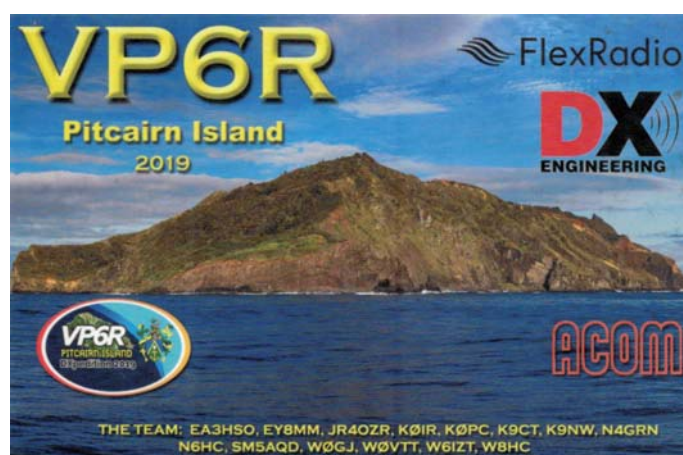


## EUROPEAN DX FOUNDATION E.V.

annual volume 34 • edition no. 3 • OCTOBER 2020



CQ



DX



# EUDXF NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020

## Table of Contents and Imprint

Welcoming Words of the President .....	3
Silent Keys, New Members, Life Members .....	3
Life Members, Sponsored activities .....	4
Your Membership Fee 2020 .....	5
EUDXF welcomes DF3EK as member # 1,000 .....	6
5KØK – San Andres Island .....	7
20 Years EUDXF Newsletters made by Robert, DL1EBV .....	14
The VP6R DXpedition - From a Rookie's Point of View .....	15
D68CCC MDXC DXpedition to the Comoros Islands 2019 .....	21
TX7T – Marquesas Islands 2019 .....	25
EUDXF Newsletter Archives .....	30
Data Protection Declaration .....	31
Membership Application .....	32



## Imprint

**European DX Foundation e.V.** — **President:** Dominik Weiel (DL5EBE), Kirchweg 13, 49356 Diepholz, Germany, e-mail: president@eudxf.eu. **Boardmembers:** Ronald Stuy (PA3EWP), Hans P. Blondeel Timmerman (PB2T), Jan B. C. Harders (DJ8NK), Prof. Dr. Achim Rogmann (DF3EC).

**Officemanager:** Alex van Hengel (PA1AW). **Standmanager:** Jan Stadman (PA1TT/DJ5AN). **Cashier, Office DL and Printing Support:** Robert F. Lörcks (DL1EBV). **Webmaster:** Alex van Hengel (PA1AW).

As always a new year means that the **membership fees** are due. Please transfer your **25 Euro** or more as soon as possible, preferably 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**.

## Welcoming Words of the President

### Dear EUDXF Members,

Welcome to the autumn edition of the EUDXF newsletter which we hope you will really enjoy reading. A big thanks for the efforts go to the authors of the reports and to Robert, DL1EBV, for editing and designing the latest issue. With this issue by the way, Robert is celebrating his 20 years as editor of the newsletter, 15 years as cashier and head of the EUDXF administration office. Congratulations dear Robert and thanks a lot for the great work you have done in all these years!

I am sure that the DXpedition reviews wake up memories when our good old world was still different. But when was that? This was just half a year ago, but it feels like ages. A few months ago, we still thought that the measures taken to combat COVID-19 would be sufficiently effective and we all hoped for a quick return to our previous lifestyle and associated freedom, allowing us to travel across the globe when and wherever we wanted. Widely failed, the travel freedom is not yet re-established, the virus is still there and the world is even awaiting a second infection wave which would hit our economies with brutal force, if a second lockdown should be decided by the governments. Unfortunately, as under the current circumstances a serious planning is simply impossible, several of the EUDXF funded DXpeditions announced for 2020, such as W8S, CYØC, VU4R, T3ØET, XRØYHM, E6AM and A35GC had to be postponed or were even cancelled. We deeply regret this development!

In fact, these are no good times. Global DXpeditioning which was booming with outstanding DX operations in the past, has totally collapsed. It is not only EUDXF who sees this dramatic change in the sudden decrease of funding applications. All other DX foundations report basically the same. Is this what politicians call "the new normality"? If this shall be the new life we have to get used to, and obviously a return to the previous life is not foreseen, then we got a serious problem. Many air companies went bankrupt and the times of cheap tickets are definitely over. Tourism, hotels and the entire travel business in general fight for their existence and most likely many of them won't survive. Future travelling will be more complicated due to the required health

certificates and planned health protection measures. With the worst global recession since World War 2 approaching and lots of wealth being destroyed, it is already clear now that future DXpeditions cannot be afforded by everyone. We may expect much less funding applications in the coming years, especially from individual DXpeditioners. With future DXpeditions becoming more expensive, DX foundations such as the EUDXF are probably needed more than ever, especially when it comes to funding DXpeditions to low ranking most wanted DXCC entities. A worst case scenario could be that DXpeditioning will be even down for a couple of years. The upcoming financial crisis following the global economic shutdown might bear the risk of taking many rare DX stations of mainly third world countries off the air. DX foundations such as the EUDXF should become active and provide support so that certain DX beacons from rare DXCC entities remain on the air.

Due to the current health safety situation, this year's DNAT convention in Bad Bentheim where we traditionally meet to host our annual general meeting (AGM), did not take place. We will organize a combined 2020/2021 AGM next year, given that there will be no more health restrictions by then.

After 2 years based in southern Russia, my wife and I have decided to return to Germany. What was originally planned as an assignment for 4 years shall come to an earlier end. We look back on a very exciting and adventurous time at this historical place, once known as Stalingrad. In no other city of Russia the memories of WW 2 are so much present like here in Volgograd. We are very thankful for the great friendship of the local people and we will miss the destiny river of the Germans, the wonderful Wolga River, and the endless horizon of the steppe with its intense herbal smell.

With sadness we have to announce that Ken, LA7GIA, has decided to step back from his position as a Board Member. We were very happy to have him in the Board team as representative from Scandinavia and we are thankful for the excellent work and contributions he has done for EUDXF. We accept his decision and wish him all the best for his future and upcoming DXpeditions.

### Silent Keys

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

#### Silent Key

596 Adolf Kern, DL5KUR  
673 Klaus Franke, DL2AYJ

May they rest in peace.



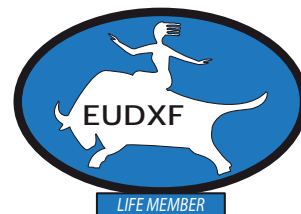
### New Members

Since October 2019 we welcomed the following DX-enthusiasts as new EUDXF members:

#### New Members

#992 Erik Mortensen, LA7EIA  
#993 Max Wild, DK1MAX  
#994 Fabien Bertolotti, F4GYM  
#995 Annette Coenen, DL6SAK  
#996 Dennis Koole, PA2DK  
#997 Arie Nugteren, PA3DUU  
#998 Jaap Zijp, PA3DCU  
#999 Gjermund Bringsvor, LB5GI  
#1000 Karl-Heinz Bünck, DF3EK  
#1001 Fred Verburgh, PAØFVH  
#1002 Madison Jones, W5MJ  
#1003 Hans van Hese, PAØJLS  
#1004 Friedrich zur Hellen, DL4BBH

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



### 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  
 Jan G. Stadman, DJ5AN  
 Gerd Richter, DJ5IW  
 Christian (JAN) Harders, DJ8NK  
 Dr. Dieter Messer, DJ9ON  
 Gottfried Dutiné, DK3DG  
 Dr. Andreas Söchting, DK6AS  
 Karl-Dieter Löffler, DK9KD  
 Timm Wangerin, DL1BKT  
 Kurt C. Schips, DL1DA  
 Robert F. Lörcks, DL1EBV  
 Frank Rosenkranz, DL4KQ  
 Leo Wirth, DL4NBE  
 Dominik Weiel, DL5EBE  
 Klaus Huber, DL5EC  
 Felix J. Riess, DL5XL  
 Johannes Langner, DL7BQ  
 Olaf Bunner, DL7CX  
 Robin U. Go, DU9RG  
 Iñaki Echeveria, EA2AAZ  
 Fred C. Handscombe, G4BWP  
 Andrea Panati, IK1PMR  
 Yoshihiko Hirano, JA2MNB  
 Tsutomu Kitahara, JA0DBQ  
 Katsuyama Katsuo, JA0EQO  
 Noriko Nakamoto, JF0JIL  
 Daniel Dankert, N6PEQ  
 Pertti Turunen, OG2M  
 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  
 Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T  
 Sergey V. Kislov, RN3AHL  
 Tomasz Barbachowski, SP5UAF  
 Thor Stefansson, TF4M  
 Ingrid S. Geissler, W7ISG

## pending sponsored

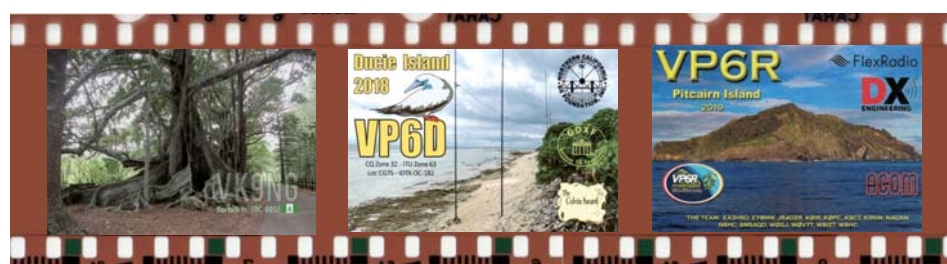
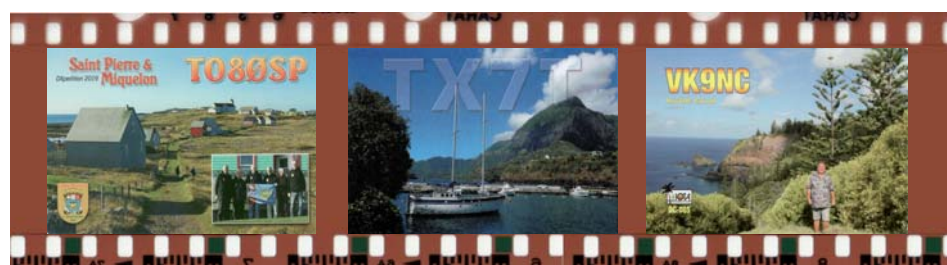
A35GC Tonga  
 CY0C Sable Island  
 E6AM Niue  
 T30ET Western Kiribati  
 W8S Swains Island



