



# West Coast **DX** Bulletin

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March 13, 1979

11-79

SPRATLY As of last week the preparations for 1S1DX were getting solid and unless something not anticipated develops at the last minute, the plans were to start air-shipping gear to the take off point sometime this week.

There were still a couple of last minute possibilities for the trip and one or two more names may be added. For sure last week VK2BJL, Harry Mead; K4SMX Stewart Woodward; N200 Bob Schenck; John Ackley, KV4KV were listed as operators, TI7JB will be the one supplying the vessel and one or two more operators may turn up when things get solidly nailed down.

The operation of 1S1DX is aimed to open up about March 29th or just a bit over two weeks from now. They are still looking to run up about 15K QSOs and hope to clear up the current demand for Spratly with this effort.

The planned frequencies are:

|     |         |         |          |          |          |
|-----|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| CW  | 3505kHz | 7005kHz | 14020kHz | 21020kHz | 28020kHz |
| SSB | 3798kHz | 7085kHz | 14190kHz | 21295kHz | 28595kHz |

They also plan to try One-Sixty, saying that they will be in the One-Sixty 'Window'. The seven to ten days of operation planned should find most everyone finding them on one or more bands.

The gear line-up is impressive. They now have lined up:

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Four FT-901DMs         | Two Yagi antennas     |
| One Drake TR4/RV4      | Two vertical antennas |
| One Collins C-Line     | Assorted dipoles      |
| One Triton 4           |                       |
| Two Dentron Amplifiers |                       |

The plans are to try to have four complete stations set up to work all bands.

Some of the crew will be traveling next week enroute to the rendezvous point. K4SMX and N200 will be going out across the Pacific and where possible they may come on the air from a number of stops. These include possibilities at 9M8-East Malaysia, 9V1-Singapore, VS5-Brunei and VS6-Hong Kong. Apparently the two have lined up a Pan Am excursion fare which will take them on a number of side-stops enroute.

QSLs will be handled by VK2BJL, Harry Mead. His QTH is P.O. Box 85, Round Corner, New South Wales, 2158 Australia. The South New Jersey DX Assn is handling any support from the W/K areas. If you are interested in this activity, you can send your support to Erich Schmidt, K2TJ, 33 Shore Drive, Manahawkin, New Jersey 08050.

As of last week the Spratly effort did seem to be well firmed up. In less than two weeks they should be heard for a long run with 1S1DX.

THE GAMBIA This one should open this week, the group from Six-land were expecting to be in Dakar the first part of the week, moving on to The Gambia where they were hoping to get all licenses in hand and to be on the air by Thursday, March 14th. The big problem just before taking off was that they could not announce what the call signs would be.

The operating frequencies will be:

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| CW        | 25kHz up from the bottom edge of the band.....ten through eighty meters |
| SSB       | 2780/2805kHz    7085kHz    14195/14230kHz    21360kHz    28560kHz       |
| One-Sixty | 1825/1830kHz and 1805kHz  |

Gear will include a TS520, an FT101B with external VFO, two vertical antennas and one three-element tribander.

While in Western Africa, they will check with licenses for 5T5 Mauritania and CR3-Guinea-Bissau. They are not especially optimistic on the latter but will make inquiry at any embassy, legation, consulate or any possible source. They may also look for a possible operation from the Cape Verde Islands.

You can send your QSLs to, in lieu of any other information given during QSOs, to Ray Benny, N6VR, 34 Monterey Drive, Oak View, California 93022. Sase or Sae/IRC is needed. N6VR operated from The Gambia back in the Spring of 1967 signing ZD3G and Ray says that recent mention of this brought some of the Deserving looking for a QSL for the long ago QSO.



**SUNSPOT LOUIE** It hardly seems to have been more than yesterday, or maybe last week, that the flux was bumping along the bottom around the low seventies and the high sixties and DX was a thing that had been, or was to come some fine day, but definitely was not right then.

Then came Cycle 21 and things have changed. Where ten meters was dead for all practical DX, it now glows in its vigor. DX is being found around the clock and it is about unbelievable to turn on a rig at midnight and not find some long-haul DX with a loud signal.

