

WEST COAST DX BULLETIN



November 23, 1976

47-76

GAMBIA Ville Hillesmaa, OH2MM, will activate C5AZ during the CW DX Test this coming weekend. Ville will be out to try to top the record set by Martin, OH2BH, when he operated from ZD3X to set a new all band-single operator record.

Look for C5AZ on the following frequencies:

1803kc 3503kc 7003kc 14030kc 21030kc 28030kc

He will be using the Drake T4XC/R4C combination with a Dentron amplifier. He will have a HY-GAIN TH3MK3 beam plus a 14AVQ.

Prior to the contest Ville will be operating SSB around 14200kc and may have been heard already, he being due in Gambia this last weekend. QSLs will be handled by OH2NB.

SOUTH ORKNEYS LU2ZA continues to be active from the South Orkenys, both SSB and CW. The operator is Carlos and tries a number of bands. At 0200Z he usually is found around 14220kc, often with LU2AFH helping in the action.

The QSL for LU2ZA is large, being 5"x8" and an outsized envelope is needed. LU2AFH also handles the QSLing and a sase (large) or sae (large) with IACS will be needed.

CHINA BY3Q was working a multitude of JAs with a strong signal last week. The one was at 7002kc at 1720Z.... Said his name was 'Bill' and to QSL to W6TCG. Some JAs pressed him with questions, BY3Q then went QRT. Looks rather definite to be Swatow Slim.

LIECHTENSTEIN Another OH-group will be active in the CW contest this weekend and this will have Martin Laine, OH2BH, Pekka Ketonen, OH1TV, and Antero Vaananen, OH1VP, in ;HBØ=Liechtenstein for the WW DX Test.

The planned operating frequencies are:

1805kc 3505kc 14050kc 21050kc 28050kc

These always being plus or minus depending on conditions but not too far. The gear will include Drake T4XC/R4C along with a Dentron amplifier. There will be a Hy-Gain 14AVQ plus dipoles for the lower frequencies.

QSLs in this OH effort will be handled by OH2TW.

MONTSERRAT Out of the Northwest, one of the red-hot contest operators out of the W7RM farm system will be in VP2M-Montserrat for the WW DX Test. Following this action in the coming weekend, John 'Yukon' Keisel, WA7OTT, will join with some other dedicated and foot-loose DXers to activate WP2L-St Lucia, and Dominica-VP2D....St Lucia for the 160mtr test and Dominica for the 10 meter test. Others in the action will be K7VPF, Chuck Margelli, who has been in the Caribbean for some weeks. He has been active so far in the Sweepstakes Test with KV4FZ and in the WW SSB Test with KP4AST. Chuck has also been active from Antigua signing K7VPF/VP2A. There has been a special effort to work JA on this trip, the Caribbean always being a difficult one for them. QSLs for K7VPF's effort are direct to him for W/Ks/VEs....all other DX stations QSL to JA1RUR. Possible frequencies to watch are: 28030/28590kc @ 1900Z. 21030/21300kc @ 35kc most anytime. 14027kc/2100Z looking for JAs. 14225kc @ 2230Z. 7003/7030 from 2330-0100Z with little SSB. 3795/0300Z--3530kc/0330Z 1805kc/0200Z onward.

SUNSPOT LOUIE Son of a Gun!! The third week has come and gone and we are caught in a short market for sunspots.

According to our files, and we think they are close to the big picture, it seems that the last active area was No. 755 which showed about October 26th with a single sunspot and faded on or about October 29th.

About all a long-suffering DXer can do is to live in hope. Elsewhere in the bulletin you will find some information cribbed from one of the Boulder publications, these seeming to grow scarcer all the time. This is a September publication of the U.S. Department of Commerce (Boulder) and you will note that they are looking to July as the start of Cycle 21....and a bit further along you will find along you will also note that there is not any universal agreement with this starting date. Nor when the top of Cycle 21 will be reached. It can come anywheres from late 1979 to late 1981. You might note in this second chart that they are looking for a maximum in Cycle 21 which will be equal to or higher than Cycle 20.