## Sponsored activities 2019 / 2020

3D2AG/p Rotuma  
 5K0K San Andres  
 6070 Somalia  
 A35JT Tonga (A35AG)  
 C21WW Nauru  
 D68CCC Comoros  
 HU1DL El Salvador  
 PB2T Working on my DXFC  
 T30GC Western Kiribati  
 T30L 2019 Western Kiribati

T19A Cocos  
 TO80SP St. Pierre & Miquelon  
 TX7T Marquesas  
 VK9N Norfolk  
 VP6D Ducie  
 VP6R Pitcairn  
 VP8PJ South Orkneys  
 XR0ZRC Juan Fernandez  
 ZK3A Tokelau





QTH of Dom, R4BE/p, in Primorsk ca. 100 km North of Volgograd at the wonderful Wolga river banks



With the very best 73s, good DX from  
Volgograd and stay healthy,

Dom R4BE - DL5EBE

### Dear EUDXF Members,

According to our statutes, each member is obliged to pay at least an annual fee of € 25,00 €. The contribution is due upon admission and then at the beginning of the calendar year. The Board can allow a different alternative payment method.

During the last board meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, the following decision was made based on the proposal of the treasurer:

*If you become a member, the membership fee has to be paid latest after 12 months (e.g. if you join on November 12<sup>th</sup> 2019, the next fee is due on November 2020 at the latest). One month in advance, members will receive an email with the contribution invoice.*

For me as a treasurer, this handling makes it easier for me and certainly for you as a member, too.

Members from EURO / SEPA countries please transfer the fee to our account at Volksbank Kleverland, IBAN: DE65 3246 0422 0205 1830 19 - BIC / Swift: GENO DE D1KL L. However, if you would like to pay via PayPal, please note that you take over any PayPal costs. Within the EU you can use the "Send money to friends and family" function to avoid PayPal costs. Members from non-EURO countries please pay via PayPal to cashier@eudxf.eu.

**Special thanks to those members who have already paid their contribution (or even more) for 2020.**



Dear members,  
our Printing Service by Robert DL1EBV  
has prepared the statutes of the EUDXF  
for you to print as a booklet.

(If you use duplex printing, the duplex  
type "Mirror at the top edge" is required).



[https://eudxf.eu/downloads/Articles\\_of\\_Association\\_booklet.pdf](https://eudxf.eu/downloads/Articles_of_Association_booklet.pdf)



# EUDXF welcomes DF3EK as member # 1,000

No sunspots, nearly all DXpeditions cancelled or postponed – really hard time for DXers. Despite this hardship Karl-Heinz Bünck (DF3EK) made the right decision: to join the EUDXF. And he was rewarded with the special membership number 1,000. What started in 1986 has now reached a remarkable threshold.

Karl-Heinz received his first radio licence in 1976 and upgraded to his short-wave licence in 1978. The shortwave exam forced him to learn CW, but it was a good pay-off so far: his favourite mode is still telegraphy. At his QTH in Wesel he decorated his house with a 3 element 7 band Quad up on a 18 m tower. If wind (and neighbours) allow he is heard on the bands with strong signals. Over the years, Karl-Heinz also enjoyed the pile-ups from the other side while being active from different DX locations. He is member of DARC's local amateur club in Kleve – making it to the local club with the largest number of EUDXF members: not less than **5**, among them **4** life members.

Welcome to EUDXF, Karl-Heinz! We are pleased that you joined our community.



# 5KØK – San Andres Island

BY DAVID BERAN, OK6DJ

San Andres (DXCC prefix HKØ/A) is an oval, relatively small island (13 km long, 3 km wide) resembling the shape of a cigar. It is located in the southern part of the Caribbean Sea. Although the nearest mainland is Nicaragua, it belongs to Colombia, South America. However, it paradoxically belongs to North America (IOTA NA-033) geographically.

Shortly after returning from the previous DXpedition to Mayotte, we began thinking about organising a new DXpedition. Our original plan was to go to Africa again. We had chosen four DXCC countries and started communication with the relevant authorities. Unfortunately, we didn't receive a response from any of the local telecommunication offices of the addressed countries. The contacts from former DXpeditions didn't work. It was a big disappointment as we hoped that it would be clear where to go before the end of 2018. The solution came suddenly in February 2019 when Karel, OK2ZI, had found a special offer for flight tickets from Vienna to Bogota with Turkish Airlines. After checking the availability of domestic flights from Bogota to San Andres, he proposed a DXpedition to HKØ/A as an alternative to Africa. Although HKØ/A is not that rare among the DXCC countries, we liked the idea as most of us had never been to the Caribbean and we still could expect a fair amount

of interest in our activity. In addition, we chose (with regard to availability of the participants) the date of the DXpedition for the end of October because it allowed participation in the SSB part of the CQ WW DX Contest. We discussed all of the pros and cons in a quick email exchange on October 21<sup>st</sup>, and Karel booked tickets for all of the team members on the next day. This started the preparation of the DXpedition. Some of us immersed ourselves in maps in order to find the best QTH on the island. It was not an easy task considering that we needed a place for eight people and for all of the antennas. Eventually, we found a suitable place; a small villa about 200 m off the coast with a garden and some space around. We booked it immediately to be sure in case we couldn't find anything better.

We also contacted Rob, HK3CW (the former president of the Colombian Radio Club), and asked for advice concerning the application for the license. Rob was very helpful. He offered full cooperation and sent to us all of the necessary forms. After exchanging some emails we got the idea to invite Rob to participate in our DXpedition. He agreed enthusiastically to become the 9<sup>th</sup> group member and proposed joining us in Bogota. That was great as now we had a member who knew all of the local specifics and was a native Spanish speaker (our Spanish is far

from fluent).

We also decided to make minor changes in the antenna setup. Instead of the 40 m SQ and 30 m SQ, we built two couples of phased verticals for each band using the same material. We hoped to erect them at a sufficient distance, so it allowed inband traffic on both bands. As we had a bad experience with the SWR of Spiderbeam Yagis we also prepared dual Yagis for the 12 m and 17 m bands. Their clever design made it possible to mount them either on one boom or as two separate antennas. The last antenna was a light 4 element Yagi for the 6 m band. Unfortunately, we didn't get the license for the 60 m band.

On August 13<sup>th</sup> we received the confirmation for our call sign 5KØK, and after another two weeks the scan of our license, too. Having all of this ready, we presented our upcoming DXpedition plan at the DX-forum of the annual Ham Meeting in Holice. In the meantime we ordered DXpedition T-shirts, designed the logo and created the website. On October 5<sup>th</sup> we had the traditional pre-DXpedition meeting at Peter's (OK1FCJ) place in Ritka. We made a final check of all of antennas and equipment and packed the gear into the oversized bags.

October 10<sup>th</sup>, the D-day. All team members were supposed to meet at Ruda's (OK2ZA) place in Sudice at 12:00 h. In the morning the first group with Palo, OK1CRM, and David, OK6DJ, set out from Ritka, the second group with Petr, OK1BOA, and Pavel, OK1GK, from Prague. The first problem on our long journey already occurred in Czechia. The highway to Brno was closed due to a burning tanker truck. We were late by almost 2 hours, but everybody finally arrived to Sudice well. Ruda's XYL cooked soup and steak for us (TNX Jani). After a late lunch we weighed our luggage and made the final weight redistribution to get all of the pieces under 23 kg. The most fragile and valuable pieces, laptops and transceivers, were in our cabin baggage. The total weight of all material was over 500 kg. The van with a trailer arrived on time to take us to Vienna airport. We got to the airport well in advance, despite of a broken trailer wheel. It made the passage through Vienna very nerve wracking, though. The following flight to Istanbul took about two hours and went without any problem.



The 5KØK Team: Petr OK1BOA, Pavol OK1CRM, Petr OK1FCJ, Pavel OK1GK, Ruda OK2ZA, Ludek OK2ZC, Karel OK2ZI, David OK6DJ, Roberto HK3CW



October 15<sup>th</sup>. Shortly after midnight we boarded the flight from Istanbul to Bogota. It took over 13 hours and we landed with a slight delay. Impatiently, we went to pick up our baggage. Fortunately, all of the pieces arrived well, great! There were no problems at customs, thanks to the carefully prepared documents. We also had the import certificate of all of our material confirmed to avoid any problems when leaving the country. Rob, HK3CW, met us in the arrival hall. After paying tourist taxes required to enter the island, we moved together to the gate for the final flight from Bogota to San Andres. It took another two hours, but we landed on the island on time, all of our baggage as well, unbelievable! We loaded all our stuff into the 3 cars we had booked and moved to our QTH where we arrived at about 4:30 PM local time. We immediately started with the QTH inspection. First we met the landlord to discuss the details about the location of our antennas.

As promised we were free to build anything in the garden, but entering the neighboring property in the direction to EU was not allowed and the property in the direction to JA was covered with dense jungle, which was not visible from the map or aerial view. The property to the north was a problem, too. Although it looked like a meadow ideal for the antennas on the aerial map it was actually a football field. Palo, David and Rob went to do some necessary shopping. The rest of us decided to build some antennas before the night darkness. Despite being tired we unpacked our five antenna bags and started building our antenna farm. OK1GK and OK2ZC erected 2 element phased verticals for the 40 m band directed to EU. OK2ZA and OK2ZI put up the multiband vertical for 40 – 15 m. OK1BOA and OK1FCJ started to assemble their Spiderbeams, but they didn't complete them before dusk. It was already dark when we put our first two stations with K3 and PA into operation. At 01:00 AM David sat down at the radio and made the traditional first QSO. 5KØK was on air from then onwards. There was a nice pile up on the 30 m band. Soon after OK1FCJ started the operation on 40 m, too, while the rest of



The 5KØK Team on the Airport

the team was setting up the third station with K3 and PA, and the fourth one with TS-480 for FT8. Very soon, however, there was a problem with the mains. Although we drove the PAs only with 500 W, the light bulbs were dimming a lot in the rhythm of morse. The mains were 110 V on the island which made the problem even worse. There was nothing we could do about it at that moment, though. About midnight everybody except the operators went to bed.

