

SB DX @ WW < KB8NW \$OPDX.1201
Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin No. 1201

The Ohio/Penn DX PacketCluster
DX Bulletin No. 1201
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February 9, 2015
Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW
Provided by BARF80.ORG (Cleveland, Ohio)

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DXCC COUNTRY/ENTITY REPORT: According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of Sunday, 1st/February, through Sunday, 8th/February there were 222 countries active. Countries available: 3A, 3B8, 3B9, 3D2, 3DA, 3V, 3W, 3X, 4J, 4L, 4O, 4S, 4U1I, 4X, 5B, 5H, 5R, 5W, 5Z, 6W, 6Y, 7Q, 7X, 8P, 8R, 9A, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9M2, 9M6, 9Q, 9V, 9Y, A3, A4, A6, A7, A9, AP, BV, BY, C3, C5, C6, CE, CE0Y, CE9, CM, CN, CP, CT, CT3, CU, CX, CY0, D2, D4, DL, DU, E4, E5/s, E6, E7, EA, EA6, EA8, EA9, EI, EK, EP, ER, ES, EU, EX, EY, EZ, F, FG, FJ, FK, FM, FO, FR, FS, FW, G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU, GW, H4, HA, HB, HB0, HC, HH, HI, HK, HL, HP, HR, HS, HV, HZ, I, IS, J2, J3, J5, J6, J7, J8, JA, JT, JW, JY, K, KG4, KH0, KH2, KH6, KH8, KL, KP1, KP2, KP4, LA, LU, LX, LY, LZ, OA, OD, OE, OH, OH0, OJ0, OK, OM, ON, OX, OY, OZ, P2, P4, PA, PJ2, PJ4, PJ5, PJ7, PY, PZ, S0, S5, S7, SM, SP, ST, SU, SV, SV5, SV9, T7, T8, TA, TF, TG, TI, TJ, TK, TR, TT, TU, UA, UA2, UA9, UK, UN, UR, V2, V3, V4, V5, V7, V8, VE, VK, VP2E, VP2V, VP5, VP8, VP8/h, VP9, VR, VU, XE, XU, XW, YA, YB, YI, YL, YN, YO, YS, YU, YV, Z3, Z8, ZA, ZB, ZD7, ZD8, ZF, ZL, ZL7, ZP, ZS

* PLEASE NOTE: The report "could" contain "Pirate/SLIM" operations or more likely a "BUSTED CALLSIGN". As always, you never know - "Work First Worry Later".

3G0, JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLAND (Update to OPDX.1193/1197/1199). Members of the Provins ARC (F6KOP) will activate Robinson Crusoe Island (SA-005, aka Juan Fernandez Archipelago) as 3G0ZC between February 24th and March 4th (not February 20th and March 8th). A team of 23 operators plan to be active with 8 stations on the air on 160-6 meters, using SSB, CW and the Digital modes. Operators mentioned are Alain/F5JTV (Team Leader), Tony/F8ATS (Co-Leader), Jean-Luc/F1ULQ (Co-Leader), Norbert/DJ7JC, Heye/DJ9RR, Mark/EI6JK, Dave/EI9FBB, Ark/EI9KC, Patrick/F2DX, Jimi/F4DLM, Michel/F5EOT, Raymond/F5MFV, Xavier/F5NTZ, Antoine/F5RAB, Stéphane/F5UOW, John/F5VHQ, Gilles/F6IRA, Jack/M0PLX, Günther/OE3GCU, Karl/OE3JAG, François/ON4LO, Eric/ON7RN and Kenneth/OZ1IKY. Their off-island team includes Roberto/CE3CT, and Pedro/CE3FZ. Pilot stations are Col/MM0NDX (EU), John/K6MM (NA/SA) and André/V51B (AS/AF). QSL via F1ULQ, direct or by the Bureau. Also QSL via LoTW and ClubLog's OQRS (direct/Bureau). The 3G0ZC Web site is now available online at: <http://www.juanfernandez2015.com>

A FaceBook page is available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/JuanFernandez2015/747628888649765>

5J, SAN ANDRES ISLAND. Joe, LU1FM, will be active as 5J0B from San Andres Island between March 21st and April 4th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using SSB and the Digital modes. He also plans to participate in CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 28-29th). QSL via his home callsign.

9N, NEPAL. Three Polish operators will activate Kathmandu, Nepal between March 18-30th. The callsign will be announced later. Operators mentioned are Bogdan/SP2FUD, Janusz/SP9FIH and Rafal/SQ9CNN. More details will be forthcoming. Watch: <http://9n.dxpedititions.org>

9X, RWANDA. Carl, SM6CPY, will be active as 9X0PY from Kigali between February 10th and March 2nd. Activity will be on 20-10 meters, possibly 160-40 meters. QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau or direct (w/3 USDs and SAE).

