



NOVEMBER 19TH MEETING LOCATION CHANGE!

- Harry's Hofbrau - San Jose -

Our Presentation

“ANTENNA FORUM II”

Panelists:

Kristen McIntyre, K6WX,

Dean Straw, N6BV and

Jim Brown, K9YC

After the huge success of our first Antenna Forum back in January, we have finally scheduled a sequel. We have dozen of questions that have been pre-submitted and we will have lots of visual aides to help answer and educate the group. Of course, we will take questions from the assembled audience too. This one is not to be missed!

Please make sure you arrive early to get a good seat and remember we are not at Holder's again until February.

President's Message

By Craig Bradley, AE6RR

Hello Everyone,

They are at it again! George, AA7JV and Tomi, HA7RY have bounced across the Coral Sea to the Chesterfield Islands in a small boat, stuck a large pole in the sand and are busy working Top Band as I write this. Some of the local stations have already worked them on 160M. These are the same ops that brought us Mellish Reef last April and were the winners of the 2008-9 NCDXC President's award for the best small DXpedition of the year presented at Visalia. These guys are fun to keep tabs on; George usually updates the web site every day with a short blog on the previous day's activities via a satellite phone. They are concentrating on the low bands and true to that theme, they were QRV on 160 first. They will be there about a month, so if you need Chesterfield on the low bands (or anywhere for a new one), you should have a good shot at it. Check the web site at <http://www.tx3a.com> for the latest news.

Bill Fontes, W6TEX's talk on Low Tech DXpeditions at the October meeting was nice change of pace, it is great to see what

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Be sure to drop off your bureau cards to Doug, W6JD at our next meeting. The club will then send them all to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau for free. Be sure to take advantage of this excellent FREE service to club members.

President's Message (continues from pg. 1)

can be done with a suitcase full of radio gear on a vacation style trip. It sounded like he had a lot of fun and enjoyed some great vacations too. The photos and background talk on the Madeira Islands was very informative; I learned a lot about the islands. It puts a story behind the QSL card from CT9L hanging on my wall.

We had some interesting activity on the Sun lately, the biggest sunspot group (so far) of Cycle 24 appeared and the sunspot number actually got up into the mid 30's. Hopefully the sun is coming back to life! The bands have shown some improvement also. During the CQ WW DX SSB contest, I worked Bermuda on 15M and heard a station in Morocco with a good signal; unfortunately he couldn't hear me even though he was CQ'ing. This was on a G5RV Jr. which is not known for great performance on 15M (maybe that's why he couldn't hear me?). However, this is the first DX that I have worked on 15 for quite a while. Europe is also being heard on 20M most mornings lately.

This month's meeting is going to be fun! It is the 2nd annual antenna forum with Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, Dean Straw, N6BV and Jim Brown, K9YC on the panel. Maybe they can help me fix that G5RV? Last year we had such a big crowd for this event that we decided to move the meeting to a larger venue this time. The meeting will be at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose on Saratoga Ave. See the notice elsewhere in this issue for specific details.

Remember; do **NOT** go to Holder's this month!

The Holiday Luncheon will be on December 12th (look for details elsewhere in this issue) so there will not be a meeting in December and the January meeting will again be at Harry's. However, we will return to Holder's in February.

For now, 73 and good DX!

- Craig, AE6RR

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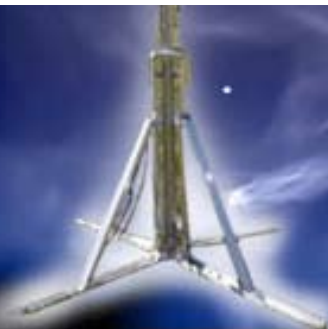
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YI9PSE Kurdistan, IRAQ

Have you ever wanted to get in on the ground floor planning of a DXpedition to an exotic location? Well, here is your chance. A group of 6-8 US amateurs is going to operate from Erbil, Iraq. This is a safe, friendly and pro-American area of Kurdistan. This will be a QRO operation with gain antennas. Emphasis will be made to provide YI9 to the West Coast, KH6, ZL, VK and JA.

If you are interested, and for more information:
http://www.n6pse.com/News_and_Events.php

DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE OF A LIFETIME!!!



Don't Miss the next



Amateur Radio Technology Day
Saturday, Dec 12th - 8am - 9pm
At the **SLAC** National Accelerator Laboratory

For more information visit:
<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday>

(No date for January was available at time of publication, watch website for more info.)

DX Information

SENEGAL, 6W. Stan, EI6DX will be QRV as 6W/home call from Somone from November 7 to 16. Activity will be on the low HF bands using CW. This includes being an entry in the upcoming Japan DX contest. QSL via RX3RC.

