



WEST COAST **DX** BULLETIN

March 28, 1978

13-52

SPRATLY If all fell into place and there was nothing as of late last week to indicate otherwise, the third ever operation from Spratly should be heard before this coming weekend. 1S1DX will be the culmination of months of planning and considerable logistic efforts.

The group were headed out last week, most going first to Hong Kong and then Brunei to meet the vessel to take them out to the islands in the South China Sea.

Don Miller first put Spratly on the DXCC list back in the mid-sixties with his 1S1 operation. Then in 1973 there was 1S1A by a group out of Viet Nam and other nearby places. The group going with 1S1DX are aiming to take the island group off the high area of any needed list for a long time.

For WAZ, this one will count as Zone 26. This has already been run by the WAZ desk.

Look for them on.....

CW: 1807kHz 3505kHz 7005kHz 14020kHz
21020kHz 28020kHz

SSB: 1807kHz 3798kHz 7085kHz 14190kHz
21295kHz 58595kHz

These are the areas to watch if you plan to be one of the twenty thousand QSOs they are aiming for. QSLs go to VK2BJL, Harry Mead, Box 85, Round Corner, New South Wales, 2158 Australia. Sase or Sae/IRC needed. Harry would not object to any green looking support.

Those wishing to help with the U.S contingent can send support to the South Jersey DX Assn....Erich Schmidt, K2TJ, 33 Shore Drive, Manahakin, New Jersey 08050.

The operation will probably open with a roar and if you are low-power, stick around. Before the end of the week most everyone of the Deserving QRPers will be able to get through.

PITCAIRN Late word out of New Zealand indicates that this last weekend was the time to start watching for ZL1AMO and ZL1ADI to show from VR6-Pitcairn. There has been a couple of dates mentioned, this one and around the first of April but this was the word given by Chuck, ZL1ADI, for the VR6HI operation.

This will be a mostly c.w. operation, often on the low bands but with all bands a possibility. They will roam from ten to One-Sixty and were looking for action in the WPX test this last weekend.

Look for the activity on.....

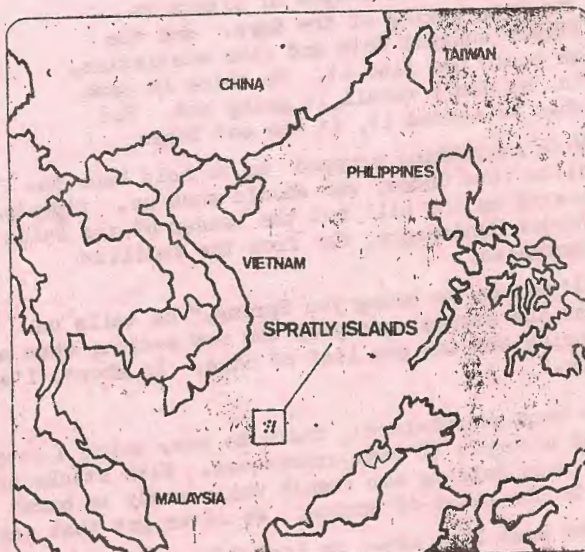
1807kHz	0400Z	0500Z	0600Z	0700Z	0800Z
3507kHz	0430Z	0530Z	0630Z	0730Z	

You should be able to locate them at other times on the usual DX frequencies. QSL to Charles Rademacher, ZL1ADI, Box 41066, St Lukes, Auckland 3, New Zealand. They will not be appalled at all should some support be included with the QSL. In fact they would appreciate it.

The YANKEE TRADER is scheduled to arrive at Pitcairn on or about April 19th and you should hear VR6BJ for a couple of days. The vessel should be in Guayaquil in Ecuador this week, at Easter Island on April 12th and at Pitcairn a week later.

FERNANDO de NORONHA PY1APS, Gerson Rissin, and Paulo Rabelo, PY1MAG, will be on Fernando de Noronha for two weeks starting May 12th and they will set up business to handle all the Deserving on ten through One-Sixty, c.w. and SSB. They may also throw in a bit of six meter operation.

