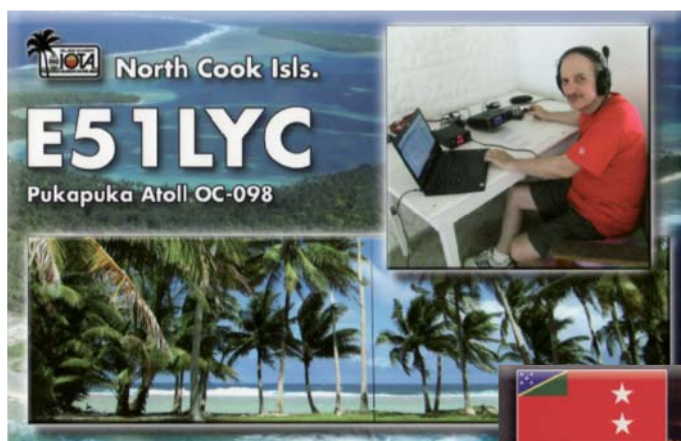




DX

CQ



Z6ØA Kosovo new DXCC

Dear EUDXF Members,

first of all let me wish you and your families a very happy, healthy and in all aspects successful new year 2018! Ham radio wise I wish you plenty of rare DX in your logbook and lots of new bandpoints! For those EUDXF members who plan to go on DXpedition – have a safe journey, return healthy and be the good propagation always with you!

Despite of the generally unfavorable conditions on HF compared to 2016 there were plenty of rare DX on the air in 2017 with some nice openings on 12 m and 10 m. Highlights on the bands were definitely VP6EU, XX9D, S21ZED/S21ZEE, TU5MH, TL8TT, TX5T, 9N7EI, TU7C, T2AQ/T2QR, TN5E, E51LYC, 3CØL, 3C1L, H4ØGC, VU7T, VK9MA, 9U4M, J5T, TO2SP and VP2MDL. Remarkable efforts were undertaken by some DXpeditions on the low bands which was very much appreciated by the European DX community. EUDXF has again sponsored some of these successful DXpeditions and the logo of our organisation can be found well placed on the respective websites and QSL cards. When hurricane Irma hit the Caribbean with brutal force, EUDXF provided immediate emergency support to a local affected ham on Anguilla, VP2EKG, by helping him to buy a new generator. I would like to thank all EUDXF members for their contributions and a big thanks to the board and officers for the good job done in 2017 by keeping our organisation running!

The new year 2018 has already started and immediately surprised with 6O6O from Somalia. Upcoming DX busters with great call signs

such as 3D2EU – Rotuma (February/March), XRØYD – Easter Island (March), 3B7A – St. Brandon (April), KH1/KH7Z – Baker & Howland (June) and VP6D – Ducie Island (October/November) promise an exciting DX year and sleepless nights behind our radios hunting for the long awaited new one or still missing band slot. EUDXF is again sponsor of all these major DXpeditions. Let's keep our fingers crossed that there will be only minor DQRM and if so, please don't react, it simply doesn't pay off.

Unfortunately, the long awaited 3YØZ DXpedition to Bouvet Island had to be cancelled for weather and technical reasons. This for sure was a big disappointment for the entire DX community but especially for the DXpedition team who invested lots of money and time in this project, but health and safety always come first. We will keep you updated about any plan B for a possible future activation of Bouvet Island.

A big surprise was the sudden addition of the Republic of Kosovo (Z6) to the current entity list by the ARRL effective January 21st 2018, increasing the total number of DXCC entities to 340. The 10th anniversary of Kosovo's independence was celebrated by the SHRAK headquarters station Z6ØA activated by multiple guests who really did their best to bring this brand-new DXCC on the air. EUDXF is proud to be sponsor of this very first activation!

The EUDXF board and officers will come together again for a workshop early this year in order to discuss the way forward. If you have any topics

which you want us to discuss, please don't hesitate to contact us, new ideas or suggestions are always welcome.

Last but not least, in a world rotating fast and the DXer being supported by DX clusters and skimmers and a QSO content reduced to "ur 5nn tu" - do you still remember the good old times when there was no internet available and one had to analyse each signal where it might come from? Wasn't it a magic feeling when you were the first one to find a rare DX station and you could even have a longer chat with the operator on the other side without being jammed by others? Still today it pays off to search for DX instead of waiting for the cluster spot to be the first or even call CQ DX, you will be surprised who comes back because DX never sleeps!

Best 73s, enjoy DX and cross our antennas in the pile ups!

Dominik DL5EBE

EUDXF President



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).



Your Membership Fee 2018

EUDXF Membership Fee 2018

Dear EUDXF member,

you herewith receive the payment notification for your EUDXF membership. Please transfer the membership fee (25,00 €) via PayPal to "cashier@eudxf.eu" within the next days, indicating your membership number and call sign.

(PayPal) — cashier@eudxf.eu



Frais d'adhésion EUDXF 2018

Cher membre de l' EUDXF,

Voilà vous recevez la date d' échéance pour votre l' appartenance a l' EUDXF. Je vous prie virer la cotisation (25,00 €) dann les prochaines jours, en indiquant votre numero de membre et l' indicatif d' appel sur notre compte bancaire a la Volksbank Kleverland.

IBAN: DE65 3246 0422 0205 1830 19 • BIC: GENO DE D1KL L



EUDXF contributie 2018

Geachte EUDXF lid,

Per 1 januari 2018 dient U uw EUDXF bijdrage weer te betalen. Zou u zo vriendelijk willen zijn de verschuldigde € 25 over te maken onder vermelding van de lidmaatschapsnummer en het roepnaam naar onze bankrekening bij de Volksbank Kleverland.

