



WEST COAST **DX** BULLETIN

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December 10, 1974 50-74

SPRATLY There has been confirmation at the ARRL DXCC Desk that any action from any of the islands, keys, cays, reefs or dry sandbars in the Spratly Group will count for Spratly and this includes Barque Canada Reef and Amboina Cay. Word from the area is that Maurice Caplan, VS5MC, is looking for some January action from Amboina Cay and will be signing IS5MC. Amboina is uninhabited and no problems are expected.

ROCKALL Like Minerva Reef, Rockall may rise from the depths to its rightful spot in the DXCC Hall of Hallowed Spots. A couple of years back there was a ruling that it was part of the Scottish counties and thus would not qualify for a new country. Now the Irish Republic and England are having some words over Rockall and some of the bolder spirits are declaring their intention of landing on Rockall and claiming this North Atlantic rock as a true bit of Old Ireland.

Seems that the Irish did not mind so much back in 1972 when England stated Rockall was part of the Scottish countryside, it was when they started claiming exploration rights to 52,000 miles around the rock that the Irish tempers flared.

England claims that it is a logical extension of the continental shelf around those British Isles, Ireland says that some of that shelf is a lot closer to Ireland than any place else.

Sean D Loftus, a Dublin lawyer, and his good friend John O'Halloran, are soliciting funds to make an expedition to Rockall. Where there have been some offers of trawlers, Mr. Loftus is casting about for a helicopter. Mr. Loftus wants to put a transistorized transmitter on Rockall, this to send out the unvarnished truth to America about Irish affairs, this being directed to Irishmen in America. "Ireland calling from Rockall" would be the name of the outlet.

"We need some anti-cyclonic weather to make the trip", Mr. Loftus explained, "and there hasn't been any since last Easter".

Now if you think we might be making all this up, this is right out of the Wall Street Journal of November 26...Page 2 of the Eastern edition. As you know, the WSJ is always completely sober, factual and objective in its reporting. And you must have noted that we Irish QRPers will come to our own yet. As Lord Baden-Powell would often say: "Be Prepared". And we wish Old Bob was around now to see just how much we are.

SEA-CARIBBEAN NET XU1DX is gathering a few at 14175kc at 1100Z and trying to get action into the Caribbean, always a difficult area for the Asians. There has been a good bit of action already and more SEA/CARIB checkins are expected.

W7PHO/KA8AA This action at 14224kc/2300Z draws a number of rare and semi-rare DX stations. Recent check-ins have included XU/XV/XW/9M/VS5/KC6/YB/CR9 and the like. This is for the 'deserving DXer' because if you do not follow the rules of procedure you may be classified as 'underserving'. Watch the break-ins.

ZM7AH Last week Jim was getting ready to depart the Tokelaus with the gas supply getting low and Jim ready to take things down. He was still finding some takers during those last days. His QSL Manager, W5ZF, fell off the roof while doing a bit of repair work and the latest advice was to send QSLs to W5MHT while W5ZF was in the hospital. Those sent to W5ZF will end up in the right hands, however.

SUNSPOT LOUIE A close search of the sun on the date of this observation revealed no significant sunspot activity. The last sunspot that was visible was the one shown on last weeks chart and that one rotated to the back of the sun on November 25th.

Even without any significant sunspot activity there have been some fair openings during the last week and Red Eyed reports that from the activity there it would almost seem that there was a Field Day going on in Iran. Many Asiatic Russians were coming through and the lower frequencies were also coming in with some surprises.

Unsettled conditions were forecast for the start of this week. The Prediction called for moderately disturbed conditions and after the middle of the week there will be a period of unsettled conditions. Solar activity is expected to be quiet and MUFs should be below seasonal normals. Fading due to solar flares should be a slight probability and the unsettled conditions are expected to last through the coming weekend.

Looking backwards, there was nothing especially spectacular though the whole day index on radio quality stayed right at '6' up to last Wednesday before sliding off. Conditions were down a bit on December 2nd and 3rd when geomagnetic activity increased.

A moderate ionospheric storm may come in the December 9-11th period with a probability factor of 70%. High latitude daily radio quality is expected to be '4' up through this Wednesday.

