

January 3, 1978

1-78

the problem of interference from LORAN being eliminated when that Loran mode is being ended January 1st and the Coast Guard shifting to LORAN C.

The group, KH6JFI, Ron Harburg, N4ZC, Roger Burt and WA8VDJ, Dante Hebert, will depart Honolulu on the flight to Kure on January 25th. If everything falls into place, they may be heard using the SWAN gear that evening, the gear already in place there at the Coast Guard facility on Kure.

CW frequencies will be 25kc or thereabouts up from the bottom edge of the band. Phone frequencies may be a mixture. NuZC will operate on the low edge of the phone sub-bands and in the U.S. portion. He will find a convenient spot inside this area and fire up. As Roger prefers to work split frequencies, he will be indicating where he is listening.

There will also be operations within the General Class portions of the phone bands and the frequencies you might check are 3890kc/7225kc/14280kd/21350kc and 28550kc. Before and after the ARRL Test on the first weekend of February you might find the group under any of the above calls. During the contest you should watch for N4ZC/Kure.

QSLs will go:

NLZC goes to KLMQG WA8VDJ go to WA6PYN

WASVDJ probably will be the one you will be finding on OSCAR as he likes that operation. The present CLASSIC 36 antenna at Kure is mounted on a low tower and the group is looking to take a 40' tower out with them to get the aluminum a bit higher. Their efforts initially may be getting things organized for a big contest score.

All the operators are either currently in the U.S. Coast Guard or retired from that group. NhZC you might recall as the one acquiring, at last report, two 5BDXCC from different call areas and was closing in on a third.

They will be cleaning up a lot of the demand for Kure with this effort and definitely will be heard in the Contest. There has been no late word on any future plans of the KM6FC group though this one also might jell in the coming weeks for their Kure plans. There are eports of a possible weekend operation in January.

CLIPPERTON Last week some information was sought from a French source, this one previously a high government official, and an active DXer. On the identity of the 'French Duke', there was a chuckle and then the information that Jacques Costeau is the one involved.

The information was that Costeau will be again in the Clipperton area in late March or early April and that there will be amateurs aboard the Calypso.

Definitely the feeling is that something is brewing. Most of the reports are all pointing to the same period of time, the sources are more of a reliable nature and the points of origin while spread half ways around the world do have some things in common. Hold on!! 1978 looks like the year!!!

SUNSPOT LOUIE On December 27th there were No. 968 did not last through the night. observation there were five active areas at of these had flared on December 27th. Both were in the southern hemisphere, No. 965 flared twice on December 27th as it neared the 1 western limb, No. 967 also flared twice on that date, it just appearing on the east limb. The sun quieted a bit in mid-December but was picking up a bit the week of this poservation the last week in the year. Zurich daily sunspot numbers backed down to around 40 in mid-month but even with this the conditions were relatively good. There will be some LNs, some HNs and a good try at a/AN as we go into the new year. Things are certain to improve in 1978 and there will be DX most hillionths everywhere.... spots 70 millionths There has been a rash of newspaper articles in the last week or so on the statement of NOAA's 5 spots Howard H Sargent at the San Francisco meeting 50 millionths of the American Geophysical Union meeting. That NOAA is National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration based at Boulder, Colorado.

Some of the news articles even quoted NOAA's forecaster as saying...."It will be good times for ham operators because radio propagation patterns are much better during times like that. Hams have a term for these conditions...'..working DX'. DX means distance."

Before rushing off to join the Palos Verdes Sundancers in their wild dance of jubilation, you might note that there are a few who are not quite so optimistic as this forecaster. Wait until 1980 before really starting to dance.

Meanwhile, loooking down the next couple of weeks, conditions may bring you up jigging at times and NAXX looking down the cold weeks of winter and looking for the crocus blooming in the snow on the south bank of the Potomac, says it will be:

Jan 3r	d High	Normal			Jan	10th	High l	Normal	
4t	h High	Normal			1	11th	High l	Normal	
5t	h High	Normal				12th	High l	Normal	
6ti	h High	.dipping	to :	Low		13th	High l	Normal	
7t	h Below	W Normal				15th	Above	Normal	(Maybe!)
8t	h Low 1	Normal							
9 ti	h High	but Low	at	times	-				

There will be some good conditions in the next couple of weeks. The flux is getting up there...so is the magnetic field. But up or down, high or low, K6EC is picking up the numbers and Ev has all of them for the chartmakers.