IBAN: DE65 3246 0422 0205 1830 19 • BIC: GENO DE D1KL L



EUDXF Mitgliedsbeitrag 2018

Sehr geehrtes Mitglied der EUDXF,

hiermit erhalten Sie die Fälligkeitsinformation für Ihre EUDXF-Mitgliedschaft. Bitte überweisen Sie den Mitgliedsbeitrag (25,00 €) in den nächsten Tagen unter der Angabe Ihrer Mitgliedsnummer und Rufzeichen auf unser Bankkonto bei der Volksbank Kleverland.

IBAN: DE65 3246 0422 0205 1830 19 • BIC: GENO DE D1KL L

A big thanks to all EUDXF members who already paid their annual dues in the first week of January. We really appreciate your cooperation!



Z6ØA Kosovo

BY HANS BLONDEEL TIMMERMAN, PB2T

At its Board Meeting held 19-20 January 2018 the ARRL Board of Directors amended the DXCC Rules. Section II, Subsection 1 of the DXCC Rules now shows a new Subsection (d): The entity has a separate IARU member society and is included on the US State Department Independent States in the World.

As a result, effective 21 January 2018, the Republic of Kosovo (Z6) was added to the DXCC List of current entities. No surprise that Kosovo as All Time New One entered the Most Wanted List as number 1.

Most Wanted List

Rank	Prefix	Entity Name
1.	Z6	REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO
2.	P5	DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
3.	3Y/B	BOUVET ISLAND
4.	FT5/W	CROZET ISLAND
5.	CEØX	SAN FELIX ISLANDS
6.	KH1	BAKER HOWLAND ISLANDS
7.	BS7H	SCARBOROUGH REEF
8.	BV9P	PRATAS ISLAND
9.	KH7K	KURE ISLAND
10.	KH3	JOHNSTON ISLAND

This change in the DXCC entity list came rather unexpected. Being retired I can be flexible (if I want), so I decided to join the small team

that was already there, operating from two different locations. Can you imagine: A direct flight from Brussels to ATNO location Prishtina and behind the radio within an hour after arrival. Too easy you will say. Well, Kosovo becoming a DXCC entity was not easy at all. It could have happened in 1999 when Kosovo came under UN supervision. It could have happened in 2008 when the constitution of Kosovo came into force and it could have happened

in 2015 when SHRAK, became an IARU member society. Our life member Martti OH2BH put an enormous effort into elevating Kosovo to DXCC status. For him it was not just one direct flight. He paid multiple visits to Kosovo, 27 to be exact and he had numerous meetings with EU officials in Brussels and his contacts in UN and ITU. It all paid off and I am sure that posing under the flag of Kosovo was an emotional moment for Martti.



Part of the team: OH1MA, Z61DX, OH3JR, Z63DBB, PB2T, Head of ARKEP Mr Kreshnik Gashi, Z61VB, Z61FF, K9JF, OH2BH, S5ØA, S51F and OHØXX.

On Sunday 28 January, with more than 30.000 QSO's in the log, the team took a little break and gathered for lunch to celebrate the DXCC ATNO. Speeches were held and small gifts were exchanged.

On behalf of the European DX Foundation I welcomed Kosovo as newest DXCC entity and handed over our financial support to Vjollca Z61VB, the President of Shogata e Radioamatorëve të Kosovës SHRAK.



Z61VB and PB2T

In Kosovo amateur radio has almost been non existent for more than 25 years and all radio equipment was confiscated. There is no second hand radio equipment on the market. Of course some amateurs can afford new equipment, but bear in mind that especially the younger am-

ateurs need help from their fellow amateurs from outside the country.

So a few words to those who are planning on going to Kosovo and to operate from this beautiful country with its friendly people. The DXCC excitement will be over soon and Kosovo will drop down on the Most Wanted List rapidly. Individuals and small groups will be planning on special activities like MS, EME and satellites. I hope that they don't forget to involve the local amateurs. They want to learn so much and catch up with us.

Please consider to donate one of your spare radio's that is only catching dust in your garage. Donate to a young amateur or a club. This will be very much appreciated.

Getting your Z6/owncall license is easy. Just contact ARKEP, the regulator. Yes, there is a fee to be paid.

H4ØGC DXpedition 2016

BY STAN VATEV, LZ1GC

The flight from Honiara, Solomon Islands (H44) to Lata, Nendo Island, Santa Cruz Islands Group, (Temotu Province, H4Ø) was scheduled for 11:20 h local time on October 4th, but it was delayed by 2 hours.



At 15:30 h, after a two-hour flight, the plane of Solomon Airlines landed successfully on a large meadow which was the local airport. Outside it was indescribably hot as I arrived in the hottest part of the day.



When I got out of the plane, the first thing that impressed me was the so called "waiting room" of the airport. Because the flight was domestic there was no passport control and no baggage checking. You just land, take your luggage and go! When traveling with more luggage the only way to move on the island is by private taxi (1 - 2 cars), which usually wait for incoming flights from Honiara in front of the airport. There are two flights per week operated by Solomon Airlines.