Where once we would exult over one or two small sunspots, and hope for more, now they are all over the place. Let there be no doubt! These are the Great Days of DXing. Two or three things should prove that.

First, N4XX has just about discarded the LN and BN stickers, only occasionally dragging them out for comparison purposes. Ted is concerned over the possibilities that DXers may tend to believe that things go up but never come down.

Second, K6EC has heaved the flux over the 200 mark for weeks at a time and though it sometimes is below two hundred, such as this weeks report, it usually is not there for long and Ev pumps things up again.

We had a third one in mind but forgot it. Not that it is needed, we just wanted to nail things down.

Anyhow, Ted slipped in some conditions to remind the Deserving that while ANs are nice, some LNs do slip in once in awhile but not as they once were....plentiful. And keeping things honest, Ted says to look for:

|          |                              |          |            |
|----------|------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Mar 14th | High Normal                  | Mar 20th | Disturbed  |
| 15th     | Above Normal                 | 21st     | Below/Low  |
| 16th     | Above Normal                 | 22nd     | Low Normal |
| 17th     | Low Normal                   | 23rd     | Low Normal |
| 18th     | High Normal                  |          |            |
| 19th     | Above, dropping to Disturbed |          |            |

And Ev watches WWV as one watches for a true-blue

BY to show....and K6EC says that the flux was down a bit but wait for the end of the end of this year when Zurich expects the SSN to be over 125! For now, try on....

| Solar Flux Ap Index |     |    |
|---------------------|-----|----|
| Feb 26th            | 171 | 18 |
| 27th                | 166 | 15 |
| 28th                | 167 | 13 |

| Solar Flux Ap Index |     |    |
|---------------------|-----|----|
| March 1st           | 171 | 9  |
| 2nd                 | 174 | 14 |
| 3rd                 | 176 | 12 |
| 4th                 | 184 | 15 |

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| No. 1591  | 34 spots       |
| S18° W41° | 140 millionths |
| 1595      | 8 spots        |
| S24° W14° | 160 millionths |
| 1596      | 4 spots        |
| S19° W77° | 20 millionths  |
| 1599      | 7 spots        |
| S21° E12° | 50 millionths  |
| 1600      | 4 spots        |
| S33° W72° | 30 millionths  |
| 1601      | 1 spot         |
| N12° E35° | 50 millionths  |
| 1603      | 8 spots        |
| N36° W16° | 50 millionths  |
| 1604      | 1 spot         |
| N17° E38° | 140 millionths |
| 1605      | 19 spots       |
| S17° E49° | 130 millionths |

W6RQ  
7 Mar 79

KH6BZF

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES A6XB, the last active station in the United Arab Emirates, went QRT on February 11th and this appears to have ended amateur activity in those areas. With all amateur activity ended, the gear at A6XB was confiscated.

There is some slim hope that conditions may change in the future but this hope is a very faint one and it may be a long time coming to realization. K1DRN has been handling the QSL chores for A6XB since 1971 and Vern has very little hope at this time. He has the logs for activity up to 0300Z on February 8th, the QSLing for these is current.

A6XB was W.S Rees and he was located at Ras Al Khaimah.

TROMELIN FR7ZL/T, Guy, is on most every day, sometimes twice a day. He reported via W4MGN that he follows a schedule of coming on the air most days at 1430Z at 14025kHz, sometimes a bit later but usually by 1500Z, and again sometime after 0300Z.

Some have become impatient at hearing W4MGN speaking French in QSO with FR7ZL/T. The QSOs have been working out details of the QSLing to be handled by N4WX and the composition of the QSL cards.

Also, because of problems at other times with FR7ZL QSLs, Guy indicating that these probably stemmed from the QSLs never reaching his QTH there on Reunion, discussions have been going on to clear up any backlog for previous efforts by FR7ZL.

