



Newsletter

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Steve Thomas, N6ST, Editor

Northern California DX Foundation

JOURNEY IN POVERTY, A DXPEDITION TO NIGER

By Paolo Cortese, I2UIY/NH7DX

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The Country.

The Republic of Niger is the largest country in West Africa. The country is slightly smaller than the combined areas of Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico or twice as large as France or almost four times the size of Ivory Coast, West Africa. Niger is a landlocked, arid nation. It is surrounded by Algeria, Libya, Chad, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, and Mali. Eighty percent of the country is desert with its northern border stretching to the middle regions of the Sahara. The heat can be so intense that rain frequently evaporates before it reaches the ground. The remaining 20% along the southern border is made up



Huts outside Niamey

of dry to semi-fertile savannah (grassland). There are small-scale gardens along the banks of the Niger River in the southwest. The rest of the region is rain-fed. The southern border receives up to 750mm of rain in the wet season but, because of the dryness of the air, most of this quickly evaporates. Enough rain is retained to enable limited agriculture. Two-thirds of Niger receives less than 100mm of rain per year. Lake Chad has shrunk beyond the border of Niger to the southeast. The days and nights are hot except from December to February when the nights get cooler. Ninety five percent of the

population lives on rain-fed agriculture. Annual per Capita Income is US\$270. Approximately 94% of Niger's budget comes from Foreign Aid!

The Project.

In Italy, the first day of January is not only a holiday but it is a day when you are trying to recover from last night's giant New Year dinner (which usually is something to make void all the past year's efforts of your dietitian) and — at the same time — you're getting ready for the first monster-lunch of the new year.

I was napping in my favorite armchair when Silvano, I2YSB, knocked at my door. It is quite unusual having visitors on January 1 because most people spend that day with their family. This made me very curious to know what was going on.

To make short a long story: Silvano started three months before asking the Niger Ambassador in Rome for permission to operate from that country. He called this poor guy three times a week for three months and it worked because the Ambassador, who

probably was really tired of talking with Silvano, was able to get a FAX from the Niger Foreign Office securing the permission to operate. It was not a license yet, but it was close.

Silvano originally had planned to go with another friend, but this guy gave up so Silvano asked me to join in for a DXpedition to Niger. Certainly it was a strange request on a day when your eyes are dimmed by food!

While we were discussing this project, my friend Marcello, IK2DIA arrived to visit me. He had never been out of Italy and he had never been on an airplane in his 59 years of life. We involved him in our discussion and, after we demolished all his excuses, he agreed to join us.

Silvano is a real DXer who still spends nights on the air looking for something exotic. He has "them all" on SSB and CW (except P5) but he never has submitted his cards because he is afraid he might lose them during shipping! Now he's exploring new frontiers like RTTY, PSK31 and 50MHz.

Marcello is retired from the Electric Company and likes running US and JAs on the high bands. He doesn't pay too much attention to "new-ones" so he still needs many countries to achieve DXCC Honor Roll.

I was the most experienced of the three since I already had been to a few DX locations like Vatican City, 1A0KM, Republic of San Marino and some others.

We had never been involved with organizing a DXpedition on our own so we were worried not knowing what might await us in Niger. When you're at home listening to someone DXpeditioning, you seem to know everything... "if I should be in his shoes, I would do this and that... they should have brought better antennas... why don't they have more power..." and other pleasantness like these. To criticize is a sort of national sport for "armchair radioamateurs" but most of them don't even know how to start making a list of what is needed for a DXpedition.

Sometimes you can be lucky and so it happened. As some of you know, I work full time sorting

cards for the Italian QSL Bureau, and on January 3, just two days after our decision to go, while sorting a pile of US QSLs, I found a card from 5U7DG. We thought that there were no local operators in Niger but here was one and – look! — he even put his E-mail address on the card. That same night I sent an E-mail to 5U7DG asking if he could help and the next day I received his positive answer: he was available to make our life easier.

We decided it had to be "now or never" and better "sooner than later".

There is only one flight a week from Paris to Niamey so you can imagine that it is not easy finding seats without early reservations. The first available flight was on February 26 so our plans were made: we will be in Niger from February 26 until March 13, 2001.

We decided from the beginning to put on a low profile activity because it was our first operation and also because it would help keep down the costs. For these reasons we did not plan to take a lot of stuff. Our luggage consisted of a ski bag with all the antennas inside, a suitcase with all the hardware, feed lines and radials and a second suitcase with all the clothes and personal belongings of three of us. We put our transceivers,



5U7JK at the market

linear amplifier, computers and other electronic gear in our hand baggage.

We were only 7 kg over the allowed weight so we were quite sure there would be no problems at the Check-In.

Although everybody today talks about monster DXpeditions which set new records by raising many monoband antennas in remote corners of the world, we decided to mount an old fashioned DX adventure using just basic tools. We decided to rely upon simple antennas, relatively low power and our commitment to hit the airwaves as much as possible to give everybody a chance to work this rare country.

Murphy.

We were three operators and we bought three tickets, but we were four traveling: the three of us plus Murphy who spent two weeks with us and did not even split the costs! It happened that I got up at 3:00 a.m. on a very cold February morning, picked up Marcello, drove to Silvano's place, put all the bags on the street, locked my car in Silvano's garage, put the keys in his mailbox which cannot be opened from outside and started walking up and down the street waiting for the taxi that was supposed to pick us up before 4:30 a.m. to go to the airport. The taxi driver simply forgot to get up from his bed so we spent almost one hour on the street with very light clothes (we were heading to Niger!) and with a temperature below zero! Murphy was with us from the beginning.

When we finally got the taxi driver out of his bed, we set the new unofficial world speed record between Silvano's house and the airport. We were ready to go but Air France was waiting for us. Air France simply paid no attention to our checked luggage, but instead concentrated upon our hand baggage. So we had to pay over 1,000 US dollars and check two of our three carry-on bags. Paying over 1,000 extra dollars was a pain but having to check the bags with the radios was even worse. Air France immediately became our favorite carrier especially when they kept us four extra hours in Paris because they had to replace our aircraft which had a technical problem.

Daniel & Jim.

Seeing two smiling guys standing just inside the Niamey airport building, before the passport check, holding up a recent copy of QST was one of the most wonderful moments of our trip. They were

Daniel, 5U7DG, and Jim, 5U7JK. They made going through the Police check a joke and it was just as easy passing the Customs check. To be honest, we did not have any kind of Customs check, we just greeted the officers while other passengers had to open each bag to show what was inside. Jim Knowlton, KC0IFR and 5U7JK, was born in Nigeria and his parents moved to Niger when he was only 7 weeks old. He learned first the local dialect and then English. He has an African name too. He is known as Yacouba and has lived in Niger for over 35 years. Jim is a missionary for SIM which stands for Société Internationale Missionnaire (www.sim.org). Daniel Germaine, AE4RP and 5U7DG, is a SIM pilot and he flies almost daily a small 6 seats aircraft to move people and things between the various places which SIM operates in Niger and in the nearby countries.

Jim was the real engine of our activity. He was even able to get a crew from the Niger TV to visit us and put together a story for the evening news. The story was included four times in the news during the Tabaski holiday so everyone in the country must have seen us.

Here We Are!

We set-up in the smaller of the two SIM Guest Houses in Niamey. It's a four room house with a large common area, a complete kitchen and a living room. In the garden we raised a 2el for 10/15/20 that could be switched into a 12/17/30 beam by changing the traps. Then we put together a Butternut HF2V for 40/80/160, a couple of R7-type verticals and a 3el for 50MHz. The main station was an IC751A with an Icom solid state amplifier with about 400W output. The second station was an IC735 and the third transceiver was an IC706 that we used on both HF and 6m. We had two laptop computers running K1EA's software and a PK232 for RTTY with WF1B's software.

We were asked which callsigns we wanted and decided to go for something which had never been on the air before just to make the game more interesting. So we applied for 5U2K to use on SSB; 5U3T to use on CW and 5U5A to keep for

the ARRL DX SSB Contest that was falling in the middle of our stay.

When 5U7DG and I were in touch by E-mail, he told me that his radio station was available for us to use but he never told me what he had. Then I called him on the phone a couple of times for the last minute details and he finally told me that he had a TH6. This was great news because we were sure that it would become the main antenna for us. But that was not all. In his last e-mail, Daniel wrote that two amplifiers also were available.