I had an appointment with Lionel who was the owner of the Lata Motel who should wait for me with a car

when I arrive. When I got my 70 kg of luggage I noticed that there was nobody to pick me up and so I decided to take the only available taxi to bring me to Lata Motel. It turned out that the motel was located very close to the airport. After a five minute drive I was welcomed by Jenifer, Lionel's wife and owner of the motel. When Jenifer saw my luggage she immediately understood who I am. Without having seen me before, she called me by name and welcomed me with a big hello! She told me that Lionel had left for a business trip to Honiara a couple of days ago and that he would come back in a few days. Jenifer explained to me that I was not the first radio amateur who stayed at Lata Motel and that Sigi, DL7DF, and his team had spent some time here and also some radio amateurs from Australia.

It was already 16:00 h local time and I had less than three hours before local sunset to mount the antenna and start to work on the air as H4ØGC. I explained to Jenifer, that I would need the help of 1 - 2 locals to set up the antennas. The place for antennas was limited, but still enough for my vertical antennas for 160/80 m and 40-10 m including WARC bands. I decided to install the low band vertical with 4 radials first. I saw three boys almost of the same age who offered their help. It turned out that this were the sons of Jenifer and Lionel.

I was amazed because it turned out that the people of Temotu Province were not that lazy like most of the people on those islands (Nauru) which I had visited in the years before. The guys helped me a lot! They even called a friend with a boat and so we were able to quickly put 2 radials into the salt water of the ocean. They did not hesitate to dive into the sea water and fix the radials to rocks. One of the boys climbed into a 15 m high palm tree to fix a wire. He did this with great ease using only hands and feet without any protection rope. Such a great support and assistance I didn't experience during my previous DXpeditions to the Pacific.

Although it was already dark the low band antenna was up and ready

to use. Carefully I installed the equipment which consisted of a Kenwood TS-480 SAT, a linear amplifier ACOM 1011, a Lenovo B590 laptop and a MicroHam decoder for RTTY. Testing the antenna showed the best result with SWR of 1.0 on 160 and 80 m!

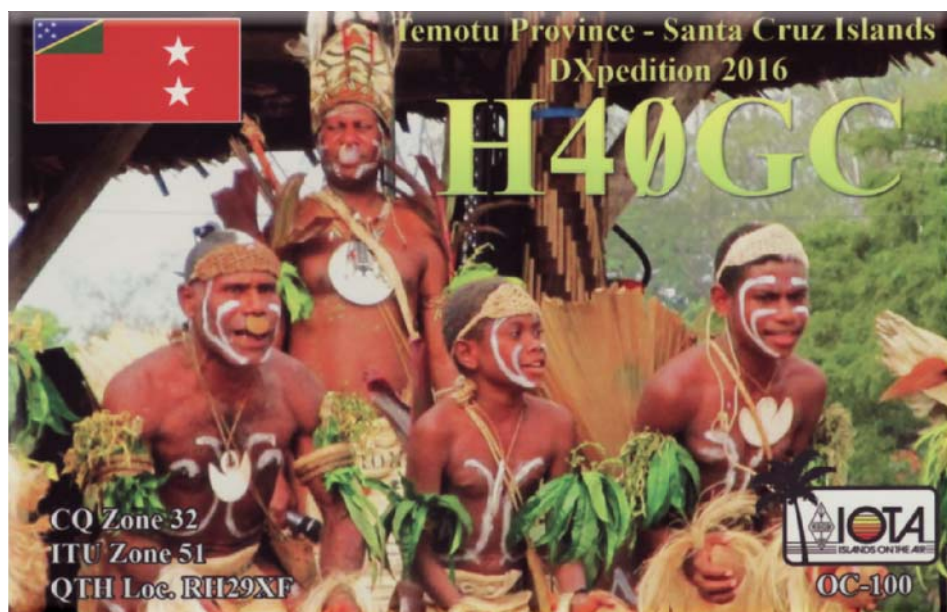


Despite of being exhausted after a long journey I started to work on the air from Temotu Province, Nendo Island, IOTA OC-100. After the first short CQ at 16:14 UTC on October 4th on 3,507 KHz I was called by JHØBBA. Soon after, QSOs with WH7W, RK4FF, IZ8VYU and about 10 other stations followed before I fell asleep for a few hours.



After a short 3 hour break H4ØGC was QRV again. I was working USA and other NA stations on 18 MHz CW, even with the low band vertical and experienced huge pile ups. For hours, I could run rates of 5 to 6 QSO's per minute and I remembered that Temotu Province (H4Ø) was ranking on place 30 of ClubLog's most wanted list. I continued working on different bands. The pileups were so big, that I hardly found any time to install the multiband GP for 40-10 m. Finally, I managed to set up the second vertical in a time when the bands were completely closed which was from 12:00 to 15:00 h local time. I used this antenna setup for all my previous DXpeditions to the Pacific since 2013 and together with the ACOM linear I never experienced any problems.

In the following days I continued



working on all HF bands almost without any interruption. The HF conditions were very poor on all bands, but despite of that I managed to make about 1,700 to 1,800 QSO's per day. I feel obliged to the SSB operators, because during this activity I made only about 2000 QSO's on SSB. The reason is not only that SSB is not my favorite mode but also that the conditions were simply too bad and SSB signals were very weak. Under these difficult circumstances CW and RTTY were the right modes. Many DXpeditions do not like to work on the low bands as these bands usually don't allow to run high rates. However, they miss the joy to work on these magic bands!

Except the bad propagation and an electricity shut down for two days there were no significant problems. I used the time without electricity to walk around, meet with teachers from the local high school, I went to the local Telecom, post office, the hospital, the house of the local government, police and open market. I also visited the local office for civil protection against calamities and damages.