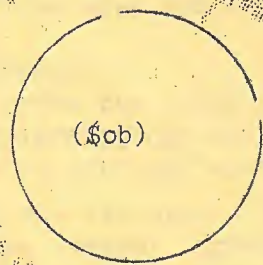
THE FINAL WORD We are really not in desperate straits though we still are having some production problems. Everytime we have a problem we eventually manage to locate the trouble and make things right. It is a learning process. However, this was not a good weekend. We had to go south to San Jose on Saturday for the Pacific Division Directors meeting. That put us a day behind schedule. Then a part broke in the machine and after six hours of struggling on Sunday trying to make a broken spring stretch far enough to work, we finally had to throw in the towel in mid-afternoon and resort to the mimeograph.

One thing that bothers is that we are unable to reply to many inquiries. At this point we have worked Friday and Sunday with Saturday out of town and we still have six hours of work ahead when we finish the cutting of stencils.

We are not saying this looking for sympathy but rather to explain just what is falling in. Until we master the press there will be little time for anything else so if things are not a bit normal, you will know why.

We cut 10 pages of masters trying to get this issue out and now three pages of stencils.

That's enough for one week and there will be no more mention of problems nor any explanation. Just don't ask what we are doing.....sometimes it might be obvious. This coping with the problems runs us into corners where we make mistakes that keep us awake at 3:00 a.m. Like sending the Southern California group to far off YJ8=New Caledonia. We had the card from WB6LJT right in front of us with the calls and it came out YJ8. There were an awful lot of DXers who were not confused....and they told us, too!



1330Z
7 Dec 74
W8ZOK

FORMOSA Jim Simon, K4KQB, who was operating KG6SX in one of the recent tests, tells that he dropped in on one of the locals to try out Jims JA3IG call. So Jim calls CQ. BV2B answers the CQ. Son of a Gun!! Those JAs work everything!! BV2B said that his authority to use SSB was effective December 1st and in the future BV2A will be used for c.w. and BV2B for SSB. Another one to catch Tim on the first day of operation on SSB was KA6DE who found him at 14214.5kc at 0322Z on December 1st

CALENDAR

TRINIDADE PY1ZAE and friends looking for 48 hour operation on Dec 11/12th
 SPRATLY VS5MC and Amboina Cay...IS5MC in early January
 CHAD Chester looking for possible January action from TT8
 FROMOSA BV2B on SSB
 GRAND CAYMAN ZF1BR by W9ABA from December 22nd
 ARRL 10mtr Test December 14/15th
 SPANISH TEST CW..December 14/15th

ARRL The ARRL reports that Prose Walker has mentioned that WD6 calls are being issued at the western edge. No one seems to have heard them as yet but they will be showing soon. The block of prefixes in the "A" group have been released by the Army for amateur use while the Navy has cut loose with the "N" prefixes. At WWV there is a new bit of information being included in the broadcasts and these are propagation forecasts which are updated often, sometimes as often as hourly. At 14 minutes after the hour they are putting out this new bit of information and are continuing the customary solar-flux and A-index indicators.

If you have not read Ted Chen, W4UMF, in the September CQ, his article "Short Term Predictions for Ionospheric Propagation" should be informative. It will help a bit to understand things and there will be more information soon on this new variation at WWV.

Senate Bill 2457 which will allow the licensing of aliens has been passed and sent to the President for signature.

All interested amateurs should remember that the ARRL Board of Directors will be meeting in Newington on January 16th. If you have any words of advice you may want to give them the benefit of the added insight. This is the time to write and you will find all of them listed on Page 8 of any QST.

For some twenty years or better there has been an annual Pacific Division meeting and this last weekend it was in San Jose. Clubs, nets, associations...all are asked to send representatives. There are reports to the group by the Director and others and then there is consideration of various problems with anyone wishing putting the matter up in the form of a motion. Sometime they get approval....sometimes they do not.

But they are always interesting. This last week-end some of those passed were: That the ARRL establish a New Product Committee to develop ideas for new ARRL retail items. That the ARRL study the feasibility of publishing the first 15 years of QST in bound volumes. That the ARRL establish a VHF/UHF/Micro-wave Advisory Committee. Affiliated clubs to be notified when placed on the 'inactive' list. The ARRL to start work on an index for QST for the years after 1962, the date of the last index. The ARRL to promote and publicize the 'Sister Cities Program'. The ARRL to finance promotional material for the 'Sister Cities' Program. The League to be more responsive to its members. A WAS/1976. To split the Communications Department so that they can devote more time to traffic and emergency matters and let the other duties be handled by a separate department.

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