

WEST COAST DX BULLETIN



September 16, 1975

35/36-75

ANNOBON EA8CR is making plans to operate from Annonbon before and after the CQ Test next month, a special call-sign to be used during the contest period of Oct 25/26th.

The operation will run from October 14th to October 30th. During the contest the call-sign used will be 3C2DE and 3C8CR will be used before and after the contest.

The operation will attempt to work all bands though the 160meter operation is a bit tentative at this time. Gear will include a DRAKE TR4C with outboard VFO and a DRAKE L4B linear.

Possibly more will be developing on this. The above information came through written in Spanish but is believed to be essential accurate. More will be given in the way of information in the coming weeks.

NIUE The plans for Arch Hewitt, VK5XK, for the operation on Niue have been pushed back a week and the present plans call for him to arrive on Nieu on November 7th and to be operating to the departure date of December 5th. This will take Arch across the CQ WW CW TEST on November 29/30th.

The call-sign to be used is not known as yet but something will be coming through on this item. The change in schedule was due to the airlines taking a change themselves in their flights. The call-sign may not be known until Arch arrives on the island but it will be known before the CQ test....cw being his favored mode. Whatever band he uses, he will be transmitting near the low end and listening up the band as announced. There is still a need for 80 meter crystals which WØJRN will airmail out to Arch before he leaves Australia.

AVES A group from Venezuela is reported to be presently on Aves and will be there to the end of September signing YV8AL/YVØ. The indicators are that they will be signing the call mostly on eighty and forty with just a bit of operation on twenty meters.

This group was there last year during August and made about 350 contacts. There was some question raised on the operation from YV-land, the feeling being that the Aves Island was only available for YV-Radio Club operations. Anyhow, this year the group is back doing some research and do have both the license and a permit to be on the island. Much of their studies are directed towards the study of the Green Sea Turtle.

Look for the station ar 7158kc at 1100Z and on the Carib Net or 3815mhz at 1030Z and 2230Z. If you need Aves and thirst madly for a contact, KV4FZ may be able to help you with this one before they leave the island.

RODRIGUEZ Alex continues to work a large number of stations but at times his 3B9DA calls bring no response. The East Coast is finding him on long-path most days from 1200Z, often the Middle States catching him before the band fades around or after 1300Z. West Coast has been working him around 1400Z.

Last week he was booming through to the Western Reaches but could not get much action with his 579 signal. Alex is looking for Idaho/Nevada and Wyoming...sometimes going as far as CQing these states. He will be at 14040mhz at 1400Z most days looking for W7s in these three states. There is also the report that the Northern California DX Foundation has got word that the SSB rig for Alex has arrive in Mauritius....if Alex can get it operational and to Rodriguez, he may stay another month for SSB action....

REPORT FROM SUNSPOT LOUIE

One sunspot appears on this weeks chart, there were no spots visible on September 5th and 6th, this one apparently erupted early on the 7th, its location being too far in from the edge of the sun to have rotated that far in one day. It is a rather small spot, being approximately 9000 miles in diameter and of moderate intensity as indicated by its color.

A group of two spots made a brief appearance on September 4th but disappeared before the following day. They were also about 9000 miles in diameter but the top spot was quite faint. The indicators seem to be that we are experiencing some moderate activity with rather rapid changes. WWV was handing out W-4 forecasts the day of this report, the previous days the report had been N-6...actually N6 for the two previous days.

And, as they are reputed to say on Madison Avenue, we touched bases with W4UMF at the Reston Convention and found Ted as convincing as ever. Convinced that the sunspots will rise again, here is what the predictions are for the next couple of weeks or so.....

It might also be noted that it was at this point that we discovered that in the wild dash to get the bulletin in the mails before heading east a week or so back, we ran right over Ted altogether. So here is the two-week update.....you get what you should have gotten last week...