EAST MALAYSIA, 9M6. Steve, 9M6DXX and John, 9M6XRO are QRV as home calls/p from Pulau Labuan, IOTA OC-133, until November 9. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB, and 160 to 10 meters using CW and RTTY, respectively. QSL via bureau.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. A group of operators are QRV as XR0Y from Rapa Nui until November 15. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via operators' instructions.

LIBERIA, EL. Chris, ZS6RI plans to be QRV as EL8RI for about one to two months. Activity will be mainly on 40, 30 and 20 meters running QRP power. QSL to home call.

FRANCE, F. Members of the Havre Radio Club are QRV using special event call TM1TJV until November 8 to celebrate the departure of some 30 trans-Atlantic sailing ships during the "Transat Jacques Vabre 2009" race between Le Havre, France and Costa-Rica's Caribbean coast. QSL via bureau.

CHESTERFIELD ISLAND, FK. Tomi, HA7RY and George, AA7JV are QRV as TX3A until December 6. Activity is on all HF bands with an emphasis on the low bands. QSL via HA7RY.

ISLE OF MAN, GD. Operators Ron, PA3EWP and Tom, GM4FDM will be QRV as MD/PA3EWP and GD4FDM, respectively, from November 7 to 9. Activity will be on all HF bands. QSL MD/PA3EWP via PA7FM and GD4FDM via GM4FDM.

LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0. Operators Kazik, DL2SBY, Tomi, HA4DX and Laci, HA0HW are QRV as HB0/home calls from Masessa until November 13. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly CW with some SSB. QSL to home calls.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. Mike, DF8AN is QRV as HC8/home call until November 7. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly CW. QSL direct to home call.

THAILAND, HS. Thailand's National Telecommunications Commission has approved a request by the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand to expand 40 meters. Effective November 6, E2 and HS stations will have primary use of 7.0 to 7.2 MHz.

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON, FP. Eric, KV1J and Tom, W8TOM will be QRV as FP/home calls from Miquelon, IOTA NA-032, from November 7 to 15. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL to home calls.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. David, N3XF, Ed, K1ZE and Rob, W1EQ are QRV as KP2/home calls until November 11. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. This includes being active as KP2M in the ARRL CW Sweepstakes. QSL KP2M direct and all others to home calls.

DENMARK, OZ. A group of operators are QRV as 5P3WW from Moen Island, IOTA EU-171, until November 9. QSL via DL1YAW.

BONAIRE, CURACAO, PJ2. After his Galapagos operation, Mike, DF8AN will be QRV as PJ4/home call from Bonaire, IOTA SA-006, from November 7 to 16. Activity will be on all bands using mostly CW. QSL direct to home call.

WEST KIRIBATI, T30. David, N1EMC and Mike, N1IW will be QRV as T30KI and T30IW, respectively, from Abatao Islet, IOTA OC-017, on the Tarawa atoll from November 10 to 16. Activity will be on 60 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL both calls via N1EMC.

SERBIA, YT. Operators HA7JJS, HA6NL, HA7PL and HA6PS are QRV as YU9JJS, YU9NL, YU9PL and YU9PS, respectively, until November 8. They will also be active as YT36QRP for the annual HA QRP 80-Meter contest. QSL YT36QRP via YU7CM and all others to home calls.

From the ARRL Nov 1st DX News

Glorioso 2009—A Critical View from the West Coast

By Garry Shapiro, NI6T

Used with permission from the Nov/Dec issue of The DX Magazine - <http://www.dxpub.com>



The Glorioso DXpedition in September and October ended with 50.4K QSO's and 15.2K unique callsigns in the log, despite an almost total lack of sunspots. These numbers suggest a successful outing that put this #4 most-wanted counter in the logs of almost everyone seeking it, and in fact some DXers in Europe worked FT5GA on almost every band-mode on which it was QRV.

But a closer look discloses a chasm between what was possible and what actually occurred—a disconnect that left a significant part of the audience with few or no QSO's. This constituency centered on CQ zone 3—far western North America.

Almost every DXpedition finds one of the three major ham concentrations—NA, EU, JA—more difficult to work than the other two. For Glorioso, on a north/south path from EU, most of Europe would be easiest, most of North America and Japan less so. Both the audience and the expedition team knew that zone 3—westernmost NA—would be challenged by Glorioso. The absence of sunspots, near-antipodal distance, and a short path traversing both the auroral zone and Europe would mean fewer, shorter and weaker openings than what would be anticipated during times of higher

solar activity. With Europe directly in the way, little pistols, with higher takeoff angles and less gain, would—on their side—face a struggle.

But above all, to succeed, zone 3 DXers would need the awareness and cooperation of the FT5GA operators to make it into the log. This frequently did not occur.