I would like to thank George, the chief of this office for his support

and help to use his office internet so that I could upload my QSO's to ClubLog every two days. I had previously tried to use the services of the local Telecom, but due to bad internet connection my upload trials were not successful. I spent only 3 to 4 hours away from the radio every day which I used for sleeping, uploading QSO's to ClubLog, eating, taking a shower, having a coffee and cigarette - quite a simple way of living!

During my stay at Lata Motel, there were no other tourists. Only the brother of Jenifer and his family were living there, too. I so much enjoyed their small twin-boys who were so playful and their mother always was running after them. Conversations with these friendly temper people helped me being cheerful and always in a good mood!



On October 17th at 16:07 UTC H40GC went QRT. The last QSO was made with JA4ZA on 160 m CW.

The flight back to Honiara, Solomon Islands, was scheduled for 12:30 h local time. I had only 6 hours available to uninstall the antennas and pack the equipment. Lionel helped me to tear down the antennas and make some pictures with the flags from the

sponsors. After a very kind farewell with Jenifer and others Lionel and I went by taxi to the airport. When we arrived at the airport there was nobody! The flight had been cancelled and Lionel tried to calm me down, saying that the flight for sure would be in one or two days. I was not really surprised because I had expected something like this to happen and to be on the safe side I had booked the connecting flight from Honiara to Europe via Fiji and South Korea four days later. The only thing which made me really angry was that I had already dissembled and packed the antennas. I could have easily worked one more day and night from Temotu Province!

We went to the office of Solomon Airlines in Lata where we were welcomed by Mr. Gromyko, the agent of Solomon Airlines who proudly mentioned that he had the same surname like the popular Russian politician. We learned that the flight had been cancelled for technical reasons and he would give us a phone call with a status report at 16:00 h. As promised, Lionel got a phone call that the flight to Honiara would be on the next day at 13:30 h. Unfortunately, on the same day the power supply of the motel stopped, so that my hope to work another day from Temotu was destroyed. I told to myself that I must activate this place again in October 2017!

On the next day, I left Lata in a small airplane operated by Solomon Airlines to Honiara. This was the end of the H40GC DXpedition by Stan, LZ1GC, to Nendo Island, Santa Cruz Island Group, Temotu Province.



I would like to cordially thank the following sponsors: NCDXF, INDEXA, EUDXF, GDXF, CDXC, CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION, WVDXA, NATIONAL CAPITOL DX ASSOCIATION, MILE HI DX ASSOCIATION, LSDXA, SWODXA, GREAT SOUTHERN DX ASSOCIATION, SADXA, LADX GROUP, GM DX GROUP, CLIPPERTON DX CLUB, LYNX DX GROUP, MEDITERRANEO DX CLUB, KC5WXA - JAKE McCLAIN DRIVER MEMORIAL A.R.C., DANISH DX GROUP, KDXC, WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB, ACOM Ltd, SPIDERBEAM, DX NEWS.COM, ClubLog, GOLD PRINT SERVICE and all individual sponsors!

Continent by Band

CONTINENT/BAND	160 m	80 m	40 m	30 m	20 m	17 m	15 m	12 m	10 m	TOTAL	TOTAL %
AFRICA	1	1	3	5	11	7	8	1	0	37	0.20 %
ANTARTICA	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.01 %
ASIA	86	462	578	797	862	1,859	1,973	791	679	8,087	43.84 %
EUROPE	40	169	312	322	1,958	841	759	146	14	4,561	24.72 %
NORTH AMERICA	216	574	569	399	222	1,185	1,040	486	200	4,891	26.51 %
OCEANIA	15	50	33	45	58	106	145	48	19	519	2.81 %
SOUTH AMERICA	2	13	26	33	57	57	117	32	15	352	1.91 %
TOTAL	360	1,269	1,521	1,602	3,168	4,055	4,042	1,504	927	18,448	100.00 %

From October 4th to 17th H4ØGC made 18,448 QSOs on all bands in CW/RTTY/SSB under partially very poor conditions.



€51LYC DXpedition to Pukapuka 2017

BY CEZAR TRIFU, VE3LYC

I operated from Pukapuka Atoll between May 12 and 23. Located about 1,200 km north of Rarotonga, in the North Cook Islands, this remote atoll counts toward the IOTA group OC-098, which was confirmed by only 8 % of the IOTA members prior to this operation. Last activation from this group was in Jan 1995, more than 22 years ago. The atoll has three dry islets and a sandbank. The landing strip is on Motu Ko, which is uninhabited. The radio activity took place from the south side of Wale, close to the Pukapuka administration offices.

I used an Icom IC-7000 with 100 W and a multi-band wire vertical antenna. My luggage to and from Pukapuka was limited to 30 kg by Air Rarotonga, of which 20 kg against



a fee. Propagation conditions were best during the first 3 days, May 12 to 14, when I was able to log about 3,400 QSOs. During the remainder of my stay I logged another 2,200, for a total of 5,631 QSOs with 79 DXCC in 6 continents. More than 76 % of these contacts were in CW, while the rest in SSB, using all bands from 40 to 10 m. The number of stations and contacts logged per continent, and band statistics are as follows:

E51LYC Pukapuka, North Cook Islands

CONT	STNS	%	QSO	%
AF	9	0.3 %	12	0.2 %
AS	1,485	44.9 %	3,064	54.4 %
EU	848	25.6 %	1,077	19.1 %
NA	832	25.1 %	1,263	22.4 %
SA	22	0.7 %	31	0.6 %
OC	114	3.4 %	184	3.3 %
TOTAL	3,310	100.0 %	5,631	100.0 %