	Solar Flux	Ap Index	e la seconda	Solar	r Flux	Ap Index
December		3.	December		94	3
	20th 92 21st 91	7 7		21 ₄ th 25th	97 100	5
	22nd 93	4	a page of free con-	26th	100	8

Last Thursday the Flux was at 102 and the Ap at 9 with WWV reporting conditions as unsettled to active. Tune in at 18 after the hour for the latest up-date.

THE RESERVE THE STATE OF THE ST

Erik ——SMØAGD A month or so back Erik was in Bangladesh. Then he showed very briefly at YI-Iraq for a handful of contacts under strict supervision. A few weeks later he was at 3C1X in Equatorial Guinea. Where will he next show?

We have a long letter from Erik and we are running the whole thing. Read it and you will find that he has his eye on some more of the rare ones.... Erik Sjolund, SMØAGD, definitely is among the top DXers throughout the world. Read what he says:

Douala, Cameroon

I wish to send you some information about my last DX activities, this time in Africa. As you probably know already, I have been four days in Equatorial Guinea (3C1) where I visited 3C1X operated by Hal, SM6CSB.

Together we were operating from the capital city of Equatorial Guinea, Malabo, this

formerly known as Santa Isabel, on the island of Isla Macias Nguema Biyogo. This is the former Fernando Poo.

It was interesting for me to return to this country again. I was here also in 1975 when I was given a 'short-form' permission to operate for twenty hours as 301AGD. The people in Malabo are very friendly and it was nice for me to meet some of my friends from 1975. They did everything possible to make my stay as pleasant as possible.

Although formalities are sometimes a bit frustrating to deal with, this time it was easy because Hal has straightened the route and he has permission to operate. Hal has been in Malabo since October but he has not been too active. He is using an ATLAS transceiver and a dipole but he has no external VFO which makes it difficult when the pile-up is building up...as it easily and quickly does when you are a 3C1.

I brought my own transceiver with an external VFO and a 14AVQ four-band vertical. This simplified the operations procedure quite a lot and together we worked 1700 QSOs during the four days I was there. But we could not operate more than a few hours per day because there is no electricity available at this time in Malabo. The Central Power Plant has been out of order for a few months and they are waiting for a shipment of repair parts from abroad.

We were allowed to connect our radio to a private a.c. generator which was in use every evening from 1700Z to 1900Z. (cont'd)



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ERIK- (cont'd)

After 2300Z the generator had to be turned off because it was noisy and the people in the house could not sleep when it was running. With the generator off, we had to rely on an old car battery which normally lasted for two hours of operation. Then our signals were so weak that no one could hear us any more. We were operating in the dim light of a torch or sometimes just by the light of the dials on the transceiver. This was the most strange operation I ever experienced, writing the log book was a bit difficult!

I left 3C1 on December 12th and went to Zaire where no activity was planned. I will be home in Sweden before Christmas. Hal will remain in Malabo with 3C1X until December 28th. I left my 1hAVQ with him and I hope it will improve his signal strength some.

QSL cards for the 3C1X operation can be sent to his manager, SM6PF, or to my QSL manager, SM3CXS. Both have copies of the 3C1X logs. SM3CXS and the Sundsvall DX-Group will take care of having the cards printed.

Hal and I spent some time visiting the different ministries in Malabo. We presented an application for permission to made a DX-pedition to 30%. The island is no longer called Annobon but is now Pagalu.

Our request for permission to visit Pagalu was seriously considered but i seems as though only the Presiden, himself can make a decision. It will take time before our application will reach him but some of the European diplomatic missions in Malabo will help us in his matter and will make the presentation to the President.

So perhaps some ime in 1978 it may be possible to put Annobon/Pagalu on the air. Transportation to 30%— is another problem as there are no regular carriers operating out to the island. The landing strip used by OH2BH and OH2MM in 1971 has not been used since. It is said to be completely out of service now.

