



# West Coast **DX** Bulletin

March 28, 1978

13-78

CLIPPERTON For up to twenty years, more or less, the Deserving DXers have been waiting to hear Clipperton and the country worked its way up to the top edges of the needed list. Last Monday the Clipperton Crew got their gear across the beach and proceeded to take FO8-Clipperton out of the top of the needed list.

The operation was to run to this Monday. In the middle of last week they were racking up QSOs at a fast rate, using up to forty kc of the band in an effort to spread the anxious ones out. It was hot and humid and obviously not a joyous vacation trip. But the signals were strong in the Western Reaches and consistent.

QSLs all go to HB9MX. Kurt Bindschedler, Strahleggweg 28, 8400 Winterthur, Switzerland. Previously the QSL information was printed. While the QSL itself is not known, it is hard to figure how you can get the weight down to even one-third ounce. It might be well to include extra IRCs or settle for surface transportation. This should run to three to four weeks.

The total QSOs by the FO/X-operation will be interesting to note. The figure should be impressive. Up to late last week everything had gone as planned and the operation was shaping up to be a considerable success. The reports when they come on the overall operation should be interesting.

IRAQ YU1NZV, Svetislav Matic, was due to arrive in Baghdad last Saturday and the plan was to put up some antennas. A quad, ground-plane for forty meters and a dipole for eighty. He will be there for five to six weeks and will be an instructor in radio during his stay.

Sources in eastern Europe are very optimistic about the possibilities of YI-Iraq being heard. YU1NZV, Matic, is hoping to get a license to operate, otherwise you will have to wait for the YIs themselves to put YI1BGD on the air.

The YUs are leaning so far in their optimism that they have printed up 1500 QSLs for YI1BGD just to be prepared. The YIs who were in Yugoslavia last December took home a piece of ATLAS gear and they should be ready to go.

Listen during this week. When the big roar comes out of the east, you will know that another of the Great Days of DXing is at hand.

The late word about a week back, was YU1NZV did have a license and would be operating CW and SSB from about March 30th. The information was prior to his arrival in Baghdad and it is possible that something may have come through.

Matic, YU1NZV, expects to be in Baghdad until May 15th. You probably already figured out that the suffix comes from Baghdad.

AVES Though the expected operation has been delayed, there are signs that the wait may be short and the YVs will be headed for this Caribbean vacation reef as soon as they can get things sorted out with the Venezuelan Navy.

The postponement came when it was not possible to get a firm date from the navy. However, the feeling is that something will come in April and they will be operating all bands including OSCAR....and maybe some RTTY.

YV5CEP, the External Secretary for the Venezuelan Radio Society, has indicated that the delay is not expected to be long and Aves, YV/AA, will be heard before the snow flies there.

MARION ISLAND The present operator on Marion Island will be leaving there in about six weeks and the new crew coming on does not have an amateur operator in the group. If you need ZS2MI, the next several weeks should be the opportune time to catch this one.....or practice waiting.

The station is showing regularly on weekends about 1730Z. The usual practice is to work from a list prepared by K2UO and K5VNJ/2. The directors of the list operation usually wait until the indications are that the band conditions are good enough to support the running of the list.

The signal out of ZS2MI is not especially strong and even the east coast often has trouble hearing this one. However, if you need it badly, your hearing may sharpen up a bit. Look for the station on Saturdays and Sundays from 1700Z, 21320kc.

After you work ZS2MI, QSL to WA4SSU with ease.

SUNSPOT LOUIE Things have slipped a bit and the big activity of some weeks back has slowed. In addition to the areas listed on the chart, there were three other areas that indicated activity but did not have any visible spots. These plages were No. 1033, 1037 and 1038.

The flux has gone downhill during the last week and was flattening out around the 125-130 area. The Ap got up but it was headed down again and looking for a figure below 10.

Throwing some sunspot figures your way, the 12-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on August '77 was 32.3. The annual mean for the whole of 1977 was 27.5....but things are looking better.

The mean for the month of February 1978 was 89.8. And looking into the future, Dr Waldmeier of the Zurich Swiss Federal Observatory says that that he expects the smoothed monthly sunspot numbers to be---

|       |    |        |    |
|-------|----|--------|----|
| March | 52 | June   | 64 |
| April | 56 | July   | 60 |
| May   | 60 | August | 72 |

They may be even a bit better. Just hang in there working DX and you may be surprised at what comes down the pike.

Back on the south bank of the Potomac, N4XX says that it was still snowing a week back and he was still scanning for that crocus to show in the snow. And even with the blue crocus not showing, Ted is sure that there are better days of head....lots of ANs and HN's plus some periods of IAs. Look for....