This also can go via N4NX who will process them when he gets the logs from Reunion. Guy indicated in a QSO with W4MGN that he will either ship them on his return to Reunion from the present tour on Tromelin or he may see if his XYL can sort them out and get them on the way before he returns.

The Southeastern DX Club in the Atlanta area arranged to ship an outboard VFO to Guy some months back and this is making QSOs somewhat easier. The present rig is only putting out about 40 watts but the Atlanta group has also shipped tubes for the gear and when these arrive, the signal should improve.

Guy does not like lists and you are not likely to find him involved in such. His English is adequate but not fluent and thus the French-language QSOs do expedite things. He will be on Tromelin for another month or so and at this time is not scheduled to go to Glorioso. In fact he does not anticipate going there at all. However, he will be on Europa in the Juan de Nova group in July for another DXCC counter.

Those looking for Guy should transmit at least 10kc above his frequency. He does show at times on SSB, this usually low on twenty meters, occasionally he makes an excursion up above the 14275kHz looking for General Class types. His only band is twenty meters.

There it is! The full Tromelin report. Check these frequencies and you will eventually catch up with Guy, he's been visiting Tromelin on and off for many years, well over ten or more.

DON MILLER Don Miller and his alleged accomplice Leroy Freeman entered an innocent pleas to charges of conspiracy to commit murder and arson, entering the pleas February 28th in the Superior Court at Indio, California. Miller also entered a plea of innocent to a charge of insurance fraud.

Trial has been set to start May 11th, it initially was set for April 27th but was put off for two weeks on request of Miller's attorney. The trial, including jury selection, is expected to take five or six weeks. If there are no further delays, jury selection is anticipated to start on May 14th.

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NORFOLK ISLAND Al Egli, HB9AAA, will open from Norfolk Island the early part of next week, the anticipated date being either March 20th or 21st. He will be signing VK2DCA/VK9N. Al will be active on Norfolk through the WPK Contest on March 24/25th and probably for a few days later. Last week he was figuring to be heard up to March 28th or 29th, maybe even a few days later.

Look for VK2DCA/VK9N on the following frequencies.

SSB: 14195kHz listening 14205kHz and up for stateside  
listening 14180kHz and down for the rest of the world  
21245kHz listening 21255kHz and up  
28595kHz listening 28610kHz and up

Every hour Al will go transceive for about ten minutes to pick up those who are not quite flexible. On these occasions he will indicate the frequencies. There will be no list operation....anytime.

Equipment includes a TR7 with outboard VFO and a 3-element tribander beam. QSL to his home QTH: Al Egli, HB9AAA, Box 17, CH-2500 Bienne 4, SWITZERLAND. A Sase or Sase/IRC is required.

This is not the first DXpedition for Al, he having on other occasions operated from F6GFB/FG, HB9AAA, JYL88, OD5BA, YK1AA/HB9AA, YKR88, HB4FT and from a number of state-side call areas.

SHORTLY NOTED It was not enough that the typewriter decided to show that essentially we are mechanical operators in putting out the bulletin, the press also decided to show that it needs a lot of delicate adjustments. This was not a serene week in putting out the bulletin.

Some reports come of Italians being active in Angola. One source says the call is D2AC and that they are heard around 14150kHz after 1900Z. Though there is internal strife within Chad, some stations have been reported in recent weeks. F6FTQ/TT8 is said to be found low on the twenty meter phone area, around 14105kHz, sometimes a bit higher, from 1600Z. 7P8BC in a QSO with W1QV said that he is optimistic about GR7 showing again with legal operations, but not for about a year or so. If you hunger for 7P8, W1QV often runs a schedule and might be persuaded to run some of the Deserving through.

I0BNZ says that he will be on from San Marino for the ARRL SW Test this weekend. He will be at M1I but may show with a 9A1 prefix if the requested permission comes through. M1C advises W4ZR that he does not have an antenna for eighty meters up at this time. Tony completed his 5BDXCC on those two bands and switched things around to come up with a 10/15/20 combination, this being a Delta loop. Tony says to watch for M1I at 3790kHz around 2300Z on Saturdays. If you are looking for M1I during the c.w. test on eighty, check down around 3525kHz. In Australia the eighty meter action is between 3500kHz and 3700kHz. It's right on the license.

