
The DX Bulletin

ISSUE 79 MARCH 1, 1981

PROPAGATION: Mar. 1, 2, High/Low Normal; Mar. 3, High/Low Normal; Mar. 4, Low/Below Normal; Mar. 5, Below Normal/Disturbed; Mar. 6, Low/Below Normal; Mar. 7, Low Normal; Mar. 8, Low/Below Normal; Mar. 9-15, High Normal. TNX N4XX.

*Does anybody really know
What time it is?
Does anybody really care?*

-- Chicago (1969)

Two of our close friends didn't know what time it was and now they really do care; their FCC licenses expired on them and now they will almost certainly lose the 2-letter Extra class callsigns they picked four years ago.

Right now is just about four years to the day since FCC opened the preferred callsigns to nearly all Extra class licensees. If you are in this group, depending on how you went about it you may have as many as three or even four callsigns expiring, or perhaps only your preferred call. If your preferred call is expiring and it is a secondary rather than a primary call, you will need two FCC 610 forms to ensure you don't lose your 2-letter call. You can get them from your FCC district office or, faster, from ARRL Hq.

ARRL International DX Competition CW last weekend saw superb conditions on 20 Meters, making up for less-than-excellent 10 Meter propagation. 20 was open Japan/New England for well over 50 percent of the contest's 48 hours, while 15 was open to Asia from the U.S. as late as 0400Z. The low bands continued to produce great quantities of "garden variety" DX for the contesters.

Next week's Phone Competition may get off to a dismal start as the 28-day recurrence of a Feb. 5/6 disturbance will slide into the first part of the Competition. Various predictions have the conditions poor-to-bad for Mar. 7 and finally edging up to above normal by Sunday the 8th.

About the most exciting thing on the DX bands these days is observing some of the new hams in rare places improve their operating skills.

VK4NIC/3X gets easier and easier to work; he has shunned the list method of operating recently and can be found several days on 15 SSB about 2000-2100Z; Ian now has a linear on the air and is much louder than before.

VK9NYG Cocos has shown no interest in working pileups, and lately has been spoon-fed callsigns on the low end of 10 SSB around 1300. He's weak, too.

VK9ZD shows up in BANDPASS only occasionally; most often he is on the DK2OC 28750/1200 gathering. Pressure is off as VK9ZG cleaned up much of the demand for Willis last year.

South Sandwich LU3ZY still operates only SSB, mostly 20 Meters, and the list operations for him twice a week on 14210 at 0100Z have generally been disasters. If only he could transmit on 14195 and work split!

Y11BGD is still silent from Iraq; a list for them was taken 2/21 for a 2/24 appearance, but Saud did not show up.

EP2TY has been on from Iran since he returned there from Japan Jan. 16, and he is now working 14220-250 daily at 0000Z. Apparently Tom is now interested in hunting U.S. counties for the various awards. He also still shows once in a while on the DK2OC 10 Meter group.

9G1RT operated from Liberia through Feb. 28, and then to C5AZ for another 5-day stint. He hopes to be on as 5T5AZ or 5T5RH for the ARRL Phone Competition next weekend. Tentative plans for April include 9L, J5 and 3X.

K4YT did make it on for a short operating session from VK4NIC/3X last week, and was heard working 40 Meter phone split 7092/7200. His next anticipated stop was D4 Cape Verde (Issue 77).

The "Family Hour" has convened on 28575 again recently at 0000Z, as well as 21345 at 0100; A51PN, JT1AN, BV2B, 9M2FR, and others appear irregularly. Check 21370 at 0100Z also.

Clipperton Island program last week on Public television was interesting, although we would have voted for a little more history and a little less crabs and birds. Something about an army of crabs devouring a large bird in a matter of seconds reminded us of pileups we have heard. The show dwelled on the island's checkered history of human occupancy but said nothing about its present uses and political importance.

Don't forget that U.S. postal rates for air-mail are now 40 cents per half ounce. You can also expect a first class letter to cost 18 cents within a month. Most local post offices are still accepting the old style IRCs, mainly because their personnel haven't the faintest idea what they are about. IRCs are rapidly getting out of fashion, with many DXers opting for dollar bills or the DX Stamp Service (7661 Roder Pkwy., Ontario NY 14519...send SASE).