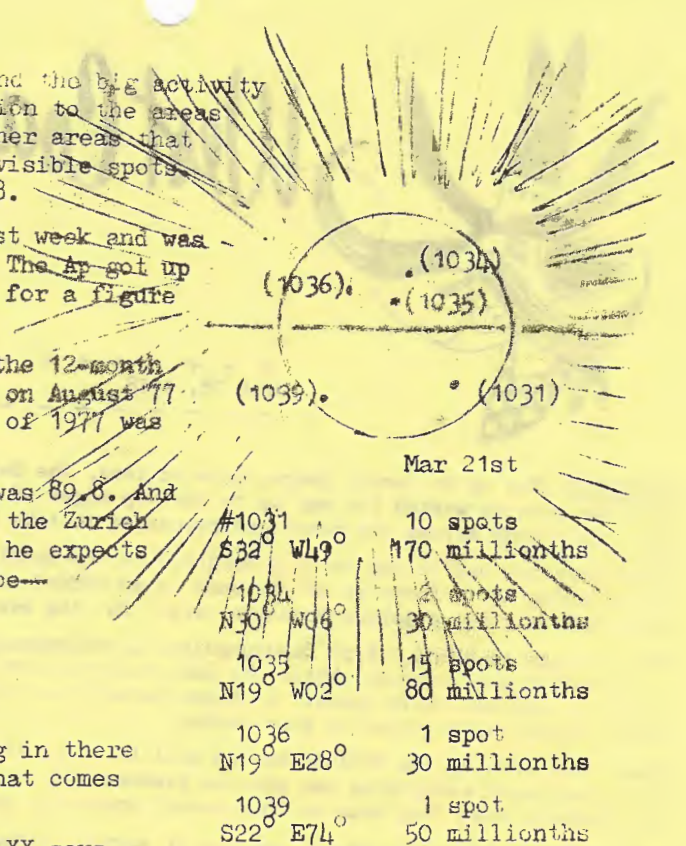
|            |                        |           |  |
|------------|------------------------|-----------|--|
| March 28th | High Normal            | April 5th | High Normal..but watch for some LN periods |
| 29th       | High Normal            | 6th       | High Normal..but watch-                    |
| 30th       | High Normal            | 7th       | Above Normal                               |
| 31st       | High....slipping to LN | 8th       | Above Normal                               |
| April 1st  | High Normal            |           |  |
| 2nd        | Above Normal           |           |  |
| 3rd        | Above Normal           |           |  |
| 4th        | High Normal            |           |  |

Keep checking WWV at 18 after the hour. K6EC checks it all the time and Ev says that the significant figures for the last week were....

|          | Solar Flux | Ap Index |          | Solar Flux | Ap Index |
|----------|------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|
| Mar 13th | 162        | 8        | Mar 17th | 136        | 16       |
| 14th     | 162        | 10       | 18th     | 134        | 15       |
| 15th     | 156        | 13       | 19th     | 131        | 12       |
| 16th     | 138        | 14       |          |            |          |

When these figures are charted, they do get interesting. You might try it and see how the 27 day cycle runs. You will get some interesting insight....

With this issue we lose our sunspot conjurer, W6SP, who has been turning up the spots for some years now. W6SP is leaving the area....for the Palos Verdes country!! John says that he read so much about those Palos Verdes Sundancers that he thought he might try a couple of those grand jete efforts himself. The country will shake!! His efforts have been a tremendous asset and we are scurrying around looking for another noonday sun scanner.



28 March 1978

SOME SHORT NOTES We are starting early with them in this issue....we have been running out of space before we run out of words.

You probably noted the YI QSL card. This is a black and white reproduction of the supply the YUs prepared. Note the "RC Baghdad". That should make all the Deserving DXers smile!

On the Clipperton QSLs, now that you have worked them, if you stopped to figure things out, you might as well mail the cards to HB9MX by surface mail at 18¢ per ounce.

The crew will not depart Clipperton until this week. They will be a week enroute to San Diego. It will take another week or so to get the logs to Switzerland. No word has been coming on the printing of QSLs but this will probably get going when they figure out a rough approximation of the number needed.

The printer will take a couple of weeks and by the time they are back and ready for a fast service by HB9MX, it could be possible that a month will have passed. And surface mail from the states will have arrived in downtown Winterthur.

All of this has been carefully thought out but you can expect that many will rush down to send theirs airmail.

OE5CA/YK has a stateside QSL Manager and this is K1KBL. OE2S JL/YK may also come up with a stateside manager before long. These /YKs have been showing frequently on 20/15/20meters. Look for them at either 28025kc or 28545kc from 1200Z to about 1500Z. On twenty they often are between 14245kc and 14255kc.