A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. Andy, DK5ON, will be active as A6/DK5ON between March 18-27th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

AAW NEWS (Get Ready To Join The Fun). The 12th annual Antarctic Activity Week (AAW) begins Monday, February 16th, and runs to 2400 UTC Sunday, February 22nd. Look for 25 special event stations world-wide to be available for you to work. Each has its own super special QSL card available. Check www.wapon.it for the list of stations, QSL routes and attractive awards. The real purpose of the event is to foster interest in the Antarctic region and its matters.

Team WK3N/AAW will once again be participating from WAP #192. Team members this year include K0ZP, KA3LUN, KE3JP, KM3P, K8ME and WK3N. Modes will be CW, SSB and RTTY. The WK3N/AAW special QSL depicts a rare photo of the South Pole Station being built in 1956. A copy of the QSL is proudly on display at KC4AAA. For more info, see: <http://qrz.com/db/WK3N/AAW>

AH0, MARIANA ISLANDS. Kazu, JH8PHT, will once again be active as AH0KT from the Saipan Rental Shack on Saipan Island, Northern Mariana Island (OC-086, USI NI002S, WLOTA 1333) between March 11-15th. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 meters (WW Loc QK25uf), using CW, SSB, the Digital modes and 10m AM & FM (29.600 MHz only). QSL via his home callsign.

C5, THE GAMBIA. Luc, F5RAV, will once again be active as C5LT from Kololi between October 20-27th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using SSB, RTTY and possibly CW. Operations will also include the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 24-25th) possibly with a shorter callsign. QSL direct only via F5RAV.

DU, PHILIPPINES. Hannes, OE3SGU, will once again be active as DU1/OE3SGU from Luzon Island (OC-042) and possibly from other Philippine IOTAs between March 25th and April 20th. Activity will be holiday style on 40-6 meters using mainly CW, SSB and some Digital modes. QSL via LoTW, by ClubLog's QORS or by the Bureau.

E6, NIUE. Operators Kanno/JA2AAU, Iku/JA2ATE, Iwao/JA2LSS and Mori/JA2ZS will be active as E6NZ, E6TE, E6SS and E6ZS, respectively, from Namukulu between May 15-25th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via JA2ZS.

EE8, CANARY ISLANDS. Operator Felipe, NP4Z, will once again be active as EE8Z from the Los Chachos Contest Club during the ARRL International DX SSB Contest (March 7-8th) as Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via N4AO or LoTW.

FT5X, KERGUELEN ISLAND. Word has it that a major DXpedition to Kerguelen Island (AF-048) will take place sometime November/December this year. More details will be forthcoming.

HB0, LIECHTENSTEIN. Laci, HA7JTR, is planning to be active again from Masescha (1240 meters above sea level), Liechtenstein, as HB0/HA7JTR between February 24th and March 2nd. Activity will include participation

in the CQWW 160m SSB Contest (February 27th-March 1st). Outside the contest, Laci will be operating "holiday style" on 160-10 meters using an Inverted-L and GP. His activity depends on the weather circumstances. QSL via HA7JTR (see QRZ.com for address).

HC, ECAUDOR. Bill, W00R, will be active as HC1WDT from Cotacachi during the ARRL International DX CW Contest (February 21-22nd) as a Single-Op/All-Band (160-10m) entry. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

HR, HONDURAS. Will, AA4NC, will be active as HR5/AA4NC from Honduras between February 17-25th. He will be operating as a Single-Operator entry in the ARRL International DX CW Contest (February 21-22nd). Outside of the contest, operations will be focused on RTTY, CW, and SSB on 160-6 meters. QSL via AI4U for direct cards. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW.

IOTA NEWS.....

AF-032. (Update) Operators YL Elvira/IV3FSG and Carlo/IK6CAC will be active as 5H1ES and 5H1OC, respectively, from Zanzibar Island between February 18th and March 11th. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. They are there as a voluntary operators of the Informativi Senza Frontiere, so their activity will be limited to their free time (A Humanitarian DXpedition). QSL 5H1OC via IK6CAC and 5H1ES via IK3GES. Depending of their access to have Internet, their logs will be online, either at www.ik6cac.com and ClubLog's OQRS in realtime or when Internet is reachable. Logs will be uploaded also to LoTW, eQSL, ClubLog and HamQTH.

EU-047. Robert, DK2RO, will be active from Spiekeroog Island (DID/GIA N-08) between February 15-20th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters CW using IC-7200 w/100w into a homemade dipole and a symmetrical tuner. Operation will be as time permits. The island is part of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site by the UNESCO and the Wittbülten National Park. Robert also plans to activate the National Park and Nature Reserve Lower Saxony Wadden Sea (WWFF DLFF-010) as DK2RO/p. QSL via DK2RO, by the Bureau or direct. All QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW. For update, see: <http://stroke-portable.de>

NA-072. Members of the Colon DX Group will be active as H91T from Taboga Island between February 27th and March 1st. Activity will be on 40-10 meters. QSL via HP2BWJ. For updates, watch: <http://colondxgroup.webs.com>

OC-274. (New IOTA) Starting sometime mid-February, three Indonesian operators will be active from Lucipara Island which has never been activated before. Callsign has not yet been announced. Activity will be on the HF bands. More details will be forthcoming.

