October 10, 2010, otherwise known as “10-10-10,” will be remembered as an historic day in Amateur Radio. On that date, the Netherlands Antilles was formally dissolved, and four new DXCC entities were simultaneously created.

On 10-10-10, Bonaire and Curacao (PJ2 and PJ4 – the leeward islands), and Sint Maarten, Saba and St. Eustatius (PJ5, J6 and J7 – the windward islands) were deleted from ARRL’s list of active DXCC entities, replaced immediately by four new entities: Bonaire, Curacao, Sint Maarten and Saba/St. Eustatius. It had been over 50 years since such a dissolution of geographic territories allowed so many new DXCC entities to be created essentially simultaneously – the last being the breakup of the French colonies in Africa during the early 1960s.

This rare occurrence was publicized well in advance of 10-10-10, creating a high level of interest and excitement in Amateur Radio circles. Two well-known DXpeditioners, Joe Pater, W8GEX, and Craig Thompson, K9CT (both part of the successful K4M Midway adventure in October 2009), decided, after some research, that the island of Sint Maarten would be an ideal location to set up for what was sure to be a fun celebration on 10-10-10. They envisioned an experienced team of operators, handing out QSOs from this new DXCC entity and helping to celebrate Sint Maarten’s new “country” status.

Finding operating sites
The success of any DXpedition is highly dependent on location. In mid-July 2010, Joe and Craig visited Sint Maarten and, after some exploration, settled on two locations: one for CW, the other for SSB/RTTY — to minimize any interference between stations. Working with a local real estate firm, and after conferring with two local hams (Marco Ferrante, PJ7MF and Mort Bardfield, PJ7UQ), they settled on two sites about 11 miles apart.

The CW site consisted of a high-rise condo at the far western side of...
From the President’s Desk

I was pleased to be included as one of eleven operators to put on the new entity, St. Maarten, PJ7E. This edition of the newsletter features an article by our talented webmaster and director, John Miller, K6MM, on the expedition. By any measurement the expedition can be considered a success and I urge you to look at the PJ7E website (www.pj7e.com) to see all the pictures of the operation as well as the beautiful island scenery. It was a great experience with some terrific operators and friends.

If you have not taken the time to check out the redesigned NCDXF website, www.ncdxf.org, I urge you to do so. The home page lists all of the expeditions the Foundation has funded in 2010 and upcoming in 2011.

To help us fund these and other expeditions, we need your continued contributions to NCDXF. Take a look at the “grant request” information that we request and you can see the amount of work we go through to carefully screen each expedition.

We are moving ahead on changes and upgrades to our Beacon program. Steve, KA6W, is heading up this effort and you will read more about this in 2011.

In September I attended the very fine W9DXCC convention in Chicago this year. NCDXF was presented a $2,000 check (left) as part of the proceeds from an ICOM transceiver raffle. Carl Smith, N4AA, editor and publisher of The DX Magazine accepted a $1,000 check (right) from a similar raffle at the W4DXCC convention (SEDCO).

This edition also features our two 2010 scholarship recipients, the monies from which come from a specific scholarship fund set up by Don Doughty, W6EEN, created for qualified college-level radio amateurs.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of our contributors for their continued support through these difficult economic times. Each of you help to keep us viable. I hope that the holiday season will be good to you.

— 73, Bruce Butler, W6OSP
the island, while the SSB/RTTY site consisted of a vacation home in the hills above the easternmost side of the island. The CW condo was on the top floor of the building, with easy roof access for antenna installation. The SSB villa was nestled about 150 feet above sea level. Both locations had clear propagation possibilities to Europe, North America and Asia. The goal was to have two stations running full time on both sites, with a third station used as a backup as time and operators became available. With these sites now secured, Joe and Craig moved ahead with their plans for team formation and further support. In July 2010 they applied for a license to operate on Sint Maarten and were granted full operating privileges under the call sign PJ7E. The DXpedition was set to take place 10-20 October 2010 — a full 10 days of operating.

The PJ7E team
Since Joe and Craig had worked together on Midway, several K4M team members became part of the core Sint Maarten team. Others joined during July and August to form the final team — a great group of operators and true team players! The group was actually divided into two operating teams, as well as a third support team in the U.S.

CW operators were Max Mucci, I8NHJ; Dave Anderson, K4SV; Craig Thompson, K9CT; Ralph Bellas, K9ZO; Don Dubon, N6JRL; Charlie Spetnagel, W6KK and Bruce Butler, W6OSP. SSB/RTTY operators were Franz Langner, DJ9ZB; Jim Cochran, KØRH; John Miller, K6MM; Bill Beyer, N2WB; Charlie Wooten, NF4A; Janet Pater, W8CAA and Joe Pater, W8GEX.

