

SUNSPOT LOUIE

Though weather conditions in the Ohio Territory were not the best, W8ZOK was able to find some breaks in the cloud cover...but he was not able to find any significant sunspots.

There were none last week also. In fact if you check back February 14th was the last time that a spot showed and that one lasted but one day. The higher frequencies are a wasteland and the lonely wandering DX station which may show is often notable that it exists at all.

Things are not good on the higher frequencies these days but the joy that is deferred is the joy that comes with the realization that this cannot go on forever.....someday the sunspots will return!

The report from Boulder does not make one jump for joy...they are looking for a moderate ionospheric storm in the March 26-29th period, right across the WPX rally. The unsettled conditions are expected to continue right into April.

The late word from the Banks of the Potomac is that things have gone bad, real bad!! The monthly mean sunspot number for February was 4.6. This certainly will pull the 12-month moving smoothed sunspot number down and we will have that possibly next week. It might be noted that Boulder was looking for lower figures until later this year, what we keep looking for is something that will show the numbers turning up. It will come... ..one of these days when the winter is over.

And what would one expect, relatively speaking, in the next couple of weeks. The news is, relatively speaking, mostly bad and some worse. W4UMF says that it will be:

March 16th	Low Normal	March 23rd	Low Normal
17th	Below Normal	24th	Low Normal
18th	Below Normal	25th	Below Normal
19th	Low Normal		(Possibly Disturbed)
20th	Low Normal	26th	Below Normal
21st	High Normal/Low Normal	27th	Below Normal
22nd	High Normal/Low Normal		(Possibly Disturbed)
(..both the 21st and 22nd are borderline)		28th	Low Normal
		29th	Low Normal

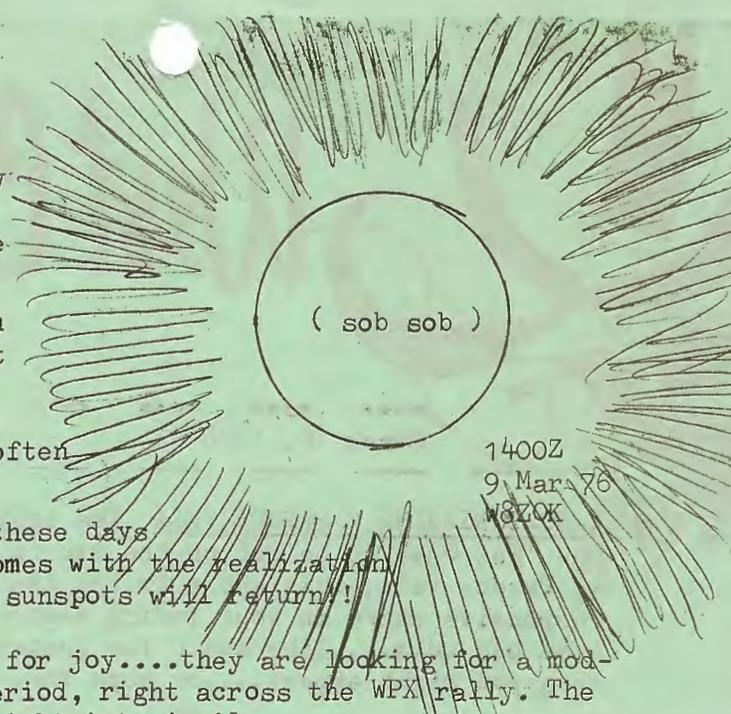
From K6EV we get the figures for the charts...Ev noting that last week the solar flux turned up a solid string of 69s and he does not recall a week previously with no variations in the flux count. Anyhow, the whole story was:

March 2nd	69 solar flux	15 A Index	March 6th	69 solar flux	22 A Index
3rd	69	19	7th	69	22
4th	69	11	8th	69	30
5th	69	11			

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PREPARE!! The Sunspot drought cannot last forever. It never has.....