The TH6 turned out to be really old and used to belong to a doctor who was serving in Niger over 25 years ago. After one of the periodic coups that happened in the early 70's, his license was taken and he was not allowed to operate any more. The antenna remained in the country and Daniel had permission to use it during his stay. In Daniel's little shack was an IC706 that he used mostly to monitor the SIM frequency on 10 MHz to keep in touch with the various SIM missions within the country. From time to time, he gets on the air but he doesn't like pile-ups too much. Just before our arrival, SIM bought two small Ameritron amplifiers. They were still in the boxes because whoever decided to buy them did not realize that they would be difficult for someone who is not a radio operator to tune up and use.

We took one of them out of the box, connected it to Daniel's IC706 and fired up on 15 SSB. The TH6 and 500W from the amplifier made the game easier for us so we decided to send one of us every day to Daniel's house to keep that station on the air.

Having Murphy with us all the time was a pain as you never know what was going to happen next. One day the Ameritron amplifier quit working and put all of us into panic. A broken amplifier in Italy or in the U.S.A. is just a broken amplifier, but a broken amplifier in Niger is a disaster as there is no Ameritron service in Niamey nor are there Radio Shack stores there.

Silvano tried switching the tubes from the second amplifier into the first one but the tubes were good. We had no test equipment except a VOM meter.

We were really worried because that amplifier was not in the list of the things which we brought with us from Italy so it would not be easy taking it back home to fix it. But ham radio means friendship and co-operation and we knew that Tom, W8JI, was the designer of that amplifier. Jim called him on the telephone and then we got him on the air the next morning with the help of N4ZC. It took three skeds with Tom to find that the problem was a simple diode that we were able to find in town.

Poverty.

We were quite surprised to find that diode in town because we saw how desolate life is in Niger. I wanted to name this article "Journey in Poverty" because we saw the condition in which these people live. Niger is one of the two or three poorest countries in the world and you must consider that we are not talking about a country that is in ruins because of a civil war. Niger is a relatively quiet place. There is not much internal fighting simply because there is nothing to fight for. No oil, no gold, no diamonds, no silver and no water. Niger must import everything so everything is really very expensive for people who only have an income of about 250 US dollars per year. People live in poor cabins, in huts and even in tents. The few real houses are all rented to foreigners. Goods are sold on the streets and beggars are everywhere. There are no large hotels and restaurants. The few small hotels and restaurants which do exist are patronized mostly by the many foreigners who are in town for the projects handled by international organizations and by foreign countries.

Any place is good to put on a sort of market. Street food is the only food that people can afford to buy so in any corner you can find someone roasting or boiling something that then is sold for almost nothing. There are several markets where you can find food, clothes and a few other goods. The largest market goes for miles, but it consists only of small booths set up side by side where sellers run after each visitor offering their stuff. Negotiating is a must here and prices can drop dramatically if you look as if you are about to leave the booth. But you don't need to have a booth to

sell something, a wheelbarrow can be enough to start a business and to move it through the town.

During our stay, the Moslem holiday of Tabaski took place. It is the greatest day of celebration in Niger. This is the one day of the year when even the poorest families in Niger will have meat to eat. It is a day of great celebration and charity, and everyone expects to receive a gift from anyone they meet. The streets of Niamey are lined with rams roasting in the tropical sun, and everyone is wearing their new clothes and going to greet family and friends.

ARRL SSB DX Contest.

Operating in the ARRL SSB DX Contest was not the main objective of our trip but we decided to take the opportunity to improve our QSO total by



IK2DIA, I2YSB, 5U7DG, 5U7JK and I2UIY.

participating in the contest with our third callsign, 5U5A. Unfortunately, the problem with the amplifier that I described before happened on the second day of the contest so we operated with power only the first day. On that day we logged 3,000 contacts, but made just another 1,000 on the second day. Fortunately, the path to the US was just wonderful and even working barefoot with the TH6 I could keep up a rate of over 250/hour.

DX Operations.

Everything went quite smoothly for almost two weeks. We were sharing the station set-up at the guest house and the station at Daniel's house trying to be on as many bands/modes as possible because it was clear that the vast majority of our callers did not need 5U for an all-time new one but mostly as

a new one on some bands/modes. Some stations were able to work us quite easily on many bands/modes like K3UL who made 19 QSOs (with no duplicates) on 9 bands. Many others are in our log on 7 or 8 bands.

We set a target of 30,000 QSOs which seemed quite reasonable considering our basic antennas and relatively low power. We know that we neglected 80m and 160m but our antennas were really poor on those bands and we heard almost nobody. We operated for 14 days logging a total of 29,600 QSOs.

Although Europe is much closer, we made 42% of the QSOs with North America, including 2,155 with the West Coast.

Ready To Leave?

Believe it or not, the Check-In at Niamey's airport takes place nine hours before the scheduled departure time. Remembering what happened with our hand baggage in Milano, we left behind some stuff to be lighter. This time, though, Air France paid no attention to our hand baggage but concentrated on our checked bags. We had a total of 13 kilos of extra weight for three guys and nobody but Air France would have charged us for that. They insisted on being paid for 9 kilos of extra weight and we had to pay over another 200 US dollars. But this is not all. About one hour before the scheduled arrival of the aircraft, Air France announced that the flight was cancelled because of usual technical problems. Another aircraft had to come from France the next day so everybody had to get back his own luggage because the airport has only three luggage-trolleys and they needed all of them for another flight the next morning!

The next morning we got up early and went to Daniel's house to put in the log some more contacts. We decided to sign 5U5A this time since it had been used only in the ARRL DX Contest and we had a lot of requests for the prefix by stations outside the USA. We made about 1,200 more contacts before we quit to return to the airport for a new Check-In.

So...

As I pointed out at the beginning, this was a low profile DXpedition and we know that with a bigger crew and more power and antennas we could have had better results. However, we are satisfied with what we did this time. It was our first experience and we were worried to face problems bigger than us.

Daniel now has returned to Tennessee and Jim is starting to build his radio station. The Northern California DX Foundation (thanks!) provided him a transceiver, he got an old tower from the airport and we will get him a beam so that in the future he



5U2K, 5U3T and 5U5A QSL Card

will be active on all bands: a sure multiplier in most contests and a chance to work a new one for newcomers.

Update.

We decided to go back to Niger in February, 2002 with a larger crew, more power and more antennas. This time we paid a lot more attention to 30/40/80/160m with 2 stations on the air every night. We set-up multiple stations in three different locations so we were able to avoid any interference. We got callsigns with prefixes which never had been on the air before just to make WPX chasers happy. You will find more news about this trip on our web site, www.qsl.net/niger-2002, including the log check for both 2001 and 2002 activities.

CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

by Bruce Butler, W6OSP
NCDXF Director & Treasurer

The events of September 11, 2001 have caused all of us to reevaluate many aspects of our lives. Many of us, I am sure, have made donations of various amounts to the many relief agencies involved. While there is tremendous need for both public and private assistance involved in the World Trade Center disaster, we, the NCDXF Board, wanted to remind the recipients of this Newsletter that the NCDXF also needs your ongoing support to continue our funding efforts involving the many DX activities for which we continue to receive requests. Our over 25 years of activities can only continue with each and everyone's assistance.

Almost every QSL card you receive from DXpeditions and many individual hams includes the logo of NCDXF. Almost every expedition, both rare and semi-rare, receives some funding from NCDXF. This is because you, our members, continue to provide their support. If you have not contributed yet this year, please consider doing so. If you have contributed, please think about some additional funding before the end of the year.

Thank you very much!

HAVE HAM EQUIPMENT YOU NO LONGER NEED OR USE? WHY NOT DONATE IT TO THE FOUNDATION?

If you have any ham gear you no longer need, how about donating it to NCDXF? The donation will provide a U.S. taxpayer with a tax write-off and will assist the Foundation in raising additional funds. When the donated equipment is sold, the revenue generated will enhance NCDXF's ability to support your interest...DX!

If you have anything you are willing to donate, contact us any way that is convenient for you. We will arrange to get the equipment and issue you the written receipt needed to comply with the IRS's documentation requirement.

Thanks for helping THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX FOUNDATION.

Chuck, N6OJ

NCDXF's Donated Equipment Manager and Board Member.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX FOUNDATION

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Editor's Note: NCDXF published only one issue of the Newsletter in calendar year 2001 and it is labeled "Spring, 2001". There was no Autumn, 2001 issue, so for those of you who have asked be assured you have not missed anything. With this issue we hope to return to our regular publication schedule of Spring and Autumn each year.



