

## Dear EUDXF Members,

welcome to the May edition of our newsletter! I hope you can look back at a very DXful first quarter of 2018. In fact, since the last newsletter we were really blessed with outstanding DX operations. The Z6ØA team continued to bring this new DXCC entity on the air until mid of March. EUDXF members Ron, PA3EWP, Hans, DL6JGN, Ernoe, DK2AMM and Heye, DJ9RR, enriched the bands with an excellent DXpedition to Rotuma Island as 3D2EU. Congratulations to the team for the 30 k QSOs! Another phantastic operation to Easter Island in the South Pacific was organised by the german team signing XRØYD. The DXpedition made 46 k+ contacts and deserves a big thanks for their excellent low band efforts! In March, Africa was "invaded" by several major DXpeditions: Benin, TY7C, Republic of The Congo, TN5R, Cameroon, TJ2TT, and the irish DXpedition to Malawi, 7Q7EI, were good opportunities to fill missing bandslots. After a very successful operation as 3C1L to Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea and 3CØL, Annobon Island, and 76 k QSOs in the log, the latvian team decided to conduct another DXpedition to the same DXCC entities with a follow-up activity signing 3C3W and 3CØW which resulted in respectful 84 k+ QSOs! The highlight of the month April was the long awaited DXpedition to St. Brandon Island, 3B7A. The french team convinced again with excellent operating skills. Their tiredless efforts to activate this rare DXCC entity on all bands were much appreciated by the DX community. Even short openings on 12 m and 10 m allowed some happy Europeans to get into the log. With a final result of about 70 k QSOs

this DXpedition deserves a big bravo! As some of the previously mentioned DXpeditions were again sponsored by EUDXF, you can look forward to read their stories in the next newsletter. The next major DXpeditions sponsored by EUDXF will be Baker Island, KH1/KH7Z, in June and Ducie Island, VP6D, from 19<sup>th</sup> of October until 3<sup>rd</sup> of November. Stay tuned!



This year the traditional Ham Radio hamfest will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> until 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2018 in Friedrichshafen. As in the previous year, EUDXF will be present again with a desk (#556) in Halle A1. Our board members and officers will be happy to meet you for a chat with drinks and snacks.

When checking the bands for rare DX, did you notice that DX nets almost disappeared? Before the internet entered the shacks, DX nets used to be a very valuable source of information about upcoming DXpeditions

and when and where to find a rare DX station. I will never forget how I worked my first VK station thanks to a DX net. When I was a pupil, the first thing I did when I came home from school I switched on my Trio Line TX/JR 599 and checked the bands for any pile up. One afternoon whilst filling out QSL cards and the receiver set to a free SSB frequency on 20 m, an italian station appeared on the frequency saying that he would start to take a list for a VK station. I checked my DXCC countries list and noticed that I still needed VK. So I decided to call the net control and lucky me I became number one on his list. Suddenly, a tremendous pile up began and the list grew and grew. I was surprised that VK was that rare! Exactly at 16:00 UTC the expected VK station appeared and I was asked to do my call – deadly silence! When I got my 55 report running 100 W into a vertical antenna only, I still remember the following chaos and that the net control was not able to run his list anymore. But I was happy because I was in the log! I understood that I had to send my QSL via VK9NS. Weeks later I got a direct letter from Jim Smith, VK9NS, with the desired QSL card from Frank, VKØDA. Obviously, this call sign had been used from two different locations – Davis Base, Antarctica, and for this QSO the location Heard Island was marked! That's the nice story how I worked my first VK thanks to a DX net...

Best 73s, good DX and see you in Friedrichshafen!

Dominik DL5EBE  
- President EUDXF -

## Imprint

**EUropean DX Foundation e.V. – President:** Dominik Weiel (DL5EBE), Kirchweg 13, 49356 Diepholz, Germany, e-mail: president@eudxf.eu, **Boardmember:** Ronald Stuy (PA3EWP), Hans P. Blondeel Timmerman (PB2T), Prof. Dr. Achim Rogmann (DF3EC), Jan B. C. Harders (DJ8NK), **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 or pay in cash on the Ham Radio (Friedrichshafen) stand A1-556.**



## DX dinner 2018 at the Hamradio in Friedrichshafen

Also this year there will be a DX dinner for EUDXF members (and their partners) during the Hamradio.

The dinner will take place in Gasthof Traube, Storchenstraße 1, 88069 Tettngang ([www.traube-tettngang.de](http://www.traube-tettngang.de)) on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2018. Start will be around 19:00 h local time.

Participation will only be possible for EUDXF members who paid their annual membership dues and who made a reservation in advance.

The maximum number of seats available is 50. Reservations are on a first come first served basis. Reservations can be made until 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2018, or until the maximum number of 50 is reached, via the EUDXF stand manager Jan, PA1TT ([pa1tt@eudxf.eu](mailto:pa1tt@eudxf.eu))

There will be a set menu. Special dietary requirements should be communicated in advance. We hope to meet you in Tettngang!

Attention, there will be no BCC DX dinner this year, so make your reservation in time!

Jan, DJ5AN / PA1TT Standmanager.



# VP2MDL - Ham Radio from a Volcano

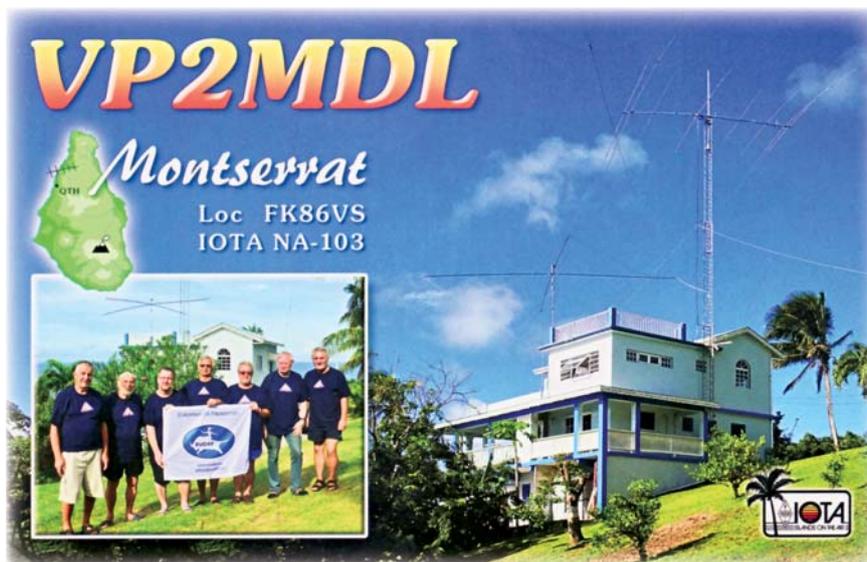
BY SIGI PRESCH, DL7DF

Despite of the generally poor propagation on all bands, we searched for a suitable destination for our next DXpedition which would still allow us to achieve good results. Our choice became the Island of Montserrat (VP2M) in the Caribbean Sea. After the team was selected, they were all members of the EUDXF, we started with the preparations. We made a deal with the licensing authority that if all DXpedition participants would apply for an individual license, they were willing to issue a club call sign to us: VP2MDL.

Although a lot of good information was available on the internet, we soon found out that planning was not easy at all. The great hurdle was the question how to get from Antigua to Montserrat. There were no operating schedules for the ferry boat available and inquiries at the local ferry office resulted in no clear information, not even if the ferry boat would go during the month of November. In order to be on the safe side we finally chartered an aircraft. Many phone calls were necessary as 7 passengers plus luggage were obviously quite a challenge for the small airline and their little "island hoppers".

Our accommodation was at "Gingerbread Hill", a QTH also used for contests by George, K2DM. We got in touch with George who immediately understood the difficult situation related to the luggage limitation for plane transportation. He therefore offered to us to use parts of his equipment and his 18 m tower at the contest location. That saved us from bringing all antennas and coax cables to Montserrat. George asked us to help him to repair his linear amplifier and to renew the metal guy wires of

the installation of the equipment. The antennas could be mounted only in the morning of the next day, because it got dark rapidly. Then, a few surprises came up – whereas the amplifier with tubes could handle also higher SWR, the FET linears were very SWR sensitive and switched into protection mode immediately because the antenna SWR on "Gingerbread Hill" was not as good as tested at home. So we had to tune all antennas again very accurately. Also the borrowed coax cables showed problems. We had to solder the plugs properly, test everything carefully which was a very time consuming procedure. During the first day of operation we could use 3 stations, but then a K3 failed so that we had to use the TS-570 from George for RTTY operation. Despite of the initial technical problems the QSO rates continuously increased. A very special highlight were our ATNOs on



his tower, a task which could be easily taken over by our knowledgeable team.

After all the intense travel arrangements no problems occurred when heading to Montserrat. As soon as we arrived at our QTH we started with

60 m. For the special licence we express our sincere thanks to the licensing authority MICA.