October 16<sup>th</sup>. We continued on the 30 m and 40 m bands on CW/SSB throughout the night. Later, when the signals were fading, we switched to FT8. We still got up in the dark to start building antennas at dawn. A hard day awaited us. We built three two-element phased verticals,

one for the 40 m in the direction to JA/W7 and two for the 30 m band in the direction to EU and JA/W7. Then we put up a 10 m mast with 4 elements for the 6 m band, 2 elements for 12 m and 2 elements for the 17 m band. Each antenna could rotate independently on the mast. In the afternoon we finally erected all three Spiderbeam Yagis. One was tuned to the SSB part at 12 m height in the garden corner. The other one was tuned to the CW part in 10 m height in another garden corner. The last one, the "universal" Yagi, was installed in 14 m height on the terrace behind the house. We also managed to agree with the landlord that we could use the space in the clearing between the neighboring properties to erect a quarter wave vertical for the 80 m







band. We worked very quickly as we were afraid that he could change his mind. The sun was shining all day and the work on the antennas had been very exhausting. Everyone was slightly burned, but we were very satisfied with the good SWR of all of the antennas. In the evening we had four stations on the air, but we experienced more problems with the mains. Some devices restarted by themselves from time to time. Sometimes the power supplies of the radios and PAs went offline. Apparently, the mains voltage dropped more than we expected.

October 17<sup>th</sup>. There were five stations active: three CW, one SSB, and one FT8.

We tried the inband traffic on 20 m. It was possible with a certain combination of antennas. There were no problems on the 15 m band either, so we could have three stations with CW, SSB and FT8 on this band. Unfortunately this was not the case on 17 m. The mutual QRM made the inband traffic impossible there. After lunch we set up another station for FT8. The idea was that every operator could operate two stations at the same time. Towards the evening we erected the last antenna, a quarter wave vertical for the 160 m band at the farthest point about 150 meters from the house on the grassy clearing. We were very lucky as

a thunderstorm and strong wind came right after we had finished the work. Fortunately all antennas held up, but there was a blackout for several hours which we spent talking with Rob, HK3CW. The power supply had been restored late at night, so we started working on the lower bands.

October 18<sup>th</sup>. We were working on 40 m, 80 m and 160 m, but the problems with the mains became even worse. Sometimes the voltage dropped down to 80 V. We drove the PAs at most to 500 W, but they kept going offline anyway. One PA even got broken, but we managed to repair it. In spite of the lower power we





felt that the antennas were working very well. We received good reports on all bands. However, to no surprise, RXing on lower bands was poor as we only had verticals so far. The task for today was clear – building the beverage RX-antennas. With the dawn we moved to higher bands where we stayed the whole day. In the afternoon we started cutting lanes through the jungle with a borrowed machete to make place for the beverage antennas. Stretching two 150 m wires through the jungle towards EU and JA/W7 took several hours, but the benefits were great. We could use them from 160 m to 30 m. The fight with the vegetation really paid off.

October 19<sup>th</sup>. We focused on the problem with the mains. We made new cables and connected them directly to the switchboard to avoid the poor house wiring. It looked as if it had helped a bit. On this day we also experienced the first short opening on 10 m. We hoped that the propagation might improve. The guys who weren't operating any radio went for swimming in the sea, but the local people warned them about sharks and recommended to stay close to the beach. In the afternoon we already had





20,000 QSOs in the log, not bad! This gave us hope that we would finally exceed the “magic” number of 50,000 QSOs during this DXpedition.

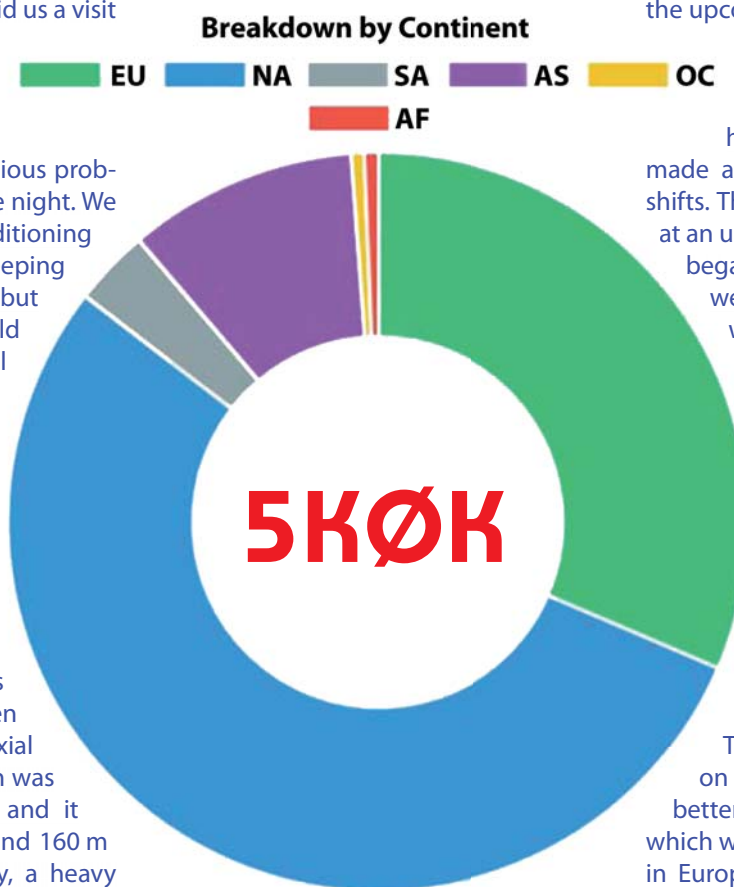
October 20<sup>th</sup>. We were working on all bands with full commitment. All seven stations were on the air, 3x CW, 2x SSB and 2x FT8. The propagation was good in the morning, but around noon it deteriorated for couple of hours. No pile up on CW or SSB, but it didn't apply for FT8. It just confirmed the sad saying: “You can't beat FT8”, which we repeated many times during the DXpedition. There wouldn't be as many QSOs in the log today as on the previous days. Besides one K3 got broken. Fortunately, we had a spare TS-480 to replace it. An iguana paid us a visit in the afternoon. We took a couple of shots. It would be a beautiful background for our QSL cards.

October 21<sup>st</sup>. There were serious problems with the mains the whole night. We had to switch off all air conditioning except for the radio room. Sleeping became very uncomfortable, but there was nothing else we could do. We tried to reconnect all of the equipment and appliances in the switchboard, so the load was balanced between two phases. We also checked the grounding, but it seemed even worse after our interventions. Sometimes the voltage even got onto the chassis of our devices and we had to wear gloves to avoid electrical shock when connecting the antenna coaxial cables to PAs. The propagation was very good in the afternoon and it even improved on the 80 m and 160 m bands at night. Unfortunately, a heavy thunderstorm approached. We were very sorry that we had to QRT and wait till it stopped. When we were able to continue the good propagation was gone. C'est la vie.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Another PA got broken this morning. It gave only limited power. We were getting nervous as it was still a long time till the end of the DXpedition and we had already lost two PAs out of five. The major effort of our DXpedition focused on the lower bands where serious work without PAs is absolutely impossible. The reason for all of the trouble was very likely the undervoltage in the mains. The propagation on the higher bands was below average on this day, but we experienced an unexpected opening on 12 m and 10 m. We tried to make the

most out of it. We ran on both bands with a rate of more than 600 QSOs/hour. We also tested whether there was any opening on the 6 m band, but to no avail.

October 23<sup>rd</sup>. A local ham HKØHF visited us in the morning. He was not active, although he keeps valid license. We greeted him warmly and Rob, HK3CW, showed him our stations. The propagation was bad in the afternoon. We weren't able to get a good pile up on any band on CW nor on SSB. We focused on FT8 which worked better with weak signals. It was kind of strange. Although we heard a lot of stations S5 to S7 on FT8, no one called us on CW/SSB. We tried it a couple of times in 10 minute intervals, but to no



avail even if we had spots in the DX cluster. We returned to FT8 where we could keep a rate of about 100 QSOs/hour.

October 24<sup>th</sup>. Another blackout in the morning. We had been told that it was due to maintenance and it would last till the afternoon. Therefore we arranged a short trip on the island. We rented some kind of golf cart at one of the many rental offices. Rob guided us around the island in two groups. He had been to San Andres a couple of times before, so he could show us the most interesting places. Late in the afternoon the power had been restored and we could continue.

October 25<sup>th</sup>. We achieved the significant goal of 50,000 QSOs in the log. We raised a toast with good local rum to cel-

ebate it and sent a message to social networks. We had never made so many QSOs on any of our previous DXpeditions. In addition, CQ WW DX Contest was starting this night, so there was a good chance to add some more thousand QSO. Some of us believed that we could even exceed 60,000 QSOs. Around noon we tuned the 160 m and 80 m verticals to the SSB segment of the bands for the contest. The antenna tuning worked great, the SWR was perfect. We also double checked the IARU Region II as well as Colombian national band plans to avoid transmitting out of the allowed segments. Two hours before the contest start, we worked only on FT8 to save our ears and voices for the upcoming “Ham Radio Feast”. The CQ

WW DX Contest from the Caribbean was a premiere and a dream came true for all of us. We had chosen the M/2 category and made a rooster with 2 hour operating shifts. The contest started for Europeans at an unusual time at 07:00 PM local. We began on 15 m and 20 m, but as there were only a few stations on 15 m we switched to 40 m earlier. The first station from OK, OL1Z, had been logged after about half an hour. We operated on 40 m and 80 m the whole night. Both bands performed very well, especially 80 m.

October 26<sup>th</sup>. It made no sense to switch to 160 m in the first night. We stayed on 80 m and 40 m the whole night. Right after dawn we switched to 20 m and 15 m.