BIG HITTERS 2001 CONTRIBUTIONS

The NCDXF appreciates each and every donation it receives. As a matter of Board policy, no one is precluded from membership regardless of the amount given. We do, however, wish to particularly recognize those donors who in 2001 contributed \$100 or more:

\$3000 or more

WB6ZUC

\$1000 or more

W6OSP, K6RIM, Northern California DX Club, Southern California DX Club, N6TQS, and W6EEN.

\$500 or more

W6EUF, K6ANP, W6OAT, Anonymous, and K6IPV.

\$200 or more

Central Arizona DX Assn, K6UM, KI6T, NW6P, W5ZPA, W6RW, AA6IR, Redwood Empire DX Association, K6TMB, K8GG, N1CYA, W6JZH, and W6VTK.

\$100 or more

W6WKE, Mother Lode DX/Contest Club - K6AO, K7BV, N7DV, WA6TJM, AJ6V, K8DD, KE6ZSN, KQ6RH, N6OYW, I4-10110, JA1EM, AD5A, AG0AT, Delta DX Association, DJ7CY, DL2VPO, HB9BFG, JR2KDN, K2PLF, K5KR, K6BTT, K6FO, K6GFJ, K6KR, K6MD, K6RK, K6SQL, K6TA, K8HC, K9AJ, KA6C, KA6W, KG6S, KI6WF, KQ6MW, LU2AH, N2JLK, N4JJ, N6AD, N6FUP, N6OL, N6QI, N7NG, NI6T, OH0XX, OK2BNC, OZ7SM, RZ3AA, W0GJ, W1LW, W1PNR, W2JGR, W4AI, W4DK, W4WJ, W4ZRZ, W5WT, W5ZE, W6EJJ, W6ISQ, W6QEU, W6RT, W6SR, W7ACD, W7HUY, W9CEO, W9UOM, WA6OXX, and WK6E.



QRV FROM NAURU AND KIRIBATI

By Mike Noertemann, DF8AN

It was a late summer day last year when I sat down at my station and dreamed again of going to a rare DX country. During the last few years I have been QRV with a number of exotic callsigns: 9N1AN, T88AN, V85MN, XW8KPL/DF8AN, 5W1AN, A35MN, ZK1FAN, V63AJ, 5V7MN and others. Once you are on the other side of the pile-ups and have caught the fever of working thousands of stations, you will never forget these times. Each year there should be some new countries – that's my way of life and I save every dime to go back to DX-land.

I looked at the globe and found a place where we wanted to go. We, that's my YL Marianne and me. She isn't a ham so we have a gentlemen's agreement: amateur radio and relaxing – that will be okay.

So I found Nauru, an eight kilometer long by three kilometer wide island somewhere in the south Pacific. It was hard to find any written travel guide about Nauru. Nobody knows it – except radio amateurs and people who know about the large phosphate fields in the middle of the island. There was some information on the internet and an airline, Air Nauru, which flies from Sydney to the island.

I thought our second QTH should be a much nicer place for swimming, snorkeling and relaxing, so we decided to go to Kiribati, too. I remember the Kiribati stand there at the EXPO, the world's exhibition at Hannover last year. There was a lonely, small man who gave me a brochure about his little islands, with a smile on his face when he told me about white sand, colorful fishes and friendly people – far away from the tourism industry.

Days and months passed without getting any answers to my letters. Then, one week before leaving Germany, I received a letter from the Australian communications authority including my VK2IFB callsign, the same one which I had used in 1996.

We reached Sydney on 8 March 2001 and booked a flight to Nauru on 11 March. Three days in Sydney meant visiting the famous opera, having some nice fish meals at Wollongong, visiting the skyscrapers at Darling Harbour and a couple of shortwave contacts while preparing the station for the next two weeks.

On Sunday, 11 March, we went to the airport and checked in at the Air Nauru counter. We were the only

tourists on that flight and one of the crew members asked us what we wanted to do at Nauru? Late that night we landed at the Nauru international airport. A warm wind blew, the temperature was about 25 degrees Celsius and many stars shone brightly. Welcome to the Pacific!

Our QTH for the next three days was at Hotel Menen, situated at Anabare Bay on the east coast of the island. We arrived there at 02:30 a.m. and got a nice room with a balcony on the first floor. Outside there were some tall palm trees and ample space for all of my long wire antennas in each direction. This is a real nice location, I thought, as I went to bed dreaming about the first pile-up.

The next morning, I went to the Nauru telecommunications office. The officer was surprised to meet another ham and, because he hadn't much to do, he filled out my license and gave me C21AN for a fee of 2 Australian dollars. I was happy, and a little later I was back at the hotel working on all the antennas. It was a real antenna field: a long wire for 160m through 40m in a north-south direction for stateside contacts, a trap dipole for 10m, 15m and 20m in an east-west direction for the Europeans and 3 dipoles for the WARC bands. And of course we installed a trap dipole for 6 meters.

I used the whole balcony as my radio shack. There was no problem with the hotel staff as they had seen many radio amateurs before. They just wanted to know where I would fix a beam....

It was 04:19 UTC when I called the first CQ on 17 meters. UA6LTI answered and gave me 599 and wished me good luck with the DXpedition. After that contact, a huge pileup erupted calling me everywhere. I went split operation up to 15 kHz just to identify all the stations. Hours later, the conditions changed and it was time for the Japanese stations. It was fun to work them: nearly no QRM, nice discipline and great ham spirit. And of course, I reached them everywhere, on every band, for nearly 24 hours a day.

Eight hours later, at 12:14, the band closed to JA and opened again to EU. That is when a lonely US station called me on 20m: N4NO. I was surprised to reach the east coast at this time and he was the first stateside contact. I had the choice: shall I work EU or shall I call stateside? I decided for the US boys and the log filled with stations all over North America: KROG, K9GY, N4VV, W5WT.... east coast signals loud and clear for the next hours.

After that, I called EU again and had a QSO rate of about 100 stations per hour. I closed that day at 16:39 UTC – that means 03:39 a.m. local time. I was so tired, but happy and successful.

During the daylight hours, I always had a noise level about S8 to S9. So we decided to rent a car and look around the island. Nauru's topside is a burning wasteland of searing white rock, bizarre coral pinnacles and ugly, deep pits. We went to the plateau where it was very hot and dusty; the phosphate mining fields there looked like a moonscape. Most of the day-time we spent swimming at Anabare Beach. In the afternoon, at sunset time, I was back on the air.

Very often I tried 160 and 80 meters but without success. I made no contacts on those two bands, and even on 40 meters I reached just a few Asian stations. So, I spent most of the time on the WARC bands and switched between CW and SSB nearly every hour. Many stations got their two-mode contacts on two or three bands in just a few hours and also the low power stations had a chance to reach me.

On Thursday, 15 March, we left Nauru for Kiribati. Our flight left at 05:00 a.m. local time and I was QRV right until we had to leave. But we planned, on the way back to Sydney, to return to Nauru for one more night and I hoped to reach some more stations at that time.

After a one hour flight over the Pacific we saw Tarawa atoll. Kiribati is more a sprinkling of far flung coral atolls than dry land and more deep blue ocean than sandy beaches. And, of course, more coconut trees than people. Tarawa, Kiribati's capital, welcomes travelers as rarely seen curios. We stayed at Hotel Otintaai – a nice hotel situated directly at the lagoon. Again, we had a nice room with a large balcony which we changed into a radio shack right after our arrival. I liked to sit outside at the station and look down towards the lagoon and see all the antennas. In the background I saw children playing in the sea, fishermen and their boats and a windy breeze with warm 29 degrees C the whole day.

A little later we took one of the mini-buses which circle around the main islands every few minutes. The larger islands are interconnected with small bridges and roads. The outer islands can only be reached by boat.