We could arrange an excursion around the island for our team. The volcano had a series of eruptions in the past and destroyed the complete

## VP2MDL - DXpedition to Montserrat

	Total	1.8	3.5	5	7	10	14	18	21	24	28
CW	78.1 %	100.0 %	99.9 %	100.0 %	80.8 %	98.3 %	60.5 %	63.7 %	66.9 %	80.3 %	46.2 %
FONE	17.2 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	17.0 %	0.0 %	29.8 %	28.6 %	23.7 %	19.7 %	51.1 %
RTTY/PSK	4.7 %	0.0 %	0.1 %	0.0 %	2.2 %	1.7 %	9.7 %	7.7 %	9.5 %	0.0 %	2.7 %
	100.0 %	4.6 %	11.8 %	1.0 %	21.5 %	13.0 %	19.0 %	15.4 %	9.9 %	2.6 %	1.1 %

	Total	1.8	3.5	5	7	10	14	18	21	24	28
EU	58.5 %	38.6 %	58.8 %	86.0 %	57.9 %	56.4 %	57.3 %	66.4 %	69.2 %	44.8 %	5.6 %
AS	3.4 %	0.2 %	2.9 %	1.4 %	4.4 %	5.8 %	6.1 %	0.8 %	0.4 %	0.1 %	0.2 %
AF	0.7 %	0.1 %	0.4 %	0.6 %	0.6 %	0.6 %	0.8 %	0.9 %	1.0 %	1.4 %	1.7 %
NA	34.0 %	59.9 %	35.1 %	12.0 %	33.0 %	34.4 %	33.1 %	28.7 %	26.7 %	48.8 %	62.7 %
SA	2.7 %	1.0 %	2.2 %	0.0 %	3.0 %	1.7 %	2.3 %	2.6 %	2.5 %	4.6 %	29.3 %
OC	0.7 %	0.3 %	0.6 %	0.0 %	1.1 %	1.1 %	0.4 %	0.6 %	0.2 %	0.3 %	0.5 %
	100.0 %	4.6 %	11.8 %	1.0 %	21.5 %	13.0 %	19.0 %	15.4 %	9.9 %	2.6 %	1.1 %

southern part of the island in 1997. The volcano is still active and permanently produces ash and smoke so that the southern part is a restricted area and can be visited only with special permission and guides. Our hosts from "Gingerbread Hill", David Lea and his son, had such a permission to guide visitors and led us around. It was very impressive to realize how powerful mother nature can be and how small we human beings are.

Despite of the generally poor conditions our activity was quite successful. Even assumed "dead" bands opened up to Europe frequently. We easily achieved the targeted 30,000 QSOs mark and finished the DXpedition with a total of 36,780 contacts. We are grateful to all our supporters with special thanks to Jan, DJ8NK, and the EUDXF.

Sigi, DL7DF



## VP2MDL - Photo - Gallery



*View at the volcano Soufrière Hills. In the foreground the old capital city Plymouth fully covered by volcanic ash.*



*The 40 m loop attached to the fibreglas mast showed excellent results.*



*From left to right: DK1BT, DL7DF, DL7UFR and DL4WK in the restricted area during a volcano hiking trip.*



*VP2MDL QTH: TH6 yagi mounted on top of the antenna mast and a spiderbeam attached to the balcony.*



*Our antenna farm from a different perspective.*



*Not too far away – Redonda Island (VP2M) in front and Nevis Island (V4) in the background.*



*The tower is repaired! DL7UFR changing the steel guy wires. This should keep at least for another 10 years!*



*Manfred, DK1BT (front) and Frank, DL7UFR (back).*



*DL7UFR running a TS-570 and AL80A linear.*



*Wolfgang, DL4WK (left) and Thomas, DJ6TF (right).*



Leszek, SP3DOI, enjoying the pile ups.



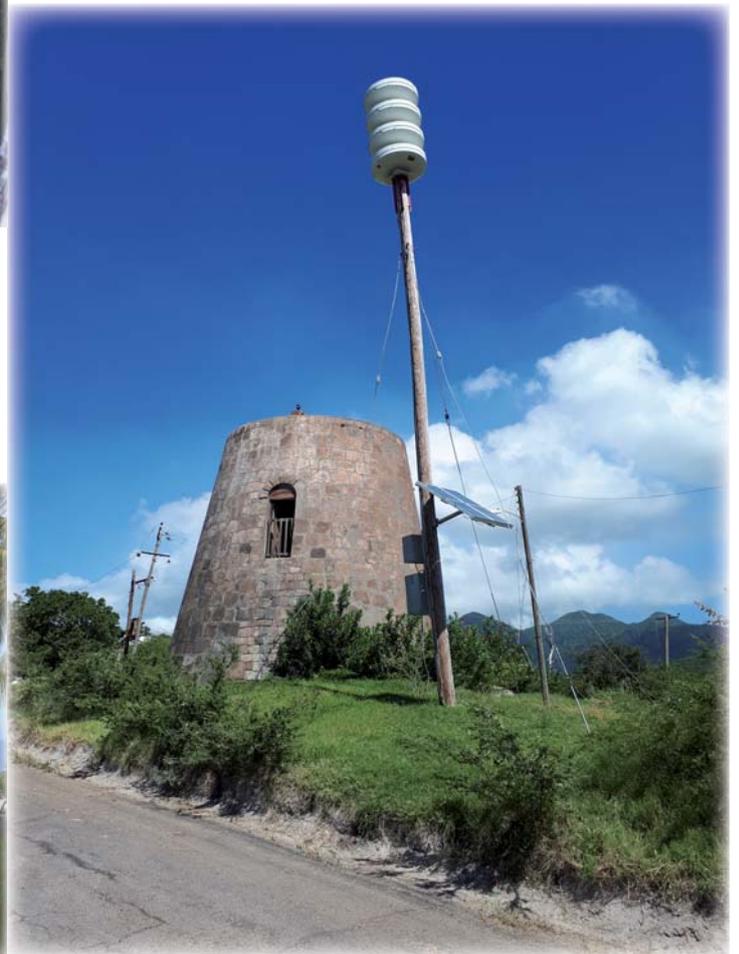
Sigi, DL7DF, handling the pile ups running a K2 with OX1000 linear.



Handover of the guest present. From left to right: XYL Clover (hostess), Frank (DL7UFR), Sigi (DL7DF) and David (host).



The VP2MDL team from left to right: SP3DOI, DL7DF, DL7UFR, DL7VEE, DL4WK, DK1BT and DJ6TF



Old sugar mill and in front the volcanic eruption alert system

# 3CØL & 3C1L - Annobon & Bioko Islands

BY YURIS PETERSONS, YL2GM

Hello friends!

Thank you all for supporting and following our DXpedition, this is our story and we hope you will enjoy reading it.

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At the beginning I intended this DXpedition to be a relatively quick reconnaissance DXpedition with a two-man team and with the main purpose to collect information and make new contacts for a larger DXpedition in future. The aim of this reconnaissance DXpedition was to get to know how to acquire operating licenses and to find possible QTH positions, to get familiar with living conditions and more, and of course, if possible to work on the air as well. At the end, this turned out to be much more than that.

## DXPEDITION DIARY

### Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

On a very late Sunday night, after a couple of months of preparations our DXpedition journey finally begins, with my daughter and son in law driving me to Riga airport to catch the plane the next morning. Our car is completely loaded with bags and equipment leaving space for just the three of us.



*DXpedition start - on the way to the airport*



## TEAM

Operators: YL2GM and YL3AIW  
Coordinator: Kaspars Pētersons  
QSL manager: YL2GN  
Graphic designer: YL2KA  
Webmaster: YL2VW  
Technical advisors: YL2KL, YL3DW

## EQUIPMENT

Transceivers: 2x Elecraft K3  
Power amplifiers: SPE Expert 1.3K-FA and Juma PA1000  
Antennas: 160/80/40/30 m bands – 18 m high vertical with capacity hat 20 – 10 m bands – Folding antenna 30/20/15 m bands – small vertical Beverages for receiving

### Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Around 6 o'clock I meet with Kaspars near Riga International Airport, we quickly rearrange our luggage and go for the check-in to our flight to SSG (Malabo), booked via Paris and almost 13 hours of flight to our destination.

Standard luggage limitation for this flight is two bags of 23 kg per passenger and a hand luggage. Our entire luggage exceeds those limitations and weights 134 kg in total and the antenna bag is oversized. Riga Airport Security carries out a detailed check of one of our bags and requests more information on the contents and their purpose. After explaining everything is good, we have to pay 75 EUR for extra weight and we can proceed. In each of our hand luggage, we have packed a PA, K3 and a laptop.

The flight to Paris with the transfer to Airbus A330 goes by very fast. Flight from Paris to Malabo is fully booked and there is scheduled one in-



*Riga International Airport*

between landing in Cameroon, where most of the passengers disembark and from there to Malabo we are only 10 - 15 passengers on the plane.

When we arrive at our destination, an unpleasant surprise awaits us – one of our checked-in luggage is missing. As a coincidence or not – it is the same bag that was checked by Airport Security while checking-in, maybe they forgot to load it afterwards or it was caught up somewhere in the middle. Message from Airport employees in Malabo regarding when we could expect our things back is very unclear – tomorrow, after tomorrow or maybe even next week.

