248	01C	18
CN8CG	021	05E	15
C3IYT	282	00C	16
D4CBC	220	09C	20
EA9GK	022	00E	13
EP2ES	203*	14C	17
FB8XV	206	15W	14
FK8CZ	013	10E	22
FK8DD	033	11E	17
FK0XR	195	12E	18
FW0XN	195	12E	20
GD4AM	025	07W	15
HL9TF	240	11C	17
H44GK	231	12C	15
JT1BF	222*	11E	22
JY5ZM	231	04C	16
J73UY	035	01C	17
KC4AAD	287	09W	19
KC6MW	214	12C	17
KG6JAR	280	12C	15
M1C	031	00E	15
OH0AL	027	05W	16

15	21 . . .	UTC	SEPT
C31RZ	306	19E	15
C5ABK	350	22E	19
J6LGL	358	17E	15
W5JMM/SU	301	20E	15
TN0HL	329	21C	18
VQ9TR	071	14E	16
ZD7BW	323	00C	17
ZD8TC	027	21E	14
9G1WA	288	22C	13
9H1R	293	10E	22
9L1FC	308	23C	15
10	28 . . .	UTC	SEPT
A35WL	625	00C	18
CT3AF	585	11E	16
D4CBC	617	17E	15
D4CBS	508	17W	17
EA6EU	603	16W	15
EA6AU	013	18E	14
EA6EU	602	16C	15
EA8RG	036	13C	15
EA9GK	023	01W	14
EA9GK	026	11E	16
FR7BJ	532	20E	14
FY7BC	507	15W	16
GU3YIZ	568	17W	16
HZ1AB	583	14E	16
JY5AR	593	15E	16
M1J	594	18C	15
OH2EE/OH0	033	16W	17
SV1DX	540	14C	16
TN0HL	550	21E	16
TN0HL	520	21C	17
TR8CR	ssb	13C	13
TR8HA	565	12C	15
WA6QFO/T4A	703	15C	13
UA9CHV	038	14E	14
VK9NI	570	02W	16
XT2XAW	525	18E	15
YB0WR	541	14E	16
ZD8TC	027	21E	14
ZS3KC	531	17C	16
ZS3KC	532	15W	16
3B9CF	026	17W	14
5B4HK	515	13E	17
6W8DY	594	17W	16
7P8BL	550	17W	16
7P8BL	548	17W	17
7X2BK	545	13C	16
8P6KG	654	16C	15
9G1WS	531	13C	16
TA2KS	235	01C	17
TR8PC	227	22E	14
TU2HH	225	01C	18
TU2JA	240	07C	20
T2AAA	214	11E	14
T4A	282	15W	15
T4A	277	00E	13
T4IND	026	16C	16

ZS6AF/T4	272	23E	15
UA2DFK	014	00C	17
UF6BN	006	02E	16
UF6FDC	221*	14W	16
UF6FDB	203*	14C	15
UH8EAA	028	13C	18
UI8ADM	033	02E	16
UI8ADQ	024	00E	17
UK8XBD	223	02E	16
UK8LAA	003	03E	15
UM8NAP	007	02E	15
VE1CR/1	032	22E	16
VK9XW	225	15C	17
VK9YN	195	12W	18
VK9YN	195	11E	19
VK9YJ	195	14C	18
VK9YJ	195	14W	18
VK9YR	033	15W	18
VP8QG	ssb	03C	18
VP8QJ	213	00C	16
VP8SO	240	22C	20
VP8SU	240	21C	16
VQ9TR	044	04E	17
VS6CJ	210	10C	17
XT2AT	225	02C	14
YI1BGD	250	19C	13
YJ8PD	208	11C	15
ZB2EO	026	23E	15
ZD8TC	027	21E	14
ZD8TM	006	21E	16
ZK2VE	224	11C	15
ZS2MQ	216*	14C	15
ZS3KB	302	05C	14
4S7DJ	212*	12E	18
4U1UN	026	23C	13
4X4AS	011*	15W	14
4X4AS	264*	14C	15
OE8HF/5B4	245	05E	16
5R8AL	231*	14W	16
5T5AY	254	22C	19
5V7GE	230	04C	15
5V7GE	232	01W	15
9G1RC	256	22C	19
9M2DW	204*	12E	18
9M2FK	031*	11E	22
9M2FR	031	11E	17
9V0CF	207	11E	16
9X5PT	200	20C	16

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CALENDAR

ST. PIERRE ISLAND	FP8AA, FP0VI by K2RW, W2BHM, 9/24-10/6
FIJI ISLANDS	M6DX as 3D2??, 9/27-10/3
NEW HEBRIDES	YJ8XR by DK6ZXR and DK7XN, 9/28-10/5
OCEANIA	VK/ZL Contest, 10/6-10/7, Phone
QATAR	A7XAH returns first week of October
FRENCH OCEANIA	Tahiti, FO0XR by DK6XR and DK7XN, 10/6-10/10
HOUSTON	Com-vention 10/5-10/6-10/7. See this issue.
NE DXCC MEETING	10/6 in Boston
ANNOBON	And <i>Eq. Guinea</i> about 10/4 by EA8CR
BANGLADESH	S2BTF expected back on the air 10/7
ICELAND	By WB9s UXR, TOU, and AF9K, 10/8-10/14
OCEANIA	VK/ZL Contest, 10/13-10/14, CW
BONAIRE	Special Call PJ1BR, 10/1-10/31
YASME	Iris and Lloyd Colvin expected to depart early October
CORSICA	FC0FHN by DL1RK, CW ONLY, 10/13-10/27
RSGB	21 MHz Contest, 10/20-10/21
CQ PHONE CONTEST	Including The DX Bulletin trophies, 10/27-10/28
MONTSERRAT	11/4-11/17 by W1FB, W1CKK, WB1FSB, esp. CW and 160
VIRGINS	British Islands, by N6CW and others, VP2V??, 10/24-10/30
JAMAICA	N0TG and NOWL/645, 11/23-12/3
MONACO	3A2CX, esp. CW, 12/23-??

The DX Bulletin

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