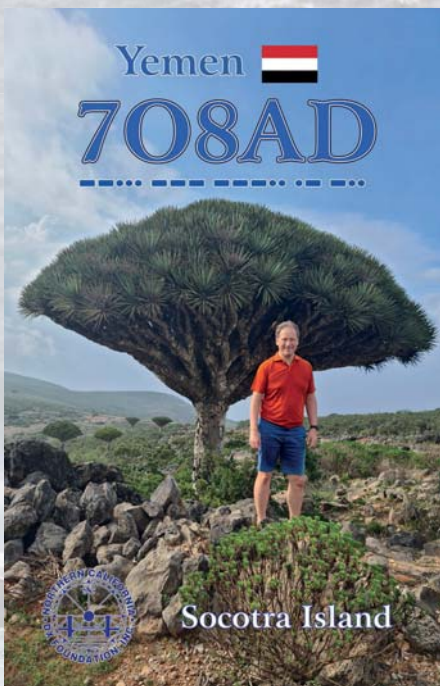


# EUROPEAN DX FOUNDATION E.V.

annual volume 38 • edition no. 4 • 2024

# Newsletter 4 • 2024



L to R: [rear] Paul NEPSE - Atlas W7XU - Glenn KE4KY - Dave WD5COV - Heye DJ9RR - Jacky ZL3CW - Andreas N8NU - Chris N8WM  
Walt NX0U - Steve W15RD - Gene X5G5 - Ricardo PY2PT - Rob W7QT - Francesco I0GVC - (front) Nadir LY8MM - Dave K3EL - <https://clip-dx.net/>

CQ Zone 7 • ITU Zone 10 • Loc DK50 • IOTA IANA-041 • Clipperton Island

# EUDXF NEWSLETTER 4 • 2024

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**change  
of address**

I would like to remind you that members who change their address or e-mail address inform our treasurer at

[eudxf@eudxf.eu](mailto:eudxf@eudxf.eu)



## Imprint

**EUropean DX Foundation e.V.** — **President:** Gerben A. Menting (PG5M) Leemdobbe 19, 9472 ZR Zuidlaren, The Netherlands, e-mail: [president@eudxf.eu](mailto:president@eudxf.eu). **Boardmembers:** Ronald Stuy (PA3EWP), Prof. Dr. Achim Rogmann (DF3EC), Hans P. Blondeel Timmerman (PB2T), Istvan "Pista" Gaspar (HA5AO). **Advisor:** Jan B. C. Harders (DJ8NK), Dominik Weiel (DL5EBE).

**Officemanager:** Alex van Hengel, (PA1AW). **Cashier/Office DL/ Printing Support:** Robert F. Lörcks (DL1EBV), **Webmaster:** Alex van Hengel (PA1AW).

The annual **membership fee** is **25 Euro**. Please pay the amount to our **Bank Account:** Volksbank Kleverland, **IBAN:** DE65 3246 0422 0205 1830 19 **BIC:** GENO DE D1KL L.

I trust that members living in the Euro zone will use this account only, because this implies the least costs for our foundation. Those who do not live in the Euro zone may also use PayPal to [cashier@eudxf.eu](mailto:cashier@eudxf.eu).



## Welcoming Words of the President

This is already the fourth newsletter of this year, and more is to come. We include now also information on the EUDXF sponsored DXpeditions over 2023/2024 and upcoming.

I hope can add some other items in our next newsletters as well. This issue will cover the reports of 8R7X, TX5S, 7O8AD & 7O8AE and TX7L. Interesting stories and we all have seen the great activities of the youngsters at 8R7X. We will also sponsor the 3D2Z Rotuma DXpedition where two young operators participating. This can be seen as a good development for the future of amateur radio.

### Ham Radio 2024

The number of visitors was slightly higher than last year and was clearly visible on Saturday. We had many "old friends" visiting our stand for a talk and we also saw fresh faces. Overall, it was again a good reason to be present at Ham Radio.

This year the layout of DX Plaza was slightly different as we had Far East DX Plotters (FEDXP) joining. For next year we hope to improve the layout of DX Plaza a little bit more. The EUDXF stand had a bit of an upgrade, and we showed five posters of recent EUDXF sponsored DXpeditions. Our board members were on stand duty and have been supported by various EUDXF members for which we are grateful. Like most other participants at DX Plaza, for logistical reasons we had to remove our flatscreen, audio system, banners, posters, etc. already on Saturday at the end of the day. However, Achim DF3EC was still present on Sunday with even more wonderful talks at our stand.

There was a dedicated area for presentation with a 55" flatscreen and audio system, which was a remarkable improvement compared to last year. We had nice presentations about TX5S (by K5GS), 8R7X (by DK6SP), TJ9MD (by IZ4UEZ), and 7O2WX (by OK2WX). The presentations were better attended, compared to last year. We hope to have even more presentations at DX Plaza next year.

We were also present at the DX Forum

with a presentation about the W8S Swains Island DXpedition, by Ronald PA3EWP, where many DXers were keen to hear more details on this highly successful activity.

### EUDXF dinner at Ham Radio 2024

Coming together at Friedrichshafen from all over the world for "Ham Radio" was again a good opportunity for the EUDXF to organize a reunion. Members and friends were invited to join the EUDXF dinner on Friday night at restaurant Heuschöber only a short walk away from the Messe-ground. We had 32 EUDXF friends from different countries coming together and enjoyed a wonderful dinner with tasty food and drinks and interesting chats and talks. This year we even had people on the waiting list and fortunately we were able to accommodate 3 more guests. Although Rhein Ruhr DX had also made a reservation at the same place the service was fast and the food delicious as in the past. After a short speech by EUDXF Gerben PG5M, dinner organizer Hans-Martin DK2HM recommended to all participants to donate the reservation deposit to EUDXF, everyone agreed accordingly. Having once again a great dinner together, we hopefully will be able to have another EUDXF dinner at the Heuschöber restaurant again next year, and Hans Martin will try to make a reservation for forty people.

I like to thank Hans Martin DK2HM organizing this dinner again and he is committed to do this for next year as well!

On the next page you see the details of our AGM in Bad Bentheim to which are invited.

I wish you good reading and possibly good holidays.



### Annual General Meeting

On behalf of the European DX Foundation I would like to invite you to attend our Annual General Meeting to be held in Bad Bentheim during the

Deutsch-Niederländische  
Amateurfunke Tage (DNAT).

The meeting will take place  
on Saturday  
24<sup>th</sup> August 2024

and will start  
at **13:00 local time**  
as usual in

Forum of the Burg Gymnasium  
Prof.-Prakke-Str. 2,  
48455 Bad Bentheim,  
Germany





European DX Foundation e. V.  
Gerben A. Menting • Leembodde 19 • 9472 ZR ZUIDLAREN

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**Date:** 24.07.2024

To all

EUDXF Members

## Generalversammlung 2024/General Meeting 2024

Hiermit lade ich Sie herzlich zur Jahreshauptversammlung der European DX Foundation in Verbindung mit den *Deutsch-Niederländischen Amateurfunker Tagen* (DNAT) für Samstag, den 24. August 2024, **13:00 Uhr** im Forum des Burg Gymnasiums, Prof.-Prakke-Str. 2, 48455 Bad Bentheim ein.

*I cordially invite you to the Annual General Meeting of the European DX Foundation in conjunction with the „Deutsch-Niederländischen Amateurfunker Tagen“ (DNAT) on Saturday, August 24, 2024, **13:00 hrs**, at the Forum of the Burg Gymnasium, Prof.-Prakke-Str. 2, 48455 Bad Bentheim, Germany.*

### Tagesordnung:

1. Begrüßung durch den Vorsitzenden
2. Anwesenheitsfestellung
3. Wahl des Protokollführers
4. Verabschiedung des Protokolls 2023
5. Bericht des Vorsitzenden
6. Kassenbericht
7. Bericht der Kassenprüfer
8. Anträge der Kassenprüfer
  - a. Genehmigung der Jahresrechnung
  - b. Entlastung des Vorstandes
9. Verschiedenes

### Agenda:

- Opening by the chairperson
- Roll call
- Appointment of the minute taker
- Adoption of the AGM 2023 minutes
- President's report
- Financial report
- Auditor's report
- Motions of the Auditors
- Approval of the annual financial statement
- Discharge of the board of directors
- Miscellaneous

European DX Foundation e. V.

Gerben A. Menting  
President

#### **President:**

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DE65 3246 0422 0205 1830 19  
BIC: GENO DED1KLL

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#### **Tax number:**

336/5810/1057  
**registry court:**  
VR 130315 AG Osnabrück  
**Club station:**  
DLØEUF  
[www.eudxf.eu](http://www.eudxf.eu)

## Silent Keys

It is my sad duty to report the loss of the following EUDXF members:

### Silent Key

93 Leo Wirth, DL4NBE [86]  
941 Thomas Freimann, DJ6TF [70]  
1030 Nico van der Bijl, PAØMIR [80]

May he rest in peace.



## New Members

Since July 2023 we welcomed the following DX-enthusiasts as new EUDXF members:

### New Members

#1048 Jörg Lahmann, DK7XX  
#972 Andre Haan, PA4OES  
#1049 Garnt Klinkenberg, PAØVLY  
#868 Carlo Houben, ON4BR  
#1050 Oliver Hartmann, DJ5QW  
#1051 Edwin Vos, PA3GVQ  
#1052 Heather Swart-Vos, PD3GVQ  
#1053 Peter Veres, DD2SM  
#1054 Arnold Witte, DK1VK  
#1055 Terry Dansey, GØBIX  
#1056 Francisco Santos, DV1K  
#1057 Sergey Konev, ER1KW  
#668 Patrice Brechet, F8BON  
#1058 Alexandra Nerb, DC1MAS  
#1059 Steffen Rohse, DO3OI  
#1060 Tjakko Abee, PA2TA  
#790 Tom Wylie, GM4FDM  
#842 Dick G. A. van der Knaap, PCØA  
#999 Gjermund M. Bringsvor, LB5GI

We thank you all for your support and we hope you will enjoy your membership.

## Presentation



on Saturday  
24<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
at 11:45 - 12:45 local time  
as usual in  
Forum of the Burg Gymnasium  
Prof.-Prakke-Str. 2,  
48455 Bad Bentheim,  
Germany

## EUDXF Life Members

For those members who want to join the list of distinguished members, please contact the EUDXF Board. The price for Life Membership is still 400,- € and is tax deductible in several countries. For this purpose you will be sent a receipt on request.

The following EUDXF Members are registered as Life Members:

### Life Members

Prof. Dr. Achim Rogmann, DF3EC  
Klaus Schlich; DF3GL  
Jürgen Carow, DF3OL  
Herbert Orthaus, DG8YFM  
Jan G. Stadman, DJ5AN  
Gerd Richter, DJ5IW  
Christian (JAN) Harders, DJ8NK  
Dr. Dieter Messer, DJ9ON  
Hans-Martin Kurka, DK2HM  
Dr. Gottfried Dutiné, DK3DG  
Dr. Andreas Söchting, DK6AS  
Timm Wangerin, DL1BKT  
Robert F. Lörcks, DL1EBV  
Frank Rosenkranz, DL4KQ  
Leo Wirth, DL4NBE **SK**  
Dominik Weiel, DL5EBE  
Klaus Huber, DL5EC  
Felix J. Riess, DL5XL  
Johannes Langner, DL7BQ  
Olaf Bunner, DL7CX  
Robin U. Go, DU9RG  
Iñaki Echeveria, EA2AAZ  
Terry Dansey, GØBIK **NEW**  
Fred C. Handscombe, G4BWP  
Andrea Panati, IK1PMR  
Yoshihiko Hirano, JA2MNB  
Tsutomu Kitahara, JAØDBQ  
Katsuyama Kazuo, JAØEQO  
Noriko Nakamoto, JFØJIL  
Daniel Dankert, N6PEQ  
Pertti Turunen, OG2M  
Jorma Friman, OH2BEJ  
Martti Laine, OH2BH  
Jukka Heikinheimo, OH2BR  
Jari Jussila, OH2BU  
Veijo Kontas, OH6KN  
Rob van de Kamer, PA1X  
Gert van Loo, PA2LO  
Ronald Stuy, PA3EWP  
Maarten Bos, PA3EYC  
Dick Grolleman, PA3FQA  
Henk Hofman, PA3GCV  
Erwin Vos, PA3GCQ **NEW**  
Michael Driksen, PA5M  
Johannes Hafkenscheid, PA5X  
Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T  
Roberto "BOB", PB5X  
Heather Swart-Vos, PD3GCQ **NEW**  
Tomasz Barbachowski, SP5UAF  
Thor Stefansson, TF4M  
Ingrid S. Geissler, W7ISG

## Sponsored activities

August 2023 / July 2024

5WØLM – Samoa  
5X3K – Uganda  
7O2WX – Yemen  
7O8AD & 7O8AE – Yemen  
8R7X – Guyana 2024  
9Q2WX – DR Congo  
E6AM – Niue  
FT8WW – Crozet Island 2023  
FW8GC & TX8GC – Wallis and Futuna  
T2C – Tuvalu 2023  
T32EU – Kiribati  
TX5S – Clipperton Island  
TX7L – Marquesas Island  
TX7W – Austral Islands  
V62P and V62S – Micronesia  
V6EU – Chuuk Island  
W8S – Swains Island  
XU7CNY – Cambodia  
XW4DX – Laos  
ZL7/SP5EAQ – Chatham Island



## pending sponsored

3D2Z – Rotuma  
6O3T – Somalia  
CY9C – St. Paul Island  
FT4GL – Glorioso Island  
N5J – Palmyra Jarvis Island  
VK9LA – Lord Howe Island  
VP6WR and FO/GØVDE – Pitcairn and  
Gambier

Regards,

Gerben – PG5M  
EUDXF President









# HAM RADIO 2024 – DX Plaza





# HAM RADIO 2024 – DX Plaza



left to right:

**Martin, PA4WM; Rainer, DL2AMD; Evert, PA2KW; Johannes, PA5X, Ronald, PA3EWP; Hans, DL6JGN; Gerben, PG5M**



# HAM RADIO 2024 – DX Dinner





# HAM RADIO 2024 – DX Dinner





# 8R7X – Guyana 2024 – The Next Generation

BY PHILIPP SPRINGER, DK6SP



Team Picture 8R7X with EUDXF flag; L-R: Sven DJ4MX, Jamie MØSDV, Philipp DK6SP, Tomi HA8RT.