The stateside support team (equipment testing, QSLs, etc.) consisted of Kevin Rowett, K6TD; Donald Greenbaum, N1DG, and Samuel Harrell, N4XP.

The website
Soon after the team was formed, I volunteered to design a website for the DXpedition and, on 25 July 2010, www.pj7e.com was launched. The website quickly became our main communication vehicle where breaking news, sponsor information, our overall operating plan and up-to-date log information could be displayed. Our guestbook soon became filled with well-wishers from around the world. To keep in touch with supporters and interested parties, we also set up pages on Facebook and Twitter, which proved to be great communication tools.

Gearing up
A primary goal of any DXpedition is to maximize QSOs. Anticipating potentially huge pileups as well as other possible DX operations taking place on neighboring islands meant that our equipment needed to be robust. Fortunately, we were able to secure a com-
mitment from ICOM for six IC-7600 transceivers. This proven performer was ideal for handling all operating modes with outstanding DSP filtering and a great user interface.

Adding a boost to our signal was the new Alpha 8410 amplifier, six of which Alpha graciously provided. These bulletproof 1.5kW amps provided steady, reliable output throughout the operation.

We had the core elements of our stations, next was antenna selection. After reviewing several options, including anticipated setup locations at the chosen operating sites, we settled on two-element SteppIRs for the CW site and Hex-Beams for the SSB site. DX Engineering also provided 40M and 30M verticals, and ACER provided six laptops. We were good to go!

The Great PJ Band Plan

During August and September, there were many announced DXpeditions to PJ-land. The dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles combined with the creation of four new DXCC entities created a buzz of excitement within the DX community. We knew that well organized groups would be operating on Bonaire, Curacao and Saba/St. Eustatius during the same time period we would be operating on Sint Maarten. We also knew that the airwaves would be full of QSOs on both CW and Phone on all nine major Amateur bands: 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10.

What would be our biggest challenge under these unusual circum-
stances? SFO (split frequency overlap). Because of the high level of interest in these new DXCC entities and the large anticipated pileups, every group in the Caribbean would necessarily have to operate in split mode. To avoid this potential overlap problem, the PJ7E team took aleadership role. I was asked to put together an initial suggested band plan, and Craig, K9CT, then contacted the other major players.

After several e-mail exchanges, it all came together, and the cooperation and coordination among groups resulted in “The Great PJ Band Plan” (a portion of which is shown at left). To make it work, each group had to adhere to the plan while on the air and, thankfully, everyone did. This operating plan — unprecedented in DX history — was the key to a successful operation for everyone: both DXers and the DXpedition teams.

Off to the islands

We had the location, team, website, equipment and operating plan. The equipment shipped from Miami to Sint Maarten on 1 October and was scheduled to arrive on 7 October. The team arranged flights to arrive in time to unload, unpack and set up the stations before Saturday evening, 9 October at 0400 UTC, (Sint Maarten is on Eastern Standard Time).

Unfortunately, we had an unanticipated visit from Tropical Storm Otto. Otto hit the Caribbean hard on 6 October, and, by the time we arrived, over
20 inches of rain had been dumped on the island, creating major flooding. Even worse, the port was closed due to 15-foot waves and, therefore, no sea traffic was allowed into Sint Maarten. A quick visit to the shipping company confirmed our worst fears: the boat with our equipment would not arrive until Monday, 11 October.

**Plan B**

The entire PJ7E team met for dinner to discuss “Plan B,” and fortunately, Dave, K4SV, had brought his ICOM IC-7000 and Tarheel Screwdriver antenna “just in case.” Dave was on the CW team, and they decided to start out running barefoot using his system until the boat arrived.

Also in our favor, Marco, PJ7MF, one of the few active hams on Sint Maarten, joined us for dinner. He understood our plight and offered the use of his ICOM IC-706 radio. Fortunately Joe, W8GEX, on the SSB team, had packed his Alpha Delta 20M dipole “just in case.” Plan B was starting to come together.

On Friday, 8 October, after a visit to the local Radio Shack to pick up some coax, connectors and speaker wire, we constructed a 20M/40M dual band dipole, held up by a broom. Plan B was in effect, and by 0400 UTC on 10-10-10, both sites got on the air — right on schedule. For those first 48 hours on the island, using just 100 watts and very modest antennas, the PJ7E team generated over 9,000 QSOs!