DL7FT reports that a beam is on its way to ST0RK and eventually should show up there in South Sudan. DL7FT made a ZA-effort some years back and wonders if there might be any interest for this one at this time. On the reported Bangladesh, sometimes reported as checking into the SEANet at 14320kHz at 1200Z, it is also reported at 14275kHz at 1800Z. QSL route is given as Box 108, Dacca, Bangladesh.

EA6CE heard in the ARRL phone go-round was a multi-single effort by the EA6-DX Group. QSL for this one to Box 31, Palma de Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Espana. There was most of the EA6 DXers in on this one including EA6CE/EA6CP/EA6ET/EA6ER and EA6EU.

VF8SO on the South Orkneys is on most days at 14275kHz at 2000Z. His QSL Manager, G3KTV, usually is taking a list at this frequency or down around 14255kHz to speed things up. They move fast. The KPLAM/Desecheo operation showed on c.w. on the phone contest Saturday and worked a lot of QSOs before securing the operation in the middle of last week. The operation had been scheduled to close at 2200Z on March 7th but was still being heard beyond that time.

FRANZ JOSEF In a QSO with W9IQ last Friday, UK4ZAA, Vlad in Murmansk, advised Les that permission has been given for a Franz Josef effort and this will come next month with a special call-sign. They will be signing R1FJ.

R1FJ is planned to be on starting April 16th and will run to April 22nd. The group is planning to work everything from One-Sixty to Ten meters, c.w. and SSB in an around-the-clock operation. It will be a multi-operator effort and the group is aiming to satisfy all the current needs for Franz Josef on most bands, most modes and most everything.



SOME HOUSEKEEPING NOTES First, it would be appreciated if subscriptions would not be remitted early or in amounts not specifically given. A good deal of additional work is being caused by early renewals and in amounts for which refunds have to be made. This is a problem with both U.S. and foreign subscriptions, the latter often concerned over how long it takes to remit funds. All we need to know is that it is coming and the bulletin will continue uninterrupted.

With the wide-open, full-bore and often around the clock DX conditions currently existing and looking to get even better, the feeling is getting more and more imbedded that running two over-sized pages of Red Eyed Louie reports every week, or most every week, is getting to the point of acknowledged needless redundancy. At this point in the cycle it is hard to argue with ourselves that western Europe is all semi-rare DX. A few spots, maybe, but the rest is common. The same is true of a good many Asian spots. Years back we had one who sent in page after page of JA reports and would become irate because they were not listed. While we hesitate to mention it, we believe that the time taken to compile, segregate, list and print all the reports at this stage of Cycle 21 is possibly only of limited value and only to the low DXCC totals. What we are saying is that we are going to severely crop the Red Eyed Louie reports until we start getting well onto the back curve of Cycle 21 and the information is needed and relevant. We would appreciate it if those sending the reports would understand that present band conditions are making the volume of material almost unworkable if everything outside the VE/W areas is included. Only the rare....and needed. We probably will have to refine this but for the top of the Cycle we are going to have to consider that any country that is on regularly quickly loses its rarity.

Finally, this issue's total copies mailed is just under three thousand (3000)....maybe ten or so under and we will pick those up before the end of the month. Real old timers will recall that when we got to 800 in the weekly mailing we said we had enough. Other and just a bit more recent old timers will recall that when we reached 1600 copies we said we were approaching our limits. We also asked that the bulletin not be mentioned on the air, promoted for new subscriptions or anything done that would add to the subscription list. You might see from the figures how successful our efforts were. The bulletin is still pretty much a one-man effort with the XYL helping with the labeling, folding and stapling and writing receipts and subscription notices. Everything else....news content, the gathering, composition, printing, etc, etc, is done by the other member of the Marin County DX Group. Figure it out yourself. We could get to the spot where there is an end to the ability to handle the workload, the printing, the DXing, and all that goes with it. Again, we do not especially want any more subscriptions, we definitely do wish that people would stop promoting the bulletin.