## Preface

8R7X was a DXpedition to Guyana in February 2024 where the team spent 14 days in Guyana making 73,500 QSOs on CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FM. Guyana was ranked #96 in the DXCC Most Wanted list according to Clublog (Clublog: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024). The team was made up of 4 young operators with an average age of 24 years, from 3 countries in Europe. How did we do it? Let's find out ...

## Introduction

Guyana is a South American nation located on the Northeast coast of continental South America. Guyana shares a border to the Northwest with Venezuela, to the Southwest with Brazil, Suriname is to the East and the Atlantic Ocean is directly North. Guyana sits close to the equator at only 4° latitude, making this a very tropical climate to visit. Guyana is famous for its production of sugarcane; You might have heard of Demerara sugar? It is made in the Demerara region of Guyana and distributed worldwide. Guyana is also famous for its outstanding natural beauty and its kind, welcoming people. Guyana offered our team a comfortable home for 2 weeks whilst we indulged in our beloved hobby, putting Guyana on the map for thousands of radio amateurs worldwide.

## Why Guyana?

Guyana was first brought to the attention of the team when a visiting ham, Rudi 8R1/AHØG was on the air in 2018. Jamie MØSDV was able to work Rudi on 80 m CW, planting the seed for a future DXpedition. Jamie was able to reach out to Rudi to gain some insight into amateur radio life in Guyana which helped enormously in the first steps of planning the DXpedition. The information received suggested that doing a DXpedition to Guyana would be challenging but rewarding, and so the process began. There are many factors that played into choosing Guyana as the DXCC entity of choice for this DXpedition, from culture, most wanted ranking, accessibility, and achievability. Guyana was ranked #96 on Clublog's Most Wanted list making it a very attractive country to DXers. The country is relatively easy to travel to with connecting flights from major cities such as New York and Miami.

## The Team

Our operating team consisted of four young radio hams who have a love for amateur radio and traveling. We have a combined average age of 24 years old and have shared various experiences through the hobby. We have all been fortunate enough to experience DXpeditions as part of experienced teams

which have given us a huge advantage in taking on this challenge. Our team is as follows;

### Jamie Williams - MØSDV

Jamie, 23 years old from Staffordshire in England has an extensive history in amateur radio dating back only 9 years to 2015 where he has been involved in contesting and DXpeditioning including with some world-renowned teams. Jamie started traveling in 2017 where he met Philipp DK6SP in Munich who he would travel the world with for many years to come. Jamie has been QRV with such callsigns as PJ2/MØSDV, PJ4V, 5V7EI, 3B8M, and M6T. Jamie was also part of Youth Team #2 at WRTC 2022 in Bologna Italy where he operated as I47B with teammate DK6SP. Jamie is a proficient SSB and CW operator with good experience in pileup management. His favorite mode to operate is CW.

### Philipp Springer - DK6SP

Philipp, a 26-year-old from Erding, Germany, developed an interest in amateur radio in 2008 after attending a soldering course at his local radio club with some friends. It was through this club that he was introduced to the world of radio and began making QSOs. Philipp received his novice class license, DO6PS, in 2011 and gained full privi-



leges in 2013 with the callsign DK6SP. During these formative years, he rapidly advanced his operating skills, learning Morse code (CW) and how to manage pileups. Philipp has since participated in numerous DXpeditions and has competed in many contests, including representing a youth team at the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) on two occasions.

#### Sven Lovric - DJ4MX

Sven, aged 21 from Munich, Germany is currently studying mechatronics and got interested in amateur radio through his father Mario, DJ2MX, for this reason Sven has been in contact with radio for almost all his life. Sven first started operating under the training callsign DN5MX in 2015. Most of the time he is operating CW, SSB, or RTTY contests from his small home station in Munich, but in the past, he was also operating from stations like E7DX, M6T, ED1R, NP4Z, etc.

#### Tomi Varrò - HA8RT

Tomi, aged 25 was born in Szeged Hungary where he studied IT engineering and currently living in Helsinki, Finland. Tomi was first licensed at age 14 and is now a seasoned amateur radio contester as part of the HG6N team. Tomi has operated in many places around the world such as OH5Z, K3LR, ES9C, 9A1A, and C4HQ. Tomi is proficient in CW as his preferred mode and has participated in HST (High-Speed Telegraphy) events on multiple occasions.

Our operating team has also been supported by other radios hams. There are too many to introduce everyone in great detail; however, primarily we'd like to highlight the work of Raj Naraine 8R1RPN who had provided local and logistical support in Guyana, giving the team a direct line to communicate with Guyanese authorities to make the process seamless. Charles Willmott MØOXO provides a QSL service utilizing his bespoke OQRS system, Charles has been managing our logs, LOTW upload, busted calls, and will soon be delivering our QSL card to hams worldwide. We'd also like to recognize the contributions and efforts made by Markus Grundner DG8MG for providing the main 8R7X preparation location and logistics DXpedition. Also, many others have been contributing their time towards the project. Without their support, this would not be possible.

#### The License

Before embarking on this project, we were advised by multiple people that obtaining an amateur radio license in Guyana would be particularly challenging as the country is not well accustomed to visiting hams. We sought advice from hams who had previously been granted a license to operate in Guyana and were advised that it is a long-drawn-out process which might not yield any results. Jamie, MØSDV was deemed the most likely of the team members to obtain a license due to being a native English speaker (English is the language spoken in Guyana) as well as having cultural connections through what was the Commonwealth of Nations. In 2018, Jamie wrote to frequency management in Georgetown, Guyana who provided the necessary information to obtain the license. Jamie completed documentation, provided identification, proof of his UK license qualifications, and provided a full background check as requested by Guyana security officials. Once this documentation had been submitted it took over 7 months to receive any formal documentation back. The license cost \$12 USD, which was paid by a local contact in Guyana and Jamie received his license for 8R1DV. Then disaster struck! The world was closed down by the COVID-19 pandemic, postponing the trip and in the time elapsed through the lockdowns, 8R1DV expired so the process had to be started again.

In early 2023, Jamie once again wrote to the frequency management in Guyana to request that his license was renewed and during this process, he also requested that 8R7X was allocated for a team operation. This was all agreed in theory, but the reality was that things had changed. The local contact used before had disappeared and was not contactable to visit the frequency management in person and the process of renewal took a very long time. Frequency management told us that there had been some legislative changes meaning we would be delayed in getting the license, but no timeframe was offered causing a large degree of uncertainty. By this time the DXpedition had already been announced based on the initial agreement we had to renew the license before learning about any changes.

While discussing our challenges with friends we were introduced through mutual friendship and past experience to Raj 8R1RPN, a local ham who lives in Georgetown Guyana who had been heavily involved in contesting with

various well-known contesters and DXers worldwide. We were introduced to Raj via email, and we soon had a man inside Guyana who knew the system like the back of his hand. Raj made many trips to the frequency management office and spoke with local government ministers who would eventually take us to the director of telecommunications in Guyana. We were able to directly negotiate the renewal of 8R1DV and even get authority to operate with 8R7X for our DXpedition. This is not a small accomplishment as never in the history of amateur radio in Guyana has the '8R7' prefix been issued to anybody, making this callsign truly unique.

#### Planning Phase including Sponsors

As many will know, a trip of this magnitude costs a good sum of money to achieve. The team, largely still being in some form of education, needed some support so started to approach various DX foundations to apply for a DXpedition grant. We were very pleasantly surprised by the uptake and support from the DX community in helping to achieve our goals. We were able to secure adequate funding to support the DXpedition and through their new youth initiative, North California DX Foundation even covered the costs of travel for the youngest team member Sven, DJ4MX, passing on the message, "If NCDXF has already provided a grant to your DXpedition, we will also underwrite the cost of any young operators who join the team."



8R7X Co-Lead DK6SP together with NCDXF Vice President K9CT at Dayton Hamvention 2023

In addition to foundation support, individual donors and commercial sponsors played crucial roles. Companies like ICOM America and DXEngineering, among others, provided essential equipment and resources, ensuring we had access to top-of-the-line technology.





DJ4MX configuring the 3x ICOM IC-7610's sponsored by ICOM USA and DXEngineering

Furthermore, we were fortunate to have generous offers from supporters who lent us critical pieces of equipment such as amplifiers and laptops. These contributions were invaluable, enhancing our setup without necessitating further purchases. This broad base of support not only alleviated financial burdens but also enhanced our operational capabilities. We then started gathering materials. We would need masts, poles, wire, ropes, and of course radios. A good amount of this equipment already belonged to team members. Other items were purchased by team members for use in this DXpedition and future projects. Anything missing was purchased ahead of time with the help of our supporters. This collaborative effort between foundations, individuals, and commercial sponsors truly embodies the spirit of the amateur radio community.

### Detailed Preparations

As the team embarked on their first DXpedition without their mentors (Elmers), they aimed to be less reliant on borrowed equipment by preparing their own gear. They reached out to various companies for sponsorships, receiving products at discounted rates or for free. This kick-started the project, with the team gathering necessary equipment and storing it at the logistics headquarters provided by our supporter DG8MG. They held two main preparation weekends at this location, investing many hours into the process. Tasks included assembling Mastrant guy wires for 10 m aluminum and Spiderpole masts provided by Spiderbeam, installing connectors on Messi & Paoloni coaxial cables, and planning and building wire verticals, including "The Beast" – primarily used for 160 m as a L antenna – on a 22 m Spiderpole. Existing high-band beams-like the MWØJZE/G3TXQ 6-band Hex-beam and a 3-band Spiderbeam were also set up multiple times for practice. Receive antennas from hamparts.shop were built and tested for functionality

in Guyana. Upon receiving 3x ICOM IC-7610 radios and 5x power supplies sponsored by ICOM USA and DXEngineering, the team set up the radios and reconfigured the power supplies from 110 V to 220 V for use in Guyana. They also set up and tested 5x laptops to accompany the radios. Additionally, various control cables, footswitches, headset adapters, and guy anchors were produced and tested. Local contributors and helpers were involved to meet set targets way in advance of the departure date.



Testing the setup of a Spiderbeam for 10 m, 15 m and 20 m in advance of 8R7X

After preparation, the equipment was weighed, packed, and distributed among available suitcases, totaling approximately 350 kg. The team acquired used hard-case Samsonite suitcases for this purpose, padding the equipment with bubble wrap. They cleared the equipment with German customs to avoid issues with exporting to Guyana and importing back to Germany, having the necessary paperwork ready well in advance.

During preparation, the team had several phone calls with local Guyanese contact Raj Naraine 8R1RPN to finalize their location and work out the electrical situation. They opted to use the 220 V mains connection and installed an additional 60 A breaker leading into 4 lines with a 20 A breaker, ensuring separate circuits for all planned stations.

As departure approached, the team checked in a day early at Munich airport, with all suitcases cleared without issues on their Lufthansa flight to Miami. They then departed for Georgetown, Guyana, from Miami and thus completed their journey.