Anyhow, take a look at these....they should have something of interest.

Meanwhile, pulling back from 1981, everyone looks to the coming weekend and beyond and W4UMF says that once we get through November there will be some High Normal Days to spur the contest-weary DXer. However, it will be High Normal not because of any increase in solar activity but rather because of quiet geomagnetic conditions. Look for the solar flux figures to hang out around 70.....

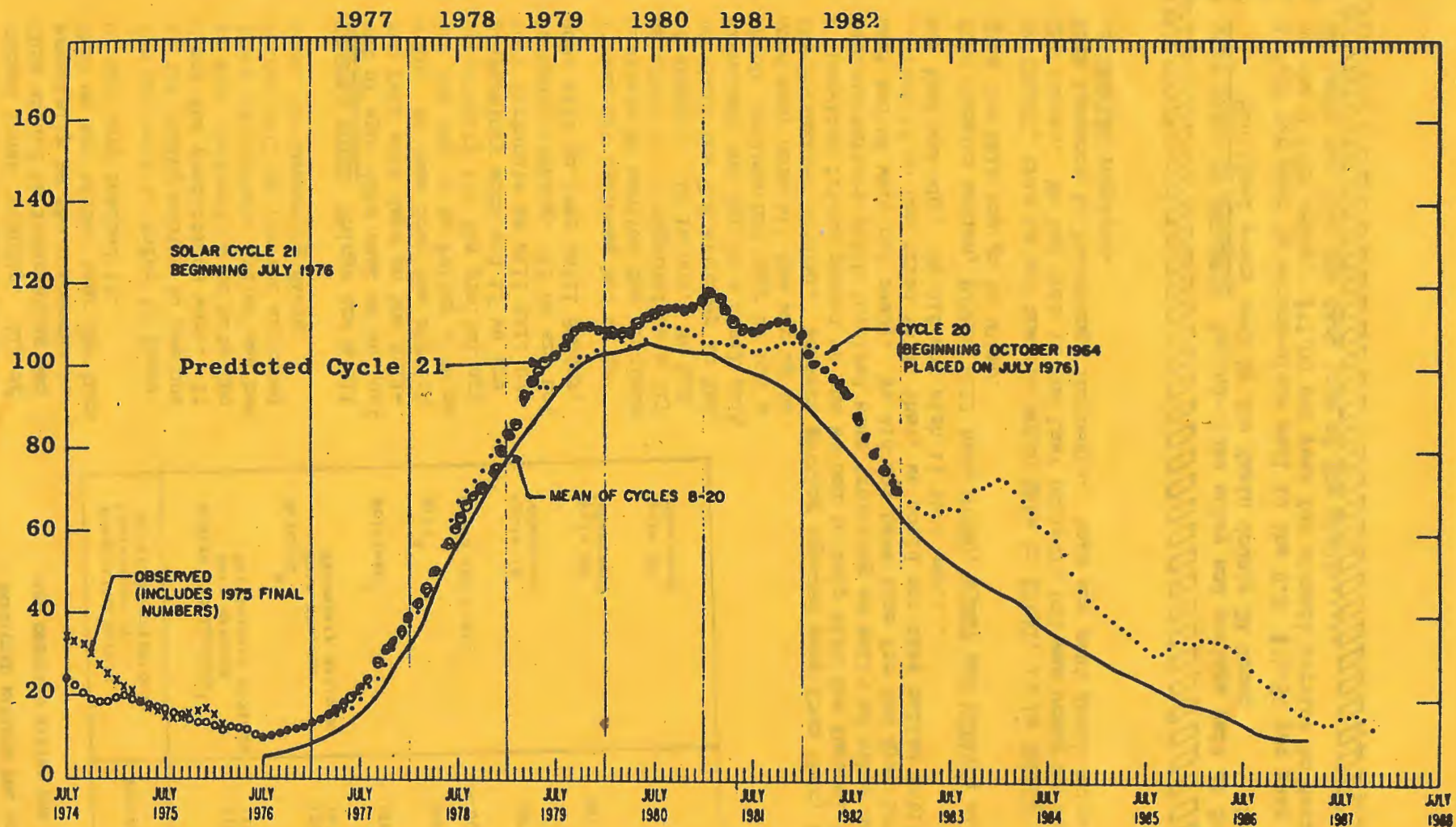
Anyhow Ted says it will be....and you had better be a believer—

