



NCDXF newsletter

ncdxf.org

Summer 2024

N5J The DXpedition to Jarvis Island

Don Greenbaum, N1DG



I AM WRITING THIS ON THE WAY TO Pago Pago from Jarvis Island. What a ride! And, no, I'm not talking about the storm we just went through, which had hurricane-strength winds peaking at 68 knots.

An idea is born

The trip to Jarvis really began eight years ago, right after the successful Baker Island DXpedition where we tried to keep a few operators on the ship and remote to the radios on the island. The remote idea was a total failure, yet the DXpedition was a great success, though it left the team totally exhausted.

On the way back to Fiji, George Wallner, AA7JV, said to me: "There has to be a better way." And so began a three-year process where the end result was a fully remote system, including a custom-made landing craft, software control systems, and custom-designed antennas made to work with reduced height and minimal guying. George's Radio-in-a-Box (RiB) system design was funded by the Northern California

DX Foundation (NCDXF) and tested successfully in the Bahamas. (See the [Spring 2021 and Winter 2023 NCDXF newsletters](#) for articles on the evolution of the RiB concept and design.)

In December 2021, we started the long process of approaching the superintendent of the Pacific Remote Island National Monument for a Special Use Permit allowing amateur radio on either Johnston or Jarvis Islands. We were quickly told that the U.S. Air Force was not in favor of visitors to Johnston, so we proceeded with Jarvis, where the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was eager to send a biologist.

First, a Compatibility Determination (CD) was needed. In September 2022, I met in person with USFWS personnel in Honolulu to describe the RiB system and the minimally invasive methods we could employ. We emphasized that, instead of 15 operators, 10 tents, 12 antennas, a toilet and seven generators as we used on Baker, we could replace that with a pontoon am-

phibious boat containing all the radios and generators, six or seven vertical antennas of reduced height and no need to stay on the island. I brought along videos of the RiB in action in the Bahamas and detailed PowerPoint presentations explaining the system. And, we could offer needed transportation to their biologists.

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From the President's desk

N5J, JARVIS IS IN THE LOGS. JARVIS IS PART OF THE KH5 Palmyra and Jarvis entity, so it wasn't a new entity, or one that hadn't been on the air in the last 10 years. However, it was the first time for Jarvis since 1990 and KH5 as a whole is ranked #17 on the Most Wanted List overall and in the top 10 for Europe (#2 on SSB there). As you probably read, this activation of Jarvis was a generator and boat operation — aka Radio-in-a-Box ("RiB") — with radio links between the island and the boat. This DXpedition innovatively explored the activation of an entity without tents and building a small village.



Island Refuge DXCC activations are usually rare these days because of political or access issues. In this case, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) had concerns about interactions with the local habitat. Overcoming that issue was accomplished through the RiB approach. It is hoped that the successful demonstration of this approach at Jarvis will open the doors at other rare entities.

An additional element of this activation was the use of remote operators. That took a tremendous amount of coordination. As one of the remote operators, it seemed surreal to me to be in a high-tech meeting for work and, 10 minutes later, be operating a radio on Jarvis.

The full article about N5J is featured on the first page of this issue. Congratulations to George, AA7JV; Don, N1DG; Mike, KN4EEI; Tomi, HA7RY; Adrian, KO8SCA, and the rest of the Magnet crew.

With the pandemic pretty much behind us, DXpeditions and planning for future ones are very active again.

One area deserves some attention: youth operators. The NCDXF started a funding initiative to support costs for youth operators. It's had a slow start, but we've now seen an entire DXpedition that was all youth operators: 8R7X — also featured in this edition. We are getting more funding requests for adding one or two youth operators to a DXpedition. One of the remote ops for N5J was Ewan, KK7EXT, age 14. Look for him on an upcoming DXpedition where he may join in person.

N5J pioneered using the new SuperFox mode of WSJT-X. It was tested while some of the team was at K8R on American Samoa (KH8). SuperFox has two advantages: multi-stream QSOs without a reduction in transmit power (up to nine streams), and authentication for pirate mitigation. SuperFox was used by CY9C at St. Paul Island with other DXpeditions to follow.

The authentication feature of SuperFox is enabled by a unique key issued to a DXpedition leader. That key is required to enable the use of the SuperFox mode in WSJT-X. Joe Taylor, K1JT, has designated the NCDXF as the key granting administrator. We plan to maintain a list on our website of the SuperFox keys we have issued.

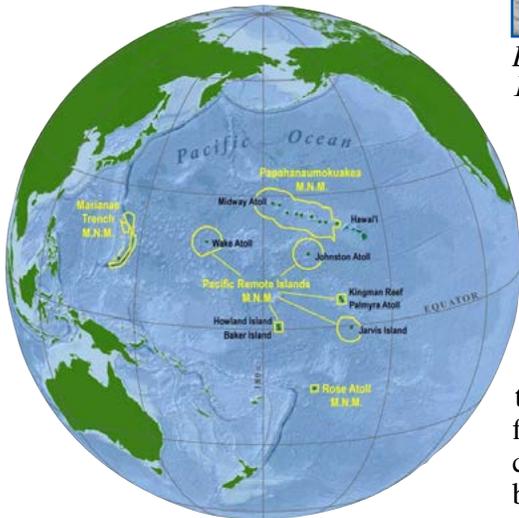
In this issue you can read about several of the past DXpeditions we have helped to fund — T2C, 8R7X, CBØZA and TJ9MD. Along with several others, I was a remote operator for CBØZA. Remote operating has become a useful strategy to add more operators to DXpeditions.

Finally, a sad note — in June, we lost Ross Forbes, K6GFJ, who had been a NCDXF Director since 2018. Prior to 2018, he was an essential part of the Foundation's support group. Ross helped organize and maintain the Foundation's video library and was always available to help on Foundation projects in addition to taking his turns as liaison for NCDXF grant requests. His picture and obituary are included in this newsletter. We will miss him.

Your support is always recognized and much appreciated.

73,

After that meeting, the USFWS began the process of approving a CD based on a reduced footprint RiB activation. Finally, in January 2024, we received the good news of a positive determination. It was only then that we could formally apply for a special use permit (SUP). The CD empowered the superintendent (now a different person) to issue the terms and dates of a SUP for us and issue the actual permit. The date offered was August 2024 based on available USFWS personnel. While not an optimal date, DX-wise, it was what was offered and we accepted it.



Jarvis Island history

The uninhabited 4.5 sq. km (1.7 sq. mile) coral island is located about halfway between Hawaii and the Cook Islands in the South Pacific, and the U.S. territory is administered by the USFWS as part of the National Wildlife Refuge system.

One of three Central Line Islands (Palmyra is one of the Northern Line Islands), Jarvis is the largest; the other two are Baker and Howland Islands. Jarvis, in addition to being part of a different island group than Palmyra, is also separated by the division of territory created by a treaty between the U.S. and Kiribati, signed in 2013. It deserves its own country status!

Discovered in 1821 by Captain Brown on the British ship *Eliza Francis*, Jarvis was mined for guano in the late 1800s under the Guano Act of 1856 when it became a U.S. possession. It was placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior on May 13, 1936 (Executive Order 7368).



Left: Pacific Remote Marine National Monument on globe. Above: Jarvis Island, 1936.

Jarvis truly is a long distance from everywhere.

The American Equatorial Islands Colonization Project was initiated in 1935 by the United States Department of Commerce to place U.S. citizens on the uninhabited islands of Howland, Baker and Jarvis so that weather stations and landing fields could be built for military and commercial use on Pan Am air routes between Australia and California. Additionally, the U.S. government wanted to claim these remote islands to provide a check on eastern territorial expansion by Japan.

The colonists, who became known as *Hui Panalā`au*, were primarily young native Hawaiian men and other male students recruited from schools in Hawaii. In 1937, the project was expanded to include Canton and Enderbury in the *Phoenix Islands*. The project ended in early 1942 when the colonists were evacuated from the islands at the start of the war in the Pacific.

Getting ready

After securing the SUP in early 2024, we had little time to organize the DXpedition, raise funding for fuel and boat personnel and recruit remote operators. In 2023, the MV *Magnet*, owned by AA7JV, had already entered the Pacific and by June 2024 we had successfully trained a core of remote operators with operations from FO, E5, VP6D, KH8S and KH8. The island team would be George, AA7JV; Tomi

Pekarik, HA7RY; Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA, Mike Snow, KN4EEI, and myself, Don Greenbaum, N1DG. QSOs with any of these ops would also count for IOTA and POTA credit, a big change from previous program rules. That is how rare Jarvis was, and the award programs knew the restrictive USFWS rules prevented on-island operators. Since we were operating in the island refuge, exceptions were made. Remote operators not in the refuge wouldn't count.

The NCDXF stepped up with funding to cover the fuel costs — the largest part of the funding. Many other foundations and clubs provided additional funding to cover permit fees and other costs associated with an endeavor of this size. Our friends at DX Engineering and Flex were our main equipment suppliers, and individuals, as always, tossed in funds needed to activate this rare island.

We organized the two remote teams under Ned Stearns, AA7A (FT8), and Gerry Hull, W1VE (CW). Pilots were Donald Mikes, AA1V; Eiki Satomi, JH8JWF, and Manny Fonseca Junior, CT1FPQ. Remote ops were: Dennis Egan, W1UE (our top remote QSO generator); Axel Schernikau, DL6KVA; John Miller, K6MM; David Jaffe, WD6T; Ned, AA7A; Robin Alexander, W7YED; José Nunes, CT1BOH; Filipe Lopes, CT1ILT; Jose Emanuel Ribeiro De Sa, CT1EEB; Champ Muangamphun, E21EIC; Florian van der Wagt, PB8DX; Dan Craig, N6MJ;



Left: The RiB amphibious boat loaded on the deck of Magnet. Right: Underway to Jarvis Island.