There were good propagations on both bands; 20 m was even a bit better. Even some rare multipliers for which we would have to wait a long time in Europe, called us. After all, we were also a multiplier for them, maybe even a double as not many stations were active from zone 7. One of our stations stayed on 20 m for the whole day whilst the other one switched between 15 m and 10 m. There were a lot of stations from South America on 10 m. Therefore we turned one of the Spiderbeam Yagis into this direction and Rob called in English and Spanish language. At 07:00 PM half of the contest was over and we had 4,400 QSOs in the log. If we could keep this rate it would be a very good result. With the coming night we again switched to the lower bands and this time also to 160 m, but we only called strong stations and multipliers there.

October 27<sup>th</sup>. We continued running the contest and the rest of the team

worked on WARC bands, mostly on FT8. We focused on the multipliers in the last part of the contest. It was mostly very hard, though, to break through the pile up of big guns having huge Yagis and kilowatts with our low Spiderbeam Yagis and 500 W. Nevertheless, we managed to "shoot" some and the score increased satisfactorily. We had also good pile ups on the higher bands to the USA. 07:00 PM marked the end of the contest. We had 7,374 QSOs in the log and almost 10 million points. This would be the second best result in zone 7 ever. We could be satisfied. We continued working on 160 m after the contest, but only on FT8 as it wouldn't make any sense to tune the antenna back to the CW segment.

October 28<sup>th</sup>. We started to dismantle our antennas soon after dawn as we were afraid of the heat, but the weather was friendly with us this time. It was overcast and there was a light breeze throughout the whole day. The departure for the airport was not before the evening, so we left two stations on the air for the rest of the day. We dismantled our antennas step by step. First the low band verticals, then the Yagis, and at the end the multiband vertical for FT8 when it was already dark. The last station went off the air shortly after 07:00 PM local time (12:00 AM UTC). 5KØK was history. There were 64,330 QSOs in our log. We packed the last of our baggage. The taxi arrived

on time to bring us to the airport. The flight to Bogota went without a problem. The only complication occurred at the Bogota airport. The custom officers didn't like our baggage wrapped up in the plastic foil. We had to cut and wrap them at the local service using the textile foil. After an hour spent with the re-wrapping we eventually managed to check in. This nuisance was followed by the long and weary flight to Istanbul via Panama (16 hours). Then another seven hours waiting at Istanbul Airport and two hours flight to Vienna. Fortunately, the van was already waiting for us there. All baggage arrived as well and in another two hours we were in Sudice at OK2ZA's place where the temperature greeted us at the freezing point. However, Jani's good food (pork and excellent cake) warmed us (again TNX Jani). Everybody picked up his baggage and we left for our homes the same way as we arrived 18 days ago.

Another big ham radio adventure is over. The DXpedition was a big success. The number of QSOs exceeded all expectations and the contest result was also better than we had hoped for. The antennas worked perfectly. The rig was a bit worse. Fixing all the damaged transceivers and PAs will cost some extra money.

We would like to thank all hams who made a QSO with us. We believe that for many hams we were a new DXCC country or at least extra points in the contest.

David, OK6DJ, will take care of the entire QSL agenda. All stations who applied for a direct QSL should have a confirmation of their contacts in LoTW by now. The QSL cards have been printed and distributed in the meanwhile.



#### Summary:

Time on air: 13 days  
Total number of QSOs: 64,330  
For detailed statistics see:  
<https://clublog.org/charts/?c=5KØK#r>

#### Rig:

5x Elecraft K3,  
3x Kenwood TS480HX,  
5x 1kW PA Juma 1000

#### Antennas:

160 m: vertical with capacitance hat on 18 m Spiderbeam laminate mast, 10 radials of 42.5 m each on the ground.  
80 m: quarter wave vertical on 18 m Spiderbeam laminate mast, 10 radials of 20 m each on the ground  
40 m: two phased quarter wave verticals on 10 m laminate masts from Spiderbeam in EU and JA/W7 directions  
30 m: two phased quarter wave verticals on 10 m DX-wire laminate mast in EU and JA/W7 direction  
20 m to 10 m: three five-band Spiderbeam Yagis at 10 m, 12 m and 14 m height.  
12 m: 2 el. Yagi at 10 m height  
17 m: 2 el. Yagi at 9 m height  
6 m: 4 el. Yagi at 11 m height  
RX: two 150 m beverages in direction NA/EU and JA/W7

#### Continent by Mode 5KØK

CONTINENT/Mode	SSB	CW	RTTX	FT8	Total	Total %
AFRICA	152	113	8	137	410	0.6 %
ANTARTICA	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
ASIA	1,020	2,937	84	2,402	6,443	10.0 %
EUROPE	4,957	10,555	398	4,348	20,258	31.4 %
NORTH AMERIKA	11,963	10,590	399	11,843	34,795	54.0 %
OCEANIA	68	105	1	183	357	0.6 %
SOUTH AMERICA	699	395	17	1,045	2,156	3.3 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>18,859</b>	<b>24,695</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>19,958</b>	<b>64,419</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>29.3 %</b>	<b>38.3 %</b>	<b>1.4 %</b>	<b>31.0 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	

#### Continent by Band 5KØK

CONTINENT/Band	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	Total	Total %
AFRICA	8	23	40	28	89	64	93	38	27	410	0.6 %
ANTARTICA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
ASIA	29	379	1,841	1,262	946	1,146	797	42	1	6,443	10.0 %
EUROPE	607	1,508	2,996	1,998	5,765	4,315	2,810	227	32	20,258	31.4 %
NORTH AMERIKA	1,132	3,265	4,480	3,836	8,039	4,821	5,388	2,384	1,450	34,795	54.0 %
OCEANIA	2	62	129	67	30	12	28	14	13	357	0.6 %
SOUTH AMERICA	37	103	179	114	346	186	520	341	330	2,156	3.3 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>5,340</b>	<b>9,665</b>	<b>7,305</b>	<b>15,215</b>	<b>10,544</b>	<b>9,636</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>64,419</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>2.8 %</b>	<b>8.3 %</b>	<b>15.0 %</b>	<b>11.3 %</b>	<b>23.6 %</b>	<b>16.4 %</b>	<b>15.0 %</b>	<b>4.7 %</b>	<b>2.9 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	



We would also like to thank all our sponsors, companies and organizations (DX-news, Mastrant, Mediterraneo DX Club, Clipperton DX Club, LA-DX Group, CDXC, Southeastern DX Club, European DX Foundation, FEDXP Foundation) as well as all our ham friends, especially AF3I, HB9JOE, HB9PFM, HP1XT, JA1BK, JA8IUV, JM1ESG, K6JJ, KA5M, KN4NSL, OK2EW, OK1FPG, OK1JR, OK1MY, OK1VK, OK2PDN, OK2PJM, OK5MM, OM5ZX, OM6KW, W6OU, W19WI. A special thanks to Microham company for support and very quick help when setting up the new DXP modems.

## 5KØK DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown

Band	SSB	CW	FT8	RTTY	Total
160 m	24	66	39	0	77
80 m	82	70	71	0	105
40 m	111	93	82	0	127
30 m	0	79	84	27	103
20 m	111	96	83	45	136
17 m	2	82	80	0	101
15 m	114	73	69	0	124
12 m	34	27	50	0	59
10 m	42	23	24	0	50
<b>Totals</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>159</b>

## 5KØK Daily QSOs

Date	Total QSOs	Uniques	Uniques %
29-10-2019	11	0	0.0 %
28-10-2019	1,745	435	24.9 %
27-10-2019	4,425	1,208	27.3 %
26-10-2019	5,568	1,689	30.3 %
25-10-2019	5,421	1,516	28.0 %
24-10-2019	3,310	776	23.4 %
23-10-2019	3,658	896	24.5 %
22-10-2019	4,871	1,200	24.6 %
21-10-2019	5,877	1,643	28.0 %
20-10-2019	4,858	1,494	30.8 %
19-10-2019	7,031	2,248	32.0 %
18-10-2019	7,180	2,565	35.7 %
17-10-2019	7,043	2,900	41.2 %
16-10-2019	3,421	2,175	63.6 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>64,419</b>	<b>20,745</b>	<b>32.2 %</b>

## 5KØK Band/Mode breakdown

Band	SSB	CW	FT8	RTTY	Total	Total %
160 m	72	1,330	413	0	1,815	2.8 %
80 m	1,004	2,559	1,777	0	5,340	8.3 %
40 m	2,764	4,306	2,595	0	9,665	15.0 %
30 m	0	2,726	4,403	176	7,305	11.3 %
20 m	5,881	5,687	2,916	731	15,215	23.6 %
17 m	2,947	3,891	3,706	0	10,544	16.4 %
15 m	4,226	2,906	2,504	0	9,636	15.0 %
12 m	760	1,012	1,274	0	3,046	4.7 %
10 m	1,205	278	370	0	1,853	2.9 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18,859</b>	<b>24,695</b>	<b>19,958</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>64,419</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>







EUDXF Office DL

## 20 Years EUDXF Newsletters made by Robert, DL1EBV

34 years of EUDXF also mean 34 years of EUDXF newsletter. Since we established EUDXF in 1986 the newsletter has acted as an important tool to keep contact with our valued members. We can inform you about developments in our DX club and report which DX-related activities have been supported by EUDXF.

In the year 2000 our life member Robert (DL1EBV) took over the responsibility to edit our newsletter. During the first 10 years he produced the layout for printing of a paper based journal which

he shipped every summer to our members in numerous countries around the world. In 2011 we decided to publish the newsletter in electronic format which allowed us to turn it into a very colourful publication. At the same time the annual number of issues could be increased to three. It is hard to estimate how much heartblood Robert invests to finish every single issue: from raw texts and piles of photographs and sample QSL cards to perfect designed booklets. Until today he produced not less than 1,020 pages.

On top of this outstanding support he took over the position as EUDXF's cashier and managed to create a database with all related data. Our data are definitely safe as in Fort Knox, at the same time our bookkeeping fulfils highest standards.

20 years editing our newsletter and 15 years acting as cashier and data manager: without Robert EUDXF would not have been such an overwhelming success model. Thank you for all of your hard work and support, Robert!