Joe Acure, W3H NK, still has a good supply of IRCs to go at 30¢ each. We noted this previously but failed to mention that Joe asks that remittances be either in postal money orders or in cash...only. Joe has heavy postal expenses forwarding QSL cards through his QSL service and clearing checks through his bank takes too long.

EL2BJ being heard from Monrovia is WA4FPT, John Benenson, out of the Culpeper, Virginia area. N4NW only handles S79D QSLs from January 1, 1978. The logs come monthly and are for the preceding month. Sase or Sae/Irc needed.

VK9NK/VK8 was being heard last week saying that he will be heard from Norfolk Island for two days from April 2nd. He may show up from the Cook Islands a bit further on.

LA7JO is another with a stateside QSL Manager. WB5HGS taking over that chore this coming Saturday, April 1st. You might note that WB5HGS is no longer handling QSLs for KG4JS.

# الجمهورية العراقية REPUBLIC of IRAQ

## Y I I B G O D

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Al Zauraa park

نادي بغداد طواة الراديو  
مركز الرعاية العلمية  
متنزه الزوراء

WEST COAST DX BULLETIN Second class entry and postage paid at San Rafael, Calif.

Published every week by the Marin County DX Group at 77 Coleman Drive, San Rafael, California 94901

By second-class mail, \$14.00 a year in the U.S. By first-class mail, \$18.00 a year to the VE/W/XE areas. \$20.00 per year for airmail to all the DX lands, all those beyond the dark mysteries of the night and into the red flame of tomorrow's dawn. All the way beyond the edge of tomorrow and back of yesterday

28 March 1978

QATAR One of the Gs passes along some information on the A7 scene. The report is that a U.S. type recently in Qatar made inquiries of the Ministry of Tele-Communications on amateur licensing. The advice given was that the only valid license in Qatar is A7XA. This is the only call listed in the Call Book..... H E Shaikh Abdul Aziz Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, c/o Rulers Palace, Doha.

WEST GULF DX BULLETIN Ten years ago this week the WGDXB put out its last issue, that of March 27, 1968.

The last issue reported that XE1J and XE2YP were involved in some Revilla Gigedo plans....Trinidad would be on in May....VK9RJ was on from Nauru...ST2SA was on from Port Sudan...VQ9B and VQ9V were expected from Farquhar...LW1RC was on from Yemen....EA/TU had left Spanish Guinea...VQ8CDC had left Chagos.

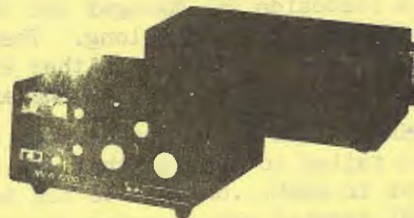
Charles Blood, W5QK, was the last editor of the Gulf bulletin. There had been some problems evident during its final months of publication and after almost two decades the bulletin folded. Financial problems was a decisive factor but the enthusiasm had waned and there were internal problems.

It is still remembered, however. We get an occasional check made out to the West Gulf DX Bulletin.

Can you visualize those catastrophic days for DXers? No DX bulletin! It was not until a month later that the West Coast DX Bulletin timidly made an appearance. The decision was cautious and initially only six-month subscriptions would be taken. Here it is almost ten years later and we are still a bit timid on the subject. Should we stay...or should we go? By now it has become a habit.

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28 March 1978

CARIBBEAN NEW ONE Just about everyone has long since found out that this one is Desecheo Island...northeast from Mona Island in the Mona Passage. It has been noted in several other bulletins and even the JA DX bulletin is publishing maps identifying it. We previously had been asked to keep the island under wraps because of the possibility of early-birding.

The island is under the control of the Department of the Interior. The DXAC did approve it for DXCC country status. Then things got stuck.

There had also been a request for the recognition of 'Water Island' there in the San Juan area. Evidently the basis for this one was the same as for Desecheo. The DXAC approved the latter but turned down Water Island.

This brought a protest, it being noted that there apparently was a bit of inconsistency in the application of the criteria. Having not previously considered such a possibility it appears, the whole thing was batted back to the DXAC for another look.

The late word is that the DXAC is taking another look at both Desecheo and Water Island. There is also the recent indications that this matter of Rule 1 and separate administrations may be in for a retreat.

Anyhow, that is the way things went...and are going. The KP4s are still ready to bring Desecheo up into the pile-ups but are waiting to see what the decision will be at city hall. For, as Charley Bird would often say: "...de fide et officio judicis non recipitur quaestio!"

