## lest Coast DX Bulletin

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1-76

B7-St BRANDONS Alex Mootoo, B8DA, who made over 5000 QSOs from 3B9-Rodriguez, will be aiming to put 3B7-St Brandons, on the air sometime in the next month or two, his tentative plans calling for something in March or April.

Alex is now back in Mauritius where he is due to have a physical check-up and he will work at cutting down the pile of QSLs waiting for him. There were over 160 countries in that 5000+ contacts and he will also work on the rig, the SWAN 500 supplied by the Northern California DX Foundation. The rig is needing to have some flat tubes replaced.

Alex indicates that it will be a two week operation and will be this Spring. More will be coming on this.

MACAO Some of the eastern seaboard types who worked CR9AK say that this was a most outstanding operation....when do we get our QSL? Others who could not work the weak signal on the east coast are prone to say something else. But all is not lost.

The Northern California DX Foundation, which promoted the CR9AK operation, is arranging for a beam to be shipped out to CR9AJ, Horacio Torres. Presently he is using a dipole and a beam should improve his signal considerably. Inasmuch as Torres is permanent party on Macao and is an active operator, this should improve prospects all around for those who did not beat a path through the December QRM. CR9AJ continues to be reported but only occasionally on the West Coast.

Torres is the light-house keeper in Macao, his QTH being just below the lighthouse which is an ancient bastin some hundreds of years old. The lighthouse is on a 400' hill with a clear shot all around. The dipole he is using is strung some 400 above the water but the beam should do a bit better. Actually, half of the view is into mainland China, the other half out over salt water. If you need CR9---do not give up...you'll win one day!!

There are at least three known possibiles which look very promising and which may develop into something in the coming months. At the writing, there have been requests to soft-pedal any facts but some solid information will be coming along before long. Actually, when we stopped to count there were a few more than three hot ones.

Niue is a good possibility to be activated either late this month or sometime in February. San Felix is well along in the planning stages. St Peter and Paul is a good possibility for February. SMØAGD was doing some inquiries in the Red Sea area bout a possible Abu Ail operation, Erik doing this in mid-December while enroute to East Africa.

K5QHS is aiming for Baja Neuvo this Spring. There are also some quiries going forward through diplomatic channels on a possible YI-Iraq permission-to-operate matter. This is a delicate matter and may take some months but there is some action ... at high levels!!

A prominent DXpeditioneer was recently issued the call of VQ9DX. Only a hint is given of his plans but it hardly would be the Seychelles or Chagos. More will be coming on this as things develop.

And what should the serious DXer do? Remember what Lord Baden-Powell, the Hero of Mafeking, would often say: "Be Prepared!!". Be Prepared ... and Patient!!

SUNSPOT LOUIE With winter storms providing more than needed cloud cover at the W8ZOK observatory, there has not been a chance to make any observations since before Christmas and that last chance showed no significant solar activity.

Band conditions have been poor and it would be a safe assumption that solar activity is low. The only hope is that 1976 should not be any worse ... but it probably will be.

bad flux, here's the big picture (?) for January

W4UMF flips in the forecasts that will take you well into January. Ted notes that while the solar flux is expected to be in the low 70s, there will also be low geomagnetic activity. That last activity noted in the December 15/19th period/ died on the Sun's disc and though this might have brought some nice conditions in mid-January, it was not to be. Anyhow, making the best late

January 7th		January	14th	Low Normal
8th	High Normal		15th	High Normal
9th	High Normal		16th	High Normal
10th	High Normal			High Normal
11th	High Normal			Low Normal
12th	Low Normal			Low Normal
13th	Low Normal		20th	High Normal

Just remember that all things are relative and these coming weeks will be relatively quiet. K6EC has been watching things for the chart makers and Ev comes up with the recent figures ...

	Solar Flux	A Index		1	Solar Flux	A Index
Dec 23rd 24th		5	Dec 27th		74	24
25th	74	15	28th 29th		75 74	11 12
<b>2</b> 6th	73	3	30th		75	

That's about all of it. The turn of the year found thigs a bit dead.

SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB This Atlanta-based group has elected officers for the coming year with Mike Greenway, K4TBN as President; Charles Cone, W4GKF as Vice-prex; Jack McClain, W4KNW as Secretary and K4LRO-Hugh Valentine as Activity Manager. To handle all the funs, K4KZP was elected treasurer.

The group is thinking of augmenting the DX information on seventy-five meters with a Wednesday session around 3815kc around 0100Z. This will jell late this month if everything goes well. With over 50 DXers on the roster, the SE DX Group is one of the larger groups in the South Eastern sector. HARRIMIN HIMIN HIMIN KANDAN KANDA

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1430Z

30 Dec 75

W8ZOK

FIRST--THE BAD NEWS We have been dragging our feet on this one but most are aware that the postage rates jumped 30% last week and it now takes 13¢ to mail the bulletin first-class. Airmail to Mexico went to 17¢ over the weekend; to Central and South America to 25¢ and elsewhere in the world airmail is 31¢ per half-ounce.

You should put 13¢ on your QSL envelopes but that is not our problem here. It is the cost of mailing the bulletin and the subscription is tied very closely to postage rates. In 1968 the postage was 5¢ per ounce and we charged \$7.00 for the bulletin. It is now 13¢ per ounce and you will note that the new rate for 1st class is not as much of a percentage increase as postage has increased. Effective February 1st the subscription rates will be:

1st Class mail \$14.50 per year (U.S and Canada)

2nd Class mail 10.00 per year (Newspaper treatment)

Airmail-Anyplace outside 17.00 per year the U.S and Canada

The recent rate increase boosted 2nd class by 20% or so but we are trying to absorb that. The feeling is that while many will continue with the first-class subscriptions, the second-class will keep the bulletin cost down. Tests have indicated that the second-class newspaper treatment is not significantly different from the first-class delivery and in some instances has arrived in advance.

It is a bit boggling at times to note the amount spent for postage each week and this is absolutely the major cost of the bulletin. There is no reason to feel that this will be the last postage increase either.

BAGHDAD SLIM Last week European stations were working a station signing W6UAP/YI and claiming to be in Baghdad. This one may be for real but it may take some convincing.

W6UAP's last recorded licensee became a silent key a couple of years ago and the latest call book does not show it as a reissue though this is always possible. The directions were to QSL to a W6SO in the San Diego area...with an unlisted phone.

Here we are skeptical on this one and the feeling is that it would be doubtful if any of the real rare ones would pop on the air unannounced and with a spur-of-the-moment operation. Maybe they might but it would seem that the odds are against having such a thing happen. And what do you do when you hear one? Jump right in and work them. Sometimes they are almost as much fun as the real thing. Work 'em first, worry later!!

ANTARCTIC The Argentine Ice-Breaker SAN MARTIN is currently operating in the Ant-Arctic and resupplying the Argentine bases in their summer season down there. Last week Ramo aboard the ice-breaker was sining LUSADD and the vessel was at 64°S and 57°W enroute to the General Belgrano Base and expecting to arrive there this week....Wednesday actually. The base is 40°L and 78°S.

After the resupply mission to the General Belgrano Base, the ice-breaker will continue its resupply missions and late this month will be in the Vicinity of the South Sandwich group. There is a helicopter aboard the SAN MARTIN and there may be a possibility of a brief operation from the South Sandwich though this is at best an outside possibility and it probably would be of brief duration. LU2XR is mentioned as a possible call-sign.

During the short summer in those I titudes, there are heavy demands on the vessels and the base at the South Orkneys as heavily damaged by a fire last year. You might listen for these Antarctic stations, LUIZA recently being active from the South Orkneys. Listen around 14340/14240/14140kc for Spanish-speakin operators. By now most recognize that the 'Z' following the number indicates an Argentine Antarctic station. There is reported to be a new station active in the So.Shetlands...

SHORPLY NOTED The last week has not been easy and we are working out of a hole with this edition. Maybe we will catch up next week....maybe.