We went to Betio Island, about 30 minutes by bus, which is the capital town where all the ministries are located. There we met Mote, T30MT who issues the Kiribati amateur radio licenses. He is a real friendly

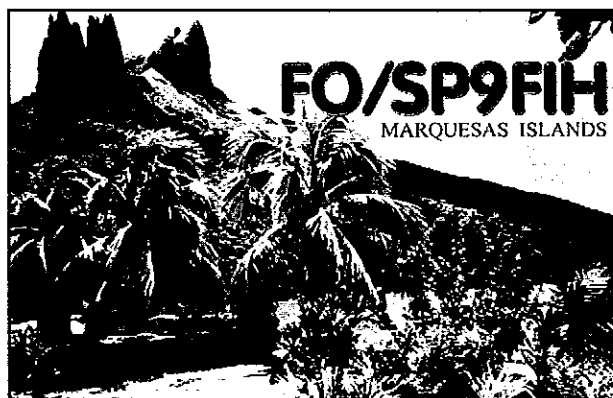
man and asked me which call I preferred. I asked for T30AN and got it. Normally the license fee is 100 dollars for a one year period, but Mote laughed and said it would be okay to get a one month license for a one month fee. I paid the 8 dollars and got my call.

That evening I started calling CQ on 15 meters and JF1CZQ, who gave me the first answer, was happy to reach me from my new location. The band was open in every direction. It was wonderful — HL5XF followed by W9XQ followed by RA3DEJ. Minutes later I got a call from 9Y4VU. All stations were loud and clear. All the antennas were doing a good job and even on 80 meters I reached a lot of US stations. I got 599 reports from W0YG and N4KG on that band with just my simple long wire.

We had a wonderful time on Tarawa taking boat trips to the outer islands and seeing colorful corals and reef fishes. We were invited by some locals to go watch the young girls perform native dances.

The days and nights passed quickly and then one day I got a message from Air Nauru saying that we should visit them. A friendly young girl told us our flight to Nauru had been canceled. Of course they have just one airplane so there was no other chance to fly back on the schedule we had booked. But there were some free seats on the 23 March flight going to Sydney. I was a little sad that I lost one day and night in Nauru because I had told many stations I would be back in Nauru on 22 March to work them. Unfortunately, we had no other choice, but we did get one day more in T30. That day, I was on the air nearly non-stop. On Friday, 23 March we left Kiribati, an island with friendly people who opened their hearts to us. We will never forget those days at Tarawa, a small atoll in the vastness of the Pacific.

Special thanks to my main sponsors, the Northern California DX Foundation, the European DX Foundation and the Clipperton DX Club, for their support.



D68C Comoros DXpedition

By: Steve Wilson, G3VMW

Did you work the D68C DXpedition to the Comoro Islands? This amazing DXpedition by the British Five Star DXers Association made a total of 168,731 QSOs, a new world record. Steve G3VMW was one of the D68C team and he gives the low down on the expedition here.

Latakia, Syria:

In mid-2000, I got a mysterious email from fellow D68C team member John G3WGV asking me if I would be interested in joining a DXpedition, probably to Latakia, Syria YK. At this point, the exact details of the expedition were still very much in negotiation. However, the core group of the DXpedition were the guys who had been to Spratly Island as 9MØC in 1998 and they had formed the Five Star DXers Association. Wow! You bet I was interested. When could we go - next week please?

After a week or two, it was decided that Syria was not to be. There was already an operation planned by a team from the USA (YK9A) at exactly the time we were planning to go (February 2001). The Syrian authorities required that we limit our group to a small team of only 12 and operate from the Syrian Telecommunications building in central Damascus, which wasn't what we had in mind. Much research followed and the Comoro Islands, D68 were chosen as the destination. High on the 'Wanted List' in the USA and many other parts of the world, D68 looked like a pretty good location for a DXpedition.

Below: The D68C team photograph



The Crew:

D68C was no ordinary DXpedition – right from the start, our aim was to beat the world DXpedition record of 96,000 QSOs set by the ZL9CI crew. There would be 26 operators from G, GU, DL, JA, PAØ, SM, UT, W, 5B4 and 9H. Every operator invited to join the DXpedition had to be sponsored by a member of the core planning team and preferably be known personally by at least two other team members. It is very important to have team players on a DXpedition. Personal conflicts between team members must be avoided at all costs. It is all too easy for arguments to flare up when

so many people are confined together in such close proximity. We also decided to invite 17 year-old Mark MØDXR. Mark is a very keen DXer and is the RSGB 2001 Young Amateur of the Year. Mark was able to raise all the funds he needed through sponsorship. The savvy leaders of this DXpedition chose the crew wisely, and to my knowledge there were absolutely no personality problems. We all had a great time.

The crew for the DXpedition was Don G3BJ, George 5B4AGC, Neville G3NUG, Marios 5B4WN, Mike G3SED, Jeff 9H1EL, Steve G3VMW, Jens DL7AKC, John G3WGV, Kazu JA1RJU, Don G3XTT, Taizo JA3AER, Steve G4JVG, John N7CQQ, Nigel G4KIU, Rob PE9PE, Justin G4TSH, Hawk SM5AQD, Tim G4VXE, Victor UT8LL, Bob GU4YOX, Maury W3EF, Tony GØOPB, Wes W3WL, Shaun MØBJL, and Mark MØDXR.

Team Leader on the DXpedition was Neville, G3NUG, ably assisted by Don G3BJ and John G3WGV as deputy leaders. The management style on the DXpedition was informal and relaxed, but everyone was left in no doubt as to what they had to do. We had daily team meetings at 2pm to discuss the pilot's reports and the operating rotas. These were fun meetings with a lot of pleasant banter interspersed with the real business of the day.

Preparation & planning equals peak performance:

The level of preparation and planning that went into the DXpedition is quite amazing. Core team members were allocated "Kingdoms" to deal with different tasks. For example, Don G3BJ handled human resource issues and licensing. Neville G3NUG dealt with the logistics of getting all the gear from the UK to the Comoros – all 3,000 kg! Steve G4JVG was in charge of photography, fund raising and sponsorship for the DXpedition. Don G3XTT dealt with marketing and publicity - you may have seen the very informative bulletins he issued to the DX press. Tony GØOPB dealt with all RF issues and station construction. Mike G3SED dealt with all the antenna specifications and the layout on-site. John G3WGV had the unenviable tasks of handling the finances, writing the DXpedition manual and dealing with the computer technology. John also produced a color prospectus to attract commercial sponsors to offset some of the massive costs.

With a DXpedition of this size, we needed sponsors to help with equipment, antennas, shipping, QSL cards, etc. The list is endless. Without those sponsors, the D68C DXpedition would not have happened. Yaesu and Force 12 deserve particular mention. Yaesu supplied us six FT-1000MP Mk V transceivers and six VL-1000 solid-state 1kW linear amplifiers. Force 12 provided the monobanders and the 80m 4-Square arrays. Please check the list of our sponsors on the official D68C web site: www.dxbands.com/comoros. Here you can also see many more pictures of the DXpedition and read much more about D68C.

Logistics:

Three tonnes (3,000 kilos) of equipment were shipped to Moroni by sea-going container prior to the DXpedition.

Packing the steel container was a major job and several team members kindly gave up two or three of their weekends to make sure everything was packed safely and securely. The container arrived in the Comoro Islands just a few weeks before we got there on February 6th.

Antenna Fests:

All the antennas were built, tuned and tested before shipping at weekly 'Antenna Fests' held at G3NUG's house in Hertfordshire. The support masts were built then dismantled and all the guy wires were pre-cut and color coded to save time in D68. Miles of coaxial cable was terminated with PL-259 plugs and was then coiled up into 50m or 100m lengths. The Ethernet computer network was thoroughly tested and the customised G3WGV Turbolog logging software fully de-bugged.

Site Survey:

Back in September 2000, Don G3BJ (ex-G3OZF) visited the Comoros specifically to carry out a site survey. His mission was to check out the Galawa Beach hotel on the north west coast of Grande Comoro Island as a prospective site for the DXpedition. Don stayed at the hotel for a few days and took many hours of detailed video footage of the operating site and proposed antenna locations. The management at the Galawa Beach were very helpful and allocated us five beach bungalows, well away from the main hotel block. There was plenty of space for the antenna farm, although the ground was very hostile, consisting of loose volcanic rock, often covered with very sharp thorn bushes. Don's survey video was invaluable, since it gave everyone a very clear perspective of what to expect in the Comoros.

DXpedition Manual:

A comprehensive "DXpedition Manual" was written by John G3WGV and put 'on-line' for all team members to review. Why have a DXpedition Manual? Well, with a DXpedition of this size, it just becomes too complex for individuals to know everything about it. The solution is a DXpedition Manual – all items of useful information are held together in one place and are made available to DXpedition members before the operation starts. The D68C DXpedition Manual ran to 145 pages of information – right down to a detailed equipment inventory. It was an invaluable source of information and, for me, became essential reading.