E51LYC Pukapuka, North Cook Islands

BAND	CW	SSB	TOTAL	%
40	557	17	574	10.2 %
30	788	0	788	14.0 %
20	1,741	921	2,662	47.3 %
17	773	223	996	17.7 %
15	417	153	570	10.1 %
12	38	0	38	0.7 %
10	3	0	3	0.1 %
Total	4,317	1,314	5,631	100.00 %

One of the difficult paths was to Europe. During several days, 20 m band appeared reliable, providing some propagation between approximately 05:00 and 08:30 UTC to various areas of the old continent. While I

E51LYC Pukapuka, North Cook Islands

#	DXCC	STNS
1	JA	1,367
2	K	747
3	UA	162
4	DL	116
5	I	89
6	UA9	70
7	VK	61
8	VE	59
9	UR	55
10	SM	54
11	F	46
12	SP	42
13	OH	34
14	G	27
15	ON	26

did operate both CW and SSB at first, I settled for the former mode, because it seemed easier for my signals to be replied to. Every day I looked for possible openings to Europe between 12 and 16 UTC on various bands. While I was able to copy lightly some activity on the bands from 40 all the way to 17 m during this period of time, I was only able to log some EU stations towards the end of my stay, on May 21 and 22, but only on 40 and 30 m. The list of the top 15 DXCCs by number of stations logged is shown below:

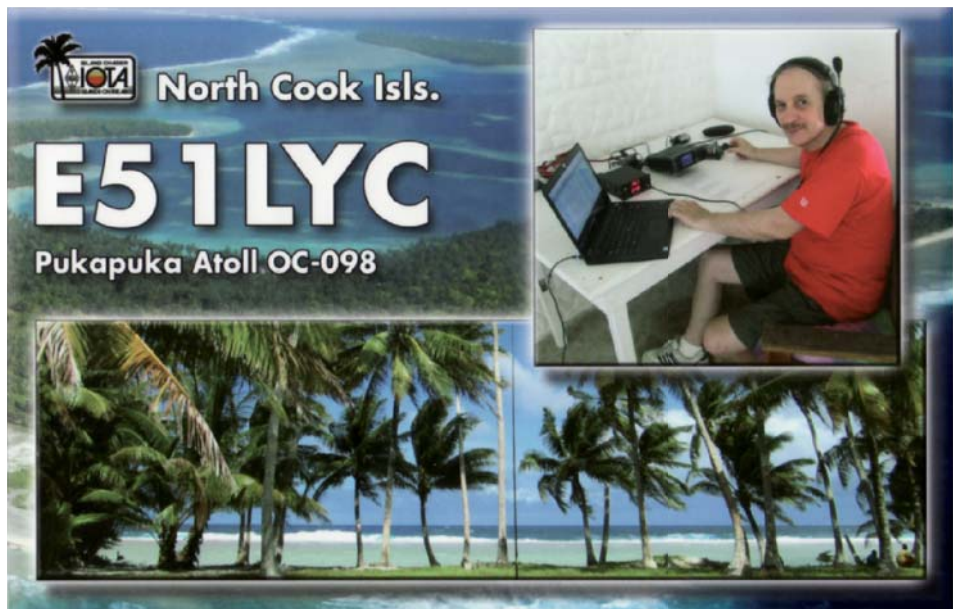
Given the fact that the propagation conditions were tough, I noticed that some stations decided to beat them using either remotes located closer to me, or outright third parties who called on their behalf. When signals from European stations were typically coming at S1 to S3, all with a certain QSB, and many of them with some flutter, it was impossible to accept that European callsigns whose signals came at S9 +10 dB or stronger, without any QSB or flutter, were legit. At different times, when the propagation was only open to Asia and North America, one of these stations would make a call on behalf of a European station, coming at a similar signal strength to Asian stations. I removed from the log several QSOs which fell unquestionably into these categories. I believe that having kept them would have harmed the integrity of the IOT7A Program.

Since propagation conditions to Japan were good for long periods of time during the day, many Japanese stations seemed compelled to compete with themselves and each other

for who will log me on the most band/mode slots. This might have been acceptable in view of the Club Log's Super League competition, where hams can battle one another on the largest number of band/mode slots with various operations within a moving 12-month time window. However, E51LYC was not among the respective operations! Additionally, North Cook Islands are operated from virtually every year, and the proximity to Japan renders this location rather common for the DXCC program. Moreover, this operation was clearly directed at the IOTA chasers and one contact would have sufficed for credit, regardless of band and mode.

However, since I never explicitly indicated prior to the operation that chasers should limit their QSOs, I went along with the above for a few days. Later on, however, I alternated periods of time when I accepted any call to periods when I would only take new stations, who never logged me before. The chasers understood my intentions pretty quickly, and acted accordingly. This allowed a total of 1,367 Japanese stations (41 %) to log 2,866 QSOs (51 %), for a support of this operation which amounted to 15 %. Worth mentioning, 126 JA operators or more than 9 % of all JA stations logged five or more QSOs each, totalling 27 % of all contacts with Japan! Sadly, the support received from these latter stations was negligible, while a few of them requested direct QSL cards by mailing insufficient funds ...

On a different topic, given the heavy QRM of the JA pile-ups, often highly concentrated on one QRG or within





With Milan (E51DWC), Doug (E51DLD), and Andy (E51AND), left to right, upon arrival in Rarotonga.