November 22nd	High Normal	November 29th	Low Normal
23rd	High...but LN at times	30th	High Normal
24th	High Normal	December 1st	High Normal
25th	High Normal	2nd	High Normal
26th	Low Normal	3rd	High Normal
27th	Below Normal	4th	High Normal
28th	Low..but BN at times	5th	High Normal

There it is. Maybe not all you wanted but by this time next year you will be well along on Cycle 21....if all falls into place and there is no reason why it should not. The good days are ready to come back. By November of 1977 the SSN should be up around the seventies. Right now it is around ten. Son of a Gun, how could one miss with things like that? And, as Lord Baden-Powell, the Hero of Mafeking, would often say: "Be Prepared!!".

And up from the south comes the records from K6EC and Ev is prepared to listen to WWV every day to note the K and the A and the Flux and things like that. And, for the chart-makers, Ev says it was something like—

Solar Flux K Index			Solar Flux K Index		
Nov 8th	71	Ø	Nov 12th	72	4
9th	72	2	13th	71	4
10th	71	3	14th	71	3
11th	72	4	15th		3



PREDICTED AND OBSERVED SUNSPOT NUMBERS

From Solar-Geophysical Data, 385 Part I, September 1976, US Department of Commerce (Boulder, Co)

23 November 1976

Here is the rest of the data on the predictions which Boulder turned loose recently. All of this should be interesting and especially as the consensus is that we are either near the turn or may have reached it.

You may want to refer to these in the coming months to see how close the predictions were. It is also interesting to note the track of previous cycles and how things will go for the anointed ones, the Deserving DXers.

SHORTLY NOTED Things are a bit out of sync this week as we lost two full work days on the bulletin. We came down the stretch all the way up to Friday with no opportunity for the preliminary preparatory work and if we are very fortunate we will mail by Saturday evening. If we are not some will go over until Sunday.

It was not laziness but we do hesitate to mention the problems as often it is regarded as a cry of despair. It is not. We had to visit the U.S Attorney in San Francisco one day on a civil suit which involves not only us but a good many more all the way up to the Postmaster General. We were getting squared away from that, not too far behind, when a long-time friend passed on and we had to help with the funeral arrangements and other various matters which involved some traveling as well as other details. Thus the time went and we were not ready. We did not have time for Red Eyed Louie....much to our regretbut if we had tried to do that, we could not have mailed until Tuesday. That was it and that was why. We did not wish it that way.....

That Curacao action, PJ9MM, will have W1GNC, W3BQV and W8FAW/4 all in on the action. The QSLs for this one go to W1GNC.

On YB4ACY, this is not the one which QSLs to K7LAY, it is YB4ACJ for which Bob does the QSL chores. We had this in the last bulletin but was wrong on one letter. YB4ACJ is Rick Lawrence in Palembang, Indonesia. Logs are sent about twice or month or so...SASE or SAE/IRC required.

PREDICTED MAXIMUM FOR SOLAR CYCLE 21
AND OBSERVED MAXIMA FOR CYCLES 18-20

Prediction Method (Reference or Brief Description)	Maximum R	Time of Maximum R
McNish and Lincoln ¹		
Main Maximum	119	First Qtr 1981
Preliminary Maximum	110	Fourth Qtr 1979
Sutorik ²		
Main Maximum	152	Fourth Qtr 1979
Secondary Maximum	147	Fourth Qtr 1980
McIntosh ³	120	First Qtr 1981
Hill ⁴	198	Fourth Qtr 1981
Cohen and Lintz ⁵	~ 50	1982
Cycle 18 (observed)	152	1947.5 ←
Cycle 19 (observed)	201	1958.2 ←
Cycle 20 (observed)	110	1969.3 ←

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to the U.S/VE areas. \$17.00 per year for airmail service to Mexico and all the far
DX lands far down the dark loom of the night.....