5Z4QT This is Kazuo Kokaji, now in Zambia but who was in Kenya a month or so back on a visit. He plans to return again to Kenya in the future for more operating.

Kazuo reports that 5Z4QK is a newcomer to DXing and sometimes has a bit of trepidation when too much business shows....this is Motoichi Yamada, c/o Provincial Fisheries Office, Box 1084, Kisumu, Kenya. This is near Lake Victoria.

5Z4PV, Kunihiro Yoshii, will be in Tanzania in May and will be looking for a 5H3 license. If the license does come, JA3KWJ/5Z4QT will also be looking for some Tanzania action....possibly later in the year.

In Zambia the efforts to obtain a 9J2 license are slow. Several ministries must be consulted. There is a local radio society....the Radio Society of Zambia and most amateurs or would-be amateurs are members.

WALVIS BAY South Africa continues to ensure that everyone knows that it considers Walvis as part of South Africa and intends to retain it no matter how Namibia goes.

Walvis is not a late-comer to the international scene. The Portuguese were in Walvis back in 1485. In 1793 the Dutch ran up their standard there. A German station was set up in 1845 and mining was going strong after copper was found in 1852. Germany was looking at South West Africa and in March 1878 the British moved to forestall them and annexed Walvis. Six years later Germany annexed S.W Africa which England then took over in 1915 during WW I.

Walvis Bay has been incorporated into Cape Province. It is strategically important and the only harbor for hundreds of miles along west Africa coast there. You will hear more about Walvis.....preferably on twenty, fifteen and ten.



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28 March 1978

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX FOUNDATION The familiar logo of the Northern California DX Foundation.....found on a lot of QSLs for contacts with rare places..has been changed and you will see what the new logo looks with the changes.



The new logo is a bit more explicit in the name and the initials used previous has caused some questions as to just what organization was involved.

On the Clipperton effort, the final figure for the contributions by the DX Foundation came to \$7500.00, a substantial portion of the budget for the effort.

Anyhow, study the new logo, you will be seeing it more in the future.

MORE SHORT NOTES KM6FD is the new call on Midway...this being the XYL of KM6FC. Sometimes found on ten SSB around 2300Z. PJ2AAX is the new president of the Radio Club there in Curacao. There is a new operator in the Bonins. JD1AKE and JD1YAA are being heard with the latter recently showing up using an FT-401. D68AD says the home call is G3RWJ. GD5BLG heard in mid-March QSLs to DJØUP. TJ2P goes to WB4ZNH.....CN8CW to WA3HUP...5Z4RT to I8JN....YS1RVE to WAØJYJ and PJ2CC to WB8EYL. GD5BLH also goes to DJØUP.

4K1GM is UA3GM operating from the Bellingshausen Station in the Antarctic, QSLs to Box 88.

3W8C was on fifteen c.w. a week or so back. Said he was in downtown Danang. Signal was in the right direction but when pressed the operator took evasive tactics. Slim?

The W6-QSL Bureau has changed its address. The new address of P.O. Box 1460, Sun Valley, Calif. 91352.

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28 March 1978

CALENDAR

IRAQ Listen! Chances good for late this week....YI1BGD  
 AVES Possible in April. YVs working on transportation for YV0AA.  
 COCOS-KEELING End of May....VK9YS for two weeks  
 MELLISH Possible in August  
 NIUE ZK2TT should be heard in mid-April.  
 MADEIRA OHs there to this Thursday...March 30th  
 BERMUDA TEST Less than a month to go. K3DH will supply paper for sase w/24¢  
 CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL The big clan gathering of the DXers. Visalia at the  
 DX MEETING Holiday Inn....April 15/16th  
 SEANET CONVENTION Singapore....November 10/12th. 9V10I the ramrod for this one

CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL DX MEETING The crowd is getting bigger and the Holiday Inn has sold out. Accomodations are still available close by at the Marco Polo and the Lampliter Hotels. Shuttle arrangements will be available from the other hotels to the Holiday Inn as well as courtesy service from the airport nearby.

A couple of Sunday afternoon happenings have been added. Tri-Ex, which has its plant in Visalia, will hold an open-house for all the DXers who may want to see how things are put together.

A bit down the road towards Los Angeles there will be tours available for the Voice of America transmitter site at Delano. They have some 25db antennas and a few interesting power supply and other components. A tour of this facility may give you some ideas on how to up-grade your own lash-up.

Some of the satellite hotels in Visalia are giving reduced rates to those spun-off from the Holiday. Also, United flies from San Francisco to Visalia twice a day.... 8:40a.m and 1:30p.m. It also flies up from Los Angeles at 7:55a.m. and 1:20p.m. There is also a commuter service but this one only operates Monday to Friday....