Hal Turley, W8HC; Paul Granger, F6EXV; Stan Stockton, K5GO; Seiji Okumura, JK1KSB; Angus Alexander, KJ7KOJ (age 17); Gerry, W1VE; Tack Kumagai, JE1CKA; Jon Kimball, KL2A; Peter Chamalian, W1RM; Ken Tanuma, JN1THL; Vlado Lesjak, E7ØT; David Heumann, N7NR; Mark Aaker, K6UFO; Eiki, JH8JWF; Emir-Braco Memic, E77DX; Jacky Calvo, ZL3CW; Miriam Briggs, N1QV; Ewan Alexander, KK7EXT (age 14); Mike, KN4EEI; Atilano Oms, PY5EG; Donald, AA1V; Stephen Bloom, KL7SB; Kevin Rowett, K6TD; Roberto Ramirez, CE3CT; Lee Finkel, KY7M; Attila Holop, HA2NA; Felipe Hernandez, NP4Z; Sven Lovric, DJ4MX; Tom Bernson, ND2T; Todd Bendtsen, VE5MX; John Crovelli, W2GD; Lee Moyle, VK3GK; James Idelson, K1IR and Nathan Wood, K4NHW.

In July, the team operated as K8R from American Samoa as a thorough equipment test and warm-up, making 37,000 QSOs.

Just like the 2018 Baker Island DXpedition with the very first Fox/Hound activation, the Dateline DX Association was working with the WSJT-X developers to introduce another major advance in digital mode FT8 technology, the “SuperFox.” We even had a special logo courtesy of MMØNDX and DX-World.net.

The RiB concept of the Jarvis DXpedition overcame permitting issues. As the largest sooty tern colony in the world, the USFWS has been very protective of large-scale visits to the island – the last amateur radio activity there was 34 years ago. We overcame that.

Underway

On 31 July, the day arrived with the five-man team (already assembled from the K8R DXpedition) joined by the arrival of the three USFWS biologists. While we waited for optimal sailing weather, the USFWS personnel briefed us of the on-island rules, and we practiced safety drills aboard the Magnet,

including jumping off the boat and climbing into a life raft.

The RiB amphibious boat (built by George and Mike out of a lake pontoon boat) was fully loaded and ready for fast deployment. This vital piece of the kit contained radios, amplifiers, generators, the 900 MHz link and most of the antennas.

On 2 August, we left the port of Pago Pago and dropped anchor on the northern side of American Samoa, positioned to leave before first light, and the next morning we did just that, and started our nearly 1,900 km (1,180 mile) journey. Yes, Jarvis is a long distance away! Enroute we set up all the notebooks and checked out the data network.

After an uneventful 3-day journey, we arrived at Jarvis at around 0600 local time on 6 August, and by 0700, the first tender was loaded with Beth and Meagan (two of our USFWS monitors), George, and some supplies and headed to the island. George set the on-shore anchor for winching up the RiB boat and the USFWS approved the planned antenna locations.

Setup

The RiB boat was lowered and began to make its way to Jarvis piloted by Mike. Shortly afterwards, Adrian, Tomi, and I were on our way. By 0750 we were all on the island helping to



First trip to island

position the RiB boat. The RiB, using the anchor set ashore, was winched up on the beach in a few minutes. Click the link to see the video of the RiB boat heading to Jarvis youtu.be/4W3Q9iUhESI.

After positioning the RiB boat, Mike started the generators and set up the 900 MHz, 34Mbps link to the Magnet. George started up the radios and RiB-based notebooks; Tomi started laying out coax while Adrian and I started assembling antennas. The beach temperature was approaching 40°C (104°F). Meanwhile, the USFWS contingent moved down the beach and started setting up their camp by the day beacon.

On the air

Within four hours of landing on the beach, five radios were up and running, the link was established, and three antennas were guyed and tuned. The ship's crew had delivered all the USFWS gear and fuel and other antennas that weren't on the RiB boat. It was time for a break, and we returned to the Magnet for lunch.

George quickly made sure all the

ship's PCs were connected to the radios in the RiBs and let loose the first team of remote operators on three radios. Within four hours of the first landing on Jarvis, QSOs were appearing in the log. By the time we returned to Jarvis after lunch almost 1,000 QSOs were already in the log!

In the afternoon, while the remote teams had stations on the air, the five of us returned to the beach and set up the remaining verticals and the 15-20 Meter dual-band VDA antenna. By sunset we were exhausted, but the basic DXpedition was on the air with six radios (three with amplifiers), six antennas, and good connectivity over the internet. George was ready to operate 160!

This is a drone view of what the complete remote station on the island looked like after day one: https://youtu.be/L4bqsoHRLB4?si=L5wwucNQrMr_FgBM

The antenna work was never finished. On day three, our low-band RX DHDL went up and the 6-Meter beam (vertically polarized) was installed. USFWS monitors were concerned about the interaction of the tern bird colony (the largest in the world) and

our guy wires. First, we added more flags and streamers to the antennas and guys. Then we reduced the height of the verticals and moved them from the berm to the sealine. By the end of the DXpedition, our 45-foot verticals were down to 23 feet, reducing the need for the high guy wires. Reports indicated few could tell the difference.

The DXpedition quickly took on a routine similar to other remote island adventures — checking antennas, refueling generators, fixing wires affected by salt corrosion, etc. One aspect of a RiB remote site is the need to maintain the link to the island while having a vessel that was not allowed to drop anchor in a coral reef. It required staffing the bridge 24/7, and constantly repositioning the boat so that the link didn't drop.

During our DXpedition we even made time to do two live interviews, one for the DX Engineering podcast and one live at the Pacific Northwest DX Convention during which KJ7KOJ and KK7EXT were operating N5J remotely at the event in Everett, Washington.

Daily, we were adding 8,000 to 10,000 QSOs to our log. That was until the sun decided to send a bunch of CMEs our way, and our daily rate dropped by half. We started to doubt we would reach our goal of 100,000 QSOs, including 25% with Europe and 20,000 unique calls. We were pleased then when those goals were met, as the last few days saw some of the best conditions of the DXpedition and this solar cycle. Imagine, 2,000 160 Meter QSOs in the middle of the summer, reaching as far as southern and eastern Europe and the Middle East. FT8 QSOs were less than half the total. We were on the air 94% of the time at Jarvis. None of our homebrew solid-state amplifiers failed; no Flex radios failed, and other than one night when a generator shut down (one of three paralleled together), our uptime was impressive. And the three USFWS biologists were able to spend close to two weeks doing science on a remote island courtesy of the Amateur Radio community.

SuperFox

As previously mentioned, N5J was



the first SuperFox DXpedition and our results were nothing short of fantastic. We had rates consistently around 200 QSOs per hour, per radio for most of the first week. Gradually the completion rate fell off and some stations just could not copy their R reports.

For some, it was having their radios set with too sharp a bandwidth; others had wrong AGC settings, and some had the wrong version of WSJT-X. Many sent us screen shots and those showed they were running JTDX and MHSV (not sure how they copied anything).

After a week, we accommodated these Hounds by switching some stations to the normal F/H mode to give everyone a chance at a Jarvis QSO on digital.

Teamwork

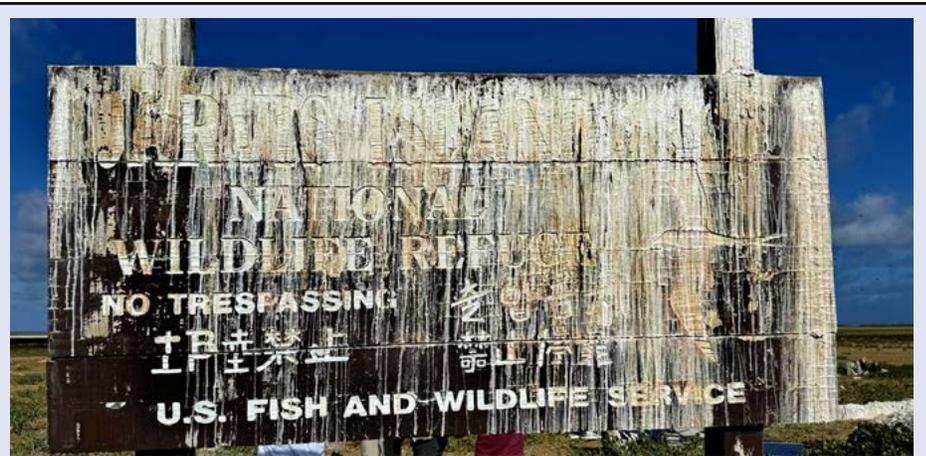
The local team made a quarter of the total QSOs while the remote operators accounted for over 80,000 QSOs. Unlike many large DXpeditions today, every QSO on FT8 was handcrafted. There were NO automated QSOs. Each of the five local ops played a different part in making this a success. The RiB technology (including homebrew amplifiers) required the engineering genius of George. Mike was instrumental in fabricating the RiB boat ensuring a 4-hour landing-to-first-QSO feat. I obtained the Special Use Permit through my volunteer work with USFWS and managed the finances. Tomi is an absolute QSO machine and our QSL manager. Adrian worked on the networking and PC issues that a highly advanced remote operation like this throws at a DXpedition. We had two dedicated remote team leaders

(W1VE and AA7A) who ironed out scheduling and mode technical issues. W7YED was our Flex Radio guru.

In conclusion, the RiB concept of the Jarvis DXpedition overcame permitting issues. As the largest sooty tern colony in the world, the USFWS has been very protective of large-scale visits to the island — the last amateur radio activity there was 34 years ago. We overcame that. Jarvis successfully introduced

SuperFox to the world. All FT8 QSOs were handcrafted. No automated FT8 for us. Time at the island was 13 days, 7 hours — and 13 days were spent operating. A team of five local operators set up six radios, eight antennas, and even made 25,300 QSOs. An incredible group of 46 remote operators worked to make this a team success.

Club Log shows that over 14% of our QSOs resulted in a new country,



We also worked with the USFWS observers in other ways, too. This is what the Jarvis Island sign looked like when we arrived (above). Mike assisted USFWS personnel in repairing the sign. After cleaning off a decade of bird guano, the sign was repainted, making it look great for our team picture (below). Our close work with the USFWS and their appreciative response will be essential in our efforts to activate more protected entities around the world.



The Team. Bottom row from left: USFWS biologists Meagan, Beth and Anna; Top row from left: Mike, KN4EEI; George, AA7JV; Adrian, KO8SCA; Don, N1DG, and Tomi, HA7RY.

and over 43% of those QSOs handed out a new band counter to those in its database. We feel that is the measure of a successful DXpedition.