23 November 1976

SEANET CONVENTION John Van Lear, currently here in the states, says that the 1976 SEANET Convention earlier this month in Jakarta was the best ever and it is already planned that the 1977 one in Bangkok will be even better.

Well over eighty DX types were in attendance and there were thirty-nine DXers from outside Indonesia while 44 YB/DXers registered. In the DX category there was a WAC in the group and some of those attending included W6PN/W6HOC/9N1MM/W5AK/9M6MU/4S7PB/WA/TAS/F6DUX/ALXFE/DJ8XW/PA/LOU/WA1UHB/TU2BA/EP2EC and VP8IZ

The growing numbers attending the SEANET Convention is significant as evidence that the DXers themselves are achieving an increasing stature within the amateur world. At the Saturday luncheon the Director of Posts and Telegraphs there was a main speaker and he pledged support for the amateur position at WARC 79.

While the next SEANet Convention will be in Thailand, presently a quiet area as far as the amateurs are concerned, it is felt that things will be normal before long and the self-imposed restrictions will be gone.

The next meeting will be on the second week-end in November. It is not too early to start your planning and we probably will hear more on this last one in the coming weeks. There are a good handfull of WCDXB readers included in the DXers listed above.

ARRL Word has come on a number of petitions for rule making filed with the FCC and the following have been put on record.

RM-2767 by Charles F Bino K4CJZ requests that Part 97 be amended to provide for a 'multiple-trustee' for club station repeaters rather than a single trustee.

RM-2769 by William A Skipper requests a new service be established to replace both the Amateur and Citizens Radio Services

RM-2770 by Bruce JBrown, WB4YTU, requests the rules be amended to permit use of the American National Standard Code for Information Interchange, (ANSII), formerly ASCII, in the Amateur Service.

RM-2774 by Henry Perozzo, W7UD, requests the establishment of sixty-day temporary licenses following the passing of a mail order examination.

RM-2775 by S.P Wilds, W4GVD, requests Technician privileges in the 20mhz band and Novice Class privileges between 29.0 and 90.4khz.

RM-2776 filed by the United States Citizens Radio Council, Inc. requests that the height limitation for beams in Class D Service be amended from 20 to 60 feet.

RM-2780 filed by the Middle Atlantic FM and Repeater Council, requests relaxation of the logging rules and particularly for 3rd party traffic on repeaters.

RM-2768 provides for the concurrent holding of Novice and Technician licenses.

Apparently the ARRL held no fire drills when these petitions surfaced and will be waiting to see the FCC reaction before getting into the fray.

The ARRL continues to till the vineyards for new amateurs, as the increased membership totals attest. The Fall issue of the NEW HAM NEWS was Vol 1, No. 1 and there is no doubt at what reader they are aiming

GUERNSEY G4DAA will be heard this weekend with G3FXB and G3MXJ stoking up the action. They had hoped for the new 'GU' prefix but apparently this will not be available until the first of the year.

23 November 1976

SHORTLY NOTED We have not tried a photo for a couple of weeks....having had a mixed success and figuring that maybe we had enough problems. However, we are always ready to try again and this week is it. We labeled it just in case our photo gallery turned out a bit dark...like the last time out.....

There is evidence all around that the new two letter calls are in demand and many of the old call-signs are disappearing. But there has been one old one which turned up in familiar hands. W6ZH, once held by Herbert Hoover Jr., a Past-President of the ARRL, has been issued to Herbert Hoover III. Pete Hoover, once more familiar as W6APW, now has W6ZH. And it does seem right that he does.....

The 'direct address' for VP8OT is.....

Amateur Radio Station VP8OT
Tim
South Georgia Island
South Atlantic (Via Falkland Islands)

The operation by OH2BH during the WW DX Phone Test ran up some 3200 QSOs on all bands. Don Riebhoff, CT4AT, was the one who organized the operation and Don is the holder of the call CT9AT which was used in the contest.

CE9BSA was giving CE2MZ as the QSL route last week....(7002kc/0255Z Nov 10th) and the QSL route seems to change a bit often.