OC-296. (NEW IOTA) Operators Claudio/I1SNW, Nando/IT9YRE and Mike/K9AJ will activate Tobi Island, Palau, as T88GI, T88TI and T88XX, respectively, between March 11-13th. They plan to have 3 stations on the air operating CW and SSB. Pilot station is Alfio, IT9EJW. QSL T88TI via IT9YRE. QSL T88GI via I1SNW. QSL T88XX via K9AJ. QSLs are preferred through ClubLog's OQRS. Look for logs to be uploaded after the DXpedition. For more details and updates, watch: <http://www.it9yre.it/t88>

SA-027. (Update to OPDX.1200) CW operator PY2XB (PR5X) can not go with the group that will activate Paz Island between February 19-23rd. Operations will be limited to SSB and Digital modes by PR5P (PT20P) and ZW5WIM (PU5IKE). QSL via their home callsigns.

2015 IOTA ACTIVATIONS. Imam, YB4IR, announced that he plans to activate the following island groups this year:

OC-241 - Rote Island OC-252 - Temajo Island
OC-250 - Masalembu Island OC-274 - Lucipara islands

The OC-274 IOTA Group has never been activated (see above). No dates were provided. More details will be forthcoming.

IOTA TOUR. Christian, EA3NT, who will be one of the operators of VK7FG from Flinders Island (OC-195) between March 6-9th (see OPDX.1200), now plans to activate some of Solomon Islands IOTAs as H44NT on his own after the OC-195 operation. His tentative schedule is as follows:

March 11-14th His target is Russell Islands (OC-168), not activated since 2001, if not then Florida Islands (OC-158).

March 15-16th - Bellona Island (OC-127), not activated since 2009.

ADDED NOTE - Christian will carry 2 batteries and solar panels to run his 100w radio in case there is no power available at any time of the day on any of the islands, especially on the Russell islands.

March 17-18th - Heading back to Sydney to fly home, Christian will stop over in Brisbane and try to activate one of the islands in the OC-137 IOTA group signing as VK4/EA3NT.

ALL QSLs are via M0OXO's OQRS. Please do NOT send your card via the Bureau, it will NOT be received. For complete details and updates, watch the QRZ.com at: <http://qrz.com/db/H44NT>

J64, ST. LUCIA (Special Event). Look for members of the J6DX Group to activate special event station J64SLI/36 between February 21-23rd. The special callsign is to celebrate St. Lucia 36th anniversary of Independence. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and the Digital bands. The team will be running QRP with 5 watts, using Buddipoles in a variety of configurations, all directly on the beach. QSL via WB5Q.

K1N NAVASSA DXPEDITION NEWS. The K1N DXpedition is now in full DXpedition mode after the team had to endure hot temperatures (116 F) and rain. There have been a few logging problems, but N200 states that they will be corrected. Looks like you have about 5-6 days left to work them. The team worked over 70k QSOs on Sunday. As this was being written on Sunday, the log states as of February 8th at 0323z, they have made 68808 QSOs with 21689 Unique callsign (37440/CW, 26350/SSB and 5018/RTTY). Breakdown by Continents: 496/AF, 1/AN, 2884/AS, 17955/EU, 45248/NA, 603/OC and 1621/SA.

QSL via N200, direct (Navassa 2015 DXpedition, c/o Bob N200, PO Box 345, Tuckerton, NJ 08087) or by the Bureau (via N200 c/o the W2 QSL Bureau). An OQRS is available via ClubLog for both direct and Bureau QSLs. Also, QSL via LoTW (Sooner rather than later). It was announced during the weekend that a 6 meter beacon is now up and running on 50.103 CW. For updated news, watch <http://www.navassadx.com>. If any serious news is reported, OPDX will issue a special bulletin.

KH8, AMERICAN SAMOA. Ethan, K8GU, will once again be active as KH8/K8GU from Tutuila between February 20-27th. Operation will be limited by work responsibilities and conducted on a non-interference basis to one or more experiments which run from local afternoon to several hours before local sunrise. He hopes to be active for Europe on 40 and 80 meters on the gray line. Ethan will only run 100 watts, but he has a great QTH by the sea with almost 270 degrees of open ocean. He also plans to enter the ARRL DX Contest, probably as a Single-Op/Single-Band (15m) entry. QSL via LoTW or direct, Bureau to his home callsign.

MJ, JERSEY. Richard, M5RIC, had to cancel his MJ5RIC operation between February 11-16th. Reason was not provided.

P4, ARUBA. Howard, WA2NHA, will once again be active as P4/WA2NHA from Aruba (SA-036) between March 1-15th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters

mainly CW. QSL via his home callsign.