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GAGARIN CUP Box 88 notes that the International Gagarin Cup Competition is sponsored by Region I of the IARU and the competition is held but once every three years.

Held on the second Sunday in April, this next competition will start at 0000Z on April 9, 1978 and run to 2400Z.

Held on ten through eighty meters, the call is "CQ GC"...., the GC for 'Gagarin Cup'. The divisions of single on all bands, single on single band and multi/single on all bands are the ones to watch for. 1 point per QSO for same continent, 3 points for different continents and the multiplier is the sum of the ITU zones from all bands. Exchange is RST plus ITU zone.....this is a c.w. only competition.

Logs must be sent to.....Box 88 no later than May 10th. In addition to the Gagarin Cup, certificates to high scoring in the several categories will be awarded. The next competition will come in 1981.

SOME CLOSING PROGRAM NOTES There is something about that Palos Verdes country that makes DXing a downhill run. W6AM got through to D68AD on March 16th. If everything holds together, this should put Don No. 1 on the SSB Honor Roll and No. 1 on Mixed. On forty meters some ZLs have been noted a bit high in the band...like 7199kc and 7208kc. Some asking if there has been a change in allocations down that way. 4U1ITU will be operated by DLs over the contest weekend....WPX that is. Some may continue on until late in this week. If you catch these DLs, the QSLs go to DL7RT.

CTOYL in Washington, D.C. will be going to Peking in the next week or two. TY9ER is reported to be on 21430kc at 1300Z on Fridays. This one might be a problem as he has difficulty with the English language. ZS3WBC should be good to Box 1234, Walvis Bay, SouthWest Africa. There are some early ripples on a possible St Peter and Paul effort later this year but nothing definite...mostly checking the possibilities and transportation. CG prefix....sometimes CK....will be used by VEs through August.

TNX to W1AM, W2FP, W2NC, K2OF, W1GDQ, W1MV, W1WY, K2AG, W3CDL, N3ED, W3HMK, W4FPW, W4LCL, AA4GM, W4HU, W4KA, W4PB, N4NW, W4RIS, K4SMX, N4UF, W4UF, N4WX, W4ZR, W5AK, K5DB, K5GZ, W5IMJ, W5OSJ, K5OVC, W5VVD, AXDA, K5WS, W6CAE, WA6DNM, N4XX, K6EC, K6LAE, W6JD, WA6KCX, W6KPC, W6LPJ, W6PN, W6PT, WB6UOM, W6RQ, K6RV, W6TSQ, K6UFT, W6WB, N7MW, N7UT, K8IP, K8MFO, WA8MOA, WB8OPG, K8RD, K8PYD, W8DH, W9EQP, K9RL, W9SS, KØFPC, WAØKDI, KØKES, KØLST, G5CFJ, KH6BZFF<sub>f</sub>, 5Z4QT, KH6HC.

WEST COAST DX BULLETIN Published every week by the Marin County DX Group. One of the local QRPers was up the hill last week, he already having worked Clipperton on ten, fifteen and twenty. "What's the story on Iraq?" he asked and we showed him the latest dispatches from the front. "Looks good," the QRPer said, "but what is coming after than? South Sandwich maybe? Or China or Burma? Or what?" We had to admit that there was no late or encouraging information on any of these and the disapproval was evident. "Look," the QRPer said, "what's all this talk about 'the Great Days of DXing'. After I work Iraq what will I have to look forward to? Where is all this DX that is supposed to be around?" Son of a Gun! What does one say to something like this...and just after a twenty year wait for Clipperton has ended. "What did you do before Clipperton came on?" we asked and got the usual informative grunt. "Why, I just sat there over the three hundred mark and twiddled my thumbs," the QRPer said. "What else could I do but twiddle?" We knew then that we were up against one of the Eternal Enigmas and the fact that no DXer ever admits to having enough. "Just keep on twiddling," was our advice for all DXers must worry about the morrow and what DX it will bring. Come! Let us twiddle and worry together. A full year of twiddling DX worries will come your way in the U.S. by second-class mail for \$14.00. \$18.00 ripples it beyond the morning star to all the DXers in VE/US/XE areas by first-class mail. \$20.00 sends it far beyond the curve of the horizon, beyond the blue and into the dark of tomorrows night by airmail....to all the DX lands. For, as the word is now heard on two meters....."Clipperton? Who needs it?"

West Coast DX Bulletin  
77 Coleman Drive  
San Rafael, Calif. 94901

first  
class