### Targets

The team aimed to achieve over 30,000 QSOs across modes such as CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8, with a specific goal of making more than 2,000 of these in RTTY. The focus was on addressing the latest Clublog Most Wanted Ranking, ensuring various parts of the world would benefit from the operation. Priority was also given to low band operations, taking advantage of the

expected lower noise level at the rural QTH. Participation in the ARRL CW 2024 contest as a Multi Operator / Single Transmitter (M/S) entry was planned. The team intended to upload QSOs to Clublog and LOTW as frequently as possible, and a Clublog livestream was anticipated, provided the internet connection was stable enough.

### Location

The rural QTH, a small village called Baiabu in Mahaica-Berbice, is located around 35 km south-east of the capital Georgetown in locator GJ16BN. Thus, there was hope for quiet bands. Furthermore, the location is only about 15 km away from the sea and thus the saltwater, enhancing our transmission capabilities due to the beneficial effects of saltwater on radio signals. The hosts were happy with the planned antennas for the time of our stay and already offered their full support of the activity in any way possible in advance on their family weekend home. This support from the local community is crucial as it facilitates smoother operations and logistics. Their familiarity with the area and willingness to assist did significantly influence the success of our DXpedition.



The 8R7X QTH, a family weekend house, located in Baiabu, Mahaica-Berbice, Guyana

Due to the availability of both 110 V and 220 V power sources, and a 60 A breaker at the location, the team arranged to install a 220 V setup, which included a dedicated 20 A breaker for each station. Local electricians prepared this setup for all four stations and had everything wired and ready for our arrival. Additionally, we had a 10 kVA generator on site as a backup solution, which proved essential as it was used several times during power outages.

### The 8R7X Setup

Our DXpedition setup in the tranquil village of Baiabu, Guyana, was a marvel of amateur radio engineering, designed to ensure a successful and extensive communication reach. The strategic planning and arrangement of our equipment allowed us to



cover a wide array of frequencies with efficiency and clarity.

At the heart of our station were the antennas, thoughtfully chosen and arranged to cover necessary bands and optimize space. We deployed two Hexbeams for the 20 m to 6 m bands, and a Spiderbeam for 20/15/10 m, efficiently triplexed using a 4O3A Triplexer equipped with high-power bandpass filters to maintain signal purity. Additionally, a DXCommander Vertical spanned from 40 m to 10 m, with specific verticals set up for the 30 m and 40 m bands. For the lower bands, we utilized an L-antenna for 80 m and introduced "The Beast", an L-antenna designed for 160 m but also serving as a vertical on 80 m mounted on a 22 m high Spiderpole.



Various transmit antennas installed at the 8R7X Location

For reception, we installed two reversible Beverage on Ground (BOG) systems. These systems were crucial for picking up weaker signals and allowed us to switch directions based on propagation conditions, significantly enhancing our reception capabilities.

Powering our transmissions, we equipped the site with two Expert 1k3 amplifiers, one Expert 1k5, and an ACOM 500S. This suite of amplifiers provided the necessary power boost to ensure our signals were robust and reached far into the international amateur radio community.

The operation was powered by an impressive lineup of radios including three ICOM IC-7610 units, which were generously sponsored by ICOM USA and DXEngineering, alongside an ICOM IC-7300 and an Elecraft K3S. These radios are known for their reliability, and the sponsorship was a testament to the support we received from the amateur radio industry.

To manage the complex array of equipment, we used approximately 400 meters of coaxial cable to connect the antennas with the radios. Five

laptops were strategically placed for logging purposes, ensuring every contact was recorded accurately and efficiently.



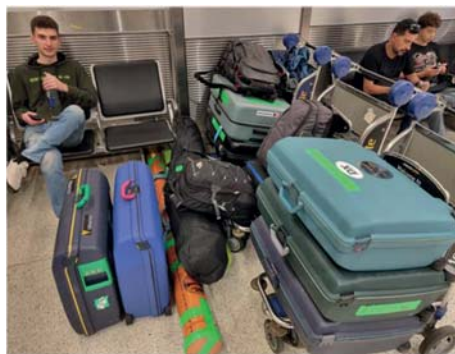
HA8RT and MØSDV operating the 8R7X setup

Despite the challenge of a newly developed garden full of fruit trees that limited our antenna placement options; the antennas were set up effectively around the yard. This setup not only made the best use of the available space but also ensured that each antenna operated at its optimal capacity without noticeable interference.

This comprehensive and meticulously planned setup underscored our commitment to achieving a high-performance operation. The 8R7X team's effort in crafting such an advanced station was pivotal in making numerous global contacts, showcasing the collaborative spirit and technical prowess of the amateur radio community.

## Travel

Traveling to Guyana is straightforward. From the UK, there are direct flights that stop in St Lucia for refueling. Flights from Europe typically connect in Miami, USA, for onward travel to Guyana. The team, hailing from three different countries, chose to convene in Miami. Philipp, Sven, and Tomi took a flight from Munich, Germany, to Miami on February 11<sup>th</sup>, while Jamie departed from London Heathrow to Miami on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Transporting operators to Guyana was the simpler part of the journey; the real challenge was handling 14 pieces of



DJ4MX with the 8R7X suitcases at MIA airport

luggage weighing approximately 350 kg, including multiple long bags. Additionally, during the connection in Miami, the team had to reclaim and re-check all luggage items before proceeding to their departure, which significantly shortened the available layover time.

However, the process went relatively smoothly, with only one instance requiring repacking due to bags exceeding the weight limit. The team gathered on the afternoon of February 13<sup>th</sup> at the gate in Miami, ready for their next flight to Georgetown. They arrived at Cheddi Jagan International Airport around 23:30 local time.

To streamline the entry process, the team had preemptively provided a comprehensive list of their equipment to Raj 8R1RPN, who had forwarded it to the frequency management for approval and coordinated with customs to facilitate and expedite their clearance. Upon arrival, the customs process was quick and straightforward. After reviewing the provided documents, the team was able to exit the customs hall swiftly with all their luggage. They then loaded everything into a minibus and embarked on the long drive to their operating QTH, arriving by 03:00 local time.

## Operations

Once the team arrived at the QTH they immediately started to unpack. It was very early in the morning so we could not start putting up antennas, but the shack build began through the night as we were eager to waste no time in getting on air. For this DXpedition we used five radios, along with four amplifiers. These were quickly unpacked, and we started building and wiring the shack. At the first sunrise, we were outside building antennas. We started with the higher bands building the two Hexbeams and the Spiderbeam. We then moved onto setting up low band antennas from 30 m through 160 m. The team did not set up any 60 m antennas as this band was not covered by the license. Throughout this process, smaller transportation damages were fixed on-site as well. In total, setting up took around 2 days, but from day 1 we ensured having at least 2 operators on the air whilst the other two built the antennas with the help of the facility caretaker who provided us with some extra muscles when required. The first contact was established directly after arrival on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 15:19 UTC.





First contact in the log on 17 m band

We anticipated that there would be big pileups but nothing can prepare you for being behind the radio when the calls start rolling in. The pileups were loud, wide, and from all parts of the world. We were running pileups in multiple modes at a very fast rate putting over 10,000 QSOs in the log within the first 2 days. Bearing in mind that our goal for the entire duration of the DXpedition was 30,000 QSOs we knew that we were in for a fun time.

### Contests

During our expedition, we participated in two major contests, each presenting unique challenges and opportunities for the team to showcase its capabilities.

#### ARRL CW Contest:

The ARRL CW contest was a critical component of our expedition, primarily because it served as a platform for WRTC qualification and an opportunity to set new records. After the contest, the publication of claimed scores suggested promising results that could potentially enhance our standings. Originally, our intent was to focus on working stations in North America as per the contest rules. However, the rarity of Guyana on the CW bands for Asian and European operators meant that we also engaged with many callers from these regions. The phrase “all who called were worked” became a testament to our inclusive and comprehensive approach to the contest. Operating in the M/2 high power category, we demonstrated excellent team performance, effectively managing pileups and maximizing our score.

#### CQ 160 SSB Contest:

Our participation in the CQ 160 SSB Contest was limited to just the first night, as logistical necessities required us to begin packing up afterwards. Despite the short operating window, the team faced additional challenges due to less-than-ideal conditions, specifically, a very noisy environment and the absence of our

receive antennas, which had been dismantled earlier. Even under these constraints, we managed to surprise a few operators with a very rare multiplier from Guyana, adding an element of excitement to the contest. Impressively, we set a new claimed record for the M/S high power entry from Guyana. This achievement was particularly notable given the brief duration we were on the air and the imminent departure. The team’s performance was commendable, showcasing our ability to adapt and excel even in suboptimal conditions.

Overall, these contests highlighted our team’s resilience and skill, contributing significantly to the success of our expedition. Each member played a vital role in overcoming the challenges and achieving remarkable results in both contests.

### Exploring Guyana: Culture, Cuisine, and Countryside

Our trip to Guyana transcended a typical amateur radio expedition; it became a deep dive into the nation’s vibrant culture, especially as our visit coincided with Mashramani, Guyana’s national independence celebration. This festival, named from an Indigenous Amerindian word meaning “celebration after cooperative work,” featured parades, music, dancing, and local crafts, showcasing the diverse cultural tapestry of the country.



Mashramani festivities in Georgetown, Guyana

Culinary experiences were a highlight of our visit. We savored a variety of local dishes and were able to sample the local beers and renowned Guyanese rum which added another layer to our cultural immersion. With each drink we were reflecting the rich natural resources of the region.

An SUV tour through the lush Guyanese countryside allowed us to appreciate the natural beauty and ecological diversity of the region firsthand. From vast rainforests to

serene villages, the landscapes were as breathtaking as they were pristine



Team 8R7X on a SUV tour through Guyana

Through celebrating Mashramani with the locals, enjoying traditional Guyanese cuisine, and exploring the countryside, our visit to Guyana was as enriching culturally as it was fulfilling our amateur radio goals. The warmth of the Guyanese people and the richness of their traditions made our experience unforgettable.

### Packing Away and Returning Home

The 8R7X DXpedition concluded its transmissions on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024, at 11:21 UTC. The process of packing up was smooth and efficient, completed in just a few hours. All equipment was meticulously weighed and packed into 14 luggage pieces to comply with airline regulations. With everything securely loaded into the minibus, the team set off for Georgetown.

Upon arrival in the capital, the team was warmly welcomed by their local supporter, Raj 8R1RPN, and host Maurice. Raj invited the team to his home for a special dinner, where they were joined by their accompanying families. This gathering provided a wonderful opportunity to recap the entire DXpedition, sharing stories and experiences over an amazing dinner setup.



Farewell dinner at 8R1RPN with local supporters

Following a brief night at a local hotel, the team left early for the airport, only to discover a 6-hour flight delay. They used this



unexpected downtime to catch up on some much-needed sleep. Fortunately, the process of checking in the luggage went smoothly, and the team proceeded to the gate without any issues.

While awaiting their flight to Miami, the team was approached by a gentleman who recognized them. He introduced himself as the head of the communications authority of Guyana and expressed keen interest in learning more about amateur radio. This impromptu meeting turned out to be an excellent opportunity to present the DXpedition and discuss the broader implications and joys of amateur radio, casting the hobby in a very positive light. This unexpected encounter, although brief, was potentially fruitful and underscored the wide-reaching impact of their efforts.

Upon arrival back in Miami, the team parted ways as MØSDV had to quickly continue on to the UK. The remaining members had the chance to meet with Ez NK4DX/HI3R and his wife Ana in Miami. Ez, a member of the CBØZA team, shared insights from his own successful DXpedition, facilitating a meaningful exchange of ideas and experiences.



8R7X meets CBØZA in Miami, FL, USA;  
L-R: Ana, Ez NK4DX/HI3R, Tomi HA8RT,  
Sven DJ4MX and Philipp DK6SP

A few days later, all crew members and their equipment safely arrived back in Munich, Germany, marking the end of an adventurous and successful DXpedition. This journey not only achieved its radio-related goals but also fostered international friendships and expanded the understanding and appreciation of amateur radio across continents.

### Conclusion of the 8R7X DXpedition

As we reflect on the remarkable journey that was the 8R7X DXpedition, it is with a profound sense of achievement and gratitude. Throughout the operation, we experienced very little deliberate QRM (DQRM); callers were exceptionally well-behaved during

pileups, which greatly contributed to the smooth flow of communications and was much appreciated by our team. Pileups continued vigorously until the very last day, showcasing the high level of interest and engagement from the global amateur radio community.

A significant accomplishment of our DXpedition was assisting numerous amateur radio enthusiasts in achieving an ATNO (All Time New One) and securing new bandslots. These milestones are what make DXpeditions so rewarding, and we are thrilled to have played a part in helping the community reach these goals. It was particularly gratifying to provide the very rare entity of Guyana for Asian and Oceanian stations on the low bands, where the excitement was palpable.