This is not the first time that PY1APS has visited Fernando, he was there in May of 1967 signing PY1APS/ø and the group did a good business then. The call-signs this time will be PYØAPS and PYØMAG. There will be more coming on these plans.



28 March 1979

SUNSPOT LOUIE Things always seem to come apart around the time of the Equinox and this is no exception. We are a bit bob-tailed this week and apprehensive, still remembering what happened to Julius about this time of the year.

W6RQ came through with the usual masterfully rendered chart of the solar face on March 20th. Al says that along with this configuration the Rhodesian 10-meter beacon was the loudest he has ever heard it.

N4XX came through with the propagation forecast and we, as was feared, ended up with a couple of blanks in the long string of the days. And the KH6BZF sunspot data and flux statistics, we could not find it. We think it came in, we don't recall it going out. But when we needed it, it was not there.

With everything propped up to hold back the slide into Chaos, who should show up, tippety-toeing up the hill but the Leader of the Palos Verdes Sundancers, far from the familiar barrancas.

"I've come to bring you Spring," he tells us. "I've come to bring you the eternal story of the new season, when nature burst forth with the buds of spring and the new leaf of hope. In short, I've come to dance my Spring Dance for you."

We were overwhelmed! There he was, doing a couple of pirouettes, some fast fouette turns and a couple of easy arabesques. With stacks of reports and notes all around the shack, we were holding our breath while ready to burst into relieved applause when he got through with the rites of spring. We never got that far.

"The best I've saved to last," he tells us. "Now I shall do my Grand Jete, and no one in the Palos Verdes country can equal my magnificence in this movement." And there he was, ready to soar. We tried to yell a warning, the ceiling was too low for any Grand Jete and we knew that from experience. But he tried.

The P.V. Leader took off like a bird, hit the ceiling and crashed into the printing press. It was havoc. Later when he had recovered and was gingerly exploring the bump on his head, he asked how he had did. "Magnificent," we told him. "Certainly you must have heard our 'bravos' even though you were unconscious."

What does all this prove. Don't do your grand jete routine in the basement, not unless you are awfully short to begin with. And don't do any planning for DXing unless you read first the N4XX propagations forecasts. And with the blue crocus showing in the fading snow, Ted says to look for.....

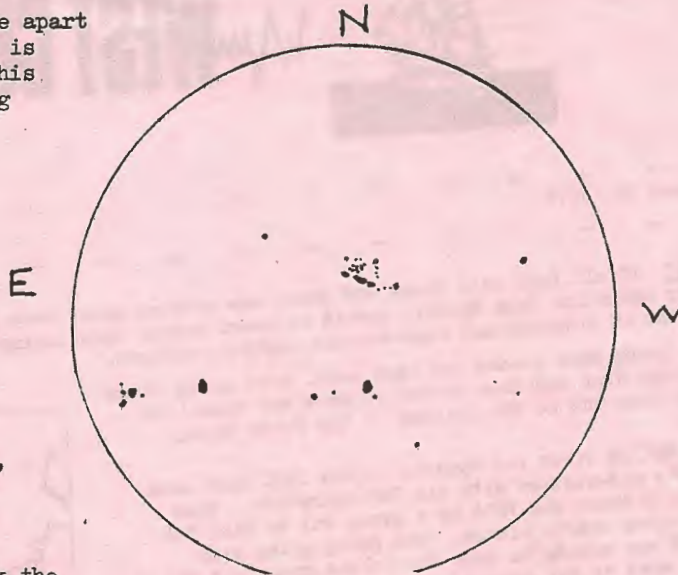
April 1st	Low Normal
2nd	High Normal
3rd	Low Normal
4th	Above/High Normal

April 5th	Above/High Normal
6th	Low Normal
7th	Disturbed.

Having gotten this far and still fearful of the Ides of March, we looked for the report from K6EC. For one thing for sure, Ev does not pirouette, practice his arabesque or even tries the grand jete. What Ev does is to listen to WWV. And, as the record shows, when Ev speaks, it is right from WWV, embossed with the government stamp of approval and not the twenty, thirty or forty percent accuracy you get from the Weather Bureau on what tomorrow will be but 100% certified as to what yesterday was. And Ev says.....