PJ2, CURACAO. A group of operators will activate PJ2T, the Caribbean Contesting Consortium's (CCC) Signal Point Station on Curacao (SA-099, WLOTA LH-0942) during the ARRL International DX SSB Contest (March 7-8th) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL PJ2T via LoTW or W3HNC. Operators mentioned are John/K6AM, Chad/WE9V and Geoff/W0CG/PJ2DX. Look for operators to possibly be active before and after the contest using their own PJ2 callsign or PJ2/homecall callsigns. QSL via their home callsigns unless where indicated.

PROPAGATION FORECAST/REPORT (February 9-15th)....
Feb/09th AN Feb/12th AN Feb/14th AN
Feb/10th AN Feb/13th AN Feb/15th AN
Feb/11th AN

SOLAR REFERENCE KEYS/INDEXES AND GEOMAGNETIC REFERENCE

NORMALITY	GEOMAG	K Values	Alpha
AN - Above Normal	Quiet	K=0-1	0-7
HN - High Normal	Unsettled	K=2	8-15
LN - Low Normal	Active	K=3	16-29
BN - Below Normal	Minor Storm	K=4	30-49
DIS - Disturbed	Major Storm	K=5	50-99
VRD - Very Disturbed	Severe Storm	K=6-9	100-400

REALTIME BAND CONDITIONS WEB SITE <http://www.bandconditions.com>:
The purpose of this experimental Web site is to provide 24-7-365 actual (REALTIME) band condition information to CW QRPP, QRPE and CW/SSB for Contesters interested in increasing their scores. It can also be of benefit to other Radio Amateurs to determine band conditions for Nets and casual QSO's. This information is NOT based on any software predictions or any kind of satellite based readings. It is based on a new Ionospheric sounding method called "HF Ionospheric Interferometry" which operates very similarly to the PolSAR system used by NASA.

QSL INFO AND NEWS.....
QSL-INFO from DB0SDX (February 8th)

3Z51S via SP7SEW EA6UP via EA6SK KG4HI via WB2REM (d)
3A/LY2KW via LY2KW EA8/G3XAQ via G3SWH KH6/VE7AHA via VE7AHA (d)
5W7A via YT1AD EG5ANT via EA5DY OZ/DK1AX via DK1AX
CO8LY via EA7ADH (d) EI150ITU via EI6AL V5/DL4MFM via DL4MFM
CT8/OK2ZI via OK2ZI FR5DZ via FR5DZ YR90IARU via YO3KAA
DP7BVBG via DF7AA HF2015MARI via SQ3BKH ZL1WND via ZL1SLO (B/d)
DQ40AIX via DJ9KR HL2ZIK via JE1XUZ ZL7/F8FUA via F8FUA
(e) eQSL only (d) direct only (B) Bureau only (L) LoTW only
(O) OQRS only (C) ClubLog only

FT4TA QSL STATUS. Per the FT4TA Web page: Sebastien, F5UFX, reports on February 7th [edited]: As announced all QSL cards will be posted from Tromelin. You will all receive a beautiful envelope with our special stamps with all different stamps from Tromelin. This will be a collector item. Today all cards are filled, in envelopes, and ready for departure to Tromelin. The next rotation is scheduled for late February. That means you should receive the first envelopes sometime in March/April as announced earlier.

VK9DLX/VK9LM QSL STATUS. Chris, DL1MGB, writes: "Finally the direct QSLs which were applied through the OQRS on our website were sent by our QSL manager Mario DJ2MX. The reason for the delay was a discussion with the German Post about bulk mail, holiday of the contact persons and so on. So those letters should arrive sometime next week. So if you did Direct

OQRS and you haven't received your QSLs after around 1.5 weeks, just let us know through our contact form on <http://www.lordhowe2014.org>. Mario will now work on the direct QSL cards which were sent by standard mail."

QSL RECEIVED VIA LoTW: 5B4AIF, 6K5BFZ, E6XG, EA1ET, ED1ET, EA8DBM, EP6T, HV0A, HZ1FI, J79SB, LY2TS, MA5DWW, PJ7/VA3QSL, T32RL, TG9AJR, UA9MA, UR5MID, XE2CQ, XW4ZW and YB8RW/P

QSLs RECEIVED VIA MAIL: 3B9/F4HAU, 5B4ZI, AH2/AB2RF, CE0Y/PG5M, E51HDJ, E51XIW, E6XG, J48TSL, JA0JHQ/VK9N, HV0A, TO4R, VK9/G7VJR, VP2ERJ, VP8AIB/100, VP8LP/100 and ZS8Z

QSLs RECEIVED VIA THE BUREAU: D44TBE, ES0/OH7KA, GB2ELH, I11ITA, IM0P, MR5BFL, R9CAC, TM00 and UA9CDV

RC70, EUROPEAN RUSSIA. Look for special events station RC70YC to be operating between February 7-22nd. Activity is to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Yalta Conference which was held between February 4-11th, 1945. QSL via the OQRS on ClubLog or direct via K2PF. A special free award will be available. Details can be found at QRZ.com.