The plans of G3XHZ for some Qatar operation has run aground as the application for operating privileges was turned down by the Qatar Telecommunications Department of the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The possibilities of getting a license seem to be rather remote. A7XA is reported to be the only current license that is valid, this being held by Shaikh Al-Thari. This ruler is reported to have recently bought a new Aston-Martin Lagonda. He is sometimes heard operating mobile.

G3XHZ will continue to seek a license after his arrival in Doha, this being expected sometime this month. However, he is not optimistic about any early activity on his part.

Anyone planning a DXpedition and interested in 160mtr work should drop a line to any of the following list....W4BRB/K1PEW/W8LRL/W5USM....who will help with advice and suggestions. W5USM managed to work the five continents in four hours on November 14th. Some tend to feel that 160mtrs not quite as good as last year but still a bit of excitement can be generated. Those five continents were on 160....

5X5NK is reported as being QRT until after the turn of the year, he having gone on a trip to Germany. ZD8RR is currently in Bermuda signing ZB2DN/VP9 and will be there for a couple of years in charge of the Cable & Wireless activity. It took us awhile to figure out the handwriting but it is 9D5A being heard on the air and this one will be in the WW DX Test this weekend...part of the EP-group working out of Teheran. This one seems to be EP2SV and QSLs to WA6AHF.

W5LTY is rebuilding a Hammarlund HQ-120/129. He needs a bandspread dial for it and would appreciate hearing from anyone who might have some spares. XT2AG is often found around 21310kc from 1600Z to 1800Z....plus or minus a couple....on Saturdays and Sundays. The success level appears to be good and W1AM is handling a good number of the XT2AG QSLs in his job as QSL manager.



Lee Wical / KH6BZFffff_{ff}_{ff}_{ff}

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MORE SHORT NOTES FR7BE was on both CW and SSB last week....both times around the 21310-21315kc area....at 1400Z and 1900Z. QSL direct to Box 137 there.

The decision seems to be close if not already made on DXCC Rule #9. There seems to be a growing number dissenting with the expansion to include the whole country. From being too restrictive it is claimed that it has gone too far in the other direction. Some who were in favor of a change to equalize things are speaking out that it may be substituting one inequality for another. If you have any ideas on this, get them to the DXAC and to the ARRL.

At the recent Hudson Division Convention, Bob White, W1CW, was given a plaque to mark his long efforts at the DXCC Desk. A good many others have gone out of their way to note his long service and the questions over his promotion may be a long time fading.

The matter of the Big QRM is apparently not going to come to a fast solution as it might have been hoped for early in November. Its reappearance on November 8th has brought calls for retaliations....one west African station calling for a boycott of the USSR stations. How effective this might be is questionable but it does give an indication of how some are feeling about the continued QRM.

Those in Region II of the IARU who have run into phone-patching in the DX corridors might have caught the report of the Miami IARU Region II meeting as reported in QST in the July issue. Item 9 reads:

Member societies are requested to educate their members to proper procedures and restrictions to be observed in the handling of third-party traffic, in particular that phone traffic should be handled in the lower (below the U.S. phone band) and upper parts of the phone segments so as not to interfere with other international amateur communications.

You might check that report, the above paragraph was on Page 48 of the July QST. It does appear that the above is an indication that it is realized that a problem does exist in this area and that the IARU Region II body should move to alleviate it.

That action from C6A-Bahamas will be WB4SHB/C6A in the WW DX Test this weekend and they will aim at the 28mc area. They will be on Grand Bahama while over at the far out Deepwater Cay W400 and friends will be rattling up the action.

KL4SHB will operate at the British Virgins as VP2LDV. This will QSL to Vic DuBois, 800 NW 62nd Street, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33309. W4ZMQ will be Belize signing VP1FOC and he will also work 160 meters.

WB4ZNH departed Los Angeles this last weekend enroute to American Samoa where he will be on for the WW DX Test and then will head for Western Samoa for a bit of action there. He is due back in the states on December 5th. The California Contest crew headed for Western Samoa this Tuesday, W6RGG, WB600L and WB6DSV being the operators on this one.