In December the WCDXB passed the 400 mark in consecutive weeks of publication. This is 400 weeks without missing an issue and is close to eight years. This issue is actually No. 402. We are also mailing 1085 copies this week and it is becoming more obvious that the week-end publishing schedule is not working out, the week-end often running out before we can get the bulletin into the mails. It might be expected that the Thursday deadline will be moved back to Wednesday sometime during the Spring so we can aim for a positive Friday mailing and with Saturday as a back-up day. But that is enough of that.....Tomorrow will be a Brighter Day!! Positively...

W6LV who handles the QSLs for 9K2DK notes that he hears a lot of stations working the 9K2 but without logs he is still in a holding pattern as far as filling out QSL requests. If you work YN1DW/YN4 on Corn Island, mostly a 160 meter operation, you can QSL either to W5USM or to W4BRB. We are also looking for the QSL route for JX4GN who was active in 1973. All the efforts to date have not produced a QSL.

UK1PAA has been found on twenty c.w. from Franz Josef Land recently. Dr. Sid/ST2SA has moved down-river to Khartoum and presently is using DRAKE gear to a TH6DX beam. In the last year or so he completed some post-graduate work in ophthalmology. DK8HG has been seen in the Western Reaches driving a 22' motor home, Oregon plates and wooden plaque on the back reading "DK8HG - HAMBURG'. XP1AA is reported as no longer active from Greenland. On that ZS5SH address, that being the QSL Manager for ZD9GF, W7UR reports that back in November he was searching for this one and asked ZS5PG for some help. While the search was going on, ZD9FG broke in to advise that ZS5SH's address is: Box 12, Pennington, Natal, South Africa. It should be good...but as yet W7UR says that the QSL has not been found in his mail box.

The FCC has dropped the requirement of one year prior experience before you can go for the EXTRA Class license...this will be effective this Friday, January 9th. They feel that it has had no beneficial effect on the quality of Extra Class licensees. The January QST has a special insert with the Bicentennial call-sign prefix exchange. If you want a reprint, send a self-addressed envelope bearing 13¢ postage to Newington and they will fling one your way.

FR7ZL/G has been found in recent weeks operating in list fashion....the results have been a good increase in the QSO rate. Guy will be leaving Glorioso on January 20th. FR7AI has indicated that he will be going to Glorioso for a two month period....May to July so if you are still desperate to work Guy, as most Western Reaches types are, there will be another bit of activity ere long.

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\$10.00 per year by 2nd Class Mail \$14.50 per year by 1st Class mail to U.S and Canada \$17.00 per year by airmail to any place outside the U.S and Canada....

## MORE RED EYED LOUIE

ASIA	SSB					* 4		
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## CALENDAR

San FELIX

TUVALU GLORIOSO CORN ISLAND CHATHAM St MARTIN UPPER VOLTA SOUTH GEORGIA BAJA NUEVO St PETER & PAUL VR8B presently active. A new one by YASME

FR7ZL/G presently there...to Jan 20th. FR7AI later this Spring

YN1DW/YN4 there to January 12th

ZL2IN/C opening this week for six month stay... FGØGE opened last week and will be there until May 5T5CJ looking for operation there during CW ARRL Test

VP8MS expecting to open in February

K5QHS aiming for April action

PY7YS will be there in February if planning jells

Possibility later this Spring....still in planning stages;

FRESNO INTERNATIONAL In May at the Hilton.... The Big DX Meeting!!

ARRL DX TESTS

First go-rounds. Phone February 7/8th C.W February 21/22nd

TROPICAL HAMBOREE January 24/25th at the Miami Municipal Auditorium.

TROPICAL HAMBOREE This is joined with the Southeast ARRL Division Convention and will be on the weekend of January 24/25th at the Municipal Auditorium, 5th and Biscayne Boulevard, in downtown Miami. Tickets will be \$2.00 each.

Last year the attendance at the Hamboree was over 6000 with amateurs coming in from the Bahamas, the Antilles and the Leeward Islands plus some making the long haul up from South America. This year it is expected to be another big event.