T7, SAN MARINO. After a quite long time of inactivity, a brand new call-sign will be on the air from the Republic of San Marino during major contests throughout the year. The ARSM members will operate as T7DX starting with the next CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 28-29th). The callsign will be active only during this contest season, a special QSL card in limited edition will be printed, and it will be available via direct from: A.R.R.S.M. Radio Club, P.O. Box 77 - 47890 San Marino, Rep. San Marino (via ITALY).

TI9, COCOS ISLAND (Reminder). The boat trip to Cocos Island will be on February 14th, it takes 30 hours from Costa Rica so activity will probably start sometime on the 15th for 7days. The current operators are Dom/3Z9DX, Jorge/TI2HMJ, Przemek/SP8SIW and Dmitri/RA9USU. Pilot stations are ZL2TZE (Pacific), SP5MXZ (Europe), ZS4TX (Africa) and NR6M (USA). Two stations will be on the air operating 16010 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. There "may be" some 6 meter activity. QSL via 3Z9DX direct or the OQRS on ClubLog only; (no need to send a paper card) and NO IRCs anymore (no exceptions). A survey/vote for bands/modes needs is available at the following Web page, as well as more details and updates, see: <http://www.nielsen.net/ti9a>

VK0EK HEARD ISLAND DXPEDITION NEWS. Some major donations have been announced for this November 10th-December 22nd DXpedition. Read about them at:

- * Major Grant from the German DX Foundation!
<http://vk0ek.org/2015/02/04/major-grant-from-the-german-dx-foundation>
- * Generous Matching Fund Grant from the Oceania AR DX Group.
<http://vk0ek.org/2015/02/05/generous-matching-fund-grant-from-the-oceania-ar-dx-group>
- * Matching Fund Grant by Steve Hammer, K6SGH.
<http://vk0ek.org/2015/02/06/matching-fund-grant-by-steve-hammer-k6sgh>

Other news mentioned:

- * KK6EK Visits with Team and Friends in New Zealand!
<http://vk0ek.org/2015/02/07/kk6ek-visits-with-team-and-friends-in-new-zealand>
- * KK6EK Meets with Chris, ZL2DX in New Zealand!
<http://vk0ek.org/2015/02/08/kk6ek-meets-with-chris-zl2dx-in-new-zealand>

ZF, CAYMAN ISLANDS. Operators John/K6AM, Dan/N6MJ and Kevin/N5DX will be active as ZF1A from Grand Cayman Island (NA-016, WLOTA LH-1042) during the ARRL INTERNATIONAL CW Contest (February 21-22nd) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL via K6AM, direct, by the W6 Bureau or LoTW.

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kb8nw@barf80.nshore.org OR kb8nw@arrl.net OR kb8nw@hotmail.com
Information can now be faxed to the following phone line at:
1-419-828-7791 (F A X only!)

/EXIT

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3Y/B, BOUVET (Press Release #3 - Bouvet 2016 Project - an update and a

reflection on DXpedition funding). Mark, ON4WW, sent out the following press release [edited]: Dear DXers -- Are you as excited as I am, being able to work K1N Navassa, the #2 Most Wanted Entity? What a thrill, and what a fine job the operators are doing under such difficult conditions! With already almost 23,000 unique call signs in the log, there will be a lot of happy DX-campers! With Navassa being activated, Bouvet Island will be #2 on the Most Wanted Entity list. Time for an update on my plans.

I was going to wait with an update until I visited the boat owner to hopefully finalize the financial matters and contract (within a few weeks, if there is sufficient funding). However, a current discussion on Topband Reflector about DXpedition funding, has intrigued my interest and I would like to share this with you. Hence this pre-update.

As you know by now, for this specific one-man project I need to know upfront what financially is possible. Many of you, the deserving DXers, have responded graciously. Meaning, the Bouvet 2016 project is at 133,000 euro of the needed 250,000 euro. Waw, and thank you.

The following remarks on Topband Reflector intrigued my interest:

---quote

- Some of my friends go on these trips (three are on Navassa), and all of them complain that while EU hams are very demanding, they don't do much to contribute to the cost.

***followed by

- It appears to be the case that NA finances the big trips and EU gets the Q's. That needs to be ironed out.

***followed by

- Someone did a more extensive analysis of several DXpeditions maybe 2 or 3 years ago. Basically the same conclusion. Typically NA puts up the largest percentage of the funds but doesn't get that percentage in Q's.

***followed by

- (back and forth arguments from Europeans and North Americans, too long to put here)

***followed by

- The point that (yyy) is making, he did it very well, is that EU as a group should contribute more than what they are presently doing. And he is right.