**The boat arrives**

On Monday, as hoped, the boat from Miami finally arrived. We quickly transported the equipment to both sites and started unpacking everything.

At the CW site, as the group was getting ready to operate, the property manager informed us that he would only allow a small section of the roof for the antennas. That space measured 48 feet x 28 feet — not much room for two SteppIRs and two verticals, but the CW team persevered. The wires intended for 80M and 160M were removed and, instead, matching coils were constructed for the DXE verticals. In the end, after some experimentation, they created an effective “antenna farm” on top of their condo, with very little interaction — mostly due to the high quality radios and excellent band-pass filters.

Meanwhile, at the SSB house, with a little more geography to work with, the Hex-Beams, verticals and 80M dipole went up smoothly. We also put up a small 2M Yagi to take advantage of the PJ7R repeater on Sint Maarten and to keep in touch with our CW colleagues.

By Tuesday morning both sites were operational with effective antennas, full power and fantastic propagation conditions. Spirits were high as we worked the pileups and the QSOs went into the log and the daily totals were posted on the website.

**Pileup management**

There was such a high level of interest in PJ-land that by the time we were ready to get on the air, thousands of Amateur Radio operators worldwide were poised and ready to pounce on our “QRZ?” The pileups were enormous — and loud, and persistent, and loud, and consistent, and loud — requiring extra focus to keep control. That was part of the fun and enjoyment in operating under such unusual and exciting conditions.

**Visitors**

Word had spread that Amateur Radio operators were on the island to support the 10-10-10 celebration by making contacts around the world. Our DXpedition essentially put a spotlight on Sint Maarten and folks wanted to know more about us. We had many visitors.

Sidney DeWeever, the local telecommunications officer for Sint Maarten, became a regular visitor and good friend. He was very helpful in approving our license and ensuring that our equipment was delivered after the boat arrived.

Saturday, 16 October was Scout Jamboree weekend around the world and that presented a great opportunity...
for Sint Maarten Cub, Boy and Girl Scouts to visit the PJ7E team at the SSB site. We explained our goals, gave some demos and had a great time with this enthusiastic group of youngsters.

Sam Allen, PJ7SA, a local newspaper reporter, also visited as well as Marco, PJ7MF. Both guest-operated for about 30 minutes. Sam was so impressed, he wrote an article about PJ7E, which was published online while we were still on the island. All in all, we very much enjoyed our visitors and it was another great opportunity to promote good will through Amateur Radio.

The PJ7E QSO scorecard

At the beginning of the DXpedition, based on past experiences, co-leaders Joe and Craig set a QSO target of 60,000 for the PJ7E operation. Using the excellent no-cost services of Club Log, we were able to track our progress, as logs were uploaded to the website daily.

After 10 days of solid operation the PJ7E team put 74,435 QSOs in the log, the majority from Europe and North America. These QSOs came from 22,023 unique operators. The overall mode breakdown is as follows. Phone, 34,914; CW, 34,545, and Digital, 4,976.

We worked 175 different countries during the operation. However, we were most proud of our ability to connect with over 2,500 stations from Asia, particularly Japan, which is often a difficult QSO challenge because of the distance or poor propagation. The band/mode and DXCC charts shown provide further insight into the operation.

In terms of overall QSOs, the PJ7E DXpedition ranked about No. 25 out of all DXpeditions (based on info gathered from DXpedition records published by The DailyDX). Needless to say, we are very pleased with our PJ7E scorecard.

QSL card and commemorative certificate

Even though ARRL won’t start processing DXCC applications for PJ7 entities until after 1 January 2011, there is a strong interest in collecting our QSL card. As an extra incentive to use our online QSL (OQSL) system, we are also offering a personalized, autographed commemorative certificate from the PJ7E DXpedition. QSL cards have been ordered and we hope to start mailing confirmations before the end of the year.

Early support

Fortunately early in the process we received generous support from NCDXF and INDEXA. Later, GDXF, NDXA, SEDCO, DDXG and several other organizations, as well as several individuals, provided donations to the PJ7E DXpedition. We very much appreciate their support, and thank them for their generosity.

Summary

By most any measure, the PJ7E trip was a success. It was a true team effort, led by two effective leaders; we put many QSOs in the log, exceeding our target by 25%; we provided great public relations for Sint Maarten, where lasting friendships were made; we received excellent feedback from the Amateur Radio community worldwide, and our trip was safe, without any health-related problems or other issues.