HOTLINE: 203-871-6251

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March 1, 1981

BANDPASS: Call/Freq./UTC (plus West, Central, East coast report)/Date

Low Bands

CM7KR/7023/04E/18
CN8CO/3793/23E/14
EA8QL/3793/23E/14
FK8CR/3790/08E/19
FMQFOL/7013/01E/17
GI3IVJ/3503/07W/14
K7CA/
HCL/3503/07W/14

HC1EE/3796/03C/15
HKQFBF/3790/06E/16
HSLAMX/7010/15W/16
J1IKUL/
JD1/7004/12C/15
JH1NPX/
JD1/7006/11E/19
AH2G/7016/12E/14
KG6RT/3505/12E/14

KL7JEF/7007/06E/19
TG4NX/3798/03E/14
TG9XGV/3507/02C/20
TIQHE/3790/06E/16
UD6DHC/7002/01E/20
UF6FFJ/7008/04E/19
UG6GDB/7008/04E/19
UL7CAD/7004/02E/17
VK9NS/7003/12E/20

VP2VJ/7018/02E/17
VS6DO/7005/12E/17
VU2GMS/7011/15W/16
ZS5LB/7013/04C/18
5W1DE/7005/14W/16
9H1BB/7004/22E/15
9K2DR/7004/04E/20

(Please start
sending reports
to reach Vernon
by Monday. TNX.

Africa

A22PE/28560/11E/22
C5ACA/21359/20E/14
D68AM/28750/12E/17
EA8AT/21063/00E/18
EA9EU/14005/20E/15
EA9EU/14006/00E/17
EA9GK/14006/00W/18

EA9IB/28785/14E/14
ET3PG/14222/14C/17
W5JMM/
SU/28674/17C/15
W5JMM/
SU/28750/13C/16
TL8CN/28542/12E/14
TL8RP/28502/13E/21

TU2GI/14207/04C/18
XT2BG/21294/19E/16
ZD7HH/21295/19E/14
ZD7BW/28697/01W/15
ZELDE/28785/14E/20
3B8AS/14202/15E/19
3B8DB/21304/21E/16
VK4NIC/
3X/21366/21E/14

VK4NIC/
3X/21362/22E/16
5H3KS/28520/22E/15
5T5QR/21333/14E/18
5T5JD/21302/23E/18
5V7HL/28504/16W/14
5Z4YV/21044/01E/14
5H3KS/28518/21E/15

60QDX/14206/04C/19
6W8HL/21283/22C/15
6W8JU/21300/22E/15
6W8AR/21359/19E/15
9G1RT/28507/14E/15
9X5FO/28583/14C/14

Asia

AP2NB/14213/03C/18
A9XDD/28750/13E/19
DU1JB/21280/23E/17
N7ET/
DU6/28025/00E/14
WB5LBJ/
DU6/28573/01C/16
DULFEZ/28565/23C/16
DU9RG/28540/00E/22
WA2UUK/
DU2/28528/01E/22

HL9WZ/28587/01E/15
HL1FH/28018/01E/15
HL9KW/28687/00W/15
HS5AID/21033/02E/15
HS4AMI/28517/14E/19
HZ1AB/21252/17E/14
HZ1AB/28594/16E/14
JT1KAA/14009/05W/19
JT1AN/28575/01E/15
OD5LX/14011/01W/17
OD5LX/14010/03E/17

OD5MR/28528/16C/18
OD5PZ/28785/14E/21
TA1NA/21286/19E/15
TA1SU/28515/15C/14
UD6DLJ/28536/14E/16
UF6DZ/14215/05W/14
UI8ADF/28512/13E/14
UI8FBA/28518/14C/20
UM8MAI/28504/13E/21
UI8FFF/28538/13E/22
UJ8BQ/14201/03W/15
UL7EAF/28668/13E/15

