

WEST COAST DX BULLETIN



December 5, 1978

48-78

PETER ISLAND Willy de Roos left Belgium on November 22nd, headed back to his boat 'Williwaw' at Valdivia in Chile. The tentative date for departure from Chile is next Friday, December 15th, and he expects to be at Peter Island by February 1st.

A lot of what will develop depends on ice conditions. If a landing is feasible, Willy will spend eight or nine months on Peter Island or until about October or November of 1979. Should conditions at Peter Island not be favorable, he plans to spend some time visiting other Antarctic island groups.

The plans for a mountain climber to accompany Willy on the voyage south is still on and the climber, Jean Bourgeois, is looking to scale the peaks on Peter Island.

Equipment to be used will include a FT-277B, TS-520S and an ATLAS 210. There is also a 1KW linear and a 3-element mono-bander beam for twenty meters. He is aware of the possible interest in Peter Island and when 3YØBZ shows, there is provision for going split frequency.

Having previously made a single-handed passage through the Northwest Passage across the top of North America, Willy is no stranger to ice conditions.

While holding an amateur license, it appears that Willy previously had not been exposed to any great extent to the DX side of things. The report is that he was not aware of the rarity of Bouvet and may possibly travel in that area in the future, maybe like 1980. Meanwhile, Peter Island is the one he is aiming for in the coming months.

DESECHEO Another operation from Desecheo is possible during December and KVLKV and WØDX are said to be planning a two-week operation in January, this from January 21st to February 2nd. The effort this time may be a 24-hour effort with additional operators, two complete stations and OSCAR capabilities.

On the QSLing, there apparently is a hang-up on some matters. As of last Thursday, November 30th, ARRL's DXCC Desk report that documentation on the October and November efforts from Desecheo by WØDX and KVLKV has not been received.

This may be slowing up some things. For one, it is reported that the QSL Manager for WØDX will not put the cards into the mails until there is a decision on the acceptance of the effort. The ARRL keeps watching for the papers to come but they have missed.

Previously there was information that the documents had been forwarded. Apparently this was not on target as there has been a sufficient time between the reported forwarding of the documents and last Thursday for the papers to have arrived.

Anyhow, be patient a bit longer, there's really not much of a choice but to do that. It also is indicated that the KPLs are still aiming for their own operation and are still waiting to clear up the problems that slowed them previously.

SEYCHELLES. With things closing in on amateur operation from the Seychelles, the report is that there are but two stations presently active, S79MC and S79WEW.

S79WEW is generally found on twenty meters. S78MC works most of the bands, often keeping a schedule with N4NW at 21300kHz or thereabout about 1700Z. The December schedules are for this frequency on December 11/20/29th. It will not be a list operation but those needing Seychelles for a first-time contact and a DXCC Counter will be welcomed.

S79MC probably will be heard on the ARRL Ten Meter test this weekend. He plans to operate in the 28555kHz area if that frequency is clear. Otherwise he will try to be nearby. Often on long path on twenty, he also works fifteen and ten and reinstalling the sloper for seventy-five to work the Deserving Sixes....and others. No forty meter activity has been indicated.

If you do not have a valid S79 contact, the time may be right now to get one in your hot hand. The prognosis on this one is not especially good.

SUNSPOT LOUIE We are having problems getting our input into sync and this week the latest information we have is for November 21st. There has been a lot of time in between and rather than run anything that old, we figured we would pass it up and hope for happier days.

There are some things happening, however. This is the week when in the northern hemisphere the sunset stops getting earlier each day and starts getting a bit later each day. Some of the times before when we mentioned this we get instant argument. There should be fewer of them this year. Maybe....

Anyhow, December 1st sunset should be around 4:51 local time, give or take a few minutes because of latitude differences. January 1st sunset will be at 5:01, having started to get later after the first week in December.

Sunrise on December 1st will be 7:06 and again, give or take a few minutes. On January 1st it will be 7:26....and you can see that though the sun starts setting a bit later after the first week in December, the sunrise also continues to be later, sunrise moving later a bit faster than sunset. Thus the days continue to shorten until the Solstice, the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere coming at 4:21p.m. on December 21st.