The transport vehicle we had booked to take us to our hotel “Mango suites” was already waiting for us outside. After arriving we have a chat with the Senior Manager from our hotel and he tells us that 3C7A (LA7GIA) has also been here and operated from the very same hotel.

#### **Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Next day we took some time to look for possible antenna set-up places around the hotel and we realized that it was not very suitable. The roof was slanted and suited for antenna mounting. Next to our hotel there was an embassy and other surrounding areas were populated too, with no parks or gardens nearby.

#### **Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

In the morning, our hotel Senior Manager kindly helps us to find an English-speaking taxi driver and we drive to the Ministry of Communications and New Technologies. This is a very new Ministry and nobody there really understands what we want and what we are looking for, so we went straight to the Director of Telecommunications Department. During our conversation, he tells us to prepare an official application with detailed de-



*Mango suites hotel*

scription of our equipment (including serial numbers), and the necessary frequencies that we want to use. We complete the application in one hour and we are back with all other necessary documents a bit later around 2 pm, however, director is gone and we are told by the secretary to come back tomorrow at 10 am.

#### **Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

We move to another hotel that is more suitable for our operations and currently it is the best we have seen so far. Our friend Ferming, English-speaking taxi driver, is ready to help and assist us twice a day during our whole stay. Therefore, we keep driving around the city to search for the perfect place for our operations.

In the afternoon, we set up a GP antenna and walk to the city to have a dinner and to look around. Shortly

we receive phone call from our hotel Manager regarding our antennas and he asks who allowed us setting them up. We arrive back to the hotel around 8 pm and several cars with representatives of different security services wait for us there. We humbly explained that we did not know that the rules are so strict and to solve this misunderstanding and to show our true and sincere intentions we immediately took down all the cables and antenna.



*Taxi driver Ferming*

#### **Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

At 10 am, we go to the Ministry to meet with the Director. This time we get some progress and information about approximate costs for the operation licenses. Firstly, I asked for a yearly license, but the price of that I better do not say loudly. Then we agreed on a monthly license at quite impressive costs, too. Anyway, we



*Ministry of Communications and New Technologies*

pay the fees and wait to receive the papers. The director is promising that they will be ready in the evening or on next morning. This makes us a bit sad, because we realize that tomorrow is Saturday. I even make a joke that I am not leaving the office and staying overnight if it's necessary to get the licenses. At this point, we do not have any other options than just to wait. Soon the first week of our trip will be over, but we still have not obtained the licenses.

In the meantime, we search for options on how to get to Annabon. We find out that for this week all flights have been cancelled and the next possible flights could be only on Tuesday or Saturday. Again, we have no other choice than to wait and hope. We also have to consider that not only getting to Annabon could be difficult, but getting back as well.

**Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**

In the morning, I call the Director and he informs me that the Minister has signed our licenses and now they are on the way to us from Bata. The best-case scenario we will get them on Monday.

We have some time so we continue to look around for a hotel that would be more suitable for our operations. The nearest city is Luba, 50 km away from the ocean. The bus service takes us right to a very beautiful hotel called "Nautico" which is located on the very shore of the ocean. After having lunch we try to find someone from the hotel administration and we express our wishes. We look around the territory. Unfortunately, the only available free field is on the shore of the ocean, but in a few hours, it will be under water by the high tide. The roof is not very suitable for installing antennas because of the inclined tiny roof. The administrator of the hotel is very responsive and ready to support our activities, but we have to decline this option.

The locals advised us to visit the next hotel "Trokadero" to search for a more suitable place. After an hour of walking, we realize that we did not ask how far the hotel was and we decide to return. We catch a taxi and the driver tells us that it is 9 km away from the city and he drives us there. During the way he shows us some more hotels, unfortunately none of them fits our requirements, either the territory is very limited or there is no garden, park or field where to set up

the antennas. In general, there is no processed land or planted gardens around houses, only a fence and a jungle or another neighbor's house.

In the evening, we call the Director again and he informs us that the licenses have arrived and that only some stamps have to be placed onto the documents. We agree on a meeting in his office on Monday 10 am. With big hope we return to our hotel in Malabo and wait for Monday morning.

**Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**

In the morning we go to the Ministry for our licenses. The director awaits us there with a letter and our call-signs - 3CØL for Annobon and 3C1L for Malabo. The formalities take about 2 hours and the result is successful. We also made good friends with the Ministry who is willing to help us in future and who we can call in case we will run into problems. We take a couple of pictures while saying goodbye and leave.



*Director*

Our friend Ferming reminds us that we still have to inform the local police about our operations before we start to work. In the police HQ we visit multiple offices with our case and nobody is willing to give accept. I insist that we have to solve this today and we cannot wait for additional written approvals from the Ministry, my persistence gives results and we visit the Secretary Cabinet, where our papers are approved and the permission to operate is granted.

Then we go back to the hotel to show the approved papers to the hotel owner and start setting up antennas. He is not there and through phone call, he promises to come in a few hours. He gets here around 8 pm and during our conversation he starts to ask specific questions - what benefits he will have! We realize that we won't be able to set up antennas on the roof tonight, so we decide to continue this conversation in the morning. For now, we are able only to set up our GP near the hotel. 3C1L makes the first QSO with ND9G on 17 m.

**Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**

Until noon, we manage to make around 1,500 QSOs. We receive a phone call from our friend Jonny (our taxi drivers Ferming's relative) and he tells us that it's possible to buy tickets for flights to Annobon. In twenty minutes time we take down the GP antenna, pack our bags and drive to the airport. However, due to bad weather conditions the flight is delayed until next morning. Anyway, the good news is that we have our tickets on hands and we hope to get to 3CØ tomorrow.

**Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**

At 7 am we meet with Jonny and drive to the airport. The weather con-



*With Alida our guide in Annobon*

ditions do not look promising and it rains without stopping. We wait in airport until 12 am when finally they start to accept the luggage and give out tickets for a special flight. Before the flight, Jonny introduces us to Alida, who will be our guide in Annobon.

After one-hour flight, we are in Annobon airport and the police takes away our passports. Alida brings us to the police station and explains to an officer who we are, but the passports are not returned yet and we are invited to meet with the Governor of Annobon on Monday. During the rest of the week there is a national holiday – Independence Day.

In the meantime, we keep looking for a QTH. The taxi driver brings us to look at a house for a rent. Everything would be good, except there is no place for 160-/30 m vertical antenna. We look at another place but encounter the same problem.

In the evening at our current house, we check the grid voltage and it fluctuates intensively so it's not very promising. Tomorrow at 6:30 am we plan to attend the local holiday manifestation.



*Grid voltage*

#### **Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**

Together with locals we participate in the Independence Day manifestation and during the parade we receive good news from the governor's office that he will meet with us on Friday. We are looking forward to this meeting because we cannot operate without his approval.

During day we keep looking for better QTH options, but we can't find any better choices than the one we already have. We also keep looking to rent a generator for daytime operations, when the electricity is turned off from 6 am until 6 pm.

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> day of our expedition since we have been in Equatorial

Guinea and I think we have managed to do a lot given all the circumstances – we received licenses, we got to Annobon, we have moved into a house. Could we have done more? I don't think so because this is Africa. The good news is that we have some good friends who are helping us.



*QTH 3CØL*

In addition, today is Kaspars birthday and our local friends greet him

with a celebratory lunch – grilled Annobon fish and side dishes.



*Kaspars birthday party*

#### **Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**

The meeting with the governor is postponed to Monday, however, we get the permission to start the operation.

Right away we set up the 160/30 RA6LBS antenna. In spite of all cloudy and rainy weather conditions we had before, the sky today is clear without a single cloud and the sun is frying us, the only saver from heat is a little wind breeze and sheltering in shadow. After a couple of hours, we

complete the vertical with radials. It is located ca. 100 m away from our shack, because it was the closest best suitable place we could find. With this little time in the sun it was enough to get sunburned, especially the skin on our legs. The next antenna we complete is the folding antenna just across the street.

On top of the electricity shortage during the day we also lose water supply and we can't have a shower. At least we had some bottled water

for drinking.

At 4 pm our local friend brings us a 2.5 kW generator. We test it and it can't even handle one PA with 500 W, so for now during daytime we operate only with a 100 W transceiver. The first QSO is made with DL5LYM on 14 MHz CW.

In the evening we are visited by one "friend" who tells us that it is his land and asks for a payment, otherwise we will have to take down our antennas. He asks for 200 \$ for 2 weeks. Our local friends participate in this discussion but we cannot find common grounds and we leave the discussion for the next day.

During the night we manage to work on 14 MHz, the pile up is very good.

#### **Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**

During the day we operate on 15 m with 100 W. Around noon, the land-owner shows up again and this time he is more reasonable and asks for 100 \$, with some bargaining we agree on 90 \$ and this problem gets resolved. Now we can continue to wire cables and tune our antennas.

After midnight we switch to 80 m and test the antenna with SWR = 3. We tune the Expert antenna and it works, but something is wrong. We go and check the antenna and it appears that someone has turned off the power supply for the command box so that the antenna is operating on the default band 160 m. We turn it on again and tune the antenna. Now it works much better. During the night we make 750 QSOs on 80 m.

