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The next NFDXA meeting will be 6 pm Saturday, May 19 at the Cedar River Seafood Restaurant at 2475 Blanding Blvd.



The North Florida DX Association

PileUp

The NFDXA Newsletter

Volume 4 Number 5

May 2012

<http://nfdxa.com/>



Huge Pile-Ups Greet No. 5 Yemen Activation Operation a Surprise to Many DXers



With little fanfare and almost no advance warning to the DX community the 7O6T DXpedition began two weeks of operation at 2100 Z April 30 from Socotra Island in the Indian Ocean some 353 kilometers south of mainland Yemen.



Dimitri Zhikharev RA9USU

The 11-man international team headed by Dimitri, RA9USU, and sponsored by the Russian Amateur Radio Union (RARU), hit the ground running averaging close to 12,000 QSOs a day since becoming QRV. The highest daily total recorded so far is 17,259 contacts made on May 1. Late in the evening May 13th 7O6T was expected to pass 137,000 QSOs.

Propagation conditions overall have been good. Signals from the 7O6T team on Socotra Island have been strong along the entire eastern seaboard of north America—a sharp contrast to the generally weak over-the-pole signals from the 9M0L Spratly DXpedition which ended its two-week long operation April 24 with 41,688 QSOs, an amount more than doubled by 7O6T in the same period. —Continued on page 5

VS7SJF only other Socotra Operation

Only one other Amateur Radio operation has taken place from Socotra Island. That was VS9SJF operated by John Farrar, G3UCQ during a Royal Air Force/Army expedition. John reports he contacted over 100 countries including the US with a Heath DX-40U. The complete story as told by VS9SJF ne G3UCQ is on page 7.

DU-BY standoff over claims to BS7

Hundreds of Philippine protesters have demonstrated with flags and placards in front of the Chinese embassy in Manila calling for China to withdraw its ships from the waters near Scarborough Reef where they've been since April 8. Both sides accuse each other of intruding into territorial waters. Presently both sides have fishery and coast guard vessels at the shoal and are refusing to withdraw. —Continued on page 5

NIWON Works No. 331—7O6T Last one needed for Honor Roll

No doubt about it. The NFDXA member who will be most anxious to get a QSL for working the 7O DXpedition is NIWON. The Yemen card will be the last one Cory needs to make the DXCC Honor Roll.



Cory NIWON

Cory reached this magic number once before only to have his total reduced when one of his 'countries', RI/MVI, Malyj Vysotskii, was deleted when the treaty responsible for its existence between Russia and Finland expired. The deletion dropped him one below the required 331 confirmed entities.

—Continued on page 5



W4ZR



NFDXA OFFICERS 2011

The North Florida DX Association, Inc. is a group of Amateur Radio Operators located in north Florida and south Georgia whose interests are DXing and Contesting. NFDXA meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month at a place selected by the meeting organizer. Officers elected for the calendar year 2012 are:

President

Larry Bostic, K3LB lbostic@aol.com

Vice President

Warren Croke, NW4C nw4c@cox.net

Secretary

Mike Reublin, NF4L nf4l@nf4l.com

Treasurer

Jim Hughes, KC4FWS kc4fws@comcast.net

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of the elected officers of the Association <http://www.nfdxa.com>

Editor, NFDXA *PileUp* Newsletter

Warren Croke, NW4C nw4c@cox.net

PileUp story ideas, manuscripts and photographs should be sent to nw4c@cox.net

NFDXA Attendance at April 21 Meeting

Name	Call	# Attending	Name	Call	# Attending
Steve Brown	AB4UF	Y	Dale Conner	N4NN	N
John Hale	AC4ET	N	Billy Williams	N4UF	N
Larry Bostic	K3LB	Y	Mike Reublin	NF4L	Y
Larry Junstrom	K4EB	N	Dave Mains	NO4J	N
Dick Hicks	K4UTE	Y	Jim Iori	NU4Y	Y
John Silberman	KB4CRT	Y	Warren Croke	NW4C	Y
Jim Hughes	KC4FWS	Y	Pres Graham	W4FDA	Y
Bill Walker	KX4WW	N	Gary Liljegren	W4GAL	N
Cory McDonald	NIWON	Y	Bob Lightner	W4GJ	N
Mike Parnin	N4EPD	N	Steve Barber	WA4B	N
Ron Tivey	N4GFO	N	David Price	WA4ET	N
Joe Barnes	N4JBK	Y	Robert Frey	WA6EZV	Y
Ron Blake	N4KE	Y	Dick Knox	WR4K	N

Attendance NFDXA Members 13

Notice to NFDXA Membership

All NFDXA members are requested to go to the club web site and check their entry on the Roster page. If any changes in address, e-mail or other information are needed please notify NFDXA Secretary Mike Reublin, NF4L (nf4l@nf4l.com) at your earliest convenience.



... Dots and Dashes - - -

As a relative newcomer to the NFDXA, I would like to write about a couple of observations. One observation is about "hospitality" and the other is about "caring".

At our recent meeting, we had several guests; this is a good thing. It means that these folks had heard nice things about us and decided to make the effort to come out and be with us. The members of the club, in my humble opinion, made these fellow hams feel right at home. My sense was that they left the meeting feeling really good about having spent the evening with kindred spirits, who still get a thrill out of working DX no matter how long we have been at it. And we have some members who have been at it a long time. I started DXing in 1959, but that date gets eclipsed by most members.



The second observation is about "caring". Recently, there have been the inevitable occasions where ham radio equipment has failed, and more importantly where "Body Parts" have failed. There were numerous offers to help with loaned equipment, repair work, and help during recuperation. Again, I'm sure this just seems "normal" to the old timers in the club, but I can tell you that it is not the same in every group that we might join.

It is great to be part of a group that is World Class at DXing, as well as World Class at being good friends. No matter how many years pass, I hope that part of our Club Culture never changes.

... Larry K3LB



Minutes of April 21 NFDXA Meeting

This meeting was held at Cedar River Seafood, Middleburg Apr. 21, 2012

The meeting was called to order by **Larry, K3LB** at 5:55

Treasurer's Report - Jim KC4FWS reported a balance of: 1253.17

Old business -

Larry, K3LB, read a request from DJ8NK for a donation to E51M N Cook W8CAA, NH8S Swains Is. **Larry** and **Warren NW4C** will formulate a reply explaining the club's policy. Larry explained that the club policy will be for a member to submit a motion for each request for donations brought before the club. Replies to the above referenced DxPeditions are still pending. Discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

New business -

Minutes of the March meeting approved as published in the **PileUp**.

Bob Frey WA6EZV received his Diamond award.

Members were asked to think about a new club contest that would increase participation.

Ron, N4KE can now check 160M cards for ARRL DXCC award.