We proudly met all the targets set before the expedition, a testament to the meticulous planning, dedication, and passion of everyone involved. Power distribution from 220V to all stations was perfectly prepared, and breakers never went off, ensuring uninterrupted operation. Even during minor power outages, the generator on site covered all our needs seamlessly. The generally favorable weather also aided our efforts in building antennas efficiently.

However, operating from such an equatorial location brought its own set of challenges. There was significant QRN (radio noise) during the nights, and the dawn/greyline periods were marked by swarms of mosquitoes, testing our resilience and adaptability. Despite these hurdles, the team managed to navigate through, especially when Asia was open, and we faced the biggest wall of weak callers due to the challenging path via the North Pole.

Such success could not have been possible without the extensive support we received. We owe a tremendous thank you to all our supporters, helpers, foundations, and clubs whose contributions were invaluable. Their support not only



L-R: Philipp DK6SP, Jamie MØSDV, Raj 8R1RPN,  
Sven DJ4MX and Tomi HA8RT.

facilitated our logistical and operational needs but also enriched our experience.

Special thanks are due to our local supporters in Guyana, Raj (8R1RPN) and Maurice. Their hospitality and efforts provided us with an exciting and amazing time in Guyana. Their kindness and assistance were integral to the success and enjoyment of our stay.

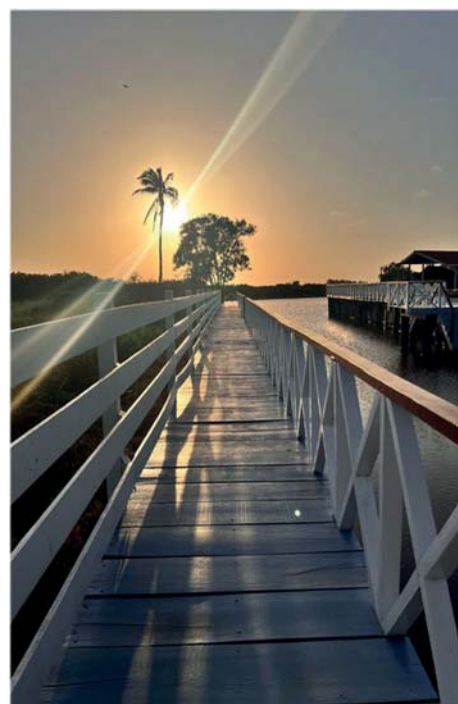
We also extend our immense gratitude to our QSL Manager, Charles MØOXO, who has been instrumental in managing the "Not in Log" requests, uploading our logbook to LOTW daily, and handling the QSL cards for the global amateur radio community. His dedication ensures that our contacts are confirmed and recognized, which is crucial for the amateur radio operators we connected with during the DXpedition.

Lastly, we cherish the new friendships forged through this adventure. The connections made with fellow radio enthusiasts around the world are invaluable and stand as a testament to the unifying power of amateur radio.

In closing, the 8R7X DXpedition was not just an operation; it was a celebration of international amateur radio spirit, cooperation, and the joy of connecting across continents. We look forward to future opportunities to engage with the amateur radio community in new and exciting ways. Thank you to everyone who joined us in making this experience truly memorable

Only one question remains for now ...

"Where do we go next?"



Sunset at the 8R7X QTH in Baiabu, Guyana.



For those interested in exploring further, additional photos covering the whole process are available on the project website at [www.8R-2024.com](http://www.8R-2024.com).



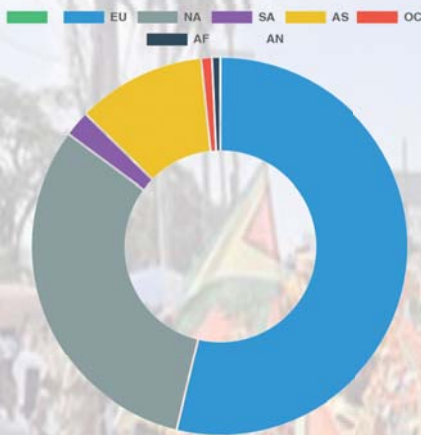
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## 8R7X – DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY	FT8	FM	Total
160	35	66	6	67	0	82
80	39	67	30	78	0	83
40	80	74	21	86	0	104
30	0	82	19	96	0	102
20	83	88	50	94	0	111
17	91	92	61	91	0	115
15	92	85	44	81	0	106
12	89	92	55	81	0	107
10	90	80	34	100	27	112
6	12	13	0	35	0	36
<b>Totals</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>156</b>



## 8R7X – Band/Mode Statistics

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY	FT8	FM	Total QSO	Total %
160 m	151	1,426	13	1,247	0	2,837	3.86 %
80 m	229	1,780	108	1,981	0	4,098	5.58 %
40 m	1,530	2,647	69	2,545	0	6,791	9.24 %
30 m	0	2,245	63	3,835	0	6,143	8.36 %
20 m	1,877	4,050	392	4,538	0	10,857	14.77 %
17 m	2,100	3,503	672	3,393	0	9,668	13.15 %
15 m	3,720	3,910	363	2,070	0	10,063	13.69 %
12 m	3,217	3,359	724	2,646	0	9,946	13.53 %
10 m	4,151	4,163	166	4,108	209	12,797	17.41 %
6 m	26	27	0	247	0	300	0.41 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>17,001</b>	<b>27,110</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>26,610</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>73,500</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>23.1 %</b>	<b>36.9 %</b>	<b>3.5 %</b>	<b>36.2 %</b>	<b>0.3 %</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	

## 8R7X – Continent by Mode

CONTINENT/Mode	SSB	FT8	CW	RTTY	FM	Total	Total %
AFRICA	1	8	0	0	0	9	0.0 %
ANTARTICA	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.0 %
ASIA	699	4,167	3,061	170	0	8,097	11.0 %
EUROPE	10,037	15,744	11,790	1,766	151	39,488	53.7 %
NORTH AMERIKA	5,561	5,454	11,477	533	48	23,073	31.4 %
OCEANIA	109	363	192	13	0	677	0.9 %
SOUTH AMERIKA	426	702	447	51	7	1,633	2.2 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>17,001</b>	<b>26,610</b>	<b>27,110</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>73,500</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>23.1 %</b>	<b>36.2 %</b>	<b>36.9 %</b>	<b>3.5 %</b>	<b>0.3 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	

## 8R7X – Continent by Band

CONTINENT/Band	6 m	10 m	12 m	15 m	17 m	30 m	160 m	80 m	40 m	20 m	Total QSO	Total %
AFRICA	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	9	0.01 %
ANTARTICA	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.00 %
ASIA	0	1,465	999	1,163	983	1,128	25	131	992	1,211	8,097	11.02 %
EUROPE	5	6,628	6,010	4,992	5,475	3,130	1,578	2,274	3,365	6,031	39,488	53.73 %
NORTH AMERIKA	97	4,260	2,625	3,553	2,799	1,609	1,160	1,548	2,143	3,279	23,073	31.39 %
OCEANIA	2	72	36	113	102	89	2	31	113	117	677	0.92 %
SOUTH AMERIKA	172	278	193	171	229	155	60	91	141	143	1,633	2.22 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>12,797</b>	<b>9,946</b>	<b>10,063</b>	<b>9,668</b>	<b>6,143</b>	<b>2,837</b>	<b>4,098</b>	<b>6,791</b>	<b>10,857</b>	<b>73,500</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>0.41 %</b>	<b>17.41 %</b>	<b>13.53 %</b>	<b>13.69 %</b>	<b>13.15 %</b>	<b>8.36 %</b>	<b>3.86 %</b>	<b>5.58 %</b>	<b>9.24 %</b>	<b>14.77 %</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	



# TX5S - Clipperton Island 2024

BY GENE SPINELLI, K5GS

## Introduction to Clipperton Island



## Clipperton Location

Clipperton Island is in the Northeast Pacific Ocean, 1,626 miles (2,618 km) south of San Diego, California and 795 miles (1,280 km) west of Acapulco, Mexico. The island has a total area of about 4.6 square miles (12 square kilometers). The island is at sea level with only a few rock formations that protrude above the surface, the highest is Clipperton Rock at 95 feet (29 m). Situated in the center of the island is a large lagoon with only occasional intrusion of sea water. Occasional because the intervening sand/coral can be breached during storms, allowing salt water to enter the already brackish lagoon. The maximum water depth is 241 feet (73 m), with the top layer being rainwater.

The lagoon is stratified (layered), the water doesn't mix. While in the past people living on the island drank the water, we were advised to avoid drinking the water, although several of the team did use the lagoon for bathing.

The ground is generally densely packed sand on a volcanic / dead coral base. One unique characteristic is the crab population has burrowed under the surface to create a maze of underground tunnels. When walking in these areas the ground will easily collapse beneath your feet and you will find your foot (feet) in a depression. We quickly learned to avoid those areas and to walk along a well-traveled, packed down, path between the beach and the campsite. The ground surface was rocky, and in some areas, soft sand.

There is very little vegetation on the island, the few palm groves, grasses, and tree tobacco plants were remnants of attempts to inhabit the island for commercial or military purposes. Wildlife consists of the ubiquitous masked booby, crabs and rats, the latter allegedly introduced by shipwrecks.

The weather was hot, humid, and windy, rainfall was minimal. However,

on the last morning while removing the overnight team and equipment from the island the sky opened with a monsoon-like downpour.

The United States claimed the island in 1856 but France had already made a claim in 1855. In 1897 Mexico stationed a garrison of military personnel on the island. By 1914 all inhabitants left the island. Today, Clipperton is a French possession, it's the only French Pacific Island in the northern hemisphere. For many years the US, Mexico, and France each laid claim to Clipperton. It wasn't until 1930 that France received full ownership when King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy adjudicated the dispute and awarded the island to France, whose original claim dates to the year 1711, thus the decision made some degree of sense.

All attempts to commercialize the island through guano (phosphate) harvesting and farming eventually failed.



In 2016 France enacted a 200 nautical mile Marine Reserve around the island to protect its marine environment. Landing on Clipperton requires a landing permit issued by the French government.

Clipperton is far from an idyllic desert island with visions of palm trees and beautiful beaches. Clipperton is visually unappealing and lacks character.

### DXpedition Planning and Preparation

The global pandemic ended almost

all DXpeditions, and the Perseverance DX Group (PDXG) had some time to think about the future. Unfortunately, a government agency we had been working with before the pandemic reversed a previous decision and declared that amateur radio was no longer an acceptable reason to visit their entity. Shortly after the world reopened in 2022, we did a 2-week fly-in to the Austral Islands as TX5N. It was fun, but we wanted another boat-tent-generator

DXpedition.

When Clipperton came on the radar we didn't begin the landing permit process without first having a boat. In July 2022 a telephone call was made to Frank LoPreste, owner of "Shogun" from San Diego, California. Frank and the Shogun had been to Clipperton many times for scientific, sportfishing, and DXpedition projects. Frank knew the island well and one of his employees had also been to Clipperton several times.



Shogun

Shogun's sleeping arrangements include 13, two and three-person, passenger cabins. With a total of 19 passengers, we assigned two people per cabin and placed radio equipment in the unused cabins. The boat's dining/salon area was large enough to seat the entire team for meals and meetings. To avoid accidents, while underway, meals were served by the boat's crew, and there were always snacks and refreshments available in the galley. Shogun has four toilets and three showers which made it more comfortable than our previous DXpedition boats.

After receiving a commitment for a boat, the next hill to climb was the landing permit. Clipperton was administered from French Polynesia by the office of the High Commissioner. I enlisted Jacky F2CW/ZL3CW, a French national, to help and he asked Phillipe, FO4BM, to be our on-site Tahitian rep-

resentative and to help me with the translation of our proposal(s) to French.

Several people said that a landing permit for Clipperton would not be issued because of changes to the laws governing the island. While the law did change in 2016, and ham radio wasn't considered a good enough reason to issue a landing permit, after many email exchanges and telephone calls Phillipe found a middle ground.

Under the new regulations a project must include scientific content. The next challenge was to enlist the help of bona fide individuals that had scientific standing with the French government. Phillipe, FO4BM, reached out to Anthony Tchekemian, a professor at the University of French Polynesia, an accomplished author who in 2016 published a book about Clipperton Island. Anthony wanted to return to the island, and he agreed to conduct additional studies during TX5S.

Joining Anthony was Partick Lelue, a professor from the University of Orleans. Also joining the team was Jean-Francois Beaulieu who represents an organization in Paris whose goal is to protect Clipperton's environment, The Association la Passion-Clipperton.

With a credentialed science team and a government approved boat we received the landing permit in March 2023. The next requirement was a call sign. We had worked with the ANFR (France's licensing agency) for the TX5N project, so we had good idea what they required. ANFR graciously agreed to reserve TX5S for us.