September 16th	High Normal	September 24th	High Normal
17th	Low Normal	25th	High Normal-slipping to
18th	Low Normal		Low Normal
	(Watch for SWFs)	26th	Below Normal
19th	Low Normal	27th	High Normal
20th	High Normal/Low Normal	28th	High Normal
21st	High Normal	29th	High Normal
22nd	Low Normal	30th	High Normal
23rd	High Normal		

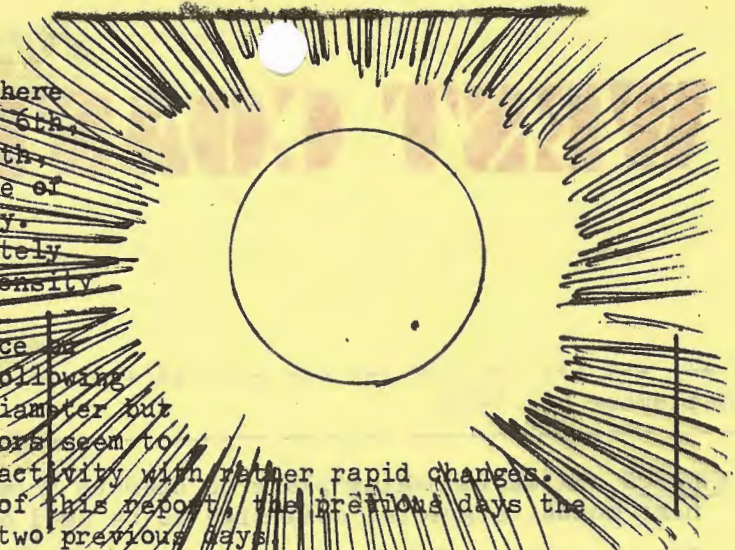
Conditions have been fantastic, as one prominent eastern-type DXer notes. And he recalls the great period in August/September/October of last year. Something is going right for the Deserving DXers!! And if you want to know what their general reaction is when you mention these fine Autumn Days of DXing, they mostly say: "More!!"

Last week we got W6TTS records down...mostly. We forgot to indicate the readouts on the reports. If you think that haste means some blank spots, you should have seen the action when we were hammering down the stretch a week or so back. Anyhow, the full treatment for W6TTS this week....

Solar Flux			A Index				
Aug 29th	83	28	Below Normal	Sept 4th	91	6	High Normal
30th	86	16	Low Normal	5th	93	4	High Normal
31st	85	7	High Normal	6th	94	12	High Normal
Sep 1st	86	7	High Normal	7th	90	8	High Normal
2nd	86	6	High Normal	8th	87	6	High Normal
3rd	86	3	High Normal				

Gene notes that WWV was N-7 most every day last week with fifteen open often and even ten meters at times.

We asked the Palos Verdes Sundancers for a report on what they were doing for the state of the art....all we got was a quick brush-off. "With conditions like these", we were told, "you can bucket that Arthur Murray routine. We are all busy doing some DXing". Son of a Gun!! What does one say to something like that-except...."Where is he listening?"



THE HOPEFUL SEASON There were a couple of items picked up at Reston, one being a bit of speculation on what rare one might surface soon. For those who have long thirsted for YI-Iraq, one optimist noted that there has been some changes within the government there at Baghdad and the atmosphere towards the West is currently a bit more friendlier than it was a year or two back. A number of U.S. overseas corporations are talking business deals in Iraq and while Laos and Cambodia may be lost to amateurs along with Thailand, there is hope that some of those not heard for years may be again available.

What does all of the foregoing lead to....a report from the JA-Hokkaido Desk notes a recent item in the JA-HAM JOURNAL. This item says:

Somewhere in the City of Peking, China, there is a 3-element tribander connected to a rotor and inside the building is a Collins KWM-2 next to the Drake line. The only item missing is a government license.

Our source of information, to whom we have promised absolute secrecy, swears the above is true and states that talks are underway with the Chinese government at present. But he further states that we should not expect to hear this station on the air yet....this year and maybe not even next year.

There are, he says, hundreds of SWLers across the country (China) where home-brew receivers are one of the popular hobbies. This information is not a rumor but comes from a reliable Chinese source.

Along this line, a WA who was with the U.S. Liaison Office in Peking some time back did have a transceiver shipped to him, took it to his apartment in Peking and did a lot of SWLing while he was there. This was another instance of being ready to go but without the necessary licensing permission.

One of these days BY-China will be on the air. Those who have been close to the picture there in the Orient still say that it most likely will be one of the BYs themselves and not a visitor, the latter being discounted because of possible reflection on the national image.

Keep hoping....it has happened before.