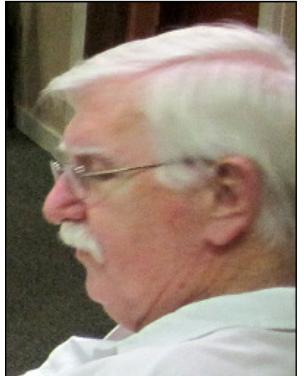
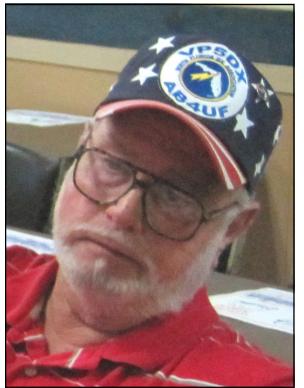
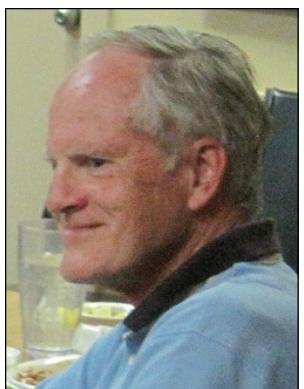
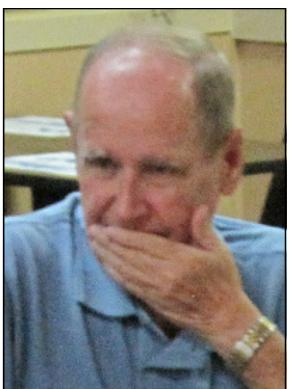
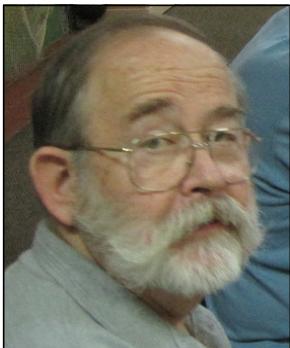
Guests - Frank DeNuzzo, W3KT & XYL Michelle, Mike Garcia, W1FO, Mark Murray, W2OR

Program - 2011 ST0R DXpedition

Next Meeting - Jim, NU4Y, May 19, 2012

- Respectfully submitted, **Mike, NF4L**, Secretary



Faces in the April 21 Meeting Crowd (IDs on page 5)

Work the DX that **IS** today because you can't work the DX that **WAS**...and the DX that **WILL BE** hasn't arrived yet—**W2IRT**

7O6T— *continued from page 1*

Yemen currently sits at number 5 on the *DX Magazine*'s most wanted list but some observers are speculating that at the rate the operation was making contacts that position might change—7O could even be dropped out of the Top-10 altogether! This will seem strange to many long time DXers since Yemen has been high on the demand list for many years along with P5 North Korea, KPI Navassa, 3Y/B Bouvet and VK0/H Heard island.

The ARRL's DXCC Desk reviewed the 7O6T DXpedition's documentation and granted approval for the operation to count for DXCC credit within a week of its going on the air. QSL via UA3DX. — www.yemen2012.com, ARRL

Scarborough Reef Dispute— *continued from page 1*

Scarborough Shoal, called Huangyan Island, by China, is a series of rocks and reefs more than 100 miles from the Philippines and over 500 miles from China. The disputed site was a location of a major DXpedition (BS7H) in 2009 in which Chinese operators took part. China has claimed sovereignty over a large U-shaped area of the South China Sea bringing it into dispute with several neighboring countries including Brunei (V8), Malaysia (9M2), and Vietnam (XV) in addition to the Philippines (DU). — www.bbc.co.uk/

N1WON: 7O6T last one needed for HR— *continued from page 1*

This left Cory with the prospect of waiting for P5 North Korea or KPI Navassa to open up—or perhaps someone to show up on Heard or one of the French sub-Antarctic islands. None of which was likely.

No one was more surprised than Cory when the 7O6T operation made its appearance, nor more pleased when he when he worked them and found his multiple contacts confirmed in the operation's on-line log.

Now the fun part, the wait for confirmation to appear by card or LoTW.

T32C Christmas Island DXpedition—May NFDXA Program



Between 1 and 24 October 2011, thirty eight radio amateurs from 11 countries activated the Island of Kiritimati (Christmas Island) in the Northern Line Islands, a part of the Republic of Kiribati. The DXpedition was organized by the British-led Five Star DXers Association ([FSDXA](http://FSDXA.org)) and operated using the call sign T32C.



Although planning for this DXpedition began two years before the scheduled start of the operation things did not go according to plan. A shipping container filled with the DXpedition's radios, linear amplifiers, directional antennas, tower sections, computers, coax and two 11 KV diesel generators were advanced was shipped to Christmas Island in February. But just two weeks before the operation's scheduled start it was apparent the container wasn't going to get there on time.

In a remarkable display of Ham Radio spirit, the DXpedition's sponsors, 5-Star team members and the Amateur community at large came up with radios, linear amplifiers and fiberglass poles for vertical dipoles which were flown to Honolulu where the team picked them up and hand-carried the rest of the way to Christmas Island.

The remarkable part of the story is in spite of all the difficulties the 5-Star team hit the air on time and over the course of the operation set at least 10 new DXpedition records including a massive total of 213,169 contacts!

The program for the May NFDXA meeting is the official Christmas Island DXpedition video which tells their story from the beginning through their eventual triumph against all odds.

'Faces In The Crowd' IDs on page 4

Top Row, l-r: Bob, WA4EZY; John, KB4CRT; Michele and Frank, W3KT

2nd Row, l-r: Mike, NF4L; Cory, N1WON; Rich, K4UTE; Mark, W2OR

3rd Row, l-r: Pres, W4FDA; Ron, N4KE; Mike, WILO; Steve, AB4UF

4th Row, l-r: Joe, N4JBK; Larry, K4LB; Jim, NU4Y; Jim, KB4CRT

— Photos by KB4CRT and NW4C

On the one hand....

6O3A SOMALILAND DXPEDITION CANCELLED —

Press Release #2

By N6PSE, Paul Ewing, The Intrepid-DX Group



Due to the recent activation of Somalia by the 6O0CW group, the Intrepid-DX Group has decided to cancel our previously announced plans to conduct a Dxpedition in November, 2012 as 6O3A. We feel that the need for 6O contacts has been sufficiently diminished to make it worth-while to continue with our plans.

In the coming days, we will refund 100% of all donations made to us. We hope to make other rare activations for 2013. Our friend, Darko Rusman-E70A continues to hold the 6O3A license and will be active from time to time from Somaliland.

Thank you,
Paul N6PSE
The Intrepid-DX Group

But on the other....



Meanwhile, the Italian operation, 6O0CW, that prompted the cancellation of the 6O3A DXpedition, is still QRV and will remain so until May 18th.