VS5RP/21360/00C/17
VS5RP/21360/00E/18
VS5RP/28575/00C/19
VS6CT/28675/00E/15
VS6IC/28750/12E/18
VS6CT/28675/23E/21
VU2BK/14050/22E/18
VU2CK/14222/03C/18
VU2TA/21273/23E/18
VU2NR/28785/14E/21
4S7RM/14008/12E/14
5B4JK/14030/21E/14

5B4DI/14220/04C/18
5B4IT/28512/14E/14
9K2FF/14215/03E/18
9K2EW/28641/13E/18
9M2GD/14206/13C/14
9M2GZ/14233/13E/16
9M2FR/21345/00E/19
9M8PW/21370/00C/20
9N1MM/14212/02E/19
9V1UQ/14208/13C/15
9V1TF/28557/01E/15

Elsewhere

A35XX/28019/00E/19
CE9AT/21317/01E/14
VP8AEO/
CE9/14211/03C/19
VP8AEO/
CE9/28550/23E/20
CM2JG/28654/23C/15
CX7BU/21025/00E/20
C21BS/21370/00E/15

C31UN/28579/17E/16
EA6CE/28604/16C/15
FH8CO/14018/14C/18
FM7BM/14012/08W/14
FMQFOL/14210/02E/16
HV3SJ/28595/13E/15
JH1NPX/
JD1/21026/03W/15
J3AH/21354/18C/15
J73LC/14205/04E/15

KH2AD/21370/00E/15
AH2E/28534/00C/15
AH2E/28530/00E/22
KHQAC/28575/01E/15
KHQAC/28575/00C/16
KM6BI/14230/02C/19
KX6JM/21296/00E/16
LU3ZY/14208/02E/17
OH3YX/
OHQ/28505/12E/21

PZ1AR/28553/19C/16
SVQBP/
9/28757/12E/14
SVQAT/28518/15W/16
TF3YH/21325/20W/17
VK9NL/28750/12E/16
VPLFB/28515/21W/18
VP8QT/21370/00E/15
VR6TC/21340/02E/19
YB2AG/28546/00E/16

YB2CR/28759/12E/21
YB2BLI/28563/00E/22
ZB2EO/28514/13E/14
ZL3AFH/
A/14320/10E/14
4U1UN/14206/13W/14
4U1UN/14205/14C/16
5W1DE/14007/05E/17
5W1DE/28009/22C/15

RTTY:

EI3CN/28095/15C/15

GI4AHP/21091/15C/15
GM4BIT/21090/19C/8

KX6QC/28084/00C/17

YJ8TT/14096/10C/4

Y39UO/14086/18C/14

QSL INFOs

A22ZM via KA2GNJ
A9XDA N4BPP
VP8AEO/
CE9 G4DSE
CN8AN WB3DNA
CR9C KB9N
CR9CT G3KDB
C5ACO W2TK
C5ADS DL1LD
C31UN EA3AOC
FGQFOK YASME
FWQAA NQRR
FWQVU DL2RM
HMQI JLIUDC
J3AE K1EM
J3AO W4YHB

KG6SL/
KHQ via WA6AHF
KL7JEF WQSA
DA2AL/
LX KA2B
OA8CP N4CQ
SULBA K2IJL
W5JMM/
SU KASAAT
TIQHE TI2VVR
TL8CN W5RU
TL8JM W5RU
TL8RP F3EA
TL8WH W5RU
VK7AE W5ACE
VK9EW VK6RU
VK9ZD VK3OT
VP2ED AD8J
VP2ESE WB4QBB

VP2VGF via NP2AF
VP5FP WB4OSN
VP5TCI G3ZYD
VQ9KT K6TQ
XW8HP JA3VLD
YA1OS SMQDJZ
ZB2GR K2FJ
ZD8TC N2CW
ZK1BD ZL1SZ
ZL3AFH/A ZL2HE
4K1A UW9WR
VE7AAZ/4U VE1BWV
5N6ENV K4PVZ
5NQMAS JR1SSH
5W1DD OE2DYL

ET3PG -- "Tensay"
PO BOX 6128
Addis Ababa
N2BA/HI8
B. Allen
132 E. 19 St.
Apt. 6F
NY, NY 10003
HT1KD
PO BOX 925
Managua
JTQLAJ
BOX 180
Ulan Bator