Venus, which is a blazing sight...well, almost....in the eastern sky just before dawn, will reach maximum brightness on December 14th. Venus rises two to two and a half hour before sunrise, the flatlands seeing it a bit earlier than those who live in the mountains. Such as around this area. If you are up early, watch for Venus for it is hard to miss.

Back along the banks of the Potomac, N4XX misses the warm days of summer when he trotted up and down the sands of Rehoboth Beach. Muffled against the winter chill, all Ted can say is that he will be glad to see the winter solstice and a slide down to the balmy days of summer. And what's ahead? Lots of good days, a few bad days and more of the same in between. Ted says to watch for—

Dec 5th	High Normal	Dec 11th	High Normal
6th	Above Normal	12th	High, going to Above
7th	Above Normal	13th	High....to Above
8th	High....sliding to Low	14th	High....to Above
9th	Low...falling to Below	15th	Above Normal
10th	Low Normal		

And that takes you up to the middle of the month, things being on the up-beat as you jump in and work what's on now and polish the technique for Bouvet.

And K6EC still listens for WWV and the numbers and Ev says that you can list them on your chart as—

Solar Flux Ap Index			Solar Flux Ap Index		
Nov 13th	148	18	Nov 17th	131	6
14th	138	7	18th	130	5
15th	137	8	19th	131	12
16th	132	6			

There it is. For sure things are up, the monthly mean is getting over 100 and probably will go a good deal higher. Hang on, Cycle 21 is nearing the high spots and DXers are being rewarded. Naturally, they are Deserving!!



December 5, 1978

THE NEEDED COUNTRY POLL W1AM has decided to extend the acceptance of lists until this week-end, hoping to get a better statistical sample from some areas. Any DX areas plus the W3s are needed. All the material is being fed into the Great DX Computer up in the woods of New Hampshire and before the end of the month we should be running some of the results.

While Art is still looking for more DX returns, there are some interesting figures for the European DXers in the returns to date. This, keep in mind, is from a relatively light return and the average DXCC for those returning a list was 301. Anyhow, for the Europeans, and these are high count total DXers, the needed ones line up as---

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. 3Y-Bouvet | 10. South Shetlands |
| BY-China | VK4-Willis |
| KP6 Palmyra | CE0X-San Felix |
| 7J1-Okino T. | Annobon |
| 5. VK0-Heard | Geyser Reef |
| KP6-Kingman | 15. Abu Ail |
| JT-Outer Mongolia | Spratly |
| XZ-Burma | |
| ZM2-Marion Is | |

When your eyebrows go up over some on the list, keep in mind that the average DXCC total for the group is 301. All this again proving that a Needed Country List is a relative thing. And while the statistical base may be narrow, the average DXCC total of the group certainly brings the list a bit closer to credibility. Watch for the full list. It will be seen soon.

THE COLVINS Lloyd and Iris will be securing their 6Y5 operation from Jamaica this weekend and moving on to the Grand Caymans. They were not quite sure what their call-sign would be but you will hear a bit of sustained activity with their ZF2CI call.

They operated through the CQ WW CW Test the last weekend in November, running up a good total as W6QL/6Y5. QSLs for this one go to YASME, Box 2025, Castro Valley, California 94546.

JAMAICA Stephen Reichlyn, AA4V, will be in Jamaica for a couple of days between Christmas and New Years and will be working the low bands.....One Sixty, Forty and Eighty mostly. He will also be working in the Novice segments to offer something a bit different to the eager ones. Watch December 26th to 29th.

Look for him signing AA4V/6Y5 and QSL to him at Box 9095, Columbia, South Carolina, 29290. Sase or Sae/IRC.

Last week we listed 'Jamaica' in the Calendar and all was perfectly clear to us. Not to the rest of the Deserving, however. Even the foundation for YASME was asking where the Colvins would be when signing AA4V! Stop, that is not what we intended. This week we clear things up slightly.