With a boat, a landing permit, and a radio license, the next task was to build the team. With Jacky ZL3CW/F2CW as the team leader, Steve, W1SRD; Dave, K3EL, and Gene, K5GS, as Co-leaders we went ahead staffing the team and building the project plans.



The project cost indicated we'd need a larger team than usual to keep the team member fees reasonable. The radio team included 16 experienced

DX and/or contest operators: Jacky, F2CW/ZL3CW; Dave, K3EL; Steve, W1SRD; Gene, K5GS; Glenn, KE4KY; Rob, N7QT; Walt, N6XG; Heye, DJ9RR; Francesco,

IKØFVC; Dave, WD5COV; Ricardo, PY2PT; Andreas, N6NU; Arliss, W7XU; Chris, N6WM; Nodir, EY8MM, and Paul, N6PSE.



Row standing back from left to right: **Paul, N6PSE; Arliss, W7XU; Glenn, KE4KY; Jacky, ZL3CW/F2CW, Dave, WD5COV; Heye, DJ9RR; Walt, N6XG; Gene, K5GS; Andreas, N6NU; Ricardo, PY2PT; Rob, N7QT; Francesco, IKØFVC**  
 Front kneeling from left to right: **Chris, N6WM; Dave, K3EL; Steve, W1SRD; Nodir, EY8MM**

Many of the team members knew one another from previous DXpeditions or had met at ham radio events. We knew there would be significant interest from the DX community since the most recent major DXpedition to Clipperton was TX5K in 2013, eleven years prior to our proposed date. Anyone newly licensed or taking up DXing since the last project would need FOØ/C. Additionally, neither 60 m nor FT8 operation had been used previously on Clipperton.

In preparing for the DXpedition, we held several planning teleconferences. Topics included living on the island, radio/antenna planning, operator scheduling, travel planning, permitting and licensing. Each team member was required to have a French license in addition to their own license and the TX5S license.

At the 2023 International DX Convention in Visalia, John Kennon, N7CQQ, offered us equipment he used on previous Clipperton DXpeditions. John provided the power grid, several ship-

ping cases, and 225 one-meter rebar stakes used to guy the antennas. This alone saved us several thousand dollars.

### Travel and Meeting the Team

Ten of the 16 radio team members live in the US, and seven within one day's drive to the boat. The team began arriving in San Diego, California on January 8, 2024. We spent a few days buying last minute items, including a three-day supply of emergency food should the weather make replenishment from the Shogun impossible. While previous DXpeditions required us to ship thousands of pounds of equipment across the world, departing from San Diego saved us about \$25,000 in shipping expenses, plus drayage and port fees. We hired a truck and drove the equipment to the boat ourselves, a 12-hour drive.

On January 9<sup>th</sup> our equipment was loaded aboard the Shogun by the crew and several helpers from Fisher-

men's Landing, the firm that operates the wharf. We departed San Diego on January 11<sup>th</sup> for the planned six-day transit to Clipperton Island. A Garmin inReach personal locator allowed many of you (and our families) to follow our progress. The boat had a Starlink Internet Terminal, so email and telephone calls were available.

The local weather caused a late start, the seas would be rough and the boat pitching and rolling right out of San Diego. The skipper decided to wait out the weather front that was passing through the area.

The journey to Clipperton took about 1.5 days longer than planned. The seas were rough and the boat was getting knocked about quite a bit, several of the team retired to their cabins. When we arrived at Clipperton the skipper circled the island looking for the best landing zone. He chose to stay on the leeward side of the island where the surf would be less of a problem.



## The Landing and Camp Site

Operating from an island can be challenging, especially an uninhabited island where you're completely on your own. One real concern was the landing situation. Clipperton is surrounded by a reef that lies just below the waterline, 25 – 50 meters from the beach. Watching the surf breaking over the reef is the first indication that landings won't be "routine," there is no protected bay or harbor.

We were forewarned that transiting to and from the island would be dangerous. Both the High Commissioner that issued the landing permit and Shogun's owner Frank LoPreste made it very clear there would be challenges getting over the reef. During the 2013 TX5K DXpedition the team spent three days without replenishment because of dangerous surf conditions.

Shogun's crew used three custom made aluminum skiffs for the landings. The skiff's reinforced hull was less prone to damage when striking the reef or the rocky shore. It was only possible to go ashore during high tide during daylight hours. This, of course, limited our transit opportunities, how much equipment could be brought ashore, and when.

Only one crew member had been to Clipperton, the others were unfamiliar with crossing the reef. After a few tries, they learned how to navigate the reef. A defective fuel tank caused us an additional delay. As the wind and surf were building it became more challenging. We began taking people and equipment to the island. When one of the skiffs was swamped and some campsite



© by N7QT

### The Reef

equipment lost, further attempts to land on that (first) day were halted.

The team members on the island had some supplies for the night, although not all the tents they would need. The journey to reach Clipperton took almost 2 additional days, and the landing challenges increased our delay to almost 3 days. The plan for two campsites was changed to a single campsite to reduce the amount of equipment needed ashore and to get on the air sooner. Over the first few operating days the remainder of the camp was assembled, and the five stations became operational.

Meals, drinking water and generator fuel were brought over by the Shogun

crew, supply runs timed for high tide during daylight hours. A total of 42 trips were made to transport people and equipment. Breakfast foods were stored on the island and regularly replenished by the Shogun. Weather permitting, each day additional meals were brought ashore. Except for the last day, everyone stayed on the island for the duration of the DXpedition.

The campsite consisted of eight sleeping tents, a kitchen/dining building, an HF operating building, a dedicated EME/6m/satellite operating tent, and an HQ tent. The shelters included "REI Wonderland 6" tents for sleeping, the EME/Satellite station and for the HQ tent. The operating and dining buildings were multi-purpose structures marketed as portable automobile garages by Shelter Logic. The dining tent was equipped with two small refrigerators, a microwave oven, a toaster, water boiler, food storage bins, and tables/chairs. The operating building consisted of five radio operating positions which could accommodate any band/mode.

Based on information from the Internet and other people that had been to Clipperton we expected to encounter a large presence of crabs, especially at night. We brought 600 feet of fencing to keep the crabs out of the camp, but we deployed no fencing. While there were crabs, their numbers were so low that they were not a problem. One possible explanation could be the presence of rats on the island. One theory is the rats decimated the crab population.



© by W7XU

### Camp Site



We're happy to report there were no serious injuries, only some sunburn and several conditions treated by the team doctor, Arliss, W7XU. Dehydration was always a concern, we provided plenty of drinking water and a supply of Gatorade to restore electrolytes.

## Radios and Antennas

Each operating position had an Elecraft radio: there were three K3s and two K4D transceivers. The amplifiers included two Elecraft KPA-500, two Elecraft KPA-1500, and one Flex PGXL.

The HF antennas were monoband Vertical Dipole Arrays (VDAs), and vertical antennas for 40, 60, 80, and 160 meters. We were close enough to the sea and the lagoon to achieve benefit from the saltwater amplifier effect. The 60 m antenna was actually a 60/80 m antenna, manually adjusted for each band when needed. Dave, WD5COV, designed and built this dual-purpose antenna.

The 160 m antenna was the "Top Band Express," also designed and built by Dave, WD5COV. While it was always windy, we had very few antenna problems. The signal reports and never-ending pileups were good indicators that the stations and antennas were performing well.

The generators were a Generac 6.5 kw unit and several AI Power 4 kw units. We had no equipment failures, although the equipment did get covered with sand and silt that blew through the HF tent. Subsequently, all the Elecraft equipment was returned to the factory for cleaning, refurbishing, and calibration. The antenna filter and patch panel designed and built by Walt, N6XG, provided the flexibility to connect any antenna to any radio.

## Radio Operations

The team's 16 radio operators were assigned as follows:

Three teams of five radio operators per team

EME/Satellite/6M was operated almost exclusively by Andreas, N6NU

Team staffing considered operator mode preferences and each team had a captain. On-shift operators agreed on bands/modes, and as propagation changed the operators worked together to meet team goals. Based on pilot input and over the air comments we knew the DX community was happy with our strategy to follow the propagation.

The pilot team was communicating with us via Starlink. This was the second DXpedition in which we used a Groups

io account for the DX community to provide input and communicate with the pilots. That too worked well, with over 500 registered users, there was plenty of daily traffic.

The first contact was made January 20<sup>th</sup> on 17 m CW with NL7S, and the final contact was made January 28<sup>th</sup> on 40 m SSB with NJ7G. We were delighted to find good propagation and reasonably strong signals to many parts of the world, not unexpected NA/SA being the best, followed by EU.

During periods of good propagation all five operating positions were in action. As high-band propagation waned during the night SSB usually dropped out first. The SSB operations would shift to FT8. The equipment plan included a rack of high-power bandpass filters manufactured by Low Band Systems (LBS). The combination of Elecraft radios and LBS filters proved to be very effective, we had very little interstation interference.

An important aspect of TX5S planning was operator scheduling. We used the same schedule that was used on South Orkney Islands, VP8PJ. For each four-hour shift operators were scheduled on the five stations, depending on expected band activity. Every few days each of



Main Operating Tent



the three radio teams would move their start time by four hours, thus over the project's duration each team experienced different geographic openings and band conditions.

### EME/6M /Satellite Activity

There was significant interest in EME, 6 m, and working through the Greencube satellite from Clipperton Island. During the 2018 VP6D DXpedition to Ducie Island we made 28 6 m EME QSOs. VP6D was the first time we included EME in a PDXG project. Andreas, N6NU, was the architect and station captain for these TX5S activities.

As Andreas writes:

How does one get to be the Satellite Captain for a major DXpedition? Satellite operators and 6M EME groups had reached out to us about possible activity. When the DXpedition co-organizer Gene, K5GS, asked the team who has Satellite equipment or some knowledge about it, I raised my hand. The result was: "Great, you got it, it's your project!" After a discussion with the team co-leader Steve, W1SRD, the decision was made to dedicate 100 % of my time to

activate Satellites, EME for 6M and 23 cm, as well as 6M tropo when the station was not pointed at the moon. This was now a full-time effort and not an afterthought anymore. We had to plan for a separate operating tent, generator, and fuel.

Satellite operations on the island were a great success with 375 QSOs and 47 countries worked. The OZ9AA terminal software worked well and Jeff Schwartz,

KIØKB, ended up being the ad hoc pilot for us staying in contact with the Facebook group. We managed to focus on some geographic areas during different passes and I would like to thank the satellite community for standing by and allowing us to work the hard ones at the edges of the coverage areas.



© by EY8MM

Satellite / 6 m / EME Tent



© by N6NU

6 m EME Antenna



The first Moonrise operation yielded a handful of 6 m EME Q65 QSOs. On the following day the second session brought a surprise. After working a few EME contacts the WSJT-X screen started to show many strong signals coming in directly via tropo. The band had opened, and we worked as many stations as we could to make use of the opening. The final EME count was 17 QSOs and 3 countries; however, over the next few days, we added 197 6 m tropo QSOs and 13 countries to the log. The band was open to NA, SA, AF, ZL, and VK.

The last band to be set up was 23 cm/1296 MHz. Due to the constant

wind the 2.4 m dish had to be converted from fabric to wire mesh. We made a total of 55 initial contacts in 17 countries.

I want to thank Dave, K3EL, for helping on 6 m and the Satellite station as well as Arliss, W7XU, working many 23 cm QSO's.

Andreas wrote a more detailed report of his TX5S experience available on the TX5S.net website.

### TX5S Statistics

Total QSOs made was 113,736. We were using a new version of WSJT-X and when propagation was strong it was not unusual to see us running 4-5 slots

making 350-400 QSOs per hour. We had no problem with FT8 dupes, and the overall dupe rate was 2.9%. Until the last few days the overall dupe rate hovered at 1.9%, the operators noted more SSB and CW dupes were occurring as the DXpedition close approached.

QSO distribution was: NA 48.1%, EU 29.4%, AS 17.8, SA 2.2% and AF 0.46% and OC 1.96%, with 23,810 unique call signs and 171 DXCC entities, see Figures (TX5S Band/Mode Statistics - TX5S QSOs per Day - TX5X Continent by Band) for additional details.