***followed by

- The last time I saw numbers several years ago the US had something like 530,000 licensed hams which I think was more than all other countries together (or close to it). No way to know what percentage are DXers and possibly concerned with working a particular DXpedition. However, it might be more relevant if the percentages of financing were percentages of DXers that contributed. It may be still skewed of course.

***followed by a final and important remark (to silence this quite animated discussion) by my buddy Don, N1DG:

- "The number of US hams isn't the issue, it's the number of DXers working each DXpedition. And the better number to look at is uniques. My Dayton presentation is here:

<http://www.ncdxf.org/misc/N1DG-DXpeditioncosts-Dayton2012.ppt>

My NCDXF article is here on pages 5 through 7:

<http://www.ncdxf.org/newsletters/2012-AUTUMN.pdf>

Since I did the research, NCDXF has received updated information from its grantees that has not changed the results presented."

---unquote

I had a closer look at the outstanding analysis Don made, especially the part on Southern Oceans (Bouvet!). To everyone who hasn't read his analysis, it is important to understand the funding mechanisms behind the most difficult Most Wanted Entities, do read Don's analysis, please.

The following is quite an eye opener and -catcher of the PowerPoint presentation:

Financial transparency rarely done on DXpeditions. It should be.

If more of the ham community knew the costs and risks involved in big ticket DXpeditions fund raising might be easier.

DX Foundations and Clubs can't continue to do all the heavy lifting.

Not all DXpeditions are alike. One size does not fit all in donations.

Bullets 1, 3 and 4 are pertinent to the Bouvet 2016 project. Without having seen Don's presentation (until yesterday), I knew this was the way to go for my project:

1. Why on earth should I have secrets about YOUR finances (in case I couldn't find a single corporate sponsor)?
3. I tried to find a single sponsor outside the ham community, to try and get the financial burden away from the Foundations, Clubs and individual DXers. I failed so far, but I tried. Someone else will do better.
4. Why would Bouvet have to be done by a large group, if it can be done by one person? Is this written in stone? Not all DXpeditions are alike indeed, they are not.

Bullet number 2 is addressed to most of us. And is somehow related to the discussion on Topband Reflector. Let's have a look at some of Don's figures.

For the Southern Oceans DXpeditions, 63% of the funding comes from team members. DX Foundations/Clubs make up for 25% of the funding, individual DXers 12%. Of all QSOs made, 43% were by Europe, 36% by North America, 16% by Asia and 5% by the Rest of the World.

For the VP8ORK DXpedition, 80% of the funding came out of the USA (DXpeditioners, Foundations/Clubs, individual DXers). An impressive figure. As the team members were mostly Americans, this partially explains the

high number of 80% funding by USA (63% > team members).

There is an additional explanation, albeit also being partial. The donation to DX Foundations in the USA is Tax Deductible, and makes it more attractive to donate, compared to other countries where this system is not in place.

Personally, I do believe that indeed the Americans are donating proportionally more than other countries/continents. Mind you, this is a personal opinion, not backed up by facts (as Don says, DXpeditions should be more transparent. I have no means to verify whether the figures in the presentation are correct, neither can Don - these figures were handed over in good faith, and I base my assumption on that fact, thus being factually subjective).

There is no good or bad in this, whether the Americans donate more than others, or the Europeans donate less than others. Moreover, we have no objective means to verify who donates most. It is only the finance accountant of an expedition who has that information (I have been on two major DXpeditions, I have never seen the financial figures of those. This is no criticism, it is a fact).

We can and should be very grateful these DXpeditions take place thanks to the combined effort of DXpeditioners, DX Foundations/Clubs and individual DXers, in whatever gradation they are able to donate. It gets ugly (as happened on Topband Reflector) when people get personal and start accusing each other across continents of 'this or that party not donating enough to my personal likings'.

Let me give you some of the Bouvet 2016 figures (not taking into account the \$100,000 from the angel contributor).

The total number of individual DXers having given donation intentions so far, is made up by 51% European DXers, 42% North Americans, 3% by people from Asia and 4% by people from the Rest of the World. The total amount of donation intentions is made up by 57% from Europe, 29% from North America, 2% Asia and 12% by the Rest of the World.

For the DX Foundations/Clubs: 43% are out of Europe, 57% out of North America. No Foundations/Clubs from other continents stepped forward. The amount of donation intentions by Foundations/Clubs: 67% Europe, 33% North America.

If we combine the amounts of donation intentions made by both individual DXers and DX Foundations/Clubs: 60% Europe, 30% North America, 10% Rest of the World.

Perhaps a bit strange when you first look at it, this does not relate to Don's figures whatsoever. As always, there must be a reason. Here are some I can think of:

- for the one-man project there is no 63% paid by DXpedition members
- North American hams/Clubs tell me: we donate through the major DX Foundations, they will sponsor Bouvet 2016

- NCDXF has opted not to come forward (which takes away a big chunk of the North American support)
- I am a European (that is meant to be a joke!)
- (more clever people than me will find other reasons)

To conclude:

- figures (and certainly percentages) can reveal a lot of stuff, one way or the other. In the end, it is the absolute figure that counts: is there enough money at hand to activate a 'rare one'?
- kindly stop the mud-wrestling about who is donating most. There are probably reasons beyond our knowledge as to why the figures are what they are. If we even know the real figures, at all.