CQ de E51LYC!



Cottages on the south side of Wale.



Traditional fishing in water pools at low tide.



Coconut water is rich in electrolytes and best for rehydration.



Island administration offices.



Husking coconuts.



Taro plantations, a major food source on the island, whose corms can be roasted, baked, or boiled.

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an extremely narrow bandwidth, it wasn't difficult to incorrectly identify a callsign character every once in a while. The JA operators' preference for not responding instead of correcting the respective error created unnecessary delays. Regardless, I hope that anyone located in the far-east or south-east Asia, North America, and Oceania who wanted to make it into the log of E51LYC was able to do it.

I would like to thank Andy (E51AND) for his help with the logistics. I remain indebted to Milan (E51DWC) and his

family for hosting me during my stay in Rarotonga. A huge thank you to Pio Ravarua for his invaluable assistance on the island, but also for sharing with me some of the local legends, myths, and facts of life. Johan's (PA3EXX) help at various stages of the project is also acknowledged. I wish to express my gratitude to the German DX Foundation, DX News, International Radio Expedition Foundation (IREF), Icom, Clipperton DX Club, CDXC: The UK Foundation, Swiss DX Foundation, RSGB, European DX Founda-

tion, The Daily DX, and DX World who generously supported this project. I remain indebted to Al (W3AWU), Toshi (JM1PXH), and Mike (W5ZPA) for their exceptional support, to the top donors AB6QM, DL6DQW, JF4VZT, JJ8DEN, K9RR, KD1CT, KO8SCA, N4WW, PA3EXX, PT7WA, SM5NXS, VE7QCR, VK2DX, WC6DX, and many others who offered financial assistance (see full donors' list at e51lyc.weebly.com).

TN5E DXpedition, The Republic of Congo

BY KENNETH OPSKAR, LA7GIA

The Republic of Congo (TN) is a former French colony located in central Africa along Equator. The Congo shares border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (9Q) and the capital cities Brazzaville and Kinshasa are tight connected only separated by a river. The current President of Congo has remained in power since 1979, except for 5 years during the 90ies, after which he returned to power after a brief but bloody civil war. The Congo resource sector is dominated by oil and gas with the petroleum industry accounting for 90 % of the export. The oil revenues have made parts of Brazzaville rather modern compared to other African countries I have visited. Still nearly half of the 4.6 million population live in poverty.

I decided to go to Congo because it's fairly high up on the clublog most wanted rankings, ranked 72 mixed and 47 on CW. Getting a license was a very simple task, I needed to provide a signed application, a copy of my LA license, a copy of my passport, conformity certificates of the equipment and provide the location where I was going to transmit. All these documents were sent by email to ARPCE (Agence de Régulation des Postes et des Communications Électroniques). The overall license process took about 4 months from I started until I received the license by email, with the license being valid for 1 year. They let me know that 6 m operation is not allowed in Congo. I sent a separate 6 m application explaining the purpose, and 3 days later they had granted me permission to use the 50–54 MHz band during my stay!



Arriving in Brazzaville in the afternoon in late May, I was quite relieved seeing all my luggage intact on the bag belt. I passed through customs without any problem showing them my license and equipment list approved by ARPCE. Arriving in the hotel the first problems raised. The room I had booked was taken, but more surprising was that upon inspecting the hotel roof with the manager he let me know that the President of Congo had his antennas on the same roof – in the center of the hotel roof. I could see the security systems and antennas. It was bad news, as I definitely did not want to interfere with his antenna systems. We sorted out the room change, and started installation of the beam and wire antennas – with my antennas as far away as possible – hoping for the best! The beam would be up 28 meters, and

the wire antennas for 40, 30, 17 and 12 m up 25 meters with a nice clear take off in all directions! Already at the planning stage I had accounted for the “hotel roof to be unavailable” even though the management had assured me I would get full access. I say – never go to Africa without backup plans! Because most of the roof was unavailable I had to relocate the 80 m dipole. In Congo, I used the same equipment as in Central African Republic (TL8AO). In addition, I had brought some homebrew vertical polarized delta loop TX antennas (40 and 30 m) with low take off angle, and several homebrew RX antennas (K9AY and BOG) to be assembled in the garden in front of the hotel. They let me know I could use the garden for my antenna setup, so I had made sure I had enough coax and control cable for a garden installation. By



*Sightseeing on my way from airport
Day 1*

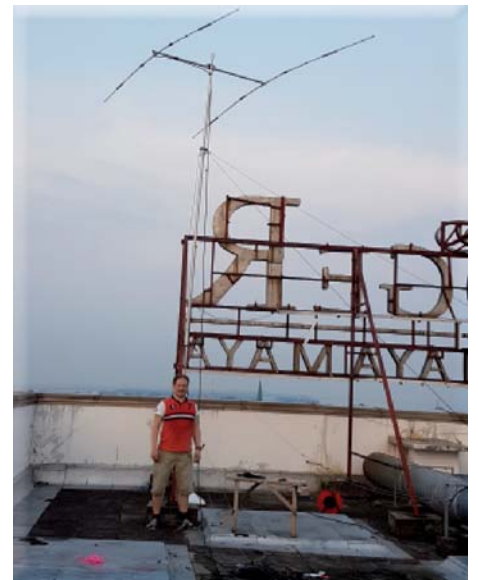
using Google maps, I had measured the available distance in the garden, and it was quite fun to lay the BOG wire on the ground all the way and see it fit the property nicely. There was even space for a beverage to JA – but unfortunately it picked up too much noise. Some of the RX antennas passed through a painter's exhibition area, well – they did not mind at all even though I used one of their paintings as support for my beverage!