Any DXpedition would have to charter a vessel somewhere in West Africa. In Equatorial Guinea no suitable boats are available. It is going to be an expensive undertaking because prices are now very high in that part of the world.

Definitely, some financial support will be needed for an Annobon/Pagalu effort. But all of this is still a long ways to go before we face that problem....

73 for now.....

/s/ Erik Sjolund

ADVISORY COMMITTEES President Dannals of the ARRL has announced the composition of the Advisory

Committees for 1978. There are five such committees but two are those close to the heart of the

DXer and the DX Contester.

On the Contest Committee, the chairman for the coming year will be Ken Bolin, WING. He was appointed to a new two year term. Also among the curren members of the Contest Committee re-appointed for another two-year term were Dennis McAlpine, W2FVS; Mike Badolato, W5MYA; Wayne Overbeck, N6NB; and Victor Shields K9UIY. The new faces on the Contest Committee are Fred A Minnis, KøMM and VE7TT, Richard Guy of Burnaby in British Columbia.

On the DX Advisory Committee here was but one re-appointment, this being Robert Locher, K9AM/W9KNI. Those finishing up their terms on the DXAC were George Hitz, W1DA; Hayden Evans, K2EZT, Gary Stilwell, W6NJU. Dr. John Sheller, WA8ZDF resigned during the last year. James Douglas, W3ZN, will be the new chairman of the DXAC.

Contest Committee - 1978

Ken Bolin, W1NG, Chairman Dennis McAlpine W2FVS Fred Laun, K3ZD Melvin Wardell, K4PJ Mike Badolato, W5MYA Wayne Overbeck N6NB Frederick Niswander K7GM Robert Epstein K8IA/K8HLR Victor Shields K9UIY Fred A Minnis KØMM Richard W Guy, VE7TT DX Advisory Committee - 1978

James Douglas, W3ZN Chairman Anthony Berg W10T Robert Scully W2XN John Kanode NhMM Louis Muhleisen K5FVA/K51M Jim Rafferty, K6AAR/N6RJ Allen Clark, W7YTN/N7UR Daryl Kiebler, WB6FUN Robert Locher, K9AM/W9KNI Robert Wood WØUD Harold Parsons VE7QA

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1508 McKINNEY HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002 WAKE Roger Burt, N4ZC, plans to make a stop at Midway on the return from Kure and see about heading a bit further west to KW6-Wake for some more operating.

The time is tentative at this point but Roger figures it will be about mid-February. He was rather definite on his plans and expects that he can do this one without too much trouble. He will plan for at least a week's stay on Wake.

He will be using the same frequencies used at Kure for nix N4ZC/Kure action, Forty meters may be different but he will make enough noise so he can easily be found.

LACCADIVES A relay from VU2GW indicates that VU2TN and VU2IJ have the permission to operate from VU4-Laccadives and this should come either late this month or in February. The details are sketchy but the information was firm. More should show on this but it does seem that the Laccadives will be heard, VU5KV by Venkat back in 1971 being the last memorable operation from the Indian Ocean island group.

A FEW MIXED-UP NOTES Bophuthatswana with its six separate areas may have more than one DXCC country because of Rule 3. Five of the six areas are within 75 miles of another part of Bophuthatswana but the sixed is over 200 miles away. Biphuthatswana would seem to be the only one of the nine homelands to which this rule might apply.

Keep working them! Remember that Mafeking where Lord Baden-Powell made his reputation during the long siege is now within Bophuthatswana. Some are even able to spell the country now with out referring to anything else. And, as Lord Baden-Powell would often say: "Be Prepared!!"

The problem with the EP QSL bureau apparently stems from the APO saying that it was against regulations to handle the incoming cards through the APO service. The EP Downtown Tehran DX Club is seeking to obtain a post office box and to re-establish a QSL Bureau. EP2IA and EP2WW go via WhYE and 2750 of EP2IA's have gone out recently. EP2BQ is back in Iran and is using DRAKE gear and has put up antennas for One-sixty. Harry is willing to be your first EP on 16Omtrs. EP2SV had departed for California but we will have more on that in another issue. EP2VW is waiting shiping of a TRITON IV to try a bit of c.w. operating. Some tend to feel that Doug has been assigned the 25kc inside-the-band frequencies. He works most everyone from that platform.