The team of Italian operators, active as 6O0CW from Galkayo will go QRT on May 18th. As of 2035z, May 12th, their log shows that they have made a total of 33013 QSOs with 12808 unique call signs (14135/SSB, 14824/CW and 4054/RTTY). QSL via I2YSB, direct or by the OQRS. For more details, visit their Web page at: <http://www.i2ysb.com/joomla5> A forum for the 6O0CW operation is available at: <http://www.hamradioweb.net>

--OPDX Bulletin 1062

Is Kingman Reef still with us?

Entity-hunting DXers can come up with some interesting questions. One that was making the rounds of the DX chat rooms and various bulletins recently was: "Is KH5K Kingman Reef still above water?"

Well, as far as can be determined at this writing Kingman's still there...albeit barely. There's a research vessel currently en route from Jarvis to Palmyra that supposedly will swing by Kingman Reef and will determine if it's still above water.

<http://noaacred.blogspot.com/2012/04/us-line-islands-research-expedition.html>

However, caution is advised as the highest point on the reef is only a meter and a half—roughly 5 feet—above sea level at high tide and a wayward ship could easily run aground without ever seeing it.

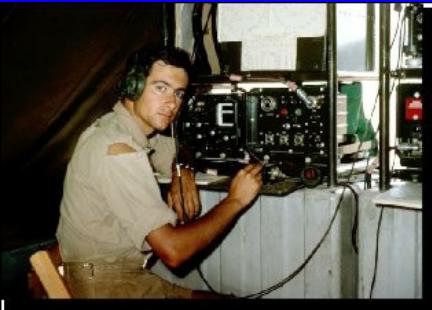
Kingman currently is rated as the 18th most wanted entity world wide by The DX Magazine's last survey; Club Log has it ranked number 8. The last DXpedition to Kingman was 12 years ago—and it was criticized by Europeans who claimed the operators were favoring other parts of the world.

Finally, stories that the ARRL is going to delete KH5K from the DXCC list supposedly have been put to rest with several League DX sources reportedly denying any rumors to that effect. As long as the BS7 'Scaffold' entity — aka Scarborough Reef — remains an accepted DXCC 'country' Kingman should be OK.



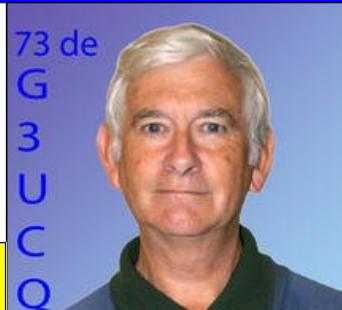
Kingman Reef - Wikipedia photo

The Last Socotra Operation - 1964



(Editor's Note: Here's write-up from the last Amateur Radio operation from the extremely rare island of Socotra (AF-028). The following story is from G3UCQ (ex VS9SJF), John Faarar, who was there in late 1964 and early 1965 and is reprinted here with the permission of author G3UCQ, and W3UR, publisher of The Daily DX where the story first appeared.)

On the left is a photo of John in 1964 as VS9SJF.
On the right, John's picture today from QRZ.com



Operating from Socotra – not 7O6T – but VS9SJF

Having already been a keen SWL from the late 1950's, when I was posted to Cyprus (RAF) in 1962 my ambition was to get a 5B4 call. That happened in 1964 with the passing of the RAE and issue of the call sign 5B4JF.

One day in the rest room on camp I caught a conversation that an Army officer was putting together an expedition to go to Socotra Island. My SWL 'training' kicked in as I immediately knew no one had ever operated from there. As I expect many of you will know, there is an unwritten rule in the Forces which is to never volunteer for anything. This was different and after a brief interview with Captain Peter Boxhall I was one of the team. As a RAF photographer my main duty would be to record the Expedition's activities but I could also help out with communications.

In December 1964, we flew from Cyprus to RAF Khormaksar, Aden where we spent a few days stocking up with rations etc. as we would be on the Island for two months and there would be very little relief available. Very early one morning we boarded a Blackburn Beverley freighter bound for RAF Riyan, near Mukalla on the coast of the Hadhramaut. (There is now a commercial airfield for Yemenia Airways Boeing 737jets). After refuelling we took off out over the Indian Ocean.

As the Island gradually emerged from the clouds I went into the cockpit to take photographs of our approach. The Island's dramatic mountains, the Haggier became more visible only enforcing the weird stories we had heard about the Island in its past. Like the story of the Sultan who sent some ships to find and land on Socotra. The ships returned never having located the Island as "One minute it was there and then it vanished".

We landed a mile from the capital, Hadibo, where 7O6T are operating from in the comfort of a modern hotel. They have running water, flush toilets, baths, television and the internet. We had nothing like that in '64. No roads, cars, telephone, running water. Only the Army radio to communicate with Aden, and VS9SJF of course.

Soon, after landing, in true DX-expedition style we had contact with Aden and not long after that I made my first QSO using my HeathkitDX-40 (60 watts controlled carrier AM and 74 watts CW) and an AR88D rx. The antenna was a trapped dipole. No Spiderbeams in those days!

The team of Army and RAF personnel gelled very well and after a few days some of the team set off to survey the hinterland of the Island. I stayed in camp to help with communications and to photograph the locals and surrounding area. Often, with a colleague, I carried some supplies out to a base camp setup for the survey party. This was close to where the WWII airbase was and is now the site of the modern airfield, a long tarmac runway has replaced the dirt and stones of the old one.

Now for some ham radio facts. My first QSO was on 6 December 1964 with HZ1AT on 20m AM! That was followed by 4S7EC also 20m AM and ET3USA on 20m CW. A few minutes later VR2DK was in the log so we were getting out OK. I see that on 12 Dec I had a nice run of US stations on 20m CW from 16:38 UTC to 18:00 UTC. Some G calls in the log which may ring a bell with some of you are :- GI3IVJ, G3RSD, G6RC, G3JJG, GC6FQ, G2DC, G3JYP, G3HDA, G3KFT, G3JYP, and G3SML. Most of the QSOs came from Middle Europe so breaking that wall for 7O6T is going to be tough. I finally went QRT on 4 Feb. 1965 with 575 QSOs in the log and just over 100 countries. That may not seem many by today's standards but my petrol ration for the generator was severely rationed as priority was given to the Army station and I did have only 75 watts of CW!

So what did I learn from this Expedition? I learned that people who have virtually nothing will give you their last crust. The Socotrans are friendly, kind and polite, they spoke no English but that is all changed now as many of the guides are multi-lingual. That time on the Island, as a 25 year old, made a lasting impression on me and the memories were always in my head. By 2000, with advent of the internet etc. I made plans to return and that came off in 2002 when I joined a French film crew as their photographer with all expenses paid. One year later I was back with a Belgian caving team led by Peter De Geest. We became firm friends and we have often met since including his wedding in Belgium a few years ago. He may be coming to Cornwall on holiday later this year.