	Solar Flux	Ap Index
Mar 12th	191	6
13th	189	6
14th	189	5
15th	183	5

	Solar Flux	Ap Index
Mar 16th	188	10
17th	177	19
19th	196	8



W6RQ
20 Mar 79

28 March 1979

SPANISH ONE-SIXTY Mtrs EA8CR, Fernando-Juan Fernandez, advises that permission has been obtained for some EA-activity on One-Sixty meters and though there may be some restrictions in some areas, you should be hearing all the EAs....including EA6/EA8 and EA9 on One-Sixty meters.

Fernando advises to watch for the EA-stations between 1820 and 1835kHz. He does mention some possible restrictions in the 1800-1820kHz area but specifically says to try listening in the 1820-1835kHz segment.

VE3FXT George Collins is presently in California, mobilizing about and waiting for the Fresno International DX Meeting next weekend. He is also looking for some long range planning for DXing and you probably will be hearing more on the plans during the next year or so, George aiming for the 1984 Olympics and a sustained 'radiosport' effort.

George is looking for a complete mobile station, possibly set up in a light aircraft, to move quickly from place to place with an itinerary of well over one hundred countries in the years immediately preceding the 1984 Olympics, the summer games which will be in Los Angeles. He is working on a plan to raise the necessary advance funds and when the plan matures, he hopes to be able to extend help to the very small countries whose athletes are usually not able to participate in the Olympiads because of the costs.

With 11,000 contacts behind him from S8/H5 and spots in between, George says that Vendaland is all lined up with gear in place. Keep an ear open for the planning aimed at two or three years in the future, the ideas are intriguing.

QSLs.....ZS6BOK/H5 and H5AA Sid Coosher, ZS4MG, there in Kroonstad in the Republic of South Africa, advises that he is now doing all the QSLing for ZS6BOK/H5 and has all of Vince's logs in his possession. Vince is deep in his studies and rather than fall any further behind in cleaning up the QSLs, slipped the whole job to ZS4MG. As of a week or so back, Sid was figuring that he has just about cleaned up the cards for the last October operation in South Bophuthatswana.

On the H5AA QSLs. Sid has talked with Jan in Northern Bophuthatswana who has 10,000 H5AA QSLs ready to go, bags of incoming QSLs and little or no time to devote to the task. Guess who comes riding up on his white horse? ZS4MG of course!!

A week or so back H5AA was bundling up everything, the blank QSLs, the incoming correspondence and all the work that goes with them and was shipping the whole bag to ZS4MG. Sid will tear into them and get them out as soon as possible, possibly some even being in the mails by the time you read this.

Sid also notes that they have something over a thousand IRCs on hand which they would like to part with. Sid asks them to go at 30 for \$10.00 and he will pay the postage to you. Send your bid to Sid Coosher, ZS4MG, Box 325, Kroonstad, South Africa.

With Bophuthatswana and Transkei in existence, there will be more showing before long. Vendaland and Qwa-Qwa should be heard before the end of the year and don't hesitate to work them. These, along with S8 and H5, will undoubtedly show on the DXCC lists one of these days, but probably not until the dust settles from WARC 79.

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28 March 1979

SHORTLY NOTED A YU-Station, operating portable /YI has been heard recently. Last Friday it was on the Arabian Knights Net, it being at about 14227kHz after 0400Z. It was a sort of a list operation and the signal was good.

The EA-Amateurs in the Barcelona area are organizing to offer an international trophy for a competition to come in late April, actually the last weekend, April 28/29th. The object will be to work the EA-amateurs.

A large trophy, The King of Spain Trophy, will be awarded the winner of the contest, being awarded for first place internationally and for the EAs. There will also be second and third place trophies, trophies for SWLs and trophies for the highest in each continent.

The overall winner will get a trip to Calella to receive the trophy. Calella is in the Barcelona area.

There are a multitude of prizes, trophies, certificates and things like that. After getting this far, we may have your attention and we will run the rules next week. This is the first time out for this test and it may be interesting.