Malaria:

As the time to leave for the Comoros grew closer, the D68C team members got the necessary injections for all manner of nasty tropical diseases and started taking the essential anti-malarial drugs a week or so before leaving. Malaria prevention is *essential* when visiting this part of the world. The mosquitoes carry a particularly nasty strain of malaria,

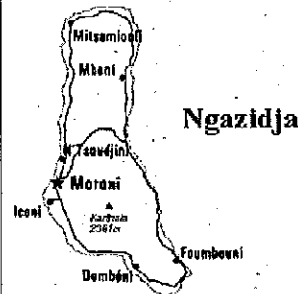
(Falciparum) which is resistant to the more traditional anti-malarial prophylaxis such as Chloroquine and Proguanil. The drugs of choice are Mefloquine (Larium) and Doxycycline – my preferred anti-malarial. I've been to some pretty nasty places, but those Comoro mosquitoes were the most persistent I've ever encountered. After the first day of antenna rigging, my legs were covered in mosquito bites!

About the Comoro Islands:

The Islamic Republic of the Comoros is situated in the Indian Ocean, between Mozambique and Madagascar. The islands cover 2236 sq km and have a population approaching 700,000. Although independent, there are still many links with France.

There are three large islands and some small coral islets. In 1974, the three main islands, Grande Comore, Anjouan and Moheli voted to become independent from France. However, the fourth island, Mayotte, decided to remain as part of France.

Situated in the tropics, the climate is always warm, with the hot, wet season running from November to May. The rest of the year is dryer and cooler. The climate is excellent for tourism, and the main island has holiday hotels, with air services from South Africa and other neighboring countries.



The island community is very poor and the Comoros government is interested in further developing its tourism industry.

We had a pretty relaxing time in Mauritius, which is a beautiful place, before leaving the next morning for an Air Tanzania flight to Moroni. Thankfully,

there were no further problems and we took our first good look at the Comoro Islands as we taxied over the island at about 5,000ft. Grande Comore Island looked very green and was almost entirely covered in palm trees. You could clearly see the tiny Comoran villages with houses made of concrete blocks and corrugated iron. Not a skyscraper or tenement block in site. The cloud swathed volcanic peak of Mt Karthala dominated the skyline and there was much evidence of recent volcanic activity. Huge craters pockmark the surface of the island and solidified lava, which has long since cooled, has left wide swathes of desolation, cutting through the jungle like giant motorways as they cascade into the Ocean.

Building the stations and antennas:

Tony, G0OPB, John G3WGV and Tim G4VXE set to work building the stations and installing the computer network in the beachside bungalows that we had been allocated. I don't think these guys slept for three days. The rest of us got the

antennas and masts ready for the 6am start beckoning us the next day. I was allocated the task of erecting the 17m 4-clement monoband beam on a 40ft scaffold mast. This was described as Project 9 in the DXpedition manual and there was a comprehensive parts inventory and a "how to" so it was hard to go wrong.

Next morning we were up bright and early. Dawn comes suddenly in the Comoros and by 6am it was fully light. All the rigging crews were ready to start a long day of building antennas. I was working with Justin G4TSH and Rob PE9PE. One slight problem was the weather – it was raining heavily! There was nothing for it but to get on with the job in hand - rain or otherwise. Most of us worked in just shorts or swimming trunks and just ignored the rain. You didn't notice it after a while and it was pleasantly cool.

Before long, completed aerials started to appear on the skyline and we had the distinction of getting our 17m monobander up in the air first! This was more of a tribute to Justin's skills than my own, but we all felt quite pleased. It stopped raining for a while and we learned quickly that this was feeding time for the mosquitoes. Before I knew it, my legs looked like a relief map of the Pyrenees with all the mosquito bites. The trick was to get some clothes on very quickly if it stopped raining. We soon learned! For the next three days, it rained continuously, but everyone worked on stoically and gradually the massive antenna farm was finished. We installed 17 antennas at D68C.

The 87ft Titanex vertical, which was right on the beach, looked particularly loud and proud. You could sense the excitement when the decision was made to hit the bands that evening at midnight local with eight stations. The stations were now close to completion – 20m and 6m in one bungalow; 15m and 40m in another; 80m and 10m in the third, then 160m and the WARC stations in the last one. G3WGV's logging server was working beautifully and each operating position had a Compaq laptop PC with a full-size keyboard plus a Heil Pro-Set and Bencher paddle. The shift rotas were drawn up and I was allocated 40m CW from 0400 local time or 0100 GMT. Better get showered, have something to eat and then grab a few hours sleep!

The QSO machine:

I read that ZS6EZ worked us on six bands in just 15 minutes. Operating at D68C was an awesome experience during the first 24 hours. The pile-ups were enormous and it seemed like the whole world wanted to work us. D68C must have been everywhere and judging by the pile-ups, no one had noticed that EA3BT and his XYL had just finished their D68BT and D68WL DXpedition from the very site we were now operating from! When that one was announced, it would be fair to say that we were not highly amused.

In the first 24 hours, we made 16,412 QSOs, which is about 2,000 more than the previous world record held by the FOØAAA Clipperton crew. John N7CQQ was the FOØAAA DXpedition leader and we wondered what he

thought as he helped D68C pass the old record. N7CQQ said he was the luckiest man alive because he had been present on both these DXpeditions.

Our peak hourly QSO rate in the first 24-hour period was 1,616 QSOs per hour. G3WGV's amazing DXpedition log server let us analyse the QSO rates in real time. After every operating shift, most of us made a point of looking in at the server room to see how the QSO rates were doing. John had thought of everything and it was a bit like Mission Control at NASA in that room. It was easy to check QSO numbers by band, by mode, by operator, by absolute total and you could watch the on-duty operators' QSO rates in real time.

We operated 24/7 in four hour shifts, usually with a maximum of two shifts a day, but sometimes only one. You could get extra operating slots by signing up for time on one of the WARC stations and this is what I did whenever possible.

The QSOs just kept coming and we could hear just about anything on HF, where there was absolutely no man-made QRM. One notable 24 MHz QSO for me was with G3XJS who was running just 200mW into a 2m collinear. Tony GØOPB was on 29 MHz FM one day and worked a guy in Los Angeles who was standing in a bus queue using a small hand-held transceiver. After a week or so, it was obvious that we had worked through the first layer of QRO stations and we were now working people with lower power and smaller aerials. There were many G callsigns in the log that none of us had heard before and we were delighted to work quite a few M5 and 2EØ callsigns.

On LF, it was a different story and the QRN levels from local thunderstorms sometimes made operating quite difficult, especially on SSB. Nevertheless, the rates were good, particularly on 40m, which for me is easily the best band. We found out after a few days that the 80m 4-Square wasn't working too well and that the big Titanex vertical was about 10dB louder. We never properly solved the problem of the 80m 4-Square, but we think the problem was in the phasing lines.

One of the phasing lines on the 40m 4-Square broke down and started arcing one night when I was operating. The sparks caused all sorts of QRM to the guys operating on the other bands who let me know very quickly with some colourful "TALK" messages on the network. Tony GØOPB and I fixed the problem the next day, which turned out to be a faulty coaxial phasing line that someone had stood on. The only other equipment problem I'm aware of was the failure of our 6m linear amplifier. The rectifier stack in the PSU exploded on switch-on and we had to 'borrow' one of the Yaesu VL-1000 amplifiers from one of the HF stations. Luckily, we had brought a couple of spare HF amplifiers with us and an old Heathkit SB-200 was quickly pressed into service.

Hawk SM5AQD was only with us for the first nine days and he really maximized his time at D68C by operating whenever there was a station free. Hawk could often be seen sitting on the terrace of the operating bungalows waiting for a chance to find a free operating position. He worked more stations on SSB during that first week than anyone else. Hawk has the most infectious laugh and when he got back home to Sweden, he was eager to work us. Just to wind him up we gave him a 3 by 3 report, even though he was 40dB over S9 with us. I can hear that 'AQD laugh coming back to us even now and, of course, we were falling about just killing ourselves with laughing.

The days went by quickly as we settled down to life at the Galawa Beach hotel. The shift rota system for operating worked reasonably well, although I felt the allocations could have been more fairly distributed for HF operating. That is my only negative comment about the entire DXpedition and, to be fair, I found the LF and WARC bands to be a great place to operate.