ST HELENA ZD8TM, Tommy Moyce, will be on St. Helena this coming January. Tommy indicated that he would be on c.w. but the rig is an FT 101B which indicates that SSB is also possible. ZD8TM was at 14077kc/2200Z a week or so back. He was also looking for a KH6 to complete a WAS.

CRETE SV0WKK on a Monday schedule with Jack White, WB8CTA. Jack acts as m.c. for contacts following the schedule and generally will be found here on Mondays.

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PREPARE The Sun Spots will return.....perhaps soon. Be ready! Be prepared!!

Bob Ferrero K6AHV

Howard Hale W6SC

SHORTLY NOTED This is the abbreviated bulletin we promised over a week ago. Some of the reports must be carried forward into next weeks bulletin but all the latest information got into this one. There has been no especial problems, just being gone for over a week cut the preparatory time to nothing at all and it has been playing catch-up...

The Reston ARRL Convention from the indications on Saturday was a bulging success with the registration reportedly as veering over the 3000 mark and a full house all around. The exhibits were many and the seminars heavily attended. Unfortunately, the arrival was late and the departure early so the full show was missed. One thing noted was the good portion of very young amateurs who were at the convention.

XT2AA showed on schedule on Sept 5th and about 35 deserving DXers were run through the lists. Jacques will be QRT for a couple of weeks but may return later this month. Send a sase to W1AM for the Early Warning when Jacques will keep a schedule. He is not enthusiastic about pile-ups but will run a good number through his logs on the W1AM schedule.

LU2DX was at the ARRL meeting. Jose was on the South Sandwich effort almost twenty years ago....possibly the last effort that was there. We will have some information on the prospects there in a coming issue, any South Sandwich effort is a rugged undertaking. Also seen at Reston was LU1BAR, Patricia Morton, YV5EED, Ramon Brett, plus a goodly number of other DX calls.

YV5EED presented a plaque to Harry Dannals, W2TUK, at the ARRL Forum to memorialize the long-standing fraternal relations between the YV-Amateurs and the ARRL members.

CB continues to get a lot of news space these days and TIME in this weeks issue has an article on Page 48 on CB. One news item indicated that the FCC uses a rough rule of thumb that for every licensed CB operator, there is an unlicensed one and every CB operator has 2.5 radios. If you want an index to the CB popularity, E J Johnson, the largest CB manufacturer in the U.S. notes they have been out of equipment for more than a year and are on an allocation basis to their existing distributors. In the Cobra Communications group of Dynascan Corp, they report major shortages in switches and quartz crystals.

There are reports that all XW8 activity has been shut down by government decree and Ed DeYoung is still waiting for the word on country status for the Huft River Principality. The questions on Bouganville and Ellice Islands probably will be answered in the near future. The planned VK-effort aimed at Mellish and a couple of others is off until next summer. July is being mentioned and that is almost a year off.

Airmail will disappear as a separate service for domestic mail on October 11th. It will still apply for foreign mails. The Postal Service says that there will be no increase in rates until about the first of the year. Those IRCs --old type--will be good until December 31, 1976. That is the end of the two period from the introduction of the new IRC...we are getting a lot of inquiries on this one and we did not help by moving the date up one year.....December 31, 1976.

CQ MAGAZINE DX/WPX AWARDS Jerry Hagen, WA6GLD, has relinquished the job as he is returning to school for further education. If you are participating in the CQ WPX or their DX Award Program, you can send the forms to: CQ WPX/DX Awards, Box 3388, San Rafael, Calif. 94901. This is the latest address....

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16 September 1975

CALENDAR

ANNOBON Late October by EA8CR signing 3C2DE and 3C8CR
 NIUE VK5XK plans pushed back one week...opens on Nov 7th
 AVES YV8AL/YVØ presently active...to the end of the month
 RODRIGUEZ 3B9DA active...there to the end of next month if the
 North Calif DX Foundation SSB rig arrives
 W9DXCC MEETING This weekend—Sept 20th at Itasca, Illinois
 NEW ENGLAND DX 23rd Annual Meeting, Waltham, Mass on October 4th
 CQ WW DX TEST Phone go-round October 25/26th CW goes Nov 29/30th
 LIECHTENSTEIN DK7PT presently active. HB9NL to open October 6th
 CALIFORNIA QSO Your chance to work the Elusive Sixes...October 4/5th

FROM MARTIN - OH2BH Just a brief note to let you know that all Mt Athos, SV1GA/A and Aaland Islands/OHØAM direct U.S. QSLs have been answered.