S83W
PO BOX 814
Umtata
Transkei
VP2E
(Mar. 7-8 '81)
Via K8ND
VS5RP
PO BOX 413
Tutong
Brunei
6W8JU
PO BOX 971
Dakar

KA3BLP/
J6 N2ATX
KC6DY W5UR
KC6MW JR1AIB
AH2E N9AVY
OE2VEL/
KH8 OE2DYL

VP2EV K8ND
VP2EEV K8ND
VP2EX WB8VPA
VP2EZ AA4GA
VP2KAO K2AOK
VP2KAP WB2JVM
VP2MEA NE4R

5W1DE DJQFX
8P6CQ W2LZX
8P6KX WB2WSV
9Q5BS SM5CAK
9V1RW SM5CAK
9V1TK JA6RIL
9X5FO DL5FX
ET3PG -- "Girma"
PO BOX 21321
Addis Ababa

KA6MX
APO
San Francisco
96321
S79MC
Box 491
Seychelles
Indian Ocean

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-----March 1, 1981

FGØFOK was closed down by Lloyd Colvin, W6KG and Iris Colvin, W6QL, on Feb. 12, after they had made 9,000 contacts in 150 countries, just about half and half CW and SSB. They ask that anyone having "FGØFO" in their log add a "K" to it; on CW the problems of having a call sign ending in "K" are well known; the Colvins swear they won't ever again have such a call!

Next stop for this YASME expedition is Martinique, where they will sign FMØFOL, including during the ARRL DX Phone Competition. YASME is at PO BOX 2025, Castro Valley CA 94546.

PYØZZ and PYØCW made 7,000 contacts last month from Fernando de Noronha, despite handicaps which included being out of power six hours per day. QSLs are now being printed and will feature a color photo for those who provide at least a couple of IRCs and an envelope. Cards received through the bureau will be accommodated with a simpler, less expensive QSL. If you are sending SASE to Brazil with mint stamps, note that 35 cruzeiros worth of postage are required for an airmail letter back to the U.S.

Following is the text of a letter sent to the ARRL DX Advisory Committee on Feb. 20 by Dave Siddall, K3ZJ:

Re: 1AØKM, at the Sovereign Military order of Malta

"As some of you know, I am most definitely not a proponent of adding to the DXCC list every uninhabited coral reef that is exposed at low tide for 2-1/2 minutes on December 21 and June 20 every year. Neither do I think that "WAE" should stand for "Worked all Embassies" or "WAC" for "Worked all Cemeteries" (the latter in reference to U.S. cemeteries overseas).

"But after studying (1) the DXCC rules and WØSR's excellent guidelines to go with those rules, and (2) available information on the international legal status of the "SMOM," officially titled the Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta, I have been forced to agree with my Italian friends that the SMOM is undeniably a widely recognized international sovereign power exercising plenary jurisdiction over its headquarters land, where 1AØKM is located. The SMOM is therefore most deserving of DXCC status.

"Being an attorney, I began a study of SMOM's legal status after a chance conversation with Jose Ahumada, LU2DX (&LU8CW) on the local repeater. He noted that when he worked for the Argentine Foreign Ministry in Buenos Aires he often dealt in protocol matters. He related that the Ambassador of the SMOM to Argentina was treated absolutely as an equal in diplomatic status to that accorded all other ambassadors, including the Ambassador of the United States. In other words, in diplomatic matters the Ambassadors of the SMOM and the U.S. are always treated as equals, down to the slightest detail. (At least in Argentina-Ed.)

"Left with a certain sense of ignorance, having never heard of the SMOM before inauguration of 1AØKM, I utilized the resources of the Library of Congress to research this matter. I found:

"1. The National Geographic Atlas recognizes the SMOM as the smallest country in the world.

"2. The SMOM has been in continuous existence since 1100 A.D., making it the oldest diplomatically recognized state in the world.

"3. Its sovereignty was and is recognized apart from its former rule of Rhodes, Malta, and Tripoli.