We tried hard to balance the number of CW and SSB QSOs and after a week or so; we started operating on RTTY and PSK31 to give the data modes a fair airing. John G3WGV had managed to integrate UT2UZ's MixW32 RTTY and PSK31 program to work with Turbogol and this is what we used to great effect.

10m FM:

We rigged a second 10m antenna (a Cushcraft A3S) about 400m away from the main 10m yagi. To our delight, we found that we could operate two stations on 10m at the same time, without QRM. Usually we operated SSB and CW, but one day Rob PE9PE decided to try 10m FM. What a revelation this was! We were amazed what we could work on FM and it was wonderful to listen to the beautiful audio quality on that mode. Rob made it his mission and he worked literally thousands of stations all over the world. Rob speaks about six different languages and it was great fun to listen to him changing rapidly from English to Dutch or to French. One of the most amusing things I heard was Kazu JA1RJU talking to other JA stations on SSB, but in English! We are not sure why he did this, but it was privilege to hear it all the same.

100K QSOs:

We reached the milestone figure of 100K QSOs after about eight days of operation. Tim G4VXE actually made QSO number 100,000 and we decided that we should celebrate with champagne. For two hours, at around 8pm that day, we closed all the stations down and everyone headed for the hotel restaurant where twenty bottles of champagne were chilling nicely in a large icebox. The atmosphere was incredible – like we had won the lottery or something! Everyone was laughing, joking and savouring the moment. We took hundreds of photographs and videoed the whole event for posterity. Needless to say, we polished off the

twenty bottles of champagne and a few dozen Castle lagers during that very enjoyable session.

Le Galawa Beach Hotel:

The Galawa Beach hotel has hosted many previous D68 DXpeditions, including D68UY, D68KV, D68BW and the Spanish expedition that finished just a week before we arrived. Now under South African ownership, this delightful hotel, first opened in 1988, is a great choice to operate a DXpedition.

Located right on the white coral beaches of Mitsamiouli on the north west coast of Grande Comoro, the hotel is in an idyllic location. After the first few days of heavy rain, the sun came out every day and we joined the rest of the holidaymakers lazing around the pool or on the beach during our non-operating periods. We had temperatures of around 32° C on most days, although it was sometimes very humid and sticky.

ARRL DX CW Contest:

Prior to the DXpedition starting it was decided that we would put an entry for D68C in the ARRL DX CW contest. Maury W3EF was the organiser of the event and so a small Comoran Contest Club was formed. I was invited to operate in the contest, along with Justin G4TSH, Don G3XTT and Maury W3EF (also GØUHK of GB7DXH fame). We decided to enter the Multi/2 section, which means multi operator with just two transmitters. Tony GØOPB worked hard to divert aeriels into the operating bungalow designated for the contest. John G3WGV set up the logging computers with K1EA's CT, especially for the ARRL contest. The rest of the D68C team made a big effort on the WARC bands over the contest weekend and they allowed us to use all the non-WARC monobanders and LF 4-Squares for the 48-hour duration of the contest.

During the 9MØC DXpedition, there was a great deal of criticism from the USA because 9MØC didn't participate in the ARRL DX CW Contest. This was the main reason why a conscious effort was taken to do so from D68C. It was not a popular decision and we felt rather guilty about not being able to work the rest of the World during that weekend. We had a great time in the contest and made around 4,554 QSOs, for a new African Multi/2 record. The only downside with the ARRL DX Contest is that you can only work USA and Canada stations. I found it quite distressing to be called by non-USA stations seemingly desperate for a QSO. Unfortunately, we couldn't even log anything but W and VE stations on our CT logging system and I must apologize if you called us and we were unable to give you a much-needed QSO. The upside was a thousand extra unique callsigns in the log and the huge number of WARC band QSOs the others made!

160 & 80m:

The Titanex was a very impressive performer on these two bands and after the disappointing performance of our 80m

4-Square, we combined the 80 and 160m stations into one. We had a good selection of beverage antennas, pointing in all directions and these proved to be worth every ounce of effort expended in rigging them. Without those beverages and the Pennant RX antenna on 160m, we would have been hard pushed to hear anything but the loudest of signals. The QRN levels were reduced considerably by the use of the beverages on RX. One beverage became particularly well camouflaged with a heavy swathe of vine rapidly growing along part of its length after just a few days of rain then the hot Comoran sun.

One unexpected effect of having the Titanex and the extensive radial earth mat right on the beach was the shift in resonance between high and low tides. In particular, the tide made a big difference in resonance on 80m, which necessitated some retuning of ATU at the base of the vertical.

Mike G3SED did much of the 160m operating. Night after night, Mike braved the weak signals, the heavy QRN and very slow QSO rates to provide 160m QSOs to the deserving. Justin G4TSH and Victor UT8LL finished up a great job on 160m when Mike left for home. One memorable evening, at our sunset, you couldn't get the smile off Justin's face when he worked two KH6s in quick succession on 160m. I had a couple of 160m shifts and they were massively hard work. One morning, at our dawn, I was rewarded with a wonderful opening to the USA east coast. For 20 minutes, 160m was full of loud Ws, but as the sun came up sharply over the horizon, they disappeared like a tap being turned off. By contrast, 80m was a lot easier than 160m and we were able to make nearly 6,000 QSOs with some excellent (150+ per hour) run rates during the first week of the operation.

Six Meters:

We rigged a six element Cushcraft yagi for 6m on top of a 40ft mast. It was originally intended to have a 6-over-6 array, but in the event, we could only manage get up a single 6-element because of trees obstructing the larger array. Kazu JA1RJU is an incredibly dedicated 6m operator and he manned the 6m station as much as his other operating shifts allowed. We set up the 50 MHz beacon and listened and listened. 6m didn't offer the big openings into Europe that we had hoped for, but nevertheless we were able to work many stations in Southern Europe and North Africa, as well as across into Japan, Hong Kong and other parts of Asia. Sadly, we were unable to work any G stations on 6m, but finished with a creditable 405 QSOs on the 'magic band'.

RTTY & PSK31:

We held back with RTTY, as demand on the other modes was so high, but once started, we put over 4,000 QSOs in the log (a good thousand or so higher than any previous DXpedition), along with over 1,000 QSOs on PSK.

Time to Leave:

The D68C operators had a choice of 9, 16 or 23 days on the island. I had opted for the 16-day package and the time just went by in a blur. Marios 5B4WN was the last crew member to join us, and he arrived about two days before a lot of us were leaving for the UK. You will have heard Marios during the last week, especially on 28 MHz, SSB where he found plenty of QSOs.

By now, the pile-ups by now had died down considerably and we did a lot of CQing on the bands. I even found myself operating on SSB, which for me was a new experience on a DXpedition. Wow! I never knew SSB could be so much fun.

Moroni – 22nd February:

Nine of us bid our fond farewells to the rest of the crew on the 22nd February and we piled our suitcases on the tiny hotel coach waiting to take us to the airport. As the coach careered along the winding Comoran roads and through the village of Mitsamiouli in yet another tropical rainstorm, we narrowly missed seemingly suicidal goats as they grazed on the good grass at the roadside. As we sped past, curious locals stared at us in mock disbelief and smiling children waved their goodbyes to us. Boarding the flight to Mauritius, we all mused about life ever getting back to normal again.

Once I got home, one of the first things I did was switch the rig on and check the bands for D68C. I managed 16 QSOs on eight bands in the next 24 hours. Of course, by then the pile-ups were virtually non-existent, so it was a lot easier than the start of the DXpedition. Nigel, G4KIU who also returned home at the same time as me, got to work on the D68C web page almost immediately adding operating pictures and DXpedition data.

The DXpedition was supported by AA5XE Dale (6m Pilot), BRS 32525 Bob (SWL QSL Manager), G3NOM Ray (Far East Pilot), G3SWH Phil (QSL Manager), G3WRO Keith (Logistics), G3ZAY Martin (Chief Pilot), G4KIU Nigel (Webmaster), G4ZFE Richard (EU QSO Server), and N1DG Don (NA Pilot and QSO Server).

QSL Managers:

Phil Whitchurch G3SWH, 21 Dickensons Grove, Congresbury, Bristol, BS19 5HQ, England. For SWLs: Bob Treacher BRS 32525, 93 Elibank Rd, Eltham, London SE9 1QJ, England.