The 2024 Jarvis Island DXpedition thanks the staff of the USFWS in Hawaii for their hard work in approving this minimally invasive operation on Jarvis Island NWR. Jarvis is part of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (MNM). The MNM encompasses approximately 495,189 square miles of open ocean, coral reef and island habitats, making the total area of the MNM nearly five times larger than all the U.S. National Parks combined, and nearly twice the size of Texas. Within the boundaries of the MNM rest seven national wildlife refuges: Howland, Baker, Jarvis, Johnston, Wake, Palmyra and Kingman. Since 1871, the USFWS has been the only federal government agency whose primary responsibility is to manage fish and wildlife resources in the public trust for people today and future generations.

| THE BAKER/JARVIS COMPARISON CARD | Baker | Jarvis |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Club Log's Most Wanted List ranking | 12 | 18 |
| Number of QSOs/uniques | 69,000/ 18,091 | 106,892/ 21,298 |
| Days on/at island | 12 | 13.5 |
| Days operating | 9 | 13 |
| People camping | 11 | 0 |
| Shower, toilet | 2 | 0 |
| Radios/amplifiers | 6/6 | 6/3 |
| Antennas | 12 | 8 |
| Tents with tables and chairs | 10 | 0 |
| Generators | 8 | 4 |
| Gasoline used (gallons) | 300 | 120 |
| Water used on island (gallons) | 400 | 1 |
| Set up time before first QSOs (hours) | 48 | 4 |
| Time to tear down and pack up (hours) | 24 | 3 |

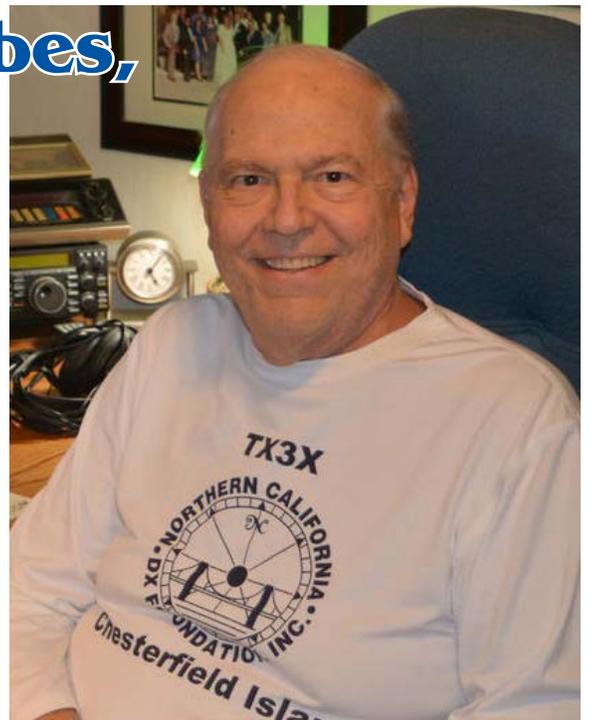
Now we can all sit, relax, and rejoice in our success and plan the next adven-

ture using new technology we are now dreaming about. 



SILENT KEY

Ross Forbes, K6GFJ



ROSS W. FORBES, K6GFJ, BECAME A SILENT KEY ON Monday, 24 June 2024. After surviving four strokes, he succumbed to complications from esophageal cancer.

Ross was first licensed as WN6GFJ in 1963. A year later he upgraded and was issued WB6GFJ, which he kept until 1997 when he changed to K6GFJ. Ross began chasing DX right out of the gate in 1963 and had 339/358 (current/total) confirmed in the ARRL DXCC Mixed Standings, only missing P5, North Korea.

Ross was a DXer, contester and chased IOTAs. He had also been on the DX side of the pileups with calls KH6GJW, KL7FFT, XEØGFJ, 3D2FB, ZK1XE, ZLØAKO, VK3BZZ, and FOØFB. He was also part of the 2015 TX3X DXpedition to the Chesterfield Islands.

Ross was a life member of the ARRL, A1-OP, AMSAT-NA, QCWA, NCCC, NCDXC, RSGB, CDXC and INDEXA. He served in multiple ARRL positions.

Ross was elected to the NCDXF Board of Directors in 2018 and was a current director.

May his memory be a blessing. Our condolences to his wife, Mary, and the entire Forbes family.



The Next Generation 8R7X – Guyana 2024

Philipp Springer, DK6SP

IN FEBRUARY 2024, OUR TEAM OF four spent 14 days in Guyana, 8R7X, and made 73,500 QSOs on CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FM. Guyana was ranked #96 in the DXCC Most Wanted list according to Club Log.

Why Guyana?

Guyana was first brought to the attention of the team when a visiting ham, Rudi Klos, DK7PE, was on the air in 2018. Jamie Williams, MØSDV, was able to work Rudi on 80M CW, planting the seed for a future DXpedition. Jamie reached out to Rudi to gain some insight into amateur radio life in Guyana, which helped enormously in

the first steps of planning the DXpedition. The information suggested that a DXpedition to Guyana would be challenging, but rewarding; and so, the process began. There are many factors that played into choosing Guyana: culture, most-wanted ranking, accessibility and achievability.

The team

Our operating team consisted of four young hams — Jamie Williams (23), MØSDV; Philipp Springer (26), DK6SP; Sven Lovric (21), DJ4MX, and Tomi Varrò (25), HA8RT — each possessing a love for amateur radio and traveling. Although our average age is 24 years, we have all been fortunate enough to experience DXpeditions as part of experienced teams, giving us a huge advantage in taking on this challenge.

Other amateurs have also supported us, and though there are too many to mention a few. Raj Naraine, 8R1RPN, provided local and logistical support in Guyana, giving the team a direct line to Guyanese au-

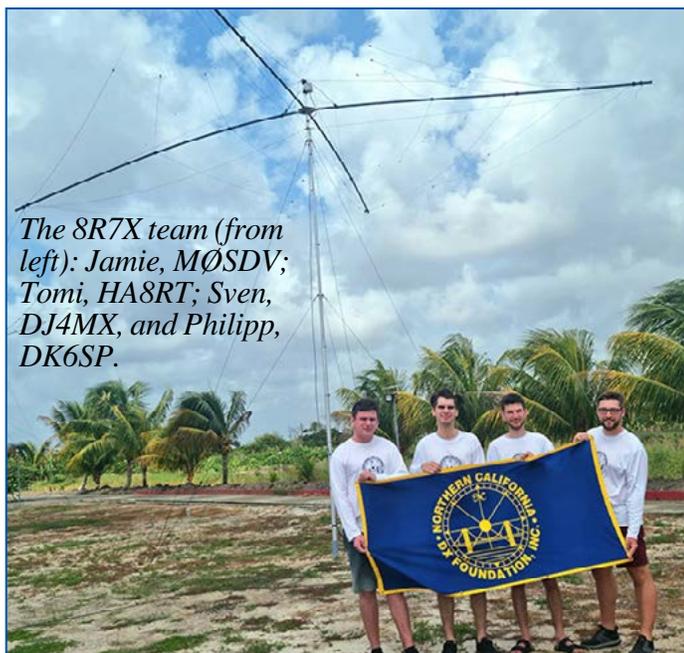
thorities to make the process seamless; Charles Willmott, MØOXO, provided QSL service, managed our logs, made our LOTW uploads, resolved busted calls, and delivered our QSL cards, and Markus Grundner, DG8MG, who provided the main 8R7X preparation, location and logistics for our DXpedition. Many others also contributed their time to the project, and without their support this DXpedition would not have been possible.

The license

We had been advised that obtaining an amateur radio license in Guyana would be challenging, as the country is not accustomed to visiting radio operators. We sought advice from amateurs who had been granted a license to operate in Guyana and were warned that it would be a long, drawn-out process that might not yield results.

Jamie, MØSDV, was deemed the most likely to obtain a license, as he speaks English (the official language of Guyana) and has cultural connections through what was the Commonwealth of Nations. In 2018, Jamie wrote to the Frequency Management Office (FMO) in Georgetown, Guyana, and received the necessary information to obtain a license. Jamie completed the documentation, provided identification, proof of his UK license qualifications, and provided a full background check as requested by Guyanese security officials. Once the documents were submitted, it still took over seven months to receive formal notification. The license fee of US\$12 was paid by a local contact, after which Jamie received his license for 8R1DV.

Then disaster struck as the COVID-





8R7X Co-Lead Philipp Springer, DK6SP, with NCDXF Vice President Craig Thompson, K9CT, at the Dayton Hamvention in 2023.

19 pandemic closed the world down. In that time the 8R1DV license expired, and the process had to be started again.

The license, take two

In early 2023, Jamie again wrote to the FMO, this time to request a renewal and that 8R7X be allocated for a team operation. Unfortunately, things had changed since 2018, and our local contact was no longer reachable, which resulted in the renewal process taking longer. In addition, the FMO told us there had been some legislative changes, which meant additional delays in getting the license. That we were given no timeframe caused a large degree of uncertainty, especially because the DXpedition had already been announced based on the initial agreement we had with the FMO to renew the license before we learned about any changes.

While discussing our challenges with



The 8R7X QTH, was a spacious family weekend house located in Baiabu, Mahaica-Berbice, Guyana. It offered space for our myriad transmit antennas.

friends, we learned about Raj Naraine, 8R1RPN, an amateur radio operator in Georgetown, Guyana, who had been heavily involved with various well-known contesters and DXers worldwide. We were introduced via email and soon we had a man inside Guyana who knew the system like the back of his hand. Raj made many trips to the FMO and talked with local government ministers who would eventually take us to the Director of Telecommunications in Guyana. We were able to directly negotiate the renewal of 8R1DV and even get authority to operate with 8R7X for our DXpedition. This was not a small accomplishment, as never in the history of amateur radio in Guyana had the 8R7 prefix been issued to anybody, making this call sign truly unique.

Planning and sponsorships

As many know, a trip of this magnitude costs a good sum of money to achieve. Our team, largely still enveloped in some form of education, needed support, so we approached various DX foundations to apply for a grant. We were pleasantly surprised by the support from the DX community in helping to achieve our goals. We secured funding to support the DXpedition and, through their new youth initiative, NCDXF even covered the travel expenses for Sven, DJ4MX, our youngest team member, passing on the message, “If NCDXF has already provided a grant to your DXpedition, we will also underwrite the cost of any young operators who join the team.”