We have a few more notes on the Desecro operation. On the QSLs, the production work of designing the card and getting it printed is figured to take a couple of weeks. At this point the estimate is that they will be going in the mails in late April or early May.

On the operators, these were the crew for the KP4AM/D operation:

Dave Novoa KP4AM	Bill Kerber KP4DSD
Pedro Piza KP4Q	John Ackley KV4KV
Don McDoniel N4EA	Roger Burt N4ZC

The operation made over 21K QSOs, ranging from One-Sixty to two meters. It might be noted that though they did get help with specific items, they still have a couple of thousand dollars in bills to pay and would appreciate any support that might be forthcoming. This can go toDX Club of Puerto Rico, P.O. Box 50073, Levittown, Puerto Rico 00950.

Last week we had a couple of choices on QSLing for 5W1AX...we picked the one that looked good, we should have tried the other. QSL for 5W1AX to KH6LW, Loren Wolff. Those who have tried this route have their QSL.

If you are looking for a license in the Netherland Antilles, you had best send a bank check and not your personal check for the fee. A personal check will be returned by LANDSRADIO, Telecommunications Administration Netherland Antilles, P.O. Box 103, Curacao, Netherland Antilles. In three lines we got in everything and had room for their phone number.

EA6CE was active in the phone portion of the ARRL Test. QSLs for this station can be expedited if you send your request to..... EA6CE, P.O. Box 31, Palma de Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Espana. Over 3000 QSOs were made and the effort ended up with 1.5 million points in 48 hours of operating. This was a multi-operator effort and probably will be heard again in other contests.

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28 March 1979

MORE SHORT STUFF Montecristo Island in the Tuscan Archipelago in the Tyrrhenian Sea between Italy and Corsica was on during the WPX Test. You might have caught them with an IJ5CJA or IA5CJA callsign.

This is another nature conservancy, only two operators being allowed on shore and only four days of operating. Actually, the Italian Department of the Interior will only allow four authorizations a year for the island.

Distinctively separate administration? Most are, some more so. I5NSR and I5LXW were the operators.

9A1VU from San Marino was on a week or so back. Actually they should have run until last week. The initial pile-ups were a problem with no outboard VFO on hand but things did seem to fall into place. QSL for this one to DL1VU.

W4BAA is looking to close out the accounts for 9L1JM for the November 1974 to Sept 4, 1978 operations. The station has now returned home to Holland and if you want a QSL, get in line at W4BAA's mail box. Sase or Sae/IRC.

While W4BAA hands them out, he's also looking for some to come in. Anyone know how to extract one for 9J2WS? DeWitt would like to know. Also, some asking on that St. Barthelmy operation of last Fall. Has anyone seen a QSL.....yet?

VQ9JJ and VQ9KK will be on Diego Garcia for a long stay and plan to be on the air most days. Look for them at 28545kHz or 21352kHz from 1600Z to about 1830Z most days. QSLs will go to W5RU.

The AX6 prefix marks the visit of Prince Charles to Western Australia. He is there to mark the 150th Anniversary of settlement there in the west. Here in western Marin it is the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Sir Francis Drake in Marin. So far no special prefix has been authorized but, as Sam often says, it's bad enough with everyone wanting to work we QRPers without a special prefix. How't that for broad thinking?

A Finnish amateur OH3TAB is reported active in D2-Angola and will be there for a year. The 4W2AA has been worked by some JA-amateurs. Apparently I2JQL makes a list for the 4W2. 2100Z at 14240kHz is where some JAs have found the 4W2.

PA0GWK/A6 has been showing on fifteen....21280kHz after 1700Z. Says to QSL to home CBA. If nothing else, this one is interesting. The same goes for I3LJE/3VØ. Said his name was Leon and to QSL to I300A. Neither I3LJE or I300A in the callbook. When this was pointed out to Leon, Leon left.....

There are stations that by themselves keep a DXCC country available.....a quick check will show that 9N1MM, CEØAE and a few others are stations that make the country available and should these operators leave, it might be another scarcity such as it appears may develop with Brother Ed leaving HV3SJ. To help Father Dave on Easter Island keep up with the demand, the Northern California DX Foundation is shipping an amplifier to help boost the signal out of CEØAE. You should hear the results in another month or so.