I knew from Voacap analysis that the propagation to NA would not be so good this time of the year compared to operating during winter-time in the northern hemisphere. Contrary, the propagation to Japan however would be better in June. This is also reflected in the final QSO statistics where almost 20 % of the contacts were with JA. I find Voacap quite useful in addition to the signal strength coverage maps offered by K6TU to determine possible openings and what bands to stay on. Voacap predictions was consistent, however some days the propagation east to Asia was poor forcing me to work mostly EU even during daytime. I had two nice openings to Asia on 10 m as well one to NA on 10 and 12 m which was enjoyable. The Asia opening was like they were sitting next to me. So many JAs and so loud with some QSB – very fun running JA almost 13,500



Take off NA

km distance away – with some HS, BY, BV, VR, HL and VUs in between. I also had some fun runs to EU on 10 + 12 m. Propagation around equator is so different compared to my home QTH at 60° N. The 20–10 m bands were completely noise free so as in TL8 I could really work the small pistols. What slows down the QSO rate is mainly two things, digging out the small pistols and band changes. While band changes are necessary to check propagation on higher bands, as a single op it will cost you many Qs because it always take some time to start a pile up on a new band. Unless you get a quick spot, you can find yourself calling CQ endlessly. Fewer people seems to actively use the VFO these days. Digging out the weak signals is always challenging on a crowded band with lots of QRM, but tuning around for weak signals and work QRP or 100 W and wire guys is always fun. Like the one with 5 W who broke the pile with his QSB signal, or the portable guy who every time carries his station in the backpack with a modest dipole up 15 m in a tree (K1JX). I also put some effort into working VK/ZL. I knew there was an opening on 20 m, but the signals from VK/ZL were barely readable. One recording posted on DX-World shows that it took us 7 minutes to complete a QSO with VK7CW. His signal was so weak



Beaming NA

but came up 2–3 times enough for me to copy him through the EU QRM. Luckily perseverance pays off every now and then. I also tried to work NA west coast on 40 m. There was a possible opening starting at 03:45 UTC, so after 3–4 hours of sleep I woke up a couple of mornings to check the band – but unfortunately no success.

Going on a solo trip it is simply not possible to cover all openings on all bands. A solo trip will keep you busy and out of trouble. If you have tried to operate full time in one of the big contest weekends, you can imagine extending that to 9–10 consecutive days. Going solo is like a combination of CQWW and field day. There is not much time for sightseeing. In between the pileup stuff you need to look after the antennas, check the RFI problem, grab some food, read the emails (as you're the pilot), maybe relocate one antenna, tell your buddy to tell your wife you are ok, talk to the locals about your weird radio stuff, send your kids a nice picture from Africa, and tell your boss that you didn't bring the corporate computer and he must QRX for 9 days.



Brazzaville by night



ALL antennas wires and cables



Antenna party Congo Day 1

Fury and Destruction of Hurricane Irma

BY KEITH "STONE" GREAVES, VP2EKG

We survived the Wrath, Fury and Destruction of Hurricane Irma

September 6th, 2017 will forever be etched in the minds of the people of Anguilla and the other Caribbean islands who felt the brutal and lethal force of this monster hurricane Irma. What chaos, confusion and destruction it brought to our shores. Based on all the weather data ahead of its untimely arrival, we knew it was going to be a big storm. Imagine sustained winds of 185 mph plus. Many people have concluded that when Irma took aim at Anguilla its powerful winds were well over 200 mph!

Each year from June 1 to November 30, the Caribbean region braces itself for the Atlantic hurricane season – weather disturbances forming off the West African coast. The weather experts were all in one accord indicating that this year the number of storms would be above average and that based on scientific models it was worth careful preparation and monitoring. The experts sure got it right this year.

Many of us kept looking at the weather channel and/or reading up on Irma's progress on the internet and were quietly praying that this storm would bypass the Caribbean islands. But the more we looked at the television images of the weather system, the more concerned we became. Soon it was right on our doorsteps. It was time to batten down the hatches.

The local authorities ordered that the schools be closed, boats and other marine interests seek safe anchorage, the airport shut down its operations and residents rush to complete their preparations as there was no escaping hurricane Irma. Similar instructions were given for the islands including Saint Martin (French and Dutch), Saba, Saint Eustatius and St. Barthelemy (St. Barths).

All throughout the early afternoon, one could hear the sound of hammers and drills as residents scrambled to find any kind of solid wood and or galvanized (zinc) to secure their homes and businesses. Government employees were instructed to secure their workstations and get out of their offices, head for their homes and remain indoors until the hurricane passed.

Supermarkets and shops were doing brisk business as residents rushed to stock on supplies including dry goods, toiletries and water. There were also long lines at the petrol stations on the island. The weather reports on the radio were indicating that Anguilla and the other islands would almost certainly take a hit; adding to the growing fear and anxiety of the populace. Appeals by public officials for residents to take the storm very seriously increased.

Into the evening we went, more reports of the approaching storm saturated the airwaves. More telephone calls from uneasy residents, emails and text messages asking for the exact time of Irma's passage. At the government-funded national broadcasting entity Radio Anguilla (95.5 FM) we were making final preparations to remain on the air throughout the night to keep residents informed about the storm. We had a small team of broadcasters and engineers in place at the station – a concrete structure

perched on top of the government's Treasury and Customs Department. We felt secure in the building. But we had a few concerns namely whether or not our antenna and main transmitter located at Crocus Hill (a little over 200 ft above sea level – the highest point on the 35 sq mile island) would be able to withstand the ferocity of Irma's winds. The glass shutters on our studio windows and the big generator failing also occupied our minds. As the



Grillers' Restaurant, Tackling.