"4. There are other "Knights of Malta" organizations claiming the same heritage which have no connection with the SMOM, which is the direct lineal descendant of the original entity. It is not to be confused with a number of lineal "branches" some of which are the result of the reformation and are considered "Protestant."

"5. The courts of Italy, even when it would be in their interest to deny the SMOM's sovereignty, have recognized its status and therefore their lack of jurisdiction over SMOM property.

"6. Full diplomatic relations were maintained by the SMOM with at least 45 countries on all continents in 1980.

"7. SMOM passports are recognized even in countries not having diplomatic relations with SMOM.

"8. The Prince - Grand Master, as head of the SMOM, is ceremonially accorded full head-of-state status when on official visits outside the SMOM.

"9. Delegates from the SMOM have attended many international conferences, including those culminating in the Geneva Convention.

"10. The SMOM has a complete functioning government structure.

"11. The SMOM issues its own stamps and currency.

"Therefore, even someone like myself, who applauded tightening of the DXCC rules after certain entities were added to the DXCC list with less attributes of separate country status than the ground my antenna supporting structure rests on (in the District of Columbia) must conclude that the SMOM meets and exceeds the DXCC criteria.

"I did not find analogy with the African Homelands to be helpful. Their sovereignty claims with but one exception (the Republic of South Africa) are rejected by other nations. The SMOM is unequivocally recognized worldwide, on every continent, as fully sovereign in its own right."

(K3ZJ is President of the Capitol Hill Amateur Radio Society)

Several prominent Italian amateurs submitted documents concerning SMOM to the ARRL in late December. It is expected that the DXAC will act in this matter in the not-too-distant future.

SP6BPY, editor of the Polish CQ DX writes to say that 9U5WR is Jerzey, SP6BAA, who has been in Burundi as a telecommunications advisor since last July. He is apparently the only valid licensee there, and uses a TS-830 and TH6DXX on CW only. A copy of the operating permission has been submitted to ARRL; QSL mgr. is SP6FER.

One of the locals got his VK4NIC/3X QSL from W4FRU on Feb. 27; the cards are being accepted for DXCC by ARRL.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in an advertising flyer like the enclosed, please encourage him/her to inquire to TDXB; we could use the business to help offset the upcoming extra cost of the Countries Survey. Thanks!

CALENDAR

Trinidad 9Y4DX or EA
Gambia C5AZ
Heard Island VKØJS
St. Maarten W2BBK/PJ7
Tristan de Cunha ZD9HH

Mauritania 5T5AZ or RH
Antigua /VP2A
Easter Island /CEØA
Monaco CW
Volta XT

Ogasawara JAlJWP/JD1
Easter Island WAlSQB/CEØA
Convention ARRL National
Montserrat VP2MFC
Competition ARRL Phone

Contest CQ WPX Phone
Ivory Coast TU
Juan Fernandez CEØZ
Ghana 9G1
Palmyra KH5

Togo 5V
Dahomey TY
Kingman Reef KH5K
Contest County Hunters
Convention "Fresno"

Contest CQ WPX CW
Leichtenstein DAlWA/HBØ
Market Reef OJØ

By KP2A now to Mar. 4; QSL AC2A
By 9G1RT Mar. 1-5; this issue
Still hoping for soon! Issues 75, 76, 77, 78
Now to Mar. 13; Issue 78
By ZD7HH still possible for Mar. 5; Issue 78

By 9G1RT Mar. 6-11; this issue
By K9s MK, LA, KB9N and WB9TIY now to Mar. 18; Issue 77
Now to Mar. 17 by W4s PRO, GSM; Issue 74
By PAs, now to Mar. 6; Issue 74
By K4YT Mar. 15-21; Issue 77

Now to Mar. 25; Issue 76
Mar. 5 to Apr. 3; Issue 77
Mar. 13-15, Orlando; Issues 73 and 76
By K1ZZ last two weeks of Mar.
Mar. 7-8

K5KG/OHØ Mar. 3-8,
including the ARRL
Phone Contest, CW
before and after.
QSL K5KG.