Some have said that getting a QSL from VE8DC is hopeless. The Arabian Knights Round Table is showing on Sundays about 1300Z. YK1AA often there with a gaggle of JYs and ST2SA and other Middle East types. 4Z4TT is looking for Niue come the Spring. 8Q7AD went QRT on December 22nd. STØRK was supposed to secure on December 28th though some were saying the statim was still on December 29th...but it sounded like a different operator. STØRK QSLs to DL7FT and a bit of support for the Southern Sudan effort would not be anything but accepted!

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

\$18.00 per year by first-class mail to the U.S. VE and XE areas. \$14.00 per year by second-class mail in the U.S. \$20.00 per year for airmail service to all the far DX lands, all those beyond the rim of the night and far beyond tomorrow's dawn. All the way to where the morning meets the sky.....

SHORTLY NOTED Last week we ran short of space....there were a number of good

DX items and we had the QSL sheet. This week we had a long letter from Erik
which we felt to be interesting and the whole thing is in this issue. So to
catch up we are doing all the news items first to see how Red Eyed Louie makes
out. He may be left out in the New Years cold as we try to clean up...again.

Take a look at the Advisory Committees. A lot of the new ideas and recommendations will come in the future and in many instances the Advisory Committees will have some influence on the final decisions.

he kind of amateur serves on these committees? Well, the DXAC has ten U.S. amateurs and one Canadian. Of the ten U.S. amateurs, nine of them are Extra Class and the other one is an Advanced.

On the Contest Advisory Committee there are seven Extra Class, two Generals and one Conditional. These being drawn from the latest Call Book and though there may be some last minute changes, it should be accurate.

You might note that where the Contest Committee had five reappointed to another term, only one DXAC member got a new term. There has been some indications that there has not been exactly a seeing eye=to-eye on some matters in recent months and the Harry Dannals letter was again reissued....this one telling all the Advisory Committees that their role was to advise and that headquarters would make the decisions.

VEBERS/TZ6 was down to only a fifteen-meter capability as he neared the end of his stay. He had burnt out the twenty-meter capabilities. 21250kc was one of the frequencies where he had been showing. Some have indicated a less than enthusiastic appraisal for the H5 operation that kicked off Independence Day there in Bophuthataswana. Some are philosophical because they figure that it will not be an early counter for DXCC.

George Collins, VE3FXT, did not get it to 7Q-Malawi for the Christmas holiday. Apparently he could not get permission and was disappointed. You may catch George from 3D6-Swaziland. George is anxious to line up some operations in the Indian Ocean area and would appreciate hearing from anyone with some good connections for information and possibilities. He is also looking at Lord Howe and Norfolk. Any information can be relayed through ZS6DN. George expects to have some of his plans lined out by next week.

3D6BP, Harry, did not make it back to England to visit his mother as planned. A storm left some problems at the radio station where he works and it took a week to get things lined out for operation again. Harry often found on fifteen meters.

Up at Walvis Bay, ZS6ANE was sending a KWM-1 to his son ZS3WB. The early activity by ZS3WB from Walvis brought only about 250 contacts. He was only running 25watts and the new rig should help. ZS6ANE will be there late this month, about the third week in January, and will put the station on the air a bit more than ZS3WB can do with his limited time.

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MORE SHORTLY NOTED YBØADI, often showing in Red Eyed Louie, is Mike Selby, WA2DWE. Often on W7PHO's Family Circle, Mike is living in Jakarta.

Some early changes in the FCC staff seems to be expected. PYØZAE QSLs continue to surface....and always welcomed. Hal, once he started, has been grinding them out. A9XCC said he would be leaving for the states soon but his room mate Chuck has been issued A9XCS.

On that A9XCC, we never have been quite sure whether there is a station with the call A9XCC and another with A9XXC. Often we get both in the reports...and we run both as you can verify by checking last week's bulle in. We still are not sure. The Kermedec QSLs should be back from the printer this week or next and should be surfacing shortly after that. SAIL magazine for December has a short item with pictures of a yacht making a stop at Raoul Island there in the Kermedecs. If you can find a copy of the magazine, you can get an idea of the terrain on the island and how arrivals have to be lifted by crane from boat to shore. The U.S yacht also made a stop at Minerva Reef. They note that except for the rusting wreck of the KOOMANDERRY there on the reef at South Minerva, there is nothing except the circle of pounding surf and some exposed coral at low tide.