#### **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

In the morning, when the electricity is turned off, we have made around 4,000 QSOs in total. During the day we use the generator and operate with 100 W on 20 and 15 m. After noon we set up the GP 30/20/15 m and work a little bit on 30 m.

A local fisherman comes by and offers us to buy some fresh caught fish and we turn him down by telling to sell the fish to our local friend and helper Alida, who cooks food for us.

#### **Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

The day starts with bad news, because after midnight one of transceivers stops transmitting. I consult with friends and we cannot find the problem, so I call my wife home and ask her to bring my other transceiver to Girt, YL2KL, so he can send it to Malabo via DHL. In the best case scenario it will get to Malabo on October 24<sup>th</sup>.



*Folding antenna*



*Chief Alida*

The Police chief gives us back our passports. After that we are on the way to meet with the Governor and we are accompanied by our friends Alida and Eduard. We tell the governor about amateur radio and our DXpedition. We also tell him about humanitarian aid program "Hams with Hearts" that is funded by radio amateur community and our plans to visit local school to give presents to pupils and first need aids to the school. Our friends Alida and Eduard will help us to carry out this mission by buying school things in Malabo and bringing them back to Annobon, because on the island there is little options and low supply on these things. The Governor also invites us to come back to the island in a year or two when the electricity supply upgrade will be completed and living conditions will be improved. In addition, on the island a new hotel is being built that should be completed in 7 months time. Sadly, he refuses to take pictures with us because it isn't allowed for politicians there.

Back at our shack more bad news came up. A non-successful generator start results in voltage fluctuations and leads to a burned transceiver power supply. We are left only with one set of equipment. These problems will be a huge lesson for our future DXpeditions.

During the night we continue to work on 40 m and make around 1,300 QSOs. A total 8500+ QSOs were made after 3 days of operation.

**Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**

Flights from the island are not regular and the next flight is also canceled. First it was told that the flight will be on October 21<sup>st</sup> and in that case we would have stopped to operate on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Today we were told that the next closest flight could be only on October 24<sup>th</sup>. From one point of view this is good and we can operate from Annobon for 3 more days, however, from another point of view we lose our plane tickets home that were booked for the 24<sup>th</sup> of October. We will have to buy new tickets and doing it so late will cost a fortune.

Until this day we have managed to make 17,000+ QSOs. Today we also started to operate on 12 m and managed ca. 800 QSOs and a little bit on 10 m. Our days have found its rhythm and routine. During the night, while electricity is available we operate with the 1kW PA and from 6 am until 6 pm



*Kaspars operating and the attempts to fix 2<sup>nd</sup> transceiver*

we turn on the generator and operate with 100 W which is the maximum power our generator can handle.

As usual, after noon Aida visits us with prepared delicious meals, most of the time its cooked chicken or fish with dressings and side dishes. Fish is a major food supply for people living here on the island.

Tomorrow I will go and take pictures

of the sunrise and the local fishermen going out onto the ocean for fishing. I also will collect some sand for our Italian friend Castellani and his sand

collection, which consists of more than 3000 sand samples from all around the world. I have brought him some samples from Iran, Bangladesh and now it will be from Annobon and Bioko as well.

**Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Very early in the morning Eduard and Alida make a sightseeing tour with us to visit significant places on the island. One of them includes the island mountain – an old volcanic crater with fresh-water lake in the middle, which is the main water supply for the island. It is surrounded by subtropical forests and for some time there has not been any rains and the water level in the lake has decreased, which is the reason of some water supply shortages we had. To get there we had to hike for an hour and it was challeng-



*Mountain top and fresh water lake*

ing. After that, we continued walking to the mountaintop and during our hike we ate some delicious natural mango fruit that had fallen from the trees growing on the path side. With the sunrise we reached the mountaintop and the scenery from there was

amazing. We took some pictures and spent there all day. In the evening we went back and reached the village when it was already dark. We were very tired after the hike, but it was worth it.



*Path to the mountain and mango tree*



*Ocean and fisherman*

**Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

After a good night rest we await Monday with the hope to get some news about our flights, but as usual, we get the answer "maybe tomorrow, maybe after tomorrow or maybe on weekend".

I also had to see a doctor to check my ear, because I lost hearing with one ear. After some cleaning procedures, it was all ok again. There is a new hospital built on the island, but its not operational because of electricity shortage, so for now they are staying in the old hospital until the electricity upgrades will be completed.

During the day we had some connectivity issues with the transceiver and computer, but after some time we managed to fix the problem.

In the evening we get some good news, the water supply has finally reappeared and it is possible to take some nice hot shower.

Twenty minutes after electricity switch-on, there are some major problems with the grid, the voltage fluctuates from 0 - 250 V all night and with these kind of fluctuations we cannot use our equipment. Let me remind you that on the island the power is available only from 6 pm till 6 am. During that time we use our PA and work with 800 W and all other time we use one noisy generator that can supply only 1 transceiver to operate with 100 W.

**Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

We take down the 18 m vertical and during the day we operate with the folding antenna hexbeam and the vertical on 30/20/15 m. In the evening, our friend Eduard picked up his generator. It was very old and noisy, but it was our only option and thanks to Eduard who gave it to us without asking anything in return.

**Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**

We pay a visit to the local school within the "Hams with Hearts" program and after that Eduard takes us to see Annobon`s most beautiful white sand beach called "Love Beach", which actually was quite close to us all the time but we did not manage to go for a swim there even once.

After that, we go back to our QTH and start to take down the folding antenna when we receive a phone call from Eduard telling us that we have only one hour left till departure of our plane back to Malabo. In a rush, we pack our equipment and antennas and while doing that we already see a plane landing on the island. Alida with

friends takes us to the airport where we see people gathering and waiting to board the plane. It turns out that president of Equatorial Guinea has sent his plane to the island because the Ceiba flight company is having some problems with planes. We were very pleased to fly on a presidential airplane.

We land in Malabo airport next to some plane hangars that are approximately 2 km away from the main airport and it has no transport available to carry us with our 100 kg of baggage to the arrivals hall.

Our friend Jonny meets us in the airport and takes us to our hotel.



*Presidential plane*

**Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**

All day passes by with the unsuccessful search for a suitable QTH and additional DHL shipment customs for the spare transceiver. The state officials want significant amounts of custom "taxes". As always, there are no responsible persons or officials to

whom we can speak and we are told to come back tomorrow. Saturday is Election Day and everyone is preparing for it. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> holiday that affects our plans.

**Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**

The first thing we do in the morning is to go to solve our problem with the

customs and it is unsuccessful again. After that, we move to another hotel which is located 50 km away from Malabo to start operate with at least one station. We found this hotel before and it was the best suitable QTH. It is located near the ocean coast with local electricity supply by 36 kW generators, so electricity should not be a problem. Until dusk, we manage to set up the folding antenna and one working station. In the meantime, the hotel administrator talks on the phone with the hotel owner to consult and finally our papers with the letter signed by the Ministry are accepted and green light is given to start the operation.

**Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

During the night, we make around 3,000 QSOs.

In the morning the hotel owner comes to visit us. He is very friendly and supporting our project. We tell him about amateur radio and demonstrate how we operate. Afterwards, we set up the RA6LBS vertical. The only problem is the little space available, but we manage to do it next to the costal slope and squeeze it in between the trees. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> operating day we have around 6,000 QSOs. Currently we are working only with one station and we are trying to resolve the custom problems for the second transceiver.

**Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**

In the morning I go to Malabo to deal with the customs to get our 2<sup>nd</sup> transceiver. Nothing goes as planned, usually the customs chief is out of office and I`m being told to come back tomorrow. This continues for four days and in "taxes" I have already paid close to new transceivers full value. At the end, the customs security representative tells me that it's forbidden to bring transmitting devices into the country without special permits from the state. I guess it would have been easier just to send the transceiver back home, however, with so much energy and money spent on this I tried one more last option, namely to ask the Communication Departments' Director for help. He is the man who helped us to get the operating licenses. I visited him next morning and told him about our problems and after 3 hours the transceiver was in my hands and I was on the way back to the hotel.



*Two 36 Kw generators*



*Vertical antenna between trees*

**Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**

The next couple of days we spent in a real resort, starting every day with a swim in the ocean, breakfast and dinner in a restaurant, and most important - operating on the air with both stations.

The remaining days passed by quickly and time has come to think about how to get home. The previously bought flight tickets for October 23<sup>rd</sup> were lost and we have to buy new ones for Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

The last QSO at 05:01 UTC was made with F8BUO. During the day we pack our bags, take down the antennas and we wait for the taxi that was ordered to pick us up at 6 pm. Two hours pass and no taxi shows up. We call the taxi company and they inform us that all taxi orders have been cancelled and they will not drive because of the elections on Sunday. We look for other options and around 10 pm we find a restaurant visitor who is willing to help and take us to Malabo.

**Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**

Our flight to Madrid which was scheduled for 6 am is delayed because the airport is still closed after the Sunday elections. We spend one more day in a hotel in Malabo and fly home on Tuesday morning.