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5 December 1978

MORE SHORT NOTES There has been concern for some time because of the desire for the CB types to move into 220MHz. Some who have sighed with relief when the focus changed to 900MHz may find another service turning its sights on 220MHz in the near future. Hardly the time to relax.

FY7BC heard in the CQ CW a week or so back said he was on the former French penal colony of Devils Island. Ron, FY7BHI, ran up well over 6K QSOs during the test, almost 3K on ten meters. Ron noted that the island is administered from France itself and you know what they say about separate administrations. He plans to submit documents. If interested and you worked FY7BC, QSL to F9LMthen keep your fingers crossed.

UA0YAD sometimes found on the low edge of twenty c.w. is in Zone 23. He had a strong signal into five-land and is in Tana Tavu. With CQ coming out with their 5-Band WAZ, there will be searching for some of the rarer zones.

The propagation book long promised by Cowan Publishing (CQ) is on the market. This is the production of Ted Cohen, N4XX and George Jacobs, W3ASK. Cowan says it is the definitive work on propagation, who can argue with that. Look for the advertisements in CQ and at your local radio outlet.

Pleissey Avionics in England has come up with vhf repeater capable of receiving and transmitting signals on the same frequency simultaneously. Details may not be quickly available as the development was for ground communications for military purposes.

A week back JA1KSO was waiting for the logs from VK2BJL and the Mellish Reef effort to arrive. They were enroute from Australia. The QSLs were reported printed and ready to go once the logs were on hand.

WB4LFM has the logs for the short operation of HZ4GNA. SASE or SAE/IRC needed and the call book address for WB4LFM is right. As call-books are a more and more scarce item these days, try Paul Greaves, 2 Kendall Green Drive, Greenville, South Carolina 29607. If you wonder why we got tangled in all of this, we found that the callbook address is not the same as the one we sent the bulletin to and figured that redundancy might be admirable in this case.

Documents for the recent Neutral Zone-8Z4 have still not been received at Newington as of last week. The QSLs are out but you might as well hold on to them for now.

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SIX METERS With ten meters wide open and DX just about everywhere, it continues to be a bit of puzzle why more Six Meter is not being reported. There is life on Six but many seem to avoid that band. Recently a letter came from James Miller, KZ5JM, in the Canal Zone. Jim writes from Balboa---

"...recently I bought a TV-506 transverter for the TS-820S and fired it up, all 7 watts, into a home made 3-element Yagi at 26 feet.

"I returned to the shack to see if the beam worked and there they were....the Suffering Sixes and Sevens from 50.105MHz to 50.114MHz. For the next hour and a half I worked 6-meters steadily until I had to quit to get ready for the CQ WW Phone Test.

"After thinking about six meters for a year I am pleased I bought the transverter. I never ran QRP before and I am planning to include six meters into a 5-element Quad being studied.

WB2RLK/VE1 is also on Six Meters, being worked by KZ5JM in his initial bursts of KZ5-action. Bob, there in Bridgewater in Nova Scotia, reports recently working PZ1AE/TI2NA/K4ERO-HC1/HK3RJ.....the station there in VE1 running but ten watts. Six Meters will improve during the coming year and if you are looking for some new DX territory to conquer, think Six. There you will find a lot of the Suffering Sixes!!!!

SHORT NOTES The Navassa group showed just about on schedule for the CQ WW CW Test and have pursued their goal of a big total of QSOs every day since. Last week they were usually on a couple of bands continuously....or so it seemed, being heard everywhere from ten to eighty and probably were also working other areas. Running water on the island was a bit hard to find.

The Navassa group were definitely sticking to their intention of working the areas which often have difficulty hearing Navassa and in mid-week were often working only JAs. The grand total of QSOs should be interesting.