In addition to foundation support,

individual donors and commercial sponsors played crucial roles. Companies like ICOM America and DX Engineering, among others, provided essential equipment and resources, ensuring we had access to top-of-the-line technology. In addition, generous supporters lent us critical pieces of equipment, such as amplifiers and laptops. These invaluable contributions enhanced our setup without making additional purchases. This overwhelming support alleviated financial burdens and enhanced our operational capabilities.

We then started gathering materials — masts, poles, wire, ropes, and radios — a good amount of which we already owned; other items were purchased for this and future projects.

Detailed preparations

As this would be our first DXpedition without mentors (Elmers), we aimed to be less reliant on borrowed equipment by preparing our own gear. We reached out to various companies for sponsorships, receiving products at discounted rates, or gratis.

We gathered necessary equipment and stored it at the logistics headquarters provided by Markus, DG8MG, where we held two main preparation weekends, investing many hours into the process. We assembled Mastrant guy wires for 10M aluminum and Spiderpole masts provided by Spiderbeam, installed connectors on Messi & Paoloni coaxial cables, and planned and built wire verticals, including “The Beast” — primarily used for 160M as a L antenna — on a 22-meter Spiderpole.

Existing high-band beams like the MWØJZE/G3TXQ 6-band Hexbeam and a 3-band Spiderbeam were also set up multiple times for practice. The antennas from *hamparts.shop* were built and tested for functionality in Guyana.

Upon receiving three ICOM



IC-7610 radios and five power supplies sponsored by ICOM USA and DX Engineering, we set up the radios and reconfigured the power supplies from 110 V to 220 V for use in Guyana.

We also set up and tested five laptops to accompany the radios. Additionally, various control cables, footswitches, headset adapters, and guy anchors were produced and tested. Local contributors and helpers were involved to meet set targets way in advance of the departure date.

During preparation, we consulted with Raj, 8R1RPN, to finalize our location and work out the electrical situation. We opted to use the 220 V mains connection and installed an additional 60A breaker leading into four lines with a 20A breaker, ensuring separate circuits for all planned stations.

After preparation, the equipment was weighed, packed, and distributed among available suitcases, totaling approximately 350 kg (770 lbs). We cleared the equipment with German Customs to avoid issues with exporting to Guyana and importing back to Germany, having the necessary paperwork ready well in advance.

As departure approached, we checked in a day early at Munich airport, with all suitcases cleared without issues for our Lufthansa flight to Georgetown, Guyana, via Miami, Florida.

To streamline the entry process, we preemptively provided a comprehensive list of equipment to Raj,



Recording the first contact in the log on 17M band.

8R1RPN, who had forwarded it to the FMO for approval and coordinated with Customs to facilitate and expedite their clearance. Upon arrival, the Customs process was quick and straightforward. After reviewing the provided documents, the team exited Customs with all their luggage in tow.

Targets

We aimed to achieve over 30,000 QSOs across modes such as CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8, with a specific goal of making more than 2,000 of these in RTTY. The focus was on addressing the latest Club Log Most Wanted Ranking, ensuring various parts of the world would benefit from the operation. Priority was also given to low band operations, taking advantage of the expected lower

noise level at the rural QTH. Participation in the ARRL CW 2024 contest as a Multi-Single entry was planned. The team intended to upload QSOs to Club Log and LOTW as frequently as possible, and a Club Log Livestream was anticipated, provided the Internet connection was stable.

Location

Our rural QTH was located in a small village called Baiabu in Mahica-Berbice, about 35km southeast of Georgetown. There was hope for quiet bands and, furthermore, the location was about 15km away from the sea, which would possibly enhance our radio signals by the beneficial effects of saltwater.

Our hosts were happy with the



Left: Tom, HA8RT and Jamie, MØSDV operating the 8R7X setup. Right: Sven, DJ4MX configuring the three ICOM IC-7610s.

planned antennas for the time of our stay and offered their full support of our activity at their family weekend home. Local support is crucial as it facilitates smoother operations and logistics. Their familiarity with the area and willingness to assist significantly influenced our success.

Due to the availability of both 110 V and 220 V power sources, and a 60A breaker at the location, the team installed a 220 V setup, which included a dedicated 20A breaker for each station. Local electricians prepared this setup for all four stations and had everything wired and ready for our arrival. Additionally, we had a 10kVA generator on site as a backup solution, which proved essential as it was used several times during power outages.

The setup

Our DXpedition setup in the tranquil village of Baiabu was a marvel of amateur radio engineering, designed to ensure a successful and extensive communication reach. The strategic planning and arrangement of our equipment allowed us to cover a wide array of frequencies with efficiency and clarity.

At the heart of our station were the antennas, thoughtfully chosen and arranged to cover necessary bands and optimize space. We deployed two Hexbeams for the 20M to 6M bands, and a Spiderbeam for 20/15/10M, efficiently triplexed using a 4O3A Triplexer equipped with high-power band-pass filters to maintain signal purity. Additionally, a DXCommander Vertical spanned from 40M to 10M, and monoband verticals were set up for the 30M and 40M bands. We utilized an inverted L antenna for 80M and introduced “The Beast,” an inverted L antenna designed for 160M, but also served as a vertical on 80M mounted on a 22-meter-tall Spiderpole.

For reception, we installed two reversible Beverage-on-ground (BOG) systems. These were crucial for picking up weaker signals and allowed us to switch directions based on propagation conditions, significantly enhancing our reception capabilities.

We had an impressive lineup of radios — the three ICOM IC-7610s, plus an ICOM IC-7300 and an Elecraft



Team 8R7X on a SUV tour through Guyana (from left): Philipp, DK6SP; Tom, HA8RT; Sven, DJ4MX, and Jamie, MØSDV.

JAMIE (STAFFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND) has an extensive history in amateur radio dating back to 2015, and has been involved in contesting and DXpeditions with some world-renowned teams. Jamie has been QRV with such call signs as PJ2/MØSDV, PJ4V, 5V7EI, 3B8M and M6T. He was also part of Youth Team #2 at WRTC 2022 in Bologna, Italy, where he operated as I47B with teammate Philipp, DK6SP (whom he met in Munich in 2017). Jamie is a proficient SSB and CW operator with good experience in pileup management; his favorite mode to operate is CW.

PHILIPP (ERDING, GERMANY), developed an interest in amateur radio in 2008 after attending a soldering course at his local radio club. It was through that club he was introduced to the world of radio and began making QSOs. Philipp obtained his novice class license, DO6PS, in 2011 and gained full privileges in 2013 with the call sign DK6SP. During those formative years, he rapidly advanced his operating skills, learning Morse code (CW) and how to manage pileups. Since then, he has participated in numerous DXpeditions and competed in many contests, including representing a youth team at the WRTC on two occasions.

SVEN (MUNICH, GERMANY) is currently studying mechatronics and got interested in amateur radio through his father, Mario, DJ2MX, and in 2015, began operating under the training call sign DN5MX. Most of the time he operates CW, SSB, or RTTY contests from his small home station in Munich, but he also operated from contest stations including E7DX, M6T, ED1R and NP4Z.

TOMI (SZEGED, HUNGARY/HELSINKI, FINLAND) was first licensed at age 14, and is now a seasoned amateur radio contester as part of the HG6N team. Tomi has operated in many places around the world such as OH5Z, K3LR, ES9C, 9A1A and C4HQ. Tomi is proficient in CW, his preferred mode, and has participated in HST (High-Speed Telegraphy) events on multiple occasions.





The 8R7X team at a farewell dinner, courtesy of Raj, 8R1RPN, and Maurice.

K3S — known for their reliability. For amplifiers, we used two Expert 1K3 amplifiers, one Expert 1K5, and an ACOM 500S. To manage the complex array of equipment, we used approximately 400 meters of coaxial cable to connect the antennas with the radios. Laptops were strategically placed for logging purposes, ensuring every contact was recorded accurately and efficiently.

Despite the challenge of a newly developed garden full of fruit trees that limited our antenna placement options, the antennas were set up effectively around the yard. This setup not only made the best use of the available space but also ensured that each antenna operated at its optimal capacity without noticeable interference.

This comprehensive and meticulously planned setup underscored our commitment to achieving a high-performance operation. The 8R7X team's effort in crafting such an advanced station was pivotal in making numerous global contacts, showcasing the collaborative spirit and technical prowess of the amateur radio community.

Operations

Because it was very early in the morning when we arrived, the shack build began first, followed by the antennas beginning at sunrise. We did not set up a 60M antenna, as this band was not covered by the license. In total, set up took about two days, but from day one we had at least two operators on the air while the other two built the antennas. Our first contact was made on Tuesday, 13 Feb 24 at 1519 UTC.

We anticipated there would be big pileups, but nothing can prepare you for being behind the radio when the calls

start rolling in. The pileups were loud, wide, and from all parts of the world. We were running pileups in multiple modes at a very fast rate putting over 10,000 QSOs in the log in the first two days. Bearing in mind that our goal for the entire duration of the DXpedition was 30,000 QSOs, we knew that we were in for a fun time.

Contests

During our DXpedition, we participated in two major contests, each presenting unique challenges and opportunities for the team to showcase its capabilities.

The ARRL CW contest was a critical component of our DXpedition, primarily because it served as a platform for WRTC qualification and an opportunity to set new records. After the contest, the publication of claimed scores suggested promising results that could potentially enhance our standings. Originally, our intent was to focus on working stations in North America as per the contest rules. However, the rarity of Guyana on the CW bands for Asian and European operators meant that we also

engaged with many callers from these regions. The phrase “all who called were worked” became a testament to our inclusive and comprehensive approach to the contest. Operating in the Multi-Two high power category, we demonstrated excellent team performance, effectively managing pileups and maximizing our score.

Our participation in the CQ 160 SSB Contest was limited to just the first night, as logistical necessities required us to begin packing up afterwards. Despite the short operating window, we faced additional challenges due to less-than-ideal conditions, specifically a very noisy environment and the absence of our receive antennas, which had already been dismantled. Even under these constraints, we managed to surprise a few operators with a very rare multiplier from Guyana, adding an element of excitement to the contest. Impressively, we set a new claimed record for the M/S high power category from Guyana. This achievement was particularly notable given the brief duration we were on the air and our imminent departure. The team's performance was commendable, showcasing our ability to adapt and excel even in suboptimal conditions.