# The VP6R DXpedition

## From a Rookie's Point of View

BY MIKE CIZEK, WØVTT

Most DXers probably dream about going on a DXpedition some day. I know I did, but never thought I'd get the chance to actually do it. For me, the next best thing was going to Dayton and the DX conventions where I could rub elbows with the "Big Boys" who go to all of these strange far away places. I enjoyed getting to know a number of the guys who went to top ten countries, and really enjoyed the rare occasion when one would call me by name in a big pile up. After chasing DX for 30 years, I was content with my place in the DX game and had stopped thinking about ever operating from someplace rare or exotic.

Receiving an email from Ralph Fedor, KØIR, in September of 2018 inviting me to the VP6R team was quite a shock. Ralph explained that he wanted to do a trip to someplace fun with a team that combined some seasoned DXpeditioners with some new folks like me. I emailed back immediately expressing my thanks, but also expressing my doubt that the plan would be approved by the family comptroller. The shock from receiving Ralph's email was nothing compared to my wife giving her blessing to the trip: "I think you should go." After a few emails and phone calls, I was added to the team. Learning who the other team members were impressed me to no end. These were the guys I had worked from all over the world; the guys I looked up to and respected. Now I was going to go out to play radio with them. The experienced team members were mainly from the previous year's 3YØZ operation and they wanted to go some place a little nicer than Bouvet. Almost every email Ralph sent out ended with "...let's have some fun", and that became the motto of our DXpedition. Our team email reflector was named "No-Ice Island". The wheels were turning...

We were soon trading planning messages on our team email reflector. I always knew there was a lot of preparation required, but for the first time was getting an inside look at the details. I had little or no experience in most of the requisite subject areas, but found one place where I felt able to contribute: fund raising. I know how to type and send emails so with a little direction from Ralph, I took on this task. If you are reading this in your DX club newsletter, your club was one of

our contributors. Thank you!

Other team members contributed in their areas of expertise. KØIR kept contact with the folks on Pitcairn, Nigel Jolly of the RV Braveheart, the licensing authorities in New Zealand, and kept tabs on the rest of us. Craig, K9CT, took care of assembling, testing, and networking the radios, computers, and amplifiers. He was also our treasurer and QSL manager. George, N4GRN, runs a construction company and knows about international shipping and customs. He handled this area and calculated that we would need to have all of our gear ready and packed in a sea container by 1<sup>st</sup> of June. We all had plenty to do, and it was still over a year before we would leave. I kept typing emails and sending them to every DX club I could find.

Most of our equipment was from the 3YØZ operation. It was still packed in the sea container from Bouvet and was sitting in K9CT's company parking lot in Peoria IL. Some of the team gathered there in December 2018 to do a quick inventory and a few of us went in March 2019 to assemble and test the EME antennas. The weekend before Dayton most of the US team members assembled in Peoria to load the container. Our task was to unload the 40' container from the Bouvet trip, do a complete inventory and assessment of everything, decide

what we needed to take to Pitcairn, and pack it properly in a 20' container. We also needed a comprehensive itemized listing of what equipment was in each box in the container. Two days later we were finished. George almost wore out his laptop typing in every item as we packed and loaded it. The container was sealed and would be picked up in a few days to begin its journey. More than a few cold 807s were hoisted in celebration that evening. I was getting my first taste of DXpedition team fellowship. This is going to be a fun trip.

All of our equipment was on its way, but we still had plenty to do in preparation. Ralph was still finalizing details of our stay on the island and trying to get permission to operate 60 meters; a first from VP6. He found amazing accommodations for us; one of the islanders agreed to house and feed us for a very reasonable fee. Check out Pitcairn on Google maps, look for Andy's Pizzeria, and you can see where we stayed. Look at the terrain view and you can see our take off angle to NA, EU (both NE) and JA (NNW). It was an amazing site. We also received permission to operate from the old commercial radio station ZBP, just a short walk from Andy's house. We would be operating from what were probably the best two locations on the island. Glenn, WØGJ, was coordinating our travel



Container Loading

and lodgings en route. We were getting close to departure.

There were a few changes to the team during the year from initial planning to departure due to work, family, or medical issues. Real life has a nasty habit of interfering with our ham radio plans. The real shock came just a few days before our departure when our team leader KØIR told us he had a medical issue and would not be able to go with us. Ralph immediately named Glenn, WØGJ, our new team leader. Glenn picked up the reins, kept us moving ahead, and we hardly missed a beat. Our final team was now EA3HSO, EY8MM, JR4OZR, KØPC, K9CT, K9NW, N4GRN, N6HC, SM5AQD, WØGJ, WØVTT, W6IZT and W8HC. It was time to go.

Did I mention that this was my first DX-pedition? I'm not a seasoned traveler, and was more than a little nervous about the trip. Fortunately, I had company every step of the way. On Saturday afternoon 12<sup>th</sup> of October, WØGJ and I met in Rochester MN to take the shuttle bus to the Minneapolis airport. There we met KØPC and K9CT; the four of us would all be on the same flight to Los Angeles. In LA, we met most of the rest of the team and were all on the same flight to Tahiti. We landed early Sunday morning and walked across the street to the Tahiti Airport Motel where we met the remaining two team members. JR4OZR and SM5AQD were waiting for us in the motel lobby. Since there is only one flight a week from Tahiti to the Gambier Islands where we meet the Braveheart, we allowed an extra day, just in case there were any delays. We now had an extra day to play tourist in Tahiti and everyone headed in to town for the day.

Glenn called a team meeting for Monday morning at the motel so we could discuss our arrival and set up plans. He stressed the need to get set up quickly since we were arriving on Thursday morning and there was a large rain storm forecast for the weekend. Tuesday morn-

ing we left Tahiti on the four hour flight to Totegegie in the Gambier Islands. After landing at the VERY small airport (one gate, one plane), we took a short ferry boat ride to Mangareva Island where we boarded the Braveheart.



The RV Braveheart

The legendary RV Braveheart! This ship had been there and done that, all over the southern hemisphere. I had seen the pictures and read & heard the stories, and now I was finally getting a chance to board her. Matthew Jolly, the captain, welcomed us aboard. He knew many of the team members from their earlier voyages with him; the greetings were warm and heartfelt. Matt introduced us to the crew, and to his wife Rachel and their son Finn, who were along for the ride. Three

year-old Finn wasn't quite sure about these crazy ham operators at first, but he finally decided we were OK. I asked him if he was going to be the next captain of the Braveheart, and he very confidently said no, he was going to be four. After a quick safety briefing, plates of sandwiches from the galley appeared and we had a nice mid-afternoon snack. A short time later, we cast off and were underway. I spent a while exploring the ship, then settled down on one of the upper decks to enjoy the view and the fresh sea air.



Tahiti Airport Motel



The RV Braveheart is underway





We arrived off of Pitcairn Island early Thursday morning and sat off shore waiting for the islanders to come out in one of their longboats to bring us to shore. We were all pretty excited now and eager to get ashore and get started. We were very fortunate that because of the Braveheart's schedule with other charters, our equipment had been placed on to the island a month earlier. ALL of our radio gear was there waiting for us. After a short welcome at the dock on Bounty Bay, some of the islanders loaded us on to their ATVs and we headed up the "Hill of Difficulty" to Andy's house.

Once we all arrived at Andy's house, station setup started directly. We had our plan, formulated in our Monday morning meeting, and everyone got right to



The Bounty Bay



The Longboat

work. Once again, I was impressed at how quickly things happened. Everybody seemed to know what they were doing and by supper time, we had set up five Yagis for 10 – 20 m, two verticals for 30 and 40 m, and four complete, networked stations. K9CT made our first QSO on 30 m CW with N7XM at 02:00z (06:00pm local time). VP6R was on the air.

The next day we set up our low band antennas at ZBP, the old commercial radio station site. Our main project was erecting a 90' (27 m) tall vertical for 160 m; 70' of aluminum tower with 20' of mast tubing and top loading wires. This required the entire team working together. The antenna is mounted on a hinged



VP6R On the Air





160 m Vertical Base



160 m Vertical on Ground

base and we used a 40' falling derrick to raise it. The biggest folks handled the pull up ropes and pushed up the tower; the rest of us held the guy ropes to guide it up straight; WØGJ directed everyone, telling us when to pull or when to let up. The antenna went up in just a few minutes.

We also installed verticals for 30, 40 and 80 m and a second 20 Yagi. That first night on 160 m Nodir EY8MM made over 700 contacts. He came back to Andy's house shortly after sunrise with a big smile on

his face, and promptly went to sleep.

A number of people had told me "you won't believe the pileups" on the DXpedition. I've been a DXer for 30 years and have been in plenty of big pileups, but never from the DX side. I had been practicing from home mostly by listening in the big pileups on other DX stations and picking out callsigns, and thought I was ready. I wasn't! I like to think I'm a pretty good CW operator, but the pileups on the first few days were just too much for me. I retreated to FT8 and let the

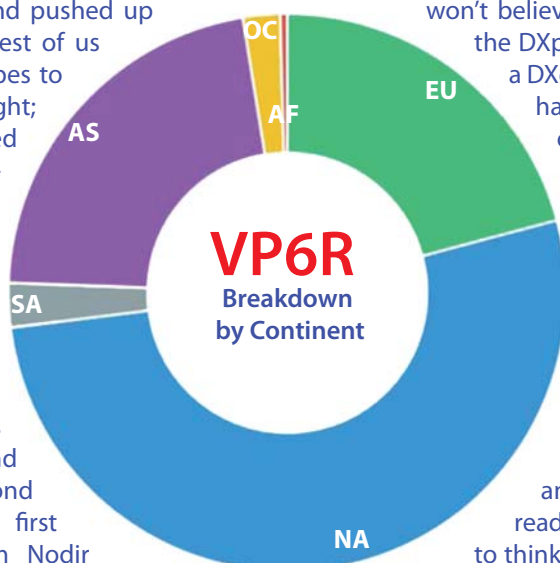
more experienced ops handle CW. After a few days, things slowed down a bit and I was able to do better. I now have an even greater respect for the ops who have the ability to pick out callsigns quickly and consistently in these huge pileups.