**HAMS WITH HEARTS PROGRAM**

On Annobon we managed to visit a school only on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, which was one of the last days on the island and this visit had to be accepted by the school principal. Because of irregular flights to the mainland, it was not possible to buy all the things we intended, so this time we had to go only with some basic exercise books, pens, pencils and some sweets, all that was available in the local shops on the island. We visited the very lit-

tle ones, 5 to 6 year old pupils, who had just started their school journey in the first class.

Overall, we did not manage to bring a lot of materials if we compare what we did in Bangladesh which was mainly due to limited resources on the island and irregular flights (none) to the mainland. As one lesson learned, next time we will try to bring some first aid needs with us if possible.

**You can read more about "Hams with Hearts" here:**

- <http://indexa.org/hamswithaheart.html>
- [http://www.lral.lv/3c0l\\_3c1l/hwh.html](http://www.lral.lv/3c0l_3c1l/hwh.html)

During the 3C0L/3C1L DXpedition for "Hams with Hearts" program we raised 817 € in total and we spent 309 €. The left over of 508 € will be used for the "Hams with Hearts" program on our next DXpedition.



School visit



School visit

## STATISTICS

### Band/Mode breakdown 3CØL

Band	PH	CW	RTTY	Total	Total %
160	0	1,521	0	1,521	4.7 %
80	0	1,895	0	1,895	5.8 %
40	0	3,281	0	3,281	10.1 %
30	0	3,039	0	3,039	9.4 %
20	2,178	3,441	0	5,619	17.3 %
17	2,029	4,337	0	6,366	19.6 %
15	1,401	4,191	0	5,592	17.2 %
12	778	2,581	0	3,359	10.4 %
10	145	1,630	0	1,775	5.5 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,531</b>	<b>25,916</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32,447</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

### Continent by Mode 3CØL

Band	PH	CW	RTTY	Total	Total %
AF	95	148	0	243	0.7 %
AN	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
AS	264	1,389	0	1,653	5.1 %
EU	3,217	16,449	0	19,666	60.6 %
NA	2,591	7,325	0	9,916	30.6 %
OC	4	44	0	48	0.1 %
SA	360	561	0	921	2.8 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,531</b>	<b>25,916</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32,447</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

### DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown 3CØL

Band	PH	CW	RTTY	Total
160	0	62	0	62
80	0	69	0	69
40	0	93	0	93
30	0	85	0	85
20	80	91	0	107
17	67	95	0	96
15	81	95	0	107
12	32	77	0	84
10	22	65	0	70
<b>Totals</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>136</b>

### Band/Mode breakdown 3C1L

Band	PH	CW	RTTY	Total	Total %
160	0	1,366	0	1,366	3.1 %
80	0	2,445	0	2,445	5.6 %
40	0	4,985	23	5,008	11.5 %
30	0	5,412	622	6,034	13.8 %
20	4,396	5,865	396	10,657	24.4 %
17	1,469	5,281	515	7,265	16.7 %
15	1,913	5,322	517	7,752	17.8 %
12	0	2,409	0	2,409	5.5 %
10	0	677	0	677	1.6 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,778</b>	<b>33,762</b>	<b>2,073</b>	<b>43,613</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

### Continent by Mode 3C1L

Band	PH	CW	RTTY	Total	Total %
AF	105	177	20	302	0.7 %
AN	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
AS	608	4,050	269	4,927	11.3 %
EU	4,464	21,383	1,417	27,264	62.5 %
NA	2,307	7,374	317	9,998	22.9 %
OC	14	78	4	96	0.2 %
SA	280	700	46	1,026	2.4 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,778</b>	<b>33,762</b>	<b>2,073</b>	<b>43,613</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

### DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown 3C1L

Band	PH	CW	RTTY	Total
160	0	57	0	57
80	0	71	0	71
40	0	95	13	95
30	0	97	50	99
20	103	106	42	124
17	72	96	56	102
15	82	98	51	105
12	0	74	0	74
10	0	60	0	60
<b>Totals</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>143</b>

### Continent by Band 3CØL

Band	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	Total	Total %
AF	6	11	15	12	33	54	53	37	22	243	0.7 %
AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
AS	23	23	271	557	342	202	169	58	8	1,653	5.1 %
EU	963	1,111	1,607	1,750	2,537	5,266	3,430	2,190	812	19,666	60.6 %
NA	518	710	1,272	658	2,499	778	1,766	948	767	9,916	30.6 %
OC	1	3	10	5	15	4	5	4	1	48	0.1 %
SA	10	37	106	57	193	62	169	122	165	921	2.8 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,521</b>	<b>1,895</b>	<b>3,281</b>	<b>3,039</b>	<b>5,619</b>	<b>6,366</b>	<b>5,592</b>	<b>3,359</b>	<b>1,775</b>	<b>32,447</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

### Continent by Band 3C1L

Band	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	Total	Total %
AF	3	9	18	41	97	51	59	17	7	302	0.7 %
AN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
AS	105	334	860	1,349	1,469	277	480	42	11	4,927	11.3 %
EU	925	1,437	2,680	3,309	5,196	5,141	5,871	2,088	617	27,264	62.5 %
NA	329	627	1,312	1,181	3,553	1,656	1,133	206	1	9,998	22.9 %
OC	1	1	8	17	23	18	17	4	7	96	0.2 %
SA	3	37	130	137	319	122	192	52	34	1,026	2.4 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>2,445</b>	<b>5,008</b>	<b>6,034</b>	<b>10,657</b>	<b>7,265</b>	<b>7,752</b>	<b>2,409</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>43,613</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

## LESSONS LEARNED

We have to plan and bring our own power generator with us to Annobon. The only local 2 kW generator we could find was in a very poor condition and could not supply our stations with necessary power. During night time, when power was supplied through the grid, it frequently was unstable and with fluctuations, which caused technical problems to our equipment.

In addition, again I am very satisfied with the SPE Expert 1.3 K-FA power amplifier performance, even with grid fluctuations from 100 – 240 V it provided very stable output. This PA proved itself in our previous DXpeditions and it definitely is on top of my list.



## CONCLUSION

Instead of a 4 weeks DXpedition it turned out for 6 weeks. I find this DXpedition to be successful and I am satisfied with the results given the conditions we had. In total we made

around 76,000 QSOs. We gained great experience and we learned new things for future DXpeditions. With this article I conclude 3CØL/3C1L DX-

pedition and I thank all our expedition supporters. I also would like to thank our friends who supported our team: Eduard, Alida and our home support team.

In addition, I have some good news for those who did not manage to work us this time! We are planning to conduct one more DXpedition to Equato-

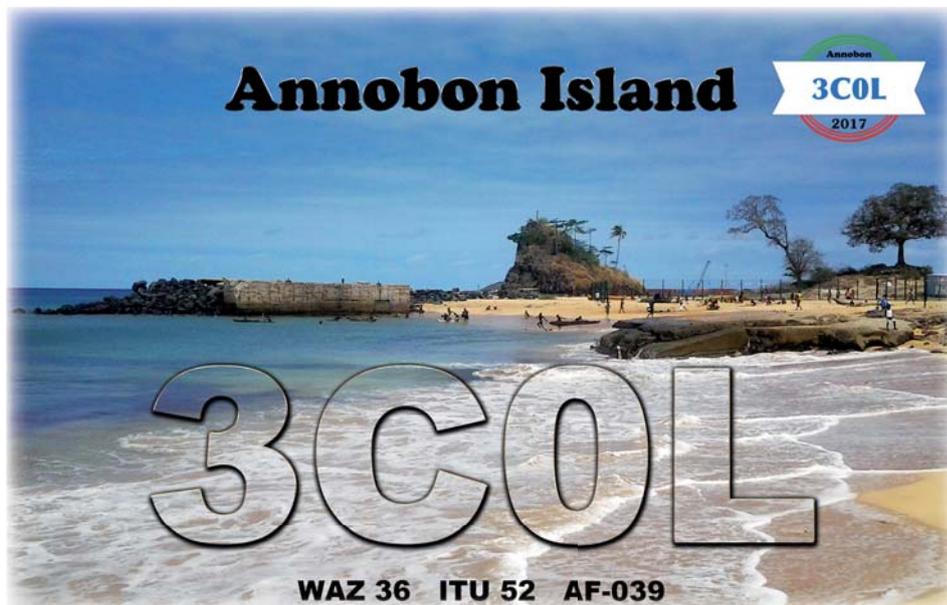
rial Guinea already this month, February 2018. More information coming soon on the new DXpedition website and as usual by email. I wanted to give you as much as possible information and details in this article, and that is the main reason why we could not publish this sooner and I ask for your understanding.