We had trouble with the mechanical end of things this week. The electric typewriter had periods of intermittent palsy wherein it would just sit and chatter away, shaking its carriage at us but definitely not willing to perform as needed. That is why you get a lot of space this week but not Red Eyed Louie. We ran out of time trying to persuade the typewriter to work. Even its counselor at the local typewriter works could not solve the problem.

That should end all the in-house items for another six months. Back to unlimited DXing!

BELIZE The Colvins opened from Belize last Friday signing VP1KG. This should be their last stop before heading home for the Fresno International DX Meeting. Later they will head east to take in the Dayton Hamvention.

Look for them on their usual frequencies. They will run up several thousand QSOs before ending the VP1 effort. QSL to YASME. Sase or Sae/IRC needed.

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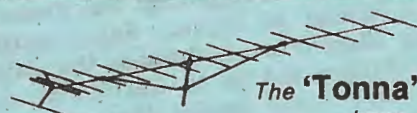
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VE3FXT Last week George was expecting to return home from Africa and was making plans to attend the Great International DX Meeting at Fresno on April 7/8th. George a week back said he was just winding up an effort that produced over 12,000 QSOs from 7P8-Lesotho/S8FXT-Transkei and H5FXT/H5COA from Bophuthatswana.

George will be discussing some of his future plans at Fresno and he indicates that he intends to work a number of rare DX spots in the future. He will be going out again by early summer and plans a stop at the Isle of Man to help with their millenium celebration and the GT3-prefix. George is also looking for some early indications of support to enable him to get his planning nailed down.

On that GT-prefix from the Isle of Man, there is a report that a Viking longboat will be coming across from Scandinavia, just as they would do a thousand years back. Oars and sails and the tide.....all the way.

On his last visit to Bophuthatswana, VE3FXT was awarded custody of the gold medal, "The Medal of Independence", for his efforts in operating amateur radio from Bophuthatswana, the award being received from the office of the President of the new nation. VE3FXT made over 20,000 QSOs from H5.....

FRESNO INTERNATIONAL Less than a month off, the list of visiting DXers to this big annual DX Gathering is getting long.

Already as indicating rather firmly that they will be among the Deserving are EP2LI, VE3FXT, OH8OS, DJ2BW with some others as good possibilities to show. The possibilities include OH2BH, HS1BS and the recent operators from 8Q6, WB4ZNH and his XYL.

Dr San Hutson, K5YY, will be there and will be a moderator in the DX Forum. He will be assisted by Jim Rafferty N6RJ.

The DXers will all be at the Fresno Hilton, this one really in downtown Fresno for the annual International DX Meeting over the weekend of April 7th and 8th. Actually, some of the early and eager will be there on Friday, April 6th.

Pre-registration, which includes the Saturday DX Banquet and the Sunday breakfast is \$\$21.00 per person. Registration there at the Hilton will be \$23.00. You can send your pre-registration to Rubin Hughes, WA6AHF, 17494 Via Alamitos, San Lorenzo, California 94580. Include a sase for a receipt.

Lloyd and Iris Colvin will be returning home from their Caribbean and Central America efforts to make their annual appearance at the Fresno International. There will be a good number of other prominent DX types who make the yearly trip to Fresno to check the scene with other big-guns and to ensure that nothing gets by them.

The Fresno International DX Gathering has one facet that sparkles and is not matched anywheres else as far as we can determine. It is the liquid-suspension Greyhound bus that transports the Deserving from San Francisco and the peninsula points all the way to Fresno in convivial DX style. Fully equipped with a wet bar and a couple of eager bartenders, the DXers travel through the California springtime, over the Coast Range to the Central Valley and on to the Hilton feeling little pain or weariness. Jim Maxwell, W6CF, will again handle the arrangements this year. The round-trip by the bus this year is being held down in spite of inflated costs. \$22.00 a head for the round trip. Send your reservation to Jim Maxwell, W6CF, Box 473, Redwood Estates, California 95044. Or you can phone him at (408) 353 2094 for a quick confirmation. The bus leaves from the San Francisco Greyhound terminal and makes stops at Burlingame, San Mateo, Palo Alto and San Jose before heading over the mountains to Fresno. Anyone coming in by plane to San Francisco for the DX meeting should make sure that they have complete embarking arrangements with W6CF. \$22.00 does include all the liquid refreshments and snake-biteprotection which might be needed enroute.