Bob Ferrero K6AHV#####Howard Hale W6SC#####



6 March 1976

1976 Austral/Asia/Africa DXpedition Bill Rindone, WB7ABK, was on his way as of this Monday, March 15th, and you can catch him from Tonga later this week. This is the start of an extensive effort and you will be hearing more on this effort in the next couple of months.

Gus Browning, W4BPD, has advised that he will be in [redacted] next month. Somewhere in Asia W4BPD and WB7ABK will be joining forces for some fast moving activity and they will work together in Asia and in Africa.

Bill figures that he has an operation blocked out that must count for a new one. Keep watch on this one for it will have a number of rare and semi-rare ones plus possibly some real surprises.

GALAPAGOS John Stanley, K4ERO/HC1, and Peter, HC1XG, will be in the Galapagos Islands from April 25th to May 9th with their main objective some 160mtr operations but they will try the other bands during daylight hours. They will be operating from the Darwin Station and thought application has been made for a callsign, they are not yet been advised on this point and they may end up signing /HC8 with their own calls.

Plane tickets for the flight to the island plus the costs of accommodations on the island are starting to mount up. W4BRB is seeking to round up some support for this one and if you want to help, Gene would be happy to hear from you.

QSLs will go to Joseph L Lynch, WA6PDE.

BANGLADESH There have been some reports of a JA operating /S21 and this has been confirmed by that SEAsia listening post, YB0AAV. Dick reports hearing the station calling "CQ Japan" on both forty and eighty meters. He has also been reported on the bottom edge of the twenty phone band, about 14200kc after 1700Z.

From the Jakarta area the signal was strong, too strong to be any distance. Dick feels that this was a legitimate operation and the report is that he will be there for a couple of more weeks.

SABLE IS. The report is that VE1ASJ/XJ1 will be heard from Sable Island during the CQ WW WPX Test on March 27/28th. Permission has been granted for the operation and K1RQE and K1RQF will also be in on the operation. The group plan to arrive on Sable on Friday, March 26th and to depart on Monday, March 29th. The call VE1ASJ/XJ1 will be the contest call though K1RQF/XJ1 and K1RQE/XJ1 will be heard during the non-contest operating. Two transmitters will be used.

MORE JA REACTION Things are not exactly quiet on the JA-front and the Middle-Aged DXers Assn has fired off a letter to the ARRL on the subject. Essentially they were directing their attention to the rumored possibility that the Senkaku Islands might be considered for DXCC Country Status. They were against it.

One statement might summarize their feelings on the subject:

We believe that there is neither reason nor necessity to put these as separated islands when we examine the DXCC rules. And we would like to make it clear that we are against making new countries without rules and due to social, political and economic reasoning.

There are a few murmurs being heard....

SILENT KEY Arnold (Fisher) Dumetz, W6ISI, became a Silent Key on March 8th due to a heart attach. A member of the Northern California DX Club, he had had a number of cardiac problems in recent years. He was 56 years old.

SHORTLY NOTED Some clue to the problems in getting XT2AA on the air has been found.

Seems that the apartment got too small and the latest addition to the family was given the ham shack. Jacques in QRT...regretfully. W1AM has renewed his XT2AM license but is not making any plans to travel to Upper Volta. There has been a bit of political activity there with a 'peaceful' change of government, the Army moving out of control and civilians moving in.

Some scientific speculation is that the present drought conditions are due to a 22-year solar cycle. While we have the familiar 11 year solar cycle, the polarity of the solar magnetic field flips every eleven years so it takes 22 years for the conditions to duplicate. Now they are pointing at the early fifties and the early thirties to prove that the cycle exists. Worse of all they say the sunspots may not begin a significant rise in activity for two to three years. Say it isn't so, Joe!!