## TX5S – Band/Mode Statistics

Band	CW	FT8	PKT	Q65	RTTY	SSB	Total QSO	Total %
160 m	745	1,812	0	0	0	0	2,557	2.25 %
80 m	2,700	4,580	0	0	0	0	7,280	6.40 %
60 m	0	1,700	0	0	0	0	1,700	1.49 %
40 m	2,227	8,410	0	0	0	2,233	12,870	11.32 %
30 m	4,664	8,032	0	0	0	0	12,696	11.16 %
20 m	4,317	8,982	0	0	0	5,587	18,886	16.61 %
17 m	4,434	7,259	0	0	0	2,437	14,130	12.42 %
15 m	3,938	5,204	0	0	369	4,572	14,083	12.38 %
12 m	3,204	5,970	0	0	0	5,662	14,836	13.04 %
10 m	3,322	5,724	0	0	0	4,858	13,904	12.22 %
6 m	0	207	0	17	0	0	224	0.20 %
70 cm	0	0	510	2	0	0	512	0.45 %
23 cm	0	0	0	58	0	0	58	0.05 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>29,551</b>	<b>57,880</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>25,349</b>	<b>113,736</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>25.98 %</b>	<b>50.89 %</b>	<b>0.45 %</b>	<b>0.07 %</b>	<b>0.32 %</b>	<b>22.29 %</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	

The number of Not in Log/Busted Call inquires we received was amazingly low at only 268 inquires. For 113,736 QSOs this is an unusually low number, a good indicator that the TX5S operators paid close attention to logging accuracy.

Many of those inquiries indicated inexperience with logging, in general, and using LoTW.

Each morning we'd look at the N1MM+ graphs and see that we were making between the 3,445 QSOs on the first partial

day on the air to over 18,000 QSOs on the third day of operation. While averages don't always tell the story, we averaged an amazing 14,217 QSOs a day.

## TX5S – QSO per Day

DATE/MODE (last 20 days)	CW	FT8	PKT	Q65	RTTY	SSB	Total QSO
20240128	1,147	1,936	0	0	0	362	3,445
20240127	2,376	4,976	56	2	0	3,521	10,931
20240126	3,046	9,619	5	16	0	3,305	15,991
20240125	5,000	6,518	42	20	0	3,711	15,291
20240124	4,772	9,817	41	25	369	2,500	17,524
20240123	5,056	8,967	59	13	0	3,969	18,064
20240122	5,004	7,814	134	1	0	4,725	17,678
20240121	2,550	6,782	173	0	0	3,256	12,761
20240120	600	1,451	0	0	0	0	2,051

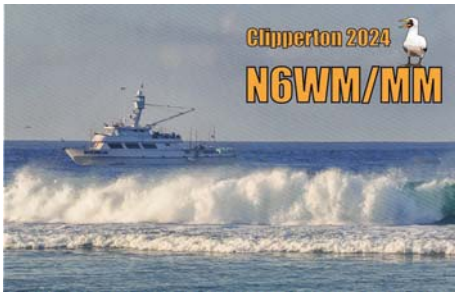


## TX5S – Continent by Band

CONTINENT/Band	160 m	80 m	60 m	40 m	30 m	20 m	17 m	15 m	12 m	10m	6 m	70 cm	23 cm	Total QSO	Total %
AFRICA	3	22	10	59	56	79	68	67	86	67	1	0	1	519	0.46 %
ASIA	443	1,440	39	2,857	2,274	2,937	2,809	2,366	2,498	2,494	0	58	4	20,219	17.78 %
EUROPE	398	2,014	696	4,548	5,413	6,850	3,727	3,261	3,502	2,931	0	94	32	33,466	29.42 %
NORTH AMERIKA	1,651	3,559	909	4,820	4,494	8,437	6,874	7,570	8,223	7,757	117	328	21	54,760	48.15 %
OCEANIA	36	154	20	312	233	281	374	429	165	189	20	13	0	2,226	1.96 %
SOUTH AMERICA	26	91	26	274	225	300	277	388	359	465	86	19	0	2,536	2.23 %
Not Determined	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	3	1	0	0	0	10	0.01 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>2,557</b>	<b>7,280</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>12,870</b>	<b>12,696</b>	<b>18,886</b>	<b>14,130</b>	<b>14,083</b>	<b>14,836</b>	<b>13,904</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>113,736</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>2.25 %</b>	<b>6.40 %</b>	<b>1.49 %</b>	<b>11.32 %</b>	<b>11.16 %</b>	<b>16.61 %</b>	<b>12.42 %</b>	<b>12.38 %</b>	<b>13.04 %</b>	<b>12.22 %</b>	<b>0.20 %</b>	<b>0.45 %</b>	<b>0.05 %</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	

As with VP8PJ, it was interesting to see the popularity of FT8, not just amongst the callers, but also with the DXpedition operators; perhaps the chance to remove the headphones and relax was a welcome break from the adrenaline rush of working a pileup on the other modes.

During the voyage to Clipperton Island we operated as N6WM/MM, there was no /MM operation on the return voyage.



### Logs, Livestream and Starlink

During the project planning phase Steve, W1SRD, contacted Starlink to confirm availability at Clipperton. In a written reply, coverage was confirmed. Our two Starlink Terminals were online 24 X 7 while on the island. Team members were able to exchange emails with friends and family and/or use WiFi calling. Logging computers were Lenovo X-230 laptops running WSJT-X and N1MM+.

Both Club Log's Livestream and the traditional daily log uploads to the MØURX's Bespoke OQRS application were used. To the user, Bespoke OQRS System looks similar to Club Log. However, the Bespoke system automates many of the QSL manger's backend manual tasks. For example, the TX5S website's donation

process seamlessly integrates with Bespoke. This relieves the QSL manager and the DXpedition team from manually entering and managing donor information. Label printing and LoTW upload files are easily created with a few mouse clicks. Almost all manual tasks are automated, making the manager's job less time consuming, and QSL card addressing errors almost nonexistent.

### The Science Team

The primary interest of the Science Team was to study the behavior of the rat population on the island. Using infrared camera and data recording instruments they recorded data on rat movements at night. Another aspect of their study was an assessment of future uses for Clipperton Island. These three gentlemen blended well with the radio team, and for the most part did their work away from the radio operations.

### Departure

A DXpedition team needs a departure plan. It begins by merging the team's plan with the skipper's departure schedule, and removing non-essential equipment from the island as soon as we determine something is no longer needed. Antennas will gradually be removed, stations disassembled and packed for shipment. This process typically begins about two-three days before the planned departure date, but the actual departure will de-

pend on weather and sea conditions. The skipper was providing regular weather forecasts. Our departure plan considered available daylight and high tide to transit the reef, the skipper's plan considered the sea conditions/forecast on the route to San Diego, and they weren't looking too good.

Based on a building weather front, the skipper established the departure date to be no later than January 29<sup>th</sup>. On January 27<sup>th</sup> we removed equipment and some team members from the island. The remaining operators made QSOs until shutdown on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The morning's high tide allowed the team this additional operating time, but they also encountered a monsoon-like rainfall during the final take down. Once back on the boat it took several hours to store and secure all the equipment. The 8-day ride to San Diego was very rough and we were greeted by more rain upon arrival in San Diego.

The Shogun's crew and helpers from Fishermen's Landing offloaded all our equipment to a waiting truck for the next day's drive to Northern California.

### Corporate Sponsors

We received support from manufacturers and distributors of amateur radio equipment: Elecraft loaned two K4D transceivers, and two KPA-1500 amplifiers; DX Engineering donated coax, connectors, tools, antenna parts, aluminum tubing and countless other accessories; Arlan Communications loaned eight RadioSport headsets; Bart SQ1K designed and provided the TX5S clothing. The DX Store subsidized the cost of several shipping cases; MØURX United Radio QSL Management Service and ON5UR QSL Print Services subsidized the cost of



CQ Zone 7 • ITU Zone 10 • Loc DK50 • IOTA NA-011 • Clipperton Island



QSL card production. The Daily DX by Bernie, W3UR, was a financial sponsor. Low Band Systems, Spiderbeam, and Rig Expert supplied our previous projects with equipment used on Clipperton. The generosity and ongoing support of these manufacturers and distributors is greatly appreciated.

### Wrap Up

We would like to acknowledge the help and support of the organizations and individuals that contributed to Clipperton Island 2024. We appreciate the major financial sponsorship from: the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF), the German DX Foundation (GDXF), the International DX Association (INDEXA), The European DX Foundation (EUDXF), The UK DX Foundation, and the Clipperton

DX Club for their very generous support, and that of the many other clubs and foundations. Please review the list of Corporate and Club/Foundation sponsors at TX5S.net, they deserve your support.

Over 1,600 individual donations were processed through the website, including 73 Premier Donors (contributing \$200, or more) and over 1,700 DXers added a contribution to their OQRS confirmation request.

The on-island team was supported by many individuals and, in particular, we want to recognize our Chief Pilot Curtis, WX4W, and his pilot team of: Joe, JJ3PRT; Claudio, PY2KP; Bjorn, ON9CFG; Alex, 4L5A; Andre, V51B, and Luke, VK3HJ. Managing the early donor program was Doris, KØBEE, and Tim, MØURX, who processes your QSL confirmations and uploads your LoTW confirmations.

Among the highlights of the project were giving many DXers an ATNO and/or band fills, logging the first FT8 and 60-meter contacts from Clipperton Island, and working with a fantastic team of amateur radio operators and a wonderful support team. For several people in the log TX5S was their first ever DXpedition contact. We must also recognize the Shogun crew who were as much a part of the project's success as the radio team.

Until the next time, thank you for your interest in TX5S Clipperton Island 2024.



## 7O8AD & 7O8AE – Yemen, 2 weeks of pure HAM Radio

BY SHANI TORBICH, HA5DDX

On October 18, 2023, I had just made my first QSO on 20 meter band with T2C, a DXpedition to Tuvalu, my 304<sup>th</sup> DXCC in SSB, and I was enjoying watching the rhythmic work of the DX operator. In the meantime, I was browsing the net, checking Facebook, when I saw a post about an experienced SSB operator wanted as a second member of a 2 week DXpedition. This was posted by Ken LA7GIA, a well-known call sign and person among DX chasers. I didn't hesitate and immediately wrote a short introduction, to which I received a surprisingly quick reply from Ken saying that Yemen was the destination and that it was a tent + generator kind of expedition. As for Yemen, I knew first of all that it was ATNO for me (HI) and that it was not a peaceful place, but since the DXpedition was on the island of Socotra, the trip didn't seem too daunting as this is a place that is often visited by tourists and therefore safe and quiet. In addition to that, the fact that Ken was going there was also an assurance that it would be safe to stay there. I can say in advance that this was exactly the case.

I initiated email communication with Ken, through which I found out about the planned budget and the date of the trip. These were the two most important factors that I had to check with my wife, Kate, at home and my employer at work. The next day, the workplace approved



the unscheduled holiday, and the meeting with Kate was also short, as she was very happy about this opportunity, since she knows very well how important HAM radio is for me, and how unique the chance was to fulfil an old dream of mine - to try out what it is like to work as a DX station operator with a pileup. Since Ken had already taken care of the most important details of the trip, I didn't have much to do: buy the plane tickets to Abu Dhabi and back, prepare the material for the VDA antennas, prepare the equipment needed for two TRCVR sites, install the appropriate software on the tablets

and pack the essentials for the trip and the stay, since it was practically impossible to buy anything specific at the location where the radio was planned to be stationed. The task was further complicated by the fact that the Abu Dhabi - Socotra charter flight only allowed a 20 kg check-in and a 7 kg carry-on luggage, so you had to think carefully about what and how much to pack. I have two FT-991 radios that I use for my portable VHF contest operation in addition to radio at home, so the two transceiver kits were provided, I just had to buy a 30 m cable to go with the one

I already had, which was a H-155A low loss small diameter cable with good parameters on HF. Many of the things that were considered necessary had to be left out after weighing, and even so the suitcase was 1.5 kg over the 20 kg limit, which, fortunately, was not a problem for any airline, and the carry-on bag, a small backpack, had not been weighed. Apart from the equipment, I took with me the necessary medicines and wound care products, money, documents and a lot of other small stuff. In the evening of the first of November everything was packed, and I was ready to leave the next morning.