Mar. 28-29
By K4YT Mar. 29 - Apr. 4; Issue 77
Rumored for April; Issue 75
Apr. 5-11 by K4YT; Issue 77
Apr. 8-14; Issue 77

By K4YT Apr. 12-18; Issue 77
By K4YT Apr. 19-25; Issue 77
Apr. 15-21; Issue 77
SSB May 2-3
May 1-3, Visalia, CA; Issue 72

May 30-31
May 23-31 by Weisbaden ARC; details later
July 6 for one week; Issue 75

THANKS TO...

WA7OBH, K6IR, K8MPF, WA4YCI, WØYBV, N4DSH, W9TGN, N8BKB, WD9IUT, W7YF, WD5AAM, WA2SQY, KA2K, W4PC, W5OSJ, W2XQ, N5BBO, N2GG, KAlKD, KA3R, WA2PHA, W4LCL, W8LU, W2HAZ, WØYK, WBØQOV, KAlDS, W8QQH, XE1NI, K4JST, WA2JOC, SP6BPY, K3ZJ, PY7ZZ, YASME, KP2A, KQ4O, W1CKA, W4VQ, KAlLY, K8ND, KA3DBN, K2OLG, N1DD, W1CDC, WAlTIV, KAlESK, K5KG, K7RDBG, W1GWA.

TEN-TEC OMNI

Our TR-7 is gone away to a prospective novice in New York. He should be in heaven when his ticket comes! Our prayers were rewarded with a new Ten-Tec Omni-D Series C, with CW filter (500 Hz) and power supply. No remote vfo on site yet. This time next week we will have a Kenwood TS-830 for a direct knob-to-knob comparison, so for now some general comments on the Omni.

Thirteen years ago we had a Ten-Tec PM-2 (Power Mite) which ran about three or four watts on 80, 40 and 20 CW, transceive. You could plug a crystal in for "split" as I recall. The memories of hooking up a lantern battery and dipole at the observatory, the only place on campus for such activities (as well as other activities associated with seeing stars) is still strong. The darn thing worked and we made QSOs until the battery inevitably ran down. Really, it was a toy radio but it was a radio, and it only cost \$60.

The Omni, at over a thousand dollars, is no toy. It is the top of the Ten-Tec line, and is known as a "CW Man's Radio." It was imperative we try to find out if that is true.

A consideration is, of course, does a CW radio fail the test on SSB? It is well known that many SSB radios are miserable on CW. The requirements for skilled operation on CW are somewhat more demanding than those for SSB.

Just like the TR-7, our Omni volume control won't turn the volume all the way down! That appears to be a fact of life these days. And we miss the general coverage receiver, which is almost a Drake exclusive. But for the price dif-

ference, you can buy a clean old Hallicrafters receiver. The cord between the Omni and the p.s. is too short to allow putting the p.s. on the floor, the Omni does not have a calibrate signal available, and there is a Zero Beat button which accomplishes absolutely nothing.

Three types of offset are available for use in the Omni: receive, transmit, and transceive. We are still getting accustomed to them. Another welcome feature is audio filtering, as well as a "notch" and available crystal filters. But you are out of luck if you want both the CW filters plus the 1.8 SSB filter, as the 2.4 filter must stay in the radio and there are provisions for only two additional ones.

Ten-Tec opted for as much dynamic range as they could muster, and the receiver sounds great in the presence of strong local signals. There are prices to be paid, though: the noise blanker does not have any effect on noise under S6, and the receiver AGC is configured such that very strong signals tend to blow your ears off when they first appear. Slow AGC attack time is responsible for the AGC situation, and Ten-Tec says it is unavoidable if the dynamic range is to be attained.

On CW, the signal is on LSB on 160/80/40 and on USB on the other bands. That takes a little getting used to, but it was done so switching from SSB to CW would not require any retuning of the receiver. A pretty smart idea, we think.

Several newer receivers we have heard lately simply sounded mushy, soft, dead. The Ten-Tec sounds absolutely alive. Are the noise blanker, AGC, and filter selection range worth the trade-off? We are anxious to get the TS-830 side-by-side and hope our ears will be true. - Ed.