One more thing about NCDXF. I knew if I had their support, others would follow suit. Bouvet 2016 would be a fact by now.

The reason given for not funding Bouvet 2016: it is the policy not to support one-man DXpeditions. Fair enough of course, I can live with that, but it makes my endeavor incredibly more difficult. Probably to the point where the one-man concept comes to a halt.

For those of you who read Don's .pdf file: no way there will ever be a future expedition to Bouvet for less than the one-man project's budget of 280,000 USDs (the dollar/euro rate keeps swinging, you may have seen another figure in the past). Count a minimum of 600,000 USDs for a large group. Averaging 74,000 QSOs per DXpedition in the Southern Oceans (per Don's figures). My target: 100,000 Qs, with lots and lots of unique call-signs in the log. And lots of happy 9-banders as well. Propagation and other circumstances willing, I know I can make more than 100,000 QSOs. Substantially more.

I understand some of you still have reserves because of the safety of one man being on Bouvet. Believe me, I do have my limits in regard to safety (I would never board a space shuttle, never). For Bouvet, I have substantial logistical, medical and safety measures backup.

Some of you have reserves because there will be a large group going to Bouvet in 2016. So far I have not commented much on this, but as I get more and more people telling me "Too bad the 3Y0F DXpedition is at the same time", let me tell you this: there is no other group going to Bouvet in 2016. There are no operators nor funding for 3Y0F. I was hoping someone else would bring you this news, but as nobody has done so far, and as I feel it is hampering my endeavor, here it is. Perhaps Alex will succeed in another year, but not in the 2015-2016 time frame.

I received a radio license with a Bouvet callsign from the Norwegian Communications Agency. Perhaps a bit premature, but better early than not, I suppose. No, I will not yet tell you what the callsign is. I have my reasons to differ from my usual transparency policy.

When I listen to the K1N pileups (police and DQRMers), I ask myself: do you really want to go to Bouvet? Yes. I envision fun for everyone, for 3 months. With or without the silly police and DQRMers. For me it is all

about fun (it is a hobby!), to give something back to the DX community (from which I received so much joy over the years) and activate Bouvet in the cheapest possible way, giving an opportunity to get as many unique DXers in the log as possible.

Unless another angel contributor shows up, or the Board of Directors of NCDXF changes its mind, this project may very well come to a halt under its current format.

I hope to bring some good news in the near future. In case not, as always there is a plan B (which you will also like). In case plan A and B fail, there is plan C: someone else will activate Bouvet, but not in 2016.

If you are able to, and would like to contribute to this project, kindly let me know your donation intentions via e-mail to: bouvet2016 'at' telenet.be (just the amount and your callsign). (I suppose in nowadays terminology we can call this 'DXpedition Crowd Funding') You don't have to pay now. Only if the project officially goes forward, a PayPal account will be opened. You will be informed whether or not the project goes forward. For those of you who contacted me in the past and did not get a reply from me: please resend your mail (so far I have answered all e-mails).

73 - Mark - on4ww.

ps: I will not engage in a polemic about 'who donates most', the above is just for your info, not for further discussions.

BEST COMMUNICATION AWARD 2014 (by DxCoffee - PRESS RELEASE) [Edited]:

After analyzing all the Dxpeditions that were conducted in 2014, our preference for the Dxpedition that stood out the most, regarding communication with the ham community, goes to FT5ZM, the Dxpedition to Amsterdam I., that operated in January-February 2014.

We have especially appreciated their website <www.amsterdamdx.org>, a site made to satisfy any curiosity that one could have about FT5ZM. The information given ranged from describing the island itself, a place little known by the general public, to the long crossing in the Indian ocean starting from Western Australia, to the frequent updates during the operations.

In the space where you could ask questions to the pilots (contact us), you could also find a section with the "frequently asked questions", pointing to other important ways of communication: Facebook and Twitter. Of course there were several pictures too.

Again this year, it didn't seem fair to ignore other Dxpeditions that have distinguished themselves for their communication.

We have thought of five "special mentions" that we are listing below in chronological order as we don't want to rank them from best to worst.

We are not giving scores here, but we are simply taking our stand from our impressions in the scope of communication, where you can't make clear cut comparisons.

A35V e A35X for fascinating us with their diary and the final account published on a35va35x.com. We have appreciated the commitment of these two operators (yes, only two!) who have adopted a simpler style as opposed to the professional one of the big Dxpeditions, but nevertheless just as captivating.

YW5D, Tortuga I. This Venezuelan team didn't have their own website for this short (four days) Dxpedition, but have stood out for the great use of social networks and for spreading information through several web magazines.