VK2FT and VK200 will be active through the ARRL CW Test this weekend from Lord Howe. This operation showed as a bit of a surprise and though they announce activity on 80/40/20mtrs, most of the action has been on forty in the 7020kc-7040kc segment. QSLs go to VK200. They have two rigs and a vertical antenna. There is an "Ionospheric Prediction Service" station on Lord Howe which transmits on the hour. On the hour there is QRM for any Lord Howe station.

We still get reports of the elusive QSL being received. Some have the VYØA QSL which folds out to a 10"x12" wingspread but folds down to the normal QSL size. Has a map of St Paul Island on one side.

5T5CJ will not be in XT2 for the CW Test. But he still wants to make the trip and it may come in April or May. This one will be at XT2APs QTH. The Florida group plans for a VP5 effort in the coming contests was rescheduled for the October CQ WPX SSB period when they ran into problems with the accommodations.

Z3LN/C is being reported but the latest Call Book lists this as a Silent Key. Even the latest supplement does not help. VK2AR is ex-K1JGD and W3SQX. Was active then, should be active in the future. ZL3LN/C is often found at 14275kc from 0300Z.

That permission for the ZLs to use the segment just above 1800kc is a six month trial to see how things go. W4BRB is closing in on a 160mtr DXCC with but a couple to go. Gene offers a year of QST/ARRL membership to the station that makes it 100 confirmed on 160mtrs for him. How about that for a altruistic approach to QSLing. ZD7WT tried a bit of 160meter work, going a few miles out of downtown Jamestown to the cable and wireless installation. He put up his antennas and tried some 160mtr work. The next day he took down the antennas. Some problems with the aeronautical channels were apparent.

A surprising number have made inquiries on that projected SEAnet Convention trip aimed for Jakarta this coming November. Even though it is about eight months off, there was some real interest. We are still trying to nail down the hotel in Jakarta in which the convention will be held. However, all the plans for this tour are well firmed and if you might be interested in this tour to Japan, Hongkong, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia plus Bali, drop a note to: Golden Sun Tours and Travel, 736 Washington St. San Francisco, Ca. 94108. Departure is about October 27th and return is November 18th and includes being in Jakarta for the SEAnet Convention.

VP5DF is on Grand Turk and the handle is Dave. He is at the RCA #7 Satellite Tracking Station. Previously he has been VP7DF..... K4VMA reported to be home call. In the Seychelles there will be new prefixes after Independence in thi June but what they may be is still unknown.

There is a report that some 601 operation may be around but the callsign and other details are lacking. DJ8LP/5A is reported as an underground operation from the Benghazi area. ZS6BNF who will be in Botswana for the ARRL test this weekend may go to 3D6-Swaziland in April. Watch for Andy at 5kc inside on 80/40 and 25kc in on the other bands. 3795/7085/14195/21295/28595kc for c.w.

We are mailing every Saturday. The last weeks have brought some problems with the delivery....if you are short any copies..let us know.

REPORTS FROM RED EYED LOUIE

Whose voice is this which stirs the troubled night?