We would like to thank the people for donations and the many, many kind words and comments with their QSLs. It would have been nice to write to everyone personally but we would have had so many to write that I do not know how we would have ever got done.

Very special credit goes to Ted Cohen, W4UMF, for making the propagation data for the Mt Athos operation. Unfortunately, we were not able to make it on the peak of conditions but at least we knew when it was.....HIT!

And the gang should realize that Bob Thompson, K6SSJ, was really the man behind this operation. After meeting him in person while I was in California, we kept well over 100 skeds and he also called by telephone several times....all the way from Los Gatos to Helsinki.

Best wishes to all the DXers and will be watching for you around 14220.....73s, until the next one....

/s/ Marty OH2BH

ST VINCENT/VP2SPI From the Barbados 8P6ES writes: The DXpedition to St Vincent was a success and we are sending QSL cards to all stations with whom contacts have been made whether or not we received their cards. This is being done to get the QSLing done at an early date.

All QSL cards have been prepared and several hundred have already been mailed to the various bureaus. All of the cards eventually will go via the bureaus...

73, Allan Watson 8P6ES

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Max W5GJ Don K5AAD Mary W5MBB Dave WA5ZNY John W5AB

ARRL W4LR has relinquishes the WA4/WB4/WN4 QSL Bureau chores January 1, 1976 and the duties will be taken over by the Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club, Box 599, Sterling, Virginia 22170. Terry Norman, WA4HPF will be the bureau manager. Earlier this month the FCC issued a temporary authorization for the use of American Standard Code for Information Exchange (ASCII) for experimental work in connection with OSCAR 6 and 7. Those taking advantage of the newly granted authority are asked to make reports to AMSAT as that group must give a report to the FCC at the end of the trial period next February.

TNX to W1AM, W1DAL, WA1NRF, W1VAH, K2BT, W2FPM, WB2LOF, W2OVC/5, WA3DMH, K3ZOL, W4AAV, W4BRB, K4EZL, K4FCT, W4HU, W4KA, WB4SIJ, W4UF, W4UMF, K5AAD, W5AK, WB5DDI, K5FVA, WA5OCN, W5OSJ, W5UFF, WA5ZWC, WA6WEY, K6AG, W6APW, W6CAE, W6CLM, W6FF, K6LAE, W6MI, W6OKK, W6PT, W6TSQ, W6TTS, K6VY, WB6WHM, W7AYO, W7BCT, WA7COQ, K7NHG, WA7OBH, W7YTN, W7YR, W8AP, WB8EUN, W8ZOK, WB9JOV, K9KEV, W9MR, K9OTB, K9UIY, WØJRN, WØPRY, PA9WRR, KA6BN, JA1TNV, XE1FR, JA1JIO, KV4EZ, VK4OR, 8P6ES, OH2BH.

WEST COAST DX BULLETIN Published every week by the Marin County DX Group. We were down in the pit last week-end, tossing paper in every direction, when one of the local QRPers came by. "Hey", this QRPPer says, "how were things in the East and did you see my old friend George Hart?". We had to admit we had seen George and he was fine....and also John with a full beard. "And how's the bulletin coming", this QRPPer asks, "when will you mail it?". We had to acknowledge that we had 83 yellow sheets filled with reports and we would be pounding down the stretch as soon as we could get things sorted out. "Tell me about Reston", the QRPPer went on. "What did you learn there?". We had to acknowledge that Reston had been crowded with amateurs and exhibitors and other various high quality types and noted that time was something once gone could never be found again, noting that if we did not stop talking and getting the work done, there might be problems with the bulletin. "Son of a Gun", this QRPPer says, "I thought you'd want to tell me all about the East and Reston and things like that". And we realized that there are days when one is not a winner and what is pleasure in other times and other places can be a crick in the neck when you are behind in things.....but DX goes on forever. We may be playing a game of catch-up we will never win but a partial tale of DX triumphs comes one way or another....for a full year by 1st Class mail for \$13.00.....\$15.00 roars it far beyond the blue horizon to the DX lands. Some how one always pays for their fun.....DX is for free. Just go and seek it....

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