For more pictures and video clips, please see the DXpedition movie:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLN2O8zsXUg>

Thank you for reading our story and see you on the bands soon!  
73, Yuris, YL2GM

## QSL CARDS



# H4ØGC - Temotu, Santa Cruz Island 2017

BY STANISLAV VATEV, LZ1GC

Temotu Province, Santa Cruz Islands group (H4Ø) located in the western Pacific, is a very sought-after destination by many radio amateurs around the world! In 2016 and early 2017, Temotu Province (H4Ø) ranked on place 30 of ClubLog's most wanted DXCC list worldwide. Currently, it is still on the 46<sup>th</sup> place, needed by many radio amateurs especially on SSB. The H4ØGC DXpedition in 2017 was my second activation of this rare DXCC entity. My first activation was from Lata, Nendo Island (OC-100), between 4<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of October

2016. Since I was already familiar with the local circumstances the organization of the H4ØGC DXpedition 2017 went without any surprises. However, this time I had a serious commitment - besides the HF activation I had to carry out a humanitarian mission under the auspices of INDEXA and with the generous participation of CDXA & CDXF, Kontrax Ltd. and Andy, LZ2HM. I would like to point out that all individual and corporate sponsors, as well as all amateur radio clubs, associations and organizations that sponsored me before the DXpedition were practically also participants in this humanitarian mission for which I thank them very much.

In October 2016, during the H4ØGC DXpedition 2016, I had meetings with teachers and students from the only high school in Temotu Province, the JCP College located on Nendo Island. About 400 students are learning in this school. Having been there before I knew which were their problems and needs. I thought the best way to help the students would be by providing 1 or 2 laptops and other school materials such as notebooks, pencils and pens. Unemployment in this province reaches up to 90 % of the population. Buying even simple school materials

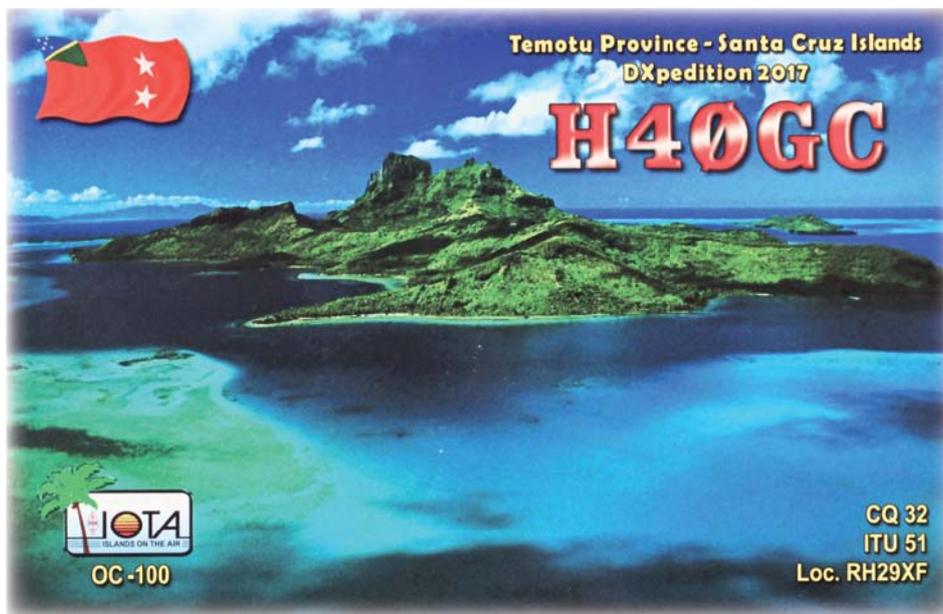
is therefore difficult and the school had even no computer available! I think that helping young people and investing in them is the best way of support because our future belongs to the younger generation. In Octo-

ber 2016, I had also meetings with the management of the local provincial office for disasters and accidents. They also did not have computers, but at the same time their work was related to the protection of the population living on the various islands of Temotu Province. I was aware of what we radio amateurs could do to help the local people. My vision of how to support the people of Temotu met the requirements of INDEXA, under whose patronage this humanitarian mission was carried out. I write about all of this because my understanding is that it is not enough just to travel somewhere and do amateur radio, we should also leave something from us behind, something good that the locals remember. This will make our wonderful hobby even more popular!

The organization and preparation of the H4ØGC DXpedition 2017 took

about 6 months. I had to purchase airline tickets, renew the H4ØGC and H44GC licenses until 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2018, book a room for my stay in the Lata Motel on Nendo Island, prepare the antennas and the technical equipment for the DXpedition. During these six months, my thoughts were what I had to do for the DXpedition so that I would not miss anything!

On 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2017, my trip to Temotu began with a 3 hour flight from Sofia to London Heathrow. I had 20 Kg of hand luggage and 2 checked-in





decided to stay at the airport. My luggage had to be repacked because of the different baggage limits permitted between the different airlines.

Brisbane airport is equipped with many luggage weights testers which helped me to save fees for over luggage. I packed my bags and paper boxes all night. All of my pockets were full of cables and different things I needed for the DXpedition.

On 27<sup>th</sup> September, after a 4 hour flight with Solomon Airlines from Brisbane to Honiara, I was arrived to the Solomon Islands. The following two days in Honiara, I used to get the original documents of the H4ØGC and H44GC licenses. I was honored to visit the local telecom office (TCSI) and meet with Mr. Aaron Hopa, the manager of the TCSI and get my license. Considering Mr. Aaron Hopa as a good friend, I surprised him with a wonderful gift for his wife - Bulgarian perfume of oil rose! The meeting with Mr. Aaron Hopa was very useful because he helped me to buy two laptops as a

donation to Temotu Province, pointing me to the best local computer shop.

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, the day before my flight to Lata, Temoto Province, I visited the management of Solomon Airlines. I met with Mr. Colins, a respectful and strict man. After a brief conversation in which I explained to him our hobby, he assured me that he would take care about this matter. When I left, he gave me his business card and said "If you have any problems with Solomon Airlines employees - show this business card, it will help you"! As a result I was allowed to carry the an extra luggage of 30 Kg of donations free of charge. It may have seemed exaggerated, but really this business card opened doors. Without being abused twice, I had to show this card and everything was decided for my benefit at that moment!

On September 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 h local time, the small 36 seated airplane of Solomon Airlines landed at Lata airport, Temotu Province, after a 1 hour and 40 minutes flight. I was very

happy because I was finally back to Temotu (H4Ø) and only a few hours later H4ØGC would be on the air!

The chief of the Provincial Disaster Management Office of Temotu Province, Mr. George Tego, awaited me at the local airport with a service car and I was quickly taken with my baggage to Lata Motel, where I had a reservation. Mr. Tego had secured 3 to 4 local people to assist me to mount the 160/80/40 m bands vertical antenna. The installation of the radio equipment and antenna testing followed. After several antenna adjustments I started operating on 40 m CW.

On September 30<sup>th</sup> at 08 38 UTC H4ØGC was already on the air. The first contact was made with VK3GA. After 2-3 minutes the pile up got big, which is no surprise as Temotu Province, is quite rare The day after, I installed also the multi band GP antenna for 40 to 6 meter bands including WARC bands. In the following days until the end of the H4ØGC activity, despite of extremely poor propaga-





tion, I was trying to maintain a good rate and I think I managed to do it. I was trying to spend as much time as possible on the air up to 18 to 20 hours per day. During the night, I used to work on 160/80/40 and 30 m and during the day on the higher bands 20/17/15/12 and 10 m. I frequently changed the operating modes CW, RTTY and SSB. With little rests for sleeping, eating, internet and some antenna repairs, the H4ØGC operation resulted in nearly 18,000 QSOs for the period September 30<sup>th</sup> 08:30 UTC to October 25<sup>th</sup> 12:00 UTC! Unfortunately, a technical defect of the linear amplifier which occurred on the 10<sup>th</sup> day only on 30 m, kept me from working at least another 1,500 QSOs on this band.

The propagation during H4ØGC activity were extremely poor. Nevertheless I managed to use the small windows of better propagation on the different bands to give many radio

amateurs the chance to contact Temotu (H4Ø) on one or more bands. Of course, more QSOs could have been made, but I was also engaged with the humanitarian mission during this DXpedition and that also consumed time and efforts.

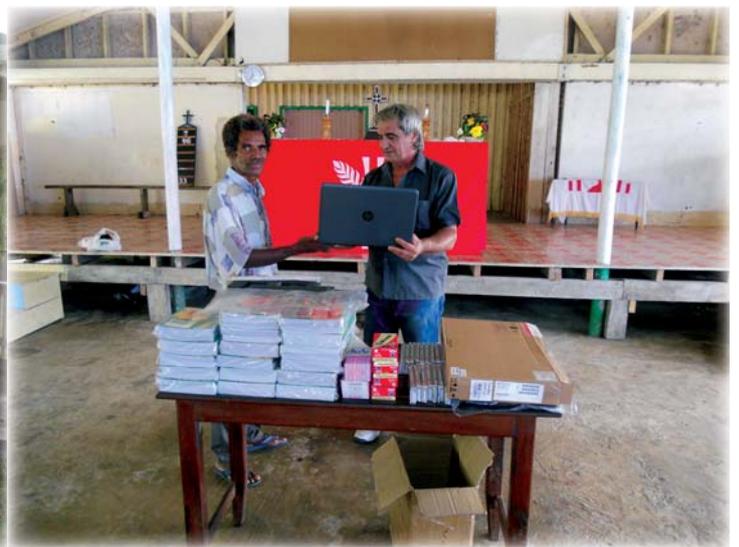
On October 6<sup>th</sup> when visiting the local Provincial Disaster Management Office, I donated them one new HP laptop, equipped with a computer bag, flash RAM and extended mouse. Mr. George Tego, who led the work of this office with great excitement and gratitude, accepted this donation and only minutes later he began to work with the new computer. I wanted to highlight the fact that the 3 employees working for this important and responsible unit are often making trips to Reef Island and other islands of Temotu Province, so I am sure that this donation will help them carry out their daily duties. The main humanitarian activity during the H4ØGC DXpedi-

tion 2017 was dedicated to the local the JCP College with its 400 students. At this school children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade study according to the local educational system. In order to study on the college they must first have completed a primary school (grades 1 to 4) which is also exists in Lata.