Once I got going, operating from the DX side was a real blast. It was nice to get a good rhythm of steady QSOs going and especially rewarding to work friends from around the world and call them by name in the pileups. It was fascinating to experience propagation from another part of the world. Naturally, we had propagation predictions and most of the team had operated from the South Pacific before, but there were still plenty of surprises. 30 m was open all over the world most of the night. We would often work all continents within a five minute period. We had a regular path on 10 and 12 m to CT, CN, D4, EA, and EA8 for a few hours almost every day. Sometimes these signals were surprisingly loud.

The most interesting opening I experienced was on 12 m one morning. I was calling CQ on what appeared to be an empty band. Around 17:30z (09:30 local) I heard a very weak and watery SM2 station. I worked him and was called by a second SM2. The opening spread into OH and southern SM, but not into LA or UA. A little later some North Americans appeared, then some stations from southern EU, then more and more USA until at 18:00z the Europeans had disappeared completely. This one wasn't on our propagation prediction charts!

Remember the storm that was forecast for the weekend? It rained sideways for four whole days with wind gusts up to 50 mph. We were pleasantly surprised that our 160 m vertical survived, but we lost both 20 m beams and an element off of the 15 m beam. Fortunately, only a few pieces of tubing were bent and we had spares. Once the storm had passed we had everything repaired and back in the air in short order. Once again, it was amazing how quickly and efficiently the team worked together.

VP6R was a multi-multi entrant in the CQWW SSB contest. We shut down our N1MM DXpedition mode logs a few hours before the contest and were ready to start in contest mode right at 00:00z. Since I'm mainly a CW DXer, I asked to do 10 m during the contest. I thought it would be interesting just to see what propagation we would have over the course of the contest. The contest started at 16:00 h local time and 10 m was pretty slow at first. After only three QSOs in the first hour, the band finally opened up





with a nice JA run that lasted almost two hours. I was up bright and early Saturday morning calling CQ, but the band didn't open until 16:00z (08:00 local). We had a strong opening into Zone 33 and I got a good start on my "Worked All EA8" award. I had no idea there were so many stations

in the Canary Islands! After a handful of Zone 33, it was all North and South America, all day long, until around 00:00z when the opening shifted to JA. It was almost like someone throwing a switch; propagation changed that quickly. By the end of the contest, we had 1,050 QSOs

on 10 m. I never had so much fun operating sideband before! The final numbers haven't been published yet, but I'm pretty sure we took first place for multi-multi in VP6.

All too soon it was time to put our toys away and go home. We took down the

### VP6R Continent by Band

CONTINENT/Band	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	Total	Total %
AFRICA	11	19	11	64	30	59	37	65	26	17	1	340	0.4 %
ANTARTICA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
ASIA	776	1,302	13	2,472	2,015	2,887	2,930	2,953	1,618	1,023	0	17,989	21.9 %
EUROPE	922	1,687	469	3,610	2,905	3,622	2,086	1,641	131	34	33	17,140	20.8 %
NORTH AMERIKA	2,107	2,452	359	3,804	2,582	9,652	6,476	9,286	2,696	3,485	24	42,923	52.2 %
OCEANIA	90	268	10	593	237	263	103	121	30	43	2	1,760	2.1 %
SOUTH AMERICA	30	93	25	329	146	512	204	456	102	190	0	2,087	2.5 %
<b>Total QSO</b>	<b>3,936</b>	<b>5,821</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>10,872</b>	<b>7,915</b>	<b>16,995</b>	<b>11,836</b>	<b>14,522</b>	<b>4,603</b>	<b>4,792</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>82,239</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>4.8 %</b>	<b>7.1 %</b>	<b>1.1 %</b>	<b>13.2 %</b>	<b>9.6 %</b>	<b>20.7 %</b>	<b>14.4 %</b>	<b>17.7 %</b>	<b>5.6 %</b>	<b>5.8 %</b>	<b>0.1 %</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	

### VP6R Band/Mode breakdown

Band	SSB	CW	FT8	JT65	Total	Total %
160 m	42	3,155	739	0	3,936	4.8 %
80 m	787	3,323	1,711	0	5,821	7.1 %
60 m	0	0	887	0	887	1.1 %
40 m	3,307	3,970	3,595	0	10,872	13.2 %
30 m	0	3,925	3,990	0	7,915	9.6 %
20 m	5,542	6,641	4,812	0	16,995	20.7 %
17 m	3,874	5,138	2,824	0	11,836	14.4 %
15 m	6,665	4,940	2,917	0	14,522	17.7 %
12 m	786	2,367	1,450	0	4,603	5.6 %
10 m	2,060	1,384	1,348	0	4,792	5.8 %
6 m	0	0	0	60	60	0.1 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23,063</b>	<b>34,843</b>	<b>24,273</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>82,239</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

### VP6R Daily QSOs

Date	Total QSOs	Uniques	Uniques %
01-11-2019	1,996	394	19.7 %
31-10-2019	3,246	485	14.9 %
30-10-2019	6,006	1,086	18.1 %
29-10-2019	5,201	808	15.5 %
28-10-2019	3,415	587	17.2 %
27-10-2019	4,245	1,207	28.4 %
26-10-2019	4,773	1,251	26.2 %
25-10-2019	4,617	855	18.5 %
24-10-2019	6,172	1,121	18.2 %
23-10-2019	7,677	1,567	20.4 %
22-10-2019	9,089	2,094	23.0 %
21-10-2019	9,197	2,594	28.2 %
20-10-2019	7,992	2,102	26.3 %
19-10-2019	5,436	2,300	42.3 %
18-10-2019	3,177	2,171	68.3 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>82,239</b>	<b>20,622</b>	<b>25.1 %</b>

### VP6R DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown

Band	SSB	CW	FT8	JT65	Total
160 m	14	83	39	0	86
80 m	60	84	65	0	103
60 m	0	0	66	0	66
40 m	113	101	102	0	139
30 m	0	103	103	0	121
20 m	127	104	105	0	146
17 m	88	102	89	0	113
15 m	110	97	83	0	124
12 m	19	47	43	0	59
10 m	49	33	32	0	60
6 m	0	0	0	15	15
<b>Totals</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>165</b>

low band site on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> of October. Our last QSO was with Jerry, WB9Z, our chief pilot station on 17 m SSB at 18:00z on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> of November, after which we took down the antennas at Andy's house. Everything was packed up and ready to go by lunch time that day. Once again, we had allowed extra time, just in case, but everything went very quickly. We now had some time to play tourist and do a few good deeds for some of the local hams.

We helped Meralda, VP6MW, and Mike, VP6AZ, get back on the air by providing antenna parts, supplies, and some technical assistance. Meralda was already active before we left the island, and let's hope that Mike is on soon. I was especially happy to help Meralda because she was my very first Pitcairn Island QSO back in 1989.

This trip would not have been possible without a lot of help from a lot of people.





Meralda VP6MW

First and foremost, thanks to ACOM, DX Engineering, and Flex Radio. These three companies were VERY generous with their support. We also had other corporate sponsors, 38 different DX clubs and,

hundreds of individual DXers who helped us out. Thanks to all of you on behalf of the entire VP6R team.

No DXpedition report would be complete without some numbers. We made over 82,000 QSOs on all bands 160 through 6 m. We were pleased to have 21 % of our QSOs come from Europe, a very difficult path from the South Pacific. We were also happy to make nearly 900 QSOs on 60 m and 36 EME QSOs on 6 m; both were firsts from Pitcairn. For a complete analysis of our operation please see the statistics page on our Clublog DXpedition Chart.

The trip back home was remarkably similar to the trip out to Pitcairn, but with greatly different feelings. Going out was filled with anticipation, excitement, and more than a little trepidation; I really didn't know what to expect. Going

home was mostly gratitude for having such a wonderful experience. There was also a bit of regret at having to leave such a beautiful place, but it was mixed with the desire to return home and resume my "normal" life. This was truly a once in a lifetime experience for me. It was wonderful to visit a strange far away corner of the world, to meet new people, and to finally experience the radio conditions on the "other" side of the pileups.

The travel and radio experiences were wonderful, but for me the most rewarding aspect of the trip was experiencing the wonderful fellowship among our team members. Being a part of this team was an honor and a pleasure I will remember for the rest of my days. From the very beginning of planning, KØIR kept saying "let's have some fun", and that's exactly what we did. We hope you had fun, too.



JR4OZR Teaching EA3H5Q the Ninja Dance



# D68CCC MDXC DXpedition to the Comoros Islands 2019

BY JEAN LOUIS GUYONNAUD, F6BPZ

The D68CCC team was made up of 9 nationalities and the following operators:

IZ8CCW, leader, I2VGW, co-leader, 9A6AA, DL6KVA, DL80BF, F6BPZ, IZ3GNG, IK4KJF, IZ4UEZ, IT9ZZO, IZ2GNO, LB3TI/YO9FNP, MW0ZZK, OE3JAG, ON4LO, ON7RN, YO5OED, YO8WW.

Departure place was Milano Malpensa Airport on October the 20<sup>th</sup> 2019 in the evening. For the team members who arrived the day before or in the morning, a pick up service was provided by the staff of the Radio Club of Busto Arsizio who also offered them a lunch. Our warmest thanks for that.

Starting from Milano we reached Addis Abbaba after a short stop in Rome, followed by a transfer for the flight to Moroni after a stop in Dar es Salam. We have been flying with Ethiopian Airlines. Worth mentioning it, this company allows 45 kg of checked luggage. This al-



The D68CCC Team

## The Equipment

### CW Station:

- 2 x TS590
- 1 x ACOM 1011
- 1 x ACOM 600
- 2 x laptop with WINTEST
- 1 x vertical for 160 m
- 1 x vertical for 80 m
- 2 x phased verticals for 30 m
- 1 x Spiderbeam with 40 m dipole
- 1 x vertical for 20 m
- 1 x vertical for 15 m
- 1 x vertical for 10 m
- 1 x K9AY

### SSB Station:

- 2 x TS-590
- 2 x ACOM 1011
- 2 x aptop with WINTEST
- 2 x Spiderbeam, one of which with 40 m dipole
- 1 x vertical for 80 m\*
- 1 x vertical for 40 m\*
- 2 x beverage

\* to be shared with the DIGI station

### DIGI Station:

- 1 x ICOM 7200
- 1 x ACOMM 1010
- 1 x powerful laptop with WSJT + RTTY software + logger 32
- 1 x Spiderbeam

### Power supplies

- 5 x HOXIN TD 14 SSD 30



IT9ZZO and IZ8CCW at Comoros Airport



Sunset





I2VGV with 5 band spiderbeam



Vertical 80 m full size and vertical 160 m

lowed us to bring the equipment without over-charges. The transceivers were carried as hand luggage.