ZS6WW is often showing on eighty meters. East Coast is working Oliver at his sunrise around 3505kHz....maybe about 0300Z. He is also working the rest of the states. ZS3MV on twenty SSB apparently is also at Walvis Bay, his address being Box 1234, Walvis Bay, 9190 Walvis Bay, SouthWest Africa. You will find it sometimes as 'Walvisbaai'. San Hutson is putting the QSLs into the mails for his East African trip. J3AJ expects to be on One-Sixty from Grenada before too long. HS1ABD is reported as still waiting for QSLs. FG7AS was back for the CQ CW Test but this time was signing EW7G. Joe, OZ8AE, is with the group going to Macquarrie to man the station, Joe will then move on to Davis Station in the Antarctic and then back out before the freeze-up. QSLs for his activity at VK4JC will be handled when he returns home. SV1IW recently received the QSLs from the printer for his last summer Crete activity and expects to have all the demand cleaned up by the end of the month.

PJ8DIT on Aruba next week will be using a converted CB rig modified to work on ten meters....you may have to listen hard. Europeans are reporting ZS2MI on Marion being heard most days around 1700Z around 14320kHz.....on Monday from 1100Z.

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5 December 1978

A FLOOD OF NOTES We have some club listings, there are always a new crop of volunteers marching to help the Deserving DXers and here are a few of the leaders....

WILLIAMETTE VALLEY DX CLUB President: Bob Herndon W7XN Secretary: Jack Kary K7CQ  
Vice-prex: Stu Hoar N7ZZ Treasurer: Bob Patterson WA7TIM

SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB President: Stu Woodward K4SMX Secretary: Dwight Dover KA4C  
Vice-prexy: Dave Rogers AA4DR Activities Manager: Bob Harrell N4OL  
Treasurer: Dave Thompson K4JRB

TWIN CITY DX ASSN President: John Pembroke W0NUH  
Secty-Treas: Hal Newell WA0KDI

We think we have caught all the recent changes. If we missed one, jiggle the elbow.

The ARKANSAS DX ASSN will be holding their annual meeting this weekend at Hot Springs. Look for the DXers to gather in the Majestic Hotel Lanai Towers over the weekend, December 8th and 9th. Sam Hutson, K5YY, will be there to tell of his recent East African trip while W8MOA, having recovered from the sea trip, will be telling of the fun on Mellish Reef as part of the VK9ZR effort. W5LQN has the information on the DX gathering.

In the CQ WW Phone Test, the HD8A operation ran into transportation problems and did not make the group effort though HC1HC did manage to get to the Galapagos Islands to sign HC8A. If you worked this one, QSL to Box 289 in Quito.

Other HCs in the phone test tried some big time operations from the Kingdom of Chaullabamba Nudist Camp. This garden spot located at 10,000 foot level in the Andes was the location for HD0E. They operated multi/single and have sent off a special QSL to the printers. If you are now interested, send yours to W8TDY/K9LJG to QSL HD0E. Sase or Sae/2-IRCs. There....if you worked HD0E you may have some rekindled interest in QSLing

Bob Meyers, W1XT, has joined the Newington joggers. He was an ARRL Assistant General Manager, one of two in such positions and Dave Sumner, K1ZZ is the other, and he jogged hurriedly out of the ARRL scene a week back. The exodus this year has been numerous and include William Dunkerley, WA2INB, who was QST Editor, Bob and Ellen White, Bob Myers, W1XT plus a good handful of second-level management positions. George Hart, W1NJM, retired as Communications Manager and there is some evidence to suspect that Newington is having difficulty in filling headquarter spots.

The Board of Directors will be meeting in January. Next year is also the long awaited WARC 79 conference on frequency allocations, the meeting to convene in Geneva in September for probably a run that will last for the better part of a year. Don't be surprised if there are not some changes coming out of the January meet as ARRL tries to get its act together and get in shape for WARC 79.

C5AA0 on during the recent tests goes to OZ6MI. South Africa is again affirming its position that it has no intention of turning Walvis Bay over to Namibia. Preparations are being made by the UN to begin work on an election plan for the proposed independent state.