From July 1st, the ELs will be signing 5L for about six months. KH3AA is a civilian out there in the Pacific and he says he is available for schedules from Johnston Island should you need one....name is John, mail goes to Box 69, APO San Francisco 96305.

While we are cutting down on Red Eyed Louie, it is not intended to drop the listings. While there are DXers who have worked about everything, there are DXers still looking for some that are on but rather elusive. We want the reports to continue.....we may be a bit more selective while we ride the crest of Cycle 21.

ARRL will have the new repeater directory ready in a week or so. It will carry a price of \$1.00 to the U.S.....\$1.50 elsewhere. The directory went to the printers some weeks back and should be available now. In fact you can order if you want a copy.

28 March 1979

KH6IJ Katashi Nose, KH6IJ, was missing from the last ARRL CW Test, he having suffered a heart attack on March 15th and Katashi has been in the Intensive Care section of the St Francis Hospital in Honolulu.

There is no late word on his progress. The address of the hospital is 2260 Lathia Ave, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817.

SHORTLY NOTED STUFF On the San Marino Activity, M1I has not been heard too frequently in the last year, his Quad blowing down a couple of years back. In the planning for the ARRL CW Test, ILJCC was aiming to take parts and needed hardware to get a quad back up. If you did catch up with M1I in the contest, the QSL goes to N8JW, John White, 3629 Delta River Drive, Lansing, Mich. This would be good only for the CW Test....normally the QSL route for M1I goes to an IO-type. ILJCC normally signs W3US when he is home in the Maryland country.

If you wonder about the M's heard, M1C says that the only true-blue San Marino types are:

M1B	Mario Graziani	M1H	Aureliano Casali
M1BS	Salvatore Berti	M1I	Ivo Grandoni
M1C	Tony Ceccoli	M1Y	Maurizio Boffa
M1D	Giovanni Reffi	M1W	Paolo Boffa

Before you get too much steam up over the following, keep in mind that the matter has been taken up to the ARRL before if our memory is still good.

Liechtenstein and San Marino are often believed to be the smallest sovereign states in the world but a mansion on the Via Condotti in Rome is probably the smallest of all. This is the independent territory of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. It represents an order founded during the Crusades and the Order held the island of Rhodes for over two hundred years. The Order still issues its own passports and maintains its own diplomatic corps.

Because it did not qualify before does not mean that someday it may not suddenly bulk large on the DXCC scene. One problem is that we cannot recall any activity from the Via Condotti though possibly this may have happened in other years.

W0TT has received a handful of QSLs for the recent Fw0TT operations. Actually the operation QSLs to LZ4TT. FH8OM goes to the 79 callbook address of DJ1TC.....Otto Blankenhorn, Dreisamstr 13, 7530 Pforzheim, West Germany. 5H3BT goes to box 1022, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. WA7UWE/C6A will be in the Bahamas for over a year and is looking to get up some better antennas. This one QSLs to WB4LIB. Look for WA7UWE/C6A on forty and eighty.

The Colvins will continue to be heard from VP1KG for about another week. The plans are to operate to about April 3rd, give or take a day, and then head back to California for the Fresno International DX Meeting and then on to Dayton. Speaking of Dayton, WA8MOA is reported as having a hospitality suite on the 4th floor of the Stouffers Inn, a block from headquarters Sheraton. Bob will be going on activity duty before long with the Army and it may slow the DXing. Visit him at Dayton and hear about the Mellish Reef activity.

K6KA will be in the Grand Caymans, Jamaica and Cozumel, the Mexican Island, during the latter part of April. Bill has always been a well known expert and long-time worker in the Intruder Watch. He and his XYL will be on the M/S SOUTHWARD and will be at Cozumel on April 17th, Grand Cayman on the 18th and in Jamaica the following day.

A new amateur is reported at the American Embassy at Bangui and it is reported that he has received the call TL8JAM. However, it is also reported that he has no gear on hand but is arranging to have some shipped out from the states. You may be hearing him before long.