LOW Band Louie

C6ABC	1804/0325/Mar	6e	KG4FU	1812/0440/Mar	6e	VP2VAN	1812/0540/Mar	6m
EA8CR	1828/0550/Mar	6e	KP4EAJ	1822/0320/Mar	6e	VP9BO	1829/0350/Mar	6m
G3ZYY	1825/0450/Mar	6e	KP4AST	1812/0340/Mar	6m	W4EV/VP9	1820/2315	6m
GM3YCB	1811/0110/Mar	6m	KV4FZ	1807/0740/Mar	7m	YV4AGP	1807/0435/Mar	6e
K4ERO/HC1	1823/0250	6m	JA3ONB	1913/1245/Mar	6m	XE3EB	1815/0405/Mar	7m
HK4EB	1824/0250/Mar	6m	PJ9JT	1804/0230/Mar	6m	ZL2BT	1810/1110/Mar	6e
C21NI	7090/1145/Mar	6e	UK3XAB	7026/0035/Mar	6w	VK5KL	7003/1230/Mar	3e
CO2SM	7007/0300/Mar	6e	UK3GAZ	7016/1430/Mar	6w	VP2VAN	7030/0210/Mar	4e
CO6LN	7022/0310/Mar	8e	UK5MAF	7004/1435/Mar	8w	XE1EQ	7025/0125/Mar	3e
CE3BDV	7004/0350/Mar	6w	UB5QBS	7003/1510/Mar	7w	YN1FWN	7280/0220/Mar	9m
EA8BF	7025/0025/Mar	6w	UT5YP	7001/1450/Mar	6w	ZE1CU	7012/0415/Mar	4e
HK4EX	7007/0400/Mar	2w	VK2EO	7004/2115/Mar	6e	ZL3LN/C	7007/0440/Mr	5e
HK4BKX	7013/0150/Mar	6w	VK2FT/LH	7024/1040/Mar	8e	ZL4NH	7025/1250/Mar	2e
HM5FG	7005/1500/Mar	8w	VK200/LH	7025/1415	8w	ZS6SM	7011/0305/Mar	6e
KC4AAC	7020/0345/Mar	4e	VK3ABR	7001/1440/Mar	6w	ZS6RM	7008/0400/Mar	3e
KJ6OK	7230/1210/Mar	6e	VK3BRC	7005/1415/Mar	6w	5W1AZ	7024/0540/Mar	5m
LU1ZA	7010/0405/Mar	2e	VK3XU	7005/1240/Mar	2e	8P6HB	7022/0215/Mar	3e
HS5AKU	7014/1500/Mar	9w	VK3APN	7003/2150/Mar	6e	9M2AX	7009/1140/Mar	8e
C21NI	3778/1125/Mar	7e	I1UW	3798/0630/Mar	3e	VP9GD	3803/-245/Mar	3e
CT1FL	3798/0650/Mar	3e	I1LNU	3798/0630/Mar	3e	YU2BHI	3798/0610/Mar	3e
CT1MK	3794/0300/Mar	7e	KG4GG	3808/0530/Mar	5m	ZL3LV	3798/0705/Mar	3e
CO2JA	3812/0445/Mar	5m	ON5NT	3798/0650/Mar	3e	ZL3NR/C	3798/0820/Mr	3e
DK4VB	3798/0640/Mar	3e	UB5KAK	3502/0040/Mar	6e	ZL4NH	3527/1125/Mar	8e
EA4AZ	3798/0635/Mar	3e	UK8AAA	3503/0045/Mar	6e	ZD8AB	3798/0620/Mar	3e
EA8LO	3587/0600/Mar	2m	VE1BFV	3792/0320/Mar	3e	6W8DY	3795/0730/Mar	9w
F5BV	3798/0615/Mar	3e	VP2KJ	3790/0815/Mar	6e	8P6HE	3798/0620/Mar	3e
FP8DX	3794/0300/Mar	7e	VP2SAB	3786/0900/Mar	6e	8P6HF	3802/0330/Mar	2e
G4AMT	3798/0635/Mar	3e	VP2VAW	3808/1110/Mar	3e	6W8FP	3798/0220/Mar	7e
GW4BVN	3798/0700/Mar	3e	VP2DQ	3781/0435/Mar	4e	9Y4SF	3798/0220/Mar	7e

AFRICA CW

FR7BE	14024/1855/Mar	3e
FR7ZW	14022/1510/Mar	7e
TU2GI	14036/2200/Mar	4e
ZD7WT	14040/2155/Mar	5m
ZS6EA	21030/1435/Mar	7e
9J2BO	14026/2120/Mar	5m

ASIA CW

KA2SP	14035/2345/Mar	3m
UK8AAC	14023/1140/Mar	3e
VS6BL	14035/1235/Mar	3e
VU2MQF	14026/1240/Mar	3e