— Continued on bottom of page 8

Here and There ...

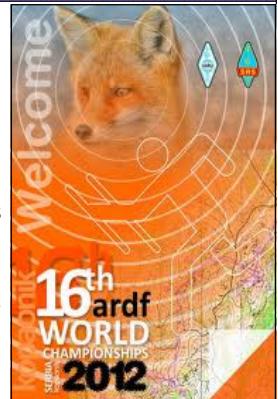


**Bob, WA6EZV
2005 ARDF Champion**

This year's 12th annual US [Amateur Radio Direction-Finding \(ARDF\) Championships](#) will be held in Southern California in the mountains east of San Diego beginning on May 30-31. These well-attended outdoor exercises attract many spectators and are the qualifying run for the world ARDF championships to be held in Serbia in September. ARDF is very popular around the world and a great way to mix ham radio with outdoor sports.

One of the regular contestants who will not make the ARDF event this year is a past champion, NFDXA's Bob Frey, WA6EZV, winner of the event in 2005. It seems Bob's son had the audacity to schedule his wedding up in Ohio on the same weekend as the championship event out in California...and Bob's wife is insisting that he go to the wedding instead.

Imagine that!



Done Gone to Dayton ...

Some of the NFDXA gang will not be with us at the May meeting. Among them **Bob, WA4EZY** who is flying up Thursday to present a forum on foxhunting and Amateur Radio Direction-finding (ARDF) in general... (see story above).

Others from our group doing the Dayton scene include the club president, **Larry, K3LB** (whose son lives several hours from the hamfest site) and **John, KB4CRT**.

Both agree there is a downside to their making the trip, however. The XX9E Macao DXpedition kicks off on the 17th. Both Larry and John need Macao for an all-time new one...and the operation will be QRT by the time they get back home.

NU4Y's Cataract Surgery Successful ...

Surgery is never a fun thing to contemplate and when it's to the eyes it's an even more worrisome prospect.

The good news is NFDXA's NU4Y underwent a successful cataract removal procedure in Jacksonville in early May and now he says "I am ok... I can see perfectly from about 4 feet out. I was almost 20/20 day after (the operation)"

The only drawback—and it's a little one—is that he has to use his wife's reading glasses to read the newspaper or use the computer until he gets a new pair of his own...and that should be any day now.

N4NN First in US; K4UTE 46th in 7O6T Top 100 Club Log Tally for NA

NFDXA's N4NN is definitely running with the big dogs in this chase. As of this writing Dale leads the NA continent in being the first to work the 7O6T Yemen DXpedition on 17 out of a possible 21 band slots. Only four other stations nationwide have reached that level.

Rich, K4UTE, trails the front runner by only 3 contacts having contacted the Socotra Island operation on 14 band slots but his ranking in 46th nationwide.

The Club Log competition is a contest-within-a-DXpedition where one's position in the fray is determined by when contact was made with the DX station as well as the number of band-slot QSOs. The 7O6T DXpedition is scheduled to go QRT at 2100Z on the 15th.

— The Last Socotra Island Operation...continued from page 8

Socotra has had quite an influence on my life over the years and with 7O6T about to come alive that interest has taken a new twist. I wonder how many slots I will get? Think of me when you work Socotra.

73s es gd dxing.

John, G3UCQ ex VS9SJF
Hayle, Cornwall
www.socotra.info

Late note received from G3UCQ...

Hello Warren,
Your readers may like to know that I have added two videos to my website of my visits to Socotra in 2002 and 2003.
73, John, G3UCQ

www.socotra.info

Special Event Operations ... *Compiled from the pages of The Daily DX*

(May 6-28) PC25HR is a special call from The Netherlands, May 6-28, especially May 12, from the Hertog Reijnout pumping stations. It is part of Holland's National Windmill Day. Everyone will get a bureau card, but you can QSL to the op's home call if you like. That will be PC2F, Frans.

(May 7-June 9) Members of the Tera Radio Club (HB9OK) will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Railway Lugano - Ponte Tresa with special event station HB100FLP QRV from Switzerland between May 7th and June 9th. They will be on all bands and modes. All QSOs will be confirmed with a special QSL via HB9OCR.

(May 14-June 17) - SF0530COH is a special call sign from Sweden to commemorate the organ donor that made SM0PSO's heart transplant possible on May 30, 2009. The op, Ove Friman (SM0PSO), will only use this call for two weeks before and two weeks after this annual remembrance of his life-saving transplant. SF0530COH will be on the air May 14-June 17. Ove will also be in the WPX CW operating event. Ove plans to attend the DX Banquet at the upcoming Dayton (Ohio, USA) Hamvention, so say hello to him there. <http://www.qrz.com/db/SF0530COH> and <http://www.sm0pso.com>.

(May – June) In celebration of the 350th anniversary of the city of Ivano Frankivsk special event station EM350S will be active during May and June. Listen for activity on CW, SSB and the digital modes on HF and 6 Meters. QSL via UW8SM either direct, via the bureau, LoTW or eQSL.

(June 1-Aug 31) In celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Russian city Komsomolsk-on-Amur Amateur Radio operators will be QRV with special event call UE80C from June 1st to August 31st.

(June 2-3) - KK5W from the radio rooms of WWII submarine USS Cavalla and the destroyer escort USS Stewart, will be on the air June 2-3, 48 hours, 00Z-2359Z. The ships are at Seawolf Park on Pelican Island, Galveston, Texas, USA. Look for the members of the Brazos Valley ARC to operate on 40-10M SSB and CW. There will be a special QSL from KK5W, send an SASE or appropriate equivalent. Event coordinator K5HM, Ron Litt, says there is more info on this website: <http://www.bvarc.org/index.php?page=ms> .

(June 4) YL2012USCARS will be on the air June fourth, 40-6M, CW and SSB. This is the American Car Fan Meeting in Saulkrasti, Latvia. They especially want to work stations in the US and Canada. QSL bureau or direct to ES2TT.

(June 8) - ES2012ABCS from Keila, Estonia, ES2TT's home QTH, op's name Eddie -- and Haapsalu, the show QTH will be July 8 from the "American Beauty Car Show." 40-6 again, CW, SSB and adding BPSK31, again especially looking for W and VE stations. QSL bureau or direct to ES2TT. There is more info on both of the above on QRZ.com.

(June 8-July 1) - Poland and Ukraine will host the 14th EUFA European Football Championship, "Euro 2012," June 8-July 1, the first time either nation has hosted. There will be **special prefixes** on the air, including EM2012, EN2012 and EO2012. For more, check out <http://ut7ut.org.ua/index.php/euro-2012/>.