In the meantime, I received news from Ken: I got my visa for Yemen, my Abu Dhabi – Socotra – Abu Dhabi plane ticket and - surprisingly and joyfully - a personal Amateur Radio License and call sign: 7O8AE! So, in my first DXpedition I will be operating with my own DX call - what better news could there be? The line-up was as follows: Ken 7O8AD would operate exclusively with CW and DIGI modes, whereas I would operate exclusively with SSB. Since my first QSO in my life (1986) I have only preferred SSB communication, therefore I was not very interested in anything other than SSB and was looking forward to talking to the whole world HI. The meeting was planned in Abu Dhabi, at the airport before the check-in. We made it, checked in for the flight to Socotra, boarded the plane, and upon arrival, everything felt very much like travelling by plane within Europe. The first unusual thing I noticed when I got off the plane was the heat. Apart from the fact that the weather in Hungary

Republic of Yemen  
MINISTRY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



الجمهورية اليمنية  
وزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات

رخصة راديو الهواة (مؤقتة)  
AMATEUR RADIO LICENCE (temporary)

(أ) اسم:-

رقم الرخصة: AD/N/10/0002	الاسم: Sandor Torbics
تاريخ الاصدار: 2023/11/1م	العنوان: 9962 Csorotnek, F out 52
تاريخ الانتهاء: 2023/11/30م	الجنسية: Hungarian

(ب) الخصائص الفنية:-

1. ASSIGNED FREQUENCY:	HF Amateur Radio Bands	1. التردد المخصص:
2. CALL SIGN:	7O8AE	2. إشارة النداء:
3. EMISSION AND POWER:	400 W	3. البث والقدرة:
4. CLASS OF STATION:	Fixed	4. صنف المحطة:
5. LOCATION:	سقطرى - حديبو	5. موقع محطة الإرسال:
6. MANUFACTURER AND MODEL:	Yaesu FT991A	6. النوع والطراز:
7. SERIAL NO:	S/N 0J510661	7. الرقم المرجعي للجهاز:
8. ANTENNA TYPE:	Directional	8. نوع الهوائي:
9. COVERAGE AREA:	سقطرى - حديبو	9. منطقة التغطية:

وكيل وزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات  
المهندس/ رغبة ناصر الكلبري



يرجى قراءة الشروط في الخلف ...



Ken LA7GIA and me HA5DDX as 7O8AD and 7O8AE

has been pleasantly warm so far, the temperature of about 35 degrees on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November was a bit unusual, but of course I was expecting it. While taking care of the formalities (baggage, passport) we already saw our guide, which was a good sign. It was also a good sign that my suitcase was very heavy, so none of the radios were "lost", and I could feel that the coax cables were also in place. We packed our things into the jeep and headed to Hadiboh, where we loaded up the things we had bought earlier, bought the electrical cables, multi-core cables, generator etc. and headed to our expedition's destination, Di Hamri, a tourist spot known for its coral beaches and coral colonies.

In Di Hamri, our two helpers were already waiting for us: Adnana, who spoke English well, and Abdulla, who only spoke a few words. A large 2x2 m



tent and a room of about 10 square meters with two beds covered in mosquito nets had been prepared. We immediately unpacked and started to build the antennas with the 5x5 cm 4,5 m long wooden poles that were already prepared. We used three pieces to assemble a pole holding the 20, 18 and 12 m Inverted V's, and three pieces for the 20, 15 and 10 m verticals, which were later extended with a 40 m Inverted L, featuring a non-resonant counterpoise

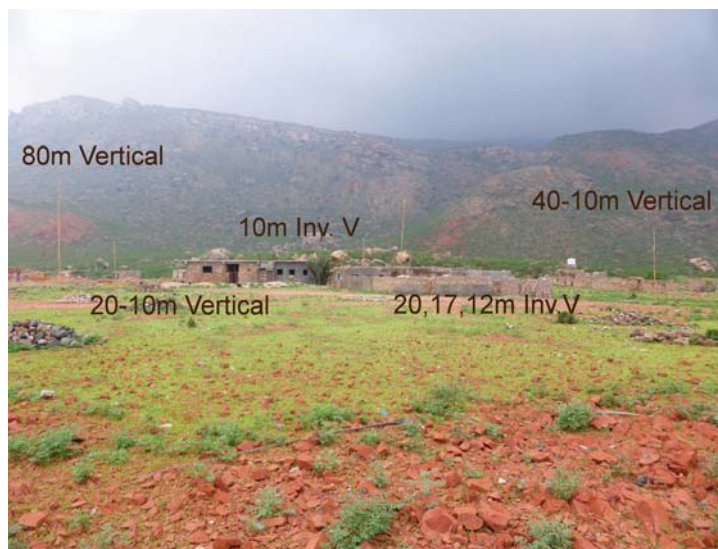
system. Adnana, Abdulla and some of their partners helped to prepare this by dismantling a lot of multi-core cables, saving us a lot of time. The antennas were tuned, the radios were set up, the computers were switched on and the communication started at the three workstations: Ken with CW and FT8, me with SSB.

The first QSO was logged on 7O8AE on 20 meters with A41PG at 15:12 UTC on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2023, and the day concluded

at 21:14 with N2AJ. I fell asleep almost immediately, totally exhausted, even though the temperature at night was not much cooler than during the day. As I expected, the working on-the-air as a DX was a joy and great pleasure, I was well heard in Europe and the USA and that's why, despite the 100 W and the simple antenna, I was called by many people, and also because Yemen hasn't been activated for a long time and is therefore 44<sup>th</sup> on the Most Wanted list.



Our working places



Base camp with all antennas with inscriptions

The next day we started with radio operations. After breakfast, we prepared another antenna for my separate QTH – a multi-band vertical with non-resonant counterpoises, set up directly on the seashore. Power was provided

by a 2 kW gasoline generator, which Adnana and Abdulla took turns refueling, so I didn't have to worry about that. The radio station was set up in an open part of a warehouse with a beautiful view over the sea. The seawater had a positive

effect on the antenna's signal. Sometimes, I received 59+ reports from Europe, and in the evening even from the USA, while the massive pileup was still assured.



At the Camp 1



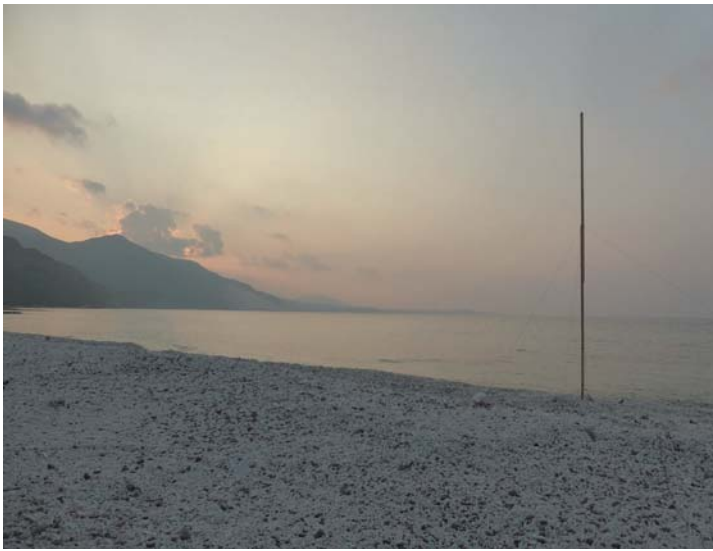
At the Camp 2

The pileups went on as usual. Yes, there is a "DX code of conduct" written down in thousands of places, but either many people don't read it, don't understand it, or simply forget it HI. As from the DX perspective, on other side as well, the

most disturbing, sometimes almost physically painful thing is when you are listening to a station with a low signal, and a 59+++ station calls out its call sign, blasting into your ears. Another "popular" thing is to keep calling in on

my receiving frequency regardless of whether I'm making a QSO or calling back a completely different call sign. Fortunately, there weren't many people doing this, however, it would be great if there was mutual respect among the





Camp 1, sunset with antenna



Camp 2, rock in the hatter

pileups, because it would really help everyone and speed up the distribution, which would give more people the opportunity for a DX QSO. The other extreme of pileups - their total absence, since I had practically no internet access (with 1-2 exceptions) at my QTH, I couldn't spot myself in the DX-cluster, and as long as I didn't have a spot, it didn't matter if I gave a CQ, nobody would call me back. And sometimes there was not a single station on air, that I could ask to spot me. But as soon as the first spot appeared, within a few minutes the pileup would start. This phenomenon, which I also experience when operating from home, does not give cause for optimism.

We were on-the-air a lot, my average was 12-14 hours a day, and when I prepared a top-loaded Vertical for 40 m, I did even more, so it was great to have our helpers' support. Daily three tasty, carefully prepared and delivered hot meals, hot tea in a thermos flask, drinking water and soft drinks, sometimes even cold (!!!), and nearly motherly

care like "stop radioing for a bit and eat while the food is hot" HI. At first, I didn't really care about the food, but then I started taking 10-minute breaks, as the hot soup felt indeed really good even in the heat and had a positive effect, but also to honor Adnana's work, as my QTH was located 750 meters from the base camp, which meant a daily 5 km walk for Adnana. He helped us with everything we asked for and did it readily and with a smile. We appreciated Adnana's work taking care of us 24/7.

Everything comes to an end, and so does this expedition. 7O8AE has logged 15464 QSOs, of which 7521 are unique calls. The last QSO was with DL1VJL on 15.11.23 at 23:18 UTC on 40 m. This was followed by "unlimited" sleep HI, disassembling the equipment, packing it up and heading back to Hadiboh. After checking into the hotel and having lunch there, we set out for a short hike to a very nice place in the mountains - Rokeb di Firmihin, known for the highest concentration of dragon's blood trees and

offering a great view of a beautiful canyon from the top. Also the bottle trees, which I had seen before in photographs, are a lovely sight, but they look even more charming in the wild, standing on a hillside with these strange but adorable plants.

On November 17, we started our journey home, which began at Socotra airport with 5(!!!) checkpoints, three of them with scanners, and at all three points the equipment and cables we were carrying aroused great interest among the officials. However, once they saw the Amateur radio license, they let us pass after taking a picture of it. The flight was delayed for an hour due to bad weather in Abu Dhabi, we also had to answer some questions from the Abu Dhabi airport security and unload the suitcases there, but that was still within the time frame. I didn't miss my flight from Dubai, thanks to A65D Patrick, who kindly offered to help me with the transfer between Abu Dhabi and Dubai airports. In the meantime, I had time to



Adnana is bringing me breakfast



Me and a bottle tree



make some QSOs from the desert with Patrick's rover, using a portable antenna and one of my FT-991s, including one QSO with YBØAR Ferry, who is very active on the air and streams his communications on his YouTube channel, and who helped me a lot during the expedition. I arrived back home on 18 November after noon and had my next ATNO already in the evening – PROT on the

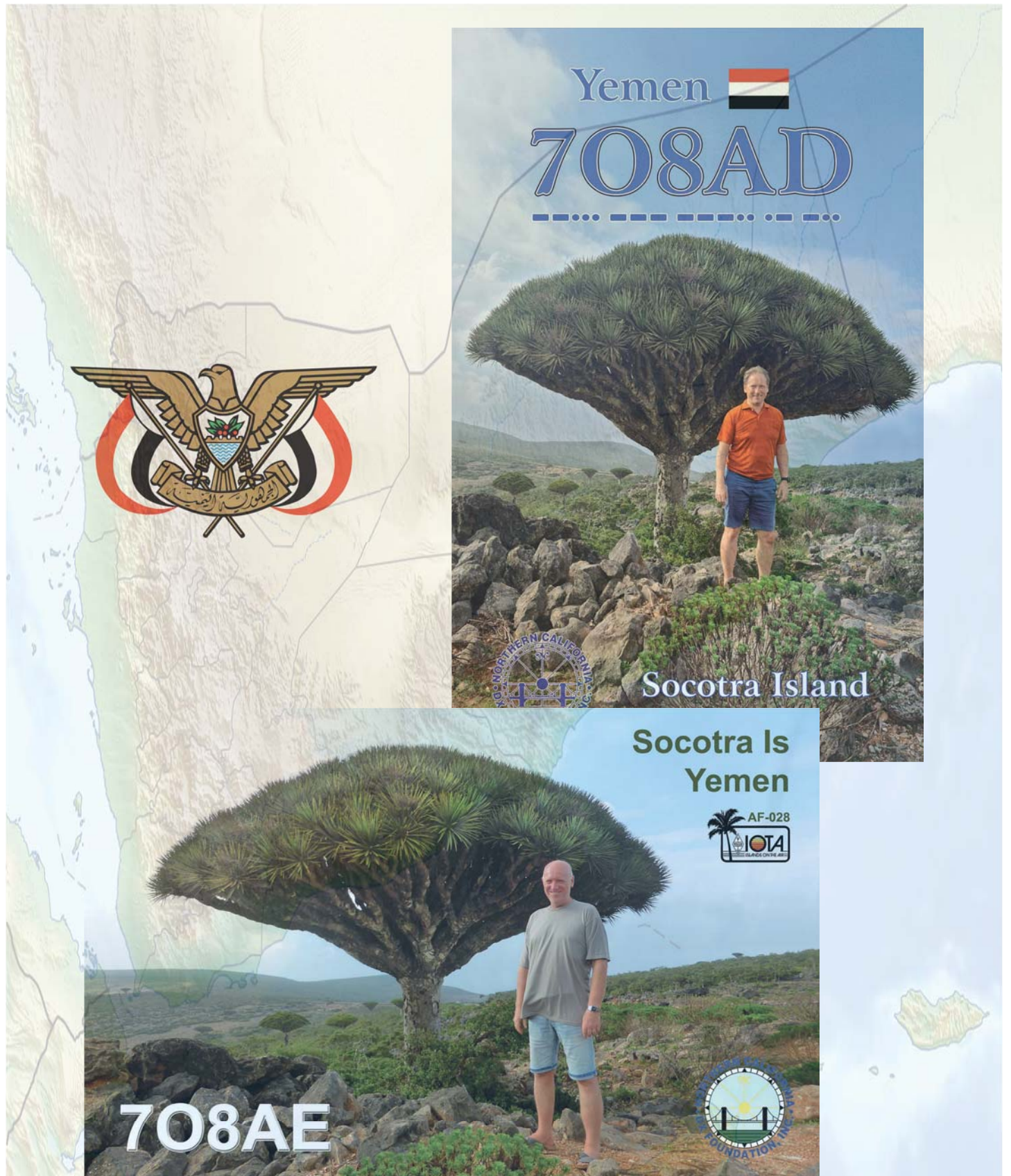
20-meter band. Once again, I was the one calling the DX, but this time I was listening to my DX operator colleague in a different way HI.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the many helpful HAM's for their assistance on the HAM bands and to our supporters for their contributions to our budget, first and foremost the EUDXF, which played

a significant role in supporting our DXpedition.