M1BS in early February was San Marino Slim. W4LCL will be heading out to Indonesia next week for a stay of some length and has applied for a YB-callsign. However, he has not heard what the disposition will be but is hopeful.

UA1AA/3W8 was heard in the ARRL CW Test.....14060kHz after 0700Z on the 18th. When queried on his validity, he was stout in his assurances....he is the real thing, he said. He was going great guns, good signal, right direction. Apparently using a keyer, there was no noticeable chirp on his signal. So what do you do when you hear something like this one.....work 'em all!! Sometimes one of these may turn out to be the true-blue kind that DXers deserve. It is better to have work them and lost than to have never have worked them at all. And especially so should it be for real.

There is reported to be a ten meter beacon at 28888kHz. Listen to the message.....K6IRT looking for reports. Also, you might check the VE1SIX 50.088MHz beacon or the ZS6PW on 50.030MHz.

HP1GO would like a picture postcard of your locality if you work him and send your QSL. He wants to see what the other end of the line appears like. HL9KE goes to K4WSB, VP9WB to K3QMX. 5N2AKY to W4BUW.

A big contingent will go from West Germany to the Isle of Man for the celebration of the 1000th year of the islands parliament. DF7FH will sign GR5CGV....DK5FJ will sign GT5AVA....DK9ZG will join with another YL for some GT5 operations but their calls have not been issued. GT5MIR will be signed by DC1FP while DJ3BG will be signing GT5CID. All bands....all modes....all the time

28 March 1979

FRESNO INTERNATIONAL The big gathering of DXers is hardly a week off and the early bird DX types will be drifting into Fresno starting next Friday, April 6th.

Bob and Ellen White will be at the Hilton, the Northern California Contest Club and the Northern California DX Club joining to bring them out from Florida for the meeting. Much interest has been heard on the two-meter circuit since the possibility of their attending was first mentioned, many DXers wanting another chance to talk with Bob White, W1CW, who for so long ran the DXCC desk at Newington, and Ellen White, W1YL, was held down the No. 2 spot in the Communications Department.

Pre-registration closes April 5th. A TS-820s Transceiver is the pre-reg prize. \$21.00 sent to WA6AHF will cover the pre-registration and give you a chance at the prize. Rubin for pre-reg, W6CUF for the bus transportation and Fresno for all the DXers.

Looking at the line-up, this may be the most interesting Fresno Meeting that K6SSJ has put together and many still recall that some years back he brought Brandy out on an unsuspecting and unprepared world. This year Bob is making the arrangements for the Northern California DX Club and the big names attending include VE3FXT/K5YY/KP4AM/EP2LI/DJ2BW:...and possibly even more. K6UD has just returned from China and he will have slides of the Peking Tube Factory!! How about that?

If you make a last minute decision to head for where all the Big-Gun DXers will be on the weekend of April 7/8th, just make sure you have your accommodations confirmed. It is always easy to find DXers telling of their prowess and other interesting, to them, achievements, but sometimes getting a room takes a bit more digging.

KL7ENY visited in Europe in recent months, seeing HV3SJ just before Brother Ed headed for Colombia. Bob says that he came home convinced that KL7s are not in the best spot to work DX and especially so after listening to what the Europeans were hearing. Says that he cannot stand the thin KL7-DXing now and will head out again for 9V1-land in November. DX is always greener when you can hear them better than at your own QTH.

PZ3UK is Slim....again. WA7TWG says he knows nothing about this one. If you want a California number to call a FCC monitoring station, write down.....

(415) 447 3614

This is in the San Francisco Bay area and if you hear something that should not be on the amateur bands, give the number a jingle and get them lined out on the problem.

A 'Golden City Net' was due to start earlier this month, this one at 21300kHz from 1800Z. You can check the time and frequency to see how things are going.

The QSLs for 4U1UN are still going out in good numbers. During February over 3000 went into the mails. W2MZV of the North Jersey DX Assn is now handling the QSLing and, should you be so inclined, send your QSL direct to him.....Herman Bohning, W2MZV, Box 102, Yonkers, New York 10702.