Enos Schera, W4VPD, will have a part in the DX session and will give a slideillustrated report on the TI9FAG-Cocos effort. Most DXers will recall the dust that was flying at the time of this effort last year.

Enos will give all the details and will have a colored slide presentation on that operation to give all the inside details. This will come at 11:00a.m. on Sunday morning, this being a change from the previusly published time for this event. Make this one if you can and keep in mind that this DX show will be before lunch and not after ...

St MARTIN W1BYS was due to open from Saint Martin on January 1st and will be there until the first week in May. He will be signing FGØGE and can be found most days at 7230kc from 1100Z and at 14305kc from 1130Z.

JOHNSTON ISLAND KJ6CW shows just about every day around 7288kc from 0800Z, generally to handle some traffic. However, he does not object to making contacts for DX counters if some patience and circumspection is observed.

IRCs If you need to get a handful to QSL all those new countries, Gil Baker, W5QPX, has them by the handful. You can corner them at 18¢ each for the first 25 IRCs; 16¢ each for each up to 50 IRCs purchased at one time and any amount over fifty will go for 15% each. Send your order to Gil Baker, 101 Rita Blanca Trail, Amarillo, Texas 79108

DUTCH WEST INDIES If y can keep this islands and pref es together, you are destined for great things. For those who have problems, he is the line up as W9BG has them figured out:

PJØ & PJ1 Contects and special operations PJ2 Curacao PJ3 Aruba PJ4 Bonaire PJ5 St Eustatius PJ6 Saba PJ7 Sint Maartens--residents PJ8 Sint Maartens--non-residents PJ9 Visitors to Curacao/Aruba/Bonaire PJØ 1 2 3 4 and 9 count for Netherland Antilles PJ5 6 7 8 count for Sint Maarten

TNX to K1TZQ, W1VV, W1WQC/4, K2BT, W2FPM, K2GBC, WB2LOF, W4KA, WB4SLJ, W4BAA, W4UF, W4UMF, W4UMF, W4VPD, K4YFQ, W5AK, W5KGJ, K5OVC, W5QPX, W5USM, WA5WEY, WA5ZWC, W6DAB, W6FF, K6KA, WB6LTJ, K6SSJ, W6TSQ, K6VY, K7ABV, W7AYO, W7UR, W8OA, W8ZOK, W9BG, W9MR, WDX9JFT, WB9LHI, W9NJU, K9WEH, K9YXA, W9YRA, W9ZTD, WØJRN, OH2BH, A35AF, KA6YL, JA8KB.

WEST COAST DX BULLETIN Published every week by the Marin County DX Group. One of the local QRPers came by last week, a mite furious. "It's that VR8B", he said. "For three days I have been calling and they have yet to come back to me. But that will be the last time this happens. You can bet on that!". We could hear a bell tinkling somewheres in the back of our consciousness and we moved in close to the QRPer. "You have a plan. Maybe?", we said and the QRPer nodded. He moved in close and his voice was low, his manner guarded. "We will let you in at the start", he said, "and here's the plan. We have sent off to Newington to register the Marin County QRP DX Net and we will meet anytime there's some good DX on. Anytime! And our frequency will be 14205kc...plus or minus a handful of course. That's where you will find us". We thought this over for a bit for something was not ringing that bell rightly. "Why 14205kc?", we asked. "That's DX territory. What's a traffic net doing there?". The QRPer snorted. "Who worried about traffic? This is a DX Net and we will be officially registered with thee ARRL to meet on that frequency and that makes it our frequency. And hears help anyone who interferes with an official ARRL Registered Net. A controlled Net and our own frequency....how can we miss?". Son of a Gun!! What could we say to some thing like that when we did not have the answer ourselves. But while we figure out the answer to this enigma, the weekly clues to the Riddle of the Ages will come your way. Maybe we will figure out what's wrong with this idea.....someday.....

WEST COAST DX BULLETIN
77 Coleman Drive
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