73&DX to All from Shani 7O8AE/HA5DDX.

Thank you very much to my daughter Noemi, who translated it all from Hungarian to English.





# TX7L – Marquesas Island

BY RADIO CLUB RC BASSIN MINIER, F6KJS

## Thanks.

First of all, a big thank you to the 25 Foundations and Large Amateur Radio Clubs, the 13 Private Sponsors and our 150 individual donors who strongly supported us.

Thanks to the remote team for their unfailing support, Website, Club Log, help and monitoring of radio traffic, dissemination of information on networks, QSL Manager...

A thought to our families, XYL, who allowed 9 Operators to participate in TX7L.

Thank you also to all Radio Amateurs for your "Ham spirit" always present on the air and which largely dominated during the traffic.

Thank you for your emails of support and encouragement, it's good for morale ...

Thank you to the elders of the DX'p for having passed on with kindness, experience and know-how, to the youngest who have become successful DX'p operators in Pile Up.

## The preparation

A DX'p under the equator, in the center of the South Pacific, far from everything, very far from Europe, requires high-performance LP/SP switchable antennas which favor an ionospheric path with the lowest possible attenuation. The particularly steep aspect of the Marquesas, very dense equatorial vegetation, and the easterly trade wind which blows constantly and sometimes strongly, complicate the choice, manufacture and installation of antennas.



The TX7L Team

**1 year of work was necessary to prepare this adventure with 600 kg of equipment**

A fairly comprehensive study was carried out upstream, leading to the construction of specific antennas and a commercial antenna.

The team was made up of 60 % experienced DX'p operators and 40 % "novices". This situation favors the transmission of knowledge and experience from the "elderly" to the "younger".

The team has 16 members: 9 Operators in the Marquesas and 7 in support.

See page <https://tx7l.com/lequipe-the-team/>

## The trip.

6 days of round-trip travel are neces-

sary between his home and Hiva Oa.

On November 2, the team was in full force in Tahiti, leaving for the Marquesas the next day, arriving at their destination at 2 P.M. Tired from the trip, from a 12-hour time difference, but happy to have arrived in Te Fenua Enata, the Land of Men, the team is ready!



An overview of luggage Tahiti



Flyover of Hiva Oa



Aeroport Hiva OA







An overview of luggage Tahiti



Two 4x4 pick ups for luggage

**The freight.**

600 Kg of equipment was needed for the 4 stations, the 12 antennas and the 700 m of cables. Arriving with us by plane, the materials were packaged in 27 hold suitcases. For the return, we had a crate made to hold 60 % of our equipment which returned by sea freight.

The other 40 % flew back with us.

**The installation.**

2 cumulative days of work were necessary to install 4 stations and 12 antennas. The 60 to 10 m bands were activated on the evening of November 4, on November 5 the 80 m was ready, on November 7

the 6 m started and on November 8 it was the turn of the 160 m. It was a lot of work to weed, clear brush and install our antennas on 2 hectares of land with a 45 meter drop. In the Marquesas, certain lianas grow 2 m per month ...







But what efficiency in DX with its SP-LP switching system



Didier F6BCW Team Leader



Traffic Operators

### Radio traffic.

**Results:** 55,000 QSOs were made including 44 % in CW, 24 % in SSB, 31 % in Data and 1 % in FM on Ten with USA. Traffic is immediately in full swing with a high solar index allowing SP and LP traffic on all bands from 40 to 10 m. Subsequently, the solar index will be lower and several solar flares significantly disrupted traffic for 72 hours.

### The Operators noted certain remarkable points of radio traffic with Europe and with the EAST coast of North America:

- The wealth of "piles up" which are always full as soon as the spread is there.
- Deep and fast QSB (2 to 3 seconds) which will dominate the 12 and 10 m.
- QSB flickering for 30 % of the time on the 15 to 30 m bands.
- Rapid reversals of the propagation paths with Europe which go from SP to LP or from LP to SP in 3 minutes on the 20 to 10 m bands.
- Signal strength that remains weak S5 or less for 80 % of the opening time.
- The spread on the high bands which cuts in 2 minutes.
- Low 80 m openings with only a thousand QSOs mainly in FT8



**Some other notable points.**

No hardware failure, excellent operation of our Intranet network.

The success of our website with more than 106,500 visits should be highlighted.

The “open house” day organized with the 2 Hiva Oa colleges was a success. Two groups of students and their teachers

spent several hours among the operators delighted to talk about their passion and show radio traffic. Dozens of questions were asked by the young people who began very interesting dialogues with the team.

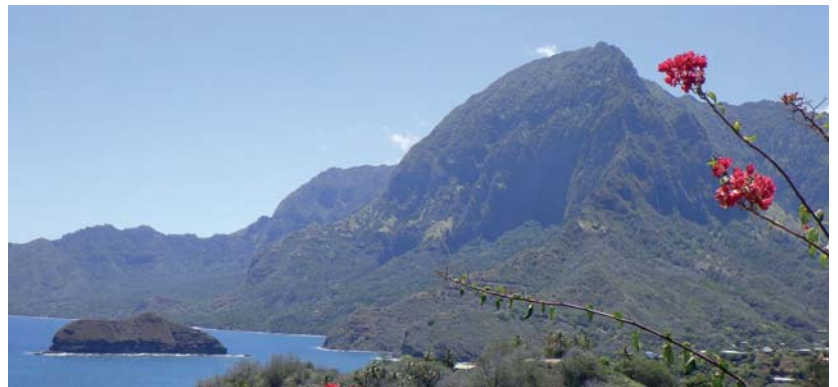
One of their teachers, also a journalist, Teama, produced a report which was broadcast on the evening news of the TV

Polynésie Première channel.

Note the kindness and goodwill of the Marquesans, the remarkable welcome of Tania our hostess, of Pierrick her son who helped us whenever possible and of Victorine, Tania’s mother, a retired nurse who cared for Jacques BREL.



Open day with students from the island's 2 colleges



Two magnificent views from the KANAHAU guesthouse



### Weaknesses of the Expedition:

No traffic on 160 m, there was great silence on this band (3 QSOs), the 80 m with rare openings allowed only low traffic (1,000 QSOs). Difficult traffic over 60 m only in Data.

The 3 big solar flares which caused us to lose 3 days of traffic.

### History:

Discovered and invested by the Maori between less than 150 years and more than 100 years AD, Te Fenua Enata

received its first Western visit in 1595 by the Spanish. The archipelago remained isolated from Westerners for more than 150 years. After the passage of James COOK in 1774, they were under English domination until 1842. On this date, Admiral Dupetit-Thouars signed a protectorate with a Marquesan leader, the foundation of the French Marquesas.

The Spanish took advantage of their first visit to the archipelago to change the name of Te Fenua Enata to Marquesas. At that time more than 100,000

Maori populated the Archipelago, they paid a heavy price because of the destruction of their civilization and the diseases brought by Westerners. In 1920, only 2,000 Marquesans remained, their disappearance was announced. Against all odds, these people rose again, there are today more than 11,000 on the archipelago.

More information See <https://tx7l.com/la-polynesie-francaise/>



The North West of Hiva Oa



The North East of Hiva Oa

### Geography:

Located in the Equatorial South Pacific, these islands benefit from a temperate oceanic climate with nighttime temperatures between 21 and 25° and daily temperatures between 27 and 31°. Permanently lulled by the Eastern trade winds which brings freshness and pure air, they are very green thanks to frequent precipitation, especially at night.

### Sociology:

A very welcoming people to this day, their kindness is undoubtedly one of their primary qualities. They live with both Western modernism and their traditional culture which transcends generations, making the Marquesas islands of great dynamism. Mutual aid is second nature in the Marquesas, our group was able to fully appreciate this reality. The attachment to France of the Marquesans is unequivocal.

### Conclusion:

An extraordinary adventure, the team is already ready for a new meeting in another DXCC in the South Pacific at the beginning of 2025. The team will favor low-band traffic without neglecting the high bands and 6m.

The whole team joins me in sending you our 73 QROs and see you soon for other adventures.

Didier, F6BCW



More information at: <https://tx7l.com/>



# Te Fenua Enata, History in pictures



The Great Journeys of the Mao'ri



The Great Journeys of the Mao'ri



The smiling Tiki



Marquesan Chef exterior wall painting





# EUDXF • NEWSLETTER • ARCHIVES

Dear Member/New Member,

You can find all of our newsletters published since 2009 for download here ...

(To download please click on the button of the desired issue)

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2021 • 1	2021 • 2	2022 • 1	2022 • 2
2022 • 3	2023 • 1	2023 • 2	2023 • 3
2024 • 1	2024 • 2	2024 • 3	2024 • 4

Older issues have only been produced on paper. Enjoy reading! —  
Enjoy your work.





# EUROPEAN DX FOUNDATION E.V.

## Data Protection Declaration (Members)

### Section 1

By joining of a member, the association records the name, first name, date of birth (optional), home address and e-mail address of the member. This information is stored in the computer systems of the executive committee. Each club member is assigned a membership number. The personal data are protected by appropriate technical and organizational measures against the knowledge of third parties. Other information about the members and information about non-members are only processed or used by the association if they are useful for the promotion of the purpose of the association and there are no indications that the data subject has a legitimate interest, which precludes the processing or use.

### Section 2

The board announces special events of the association life, in particular the execution of events in the club magazine and/or on the club's own internet pages. Personal member data can be published at this juncture. The individual member may at any time object to the publication of such data by the board. In this case, there will be no further publication in relation to this member on the notice board and/or in the club magazine and/or the club's own websites.

### Section 3

Only board members and other members who perform a special function in the association, which requires the knowledge of certain member data, receive a list of members with the required membership data.

### Section 4

The association informs the amateur radio related media about special events. Such information is also published on the website of the association. The individual member may at any time object to the publication of his personal data or revoke his consent to publication on the Internet. In the case of an objection or revocation, further publications regarding his person are omitted. Personal data of the withdrawing member will be removed from the homepage of the association.

### Section 5

Upon resignation, the data of the member named under section 1 will be deleted from the member list. Personal data of the withdrawing member concerning the cash management will be kept for up to ten years from the written confirmation of departure by the Board in accordance with the tax regulations.





# EUROPEAN DX FOUNDATION e.V.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I herewith request membership in the European DX Foundation e.V. (EUDXF). Membership fees are a minimum of **€ 25 per year** and payable at the beginning of the year. Membership will be **renewed automatically** unless written notice is given not later than **6 weeks before the end of the year**.

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to become a life member:** *(The price of a family life membership is still EUR 400)*

The EUDXF also offers a family membership. The first member will pay **€ 25** for full membership. For each additional family member **€ 15** will be charged, given that the family members share the same QTH.

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to become a family life member:** *(The price of a family life membership is still EUR 640)*

Method of payment:

I will pay the contribution to the bank account of EUDXF:

**Bank:** Volksbank Kleverland  
**IBAN:** DE65 3246 0422 0205 1830 19  
**BIC:** GENO DE D1KL L

I will transfer the contribution via PayPal to cashier@eudxf.eu

**I have read the privacy policy and herewith accept it.  
I can revoke my consent at any time for the future.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this application to:

EUDXF e.V.  
Robert F. Lörcks, DL1EBV  
Sommerlandstraße 23  
47551 BEDBURG-HAU  
GERMANY

You can e-mail your application to:

eudxf@eudxf.eu

Or get into contact with EUDXF via  
internet: <http://www.eudxf.eu>