Our thanks to all those who called us. We had great fun – we hope you did too! Thanks also to our sponsors without whom D68C could never have happened. Thanks too to the support team and to our wives and girlfriends – some of us were away for almost four weeks. We will be sending Certificates of Appreciation to all who sponsored the D68C DXpedition.

SLIDE SHOWS AND VIDEOS

Clubs borrowing materials are responsible for postage in both directions. The amount can be learned from the postage on the package when it comes to you, and is usually about \$3.20. Please give the name of your club, the day of the month you meet, and more than one choice of programs in case there is great demand for the item you want. Please return all material promptly, so it will be available for others. Request should be mailed to: Ron Steiner, K6KEO, 3154 Dominic Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94546

We have the following slide shows

1. Kingman Reef and Palmyra Is. Expedition of 1974. (148 slides).
2. K5YY Africa of 1978. (62 slides).
3. The Colvins on Easter, Galapagos, San Andreas, etc., 1984. (140 slides).
4. W6REC & ZLIAMO on Kermadec, 1984. (58 slides).
5. AH0C (Saipan), CQWW Contest Op, 1983, by WA6VEF & N6BT. (82 slides).
6. 1985, Clipperton Expedition. (191 slides).
7. Ponape Is., by N6HR, travelogue. (81 slides).
8. Pribilof Is. operation of 1982. (48 slides).
9. Midway, by NA6T & KD7P, 1985. (120 slides).
10. Antarctica, Arctowski, Palmer, Peter I, Macquarie strns., (101 slides).
11. VR6, Pitcairn, Mar./Apr., 1979, by ZL1AMO & ZLIADI. (51 slides).
12. SM0AGD 1982 Pacific DXped, 1982. (150 slides).
13. 9U5JB, Burundi, by ON5NT, 1983. (57 slides).
14. TYA11, Benin, by ON5NT, 1981. (61 slides).
15. VK3DCU/2, Lord Howe Is., by K2UQ, 1980. (52 slides).
16. 3A, Monaco, by F6EYS & F6HIX of 1984. (43 slides).
17. 5X5, Uganda, by DJ6SI of 1985. (115 slides).
18. Market Reef, July 1983, PA0GAM/OH0J/OJ0. (100 slides).
19. KX6DS, Marshall Is., 1986. (34 slides).
20. Andorra, by DL1HBT, DL3HAH, DL5BAD, DL4BBO, DL4BAH, 1986. (50 slides).
21. 1986, Clipperton, by W6SZN, W6OAT, AI6V, N7NG, W6RGG. (176 slides).
22. Peter I Is., 3Y by LA1EE & LA2GV, 1987. (127 slides).
23. KP2N, 1986, CQWW DX CW Contest. (55 slides).
24. OF0MA, Market Reef, 1987, SM5AQD, GM3YOR, OH0NA, G4EDG, G4JVG. (28 slides).
25. Abu Ali, AI5AA, by DJ6SI, 1988. (65 slides).
26. XX9CW, by DK7PE, 1986. (16 slides).
27. 1988, Palmyra, by K9AJ, KP2A, WA2MOE, W0RLX, F6EXV, JA5DQH. (30 mins.).
28. 1988, Kingman Reef, by the above operators. (96 slides, 28 mins.).
29. 1988, 4U, KC4, VK9Y, VK9X, and 9VI, by W7SW. (73 slides).
30. Banaba Is., T33JS, T30 & T27, by KN6J/VK9NS. (80 slides, 80 mins.).
31. XF4L, by XE1L, XE1OH, XE1XA, OH2BH, OH2BU, JH4RHF, W6RGG & N7NG. (40 mins.).
32. Publishing The DX Bulletin, by Chod Harris (24 mins.).
33. Rotuma, 1988 slides, by W6SZN. (73 mins.).
34. 4J1FS, MV Is., 1989, with Finn, Soviet & American DXers, by K7JA. (16 mins.).
35. ZS8MI, Marion Is., by Peter Sykora, ZS6PT. (60 mins.).
36. V63-KC6-P29, Micronesia/Melanesia, 1989, by KQIF & K1XM. (20 mins.).
37. YL DXped to Wallis Is., June 1989, by NM7N, N7HAT, N4DDK, KA0MX. (20 mins.).
38. A51JS, Bhutan, by VK9NS, Jim Smith. (60 mins.).
39. HC8X, Galapagos, by KQ1F. (34 mins.).
40. Faroe Is., May 1991, by N6HR. (28 mins.).
41. Palmyra Is., KP6AZ, 1963, by W6FAY. (c 1 hour).
42. VK9WWW-VK9NLAW, Willis Is., Oct 1992, by Jim Smith, VK9NS. (36 mins.).
43. S2-Bangladesh, 1992, by Jim Smith, VK9NS. (26 mins.).
44. Christmas Is., 1992, VK9XN-VK9XM, by W5KNE. (50 mins.).
45. Jarvis, KH5, 1992, by WA6AUE. (45 mins.).
46. Kingman Reef, 1993, by N9NS, VE5RA, N0AFW, OZ1LFG, PA3DZN, PA0ERA. (90 mins.).
47. Palmyra, 1993, by G0LMM, HB9AHL, NH6UY, HDB9AEE, W7KNT, G3KHZ. (32 mins.).
48. Mellish Reef, 1993, by VK4CRR, G3WGV, K5VT, V73C, WA4DAN, VK2BBL, VK2BEX & P29DX. (25 mins.).
49. Dominica, 1993 by N6EK & KB6VXX. (40 mins.).
50. 3D2CU - 3D2CT Conway Reef 1995, by NI6T (56 mins.).
51. H40AA narrated by Bruce Butler, W6OSP
52. 3B7RF, Saint Brandon 1998 (38 mins.).

We have the following VHS programs

1. XU1SS (plus BV0YL & BV0JA). (35 mins.).
2. 7J1RL, Expedition of 1976 & 1978, (includes ZK9ZR, Mellish Reef).
3. VK9ZR, Expedition of 1978, (plus Ogasawara, 1978).
4. Frankford Radio Club ARRL phone parody, (plus JH7YFL WW CW).
5. JF11ST/7J1, Expedition to Okino Torishima of 1979. (25 mins.).
6. Australian travelogue, Climbing Big Ben, Heard Island. (55 mins.).
7. Ham Radio In The South Cook Is., by ZK1CA & ZK1CT. (70 mins.).
8. VR6 by ZL1AMO & ZL1ADI, copy of above slides by Jim Hurt, W Geo College & W4VVA.
9. Looking Up In Rio Linda, 1986, by W6GO/K6HHD. (45 mins.).
10. Revilla Gigedo, XF4DX, of 1987, Produced by WA8MAZ. (15 mins.).
11. North Texas Contest Club, towers and contesters, by K5TKC. (45 mins.).
12. It Started With A Broken Fence - JH3DPB's Tall Tower Tale. (15 mins.).
13. Pile-Up Busters, by W8TN, AB01 & N0FVG. (10 mins. & usually sent with #12).
14. FGW2QM/FS, French St. Martin, DXing Senior Style - Another wrinkle to DXing.
15. 1984 Laccadive Is. DXped, VU7WY, plus 1983 VK0HI from TV. (about 60 mins.).
16. The K6UA contest station story. (25 mins.).
17. HK0TU DXped of 1983, Malpelo. (25 mins. with audio tape translation by KB6MZC).
18. The Ship That Shouldn't Have - VK0JS Heard Is. DXpedition. (90 mins.).
19. The New World Of Amateur Radio. (28 mins.).
20. S0RASD, The Western Sahara Story, 1987, by the Lynx Group. (37 mins.).
21. Auckland Is., 1988, by ZL1AMO, ZL1BQD, N7NG. (60 mins.).
22. Dr. Owen Garriot's first talk to hams about the Space Shuttle.
23. Russian Ham Radio Tour by WA6WXD, Oct. 1986. (45 mins.).
24. 3Y DXpedition, 1987, copy of slides by Jim Hurt, West GA College & W4VVA. (40 mins.).