(June 16-17) SE2EE is now the call, instead of SG2SNF, from Sweden for a special event June 16-17. The operation will be by SM2TOS and others, from Porjus, where a British Lancaster bomber, "Easy Elsie," crashed October 29, 1944. The airplane's nickname explains the call sign suffix. SE2EE is expected on the air "around the clock." In northern Sweden, far above the Arctic Circle, Porjus will have 24 hours of sunlight at that time of year. <http://www.sm2tos.se/easyelsie/eng>, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/11584508@N08/5291644427/in/set-72157625547969919>

(July 27-Aug 3) GB1HF is a special event station for the 2012 Olympic Games, July 27- August 23. This operation is being run by the South Essex Amateur Radio Society. They plan to be on various bands and modes, with an apparent special emphasis on an operation from a cross-country cycling venue. <http://www.southessex-ars.co.uk/olympic2012.html>.

NFDXA Meeting Saturday, 6 pm May 19 Cedar River Seafood, Middleburg.

News and Notes from the World of DX

Israeli Hams protest on-line against DXCC credit for the 7O6T operation from Yemen

(Note: the following info is reported in *Amateur Radio Newsline #1813*. Out of interest and clarity, it is re-posted here.)

A small but vocal number of Israeli hams have been arguing on-line that the 7O6T from Yemen should not be allowed for DXCC because the operators refused to make contact with 4X and 4Z prefix hams. They note that Israel has no banned countries list and as such refusal of the 7O6T operators to contact them was at least a violation of the principals and the spirit of the DXCC program.

While its true that Israel has no banned countries list, many of its neighbors consider themselves technically in a state of war with the Jewish state and have been since its creation through partitioning following World War 2. As such these nations ban hams operating under their jurisdiction from making contact with their counterparts in Israel.

The 7O6T operation reportedly has the support of Yemen's Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Radio and the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology. As such it is a pretty good guess that not recognizing Israeli stations was a decree imposed by Yemen on the 7O6T operating team and not one of their own choosing.

At airtime, it's not known if any of the protesting Israeli hams contacted the ARRL DXCC Desk regarding this issue or if it was just another of those cyberspace only arguments. Either way it came to an abrupt end on Saturday, May 5th. That's when ARRL Awards Branch Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, issued a news release stating that the current 7O6T operation from Yemen along with the earlier 6O3A DXpedition to Somalia have been granted DXCC approval. As such, both will be counted for DXCC credit.

— DX World.net

Posted DX Operations — Compiled from The Daily DX, DX World, and DXCoffee Hamradio Magazine

6 METERS

BOLIVIA CP - Six meter ops will note that a new beacon from Bolivia is now QRV. The call is CP6B and it's transmitting on 50.041 at the Radio Club Santa Cruz (CP6AA) in Santa Cruz (FH82). CE3SX, Pipe, who is currently in Bolivia (CP6/CE3SX), is the beacon manager. Bolivia is no doubt the rarest mainland South American DXCC Entity on 6 meters.

PIRATE

NIGERIA 5N - The Far East DX Pirate (9N1II, A52CW, D2PZ) has shifted territory. This time he's been in Africa as 5N7CZ. Nigeria Amateur Radio Society (NARS) Secretary General 5N7MBA (ex 5N0OBA), Oyekunle Ajayi, says "it's a PIRATE station operating without any support to the improvement of Amateur Radio around the Federal Republic of Nigeria". 5N7CZ signals are not coming from Africa, but rather back in the Far East.

NORTH AMERICA

SABLE ISLAND CY0 – (Until late June) VE1AWW, Al, is on CY0, Sable Island, until late June. K3WC, Dusty, had a long PSK31 chat with him on 30M and Al told him he's expecting a 6M Yagi to arrive soon. He will have 100 watts on six and is eager to get on. Late word is that the 160/80/40 antenna is dead and Al does not expect to be fixing it anytime soon. 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 are functioning, though. QSL to his home call.

CARIBBEAN

HAITI HH (To September) HH2/9A7GAE, Tiho, is working at the Red Cross Mission in Leogane, Haiti for at least the next five months. He'll be QRV on 80, 40, 20, 17, 10 and 6 meters on SSB and the digital modes, in his spare time. QSL via 9A7GAE and eventually LoTW.

EUROPE

JERSEY GJ – (July 28-29) Members of the Jersey Amateur Radio Society (GJ3DVC) contest group plan to operate in the RSGB IOTA Contest on **July 28 and 29** as GJ2A. QSL via K2WR (NA) or GJ3DVC (all others) and LoTW.

AFRICA

COMOROS D6 – (August) EA3AKY, Josep, has joined the D64K team, which plan to be QRV from the Comoros Islands in August. Despite it being a "bad month for F2" he will be QRV on 50 MHz and will be their best "to work as many as possible stations". They will also be on 6 Meters EME. "UKSMG and Innov Antennas are looking to sponsor them with a 7 element LFA yagi" says G3ZSS, Peter. More news from D64K is expected in the coming weeks. They have a Website at <http://www.d64k.com/>.

LESOTHO 7P – (July) K5LBU, Frosty, says he and two others are looking at going to 7P8, Lesotho, in mid-July. He is open to others going along too. Arrival in Johannesburg is July 12, with a drive to Roma, Lesotho, and operating until July 21. The flight out of Johannesburg is July 22. Frosty1@pdq.net.

—Continued next page

More posted DX operations...

AFRICA (continued)

SENEGAL 6W (Oct 17-28) Mark your calendar as F5VHJ, Al, plans to be in Senegal and QRV as 6W1RY from October 17 to 28, including an SOAB high power entry in the CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest. QSL via F5VHJ either direct, via the bureau or LoTW.

SENEGAL 6W (Feb 22-Mar 6 2013) F5RAV, Luc, is planning to be back at the 6W7RV rent-a-shack and QRV as 6V7T from Senegal between February 22nd and March 6th.

TOGO 5V7 (Late 2012-Early 2013) - ON4CIT, Wim, reports he'll be heading to Togo for activity as 5V7TH beginning in late 2012 or early 2013. Exact dates and more details to be released in the near future. QSL via ON4CIT.

UGANDA 5X (To June 8) 5X5RO has been on the air since Friday, May 11 with F5IRO (J28RO), Freddy, operating. He reports good signals on CW from Europe and Japan. However he says he's limited to 30-10M and PSK. Look for him primarily on CW on the upper HF bands, especially 30M in his evenings, and □a very little PSK. QSL via F8DFP, via the French bureau or direct with SAE/IRC.

MIDDLE EAST

PALESTINE E4 (Stay unknown) Following [recent](#) activity from Jordan as JY8VB, Vladimir Bykov, UA4WHX is now QRV from Palestine as **E40VB**. Activity so far on 10m, 12m & 40m SSB. How long E40VB expects to be in Palestine has not been announced.