ZAIZA, operated by Lulik, advised that QSLs should be sent to the Amateur Radio Club of Tirana. Some did try the roule, figuring they had little to lose. And they lost even that. KwaZulu is another of the South African homelands and an election for the 55 elected seats in the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly will be held in the latter part of February. More are coming....DXCC stuff that is... and you may even find some closer-to-home stuff with a possibility being in the Caribbean. Just wait! DX and DX countries always come to the patient and waiting Deserving DXers!!

With Clipperton showing signs of coming to life, those who have to know most everything....typical DXers are what we refer to...can get a lot of detailed information in a publication issued by the Pacific Science Board, National Academy of Sciences, Tational Research Council, Washington, D.C. 20418. This is "Atoll Research Bulletin No. 86, Geography and Land Ecology of Clipperton Island". This was authored by Marie-Helene Sachet and published in February 1962.

WA6QFO/3D6 is Geraldine A Cooper, Box 295, Sacunda, TVL, Republic of South Africa. Currently waiting for a ZS6 license, you can QSL her for the Swaziland operation to the above address.

Some weeks back we mentioned an EL type getting up to the 3X-border for some foo -across operating. Seems that it may not be as easy as envisioned as there are several hundred miles of roadless jungle in between. While the speculation is there, the possibility is not...at least at this time.

Peoria, Illinois has a city ordinance limiting tower height to fourteen feet. Currently Dennison Bradford, WB9LFD, has gone to a civil action against the town to overturn the ordinance. The local radio club there in Peoria is backing the effort and raising funds for the costs, over \$4,000.00 having been spent so far. If you want to help your route, is to: Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club, Special Fund, Lakeview Center, 1125 West Lake Ave, Peoria, Ill 61614.

There is also a report on a recent decision in California on a tower case where the zoning authority of the municipality was questioned. The townies won in the Appellate Courts. This is believed to be the first instance in California where such actions got to the appellate level and the decision is binding on all lower courts. There is also a feeling expressed that political action and public relations may often be a more frai ful rouse to follow than a head-on confrontation.

KG4TS has left Guanatanamo Bay. He is headed for a new assignment at Long Beach, California.

CALENDAR

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LACCADIVES CLIPPERTON NEUTRAL ZONE GUYANA MONTSERRAT GEYSER/GLORIOSO DL ORP TEST FRACAP TEST

AMERICAS QSO TEST

CQ ONE-SIXTY TEST ARRL PHONE TEST ARRL CW TEST

CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL

February 4/5th February 18/19th

FW8AC currently active January 14th to 18th ... Marconi Anniversary Station

January 14/15th

January 27/29th

January 21/22nd

SOME FAST NOTES FROM A SLOW OPERATOR We will start listing soon the special events. for the ARRL Phone Test....and the CW Test. We have mentioned a number so far but it would not burt to jiggle our elbow. It's downhill all the way around here and we do sometimes lose things as we plunge ever downwards.

Apparently the Loran Stations operated by the U.S. that have given One-Sixty some problems are being phased out as of the start of this year. From Wake on west they dre going and also in the Mediterranean area. There will still be some around as "other nations operate in the One-Sixty country and also it is believed that some in the Hawaiian area are still operating.

a buried bunker for the French meteorological station is being claimed by France, Madagascar and Mauritius. The dispute may go all the way to the International Court of Justice. Mostly it is the 200 mile seabed law ... who has the island claims the seabed for that distance around. Madagascar is also claiming Europe, Juan de Nova and Glorioso.

152 f

be ready for the next HRO Dxpedition

of the water than the said the

From January 25th through the ARRL DX Test VU2TN and VU2IJ from VU4-Laccadives last week of month

NuZC looking for a week of operating in mid-February Something appears to be simmering. Be Prepared!!

Eights looking for ARRL Contest or thereabouts....