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# CALENDAR

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TURKS AND CAICOS  
MONTERRAT  
SHIP ISLAND  
ARRL CW TEST  
CQ WW WPX TEST  
SOUTH ORKNEYS  
SOUTH SANDWICH  
XE1IO  
BANGLADESH  
FRESNO INTERNATIONAL DX MEET

601FG currently active.  
Six landers there this week....callsign not known....listen  
Participants ready to head out.....About March 29th  
VK6HI around the end of the month....VK6BJ about April 19th  
YV7AA scheduled for late April  
Wiesbaden Radio Club signing HB9XAA from May 26th  
HB9AAA there a week before and through the WPX Test.....  
W3OGY there for the ARRL CW Test.....March 17/18th  
WA1SQB there in VP5-land for the WPX Test....  
K7ISX there in late April  
Off Mobile Bay in the Gulf....WN5LJZ in the WPX Test  
This weekend....this years bob-tailed version. March 17/18th  
Next weekend.....March 24/25th  
VP8SO on list operation most days.....14275kHz from 2000Z  
LU3ZY often on c.w. regularly.....14025kHz...0130Z or so.  
Might be 4A2IO....K5LZO/K5GA/K5WA/K5RC and N5JJ in the CW Test  
S2BTF reported....watch around 14275kHz about 1800Z.  
Getting near....April 7/8th at the Hilton in Downtown Fresno.

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## M — T R O N

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PS-110 AC POWER SUPPLY.....\$ 79.  
210X 80-10M SSB TRANSCEIVER....\$649.  
215X 160-15M SSB TRANSCEIVER...\$649.  
220CS AC POWER SUPPLY CONSOLE..\$129.  
DMK DELUXE MOBILE MOUNT.....\$ 45.

### CURTIS:

EK-430 ELECTRONIC KEYS.....\$110.

### R.L. DRAKE:

MN-7 ANTENNA TUNER 160-10M 250W WITH  
B-1000 BALUN (4:1).....\$165.  
MS-7 SPEAKER (TR-7).....\$ 29.  
WH-7 WATTMETER/SWR 1.8-54MHZ...\$ 73.  
1533EM TOUCHTONE MICROPHONE....\$ 45.

### HY-GAIN:

14AVQ/WB 10-40M TRAP VERTICAL..\$ 55.  
18AVT/WB 10-80M TRAP VERTICAL..\$ 79.  
TH3MK3 3EL 10-15-20M BEAM.....\$175.  
TH3DKX 6EL 10-15-20M BEAM.....\$199.  
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153BA 3EL 15M MONO BAND BEAM...\$ 59.  
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ARRL OSCAR 8 was operated simultaneously on modes A and J on March 4th to 6th. This was to mark the first anniversary of OSCAR 8. Those who caught OSCAR 8 on these dates can, by submitting a business size #10 sase and 24¢ for handling, obtain a specially endorsed QSL card from ARRL.

Total amateur licenses at the end of January totaled 357,900 with 63K novices, 68K Technicians, 119K Generals, 83K Advanced and 22K Extras. The January growth when projected for a full year would indicate an annual growth of 5.27%, a somewhat smaller growth than the December figure would show when projected for a twelve month period. For the whole of 1978, the growth of amateur radio licenses was 8.42%.

The ARRL is intending to file in opposition to RM-3317 which asks for a hobby license adjacent to the 29MHz band. The January 1979 article "Introducing the INCONs" by Arch Doty, K8CFU, and Dr. Alan Macnee, has been awarded the February 1979 QST Cover Plaque Award. K8CFU, in case you misread it before, is one of the Deserving DX types.