Overall, these contests highlighted our team's resilience and skill, contributing significantly to the success of our DXpedition. Each member played a vital role in overcoming the challenges and achieving remarkable results in both contests.

Guyana's culture

Our trip to Guyana coincided with Mashramani, or Mash, Guyana's

| Continent by Mode | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-----|--------|---------|
| Band | SSB | FT8 | CW | RTTY | FM | Total | Total % |
| | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0.0 |
| AF | 160 | 171 | 143 | 37 | 3 | 522 | 0.7 |
| AN | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.0 |
| AS | 600 | 4,167 | 3,061 | 170 | 0 | 8,097 | 11.0 |
| EU | 10,037 | 15,744 | 11,790 | 1,766 | 151 | 39,488 | 53.7 |
| NA | 5,561 | 5,454 | 11,477 | 533 | 48 | 23,073 | 31.4 |
| OC | 109 | 363 | 192 | 13 | 0 | 677 | 0.9 |
| SA | 426 | 702 | 447 | 51 | 7 | 1,633 | 2.2 |
| Totals | 17,001 | 26,610 | 27,110 | 2,570 | 206 | 73,500 | |

annual independence celebration, and featured parades, music and dancing. Culinary experiences were a highlight, as we savored myriad local dishes and sampled local beers and renowned Guyanese rum.

Our visit to Guyana was as enriching culturally as it was in fulfilling our amateur radio goals. The warmth of the Guyanese people and the richness of their traditions made our experience unforgettable.

Packing up

The DXpedition concluded its transmissions on Sunday, 25 Feb 24, at 1121 UTC. Packing up was smooth and efficient, taking just a few hours. Equipment was meticulously weighed and packed to comply with airline regulations and with everything securely loaded, we set off for Georgetown.

Upon arrival in Georgetown, we were warmly welcomed by Raj, 8R1RPN, and host Maurice, and invited to Raj's home for dinner, where their families joined us. This provided a wonderful opportunity to recap the entire DXpedition, sharing stories and experiences over an amazing dinner setup.

A 6-hour flight delay resulted in an impromptu meeting with the head of the communications authority of Guyana, who recognized us in the airport. He expressed keen interest in learning more about amateur radio, turning this into excellent opportunity to present the DXpedition and discuss the broader implications and joys of amateur radio, casting the hobby in a very positive light.

This journey not only achieved its radio-related goals but also fostered international friendships and expanded the understanding and appreciation of amateur radio across continents.

Wrap up

As we reflect on the remarkable journey that was the 8R7X DXpedition, it is with a profound sense of achievement and gratitude. Throughout the operation, we experienced very little deliberate QRM (DQRM); callers were exceptionally well behaved during pileups, greatly contributing to the smooth flow of communications. Pileups continued vigorously until the very last day, showcasing the high level of interest and engagement from the global amateur radio community.

A significant accomplishment was assisting numerous DXers in achieving an ATNO, and securing new band slots. These milestones make DXpeditions rewarding, and we were thrilled to have played a part. It was particularly gratifying to provide the very rare entity of Guyana for Asian and Oceania stations on the low bands, where the excitement was palpable.

Proudly, we met all our targets, a testament to the meticulous planning, dedication and passion of everyone involved. Power distribution from 220 V to all stations was perfectly prepared, and breakers never went off, ensuring uninterrupted operation. Even during minor power outages, the on site generator covered all our needs. The generally favorable weather also aided our efforts in building antennas efficiently.

Operating from such an equatorial location, however, brought its own set of challenges. There was significant QRN during the nights, and the dawn/greyline periods were marked by swarms of mosquitoes, testing our resilience and adaptability. Despite these hurdles, the team managed to navigate

through, especially when the challenging path over the North Pole to Asia was open and we had a huge wall of weak callers.

Gratitude

Such success could not have been possible without the extensive support we received. We give a tremendous "Thank You" to all our supporters, helpers, foundations, and clubs whose contributions were invaluable. Their support not only facilitated our logistical and operational needs, but also enriched our experience (click here for full list: www.8R-2024.com/sponsors). A special thanks goes to our local supporters in Guyana: Raj, 8R1RPN, and Maurice. Their hospitality, kindness and assistance were integral to the success and enjoyment of our stay.

We extend immense gratitude to our QSL Manager, Charles MØOXO, who was instrumental in managing the "Not in Log" requests, uploading our logbook to LOTW daily, and handling the QSL cards for the global amateur radio community.

New friendships were forged through this adventure and the connections made around the world will stand as a testament to the unifying power of amateur radio.

In closing, the 8R7X DXpedition was not just an operation; it was a celebration of international amateur radio spirit, cooperation, and the joy of connecting across continents. Thank you to everyone who joined us in making this experience truly memorable.

Additional photos covering the whole process of this DXpedition are available at www.8R-2024.com. 🌐

| Continent by Band | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| Band | 6 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 17 | 30 | 150 | 80 | 40 | 20 | Total | Total % |
| | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0.0 |
| AF | 23 | 93 | 82 | 70 | 76 | 31 | 11 | 23 | 37 | 76 | 522 | 0.7 |
| AN | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.0 |
| AS | 0 | 1,465 | 999 | 1,163 | 983 | 1,128 | 25 | 131 | 992 | 1,211 | 8,097 | 11.0 |
| EU | 5 | 6,628 | 6,010 | 4,992 | 5,475 | 3,130 | 1,578 | 2,274 | 3,365 | 6,031 | 39,488 | 53.7 |
| NA | 97 | 4,260 | 2,625 | 3,553 | 2,799 | 1,609 | 1,160 | 1,548 | 2,143 | 3,279 | 23,073 | 31.4 |
| OC | 2 | 72 | 36 | 113 | 102 | 89 | 2 | 31 | 113 | 117 | 677 | 0.9 |
| SA | 172 | 278 | 193 | 171 | 229 | 155 | 60 | 91 | 141 | 143 | 1,633 | 2.2 |
| Totals | 300 | 12,797 | 9,946 | 10,063 | 9,668 | 6,143 | 2,837 | 4,098 | 6,791 | 10,857 | 73,500 | |



~ Otis Vicens, NP4G

THE DAYS AFTER A DXpedition are usually a mix of excitement and tiredness. Your body is exhausted after being subjected to harsh and stressful conditions during the operation, but your mind is excited and wondering where to go next. On the journey back from Bouvet, Mike Crownover, AB5EB, started to wonder where we could go next. He had been in contact with Marco Quijada, CE1EW, who was known for his IOTA activations in Chile and was thinking about doing an IOTA activation in Patagonia. Mike thought that instead of doing an IOTA, it would be better to do a DXpedition to the Juan Fernández archipelago (CEØZ).

A new destination

Previous DXpeditions to Juan Fernández had mostly operated from the town of San Juan Bautista. At that time Juan Fernández was in the 60s on Club Log's Most Wanted List. Marco had been to Juan Fernández 20 years earlier on a DXpedition and he presented the idea of a DXpedition from atop a mountain, instead of in town where we would be blocked by mountains. Both had considered Centinela Mountain, a 300-meter-high mountain in the eastern part of the island — where the Chilean Navy once operated a communication site — that would provide an unblocked radio path to all population centers of the world. We could expect to have good propagation with great views to

all directions, and be away from the QRM in town.

Mike and Marco began to assemble a team of operators from Chile and beyond, so when Mike approached me in May after the Dayton Hamvention, I immediately thought that this could be the next trip. Little did I know that a DXpedition to Juan Fernández would be a trip full with complicated logistics.

Setback

After working with Marco on a daily basis to finalize the flight schedules, we received the tragic news one morning of Marco's sudden passing. He had suffered a major heart attack and went Silent Key at age 50. Although I didn't get the chance to meet him in person, I felt I knew him very well from our great relationship while organizing this DXpedition.

After a few days of mourning, the team discussed whether to cancel the trip or move forward. As Marco had been our lead contact and he had all the information about lodging, permits and most other logistical items, his passing left us with no leads. The team decided we

should continue with the operation, and, now, more than ever, to make sure that Marco's spirit could go on his last DXpedition.

Luckily, Marco had copied me on an email to Angela Garcia, Director of the Juan Fernández National Park. I contacted her to schedule a phone conversation and was then able to break the news of Marco's passing, and let her know that we were pushing forward. She was able to give me the contact information for Ramon Baeza from the hostel, and from there, all the other pieces fell into place.

The team

Team members consisted of Ez Prado, HI3R/NK4DX; Mike, AB5EB; Otis, NP4G; "Papa" Mike Crownover, AD5A; Steve London, N2IC, and Hal Turley, W8HC. In early December 2023, we gathered at the home of

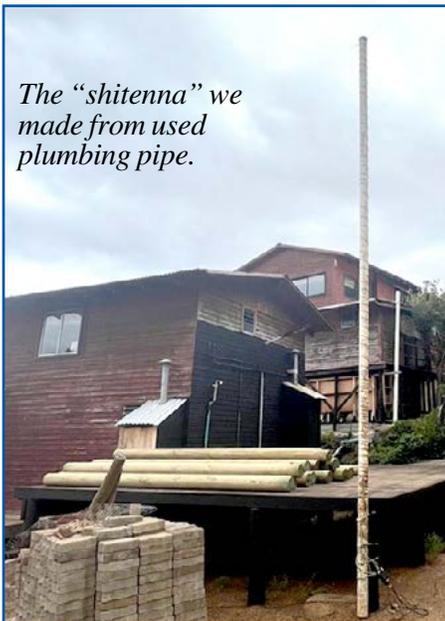


Greeting Guillermo (far right) at the airport.

Chuck Green, AD4ES, in Florida for a team meeting and to conduct some testing. During our testing, we weighed all our personal bags and auxiliary items such as coax, connectors and antennas. Afterwards, Ez was in charge of sending the CBØZA crate containing our non-electronic equipment via cargo to Santiago, Chile, and then onto Robinson Crusoe Island.