The students visiting the JCP College are coming from different Temotu Province islands.

The College is located at the other end of Nendo Island. The only way to get to this part of the island is by motorboat. The journey from Lata to there takes 40 minutes in one direction. The JCP College visit was planned and coordinated with the College's management for 11:00 h on October 12<sup>th</sup>. In order to be safely transported to college, I got in touch with the chairman and Mayor of Nendo Island. I told him that I needed his help and cooperation. It turned out that the Mayor is the custodian





of JCP College and that he is also the chairman of his council. He organised a motor boat owned by the municipality for me to get to the college. The chairman and Mayor of the island was fascinated from the upcoming donation to JCP College and he said that they were impressed by this humanitarian action, which I explained was under the auspices of INDEXA, CDXA & CDXF and Kontrax Ltd - Karlovo, Bulgaria. The donation to JCP College consisted of one new HP laptop including accessories, 400 notebooks, 400 pens, 400 pencils, folders, markers, sharpeners and other school supplies. The boat trip to the JCP College was successful, although the ocean was not very quiet this day. After my arrival a meeting was held with students and college teachers in the local church. The meeting began with the performance of Temotu's anthem by college students. I will remember this moment forever with the students singing the hymn and me and the teachers standing still and listening to

this brilliant performance. It was really impressive! Having introduced to the students the purpose of my visit, the college director gave me the floor. I explained to them what our hobby is about and what the purpose of radio amateur organizations and clubs is and that some of them do not only support radio amateurs but also humanitarian activities in different parts of the world. At this meeting I was asked many questions concerning our hobby, life and work in Bulgaria. I saw that my responses were interesting to those youngsters and students from JCP College. They asked me where Bulgaria is located, what I have studied, whether I have a family, what my job is and many other things. Keeping in mind that most of Temotu residents spend their lives without visiting other countries, I answered their questions to the fullest. At the same time, I firmly told them that they must believe in success and struggle to achieve more. I told them that it all depends on them and that

they also have to target for a higher education in order to get a good profession, find a good job and be able to work and visit other countries. I will never forget those youngsters and their interest in how other people live. The meeting at JCP College lasted for about 3 hours. When I left with the boat back to Lata I was farewelled by the students with an unforgettable "Stan, come back here!". The students did not hide their satisfaction and sympathy for me. Getting off with the boat, I heard their good bye voices for a long time!

By preliminary plan the H4ØGC DXpedition 2017 should finish on October 20<sup>th</sup>. My return to Bulgaria had to take place after a series of flights starting from Lata, Temotu Province to Honiara, Solomon Islands. The first flight had to be at 13:00 h local time on October 21<sup>st</sup>. In the night before the flight, I worked on 160 m and my last QSO was made at 14:20 UTC with WL7E. After I went QRT I dismantled the antennas and packed the luggage





for my upcoming trip. In the morning, expecting the taxi to take me to Lata Airport, I realized that because of an eruption of the volcano Tinakula my flight to Honiara was cancelled! At this point it became unclear when there would be a flight and also there was the risk of missing the other four flights to Europe. I was worried about my work, about my family and about my limited budget at the end of the DXpedition. There were no banks or ATMs on the island! I was most worried about my job. I have this work for 38 years and I understood that a delay of more than 10 days would not be good for me. I managed to get in touch with my relatives and colleagues at the work and I was more relaxed now! But my only concern remained - when would be a flight to Honiara? The first two days after the flight was cancelled I visited Solomon Airlines local office 3 to 4 times per day, hoping to find out if there would be a flight on the next day. But because of the ongoing eruptions of the Tinakula volcano flights were impossible!

So I decided to install the 160/80/40 m antenna again and continue to work on these bands until 12:00 UTC on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Just a few hours before my flight to Honiara on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 I dismantled the antenna again and packed my luggage.

Finally on October 26<sup>th</sup> the small plane of Solomon Airlines landed at Honiara Airport. I was more relaxed now, realizing that the nightmare after the eruption of the volcano and the cancelled flights was over! I immediately decided to visit Mr. Colin Sigimanu, the manager of Commercial of Solomon Airlines, with whom I

already got acquainted during my last trip. I hoped that he could help me with the missed flight from Honiara to Brisbane. Luckily, Mr. Colin remembered me. After explaining to him that the humanitarian mission had been successful, I briefly explained to him the problem of having missed 5 flights back to Bulgaria.

Mr. Colin immediately put me on the list of passengers for the flight to Brisbane on the next day! He told me that a first class hotel at the expenses of Solomon Airlines will be provided for me in Brisbane. Thank you Mr. Colin for your goodness and humanity! We parted like good friends. Afterwards I took a taxi to S. S. E. C. Guesthouse Honiara, where I had to stay over night and met with Bernard, DL2GAC/H44MS. It was an honor for me to meet Bernard personally. Since 1990 Bernard visits the Solomon Islands for several months every year and during these more than 25 years he has activated some very rare IOTA belonging to the H44 and H4Ø DXCC entities! We quickly found a common language. On the next morning, thanks to Bernhard's help, I contacted the British Airways representative and rebooked my return tickets from Brisbane to Sydney, Singapore, Lon-

don and Sofia.

Finally on October 30<sup>th</sup> after a long and exhausting trip I arrived back to Bulgaria, and on October 31<sup>st</sup> I was back to my home! At the end of this article, I would like to thank all the individual sponsors before and after the DXpedition contributed to the success of this DXpedition! I would like to thank all the members of the GDXF for their dedication and individual financial support after the Tinakula volcano eruption on Nendo Island! Thanks a lot for the support to Ed, EA8AXT, Ed, N4II and Bob, W9BF! Thanks to all the Foundations,

Associations and Clubs which supported me during this DXpedition: GDXF, SDXF, CDXA & CDXF, EUDXF, INDEX, WDDXA, Lone Star DX Association, SWODXA, NODXA, KC5WXA – Jake McClain Driver Memorial Amateur Radio Club, WWDXC, Willimette Valley DX Club, LA DX GROUP, GM DX GROUP, Clipperton DX Club, Mediterraneo DX Club and LYNX DX Group!

Thanks for the understanding and support by Spiderbeam, ClubLog, ACOM Ltd Bulgaria and Kontrax Ltd - Karlovo, Bulgaria!

Up to new meetings on the air!

73! Stan, LZ1GC (H4ØGC)



© by DL1EBV

# The New Member Story

BY MARTIN JONINK, PA4WM (EUDXF # 918)

It started all very early. Born in 1964, my interest in the magic of radio waves started around the age of 10 years. In 1979, at the age of 15, I joined the Dutch Amateur Radio organization VERON, obtained an SWL number and passed my novice exam in the same year. This was the start of a very exiting hobby. Shortwave and DX attracted me from day one. I upgraded to HF/CW shortly after, and obtained the call sign PA3DSR.

My mentor was Albert, PAØABE. I remember visiting his station very well. It was exciting to witness the regular worldwide 10 m contacts on the rise of the sunspot cycle in '79/80, when he was using his Yaesu FL-50 B transmitter and FR-50 B receiver combination. During these early visits I also met his daughter Monique. We became friends and got married a little later. Not a radio amateur herself, but a huge support in every aspect.

My first profession was in line with our hobby: radio operator in the Royal Dutch Navy.

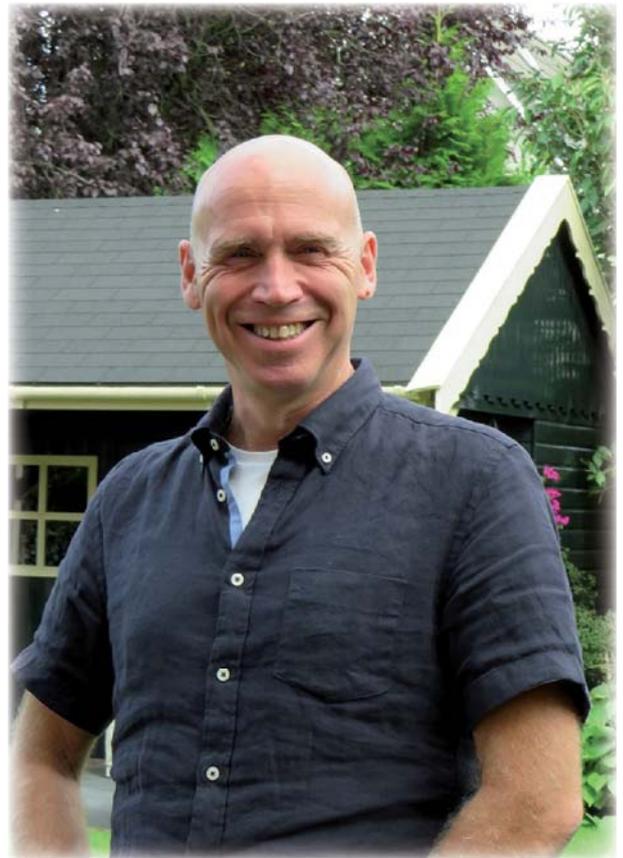
After 5 years at sea, I changed my profession to become a Drilling Engineer for a leading company in the world wide oil and gas industry. With these jobs, I was lucky not only to work DX, but visit many DX countries as well.