Though we have covered the subject before on those /4U calls, it is also recognized that often the information does not stick until one works the station and begins to wonder. ARRL has indicated that the /4U station QSLs will be accepted for credit for the country that normally administers the territory and a /4U on Golan Heights will count for Syria. If it says Sinai, you have an Egyptian counter. Hows that for making life simple!

PY0ZAE QSLs continue to slowly show. Do not give up hope. Hal is still digging through the pile.

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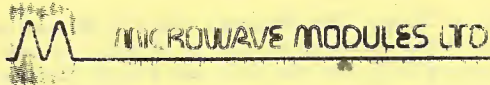
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MORE OF THE GREAT FLOOD OF NOTES VP8PL on South Georgia will leave the island group the end of January. Sometimes found on twenty c.w., this one QSLs to G3LIK. We shipped off a box of notes to K5DB which the QSL Machine will digest and in a couple of weeks we probably have another of the K5DB QSL lists.

Tom Gentry, W5KG, who has spent most of the year in the Baylor Hospital for more operations than he really wanted, is now home, getting back on his feet and the air and is doing some limited listening for his friends. HZ1MJ is often showing on the lower edge of the twenty meter c.w. country around 1400Z and long path. WB7BBO notes that CE9AM, CE9AI and CE9AH are on King George in the South Shetlands and all QSL to: Antarctic Dept, FACH, Comando de Combate, Ministry of Defense, Santiago, Chile.

Some of the more Deserving DXers have taken time to note that some DXpeditions have shown signs of incomplete preparations. Some semi-rare operations have tried to go it transceive and with a bit less than success in the effort. The exchange is sometimes the problem with the DX station passing the report and then asking if it was received okay. This often leading to a lot of questions....when would the action be on other bands and other modes....what is the QSL information....what did you do last night....you're doing a great job and I remember when I worked Don Miller there, etc. Some have even suggested that the Don Miller format speeds things....the report passed when the station is acknowledged after the DX station pulls the call out of the pile-up, when the other report comes back to the DX station, he acknowledges and immediately shouts 'QRZ!'. At times there is a suspicion that an established mode would up the QSO rate.

VR0M showed again last week....being heard during the CQ CW Test. Some of the more unbelieving DX Types on the west coast tried to interrogate the operator with little success. Beam headings taken by a good handful indicated the station was to the NNW. One entrenched DXer believes the station is actually aboard a vessel at sea.

ZD9GH is reported to have a new operator and one interested in DXing. The National Capitol DX Assn shipped two new Call Books to LU2CN to help speed the QSLing for the South Sandwich effort by LU3ZY. In case you are interested, the new edition of the Call Books are out.....\$15.95 for the U.S. and \$14.95 for the DX Call Book. For those who have to know the latest, the count on the JAs is up to 21,179. XT2AT is often found on Mondays being guided by K1VSK at 14250kHz at 2100Z.

Alex, 3B8DA, has scratched any plans for a possible 3B7 plans for this month. On his QSLs, once he finishes the QSLing for the W/K/A/Ns for his 3B6 and 3B9 activity, he will then fill out those for the rest of the world, taking them in alphabetical order. The stateside QSLing is the big nut to crack, after than things should go swiftly. It is suprising to hear some well-established DX types picking up a handful of new countries. These are the Great Days of DXing and don't doubt it for a moment. Years from now you will be wishing for the Great Days of 1978 that you experienced but perhaps did not appreciate at the time. Stop now and enjoy things.

The JAs, well some of them anyhow, are looking at an island a couple of hundred miles from Okino-Torishima and saying: "Well! Here's one that has a different administration. A new DXCC counter!!!!" If you think that is not the true-blue, just you wait.

While waiting you can think about Ciskey and Vendaland and other H5 types. S8ABC will be operating from some of these any week now. Vendaland was to become independent this last Friday and some were planning to mark the occasion for the DXers. On Sundays, look for SV1JH at 2134.5kHz from 1300Z. DJ9ZB is the QSL route. Actually, the station in the Dodecanese shows on Saturdays also....same time, same frequency.