LEBANON OD (May-Oct) Luigi, IV3XNF, will be on a United Nations Interim Force (UNIFIL) mission in Lebanon between May and October. He will be staying on a military base but plans to be active during his free time and operate as a QRP station using the callsign OD5/IV3XNF/QRP. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using a Yaesu FT-817ND into a Carolina Windom 80 antenna or an End-Fed Half-Wavelength Antenna (EFHWA - fishing pole). Preferred modes are CW and Digital. QSL direct to his home call sign. For more update and info, see: <http://iv3xnf.jimdo.com>

PACIFIC

CLIPPERTON TX/C (MARCH 2013) An expedition to Clipperton Island is planned for March next year, 2013, with up to 24 operators. □Cordell Expeditions□ is organizing it. A TX5 callsign is expected. The large operation will have as many as eight stations and be on all bands and modes, and DXA, a satellite-link system with near real time log updating. So far on the team are KK6EK, DL1MGB, NP4IW, DL3DXX, DJ5IW, SP5XVY and DL8LAS, with more operators being sought. www.cordell.org/Cl/index.html.

ASIA

BHUTAN (June 6-14) Japanese ops JA1JQY, JK1EBA, JA3MCA and JA1KJW will be in Thimphu, Bhutan from June 6 to 14 and QRV as A52JY, A52BA, A52MA and A52KJ respectively. Activity will be on 1.8 through 50 MHz on CW, SSB and RTTY. They will have a □breakable beacon□ running on 50.125 MHz.

BRUNEI V8 (Nov 13-22) V84SMD in Brunei will be November 13-22, organized by the Mediterraneo DX Club. 90% of the multinational team will be from the 9N7MD expedition group. The activity will be on 160-10M including the three WARC-79 bands, CW, SSB and RTTY. As many as 18 operators and 5 stations are expected. The gear: Icom 7000s and Elecraft K2 rigs, three 5-band spiderbeams, 80M vertical, 160M inverted L, 40M vertical, vertical dipole for 30 and receiving beverages. Signed on as ops so far are: FIHRE, F5EOT, F6BIV, I2VGW, 8YGZ, IK2LTR, IK2GNZ, IZ8CCW, ON7RN, UZ2HHC, V85AVE, V85AX, V85TX and YB3MM. QSL direct, bureau or OQRS to IK2VUC. Logs will be put on LoTW four to five months after the operation. <http://www.mdxc.org/v84smd> will be operational soon.

ARCTIC

JAN MAYEN JX (To March 2013) JX9JKA - Svein is now QRV until the end of March of next year. He'll be operating on SSB, RTTY and PSK only. Listen for him on 15 SSB around 1700Z. QSL via LA9JKA.

SVALBARD JW - (Sept 12-19) LA8DW, Karl, has announced his plans to be QRV from Svalbard as JW8DW from September 12th to 19th. While there he'll team up with LA9HH as a multi-op in the SAC CW Contest using the JW5E club callsign. QSL JW8DW direct (with IRC - no dollars) to LA8DW, via the bureau or LoTW.

— *Continued on page 15*

If you live in a CC&R restricted community, have deed restrictions or homeowners association covenants that have prevented you from erecting amateur radio antennas, then the ARRL wants to hear from you. Upload your comments to the ARRL website at www.arrl.org/ccr-study-information, or, they can be sent as an e-mail attachment to CCRinfo@arrl.org

2012 May DX Calendar (*Edited from <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>*)

Dates		Entity	Call Sign	QSL via	Source	Details
2012 Apr17	2012 Jul18	Sable I	CY0	VE1AWW	OPDX	By the VE1AWW as CY0/VE1AWW; 20-6m; spare time operation
2012 May01	2012 May30	Lebanon	OD5	LotW	OPDX 20120423	IV3XNF as OD5/IV3XNF; 80-10m; CW + digital; QRP; Carolina Win-dom; QSL IV3XNF direct or eQSL; opr continues to October
2012 May01	2012 May30	Myanmar	XZ1K	OQRS	ATDX 20120427	HS0ZIB fm NJ99gx; SSB PSK; operation expected to continue for yrs; start date unclear
2012 May01	2012 Jun10	Uganda	5X	F8DFP	425DXN 20120428	F5IRO; HF, 30m; CW, perhaps PSK; spare time; QSL Buro or direct; opr dates uncertain
2012 May05	2012 Jun10	Gibraltar	ZQ3M	ZB3M Direct	OPDX 20120326	ZB3M, also ZB2ER using ZQ2ER; SES for Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II
2012 May07	2012 May18	Somalia	6O0CW	LotW	IK7JWY 20120504	I2YSB et al fm Galkayo; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY; QSL OK I2YSB direct, IK2CIO Buro
2012 May09	2012 May14	Aruba	P4	JA3DFM	ATDX 20120511	JA3DFM as P4/JA3DFM; HF
2012 May10	2012 May17	Dominica	J7	JN1NDY	ATDX 20120502	JN1THL JK1KHT JQ1LCW JF1UOX as J79KT J79YK J79YL J79JF; 40-6m; CW SSB RTTY
2012 May10	2012 May17	Turks & Caicos	VP5	Home Call	ATDX 20120511	W6NN as VP5/W6NN and KE1B as VP5/KE1B; 40-10m; CW SSB RTTY
2012 May11	2012 May16	Maldives	8Q7	Home Call	ATDX 20120425	JA2AAU as 8Q7NK, JA2AIC as 8Q7IC, JA2ATE as 8Q7TE, JA2LSS as 8Q7CJ; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY PSK
2012 May11	2012 May16	Maldives	8Q7ZS	JA2ZS	ATDX 20120424	JA2ZS; HF
2012 May11	2012 May31	Belize	V31XB	VE2XB	425DXN 20120414	VE2XB fm Caye Caulker (NA-073); all bands
2012 May11	2012 Jun08	Uganda	5X5RO	LotW	ATDX 20120507	F5IRO; HF; CW, perhaps PSK; QSL also OK via F8DFP, Buro or direct; spare time operation
2012 May12	2012 May14	Saba & St Eustatius	PJ5	9V1FJ	425DXN 20120428	9V1FJ as PJ5/G4MFW fm Saba I
2012 May12	2012 May19	Guernsey	MU	Home Call	VA3RJ 20120330	PA0VHA , et al MU/ fm EU-114, 80-6m, WARC; CW SSB RTTY PSK
2012 May15	2012 May16	St Barts	FJ	9V1FJ	425DXN 20120428	9V1FJ as FJ/G4MFW
2012 May15	2012 May23	Seychelles	S79RR	LotW	ATDX 20120407	DJ9RR fm Mahe I; 40-10m; CW RTTY; QSL also OK via DJ9RR
2012 May16	2012 May26	Senegal	6V7S	RK4FF	ATDX 20120506	RK4FF fm Le Calao; 80 - 10m; CW SSB RTTY
2012 May17	2012 May20	Canary Is	EH8ITU	EA8ADL	EA8CNR 20120424	EA8ADL fm AF-004 (IL28fc); International Day of Telecommunications
2012 May17	2012 May23	Macao	XX9E	LotW	DXW.Net 20120201	EA5BZ et al fm Coloana I (AS-075),160-6m; CW SSB RTTY; 3 stns; QSL EB7DX direct
2012 May21	2012 May27	Liechtenstein	HBO	LotW	DF5AU 20120514	DF5AU as HBO/DF5AU; focus high bands; CW SSB; yagi; amp; QSL DF5AU, DARC Buro

[CQ WW WPX Contest, CW](#) (May 26-27, 2012) Check here for pre-contest activity, too.