Eights going to VP2M for ARRL Contest

January 14/15th SSB only

Tromelin ... described as one mile long, 700 yards wide with four coconut palms and

- Lord Michigan

Spine you exert ... - sit

JYs, a HZ and a few others looking for a Spring operation

Jackie--- F6BBJ...in Eas Africa and looking at several stops

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WALLIS FW7kC is currently on the island and this is Gil who a bit back was TR8GB. Gil is reported as being quite active and will be on Wallis for three years.

In mid-December he was being found at 14120kc or thereabouts after 0900Z. Far Bast stations have been reporting him. Sometimes that frequency is SSB....sometimes c.w. Listen and you will learn quickly when Gil comes on.

St PETER AND PAIL ROCKS While some Brazilians are looking at this one, transportation would seem to be the main difficulty. In the past the Brazilian Navy has been the source of transportation but their current schedules and fuel restrictions has just about eliminated that possibilities.

A charter for a vessel to make the voyage would seem to be the possibility at this time. This would be an expensive undertaking and while some are hoping that developments during this year would help bring a PYØ-5 P&P on the air, the plans at this time are mostly plans with nothing definite.

However, something is always possible and if the transportation problem can be worked out, St Peter and Paul may be heard.

NEPAL 9N1NFO was being worked by Europeans a week back....3797kc from 0000Z to 0200Z being the report. Pat
Rana (WB4NFO) was at the home of his brother there in the Katmandhu area and using a SB-104 with a vertical
antenna.

Some stations in the Western Reaches have reported hearing the station around 14225kc after 0300Z. They also report the station signing 9N33.

TIX to W1AA, W1DA, W1MV, W1MY, W2AG, W2FP, W2GHV, W2GT, WB2LRK/VE1, K2VV, AALGM, W4HU, WD4BRE, W4GTS, W4HG, W4KA, W4LCL, W4OO, WA4OUF, WB4RIS, N4XX, W4UF, N4WX, W4ZR, W5AK, K5AQ, K5BZU, K5HWO, WA5VWP, K5MM, K5OVC, W5USM, W6BFW, WA6BJS, WA6DNM, W6KPC, K6NA, W6PT, W6TSQ, K6UFT, K6XT, W6YO, WB6ZUC, W7DH, W7LH, K7NN, W7QS, W7SE, N7UT, K8CFU, W6FYP, W8JXM, W8KI, W9VW, W8ZOK, WA9FFZ, W9DH, W9SS, W9TKV, KØBJ, WAØKDI, KØKES, NØRF, WØSF, WØULU, WØUO, KA6PS, KH6BZF, KZ5FR, CX7BF, EP2VW, YB7AAA, YS1RRD.

west coast DX BULLETIN Published every week by the Marin County DX Group. Maybe some will recall that Local ORPer who was by last Fall to help with the answer to the Riddle of the Ages.....DX Is! Well, he was back last week and we were not quick enough to hide. "I am here to help you," he again promised and we could feel the cringes all the way to the deep recesses of our soul. But there was no escape, "I am here to help you," the ORPer continued, I am here to land the spirit of the DXer, to enhance your understanding of the DX Mystique and to limit the heroic form of the true-blue DXer. I am, in short, here!" Son of a Gun, we were feeling the need to be elsewhere quickly but there was no escape, we were caught firmly, We had to listen. "Remember all of this," the ORPer said, "and listen closely." And he was off and winging.....

I am who I am
And yearn for the fulness
Of DX within myself....

The QRPer leaned close, those beady eyes holding us fast. "Remember that," he said. "Remember and understand that and you will understand everything. Everything!" Heck! we were still trying to figure out what he meant when he said he was going to 'limn the heroic form! of the DXers. So we quickly did a fast shuffle and came up with what Sam is often heard to say: "Que la force soit ave toi" and we smiled most understandingly. And the QRPer was off, heading down the hill to save the world for DXers. We were happy to see him go for this one talks of things we often do not understand and we are not sure whether it is he or we. But one thing for sure...a full year of DX enigmas will come your way in the U. S. by second class mail for \$11,00....\$18.00 flines it with mad abandon all the way to the VE/XE and various U.S. Areas by first-class mail. \$20.00 flies it down the long trail to all the DX lands. And thinking it all over, maybe we had pay more attention to what Sam says. Que la force

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

first