VK9MT, VK9DLX, FT4TA, for realising comprehensive and updated websites, that are: <vk9mt.com>, <www.lordhowe2014.org>, and <www.tromelin2014.com/en>.

The award presentation will take place in Florence, Italy at the DxCoffee Party on April 12, hosted by the Florence HamFest. To know more about this nice event, click on www.florencehamfest.com.

Special thanks to the Dx University, for making it possible to realise this award.

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Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW
Provided by BARF80.ORG (Cleveland, Ohio)

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, AB5K & the AR TelNet Clusters Network, KY6R, N6PSE and OE1WHC for the following DX information.

KP1, NAVASSA (Press Release by DokuFunk). Wolf Harranth, OE1WHC, from the Amateur Radio Section of ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation) and the Documentary Archives Radio Communications/QLS Collection, have sent OPDX the following Press Release, dated February 9th, 1300z [edited]:

"A Sat-Phone interview with Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, co-team leader of the current K1N Navassa DXpedition" -- In an exclusive interview for Vienna-based Documentary Archive Radio Communications (DokuFunk), Glenn sums up the team's experience so far, gives some advice on how to cooperate, and discloses all plans for the remaining days of operation. Audio file is available at: <http://www.dokufunk.org/navassa-e>

In short, Glenn states in the interview that the K1N operation will continue, but on Friday they will start closing down. The team will start by sending their unneeded supplies back to Jamaica. On Saturday, the K1N operations will still be on the air, but some of the personnel will begin to leave the island. All radio equipment will remain on the island until daybreak Sunday, where K1N operations will then go QRT.

OOOPPPSSS DEPARTMENT! There are two typos in OPDX.1201. Under "AAW NEWS", the callsign "K0ZG" should read "K0ZP". Under "E6, NIUE", the callsign "E6NZ" should read "E6NK".

VK0EK HEARD ISLAND DXPELITION (Press Release). Richard, KY6R, writes:

"Heard Island Now The Longest Inactive Entity on the DXCC List!"

No other entity in the Top 10 lists have been inactive longer than Heard Island! Heard Island was last activated in 1997, so that was 18 years ago.

Navassa is on the air now, Bouvet was activated in 2008, North Korea in 2002, South Sandwich and South Georgia in 2002, Crozet in 2009, Scarborough Reef in 2007, Tromelin in 2014, Kingman Reef in 2000, Palmyra in 2005, Pratas in 2003, Juan de Nova/Europa in 2003.

Heard Island is the "next up" as far as top 10 Most Wanted entities in the DXCC Program's entity list. After K1N is over, Heard Island will rise up to #4 in the DX Publications Most Wanted List but this is of course always subject to change due to those who participate in the poll each year - See DX PUB MOST WANTED at: <http://www.dxpub.net/MOST-WANTED-SURVEY.html>

And will be #5 in the Clublog Most Wanted List and this also changes based on those who upload their log files - See ClubLog_most_wanted at:

<http://www.clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

The DX Publications survey was done in October, 2014, and since then, Tromelin, and now Navassa have been activated. Only Navassa affects the Heard Island position in this survey, and in fact also in the Clublog list.

While both of these "surveys" are subject to all kinds of variables, DX-pedition leaders do look at these when considering where they might go next so they are useful. And they are fun for DX-ers to "dream and scheme" as far as thinking about that next big ATNO!

VP8/G & VP8/SS, SOUTH GEORGIA AND SOUTHSANDWICH ISLANDS (Press Release):

Dear friends of the DX Community:

The Intrepid-DX Group announced our plans to activate South Sandwich and South Georgia in mid-December.

With the activation of Navassa, these Islands become the #3 and #8 most wanted entities world-wide.

The activation of these two rare islands will be very expensive. The 14 team members are contributing \$210,000 towards the \$425,000 total cost of the DXpedition.

The team has a critical decision to make. We have a non-refundable deposit of \$54,000 due to pay for our vessel charter.

We fully intend to go forward with our plans however we need indications from the global DX Community that you support our plans.

While we are pleased with the support of some individuals and a few clubs so far, we are now asking those of you who have not yet done so to please consider donating to our fund, or pledge a donation. We ask that the DX Clubs and Associations of the global DX community lend us their support.

We must feel confident that we can successfully raise enough funds for this exciting endeavor before we can commit to the non-refundable charter deposit.

You can see how to make a donation here:

<http://www.intrepid-dx.com/vp8/sponsors.php>

If you cannot donate at this time, but wish to make a pledge, please let us know: intrepiddxgroup@gmail.com

If you wish your donation to be US tax deductible, consider making a directed donation through the Northern California DX Foundation:

<http://www.ncdxf.org>

Without significant support from the global DX Community, we will not

be able to go forward with our plans.

Sincerely, The Intrepid-DX Group VP8/S and VP8/G Team

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