During the 90's I was chasing DX at a high speed and operated in many national and international contests. In 1998, I contacted Ronald, PA3EWP, and discussed possibilities for Henk, PA3GCV, and myself to join the Low Land DXpedition Team (LLDXT) on a few occasions. A few trips into the Caribbean followed. I have very fond memories of them all, but one in particular - our entrance in the 2002 CQWWDX SSB as VP2MPA from Mont-

serrat. In 2003/2004 I was assigned to a long drilling project in Turkey, where I was able to set up a semi permanent station and handed out thousands of TA1 contacts.

Back home things slowed down a bit after 2005. I was only two entities away from DXCC HR#1, KP5 and KP1, when the local suburban noise/QRM started to build up gradually. Slowly I lost interest because of the high noise floor. My logbook entries dropped to low levels over the next years, and only for the last two needed DXCC entities I took some holidays and dusted of the PA. Being away from home for about 7 months a year and enjoying the family life in between, contributed to the lack of radio time as well.

Today, I am still working as a Drilling Engineer in the international field, but with a little bit more time on my hands. I picked up on shortwave about two years ago. Recently, I replaced my trusty 20 years old FT-1000MP for a FT-5000. At the same time I invested in a 7 band Ultrabeam yagi. The old Force12 did a good job, but sometimes one just wants to have a new toy. Having missed out the last sunspot cycle, I realized that many band slots are still open to fill. So after DXCC HR#1, 8BDXCC and other achievements, I have set new goals and I am ready to go.



Martin PA4WM

This year I joined the EUDXF to contribute to the many DXpeditions taking place. Even in these years of minimum solar activity, I hope they continue to do so. After 15 years of absence, it was nice to return to the Ham Radio Convention in Friedrichshafen, Germany, where old and new friends were met at the EUDXF booth and at the DX Dinner. Hope to see you all soon either in private or on the bands!

73's, enjoy radio, enjoy DX!  
Martin, PA4WM

# The New Member Story

BY CLAUDE VAN POTTELSBERGHE DE LA POTTERIE, ON7TK (EUDXF # 939)

Hello,

I'm married with Carine ON7LX and we have two lovely children, Aimé (1981) and Eline (1985). We are living in a old farm since more than 25 years. I'm interested in ham radio since I was a little boy. In 1979 I took

part to the ham examinations and I became ON1AXQ. A few months later I passed the Morse code examination and ON7TK was on the air. The 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1980 I made my first QSO on the HF bands with Hugo EA8TE. Since that time I've been frequently

active on all HF bands. More than 47,000 QSOs have been made since that time. My favorite ham activity is DXing on the low bands (160 m & 80 m) and building antennas for my station. I'm also frequently active in various contests. From time

to time I'm active with my vanity call sign OT7U. I'm very happy that I can share my station with Carine and that we have a lot of fun on the station. The children are not interested in ham radio. But now we are hoping that the grandchildren will... I've always been active in our royal amateur radio association (member of IARU), the UBA (Koninklijke Unie van de Belgische Zendamateurs - Union royale belge des amateurs-émeteurs - Königliche Union der Belgischen Funkamateure). In 1983 I became president of our local radio club in Torhout (UBA/TRA). Three years later I was elected as District Manager for our province West-Vlaanderen. In 1995 I was elected member of the Board of the UBA. For three years I was the vice-president of the UBA and later I became treasurer (2004). Since 2007 I'm the president of the UBA. Together with the other members of the board we're working hard for a good amateur radio association



*Martin PA4WM*

and a better ham radio in Belgium. We're also working hard to get young people interested into the world of ham radio. Look for more information

at: <http://www.uba.be>  
See you on the bands...  
73,  
Claude - ON7TK

## The New Member Story

BY ROLF THIEME, DL7VEE (EUDXF # 940)

My name is Rolf. I am married with Heidi and we have two daughters. Born in 1950, my first contact with ham radio was in 1965 at school. At that time I became a SWL. Later in February 1968 I got my first license as DM3XHF.

Previous own calls were DM3XHF, DM2CMF, DT2CMF, DM3HF, Y23MF, Y23CO and DL7VEE since 1992. I am also a passionate DXpeditioner and participated in the following DXpeditions: 2 times HBØ/DL7VEE, 3 times ZB2/DL7VEE, ZP6/DL7VEE (2008), 9XØSP & 9UØA (2010), S9DX (2011), ZK2C (2012), 5WØM (2013), T3ØD (2014), V73D (2015), 4S7GWG/4S7RTG (2016) and MD/DL7VEE (2016). My last activity as XX9D to Macao was in February 2017. All logs are still open and colour QSLs are available via the respective QSL manager.

Personally I am interested in DXing on all bands in CW, SSB and Digimodes, collecting band points and from time to time participating in contests and collecting difficult awards. I am QRV from 160 m to 2 m on CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65 and FT8. QSL is 100 % sure via direct, bureau,



*Rolf DL7VEE*

LoTW or via ClubLog OQRS. For my DXpeditions I only reply to incoming QSLs. Please send me a mail in case of missing confirmations.

Since December 2012 I have again confirmed DXCC HONOR ROLL Nr. 1 in MIXED & Phone by ARRL. My current DXCC ARRL scores are (31-DEC-

2016): MIXED 339, SSB 339, CW 338, Digimodes 332.

Best 73s,

Rolf, DL7VEE

# The New Member Story

BY ARBO SIEBESMA, PAØAS (EUDXF # 943)

PHØAS, Arbo Siebesma, Kampen - The Netherlands (JO22WN)

I was born in 1961 and got my first license in 1982 (novice license). In 1985 I got my technician license (without cw). I am located in a suburban area with all it's radio disadvantages. Despite the location I am trying to work DX for my DXCC and collect band points using a 2 elements Step-pIr yagi from 6 to 40 m. On the internet you can find several videos showing my antenna mast solutions: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ph0as>

When contesting I use a 80 m wire dipole and an Inverted L for 160 m. I have a special arrangement with my neighbours to mount the wire antennas across and on their property. For receiving I use a Wellbrook loop. I like to participate in the big contests and of course our PACC. Not only as a single operator but in the past also with the Multi-Multi station PA6Z. Once I was on the other side of the pile up in Guernsey signing MU/PA9M with the PA6Z team. My equipment is an Elecraft K3S, KAT-500, KPA-500 and P3.

Hope to work you all as DX or in the contest



Arbo PHØAS

73s, Arbo PHØAS

# The New Member Story

BY TOMI HELPIÖ, OH2ID (EUDXF # 944)

OH2ID, Tomi Helpiö, Espoo / Lohja, Finland

Born in 1966, I was licensed in 1982 and received the callsign OH3ID. In 2011 I got additionally the callsign OH2ID which places my station more clearly to the Helsinki-metropolitan area. My QTH is in Lohja, about 60 km west from Helsinki.

I'm especially interested in working in the HF-bands using CW. I also enjoy the occasional contest. I'm very much interested in the amateur radio technology. I'm the technical editor of the Finnish amateur radio magazine "Radioamatööri".

As equipment I use an Elecraft K3 with P3, and my antennas are a Kelemen dipole for 80/40/30 m and verticals for 30...10 m. For 40 m band I've got additionally a turnstile antenna enabling circular polarization. For keying I use, besides a computer running the N1MM+-software, a Begali Magnum

paddle (#34) and a Microham Microkeyer

II. In 2015 I got inter-

ested in digital modes and I'm active especially in PSK and JT-modes, now also in FT-8. Awards: DXCC-CW (150), WAE-TOP-CW, WAC-CW, QRP-DXCC.



Tomi OH2ID

Next

## EUDXF NEWSLETTER JULY 2018

- Annual General Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018
- New Members; Life Members ...
- Sponsored activities and pending sponsoring
- DXpedition; ...

# EUDXF NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES

Dear Member/New Member,

You can find all of our newsletters which have been published since 2011 for download here...

(For download please click on the blue bar at bottom of the issue requested)

Older editions of the EUDXF Newsletter (July 2009 and 2010)  
will be available for download, soon!

The grid contains the following newsletters:

- Row 1: Jan 2011, May 2011, July 2011, Jan 2012, May 2012, July 2012
- Row 2: Feb 2013, May 2013, Jan 2014, Jan 2014 (Special), May 2014, July 2014
- Row 3: Jan 2015, May 2015, Jan 2016, Jan 2016 (Special), May 2016, July 2016 (Special)
- Row 4: Jan 2017, May 2017, July 2017, Jan 2018, May 2018

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

**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)

## 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.

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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>