If you have not caught up with 4U1UN as yet, the station is on every Wednesday from 1900Z to 0100Z on Thursday. Look for them on or about the following schedule:

1900Z to 1945Z 21355mHz

2000 to 2130Z 14230-14250kHz area

If the bands are open, they will try 28530kHz around 0100 to 0200Z...if nothing, it's back to 21330kHz. You might check that ten meter frequency on the last Wednesday of each month for some c.w. activity. We know that that's up in phone country but we are also rather sure you might find some c.w. going there. And when you do, don't ask.....work 'em.

PY2ZGF returned home to Connecticut, when his XYL became ill in Sao Paulo, Gordon is now signing W1OR from the home base and figures to be in the states for some time. He nailed WAZ from Brazil, this being something like his fourth or fifth. This one he did with 160 Watts and Zone 39 was the last one he needed.

A51PN is now handling his own QSLing....we run that in again to offset the mistyped W1 QSL Manager we threw in a couple of weeks back. Pradhan said that in mid-March he would be on Thursday/Saturday and Sunday. At 14005kHz from 1200-1230Z and 14225kHz from 1230 to 1300Z. QSL direct....it takes four or five weeks. The action with A51PN has improved measurably since he was shipped the outboard VFO by the SouthEastern DX Club.

With W1GNC kicking back the requests for WDX cards, mainly because he never received the logs, some are asking what do you do. With the tremendous number worked by KP4AM/D the question should be academic and everyone should have the Desecheo QSL that will not cause tremors when it comes across the ARRL DXCC Desk. The KP4AM/D is the one to have!

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If all went well, 1S1DX should show before this weekend
601FG still shows.....Friday best day and probably c.w.
VR6HI should show this week....if not before....couple weeks run
VR6BJ should be heard around April 19th
PY0APS and PY0MAG in May
Late April.....YV0AA on April 28th
VK2DCA/VK9N should be heard to late this week....
The Colvins signing VP1KG to about April 3rd
R1FJ reported as possible about April 16th....UA1CK/FJ May 1st
HB0XAA by the Wiesbaden Radio Club in late May
K7ISX at VP2M in late April
Report that ZL1ADI may try for Manihiki in May
The Big DX Meeting of the Year.....Downtown Fresno at the
Hilton....April 7/8th. Only Fresno International this year!
April 7/8th
April 11/12th
April 18/19th
April 28/29th
May 12-13th
May 26/27th

SOME CLOSING NOTES Some have asked for the QSL address for 601FG's efforts. For I0DUD you go to.... Giuseppe D'Aurelio, Via Fogazzaro, 87, 00137 Roma, Italy. For 601FG himself, it is....Giampaolo Forti, I2FGP, Via G. da Ruggiero 33, 20142 Milano, Italy. Either will do though Giampaolo himself did give I0DUD as the QSL route.

W2NC is another with a QSL for 7G1IX back in 1963....that was Vlado Skrabala who went then to Box 477, Conakry. His home call was OK3UI. Now there is 3X1IX, name is Vlad, QSLs to Box 477 in Conakry. Is it Slim??....or is it Vlad?? Someday, when the winter is over, the Deserving will know. But right now it is the waiting time.

K2OF says that the best time to watch for 9X5PP in Rwanda is around 2000Z and around 14265kHz. This one QSLs to Box 1035, Kigali, Rwanda.

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ARRL This is the final week to extend your ARRL membership before the rates go up April 1st. You can add on up to five years at the old rate.

ARRL Membership was at 166,201 at the end of February.....that's the whole figure. There are 158,600 members in the U.S./VE areas....actually full, associate and subscribers. 7500 or so go overseas.

The FCC has proposed to drop the provision that grants credit for the telegraphy portion of the Extra Class license to those who formerly held an Amateur Extra First Class license, these issued from 1923 to 1933. The number of people looking for this credit has been few and it is felt to be an obsolete provision.

The Long-Range Planning Committee authorized at the last ARRL Board of Directors meeting in January to develop plans to lead the amateurs out of the wilderness has been named and is out scouting and patrolling.