In Chile, Guillermo Guerra, XQ3SA (who had to drop out of the team due to work commitments), would receive the cargo. After it arrived in Chile and made it through Customs and Tax Compliance formalities, Guillermo picked it up in his truck and then met with Dercel, XQ3SK, who had sourced many other items in Santiago. Everything was then combined into the one crate for shipment to the island.

Because of the length of time it took for Customs to release the crate, we were left with the last available ship in Valparaiso that could get our supplies — fuel, tents, meals and good Chilean wine (to help us enjoy our time on the island) — to the island ahead of our arrival. Although our cargo arrived at Robinson Crusoe Island two days later, it sat in the harbor for several days. Our implanted Apple tracker confirmed our shipment's arrival, but windy conditions delayed offloading. Just two days before our scheduled departure to Chile, Don Ramon gave us visual confirmation that our items were in position. Talk about cutting it close.



The “shitenna” we made from used plumbing pipe.



The cargo ship Antonio that serves Robinson Crusoe Island at the dock.

A snag

All flights from the US arrived in Santiago, where we were lucky to meet Guillermo as he, too, was arriving on a flight. After greeting each other, we learned that Papa Mike, AD5A, was held up in Immigration — detained because of an expired passport. It turned out that he mixed up his passports, leaving his current one at home in Texas. Nobody noticed until the Chilean Immigration Authority.

We tried the US embassy in Santiago for help, but no avail. So Mike flew back to San Antonio, Texas, picked up his current passport and returned to Chile — in time to make our flight to Juan Fernández.

(Mike, AD5A, is the father of Mike, AB5EB, whom I already knew. We originally referred to him kindly as “Papa” Mike. Well, after these events, we changed his nickname to “Passport” Mike, to which he objected, suggesting a more suitable nickname of “Non-Passport” Mike.)

With the team all together again, we met Dercel at the terminal and we began the final leg of our CBØZA journey with a two-hour flight to Juan Fernández. After our arrival, we boarded a ferry for the hour-long trip to the eastern part of the island where Don Ramon welcomed us with a nice lunch, graciously prepared by his assistant, Betty.

Quick deployment

We brought a next generation Rig-in-a-Box (NextGenRib), designed and built by Gregg Marco, W6IZT. This unit only needed a connection to an antenna and high-speed Internet. In less than two hours, Dercel, XQ3SK; Hal, W8HC, and Ez, HI3R, were able to get on the air from a small location in town. Our Spiderpoles were still being held in the warehouse, so we had to improvise. Ez sourced some used plumbing tubing that was lying around and built a multiband vertical antenna, and within two hours of arriving, CBØZEW was on the air. This was a special call sign in memory of Marco, CE1EW, to be used by the remote operators. Luckily, this radio was limited to only 100 Watts, so the radiating power was not strong enough to excite the remnants inside the used tubing and send a peculiar aroma into the air. We kindly referred to this as the “shitenna” — available soon on Ebay or at your favorite ham radio store.

In the meantime, Otis, NP4G; Steve, N2IC; Mike, AB5EB, and Mike, AD5A, made the first trip up the mountain, a thrilling 45-minute drive, to get a preliminary look at our CBØZA operating area in the National Park and to discuss plans and preparations for the busy day to follow.

The next morning the team went up to begin setting up two camps. The first, located in the main flat area, and the second, on higher ground on a

Ez discovered an unused tower that the team was able to put into operation for the low band signals.



slightly higher position overlooking the lower station. Around 1400 local time, Dercel, XQ3SK, had the honor of putting CBØZA on the air while more antenna building continued. Once we had both stations up and running, we left three operators on site, while the rest went down to town to try to get a good night's sleep before beginning the next 24-hour operating shift.

That evening, we experienced very heavy winds, both in town and more so up on Centinela. We maintained sporadic communication with our teammates on the mountain as they reported excessive, sustained wind conditions that delivered a beating to our antennas — some were destroyed within a few hours of being erected. Around midnight, we lost Starlink connectivity and communication with our team.

At sunrise and before we embarked on the drive up the mountain, calls were made to the operating team, but we got no response. We had anticipated operating the ARRL DX Contest from atop Centinela, but the wind forecast for the weekend was predicted to be stronger than what we had just experienced!

Alternatives

Considering an alternative site for the contest, we asked Ramon about the possibility of deploying some antennas near his hotel. He started to think and told us that he had a better idea, as his

property was not suitable for antennas.

After Ramon made a phone call, we took a ride and met José at the aeronautical facilities near Fort Santa Barbara, overlooking the harbor at San Juan Bautista. Little did we know that

José was a ham back in Santiago, with the call sign CE3DAC. He told us that previous DXpeditions to the island had operated from this area.

José gave us permission to set up our radio equipment and antennas near his facilities, and that evening we relocated our second station next to town. When we returned that evening to assemble the station, Ez noticed a big tower nearby and closely checked it out. He carefully examined every little aspect and realized it was insulated. His eyes brightened, thinking about the possibility of putting this tower on the air. We innocently asked José if it would be possible for us to use it — he agreed. The tower had been installed a few months earlier and was not yet

in service. Ez smiled, as he dreamed how well our low band signals would be heard from this enormous antenna nested away in a remote South Pacific island. Ez quickly set about making a feed point junction to the tower and radial system. To his delight, he found that the antenna was resonant on the 80M band!

At the time, we had six stations on the air — two operating one of our Hex beams; the big tower in Santa Barbara using the call sign CBØZW; the RiB with the outstanding performer shitenna, using the call sign CBØZEW from town, and two HF and one 6M station from the mountain. We had originally thought about saving the CBØZW for the contest, but the call sign needed to be different from CBØZA since it was not inside the National Park, the



N2IC and XQ3SK ran the ARRL CW Contest from atop Centinela.

idea being to use it and keep it separate from the POTA station at the CBØZA mountain location.

Contesting

As we continued to operate and work as many stations as possible, the wind forecast for the contest weekend improved so we decided to do the ARRL DX CW contest from atop Centinela. Despite having access to a 50-meter commercial tower in town, conditions on the low bands were not as expected and proved to be more effective being away from the noisy, urban environment. Steve, N2IC, was in charge of our contest strategy, which worked out quite well for us. We ended up with 3,700 QSOs in our contest log,



Operating site at the top of Centinela.

giving us second place honors for South America in the Multi-Single category.

We believe we set a new Chilean M/S record for that contest as well — not too shabby for a DXpedition-style, generator-powered contest entry! We also found that being so far south made it very difficult for us on the low bands, but we had the best possible site and took advantage of working many multipliers.

Humanitarian efforts

As goodwill ambassadors for amateur radio, part of the objective of doing a DXpedition to a place where there is a local population is to be able to make an impact by supporting them.

The Juan Fernández archipelago doesn't get as many tourists as it did

before COVID. The people were very friendly and supportive to us, and we wanted to return their hospitality as a way of thanking them for the opportunity to visit.

We brought a 3D printer with us, assembled it and trained the Woman's Association how to use it. Knowing how hard it is to supply the island and get specific items, we believed that by having a 3D printer available might make it possible for the islanders to print parts in a couple of hours that, otherwise, might take weeks to get.

The National Forest Corporation (CONAF) manager Angela García informed us that the repeater used by the park service had not worked for the last two years. This same repeater site was used by the local fisherman's syndicate,

and the Chilean Navy for its repeater network.

Angela had received some replacement parts for the repeater, but was waiting for a technician to do the installation. She asked for our expertise to help her inventory the parts so they could make sure that when the technician did arrive, he would be able to complete the project without further delay resulting from any missing components. We gladly agreed to help; she was the one who gave us the official permission to have fun and play radio on top of Centinela.

She asked if it were possible for us to visit the actual repeater site to perform a visual inspection of the system. When asked to be more specific, Angela said we would need to go to Cerro Alto on



Dercel completes the climb up Cerro Alto.



The team was able to repair the CONAF repeater on top of Cerro Alto; Cerro Centinela looms tall in the background.

the north side of town where the repeater was located. Both Ez and Dercel jumped into it, thinking that rather than just making a list of items, it would be a greater service to the community if they were able to fix the repeaters.

The following morning at the port, the chief Navy officer, the head of the island's Fisherman Association, Angela and Ignacio from CONAF met team members Ez, HI3R, and Dercel, XQ3SA, with tools and supplies in tow.

After a 20-minute boat ride to the bottom of Cerro Alto, the highest mountain on the north shore of the island, the small work party ascended this very difficult peak, which required a 3½-hour climb to the summit, traversing sections with a difficult 20° incline.

Finally arriving at the top and able to catch their breath, they accessed the repeaters and evaluated all of the communication equipment to see if there was a chance of repairing and making at least one of the repeaters operational again. They had brought the replacement parts from CONAF and found some other supplies in the small repeater housing.

Ez and Dercel were able to repair the CONAF repeater and return it to operation. They were also able to repair the repeater used by the Fishermen's Association, making it operational for the first time in two years! Now, local fishermen can communicate with each other and with on-island stations whenever they are working out to sea.

Word spread quickly around the island that members of our team had electronic and technical expertise to fix and repair certain types of equipment. Then a representative of the hospital approached us, asking if we could evaluate some equipment that was out of service. Ez, HI3R, who happens to be a biomedical engineer, has a company that repairs medical

equipment in Florida. We learned that the hospital had three broken autoclave units (sterilizers), and were limited to a single functioning unit.

Ez quickly examined the units and successfully repaired two of them, along with giving a brief in-service presentation to hospital staff about proper equipment maintenance to extend the life of the equipment.

During our last day on the island as CBØZA was going QRT, we received a call from the local police department about their VHF radio system having a limited range. Upon inspection, we found that the power supply was not properly charging the batteries, having somehow been damaged. Fortunately, we had a "spare" 12V DC power supply, which our DXpedition graciously donated to the local policía.

Conclusion

Our operation continued with three to four operators on the mountain for 24-hour shifts. We paid attention to the low bands and tried to maximize the openings to Europe, Asia and North America, as we continued to push being

on the air to maximize our efforts.

During our last day of operation, around 0400 local time, we crossed the 100,000 QSO goal. Little did we know that Marco had thought about possibly attaining 50,000 to 60,000 contacts, which we triumphantly surpassed! We are certain that Marco would have been very proud of our accomplishments — not only in terms of providing CBØZ to the DX community but also the positive impact our DXpedition made to the local Robinson Crusoe Island community. Marco's last DXpedition was a complete success.