The Gold Sardinia Award comes for working an "ISØ" station after 1 January 1976, any band, any mode. You need 15 points, this being the lowest number required and applies to the DX stations such as the W/Ks, VEs and XEs. ISØLYN counts 6 points, other ISØ stations count 1 point. Accumulate 15 points and send with 15 IRCs or 2000 lire to URS Club, Sardesna 16, 07100 Sassari, Sardinia, Italy.

## DX-Ten Years Back

December 3, 1968 CE3ZN was aiming for a possible San Felix trip in January. There was also a new Clipperton rumored operation. CR8AI was on from Timor and the ARRL confirmed that it was okay to work the YBØs. FR7ZL was on from Tromelin and Gus Browning, W4BPD, was scheduled to be the principal speaker at the 1969 California International DX

Convention at Fresno. XE1J was planning to have a short run from Revillagigedo in mid-December. AP2AR was reported active from East Pakistan and VK2BKM was on from Lord Howe. The USCG Southwind was headed for Heard Island and a March 1969 operation. ZL4AE had recently been heard on twenty SSB, Chatham was scheduled for early January by ZL2AFZ & friends. FB8XX was on a.m. from Kerguelen and VKØIA from Macquarrie. YA1DAN was being heard frequently. K6TXR was noting that the QRPers could not get through to work Yasheed, YK1AA, on Fridays because the high power types were monopolizing things. BS1BUL was reported from Biafra.



5 December 1978

CALENDAR

BOUVET  
GRAND CAYMAN  
JAMAICA  
DESECHEO  
SERRANA BANK  
PETER ISLAND  
SOMALIA  
BEATA ISLAND  
SOUTH SANDWICH  
BRITISH VIRGINS  
ARUBA  
WALVIS BAY  
ARKANSAS DX ASSN  
FLANDERS DX MEETING

HUNGARIAN TEST  
SPANISH CW CORRIDA  
ARRL TEN METER TEST

Late December....the Norwegians soon on the way  
ZF2CI by the Colvins.....on now and for some weeks  
AA4V/6Y5 from December 25th  
WØDX and KV4KV planning for more.....two weeks in January  
January 18-21st for three days  
February...or about then depending on ice conditions  
6Q1FG will be heard again.....but probably in 1979  
HI8s exercising a new prefix.....in January  
The quiet period will not last....LU3ZY will be heard!  
VP2VEO by N9CN....cw only....from this Wednesday..Dec 6-8th  
PJ8DIT from Dec 10th to 17th....ten meters  
ZS3LK/ZS3 December 8th to 11th  
Next weekend....December 8/9th.....downtown Hot Springs  
February 10th....downton Gent...Clipperton/7J1RL etc on  
the program. ON-DXers inviting visitors to come.....  
That's Belgium if you missed the obscure point.  
This weekend....December 9/10th  
December 9/10th  
December 9/10th

A FEW FINAL NOTES J2ØBL is for real. QSLs have come through to some who worked this one with the unusual prefix. Djibouti without the J28-prefix. If you are looking for a handle on some of the XW8s, N6SV came up with a good handful. XW8FN is Lloyd Gruhn, 1640 South Parfet Court, Lakewood, Colo. XW8AL is now FØDAJ. XW8LA is now at Islamabad in Pakistan and can be reached there via the U.S. State Department. On XW8FN, W3HNK is reported to have copies of the old logs. VP2VDH active around the time of the CW Phone Test is N6CW....VP2VEW is N6ZZ and VP2VER heard in the Test is N6RA. If you worked any of these, QSL to N6CW.....he likes the work!

+++++

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ARRL The ARRL has extended more financial help in two antenna cases which may have far-reaching impact should there be adverse final decisions. They are extending more help to the Sleeper case on Cape Cod and for the Schroeder case in Cerritos, Calif. This action was taken at the November meeting of the Executive Board.

The ARRL is moving in several FCC dockets, some actions being the filing of comments, doing more research and in one instance moving to take a FCC decision to court in an effort to nullify the ten-meter linear ban.