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23 November 1976

CALENDAR

GAMBIA	OH2MM, Ville, there now warming up for the contest..C5AZ
LIECHTENSTEIN	OH-group there for the WW DX Test this weekend
TRINIDADE	PY0ZAE still active....there for some weeks yet
WW DX TEST	CW go-round...this weekend. November 27/28th
ARRL 160mtr TEST	December 3/5th
HUNGARIAN TEST	CW.....December 11/12th
SPANISH TEST	CW.....December 11/12th

PLANNING DEPARTMENT WW DX TEST CW November 27/28th

Ascension-ZD8 by KP4s and friends
Belize-VP1 by VP1FOC
Bahamas-C6A by W400 and Co.
British Virginis-VP2V by the Colvins
Curacao-PJ9MM by W1GNC
Gambia-C5AZ by Ville, OH2MM
Guernsey-GC4DAA by Channel Contest Co.
Iran-EPs big effort from Teheran. Watch for 9D5A!
Liechtenstein-HB0 by OH-group
Montserrat-VP2M by WA7OTT
Samoa-KS6 by WB4ZNH
St Lucia-VP2LDV
Sint Maarten-PJ8 by W5AT and W5NUT
Trinidad-9Y4 by the Boiled Owls
CW3BR-Uruguay by CX1EK
Western Samoa-5W1AZ by California Contesters

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ARRL The Big QRM out of the USSR was off the air for some days after November 2nd but was back on November 8th. The interference is receiving more and more attention and now Aeronautical Radio, Inc. reports that its air-ground communications stations located in San Francisco and Honolulu have experienced interference recently at a frequency of 8.876mc.

The FCC computer has handed some Technicians licenses beginning with the prefix WN. Also a number of calls have been issued with 'X' as the first letter in the suffix. These were supposed to be reserved for Experimental Licenses. ARRL gained 2206 new members..net that is..in October. Total full members was 108,976 at the end of October with the gross total of full, associate and subscribers being 138 297.

TNX to K1AA, W1AM, W1DAL, W1GNC, WA1IJC, W1MV, K1TZQ, W2AG, W2FP, K2IJ, W3CDL, W3US, W4AAV, WB4EDD, W4HU, W4KA, W4OO, K4SMX, W4TYE, W4UF, W4UMF, K4YFQ, WA5AUZ, W5EZ, WA5OCN, K5OVC, K5TSQ, W5USM, W6DC, K6EC, WB6IXC, W6KG, W6MTJ, WA6MWG, W6OBH, W6PT, WA6TLA, K6UFT, W6TSQ, W6VD, K6VY, W6VQD, W6ZH, W7EXM, WA7HRE, K7LAY, WA7UVO, K8IP, W8JXM, WB9QJA, K9UIY, WA9VOL, WA9WKA, KH6BZFfffff KL7PI, LU1BAR, OH2BH, OZ6XT, PY7APS, EP2VW, W6SP, WA6BDU, YB7AAA.

WEST COAST DX BULLETIN Published every week by the Marin County DX Group. One of the local QRPers came by last week, just doing nothing much and with nothing much to do. "I think I'll throw in the towel", the QRPper announced, "I've been hamming now for over fifty years.....mostly c.w. because I do not like phone. And on top of everything else, I lost my tower and beam in that high wind last month. I think I'll just quit." We started to say something but then held onto our silence. For there are often these times in the life of a DXer when the lure turns sour, the bands are dead and the joy is scant. After awhile we just said: "Think you might?", and the QRPper was not real fast in his reassurances. Somehow, we figure that some day not too far ahead there will be life again in the bands, the day will be bright and the calls will be heard again. For the true-blue DXers always return and their calls will be heard again. For DX has the many times and things that only a DXer will know and understand. And for a full year of alarums and clarion calls to DX, \$11.00 will bring you the sound of the bugles that call by second-class mail. \$14.50 roars it down the track by first-class mail to the U.S./VE areas while \$17.00 a year will fly it, flat-out all the way, to the far DX lands beyond the dawn and down the far turn into tomorrow...

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