EUROPE CW

F2CA	14001/1705/Mar	8w
HA8KVG	14022/1625/Mar	9m
HB9YL	14051/1625/Mar	6w
PE2EVO	14008/1250/Mar	2e
SJ9WL	14027/1340/Mar	3e
UK5RAI	14025/1450/Mar	6e
UQ2GDQ	14030/1345/Mar	3e
3A2FB	14023/1140/Mar	3e

ELSEWHERE'S CW

C21NI	14053/2340/Mar	8w	LU4ZS	14034/0135/Mar	3w	VP2VAN	14029/2300/Mar	3w
CO2AP	14020/1630/Mar	9m	PY3AO	14060/0135/Mar	9w	VP9GK	14026/2355/Mar	3w
A35LG	14030/0400/Mar	3m	PZ1TB	14032/2205/Mar	2e	WG6JFJ	21125/2340/Mar	2w
HI8LC	14003/2210/Mar	2e	VP2MB	14039/2215/Mar	2e	ZL3IS	21023/2150/Mar	6e

(e = eastern states m = middle states w = western reaches yb = indonesia, etc)
 (all times in gmt # = long path ?? = Slim...often heard on c.w. from 8X8A!!)

MORE RED EYED LOUIEAFRICA SSB

CT3AF	14206/1520/Mar	3m	TU2GI	14205/2150/Mar	1m	9G1AJ	14223/2125/Mar	4e
D2ALB	14210/2135/Mar	5e	ST2SA	14215/2050/Mar	4e	9G1AK	14276/2125/Mar	4e
EA9FC	14200/1640/Mar	7m	VQ9R	14240/1800/Mar	3m	9G1JB	14304/2150/Mar	4e
FL2BA	14210/2145/Mar	4e	ZD7SD	14235/2020/Mar	2e	9G1JG	14206/2130/Mar	4e
EL2X	14333/1745/Mar	2e	5Z4TV	14223/2015/Mar	3m	9J2GJ	14240/1900/Mar	4m
EL7B	14312/2150/Mar	4e	6W8FP	21322/1705/Mar	8w	9L1BH	14208/2110/Mar	5e
TU2DP	14205/2050/Mar	5e	9G1JC	14201/2000/Mar	5e	9L1JM	14206/1840/Mar	1m
TU2FH	21366/1905/Mar	5e	9G1FF	14255/2055/Mar	4e			

ASIA SSB

CR9AJ	14225/0020/Mar	5m	JY9CS	14215/1430/Mar	5m			
HL9TO	14225/2345/Mar	3m	UK9AAN	14220/1250/Mar	3e			
HS5AKW	14225/0030/Mar	5m						

EUROPE SSB

DL7FT	14207/1650/Mar	5m	GW4BVN	14203/1630/Mar	4m	ON4UN	14203/1615/Mar	2m
DJ8SW	14208/1550/Mar	9w	HB9AUS	14246/1430/Mar	3e	SV1EH	14202/1340/Mar	2m
EA3JE	14211/1535/Mar	9w	IT9YSI	14202/1750/Mar	2e	SV1PB	14207/1620/Mar	5m
EI9V	14333/1745/Mar	2e	JX6DX	14202/2125/Mar	5e	YU3TDX	14213/1345/Mar	3e
EA6BG	14205/1915/Mar	3w	M1D	14214/1450/Mar	3m	ZB2A	14253/1300/Mar	2m
GM3MBP	14203/1545/Mar	1m	OK2BIH	14210/1635/Mar	5m	9H1ER	14239/1320/Mar	4m