On our last evening on the island, we were treated to a wonderful Chilean asado (BBQ) with awesome Chilean wine and great company. We took time to celebrate our accomplishments and enjoy the great Juan Fernández hospitality.

I remember walking in town carrying a brightly-colored Pelican case when a local stopped and asked if I was one of the ham radio operators. To my surprise, he thanked me and said that no other visitors had made such important contributions to the local community. 🇨🇱

| Band | CW | | Digital | | Phone | | All | | Countries |
|------|--------|------|---------|------|--------|-----|---------|------|-----------|
| | QSOs | % | QSOs | % | QSOs | % | QSOs | % | |
| 160 | 70 | 0.1 | 1,227 | 1.1 | 0 | 0 | 1,297 | 1.2 | 61 |
| 80 | 490 | 0.5 | 3,597 | 3.4 | 0 | 0 | 4,087 | 3.8 | 82 |
| 40 | 3,064 | 2.9 | 7,769 | 7.3 | 512 | 0.5 | 11,345 | 10.6 | 108 |
| 20 | 3,159 | 3.0 | 10,304 | 9.6 | 1,936 | 1.8 | 15,399 | 14.4 | 126 |
| 15 | 4,235 | 4.0 | 8,941 | 8.4 | 1,766 | 1.7 | 14,942 | 14.0 | 125 |
| 10 | 5,031 | 4.7 | 12,239 | 11.4 | 3,580 | 3.3 | 20,850 | 19.5 | 136 |
| 30 | 1,462 | 1.4 | 6,061 | 5.7 | 0 | 0 | 7,523 | 7.0 | 101 |
| 17 | 2,258 | 2.1 | 10,939 | 10.2 | 1,395 | 1.3 | 14,592 | 13.6 | 118 |
| 12 | 2,977 | 2.8 | 9,754 | 9.1 | 1,344 | 1.3 | 14,075 | 13.2 | 117 |
| 60 | 0 | 0 | 1,001 | 0.9 | 0 | 0 | 1,001 | 0.9 | 54 |
| 6 | 46 | 0.0 | 1,754 | 1.6 | 31 | 0.0 | 1,835 | 1.7 | 56 |
| All | 22,792 | 21.3 | 73,586 | 68.8 | 10,564 | 9.9 | 106,946 | 100 | |

| Continent | QSOs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|--------|------|--------|---------|-------|
| | 160 | 80 | 40 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 30 | 17 | 12 | 60 | 6 | All | % | CW | Digital | Phone |
| NA | 731 | 1,841 | 3,600 | 4,429 | 6,441 | 6,933 | 1,866 | 4,354 | 4,345 | 487 | 741 | 35,768 | 33.4 | 11,551 | 18,708 | 5,509 |
| SA | 92 | 284 | 571 | 699 | 841 | 942 | 274 | 672 | 651 | 75 | 632 | 5,733 | 5.4 | 800 | 3,796 | 1,133 |
| EU | 330 | 1,362 | 2,653 | 5,246 | 5,264 | 11,082 | 1,610 | 4,433 | 6,181 | 429 | 272 | 38,862 | 36.3 | 7,189 | 28,493 | 3,180 |
| AF | 5 | 14 | 34 | 61 | 120 | 174 | 23 | 93 | 124 | 3 | 51 | 702 | 0.7 | 127 | 447 | 128 |
| AS | 133 | 532 | 4,249 | 4,726 | 2,141 | 1,691 | 3,558 | 4,863 | 2,729 | 1 | 136 | 24,759 | 23.2 | 2,929 | 21,259 | 571 |
| OC | 6 | 54 | 238 | 235 | 135 | 25 | 192 | 175 | 42 | 6 | | 1,108 | 1.0 | 195 | 870 | 43 |

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|--|-----------|----------|-------|
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| Long sleeve tech shirt (circle size M / L / XL / 2X / 3X) | \$25 | | \$ |
| Ball cap | \$12 | | \$ |
| Knit beanie | \$25 | | \$ |
| Lapel pin | \$10 | | \$ |
| Roll of 500 labels | \$10 | | \$ |
| TOTAL ENCLOSED | | | \$ |

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TJ9MD Cameroon DXpedition

~ Steve Werner, AG4W

I TRAVELED WITH THE MEDITERRANO DX Club (MDXC) to Cameroon for a DXpedition that took place 3-14 November 2023. MDXC does a great job organizing and executing a DXpedition, and I like that their DXpeditions are multinational. Many of the participants have gone on prior trips together, in fact, I traveled with them to Djibouti, J28MD in 2022.

Antonio Cannataro, IZ8CCW (now I8KHC), is a great leader. The 14 amateurs on this trip hailed from Italy, Germany, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Czech Republic, and the US. In addition to Antonio and myself, the team members were Marco Zanchi, IZ2GNQ; Dario Grossi, IZ4UEZ; Geppo Ferioli, IZ4COW; Gilles Desansac, F6IRA; Emil Bergmann, DL8JJ; Eric Vancraenbroeck, ON7RN; Vlad Zencak, OK2WX; Andrea Cecchi, IK5BOH; Fulvio Galli, HB9DHG; Daniel Caduff, HB9TOC; Francisco Pajuelo, IU3PMA, and Giampaolo Spera, IU2EFB. We got along great and worked well as a team, which is a significant part of having a successful DXpedition with over 100,000 QSOs.

Cameroon has two official languages — English and French (a legacy of the colonial past) — though most locals prefer their own dialect. It was nice to have Gilles, F6IRA, to help with French translation, especially since many of the locals understood French better than English.

Getting there and settling in

I flew from Alabama to Milan, Italy, where we all met for a nice Italian lunch and had the opportunity to get to know our fellow team members. From Milan, we flew overnight to Douala, Camer-

oon, via Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Upon arrival, we traveled four hours by bus to Kribi, about 75 miles away, through traffic and over poor roads. When we arrived it was raining very hard, which delayed our putting up the first antenna. Our accommodations, the Beau Séjour Down Beach, had five rooms, the largest of which we used as a shack for our four stations. Some team members stayed at a hotel down the beach about 250 yards away, also used for the EME station and FT8 on an additional station for 6 Meters.

We ate our meals at the main guesthouse with the four stations, which were operating 24 hours a day, even when propagation was bad. There were several solar events during the DXpedition when the A index was 57 and the K index was five, but also had similar periods of great propagation. It was magical when I could get runs of four to five contacts a minute on phone. That is what I call the perfect pileup.

Equipment

When the rain stopped, we were able to get a vertical installed for overnight operations and early the next morning we assembled and installed four Spiderbeams. These had been modified by MDXC for ease of assembly and installation. After that, the 80M and 160M vertical antennas were installed.

We used Kenwood TS-590 transceivers and ACOM 1011 amplifiers, neither of which are the lightest, but they have proven to be good performers, rugged and reliable. The ACOM amplifier is a 700W PEP tube amplifier that is easy to tune and takes some abuse with poor loads. Many countries don't have reliable power, so a full

power amplifier can be a problem. In Cameroon, due to limited power, we had to choose between the amplifier and the air conditioner. Fortunately, the hotel had an old generator that could be used when the power went off — which happened several times.

We were pleased by not only our low band effort with 1,164 QSOs on 160M and 3,086 QSOs on 80M, but amazed by 137 2 Meter EME contacts. It was nice to not have to beam through Europe to North America, like we did the previous year in Djibouti. We also had a nice mix of SSB, CW and FT8 contacts.

Gratitude

We are grateful for all the clubs and individuals who donated to TJ9MD. We are especially pleased with the grant made by NCDXF. By making 101,424 QSOs, we met an unbelievable

| QSO by Continent | | |
|------------------|---------|------|
| | Total | % |
| Europe | 61,144 | 60.3 |
| North America | 23,562 | 23.2 |
| Asia | 12,550 | 12.4 |
| South America | 2,551 | 2.5 |
| Oceania | 828 | 0.8 |
| Africa | 762 | 0.8 |
| Unknown | 26 | 0.0 |
| Antarctica | 1 | 0.0 |
| Totals | 101,424 | |

| QSO by Band | | |
|------------------|---------|------|
| | Total | % |
| 10M | 18729 | 18.5 |
| 15M | 17516 | 17.3 |
| 20M | 16136 | 15.9 |
| 17M | 13978 | 13.8 |
| 12M | 12871 | 12.7 |
| 40M | 8647 | 8.5 |
| 30M | 7017 | 6.9 |
| 80M | 3086 | 3.0 |
| 60M | 1166 | 1.1 |
| 160M | 1164 | 1.1 |
| 6M | 977 | 1.0 |
| 2M | 137 | 0.1 |
| Totals | 101,424 | |
| Unique Call Sign | 24,367 | |

| TJ6MD — QSO Mode | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|------|------|---------|
| Band | FT8 | CW | SSB | MFSK | RTTY | JT65 | Total |
| Total | 41,654 | 32,675 | 24,773 | 1,818 | 367 | 137 | 101,424 |
| % | 41.1 | 32.2 | 24.4 | 1.8 | 0.4 | 0.1 | |



Clockwise from top left: Beau Séjour Down Beach guesthouse had five rooms and a restaurant (Note the Spiderbeams on the beach). Emil, DL8JJ, operating CW. Operating room with stations for mixed, FT8 and SSB. EME antenna. The team with banners. Outdoor restaurant at the hotel.

demand, even though it was not a Top 50 country on the Most Wanted List. I encourage clubs to make donations, not just to DXpeditions going to the Top 50 most-wanted countries, since many DXers don't have those in the Top 100 and others get new band countries.

After the TJ9MD DXpedition, two team members came down with malaria when they got home. Mosquitos are a part of most DXpeditions to Africa, making mosquito repellent — in addition to sunscreen — mandatory. Finan-

cial risk can be reduced by donations. Most DXpeditions, even with great planning, are met with unexpected expenses, and one of the most challenging parts is getting through Customs without excessive charges.

What's next?