James Ronald Webster Park, Main Pavilion.



Near Best Buy Supermarket East, Long Path.



Valley Primary School, The Valley.



Damaged Anguilla Red Cross Bus at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.



Princess Alexandra Hospital, Maternity Ward.

night of September 6 set in and the various weather models kept popping up, it became very clear to all that it would be a very rough time for the islands including

Anguilla. And so it proved. From about midnight, things started to go downhill. Winds started picking up, electricity went off and then came a flurry of calls to the studio from residents wanting to know the precise location of hurricane Irma. We kept monitoring the radio stations on St. Martin and they too were getting nu-

merous calls from their citizens requesting similar information. We kept receiving information specific to Anguilla from officials at the nearby Department of Disaster Management Office jotted next to the Police Headquarters in the Valley, Anguilla's capital and main business and commerce centre. A more regional perspective and detailed analysis of the storm came from the well-respected National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. The outlook was not looking good for Anguilla and this we communicated to our listeners.

In the early morning hours, the high winds and lashing rain swept across the island. Mother Nature unleashed its full fury. Our building began to rattle and shake. We could hear debris being pelted against the building. We could also hear a roaring, crushing sound on the outside. Winds howling mercilessly and the driving, battering rain forcing its way under our studio glass shutters and splattering over the broadcast console. We knew we were in trouble. But no time to panic. Stay calm was our mantra. One of our engineers held a piece of covering over the window while other staffers hurried to find a piece of cloth (anything) to cover the console and prevent water getting into the small openings

next to the fader (control) buttons. The air pressure inside the building drops suddenly and rapidly, our ears start popping. But there is no ease up on the outside as hurricane Irma bears down on the island. Outside the musical cheers continued unabated – everything is falling apart – providing clattering/clinking sounds of varying decibels. Still more heavy vibration and swaying of the studio building. Then boom...!!! The east window in the station Director's office is completely blown out. The wind looking for an escape route rushes down the corridor and in comes the rain. The whole area is suddenly transformed into a mini river. The mopping up starts. Old newspapers, cloth, woods, anything that could be found to stop the rushing indoor torrent. Building soaked. The studio rugs waterlogged. It's damp and uncomfortable.

To add insult to injury, bang!!! Our link antenna on top the studio building disappears. We off the air!!! Nothing we can do...no back up. One of our engineers indicates that we still have a carrier noting the big transmitter at Crocus Hill was still on. We would later find out that the transmitter and our six-bay antenna system suffered major damage. Only one of the six antennas was left standing after the storm. The transmitter went silent. We managed to hook up a second, smaller transmitter using a miniature Yagi antenna at the studio but that too went dead. Thanks to a sister station Upbeat Radio we were able to source a 25 W exciter and return to the airwaves to provide critical information to residents in the aftermath and recovery phase of hurricane Irma.

Daylight could not come fast enough for residents and for the authorities to give the all clear. Total disaster. Houses smashed, government buildings split wide open. Downed power and utility lines everywhere. Debris spread all over the island, airport and seaports closed. The hospital roof damaged. School buildings shattered. Water supply out. Residents dazed, stunned, speechless. The authorities quickly convene and get word out that the island has suffered major damage. Hotels, villas and guest houses all severely impacted. Meanwhile, there are reports that St. Martin has taken a direct hit and has been flattened including its recently upgraded Princess Juliana International airport

– a major gateway for many of the smaller islands including Anguilla.

It was not long before help started to pour in from the other islands and the United Kingdom, Anguilla being one of the remaining British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean. The others are Montserrat, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Dominica, one of the first islands to offer help, later in September suffered major damage and destruction when another category 5 hurricane Maria levelled the mountainous volcanic-based territory.

Power has only recently being restored throughout the island; thanks to the assistance provided by various teams of electricity workers from the Caribbean islands and more recently by a large crew from Canada. Many

regional and international donors have provided financial assistance and personnel to help with the recovery. Britain recently announced financial support in the sum of 60 million pounds sterling (over 200 million Eastern Caribbean dollars) towards the rebuilding programme. The authorities noted that there was only one fatality on Anguilla as a result of the hurricane.

Local officials have indicated that the bulk of the money would be used to rebuild the schools, hospital and



Blowing Point Ferry Terminal.

other government infrastructure damaged and or destroyed by hurricane Irma. Meanwhile, work continues to rebuild the island's major hotels and villas in time to welcome visitors back to the island sometime in mid to late 2018.

As all electricity powerlines were destroyed on Anguilla, I am very happy and thankful to EUDXF and its members for the generous support we received to buy a new generator. Now there is electricity again in the house for the water pump, light and for the radio shack. Thank you very much for your rapid and spontaneous emergency help! Now that the radio is working again VP2EKG is back on air – see you on the bands!

Keith 'Stone' Greaves, VP2EKG
Journalist and Broadcaster
Programme Manager, Radio Anguilla



Next

EUDXF NEWSLETTER MAY 2018

- HamRadio on 1th to 3th June 2018
- DXpedition; ...

EUDXF NEWSLETTER JULY 2018

- Annual General Meeting on 25th 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!



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

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>