ELSEWHERE'S SSB

C21NI	14198/0000/Mar	4w	OX3PN	14202/1925/Mar	4w	VP8NJ	14223/2315/Mar	1m
C6ABC	14203/1235/Mar	4m	P29DV	21320/2115/Mar	7e	YS1CBE	14218/2310/Mar	8w
CK3BL	14243/2335/Mar	5m	PY8ZAC	21364/1717/Mar	7m	ZL3LN/C	14274/0500/Mar	2m
CX4CR	14207/0235/Mar	1m	VK2AVA	14205/2050/Mar	5e#	ZP5YA	14204/0205/Mar	5w
FG4BKZ	21305/1700/Mar	8w	VK2AYT	14205/2055/Mar	5e#	3D2ER	14240/0530/Mar	2m
FP8DX	14210/1635/Mar	7m	VE1BFV	14205/1500/Mar	1m	5W1AZ	21300/2215/Mar	6e
HC3CPN	14273/1400/Mar	8m	VP1WLS	14245/1300/Mar	3e	6Y5MJ	14210/2220/Mar	4e
HC8GI	28598/2010/Mar	6e	VP2GFA	21300/2005/Mar	3w	6Y5PO	21309/2325/Mar	3w
HK3DFC	14203/2330/Mar	5m	VP2KJ	21260/1650/Mar	8w	8P6FU	14213/2135/Mar	4m
HR1CB	14245/2330/Mar	8m	VP2SV	14235/1305/Mar	1m	8P6HF	14201/2200/Mar	4e
KJ6BZ	21292/2320/Mar	7m	VP5EI	14202/2210/Mar	3m	8P6FU	14219/2145/Mar	4e
KV4AD	14217/1305/Mar	8e	VP5DF	14212/2335/Mar	3m	8P6CC	14204/1355/Mar	8m
LU8PM	21328/1720/Mar	7m	VP5GRN	14259/1330/Mar	3m	8R1CB	14225/2305/Mar	8m

SOME 160mtr NOTES 9Y4NP is being found on 160mtr SSB. Nick is a captain with the BWI Airways. VP2KJ says that he will be back on St. Kitts and 160mtrs for the ARRL Contest this weekend. The ZLs now have permission to use 1803-1813kc which allows them to slip out of the Loran blanket. ZL2BT noted in the reports was worked by a lot of the Deserving DXers on the East Coast on the new segment... ..Deserving ones like W4BRB/W1WQC/W4EX/K1PEW/W4QCW and WA5RTG.

Father Dave, CE0AE, is expected to be on 160 with the Viking VALIANT airlifted from Miami last week. I5IZ and friends are expected for a 24 hour effort in the ARRL Test. ZD7WT on 160 was worked by W1BB and W8LRL.

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CALENDAR

PARECE VELA	New One!! When JAs put it on the air.....
St PAUL	VE1BFV from March 26th through CQ WW DX Test
GIBRALTAR	CT4AT for ARRL CW Test March 20th...
TUVALU	JA-DX group for two weeks from March 25th!!
TONGA	WB7ABK for the ARRL CW Test March 20th
SOUTH GEORGIA	VP8MS arrived there March 1st..but needs a week or two more...
NAURU	C21NI presently active by and with the Colvins
TURTLE ISLAND	9L3SL about April 10th
Abu Ail	FL8OM reported as heading that way around Easter...
SOUTH ORKNEYS	LU1ZA on low edges of c.w. bands now...
LIECHTENSTEIN	HB9ANA, DJØIP there for the ARRL CW Test...
FERNANDO DE NORONHA	October.....PY1RO plans for the CQ WW SSB Test...
GALAPAGOS	HC1XG and K4ERO from April 25th to May 9th
KERMEDEC	ZL1BKL looking for the CQ WW SSB.. come October.
LORD HOWE	VK2FT/VK200 through ARRL CW Test....
BANGLADESH	JG1OVJ/S21 reported recently on forty and eighty...
GRENADA	VP2G from the ARRL Test this weekend through CQ WPX Test...
BOTSWANA	ZS6BNF in ARRL CW Test signing A2CNN
DAYTON HAMVENTION	April 23-25th.....It's near. Prepare for the day!!
FRESNO INTERNATIONAL	The Big DX Meeting.. Be packing. The hour nears!!!
BRUNEI	VS5WM on forty most days...
NZART GOLDEN JUBILEE	June 4-7th in Auckland.
JARL GOLDEN JUBILEE	September.....