The Long-Range group has four ARRL officials, three outsiders and Harry Dannals in an ex-officio capacity. The full group has Vic Clark, W4KFC, as chairman, Jay Holladay, W6EJJ, Larry Price, W4RA and Richard Baldwin, W1RU, from the ARRL citadel, Charles Dorian, W3JPT, Herbert Hoover III, W6ZH, and Hazard Reeves, K2GL, from the outside.

The Long-Range Group is discussed at length in the April QST which should be showing any time now. They ask that you send them any thoughts you may have on long-range planning for the League. Read the editorial for the full thought on the matter, you will find it on Page 9 of the April QST.

TNX to W1AB, W1DK, W1MV, K1TO, K1TZO, W1VV, WA1WTF, WA1YTC, W2AG, W2FP, W2HAZ, W2NC, K2OF, W4BAA, W4LFOF, W4HU, W4IUX, W4KA, W4LCL, W4OEL, W4UF, N4TX, AF4V, N4WX, N4XX, N3ED, KB3CQ, K5AQ, W5CPI, K5DB, N5FG, W5OSJ, K5OVC, K5VNI/2, W6AM, K6AXC, WA6CPP, WA7PEI, K6DT, K6EC, WA6FIT, N6JM, W6JD, W6KG, W6KPC, N6OB, W6PVI, K6RV, W6TSQ, K6UFT, W6VD, W6VTE, K6WR, K6YRA, K7ABV, W7LR, N7MW, WA7OBH, N7UT, K8IP, WD8IXV, W8JXM, K8RD, W8UVZ, W9GW, K9MM, W9SC, W9BW, WA9KDI, W9MHK, W9PT, N9RF, N9SS, KH6BZF, ILZSQ, FY1APS, VE3FXT, ZL1ADI.

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 turning wearily in off the road. "Sing me no sad songs," the QRPer told us as he slumped into a chair, "sing no sad songs for I am old today." We had to think this over for it certainly was a fine Spring day and ten meters had been open all morning. We had to consider that either this one had missed the list for 601FG or he had finally been convinced that ZAGRF was Tirana Slim. It was neither of these. "You will remember," the QRPer said, "how we have often talked of the good old days and the fun we had then. How the days were brighter, the hills were higher, the songs happy and DX was everywhere. Don't you?" We have often thought of those days and we were quick to assure the QRPer that we had not forgotten. "And remember," the QRPer continued, "the joy we found in talking of the good times we had, the trips beyond the far ranges and the good feeling we always had then. And the old songs! Remember how we were always singing them?" Sure we remembered them and the QRPer was smiling again. And we were smiling, too, for those were the days to remember. Not that we really did do much but we always had the anticipation. The nights before were always sleepless nights as we could hardly wait for the morrows dawn. "Sure we remember," we told the QRPer, "how we would be on the out-road at early dawn, bundled up against the early chill but singing the songs all the way. Those were great times on the road and we should have never turned back. But why the low look and sad song today?" The QRPer shrugged. "Sure I remember all those days, just as you do. I remember the afternoon wind roaring in the tops of the pine ridges, the dusty switchbacks on the climbs out of the canyons and the wide, hazy valleys. But this morning I got to thinking all about those days and the old songs and found something that maybe you won't believe. I tried to sing the old songs but found I'd forgotten the words. I still knew the tune but the words were gone. What do you think of that? I could not remember the words!" Son of a Gun! What could one say to something like that. But we also have noted that while the melodies still come across the years, the words are often difficult to recall. And there is not much we can do about it and even though we remember the words, those days will not come again. We slapped the QRPer on the shoulder and pulled him to his feet. "Come," we said, "and forget the old songs. Forget the old DX and lets seek the adventure of this day. Right?" We thought we would get an instant response but the QRPer was slow in responding. "I've tried it," he said, "I've tried these new songs but I don't quite understand them. Do you?" He had us there for things do change, even our memories of them. And while we work out an answer to this Eternal Enigma, write if you must for the subscription rates. And maybe somewhere along the line we will figure out that tomorrow will be another day.....only different!

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