25. Peter I, 1987, video from JA7ARW.
26. 1979 Spratly Is. DXpedition, by K4SMX, K1MM, VK2BBL, N2OO, N4WW & KP2A.
27. 1988 Malaj Vysotskij Is., OH2BH, UZ3AU, OH5NZ, UR2AR, OH2RF, UW3AX. (23 mins.).
28. 3W8DX & 3W8CW by HA5WA, HA5PP, HA5BBC, Nov. 1988, Produced by W4BRE.
29. Aruba, P40V, CQ WW Test 1988. (12 Mins.).
30. A Message From Barry Goldwater, K7UGA. (12 mins.).
31. Navassa of 1988, by N2EDF, K2SG, KE4VU, KD2NT, N4GNR, KT2Q & W3GH. (38 mins.).
32. Rhodes, SV5, by N2OO & SV0AA, April 1989. (40 mins.).
33. N0IZ/KH1, Howland Is., 1988, by N0IZ, 7J3AAB, TR8JLD, VK9NS & VK9NL. (20 mins.).
34. Boeing ARC at the Electronic Convention and Great Wall Of China. (audio tape for VHS, 30 mins.).
35. K C Club DXpedition to Tonganoxie Is., a spoof. (30 mins.).
36. Tuvalu, 1989, by K6EDV & AL1AMO. (27 mins.).
37. Visalia Convention of 1990, recorded by W6NLG. (2 hours).
38. Rotuma, 1988, copy of the slide show by Jim Hurt, WGC & Henry Owen W4VVA. (73 mins.).
39. XW8CW & XW8DX, 1989, by HA5PP & HA5WA, Produced by W4BRE. (27 mins.).
40. XU8CW & XU8DX, 1990, by HA5PP & HA5WE, Produced by W4BRE. (25 mins.).
41. All China Amateur Radio Direction Finding Competition, plus BY1PK. (32 mins.).
42. ZS8MI, by ZS6PT, partial copy of the slide show. (40 mins.).
43. Jim Smith, A51JS, visits the Bay Area, videotaped by WA6BXY. (80 mins.).
44. R9ZF/NN7A, NN7D & W7YS, August 1989, Lake Teletskoye, Siberia. (30 mins.).
45. VU7, Laccadive Is., 1984. (65 mins.).
46. VU4, Andaman Is., 1987, by Combator Radio Club. (30 mins.).
47. 3Y5X Expedition, 1989, Video by JF11ST. (In Japanese, good photography, 35 mins.).
48. VR6TC speaks to the Turlock ARC, 1/8/91, VHS by K6IMN. (125 mins.).
49. 1990 World Radiosport Team Championships in Seattle. (25 mins.).
50. ICOM's More Than Radios, The Legacy We Leave To The Young. (25 mins.).
51. T33R-T33T, Banaba, Nov. 1990, SM7PKK, TF3CW & OH1RY. (22 mins.).
52. This Is ATV, by Western Washington AT Society & Seeing Is Believing, by AEA. (47 mins.).
53. New Horizon: South Pacific Adventure, by AA6LF. (55 mins.).
54. YB3ASQ: Indonesian Stations and Sightseeing, by W7TSQ. (25 mins.).
55. XF4L of 1989, by JH4RHF, XE1OH, XE1XA, OH2BH, W6RGG, XE1L, OH2BU & N7NG. (25 mins.).
56. ET2A, by W4IBB, Jack Reeves, May 1991. (12 mins.).
57. IS0XV, by UW3R, et al, July 1990. (35 mins. or a 2 hour version, your choice).
58. Jarvis 1990, from K3NA & KN3T. (35 mins.).
59. 3C0CW, Annobon, 1991, by the Garroxa Club of Spain. (20 mins.).
60. Aracaria DX Group, Brazil, Contest Station and Operators. (30 mins.).
61. 9L1US, by Dave Heil, K8MN, ed. by Jim Hurt, West GA. College & W4VVA. (45 mins.).
62. Dave Heil, K8MN visits Finland, edited by Jim Hurt & Henry Owen, W4VVA. (35 mins.).
63. Penguin Is., 1990, from a slide show by N7NG, Wayne Mills, produced by MoBre. (15 mins.).
64. PJ9W, 1990, Spirit Of Victory, Radio Team Finland, produced by WA7LNV. (48 mins.).
65. Empire Of The Air: The Men Who Made Radio, recorded by K16YB. (110 mins.).
66. Contest Night Live, by the Kansas City DX Club. (30 mins.).
67. DXing Kansas City Style, by the Kansas City DX Club. (30 mins.).
68. VP8ANT/G3CWI, Adelaide Is., Antarctica. (45 mins.).
69. H44, May 1991, by G3WVG, G31XT & G3SXW. (12 mins.).
70. VP2EOH, Anguilla Is., by Northern Ohio DXA. (192 mins.).
71. T32T, Christmas Is., WPX SSB Test, Mar. 1990, narrated by VP2ML & video by JH1LBR.
72. VP8SSI, South Sandwich, 1992. (26 mins.).
73. More About Radios, Zman Productions, (How To Get Started In Amateur Radio). (28 mins.).
74. Navassa Is., Jan. 1992, by WA4DAN, AA4VK, N0TO, KW2P & AA4NC. (25 mins.).
75. Getting Started In DXing, by CQ Communications, Inc.. (52 mins.).
76. The Radio Ham, starring Tony Hancock, English comedy. (26 mins.).
77. Project Irma: The DX Truth-O-Meter, Northern Cal. DX Convention, 1993. (25 mins.).
78. ZL9DX, Auckland Is., by ZL1OK, ZL1AVC, ZL2TPY, JH4RHF & JR4DUW. (28 mins.).
79. CY0DXX, Aug. 1989, Sable Island by the Breston DX Group. (18 mins.).
80. V63-KC6-P29, by KQ1F & K1XM, slide copy by Jim Hurt & Harry Owen, W4VVA. (25 mins.).
81. Deseccho, KP5, 1992/3, with KW2P, N0TG, WA4DAN, W0RJU & AA4VK. (28 mins.).
82. E35X, Eritrea, May 31 - June 10, 1993, by LA6VM, LA1EE, JF11ST, LA9DL & LA7XK. (17 mins.).
83. AH1A, Howland Is., 1993, by ON6TT, W0RLX, K9AJ, W0CP, K0EU, W9IXX, K4UEE, F6EXV & G4LJF. (45 mins.).
84. 9G1AA, Ghana, by PA3AWW, PA3FUE, PA3FUE, PA3ERA, PA3DEW & PA0TUK. (55 mins.).
85. 9M0S, Spratly Islands, 1993, N7NG, WA6AUE, OH6DO, JA5DQH, OH1NYP, 9VIYW, 9M2FK, OH2MAK and OH2BH. (30 mins.).
86. Journey to Peter I, 1994. (30 mins.).
87. ZD9SXXW, Tristan da Cunha, 1994, by G3SXW. (18 mins.).
88. Last Voice From Kuwait, 9K2DZ. (25 mins.).
89. Malaj Vysotskij Island, 4J1FM / 4J1FW, October 1992, by AH0W ex 4J1FM. (43 mins.).
90. 3C0GD, Annobon, 1989 by LA8PV. (20 mins.).
91. IAOKM & HV4NAC. (30 mins.).
92. H44IO, South Pacific DX-pedition, by DL7IO ex DL7VTM. (46 mins.).
93. The Congo, TN4U & TN2M, 1995, by DL7IO ex DL7VTM (40 mins.).
94. 3V8BB, 1994 (17 mins.).
95. Mission to Jordan, The joint Israeli/Jordanian DXpedition, JY74Z, in July '95. (43 mins.).
96. The Kermadecs DX Adventure, ZL8RI - DX AT ITS BEST (30 mins.).
97. World Radiosport Team Championship, 1996 (23 mins.).
98. VK0IR Heard Island 1997, by Peter Casier ON6TT (51 mins.).
99. Bell Lab's video. "Similarities in Wave Behavior" (27 mins.).
100. "Eric Edberg, W6DU Memorial Pacific DXpedition" by WA4FFW
101. Legends of Amateur Radio - W6EA, W6HX & K6OJ - Southern California DX Club (42 mins.).
102. DXpedition to the Spratlys - 1996 - Slide show on video (30 mins.).
103. H40AA, The Temotu DXpedition - April 1998 - (10 mins.).
104. 3B9RF, Saint Brandon, 1998 by K5KG (38 mins.).
105. ZL9CI, Campbell Island, 1999 by 9V1YC (60 mins.).
106. FO0AAA, Clipperton Island, 2000 by 9V1YC (60 minutes)
107. A52A, Bhutan 2000, Written & Filmed by James Brooks, 9V1YC (60 mins.).
108. XZ0A, Union of Myanmar, 2000 DXpedition, Central Arizona DX Association (35 mins.).

2002 Contribution

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W6OTC - 3/16/2002
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