The definition of rare, hard to get DX is the contact your buddy made that you didn't.—[KD3RFIVE2DXY](#)

2012 June-July-Aug DX Calendar (*Edited from <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>*)

Dates	Entity	Call Sign	OSL via	Details		
2012 Jun01	2012 Jun24	French Polynesia	FO	F4EBT 20120415	F4EBT as FO/F4EBT fm Tahiti (OC-046); Moorea I (OC-046); Raiatea I (OC-067); Huahine I (OC-067); Bora Bora I (OC-067); Maupiti I (OC-067); 100w; holiday style; Direct QSL preferred, Buro OK	
2012 Jun06	2012 Jun12	Montserrat	VP2MRT	LotW	KB4CRT 20120415	KB4CRT fm NA-103 (WLOTA 1475, FK86vs); 80-2m; SSB, some CW, perhaps PSK; QRV June VHF 'test; QSL direct w/SASE, others 2 GS or IRCs
2012 Jun06	2012 Jun14	Bhutan	A52	Home Call	JF1OCQ 20120424	JA1JQY et al as A52JY, A52BA, A52MA, and A52KJ fm Thimpu; 160-6m, 6m (50.125 MHz beacon); SSB CW RTTY
2012 Jun11	2012 Jun22	Tanzania	5H9CP	NK8O	ATDX 20120205	NK8O; HF; CW
2012 Jun17	2012 Jun29	Malta	9H3ZZ	LotW	N6GQ 20120413	N6GQ; QSL also OK via N6GQ
2012 Jun17	2012 Jun30	Iceland	TF	VE3IKV Direct	VE3IKV 20120508	W4TAA VE3IKV as TF/VX3T fm the south coast; 6m; CW SSB; 100w; 8 ele yagi
2012 Jun22	2012 Jun27	Guernsey	GU	M0PNN Direct	OPDX 20120402	By Telford and District Amateur Society as GP3ZME/p fm EU-114 (IN89qk + other sites); 160-6m + VHF UHF; QSL OK via G3ZME Buro
2012 Jun27	2012 Jul03	American Samoa	KH8	N7RO	DXW.Net 20120417	N3QQ es N7RO as KH8/KL7RRC fm Pago Pago; focus on 40-10m; spare time operation; EU QSL via UA9OBA
2012 Jul02	2012 Aug25	South Cook Is	E51AND	AB7FS	OPDX 20120507	AB7FS fm Rarotonga I (OC-013); straight key CW around 14.050 MHz
2012 Jul07	2012 Jul21	Corsica	TK	LotW	F5NQL 20120311	F8BBL as TK12IOTA fm Olmeto beach; 80-10m; mainly CW; Jul 14 as TK12IOTA/p fm Lavelli I (EU-164), Jul 18 Sanguinaires I (EU-104)
2012 Jul09	2012 Jul17	St Pierre-Miquelon	FP	LotW	DXW.Net 20120320	KV1J as FP/KV1J fm NA-032; 160-6m; SSB CW RTTY PSK31; QRV for IARU HF Contest; QSL also OK via KV1J direct or eQSL
2012 Jul12	2012 Aug 2	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	LotW	W5JON 20120418	W5JON fm St Kitts (NA-104); 80-6m es 60m; SSB; QSL via W5JON; QRV for RSGB IOTA 'test; also W5HAM using V47HAM at times
2012 Jul16	2012 Jul20	Guernsey	MU	OT9Z Buro	VA3RJ 20120511	By ON9Z ON3JA ON3NT as MU/OT9Z
2012 Jul20	2012 Jul27	Jersey	MJ	OT9Z Buro	VA3RJ 20120419	By ON8ZZ ON3JA ON3NT as MJ/OT9Z
2012 Jul26	2012 Aug2	St Paul I	CY9M	LotW	DXW.Net 20120212	AB5EB et al, 160-2m, especially 160m and 6m, propagation permitting; all modes; QSL also OK via M0URX

[RSGB IOTA Contest](#) (July 28-29, 2012) Check here for pre-contest activity too.

2012 Aug1	2012 Aug7	Albania	ZA1TC	See Info	TA1HZ 20120509	TA1HZ fm Durres; QRV European HF Championship; QSL via TCSWAT, POB 73 Karakoy, 34421 Istanbul, Turkey or TA QSL Buro
2012 Aug1	2012 Aug8	Costa Rica	TI5	N0TW	N0TW 20120207	N6OPR N0TW as TI5/K6MQ; QRV for 10-10 Summer QSO Party
2012 Aug1	2012 Aug31	Comoros	D64K	IV3DSH	IW3SQY 20120327	IW3SQY IV3DSH IZ4AKS IZ8GCE IT9YVO C31CT SP3DOI fm AF-007; 160-6m, possibly including 60m; all modes; exact dates TBA
2012 Aug4	2012 Aug11	Do-decanese	SV5	LotW	IZ2DPX 20120507	I2RNJ as SV5/I2RNJ, IK2IHY as SV5/IK2IHY fm Rhodes; 100w; SSB; multiband dipole; holiday style operation; QSL also OK via ARI Buro
2012 Aug10	2012 Aug12	Svalbard	JW	Home Call	VA3RJ 20120316	By LA6VJA as JW6VJA and LA6TMA as JW6TMA fm Longyearbyen (EU-026, WLOTA 0125); CW SSB + digital



W4ZR



"I will be in Myanmar from next Monday, SSB and maybe PSK. XZ1K" said HS0ZIB, Simon via his twitter account last Friday, May 11. (<https://twitter.com/#!/xz1k>). Simon has a Webpage at <http://www.xz1k.org/>.

XZ1K had a 'self-spots' for 28.460 and 14.165 MHz Monday, 14 May, but no other spotting activity was reported.

Simon says XZ1K will be a permanent operation but his schedule has not been determined.

Between 1 January, 2012 and 30 June, 2012 work as many DX stations as you can, all bands, all modes. There are 14 possible points for each DX entity. Put in your contacts from the first of the year. Go to <http://nfdxa.com/2012/>, log in, click on your call sign, make your entries and click the "Log It" button. To delete a call, uncheck all three modes on your log page and click the "Log it" button.