Upon our arrival at Moroni we were welcomed by the staff of the hotel and we could proceed with the transfer. Customs clearing has been very smooth, as well as for the departure. We were based at the Retaj Moroni Hotel which has a large garden along the sea shore. But no sand beach to set up the antennas. The island is of volcanic origin and the shore is composed of black and sharp rocks.

Originally, it was planned to start antenna erection on Monday evening. But we arrived at the hotel with one hour delay. After having assigned our rooms and taken dinner it was already too late. Therefore, installation was postponed and on the next morning at 05:00 AM the crew started. Around noon the first QSOs were in the log. Since there were still a lot of antennas to set up, installation continued all day long. The 160 m vertical was finally up on the next day. We can say that the antenna installation went well, but we had to cope with the rocky ground.

Propagation as a whole have been bad. The openings on 28 and 24 Mhz were short. Openings on 14, 18 and 21 Mhz were a bit longer, but signals were weak and the noise level around S3 to S5 making reception very, if not extremely, difficult most of the time. 10 Mhz has been fair. Both 3.5 and 7 Mhz were, some days, open in the evening up to 00:00 h local time and then nothing until the next early morning, with a QRM level at S9. Even the CW operators had a hard time to put a few QSOs into the log. 1.8 Mhz showed a few openings, but also many difficult hours.

The first nights on 3.5 and 7 Mhz have been very difficult for the SSB operators with QRM at S9. Listening on the FT8 frequencies showed some activity. But at the same time the 10 Mhz was running smooth in FT8 (very few RTTY because conditions were not good enough). It was then decided to convert the SSB 1 station for alternative FT8 operation. And the log began to fill up in these dark hours!

Three hour shifts were planned for all stations. Every operator knew exactly on which station and at which time he would operate. A few SSB operators did not wish to operate in FT8 and these susceptibilities have had to be coped with. But, at the very end, things ran fairly smooth and we were able to log 11,138 QSOs in FT8 which made up 17.7% of the final score.

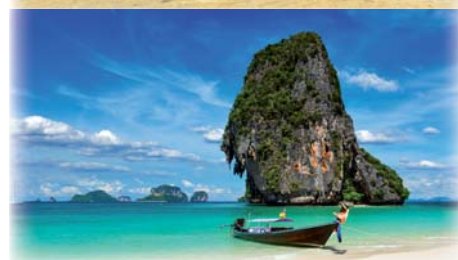


In conclusion it can be said that the equipment proved to be very reliable and we did not experience any break-down despite of the frequent but short power outages. There were no storms or damaged antennas. 62,827 QSOs were in the log, of which 46 % were made in CW, 34.3 % in SSB, 17.7 % in FT8 and 2 % in RTTY. The QSOs were uploaded to Clu-blog in real time despite of a sometime poor internet connection. A good atmosphere was the main point of this DXpedition of nine nationalities with English as the principal language.

Regarding tourism, there is not much to see. The country is very poor. As far as food is concerned, since there is little tillable ground, the country is not self sufficient. There are almost no fruits! The hotel where we were accomodated is most probably the best of Moroni and frequently it hosts political or cultural events. One of these events was attended by the Ministry of Telecommunications and we were able to show him shortly our activity.



IZ4UEZ and IZ3GNG running 2 SSB stations



ON7RN and IZ2GNQ at the CW station





The Ministry of Communications from Comoros came to visit the team



DX Pedition 2019 • COMOROS Islands

# D68CCC

October 21 ... 2 November *Born to stay UP!*



WAC:AF / WAZ:39 / ITU:53 / IOTA:AF-007 / LOCATOR:LH180G



# TX7T – Marquesas Islands 2019

BY DIDIER CADOT, F6BCW



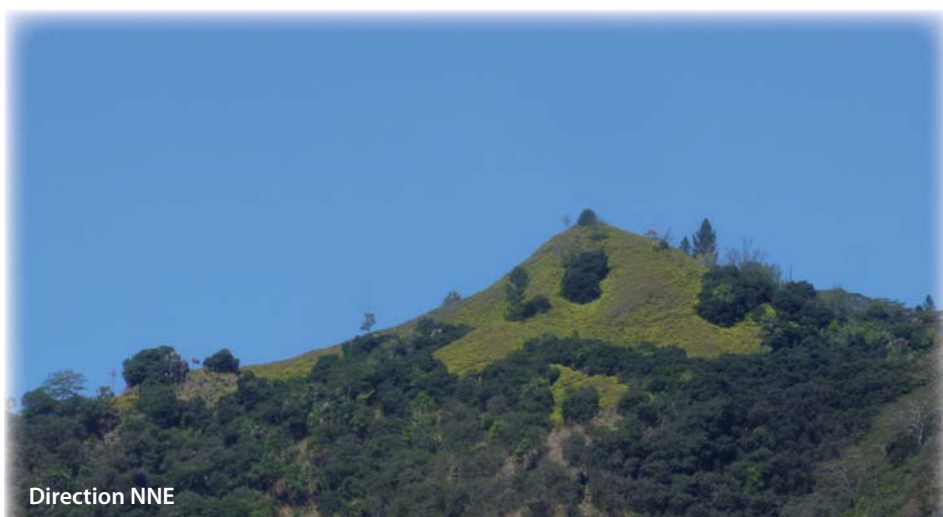
A team of eight operators was active from Hiva Oa (OC-027) in the Marquesas Islands group from 6<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2019. The team conducted 31,000 QSOs with 136 DXCC entities. The CanAm DX Group is a team of Radio Amateurs that has conducted a number of DXpeditions over the past 15 years. The group has never organised a DXpedition in tents and with generators. So far, the focus has been on relatively few countries that are accessible by air and have electricity.

The TX7T group consisted of 8 operators: Robert Brandon, K5PI, Team Manager, Madison Jones, W5MJ, Keith Witney, VE7KW, Neil King, VA7DX, Bob Feldtman, W5RF, Bill Priakos, W5SJ, Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Didier Cadot, F6BCW. This was Didier's first DXpedition with the group, although he operated with VE7KW from TM1ØØVIMY and organized the TX5EG DXpedition to the same location in 2017.

The Marquesas Archipelago is a group of 15 islands and islets located 1,370 km northeast of Tahiti. The Marquesas Islands are a separate DXCC entity and are part of French Polynesia. The population of the Marquesas Islands is approximately 9,300 people. At the time of the DXpedition, the Marquesas Islands ranked on place 59 worldwide according to Clublog's most wanted list and 28 for Europe.

## The TX7T QTH

The first challenge for any DXpedition is to find accommodation and a place to operate from. The team spent a lot of time looking for a location on the beach on the northern side of one of the four islands served by Air Tahiti. There are no longer any boarding houses or hotels located directly on a beach in the North. A lodging was finally found in the South of Hiva Oa, an island dear to Paul Gauguin and Jacques Brel, near the village of At-uona on a hillside 75 m above the Pacific Ocean. There was an unobstructed view for several kilometers at the bottom of a







Pension and Antennas

valley to the North towards the Europe SP and the USA/Canada, and directly overlooking the Pacific via the Europe LP. The direction to the North-West was blocked by mountains of more than 1,000 m altitude. This was no ideal terrain, but Didier F6BCW who had operated with TX5EG from this site in 2017, was able to give valuable information where to install the antennas. For the antennas, Didier negotiated an agreement to use an additional common land adjacent to the pension. With this information, VE7KW drew up an antenna plan that met the requirements of a three-station operation.

### Antennas

A first Hexbeam was used for 12 and 20 m and placed directly behind the boarding house. A second Hexbeam was used for 10, 17 and 40 m. It was placed at the top of the hill, 50 m above the pension. A Moxon made by VE7KW was installed for 15 m and 30 m at the South of the pension. A vertical network of two elements for 40 m designed by W4RNL and manufactured by Didier F6BCW, was deployed just below the pension. This antenna could be switched from NE to SW (SP or LP EU). This antenna proved to be the most efficient for 40 m. A 2 ele. beam for 80 m was placed from the top of the hill to a point just above the pension. This antenna was described in the June 2018 issue of QST. An inverted L for 160 m was installed on a 18 m fiberglass mast with two elevated radials. It was just above the pension.



F6BCW, VE7KW and a Hexbeam under construction

### Radio Equipment

3 Elecraft K3 radios, 3 Expert 1.3 and 1.5 amplifiers and a Juma PA1000 were used with one KX3 as backup. A total of 238 accessories, cables, tools, etc. were distributed among the team members. This included 650 m of coaxial cables - everything was used! Donations and equipment loans were received from Expert Linears, DX Engineering, Radiosport helmets, Messi and Paoloni, Gigaparts and Quicksilver Radio.

### Miscellaneous

One evening, the group met the VP6R team in Tahiti on their way home. We organized a dinner with them. It was fun and we got a lot of good information about their experiences. Didier, F6BCW, left for the Marquesas on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to prepare the radio shack and pass 3 times of 100 m of coaxial between the shack and the top of the hill 50 m higher. The rest of the team joined Didier at Hiva Oa on November 6<sup>th</sup>.





## Radio Operation from KANAHAU Pension

Accommodation at Pension Kanahau was modest but very comfortable. Tania was an excellent hostess and cook. The Marquesas Islands are the fruit and vegetable garden of much of French Polynesia and we enjoyed a beautiful variety. Raw fish in all its forms is a staple food throughout French Polynesia and the whole team really enjoyed it.

The pile-ups were very good, but most of the signals were weak. We made a special effort to work european stations as they were particularly weak. We found that CW and FT8 were the best modes under the current conditions, although we used SSB during good band openings. We had no radio or amplifier failure and almost no interference between stations. The distribution of the antennas, their distance and the optimization of the polarizations (vertical or horizontal) greatly contributed to the quality of the traffic.