The first days of the operation were predictably hectic, but by the end of the first week, some zone 3 stations had finally had several openings, nearly all on 17m and 20m between 16 and 19Z. Emails flowed to Floyd, N5FG, the only NA pilot, from zone 3 ops pleading for more 17 and for 20 CW, and for operation on 40 and 30. So it was a shock when, instead, the next days brought operation on 10, 12 and 15m in the critical time slot. What were they thinking? Of course, 10 and 12 produced no QSO's in zone 3 at all—but plenty in EU—while 15m did not provide openings until the last few days of the operation. The pleas for 20 CW went unanswered, as did those for 40 and 30m.

Nor did it help that the military declared up to four daily shutdowns for “maintenance”, lasting one to three hours, and that one of these shutdowns was in zone 3's most opportune time slot. There appeared to be no attempt by the team to work around this by focusing on zone 3 on either side of the shutdowns or by trying the other bands suggested to N5FG and, later, directly to Jeff, F6AOJ, chief pilot. The time slot simply disappeared.

The team operated RTTY extensively during the first week, logging several thousand QSO's, and was heard and called in western NA on 20m, but with the operators taking all callers, few zone 3 QSO's occurred. Then the leadership dropped its next bombshell—with only three working stations available, one station would be dedicated to the CQWW RTTY contest as a multi-single(!) Since most RTTY contacts had already been with EU stations, it



meant that at least one third of DXpedition resources would be dedicated for two days to duping what was already in the log. (Leadership trumpeted this operation as a big success.) Moreover, having spent those resources, little RTTY operation was done thereafter, guaranteeing that zone 3 and other forgotten enclaves would see few RTTY QSO's.

With two of three weeks completed, the team's on-line statistics were looking dismal for zone 3. Despite better luck for the Arizona contingent, overall zone 3 QSO share floated between 0.65% and 0.89%.

The third week was only slightly better. The season having advanced, there were brief openings on 15m during the first days of October, mostly benefiting those with high antennas and a low horizon. Despite its prior dependability, 17m was unutilized. Incredibly, 20m CW operation—usually the most dependable band-mode—never happened. The weekend of October 3 and 4 was bereft of signals from FT5GA. In the last days, some more 15m QSO's went into zone 3 logs. But it was too late to make a significant difference for those still seeking the first QSO.

When it was over, zone 3 QSO share had "soared" all the way to about 1.45%—a disappointing 733 QSO's out of over 50,400. It is unclear if this includes VE7, but we do know that our VE7 compatriots were in the same boat as the US contingent—of the VE "top 100", I counted but five VE7's, each with one QSO. VE6, in zone 4, did not fare much better.

Despite containing a quarter of all North American amateurs, zone 3 was underserved, and the leadership seemed not to notice.

The final totals display the Euro-centricity of this operation. 65% of all QSO's were with Europe. 10% shares went to Japan and North America, leaving 15% for the rest of the world. As pointed out, the 10% North American share included only a 1.45% slice for the western third of the continent.

Here are some questions asked by hundreds of western operators in emails and discussions.

- Why did the team not pay attention to its own statistics?
- Why were there so few attempts to accommodate western NA, especially during its major daily opportunity between 16 and 19Z?
- Why wouldn't the team specifically ask for W6/7? Western DXers reported instances of W6/7 DXers breaking a pileup, only to have the operators—now presumably aware that there was propagation to that area—continue to work "NA".
- Why was there virtually zero operation to western NA on 20m CW? 30CW? 40CW?
- Why were we short-ended on RTTY?
- Why did the team waste its time playing in CQWW RTTY?
- Why was 17m essentially abandoned after initial success there during the first week?
- Why was our time window squandered day after day on 10 and 12m?
- Why was it more important to log almost 33,000 European QSO's than to reasonably and rationally serve the rest of the world?

We appreciate that the effort was made to activate Glorioso. We understand the difficulties encountered by the team. But the 2009 Glorioso DXpedition will not receive my vote for DXpedition of the Year.

Garry Shapiro, NI6T
garry@ni6t.com



CLUB MEETING THURSDAY NOV 19th

6pm – 7:30pm Dinner/Social
7:30pm Club Meeting

Featuring the presentation

“Antenna Forum II”

Panelists:

**Kristen McIntyre, K6WX,
Dean Straw, N6BV and
Jim Brown, K9YC**

Our **CHANGED** Meeting Location:

**Harry's Hofbrau
390 Saratoga Ave.
San Jose, CA (408) 243-0434**

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Michael's at Shoreline

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Presentation:

K4M, Midway Island

Tom Berson, ND2T &
Kevin Rowett, K6TD



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