GRENADA W5MYA will be in Grenada for the ARRL CW Test this coming weekend and will hold on through the CQ WW WPX Test. Actually, Mike will be there from March 19th to March 29th. The callsign will be VP2G....all bands 160 thru 10 will be tried and you can try QSLing to W5MYA's home QTH.

ZAIRE 9Q5DM has been worked on twenty, often found around 14220kc..plus or minus... from after 1700Z and up to 1900Z. This isn't ZS1LK who had that 9Q5DM callsign at one time. John has left Zaire and the present operator, Doug, has assumed the call. His QTH is given as: Songa Hospital, Kamaina, Republic of Zaire.

Dave is using a FPM 300 and a two-element quad. The 1900Z time is when power is cut off, effectively ending most activity. Some days the power is not cut off exactly on time, the 9Q5DM having been heard almost up to 1945Z. In case it was not clear in the first paragraph, this definitely is not ZS1LK doing the operating...

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Max W5GJ Don K5AAD Mary W5MBB Dave WA5ZNY

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YASME QSLs W6RGG who handles the home-front for YASME reports that he is not nearly as far along with the VR8B QSLs as initially reported and hopes that second-efforts will be held off a bit.

On the QSLs, Bob reports that "...some VR1Z cards have been answered, and even less VR8B cards. The 3D2 cards have not arrived from the printer and I have yet to order the C21 cards".

He asks...and prefers....one envelope per call-sign. This makes faster QSLing as he need handle the envelope once per log. To help move the cards he is getting assistance from WB6DOQ and his XYL Elizabeth, from W6RM and WB6CUA.

Many stations are reporting receiving VR8B QSLs which follows the YASME format used in the previous Colvins efforts in 1967. Hold on!! You will get them...eventually.

TNX to W1AM, W1DAL, WA1IJC, W1JAA, K1TZQ, W1VAH, K1VCH, W1WQC/4, W2CNQ, W2FPM, W3CDL, WA3DMH, W4AAV, W4BRB, VP5WW/WB4EYX, W4KA, W4UF, W4UMF, W5AK, K5DEC, W5MYA, K5OVC, W5USM, W6DZK, K6EC, W6GC, W6KZL, K6LAE, WA6MWG, WA6PDE, W6PT, W6RGG, K6SSJ, W6TSQ, WA6WXP, WB6ZUC, K7ABV, W7AYO, WA7OBH, W8BQV, W8ZOK, W9DRL, K9OTB, W9TKV, K9UIY, K9WEH, W9YRA, W0SFU, JA1JIO, PA9WRR, JA8KB, SM3CXS

WEST COAST DX BULLETIN Published every week by the Marin County DX Group. One of the local big gun QRPers came up the hill last week and we figured it would be an hour of joy. "How about all those rumors on new countries coming?", we asked. "Bet you will be glad to see some of those show up". All we got from the b.g. QRPer was: "Humbug!!". We didn't understand it. The day was warm, the sky was blue, the peach trees were in bloom, and though the flux was only in the high sixties, it did seem that it was a time for joy and happy anticipation. "Look at it this way", the b.g. QRPer said, "all I need is but one more country to make the Honor Roll. So I work the new ones. I will still need one more country for the Honor Roll. What I need is some of the old ones, some of those that have not been around for twenty years or so. That's why it's humbug. Solid, unadulterated humbug!!". Son of a Gun!! What could we say to something like that for often it is not what you have that will warm you in anticipation but what you are going to get. And it is still true that you can work a lot of countries but never make the Honor Roll. This is one of the Eternal Mysteries of DX. \$10.00 will bring you the weekly lifting of the veil of DX mystery by second-class mail for a full year....\$14.50 will fling it at you by first-class mail. For those without fear of flying, \$17.00 flaps it to beyond yesterday and far into tomorrow to Mexico and all those DX lands waiting for the call from a desperate b.g. QRPer!

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