For me, personally, it was a great experience. I became a better operator and have a much better appreciation for what it takes to put together a successful DXpedition. 10-10-10 is a date I’ll remember forever.

### Band/Mode breakdown

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### DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown

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</table>
Nicholas Bauer, KC9GZY, is a student at Indiana University in Bloomington. He is carrying a 3.96 GPA in his studies toward a B.S. degree in accounting and finance, anticipating a career as a Certified Public Accountant. He has been recognized at Indiana University as a Founder’s Scholar for his academic achievement. He previously attended Bloomington High School where he earned Academic Honors and graduated with a 4.37 GPA.

First licensed in 2005, Nick currently holds a General class Amateur Radio license and enjoys operating on 2, 20, 17 and 40 Meters. He enjoys contesting and DXing.

In high school he participated as a volunteer in Canine Search-and-Rescue, played in numerous school music organizations and was on the Math League Team. He was a member of the Bloomington High School Amateur Radio Club and served as its President. He is a trained Skywarn weather spotter, a member of ARES and RACES and a VEC for both ARRL and W5YI. At Field Day he operates the GOTA station.

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DXpedition QRQs

The following are short snippets of NCDXF-sponsored DXpeditions that we have been unable to feature as a full-length article, but still wanted to showcase.

5L2MS — Liberia 2007

The team consisted of Arie Kleingeld, PA3A; Arie, PA3AN; Henk van Oosterhout, PA3AWW, and Ad Van Ginnekken, PA8AD. Dickson Tarnue, EL2DT, joined the team during our stay in Liberia. Number of QSOs made: 27,879 in total. CW – 17,250; SSB – 8,919, and RTTY – 1,710.


FT5GA — Glorious Grande

From 14 September - 8 October 2009 the crew of Didier Senmartin, F5OGL; Yves-Michel, F5PRU; Bernard Jung, F5LPY; Philippe Koch, F4EGS; David Bonnet, F8CRS, and Freddy Laigu, F5IRO, managed to make over 50,000 QSOs on this fourth most-wanted entity.

Visit http://glorieuses2008.free.fr/index-e.htm for all the details.

3C0M — Annobón Island

This turned out to be a one-man operation to Annobón Island, Equatorial Guinea, in the South Atlantic Ocean. Elmo Bernabé Coll, EA5BYP, operated from 21 October - 3 November 2006, undertaking all the roles needed to have a successful DXpedition.

Overcoming illness, unfavorable weather, foreign bureaucracy and equipment failures and even witnessing a whale hunt, Elmo managed to log 10,960 QSOs in seven bands and three modes.
The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) was the major Amateur Radio contest event of 2010 and NCDXF was a part of the excitement.

WRTC-2010, held by Soyuz Radioljubiteley Rossii — the Russian National Amateur Radio Society — took place near Moscow, Russia, from 8-12 July, where 50 teams from all over the world competed in the same field conditions.

The final results are in and the top spot goes to the team of RW1AC/RA1AIP with 3,440 QSOs and a score of 4,098,162. In second place was ES5TV/ES2RR with 3,453 QSOs and score of 4,084,889. Third place went to the team of N6MJ/KL9A with 3,549 QSOs and a score of 3,942,904. For more info, visit www.wrtc2010.ru.

Congratulations to all participants on a job well done. We’ll see you at WRTC-2014 in New England, USA. Visit https://sites.google.com/site/wrtc2014 for more info.

Show your support for NCDXF

NCDXF offers several ways for you to show your love for DXing! Impress your friends with a gold lapel pin ($7), show up at your next hamfest sporting the NCDXF hat ($12) or don a NCDXF T-shirt ($15) to set up your Yagi on Field Day. Send out your QSLs with an NCDXF label (roll of 500, $7). Mail in the attached form or visit www.ncdxf.org to order today.

Contribution & Order Form

YES! I want to join NCDXF or renew my membership.
New member / Renewal
Contribution ................................................$________

YES! I want to show my support for NCDXF. Send me the following supplies (shipping included):

____ T-Shirt(s) @ $15 each .........................$________
(indicate size M / L / XL / 2XL / 3XL)
____ Hats @ $12 each ..............................$________
____ Lapel pin @ $7 each ...........................$________
____ Roll(s) of labels @ $7 each ...............$________
Total contribution & supplies ..................$________

Callsign ____________________________________
Name ____________________________
E-mail ____________________________
Check enclosed or Charge to Visa / MC / AmEx
Card number ____________________________
Expiration ____________________________
Signature ____________________________

Mail to NCDXF, PO Box 2012, Cupertino, CA 95051-2012