MDXC will be activating Burkina Faso, 31 October to 11 November 2024, with 14 operators, focusing again on the low bands, WARC and EME operation. Although I will not be joining this

DXpedition (the US State Department has rated Burkina Faso as a Level 4 "Do Not Travel" country), I do encourage donations to this and other DXpeditions, as they all can have health, safety and financial risks.



T2C

A lightweight DXpedition to Tuvalu



~ Werner
Hasemann,
DJ9KH

WITH THE SUCCESSFUL NOVEMBER 2022 activation of Papua New Guinea, P29RO, in mind, we were considering another destination in the South Pacific. A short discussion led us to the decision for Tuvalu. Our proven team leader Rolf Thieme, DL7VEE, had compelling arguments for this choice:

- Tuvalu had a prominent place on the Most Wanted Lists: #61 worldwide
- Sunspot numbers promised good conditions on the higher bands
- Logistical challenges should be controllable
- No regular activities from there

Planning

Putting together a team was no problem; we even had a waiting list.

Preparations were made easier by John Mitton, KK7L, who provided very helpful information about the island, its authorities, and all things around our needs during the DXpedition.

When we received our T2C license, the Tuvalu officials had no information about any other planned amateur radio activations; however, a few weeks later we learned about the T22T activation just before ours with 10 planned stations simultaneously. Astonished, but not shocked, we continued our preparations for our DXpedition to take place from 10-30 October 2023. It was on us to make the best of it.

Another lightweight DXpedition began to take shape as we booked flights and a hotel. From Berlin and

Frankfurt, we flew to Fiji via Los Angeles, where we connected for our final 3-hour flight to Funafuti, Tuvalu. The Funafuti airstrip is used three times a week for regular flights to and from Fiji; between flights, the airstrip is used as a normal street, sports field and playground.

Our hotel was located across the road from the airport, so we didn't require a taxi or bus. Discussions with hotel management were necessary, however, to explain our special needs. The very sympathetic staff did their best to fulfill our wishes, specifically, having four bungalows in a row with space in between for the antennas. Not exactly what we had planned, but it was the best they could offer.

Station setup

Our plan was to set up the antennas close to the beach, and far away from the electric infrastructure of the hotel. The actual situation presented us with unforeseen problems — we had no access to the beach, large machines were crossing the area where we intended to place antennas and feed lines, and there were hundreds of LEDs around the bungalows.

The restricted area available for antennas resulted in small distances between our antennas and the hotel infrastructure. Man-made noise from the hotel, and coupling between the antennas was challenging, but controllable most times. The proven double filtering system in the shack helped us keep out most of the noise. Changing



The T2C team.



Filter cascades.

bands or modes was another method we used to keep five stations working with few problems.

We had four or five stations active 24 hours each day, using K3S transceivers with 500W amplifiers and band-pass filters connected in a local network system. The Internet was stable, so communication with the Club Log for uploads was never a problem. As we all know, updating the log is essential to prevent dupes, but there are some individuals who need at least three QSOs to be satisfied.

Our two-element LZ beam, together with a PentaPlexer, was again our workhorse for 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 Meters — one antenna, one cable, five bands. On 160, 80, 60, 40 and 30 Meters we used vertical antennas with single radials. On 6 Meters we used a simple loop antenna. All antennas were tried and tested in prior DXpeditions, which enabled us to have the first T2C QSO within four hours with VK4XY.



Operating room (from left): Chris, DL6KAC; Andree Schanko, DL8LAS; Frank Milatz, DL1KWK; Olaf Matthaei, DL7JOM, and Georg Tretow, DL4SVA.

From earlier DXpeditions in the South Pacific, we knew that the ionospheric and the atmospheric conditions near the equator would be challenging on the lower bands. To improve our receiving situation, we laid out two Beverage-on-ground (BOG) antennas

in the favorite directions. That helped significantly to meet the demand for the low bands. Unfortunately, we had to remove the BOGs every morning before the big machines began their work in the neighborhood. Nevertheless, after three weeks we ended up with almost 20,000 QSOs on those low bands.

We expected many QSOs on 10 to 20M and were not disappointed. We had huge pileups with good signals from almost all directions on CW and SSB. The operators had to give their all, most times operating well after midnight with temperatures around 30°C and 100% humidity.

Two of our power amplifiers blew up in the second week, one after the other. We were able to repair one of them by re-soldering the transistors. Until the end of the DXpedition we used it with reduced power on the low bands. Despite this handicap we managed to



Between flights, when the airstrip isn't being used, it doubles as a sports field and playground.



Left: Two-element LZ beam. Right: Hotel bungalows with antennas.

work 553 stations on 160M and 1,666 stations on 80M. We surprised the community with our activities on 60M — 765 new bands points for stations worldwide were the result.

What about 6 Meters?

One of our K3S radios and a simple loop antenna were used as a beacon station on 6 Meters as well as a FT8 station. Conditions on that band were quite astonishing — we worked 219 JAs, 17 Oceania, nine European and eight South American stations.

Local interactions

One day, Christian Buenger, DL6KAC, and Fred Siegmund, DH5FS, were invited to be guests on Radio Tuvalu, which services all nine of the widespread Tuvalu islands. They took the opportunity to inform listeners about amateur radio, in general, and the goals of our DXpedition. Our interview partners were keen to know why thousands of amateurs worldwide have so much interest in making contact with a station in Tuvalu.

We were also looking for a chance to support a humanitarian project in Tuvalu. Insiders told us that the Nauti Primary School in Funafuti would be a good choice. We twice visited

the school and had a very interesting and informative conversation with the headmistress, Mrs. Palelei M. Tovia. She gave us an overview of the school system, their problems and their hopes for the future. The bilingual public school has more than 500 pupils from 1st to 4th grade. Their personnel situation appears to be quite good, but their financial base is critical in some aspects.

We were invited to visit a special class for disabled children who presented us some songs in English, as well as their native language. It was a very impressive morning for all of us.

When asked where we could help and which projects could be supported, she mentioned her plan to improve the water treatment system for the school-children and she wanted to raise funds for the disabled children. We were happy to give our gift of AU\$500.

Statistics

The T2C team operated with 12 operators for the first two weeks, and six operators the final week. After eliminating the dupes, we had 112,914 QSOs in the log — a new record for a Tuvalu DXpedition.

Thanks to mostly excellent conditions on the higher bands, we had



Mrs. Tovia, the headmistress at Nauti Primary School, and Werner, DJ9KH, after presenting the team's gift.

almost 40% contacts with Europe, 30% with Asia and 30% with North America. Regarding the modes, we met our target with more than 60% of our QSOs in the traditional modes.

With a reduced team, and without the dismantled 80M and 160M antennas, we took part in the CQWW DX SSB Contest as a Multi-Single entry. With 4,563 QSOs and 4.9 million points, we were proud about being #50 worldwide and #3 in Oceania.

Conclusion

After HU1DL (El Salvador), P29RO and XX9D (Macao), this was another very successful, lightweight DXpedition organized by Rolf, DL7VEE. Thanks to all our sponsors and the amateur radio community for sending their positive comments. For more information about T2C, see our homepage at <https://t2c.mydx.de>



Relaxing after a shift (from left): Axel Schernikau, DL6KVA; Werner, DJ9KH; Ronny Jerke, DG2RON; Olaf, DL7JOM, and Andree, DL8LAS.

Cycle 25 Fund & Cycle 25 Society



To help supplement NCDXF's mission to provide necessary financial support for well-organized DXpeditions to rare and financially demanding

DXCC entities, NCDXF established the Cycle 25 Fund in 2016. The goal of the Cycle 25 Fund is to double NCDXF's endowment through significant estate gifts from current DXers, which will allow NCDXF to continue its mission throughout sunspot Cycle 25 and beyond.

NCDXF Vice President, Craig Thompson, K9CT, who oversees the Cycle 25 Fund, has established a Cycle 25 Society for those who participate. Thompson said, "The Cycle 25 Society is for honoring those special individuals who commit to estate giving before the next sunspot maximum. When you let us know your plans, we will honor you on our website and send you a special Cycle 25 Society pin as a memento of your thoughtfulness."

Craig invites DXers interested in the Cycle 25 Society to visit the NCDXF website ncdxf.org/pages/estate.html for more information. You can also contact Craig to discuss Cycle 25 Fund funding options, including specific bequests, designation of IRA beneficiaries and purchase of an annuity or life insurance. 

Since the announcement of the Fund, the following individuals have made estate-planning commitments:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tom Berson, ND2T | Ed Muns, WØYK |
| Al Burnham, K6RIM | Alan Rovner, K7AR |
| Bruce Butler, W6OSP (sk) | Bob Schmieder, KK6EK |
| Rusty Epps, W6OAT | Rich Seifert, KE1B |
| Ross Forbes, K6GFJ | Charles Spetnagel, W6KK |
| John Grimm, KØYQ | Ned Stearns, AA7A |
| Rich Haendel, W3ACO | Randy Stegemeyer, W7HR |
| Glenn Johnson, WØGJ | Craig Thompson, K9CT |
| Hardy Landskov, N7RT (sk) | Dan White, W5DNT |

The mission of NCDXF is to provide necessary support for well-organized DXpeditions to desirable DXCC entities and to support advances in DXpeditioning skills, technology and infrastructure.

CONTRIBUTIONS

NCDXF relies heavily upon the generosity of its contributors to fund various projects. We ask you to consider making an annual contribution of US\$50 or its equivalent in foreign currency. However, we do not wish to exclude anyone from the FOUNDATION for financial reasons. If \$50 is not within your budget, then please give what other amount you can. Naturally, we welcome contributions in excess of \$50! NCDXF is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law for U.S. taxpayers. Send your contribution to: NCDXF, P.O. Box 2012, Cupertino, CA 95015-2012, USA. You may also contribute and order supplies online via our secure server, visit ncdxf.org/donate.

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The IRS issued a press release in November 2022 stating that you can use a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA to save on taxes.

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year, this election qualifies as your RMD and, because you are sending the money directly to the charity, no taxes are withheld! Check with your tax advisor about which method is best for you.

NCDXF is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization and you can send money directly to NCDXF without any taxes being withheld. Please let NCDXF know that you are sending this from your plan trustee so that we can give appropriate documentation to you recognizing your donation.

The *IRS website* has more information about qualified charitable distributions. 