We had deployed a beverage reception antenna for 160 m and a second delta loop for 20 m. All this was a challenge under the scorching southern summer sun, on the steep hillside and with only two team members in the age of 70. We reached our goal of 30,000 QSOs and are pleased that 13 % of our QSOs were made with Europe. Thank you all for the QRX during the limited EU openings. CW has been very productive with over 51 % of the QSOs. FT8 and FT4 were also significant, with 35 % of the QSOs. FT8's DX'P (Fox-Hound) mode sometimes worked well, but we had the same software problems as VP6R. It seemed that many stations did not have the correct configuration of the FT8 WSJT-X Hound, so we sometimes used FT4. We also did some QSOs in the standard FT8, but this mode is very slow for a DXpedition. We encourage all FT8 operators to use RS232 to connect the computer to the radio, and to activate the Split (Rig or Fake It). For more information on the DX'P mode of the WSJT-X in several languages, follow the link <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt.html>

After the TX7T operation FO/F6BCW stayed on Hiva Oa for a week. QSL via F6BCW.

FO/K5PI operated from Fakarava (FO - OC-066) for about a week while scuba diving. QSL via K5PI. The QSL for TX7T-goes via MØURX's OQRS service (<http://www.m0urx.com/oqrs/logsearch.php>)







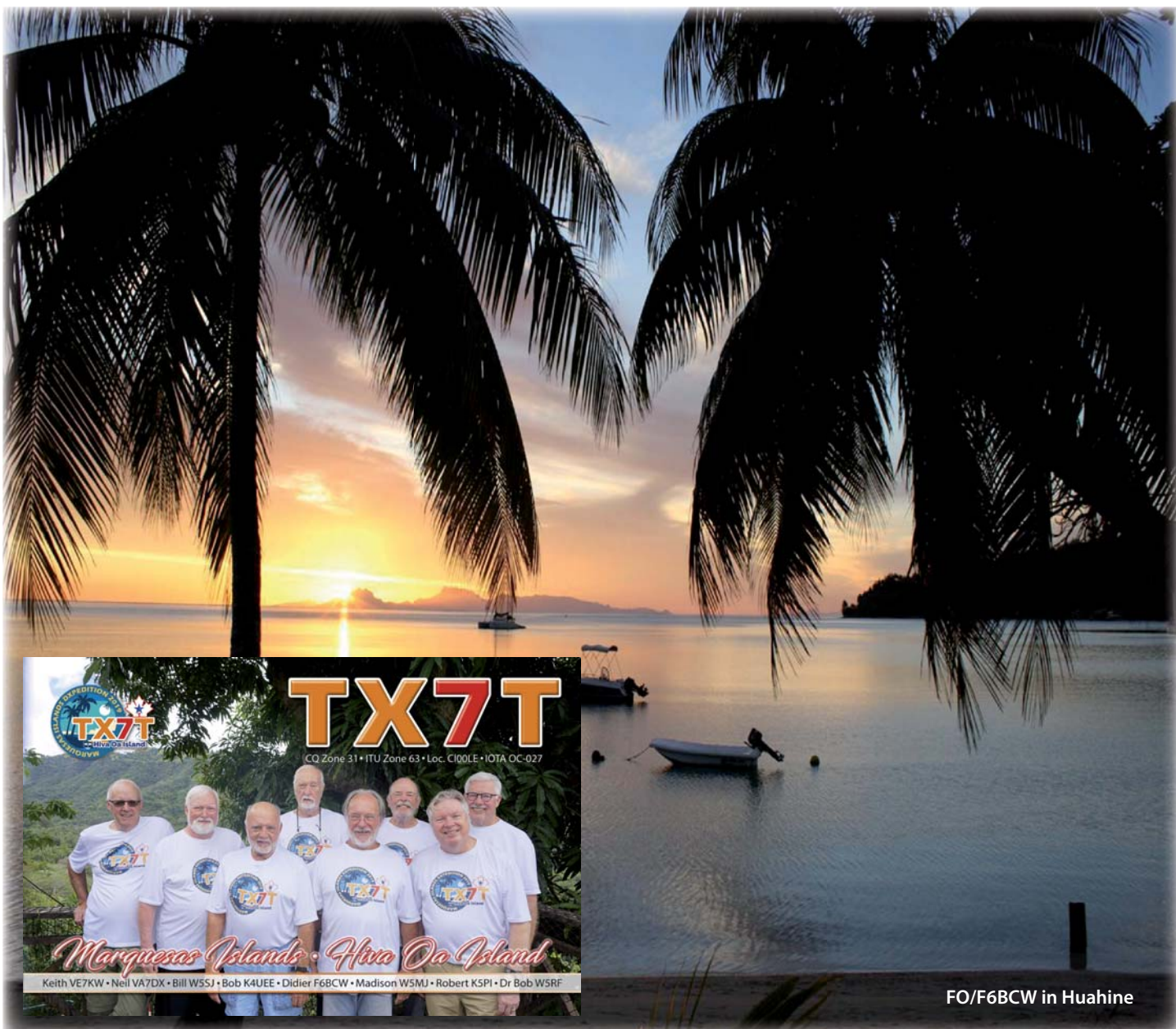
### Acknowledgements

Thank you for the precious financial help of our donors who trusted in us. Thank you for the good QSOs done with Europe, France and especially in CW with the UFT buddies.

73 QRO and see you in 2021 for a new DXpedition organized by yours truly. I'll tell you about it in a few months !!!

Adress: Didier Cadot F6BCW, 180 rue du Moulin de la Coudre, F - 71440 Tronchy, France

eMail: f6bcw@orange.fr





Next

## EUDXF newsletter JANUARY 2021

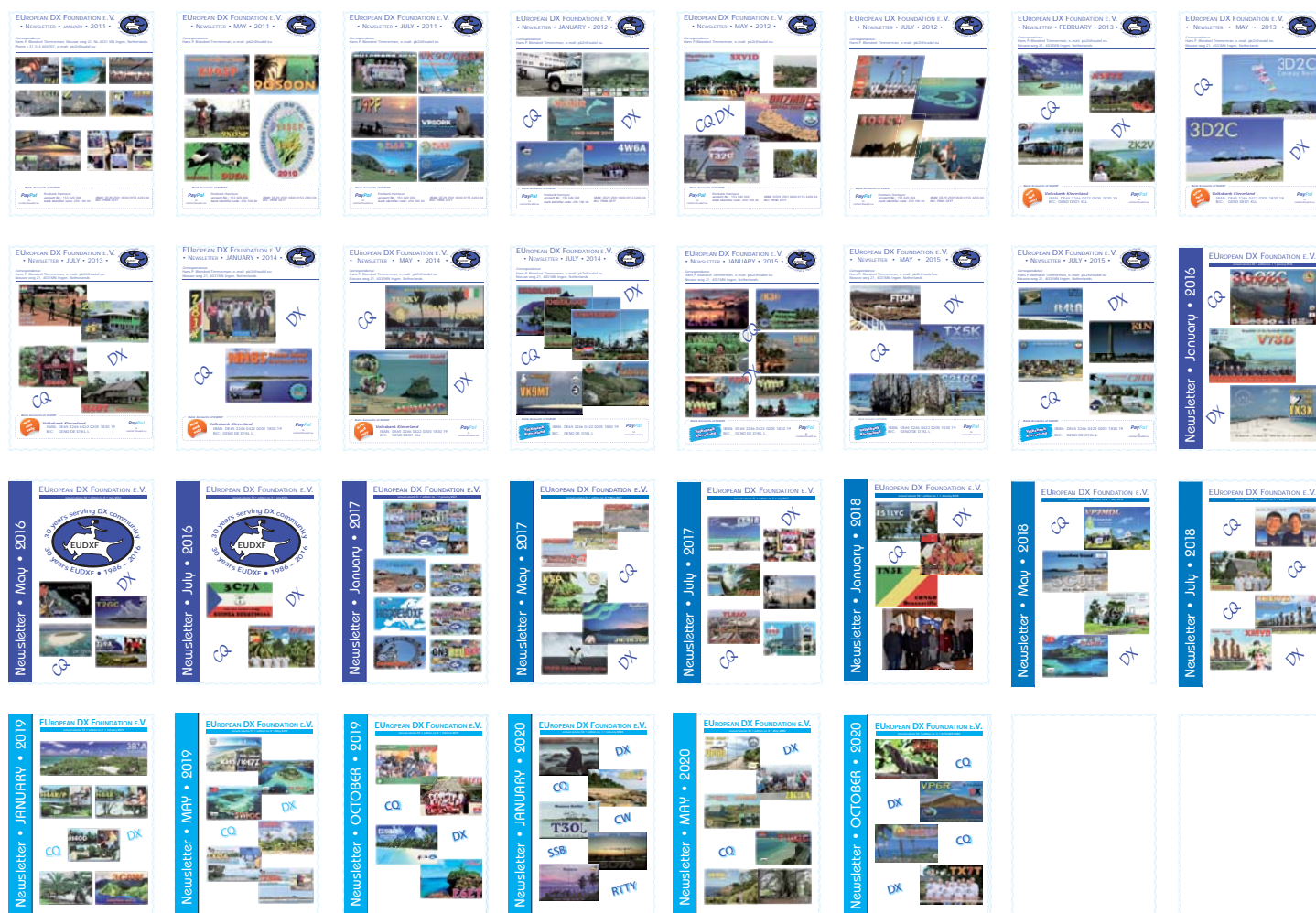




# EUDXF NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

Dear Member/New Member,  
You can find all of our newsletters published since 2009 for download here ...  
(To download please click on the photo of the desired issue)

Older editions of the EUDXF newsletter (July 2008 and earlier  
will be available for download at a later date!



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.





## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- ☐ I herewith apply for membership in the European DX Foundation e. V. (EUDXF). The membership fee is **25,- € per 12 months and is due after 12 months in the following year.** Membership is automatically prolonged if it is not canceled in written format latest **6 weeks before the end of the year.**

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

- ☐ I am already a member of EUDXF, but I would like to become a life member:  
(The price of life membership is still EUR 400)

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>