PITCAIRN We have received another date on ZL1ADI's visit to Pitcairn, this one mentioning about April 1st. In recent QSOs he has been naming this date. Something should be showing on this one, VR6HI, towards the end of this month. Tom, ZL1ADI, indicated that he was taking his two-element forty-meter beam with him out to the island.

VR6BJ should be showing at Pitcairn aboard the YANKEE TRADER about April 19th. As does VR6HI, VR6BJ promises a lot of c.w. and a bit of RTTY. Some of the Deserving CW types will get a long awaited chance for VR6 on that mode.

TNX to WA1EOT, K1ER/4, W1MV, K1TZQ, WA1WTP, W1VV, W2AG, W2FP, W2HAZ, W2NC, K2OF, WA2SON, K2UC, N3ED, K3ND, W1BAA, WB1EDD, W1HU, W1KA, W1LCL, W1LYV, N1XX, W1YN, W1ZR, W5ALA, K5AQ, W5DD, K5DUT, K5MK, K5RC, W5OSJ, K5OVC, K5VNJ/2, W5YH, WA6BJS, K6EC, WA6FIT, W6KPC, K6LAE, W6PN, K6PO, W6PYV, K6SX, WA6TLA, W6TSQ, K6UFT, W6VD, K6WR, K6YK, K7NO, WA7OBH, K8CFU, W8GE, K8IP, W8KR/ø, K8RD, WD9EPQ, W9LF, W9SC, W9SS, W9TC, WB9ZBE, WØBW, WØPT, KL7ENY, KH6BZF, KH6JWK.

WEST COAST DX BULLETIN Published every week by the Marin County DX Group. The days now are warmer and the green hills are showing spots of color where the trees bloom. Last week we were out in the warm weather shelling walnuts for the hordes of tree squirrels dangling from every power, telephone cable and tree about the QTH. It was somewhat of a sad day, even though it was beautiful weather. One of the squirrels, the one named The Bull of the Woods, had gotten a bit obese from the good living and had fallen off a high cable to an untimely end on the street below. We had lowered the DX pennant to half-mast when one of the local QRPers came trotting up the hill. It might have been a beautiful Spring day but this one came with fires of reform. "Don't you think something should be done about all the QRM on the DX bands?" the QRPer demanded. That miserable QRM that comes everytime a DX station shows?" We were in agreement. "Our understanding is that the ARRL is going to do something about it," we said and went back to cracking walnuts. "And what about the backlog in DXCC," the QRPer persisted, "I've heard from a reliable source that they are over two months behind and that they are only allowing the application of Rule 9 to those that worked over two fifty at the original location. How about that?" We had not heard that one but we also had not lost our trust in the hope that eventually everything will come out even and equitable. "And how about Cycle 21? Have we passed the peak yet and what will DX be like in a couple of years? Is there any sign yet that things are going downhill?" With the loss of the Bull of the Woods a fresh and poignant memory, we were not up to getting worked up over what might come in 1981, things were pretty good right now. "And how about WARC?" the QRPer persisted, "don't you think we might be in trouble there?" Son of a Gun!! That did it. Here it was a beautiful day and all this QRPer was bringing was problems. "Look," we said in exasperation, "this is a warm and lovely day. Why don't you just enjoy it?" The QRPer was quiet for a moment, finally he spoke again to ask: "Why?" We gave up then for the cause was lost. Rather than sit in the sunshine and watch the Standard and EXXON and other tankers plow up the bay to the refineries, all this one wanted was trouble. And most DXers will find that you get enough of that without seeking it. And we knew then that if the QRPer, like a lot of others, had to ask why one should enjoy a beautiful Spring day, they would never understand the answer. For these are good days, Spring is here or coming and the bands are bulging with DX. Should you need something to worry over, drop us a line and we will supply the moveable subscription rates in a plain brown envelope. But meanwhile, enjoy things. These are the Great Days of DXing...and they will get better!

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77 Coleman Drive  
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