The ARRL is researching Docket 20718 covering revision of Part 18 of the FCC Rules concerning ISM equipment, filing comments on Docket 78-316 which has to do with the establishment of a fee program, filing comments opposing the restrictions proposed for amateur repeaters in areas of West Virginia, filing comments on Docket 21313 which proposes standards for AM stereo and ordered a review of the draft submission on novice privileges on 220MHz.

Some items discussed without action was the cost of mailing QST outside the United States, the ARRL grant-seeking program and the 1978 financial picture of the League. The League is proceeding with plans to make a court case out of the FCC decision to ban the sale of ten-meter linears.

TNX to W1AM, W1MV, K1ER/4, W1JR, W1NG, K1SA, W1VV, W2GHV, W2NC, K2ON, W2FP, W2HAZ, W4HU, W4LCL, N4NW, W4PB, W4UF, N4XX, W4ZR, W5AK, W5CPI, K5DUT, W5NA, K5OVC, W5VVD/6, W5YH, ADXA, K6ARE, WA6BJS, W6VAE, K6DT, K6EC, WA6FIT, W6ISQ, W6JD, W6KPC, K6LAE, W6MUS, N6OB, N6OC, N6RA, K6SSJ, N6SV, WA6TLA, W6TSQ, AE6U, K6UFT, K8WR, WB6ZUC, K7ABV, N7MW, N7UT, WA7OEH, K8IA, K8RD, W8UVZ, W9MCJ, W9TC, K9XJ, W0BW, WA0KDI, W0PT, N0RF, F6AJA, DJ9ZB, WA6AHF.

WEST COAST DX BULLETIN Published every week by the Marin County DX Group. One of the local QRPers was up the hill last week, this one coming with the usual questions. "Tell me something," this QRPer says, "what is DX? What is the real, deep-down, true-blue interpretation of DX? Tell me!" We almost jumped right into it with the unarguable truths...DX IS! But we held back a bit for we have learned to be cautious around QRPers, especially those who come with innocuous questions. "Why do you ask?" we inquired and the QRPer got the veiled look that QRPers often have, the outer edges of the eyes drooping slightly but craftily. "Well," the QRPer said, a bit briskly we were quick to note, "here I've been reading all the build-up about Bouvet and every DXer just about jumping with anxiety waiting for the Norwegians to get there. I was thinking it sounded like something big but then I talked with W6ID. You know what VIP told me?" We had a pretty good idea what VIP had said but we had to hear the words. "Well," the QRPer continued, "VIP says that Bouvet is easy to work. He told me a couple years back he was just tuning around one morning and he hears a station working some Europeans and he called it. The station came back signing 3Y1VC. VIP says it was easy. One call and there it was. He says all you have to do is call them when you hear them. How do you explain that?" We couldn't. There are things that are beyond explanation and one must suffer because they cannot be explained. But the QRPer was not through. "You know something else," he continued, "VIP did not need 3Y1VC for a DXCC counter. He'd already worked Bouvet when Gus was there. Says he has worked Bouvet every time it has been on. Just call them when you hear them he says. So just what is DX anyhow? What is real, true-blue DX anyhow?" Son of a Gun! What do you do when you are caught by a QRPer with all the questions, most of which have no answers. So we leaned close, bending the QRPer backwards with the steely gaze of an outraged DXer. "Look, Buster!" we said, "one thing you are going to learn, that is what Albert would often say: 'All DX is relative, some more so. And DX is what you have not worked'. That's what Albert said! Do you understand that?" The QRPer was impressed, maybe not by our words but definitely by the tone. But after a minute it was back to normal again. "Albert who?" he asked. "Certainly not Fat Albert on TV." We were over the edge right then for how does one convey the accumulated Wisdom of the Ages? For DX is a moveable feast and Albert was right. DX IS...what you have not. And if you are a true seeker after the clues to the Eternal Enigmas, a discreet query will bring you the moveable subscription rates. Those for sure, but not always the answers to those QRPer questions.....

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first  
class