Call Sign	Country/ Modes	Bands	Total
AB4UF	0	0	0
AC4ET	0	0	0
K3LB	148	304	452
K4EB	0	0	0
K4UTE	355	575	930
KB4CRT	0	0	0
KC4FWS	0	0	0
KX4WW	0	0	0
NIWON	10	20	30
N4EPD	0	0	0
N4GFO	0	0	0
N4JBK	0	0	0
N4KE	3	3	6
N4NN	0	0	0
N4UF	0	0	0
NF4L	14	19	33
NO4J	0	0	0
NU4Y	33	40	73
NW4C	19	22	41
VP5YZ	0	0	0
W4FDA	0	0	0
W4GAL	0	0	0
W4GJ	0	0	0
WA4B	0	0	0
WA4ET	0	0	0
WA6EZV	330	694	1024
WR4K	202	332	534

DX

The Ultimate Contact Sport

VANITY CALLSIGN FEE MAY GO UP 80 CENTS



If you have a vanity call sign and your call is coming up for renewal, here's something you may have an interest in. The FCC has released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that, among other things, would raise the cost of obtaining a vanity call sign to \$15.00 for a ten year license term. The current cost is \$14.20 which—in essence—means an increase of only 80 cents if the rule making is approved. (FCC)

BSA ANNOUNCES NEW MORSE CODE INTERPRETER STRIP

The Boy Scouts of America now have a new "Interpreter Strip" for Morse Code. An "Interpreter Strip" on a scout's uniform means the Scout or adult leader is able to communicate in a particular language.

Older Scouts and former Scouts may remember requirements that said a Scout had to learn Morse Code or signal flags to send and receive a message. That requirement is no longer in effect and Morse Code is no longer mandatory to get any amateur radio license in the US. But the BSA is now reviving Morse Code as a "language" worth learning.

Jim Wilson, K5ND, works at BSA headquarters in Texas and is a big promoter of amateur radio in Scouting. Wilson says the idea is to further cement the bonds of brotherhood between Scouting and ham radio operators.

Wilson says there are three requirements to earn the strip, the first being carrying on a 5-minute conversation in Morse Code at a speed of at least 5 words per minute. "The second one," says Wilson, "is copying correctly a 2-minute message sent in Morse Code at a minimum of 5-words-per-minute." Requirement three is sending a 25-word written document in Morse Code at a minimum of 5 words per minute."

Scouts can be certified by their Scoutmaster or maybe even a ham who's an adult Scout leader.



New BSA 'Interpreter' Strip spells 'MORSE'



Credit for much the DX news, illustrations and information contained in this publication goes to a variety of sources including, but not limited to the following:
The Daily DX (<http://www.dailidx.com>),
NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page (<http://www.ng3k.com/>),
OhioPenn DX Bulletin (<http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>),
DX World of Ham Radio (<http://www.dx-world.net/>),
The DX Magazine (<http://www.dxpdb.com/>),
DX Italia (<http://www.dxitalia.it/>),
DARC DXNL (<http://www.dxf.darc.de/>),
Pete's DX Newsdesk (<http://www.dx-newsdesk.co.uk/>),
ARRL (<http://www.arrl.org>),
Finally, off air and word of mouth from those who turned on their radios, operated and then told **The PileUp** what they heard.

— NW4C

W5KUB TO NETCAST LIVE FROM HAMVENTION 2012

Tom Medlin, W5KUB, will once again be streaming live television from the 2012 Dayton Hamvention.

Tom will begin his live webcast on Wednesday morning May 16th at 0800 Central, broadcasting his 550 mile drive. He will then set up shop in the Hamvention Flea Market and will spend the next three days broadcasting the sights and sounds of Hamvention 2012 before live -casting his drive home.

While on the web from Hamvention Tom and his crew will be interviewing some of ham radios best known celebrities including television producer John Amodeo, NN6JA, of the hit television comedy Last Man Standing.

You can tune in via the Internet by going to <http://www.w5kub.com>.

Posted DX Operations...Continued from page 16

ANTARCTIC

MARION ISLAND ZS8 - The SA Agulhas arrived at Marion Island (ZS8) in late April dropping off the 'over-winter' team, which includes one relatively new Amateur Radio operator, ZS6RGV (ex ZS1RGV), Rory Meyer who is the team's radio technician. Over the next few weeks the new team will be working closely with the old team during the exchange/transition period. This will keep Rory very busy and most likely he will not be able to get on the air. In the meantime ZS1HF (ex ZS8M), Pierre, will be supporting Rory from mainland South Africa, helping him obtain a ZS8 call sign. Rory has an IC-736 and FL-7000. Pierre (ZS1HF/ZS8M) is planning to be the QSL manager, once Rory is on the air. Pierre, meanwhile, says he is in the planning stage to lead a DXpedition to Marion Island, hopefully in **April 2014**.

It's the Law!

This is the Law of DXing:
 That only the strong shall thrive,
 That surely the weak shall perish,
 And only the Deserving survive.

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD,
The West Coast DX Bulletin

"When things don't scare you any more it's time to find something you're not sure you can do." — Gore Verbinski, Movie Director

PileUp

Editor
Warren Croke, NW4C
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Gainesville, FL 32605
USA

The Monthly Newsletter of The North Florida DX Association

And so it goes . . .



My wife's car has a no key.

You have a little transmitter you carry with you instead.

When your within range, you can start the car, lock it , or unlock it, etc.

I was curious about the range of the thing.

Guess it was ok, I got a good signal report.

— Jim, NU4Y

The Last Word

NA DXers were still complaining about the paucity of contacts with the 9M0L Spratly operation when suddenly 7O6T opened up without any advance fanfare from No. 5 most wanted Yemen. The mostly Russian team proceeded to swamp the 'deserving' here in the southeast with S9 plus signals that were heard around-the-clock—depending on one's band and antennas, of course.

What a contrast between the two operations. The 7O6T team knew when to focus on specific areas of the world, i.e., "knowledge of the most difficult path", as one veteran DXer wrote on a popular DX forum. Although the 9M0L signal came on the difficult over-the-pole route one cannot ignore 7O6T will be close to tripling the Spratly QSO effort when they QRT!

Despite the 9M0L shortcomings, the DX community should be more charitable and applaud the Spratly crew for at least making a sincere effort to give us a shot at this much-needed entity. After all, how long has it been since many of us have even had a chance at working 1S/9M, much less getting a contact?

The South China Sea is a hornet's nest of conflicting territorial claims by five nations. Many of them don't like each other--much less a bunch of Ham operators loaded down with radios! So, let's cut the 9M0L crew some slack when we rush to heap praise on the 7O6T operation. After all, slamming the 9M0L team isn't going to encourage them to go back to Spratly any time soon—even with a chance to operate from a relatively safe luxury hotel! — Warren, NW4C



W4ZR

http://nfdxa.com